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PIPELINE

Philadelphia Water Department Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1 February 1990

View From The Pavilion by Ed Grusheski

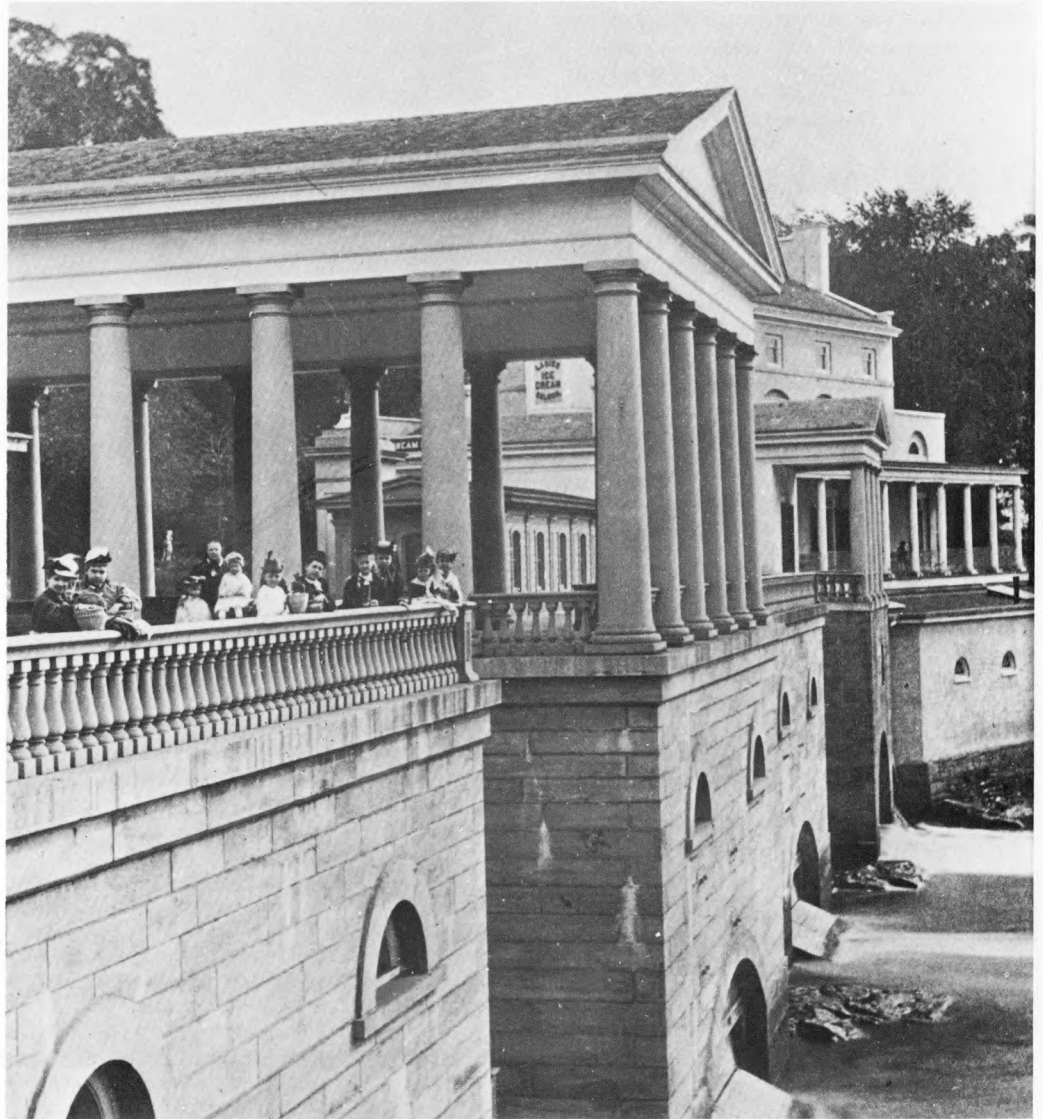
More fortunate than most cities, Philadelphia boasts architecture which spans the centuries from the colonial quaintness of Elfreth's Alley to the Flash Gordon futurism of Liberty Place. Overlooking the City's cornucopia of architectural delights from a strategic spot on the east bank of the Schuylkill River, sits the Philadelphia Water Department's 19th century architectural and engineering wonder—the Fairmount Water Works. Designed and constructed in the early 1800s by Frederick Graff and hailed as a technological phenomenon, the Fairmount Water Works pumped water from the Schuylkill to reservoirs on Faire Mount where the Philadelphia Art Museum stands today.

Visitors came not only from Philadelphia, but from around the world to share in the excitement of the Fairmount Water Works. As early as 1815, two steam engines filled the interior of the Engine House and powered Fairmount Station. The steam power gave way to the more efficient and economical utilization of water power. Attracted by the sight of giant water wheels in the new Mill House, Philadelphians thronged to explore the technological genius of the Schuylkill.

