

WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

MARCH, 1960



CORNELIUS J. O'KANE

WATER DEPARTMENT GETS FIRST TRAINING OFFICER

Cornelius J. O'Kane has been appointed as the Water Department's first full time training officer.

Mr. O'Kane, who transferred from the Police Department, will be responsible for setting up and administering a variety of training programs for the 1,630 Water Department employees.

A graduate of St. Joseph's College, where he received his bachelor of science degree in psychology, he entered City service in July, 1957. Assigned initially to the City Personnel Department, he later became a personnel technician in the Police Department, with responsibility for preparing and administering examinations, interviewing, doing job analyses, assigning employees, administering sick leave, and performing other personnel duties.

Before joining the City, Mr. O'Kane served nearly four years with the Curtis Publishing Company (1947-51), and then spent two years with the U. S. Army as a personnel specialist.

Thirty years old, he is married and has two children. He lives at 1824 West Rockland St.

EMPLOYEES NAME ERV DAVIS NEW RECREATION PRESIDENT

ARNOLD TO HEAD GROUP ON STREAM TEMPERATURE

Deputy Water Commissioner Gerald E. Arnold has been named by State Health Secretary Charles L. Wilbar as chairman of a special advisory committee on the control of stream temperatures in Penna.

The committee, consisting of representatives of government, business, industry and recreational groups, will work with Pennsylvania Health Department engineers on temperature standards to be adopted by the Sanitary Water Board, which oversees Pennsylvania's rivers.

Higher temperatures have become noticeable in the Lehigh, Monongahela and Mahoning Rivers among others, the State Health Department has reported. Certain industrial activities, such as power generating plants, refineries, steel mills, paper mills and tanneries, are believed to raise stream temperatures.

Among questions the committee will study are: What are "normal" and "detrimental" stream temperatures? What can be done to reduce temperatures?

Arnold, who manages water operations for the Water Department, formerly headed the City of San Diego Water Department and the Water Resources Division of the National Production Authority. He is a civil engineering graduate of Colorado State University.

Ervin L. Davis, personnel officer, has been elected first president of the newly reorganized Employees' Recreation Association.

The choice of Davis was made by the outgoing board of directors under terms of the association's new constitution.

Kenneth J. Zitomer, Construction Division, was named vice president; John J. Irwin, Accounting Section, treasurer; and Florence E. Graham, Personnel Office, secretary. Nomination of the officers, as well as a new board of directors, was made by a panel consisting of John McCarthy (sewage operations), Joseph Goldberger (personnel) and George Helmar (Belmont), and then ratified by the old board.

Members at large were permitted to submit additional nominations subject to certain requirements.

Panel nominees for the new board of directors include Irwin, McCarthy and Zitomer, together with: Azad Attarian, water operations; Robert Runkle, Logan garage; John Craney, customer service; James Marinan, building maintenance; Russell Thomas, Meter shop; George Helmar; Edward Barrett, Queen Lane; John Pierce, Torresdale; Reuben Pearl, Roxborough; Morris Pirolli, distribution; Peter Crescitielli, Schuylkill; Joseph Gavitt, Delaware; Ben Morris, Race Street and Fairhill pumping; Joseph Cannon, testing lab; John Mirkil, design; Edward Milburn, North-east sewage; Henry Hoochuk, South-west sewage; Francis Papaleo, Southeast sewage; Nicholas Menna, sewer maintenance.

Ex-officio members of the new board are Samuel J. Schwartz, Commissioner's Office; Robert Willard, Water Bureau local 394; and Ervin L. Davis.



"Did you hear what Old Man Johnson suggested?"

WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

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THE WATER DEPARTMENT

Commissioner..... Samuel S. Baxter
Editor..... Raymond J. Harris
Editorial Assistant..... Mary Wolicki
Art..... Henry Cheatham
James Gaslin
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DIVISION **REPORTER**
Administrative..... Rosemary Rosenthal
Construction..... Mary A. Shea
Customer Service..... Lillian Greenfield
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Universal Metering..... Virginia Kotyk
Water Main Records..... Edward Migliaccio
Water Treatment Plant..... Dave McDermott
Belmont Plant..... Ronald Still
Roxborough Plant..... Carl Righter
Torresdale Plant..... Joseph Watson

RETIREMENT COMES TO FOUR EMPLOYEES

Four employees recently retired from City service.

