

WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

SEPT.-OCT., 1960

SEWAGE EXPERTS GATHER HERE FROM ALL CORNERS OF NATION

Fourteen hundred protectors of the nation's many streams assembled in Philadelphia, Sunday, October 2, for a five-day convention.

Engineers, scientists and industrialists from all parts of the country gathered at the 33rd annual meeting of the Water Pollution Control Federation. This federation represents hundreds of sewage treatment utilities and related industries.

The sewage and industrial waste experts convened at Convention Hall from October 3 through 6 to listen to numerous technical discussions and to view a variety of exhibits. Headquarters was at the Sheraton Hotel.

At the opening Monday session Commissioner Samuel S. Baxter welcomed the delegates to Philadelphia, a city which has made gigantic strides in recent years in the protection of its streams from pollution.

The Hon. Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, addressed the federation at its annual luncheon October 4, while Robert G. Dunlop, president of the Sun Oil Company, served as featured speaker October 5.

Plans for the annual gathering were made under the leadership of Water Commissioner Samuel S. Baxter, who is chairman of the local arrangements committee of the host group—the Pennsylvania Sewage and Industrial Wastes Association.

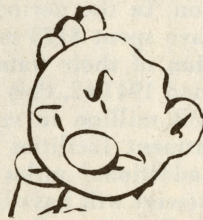
Panel Discussions

The busy convention enthusiasts had panel discussions covering more than 50 topics, ranging from sewer cleaning to plutonium waste control, from activated sludge processing to small plant operation, from textile wastes problems to lagoon operation, and from gamma radiation control to sludge handling in the steel industry.

A highlight was a report by Col. T. H. Setliffe, commanding officer of the district branch, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, on the recent

"Comprehensive Survey of the Water Resources of the Delaware River Basin." Other speakers reported on the varying roles of states, research groups, and industry in water pollution control.

Several Water Department employees served on the local arrangements committee. They are Ralph Hoot, chief of sewage treatment, who is arranging the plant visits; John Cappio, safety engineer, in charge of transportation; and B. Barney Palmer, administrative services director, handling registration, with the assistance of Thomas Mullineaux, accounting officer.

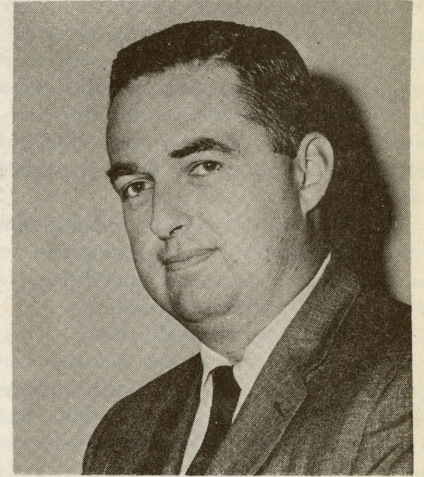


PANEL DISPLAY TELLS WATER DEPARTMENT STORY

The Water Department told its story to the rest of the country when the Water Pollution Control Federation met here.

A colorful display, 30 feet in length, was set up by the department at Convention Hall, where sewerage utilities and equipment manufacturers from all over America had special exhibits.

The department's display featured three huge panels, outlining in word and picture Philadelphia's modernization program for its water and sewerage systems. Numerous color transparencies and a large self-illuminating map of the department's facilities were included.



ROBERT F. WALKER

APPOINT ROBERT WALKER CUSTOMER SERVICE CHIEF

Robert F. Walker, who has been keeping the department's customers happy for a number of months, has been given the job permanently.

Certified from a civil service list, Bob has been appointed full time chief of customer service, a unit which handles the complaints, requests, questions and emergency calls of two million consumers of Philadelphia water.

Acting chief since the death of Carl Frey, Bob heads a staff of interviewers and inspectors who process 68,000 field actions of 32 different kinds annually.

Until his recent appointment, Bob was an administrative analyst II in the Administrative Division. He joined the Water Department in May, 1958, after several years as an industrial engineer with E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Company. He worked at DuPont's Camden, S. C., and Seaford, Del., plants from 1952 to 1958. Earlier he served in the U. S. Navy (from 1946 to 1948), graduating as an electronics technician from the Naval Research Laboratory at Anacostia.

A graduate of Syracuse University (1952) with a bachelor of science degree in production management, Bob is married and has two children. He lives at 912 Glenroy Road.

Foreword to 1959 Water Department Annual Report . . .

