

50

th

Anniversary

Township
of

ABINGTON

- 1906 - FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP - 1956

A History of the Township of Abington

Issued by
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
of the
Township of Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
1956

History of Township of Abington
written by
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Historical and Genealogical Research, Germantown, Pennsylvania

Compilation of Historical Notes
by
MRS. LeROY BURRIS, Librarian
Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Sewage Treatment Story
by
ROBERT M. BOLENIUS
Superintendent, Sewage Treatment Plant

Incinerator Story
by
CHARLES F. HETTENBACH
Superintendent, Incinerator Plant

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Week of September 15-22, 1956

Saturday, September 15—2:00 P.M.

Dedication and inspection of Incinerator Plant,
Jefferson Avenue west of Penn Avenue, Ardsley.

Saturday, September 15—3:00 P.M.

Dedication and inspection of Sewage Treatment Plant,
Fitzwatertown Road south of Susquehanna Street
(opposite Incinerator Plant).

Sunday, September 16

Attend the Church of your Faith.

Monday, September 17 to Friday, September 21

These buildings and facilities will be open for inspection
from 1:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. each day:

Township Building and Police Station

Incinerator Plant

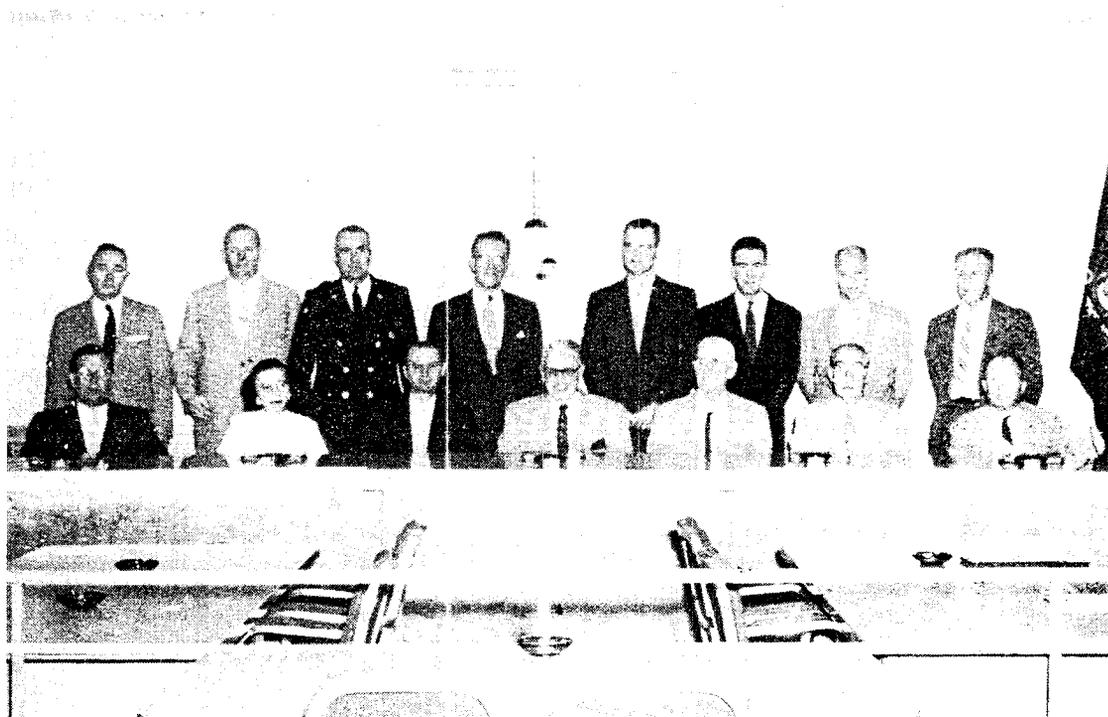
Sewage Treatment Plant

Saturday, September 22—1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Dedication and inspection of Township Building and Police
Station, York Road and Horace Avenue, Abington

Band Concert

Review of Police and Firemen and Fire Equipment

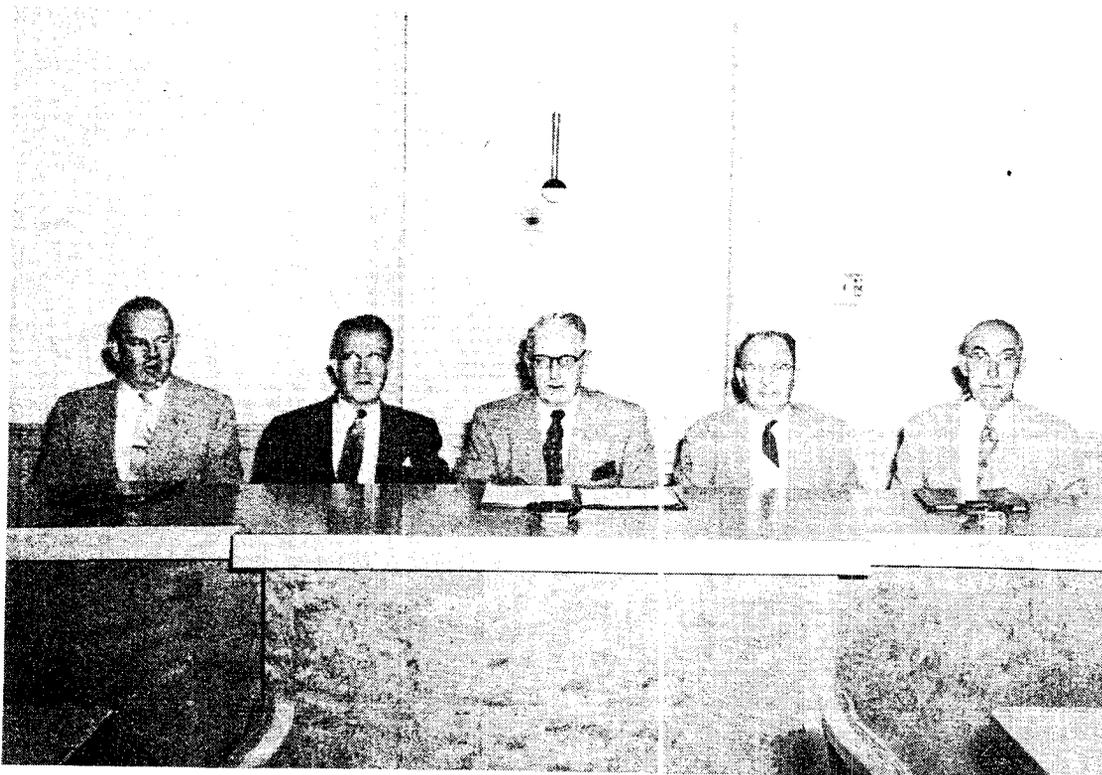


50th Anniversary Committee

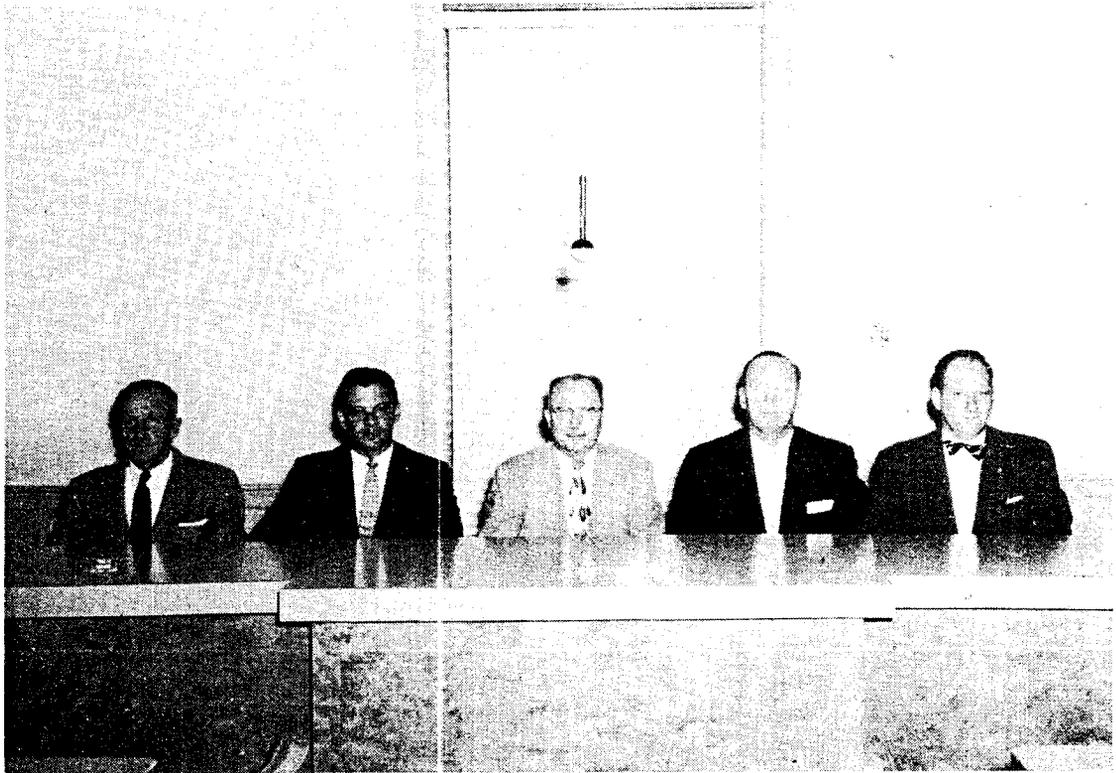
Front Row—Robert M. Bolenius, Mrs. Gertrude Liss, Fred F. Schaefer, George I. Gilson, Chairman, E. Raymond Ambler, Edwin U. Smiley, Eugene S. Riley. Back Row—Joseph J. McMahon, Raymond L. Earle, Frank S. Jackson, Jr., Calvin W. Fowler, A. Russell Parkhouse, W. J. Jobling, E. A. Bitting, John Manzinger.

COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICIALS — 1956

Ward	No.	Name	Date of Service
Abington	1	E. U. Smiley, President	1/ 5/48
Saw Mill Hill	2	George I. Gilson	8/13/42
Glenside	3	Tyrus C. Mackleer	5/13/54
McKinley	4	William H. Yost	9/10/53
Crestmont	5	John E. Gibson	1/ 2/56
North Hills	6	Eugene S. Riley, Vice Pres.	1/ 7/46
Noble	7	Mark J. Heichelberger	1/ 2/56
Roslyn	8	Raymond L. Earle	1/ 2/50
Ardsley	9	Fred W. Gentner	1/ 2/56
Roychester	10	William T. Jordan	5/10/49
Glenside	11	Arnold P. Abbott	1/ 2/56
Glenside	12	Calvin W. Fowler	1/ 7/46
Glenside	13	Percy S. Hartzell	1/ 2/56



Department of Public Affairs



Department of Public Safety

Secretary-Manager	E. Raymond Ambler	7/ 1/17
Solicitor	David E. Groshens	1/ 4/32
Treasurer	A. Russell Parkhouse	7/ 1/42
Township Engineer	Edmund A. Bitting	9/ 8/29
Chief of Police	Alwyn G. Streeper	7/ 1/26
Assistant Secretary	Fred F. Schaefer	3/ 1/30
Office Assistant	William J. Jobling	7/ 1/37
Building Inspector	Louis E. Brigham	5/16/38
Fire Marshal & Asst. Bldg. Inspector	John Manzinger	5/15/48
Health Officer	George P. Rapp	12/14/22
Plumbing Inspector	Monroe C. Roberts	3/13/25
Superintendent, Sewage Treatment Plant	Robert M. Bolenius	6/ 1/48
Superintendent, Incinerator Plant	Charles F. Hettenbach	2/15/55

Department of Public Affairs

George I. Gilson, Director
Eugene S. Riley

Calvin W. Fowler
Raymond L. Earle

Department of Public Safety

Eugene S. Riley, Director
William H. Yost

Arnold P. Abbott
Mark J. Heidelberger

Department of Public Health

Raymond L. Earle, Director
Tyrus C. Mackleer

Percy S. Hartzell

Department of Public Works

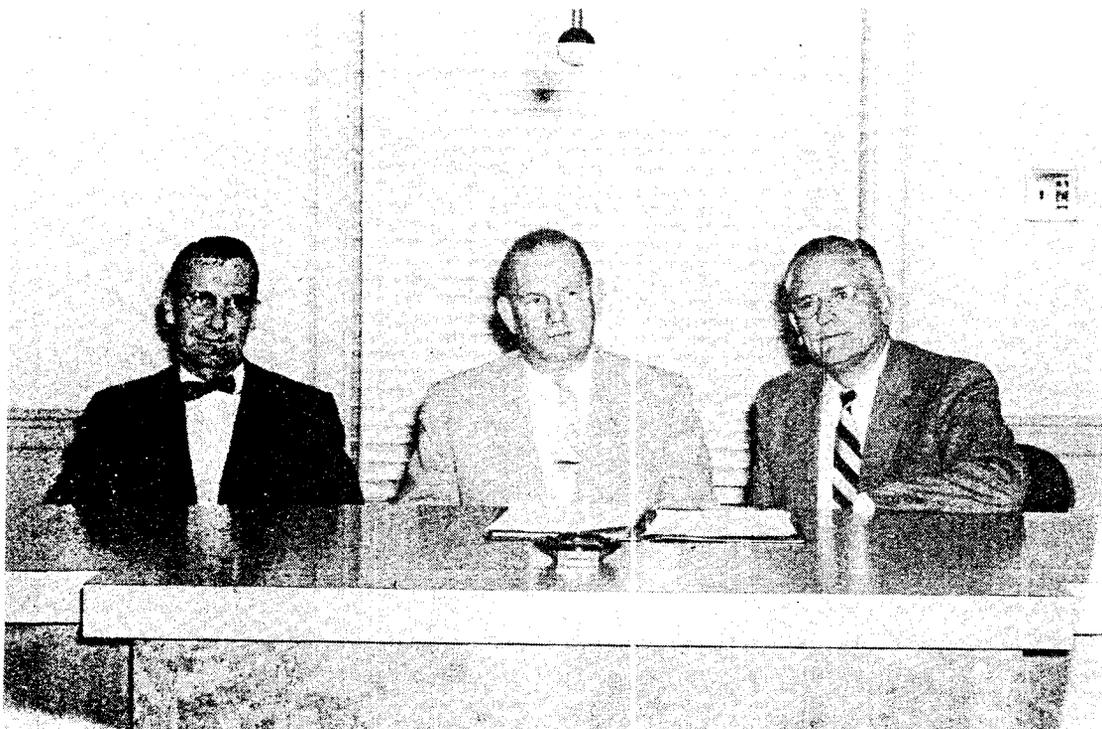
Calvin W. Fowler, Director
William T. Jordan

John E. Gibson
Fred W. Gentner

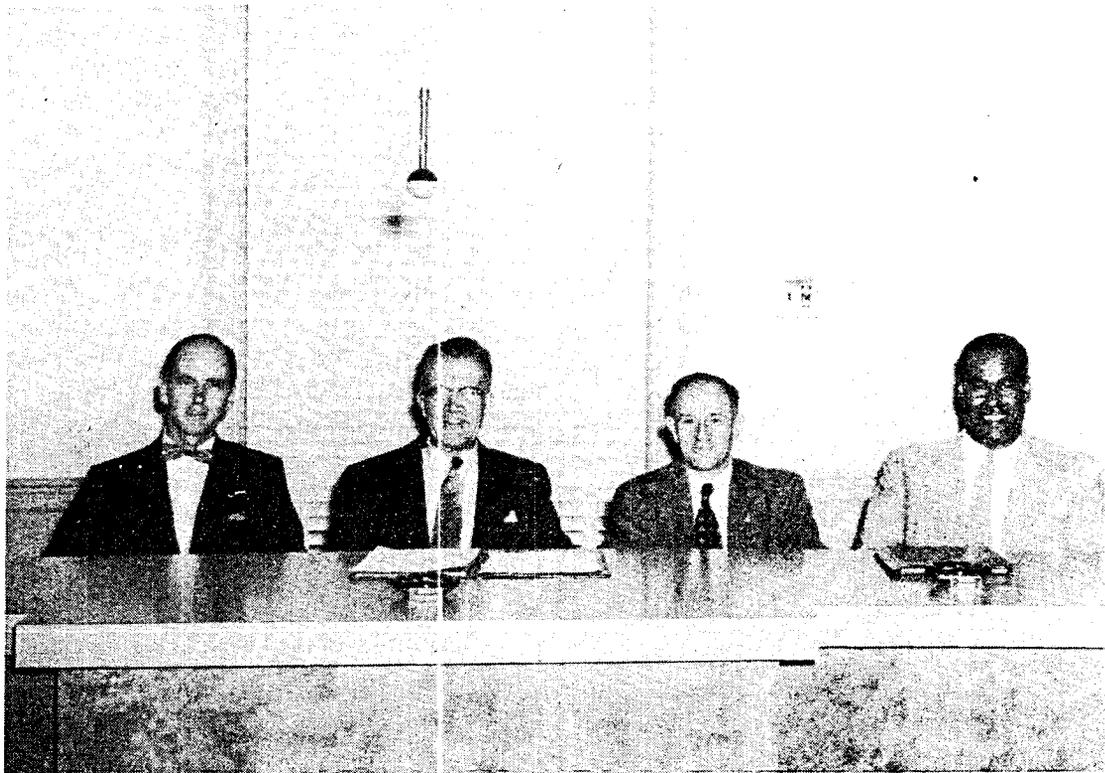
Planning Commission

George H. Off
Z. L. White, Jr.
A. B. Kehr

Maurice Salwen
Mrs. Stanley S. Paist, Jr.



Department of Public Health



Department of Public Works

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Charles P. Mills, Chairman
Richard H. Hollenberg
Harvey Smith
E. Raymond Ambler, Secretary
David E. Groshens, Solicitor

Township Auditors

Thomas Bunting, Jr.
Marquis D. Brunner
Irwin S. Niblock

Civil Service Commission

Therman P. Britt, Chairman
George I. Gilson
William N. Farran, Jr., Secretary

Trustees Township of Abington Pension Plan and Trust

Edwin J. Smiley, Chairman
George I. Gilson
Percy S. Hartzell
E. Raymond Ambler, Secretary

Justices of the Peace

James E. Staudinger
Howard Nice

Constables

Charles F. Weber
T. Parry Boutcher

FORMER TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS

Name	Ward	Term of Office
*William P. Albrecht	At Large	12/ 4/11- 1/ 5/14
*William H. Barnes	10	1/ 6/30- 1/ 2/34
Norman H. Beebee	11	2/10/55- 1/ 2/56
*David F. Benninghoff	4	12/ 4/11- 1/ 2/22 1/ 6/30- 1/ 2/34
Horace Bowman	6	1/ 5/14- 1/ 2/22
*Dr. M. P. Boyle	At Large and 3	3/ 2/08-12/ 4/11
*John M. Bradshaw	8	1/ 7/24- 1/ 4/26
Watson T. Chesterman	1	11/14/35- 1/ 3/44
*William A. Cox	12	9/ 8/27- 5/12/32
Benjamin H. Davis	13	11/14/35- 1/ 3/44
*William K. Donaldson	11	1/ 4/32- 7/12/44
*Lewis C. Dorn	3	1/ 6/36- 8/27/47
*Theodore Edwards	-	12/17/14-12/ 8/31
*William Gebhardtshauer	12	1/ 2/34- 1/ 7/46
Edwin H. Geissler	4	1/ 2/34- 1/ 2/50
*Luke Greenhalgh	2	1/ 3/38- 8/13/42
Charles H. Guent	10	1/ 2/34- 1/ 8/40
A. Edward Habicht	5	6/12/47- 1/ 2/56
*Edwin S. Hallowell	2	3/ 7/10- 1/ 5/14
*John Hallowell	2	1/ 5/14- 1/ 3/16
*Penrose Hallowell	2	1/ 3/16- 1/ 7/24
*Russell D. Harrar	13	1/ 3/44- 4/12/51
Charles F. Hettenbach	11	8/10/44- 2/10/55
Chester C. Hilinski	4	1/ 2/50- 9/10/53
Alexander Hogg	8	1/ 2/34- 1/ 2/50
William H. Jones	5	5/13/26- 6/12/47
Edwin H. Johnson	11	9/ 8/27- 1/ 4/32
*William Johnston	At Large	3/ 5/06- 3/ 2/08

*Robert W. Kenyon	6	1/ 2/22- 1/ 6/30
Frank E. Kreider	9	6/10/48- 1/ 2/56
*Charles O. Kruger	1	3/ 5/06-11/ 5/14
Joseph M. Laning	At Large	3/ 7/10-12/ 4/11
John B. Lynam	4	1/ 2/22- 1/ 6/30
Harry T. Mackenzie	10	2/ 8/40- 3/10/49
*Percy C. Madeira	4	3/ 5/06-12/ 4/11
John Dennis Mahoney	3	12/ 4/11- 1/ 5/14
Charles B. Marks	6	1/ 6/30- 1/ 7/46
George E. Maurer	7	1/ 3/44- 1/ 2/56
*Charles F. Mebus	3 & 13	1/ 5/14- 8/28/35
*Lewis J. Meyer	9	1/ 4/32- 4/24/41
*Julius E. Nachod	3	3/ 5/06- 3/ 7/10
Daniel Neely	1	1/ 3/44- 1/ 5/48
*Clement B. Newbold	2	3/ 5/06- 3/ 7/10
Irwin S. Niblock	5 & 10	1/ 5/20- 1/ 6/30
Thomas K. Ober, Jr.	7	6/14/20- 1/ 7/24
C. Brewster Rhoads	1	3/10/32- 7/11/35
*Herbert P. Robinson	5	1/ 3/16- 1/ 5/20
	7	1/ 7/24-11/22/35
*Jacob Roehm	7	3/18/16- 5/10/20
*Herman Roll	3	9/ 8/27- 1/ 6/36
*William S. Snyder	3	9/11/47- 4/17/54
*Howard W. Trump	7	1/ 7/35- 1/ 3/44
Robert A. Tucker	8	1/ 4/26- 1/ 2/34
John L. Turnbull, Jr.	13	5/10/51- 1/ 2/56
Dr. Joseph W. Vansant	2	1/24/24- 1/ 3/38
*Alexander C. Watt	9	5/ 8/41- 5/20/48
*Daniel Webster	5	1/ 5/14- 1/ 3/16
*Francis Wood	9	3/ 5/26- 1/ 4/32
*Deceased		

OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

FOUNDING THE TOWNSHIP

First Land Owners

Definite knowledge as to the first settlers of the Township of Abington begins with a map by Thomas Holme, Surveyor General of Pennsylvania, prepared in 1696. On this map Holme noted the owners of land on both sides of Susquehanna Street Road, the several tracts extending North and South to the limits of the Township.

Sales of land had taken place in this area prior to 1696, and in the deeds the locality was called Hill's Township, in recognition of Philip Hill, then apparently the principal resident. The name Abington Township came into use about 1702, though no record of the township's formal organization has been found. The only explanation offered as to the origin of the name is that in England there were several parishes named Abington. However, no evidence is apparent that any settlers of Pennsylvania's Abington came from an English Abington.

Susquehanna Street Road, which crosses the Township East and West, is said to have been laid out in its initial stages by Thomas Holme with the purpose of continuing it to the Susquehanna River. This purpose was supposed to explain why the road was straight to a degree not attained by other early highways.

Names of owners shown on Holme's map, East to West are:

South Side	North Side
Thomas Livezey	Silas Crispin
Robert Fairman	William Stanley
Walter King	Daniel Heap
Richard Dungworth	Thomas Holme
William Chamberlain	Samuel Allen
Joseph Phipps	Elizabeth Martin
Sarah Fuller	Philip T. Lehman
John Barnes	Samuel Clarridge
Samuel Cart	
Widow Shorter	
John Rush	
Israel Hobbs	
William Powell	

Not all of these were residents. As was the case with first owners in most localities, many purchases were made by speculators who never planned to live on the lands but hoped to sell them at a good profit.

Certain agreements with Indian tribes appear to have transferred the Abington area to the representatives of William Penn before white men settled there. One such deed dated June 23, 1683, the year after Penn came to America, conveyed to him the land between Pennypack and Neshaminy Creeks. This included the eastern part of what became Abington Township. Signatures of eight Indians and four representatives of Penn were attached, together with a separate acknowledgment by Tammanens, sometimes described as the original Chief Tammany. Payment was made, according to the deed, with wampum, guns, shoes, stockings, blankets, looking glasses and other goods, so much "as ye said William Penn shall be pleased to give unto us."

Another Indian deed of 1687 gave Penn the land on both sides of the Schuylkill, extending South to Chester Creek and North to the Pennypack, including most of modern Abington and also considerable other territory already covered by other Indian deeds.

A list of landowners who were actual residents was compiled in 1734, being the first resemblance to a census. By direction of the provincial authorities the constables of the several townships made this count. The complete record for Abington Township, with the number of acres held by each person, follows:

Morris Morris, 400	John Roberts, shoemaker, 100
Thomas Fletcher, 200	John Roberts, on the hill, 100
Stephen Jenkins, 250	John Roberts, Jr.,
Nicholas Austin, 150	Widow Hufty,
Thomas Parry, 100	John Webster, 50
John Bond, 200	Thomas Marpole, 50
Daniel Thomas, 300	Phineas Jenkins, 100
Isaac Knight, 100	Lambert Durlund, 50
Malachi Jones, 80	Johsua Williams, 50
John Harris, 100	John Kirke, 250
John Thompson	Abraham Stevenson, 100
James Paul, 500	Jeremiah McVaugh, 100
Thomas Kenderdine, 200	John Weems, 100
Lewis Roberts, 200	Isaac Tyson, 100
Widow Roberts, 80	John Tyson, 60

Reynier Tyson, 100
Peter Tyson, 200
Abraham Tyson
Isaac Waterman, 100
George Bewly, 100
William Johnson, 100

William Hallowell, 100
Benjamin Hallowell, 100
Isaac Knight, Jr., 100
William Watkins, 80
Humphrey Waterman, 100
Richard Trott, 100

John Barnes' Land Transactions

One of the settlers listed as owning a tract along Susquehanna Street Road, on the Holme's map of 1696, and who remained a resident of the area, was John Barnes. His name appeared from time to time in the earliest records and yet there are uncertainties and even mysteries about him.

Investigation does not show that John Barnes was a Quaker though he gave Abington Meeting 120 acres on which to build a meeting house. The meeting's records have the marriage of John Barnes and Mary Arnold in 1688. He acquired 850 acres in Abington in two transactions, and the deeds describe him as a tailor.

His name appears on Holme's map of 1696, but not in the 1732 list of landowners. But this census has a John Barnes in Horsham Township, adjacent to Abington, owning 239 acres. The Horsham John Barnes was a Presbyterian, a member of the Abington Church of that faith.

Down to the beginning of the present century it was assumed that the Friends' Meeting could not sell any of the Barnes land given to it. For the meeting house, erected east of Jenkintown, the burial grounds and the school house only a minor part of the land was needed. The remainder was at first divided into farms and leased to tenants, the meeting appointing trustees to hold title. But land became so valuable and taxes so high that as farm land the bequest was an unprofitable investment.

The problem was submitted to court in 1912 and the decision was that parts of the Barnes land not needed for the uses of the Meeting might be sold, provided the proceeds were invested and the income applied to the Meeting. Part of the land was leased to a country club. In 1939 a building operator bought some of the land and erected dwellings thereon. Finally in 1949, upon application to the Court, the duties of managing the bequest devolved upon a corporation called the John Barnes Trustees.

Generations of Tysons

Reynier Tyson and his descendants constituted a pioneer family of Abington whose members have lived there to the present time. In the land owners' list of 1734 were five persons named Tyson. Their ancestor was Reynier Tyson, one of the group of thirteen "heads of families" who founded Germantown in 1683. He moved out into Abington Township about the beginning of the eighteenth century, and there spent the remainder of his life.

