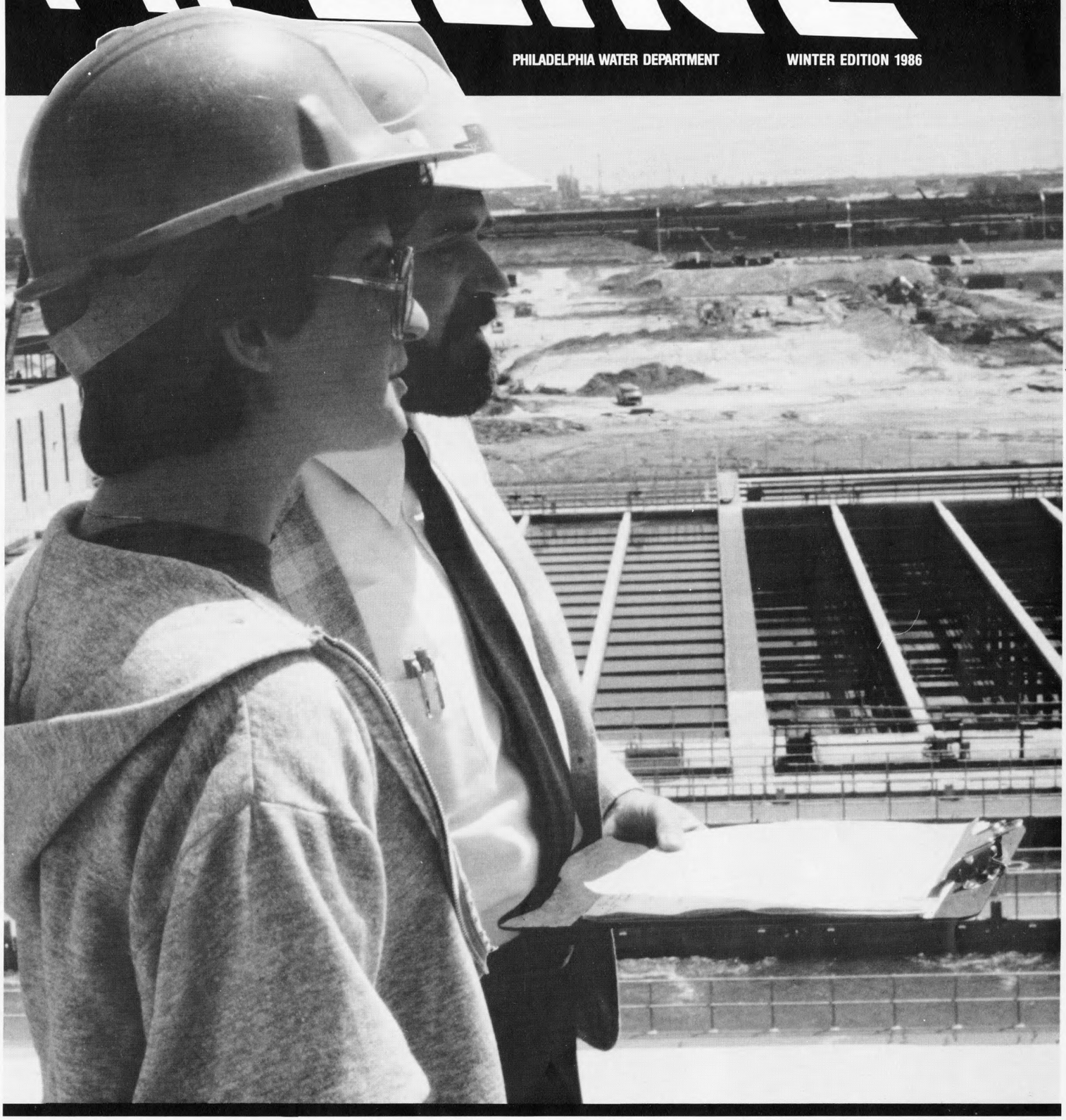
PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER

PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT WINTER EDITION 1986



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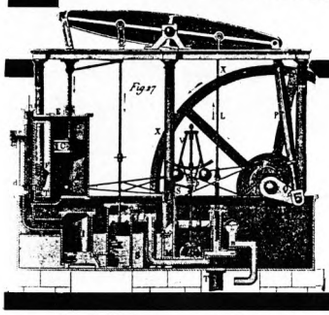


WHAT'S PUMPING

EDUCATION LEADS TO ADVANCEMENT FOR VANLEE IRVIN

Vanlee Irvin, SWWPC, grandmother of 3, came to the City of Philadelphia in 1966 as a Library Assistant I in the Music Department of the Main Free Library of Philadelphia.