Not just a wonder of engineering, the Fairmount Water Works also boasted a superb display of Classical Revival architecture, extensive gardens with fountains and statuary, and an unbeatable view along the Schuylkill River. It was the showpiece of the City, reproduced in travel books throughout the world.

The opening of a restaurant in the Engine House in 1835 helped solidify the Water Works as one of Philadelphia's premier leisure

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A group of school children visiting the Water Works during the early 1870's.

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AWARD CEREMONIES



Commissioner Plonski and Managing Director White take time out of their busy schedules to congratulate these Employee Suggestion winners during a ceremony at ARA Tower.

Ideas Make Cent\$

The Employee Suggestion Program certainly had an award winning year in 1989. The Committee gave its largest award ever, \$1,600, to Armand DeGregoris for suggesting a more efficient and cost-effective way to drain detention basins at the off-site screening area at the sludge composting facility. Armand is a construction projects technician for Southwest Construction Abatement. His idea will save the Department an estimated annual savings of \$16,000. This was Armand's second award; he received his first one in 1988.

The second runner up was Frank Shock who received \$1,205 for finding ways to reduce airborne ash particles at the ash conveying system in the preliminary treatment building at the Sludge Processing and Distribution Center (SPDC). His suggestion resulted in less mechanical repairs. Frank is a treatment plant operator at SPDC.

Alex Dent received the next largest award during 1989 for recommending that openings below the screening conveyor belt be sealed to prevent trash from accidentally falling to the screw conveyor area. Alex received \$1,000 for his suggestion. He's a labor sub-crew chief at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant.

Seventeen other employees received awards ranging between \$50 and \$450 for their suggestions adopted by the Employee Suggestion Committee. Two separate ceremonies were held this past year, one at the Northeast Plant and the other at ARA Tower to honor these employees.

An Apple A Day

On Wednesday, October 25, a ceremony was held at the Sheraton Society Hill honoring 177 employees who qualified for the 1988 Zero Sick Leave Awards. The employees enjoyed a sumptuous buffet breakfast and were presented "designer" watches with the Water Department's logo.



Employees enjoy the breakfast during the Zero Sick Leave Ceremony.

Giovanni Petri, Frank Fortino, Rich Cambria and Rich Mulcahy tour the *Gazela Philadelphia* after the Zero Sick Leave Ceremony.

Playing It Safe Has Its Rewards

by Thomas Jeffreys

On Friday, June 30, the Safety Office held its Safety Recognition Awards Luncheon. To determine who was eligible for the awards, a list was established of all permanent, full-time personnel employed from January to December 1988 who were not injured on duty or on leave of absence. From this list of more than 1,500 employees, 30 were selected by matching them with a list of randomly generated numbers. On the day of the awards luncheon, the names of these 30

employees were placed in a hat. A name and savings bond were drawn by the participants at the luncheon until all names were matched with each savings bond.

The winners included Brian Mohl, Construction, Southeast Abatement (\$1,000); Idell Dearry, Rodent Control (\$500); Louis Ceci, Water Analysis and Robert Harrington, Building Maintenance (\$200 each). Six employees received \$100 each and the remaining 20 employees won \$50 each. Playing it safe is certainly well worth the effort!

Fall Food Drive

Carl Shaw would like to thank all those employees who contributed food and money during the Water Department's Fall Food Drive. Carl, a sewer maintenance inspector, organized the food drive on behalf of children living in shelters. This effort was part of a national food drive coordinated by the Philadelphia Food Bank which distributed

the food to homeless children. Special thanks go to Faulkner Edmunds, Chief of Collector Systems Support, for his generous support of this drive and to the Inlet Cleaning and Sewer Maintenance Units for picking up the food from different locations throughout the Department.



Captain Sewer gets his blood pressure checked before donating blood at the Red Cross.

Don't Wait! Donate!

"It's my blood and I'm going to keep it." This was the attitude once held by Tara Pope, Project Engineer for Planning and Engineering. Tara had a phobia about giving blood. In the past, she was underweight and never had to think about giving blood. When she hit the necessary pound mark for giving, she got scared.

Meanwhile, Red Cross was looking for a coordinator to help with blood drives at the Water Department. For a year, no one had held the post. No one wanted to either, at least not until Tara was asked.

Tara had reservations at first about being the coordinator but finally she relented by saying, "I'll do it as long as I don't have to give blood." Since then Tara has overcome her fears but she admits, "The first time I gave blood, I went with coworkers so I wouldn't 'chicken-out'." Now she describes giving blood as a worthwhile thing to do.

Tara found that many other people have the same fear of giving blood. However, she's quick to point out that the whole procedure takes less than 10 minutes. Others associate donating blood with the AIDS virus, yet there is a 100 percent guarantee that you can't get AIDS from giving blood.

