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Spring 1954

I D E A S for a Better City

(Compiled by CECIL MORGAN) MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

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Prepared by the

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE
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FOREWORD

This publication is a roundup of items which have appeared in the Technical Section of Tennessee Town & City under the heading of "Notes from the Editor," edited by Cecil Morgan, Consultant on Property Tax Assessment. In it we have turned the spotlight upon new products, new ideas, and new solutions for some of the many problems which confront municipal officials.

The "Notes from the Editor" column is a collection of short briefs of municipal interest, extracted from some 125 publications received by MTAS. We have prepared this compilation as a sort of "catalog of municipal ideas," in the hope that it will be useful to Tennessee municipal officials.

Victor C. Hobday
Executive Director

March 1954

Safety

"Zebra Crossings," consisting of diagonal stripes -- alternately black and white -- 20 inches wide, have been used in England since October, 1951, with spectacular success. Zebras are used to indicate pedestrian crossings where traffic is not otherwise controlled; pedestrians have the right of way over motor traffic at such crossings. Their high visibility to both motorists and pedestrians has resulted in less jay-walking by pedestrians and greater caution on the part of motorists. Pedestrian casualties were reduced an average of 8% during the first six months of operation, but for certain dangerous crossings the reductions ran as high as 80%.

Trucks and buses will not skid and tractor-trailers will not jackknife, even on the most slippery roads, if each braked wheel is equipped with a new electrical device to prevent premature stopping of the wheels.

The fastest driving is done by drivers in the 20-24 year age group who drive between the hours of 1:00 and 3:00 a.m., according to a recent year-long survey in Iowa. Checking was done with a radar speedometer.

School crossing gates, similar to those used at railroad crossings, have been installed at a dangerous school crossing in Wilson, North Carolina. The gates are controlled by the school's electric clock warning system and also by a push-button in the principal's office.

Highway traffic deaths in 1953 will approach the all-time record set in 1941 if present trends continue. The 1941 record was 39,969 deaths. Based on data for the first quarter of 1953, the National Safety Council estimates that the 1953 total will be 39,500 fatal injuries. All traffic injuries, fatal and non-fatal, since June, 1950, have been 36 times as great as the number of battle casulties in Korea during the same period.

The effectiveness of driver-training classes is being checked by the Minnesota State Department of Education. The study is to cover a five-year period and figures for the first two years are now available. These figures show that only 3 percent of the school-trained drivers were convicted of traffic violations, compared with 7 percent of the untrained drivers in the same age-bracket. Six percent of the school-trained drivers were involved in accidents during the two-year-period, compared with 14 percent of the untrained drivers.

Motor vehicle travel on streets and roads in 1952 was 5.4 percent higher than in 1951 and 55 percent higher than in 1941. The figure for 1952, for

the entire country, was 517 billion vehicle miles. Total registrations for 1952 exceeded 53 million vehicles, a gain of 53 percent since 1941.

Ice box deaths of nine children recently, in Arkansas and Virginia, has already brought legislative action in a number of cities. Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama, have passed almost identical ordinances to prevent such accidents. Refrigerators or ice boxes which are to be abandoned must (1) be destroyed outright, (2) have a sufficient number of air holes to prevent possible suffocation, or (3) be provided with devices by which they may be opened from the inside.

Serious electrical hazards are often created by uncontrolled installation of window air-conditioners. Frequently these devices are simply plugged into existing circuits, without checking to see whether the circuits can safely handle the additional load imposed. Even the smaller air-conditioning units usually require at least 7½ amperes and the wiring in many homes will safely carry only a 10-ampere load. This leaves a very small margin of safety if other applicances are operated on the same circuit. A number of disastrous fires have been caused by such overloading. The size of the problem can be understood when city officials realize that the sales of such units over the entire country are four times as high in 1953 as in any year previous to 1950. Re-evaluation of municipal policies with respect to these units may be necessary in many cities.

An electric ear for controlling traffic lights is used in Lynwood, California. The ear is tuned to respond to police and fire sirens, but not to other traffic noises. The sound of an approaching siren automatically turns all traffic lights red. Fifteen seconds after the last siren blast, the signals resume normal operation.

Walk signs in Detroit are timed to a pedestrain speed of four feet per second. Following the "walk" signal there is a flashing "don't walk" signal during which vehicle traffic is held back, giving pedestrians time to reach the curb safely.

Inner tubes are banned at all Greenwich, Connecticut, municipal beaches. A 10-year-old girl slipped from the inflated inner tube she was using and drowned recently. Recreation officials, believing that such devices give inexperienced swimmers a false sense of security and encourage them to take needless risks, banned their use.

Covering "school zone" signs during summer months when schools are not in session is recommended by the East Tennessee Automobile Club. Covering or removing such signs when they are not needed would result in better cooperation by motorists during the school year, it is felt.

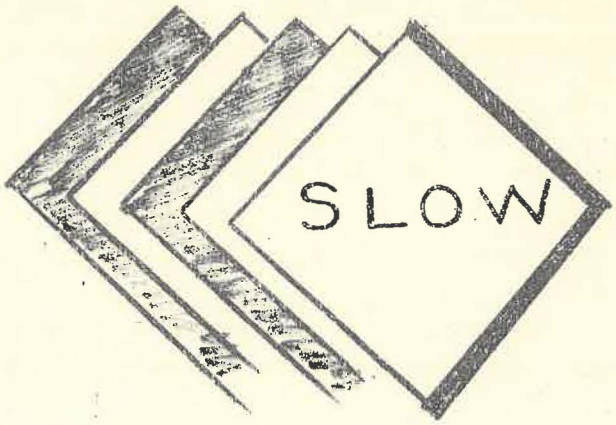
Speeding killed 13,430 men, women and children in 1952. The number of traffic injuries increased 127,400 over the 1951 figure.

A red blinker light for street flushers, to be used when operating on the left side of the street or when going downhill against traffic on one-way streets, provides an extra margin of safety.

Projecting loads on highway trucks are usually marked by red flags. These flags wear out rapidly. A 12-inch metal disk, painted red, or a red-painted paint bucket will serve the same purpose as the cloth market and will last much longer.

Establishing proper speed limits has been a problem everywhere. New Mexico has approached it from a new angle. State Highway officials ascertained that 85 percent of all automobile drivers drive safely under any given set of circumstances. Where traffic conditions warrant slow speeds these drivers slow down, regardless of whether signs are posted or not. But the same group of safe drivers ignore needlessly low speed limits. For example, in one test stretch, which was plainly marked as a 25 MPH zone, the average speed checked was 47 MPH; when the limit was raised to 45 MPH, the average speed increased to only 47.5 MPH. On the basis of many such tests, the State Highway Department, instead of setting an arbitrary figure, finds out the speed at which 85 percent of drivers traverse a given stretch and establishes that as the legal maximum.

Scotch-lite safety belts are worn by night-shift street sweepers in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This extra precaution is appreciated by workers themselves and by night drivers.



Public Relations

To record citizen grievances, Tokyo, Japan, is using a bus with a tape recorder. A person with a grievance may climb aboard the bus and tell his story to the tape recorder, which then "echoes" his comments to the appropriate legislative or administrative official.

Movie films and filmstrips on health, sanitation, sewerage, and rabies control may be obtained on loan from the Federal Security Agency, Public Health Service, P. O. Box 185, Chamblee, Georgia, and may be purchased from United World Films, 1445 Park Avenue, New York 29, New York.

School television classroom sessions in San Diego include education in local government, with city and county officials participating in a series of 10 programs from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Senior High Schools in Miami Beach, Florida, have recently held a series of convocations at which the operation of the city government was explained by representatives of the various city departments.

Toledo, Ohio, and Spokane, Washington, publish weekly official city magazines containing ordinances, resolutions, council minutes, and official notices such as invitations to bid. Toledo also adds a story about some municipal activity, illustrated with pictures, and carries brief items about activities of other cities and information of interest to city officials.

San Antonio, Texas, has placed an octagonal-shaped information and service desk in the main lobby of the city hall, where a city employee is stationed who can answer most questions concerning services and offices of the city government. The employee also fills out "citizen contact memos" to record complaints, commendations, and suggestions. Concordia, Kansas, has produced an 8mm. color movie, 50 minutes in length, entitled "Annual Report for 1951," and San Diego, California, has described its municipal operations in a 16mm. color movie, 25 minutes in length.

Concordia, Kansas, uses almost one-half of each side of its postal card water bills for public information on various aspects of its city government. As an example, the address side of the July bill quoted the most important section of an ordinance governing street speeches, and the other side quoted a section of an ordinance regulating the use of fireworks.

The Cleveland Press has noted that the city paid 48½¢ for a foot of fire hose in 1940 and $1.23 per foot in 1952, and that a 1,000-gallon pumper priced at $6,500 in 1940 costs $20,000 today. Such concrete comparisons should help to explain to citizens the increased costs of their city government.

Sheriff Albert Jacobson, Marquette County, Michigan, for 21 weeks conducted weekly fifteen-minute radio programs to discuss problems of law enforcement and to answer questions from the people. Limitation of staff to prepare material terminated the program in December 1951, but plans are being made to resume.

"You can't tell the players without a program" is a telling sales appeal to the nation's spectators. It seems to be equally attractive to Hayward, California, citizens who visit their city council's meetings. As the visitor enters the council chambers he is given an agenda sheet with a diagram of the council seating arrangement. The 8½" x 11" sheet also tells him when and how to bring up items for discussion, as well as gives him information on the duties and authority of various city officials, boards and commissions.

A statement showing how the taxpayer's dollar is used is printed on the back of the Lewisburg, Tennessee, tax notice for 1953. A 20-item classification is used so that citizens may know exactly how much of each tax dollar goes for police protection, fire protection, garbage collection and other major items of expense.

An Annual Recreational Festival in Toledo, Ohio, winds up the summer recreation program. Swimming meets, square dancing, children's fishing rodeos, golf and tennis tournaments, archery meets and other contests focus attention upon the various recreational activities sponsored by the city. Besides serving as a recreation department "Open House," the festival gives participants something to work toward all during the summer season.

A citizen committee in Boulder, Colorado, did such effective work in behalf of a recent bond issue that residents voted four to one for the measure, although it involved a 67 percent increase in water rates. The educational campaign covered a period of three months prior to the election date.