She took courses offered by the Water Department at Spring Garden College in Maintenance Mechanics from 1981 to 1984 and came to the Water Department in January of 1983 as a trainee. She received a provisional Maintenance Mechanic I appointment in the summer of 1984 and permanent appointment in May, 1985. She was promoted to Maintenance Mechanic II in November 1985. P

UNDERCOVER VIRTUOSO

Nancy Carter, SWWP, studied the piano under Miss Marie F. Busch for many years, from the time she was a little girl through her teen years. Then she studied organ for several years with Dr. J. Edward Hoy, one of the great organists of our time, and the Minister of Music at Tindley Temple United Methodist Church. Mrs. Carter is presently employed as a clerk typist II. She is the current accompaniest for the Interdenominational Male Chorus directed by William P. Ellis. On many occasions she has served as organist at area churches, including Simpson-Fletcher, where she was recently featured in a recital. P

Francis Costello, Analytical Chemist II, Materials Testing Laboratory, was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Physical Chemistry by Temple University in January, 1985. P

Bill Horger, Sludge Management, received 3 gallon donor pin from American Red Cross on September 20, 1985. P

In September, long time employee Jasper Brown, Inlet Cleaning, passed away. P

John J. McClary and John G. Daniel, both members of PE's Shotokan Karate Club made it to the quarter-finals before being eliminated in international karate championship competition in Tokyo, Japan the beginning of last month.

John G. Daniel is the brother of Inlet Cleaning's Joan Daniel. P

At the Southwest Water Pollution Control Plant we have another first. Wilhelmina Bailey started with the City over seventeen years ago as a Hospital Aide at Philadelphia General Hospital. After nine years of service, she came to the Water Department, Northeast Plant as a Laborer. Four years later she acquired the position of Plant Helper at the Southwest WPCP. Always striving for improvement, she attended the classes offered by the Water Department to prepare employees for the Treatment Plant Operator position. She completed the 30 hour course, passed the TPO I test and for the past seven months she has earned the respect of her peers, is a responsible and dedicated worker and considered an asset to the crew. Wilhelmina is an active church worker, loves to cook and a proud grandmother, who loves a challenge. P

BULLETIN BOARD

Marty Goldberg, IWU, became a liscensed professional engineer in September, 1985.

Water Department employees have contributed $101,224.00 to the 1986 Combined City Campaign as of December 16, 1985.

Mike Nelson, Chief, WPC, left the Water Department on December 6 for a job with a consulting firm that manages small wastewater facilities. He was with the Water Department for over 20 years and we wish him success.

SUMMER SLOGAN PLAYS SMART

Placing hydrant abuse poster on Water Department trucks, Joan Fredette, Customer Affairs, Anibal Roman, Distribution and Drew Brown, Customer Affairs.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.– The Department 'rapped' up a successful summer campaign that reduced water lost from illegally opened hydrants by 46 percent. "We asked our residents to 'Play Smart' in a vigorous campaign this summer and they responded," said Joan B. Fredette, Manager of Customer Affairs.

As much as 148 million gallons of water a day pours from illegally opened fire hydrants every summer. This abuse costs Philadelphia almost $500,000 a year in unnecessary expenses. This summer, though, the city conserved an estimated 1.2 billion gallons of water, saving at least $300,000.

Although Philadelphia was pleased with the financial savings, this year's drought emergency in Philadelphia really prompted its action. Shortly after the Delaware River Basin Commission declared the drought emergency on May 13, the Water Department began a campaign to persuade youngsters to stop opening hydrants.

A public service announcement entitled, "Play Smart, Philadelphia" aired all summer on both television and radio throughout the Philadelphia area. The spots began just before July 4, the first major holiday after school vacation began.