The original Tyson tract extended from the Cheltenham boundary north to the road from Jenkintown to Fitzwatertown, lying west of Easton Road. Part of Glenside now occupies the northeast end of the first Tyson farm. Roslyn is also built largely on Tyson lands.

This locality is the eastern end of the limestone and iron ore belt extending southwest across Montgomery County. Reynier Tyson and his sons made early use of the limestone, burning it in kilns to produce lime. Lime procured from the Tyson kilns was used, 1729 to 1735, to build the State House, in Philadelphia, now Independence Hall.

Jonathan Tyson, one of this family, discovered the Tyson pear. He found the original seedling on the grounds of Abington Friends' School. Digging it up he replanted it in the rear of Charles Harper's store, in Jenkintown. From this tree many grafts were made, and for a long time the Tyson pear enjoyed wide popularity.

Physical Features and Population.

Pennypack Creek flows for a mile and a half in the eastern part of the township, and Sandy Run has a course of three miles in the western part, its source being near the Lower Moreland border. Both Creeks and some of their branches supplied power for early mills.

The township originally was five miles long and three and one-quarter miles wide, but it lost the territory taken into the boroughs of Jenkintown and Rockledge.

The township's population in the first United States census of 1790 was 881. When Montgomery County was organized, in 1784, there were four Negro slaves in the township.

The population in 1950 was 28,988.

ASPECTS OF THE REVOLUTION

The Army Comes to Abington

Since a large proportion of Abington's inhabitants were members of the Society of Friends they were pacifists and experienced the discomfiture usual with pacifists at the time of the American Revolution. Furthermore, the war was brought to their own doorsteps when the American army moved through their region.

It became evident in 1777 that the British army was preparing to proceed against Philadelphia, capital of the new United States. General Washington's American army advanced from New Jersey into Pennsylvania, crossing the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry, at modern New Hope, on July 29. Marching down Old York Road, the army encamped at Little Neshaminy Creek, in Bucks County, while Washington and his staff proceeded on to Philadelphia, thus passing through Abington Township.

On August 1 the entire army followed over Old York Road and continued through Germantown to Falls of Schuylkill, where it remained encamped until August 8.

It then returned to Bucks County, but the route was not over Old York Road but by way of Upper Dublin Township. Once more the troops went into camp on the Little Neshaminy, near Hartsville, Bucks County.

By this time it had become known that the British fleet, carrying General Howe's army, was coming up Chesapeake Bay. An attack on Philadelphia from the land side was now threatened.

Once more, on August 23, the Continental Army marched south on Old York Road through Abington Township and continued on into Philadelphia and thence south into Delaware. Then followed the battle of Brandywine, on September 11, and after it the battle of Germantown, on October 4, both being defeats for the Americans.

Militia in Service

Meanwhile the Pennsylvania militia had been summoned into service to aid the Continental Army. Abington Township was represented, along with all the other districts. Men of the age of 16 to 63 years were enrolled and might be called out in "classes" so that all able-bodied males would not be absent at the same time. The militia was expected to serve should Pennsylvania be menaced, and terms of service usually were one to three months. Each company theoretically consisted of a captain, two lieutenants, an ensign, four sergeants, a clerk, a drummer, a fifer, and 68 privates. The companies chose their officers, but those higher up were named by the state authority.

Few records of militia activity have been preserved other than fragmentary muster rolls and pay rolls in the Pennsylvania Archives. The term battalion was generally used where later a regiment was meant.

Almost the only careful study of northeastern Montgomery County in the Revolution has been made by the late Charles Harper Smith, and his work was primarily concerned with Horsham Township, though there are many allusions to Abington. His paper was published in the Bulletin of the Historical Society of Montgomery County in 1938.

The Second Philadelphia County Battalion, including Abington, was commanded by Col. Robert Lewis, of Lower Dublin Township, a wealthy miller and land owner.

"It is often taken for granted," continued Mr. Smith, "that there was little military activity in the eastern end of the county due to the preponderant numbers and influence of the Quakers, whose religion forbade them to offer armed resistance, even to invasion. However, this conclusion underestimates the degree of military enthusiasm which prevailed throughout the country during the latter part of 1778, an enthusiasm which unfortunately did not survive the grim realities of war.

"Many young Quakers proved as susceptible to war fervor as their more worldly neighbors. As early as July it was reported at the Abington Monthly Meeting that 'some members have entered into Military Service,' and by the end of August there was 'great deviation of many amongst us joining in Military Preparations.' A strenuous campaign by both the Abington and the Gwynedd meetings was necessary to stem the tide of defection and induce the 'deviators' to return to their faith."

Besides Colonel Robert Lewis, Mr. Smith named the following officers of the Second Battalion of militia: Lieutenant colonel, William Dean, a hotel keeper of Horsham; major, Robert Loller, Horsham; captains, Thomas Dungan, innkeeper in the village of Abington; Jacob Loughlin, Lower Dublin; Rudolph Neff, Oxford; Marshall Edwards, Byberry; Samuel Swift, Jr., Somerton; Josiah Hart, Moreland; Isaac Longstreth, Hatboro; Seth Quee, Horsham.

Militia commands were on duty in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and while the Continental Army was encamped for the winter at Valley Forge the militia regiments were assigned to patrol the roads into Philadelphia where the British spent the winter. It was the duty of the militia to break up intercourse between the rural districts and the city and the shipment of provisions to the British troops.

In a reorganization of the militia, Abington was placed in the Third Battalion, Benjamin McVeagh being colonel. Besides Abington, the battalion comprised Cheltenham, Moreland, Lower Dublin, Byberry and Oxford.

Confiscation of Property

After the British left Pennsylvania in 1778 the authorities of that state began confiscation of the property of persons attainted of treason if they were convicted at a trial or if they failed to appear for trial. The list of confiscations, printed in the Vol. XII of the Sixth Series of Pennsylvania Archives includes the names of Isaac Knight, John Knight and Joshua Knight, of Abington Township. Apparently they failed to appear for trial.

July 23, 1778, an inventory was made of the goods of Isaac Knight, described as "formerly of Abington Township but gone with the enemy."

John Knight owned a farm of 107 acres which upon confiscation was sold to the University of Pennsylvania for £51,000.

Joshua Knight had two farms, one of 100 acres and the other of 10 acres. Philip Moore bought both, paying £20,000 for one and £8,000 for the other. These payments seem large, but they were made in greatly depreciated Continental paper money.

Action in Friends' Meeting

Robert Lewis, commander of the Second Battalion of militia and a well-to-do-resident of Byberry, was a member of Abington Monthly Meeting of Friends, and perhaps because of his prominence in the militia, he was among the first to feel the displeasure of the meeting. Seventh Month 31, 1776, a committee was appointed to "endeavor to convince him of the inconsistency of such conduct with our peaceful principles."

The committee reported a month later that "he seemed disposed to continue in the practice, yet desired that Friends might not proceed harshly with him."

But on 10 Month 30 Lewis was formally disowned, together with Isaac Longstreth, Jesse Jarrett and John Bond, members of Horsham Meeting.

Third Month 18, 1776, the Monthly Meeting disowned John Conrad, member of a prominent Quaker family of the Abington region. He had served first with the militia and then entered the Continental Army, being wounded in the battle of Brandywine.

Most action based on military matters concerned sympathy toward the American army. But there also is a record that the Monthly Meeting disowned three members because they gave aid to the British Army when it invaded Pennsylvania. One was Abraham Iredell, who took the office of commissary of prisoners with the British army in Philadelphia and was charged with having guided British forces incidental to the attack on the Americans in Hatboro, in 1778. The two others disowned were Robert Comly, who became a hustler with the British, and Nathan Roberts, a wagonmaster with the British.

Numerous members sent in confessions of paying substitutes to serve for them in the militia, or of paying fines in lieu of service. They were not disowned.

From 1775 until 1780 the minutes of Abington Monthly Meeting list 22 members who were disowned for some kind of military activity, and about 60 escaped such action by submitting a statement of regret for what they had done.

Warfare at Edge Hill

Actual warfare occurred within the bounds of Abington Township in connection with the Whitemarsh encampment of the American Army, in November and December, 1777, this having been in the interval between the battle of Germantown and the winter camp at Valley Forge.

The area occupied by the encampment extended from Bethlehem Pike east to Edge Hill. The numerical strength of the American army had been increased to 14,000 or more by troops released from the Northern Army in New York. With the hope of inflicting a decisive defeat on the Americans, General Howe, in Philadelphia, planned an attack on the Whitemarsh camp.

On Friday, December 5, 1777, the main body of the British, to the number of 19,000, marched out through Germantown to Chestnut Hill. Near Flourtown a conflict with a small body of Americans occurred on Saturday. On Sunday the British moved eastward to the locality where Limekiln Pike passes over Edge Hill. Lines of battle were formed and skirmishes occurred. But the British officers concluded that the Americans were too strongly posted to warrant any chance of overwhelming them, except at great loss of life. Thereupon the British returned to their quarters in Philadelphia.

According to official reports the Americans lost 84 killed and wounded and the British loss was 28 killed, 64 wounded and 33 missing.

A well written account of the conflict by William J. Buck, a capable historian familiar all his life with the locality, was printed in publications of the Historical Society of Montgomery County in 1897. The paper bears the title "The Battle of Edge Hill." In technical military language this action would not be termed a battle but rather a series of skirmishes. However, it was the nearest approach to a battle ever fought in Montgomery County.

The scene of most of the fighting was in the neighborhood of Limekiln Pike in Edge Hill, where three townships meet—Abington, Cheltenham and Upper Dublin. Some of the men killed here were said to have been buried on farmland near Weldon which was the home of three generations of the family of Russell Smith, painter. His son, Xanthus Smith, also was a painter. He had a son also named Xanthus.

As told in the family, Mary, daughter of Russell Smith, was hunting moss in the woods on the place in 1861, when she discovered an ancient bayonet projecting from the ground. Bullets and buttons from military uniforms had previously been picked up near by. So it was conjectured that some men killed in the fighting hereabouts had been buried in the woods. The British, according to legend, had encountered Morgan's Riflemen at the intersection of Limekiln Pike and Susquehanna Street Road.

Buck, in his paper on "The Battle of Edge Hill," mentioned the finding of relics of the fight. These included cannonballs, bayonets, gun flints and rifle bullets. Buck himself owned cannon balls found near Tyson's Gap. Some cannon balls were discovered at the site where Hillside Cemetery was established.

Post 676, Veterans of Foreign Wars, whose building is at Jenkintown Road and Roslyn Avenue, displays a case containing relics of the Edge Hill fight.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Earliest Highways

One of Pennsylvania's earliest highways running north out of Philadelphia to afford access to New York is Old York Road, which passes through Abington Township.

In 1693 the Governor's Council authorized the lower part of Old York Road, but it had probably been in common use for some years previous. Extension into Bucks County was ordered in 1711. The Cheltenham and Willow Grove Turnpike Company built eleven miles of improved roadway on Old York Road from Philadelphia to Willow Grove in 1803-4 at a cost of \$8,000 a mile.

In the 1870's continued protests on the part of the public against payment of toll, though the company neglected the road, resulted in an effort to have the turnpike freed, but a compromise was effected when Edwin Satterthwaite, who had a nursery east of Jenkintown, joined several associates in acquiring control of the turnpike company's stock. They paid \$45 a share, the par value being \$100.

Upon reorganization of the company Mr. Satterthwaite was elected president and he began a policy of improvement. Up to that time only a narrow strip in the middle of the road was macadamized, and there were "summer roads" on both sides. Now the highway was macadamized to its full width, and increased travel brought increased payments of toll.

In the bicycle era of the 1890's the company collected \$18,000 a year in tolls, for cyclists had to pay a cent a mile though they caused virtually no wear and tear of the road.

A trolley car line was built on Old York Road from Philadelphia to Willow Grove in 1894. To avoid complications the trolley company bought a controlling interest in the turnpike company, paying \$100 a share. Bus service replaced the trolley cars in 1940.

Old York Road remained a toll road until 1918, when the State Highway Department freed it, paying the company \$80,000.

The Plank Road

Easton was the destination of considerable early travel out of Philadelphia, the favorite route being over Old York Road to Willow Grove and then continuing on Easton Road through Doylestown. From Willow Grove there was a highway south through Abington Township partly paralleling Old York Road and entering Philadelphia at Mount Airy. It was virtually a continuation of the Doylestown Road.

In the middle of the nineteenth century various new ideas for road building were proposed in the endeavor to improve on the first plan for constructing turnpikes with broken stone. Use of planks instead of stones was one of these new ideas, and it was adopted by a company chartered in 1853 as the Willow Grove and Germantown Plank Road Company. Its course was to be the road from Mount Airy to Willow Grove.

Because of objections of property owners along the route, four years elapsed before the five-mile road was built. Originally it was 60 feet wide. Half the width was surfaced with planks and the remainder was a dirt road—which most drivers preferred.

The plank road required much attention to keep it in repair. Planks would become loose and project so as to imperil vehicles. About 1867 the planks were removed. Stones broken with hammers constituted the roadbed, but the name Plank Road remained in use.

About 1909, W. W. Harrison, millionaire sugar manufacturer, whose castlelike mansion, Gray Towers, was a landmark along the road, gained control of the company and sought to have the road improved. It remained a toll road until 1917, when it was freed, a jury awarding the company \$27,500. The county then rebuilt the highway with a concrete roadbed. The name Easton Highway was adopted, being supplanted later by Easton Road.

Early in the present century a trolley line was built from Philadelphia to Willow Grove by way of Glenside. In part it follows Easton Road, though much of its route is over a private right of way. This road retains trolley service to the present time (1956).

Susquehanna Street Road

One of the ancient highways of Abington Township attracts attention because of its straight course and also because of the curious tautology in its name by combining "street" and "road."

For the straight course the explanation is that Thomas Holme, Surveyor General, purposed to lay out a road running in a direct course from the Delaware to the Susquehanna. In central Abington Township the straight line has a northward divergence around a hill, below Old York Road, known as Vinegar Hill. Tradition says that in the long ago a wagon loaded with barrels of vinegar was going over this hill when a barrel slid out of the back of the wagon and broke on the road, a flood of vinegar flowing down the hill.

The court's approval of the road did not come until 1738. Part of the road between the Abington line and the Delaware was not originally laid out.

Washington Lane

A highway from Germantown to Abington Friends' Meeting House was laid out in 1735 and called Abington Lane. Much travel passed over the road, not only to the meeting house but by farmers going to and from mills and markets.

It was known as Abington Lane until Germantown became a borough in 1844 and its Council renamed most of its old streets and added new ones. To honor George Washington his name was given to the former Abington Lane, Washington Lane became the favorite route from the Germantown area not only to Abington Meeting House and beyond but also for travel to Jenkintown when that town developed. Frequently there is mention of Washington Lane as a historic road associated with imaginary activities of George Washington.

Church Road

Church Road is an Abington Township highway for a short distance in the southeastern part of the township, before it enters Philadelphia County. It was laid out in 1734 from Bethlehem Pike, in Whitemarsh Township, to Oxford Township, in the present northern Philadelphia. It is said to have been established mainly because St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh, and Trinity Church, Oxford, were served by the same minister of the Anglican Church.

Welsh Road

A road was laid out in 1702 from the Welsh settlements in Gwynedd and Montgomery Townships eastward to give access to mills on Pennypack Creek. The name Welsh Road was applied to the line dividing Abington Township from Upper Moreland and Lower Moreland Townships. This was a straight line. Another road to the South in Abington Township, very crooked, was long known as Old Welsh Road. Its crookedness suggests it was the original Welsh Road. It is now indicated on maps as Welsh Road, while the straight road formerly called Welsh Road is now Moreland Road. The terminus of the road intended to give access to the Pennypack mills was at Huntingdon Valley. The crooked road also finally reaches Huntingdon Valley by curving northward into Lower Moreland Township.

Sidewalks for Rural Roads

Abington Township took early advantage of a new state law of 1913, permitting construction of sidewalks along roads of first-class townships. Two miles of four-foot concrete walks were built in 1914 along the east side of Old York Road from Noble Station northward. Half the cost was borne by the township and half by the property owners in the area. In subsequent years sidewalks became common in the Township.

Stage Coaches for Travelers

Stage coaches carried travelers through Abington Township over Old York Road and also over Easton Road. Before 1802 there was coach service from Philadelphia to New York on Old York Road, but the preferred route for such travel was along the Delaware through Bristol.

Later in the eighteenth Century a line of coaches made a weekly trip between Easton and Philadelphia. At first three days were required for a trip one way, there being two overnight stops. Such stops were made sometimes at Willow Grove and sometimes at a hotel in Jenkintown. Changes of horses took place at these stations. The service was increased to three trips a week and eventually to one a day.

After Doylestown became the seat of government for Bucks County, in 1810, this place was an important stage coach station, coaches between Easton and Philadelphia stopped there and various lines operated between Doylestown and Philadelphia, passing through Abington Township. About 1810 three trips were made weekly to and from Doylestown.

In 1815 the fare was \$1.25 for the round trip or 75 cents one way. At first 15 hours were required to make the one-way trip, but about 1832 the time was decreased to eight hours, largely due to improvement of the roads. Eventually there was daily service. Newspapers sometimes printed letters complaining about the brutal treatment of horses by their drivers in trying to get greater speed.

Stage coaches were operated in this territory until a railroad in New Jersey gave service to Easton and the North Penn. Railroad began running trains.

The last stagecoach line through Abington Township was that from Abington Station, now Glenside, to New Hope, in Bucks County. It ceased business in 1872 when the railroad was built from Glenside to New Hope.

The Era of the Horse

Horses not only provided transportation until the railroads were built, but they had to give motive power on the farms. Abington followed the general custom of organizing horse insurance companies, whose members joined to pursue thieves that stole their horses.

A society of this type was started in the township in 1812 with the name of the Union Society for the Recovery of Stolen Horses and the Detection of Horse Thieves. Its meetings usually were held in Jenkintown, which was part of Abington Township in the active days of the Society. It has continued to maintain organization for social purposes and numerous prominent men have been guests at annual meetings and have even figured in amusing mock hangings of horse thieves.

The Abington Association for the Recovery of Stolen Horses and Mules, organized in 1846, still holds annual meetings. When automobiles came into general use the already long name of the Association was made still longer by adding "and Motor-Driven Vehicles." At its centennial, in 1946, it had 49 members who owned 78 horses.

Parsons of rural churches needed horses to visit their widely scattered parishioners. In the reminiscences of his pastorate at Abington Presbyterian Church, 1869-1874, printed in Captain Nicholas Bagg's History of the church, the Rev. Samuel T. Lowrie wrote:

"I became a member of the Moorestown Horse Company and joined the good cheer of their annual supper."

This is evidently the Abington Horse Company just mentioned, for Moorestown was the old name of Abington Village.

These reminiscences also allude to the epizootic outbreak of 1874, through which ailment nearly all horses were disabled and farmers who owned oxen were fortunate since they remained healthy. Mr. Lowrie wrote:

"John B. Stevenson's horse and my horse Don were the only ones in and about Abington that escaped the disease. But by November 12 my horse alone was exempt, and he never took the disease. For a while Mrs. Lowrie, who drove the animal almost daily to Jenkintown on her errands, volunteered to carry the mail destined for Abington."

Numerous residents of Abington Township were members of horse companies outside the township, such as those of Huntingdon Valley, Fox Chase, Bustleton, Hatboro, and Hartsville.

Construction of Railroads

The first railroad came to Abington Township in 1855. The intention was to build diagonally across Pennsylvania from Philadelphia to Bradford County, to connect with the Erie Railroad. Therefore it was called the North Pennsylvania Railroad—shortened to North Penn. It got no farther than the Lehigh Valley.

At Gwynedd much delay resulted because of construction of a tunnel. Trains began running between Philadelphia and Gwynedd on July 2, 1855, with four trains each way daily.

The Philadelphia terminus was at Willow Street. Where the railroad crossed the Willow Grove and Germantown Plank Road a station was established, called Tacony. Later it was named Abington. And finally it became Glenside.

Beginning in Philadelphia the stations on the new railroad were Tioga Street, Fisher's Lane, Green Lane, Oak Lane, City Line, Old York Road and Cheltenham Hills. Then came Tacony. Next the stations were Edge Hill, Camp Hill, Fort Washington, Wissahickon, (now Ambler), Penllyn and Gwynedd.

Locomotives then had names. This practice continued until the 1870's. Virtually every station had a locomotive named for it. That included Tacony.

It was a single-track road without any adequate method of signaling. A schedule was arranged making provisions for trains to pass each other at designated stations, where there were switches. If the conductor waited 15 minutes without seeing the train that was due, he could proceed to the next switch provided he sent a man ahead carrying a red flag and riding a horse.

In 1873 the first mention appeared of a station building at Abington Station. The same year Edge Hill received a frame station. The preceding year a stone station was erected in Jenkintown. There were then 18 trains out of Philadelphia daily in winter and 20 in summer.

In 1871 a double track was built from Abington Station to a point near Sandy Run, where Oreland now is.

The North Penn. controlled the Doylestown Branch from Lansdale. It was planned to continue this Branch to New York, but the idea did not prove practicable. Eventually a branch of the North Penn. was completed to New York, beginning in Jenkintown. This line was built to Yardley, in Bucks County, then crossed the Delaware and by means of the Bound Brook Railroad and the Jersey Central, trains began running to New York in 1876.

Making connection with the North Penn. at Abington Station, in 1872, the Northeast Pennsylvania Railroad was built to New Hope, in Bucks County.

In 1879 the North Penn. and its branches were leased to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, now the Reading Company, for a term of 999 years.

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Care for Roads and the Poor

First governing officials of Abington Township, so far as existing records show, were the supervisors of roads, usually two in the eighteenth century. They levied the road tax on residents and collected it either in cash or by permitting the citizen to "work out" the tax by repairing a specified length of highway.

By an act of 1802 two supervisors were to be elected annually on the third Saturday of March.

As early as 1718 assessors and collectors of taxes were appointed by the county commissioners. An act of 1808 provided that at the March election, besides the highway supervisors, an assessor and two inspectors of elections were to be chosen.

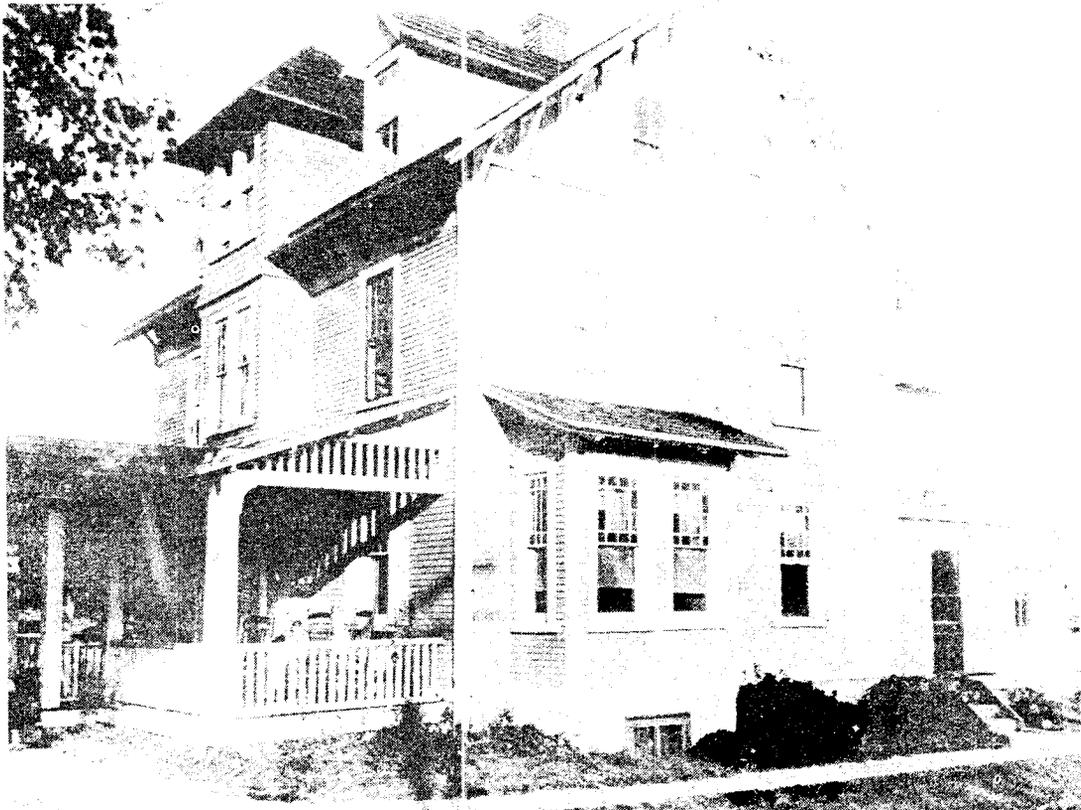
Beginning in 1810 the voters chose two constables yearly, one of whom the court was to appoint to the office. There was at that time a similar method of electing the sheriff and the coroner of the county. The duplicate election of constables was soon abandoned.

From early times townships had guardians of the poor. They were empowered to levy a tax sufficient to care for destitute residents by placing them in the custody of someone willing to assume that responsibility, the guardians, paying him for this service. These guardians were appointed by justices of the peace in their capacity as judges of the county court.

After Montgomery County was organized in 1784, the court appointed John Collom and Matthew Tyson to be guardians of the poor for Abington Township. No records regarding service by guardians of the poor in Abington Township are known to exist.

This method of caring for the needy was continued until the County Almshouse was opened in 1808.

The careful supervision which the Friends' Monthly Meeting exercised over secular as well as religious matters took care of many problems ordinarily not the concern of religious congregations. The conduct of members in business was watched so closely that suspicious transactions moved the Monthly Meeting to appoint a committee to investigate. And if a Quaker family lacked food or clothing, that too received alleviation. Thus the duties of public officials in Quaker communities were often reduced to a minimum.



First Township Building 1906-1908

First Class Township Government

For many years Pennsylvania communities that believed they had outgrown the supervisor method of local government had no recourse to obtain a better system of civic management other than to become boroughs. Two Abington communities—Jenkintown and Rockledge—had seceded from the township and became boroughs. Jenkintown's incorporation took place in 1874, and that of Rockledge in 1893.

In 1899 a new state law made provision for giving the more populous townships the opportunity to obtain the best kind of local government. This was through the arrangement of townships in two classes. First class townships might obtain that status when they had a population of 300 to the square mile. But the change was not compulsory. It was effective when the voters decided at an election whether or not to make the change.

First class townships were to be governed by a commission and were to have heads of the various departments, somewhat like cities and boroughs.

The new township classification when put into practice proved so satisfactory that no new borough has been created in Montgomery County since 1916.

Abington adopted first class township government in 1906. It had a population of 3800, a road tax of five mills and assessed real estate valuation of \$5,422,218. To constitute the first Board of Commissioners five of the township's most prominent citizens were elected: Clement B. Newbold, who was chosen president; Charles O. Kruger, who was made vice president; Percy C. Madeira, Julius E. Nachod and William Johnston.