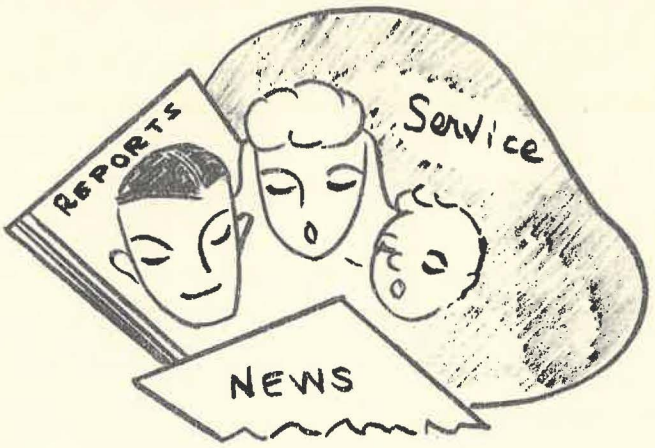
A package promotion of the development of a city plan by all groups of the city has taken place recently in Glendive, Montana. Glendive changed almost overnight from a sleepy cowtown to a major oil center. Something had to be done fast to insure an orderly and balanced growth of the city and its services to residents. The Chamber of Commerce Planning Commission has undertaken the leadership and coordination; each organization in the city has undertaken to work out plans for some particular activity or service. The Women's Club, for instance, undertook the planning of playgrounds, another organization is planning a school expansion program, etc. Magnitude of the job can be judged from the fact that a sixfold population increase is expected within less than ten years.

"A uniform traffic compliment" summoning twelve teen-agers each month to attend a free movie is being used in Loveland, Colorado. The police judge there designed the tickets as a means of recognizing "meritorious" driving. The police department, a service club and a local theater cooperate in distributing the tickets.

To stimulate interest in the forthcoming city election, the Public Affairs Committee of the Cookeville, Tennessee, Jaycees prepared a series of newspaper articles on the art of being an alderman. The material used was written by Arthur Bromage, Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan and city councilman of Ann Arbor, Michigan. It appeared in a recent issue of Tennessee Town and City.

Giving suburbanites the straight facts resulted in a vote for annexation in a Seattle suburb. Residents in a nine-mile area formed study groups to learn what sewer, garbage collection, transportation and other services they would receive and the cost of providing these services, then voted two-to-one for annexation.

Adequate sewer systems and sewage treatment plants must be sold to the public. To help community leaders solve this problem -- as well as to stimulate sales, of course -- the Clay Products Association has just published three free pamphlets. Titles are: New Sewers Pay Their Own Way; Why Put Up with Makeshift Sanitary Facilities; and Untreated Sewage Endangers Us All. No mention is made of the company or products in these folders. Free copies of all three pamphlets can be obtained from the Clay Products Association, 100 North LaSalle Street, Chicago 2, Illinois.



Finance & Taxation

A Finance Manual of 81 pages has been issued to city employees in Manhattan, Kansas (population 19,056). The manual outlines step by step the operation of the various funds.

A state license fee for automobiles, high enough to provide approximately the same revenue as is now derived from license fees, ad valorem taxes and special inspection fees, is proposed in a bill now before the Texas legislature. One-fourth of the proceeds would go to the city in which the car-owner resides, in lieu of all local fees and taxes. Proponents of the bill claim that it would remove many disadvantages of the present system under which some cities levy large inspection fees while others levy smaller fees or no fees and cities and counties collect ad valorem taxes at different rates. Under the proposed bill the motorist would pay the same fee, depending upon the make and model of automobile, regardless of his residence, and would be protected against any special levies.

The City Manager of San Antonio, Texas, recently submitted two annual budgets -- one for continuing existing services and the other showing supplementary amounts needed to provide adequate services. Both were adopted by the council, resulting in an increase of nearly 20% in property taxes.

Costs of uniforms required as a condition of employment and not adaptable to general use as ordinary clothing may be deducted from income as a necessary business expense, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has ruled. Included in the group are policemen, firemen, letter carriers, and street car, bus and railway men.

San Diego, California, purchases electric lamp bulbs for the city, county, school government and other local governmental agencies, on a basis of quantity bids. Prices are 45.5% below standard list prices.

A survey by the Municipal Finance Officers Association disclosed that 66 American cities in five years paid fire insurance premiums totalling $3,303,085.89, and received for losses a total of $1,777,712.94, which is a loss ratio of 53.8%. Three cities -- Phoenix, Arizona, Baltimore, Maryland, and Richmond, Virginia, -- accounted for almost 60% of this loss.

Miami Beach, Florida, is microfilming more than 30,000 building plans filed from 1922 to 1950, at a great saving in filing space.

Toledo, Ohio, reports that microfilming reduces filing storage space by 99 percent and cuts file searching time by 86percent.

Lewisburg, Tennessee, for $975 purchased a 10,000 gallon gasoline tank and buys gasoline in tank car quantities, thereby saving the state tax of 7¢ per gallon.

Dayton, Ohio, formed a car pool with 46 autos, serving 126 people instead of only 46 formerly served, and eliminated 12 cars from city service as well as avoiding a need to purchase 12 more.

Motor vehicle liability insurance has been discontinued by the city of Chattanooga and the city is paying the equivalent of the annual premiums into a fund to meet damage claims as they occur.

Property tax yields have risen only from about $38 per capita in 1932 to about $51 in 1951, according to the Chief of the Government Division, U. S. Bureau of the Census.

Utility bills can be paid without leaving your car in Palo Alto, California. The new municipal building features a sliding drawer arrangement. The customer drives alongside the building and deposits his payment in the extended drawer. The drawer is retracted into the building by a clerk who issues the receipt and slides the drawer back out to the waiting customer. Another interesting feature of the $378,000 building is that it was built on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Trailers should be taxed as real estate, according to a New York proposal, because in many cases they become permanent homes.

Federal taxation of bonds issued by cities and counties to attract new industries is being studied by a congressional joint committee, according to the Bond Buyer.

Fire insurance policies on all buildings have been cancelled by the City of Knoxville, and in lieu thereof the city will deposit about $25,000 per year in a special fund to cover losses. This annual deposit represents about $20,000 that has been paid in premiums for such insurance plus $5,000 that has been set aside yearly in past years in a fund to supplement insurance coverage. The city starts this program with $106,000 in this fund.

Surprise evening investigations in the homes of Cleveland, Ohio, relief clients are expected to result in $100,000 savings per year. The investigation program was started early this year.

Police cars are maintained for six cents per mile by a private contractor in Chicago. In Cleveland, where the city maintains its own car-service division, the cost is approximately eight cents per mile.

State-owned property is not always lost from municipal taxrolls in Ontario, Canada. The last provincial legislature provided for payments in-lieu-of-taxes on many types of state-owned property within municipalities. On the several types of property covered by the new act, the local tax rate applied to the value of the property determines the amount of the in-lieu payment.

Pay-as-you-go is the policy in Salt Lake City these days. A property tax levy of 40¢ per $100 valuation has been made for future capital improvements. The proceeds, some $900,000 per year, will be used solely for capital improvements and no additional borrowing will be permitted. In the past the city has paid out as much as $25,000 in interest charges for every $10,000 borrowed on some of the bonds it issued.

Purchase by the state of the Central Valley water and power project, in California, is receiving serious consideration. The project was built by the Bureau of Reclamation at a cost of $456 million. An interim legislative report indicates that the state can repay the Federal government's expenditure on the installment plan without undue strain on the state's finances. Revenues from the sale of water and power are said to be sufficient to meet installment payments, as well as to cover operation and maintenance costs. The majority of the legislators favor having the state take over the project rather than have it sold to private interests.

Liability insurance premiums have advanced so much that San Jose, California, has changed to LLOYDS deductible liability coverage. After six years they are convinced that substantial savings have been realized.

Purchasing new automobiles by trade-ins at six months intervals, with only a nominal payment (such as $1.00) per car, has been arranged by Knox County with a Ford dealer and a Chevrolet dealer. This is made possible by the fact that the dealer does not have to pay the Federal excise tax on such cars, either when sold to the county or when later sold as a used car. Dealers also usually give the county a discount. It is unlikely that this arrangement could be made for cars that receive hard wear, such as police cars. Municipalities are likwise exempt from the Federal excise tax.

Liability insurance has been dropped by 20 percent of California's cities. High premium costs and cancellations by insurance companies caused cities to take this step. City officials are now seeking legislation to limit the liability of municipalities.

Swimming pool costs like all construction costs, are up, says the National Recreation Association. Cities can figure on spending $12.00 to $12.50 per square foot of water surface for the pool only; in the case of outdoor pools with bathhouse facilities, the cost has been running from $16.00 to $17.00 per square foot of water surface in recent months.

Special assessments to finance new street paving, sanitary sewers, curbs and gutters, sidewalks and other public improvements are the rule rather than the exception, according to a recent survey by the International City Managers Association. Out of 679 cities of over 5000 population reporting, 591 use special assessments for paving, 540 for sewers, 539 for curbs and gutters, and 527 for sidewalk construction.

In 1952 the average Tennessean paid 30.3¢ in taxes of all kinds out of each $1.00 in income, according to a recent report by the Tennessee Taxpayers Association. Since 1936 Federal taxes have increased from 5.7¢ out of each dollar of income to 21.9¢, an increase of 284 percent. State taxes have increased from 3.7¢ per dollar of income to 5.6¢, an increase of 51 per cent. Local taxes, on the other hand, have declined from 6.7¢ per income dollar to 2.8¢, a decrease of 58 percent. It should be pointed out, however, that cities and counties have shifted a great deal of the financial responsibility for schools, roads and public welfare to the State and Federal governments during the 16-year period.

Construction of a sewage treatment plant in Salisbury, North Carolina, was financed in part by a privately-owned cotton mill. The cotton mill firm made an outright gift of $85,000 to the city to assure early completion of the project.

Good financial reporting, backed by good accounting procedures, is an important matter to municipal bond analysts, says a recent MFOA bulletin. The first impression the bond analyst gets is that obtained from the city's financial reports. His second impression is derived from an examination of the record system and accounting procedures used in the city. The impressions thus made either inspire confidence in the city administration as a whole or else they create doubts in the mind of the analyst.

Automobile tires probably can be purchased by Tennessee cities at prices paid by the State. At least one major tire company has issued such instructions to its dealers. Prices to the State are generally less than the wholesale prices to dealers. One city, by taking bids, bought tires at a discount from the State contract price.