Fashioned after the popular "rap" music, the PSA featured a "Water Rap" that told city youth, "Hydrants are for fires, not for fun." The PSA featured young dancers 'playing smart' at a public swimming pool, on a basketball court and in a park. The five commercial television stations in Philadelphia aired the spot more than 225 times this summer.

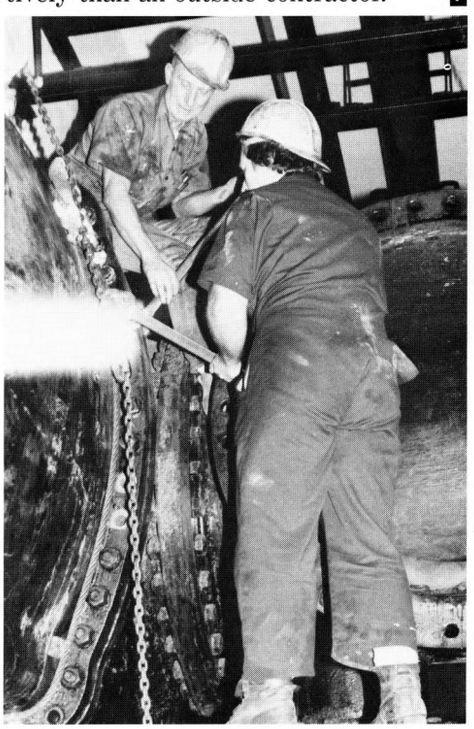
Philadelphians did take the hydrant campaign seriously. Average hydrant abuse fell from 41 million gallons per day in 1984 to 22 million gallons per day in 1985 – a 46 percent decrease. On hot summer days, peak abuse also fell 46 percent to 80 million gallons this year from 148 gallons last year. Operations' hydrant and shut off crews responded quickly and effectively to the 1566 calls received by customer information, reporting opened hydrants from mid-July to mid-August. That brought hydrant abuse well below the average residential use of 118 million gallons a day.

The Water Department supported the PSA's with other elements of the "Play Smart" campaign. Flyers with the words to the "Water Rap" were given to school children a few days before summer vacation. Also, thousands of people using public transportation or walking on the streets of Philadelphia saw the "Play Smart" posters on the overhead panels of mass transit vehicles, and the sides of city trucks. P

GATE VALVES CUT COSTS.

The Baxter Water Treatment Plant is in the middle of a 10 year innovative program to replace aging 42″ gate valves in the washwater system. The gate valves are being replaced with 36″ butterfly inserts which are custom manufactured to seat within the existing gate valve discs but the repairs were short lived. The butterfly inserts have shown to be cost-effective both in original cost and labor to install. The mechanical staff currently can take down the 7500 lb. gate valve bonnet with disc and install the butterfly insert before breaking for lunch. Formerly, it would take up to 1 1/2 days to do the job. The difference in time is due to the men becoming more familiar with the job and the purchasing and fabrication of labor saving equipment.

The question is often asked why the plant doesn't contract out the work. After all, modifications to 42″ valves aren't exactly routine maintenance. The answer is that the Baxter mechanical staff led by Utility Operations Maintenance Group Leader, John Monahan and assisted by the other trade groups through the coordination of John Horger (Supervisor) can do the work cheaper, safer and more effectively than an outside contractor. P



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WINTER 1986

NORTHEAST

A COMMITMENT TO CLEAN-UP

A decade and a half ago, America's focus turned toward the environment. Amidst the protests of picketers at waste-dumping factories and from the podium of "Earth Day" rallies, a mandate was sent forth from the American people to all levels of government to enact legislation to protect the environment. In 1972, Public Law 92-500, "The Clean Water Act," was passed. It required that all wastewater treatment plants be "secondary" facilities and that their effluent water quality standards be essentially doubled.

The Clean Water Act was more than just a decree. It was a federal challenge put before the nation's wastewater utilities to clean up the country's rivers and streams. To provide incentive, Washington made available grant money that would cover 75% of the cost of these water pollution control projects.