PHILADELPHIA WHIPS A NATIONAL PROBLEM . . . A GROWING SHORTAGE OF WATER FACILITIES

For a number of years the Water Department's annual reports have been stories of far reaching progress. They have told about the rejuvenation of an old water system, the clean up of two rivers, the steady improvement in water quality, and the unceasing betterment of service standards.

This the eighth report (under the new City charter) is no exception to the theme of progress. If anything, its story is even more impressive.

Yet this report will have little meaning unless it is set against the background of what is taking place all over America. Our city does not exist in a vacuum. What it does cannot be measured against its own needs only but must be viewed in a national framework.

The 1959 convention of the American Water Works Association called nation wide attention to a startling fact.

It noted that rising population and expanding industry are overtaxing both water resources and water treatment facilities in many parts of the United States. Of the nation's 18,000 water utilities, 20% are deficient in raw water supply, 40% in transmission mains, 33% in pumping capacity, 40% in treatment capacity, 43% in elevated storage and 29% in ground storage. Only a huge capital program involving expenditure of more than a billion dollars annually for water system improvements can even begin to meet this problem, according to AWWA. The present annual expansion rate is only \$600 million.

If to the problem of water supply and facilities be added the closely related problem of protecting streams from pollution, the combined expenditure for water and sewerage systems should be \$2.6 billion annually over the next 17 years.

There is nothing new in AWWA's warning. There have been many such alarms in recent years from farsighted statesmen and engineers. The situation worsens in many communities. It is time, it would seem, for a country wide campaign to bring home to our citizens the simple facts, and this campaign the AWWA is now organizing.

In community after community, three basic elements of a good water supply system are missing, either singly or collectively:

1. Adequate water resources to meet present and future needs, without hampering community growth,

2. Adequate facilities (plus community wide cooperation to protect water resources from pollution,

3. Adequate water treatment and distribution facilities.

As any well informed citizen knows, these three elements are closely intertwined, and the absence of any one of them can have serious consequences for a community's development. Our national future is tightly bound to the adequacy of the water supply programs our citizens adopt in the next decade.

Philadelphians have already made their decision. In the period 1952-62, they will have spent \$123 million for modernization of their water system. For the period 1947-62, they will have invested \$213 million in creation of sewage treatment facilities and sewers. Many additional miles of water mains and sewers will have to be built after 1962. Provision for some of these is already in the city's capital program.

Few American cities were in sorer straits than Philadelphia a decade ago. Its two great rivers, which furnished an adequate and unfailing supply of water, were badly polluted with raw sewage and industrial wastes. Its water treatment plants were old, inadequate, and suffered from lack of maintenance funds; much of its water main and sewer network was laid in the last century; many pumping stations were outmoded. The city's water tasted bad on many occasions.

To meet these conditions was difficult, for responsible operating personnel were constantly handicapped by a lack of appropriations. Only with establishment of the sewer rent in 1946 and the eventual establishment of the Water and Sewer Funds as self-sustaining unities in 1953, together with a new governmental and citizen interest, has this situation gradually changed.

The vast programs supported by Philadelphia's citizens have wiped out a large part of the unfortunate past. The Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers are today comparatively clean; dumping of raw sewage and untreated industrial wastes has mostly ended; our city has three new sewage treatment works and is rapidly modernizing all its water treatment facilities; new pumping stations, water mains and sewers have been built. Our water has become pleasantly palatable.

Fortunately Philadelphia has never had a problem of water resources. The two rivers at its doorstep are as bountiful today as they were a decade or two centuries ago. Our problem has been, and will continue to be, to protect these streams and to provide modern, efficient facilities for treating and distributing their life giving waters.

Philadelphia has gone a long way toward this objective, but only an interested citizenry will bring our city the rest of the way. The blessings of such interest will be endless: New inhabitants, new industry, new shipping, new visitors—for water, too, is an element of community strength.

OUR ANNUAL REPORT

Fresh off the press is the Water Department's eye catching report covering the dramatic events of 1959 in the water and sewerage systems.

The 1959 annual report embraces 52 pages, highlighted with vivid color and 50 photographs. Easily read financial tables are appended to the popularized text.

Small portions of the report are reprinted on this page and the page opposite for the information of our busy readers. For those who would enjoy the full flavor of the City's great progress in providing better service for its water and sewer customers, the full report is a must. Copies may be obtained in Room 1103, Annex, or by telephoning LO 8-5950 ext. 10.