An improved credit rating is expected to save the City of Flint, Michigan, a half-million dollars in interest charges on a recent $6.5 million bond issue. A Moody's rating of AA, highest in the city's history, was awarded to Flint recently.

The Police Pension Fund in Philadelphia faces a deficit of $97 million within the next few years, according to a recent study by insurance actuaries. To meet the situation, plans are being made to establish a new system integrated with federal social security.

Assessment of land and improvements as a unit is now permitted in only eight states, one of which is Tennessee. The other states require land and improvements to be valued separately. The object in requiring a breakdown between the two items is to insure more careful appraisals, as well as to spotlight the cases where improvements are not now being assessed.

Aerial photographs are being used in Fayette County, Kentucky, to determine tobacco acreages. The County Production and Marketing Association (PMA) has developed the procedure to the point that it is cheaper, faster, and more accurate than the former method used -- that of "walking" the fields with an A-frame measuring device. Aerial photographs are useful, also as a starting point in developing a set of tax maps.

Household furniture is exempt from property tax, under a recently-approved Constitutional amendment in Louisiana. Louisiana is the 13th state to adopt such a provision. In 26 other states household furniture is partially exempted from the general property tax, in amounts ranging from $100 in New York to $5,000 in Massachusetts. The practice of exempting this kind of property -- up to a reasonable maximum, at least -- rather than allowing a set personalty exemption applicable to any type of personal property seems to be gaining considerable acceptance.

Property assessment and tax collection in Modesto, California, has been turned over to the county, at a saving of $20,000 per year. The council will hold a hearing once a year for protests by property owners.

A statewide property re-valuation is one of four major objectives of the Nevada Municipal League, a 1953 League resolution declares. The resolution states that this reform is vital to all the levels of government below the state level.

How to attract new industry is a live topic in most Tennessee cities. The Knoxville News-Sentinel had this to say on the subject in a recent editorial:

"Management that is looking for 'special inducements' is not always prepared to make its fair contribution to a community. Of course a town sometimes achieves a net gain in the long run by being an industrial Santa Claus. But often these one-sided deals don't turn out so well.

"What Knoxville needs to make this community more attractive for new business is a more realistic and equitable system of tax assessment so that the tax rate may be reduced, more recreation facilities, and a keener sense of community spirit."

Personnel & Training

Martinsville and Danville, Virginia, jointly conductes training programs for city employees in supervisory positions, with instructors furnished by the state university.

In Dayton, Ohio, 3,484 visits were made by a nurse to check on city employees absent on sick leave, and as a result 536 were marked "no pay," 1,140 were required to submit medical evidence to justify payment, and 1,828 were approved for payment. A large number were not even at home when the visits were made.

Boulder, Colorado, asks employees who leave the service to fill out a separation form, which need not be signed. Questions are designed to obtain an employee's opinion about the city's general treatment of employees, working conditions, pay, supervision, and general reaction to employment conditions.

Dallas, Texas, started a drivers' clinic for city employees who drive city-owned vehicles, after a study revealed that repairs for damages were costing $50,000 annually. The program is credited with reducing accidents 26% over the past year.

In Long Beach, California, an on-the-job training program for city employees is carried on in cooperation with the school district. Facilities of the city's adult education program are used, and school personnel plan and conduct the courses. The schedule includes courses on supervision, public relations, first aid, management, improvement, park maintenance and landscaping.

A course in human relations has been initiated for all New York City policemen. The aim is better law enforcement through better understanding of people, particularly people who make up minority groups. The police commissioner told the first group that he hoped the training would help them "let the people know that you are not there only to make arrests."

Oak Ridge, Chattanooga and Johnson City have sent police officers to attend the twelve-weeks training course offered by the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville.

Drivers of Boston's city-owned motor vehicles will attend a drivers' school which will offer psycho-physical tests, safety examination, and skill driving contests, with films on safe driving.

Urban Fringe Area

A proposal of "unification" instead of "annexation" has been made for the Modesto, California, urban area, where 2/3 of the people live outside the city. How the "unification" proposal would differ in detail from the "annexation" procedure is not known.

The suburbs of the 168 largest cities increased 35.5 percent from 1940 to 1950, while the population of the cities themselves increased only 13.9 percent, according to final 1950 census data.

Annexation of an area to Phoenix, Arizona, was explained by city firemen making calls on residents of the area. They also delivered a letter of welcome from the city council and city manager.

A suburban buffer zone around the City of Indianapolis has been established by the Indiana Legislature. Within a three-mile-wide belt around the city no new town or city can be incorporated. Nor can any presently incorporated town in that area, except Indianapolis, annex additional territory without the approval of the Indianapolis planning commission and the county planning commission.

Disannexation of sparsely settled territory on the edges of towns was authorized by the Texas legislature this year. City councils may, by ordinance, disannex such territory under certain conditions. The territory must have an area of at least ten acres, must have fewer than one occupied home or business for each two acres of area and fewer than three home or business occupancies on any one acre. Thus, Texas has provided a means by which a city may readily divest itself of territory in which the cost of services is too great, compared with the income to the city.

Preventing industry from moving into residential areas, to the detriment of residential property values, has been a major aim of zoning regulations for years. Only lately, however, has the matter of residential encroachment into industrial areas received much attention from zoning boards. Such encroachment can lower industrial property values by forcing the industry to install expensive air-pollution control equipment which would not otherwise be needed.

A master plan, regulating sub-division development and street patterns for a distance of six miles from any city can be adopted by city ordinance in North Dakota. The regulations apply to all non-agricultural development within the specified area.

Public Works

Oakland, California, is composting its garbage and selling the product as fertilizer. Other pilot plants are experimenting with various methods of composting. A better product is obtained by mixing garbage with sewage sludge.

Dallas, Texas, several years ago discontinued lowcost pavements because of excessive maintenance costs, and will construct only high-type pavements, with abutting property owners paying part of the cost.

City officials will find that an engineering survey of street needs and plan of improvement will be a great aid in their street work.

Concrete containing 10% copper acetonarsenite is very effective in preventing the growth of the mold that causes athlete's foot. The lenth of time that it will remain effective has not been determined, but it is thought that it should remain fungicidal for two or three years and possibly longer.

A firm in Denmark is reported to have developed a mechanical, odorless method of converting garbage into composted fertilizer.

Glencoe, Illinois, instead of cutting water off entirely to delinquent customers, inserts a disc in the water meter that permits enough water to pass through for sanitary needs but reduces the pressure and quantity of water used.

Bristol, Tennessee, has adopted an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of surface water or roof drainage into sanitary sewers, either as a continuation of existing connections or as new connections.

The City Manager of Bakersfield, California, reports that buildings constructed since 1939, when a strict building code was enacted, suffered only minor plaster cracks in the earthquake that struck that city on July 21, 1952. The total loss from the earthquake has been estimated to be between ten and fifteen million dollars.

Hickory, North Carolina, uses dry ice and gasoline to freeze water to stop the flow in water lines without valves.

Glencoe, Minnesota, changed from gas-oil (11.75¢ per gallon) to crude oil (10.18¢ per gallon) in its diesel power plant, saving $8,618.20 in the first year. It was observed that all units ran well on the new fuel, pistons and liners were cleaner than before, and what little carbon there was seemed softer and easier to remove.

Tests in the College Station and Bryan, Texas, area indicated that plastic strips and hot-melt applied compounds of rosin and rosin-alkyd resin gave best results as long-enduring and highly-visible pavement marking material.

Concrete rails which throw back into the traffic lane a car which has left the road are being tested along highways near Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio. The rail decreases the speed of the car, prevents an upset, it is said, and does not damage the vehicle.

The deputy highways engineer of the city of Baltimore reports that tests show that fly-ash may be substituted for part of the cement in concrete mixes for certain purposes.

The psychoda fly, which breeds in trickling filters, is attacked in Akron, Ohio, by the use of benzene hexachloride with 11 percent gamma isomer, applied at the rate of 4½ gallons per acre.

Memphis charges 78 industries for dumping waste water from private wells into the city sewer system. Over $36,000 per year is collected.

Soft water is preferable when using dry-feed machines to apply fluorides and when it is necessary to pump the solution or use a water injector, according to the Michigan Department of Health. If hard water is used, incrustation of the line may result.

Winston Salem, North Carolina, is considering an increase in its sewer connection charge from $60 to $65. The extra $5 would pay for a clean-out plug between the sidewalk and curb, and the city would assume responsibility for keeping the line clear between the plug and the main sewer line.

Health authorities condemn disposal of garbage in raw form as feed for hogs. An object lesson was the spread of vesicular exanthema, a highly infectious and deadly serious disease of swine, across the United States this past summer. In every instance, this out-break was traced directly to the feeding of raw, uncooked garbage, or to direct contact with hogs fed raw, uncooked garbage.

Washington, D. C., has attached waste receptacles to light poles in the business district, which makes it difficult for them to be moved, hit by traffic, or stolen by vandals. Waste is put in at the top and taken out through a door at the bottom.

Experience in Rockford, Illinois, indicates that disposal of food wastes discharged into sewers through garbage grinders costs from 10¢ to 50¢ per ton. Based on garbage averaging .6 pound per person per day, the per capita cost would be 10¢ to 50¢ every nine years.

The Long Island Water Corporation provides a separate service for lawn irrigation systems, and frequently requires operation by a time clock between specified hours. A separate rate schedule applies to such water usage.

Cleveland, Tennessee, places the monthly report on analysis of its water, showing bacteriological and fluoride contents, under a glass cover on the counter over which bills are paid, so that people see the results of the analysis.

The U. S. Movidyn Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, has announced availability of "Movidyn," a new water sterilizing agent. It is tasteless, non-poisonous, non-corrosive, and safe to handle even in concentrated form, and will kill germs of typhoid, cholera and other diseases, as well as inhibiting growth of algoe, fungus and mold. It has been demonstrated that 1 ppm will kill bacteria present in a short time, and that surfaces in contact with treated water become, in themselves, sterilizing surfaces.

Philadelphia allows garbage grinders in areas served by adequate sewage disposal plants. Regulations require submission of models for approval by the city health department, a monthly report of serial and model numbers of grinders sold for installation and names of plumbers installing them, and issuance of permits to plumbers to install grinders. A metal plate showing the manufacturer's name and the model and serial numbers must be attached to each grinder.

Winchester, Virginia, is operating its sewage treatment plant for 1/4¢ per day, based on a connected population of 14,500.

Billboards have been banned along express highways in Los Angeles and Atlanta.