Since its founding nearly two hundred years ago, the Philadelphia Water Department has recognized its commitment to environmental protection and public health. In 1923, the Department began construction of the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant, Philadelphia's first wastewater treatment facility. In 1955, the Northeast Plant was expanded into a secondary facility, thereby improving the quality of wastewater which flowed into the Delaware River. It was, therefore, quite natural for the Water Department to take the initiative when the federal government offered to help finance wastewater treatment expansion.

"The Philadelphia Water Department planned carefully in order to meet its obligations to its customers and to federal law," said William Wankoff, Chief of Water Pollution Control Plants.

According to Wankoff, back in the late 1960's, the Water Department began pilot studies to determine which designs of secondary treatment plants were most effective in large scale operations, and to investigate to what degree Philadelphia might expand and improve upon its existing facilities. Early planning gave the Department a head start and the chance to address the project from many viewpoints.

"The project was not designed in a vacuum, nor did we receive a canned package," said Stewart Cameron, Northeast Plant Superintendent. "One of the interesting concepts at that time was that there was going to be input from people in the field: operators, maintenance people, electricians, and instrumentation technicians. Also in the plans were specifications that took into consideration the communities' and the employees' welfare. Accounted for were

"Philadelphia has emer leader among the nati structing state-of-the-ar plants."

RISING THROUGH THE RANKS, It's all in the family

It's one thing being supervised by your older brother when you are sitting around the house, but quite another when you're out on the job. But back in the early 1950's, John Ferrero didn't have much choice in the matter. It was thanks to his older brother, Ernest L. Ferrero, that John heard about an opening the District 5 Survey Department. When John found that he was serving as rod and chainman in his older brother's crew ...What could he do?

"He tried to keep me on my toes," said John Ferrero when speaking about his older brother. "And I found that I worked harder too, because I didn't want anyone to get the idea that he would show me preferential treatment."

From the other side of the coin, Ernest L. admitted, "I really took my younger brother to task. Sometimes, I think I was a little too tough on him.

In those days, the Ferrero brothers drove to work together in their 1937 Studebaker.

They shared a talent for doing construction work, and the distinction that each had started their careers at the bottom rung of the Water Department ladder. Both had started out as rod and chainman in the Survey Unit.

John continued doing construction and eventually worked his way up to Engineering Technician 3. But for Ernest L., who studied engineering at the Drexel University night school, promotions to transitman, junior surveyor, and then surveyor came quickly. By the mid-1950's

SOUTHEAST

things such as odor control, pleasing architecture, instrumentation which was designed with the operator in mind, and an agreeable work environment."

Basically, the plan called for the renovation and expansion of the Department's three existing treatment plants, the Northeast Plant and the Southeast and Southwest Plants, two primary treatment facilities, which were built in the mid 1950's. Lastly, the plan called for the construction of a number of new sewers and interceptors, along with new pumping stations.

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The Water Department applied for federal grant money for these projects, but scheduling and funding problems delayed the start of construction. The delays were resolved when a Consent Decree was drawn up between the Department, the EPA, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. The Consent Decree established a timetable for the plants to be on-line and meeting effluent water quality standards. Deputy Commissioner Thomas Walton said, "Despite the delays, Philadelphia has emerged in the 80's as a leader among large cities in constructing state-of-the-art water pollution control plants."

Site preparation began at the Southwest Plant in October of 1975. The first of its new processes was brought on-line in December, 1979. The plant successfully satisfied the Consent Decree standards in November, 1983. The Northeast Plant was to be on-line and attaining effluent standards by December 8, 1985. The Southeast Plant has until January, 1987, when it will undergo EPA scrutiny.

The large size and complexity of the effort to upgrade the three wastewater treatment plants created many new challenges for Water Department employees. All three plants faced similar problems, so the experience gained at the Southwest Plant was valuable at those renovated later.