Heading the group was John Boggi, 1748 South Edgewood St., who was with the department for 28 years. John, age 64, became known at various department installations as the man who kept the mails running. An automotive driver, stationed at the Logan Garage, he was self-employed before entering City service.

A veteran of 17 years with the department, Arthur Beard, 1837 East Tioga St., has also left. Mr. Beard, who is 76, was formerly employed by Selective Service and the Pennsylvania State Banking Department. While with the City, he was a public works inspector in the Construction Division.

Two other retirements involve employees with shorter periods of Water Department service. Francesco Gallo, 762 South Warneck St., was with the department for eight years. Aged 64, he worked as a trades helper (machinist) in the Plant Maintenance Section. Kenneth L. Payne, 3018 North Bonsall St., served at the Belmont Pumping Station. He is 57 and completed seven years in water service.

The department wishes these employees a long and pleasant retirement.

HELP WANTED



*Fine Positions
For Players, Coaches
Equipment Managers*

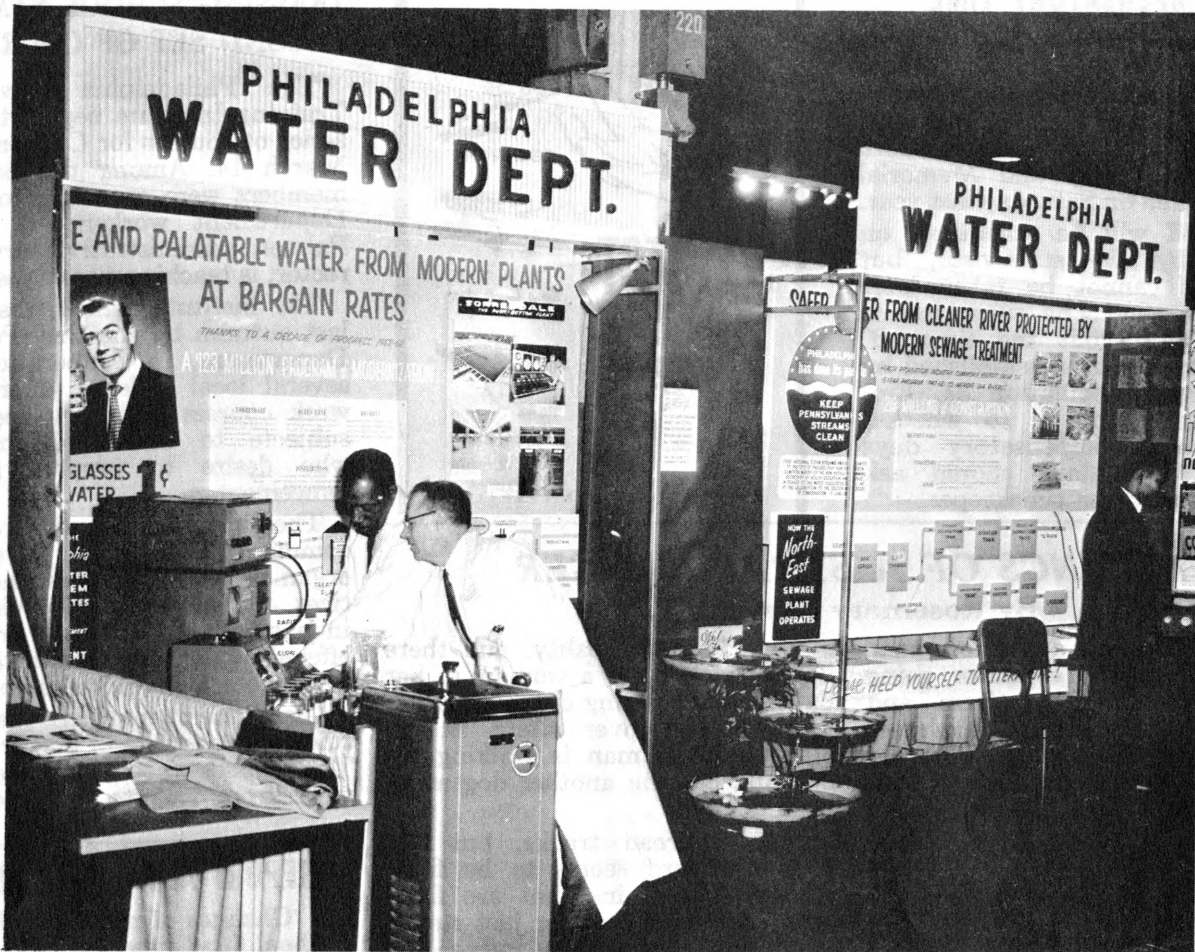
*He
For Fun on the Run*

**Join the Philadelphia Water Department
Champion Softball Team**

Apply: Joe Goldberger, business agent

Room 1225 Annex, LO 8-5950 ext. 227

or Automatic 2871



BEGINNING OF A DAY AT THE HOME SHOW

The Water Department's representatives get ready for the crowds which thronged the department's booths throughout Home Show Week at Exhibition Hall. Visitors admired the panels, eyed algae through a microscope, sought explanations of equipment, asked about cycle billings, and helped themselves to several thousand pieces of literature. The water cooler (offering free drinks) did a landslide business. Panel displays can now be seen on 11th and 12th floors of Annex.

CHESS TEAM SIGNS UP NEW PLAYERS AS IT ENTERS CITY WIDE TOURNAMENT

Three new players have joined the department's chess team, which is now engaged in a city-wide championship contest.

The team, which is composed mostly of Design Division engineers, met the Ukrainian-American Club on March 2 in a hard fought battle.

New members of the team are C. J. O'Kane, the department's new training officer; A. H. Raigule and Mahlon Erp, Construction Division.

Team members continue to have warm-up sessions during the lunch hour. Gus Van Nyanatten continues to rank as official "champ" with five victories and no losses in these sessions. Al Stackhouse is a close second with six victories and one loss. John Mirkil has eight victories and three defeats. Obviously the difference in standing among the experts is more technical than real.

Other players, with wins and losses, follows: Jack Mooney, five and three; Tom Smith, two and two; Sam Gerson, one and one; Stanley Carroll, one and three. George Bey, Joe Mair, Myron Reiner, Moe DeLuzio and Emily Clark have also been active.