Excess stone after sealcoating is picked up by a street sweeper in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

Circular steel units in water purification plants, incorporating chemical mixing, coagulation, settling and filtration, bring lower operating costs, flexibility and ease of operation, it is claimed. Such units have had a two years' trial in Alexandria, Virginia, and have also been installed by the Chattanooga City Water Company.

Disinfection of water with cold ultra-violet light, by a process that might be used in treating swimming pools and small water supplies, was reported in the November 1952 issue of Waterworks Engineering.

Sources of movie films dealing with public works problems have been compiled by the American Public Works Association and may be obtained through L. C. Bailey, City Engineer, Knoxville.

Stabilization of heavy or sticky clay road beds can be accomplished better with hydrated lime than with other stabilizing agents, according to the National Lime Association. Another organization is now conducting research on the use of lime and fly ash to stabilize soils.

One bag of fly ash was substituted for one bag of cement in a 6½-bag-per-cu-yd. concrete mixture in a test section of highway pavement in Baltimore. Tests showed that the fly ash concrete had a strength of 600 lb. per sq. in. or one-fifth higher than cement concrete.

A boring machine is available which bores holes 2" to 4½" in diameter and up to 100' in length; price is $1527. A larger machine, to bore holes 2½" to 14½" in diameter and up to 200' in length, sells for $2222. Prices are f.o.b. San Francisco.

Manholes are raised to fit new street surfaces in Kansas City, Missouri, by using cast-iron rings of a width equal to the thickness of pavement resurfacing. The rings are grooved to receive manhole covers in the same manner as original castings.

Garbage containers are condemned by the Tuscaloosa County (Alabama) Health Department by placing red stickers thereon reading, "This container is condemned for the use of garbage." If not removed by owners, garbage collectors pick up and destroy such containers.

A salable animal food is being produced in Omaha, Nebraska, by drying and grinding garbage. The city pays a local alcohol plant $2500 per month to produce the feed. Once markets are established it is anticipated that this subsidization will be discontinued.

"A Town Without An Adequate Water Supply Is A Town Without A Future" was the headline used in a full-page advertisement in Vernon, Texas, recently. Purpose of the ad was to secure community approval of a $1,450,000 revenue bond issue for the purpose of expanding the city water supply.

The most effective chemical brush-killer, out of a number of preparations tested, was ammonium sulfamate weed-killer (also known as "Ammate"). Tests were conducted both in the Chicago Sanitary District and in the Minneapolis - St. Paul area by public works department personnel.

Fluorescent luminaires are used for lighting the middle level of Seattle's new Alaskan Way Viaduct. They proved to be the most satisfactory method of getting glareless light with a restricted mounting height of 18½ feet. Fixtures are spaced 60 feet apart over the 40-foot-wide roadway.

Refuse containers at half the usual price are in use in Toledo, Ohio. The container is made by putting a periscope top with push-in door on an old 55-gallon oil drum. The tops are made by a local sheet-metal firm. City

service crews install handles and apply a coat of bright yellow paint. Total cost is about $20.00 per container instead of $40.00 for the rectangular type containers formerly used.

Plastic water pipe is rapidly gaining favor. Loretto, Tennessee, is one of the installations mentioned in a recent article in "Engineering News-Record." Light weight, easier installation and better resistance to corrosion are among the features which, the manufacturers claim, make it competitive with steel pipe, even though the cost per foot is higher than that of steel pipe.

Street cleaning has been made easier in New York City by requiring parking on alternate sides of the street on alternate days. By virtually eliminating hand-sweeping, the city expects to save $1,500,000 a year on street cleaning operations.

Perforated pipe sumps have solved a drainage problem in El Segundo, California. Water collection at a busy intersection, where storm drainage was not available and natural runoff was impossible, was the problem. Two 35-foot sections of 48" perforated pipe, set upright in the ground on two sides of the intersection, provided the answer. Where proper soil conditions prevail, this method of drainage has interesting possibilities.

A lightweight mineral replacement for concrete, called Zeprex, has been introduced into the U. S. recently. The new material is said to be suitable for roof decking, walls, floors and ceilings. Zeprex is only one-fifth as heavy as concrete but has many times the insulating value of concrete. It can be sawed, drilled and nailed like wood. It comes in slabs 20" in width and up to 18 feet in length.

Dye waste from hosiery mills is a problem to several Tennessee cities. Marion, North Carolina, had the same problem in planning its sewage treatment plant in 1951. To solve this problem of disposing of domestic sewage and industrial waste, the city uses two separate collector systems. Half the plant capacity is devoted to each of the two types of sewage. Provision is made for six alternate methods of treatment.

Aerated fresh water is sprayed onto the surface of sewage, as a means of controlling odors, in the Oslo, Norway, sewage disposal plant. The fresh water spray acts as a floating cover and effectively seals in the offensive odors.

A rubber surface 1½ inches thick will be tried on a heavily traveled test street in Dayton, Ohio. Natural rubber powder mixed with the asphalt is expected to prolong pavement life and reduce accidents.

A 16 mm. color movie film on "Sanitary Storage and Collection of Refuse," can be obtained on a free loan basis from the Communicable Disease Center, Public Health Service, Box 185, Chamblee, Georgia. Running time is 19 minutes.

Claims are made that the 3-CIE-3 Exide Ironclad battery is extremely long-lived. South Portland, Maine, put one in a police car in September 1951, where it was used 24 hours a day for 75,000 miles, and then it was transferred to another police cruiser for use throughout 1952.

For small street rolling jobs and for use in confined areas there is a ½ ton tandem model Motoroller. This model is less expensive to operate and easier to transport than standard-size rollers.

A chain-link fence made of aluminum is now available. Aluminum requires no painting, does not chip or stain.

People are disposing of less garbage and more rubbish these days -- at least in Washington, D. C. Garbage collections 25 years ago averaged 175 pounds per capita per year. By 1947, the figure had dropped to 141 pounds. Rubbish collection has increased, however, so that the combined weight of garbage and rubbish is about what it was 25 years ago. Today's waste is more easily handled by Washington's incinerator system because of its lower moisture content.

Concrete street markers with luminous lettering are in use in Swansea, Illinois. The markers consist of standard concrete posts with indented letters; the difference is in the finish. The post itself is finished in dark cement color with luminous white lettering instead of the usual black lettering against a white background.

A plastic striping paint which outlasts ordinary paint for street and road purposes has recently been developed by the University of Texas.

Incineration of refuse in Alhambra, California (population 52,000), costs about 40¢ per capita per year. On a tonnage basis, the net cost was $3.40 per ton, based on a three-year operation record. The incinerator used has a rated capacity of 150 tons per day. Garbage is collected separately and those costs are not included above.

For heavy-duty street ironing Knoxville uses a new heater-planer. This machine works just like the housewife's iron, heating the "washboardy" asphalt and smoothing the surface in one pass. Cost of the new machine is $18,000 however.

New street name signs are being erected at all intersections in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to replace the old signs used for the past 20 years. The new signs are of porcelain enamel on a steel base.

Rubber powder as an additive to street surfacing mixtures is being tested in a number of cities. Purpose of most tests so far has been to determine the effect of rubber in reducing street maintenance costs and in preventing skids. New York City is now experimenting with it to determine its effect in reducing traffic noises, especially in the vicinity of hospitals.

Fluoridation of city water is on the increase, says the American City magazine. In the past year 322 cities have adopted the practice, while two small communities have stopped it. A total of 14,300,000 people are now provided with fluoride-treated water.

Prevention of sewer clogging, is the goal of the Dayton, Ohio, sewer department. Instead of waiting for trouble to develop and then trying to remedy it, the department operates on a round-the-year cleaning schedule. All sewers, both sanitary and storm, are cleaned about once in every two years.

Reflectorized "stop" sign faces which slip on over the present sign are featured by a St. Louis manufacturer. The new face can be attached in five minutes and at half the cost of a complete sign.

A self-cleaning paint is used by British railways on signal posts. A very light rain cleanses the signals and restores full visibility to them.

Rubberized streets have been mentioned in this column before. Now comes the news that Knoxville is trying this street material. In the Knoxville experiment, the liquid asphalt is impregnated with about 5 percent powdered rubber before mixing with the aggregate. It is though that the new method will reduce skidding in wet weather and "washboarding" during the summer months.

"Remove commercial signs from federal aid highways" was the substance of a recent order received by the City of Nashville from the Federal Bureau of Roads. Unless all commercial signs are removed from the right-of-way for widening West End Avenue. If federal regulations are observed, a city can be reimbursed for up to two-thirds of the cost of right-of-way acquisition.

Bumpy railroad crossings may soon be a thing of the past. A new type of removable grating has been developed which eliminates both the bump and the constant repair work at grade crossings. The new grating, a 3-section affair, rests upon the crossties. It permits tamping of the ties and prevents the dampness which is responsible for heaving and erosion of the street pavement.

Isotopes for locating leaks in a water main have been used in England. Radio-active sodium carbonate was the material used.

Decals for city vehicles, instead of painted insignia, are used in North St. Paul, Minnesota. With 3-inch lettering the decals cost about 30¢ each. They are easily replaceable, in case they become illegible, and are easily removed at trade-in time.

A package water conditioner has been developed by Permutit Company. Various sizes will handle flows of 12,000 to 80,000 gallons per day. The plant is said to remove iron, manganese, organic matter, color, offensive tastes and odors. In addition to that it neutralizes and softens the water.

A means of correcting slick asphalt pavements is reported in Public Works magazine. Slick spots were heated by blow torches, stone pre-coated with 1% asphalt by weight in a mixing plant was immediately spread on the spots, and rolled at once.

In an effort to encourage homeowners to replace worn out sidewalks, Dallas, Texas, will pay one-half the cost. Formerly homeowners had to pay the entire cost.

A Southwestern city annexed an area where streets had been built to FHA standards, which were vastly inferior to those required by the city. Persons in the annexed area reasoned that they had paid for streets and it was the city's obligation to maintain them. The city found itself faced with two rather grim alternatives: expensive maintenance of a "pavement" surface that never really was, or to repave at general city expense. Requiring subdividers to construct proper pavements will avoid such situations.

Salvaged metal and paper from garbage wastes bring in $5400 per year in Waco, Texas. The city has contracts with a metal reclaiming company and a waste paper company. Trash and garbage is dumped upon a conveyor belt which passes beneath an electromagnet. The magnet takes out salvageable metal; paper and rags are picked out by hand and baled. Remaining waste material is disposed of by the sanitary land fill method.