If you are one of those people afraid of giving blood, stop and consider this. What would you do if you need or someone you know needs blood and there isn't enough? Don't wait until it's too late. Philadelphia area patients need over 1,700 pints daily. There's a 95 percent chance that all of us will need blood by age 72. Think about it.

Tara really enjoys serving as the Water Department's blood drive coordinator because she meets many employees that she doesn't usually have contact with. She serves as coordinator along with Kumar Kishinchand, General Manager of Planning and Engineering, Kay Keenze, Executive Assistant to the Water

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SPORTS SNOOP



The illustrious staff of the "Pipeline" recently realized there was something missing from this fine publication, a sports column. After searching high and low for the most qualified expert, and failing to entice anyone else, they had to settle for yours truly, the Sports Snoop, to fill this enviable spot. The purpose of my mission is to go where no sportsperson has gone before to uncover truly unique and unusual stories about Water Department "athletes." So beware because you never know where or when the Sports Snoop will be on the lookout for a good story.

For those of you who may not know, the Philadelphia Municipal Employees Recreation Council (PMERC) sponsors a softball league from May through August. Teams participate from agencies throughout the City including Human Services, the Library, Prisons, Streets, the Youth Study Center and of course, Water. The games are played on weekdays, after work, on City fields and recreation centers around town. Last year 18 teams participated with the Water Department having four teams of its own.

The Design team is probably the most fundamentally sound, and why not, since they hone their hand and eye coordination with daily pinochle games and keep their legs in shape by constantly trying to avoid supervisors. The Baxter team, formed a few years ago, is continually improving, but if I may impose a bit of advice, guys, this isn't volleyball. You've got to catch the ball, not bat it back up into the air. The Water team (our original team) has employees from various fields including downtown office types (otherwise known as engineers), to laborers and treatment plant operators, and even technicians. You would think with this diverse talent they would be pretty competitive. But the Snooper thinks their problem is the same as most things in the Department: too many employees trying to do the same job. This was the first year for the fourth team, H₂O, which also includes employees from a variety of units throughout the Department. H₂O is an offshoot of the Water Team, mainly because they take the game more seriously. Well, from what I understand, H₂O might enjoy themselves and win a few more games on the field, but they can't approach the type of enjoyment the Water team has off the field after the games.

At the end of the season, three of the Department's teams made the playoffs. Need I tell you which team (Water) missed out. Well guys, better luck next year.

Special recognition goes to Design which won one of the four divisions with a 12-5 record. Last year, they missed winning their division by one game. But this year they clinched the title easily, finishing four games ahead of the second place Revenue team. Pitchers Jim Proctor (4-1) and Joe Trombetta (6-3), with relief work from Rich Marriott, kept the team playing in almost every game. An outstanding outfield led by slugger Tyrone Maillard and leading hitter Rich Cambria were complimented nicely by Steve Pomarico and George Bruchbocker. The infield led by shortstop Ernie Chieffo and third baseman Frank Hochmouther made big plays all year. Veterans Bill Wheeler, Bill Conches and Bob Belfie added the experience and hitting all winning teams need. John Augustine, George Krzeminski, Cliff Lahann, Steve Metzinger, Earl Paul and Kennedy Wilson gave fine efforts to guarantee Design's best year ever.

In the first round of the playoffs, Baxter was eliminated in two games (19-4, 20-5) by the hard hitting Youth Study Center (YSC) team. Also, H₂O lost in two games (19-6, 11-17) to the steady Revenue team. Design, which received a bye in the first round, took on YSC in the second round. YSC won the first game (5-3), with Design unable to get the key hit with runners on base. YSC took the second game also (4-0), with Design not getting many hits at all. At the end of the season, the Department of Streets took the championship. Congratulations are in order for all of the softball participants.

If you know of any sports activities with an eye-catching story, drop a line to the Snooper in care of the "Pipeline." In the meantime I'll be out there snooping around, looking for the weird, the unique, the extraordinaire! I shouldn't have to look too far!

MUNICIPAL SOCCER LEAGUE

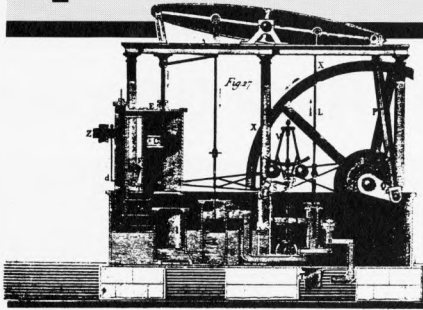
The Snooper has learned that Lenny Rustam of the Construction Unit is trying to form a municipal soccer league to promote friendly competition between various City agencies.

"Soccer is an excellent team sport which has been growing in popularity in recent years in the U.S. The City of Brotherly Love is being considered as one of the few American cities to host some of the international games in the upcoming World Soccer Cup tournament. Now is the perfect time to start a municipal league," remarked Lenny. If any employees are interested in playing, you can call Lenny at 53-6352 (day) or 473-8906 (evening).