Charles O. Kruger



Percy C. Madeira



Clement B. Newbold



Julius E. Nachod



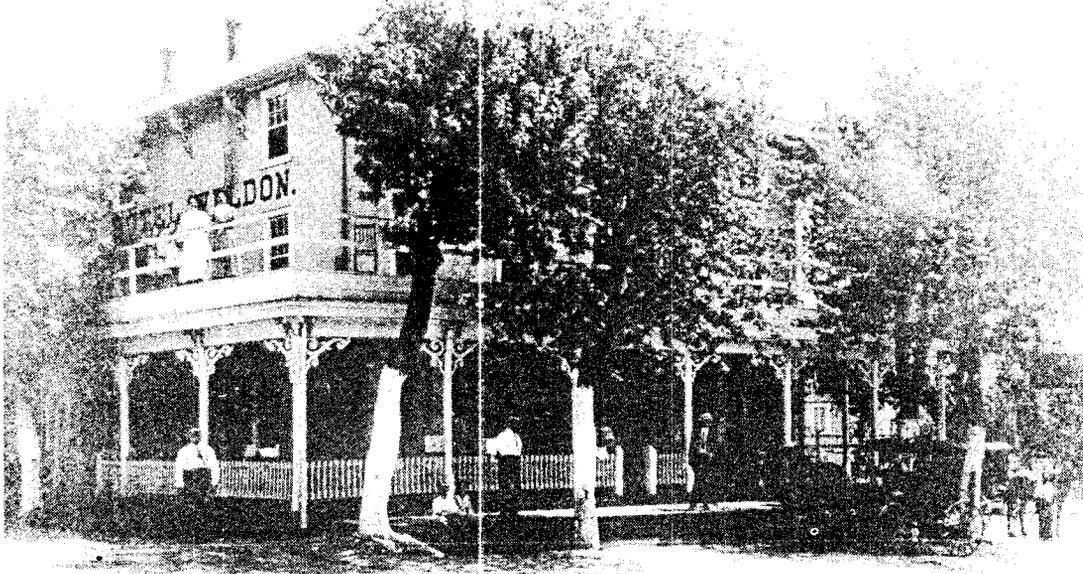
William H. Johnston

First Board of Commissioners — 1906



Nicholas Baggs

The first meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on March 5, 1906, in the Weldon Hotel, the oldest polling place in the township. It is now the Casa Conti Hotel, at the intersection of Easton Road and Jenkintown Road. Harry S. Ambler, Jr., was appointed the first town clerk, from which office he resigned ten days later to become solicitor for the Board. That office he held for 25 years. Captain Nicholas Baggs served as town clerk from 1906 until 1917, inclusive. E. Raymond Ambler was appointed assistant to the town clerk in July, 1917, and was named secretary of the Board in January, 1918. B. Frank Boutcher was the first township treasurer.



Weldon Hotel — 1906

Since there was no Township Building, several meetings of the Commission were held in the Abington High School building. On April 19, 1906, the house on the Samuel Jones property, on the east side of Old York Road, about midway between Horace Avenue and Woodland Road, became the meeting place. This served as the Township Building until 1908, when the Township Building was completed at what is now the southwest corner of Old York Road and Woodland Road. This was of all-stone construction and provided office space for the administrative functions, the highway department, the health officer and police department, including the cell room.



Township Building — 1908-1926

In 1925, when the township population had grown to approximately 12,000, the Township Building had become inadequate for its purpose. The adjacent Abington Memorial Hospital needed space for erection of additional buildings. Conferences between the Township Commissioners and the Hospital officials brought about an arrangement for the Hospital to buy the Township Building and to sell the Township a new site for a Township Building at Horace Avenue and Old York Road. The building, erected at a cost of \$35,000, was occupied in May, 1926. It provided quarters for the Commissioners' Board Room, administrative offices, the township engineer, health officer, plumbing inspector, township treasurer, police department and the magistrate's court. A detached garage was built for police cars and highway equipment. Another garage was provided in 1940 for the highway equipment.

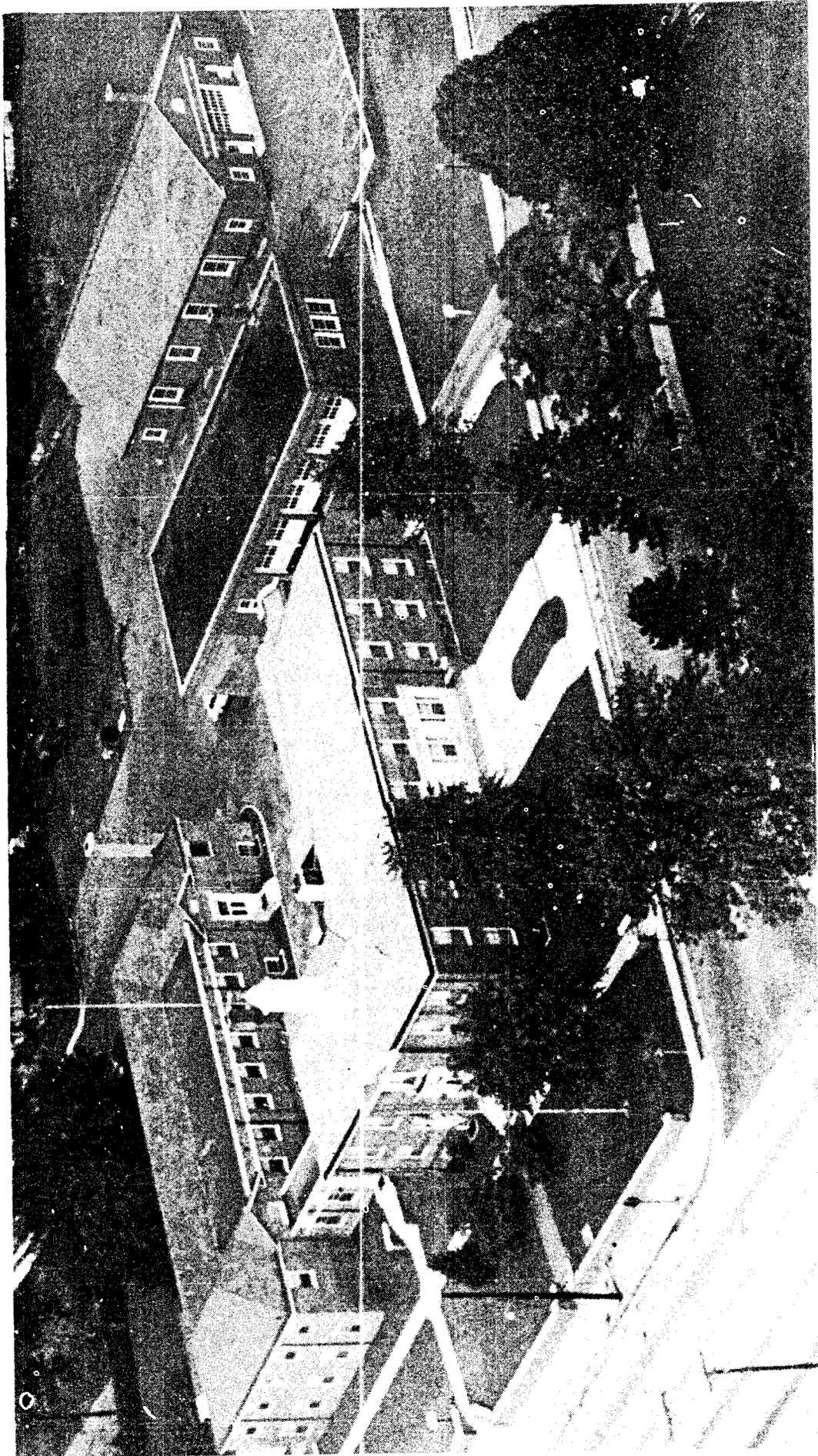
A new police station was opened in 1955, at 1166 Old York Road, having been built at a cost of about \$150,000.

Construction of an addition to the Township Building to provide much needed expansion for the administrative offices and a more adequate Commission Board Room was started in 1955 and will be dedicated in September, 1956, as part of the fiftieth anniversary celebration as a first class township.

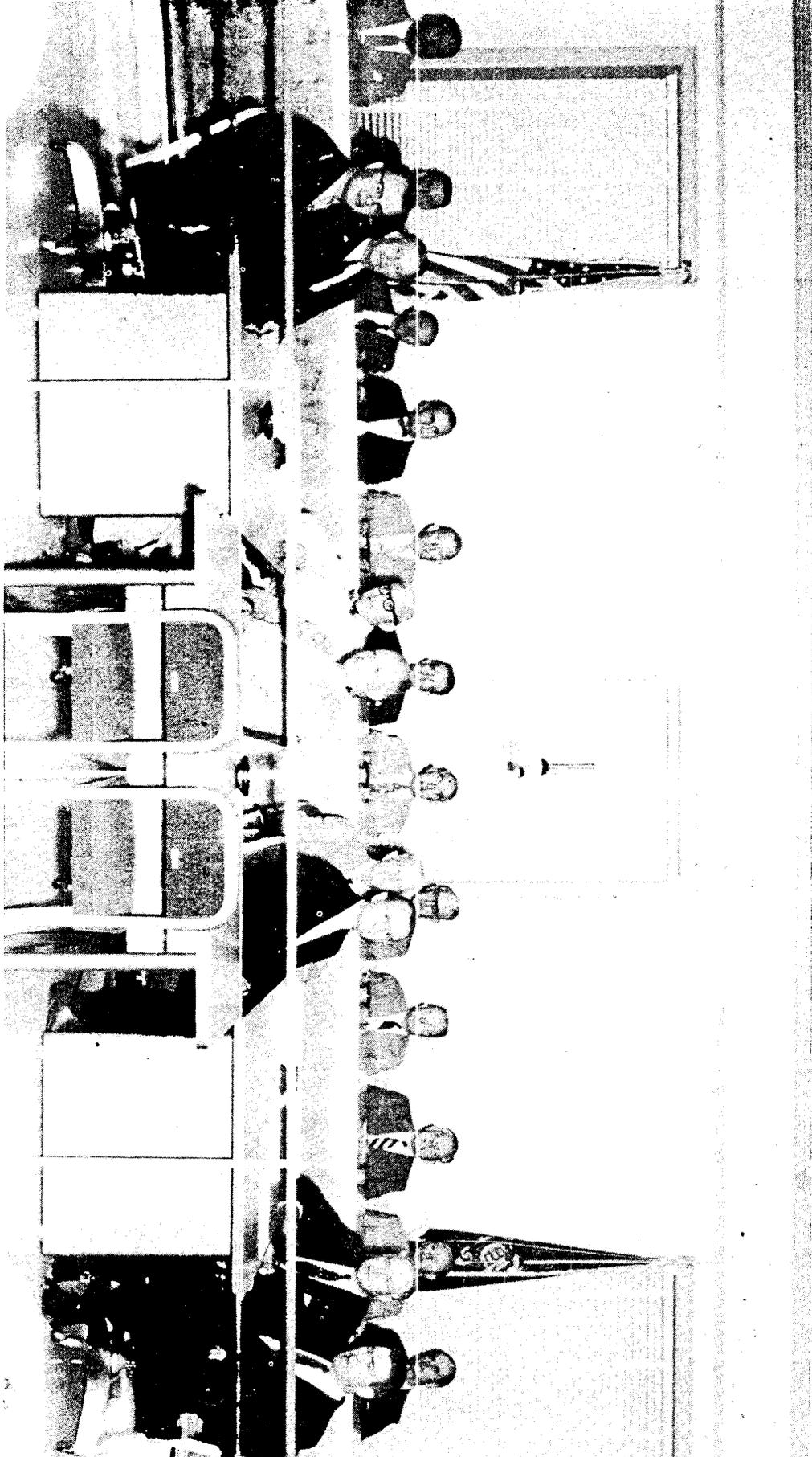
Notable Police Service

Prior to the establishment of a township police force after Abington became a first class township, private enterprise had endeavored to supplement the efforts of the township constable in dealing with law breakers. In the 1870's rural districts suffered much from marauding tramps in the period of "hard times." To meet this condition residents of Abington and its neighboring township, Cheltenham, organized the Abington and Cheltenham Anti-Tramp Association in 1877. Sixty-five subscribers supported the project, five special constables, uniformed and armed with clubs, being employed.

When a regularly organized police department came into existence in Abington, in 1906, Gideon S. Lever was chief and the police force consisted of seven men. They covered their beats on horseback or by riding bicycles. Lever resigned in 1913 to become chief of police in adjacent Cheltenham Township. There he helped to make police history by studying fingerprint methods of identifying criminals and applying them for the first time in any case that ever reached the Pennsylvania courts. In 1915 he caused the arrest



Present Township Building and Police Headquarters --- 1956

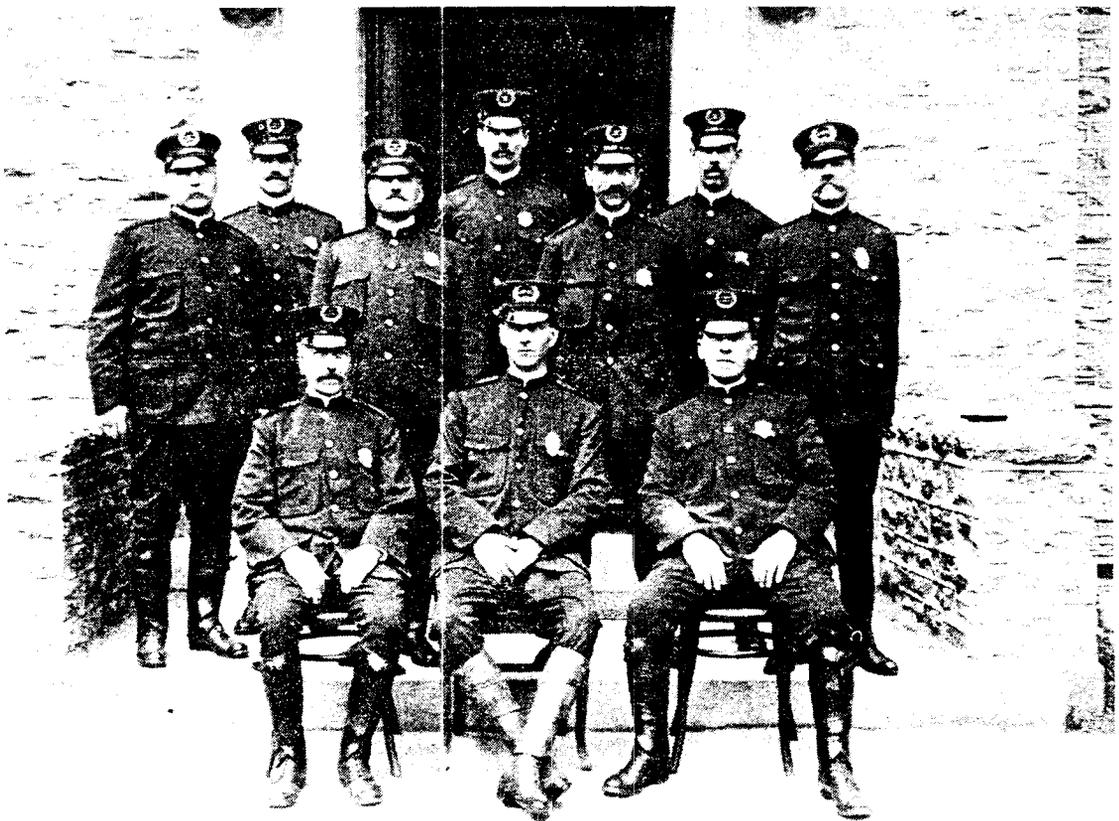


Board of Commissioners and Administrative Personnel — 1956

of a man for a robbery in Wyncote, and the Montgomery County court permitted him to introduce fingerprint identification of a man. However, the novelty of the proceedings apparently resulted in a failure of the jury to come to an agreement. The case was tried again, and this time the accused man was convicted. Judge Swartz announced that this was the first Pennsylvania trial in which such evidence was admitted.

In Abington Township Gideon S. Lever was succeeded as chief of police by his brother, Haseltine S. Lever. He gave up the position when he was elected Sheriff of Montgomery County, in 1931. Patrick McKee was the next chief. He retired in January, 1954, and was succeeded by Alwyn G. Streeper, who previously had been a member of the police force for many years.

The use of automobiles by the police in covering the township was begun in 1915. A police broadcasting system was installed in 1933.



Early Police Force — 1910

In two instances men guarding the safety of the township's residents were murdered by criminals whom they pursued. One was a constable prior to the first class government. The other was a township policeman.

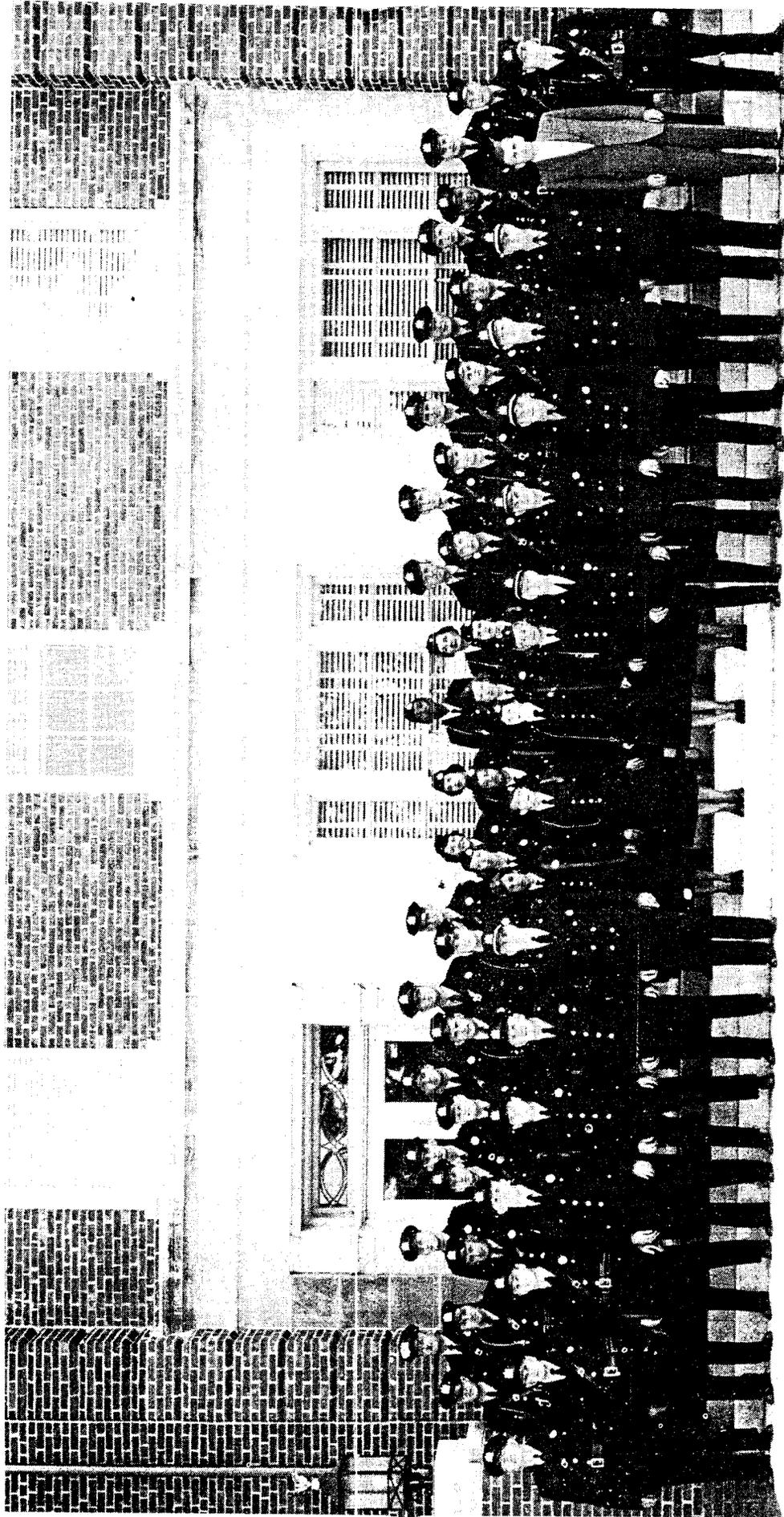
In 1904 Daniel O'Brien was constable of Abington Township. He lived opposite Hillside Cemetery. About 1 o'clock in the morning of August 8 of that year O'Brien and his father, John O'Brien, who lived with the son, were awakened by a noise in their chicken coop. They hastily dressed and went out to investigate. Shots were fired as they neared the henhouse. The constable fell dead and the father was wounded. Neighbors gathered and made efforts to pursue the murderer, but no one was caught.

There had been much petty thieving in the locality and the constable had been active in trying to check it. The County Commissioners offered \$200 reward for the arrest of the murderer. To this Sheriff John Larzelere, who lived in the neighborhood, added \$100. No arrests were made. The father recovered from his wounds.

The crime and the failure of efforts to punish the criminal constituted strong argument for those supporting the movement to establish first class township government with a capable police force.

In the case of the other murder the kind of prompt action which first class township government is expected to foster did just what was expected. Early in the morning of June 29, 1949; two Abington patrolmen, Thomas J. Mathews and Clark Cutting, while in the vicinity of Rydal, saw a truck leaving the large estate of Walter C. Koenig. When they halted the truck the man driving it fled. Mathews went in pursuit and several shots were fired. Nearly an hour later his dead body was found along a hedge. He had been killed by revolver bullets that entered his head.

Cutting identified the man driving the truck as Ollie Carey, living in West Philadelphia. He was traced to Lynchburg, Va., arrested and placed in prison in Norristown. His trial took place the following February, before Judge William F. Dannehower. The jury found him guilty of murder in the first degree and fixed death as the penalty. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, but was rejected, and Carey's death followed in the electric chair.



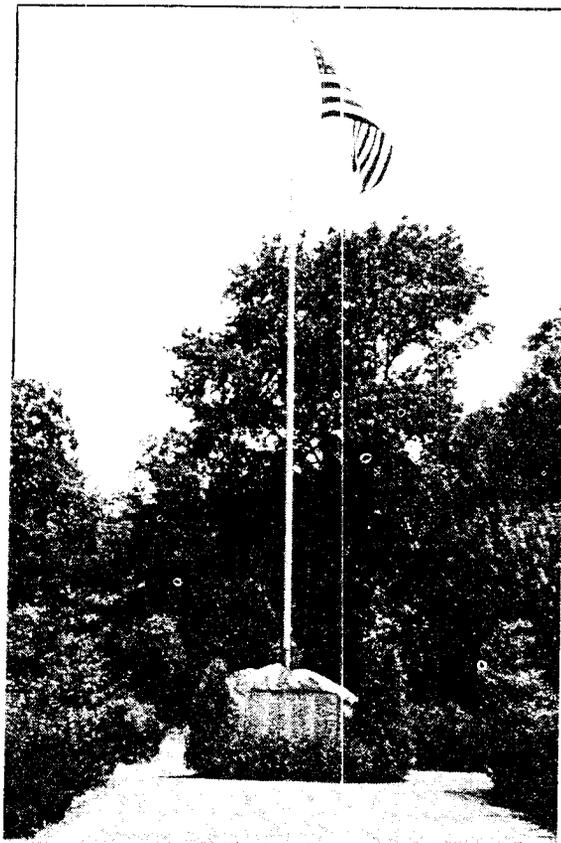
Present Police Force — 1956

Building Regulations

Beginning about 1920 numerous large farms and rural estates were sold and became the sites for extensive building of dwellings, so that the Township Commissioners were under the necessity of enacting regulations to deal with such matters. Erection of large apartment houses was also begun.

In 1922 the first building code went into effect. A plumbing code came next, and then in 1930 a zoning code for the townships was adopted. Regulations for laying out and opening public highways came in 1937, this being supplemented in 1946 by regulations for land subdivisions, to assure the orderly development of real estate. A Registry of the ownership of all real estate was adopted in 1938.

A sanitary sewer system was begun in 1946, with a \$600,000 sewage treatment plant, on a 25-acre site on Fitzwatertown Road, south of Susquehanna Street Road, outside the township in Upper Dublin Township. The sewage problem proved unusually difficult because the Abington territory is in five different watersheds. A loan of \$1,300,000 for the sewage project was adopted by vote in 1945.



World War II Memorial Park

Parks and Recreation

Acquisition of parks and playgrounds began with the appointment of a Park and Shade Tree Commission in 1923, a one-half mill tax being enacted for this purpose. The township parks are:

Baederwood, west side of Highland Avenue, between Abington and Glenside, 15 acres, purchased in 1929 and 1936 and named for a family which formerly had extensive land holdings hereabouts.

Ardley Park, Maple and Myers Avenues, Ardsley, 10½ acres, purchased 1935.

Crestmont Park, Welsh Road, Reservoir and Rubicam Avenues, 10 acres, purchased 1935.

Roychester Park, Overlook Hills, six and a half acres purchased 1938, six acres donated in 1942; has a community building.

Bird Sanctuary, Valley Road west of Meadowbrook Station, 17 acres, donated 1939.

McKinley Park, Jenkintown Road and Osceola Avenue, McKinley, four acres, purchased 1942.

Game Preserve, Meadowbrook, 14 acres, donated 1947, by Mrs. J. Smylie Herkness, for "wild life natural to Pennsylvania."

World War II Memorial Park, Old York Road, Abington, donated 1944.

Penbryn Park, North Hills, 17 acres, acquired 1944.

There also is a county park in Abington Township. It was a bequest to the county in the will of George Horace Lorimer, author and magazine editor, who lived at Wyncote. He had been made chairman of the County Park Board when it was established, in 1937. His death occurred that year. Beginning in 1914 Mr. Lorimer had bought ten farms along Pennypack Creek, mostly in Abington Township. He named the tract King's Oak because of a great oak tree there. His will authorized executors to give the county land from his Abington tract not in excess of 500 acres. It was stipulated in the will that the tract be kept in its natural condition and that birds and non-predatory animals be fostered. The park stretches north from the boundary of the Borough of Rockledge and borders the Newtown Railroad for about a mile. Harper Station and Walnut Hill Station are in this area. An old farm house was restored for use as park headquarters and the home of the custodian.

While the community of Willow Grove is in Upper Moreland Township, Willow Grove Park is south of the line in Abington Township. It was opened in 1896 under control of the transit company operating the trolley car service over Old York Road to Philadelphia, and became widely famous for the notable bands and orchestras which gave summer concerts there for several decades. These included the orchestras of Walter Damrosch, and Victor Herbert, and bands of Sousa, Innes and Creatore.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Slow to Adopt Common School Law

Conjectures already offered as to lack of records about the care of the needy in early Abington may also apply to the scarcity of records concerning adoption by the township of the state's first common school law, that of 1834. The Society of Friends had a good school at Abington Meeting and probably there was no enthusiasm about a new tax to provide schools.

The law of 1834 was not mandatory. Residents of the several districts were to meet and vote on the question of adopting the public school system. For some years no report was received from Abington by the state authorities. By 1853, however, every district in Montgomery County had public schools.

An anonymous History of the Abington Township Schools published in the Jenkintown Times Chronicle in 1948 quoted the following from a letter of James E. Wagner, an official of the State Department of Public Instruction:

"The earliest records pertaining to the public schools of Abington Township that appear to be on file in the Department of Public Instruction are found in the report of the State Superintendent of Common Schools for 1854-55. The records are wholly statistical and give no further information pertaining to the organization of the schools or to the personnel connected with it. Some of the more important items follow.

Number of schools, 6; average number of months taught, 10; male teachers, 3; female teachers, 3; average salary of male teachers, \$28.75; female teachers, \$21.50; number of pupils, 511; receipts from tax collector, \$1942.45; state appropriation, \$179.20; cost of fuel and contingencies, \$193; school house repairs, \$603."

An early school house where Glenside now is, is described as having two rooms. Each room had four classes, 11 children to a class and one teacher.

The five schools of the township in 1888 were the Plank Road School, a school house in Weldon, the Hard Corner School, the Saw Mill Hill School and the Edge Hill School.

The first commencement following adoption of a two-year High School course took place in 1888. There were two graduates—Annie Tomlinson, later Mrs. Paul Knight, and Jennie McMahan.

The anonymous History quoted says the original walls of the first High School building are part of the present Administration Building of the school system. The first part of the present High School was built in 1909. Wings, auditorium, athletic fields, gymnasiums, household arts building were afterwards added. A new six million dollar senior high school, located immediately to the south of the Abington Junior School on Highland Avenue, will be dedicated in October, 1956.

In addition there are two junior high schools, one in Abington and the other serving Glerside and Weldon, and these elementary schools: Abington, two in Roslyn, Ardsley, Glenside-Weldon, Hollywood, McKinley, North Hills and Overlook.

Ambrose L. Custer was the first High School principal. Successors were Elias L. Flack, Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart Engard, Howard E. James, John W. Wieder, James Barclay, Joseph C. Weirick, Eugene G. Gernert, and W. Eugene Stull.