*Highlights of 1959 Water Department Annual Report . . .***WATER DEPARTMENT MOVES INTO ELECTRONICS AS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM SWEEPS FORWARD**

The creative surge which has transformed Philadelphia in recent years continued in 1959. Nowhere was this more obvious than in the City's water and sewerage systems.

The year 1959 saw the—

1. *New Torresdale Water Treatment Plant*, largest pushbutton water works of its kind in the country, open its doors after five years of building and the investment of \$25 million,
2. *Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant* move steadily forward with a \$6 million reconstruction program, which will complete its transformation into Philadelphia's second pushbutton, rapid sand filter plant . . . ready in 1960,
3. *Load Control Center*, the first large scale adaptation in America of electronic and microwave controls to water distribution, move toward an early 1960 completion,
4. *City's New Cycle Billing System* for water and sewer bills move into its final stages of preparation, in time for launching January 1, 1960.
5. *Distribution Network* of water mains and pumping stations undergo further modernization and extension,
6. *Sewage Treatment System* handle a record daily average of 317 million gallons of raw sewage, as the Water Department pressed forward with construction of interceptor sewers to end by 1963 the last dumping of raw sewage into the rivers.

Use of automatic and semi-automatic electronic controls represents an increasing trend in the Water Department's operations. The year 1959 gave new emphasis to this development as Torresdale opened and other automatic installations moved toward completion. One immediate result of this trend, as well as of various intradepartmental reorganizations, was a reduction in the department's per-

sonnel. New training programs, tightening of procedures, extensive research projects, and a fuller public relations program accentuated the streamlining. Public interest rose sharply, and thousands of visitors thronged the new Torresdale plant.

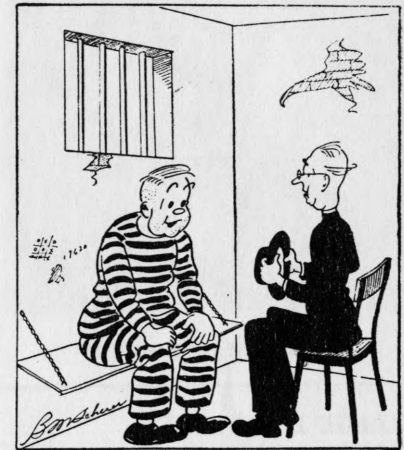
The high level of construction maintained by the Water Department for the past few years continued. Actual construction totaled over \$23.2 million, while \$36.6 million of contracts were in force at the year's end.

The year 1959 underscored a change of creative emphasis in the huge modernization program. While much important work continued in the sewerage system (with the building of 43.5 miles of sewers and a start on the giant Wakeling Street Flood Relief Sewer in the Northeast), the year 1959 belonged above all to the water system. Though dollar expenditures were still roughly equal between the two systems and might continue to be, the water system was beginning to bear fruits which would have a far reaching effect.

These fruits include the Torresdale and the Queen Lane plants, the Load Control Center, and (by 1963) a modernized Belmont treatment plant. Coupled with a continuing modernization and expansion of the distribution network, these facilities will give Philadelphians higher quality water at proper pressures and in adequate quantity.

This shift of emphasis, which has been under way for several years, fits into the department's comprehensive \$336 million program for the 1947-62 period, and logically precedes the many additional millions of dollars that must be invested in replacement of old water mains and sewers after 1962.

With the opening of three modern sewage treatment works between 1951 and 1955, the near completion of a large network of interceptor sewers to divert raw sewage to these plants, the pressing of a vigorous program for industrial waste control, and the formation of agreements with nearly all communities on Philadelphia's Pennsylvania periphery for the treat-



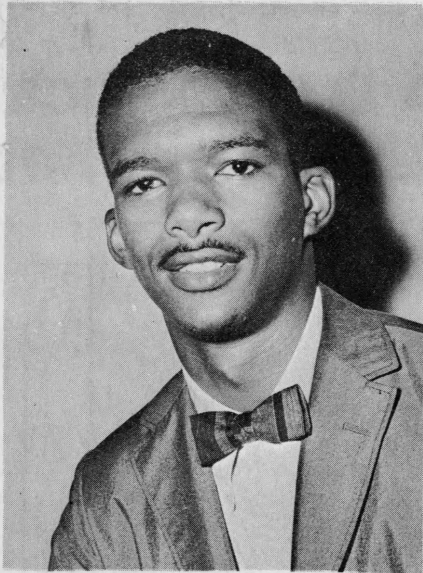
"Which place d'ya reckon Butch McGonigle went? I'd like to see HIM again."

ment of their sewage in Philadelphia's plants, the Water Department largely accomplished the first necessary step in its program . . . that of reducing the pollution load on the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. Today, thanks to these measures plus allied Federal and interstate programs, the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers are comparatively clean.