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

The Water Department's volleyball teams meet on Fridays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 at Plaisted Hall located at Kelly and Aquarium Drives near Boat House Row. Here's the remaining 1989-1990 schedule if you're interested in coming out to cheer the teams on to victory:

FEBRUARY 2	Southeast Construction vs. Southwest Northeast vs. BLS
FEBRUARY 9	Design vs. Baxter Planning & Research vs. Sludge
FEBRUARY 16	Northeast vs. Southwest Southeast Construction vs. BLS
FEBRUARY 23	Planning & Research vs. Northeast Design vs. Southeast Construction
MARCH 2	BLS vs. Sludge Southwest vs. Baxter
MARCH 9	Southeast Construction vs. Baxter Northeast vs. Southwest
MARCH 15	Design vs. Sludge Planning & Research vs. BLS
MARCH 22	SEMI-FINALS
MARCH 29	FINALS



WHAT'S PUMPING

Over 900 people attended the Water Quality Technology Conference held in Philadelphia at the Adam's Mark Hotel, November 12-14. The Conference, sponsored by the American Water Works Association, provided water quality professionals throughout the country an opportunity to learn state-of-the-art water analysis and treatment techniques. Gary Burlingame of the Bureau of Laboratory Services (BLS) presented two papers, "History of Taste and Odor: The Philadelphia Story" and "Flavor Profile Analysis of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers." Joanne Dahme of the Public Relations Unit and Irene Taylor of BLS assisted Gary in preparing these papers. Conference attendees also visited the Belmont and Baxter Water Treatment Plants for tours and viewed exhibits on watershed protection in Fairmount Park, corrosion control, taste and odor profiles, cross connections, the lead home study, water main ring tests, powdered activated carbon removal of geosmin, and Industrial Waste's spill response equipment.

Several other Water Department employees were also busy presenting papers during the 43rd National Preservation Conference this past October. The conference, conducted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was held in Philadelphia. The conference's theme, "Look Homeward America, Look to Philadelphia," served to highlight how the City's historical treasures can be successfully used in its future development. Joan B. Fredette, General Manager of the Public Affairs Division, spoke about the Water Department's role in the restoration of the Fairmount Water Works, while Ed Grusheski, Director of the Water Work's Center, described the historic resources of the Water Department and how these can be used for public education programs. Drew Brown, Manager of Public Education, guided the preservationists through the Water Works explaining the Department's plans for the creation of the Center, an educational facility celebrating water. Over 600 preservationists were in town for the conference.

Has Anybody Seen My Pet Rock?

If any of you are missing some of your prized possessions to your Pet Rock collection, you may want to check the gardens at the Belmont Water Treatment Plant. The

Belmont Garden Committee has designed a beautiful rock garden located at the entrance of the Plant.



Committee members include from right to left: John Zimmer, Electrical Foreman; Bee Malachi, Storeskeeper; Bob McDermott, Treatment Plant Operator II; Bill Green, Labor Foreman and Susie Jackson, Custodian.

Up, Up and Away

During the past year, major improvements were made to the clarifiers of the four sedimentation basins at the Baxter Water Treatment Plant. Most of the clarifiers' existing center drive mechanisms were replaced, except for the bridges which were reused. A helicopter, which eliminated the time-consuming and costly construction of

scaffolds, was used to remove and install the clarifiers on three of the basins. The work was performed by a general mechanical contractor. To ensure that the Baxter Plant continued to provide its vital water supply to the community, only one clarifier could be out of service at a time.

Nice Work, Guys

While the work on the clarifiers at Baxter was being finalized, our own employees were just beginning renovations to one of the flocculator basins at the Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant. To renovate the basin, the employees had to demolish the existing baffle walls, shafts and paddles

which were installed during the basin's original construction over 30 years ago. They then duplicated the construction of the original design using cypress boards for the baffle walls. Cypress, although expensive, is extremely durable under water. The employees completed the renovations in less than four months and saved the City more than \$100,000 by performing the work in-house.

Don't Wait! Donate!

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Commissioner and Commissioner John Plonski. Together, they plan three blood drives a year. In addition, eighty blood drive captains help them recruit new and old donors throughout the Department.

Tara reminds us, "People are usually too busy during the holidays to donate blood.

Unfortunately with everyone traveling to visit family and friends, there are a lot of car accidents when blood supplies are low. Donating blood will ensure there is enough blood available when it's needed. Put donating blood at the top of your New Year's resolution list."

Spotlight



Arnie Segal
at work as the
Department's
Training and
Development
Officer.

Creativity Knows No Limitations

For some, creating art is a craft or profession that comes fairly easy. For others though, it is a struggle to overcome a disability that might become a barrier to their happiness or livelihood. Disabilities don't stop every artist, especially those involved in NUVISIONS for Disabled Artists, Inc. NUVISIONS is a non-profit organization that was begun in 1984 by Kaye Schonbach, a portrait artist who was diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis.