The first township superintendent of schools was Edward B. Ling, whose duties began in 1913. He served for 21 years and was succeeded by Joseph C. Weirick, Dr. Raymond H. White and Dr. O. H. English. When the latter was elected, in 1950, there were 47 applicants for the position.

Additional information about the History of Abington Township public schools may be gathered from a paper on this subject by Madeline Groshens, dated January 12, 1912, and published in the book "The Jenkins Town Lyceum, 1838-1938."

This says three schools were in existence when Abington Township accepted public schools; the Saw Mill Hill School, the Valley School, on Susquehanna Street Road, opposite Hillside Cemetery, and the Edge Hill School. The latter is described as being at Old York Road and Edge Hill Road and not in the village of Edge Hill. About 1842 Jenkintown's first public school was opened, on West Avenue.

One of the few surviving Abington Township school houses of the nineteenth century is the Saw Mill Hill School House, situated in the Huntingdon Valley region where Spring Valley Creek flows into the Pennypack. After having occupied the building for some years, Bethel Baptist Church bought it from the School Board in 1947. Children who went to school here came from families of men employed in numerous water-power industries of the vicinity. The school house was the successor of an old-time "eight-square" school house, demolished in 1873. About that time 60 or more students were enrolled here. In buildings of this type, benches and desks were arranged along the eight walls, facing the center of the room where the teacher was stationed and there was a large stove.

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITIES

Abington That Was Moorestown

The Tavern of the Moore Family

As was to be expected, the first village in Abington Township was founded at the principal highway intersection of the township—that is, where Susquehanna Street Road crossed Old York Road. On the earliest maps this locality was called Abington, then it became Shepherds, next it was Moorestown for many years, and finally Abington was resumed and has since been used.

Moorestown was so acceptable a name that it remained in common use long after the postal authorities had decided in favor of Abington. John Moore and his wife Mary kept the tavern here at the crossroads. The wife seems to have been the manager, and as she survived her husband it was understood that the name Moorestown was intended to honor Widow Moore.

John Moore and his wife were in Germantown about 1745. The name then was written Mohr in records of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, indicating German origin. From Germantown they migrated to Northampton County, where in 1767 Moore was appointed sheriff of the county. They returned to the Germantown area and Moore operated a mill in Bristol Township, north of Germantown. Here he was made a justice of the peace in 1771. His wife died in 1780, and two years later Moore married a widow, Mary Stevens.

In the American Revolution John Moore attained a commendable military record. When Pennsylvania's militia was called out, late in 1776, for General Washington's Long Island campaign, Squire Moore was a major in the "flying camp." Then upon reorganization of the state militia, in 1777, he became colonel of the Second Battalion of Philadelphia County. That county, then includ-

ing all of the present Montgomery County, had seven battalions. The Second Battalion was composed of the militia of Germantown, Bristol, Roxborough, and Springfield Townships. The battalion joined the American Army while it was encamped at Falls of Schuylkill, following the battle of Brandywine, in September, 1777. From that time on, the battalion was in service through the Pennsylvania campaign.

In January, 1778, while the army was encamped at Valley Forge, Colonel Moore was appointed wagonmaster for Philadelphia County. About the same time he also was made commissioner of purchases for the county and one of the commissioners to collect clothing in the county for the army's use. As wagonmaster he had to provide the army with teams to haul supplies to camp — an arduous task because of the scarcity of horses and the reluctance of farmers to turn over their wagons. In 1780, in anticipation of a vigorous campaign with the aid of the French army, Moore was directed to get 20 four-horse teams and 200 horses even if he had to confiscate them from persons who had not signed the oath of allegiance.

There is a family tradition that Colonel Moore was under the necessity of paying a large part of the expenses of his several offices from his own resources with the result that he virtually impoverished himself but was unable later to induce the state government to compensate him.

The first definite connection of the Moore family with Abington consisted of the issuing of a tavern license for that township to Mary Moore in 1787, but did not become the owner of the tavern until 1796. She bought the place from William McCalla, who had bought it from Peter Shoemaker. The tavern had been established about the middle of the eighteenth century, with the sign of the Square and Compass.

Little further information is on record about Colonel Moore. His will, filed in the office of the Register of Wills, indicates that he died in 1800, leaving his estate to his wife Mary. There were no children.

As Mrs. Moore advanced in years she turned over the management of the tavern to a son by her first marriage, John Stevens. She made her home in Cheltenham Township, where she died in 1825. Besides the son John, she had a son George and two daughters, Elizabeth and Catherine, all by her first marriage.

While John Stevens was landlord the Moorestown tavern prospered. It was the voting place for Abington and Cheltenham Townships, and political rallies and other meetings were held there. John Stevens, like many other tavernkeepers of that time, became influential in politics. He was appointed justice of the peace, and in 1823 was elected to the State Assembly, serving until 1827. In 1832 he was appointed postmaster. At the same time the name of a postoffice in Luzerne County called Abington was changed to Abington Center. Abington in Montgomery County had previously had a postoffice from 1816 until 1818, but from then until 1832 it was without a postoffice.

John Stevens sold his tavern in 1832. It was continued under successive owners until 1887, when it was put out of business by the Rev. Leighton W. Eckard, pastor of Abington Presbyterian Church. He terminated the history of the old inn not by waging a crusade against its relicensing but by buying the property for \$8,055 and then demolishing the building.

Presbyterian Pioneers

Insofar as existing Presbyterian records show, the Abington Church of that faith is the denomination's oldest church in Montgomery County. Nevertheless it has often been asserted that Norriton Church, on Germantown Pike, near Fairview Village, possesses this distinction, varying dates being cited as the time of organization, though written contemporary accounts have not been produced. Regular services are no longer held in Norriton Church, it being maintained by Lower Providence Presbyterian Church.

The earliest records extant of Abington congregation give a list of 70 members in 1711. A log church building was erected in the burial ground, opposite the present church, situated on Old York Road, near Susquehanna Street Road. The congregation once owned 94 acres.

No charter was obtained until 1784. Then the charter granted was the first act of Assembly pertaining to Montgomery County introduced after that county had been created. The minutes of Assembly reveal merely that "a member" offered the bill for the charter. He may have been Robert Loller, of Hatboro, who was a member of the congregation. No action was taken on the bill until the next session of Assembly, in February, 1785. On the 22nd of that month the charter bill was enacted.

According to the charter, the trustees and incorporators, were the Rev. William M. Tennent, pastor, Samuel McNair, William Wilson, Joseph McClean, Garret Wynkoop, John Mann, Samuel Leech, Samuel Erwin and John Collom.

The Rev. Mr. Tennent, then pastor, came from a family that produced an unusual number of able Presbyterian ministers. In addition to Abington Church he also served Norriton and Providence congregations, retaining this charge until his death, in 1810. While he was pastor Abington congregation built a stone church, in 1793, to replace the log structure in use since 1719. The new building was located on the west side of Old York Road, opposite the burial ground.

Long pastorates were the rule in the early years of Abington Church. Mr. Tennent was the third pastor. His two predecessors, as well as himself and his two immediate successors died while holding the pastorate and they are buried in the churchyard. The first pastor, the Rev. Malachi Jones, who was 63 years old when he assumed the pastorate, continued his duties 18 years, dying in 1729. His successor, the Rev. Richard Treat, has a record of 47 years. Upon his death, in 1778, the pulpit was vacant for three years and then Mr. Tennent came and remained 29 years. The fourth pastor, the Rev. William Dunlap, died in 1818.

A great event of the colonial era was a visit by the celebrated evangelist, the Rev. George Whitefield. He noted in his diary that on April 17, 1740, he preached in Abington to an assemblage of nearly 3,000.

The fifth pastor, the Rev. Robert Steel, took the charge in 1819 and died in 1862. He never held any other pastorate. This was a period of marked growth, culminating the year after Dr. Steel's death in the rebuilding of the stone church of 1793.

The following pastorates were:

The Rev. John L. Withrow, D.D., 1863-1868.

The Rev. Samuel T. Lowrie, D.D., 1869-1874.

The Rev. Leighton W. Eckard, D.D., 1874-1891.

The Rev. Llewellyn S. Fulmer, 1892-1894.

The Rev. John R. Henderson, 1895-1899.

The Rev. William Scott Nevin, 1900-1903.

The Rev. James Wilson Williams, 1904-1918.

The Rev. Harry H. Bird, 1918-1926.

The Rev. Roland M. Lutz, 1928-1950.

The Rev. John Magill, D.D., 1951-

Fire Destroys the Church

Disaster in the form of fire overwhelmed the Abington Presbyterian Church in 1895. The stone building erected in 1793 and rebuilt in 1863 was destroyed in the early morning of Sunday, October 6, little remaining except the walls.

The crew of a trolley car on Old York Road discovered the blaze about 3 o'clock and immediately aroused people living in the vicinity. The trolley car continued on to Jenkintown, where one of the fire companies was notified. The company set out for Abington, arriving about 5 o'clock.

Citizens made attempts to carry some equipment out of the church, but had little success. The fire had started in the rear of the church in a newly built church parlor. About 4.30 the spire fell, the bell being shattered. The pipe organ, the Sunday school organ and library and most furniture were consumed.

A service of worship was held later on the morning of the fire in the Abington Public School, about 150 persons being present. The minister, the Rev. John R. Henderson, who had assumed the pastorate the previous June, preached on passages in Isaiah and Nehemiah dealing with fiery episodes of the Old Testament. The passage from Isaiah seemed strikingly appropriate: "Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised Thee, is burned up with fire, and all our beautiful things are laid waste."

The church was rebuilt, the dedication taking place September 30, 1896. The Rev. Dr. Leighton W. Eckard, former pastor, preached the sermon.

A Sunday school and parish house building was added in 1926.

A 191-page History of Abington Presbyterian Church was published in 1914. It was compiled by Captain Nicholas Baggs, an elder of the congregation, through whose incentive Historical Society was maintained for some years in connection with the church. He was a veteran of the Civil War and a leader in numerous civic enterprises. In the 1890's he was secretary of the Abington Good Roads Association. Later his endeavors were of much help in bringing about adoption of first class township government in 1906, and from then until 1918 he was township clerk. He died in 1927 at the age of 91.

The Visit of President Harrison

President Benjamin Harrison passed through Abington Township on September 5, 1889, and the Presbyterian Church led the community in according him an enthusiastic welcome.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia North had arranged to have a commemoration of the "Log College," pioneer educational institution of the Presbyterian denomination, which the Rev. William Tennent founded in 1727 on Neshaminy Creek, near Hartsville, Bucks County. John Wanamaker, leader of Presbyterian activities in the Philadelphia area, had his summer home on Old York Road

near the southern limits of Abington Township. At this time he was Postmaster General in the cabinet of President Benjamin Harrison, also a Presbyterian leader. Through the aid of Mr. Wanamaker, President Harrison agreed to come to the Log College celebration. A similar response was received from General James A. Beaver, Governor of Pennsylvania, also a Presbyterian.

The President and Mrs. Harrison, with Private Secretary Halford and Mr. Wanamaker, arrived by train at Jenkintown at 7 P.M. on the evening of September 4, 1889, and were welcomed by Governor Beaver, a committee of distinguished Presbyterians and a large concourse of citizens. President Harrison and his party spent the night at the home of Mr. Wanamaker.

The next morning the party left at 8.30 in carriages for the trip to the Neshaminy. At Noble Station they were welcomed into Abington Township by the music of a drum corps that had been brought out from Philadelphia for the occasion. Three hundred girls waving flags were grouped on the grounds of Abington Church. A triumphal arch spanned Old York Road and the First Regiment Band discoursed music. In a grandstand 700 young women were seated. On their behalf a bouquet of orchids was presented to Mrs. Harrison, and other bouquets to other women in the party.

As the procession continued many carriages fell into line until there were 1500 vehicles. At Hatboro there were further demonstrations of welcome. The site of the celebration near Hartsville was reached about 11.30 A.M. President Harrison and Mr. Wanamaker made short addresses and there were further talks by Presbyterian dignitaries.

Returning in the evening, President Harrison and his party spent the night at the Wanamaker house, and before leaving the next day the President planted a chestnut tree on the grounds.

Mr. Wanamaker showed much interest in Abington Church, especially by encouraging the church's efforts to found a mission Sunday School in Jenkintown. This developed into Grace Church. Through his aid the famous evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, was brought to Abington early in 1872 to preach at six services in the church or in Jenkintown Lyceum. Mr. Wanamaker named his summer estate Lindenhurst. The house of 50 rooms was under construction from 1880 to 1883. A devastating fire occurred at the house in February, 1907, destroying costly art collections. The house was rebuilt. After Mr. Wanamaker's death, in 1922, the estate remained in possession of the family for some years, being sold to Henry W. Breyer in 1929. The house was demolished in 1947.

Nineteenth Century Enterprises.

According to a Gazetteer published in 1832, the village of Abington then comprised eleven dwellings, a tannery owned by the Kennedy family, and a boarding school, besides the tavern. In 1769 and again in 1785 two taverns were listed in Abington Township.

The blacksmith shop in Abington was a busy institution while the era of the horse continued. John Brough established the shop about 1807.

The toll gate also was a center of interest as long as toll was collected on Old York Road. A description of the toll house, by Florence Ridpath, says:

"These houses were all alike: about 30 feet in length and 20 in width, three rooms on the first floor and three on the second, with a small porch in front and a coal oil lamp for the gate. Two long pole-like gates stretched across the road, swinging on hinges. They were closed at night and travelers had to waken the keeper in order to keep on their way. In the rear of the present site of the Abington Bank the turnpike company leased ground where the gate keeper could keep his cow, pig or chickens. His salary, in addition to the living quarters, was \$25 a year. About 1870 the old gate house was taken down and a new and more substantial one erected at the same spot."

With the coming of the trolley cars in 1895, the toll gate was in the way and the cars were forced for a time to make a curve in front of the gate. This proved somewhat inconvenient, in consequence of which the company in 1896 built a new and modern building, which remained the home of the gatekeeper until the state bought and freed the turnpike.

"The toll was 4 cents a horse from one gate to another, or less if that distance were not made."

Charles DuBree was overseer and general manager of the turnpike.

Once a week he collected the toll received at all gates and he delivered it to the company's office in Philadelphia. He also had to attend to the repair of the road. No stone crushers were then in use. Stone was bought from farmers along the road and dumped at convenient places where repairs were necessary. In the winter when there was no work on farms men were engaged to break the stones with hammers and then dispose of it on the roadbed.

Information about one of the old-time general stores in Abington was collected in 1944 by Jean Freeman. The owners of this store at first were B. Frank Boucher and William Francis. It was situated at Old York Road and Eckard Avenue. Later Mr. Boucher acquired full control, and remained there for 36 years. Then he built the Parkhouse Store and was there until 1835. The writer continued:

"Abingtonians of that era speak with nostalgic fondness of the old village store with the long-railed porch on which were displayed a variety of merchandise. Brooms hung from the porch ceiling. Great barrels of molasses and huge bags of grain and grass seed were on the floor. Inside could be found gingham, ribbons, thread, shoe laces and a vast assortment of food. Here, too, was the post-office, Mr. Boucher being postmaster for eleven years."

For 20 or more years Mr. Boucher was an elder of the Presbyterian Church, and he served the township as assessor, judge of elections and inspector. He was elected road supervisor in 1899, and when the first class township government was organized, in 1906, he was made township treasurer. For 25 years he was treasurer of the Fire Company, and he was also a newspaper correspondent.

Abington's early private schools had a high reputation. The Rev. Robert Steel, minister of the Presbyterian Church throughout his adult life, was principal of a boarding and day school and later of a school for girls. His brother, John Steel, also had a private school. A school was conducted by the Rev. Richard Treat, minister from 1729 to 1776. It was in a house he built on part of the Presbyterian Church lands. In the nineteenth century this site became the home of John Lambert, who named the place Aysgarth. The Lamberts were a prominent family of the region, and John Lambert was a portrait painter. The will of John Lambert bequeathed his books, pictures and heirlooms to the Abington Library, in Jenkintown, where there is a Lambert Room.

Occasional evidences of nineteenth century get-rich-quick infatuation appeared. Gold seekers thought they had discovered gold ore, about 1830, at Vinegar Hill, east of Abington Village. There was some excitement but no real gold.

At the time of the petroleum discoveries in Northwestern Pennsylvania, such a discovery was reported west of Abington at Susquehanna Street and Fitzwatertown Roads. A company was organized to drill for oil, and a map of 1893 indicated the site of the well, said to have been 600 feet deep.

A more stable form of investment came in 1870 in the organization of a building and loan association in Abington.

A public meeting on February 15, 1889, resulted in organization of a fire company for the village of Abington—the first fire company in the township. Erection of a fire house followed on the site which the company now occupies. An interesting feature is that, instead of sending to distant makers for equipment, the company made these purchases near by whenever possible. The very first such item, a truck, was built by the Abington blacksmiths, Winder and Lightcap, at a cost of \$125. Ladders, buckets, axes and the like made a total cost of \$425. In 1907 a hose cart was constructed for the company by Jefferson O'Donnell, of Jenkintown. A firm in Roslyn supplied a small truck of the booster type, carrying a tank and hose, in 1935. The Jenkintown hose cart, which also carried ladders, served until 1914, when the first motorized equipment was procured. This included a chemical tank. Down to the present time the company has aimed to give the best fire-fighting service possible by replacing old pieces of apparatus from time to time. The first fire house was occupied until 1893, when the company moved to a new house, on Old York Road North of Horace Avenue, an addition being built. In 1912 a new house was erected on the company's first site, at a cost of \$5,800. A



Abington Fire Company

Ladies' Auxiliary has been of much assistance financially in recent years. Present officers of the Fire Company are: Leonard Sautter, president; Richard Roatch, vice president; John Schumacher, secretary; Paul Reeves, treasurer; J. Allen Boutcher, Alexander Wheller, August Donato, James Condy, George W. Pletcher, trustees; C. Earle Willett, chief; George Tongue and H. LeRoy Keller, assistant chiefs; John DeFlavis, engineer, and Andrew Cunningham, foreman.

Twentieth Century Growth

One of the most important general hospitals in rural Pennsylvania is the Abington Memorial Hospital founded largely through the initiative of George W. Elkins. The need of a hospital in Abington, it is said, was impressed on Mr. Elkins when several times automobile accidents caused the injury of occupants of the cars involved and Mr. Elkins' motorcar was commandeered to take the victims to Philadelphia hospitals. Twice on these long trips one of the injured persons died. Mr. Elkins arranged for a public meeting in the Township Building, in 1912, about 50 persons being present. It was decided to solicit funds to establish a hospital. Mr. Elkins contributed generously, and the hospital was built in 1913. It was made a memorial to Stella McIntire Elkins, first wife of Mr. Elkins. In 1922 a Nurses' Home was built, and in 1925 five additional units were completed. Mr. Elkins further provided substantial endowments and there were many gifts from other citizens of the area. Until his death Mr. Elkins was chairman of the Hospital's board of trustees, being succeeded at his death by his son, George W. Elkins, Jr. Another important gift was a building which George D. Widener and Mrs. Eleanor Widener Dixon presented in 1939 in memory of their parents.

The Abington Young Men's Christian Association, which has a well equipped building and a large membership, came into existence through a bequest, in 1913, of \$50,000 in the will of John M. Colton, to establish a Young Men's Christian Association in Abington. The will stipulated that four of the proposed Association's seven directors must be members of Abington Presbyterian Church, where Mr. Colton had been an elder. This conflicted with the rules of the Y.M.C.A. forbidding more than one-third of the directors of any Association to belong to the same religious denomination. The problem was adjusted, with the approval of the heirs and the Orphans' Court, by turning over the \$50,000 to the Philadelphia Y.M.C.A. and that Association then established the Abington Y.M.C.A., conducting it as a branch of the Philadelphia Association. Membership includes women and girls, as well as men and boys.

The Abington Bank and Trust Company was chartered in 1927, and a banking house was equipped at Old York and Susquehanna Street Roads. An informal reception, signaling the beginning of business, took place Saturday, September 8, 1928, when deposits for the day exceeded \$254,000. The first officers were: President, Benjamin T. Britt; vice presidents, H. James Sautter and John B. Nelson; secretary-treasurer, J. L. Michel; assistant secretary, N. Lamon Branon; directors, in addition to the officers named, Harry S. Ambler, Jr.; Earl H. Breeding, William G. Davidson, Charles M. Doll, Horace S. Furman, B. F. Greenwalt, H. S. Lever, Charles M. Morrison, W. Paul O'Neil, C. E. Penny, J. C. Powell, C. Brewster Rhoads, C. W. Reuter, A. B. Shaffer, Clarence J. Shilcock, Thomas E. Stenger and H. Calvin Williams

GLENSIDE — WHOLLY MODERN

A Great Real Estate Project

Most populous of Abington Township communities, Glenside is almost wholly a product of the twentieth century.

When Peter A. B. Widener and William L. Elkins controlled Philadelphia's transit interests and other large financial undertakings, they acquired much farm land in Cheltenham and Abington Townships. Their representative, William T. B. Roberts, in 1897, began development of a 600-acre tract in the neighborhood where the Germantown and Willow Grove Plank Road, now Easton Road, crossed the Bethlehem Branch of the Reading Railroad. In earlier times this had been Abington Station. Here were a few dwellings and a lumber yard, but no store, tavern or church.

So well did the development project of 1897 succeed that streets were rapidly opened and hundreds of dwellings built. The name Glenside was already in use for the place, having been given by the Postal Department to a newly opened postoffice, in 1888.

The original Roberts project was entirely within Abington Township. But the growing town soon spread south into Cheltenham Township. In later times Glenside has expanded in every direction, absorbing old villages. This expansion led to a movement to obtain incorporation as a borough for that part of the community in Abington Township. The court refused to grant the application. With the improved government obtained when Abington Township adopted first class township management, in 1906, Glenside was able to gain all advantages possible if it were a borough, and no further effort was made to get borough incorporation.

The Glenside Community Club, organized at the time of the first World War, developed into the Glenside War Memorial Association, in 1921. Contributions were pledged and stock was sold, so that in 1925 the War Memorial Building was erected as a meeting place for community groups. In 1945 the building was rededicated as a tribute to those who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

Fire Company, Banks and Churches

The rapid growth of the community prompted organization of a fire company in 1900. It was quartered on the Cheltenham side of the boundary, on Glenside Avenue, above Lismore Avenue, but the company has always been prompt to serve on both sides of the line when needed. Indeed, the dividing line in the built-up district is so obscure that many residents are not sure as to just where it runs.

The fire company was a pioneer in establishing schools of instruction for firemen belonging to volunteer companies. It organized such a school for its members in 1924. Soon other fire companies in the county adopted similar methods, with members of the Glenside company serving as instructors. In observance of its fiftieth anniversary, in 1950, the company dedicated an addition to its house and installed new apparatus.

The Glenside National Bank was opened in 1910. In 1922 interests connected with this bank organized the Glenside Title and Trust Company, and the same year the Glenside Trust Company was chartered. The two first named institutions were united in 1925 as the Glenside Bank and Trust Company. In 1931 the two existing banking houses were closed. Later the Northwestern National Bank of Philadelphia opened a branch in Glenside.

An important public improvement was the elimination of the dangerous grade crossing where Easton Road crossed the Reading Railroad. This was accomplished in 1927 after persistent efforts by the Glenside Improvement Association, backed by the Glenside Business Men's Association. Their appeals resulted in an order by the State Public Service Commission in 1926 to proceed with the work.

The Glenside Methodist Church is the oldest congregation among the churches of Glenside. It originated with what was known as Harmer Hill Methodist Church, on Church Road, west of Easton Road, in Cheltenham Township, about the middle of the nineteenth century. First this was a mission of Milestown Methodist Church at modern Oak Lane. Later its legal title was Cheltenham

Valley Methodist Episcopal Church No. 2. When the Rev. Edward Hart was pastor he began holding services in the community that became Glenside, and ere long most members of the Harmer Hill Church began attending the Glenside mission. Finally the Harmer Hill Church was abandoned and the site was sold, the bodies buried in the adjacent grounds being removed to Hillside Cemetery. W. T. B. Roberts, when he began developing Glenside, gave a lot to the Methodists, where their church was built. The church celebrated its centennial in 1951.

Services of the Catholic Church were begun in 1905 and the Church of St. Luke the Evangelist was built in 1910.

Other churches of Glenside are St. Paul's Lutheran, Glenside Evangelical and Reformed Church, First Baptist Church of Glenside-Wyncote, Wharton Avenue Baptist Church and the First Church of Christ Scientist.

ALONG EASTON ROAD

Weldon an Old Community

Weldon, a mile north of Glenside station, is older than Glenside.

When Glenside was in its infantile stages, the residents had to depend upon the Weldon postoffice for their mail. In later years, so far as the mail is concerned, Weldon has been absorbed in Glenside. Weldon had a store, hotel and church before Glenside existed.

Construction of the Plank Road, about 1852, started a building boom where the new road crossed a highway from Jenkintown to Fitzwatertown. Already a blacksmith shop was in existence, David Lukens built a hotel and John Michener a store at the intersection. Then these two added some dwellings. Tradition says that when the hotel was completed a prominent citizen remarked the job was well done. Whereupon the proprietor adopted the name Weldon for the hotel. Later it was applied to the village.

Another story is that Charles Dickens, famous English author, spent a night at the Weldon Hotel on one of his American tours. Why he should have done so is not explained. The late William H. McCann used to tell this story and he also asserted that General Winfield Scott Hancock, when he was the Democratic nominee for President, in 1880, made a speech at a meeting in the hall opposite the hotel.

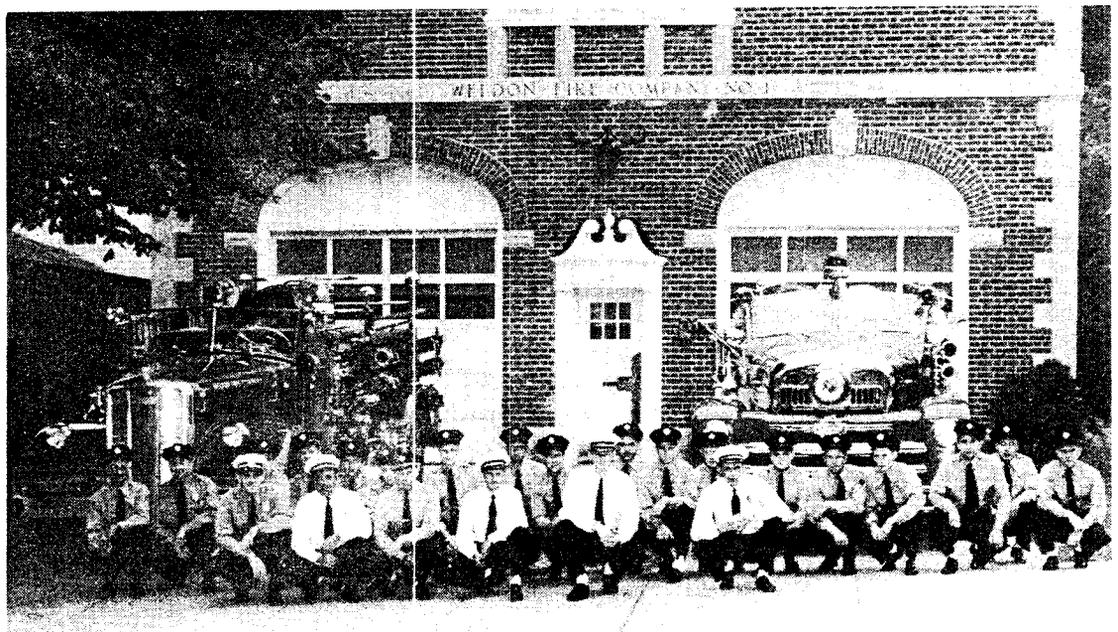
For 31 years Weldon's storekeeper was Hutchinson Smith, and he also was postmaster. Development of the place was fostered by Thomas Smith, president of a Philadelphia bank, who bought about 400 acres hereabouts in the 1860's. Another Smith family living

nearby provided a landmark. Russell Smith, famed theatrical painter, built an unusual studio on a hilltop. It was 50 feet square and 50 feet high, to afford space for drop curtains and sets of scenery. He provided drop curtains for the Academy of Music, in Philadelphia, and theatres in various large cities. His son, Xanthus Smith, painted numerous large pictures of famous scenes in American history.

