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WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1961

WATER ENGINEERS LEAD IN CITY CHESS TOURNEY

This is the time of year when neither snow nor sleet nor zero temperatures can cool off the chess war raging in Philadelphia. The Water Department's chess team is locked in a struggle with seven competitors for the championship of the Philadelphia Chess Association's Industrial League.

As of the time the *News* went to press, the Water Department team, composed of Design Branch and Materials Testing Laboratory engineers, had won four matches, lost none, and was leading the league.

On November 28 the engineers moved Westinghouse Corporation from second place down to third, and on December 12 they outthought Alco Oil and Chemical Corporation. Other teams faced, or to be faced, are Chester Pike, Blue Cross, Comegys Food Corporation, Eastern State Correctional Institution, and Philadelphia Electric Company.

Forming the department's first line team are: Gustave Van Nynatten, Al Trasoff, George Holmes, Fred Van Nynatten, and John Mirkil, captain. These are all experts, with years of experience behind them. Their next match will be with General Electric on January 16.

ROXBOROUGH FILTER PLANTS TO END 60 YEARS OF SERVICE IN NORTHWEST



ONE OF WINNING CHESS MOVES is made by Fred Van Nynatten, of Water Department, in match which upset Westinghouse Corporation. Westinghouse players Edward Tatios (center) and Louis Mayfield follow move.

The two small Roxborough Water Treatment Plants will fade into history early next year after nearly 60 years of continuous operation.

Situated in one of Philadelphia's most scenic spots, amid sweeping lawns with large stands of trees only a stone's throw away, the two outworn plants are being "push-buttoned" into oblivion. Rejuvenated rivals—the new semi-automatic plants at Torresdale and Queen Lane—are ready to take over the old veterans' duties.

The 13 slow sand filter beds, built in 1902-03, will no longer be needed when the new Henry Avenue express main goes into service and water from the Queen Lane Plant is carried via the main to the filtered water basins at Roxborough. From these basins Queen Lane water will be distributed to the Roxborough-Manayunk-Chestnut Hill area.

Shawmont To Go

With the closing of the slow sand beds, the huge raw water reservoir (147 million gallons) at the Upper Roxborough Plant will no longer be used. The half-century old Shawmont Pumping Station, located on the Schuylkill River at the foot of the hill occupied by the plants, will be closed down. Discontinued also will be the Roxborough Booster Pumping Station, which gives the river water from Shawmont an extra push up the hill.

Eventually Upper Roxborough's eight slow sand beds will be cleared of sand and gravel to form a 20-million gallon underground basin for storage of filtered water. This storage will supplement the existing filtered water basins—eight million gallons at Upper Roxborough and three million

(Continued on Page 3)



LIKE DISCIPLINED SENTINELS the small buildings at left guard the underground filter beds at the Lower Roxborough Plant. Soon to close, the plant has a capacity of 10 million gallons of water daily.

WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

Published Bi-Monthly By

THE WATER DEPARTMENT

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 Belmont Plant..... Richard Pinder
 Roxborough Plant..... Carl Righter
 Torresdale Plant..... Rose Sideman

BASKETBALLS BOUNCE AS CONTEST DEEPENS

Basketballs are bouncing weekly at the Belfield Recreation Center, 21st Street and Chew Avenue, where a Water Department team is playing eight other teams for the championship of the Delaware Valley Industrial League.

The tournament, which started in November, will continue through March. Manning the ball for the Water Department are Edward Milburn, forward; Don Randell, forward; Tom Jones, center; Bruce Jant, guard; Mario Evangelist, guard; William Bayard, forward; Herbert Smather, guard. Captain of the team is Edward Milburn. The team is sponsored by the Employees' Recreation Association of the department.

Future department games include:

December 29, 9:00 P.M., United Engineering and Construction Company; January 5, 6:45 P.M., American Meter Company; January 12, 8:00 P.M., Philadelphia Gas Works; January 26, 9:00 P.M., Standard Pressed Steel Company; January 31, 6:45 P.M., Bell Telephone Company; February 9, 8:00 P.M., Supplee Biddle Stelz Company; February 16, 8:00 P.M., Cuneo Press; February 23, 6:45 P.M., United Engineering and Construction Company.

A Tenth Anniversary

Dear Employee:

Next month the Water Department will reach its 10th anniversary as a self-supporting public utility. Although Philadelphia's water system has a venerable history, stretching back 161 years, and its sewerage system is scarcely less old, the Water Department itself is still very young.

For our department—as for Philadelphia generally—these 10 years have been filled with stirring events. Our water and sewerage systems have been largely transformed into modern facilities, and the people of Philadelphia drink better water, receive improved service, and are surrounded by cleaner rivers.

Proud as I am of these achievements, I am even more proud of the engineers, technicians, staff personnel,

skilled and unskilled employees who have done so much to make these achievements possible. Vital as new water plants and other modern facilities may be, it must always be well trained, dedicated employees who breathe life into such facilities and ensure the fine service to which the public is entitled.

Though much remains to be done, and though no doubt some things can always be done better by the department, you and your fellow employees have performed in a way that does credit to the department and to the City. Your recent splendid showing in the United Fund appeal is but another evidence of this.

For all of this, many thanks, and best wishes for the New Year.

Samuel S. Baxter

WATER DEPARTMENT TORCHLIGHTS THE WAY AS IT TURNS IN 107% OF UNITED FUND QUOTA

For the second straight year the Water Department has won "torchlighter" rank in the United Fund drive, moving up alongside Philadelphia's most generous industries and business firms.

Contributing \$26,537, or \$6,220 more than last year, Water Department employees made up 107% of their \$24,790 United Fund quota. Ninety-five per cent of the department's 1,574 employees contributed. For the department as a whole, this was \$17.80 per employee.

The department's liberal giving was part of an over all record set by municipal agencies this year. Approximately 92% of City, judicial, and allied county employees gave \$255,167, or 24% more dollars than last year.