Kaye created this organization to enable its members to become self-sufficient artists and to serve as a support group for them. It is the only organization of its type in the country. Currently there are 70 members (both disabled and able-bodied people) in the organization. Arnie Segal, Training and Development Officer, is one of those members.

Arnie has been in NUVISIONS for four

years. His art medium is sculpture, which he proclaims he's been doing since kindergarten. Arnie likes sculpture because of its three dimensional scope. "It's something I've always been interested in," he said. "It's fun and relaxing. It's an opportunity to do a different type of creativity than being the training and development officer." Arnie gets his ideas for sculptures usually while driving to work in the morning. His current sculptures include a statue of Moses and a woman whose face opens up to reveal various mechanisms inside: a lightbulb and a clock radio which revolve and work on kinetic energy. Many of them are realistic. "You have to be realistic to work for the City of Philadelphia," he said.

NUVISIONS sponsors six art exhibitions a year at various art galleries around the Delaware Valley. Arnie usually participates in three or four of them. He also participates in the annual art show that the City of Philadelphia sponsors where he won first prize for one of his sculptures. All of Arnie's sculptures are for sale. "It's very rewarding when someone buys your sculptures," he said. "In a sense, it's immortality. A part of your personality and a way of looking at life will remain long after you are gone."

Arnie doesn't really know how long a piece of sculpture takes him to complete. There are basically two reasons for this. First

of all, he normally works on more than one piece at a time so he can't really judge the time element involved. Secondly, he only works when the "mood hits" him. When asked what his favorite sculpture is he answered, "It's always the one I'm working on." Arnie admits that he prefers doing sculptures of people rather than inanimate objects.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of NUVISIONS or volunteering your time, please contact Arnie Segal at 53-6121. There is always a need for planning art exhibits, transporting art work and helping with mailings.

NUVISIONS can make use of everyone's skills and abilities. As a volunteer, you can be involved in something very creative as well as helping a worthwhile cause.



"Beyond the Facade" is one of many sculptures Arnie has designed. This particular piece has kinetic mechanisms allowing the portion behind the face to revolve.



Officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the states of Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania visited Philadelphia in May to sign an agreement developing a comprehensive conservation and management plan for the Delaware Estuary. The Estuary was one of 12 selected nationally by EPA to receive aid for improvement of its water quality and living resources. Recognizing the significance that this cooperative effort will have on the Estuary's future, the Water Department lent its support by inviting the officials to sign the agreement at Penn's Landing on the Delaware. Mayor Goode was on hand to welcome them and afterwards, they toured the Estuary, courtesy of the tall ship, Gazela Philadelphia.

View From The Pavilion *(continued from page 1)*

spots. It was no surprise that visitors continued to flock to the site to view the massive turbines which replaced the Waterwheels mid-century.

When Torresdale (Baxter) Plant opened in 1909, the Fairmount Water Works was taken out of service by the Water Department. The buildings, however, continued to serve the public by housing one of the nation's largest aquariums which opened in 1911. With the closing of the aquarium in 1962, the Water Works entered a period of deterioration and disuse.

Today there is a renewed interest in Philadelphia's historic Water Works. Since 1984, a major restoration effort has been underway. Exciting plans call for the development of a restaurant and the Water Works Center which will attract visitors once again to this still beautiful oasis on the Schuylkill.

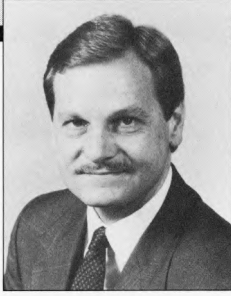
As it has in the past, the Philadelphia Water Department is encouraging visitors to enjoy the Fairmount Water Works experience. The Public Affairs Division has recently produced a 19th century photo album of the

Water Works, and a slide presentation narrated by the Department's own Barry Brait. Both are available for the public's enjoyment at the Water Works Visitors Center where the Philadelphia Ranger Corps will offer tours of the facility this spring, on Saturday and Sunday at 12, 3, 4 and 5pm.

You have an open invitation to visit Fairmount Water Works. And while you're there: enjoy the view from the Pavilion!



Submitted by Harold Snow of Central Stores



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

BY JOHN PLONSKI

I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with you my thoughts about a program in which I have been active for the last several months. In fact, its very existence depends on the morale and enthusiasm of employees of the Water Department and other City agencies.

Not long after being named Water Commissioner, I was asked to serve as the chairperson of the two-year Philadelphia Municipal Blood Donor Campaign. My primary responsibility is to solicit the active participation of other agency heads in their campaigns, with our goal being a significant increase in the number of blood donations by

City employees. I accepted, knowing that my efforts would be guided and supported by Red Cross specialists; what I did not expect was the very rewarding sense of partnership which grew from this endeavor.