The Smith families supplied incentive that led women of the region to organize a Soldiers' Aid Society at the time of the Civil War, to provide Union Army troops with clothing and delicacies of food not included in regular army rations. At first the women met in homes of members. More space being needed, Thomas Smith gave them a site in Welton. Here a frame hall was erected in 1864. After the war the hall became a community center for home-talent amusements. Celebrating the coming of peace a big dinner was given for veterans, September 6, 1865, General John F. Hartranft being a guest.

A Sunday school conducted in the hall developed into St. Peter's Episcopal Church. In the early 1880's Mrs. Thomas Smith had the church rebuilt with stone as a memorial to the Smith family. Later a rectory and parish house were added, and Mrs. Smith gave an organ and memorial windows. Russell Smith donated land for enlargement of the church site.

After the hotel building in Abington Village was demolished, the Weldon Hotel was the only licensed place in Abington Township. In 1901 it was destroyed by fire, but it was rebuilt.



Weldon Fire Company

At a meeting in the new hotel the Weldon Fire Company was organized April 20, 1904, with these officers: F. J. Smith, president, John Mooney, vice president; William P. Buck, secretary; Robert Gracey, treasurer; H. F. Luff, David Cannally and George Mills, trustees; Lawrence Deviney, chief; Harry Bickley, assistant chief. A horse-drawn hose reel was procured and kept in a building on Easton Road. On a site acquired at 412 Easton Road a fire house was built in 1911, it being a one-story frame structure with a stone front. A used touring car was converted into a hose wagon in 1913. Additional equipment was bought from time to time, a pumper costing \$12,400 being added in 1923 and a \$23,000 truck in 1955. A weekly fire school was started and a unit of fire police was organized.

It was in the Weldon Hotel that the Commissioners of the Township of Abington held their first meeting following adoption of first class township government, in 1906. The later Casa Conti Hotel replaced the old Weldon Hotel.

Roslyn and Crestmont

Roslyn, west of Easton Road, and Crestmont, east of the highway, are developments of the present century.

Application of the name Easton Road to the former Plank Road is attributed to the Roslyn Improvement Association, the suggestion having been offered at a meeting in 1922.

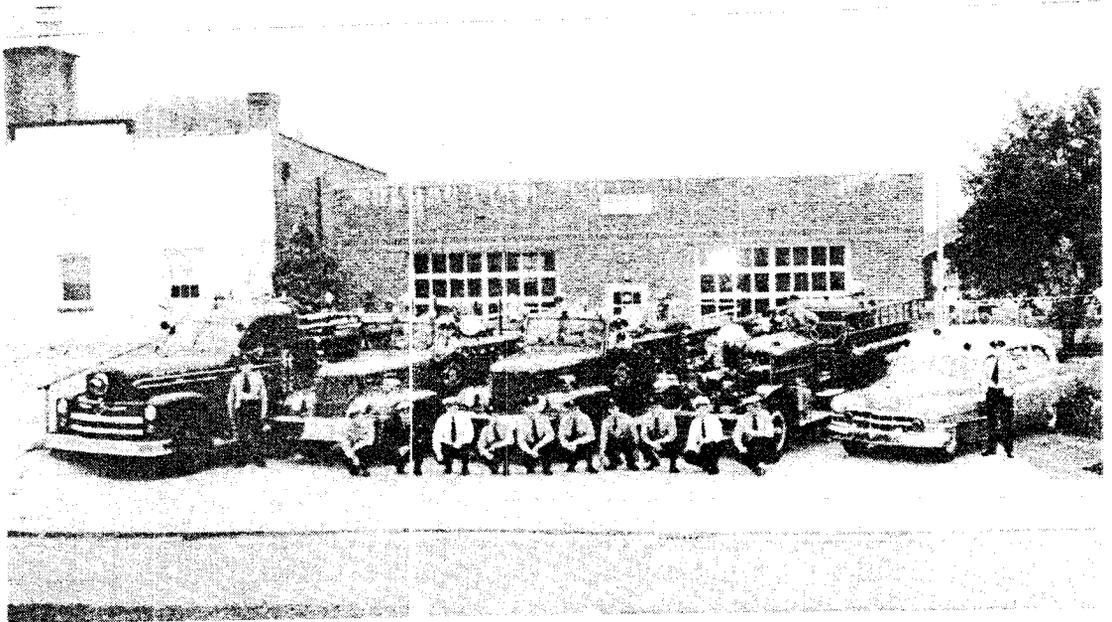
Originally the place was called Hillside, that being the name of a large burial ground nearby. When a postoffice was wanted Hillside was not acceptable to the Postal Department, whereupon the name Roslyn was adopted. The postoffice was opened in 1895 with Gordon Rogan as the first postmaster.

Roslyn Presbyterian Church, Easton Road and Tyson Avenue, had its beginning as a Sunday School in 1907. The first sessions were held in a marble cutter's shed. In 1909 a frame building was dedicated for Sunday School use. Organization of the church took place in 1923, the first minister being the Rev. J. Warren Kaufman.

Other churches in Roslyn are Faith Community, Free Methodist, St. John of the Cross and Lutheran Church of the Living Word. The First Baptist Church of Crestmont was incorporated in 1919.

Hillside Cemetery, chartered in 1890, was fostered mainly by German residents of Philadelphia. German veterans of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 were buried there. Ardsley Burial Park was founded in 1906. In 1953, the older company bought out the later one. The two burial grounds now under one management comprise about 300 acres.

North Penn Post, No. 676, Veterans of Foreign Wars, has its quarters in a reconstructed barn at Roslyn Avenue and Jenkintown Road. The post was organized in 1921, being the first unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars established in Montgomery County.



Roslyn Fire Company

First suggestions that a fire company be organized in Roslyn originated among a group of men in 1921, when they watched the Weldon fire engine dash out Easton Road to answer a call. "We ought to have a fire company in Roslyn," remarked one of them. All agreed. A meeting was held in Perry Greenspan's real estate office. Later the meetings were continued in a school bus parked for the night in a Roslyn garage. Barrels were placed along Easton Road and the heavy Sunday traffic was invited to toss in quarters for the proposed fire company. Carnivals also supplied funds. Organization was effected by making Charles Glaeser, Sr., president and George F. Kraft, chief. Kraft held the position of chief for more than a quarter of a century. The first fire truck was bought from the Philadelphia Navy Yard and it served until 1926. Modern equipment was added as money became available, and in 1939 an ambulance was acquired, this rendering valuable service for the community. Fire police were organized and also a Ladies' Auxiliary. A new fire house was built in 1947. In 1953 the Ladies' Auxiliary paid off the mortgage of \$19,000. The activity of the Roslyn Fire Company may be seen in the fact that in 1955 it responded to 112 alarms of fire.

EDGE HILL — AT THE WESTERN BORDER

Nineteenth century Edge Hill consisted of a tavern, a school house, a church and a succession of dwellings along Limekiln Pike, populated mostly by workers in quarries or in the iron furnace once operated there. In earlier times the community had another name—Guineatown. The first settlers were Negro families, said to have been brought there as slaves of Richard Morrey. He freed the slaves and gave them land on which to live. It was understood the first Negroes came from Guinea, in Africa. So their hamlet was called Guineatown. White residents soon outnumbered the Negroes, and in May, 1837, they held a meeting and decided to change the name of the village to Edge Hill. A Mayday celebration was held at which the new name was inscribed upon the Maypole and also displayed on a large sign.

The term Edge Hill was not new. It had been applied from earliest times to the range of hills running from Northeast to Southwest.

Limekiln Pike, the principal highway, was opened in 1693, from Old York Road at Branchtown, to give access to limekilns in Upper Dublin Township. About a half mile of the pike was in Abington Township. The early village extended from the school house, in Cheltenham Township, west across a corner of Abington into Upper Dublin Township.

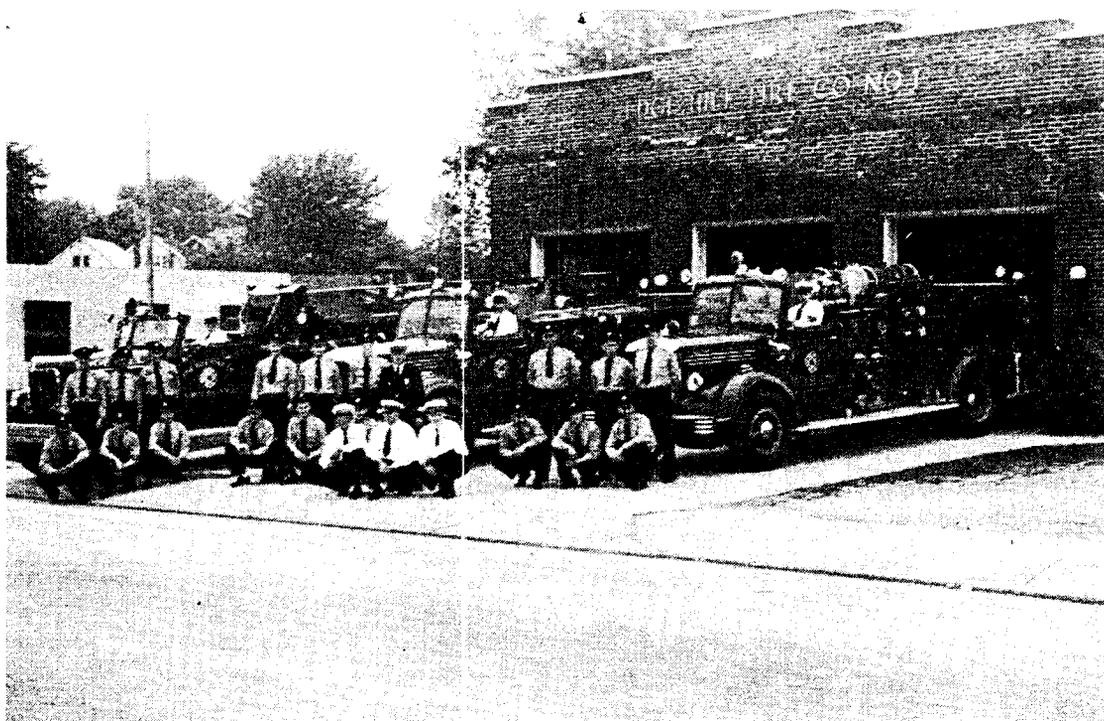
Digging of iron ore and operation of Edge Hill Furnace gave the region a measure of prosperity in the 1870's and 1880's. With the development of Glenside, Edge Hill was virtually absorbed, and in 1923 the names of the postoffice and railroad station were changed to North Glenside. Subsequently there was another change to North Hills, which is a large modern community altogether in Abington Township.

Abington Presbyterian Church established a Sunday School in Edge Hill in 1872. A chapel was built in 1876, and Carmel congregation was organized in 1882, the Rev. Howard R. Bent being the first minister. In the present century, concurrent with erection of many dwellings round about, the congregation made large gains in membership. In 1926 a new church was built at a cost of \$200,000.

In recent times the stone from some Edge Hill quarries has been found suitable for refractory purposes—that is, for withstanding the extreme heat necessary for smelting metals. Harvey Sines had tests made of the stone on his farm. The results encouraged him to begin marketing the product under the name of Fire Stone, and large shipments were made for use in Bessemer converters,

lining of limekilns, incinerators and similar purposes, while in crushed form it is used in the manufacture of fire brick.

At a meeting of citizens of Edge Hill, December 8, 1908, it was decided to organize a Fire Company for the community. Louis H. Foster, who had presided at preliminary meetings was elected president, and the other officers chosen were: H. A. Fox, vice president; George Wakely, treasurer; A. Zellfelder, secretary; Charles Kraushaar, chief; Luther Clayton, W. H. Barnes and Charles Gray, trustees. The first equipment was a hose reel, purchased from the Pioneer Fire Company, of Jenkintown, and 500 feet of hose. A two-story fire house was completed in January, 1910, at Limekiln Pike and Mount Carmel Avenue. A pumper, the first in the township, was bought in 1916 and was used until 1923. Another early acquisition was a chemical tank. In 1933 a brick fire house was built a half mile distant from the first fire house. Much of the construction was done by members. New equipment of the best modern type was added from time to time, a ladder truck being included and also mobile radio. The company has a fire police unit, and there is an active Women's Auxiliary. Presidents of the company have been L. H. Foster, H. A. Fox, H. Gansert, J. Gilbert, L. Weber, C. B. Marks, E. Gibson, W. M. Tomkins, E. Waeltz, R. Simes, F. Huttlin, E. S. Riley, G. A. Roesing. The chiefs since organization have been: Charles Kraushaar, Robert Kenyon, Elmer Whittam and John Manzinger.



Edge Hill Fire Company

Borough Taken Out of Abington

Jenkintown was the most important community in Abington Township until it withdrew from the township in 1874 to be incorporated as a borough. Jenkins Town is noted on Scull's map of 1759. Members of the Welsh Jenkins family were early settlers hereabouts. William Jenkins, who came about 1697 and helped found the nearby Abington Friends' Meeting, bought 437 acres of land. Later Jenkins' tavern was a landmark and it is mentioned in Revolutionary annals. This tavern and its successor, which William McCalla conducted for many years, were stopping places for stage coaches on Old York Road. The polls for Abington, Cheltenham and Moreland Townships were at McCalla's tavern, beginning in 1797. In 1806 a postoffice was established in the same place, with William McCalla, postmaster.

The name of Abington Library, in Jenkintown, recalls the ancient allegiance to Abington Township. The library was founded in 1803 and still operates as a helpful public library. It occupies the attractive little building of the "Jenkins' Town Lyceum," as the name appears on a stone in the outer walls of the building. The Lyceum, founded in 1839, was one of the old-time literary and debating societies. It erected this hall for its meetings on a lot that was the gift of Mrs. John Ross, a member of the Jenkins family and widow of a former judge of Montgomery County. Once a debate on the slavery question became so heated that six men were arrested charged with rioting. They were acquitted at their trial in Norristown. But no more discussion of slavery took place in the hall. The strong supporters of abolitionism organized a lyceum of their own in Abington Village.

In 1849 the Jenkintown Lyceum was in financial distress and the Sheriff levied on its property. However, an act of the Legislature was passed authorizing the Lyceum to borrow money to the amount of \$500 to liquidate its debts. This was done and the hall building was saved. For a long time no meetings of the Lyceum were held, but the building was used for religious services by Jenkintown churches prior to their erection of church buildings. In 1909 the building was sold to the Abington Library. It was enlarged and beautified, Grecian pillars being erected at the front.

The Abington Library, founded in 1803, was the third public library in Montgomery County. Thirty-three residents constituted the membership at organization. They agreed to pay \$6 on joining and annual dues of \$1.50. According to the state charter obtained

in 1805, the name was The Abington Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge. For some years the Library was quartered in the dwelling of the librarian. In 1806 that official received \$10 a year and five percent commission on all money collected for the library. There were more than 1000 volumes in the library in 1855, and by 1880 the size had doubled. For a time a room was rented over a store. When Masonic Hall was built, in 1870, space was leased therein and the library was open every weekday. In the opening years of the twentieth century only 13 members were on the list. In an appeal for more members the cost of all services by the library was set at \$1 a year. This revived interest and brought about purchase of the Lyceum building. There the library has since been quartered. Miss Florence M. Ridpath was librarian from 1902 to 1945.

Churches and Societies

While Jenkintown still was part of Abington Township the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour was founded there, in 1857. A Sunday school started by Abington Presbyterian Church and conducted in the Lyceum building was merged with the Episcopal Sunday school. As a thank offering for his escape in a railroad disaster, William H. Newbold, who lived in a large estate at the eastern border of Jenkintown, had a church built for the Episcopal parish.

Jenkintown's second church was the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, its building being completed in 1866.

John Wanamaker, whose summer home was at the borders of Jenkintown, helped found a Sunday school in the Lyceum Building in 1869, teaching a class and conducting weekly prayer meetings. As a memorial to his daughter Harriet, who died in 1870, he had a building erected for the Sunday school. An outcome was the organization of Grace Presbyterian Church, in 1881.

The Methodist Church also began with services in the Lyceum Building, and in 1867 a former school house was bought and converted into a church. A church was erected in 1879. Regarding the school house that became a church, this story comes from an unidentified source:

"On West Avenue, Jenkintown, stands an old, plain one-story building which has a history. The building is known as the old Methodist Church, but it was first built as a school, then served as a church and in 1913 was serving a double purpose of Council chamber and jail. This was the first public school under the school law in Abington Township."

Subsequently organized churches are the Baptist, 1880, Salem Baptist, 1907, and Christian Science. St. Mark's Reformed Episcopal Church was founded in 1942 in Jenkintown Manor, which is East of the Borough of Jenkintown, in Abington Township.

One of the county's oldest Masonic lodges was founded in Abington Township—Friendship Lodge, No. 136. It was organized in the farm house of Jeremiah Burrell, March 1, 1813. Burrell was made senior warden. Its small membership was composed of residents of several townships along Old York Road. The anti-Masonic agitation of the 1830's brought about dissolution of the lodge in 1838. After the antagonism to Masonry had subsided another Masonic lodge, which adopted the name of Friendship, was organized in Jenkintown in 1867. Three years later it built Masonic Hall. In 1913 John Wanamaker had the hall rebuilt, with a new front and enlarged facilities.

Peace and Love Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was started in Willow Grove in 1847, and in 1950 it removed to Jenkintown.

The first fire company in the county outside Norristown was organized in Jenkintown in 1852 and remained active until 1865. Nathan Michener was the first president, and meetings were held in the Lyceum Building. A hand engine was acquired, being kept in a small frame structure. The key to the door of the fire house was hung on a nail driven into the trunk of a plum tree, so it might be readily available in case of fire. Citizens kept leather buckets in their homes, carrying them to the scene of fires to convey water from pumps to the hand engine. In parades the firemen wore high hats and buckskin capes. When the company was disbanded the fire engine became junk.

After Jenkintown became a borough two fire companies were established there—the Pioneer in 1884 and the Independent in 1889.

A Big Industry

Abington Township is not usually thought of as an industrial district. But there is one large industry within the township, close to the borders of Jenkintown—the Standard Pressed Steel Company. Various steel products are produced. The company was organized in 1903 to manufacture a recently patented steel shaft hanger. The inventor, who became president of the company, was Howard Thomas Hallowell, a descendant of pioneer Abington settlers.

Friends' Meeting and School

Earliest settlers in Abington Township included members of the Society of Friends from England. Their first meetings for worship were held in Oxford Township, in the present northern part of Philadelphia, near Frankford. Then they met in homes of members in Cheltenham Township. It has already been told that in 1697 John Barnes transferred 120 acres of farmland in Abington Township to the Society of Friends as a site for a meeting house, school and burial ground. The meeting house was erected and was in use by 1700. Meetings have been held there ever since.

The meeting house is situated East of Jenkintown. Several times additions were built to accommodate increasing membership and sessions of the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings. The first such enlargement was made in 1756, and the second eleven years later. At that time Abington was in Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, but later Abington Quarterly Meeting was established, and also Abington Monthly Meeting. The Monthly Meeting at one time included local meetings as far away as Germantown. In the Monthly Meeting business matters are transacted and supervision is exercised over marriages. The most recent enlargement of the meeting house took place in 1929, to provide an auditorium for social affairs and sessions of the Firstday School. Surrounding the meeting house is a grove including many stately old forest trees.

When the division occurred in the Society of Friends, in the 1830's over the teachings of Elias Hicks, Abington Meeting joined the "Hicksites." A small group of Orthodox Friends, opposing the "Hicksites," built a meeting house near by, at Meeting House Road and Greenwood Avenue.

A school for education of members' children was opened by Abington Meeting in 1702. It was held in the meeting house until 1784, when a school house was built. This was replaced by a larger structure in the present century. The Friends' School attained high standing. Attendance was not restricted to members of Friends' families. In a study of the history of this school, Arthur H. Jenkins says "it is the oldest school in Pennsylvania in continuous operation at one place under one management."

Benjamin Lay's Attack on Slavery

With Abington Meeting is associated the story of Benjamin Lay. He was a native of England who came to Pennsylvania in 1731. For ten years he lived on Old York Road at Branchtown, and then he made his home in Abington Township with the family of John Phipps, opposite Abington Friends' Meeting House. Though

eating and sleeping with the Phipps family he spent much of his time in study and meditation in a cave, where he had 200 books. He issued a book denouncing human slavery and distributed the copies gratuitously. He visited men and woman of influence and sought their aid in trying to abolish slavery, then still legal in Pennsylvania, and he would speak in schools and at Friends' meetings. Though he had been a member of the Society of Friends in England, he did not attach himself to Abington Meeting, so far as is known, but he would attend the meeting and made himself so obnoxious that, as the records read, it was "ordered that Benjamin Lay be kept out of our meeting for business, he being no member but a frequent disturber thereof."

By spectacular expedients he sought to bring his reform ideas to the attention of the Yearly Meeting of Friends. Once he appeared at a session of the Yearly Meeting in Burlington, N. J., and chided the Friends for holding Negroes in slavery. "You might as well throw off your plain coat, as I do," he asserted. Thereupon he removed his outer coat and stood before them arrayed in a military uniform, with a sword. He plunged the sword through a large book which he carried. A torrent of what seemed to be blood issued, splattering some of the astonished listeners. Thus he sought to intimate that Quakers who preached peace were encouraging bloodshed by their failure to wipe out slavery. It transpired that Lay had removed the leaves of the book he carried and inserted therein a bladder filled with the red juice of the pokeberry.

At another time in midwinter, with deep snow covering the ground, Lay stood at the entrance to one of the Friends' meeting houses as the people assembled for worship. His right foot and leg were entirely without covering, exposed to the bitter cold. When men and women expostulated, Lay said: "You pretend compassion for me, but you do not feel for the poor slaves who go all winter half clad."

At times his denunciations also extended to the eating of animal flesh, the use of animal products, such as wool for clothing, and the drinking of tea and intoxicants.

Physical deformities made it all the more difficult for Lay to gain serious consideration for his theories. He was a hunchback, four feet, seven inches in height, with a very large head, large eyes and long beard while his legs seemed scarcely strong enough to bear his body. He married a wife who was also deformed. She died in 1756, and Lay's death occurred three years later, he being then 82 years old. Both were buried in the grounds of Abington Meeting. To the Meeting Lay left £40 for the education of "poor children" of the Meeting.

Alverthorpe

Where Benjamin Lay lived in the eighteenth century, east of Abington Friends' Meeting House, Joshua Francis Fisher established a notable rural estate called Alverthorpe, in the middle of the nineteenth century. It originally embraced 500 acres. A high stone wall stretched for 1500 feet along Meeting House Lane. Mr. Fisher, scholar and historian,, gathered a library of 5000 volumes, one of the largest private libraries of that time. He named his estate Alverthorpe because that was the name of the home of his ancestor, Joshua Maude, in Yorkshire, England.

Mr. Fisher died in 1873. His widow, who was Eliza Middleton, survived until 1890. Their daughter, Sophia Georgiana, married Eckley B. Coxe, millionaire coal mine operator. The youngest son of the Fishers was Dr. Henry Middleton Fisher. In 1937 he sold Alverthorpe to Lessing J. Rosenwald, then head of Sears, Roebuck & Company, who made his home there.

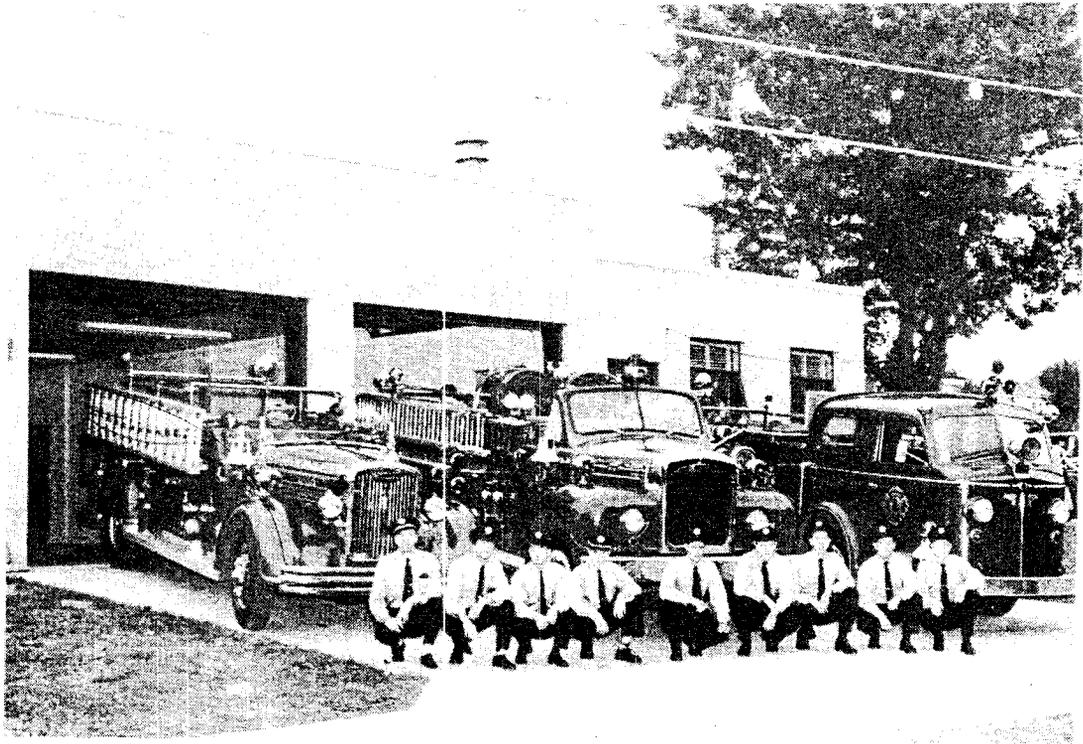
Here are also memories of General George Gordon Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac in the Civil War at the time of the battle of Gettysburg. The Meade family and the Fisher family were intimate, and after the war the Meade family spent several summers on the Alverthorpe estate, occupying a large house called Meadowbank, on Fox Chase Road. General Meade placed his Civil War horse, Old Baldy, in the care of John Davis, who had a blacksmith shop near Meadowbank. The horse, which had been wounded several times in battle, was a great favorite of General Meade. The General died in 1873, but the horse lived thirteen years longer, at Alverthorpe. At its death the horse was buried behind the blacksmith shop.

McKinley Once Had Varied Names

Early in the nineteenth century Anthony Williams had a large farm, east of Jenkintown in Abington Township close to the Cheltenham border, and the farm attracted attention because sugar cane was grown there with some degree of success. There was a press, somewhat like a cider press, which crushed the sugar cane with wooden cogs, extracting sorghum, which was converted into sugar and molasses. Fire destroyed the press in the 1840's and the sugar experiment was discontinued.

Later some dwellings were built thereabouts and a school was opened. The community adopted the name of College Green. Nothing is on record as to a college here. Then the name of the place was changed to Sarsfield. Development got under way through a land company about 1895, and then the name became East Ogontz. That endured until 1900, when the Postal Department gave the postoffice the name of McKinley. William McKinley was then President of the United States. By a consolidation of postoffices in 1923, McKinley was attached to the Elkins Park postoffice. Most of these details come from a historical sketch by D. G. Craig.