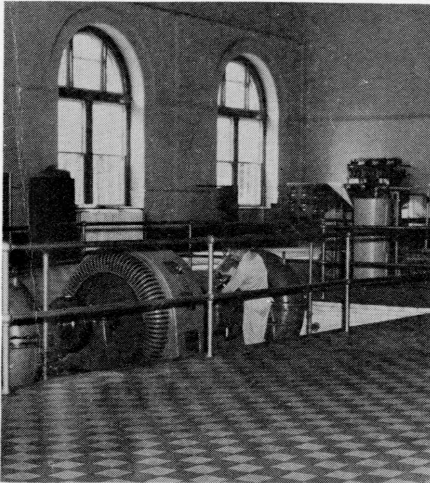
Joining the Water Department in torchlighter status were the Mayor's Office, the Civil Defense Council, the Office of the Managing Director, the Department of Recreation, and the Office of the City Treasurer. United Fund standards for selection of torchlighters included attainment of United Fund quota by October 31, shouldering by supervisory personnel of their fair share, at least 85% participation by employees, and an aver-



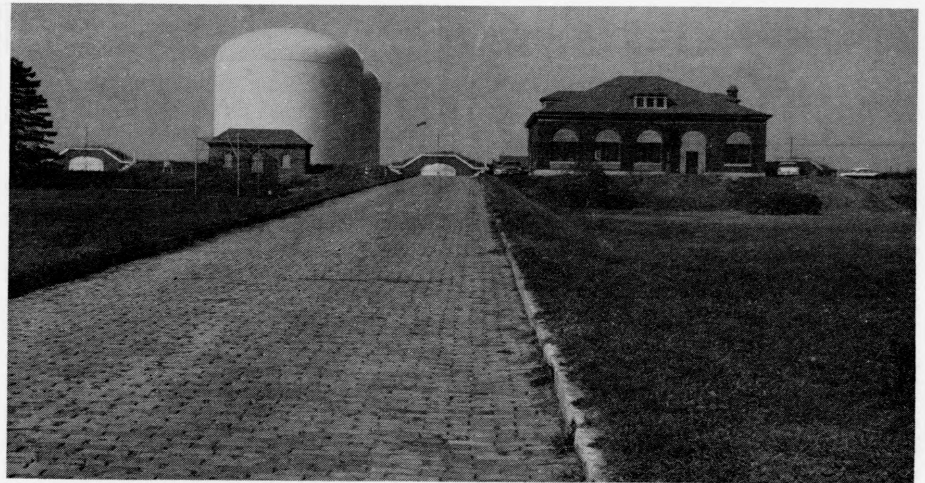
TORCHLIGHTER AWARD won by Water Department gets feminine touch from Mrs. Dorothy Leary, secretary to Commissioner.

age employee donation of at least \$15.20.

In sheer dollars given, the Police Department—with \$56,691—topped all other departments. About 99% of its 5,901 employees contributed. The Department of Streets, with 88% of its 4,231 employees giving, turned in \$30,910.



OLD SHAWMONT STATION, which pumps water uphill from Schuylkill River to Roxborough Plants, will follow plants into oblivion.



SLOW SAND UPPER ROXBOROUGH PLANT went into operation in 1903. Its sand beds will be cleared for underground water storage. Standpipes, built in recent years, will be retained.

ROXBOROUGH PLANTS TO CLOSE IN 1962

(Continued from Page 1)

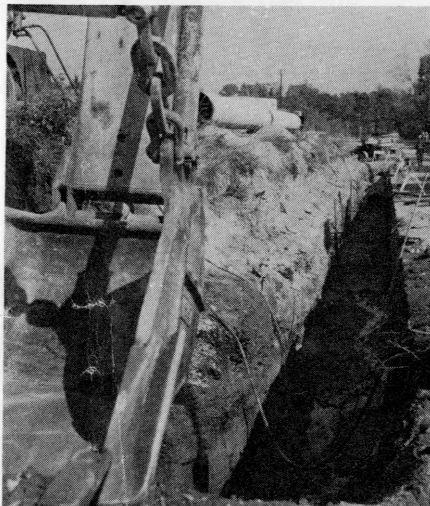
gallons at the lower plant. Retained will be the high service pumping station for filtered water, and two storage tanks.

Closing of the Roxborough water works is the final step in a tightly knit plan, which included the expansion and modernization of Queen Lane as well as the building of the four-mile Henry Avenue main. Related to all this was the building of express mains from the Lardner's Point Pumping Station across North Philadelphia into the Northwest, and the construction of the West Oak Lane Pumping Station . . . now nearly operational. Through the latter network Delaware River water, purified at the Torresdale Plant, will reach the Northwest, and in an emergency

can be directed to the basins at Roxborough.

The shut-down of operations at Roxborough awaits installation of temporary pumps at Queen Lane, where the regular high service station is being reconstructed. The temporary pumps, which will pump water through the Henry Avenue main, are expected to be ready in February.

The Roxborough works, which have a combined capacity of 32 million gallons of water daily, are among the last of the slow sand plants built by Philadelphia in the early 1900's. The Torresdale and Queen Lane slow sand filters are no longer in use, and will be cleared to form underground water storage areas. The Belmont Plant is now undergoing complete reconstruction.



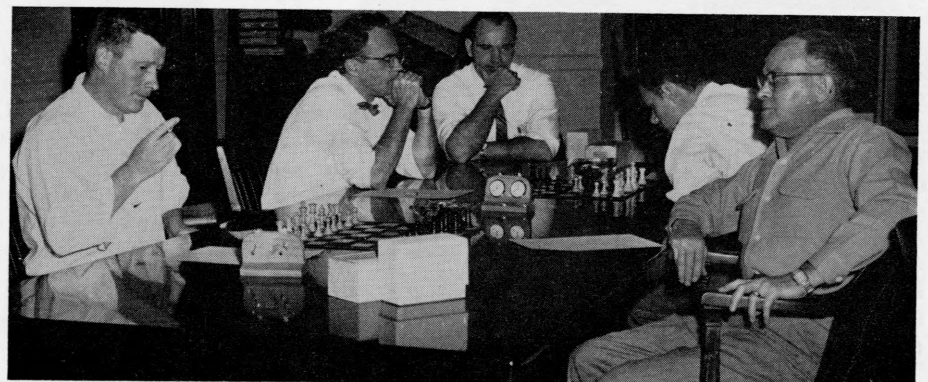
LAST FEW FEET of four-mile Henry Avenue main await laying. Main will bring water from the Queen Lane Plant.