"The killer was that we had to keep these plants in operation while the construction was going on," said Bob Britt, Resident Engineer at the Southeast Plant. "That's what really made the work more challenging." At the Southeast Plant, coordination between the construction element and the operations staff was carried out by Britt and Jim Nicolo, Southeast Plant Superintendent. Britt's staff of 25 is made up of engineers, clerical people, and inspectors, whom he called "the eyes and ears of the City." It's Britt's responsibility to ensure construction quality, to make sure the work is finished on schedule, and to handle contractors' claims and disputes. Nicolo, on the other hand, has to make sure his plant continues to run and meet

(Continued on page 6)

he had reached Civil Engineer 1 (CE1), and he had set a pace for himself which lead him through CE2, CE3, Division Engineer (CE4), and finally to Administrative Engineer, where he assisted the Chief of Construction for the Water Department. Ernest L. retired from the Water Department in 1979, but not before his two sons, Ernest and Joseph, followed in his footsteps.

Like his father and uncle, the younger Ernest started as rod and chainman in the Survey Unit. After three years, he left the Department to apprentice as a brick mason, but seven years later came back to the Water Department. Benefiting from courses offered by the Department, Ernest spent the next nine years working his way up from operation trainee at the Baxter Plant to Bridge Maintenance and General Construction Inspector.

He said that he found it more difficult now to rise through the ranks as his father did, especially, if one doesn't have a college education. He also said that there is a "hitch" to raising a family and trying to attend night school. "If you continually go to night school, you have to take more time away from your family. And that's a hard sacrifice to make."

Like his brother, father and uncle, Joseph worked from the bottom up. He began as a brick mason in sewer maintenance and rose to Water Sewer Maintenance Crew Chief.

Ernest L. Ferrero, who was the trailblazer for his family, said his success was based on three things. He had an innate ability for construction work. He enjoyed what he did. And he received a great education. Currently, he is doing consultant work, but he still takes an interest in his sons work. "I try to push them on," he said. His advice to those starting out is to benefit as much as possible from courses and educational opportunities offered by the Water Department.

Ernest L. also has a nephew, Andrew Ferrero, who works as an operator at the Southeast. Since he's only been there two years, it's too early to see if he too will emulate his family and rise through the ranks. P

(Continued from page 5)

effluent limitations, while responding to demands made by construction engineers to divert water flow, drain tanks, or start or stop pumps.

Originally, the Southeast Plant was just a primary treatment facility. During the present construction, the primary plant was completely renovated. Six new 70 million gallon per day (MGD) pumps were installed, raising the average daily plant flow up to 140 MGD, with the potential to increase in the future.

The secondary treatment section at the Southeast Plant is all new, and is designed around a 'Pure Oxygen Activated Sludge System.' What this means is that pure oxygen, which is generated on-site, mixes with wastewater and sludge in closed tanks during secondary treatment. This has the advantage of taking up less space and giving off less odors than open tanks using air. As a result of this expansion, operations staffing at Southeast will have gone from roughly 45 to 90 employees. To date, approximately $140 million has been spent on the project.

"What made this project a success," said Nicolo, "were the people involved. All Water Department people and at every level."

The same dynamic interaction between construction and operations also took place at the Northeast Plant, here coordinated by Resident Engineer Richard Haneiko and Plant Superintendent Cameron. The same flexibility and teamwork was again required by each party, but this was compounded by two additional factors, a larger construction schedule and the Plant's location.

Where 60 subcontractors might have been working at the Southeast Plant, Haneiko at his busiest would have to juggle the claims and disputes of 200 contractors. Already, $320 million have been spent on the renovation of the Northeast Plant and construction projects will continue for the next five years. Renovation to the primary section of the plant was similar to that done at Southeast; however, its secondary treatment section uses a semi-enclosed tank system with rotating biological contractors, in which wastewater and sludge are mixed with compressed air. The plant's average daily flow is around 210 MGD and as a result of the expansion, personnel will have gone up from roughly 70 to 154.

The fact that the Northeast Plant is bordered by a residential community presented additional pressures for construction and operations people. Money was spent on a street cleaner and crew to vacuum dirt and dust which heavy equipment tracked through neighborhood streets. Installing and bringing new treatment equipment on-line resulted in days of worse-than-normal odor emissions. The local residents complained to Cameron.

But the Northeast Plant can co-exist with a residential community. This area has undergone an evolution from a primarily industrial zone to one with more homeowners. Cameron feels that many of the complaints are just a consequence of this transition, and that longtime residents will admit that Northeast odor emissions have improved over the years.