Although I have long been a regular blood donor, my real education about donor services started with the chairmanship. I have learned that our municipal efforts are part of a regional program which includes corporate, educational, religious, state and federal government campaigns. Now, when I read or hear blood supplies are low, I realize that it may be due to an unusually high number of major operations and organ transplants performed at Philadelphia's many prestigious hospitals. I have learned that one unit of blood can be made into five components which can then be used by five individuals. For the first time, I have heard a surgeon

describe how his work would be impossible if it were not for this gift of life from strangers. I listened to a young mother express what donor services meant in her fight against a life-threatening disease.

I have since gained an even greater degree of understanding and appreciation for the importance of the contribution by those of you who are past and current donors, solicitors and other support givers. I applaud your enthusiasm and urge you to take a justifiably proud view of your participation. Please accept a "thank you" from me for your generosity.

Now there is just enough space left for a small commercial! The number of blood donations traditionally drops dramatically during the holidays. So, please remember the current Red Cross slogan: "Don't run on empty. Give blood."

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Anthony Ricciardi, Construction Projects Technician II, who received a B.S. in Construction Management in June. Anthony attended night classes at Drexel University.

Congratulations to Lynda Robinson, Load Control, who received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Antioch University on June 18.

Ernest Pollard, a Sewer Maintenance Inspector with Inlet Cleaning, may have found his ticket to future Philadelphia 76ers games... his son Ernest Pollard, Jr. Ernest, a student at Temple University, has played forward for Temple for the past several years. He plans to become a professional player hopefully for the 76ers or the Boston Celtics. Ernest Jr. is a Recreation Instruction major at Temple and will graduate in 1991. He started playing basketball when he was 13 years old and has won awards including the Marward Award and McDonald's All American.

The country of the People's Republic of China has been in the news a lot lately because of the student protests. Before all this violence erupted, Ray Roedell, Water Department Librarian, was there as part of a "People to People International" Conference on medical librarianship. "People to People International" is a private, not-for-profit corporation whose basic tenet is "that personal communication and mutual respect among men and women of different

cultures can be powerful forces for peace." Ray participated in the conference from April 14 to April 30, 1989. He was invited because of his background in library science, which includes working in the Health Sciences Library of the Presbyterian Medical Center. While in China Ray presented a paper, The Role of the National Library of Medicine in the Biomedical Information System which stressed resource sharing. It will be published later this year as part of a collection of People to People delegates' papers.

John Donnelly and John Getty, Physical Testing Technicians at Materials Testing Laboratory, were saluted by Mayor W. Wilson Goode as City Employees of the Month last March.

John Durrant, Chief of the Materials Testing Laboratory, has been elected to Director, District 4 of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). John has served in a number of leadership capacities with the Society and was a recipient of ASCE's Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement.

WEDDING BELLS

James Aleo of Administration to Frances Andracchio on June 4.

Thomas Varughese, Load Control, to Jothy Susanna Mathai on June 15.

Kevin Kelly, Southeast, on July 22.

BIRTHS

- Jacqueline Evans, Inlet Cleaning, a boy, Carl Aaron, 7 lbs., 15 oz., on February 24.
- Haywood Austin, recently retired from Load Control, and his wife, Gloria, a granddaughter, Davita, on April 17.
- Rufus Ejimonyeugwo, Load Control, and his wife, Gladys, a girl, Ezinma Vivian, 6 lbs., 9 oz., on May 18.
- Shirlean Sawyer of Word Processing-IBM, a girl, Sherron Andrea, 7 lbs., 2 oz., on May 25.
- James Golembeski, Sludge Processing and Distribution Center, and his wife, Michelle, a girl, Rebecca Rose, 8 lbs., 4 oz., on June 5.
- Raju Vazheparambil, Southwest Plant Expansion Program, a boy, Roshn, 8 lbs., on June 13.
- Kyle Douglass, Load Control, and his wife, Mary Anne, a boy, Kyle, 7 lbs., 10 1/2 oz., on June 18.
- Dwayne Shirley, Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant, a girl, Lynn Elaine, 7 lbs., 4 oz., on June 19.
- Mike Cunningham, Design, and his wife, Claudia, a boy, Francis Edward, 6 lbs., 14 oz., on June 23.
- Joseph Kehoe, Southwest Water Pollution Control Plant, and his wife, Jean, a girl, Christy Lynn, 9 lbs., 5 oz., on July 6.
- Kathy Sipes, Design, a girl, Sara Elizabeth, 7 lbs., 4 3/4 oz., on July 18.
- Yasmeen MacIntosh, Water Information Center, and her husband, Charles, a girl, Sarah Raffee, 6 lbs., 12 oz., on August 15.
- Carla Gonsiewski, Water Information Center, and Robert Gonsiewski, Industrial Waste, a boy, Adam Robert, 7 lbs., on October 9.

Dear Mr. Poaches:

I'm writing this letter just to tell you that a very nice young man came to check our water meters. He was very polite and respectable, many young people today don't have it. I am a senior citizen and partially handicapped. I appreciated his thoughtfulness. I asked your name so I could write and tell you. Please tell him I wrote.