Tunnelling with elliptical pipe, instead of circular pipe, has been used in a number of recent 3' to 6' tunnel installations. The pre-cast elliptical sections can be taken through a completed tunnel of the same circumference by turning them on their sides; with circular sections the advantages of using pre-cast liners can be obtained only by making an open cut.

Keeping birds away from public buildings is a problem. A new product called Nixalite may be the answer. Nixalite is a strip of stainless steel molding from which protude small needle-pointed wires. The wires are so arranged that it is almost impossible for a bird to alight on the wall, side or ledge protected by the device.

Dried sewage sludge from Milwaukee's disposal plant has been sold as fertilizer for years (under the trade name of "Milorganite"). The city has now gone a step further; it has contracted with a Chicago firm which will use the sludge as a source of Vitamin B-12. This vitamin is used mainly to fortify animal and poultry feed. It is estimated that the product has a potential gross profit of a million dollars a year.

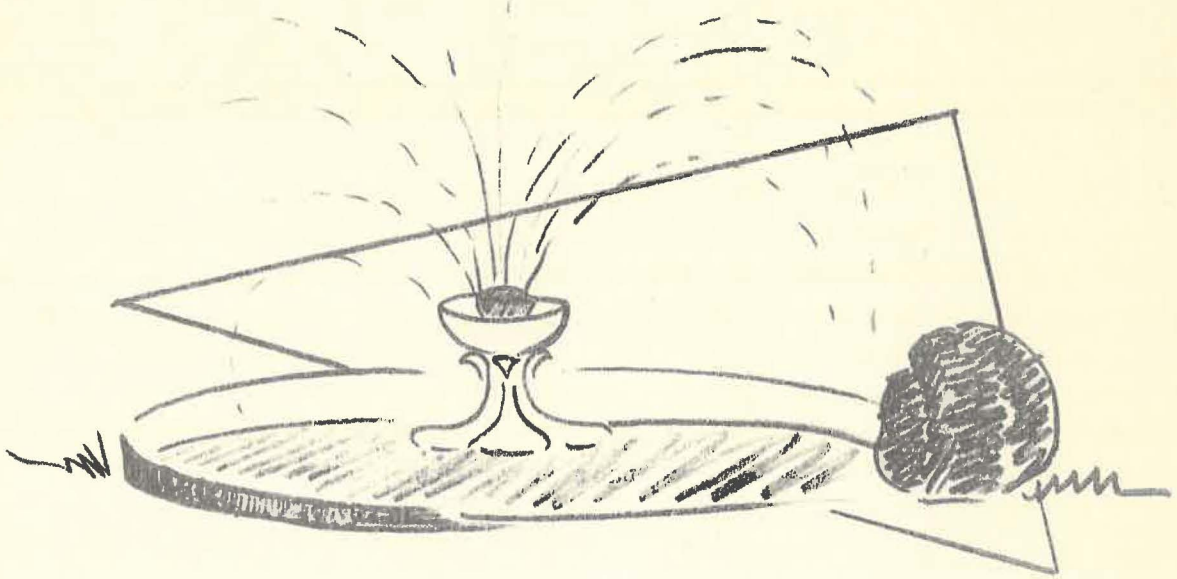
"Rapidgro" is the trade name under which Grand Rapids, Michigan, markets its ground sewage sludge. Demand for the product by farmers and gardeners has increased faster than the supply. Now comes the discovery that by grinding the city's garbage and introducing it into the digesters, the volume of sludge (and valuable sewer gas) can be doubled. Garbage was formerly fed to hogs but this cannot now be done.

Substantial savings in construction costs by use of the Aldrich water purification unit is reported in a recent issue of Engineering News Record. The Aldrich unit is a circular steel tank which incorporates chemical mixing, coagulation, settling and filtration processes. Savings of $50,000 and up per mgd. capacity are reported.

Wheelbarrow load capacity was increased by 192 pounds, while increasing the handle load only 2.8 pounds, when a Minneapolis construction foreman rebuilt the bed to shift the load forward. Cost of the conversion: $3.00 per wheelbarrow.

Lightweight two-wheel hand trucks are used in Mayfield Heights, Ohio, to save labor in getting heavy garbage cans from the houses to the collection truck.

Color-lighted fountains such as the one in Detroit's Cadillac Square are much less expensive than many people think. A small electric pump and three or four floodlights equipped with color disks are the main essentials. The water is used over and over.



Traffic & Parking

Parking garages of the elevator-type are preferred by motorists over ramp-type garages to avoid the strain of low-gear travel up the ramps, it was mentioned in the December issue of this column. Now comes a report from Des Moines, Iowa, that a ramp-type garage paid its way, but a loss of $10,000 in one year was incurred on an elevator-type garage because of the high operating costs, mainly attributable to servicing and maintaining three elevators, which cost some $500 per month.

Two parking lots near the edge of the business district, with special shoppers' buses operating between these lots and the business district, have at least temporarily solved some parking problems in Birmingham. Dallas, Texas, has tried a similar plan, with a 5¢ bus fare to ride from or to the parking lot.

Traffic accidents in Boulder, Colorado, were reduced 21 percent, traffic injuries were 50 percent less, traffic summonses dropped 24 percent, overtime parking tickets dropped 48 percent, and police court receipts increased 70 percent, in the four months ending October 31, 1952, as compared with the same four months in 1951. These achievements were attributed to adoption of a model traffic code, establishment of a traffic violations bureau, appointment of a new police court judge, greater emphasis on selective enforcement, better ice control, adoption of a nonfix traffic ticket system with a progressive fine schedule, and creation of a traffic engineering committee of city officials.

Parking fines of $6.00 each failed to improve Cincinnati's downtown traffic conditions, so the city began towing in cars at a minimum release charge of $14.70.

Parking fines in Detroit increased $500,000 in 1952 over 1951, following a crackdown on illegally parked cars which included a towing fee of $10.00.

Automobile insurance rates have been boosted nearly 25 percent in Cincinnati, as a result of a bad traffic accident record, according to the Cincinnati Times-Star.

Parking downtown in Philadelphia was prohibited temporarily, and worked so well that the city council has been requested to make the ban permanent, except two-hour parking on Saturdays and holidays on lesser-used streets.

A snarled traffic situation in Cincinnati may increase fire insurance rates $500,000 annually, because fire trucks encounter difficulties in getting through traffic to fires, according to the Cincinnati Fire Underwriters Association.

No Parking regulations are becoming widespread in the business districts of many cities. A recent survey showed that 34 of 36 cities had some type of no parking regulations in the business districts. Five cities do not even allow cars to stop on streets where parking is prohibited.

Over-parking violators, if they have two or more unpaid citations for this offense, do not get a third ticket in Cleveland, Ohio. Traffic police there are provided with up-to-the-minute records, made from IBM cards, of the license numbers of cars whose owners have failed to pay parking violation fines. When such a car is found in violation for the third time it is towed to the car pound without further ado. The owner must pay a five-dollar towing charge, plus five dollars for each outstanding ticket, to secure release of his car.

Portland, Oregon, has reduced the number of rear-end collisions occuring near intersections by installing advance flashing lights to warn motorists to brake their automobiles.

The F.B.I. says that better engineering, safety campaigns, driver training programs, and strict and impartial law enforcement will be effective in reducing the slaughter of people on streets and highways. This agency also reports that over 5,500 lives were lost last year from traffic accidents.

Midland, Michigan, last year had a Safety Patrol and Service Squad consisting of 376 boys from the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grades. An annual field day for members of the patrol stimulated interest as a reward for service. Activities of the field day included games, races, treasure hunts, amateur shows, picnics, and a ball game, all of which was financed by proceeds of benefit basketball games.

To aid in coping with tourist traffic problems, the Police Department of Rapid City, South Dakota, has established several information booths at strategic points in the city to supply tourists with road information, free maps, weather reports, and other data of interest to them.

The American Bar Association, in collaboration with the Northwestern University Traffic Institute, has developed a traffic ticket which has status as a legal summons rather than a warning, thereby relieving the enforcement officer of filing a complaint and issuing a summons to force an offender to appear in court.

New Westminster, British Columbia, awards cash bonuses to drivers of city-owned motor vehicles who go through an entire year without an accident. A vote is also taken at an annual banquet as to the best all-around driver to receive a special trophy.

Memphis is conducting a voluntary traffic training school, free to anyone who wishes to learn the latest about traffic laws, safe driving tips, and traffic problems. Classes meet on Wednesday evening of each week and run for nine weeks, and graduates receive certificates.

Traffic signal lamps operated at undervoltage, such as a 125-volt lamp on a 120-volt line, will last longer. Long-life lamps of 4000to 6000 hours are also available. A 67-watt lamp with a 6000 hour guarantee is soon to be available.

Dallas, Texas, has obtained excellent results from its juvenile traffic court to handle traffic offenses against persons between 10 and 17 years of age. The court functions primarily in an educational and referral capacity. Its personnel is made up of carefully chosen senior students from the several high schools of Dallas, who are under the supervision of the juvenile education committee of the Citizens Traffic Commission.

Baltimore operates a first offenders' traffic school for drivers under 21. Sessions are held on Saturday mornings in the teen-age traffic court, and violators must appear without representation by parents or attorneys.

Colored route markers that will glow at night are to be erected on highways through Washington, D. C. Blue markers are for North Bound routes, green for East, red for South, and yellow for West.

San Antonio Corporation Court judges sentence motorists who repeatedly violate traffic laws and who show great negligence to a traffic violator's school for five Saturdays. Instructors are twomembers of the police force.

Acts of discourtesy, such as "road-hogging," passing other cars on hills or curves,; and failing to wait for pedestrians when traffic lights change, are responsible for 25,000 traffic deaths annually in the United States, according to the greater New York Safety Council.

Roanoke, Virginia, has street telephone boxes where officers and citizens can make emergency fire and accident reports to the sergeant's desk.

Akron's (Ohio) policemen will glow, with armbands made of a specially treated luminous cloth, which will make it easier for citizens to see patrolmen on dark days and on night-time duty.

Dayton, Ohio, is installing 3200 red stop signs illuminated with neon tubing, at an estimated cost of $18,000.

Safety measures are demonstrated in hour-long shows by Officer E. E. Pressley's Traffic Safety Circus, consisting of eight trained dogs. The expenses of his shows for school pupils are paid by the American Trucking Association. In Knoxville, the Jaycees sponsored his appearance at two elementary schools on January 9, 1953.