Expansion of the Southwest, Northeast and Southeast Plants has made tangible improvements to the Delaware River. Fish and wildlife observers have noticed a comeback in certain varieties of fish and plant life. Cleaning up the waterfront will almost certainly add to the City's tax based revenues as recreation, boating, and residential developments increase along the river. Water Department employees have benefited from new technology and the many hours of training that have been offered at the treatment plants. Private industry and Water Department customers all reap the profit from this program, which is based simply on a commitment made by the Philadelphia Water Department toward environmental protection and public health.

"What made this project a success," said Nicolo, "were the people involved. All Water Department people and at every level." P

COMPUTERIZED INLET CLEANING

Arrival of Fall brings scheduled work to Inlet Cleaning Unit. This year the recent activation of Geographic Retrievals through the Computer Operations of the Inlet Cleaning Operations Information System, (ICOIS), is enabling the Foreman to process blocks of scheduled cleaning work through the computer, generating work tickets and assigning crews faster and in a more efficient manner than previous years. Through this medium, office processing of daily work tickets has also been expedited. Employees of the office staff as well as field personnel look forward to the day, all of the City of Philadelphia is in full operation through the ICOIS permanently. P

TAKE IT FROM JOE, BE A BIG BROTHER

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Philadelphia needs your help. If you have a few hours each week to spend with a fatherless boy or a single parent girl, consider building a relationship with a little brother or little sister.

There are offices throughout the City and staff workers are eager to assist and answer questions.

Joe Cerrone, Industrial Waste, is an active Big Brother and is available and willing to recruit Water Department Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Contact Joe at 335-8093. P

SPECIAL THANKS

A note of "thanks" to all employees who worked during the crisis of Gloria. "You really did a dynamite job even under unfavorable conditions". P

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

On October 15, 1985, 48 Water Department employees were honored at an awards ceremony and luncheon for 25 years of dedicated service.

Pearl Montgomery
Virginia Williams
Joseph Ford
Hester Robinson
James Washington
Thomas Jackson
Daniel McCusker
Hervey Leschinsky
Samuel Henley
Gerald Caya
Edward Graves
Shirley Myers
James Wilkerson
William Moore
John Lee
Timothy Harris
Wilbert Travis
George Harvey
Earley Reaves
Norman White
Leon Wilson
Robert Wortham
James Kenny
William Verdell

Horace Bradley
Thomas Smith
Vincent Stockmal
Oscar Edwards
Herbert Cocley
Donald Limongelli
Hugh Myers
John Wiliamson, Jr.
Harold Allen
Thomas Hawkins
Clarence King
Norman Przeworski
Edmond Edwards
Joseph Pitts
Harold Lawson, Jr.
Calvin Johnson
Richard Thompson

Douglas McCoy, Jr.
John Schoolfield
Thomas White
Luther Fairley
Robert Dixon
Aaron Smith

LOCAL 394 PICNIC August 17, 1985

It was fun in the sun for some 1,000 union members at the great Local 394 Annual Picnic. Something for everyone best describes it: for children there were all sorts of activity and dance contests, prizes and pony rides; while members grooved at the all day disco or geared-up with some softball and volleyball, or just relaxed and enjoyed the atmosphere, the people, and the smorgasbord of delectables before them. Rumor has it, it was "heaven from 11 to 7".