With the achievement of these programs, water system improvements have moved inevitably to the foreground. The cleaner river water, indeed, gives added meaning to investments in new water treatment plants and distribution facilities.

Though the emphasis has changed, the purpose of the Water Department's modernization program remains. That purpose is to provide for two million Philadelphians the standards of service which they have the right to expect from a publicly operated utility . . . standards expressed in pure and palatable water, efficient operation, attention to customers' needs, and cleaner rivers. The benefits of this program for health, industry, shipping, recreation and decent living are incalculable.

The year 1959 carried the Water Department even closer to these goals.



WILBERT MITCHELL

COLLEGE DAYS LURE WILBERT MITCHELL AWAY

Those who say that the machine is mightier than the man never knew Wilbert Mitchell. Wilbert could make the Water Department's duplicating machines respond like an artist's brush on canvas.

No small part of the credit for the improved appearance of the Water Department News belongs to Wilbert, who had just the right touch for getting the best out of machine and plates.

Wilbert, the Water Department's official duplicating equipment operator, is now off for new fields to conquer. He has entered Morgan State College in Baltimore for a four-year course in business administration.

A 1956 commercial graduate of South Philadelphia High School, Wilbert entered the Water Department in the same year. Employed at first on the department's universal metering program, he oversaw the duplicating unit during the past two years. Literally thousands of sheets of paper, covering everything from contract specifications to announcements, passed through Wilbert's hands each week. Without Wilbert the mighty paper stream that flows through all modern organizations would have fallen to a dismal trickle in at least one public agency.

To Wilbert the NEWS extends its sincerest wishes for future success. We don't know what we are going to do without him.

Housekeeping Keeps Accidents Away

One of the most important duties in the work of a supervisor is inspection. It is the follow-up part of his job, the means by which he determines whether his instructions and training efforts are being followed.

Good housekeeping is achieved by good inspection procedures, followed by necessary corrective action to assure the safe performance of all operations.

In addition to the inspection which every supervisor should make in his area, various other inspection techniques have been developed to insure orderly and well-kept operations. Among these is the use of inspection teams concentrating exclusively on housekeeping, unsafe conditions and practices. In some cases, these teams are made up of supervisors from the department being inspected. Such inspections also vary in that some may be scheduled while others may be carried out without notice.

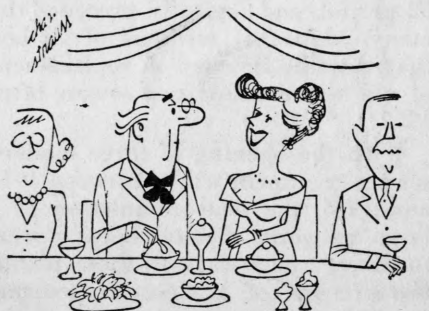
Bad housekeeping makes for trouble anywhere.

But bad housekeeping around a work place is double-trouble--it makes for both inefficiency and accidents.

Every kind of mess, everything out of place is a hazard.

Once you get the habit of keeping your own work place in order, you'll find that the good house-

A youthful figure is something that you get when you ask a woman her age.



WALL STREET JOURNAL

"But how perfectly thrilling, Senator, to have been defeated by such an overwhelming majority."

keeping you're doing for safety's sake will pay you dividends in pleasanter, lighter, faster work.

And it will do something for your morale, too. A man whose work is done smoothly and neatly gets a real lift out of it.

But these are just the extra advantages. The real reason for good housekeeping is to protect yourself and your shop neighbors from costly, painful, crippling accidents.

It is important that all inspections be handled in a constructive manner, that the supervisor understands the purpose is to help and not belittle his efforts. Accepted in that spirit, they cannot fail to result in tidy, shipshape operations, with good production achievements and creditable safety records.

--Safety News Bulletin
Charleston Group
Companies
Columbia Gas System

MAYOR GUEST OF HONOR AT QUEEN LANE OPENING

Mayor Richardson Dilworth officiated at the opening of the new Queen Lane filter plant on Thursday, August 29, at 10:30 A.M.

The guest list included several hundred City officials, engineers, civic leaders, and persons prominent in the water works field. The program in brief: Flag raising, dedication, guided tour and picnic lunch.

The \$5.5 million semi-automatic plant took four and one-half years to build. It will have a rated daily capacity of 120 million gallons of water and will be able to handle peak loads of 150 million gallons.

WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

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