AWWA NAMES JOHN CAPPIO TO NATIONAL SAFETY GROUP

John T. Cappio, safety officer, has been named to the safety practices committee of the American Water Works Association.

This national committee recommends improved safety practices to AWWA members, passes on safety awards, and distributes safety materials.

Active in local and state wide safety affairs, Mr. Cappio has been with the Water Department for nearly five years. He was previously safety engineer for the Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton Corporation.



A PONDEROUS MOMENT is reflected in faces of Water Department chessmen John Mirkil, George Holmes, and William D'Orazio (l. to r.) as they face Westinghouse Corporation players Louis Mayfield and Frank Seningan across the table. No one sleeps since clocks on the table time the moves.

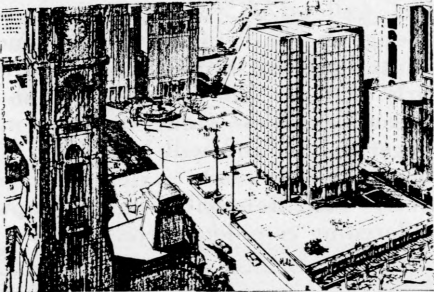
DIRT TO FLY SOON FOR CITY OFFICES

The new Municipal Services Building, which will be the future "home" of 2,800 City employees working in center city, will be launched with a ground breaking ceremony January 23 on Reyburn Plaza.

The Water Department will become involved almost immediately in the work. A number of water and sewer lines in the area must be relocated. Relocation of these and other utility lines will precede actual building construction, which will begin next May or June.

For the public and City employees alike the new building should offer large benefits.

City services will be brought closer to John Q. Citizen than ever before, through a huge Public Service Concourse where applications, licenses, permits, bill payments, etc. will be centralized. At a score of counters and desks, employees will be able to service 2,000 persons at one time, eliminating the need for Philadelphians to make confusing and time consuming trips to scattered offices. Behind the counters will be areas for more detailed work, such as processing of applications and searching of records.



For City employees the new building will be an attractive place to work. Off-white in color, shaped like a Greek cross, its cut-out corners will provide natural lighting for nearly every office. Natural light will reach even the Public Service Concourse located below street level. Twelve automatic elevators will serve the building, which will have 16 office floors, a two-floor lobby, and, at the top, two floors of equipment.

Occupying 25% of Reyburn Plaza, the office tower will be constructed of reinforced concrete, with 32 primary supporting columns. Fire proof, it will have a combination heating-air conditioning system, automatically controlled the year around. Exterior



Dear Contributors:

Many thanks for the fine stories which so many of you wrote for the *News* in the past year. You may not always have seen the full text in print, but you certainly kept the *News* and the editor well fed. So don't be discouraged.

The portrait above is more symbolic than real. It symbolizes the inner conflicts of every editor when he is faced with a story. If he bites off a piece now and then, this is merely to relieve his tensions and improve the quality of the product.

So keep the stories flowing in. Meanwhile, Happy New Year.

THE EDITOR

PERSONAL NOTES

Torresdale

Best wishes to Frank Tiano, mechanic on the marriage of his eldest daughter Antoinette, October 21.

Congratulations are in order for Theodore Baruch, chemist. On October 7, 2:29 A.M., a little girl, 6 lbs. 15½ oz., was born into the Baruch household.

Torresdale welcomes John Guthrie, chemist I, to its payroll.

Best wishes go with Vincenzo Fiorino, laborer, who retired after 15 years of loyal service.

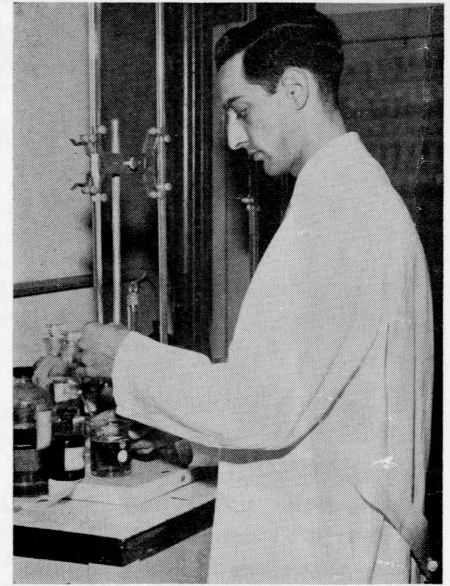
We wish to express our sympathy to Louis Breitenbach, mechanic helper, whose father, Joseph, of Toms River, N. J., passed away on November 4.

Administration

Congratulations are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Starr on the birth of their sixth child and fifth daughter—Karen Mary. Karen was born on September 28 and weighed six pounds, 11 ounces. We also wish them good luck on the recent purchase of a larger house in the Northeast.

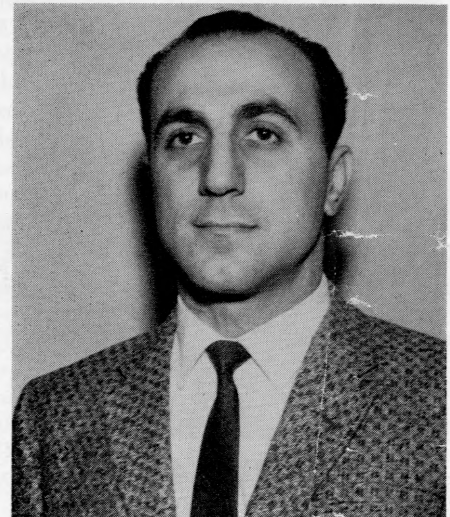
faces will be of precast stone panels, with windows projecting to give a richly embossed pattern. The "sandwich" windows, consisting of two panes of glass five inches apart, will have useful features: the intervening space will insulate the building and will accommodate a vertical blind; the outer pane will be bronze tinted to reduce glare.