Persons interested in playing chess either with or "agin" the team should contact John Mirkil, Design Division.

DEPARTMENT INDUCTS FIVE NEW EMPLOYEES

Five new employees entered the Water Department recently. The department extends a warm handshake to—

Robert H. Myers, Jr., 6111 Locust St., field inspector I in the Customer Service Section.

Ernest Dillihay, 606 North 34th St., security officer I, Distribution Division.

Alexander Dukes, 243 North Stanley St., laborer, Building Maintenance Section.

Leon A. Wilson, 1225 South 49th St., laborer, Distribution Division.

Rita Ruggeri, 306 Delancey St., bookkeeping machine operator, Administrative Division.

COMPENSATORY TIME

Employees who earned a compensatory day off in 1959 because a holiday fell on Saturday may still take the day in 1960, Personnel Officer Ervin L. Davis notes. Both Independence Day and Memorial Day occurred on Saturday last year.

Time off will be scheduled, on request, by the supervisor, but such time cannot be taken later than this year. The supervisor is required to permit the time off. This policy has been established by Civil Service Regulation 34. Employees in doubt as to whether they earned compensatory days because of holidays should ask their supervisor or timekeeper.



MUSINGS OF A STRAP HANGER

By Rosemary Rosenthal

Leaving the bus at its terminus, you get onto the escalator going up to the "EL" platform and manage a quick glance at a store clock—just 8:00 A.M., you should be in on time today—but, with the elevated trains breaking down or being tied up at least once a week, you make a dash for the incoming train and get into the nearest car—it's no matter what car you get on—there are no seats to be had anyhow and you are lucky if you can manage to find a strap to hang onto. It's not easy to read standing up and being jostled by all the people, so you gaze out of the windows at the "sights."

First you pass the large bank on the corner; there is the guard peeping out of a slot in the door to see if the person at the door is an employee and if he can let him in. Ah, there in that window, stands a little girl and she is talking to her parakeet and waving "Good morning" to it.

Further down, a man in his undershirt is standing and shaving and looking up at the sky to see what the weather is going to be like. Over there in that apartment, is a lady, still with the hair curlers in her hair, putting a pot of coffee on the stove. Well, over the railroad tracks we now go and Wow—there goes a crack stream-lined train and even on the train you can see some of the passengers having their breakfasts—the train looks so comfortable and inviting. You try to imagine where the train could be headed for and wish that if it is going to Florida—that you could be on it too.