The McKinley Fire Company was organized in 1906, the first officers being: President, Thomas Yorke; vice president, Robert Gormley, Sr.; secretary, James T. Davis; treasurer, William Peterson; chief, William J. Kenney; assistant chief, Robert Gormley, Jr. Though not yet equipped for service the company responded in February, 1907, when fire swept the summer home of John Wanamaker, on Old York Road. Mr. Wanamaker acknowledged the interest of the company with a contribution of \$100. A service wagon was procured in 1907, and in 1908 a fire house was built on Cadwalader Avenue. Fifteen fire companies participated in the parade for the opening of the new house. For sounding an alarm the tire of a locomotive wheel mounted on posts was struck with a sledge hammer. Later a locomotive bell was added as an auxiliary alarm. A motor-driven fire truck, the gift of Clement E. Newbold, was housed in 1914. About this time the township began making regular appropriations to the company. The latest kinds of fire-fighting equipment were added from time to time. A lot was bought at Jenkintown and Cadwalader Avenues, where a split-level modern type fire house was built, the dedication taking place with a big parade on September 18, 1954.



McKinley Fire Company

ALONG OLD YORK ROAD

Noble Hill

Just beyond Jenkintown Old York Road goes over Noble Hill, and here is Noble Station on the Reading Railroad. The Noble family owned a large farm hereabouts, and Samuel W. Noble was prominent in financial enterprises in the nineteenth century. He was president of the Jenkintown National Bank and of the Union Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, secretary and treasurer of the Cheltenham and Willow Grove Turnpike Company and treasurer of the Abington Library, holding the latter office for 40 years.

There was a school house at the top of Noble Hill in the first half of the nineteenth century. A teacher here for about fifteen years was John McNair, who previously had taught in Hatboro. He entered into politics and made his home in Norristown. In 1845 he was elected clerk of the courts. In a reapportionment of the congressional districts in 1852, Montgomery County was joined with several Philadelphia wards to constitute a district. The first man elected to Congress from this district was John McNair. He served two terms and then made his home in Virginia, where he died in 1862. An early tannery was operated at Noble Hill by Clement R. Shepherd.

A Reform Jewish congregation, the first in Montgomery, County, has its place of worship on Noble Hill. The congregation had its first services in 1947 in the building of the Abington Young Men's Christian Association. Later it transferred to the Curtis Arboretum, in Cheltenham Township. Organized as Old York Road Temple, a synagogue on Noble Hill was dedicated on Sunday, June, 1951. Norbert L. Rosenthal being rabbi. Participants in the ceremonies included Dr. Raymon Kistler, President of Beaver College, and the Rev. John Magill, of Abington Presbyterian Church.

The Huntingdon Valley Country Club, one of the oldest country clubs in the Philadelphia environs, had its grounds for many years in the vicinity of Noble Hill. It was organized here in 1898. In 1928 it moved to a new site east of Willow Grove. The grounds which the club vacated on Old York Road were taken by a new club called the Baederwood Golf Club.

This property has since been sold for a large shopping center. John Wanamaker, Inc., and J. B. VanSciver Company, were the first to announce they will erect branch stores in the new shopping center.

The Old York Road Country Club, established in 1910, has grounds on Meeting House Lane.

Baederwood

Early in this century the Baeder tract, on Old York Road beyond Noble Hill, was described as having the last bit of primitive woods along this ancient highway. Selling off the land began about 1925. In 1930 the Commissioners of the Township of Abington bought some of the Baeder land for park purposes.

When the Baeder family lived here the farm had no fancy name as did most suburban estates. It was known simply as the Baeder place. The Baeders were not listed among financiers or families socially prominent, but they had money enough to buy a farm of 265 acres and to erect a great farm house that everyone called a mansion.

Charles Baeder began buying land here in 1844. The farmer who lived there had a saw and grist mill operated by power from a small branch of Tacony Creek that flowed through the place. After demolishing the old farm house, Charles Baeder erected a huge square stone house, with a sub-cellar. From the house driveways were constructed, lined by trees. The trees were Japanese Eucalyptus, so unusual in the vicinity that they attracted attention. Back of the house Baeder placed a big iron statue of Bismarck, German chancellor. The statue had a reputation for whistling or moaning as the wind blew through holes in the iron.

Charles Baeder gained his wealth by manufacturing glue and sandpaper. He died in 1836. His widow and eight children lived there for some years longer.

In 1901 a Philadelphia trust company, acting for the Baeder heirs, sold all the real estate to John Wanamaker, whose summer home was on Old York Road. It was said he paid \$250,000 for the tract. He had part of the land cut up into building lots, which were sold, but not much building was undertaken until the 1920's. The Wanamaker heirs sold the farm in 1925 to a firm of builders. The price was reported to be \$500,000. Many attractive dwellings were built.

RYDAL-MEADOWBROOK REGION

Large Estates and Woods

Construction of the Bound Brook Railroad, now the Reading's New York Line, opened up the Rydal-Meadowbrook region in the 1870's. The Bound Brook Railroad was projected to give the North Penn. Railroad access to New York, connection of the new railroad with the North Penn. being made at Jenkintown. The first station on the new road, after leaving Jenkintown was Noble, where the railroad crossed Old York Road. The next station, where the railroad crossed Susquehanna Street Road, was named Benezet. Now it is Rydal.

Anthony Benezet, Quaker philanthropist and foe of slavery, was prominent in eighteenth century Philadelphia, dying there in 1784. Some of his descendents lived in Abington Township, and a Benezet family had its home in the locality where the railroad station was named for them. The name appears on several old tombstones in the burial ground of Abington Presbyterian Church.

Members of the Stoddard family were the first to build country homes at Benezet, in the 1880's. In 1889 Gideon Stewart established an estate on Susquehanna Street Road which he called Rydal Waters. From this came the name that superseded Benezet. Stewart must have been an admirer of Wordsworth's poetry. From 1813 until his death in 1850, when he was poet laureate of England, Wordsworth lived at Rydal Mount, and in his poetry he alluded to the charms of the Rydal country.

No large streams are in Abington's Rydal, but ponds, rills and springs abound. One long bridge carries a roadway over a succession of these watercourses. A tablet on the bridge says it was erected in 1887, and it identifies the locality as Frog Hollow. Meadowbrook is the largest of the watercourses. It gives the name to the next station beyond Rydal.

A private school of this locality is thus described by Mildred Groshens in her paper on the history of Abington Township schools:

"Jane M. St. Arroman kept the school at her home on Washington Lane to accomodate the children of the Rydal Valley. It was in existence from the early 1860's until 1881. She was a maiden lady and had a small farm in connection with her school. The school was in her house, an old fashioned stone building, with two doors at the front. One led into the dwelling part of the house, the other into the school room. This room held 15 to 20 children comfortably. The benches used seated six to ten children. The elementary studies were taught, the rule of three being considered the culminating point in arithmetic."

An educational landmark of Rydal is the former Ogontz School for Girls, which gained fame while conducted in Cheltenham Township at the former home of Jay Cooke. The school's name was the name of the Cooke estate. In 1917 the school was removed to the Rydal region, retaining the old name. In recent years it became a branch of Pennsylvania State University.

One of the buildings of the Centennial of 1876, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of American Independence, was removed to Rydal. It was Belgium's building, which had been fabricated abroad and shipped here in cases. After the Centennial Exposition was closed the Belgian house was among the material sold at auction. Joseph M. Stoddard bought it for \$500 and had it rebuilt at Rydal, on the East side of Susquehanna Street Road. Samuel H. Gilbert bought it and lived there at intervals until 1911. Afterward it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Horace G. Wunderle. The house is built of red and black bricks with blue and white tiles as ornaments, while the cornice is carved with cats, dogs and dwarfs.

Ambitious to be a Borough

Meeting House Lane, so named because it passes the ancient Abington Friends' Meeting House, crosses the Reading Railroad's New York Branch at Meadowbrook. A short distance south of the station the lane goes over a tiny stream on a large bridge. In a wall of the bridge is a marble tablet inscribed: "Spring Valley Bridge, built by Montgomery County, 1857." On the opposite wall is another tablet telling that the bridge was rebuilt in 1915.

Notwithstanding the rural aspect of the locality, a group of residents of the community made application to court in 1927 for incorporation as a borough. About 145 acres were to be included, which would have made it one of the county's smallest

boroughs. The court refused to authorize borough incorporation. It was explained at the time that no property in Meadowbrook could be bought for less than \$40,000.

Meadowbrook School was founded in 1919 as a parent-owned Country Day School for boys, the grades comprising kindergarten through eighth grade. The Rev. John W. Walker, the founder, was principal until 1941. The school was established on the site of the former Children's Village. This was an unusual experiment in the endeavor to care for neglected or destitute children. Henry Seybert, wealthy Philadelphia chemist who died in 1883, left the bulk of his fortune for the benefit of needy children, the method to be determined by trustees. The trustees made a wide study and decided against the customary institutional plans. Instead they decided to establish a village for children who had no homes and to have numerous cottages, each the home of 15 to 25 children. As a site a tract of 300 acres was bought on the road from Meadowbrook to Willow Grove and there activities were begun in 1910. Educational facilities were provided and also athletic activities and means of employment. More than 200 children were thus cared for, but after about 20 years the undertaking was abandoned, and the income from the fund was paid to existing agencies.

ROCKLEDGE AND THE PENNYPACK COUNTRY

Youthful Rockledge

Rockledge was a very young community when it left Abington Township in 1893 to become a borough.

It had come into existence by reason of the overflow of population from Fox Chase, an old settlement just across the county line in Philadelphia. The migration followed Second Street Pike from Philadelphia into Montgomery County. This old highway is now Huntingdon Pike. Several building associations bought farms along the pike, divided them into building lots and sold them. One of these associations was called the Sylvania, and the first name given to the new community was Sylvania.

A fire company was organized in 1903. For police service the borough had several part-time patrolmen who were paid 50 cents an hour for the time they were on duty.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity began to hold services in Rockledge in 1894. A church was built in 1899 at Huntingdon Pike and Jarrett Street.

Just over the line in Abington Township a community of dwellings of modernistic type, called Hollywood, was established by Gustav Weber in 1917.

Old-Time Water-Power Mills

Huntingdon Pike runs north into the valley of Pennypack Creek, where there is still much unspoiled land adorned with woods and streams. Once it was a district of numerous mills deriving power from Pennypack Creek and its tributaries.

The name of the stream is of Indian origin. Like most Indian names, its meaning is in dispute. One version is that it signified deep, dead water; another that it means a winding, crooked stream. On early maps it is spelled "Penichpacka." Much of the course of the creek within Philadelphia County is a public park under control of the Fairmount Park Commission. Part of the streams course in Abington Township is in Lorimer Park, established by the county.

Huntingdon Pike, formerly Second Street Pike, derives its modern name from Huntingdon Valley, the region along the Pennypack beyond the Abington line, in Lower Moreland Township, though in late years the term Huntingdon Valley is also applied south of the township line in Abington.

The pike and also the Newtown Railroad follow the Pennypack northward from Rockledge. Country estates were established hereabouts in the nineteenth century. In a book published in 1892 there is mention of estates in the neighborhood of Saw Mill Hill named Moredun, Airy Hill, Birwood, Hilton, Stanley, Dudley Farm and Ury House.

Some long forgotten mill gave the name Saw Mill Hill to a hill where Spring Valley Creek flows into the Pennypack. Right at Spring Valley Creek, adjacent to Saw Mill Hill, was Harper's Hoe, Rake, Pump and Water Engine Works, whose products were shipped far and wide in the nineteenth century. William Harper bought an old grist mill here in 1848. Previously he had been making hoes in a factory on Old York Road, below Jenkintown, on the site where John Wanamaker later built his rural mansion. Removing to the Pennypack Valley, William Harper continued to operate the grist mill and also manufacture hoes and other garden implements. His son, Smith Harper, assisted in the business and finally bought out his father, in 1858, enlarging the plant and increasing the output. At first a 40-foot water wheel ran the machinery, but incidental to the enlargement Smith Harper introduced a steam engine. When the Newtown Railroad was built, it opened a station near by, called Harper's. Fire destroyed the mill in 1874, but it was rebuilt at once on a larger scale. Smith Harper continued to operate it until 1902, when he sold out to the American Fork and Hoe Company, which closed the mill.

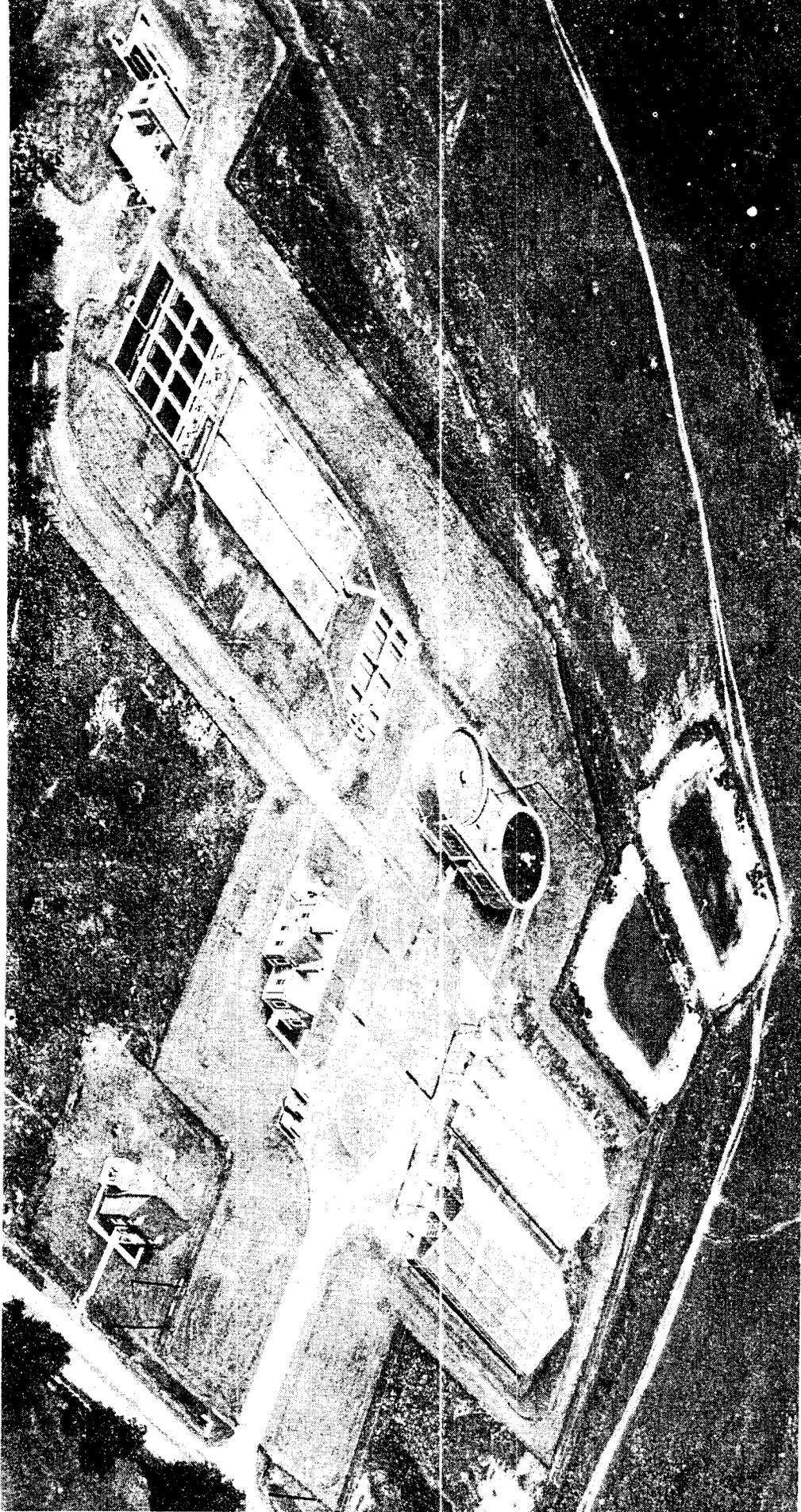
A shocking tragedy occurred at the Harper mill in April, 1863, which cost the lives of Smith Harper's wife and another woman. Miss Ellen Morgan, of Philadelphia, was visiting the Harpers. Mrs. Harper took her guest to view the operation of the mill. They were on the second floor when the dress of one of the women caught in the machinery. The other woman rushed to the rescue but both were drawn into the whirling wheels and killed.

The Newtown Railroad

Early railroad builders gave much consideration to the desirability of building a railroad from Philadelphia to New York. It was an objective of the North Penn. Railroad Company to continue to New York by way of Doylestown. Another project of this kind was chartered in 1860 as the Philadelphia, Newtown and New York Railroad Company, the route of which was to be through the Pennypack Valley in Abington Township. It was to enter Montgomery County at Rockledge. However, tracklaying did not reach this point until 1876. Those were panicky financial times and it was almost impossible to get money for construction. For a while the contractor printed his own currency with which to pay his workers, it being arranged that the railroad company should deposit its bonds with a bank which then redeemed the contractor's paper money from the railroad's fund.

Soon the railroad company collapsed and had to be reorganized. By 1878 the road was completed as far as Newtown, in Bucks County. For the opening, on February 2, everybody living along the line was invited to have a free ride on the trains, this being followed by a free lunch and a parade in Newtown. No attempt was ever made to continue the railroad beyond Newtown. Stations in Montgomery County are Walnut Hill, Valley Falls, Bethayres, Huntingdon Valley, Bryn Athyn, Paper Mill and Woodmont.

Sewage Treatment Plant



SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

Why is Sewage Treatment Necessary?

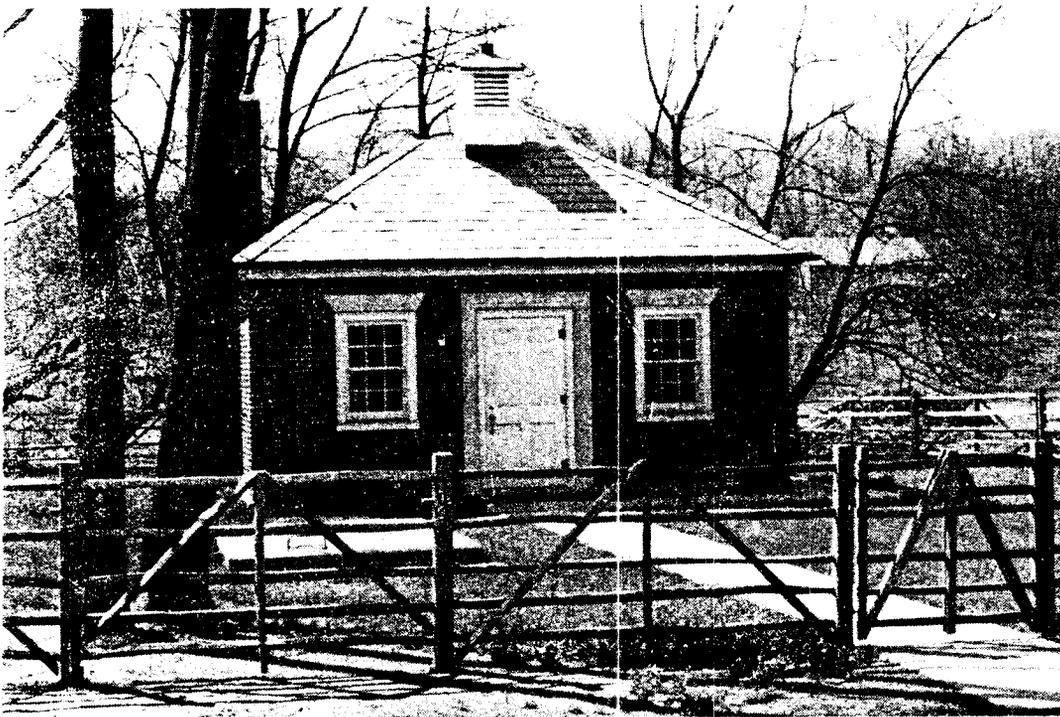
All communities face a problem in the disposal of domestic, commercial and industrial wastes which bears a most important relation to their life and well-being.

The importance of the problem is closely associated with human progress. From the earliest times, man has endeavored to create communities for safety, comfort, and fellowship. As he built his towns and cities, however, new difficulties arose, none of which had a greater bearing upon his well-being than the removal and disposal of waste products which to this day has remained one of the most pressing problems of community life.

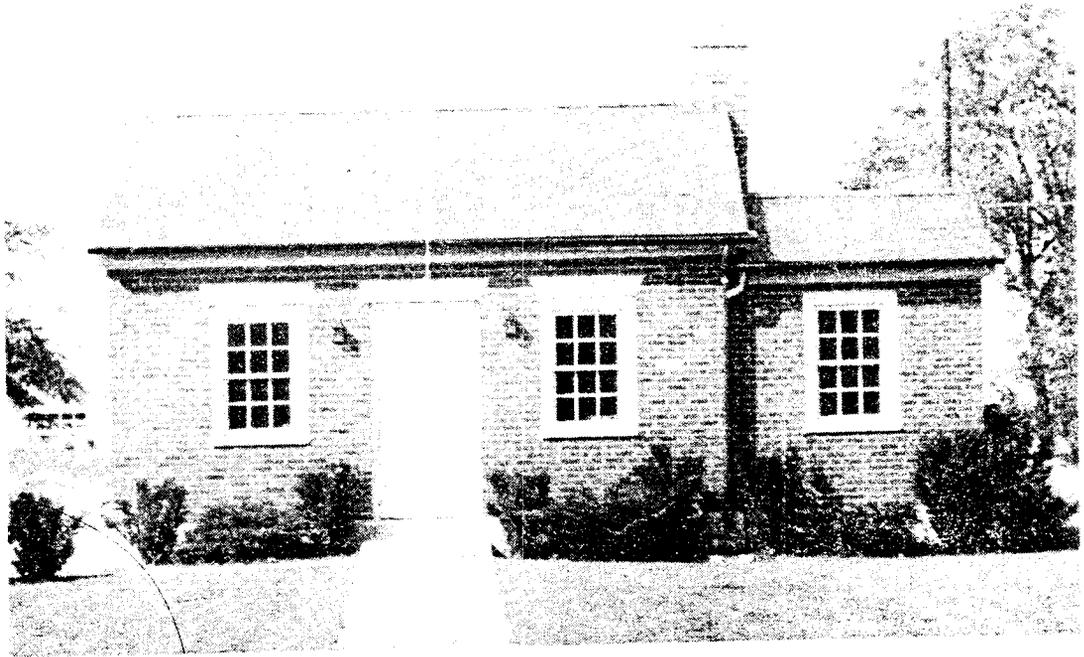
The liquid waste of community life is known as "sewage." Wherever people live they must have water and correspondingly, they produce sewage. At the isolated individual dwelling, this waste product is usually disposed of on the immediate premises without too much difficulty. When people live together in communities, however, individual water supplies soon prove inadequate and public supplies must be developed. Likewise, the need for adequate waste disposal facilities becomes more and more pressing as the population increases.

Each day a community's water supply becomes its sewage—unchanged but for the addition of a very small percentage of solids. Domestic sewage consists of over 99 per cent water in which is carried a wide variety of substances in the form of dissolved, dispersed and floating materials. Salts, gases, silt, putrescible matter and bacteria are the common forms these substances take. The salts, putrescible matter and bacteria consist of those originally present in the water supply plus those discharged by the human body and others emanating from kitchen functions and commercial or industrial wastes. Literally millions of bacteria, principally of intestinal origin, are present. Most of these bacteria are quite harmless, but pathogenic or disease-producing organisms may also be present to spread infectious or parasitic diseases. The gases are of similar origin with the addition of those formed by the decomposition of putrescible matter. Silt consisting of sand, gravel and clay likewise finds its way into sewage. Of major interest are the putrescible materials and bacteria, since they constitute a health hazard and exert the greatest oxygen consuming effect on the receiving stream. Illustrative of such materials are soaps, fats, cellulose, proteins, carbohydrates, and derivatives thereof. These are the materials which serve as food for the omnipresent bacteria whose life processes account for the instability of sewage.

Most of our public water supplies are secured from surface streams. Until recently, principal consideration was given to the effect of the discharge of untreated sewage into the waters of a stream from the standpoint of its use as a source of water supply. That conception has been considerably broadened and today the effect of the discharge of polluting matter is measured not only to the extent of its hazard to public health, but also in relation to its effect on animal or aquatic life and the use of such waters for recreational purposes. It is immediately obvious that the question of stream contamination becomes of the utmost importance, and there is no more dangerous pollution than that arising from the discharge of sewage without adequate treatment. Sewage is inherently an obnoxious mixture, but its real importance arises from the fact that it may produce disease; hence the imperative need for care in its disposal.



RYDAL PUMPING STATION lifts sewage 260 feet to the gravity sewer.



BRENTWOOD PUMPING STATION utilizes 2 "Flush-Kleen" pumps to discharge sewage to the treatment plant.

Development of the Sewer Utility in the Township of Abington

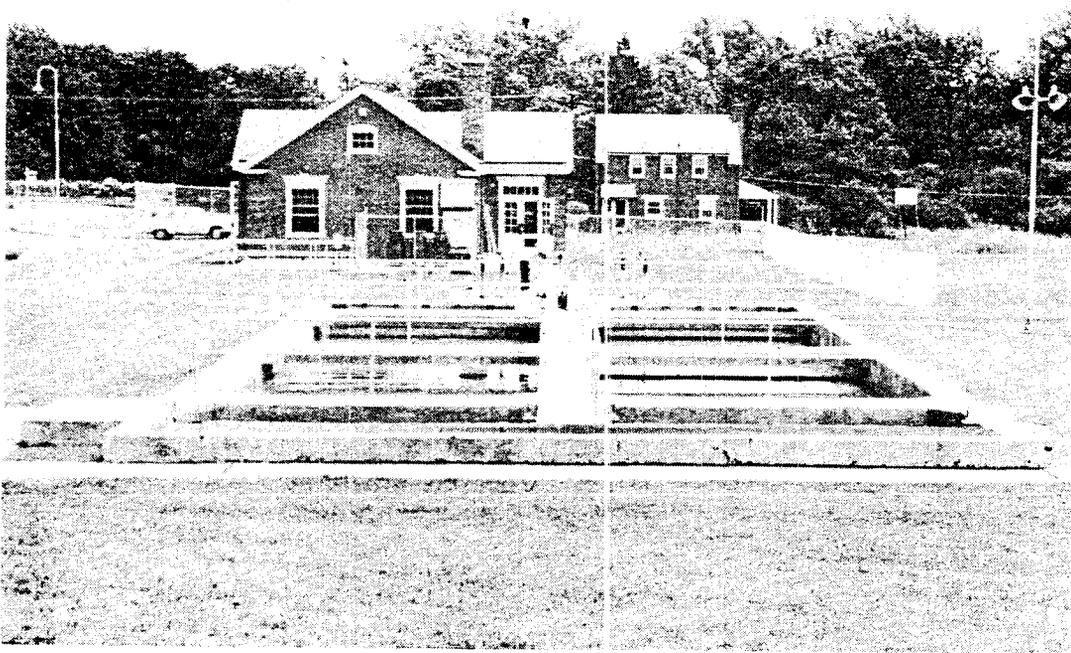
Prior to 1947, sanitary sewers existed in only a very small portion of the Township. Sewage from the majority of the homes was treated on the immediate premises by means of septic tanks and cesspools. From 1920 to 1940 the population of the Township increased very rapidly and, accordingly, the problem of adequate sewage treatment became more and more troublesome.

In 1941 the Commissioners of the Township of Abington, recognizing the need for improved sewerage facilities, engaged the engineering firm of Albright & Friel, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa., to design and supervise the construction of an extensive system of sanitary sewers and a sewage treatment plant. Accordingly, plans and specifications were prepared and construction of the project was started on March 1, 1947. Since that time the sewer utility has been continuously expanded until, at the end of 1955, it consisted of: approximately 110 miles of sewers; five sanitary sewer flow-measuring devices; six sewage pumping stations; and a modern sewage treatment plant. The sewage pumping stations are of the automatic type and discharge into the Township of Abington Sewage Treatment Plant located on Fitzwatertown Road south of Susquehanna St. This plant provides complete treatment of the sewage by means of a biochemical engineering process and discharges the treated sewage into Sandy Run, a tributary of Wissahickon Creek.