Traffic signal control can be accomplished efficiently and more economically by radio than by wire lines, according to the General Electric Company.

Radar speed control in Akron, Ohio, is given major credit for reducing traffic deaths from 35 in 1949 and 29 in 1950 to 15 in 1951.

Traffic safety can pay financial dividends, in addition to the all-important objective of saving lives. Tennessee motorists, facing an increase of some 25% in automobile liability insurance rates, may well consider the experience in Territory I of Missouri, where good driving records of motorists have brought about rate reductions.

Traffic deaths in cities which have improved street lighting show drops up to 50%, The National Street and Traffic Safety Lighting Bureau has reported.

Dayton, Ohio, is considering elimination of left-hand turns into downtown parking garages as a means of preventing traffic congestion.

London, England, uses bridge floor metal, cut in long strips about 5 inches wide, for traffic lane markings. The strips are imbedded in asphalt pavement, and eliminate painting of lane markings.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, drivers are pledging observance of all traffic laws in a Crusade for Safety, following an increase of automobile liability insurance rates in that city from $48.00 to $64.00.

More automobile-driving classes for teenagers is under consideration in Akron, Ohio. Survey of 1952 accidents in the city revealed that drivers under 24 years of age were involved in 4857 accidents, in which nine persons were killed. During the same period drivers in the 45-54 year age group were involved in 2874 accidents, in which three persons were killed. The two age groups are approximately equal in number of drivers.

Drinking, either by the motorist or pedestrian, was a factor in 20 out of every 100 fatal automobile accidents in New York. The survey was made by a former New York motor vehicle commissioner.

Coral Gables, Florida, leases vacant land in the downtown area for periods up to 99 years, lays paving, installs parking meters, pays the owner 35% of meter income, and pays taxes on the land out of the city's share of meter income.

Montgomery County, Maryland, exempts from a parking district tax those commercial and business establishments that provide free off-street parking space, to the extent that such lots measure up to county standards (for example, 50% of standard brings 50% tax exemption). A parking lot meeting all standards but restricted to customers carries a 50% exemption.

White Plains, New York, has installed a coin changer in each of six city-owned metered parking lots in its business district.

A city council, faced with the problem of selecting a parking meter from several makes on which bids had been received, appointed a committee of local jewelers to examine the meters and submit recommendations.

Dayton, Ohio, police reported a decrease in the number of parking violations following the towing away of cars of persons having from three to 22 tickets who ignored the tags and of those who dodged the warrant-serving policemen.

Memphis now imposes a $1.00 fine for each hour of overparking on a parking meter to stop a practice by motorists of paying the previous fine of $1.00 for any length of overparking time as a means of using streets for all-day parking.

Tucson, Arizona, issues parking violation notices in a self-mailing envelope which can be used by the motorist to mail his fine.

The American Public Works Association reports that drivers generally prefer the elevator-type parking garage over the ramp-type to avoid the strain of low-gear travel up the ramps.

Richmond, Virginia, is replacing some stop signs with "Yield right of way" signs, which require a motorist to stop only if necessary to yield to vehicles on the intersecting street. Tulsa, Oklahoma, also has used such "Yield" signs.

Free bus rides for night-time downtown shoppers are being offered in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in an effort to reduce traffic congestion.

Traverse City, Michigan, has installed 12-minute parking meters in downtown sites designated as loading zones. The meters are distinctively painted and provide 12 minutes for one penny.

A speaker at the annual meeting of the National Association of Real Estate Boards suggested that people will use public transportation more if it is made more convenient and pleasant. He estimated the average annual cost of travelling to and from work by public transit to be $75.00, as compared with $325.00 per year by private car, including parking charges.

Radar devices for checking speeding so far have resulted in 100% conviction, based on reports from the following cities where such devices are being used: Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, and Durham, North Carolina; Columbus, Cincinnati, and Akron, Ohio; Birmingham and Ann Arbor, Michigan; Garden City and Harrison, New York; Cumberland, Maryland; and Deal, New Jersey.

A drivers' clinic conducted by the city of Trenton, New Jersey, will test chronic traffic violators for vision, color sense, night perception, glare recovery, reaction time, and attitude toward traffic rules, in an effort to discover why some motorists are accident repeaters.

Thirty-minute parking meters, with a maximum parking limit of one hour are helping Nashville to solve its downtown parking headache. The customer deposits 5¢ for the first half-hour or 10¢ for a full hour but he cannot leave his car in the location for more than one hour. Result is better satisfied shoppers, higher turnover and greater revenue to the city.

Drivers are willing to walk farther from parked cars to destination than the traffic experts estimate, according to a recent Rhode Island survey. Traffic experts have accepted the figure of 700 feet as the maximum distance that drivers would walk; the Providence, Rhode Island, survey indicated, however, that the average driver using a city-owned parking lot walks 1,590 feet to his destination. Cheaper rates in the city-owned lot and ability to park for longer periods were credited with attracting customers to the city facility. A third reason given was that drivers can park their own car, lock the doors and take their keys with them. This results in fewer dented fenders and a feeling that both automobile and contents are more secure than in privately operated lots.

Lady parkers are provided a special section in a new municipal parking lot in Yonkers, New York. The ladies' section is located close to the gate and features extra-wide aisles.

By eliminating downtown parking in a 160-block area, Philadelphia has cut in half the turn around time for downtown buses. Bus delays were cut 34 percent and the accident rate dropped 20 percent after the parking ban went into effect.

Municipal parking lots were established for the first time in 70 cities over the U. S. in 1952. A total of 519 cities of the 1,129 having over 10,000 people now operate one or more such lots. One hundred thirty-six cities of the 519 have financed their lots through parking meter receipts.

Arrests without warrant in accident cases, under certain circumstances, is proposed as an amendment to the Uniform Traffic Law. This amendment is designed to enable peace officers to deal effectively with accident cases in which they have reason to believe that one or more participants would not appear on a citation or summons.

A "tamper-proof" traffic ticket system is used in Toledo, Ohio. Tickets are serially numbered and issued to patrolmen in books. The numbers are recorded on IBM machines in the police division.

A hotel-owned parking lot in Borger, Texas, was metered recently. The lot is operated on the honor system, without attendants. The owners say that the system works very well indeed. Return from the meters is sufficient for the owners to keep the lot in tip-top condition. Local people use the lot during daytime hours, just as they formerly did, but now that they pay for the privilege they are careful to park at the proper angle and to use only one car space.

Red STOP signs, instead of the familiar yellow octagons, are favored by many highway safety experts. South Dakota and California have already made the change to the red background and other states are considering it. In Europe, the universally-used stop sign is a red triangle with the point downward.

Lax traffic enforcement and "slap-on-the-wrist" penalties for speeding and drunken or reckless driving are arousing citizen resentment. In one recent instance -- in East Tennessee -- enraged parents threw up a roadblock and trapped a young man who had sped through a group of children at play. The police, whom he had been trying to escape, arrived just in time to rescue the speeder. Indications, from this and several similar cases, are that the public is in a mood to demand better enforcement and stiffer sentences.

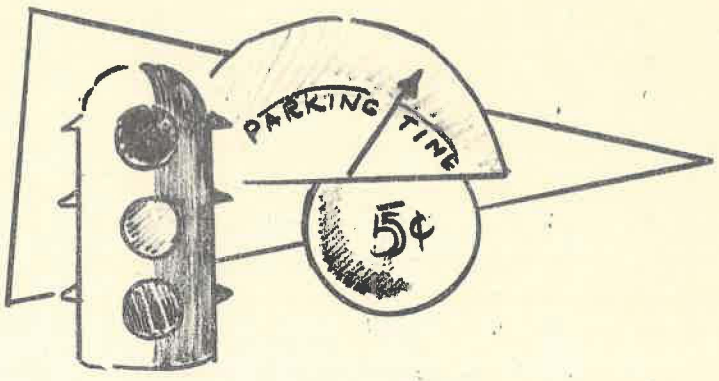
Traffic noises are being checked in Columbus, Ohio, by a sound meter similar to the applause meters used on radio programs. A lusty blast from the horn or the use of a noisy muffler will land the offender in court. Fines range from five to fifty dollars.

Truck-tractor and truck-trailer drivers are required to undergo special examinations in New Jersey, under a new law. A written test, yearly medical examination, reaction test, and an extensive road test using the driver's own equipment, are required.

Off-center lanes to speed up rush-hour traffic is steadily gaining favor. A number of cities are doing this by means of traffic lights strung across the street. During normal traffic hours two lanes show green and two show red from each direction, on a four-lane street. During the morning rush hours, however, a third lane is changed to green, inbound, and only one lane is reserved for outbound traffic. During the afternoon rush hours there are three outbound lanes and only one inbound one. Many cities accomplish the same purpose with portable cones which are placed and picked up by special crews working from pickup trucks.

"Should we have a traffic light on this corner?" is a question that often arises. This and many other questions are answered in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the U. S. Public Roads Administration. The general rule is that there should be a minimum of 750 vehicles per hour entering the intersection, with a least 175 coming from the minor direction. For a 24-hour period the total should not be not less than 9000 vehicles, with at least one-fourth coming from the minor street.

"Yield right of way" signs have replaced stop signs in over 100 cities -- in certain situations, that is. The new signs are said to speed up traffic, promote safety and simplify enforcement problems. In Dallas, Texas, women drivers are reported to be especially enthusiastic over the new system. When driving alone at night many women drivers are afraid to bring their cars to a dead stop at dark corners.



Fire

Richmond, California, in between fires has its firemen survey industrial buildings, hospitals, schools, churches, and other public buildings, and drawings and bulletins are prepared to give such helpful information to all members of the Fire Department.

The safety director of Miami, Florida, has recommended the discontinuation of fire alarm boxes because half of the alarms turned in on them have been false, and ten times as many alarms come in by telephone. Phoenix, Arizona, reported that 80% of alarms from fire alarm boxes were false, as compared with 2.8% of false alarms received by telephone. Salisbury, North Carolina, last year received 247 alarms by phone and 27 through box alarm system -- of the latter four were false.

Fire endurance tests of gunite concrete partitions with welded-wire reinforcement, made by the National Bureau of Standards, revealed that substitution of sawdust for sand and (up to 50%) increased fire resistance and reduced cracking and spalling. Corresponding reductions of strength of the concrete, as portions of sawdust were increased, also resulted.