PROMOTED



VINCENT J. MERCALDO

Chemist I



JOSEPH H. STELLABOTTE

Mechanical Engineer II

RECREATION GROUP OFFERS 1936 VALUE FOR 1961 BUCK

New members are being sought by the Employees' Recreation Association. For one dollar in annual dues the association offers:

Participation in baseball, basketball, bowling, golf, fishing trips, chess and checker tournaments . . . discounts for special movies, Eagles' games, and other events.

New attractions for the future: Quoits, chess, checkers, darts, and other games during lunchtime. Also \$2 tickets in place of the usual \$2.50 charge for "El Cid," motion picture, January 18, 8:30 P.M., Goldman.

DEPARTMENT PROMOTES SIXTEEN APPOINTS MONAGHAN SUPERVISOR



JOYCE FICCHI
Clerk-Typist II



AGGIENORA HARRISON
Clerk II

John J. Monaghan, of the Customer Service Section, has been promoted to field representative supervisor. He is one of 16 employees advanced to higher civil service positions in recent weeks.

As field inspector and then as field representative, Mr. Monaghan performed the many chores which fall to the lot of Customer Service men—from inspection of new water installations to checking of drainage leaks. Residing at 1402 South Allison Street, he has been with the Water Department since 1952.

Back at his old job as a filter plant foreman is William T. Crouse, Jr., 5341 North 5th Street, who has been transferred to the Belmont Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Crouse accepted a voluntary, but temporary, reassignment as a labor foreman a year ago because of the necessary reduction of personnel.

Other promotions include:

Construction Branch: Richard Mariani, from public works inspector II to civil engineer I, and Frank Coaxum, Jr., engineering aide I to II.

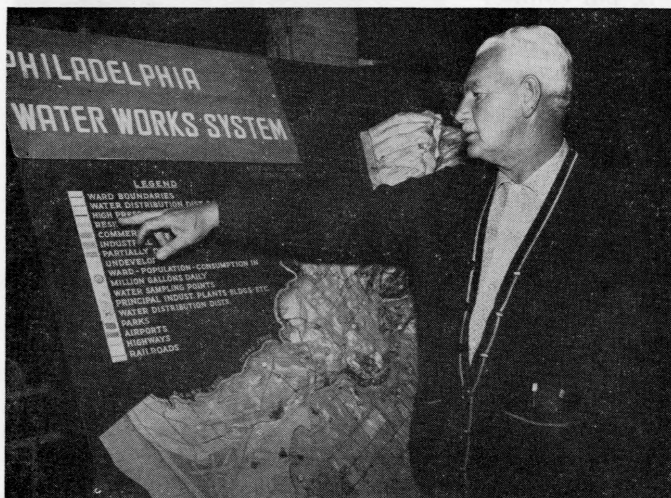
Distribution Section: John T. Catalano, from water distribution foreman to supervisor; Charles A. Parks, from trainee to water distribution repairman; Lee Randell, Jr., from laborer to water distribution repairman; Leon A. Wilson, from laborer to repairman trainee; Aggienora Harrison from clerk I to II.



JOHN J. MONAGHAN
Field Representative Supervisor

Northeast Sewage Works: Jackson Walker, from laboratory technician to chemist I, and Willie McEllwain, from laborer to plant helper.

Various Units: Joseph H. Stella-botte, Design Branch, from mechanical engineer I to II; Miss Joyce A. Ficchi, Accounting Section, from clerk-typist I to II; Walter L. Chavers, Sewer Maintenance Section, from laborer to sewer crawler; Leo J. P. Peyton, Customer Service Section, from field inspector I to field representative; Edward Shervin, Water Treatment Headquarters, from water treatment laboratory supervisor to sanitary engineer I; Vincent J. Mercaldo, Materials Testing Lab, from technician to chemist I.



DIVERSITY OF WATER DEPARTMENT functions is expressed by William T. Crouse, Jr. (above), newly named filter plant foreman at Belmont, and Walter L. Chavers (right), who prepares to descend man-hole to begin his new job as a sewer crawler.





COURSE TO FOSTER SAFER DRIVER HABITS

If the Water Department has anything to do with it, the vehicular accident rate in Philadelphia will drop at least a notch next year.

With the cooperation of the Police Academy, the department is sponsoring a safe driver course for more than 200 of its employees. The two-day course, attended by eight employees weekly, will be conducted at the academy over the next few months. Every Water Department employee who regularly operates a City vehicle will be put through the course.

The purpose of the instruction is to correct and improve driving habits.

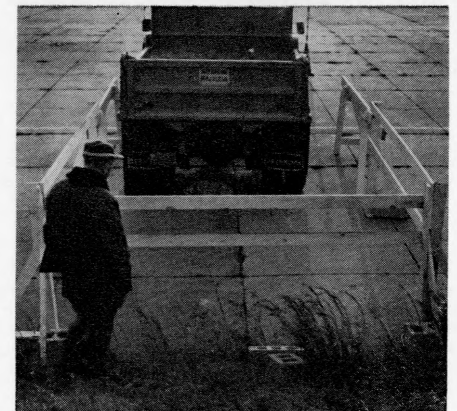
Under the leadership of Superintendent James J. McNamee, 10 academy instructors give "students" several hours of classroom work, and this is followed by tests of skill in the operation of Water Department vehicles.

While—for more effective teaching purposes—the details of the course are not disclosed to students in advance, it is reported that classroom instruction includes driver attitudes, physical laws affecting vehicles, sound driving practices, driver reaction time, and braking distances. Eyes are tested from "A" to "Z," with a few extras, such as depth perception, thrown in for good luck.