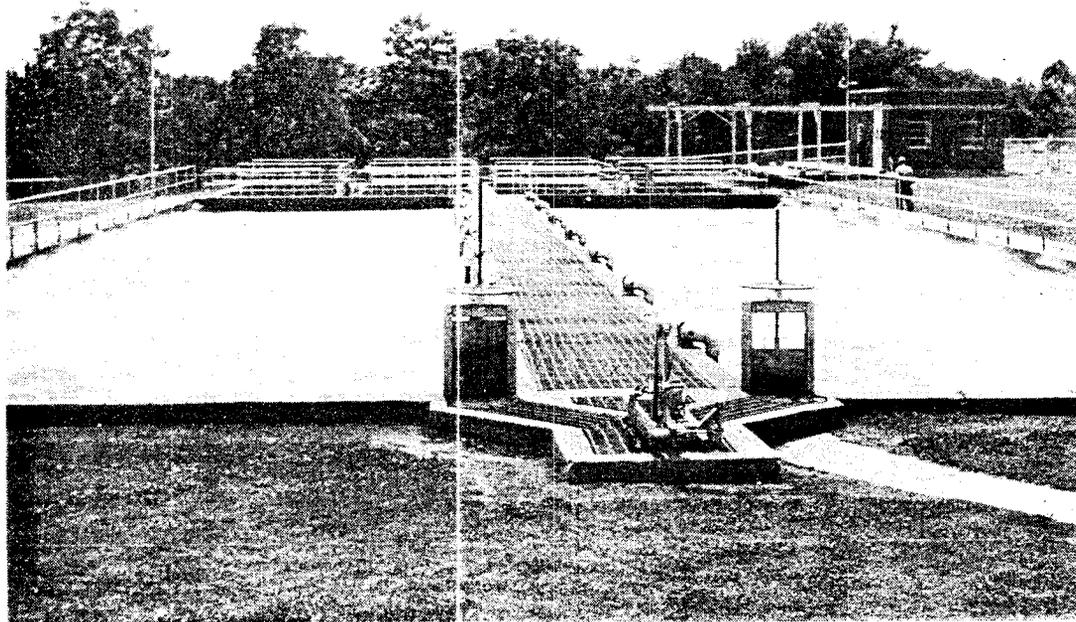
How is Sewage Treatment Accomplished?

Sewage treatment, as the name implies, is the treatment of the water borne dissolved, dispersed and floating substances to remove or eliminate matter which may be injurious to public health or cause nuisance in the receiving body of water. Basically, this is accomplished in four distinct phases, namely: primary treatment; secondary treatment; disinfection; and the by-product process—solids disposal.

Primary treatment provides for the removal of that portion of the sewage solids amenable to separation from the sewage by settling or flotation. It is accomplished in the primary sedimentation tanks. Approximately 40% of the suspended solid load is removed in these large rectangular concrete tanks. Mechanical collectors are provided for the removal of both the floating grease or scum and the settled sewage solids. These solids are then pumped to the sludge digestion tanks for disposal.

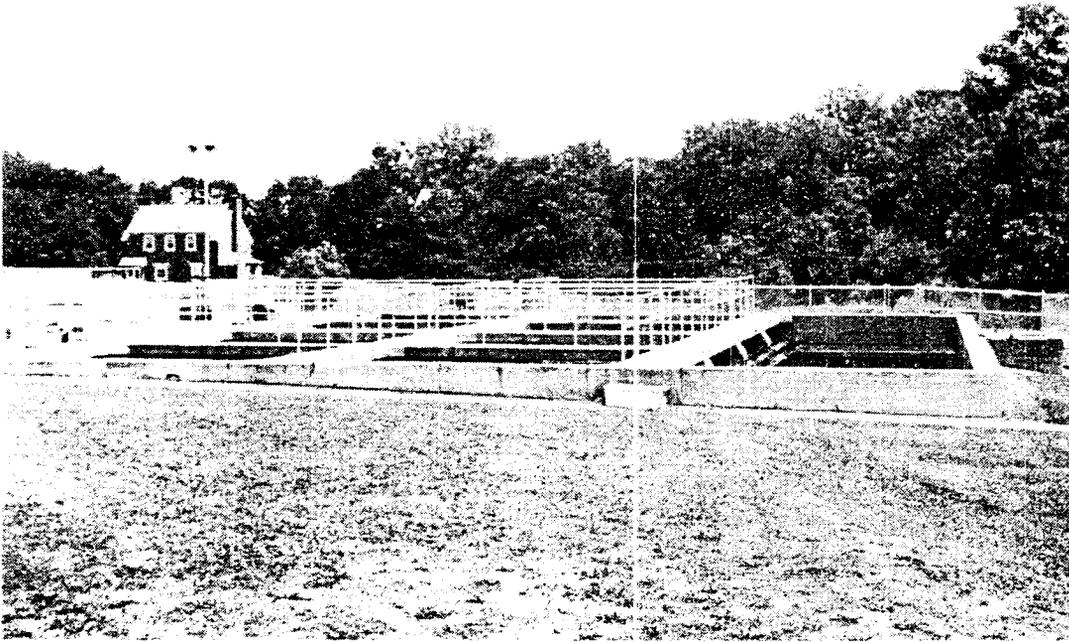


PRIMARY SEDIMENTATION TANKS remove 40% of the suspended solids by flotation and sedimentation.



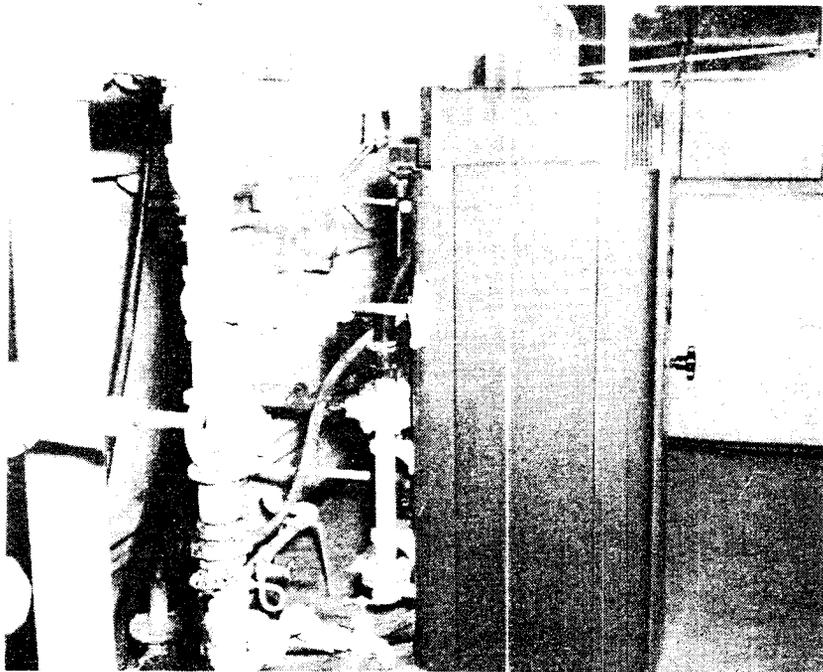
AERATION TANKS. Colloidal and dissolved solids are adsorbed and oxidized by beneficial bacteria and other micro-organisms.

Secondary treatment provides for the removal of the finely divided solids and colloidal matter that cannot be removed by primary treatment. It is an oxidation process and accomplishes the stabilization and wet burning of these solids and the dissolved organic matter by means of air and the activities of living micro-organisms. When sewage flows over or comes in contact with a suitable surface, growths of bacteria and other micro-organisms appear and soon cover the surface with a slimy gelatinous film. This film, containing living organisms, has the extraordinary power of first attracting to itself substances that previously had been held in suspension, colloidal state, or even in solution; then of removing from these attracted substances the food necessary for film maintenance and growth; and finally of returning to the sewage the end products of decomposition. The sewage treatment plant utilizes this method of biological treatment which is known as the activated sludge process. It is a method of sewage purification consisting of the aeration of sewage in the presence of biologically active sludge which has previously been produced by the process. The solids suspended in the sewage form the initial nucleus or contact surface to which the slime forming biological growths adhere. Small gelatinous masses, known as "floc," are formed in the liquid through biochemical processes and by agglomeration. By voracious feeding, the organisms in the floc cleanse or restore the active contact surfaces. The recirculation of large



SECONDARY SETTLING TANKS. The removal of the biologically active sludge by sedimentation results in the discharge of clear, sparkling water.

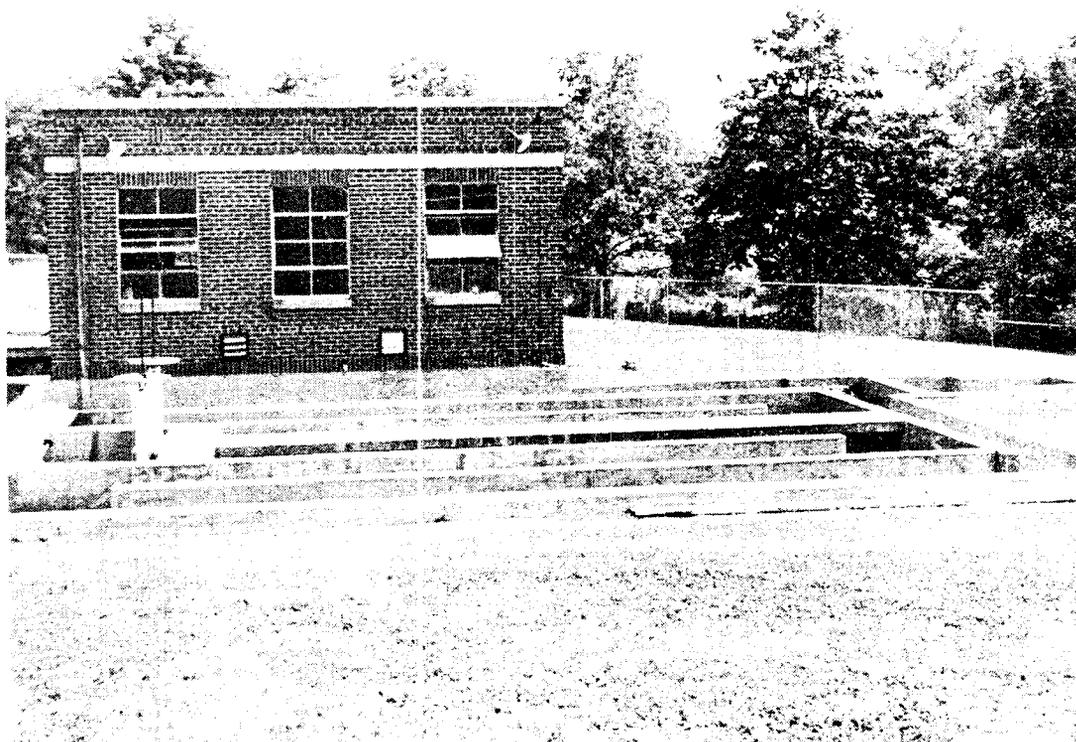
quantities of this floc through the sewage results in the adsorption and oxidation of the objectionable suspended, colloidal and dissolved solids. The sludge thus formed is removed from the sewage by sedimentation in the secondary settling tanks and serves as a continuous source of biologically active seed material for the treatment of additional sewage.



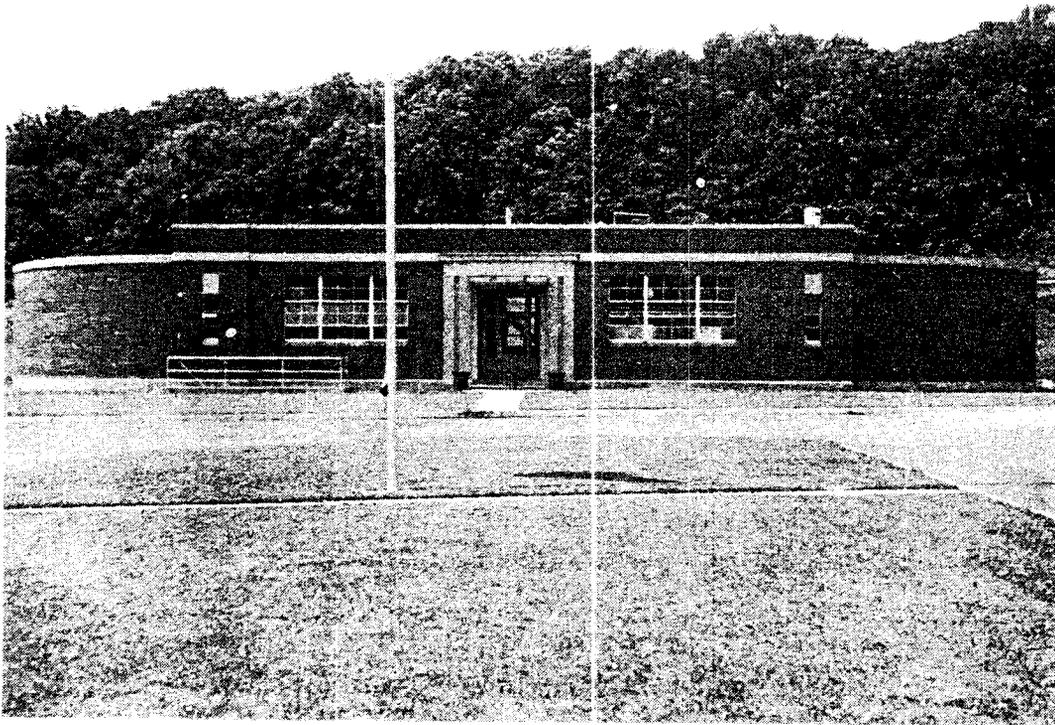
THE CHLORINATOR applies a controlled dosage of chlorine to provide disinfection of the treated sewage.

Disinfection signifies the destruction of pathogenic or disease producing bacteria. The sewage, having first received both primary and secondary treatment, is treated with an application of chlorine in water solution to accomplish disinfection. The resultant water—clear, sparkling, and free of obnoxious materials and disease producing bacteria—is discharged into Sandy Run.

Solids disposal is accomplished by heated sludge digestion, air drying on covered sludge drying beds and ultimate use as a soil conditioner. All the solids removed in treatment are pumped into the heated sludge digesters. In these enclosed tanks the sewage solids are heated to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The micro organisms present, utilizing the complex mixture of organic solids as food, set up a fermentation process which converts the solids from an odoriferous, highly putrescible sludge to a stable, mineralized form. During the course of this digestion process, gases of decomposition are given off and collected under a floating steel cover. These gases, largely methane, are inflammable and are used as fuel for heating the contents of the digestion tanks and for building heat. The resultant sludge is dark brown to black in color, has little or no odor, and can be readily dewatered and dried on sand

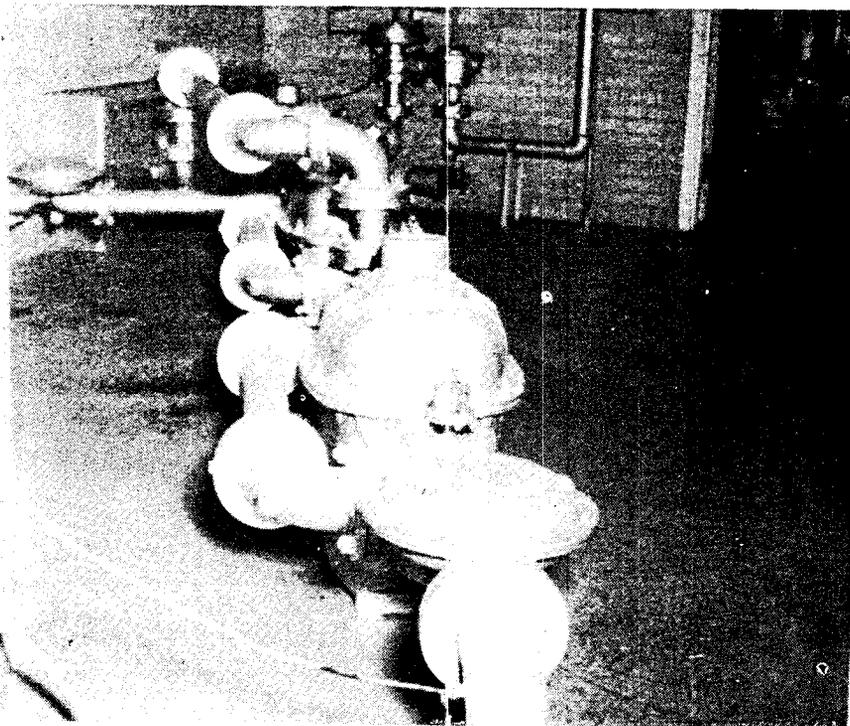


CHLORINE CONTACT TANKS provide 30 minutes contact time for the chlorine to kill disease producing bacteria.

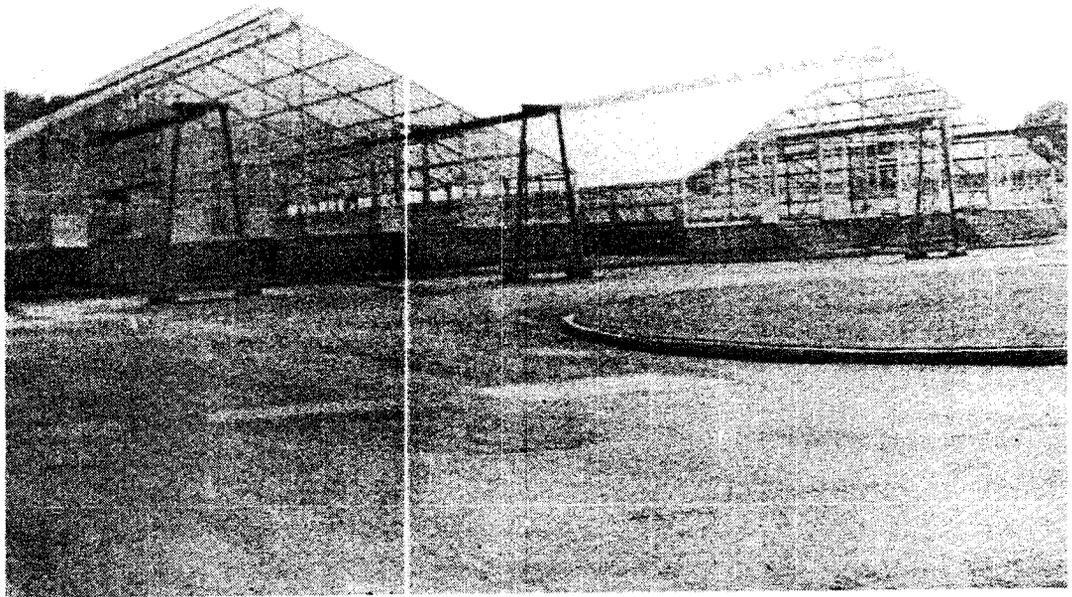


SLUDGE DIGESTION TANKS produce a stable, mineralized sludge by a fermentation process.

beds. It is applied to the drying beds in a layer 8 to 10 inches in depth and allowed to air dry. The dried cake is then removed and used as a soil conditioner.



GAS METER ROOM. Gases produced in the digestion process are collected, metered, and used as fuel.



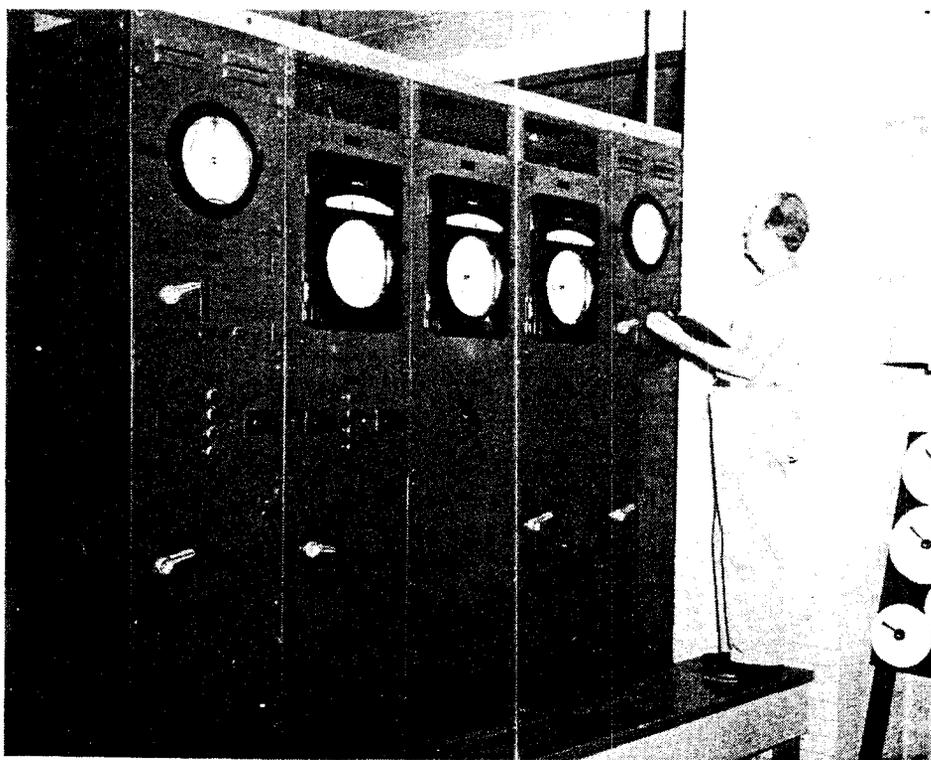
SLUDGE DRYING BEDS. The digested sludge is air dried on these beds. After drying, the sludge is given away for use as a soil conditioner.

Record of Accomplishments and Operations

During 1955 the entire sewage flow entering the Sewage Treatment Plant, a total of 603,623,000 gallons, received complete treatment. From this sewage 618,200 cubic feet of solids, 654 tons on a dry basis, were removed. The digestion of these solids resulted in the production of 6,386,300 cubic feet of gas which was collected and utilized as fuel. The only chemicals required in treatment were air and chlorine. The air was used to maintain proper environment for the beneficial micro-organisms upon whose activities the process depends. It was applied at an average rate of 1.26 cubic feet per gallon of sewage. The chlorine was used to provide disinfection. It was applied at an average rate of 35 pounds per million gallons of sewage which resulted in a residual chlorine content of 0.50 parts per million to assure disinfection.

Operating personnel, consisting of a Superintendent, Chief Operator, Utility Operator, and 5 Operators, provides supervision and control of operations around the clock. A regularly scheduled preventive maintenance program is followed and has resulted in trouble-free operation of the mechanical equipment and treatment units.

An average of 85 routine laboratory determinations are made daily with the results being utilized to control the various treatment processes and to measure plant loadings and efficiencies.



SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT CONTROL CENTER. This "nerve center" of the plant provides control of the electrical and mechanical equipment.

The results of these tests show that the final treated sewage is a stable, oxidized water with an average relative stability of 97%. This water—clean, sparkling, chlorinated for disinfection, and free of obnoxious materials—is discharged into Sandy Run.

Facts and Figures about the Sewage Treatment Works

Population Served (March 1956) 20,300

Total Length of Sewer—110 miles, ranging in size from 5 inches to 30 inches in diameter.

Number of Pumping Stations on System 6

Average Sewage Flow 2,004,000 gallons daily.

Lift Station at Sewage Treatment Plant

One 25 inch diameter comminutor to shred large solids.

2 Centrifugal Pumps provide pumping range of 750 to 4,000 gallons per minute. Automatic operation provided by float controls.

Primary Sedimentation Tanks—2 in number

Rectangular concrete tanks each 50 feet long, 14 feet wide, and 10 feet deep.

Mechanical sludge collectors bring settled solids to hoppers and floating materials to scum trough.

Average detention or flow-through period—1 Hour.

Sludge Conditioning Tank provides additional sludge thickening.

2 Centrifugal Sludge Pumps each having 200 gallons per minute discharge rate.

Aeration Tanks—2 in number

Rectangular concrete tanks each 113 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 15 feet deep.

Removable swing diffusers provide aeration.

Aeration is tapered providing greatest aeration at tank inlet.

Water sprays are utilized to control frothing.

Average concentration of activated sludge is 2,000 parts per million.

Average detention or flow-through period—6 Hours.

Air Application

Air filtration is provided by use of Electro-Airmat Precipitator to avoid internal clogging of air diffusers by dust.

3 positive displacement Blowers provide 965 cubic feet per minute each.

Blowers are driven by two-speed 50 horsepower motors.

Blowers are designed to provide 1.0 cubic foot of air per gallon of sewage.

Secondary Settling Tanks—4 in number

Rectangular concrete tanks each 61 feet long, 14 feet wide, and 10 feet deep.

Mechanical sludge collectors bring settled activated sludge to hoppers.

Average detention or flow-through period—2-1/2 Hours.

2 Centrifugal Sludge Recirculation Pumps provide a pumping range of 150 to 500 gallons per minute each.

The average rate of sludge recirculation is 30% of the sewage flow.

Chlorine Contact Tanks—2 in number

Rectangular concrete tanks each 105 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 6 feet deep.

Average detention or flow-through period—30 minutes.

Chlorine applied in water solution.

Capacity of chlorinator—400 pounds per 24 hours.

Utility water pumps provide for use of treated chlorinated sewage for all water supply except those requiring potable water.

Sludge Digestion Tanks—2 in number

Circular concrete tanks each 47 feet diameter by 31 feet deep. Provide digestion capacity of 4.53 cubic feet per capita.

Heated by one 500,000 B.T.U. per hour gas fired external heat exchanger.

1 Centrifugal Recirculation Pump provides discharge rate of 150 gallons per minute.

1 Duplex Plunger Sludge Transfer Pump provides discharge rate of 140 gallons per minute.

Steel Floating Covers provide for gas collection and utilization at a working pressure of 4.5 inches of water column.

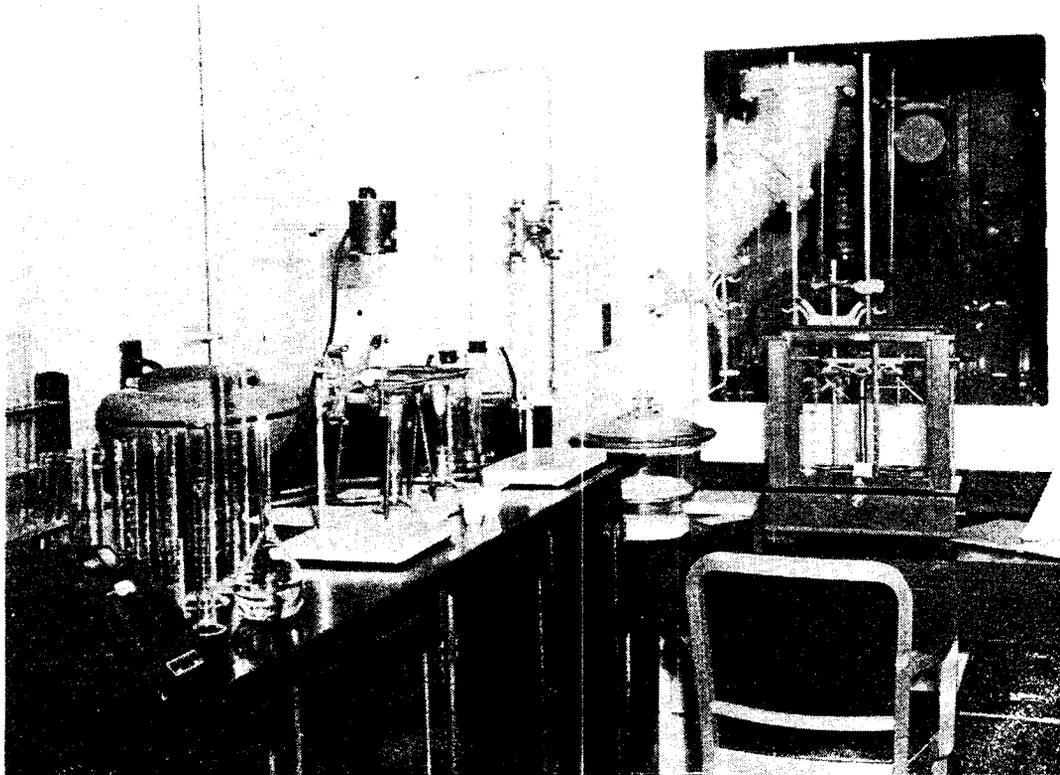
Average gas production (1st quarter 1956)—21,500 cubic feet per day.