Mrs. E.S.M.
Cantrell Street, Phila.

P.S. When I told my friend and neighbor, she agreed with me also. Thought you would like to know.

The meter repair employee is John Powell.

To Philadelphia Water Department Manager:

A Water Department representative called on May 24th to fix a leak in the pipe near my water meter. I was very pleased at the courteous way he went about his job. It was a pleasure to do business with the Water Department when you have such a courteous worker. Thank you for a job well done. The representative's name is Danny Hazley. He did a fine job.

Mrs. Millie K.
Emerson St., Phila.

Daniel Hazley works at the Meter Shop.

Dear Sir:

I just had a new meter installed by one of the most polite and courteous people I have encountered for quite some time. His name is Mr. David White. He deserves a pat on the back for his services.

Ms. Dorothy G.
W. Hagert Street

Mr. White is a meter repairman.

Dear Captain Sewer:

On behalf of the Read Together Coalition I wish to thank you for participating in "Love is Reading Together Week" last Thursday at the Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant. Your willingness to read to the children meant a great deal to them and to their teacher.

Your skill as a reader to young people will be put to use again, I hope. You did not just read to them, you included them in what you were doing as you took them on that special trip.

As the Channel 10 coverage indicated, you and the children were newsworthy. Please accept my personal thanks for your involvement last week.

Yours truly,
Cynthia Kishinchand
Secretary, Reading Together Coalition
Administrative Assistant, Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia

On Tuesday, August 1, Supervisor David Gauer of the Meter Shop received a telephone call from former City Commissioner, Maurice Osser, who resides on Flagstaff Road. Mr. Osser called to inform us of Mr. Robert Meade's efficient, polite and competent work. We commend Mr. Meade for a job well done.

Submitted by Joseph G. McAdams, Acting Group Leader

Letters from our Customers



Dear Commissioner:

Please pass on to all concerned our thanks for the clothing that has been donated by the employees of the Water Department.

This is not the first time that we have expressed our gratitude to this group. It speaks well of them when their concern for the poor and homeless is so evident.

At present, we are providing an average of 600 hot, complete meals daily to those who come to us for assistance. In June we gave 15,638 articles of clothing to the needy. Our shelter, where a homeless man can get a night's sleep in a clean bed in safe surroundings, is always filled to capacity.

We serve God in the person of the poor and for this privilege we are most grateful to the men and women of the Water Department and other caring people whose kindness enables us to continue our mission.

Very truly yours,
Brother Malachy, Director
St. John's Hospice for Men

Dear Commissioner Plonski:

Southern Home Services wants to thank you for your generous gift of clothing. Our agency served approximately 600 hundred families and children as well as homeless individuals. Food and clothing are of the utmost need given the fact that our clients are very poor. I would appreciate if you extended our thanks to the Water Department workers of Philadelphia on behalf of our agency and our clients.

Thanks sincerely,
Margarita Bouos
Community Liaison

Dear Mr. Healey:

Thank you for all the time you spent with us working through the "mercury" problem at the Chelsea site in East Falls, especially on the day before your vacation!

The follow-up staff, especially Joe Morrow, was expeditious and thorough.

Without your input and help, we would not have been able to resolve this problem so quickly and in turn, prevented a very costly delay to the project.

Again, thank you for your time and help.
Sincerely,

Judy Feuerherm
Project Manager
Chelsea Historic Properties

Joe Morrow is an Industrial Waste Control Technician Supervisor.

Dear Mr. Clement:

On Monday, June 12, Mrs. Dorothy Ravitsky of W. Cheltenham Avenue called to express her appreciation for your prompt and courteous

response to her complaint.

On behalf of Mrs. Ravitsky and the Water Department, I would also like to commend you for your dedication to duty. It has always been our belief that the Water Department has some of the finest employees in the City of Philadelphia and your efforts have helped to confirm this.

I would like to encourage you to continue your fine efforts in the performance of your duties and a copy of this letter will be included in your personnel file.

Sincerely yours,
Patrick Cairo
Deputy Water Commissioner
Operations

Our courteous employee is James P. Clement of Sewer Maintenance.

Dear Mr. Cairo:

I would like to commend two employees, Mr. Wyatt Barnes and Mr. Ronald Williams, of the Philadelphia Water Department.

On Saturday, February 25th, at approximately 1:30 in the afternoon, I accidentally dropped my wallet down a storm sewer drain at the corner of Ridge Avenue and Monastery Avenue in Roxborough. I was able to borrow a rake and was lying on the ground in my sport coat and tie trying to retrieve it when a woman stopped and said she worked for the Water Department. She suggested I call City Hall to get some help. I called from a nearby phone and within a half hour, Mr. Williams and Mr. Barnes drove up in a white City truck. They explained that this was a job for Sewer Maintenance and that they didn't have tools to reach down that far through what appeared to be at least two feet of standing water and trash. I continued to try and "solve my problem" and they left. But much to my surprise, they soon returned with the necessary tools and retrieved my wallet for me.