Test Skills

Driving skills are observed in the calm of the paved courts around the Torresdale Plant's old slow sand

SAFE DRIVER CLASS gets pointers from Police Academy instructor John McKendry (upper left) as part of Water Department safety program. Instructor William Barclay (above) checks parking alignment of "student" Angelo Sticco, while at right instructor Robert Simpson watches another student back up to simulated loading dock.



filters. Since some obstacle courses are included to test the unerring eye and the steady hand, the quiet is appropriate. Instructors, however, do not look for driving marvels, but counsel students on how to improve their driving practices. The big wind-up of the two-day session is a road test over a designated route.

Police Academy instructors are Captains Harry G. Merker and William G. Collins, Sergeant John C. Greer, and Policemen Warren Claus, Herbert Atkinson, William Barclay, John Dietrich, John McKendry, Elmer Palmer, and Robert Simpson. Safety Officer John T. Cappio and Acting Personnel Officer Cornelius J. O'Kane represented the Water Department in setting up the course.

Why all the fuss about safe driving? One reason is statistical: During the first 11 months of 1961, Water Department vehicles were involved in 98 accidents. This statistic, it is felt, could have been lower, had some driving habits been safer.



SAFETY ENGINEER JOHN CAPPIO (right) and George Truman, president of Philadelphia chapter, accept American Society of Safety Engineers' Chapter Achievement Award from George Gorbell (center), national president, in Chicago.

EMPLOYEES TRADE IDEAS FOR DOLLARS

The turn of a key brought fortune to two money wise employees in the past month, while another shrewd employee cleaned up with a fire hose.

George W. Gilbert and Angelo Torrie won \$15 each from the City's Central Suggestion Awards Board for inventing new keys, while John Roberts received \$25 for suggesting a novel use for the hose.

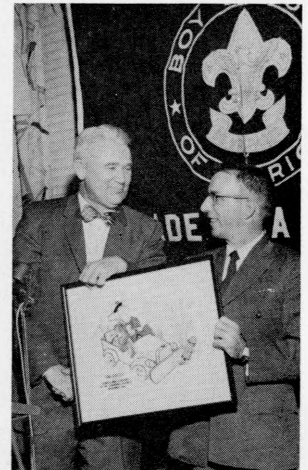
The keys may sound trivial, but in fact they are little giants. Mr. Gilbert, a water distribution supervisor, thought that the solid steel keys (often six feet and more long) used to operate water main valves were a bit of a headache. Heavy and cumbersome, the longer ones couldn't be carried in compact trucks or passenger cars. When valves were buried very deep, a special truck had to bring the needed key. Mr. Gilbert tried his hand at designing a new key, 50% lighter, in short lengths that can be assembled anywhere and carried in any type of vehicle. His idea worked. Result: A saving in time and money.

Angelo Torrie, field representative for Customer Service, had similar thoughts about the six-foot keys used to open and close curb stops, which control the water flow through pipe lines entering homes. He devised a new key in two sections which can be assembled or disassembled as needed . . . thus solving the transportation problem.

Pipes which carry lime solutions at the Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant often became blocked and only a sewer cleaning machine operated by two specialists could unblock them. That is, until John Roberts a mechanic at the plant, suggested use of a fire hose to flush out the lines. Not only did his idea work but it reduced unblocking time from eight hours to two. Moreover a fire hose is now used regularly to prevent blocking . . . a feat the sewer cleaning machine could not perform.



THE SAM BAXTER
FROM THE
SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS
OF THE SCHUYLKILL DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 1961



TWO LOYAL SCOUTERS receive honors from the Boy Scouts' Schuylkill District. Above, Scout Executive Curtis Bradley presents a gently humorous "biographical" sketch to Commissioner Samuel S. Baxter in recognition of his busy life as water commissioner, City emergency coordinator, Schuylkill District chairman, and community leader. At right Bradley presents a small statuette to Walter Clark, division engineer in the Water Department's Construction Branch. Mr. Clark headed a committee which organized 12 new Scout units for the district.



HIRE 19 RECRUITS FROM MERIT LISTS

Nineteen new employees have been hired by the Water Department in the past two months. Appointed from civil service lists, they are:

Customer Service Section: Vernon Gilmore and Mrs. Carrie G. Sumbler, clerk-typist II; Mrs. Betty S. Butts, clerk-stenographer II; Miss Francine M. Cannon, clerk-typist I; and Fred Wright, field inspector I.

Sewer Maintenance Section: John Boerner, maintenance foreman I; Ronald Headen, Edward C. Lassiter, Jr., and John R. Kelly, laborer.

Distribution Section: Miss Sharon L. Downs, clerk-typist I, and David Downing, laborer.

Northeast Sewage Works: Nathaniel Williams, laborer; Daniel J. Marcrino, maintenance mechanic II; and Edward L. Dwyer, machinist.