New Haven, Connecticut, uses a tape recorder to record all fire alarms, at a cost of about $20.00 per year. This gives an undisputed record of the speed of response to alarms.

A hydrant gate valve has been suggested in long lays of fire hose to eliminate shutting down of the pumper to add extra hose. Another idea is the use of "walkie-talkie" radios for communication between pump-operator and nozzleman on long lays.

Milford, Connecticut, reports toxic fumes from burning plastic seat covers that overcame one man and almost overcame another.

In Irondequoit, New York, two men without masks descended into a sewer manhole, and were overcome by the fumes. Two firemen with all-purpose canister masks tried to rescue them. All four died from asphyxiation before they could be brought out. The victims were eventually removed by utility employees and firemen wearing oxygen-generating and air-demand type masks.

Miami, Florida, is installing a fire-police telephone alarm system, with telephones in boxes for use by citizens. The telephone company will maintain the system. Estimated cost is $15 per month for each telephone box.

San Jose, California, has successfully completed experiments with a ground radio police-fire alarm system. Spoken communication can be held between a citizen and alarm headquarters and a signal is also automatically transmitted which positively identifies location of the alarm box.

Philadelphia's firemen, turned fire inspectors, visited more than 6000 business establishments and reported 2850 hazardous conditions. Radio contact with headquarters was maintained during the inspections.

Phoenix, Arizona, and Norfolk, Virginia, make fire inspections of dwellings to make residents more fire-prevention conscious and to reduce fire losses. Regular firemen, in touch with fire stations by radio, make the inspections.

Fire hydrants (tops and nozzle caps) should be painted distinctive colors to indicate capacities, according to the American Water Works Association, which has adopted the following scheme: 1000 gpm or greater -- green; 500 to 1000 gpm -- orange; less than 500 gpm -- red.

Fire hydrant caps are painted in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, to indicate the size of the main to which connected, as follows: red, 4-inch; white, 6-inch; blue, 8-inch. Hydrants painted all yellow are connected to 10-inch mains, and green hydrants indicate 12-inch mains.

The telephone directory listing of a fire department, in addition to the usual notice on an introductory page, is recommended by the National Board of Fire Underwriters as follows:

Fire Department
To report a FIRE. . . . . (number)
Or Dial or Call the Operator
For all other purposes. . . . . (a different number)

Yellow fire plugs, instead of the traditional red ones, are appearing in Detroit. The color change is being made so that hydrants can be found easier at night.

All fire vehicles are radio equipped in New York City now. Result is that they observe traffic rules governing other vehicles when returning from calls. It is not necessary to rush back to the fire station with sirens sounding and red lights flashing now, since the equipment is in constant contact with the dispatcher anyway.

A microwave fire alarm system is being tested in Phoenix, Arizona. RCA is cooperating in the tests, which will be completed by January 1, 1954. Cost of the system is expected to be less than half the amount required for an underground cable system.

Police

Captain Custer Dunifon, of the Fort Wayne police department, uses dogs for safety demonstrations for school children. He observed that they captured the children's imagination, making a greater impression of the importance of caution and obedience in observing safety laws.

In San Antonio, Texas, 100 mothers of school children, recruited by the PTA, act as school crossing guards. They will not issue tickets but take down license numbers and are prepared to testify in court.

Lubbock, Texas (population 72,000), using donated funds, has an annual banquet for police officers at which awards of $250, $150, $100, $75 and $50 are made to patrolmen of non-officer rank, selected by the citizens traffic commission on a basis of courtesy, alertness, neatness, personality, and competence.

Richmond, Virginia, has six full-time women police who tag over-time parkers and who may be given other assignments in the police traffic division.

Drunks' cars to be labeled with a "Scarlet Letter" is proposed in a bill submitted to the California legislature. The label, a 2½" red plastic "D" for drunken driving or "R" for reckless driving, would remain on the offender's car for at least three months, in addition to other penalties imposed. After three months without further violations the offender could ask the court to sanction removal of the letter.

Renting police cars from a local automobile dealer instead of buying them outright is expected to save Bay City, Michigan, $4000 a year. Under the rental plan the city pays four cents per mile, furnishes gasoline, insurance, radio and flasher equipment. The dealer repairs and maintains the eleven-car fleet and replaces them with new models when the speedometers reach 60,000 miles.

A special barracks for alcoholics will be built at the Cleveland, Ohio, workhouse. The prisoners will not be compelled to take any special treatment but members of Alcoholics Anonymous will be available. A similar plan is used in Detroit and is reported to be working successfully.

Beatrice, Nebraska, by taking movies of persons arrested for drunken driving, increased convictions from 30% to 100% of arrests.

The results of Drunkometer tests as admissible evidence has been limited to instances in which the administrator can testify that he has personally mixed the chemicals used in a test, under a recent court decision. To overcome this limitation, the company manufacturing the device now offers the chemicals in pre-mixed form. Use of the pre-mixed chemicals eliminates the necessity of each test administrator keeping his materials in a special cabinet or locker to which only he has access.

Compared to a year ago, 33% more cities (total of 222) are using chemical tests for intoxication. One or more enforcement agencies in 42 states use this method.

The National Safety Council will advise and assist cities in setting up Citizens Traffic Commissions, which have been effective agencies in many cities in dealing with the motor vehicular traffic problem.

Traffic-actuated signals are operated by the passage of motor vehicles over treadles installed in streets, which control the signals and cause them to adjust to varying volumes of traffic on intersecting streets, as contrasted with fixed-time signals now in general use.

The F.B.I. reports that microscopic examination of hair can frequently be of material assistance in solving cases such as rape, murder, hit and run, and assault.

Memphis has employed 20 women as policewomen for duty at school crossings in directing traffic. Knoxville is also planning to hire policewomen. Other cities hiring women for police duty in recent months include Salisbury, North Carolina, and Hackensack, New Jersey; in the latter city some of the women work from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., thus enabling them also to attend to household duties. Women check parking meters in Alexandria, Virginia, and in Asheville and Greensboro, North Carolina.

Tulscaloosa, Alabama, has passed an ordinance requiring that a permit be issued by the Public Safety Commissioner to authorize solicitations for charitable, educational, religious or philanthropic purposes, except the County Community Chest, American Red Cross, and churches, lodges, and similar established organizations.

Pittsburg, Kansas, by providing one penalty box for each eight parking meters where overparkers could drop 50¢ in an envelope (fine had previously been $1.00, payable at police station), increased the average of overtime parking penalties from $6.12 per day to $14.42.

A New York City magistrate has inaugurated a new policy of workhouse sentences for motorists who ignore as many as six parking summons in three years.

Wheeling, West Virginia, checks speeders with electric timing devices, but the city posts conspicuous signs reading "SPEED ELECTRICALLY TIMED" to warn motorists; speeding violations dropped off 40% as a result. In Hialeah, Florida, the same type of device reduced the local accident rate by 40%.

Kingsport has adopted an ordinance, modeled after a Virginia state law, requiring the addition of one-fourth grain of tartar emetic to each fluid ounce of bay-rum sold in the city, which makes it undrinkable.

Toledo, Ohio, has installed a mechanical sorting system to determine past violations of a person charged before the traffic court, so that the judge may be advised of past offenses and deal appropriately with habitual or frequent offenders.

New York City's police force will wear uniforms while travelling to and from duty, the theory being that the appearance of a uniform on a bus, subway, or along the route will be a deterrent to crime.

Bloomington and Urbana, Illinois, have junior police organizations. Instruction is given to members on government, law, public protection, and safety. A program of recreation, competition, entertainment and education also stimulates interest. One important result has been a decline in juvenile delinquency.

Columbus, Ohio, is beginning the use of the voice-recorded confession in addition to the signed written statement in evidence shown against the defendant in court.

The American Bar Association has prepared a small leaflet, entitled "We Don't Want Your Money," for distribution to persons convicted of traffic violations. Its use in traffic courts would seem to be highly desirable. Cities may obtain this leaflet in quantities.

Finger printing of applicants for taxi drivers' licenses is mandatory in Baltimore, Cleveland, Atlanta, Kansas City, Mo., New Orleans, Seattle, Tacoma and New York City.

Elizabethton reports that a junior police organization kept vandalism on Halloween at an unprecedented low level.

The Institute of Public Administration has recommended that the New York City Police Department form a corps of police cadets 18 to 24 years old, to perform clerical, communications and other non-police duties. They would release policemen for patrol work and would constitute a reservoir of future training recruits.

Hamilton County's (Ohio) sheriff, Dan Tehan, has found that an almost continual program of seasonal sports, tailored especially for wide and constant participation, has curbed juvenile delinquency.

A "speed watch" timing system is being used in Dyersburg to reduce speeding. Instruments are set up at locations where there have been complaints of speed. Two timers are set up at a measured distance apart, and as a car passes the first, it starts the timer; as it passes the second it stops the timer, and the results are read by an officer about 250 feet beyond the second timer, who then signals the driver to stop if there has been a violation.

Traffic violations of all individuals are being mechanically recorded on cards in Memphis, in order that complete case histories of violators may be presented to the judge.

School children are warned against strangers in a leaflet issued over the signatures of the Knoxville Chief of Police and the Knox County Sheriff. The Hamilton National Bank of Knoxville paid some $350 for about 20,000 copies of the leaflet and distribution was accomplished by police officers visiting schools. The leaflet could be reproduced and would be equally applicable in any city. Copies and helpful advice may be obtained from Knoxville's Chief of Police Joseph T. Kimsey or Mr. W. E. Newell, Vice President, Hamilton National Bank, Knoxville.

The Memphis Juvenile Court is now requiring teen-age traffic violators to complete a traffic training course before permitting them to drive again. Training courses will be rotated among various schools so that all interested persons may benefit. All citizens, especially teen-agers, are invited to the free sessions and certificates are awarded to those who complete the course. The Memphis Junior Chamber of Commerce has donated a Porto-Clinic Traffic Trainer for use in the course.

Policewomen in Toledo, Ohio, are equipped with uniforms patterned after those of New York City. The new uniform is of "Police-Blue" serge and has brass buttons. The hat is similar to that worn by the WAVES.

The drunkometer, invented by a professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine, has proved its merit to Owensboro, Kentucky, police officials. Although it has been scornfully referred to by defense attorneys as a "gadget" it brought 150 pleas of guilty out of the first 152 cases in which it was used. After using it seven months the police judge comments: "It will convict the guilty and free the innocent and after all that is the purpose of the Court." The device is presently in use in Memphis and Knoxville.