Well, back to reality, and there in the back yard a woman in her bathrobe is hanging out her clothes to dry—and over there in an empty lot a man is walking his dog and chasing another dog away from his pet.

More railroad tracks, but this time the yard seems to be filled with freight trains that are filled with coal, steel rods, or just standing empty. Around a curve and now we seem to be surrounded by factories and the employees are all busily at work already.

All of a sudden the train seems to get brighter—you look up and there is the sun shining down on the Delaware River and making it look like a vast shimmering mirror. And the boats—some tied up at the docks but already teeming with activity—and others going up and down the river, coming and going from all parts of the world. A shadow passes overhead and you realize you are going under the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. There is lots of traffic on the bridge at this time and the bridge stands so proud and majestic, seemingly aware of its strength and beauty. A very, very far cry from the time the bridge first opened and the RCA Victor Company played recordings all day for the pleasure of the motorists and pedestrians.

Don't close your eyes for even a second now because if you do, you will miss historic Elfreth's Alley. Squeezed between two large factory buildings, it is regarded as the oldest street in the United States consisting of its original

TRAINING SCHOOL STARTS SECOND SET OF COURSES

The Philadelphia Government Training Institute began its second series of courses for City employees March 14. Among the new class members were a number of Water Department workers. B. Barney Palmer, administrative services director, is teaching one of the classes.

The institute, which was started last autumn by the City Personnel Department in cooperation with several local colleges, offers eight-week courses in highly specialized subjects to municipal employees who desire to prepare for advancement.

The courses cover effective office communication, City government organization, City personnel practices, and successful supervision . . . in a word, subjects not ordinarily offered by academic institutions but invaluable to municipal employees.

Class members pay their own tuition at the rate of \$6 per course. The classes meet one evening a week from 7:00 to 9:00 o'clock.

REPORT ADDRESS CHANGES

Changes of name or address should be reported promptly to supervisors, according to Ervin L. Davis, personnel officer. Such report must be made within 24 hours to comply with departmental regulation.

Supervisors or timekeepers will provide the necessary forms for forwarding the report to the personnel office. These include three copies of the "Change of Address or Name" form and one copy of the "Employee's Withholding Exemption" certificate. Supervisors are required to forward these forms within 48 hours.

Failure of the employee to report his change of name or address may result in one day's suspension.

residences and still occupied. In fact, one of Mayor Dilworth's married daughters lives on this street. Well, down we go now and finally we get a seat—but just a few more stops and we get off—so why bother to sit down now—we collect our thoughts and ah, here is 13th Street and off we go for the start of another day.



THE TOUCH OF THE ARTIST

Mario Celoni knows that these little touches are what win contests as he prepares to photograph Miss Joan Rememter. Mario, a Design engineer, has designs only on the first prize in the Amateur Photography Contest sponsored by the Employees' Recreation Association. The contest is open to all "amateurs", but probably few will be lucky enough to find a subject as photogenic as Mario's choice. Picture entries must be in the hands of John H. Mirkil, Design Division, 10th floor, Penn Sq. Bldg., by April 1. Oh, yes (all you curious males) Joan is Deputy Commissioner Barofsky's secretary.



PERSONNEL AGENCY LISTS 100 TYPES OF OPENINGS

For the person eager to get ahead in the City service the Personnel Department is currently offering more than 100 different types of positions. These include almost every type of professional, skilled and semi-skilled category.

Among the positions located in the Water Department are the following, all of them under civil service:

Accountant II, \$4882-\$6131; book-keeping machine operator, \$3094-\$3886; chemist I, \$4258-\$5358; civil engineer II, \$6417-\$8061; clerk stenographer I, \$3238-\$3548; and II, \$3712-\$4068; graduate engineer, \$5348 - \$6131; junior accountant, \$4068-\$5109; laboratory technician (bacteriology), \$3548-\$4456; tabulating equipment operator I, \$3238-\$4068, and II, \$3712-\$4664.

Applications should be filed at the Personnel Department's recruitment office, room 127, City Hall.

TYPING OPPORTUNITY

Arthur E. Bartlett, chemist in the Water Department's materials testing laboratory, is preparing a manuscript for a book on chemical analysis. The manuscript has been tape recorded. Mr. Bartlett desires to hire a typist to transcribe the tape. He offers a rate of \$1.25 an hour. If interested in such work during off-duty hours, please call Mr. Bartlett, automatic 479.