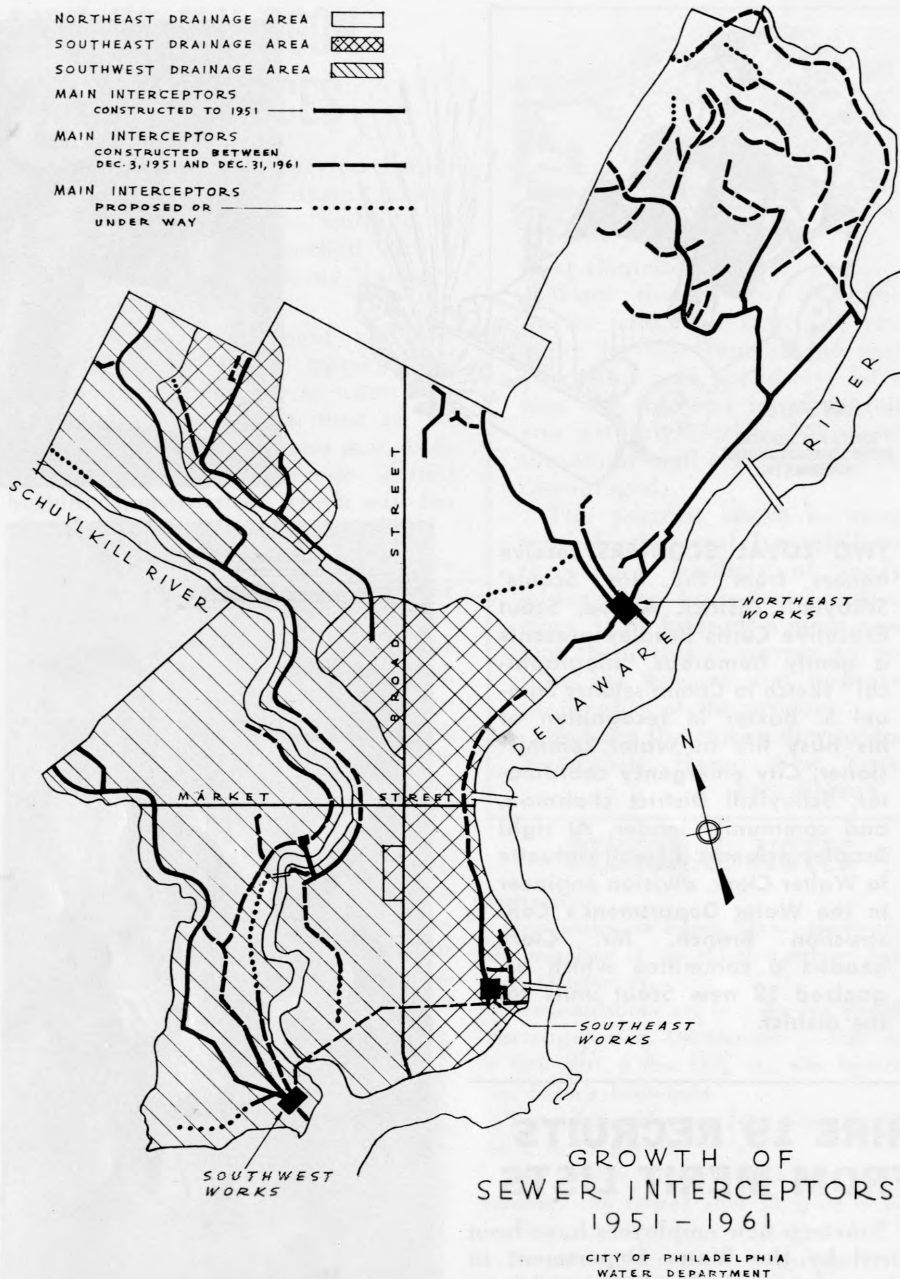
Other Units: Miss Viola Pelson, clerk-typist I, Plant Maintenance Sec-

tion; Miss Doris J. Wright, clerk-typist I, Administrative Services office; Miss Lois A. Jenkins, clerk-stenographer II, Accounting Section; John M. Guthrie, chemist I, Torresdale Water Plant.

MANY THANKS

I desire to express my gratitude and sincere thanks to my many friends in the Water and Streets Department for the luncheon honoring my retirement after more than 50 years with the City.

MERVIN H. KOHLER



SEWAGE PLANTS GET RECORD FLOW IN 1961

One of the success stories of 1961 is measured in sewage.

More sewage entered Philadelphia's sewage treatment plants in 1961 than ever before. The daily average, according to advance estimates, is about 370 million gallons . . . a rise of 15 million gallons daily over 1960 and 52 mgd over 1959.

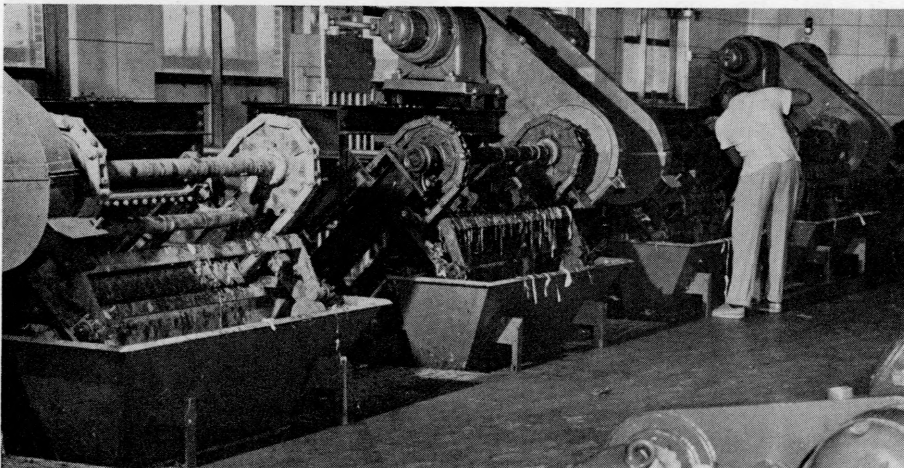
In a 10-year period the flow of sewage to the plants has climbed by 287 million gallons daily.

Where did that sewage go in 1951? As every Philadelphian with a sensitive nose knows, it went into the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, along with large quantities of pollution from other sources.

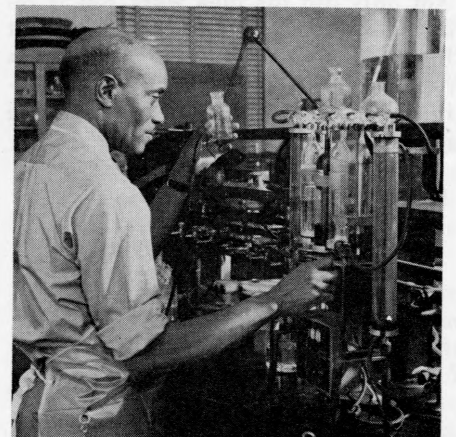
In 1951 Philadelphia opened the new Northeast Sewage Treatment Works. With both the old and new Northeast plants operating that year, the city treated only 82 million gallons of sewage daily. Today Philadelphia treats 97% of its raw sewage, besides millions of gallons daily from outlying communities with which it has agreements.

In the intervening years, two more modern sewage plants have gone into service, as well as 55 additional miles of interceptor sewers to divert the sewage to the plants. With further additions to the interceptor system in the next year along the lower Schuylkill, the remaining 3% of untreated sewage will be picked up.