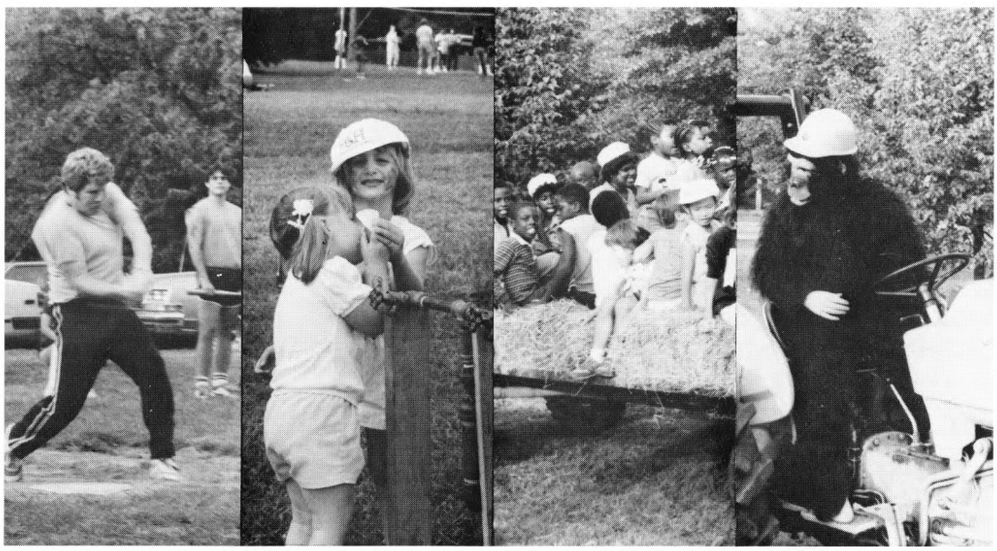
THINK SPRING

CANOEING! SWIMMING! FISHING! WATER FIGHTS! PICNICKING! That's what in store for the coming Spring on the Schuylkill River - there are a couple of us river paddlers who are organizing a Spring canoe trip down the Schuylkill. We are planning a one-day, 3-5 hour tour down the Schuylkill River, beginning at Flat Rock Dam, floating past Manayunk Canal, picnicking in Fairmount Park, and ending at Boathouse Row near the Fairmount Waterworks. We are discussing logistics, equipment needs, and costs with the Philadelphia Canoe Club, who could provide the necessities. Nothing concrete has emerged yet, but we all agree such an event would be informative and a heck of a good FUN time!

This early announcement is to solicit a response from anyone who would be interested in joining us. Let us hear of your ideas and interest, and if you can contribute time and energy in putting it all together.

Contact: Matt Miller
One Reading Center, 5th Floor
592-6180 or 592-6110

5TH ANNUAL PICNIC LARGEST YET!



On Saturday, September 21, 1985 the Water Department held its 5th Annual Employee Picnic at the Ohio House in Fairmont Park.

More than 400 employees, family and friends enjoyed a day of good weather, games, music and food. Mayor Goode made a surprise visit, signing autographs, posing for photographs, and mingling with employees and their families.

The picnic's attendance has grown in size each year and the weather has been exceptional for early fall. Next year's picnic is scheduled for September 20, same place, same time. See you there!

COURSES AND DEMONSTRATIONS

The Safety Office has numerous courses in safety available to all employees of the Unit. Any employee may enroll by contacting his or her immediate supervisor.

BIRTHS

Roger Dann, Belmont, a baby boy, Christopher, 9lb./3oz., on October 17, 1985.

Paul Kopicki, Plant Expansion, a baby boy, January 6, 1985.

Tom Ferguson, Plant Expansion, a baby boy, May 14, 1985.

James Sutton, Security, a baby boy, Brandon, on June 5, 1985, 9lb./1oz.

Geoff Brock, Bureau of Laboratory Services, a baby boy, Jonathan Edward, on August 4, 1985.

Oscar Maier, NEWPC, a baby boy on August 28, 1985.

Art Fagerstrom, NEWPC, a baby boy on May 10, 1985.

Joseph Capella, Projects Control, a baby boy on December 13, 1985.

John Conroy, NEWPC, a baby boy on September 9, 1985.

Norman Jadczak, NEWPC, a baby boy on November 20, 1985.

Joe Heffron, NEWPC, a baby girl on November 15, 1985.

ENGAGEMENTS

Everett Ewell, Emergency Support Services, engaged to Patricia Diggs. A spring wedding date will be announced.

Judy Ruley, Operation Administration, engaged to Bill Collier. A spring wedding is planned.

WEDDINGS

Rick Rogers (Aquatic Biologist, BLS) and Melissa Heckler were married September 21, 1985. After honeymooning in Maine, the couple now reside in Roxborough.

PIPELINE
NEWSLETTER

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Pipeline is published by the Customer Affairs Division for the employees of the Water Department.

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