Personal Notes

Design

Abe Finkelstein, chief of the Design Division, met ex-chief Alexander Maltman, at the contractor's banquet. Alex was telling Abe about his vacationing experience in England. Mr. Finkelstein had difficulty in getting the full jest of Mr. Maltman's stories. This was undoubtedly due to the noise made by the banqueters. However, listening to the story, we believe it was due more to the Cockney accent which Mr. Maltman acquired during his short stay in London.

Alex Tatarskyj came into the office happy as a lark; he was giving out candy, and cigars and asked everybody to congratulate him. What was the occasion? You see, his dog Gigi gave birth to the cutest four little pups you ever laid your eyes on.

Queen Lane Treatment

Due to renovations and remodeling of the new filter and administration building. Mr. Bean, Mr. Waters, Mr. Thompson, Miss Featherstone and Mrs. Volpack now have offices at 29th Street Distribution Headquarters.

Walter Zeldman, formerly at Queen Lane Laboratory, is now stationed at Torresdale Laboratory.

Charlie, the cat, the pet of the plant, is no longer with us. He was struck by a car on January 19. The likes of us miss the likes of him.

Mr. William Thompson has returned from a Florida vacation. Bill's wife is golden tan but Bill is "Just Plain Bill."

Meter Shop

John Ford wishes to thank his friends for being so thoughtful during his illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Russ Thomas announce the birth of a son, Russ Thomas, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Lew Ferro celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary by taking a trip to New York, and buying a new home for \$15,000. Meter Shop boys, wish them all the luck in the world.

Mr. and Mrs. John Loftus are on vacation in Miami Beach, Florida.

Construction

Here's to an early return from a long period in the Presbyterian Hospital for Division Engineer Maurice T. Connell. We hear he is now recovering at a rapid rate and wish him the best of luck. He has put up a wonderful fight and is now winning the battle.

We hear Arthur Beard is going to retire. Good luck, Arthur, and we are sorry to see you go.

Sincere sympathy is extended to John Monaghan on the death of his wife last month.

Here's to an early recovery from sickness for Thomas Conlan and William Hawley.

Frank Seravalli has been hospitalized in the Nazareth Hospital. The Construction Division wishes him a return to good health and a speedy recovery.

Administration

We had just finished offering congratulations to Hazel Griffin of the Payroll Division on the graduation of her daughter, Mary Louise, from the West Philadelphia High School when she breathtakingly announced that her daughter was to be married February 20 to her Air Force boy-friend. This has been a long romance and we hope they have a long life together. Hazel looks too young to be a mother-in-law.

Harold H. France, civil engineer of the water main records and information division, Water Operations, entered Lankenau Hospital on February 4, 1960 for an operation. Mr. France is treasurer of the American Public Works Association and also a member of our own Twenty-five Year Club. We all miss Mr. France and sincerely hope that he has a speedy recovery.

Gladys Constantine of the accounting unit was recently hospitalized at the Physicians and Surgeons Hospital for a dental operation due to a childhood accident. Take it easy now, Gladys, we need some "petty cash."

CITY DRIVERS MUST REPORT ON LICENSES

Department employees who regularly operate City vehicles are required to report any suspension or revocation of operator's license to which they may be subjected by the State, it was noted today by John T. Cappio, safety engineer.

Report of such suspension or revocation must be made immediately to the employee's supervisor, even if the State action resulted from an incident involving the employee's own automobile rather than a City car.

Failure to report a suspension or revocation will be cause for disciplinary action and may result in dismissal.

Mr. Cappio pointed out the importance of driving carefully, because loss of an operator's license could easily affect the employee's ability to earn his living as a City driver.

The requirement to report does not apply to Water Department employees who do not regularly operate City vehicles.

Mr. Cappio reminds employees that Governor Lawrence's new highway safety program went into effect March 1. This program sets up a dual system of penalties for wayward drivers. A Class "A" point system prescribes license suspensions of one to three months for exceeding the 50-mile an hour speed limit and a 15-day suspension for the first reckless driving violation. Other moving violations carry tougher penalties than in the past. For lesser violations a Class "B" point system is set up.

A second phase of the State program, embracing physical examinations, is still to come.

PROMOTIONS

Walter N. Thomas, Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant, from electrician foreman, class I to class II.

Robert Underwood, Logan Garage, from trades helper to automotive serviceman.