Looming in 1962 is the expansion at the Northeast Plant, where an additional aeration tank, four additional final settling tanks, and new air blowers will be built. The \$53 million expansion will raise the plant's daily capacity to 175 million gallons.



BUSY PLACES are the city's sewage treatment plants. At the Southwest Works, the mechanical bar screens (above) remove sticks, rags and leaves from incoming sewage. Constant check on effectiveness of treatment is kept by Leon Taylor, chemist (right).





ARTHUR J. COLA

Retires

THREE EMPLOYEES RETIRE AFTER 102 YEARS OF WORK

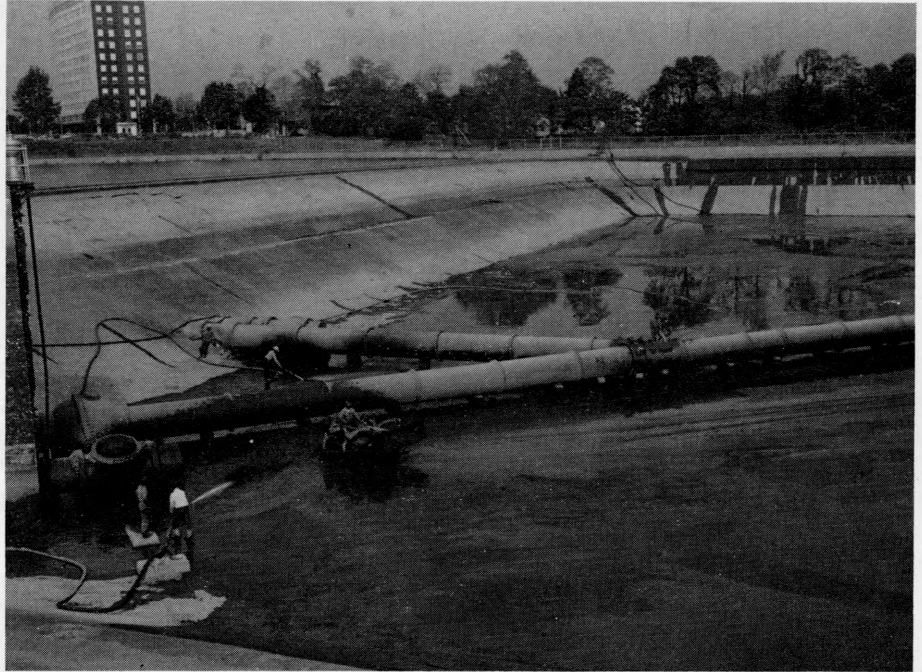
Retired in recent weeks were three veteran employes with 102 years of City service among them.

Heading the list is Arthur J. Cola, 61, one of the Belmont Water Treatment Plant's best filter works foremen. A conscientious supervisor, popular with his fellow workers, Mr. Cola completed more than 39 years with the Water Department and its predecessor, the old Water Bureau.

Starting work at Belmont in May, 1922, as a laborer, he rose successively to sand washing machine operator and filter operator. In December, 1942, he was assigned to the Torresdale Water Treatment Plant as a labor foreman, and by 1953 he had become a filter plant foreman. Later he was transferred back to Belmont. Mr. Cola lives at 2213 South 17th Street.

Another member of the long service club is George J. Biles, 60, of 2853 Knorr Street. Mr. Biles, a water distribution repairman, started work with the Water Bureau 36 years ago as a laborer. He worked later as a caulker, and in January, 1943, he was appointed a subforeman of water main repairmen. Prior to his City service he worked at the Philadelphia Paper Company.

Jesse Upshur, 68, of 2319 North 27th Street, has wound up 17 years as a laborer in the Water Distribution Section. He was employed for 10 years previously in the Department of Streets.



FOUR FEET OF SEDIMENT are bulldozed and flushed from one of the two large raw water reservoirs at the Belmont Water Treatment Plant. The reservoirs, which hold 36 million gallons each, are cleaned in alternate years.

TIPS ON GARDENING

By Elwood Unruh

Gardener, Torresdale Plant

In our part of the country, the winter time can be a time of frustration. For gardeners, this is particularly so. But growing plants inside relieves the bleakness out of doors tremendously.

I've never kept score, but I think it fairly accurate to say that of all the questions asked of me concerning indoor plants, seventy-five percent relate to African violets. There are many varieties of these fine little plants and the hobby of their culture is interesting and rewarding. However, there are many other plants, both flowering and those grown for their foliage alone, that are interesting.

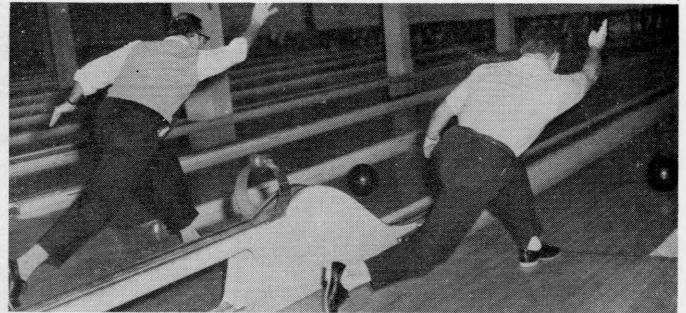
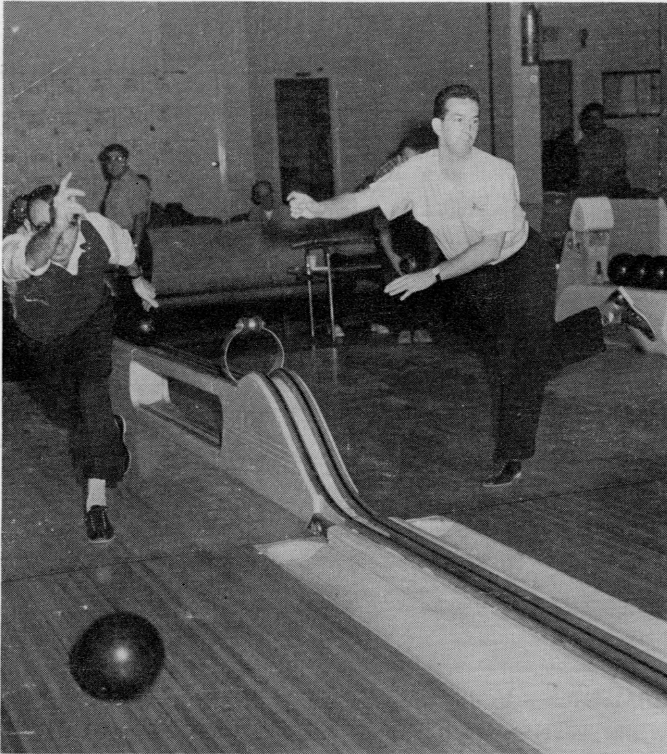
Here at Torresdale we maintain a good supply of ivy, coleus, lantana, impatiens, fibrous begonia, citrus, and some winter flowering bulbs. A large sunny room is used for propagating and raising the potted plants and some fifty plants are distributed in office windows and the main filter gallery. When plants get leggy-certain kinds have this habit-or when a few get droopy from being closed up in an office over the weekend, they are