Protection of resort property, vacant for extended periods, has been partially solved by the police of Miami Shores, Florida. Officers visit each vacant residence and sprinkle a special powder on the doorknobs, window sills, etc. Should officers spot a suspect in the neighborhood they direct an ultraviolet ray on him. The powder is plainly visible in ultraviolet light but is invisible in ordinary light.

Cost of policing for special events is charged against the sponsoring agency in Miami, Florida. The rate is $2.00 per hour, with a $5.00 minimum total charge. This charge is made for off-duty policemen used at funerals, football games, dances, commercial shows or displays and for contractors who may create special traffic problems.

Ninety underprivileged boys spent a happy week at Big Ridge State Park last August as guests of Knoxville Lodge No. 2, Fraternal Order of Police. Four officers were assigned full time to the camp project and many others visited the camp during the week. Although the cost was considerable, FOP officials believe the results justified the outlay. As one official said, "It's better to build boys than to mend men.

The country's biggest crime wave may come in the next ten years, warns J. Edgar Hoover. His thinking: During this period the huge baby crop of the 1950's will reach their teens, the age-group responsible for the majority of all crimes. At the same time the 65-and-older group will reach an all-time high. This latter group furnishes the greatest number of victims of murder, robbery and other vicious offenses. His advice: "quit trying to shift the responsibility for crime detection to the State and Federal governments; instead, take vigorous and sustained action at the community level to eliminate conditions which breed crime and to strengthen local enforcement agencies. Crime can best be controlled at its source."

Identification by 3-D color photographs will be used by the Omaha, Nebraska, police department as soon as the equipment can be purchased. It is believed that the addition of depth and color will make identification from photographs easier and more positive. The new pictures will be projected onto a screen.

Police motorcycles have been discontinued in Toledo, Ohio. A high accident rate among members of the squad prompted the move.

A curfew law for youngsters under 17 has been proposed in Camden, New Jersey, following a report which showed that 80 percent of the city's crimes were committed by persons under 17. According to the plan, boys and girls under 17, when found on the streets after 10 p.m. will be taken to police headquarters, where parents will be summoned.

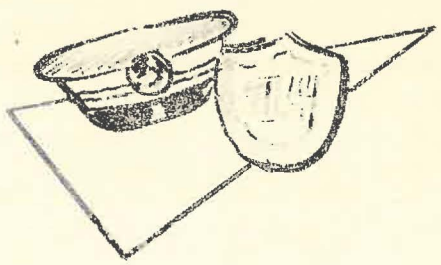
A new uniform fabric, for police and firemen's uniforms, is in use in Columbia, South Carolina. The new summer uniform is a tropical worsted composed of 50 percent wool and 50 percent Dacron. This material is much more comfortable than the all-wool gabardine uniforms formerly supplied for summer wear; at the same time it is said to have the neat appearance and crease-retention qualities of the heavier fabrics. For winter uniforms Columbia uses a 50 percent wool, 50 percent Dacron mixture in a serge weave.

An annual police pistol shoot is held in Toledo, Ohio. Peace officers only are eligible to compete. Contestants come from all parts of the United States and Canada. The Toledo police combat range is set up to simulate actual police action, testing the officer's judgment as well as his marksmanship. This is done by having the "culprit" target dodge among "innocent bystanders."

A school motter patrol has been approved for Kingsport, effective this fall. The women will work about 15 hours a week and will receive $60 a month. Uniforms will be furnished by the city. Knoxville has added two women to its police force, to handle school traffic work, also. In addition to other measures taken for the prevention of school crossing accidents, Knoxville uses a police-trained Boys Safety Patrol.

Slowpoke driving is coming in for legislative attention these days. New York State has a new law making it a traffic offense to drive at an unreasonably slow speed. Maine prohibits a speed so slow as to block or impede the flow of traffic.

An upward trend in major crimes for the country as a whole is reported by the FBI. The overall increase for the first half of 1953, as compared with the 1952 level, was 2.5 percent. Aggravated assault cases increased by 8.4 percent, rape cases by 6.5 percent, and auto thefts by 5.1 percent. The increase in rural crime accounted for most of the overall increase. Rural crimes increased by 9 percent during the six months period, contrasted with an increase of 0.5 percent in all major urban crimes.



Miscellany

The independent board is apparently most favored for administration of public utilities, according to the results of a survey reported by the American Public Power Association. However, it was also noted that no one pattern can be categorically prescribed as the best plan for all communities.

A utility consulting service is available to cities from a cooperative public utility bureau organized in January 1953. Further information may be obtained from John Bauer, 280 Broadway, New York City.

Dayton, Ohio, has passed an ordinance requiring severance of existing connections from down-spout drains and cistern overflows to the sanitary sewer system, to reduce overloading of sanitary sewers.

Dayton, Ohio, received $192.48 in the first month as its 10% share of gross receipts, under a lease of space in the airport administration building to a car rental agency.

Santa Monica, California, is acquiring a new incinerator under a "lease-option to buy" plan. After paying monthly rentals and insurance for five years, the city can exercise an option to buy (but has no obligation to do so) the plant.

Dutch Elm Disease has been successfully controlled in Stratford, Conn., by spraying with a solution of DDT. Three sprayings per year cut the infestation from 276 trees in 1947 to 160 in 1948, 60 in 1949, and only 11 trees in 1950.

Do you need shade trees for your playgrounds and parks? If so, you can get all the trees you want from the Tennessee Division of Forestry. Cost is $3.00 per thousand. The trees are only a foot tall but a number of fast-growing varieties are available which will give you ample shade within a surprisingly few years. A mixture of these trees and the longer-lived, slower-growing varieties makes an ideal selection.

Toledo, Ohio, has a forestry ordinance that provides for removal of blighted trees from private property.

Smaller shade trees, to replace the elms killed by Dutch Elm Disease, are recommended by many park authorities. These smaller varieties can produce as beautiful effects as elms without some of the disadvantages inherent in the elm's huge size. Smaller sizes and more varieties cut down the loss from plant diseases decrease danger during windstorms, and facilitate tree removal when that is necessary.

Highway noises are largely absorbed or deflected by dense foliage. Hedges and trees properly placed, not only beautify the surrounding, they prevent needless wear and tear on the home-owner's nerves. Trees and shrubs for such planting should be carefully selected to meet roadside conditions and design requirements.

In at least 35 American communities the city and county governments share the same building, resulting in lower costs and greater convenience to citizens.

Raleigh, Greensboro, and High Point, North Carolina, have discontinued city health departments, turning over public health functions to their county governments.

Jasper, Alabama, passed an ordinance licensing and regulating auctioneers. Three-months licenses are required and false bids are prohibited.

University City, Missouri, and the local board of education have entered into an agreement for joint purchases of certain supplies.

The State Veterinarian advises that 49 Tennessee counties have adopted Chapter 246, 1951 Public Acts, which provides for a program of rabies prevention among dogs. Adoption and active support of this Act by all Tennessee counties would relieve city officials of a troublesome problem, and would be well received by residents of cities who fear this dread disease.

Two 35 mm. film strips on rodent control may be obtained on a free loan basis from the Communicable Disease Center, P. O. Box 185, Chamblee, Georgia.

Wilmington, North Carolina, notifies property owners to clean up vacant lots. If property owners do not comply within a reasonable time, the city performs the work and assesses the cost against the owner.

Convention travel expenses frequently turn out to be good investments for cities. An Akron, Ohio, council member asserts that he picked up one suggestion at a national municipal convention which saved his city $10,000 in the ensuing year.

Smoke elimination efforts are given proper emphasis in the motto of the Smoke Regulation Engineer of Evansville, Indiana: "Smoke is abated in firebox; not in courtroom!"

The Bureau of Alcoholic Therapy in New York City operated at a cost of $145.84 per person treated last year. Hospitalization, imprisonment and welfare grants for untreated alcoholics varied from $1,500 to $3,000 per man during the same period.

The population living in cities has increased from one-third of the entire population to two-thirds within the past 60 years, says the International City Managers Association.

A painted steel cut-out of a traffic policeman is a very effective "Caution" warning. Such a device, attached to the customary "School-Caution" standard is being produced by Eastern Metals Co., Elmira, New York.

Salvage work on ten city dumps is done by 100 trusted county jail inmates in Denver, Colorado. Net income from the sorting and sale of collected material is expected to total $100,000 annually. Deputy sheriffs guard the prisoners assigned to this outside work.

Stray dogs and cats are the source of many complaints. Trenton, New Jersey, handles the problem in a novel but effective manner. Since 1941 the city has turned over 25 percent of its dog license fees to the local chapter of SPCA. The city also provides space at its dog pound for some of the Society's equipment. The cooperative program has paid off; Trenton police are seldom bothered with complaints about dogs running at large and destroying shrubbery and flowers.

More progress in housing was made in Mississippi than in any other state during the decade from 1940 to 1950, according to a recent nationwide survey. 17.3 percent of Mississippi's homes were built between 1945 and 1950, compared with 13 percent for the county as a whole. Owner-occupied homes increased from 33 percent in 1940 to 48 percent in 1950. The percentage of Negro homes occupied by owners climbed from 18 percent in 1940 to 31 percent in 1950. Total number of dwelling units increased by 9.3 percent, even though the state's population declined slightly. New conveniences were added to existing homes at a rapid rate during the period, also.

Water pollution control will be spurred by the opening of a newly completed research center in Cincinnati. The center is designed to investigate new, cheaper and more effective ways of disposing of sewage and industrial waste. It will be operated by the U. S. Public Health Service.

Need help with a farmer's market? Federal help in determining the need for a market, in working out detailed plans, in estimating costs and in finding the best location for the plant is available from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Over 50 cities have received such help in the past.

Smoke abatement is always a timely topic. Louisville, Kentucky, has made tremendous progress toward "a place in the sun." With assistance from the Coal Producers Committee for Smoke Abatement, a sensible, workable program was developed -- which did not involve a wholesale change-over to new fuels. One interesting fact brought out by the preliminary survey -- one of the most intensive such surveys ever undertaken -- was that the real villains in the air pollution scene are industrial plants. Domestic heating systems have very little effect.

Over half of health and welfare funds, both public and voluntary, are spent upon six percent of the population, in two communities in which surveys were recently completed.

Apartment house incinerators in New York City must be equipped with an approved type of filter or settling chamber by January 1955. Cost of the anti-smoke equipment is estimated at $600-$700 per incinerator.