Covered Sludge Drying Beds—2 in number

Rectangular glass covered beds each 124 feet long, 59 feet wide, with average applied sludge depth 10 inches.

Underdrains deliver filtrate to incoming sewage flow.

Air dried sludge is removed manually from beds and given free of charge to anyone desiring it for use as soil conditioner.



PLANT LABORATORY. The results of 85 chemical and physical measurements daily are utilized to control operations.

Laboratory Data (1955 Average)

Suspended Solids:

Raw Sewage 277 parts per million
Secondary Effluent before
chlorination 16 parts per million
Removal in Complete Treatment 94%

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (a measure of pollution strength)

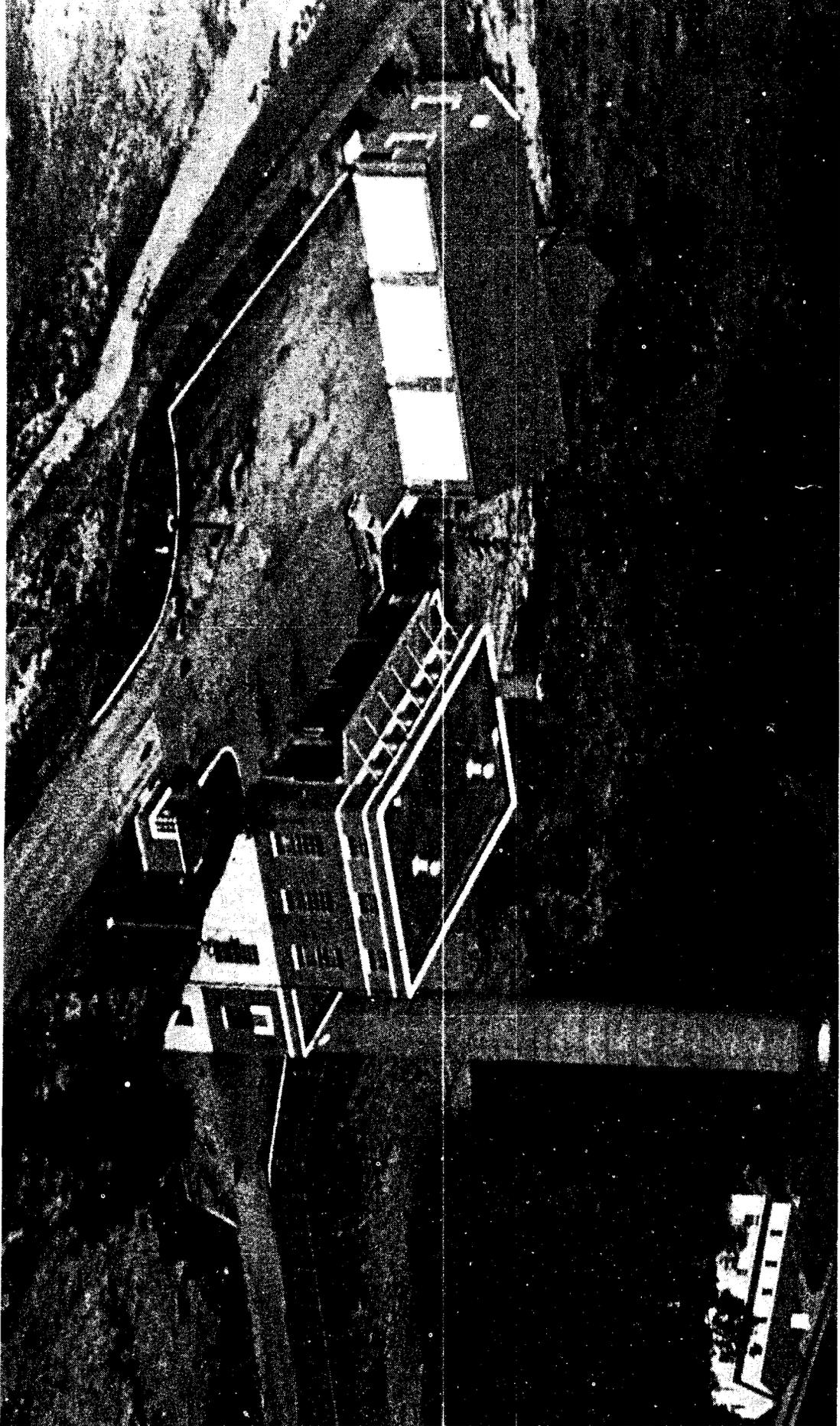
Raw Sewage 224 parts per million
Secondary Effluent before
chlorination 16 parts per million
Removal in Complete Treatment 93%

Dissolved Oxygen:

Secondary Effluent before
chlorination 2.1 parts per million

Relative Stability:

Secondary Effluent before
chlorination 97%



Incinerator Plant

REFUSE INCINERATOR PLANT

Abington Township is a rapidly growing community faced with the common problem of keeping up with present demands, allowing for future growth, and doing it as economically as possible.

The Abington Township Incinerator is located on Fitzwater-town Road, south of Susquehanna Street Road, and Jefferson Avenue, west of Penn Avenue, Ardsley, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

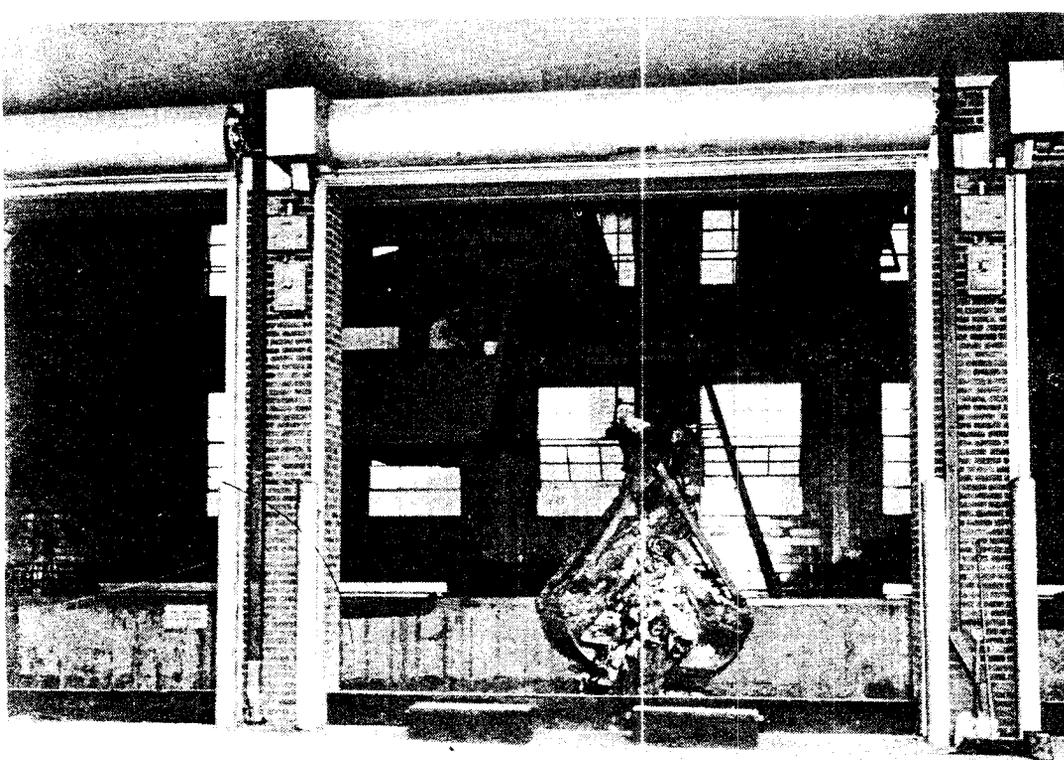
Through the foresight of the Township Commissioners, this ideal location, consisting of 16.64 acres, was purchased November 29, 1945. Operation of the Incinerator was started on June 2, 1955.

Eight men make up the operating force. Included in this group is superintendent, foreman, weigh clerk, crane operator, maintenance man, two stokers and ash tunnel man.

An Executone Voice Intercommunication System connects the charging, stoking and ash-receiving floors with the superintendent's office and the scale house.



Members of Department of Public Health, plant superintendent, plant and collection personnel. Trucks in position to dump into refuse bin.

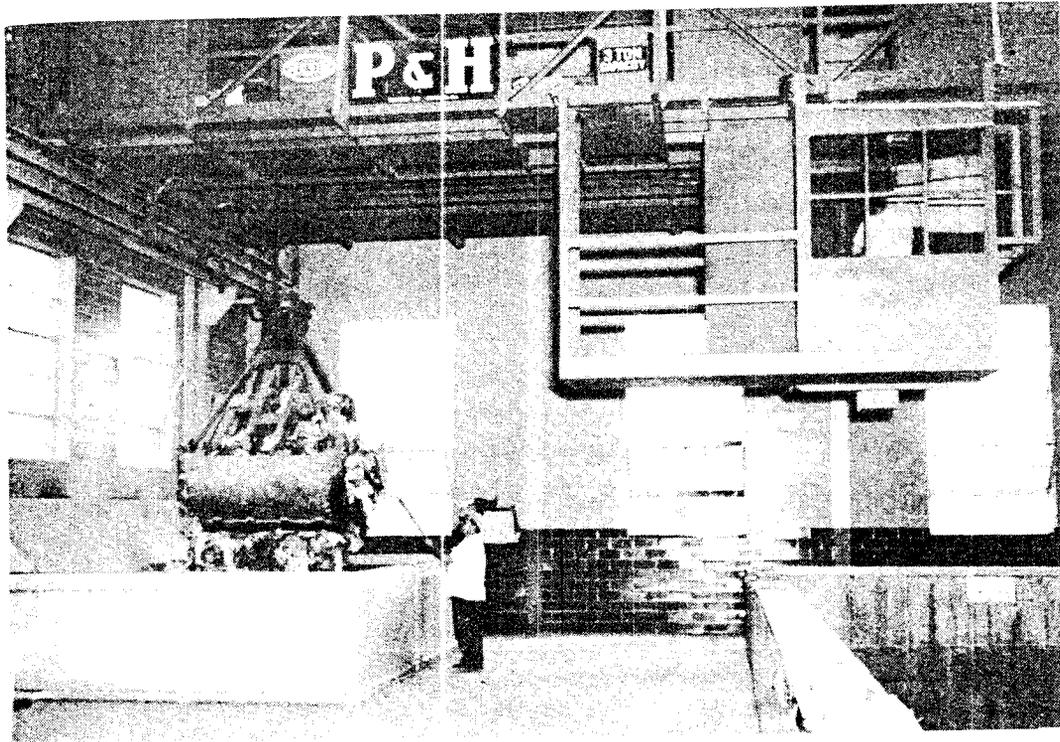


Crane traveling over storage bin.

The Incinerator is designed to burn 200 tons in a 24-hour period of 50% garbage and 50% rubbish by weight, and not more than 45% of moisture by weight.

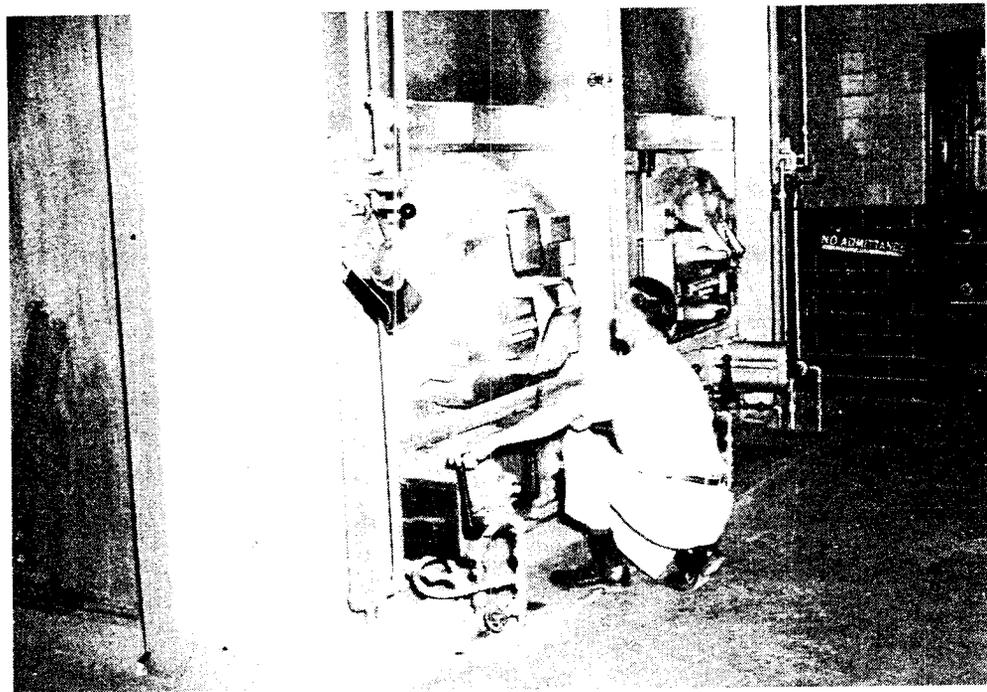
Refuse is collected by 7 packer-type trucks, each of 16-yard capacity. All trucks are weighed in at the scale house where an accurate record is kept of all material that is burned in the incinerator. A record is also kept of the weight of residual ash taken from the Incinerator.

The Plant is of the bin and crane type, with two rectangular furnaces and a common expansion chamber and stack to serve the furnaces. The site permits collection trucks to dump into the bin on the high side of the building, while the entire opposite side, at a lower level, is available for access to the ash floor. Ash may be dumped from water-quenched ash hoppers directly into the dump truck for removal to the ash dump.



Crane filling charging hopper.

The storage bin is 30 feet deep, 15 feet 5 inches wide and 52 feet long, holding 865 cubic yards of material or approximately 215 tons. All four sides and the floor of the bin are reinforced with steel rails placed on 8-inch centers to protect the concrete, should it be bumped by the crane bucket. The bottom of the bin is sloped to a 6-inch drain located at the south end for easy cleaning and washing down.

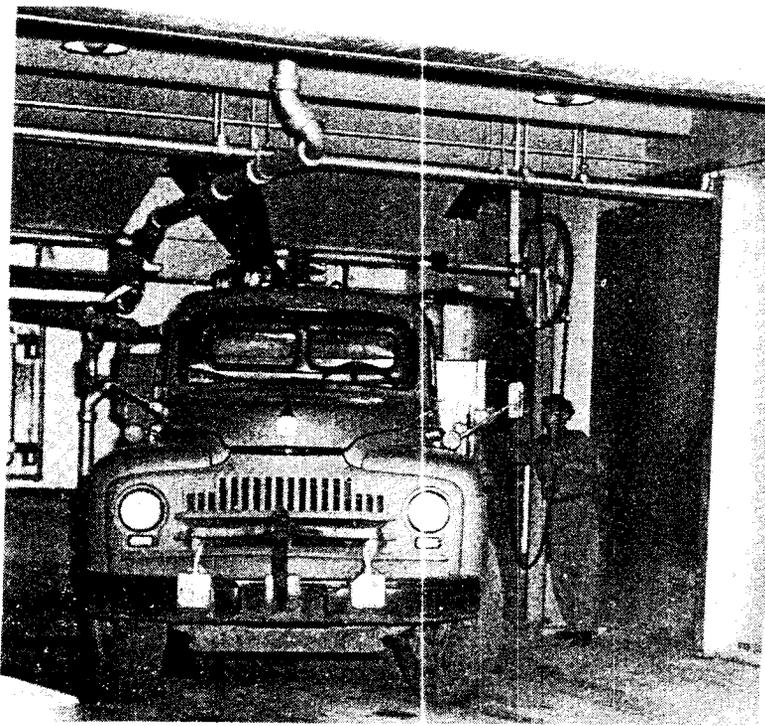


Stoker operating hydraulic unit on furnace.

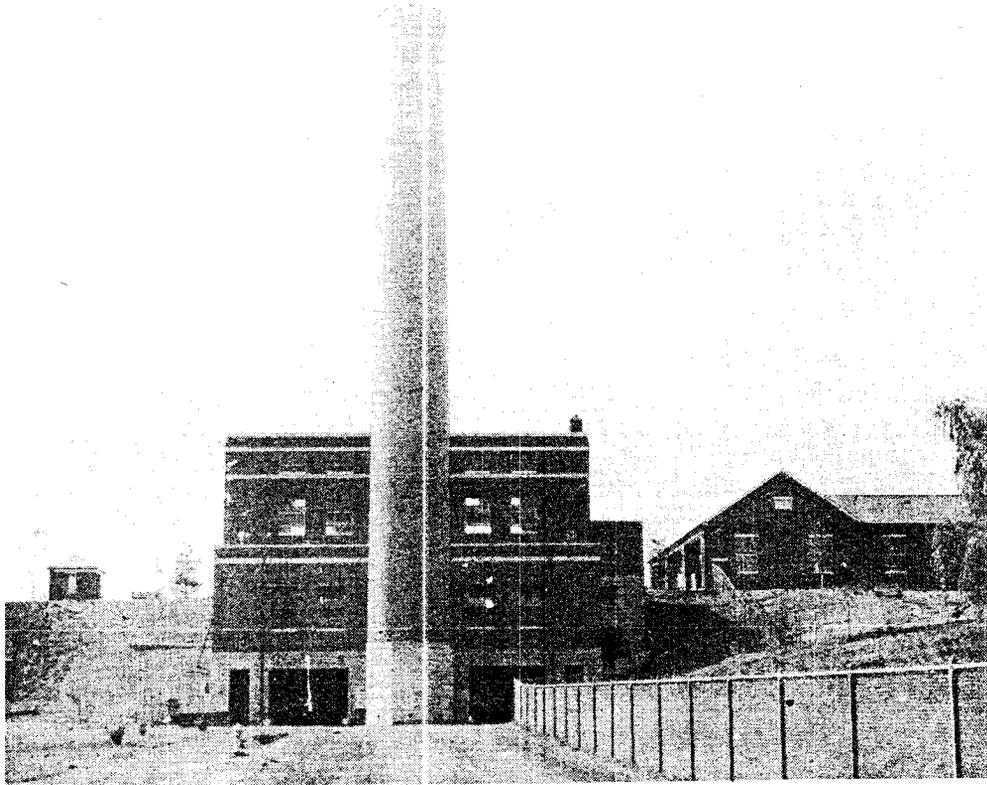
The 3-ton crane, which feeds the charging hoppers, has a bucket of 1-1/2 cubic yard capacity. There were 100,000 fire brick used in the construction of the entire furnaces. The stack is 125 feet from the ground, 12 feet inside diameter at the base and 8 feet inside diameter at the top.

A furnace control panel is located at center between the furnaces on the stoking floor. On the panel, easily accessible to the stokers, is located an electrical distribution panel, the oil burners control, the overfire air controls, the forced-draft fan controls and the indicating pyrometers. A recording pyrometer, recording temperatures in each furnace, is located in the superintendent's office for use of the superintendent and foreman.

Main features of furnaces are: area where refuse is charged into furnace is hottest zone, producing most drying action, alternate moving stoker bars, hydraulically powered, provide agitation and move material to front of furnace. Dumping grates are hydraulically powered and dumped at will of operator. Stoker bars are designed to free themselves automatically of any metallic refuse. Forced draft, entering beneath, passes through lower end of stokers and over entire burning mass. To protect the furnaces from excessive temperatures, two automatically-operated overfire air control fans, set at 1800 F, introduce air over the top of the fire to cool the gases. These fans continue to operate until temperatures again drop below the 1800 F mark.



Emptying ash hopper into ash tunnel truck.



Rear of Incinerator, showing ash tunnel and stack.

A test conducted on March 27, 1955, proved very satisfactory. 66-2/3 tons of refuse were incinerated in 7 hours and 14 minutes, including an additional 30 minutes after the last charge. On a 24-hour basis the Incinerator operated at a rate of 222 tons per 24 hours or 11% over the design capacity. The 133,333 pounds of refuse were reduced to 13,700 pounds of ash or 10.3% by weight which is considered average for similar installations.

PICTORIAL SECTION



Future Home of the Edge Hill Fire Company



Tax Office



Real Estate Assessors



Desk Sergeant

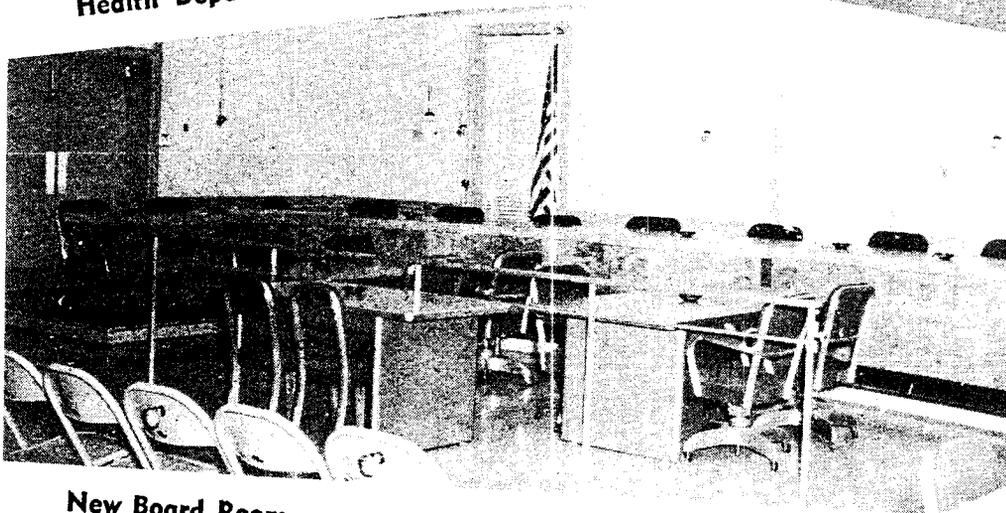


Janitors





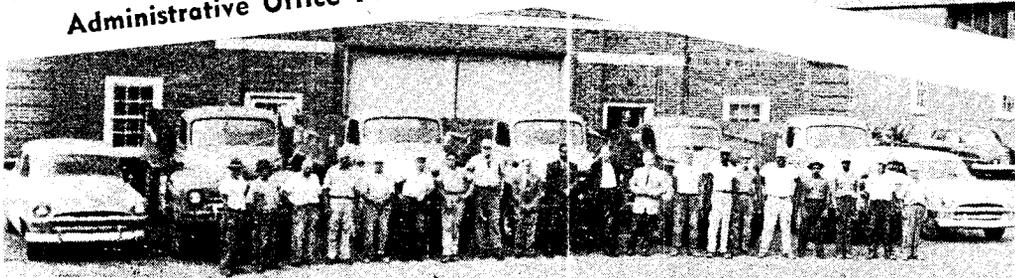
Health Department



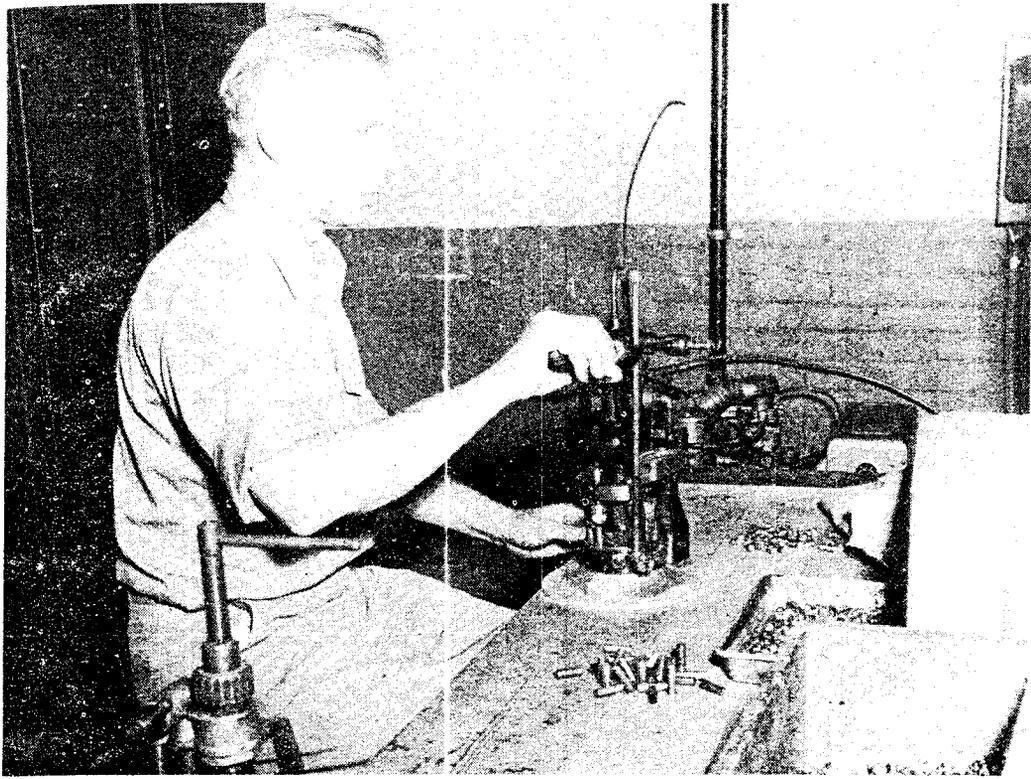
New Board Room



Administrative Office Force



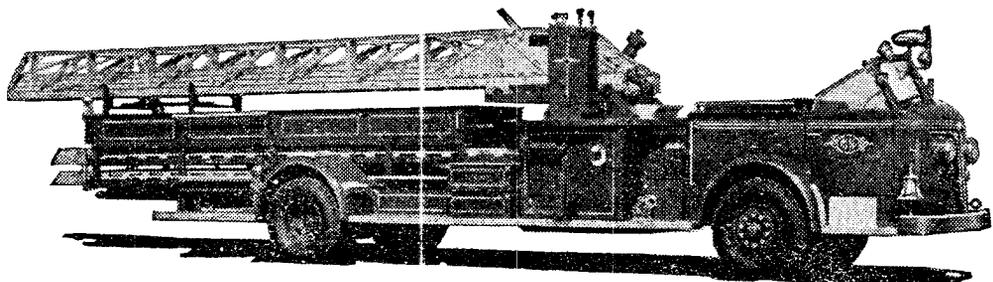
Highway Department



Making Ammunition



Civil Defense Auxiliary Police Unit



100 foot aerial ladder truck on order for Abington Fire Company

Population: 28,988 (U. S. Census, 1950); 44,000 (Estimated 1956)

Area of Township: 14.88 square miles

Assessed Valuation of Real Estate: \$74,400,000. (Estimated)

Real Estate Tax:

Township	10-7/8 mills
School	38-1/2 mills
County	1-1/2 mills

Total Length of Roads:

Township Roads

Improved	129.0 miles
Unimproved	16.0 miles
Plotted but not opened	25.0 miles

State Highways

Improved	34.79 miles
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County Highways

Improved	3.63 miles
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Total Acreage Township Parks and Playgrounds: 110.17 acres

Building Permits: 1858 issued in 1955 (1281 New Residences)
 Indicated Value of Construction: \$20,679,387.00

Police Department: 42 members; 13 School Crossing Guards; 11 Patrol Cars and 1 Dog Catcher's Unit, all equipped with Radio

Fire Department: 5 Volunteer Fire Companies with 15 pieces of Apparatus; 390 Fire Hydrants

Street Lights: 1701-1000 Lumen Lights; 32-2500 Lumen Lights; 53-6000 Lumen Lights. Present Lighting on Old York Road from Township Line Road to Moreland Road to be replaced in 1956 with ninety-three 20,000 lumen mercury lamps