I truly appreciate their "over and above the call of duty" effort on my behalf. Too often we talk about all our complaints and problems and fail to talk about the positive and good things.

If there is some way you can commend their efforts on my behalf I would appreciate it. To think of all I would have had to do to cancel my credit cards and driver's license, as well as the loss of cash and other valuable cards, makes me truly appreciate such an effort.

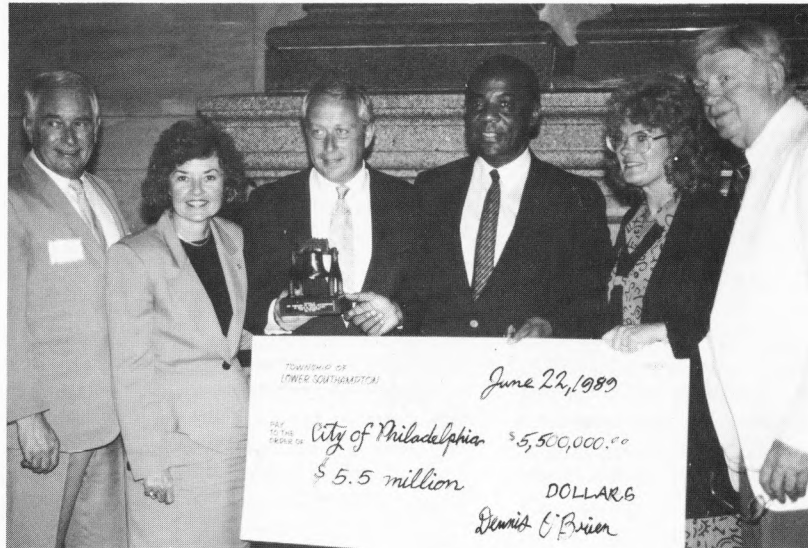
I told my congregation this story on Sunday morning and they, too, were very thankful for the help I received.

Sincerely,
Pastor Ned Flexer
The Roxborough Baptist Church

Messrs. Barnes and Williams work at Emergency Support Services

Water Department Highlights

Mayor W. Wilson Goode hosted a ceremony praising the cooperative spirit between Lower Southampton Township with wastewater treatment services by the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant. The agreement has generated \$5.5 million in capital contributions for Philadelphia. James Palladino, Revenue Requirements and Rates Manager and Abby Pozelsky, Assistant City Solicitor, led the Water Department's team during the negotiations.



Mayor Goode presents a Liberty Bell to the Chairman of Lower Southampton Township to seal the agreement between the two communities regarding waste-water services.



The 1989 Open House Committee poses outside SPDC



Joe Cerrone of Industrial Waste explains the emergency response equipment to visitors during the SPDC Open House.

The Department officially named its two sludge barges during the 4th Annual Open House at the Sludge Processing and Distribution Center (SPDC) on Saturday, October 21. Commissioner Plonski's daughter, Kara Elizabeth, christened the barges, The Resource and The Recycler, during a ceremony held at the piers along the Schuylkill River. Phil Carey of Design submitted the winning names during a Name the Barges Contest. After the christening, Plant Manager Kate Ellis-Guest and SPDC staff gave tours of the facility while 20 other units manned exhibits demonstrating the services and operations provided by the Water Department.

For the second year in a row, the Water Department received the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's "Outstanding Exhibit" Award in the Philadelphia Flower Show's nonacademic educational category. The exhibit, "Keep Your Garden Colorful with Compost," was designed to show gardeners that using Philadelphia's composted sludge products, Earthlife and Phillymulch as soil conditioners, is a safe, practical way of recycling nature's own nutrients. Maureen

Sullivan of the Public Education Unit, with the help of Bill Toffey from Sludge Management, coordinated the exhibit.



Rose Sideman and Dorothy Himes, secretaries at Baxter Plant, greet a visitor during the 1989 Flower Show

"Drinking Water: On Tap for the Future" was the theme for a poster contest sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Drinking Water Week. The Water Department helped celebrate this week by hosting an awards luncheon at the Baxter Plant for 70 fifth and sixth graders who participated in the contest. Managing Director White and Commissioner Plonski were on hand to greet the children.

PIPELINE NEWSLETTER

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

- Joanne Dahme Editor
- Maureen Sullivan Co-editor
- Joan Anne Przybylowicz Staff Writer
- Denise Civa Staff Writer



WHAT'S HOT

Call the "Pipeline Hotline" at 592-4900 for coverage of newsworthy events happening throughout the Department. Events may include special activities featuring Water Department employees, or involving its services and operations. We're always looking for stories and photo opportunities for publication in the newsletter, so give us a call or write to us in care of the "Pipeline" Editor, Public Relations Unit, ARA Tower, 3rd Floor.