Edward Mittura, Construction Division, from public works inspector, class I to class II.

Congratulations to all.

NEW HONORS FOR SAM GERSON

Reprint from Feb. 29 issue of "Sports Illustrated" Magazine



SAMUEL NORTON GERSON

'To maintain Olympic ideals'

In the modern Olympics era some 4,000 Americans have competed in the Games, then picked up their laurels and scattered to homes all over the U.S. Samuel Norton Gerson has long made it his spare-time job to locate them and enroll them in an Olympics alumni organization known as the U.S. Olympians. Gerson's purpose is something more than a nostalgic one: he believes Olympics alumni (the world holds 32,000 of them) have an important part to play in supporting the Olympic Games and maintaining "Olympic ideals in sport."

A Philadelphia engineer, Gerson

won wrestling letters at Penn, was a silver medalist (featherweight class) in the 1920 Games at Antwerp. A dozen years ago, "driven by curiosity and the desire to ascertain the whereabouts of my teammates," he began poring over incomplete lists and directories. That led ultimately to the organization of the Olympians, of which Gerson is founder-historian. So far, 1,800 U.S. Olympics alumni have been located and enrolled, and the search goes on for the others. Next Olympian objective: to pass the torch of the alumni idea to Olympic athletes in the rest of the world.



RADZIUL AND MCPHERSON WIN AWWA AWARD FOR BEST PAPER



Henry Patillo is surrounded by fellow workers of 30 years as he receives a retirement gift at the Meter Shop. Gold watch is presented on behalf of employees by B. Barney Palmer, administrative services director. Much of Henry's long service was spent in the assembly and repair of small water meters.

WATER DEPARTMENT KEEPS ITS CUSTOMERS INTERESTED AS IT WELCOMES VISITORS AND GIVES OUT BOOKLETS

Public interest in the doings of the Water Department remains at a high level.

Here are a few statistics.

More than 10,000 visitors went through the new Torresdale Water Treatment Plant between its opening last September 29 and the end of 1959. Since then visitors have averaged 200 weekly.

Articles on the Torresdale plant have appeared in numerous national professional magazines.

Nearly 10,000 booklets on the new Torresdale plant have been snatched up by the public since the opening. Approximately 12,000 booklets telling "The Story of Philadelphia's Water" have been given away. Many thousands of copies of an illustrated booklet on water supply, published by the American Water Works Association, have been made available by the Water Department to persons eager to know more about water systems.

Literally thousands of visitors to the Home Show at Exhibition Hall saw the Water Department's attractive panel and equipment display. No small part of them stopped to admire and ask questions.

Tens of thousands of staffers explaining cycle billing are going out with water and sewer bills to anticipate questions of water customers.

All of this, of course, is only a start. We have not finished telling the story of our department . . . a department of which we are proud. There will be much more to come.

One present and one former City employee have been named by the American Water Works Association as authors of the "best paper published" in 1959 on the design distribution facilities.

The paper, published in the April, 1959 issue of the AWWA Journal, was written by Joseph V. Radziul, distribution design engineer, and Prof. Murray B. McPherson, University of Illinois, who served for a time as consultant to the Water Department.

Entitled "Distribution Design Considerations", the paper is mainly concerned with balanced pumping, pipeline, and storage characteristics of a good water distribution system. Data and computations for the study were taken from Philadelphia's Belmont high service district.

The AWWA's Distribution Division, which recommended the award, noted that the paper "provides a stimulating discussion of the new concept in design made possible by new design tools and techniques. This contribution emphasizes the value of a modern approach to the solution of old problems."

The award in the form of an attractive certificate will be presented to Radziul and McPherson at the May 22 convention of the AWWA at Bal Harbor, Florida.

In addition to being the Water Department's distribution design engineer, Joe Radziul is research and development engineer. In the latter capacity formerly filled by Prof. McPherson, Joe is responsible for far reaching studies relating to the present and future use of the Delaware River. A graduate of Drexel Institute of Technology, he has a degree in civil engineering as well as diplomas in structural and municipal public works phases of engineering. Married with a small daughter, he lives at 6152 Columbia Avenue.

McPherson was with the Water Department for two years. Previously he taught at Lehigh University. He is a civil engineering graduate of Bucknell University and studied hydraulics at Iowa State and Columbia Universities. He now teaches hydraulic engineering at the University of Illinois.