replaced from the supply mentioned above.

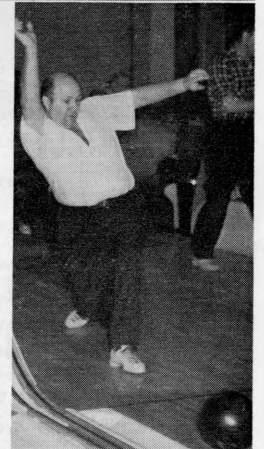
In The Home

For the house or apartment dweller the same routine can be used on a much smaller scale. A few generalities should be kept in mind. Modern homes are low in humidity; so small containers of water should be placed around the plants to increase the moisture content of the air, or other arrangements made. Flowering plants must have a certain amount of sunlight. Most brightly colored foliage plants lose their brilliance if kept too long out of the sun. On the other hand, there are many large leaved plants, native to the jungle, which thrive best in dimly lighted rooms. To sum it all up the biggest set back in raising plants in the home is lack of humidity; overwatering does not correct this. Several plants in a group will do much better than one or two "loners." They create their own humidity.

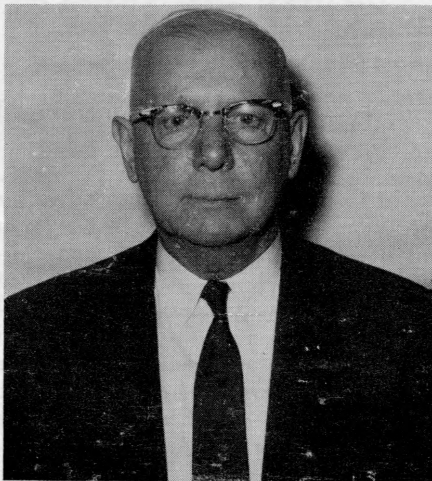
Variety stores, super markets and florist shops are the source of supply for many kinds of plants. If a well stocked florist shop is discovered, you're in luck, for such a shop has variety and valuable information.



AS RHYTHMICAL as ballet dancers are members of the Design Branch's bowling team, now battling other units for the department championship. At left, Mark Lalli and Fred Miami (l. to r.) show how it's done, while, above, Al Strouse and Mark Lalli exhibit perfect coordination. Tony DiLuzio, right, also has a twist or two.



MERVIN KOHLER RETIRES TO BECOME CONSULTANT



On November 15 the Water Department lost an old, familiar face, Mervin H. Kohler, retiring after 50 years of City service.

Merv left his desk in the Design Branch to take up other engineering duties on his own as a consultant. He has high hopes of donning a hard hat and getting into the field on foundation problems, pile driving, etc.

He began his tenure of service in May of 1911, with the old 10th Survey District as a chainman at the fabulous sum of \$480 per year. Except for a period of army service in World War I, Merv's City service has been consecutive with various titles

NAME RICHARD STARR TO TOP SPOT

Richard Starr, who heads the new water and sewer systems planning unit, has been promoted from civil engineer III to IV.

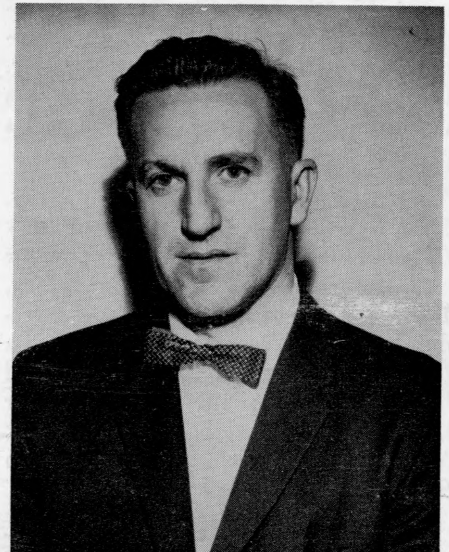
Mr. Starr, who took over the new unit in August, is busier than in many a crowded day. With a staff of four, he studies the hydraulic requirements for new water and sewer lines, as well as for the replacement or cleaning of old ones. His unit's plans will form the basis for much future capital budgeting as well as for the detailed drawings of the Design Branch. The need for work, together with routes and sizes, will be studied by the unit.

Dick will continue to report to Assistant Chief Engineer John Briggs, whose liaison man he was for several years. Before entering the Water Department in 1957, Dick had a varied municipal engineering career reaching back to 1945 when he joined the old Department of Transit as a junior engineering field aide. Later he became section engineer for construction on a portion of the Market Street subway (Department of Public

Property), headed design for the Division of Port Operations, and was executive director of the Streets Department's committee on subterranean voids.

With a B.S. in structural engineering from Drexel Evening College, he is a registered professional engineer and surveyor. Married with three children, he lives at 1040 Tomlinson Road.

J. F. Mair



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