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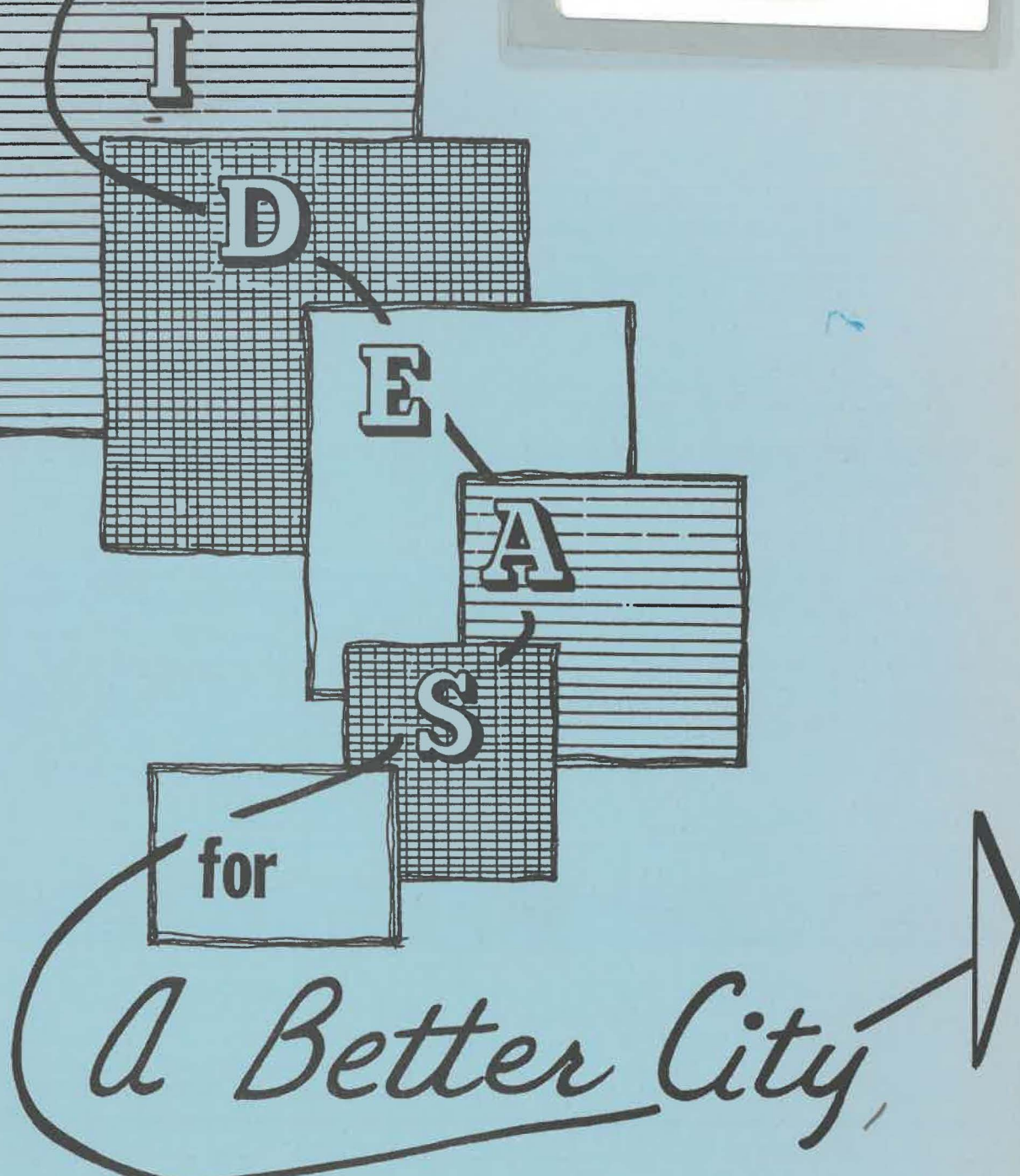


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MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT—
ADMIN

Municipal Government—
Administration

ARCHIVES



Compiled by MARY BUSH MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

In cooperation with the TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Knoxville,
Tennessee / Also
Nashville

FOREWORD

This publication, edited by Mary Bush, Secretary, MTAS, is a roundup of items which have appeared during the past year in the Technical Section of Tennessee Town & City. These items have been extracted from periodicals and other publications in the field of municipal government.

It is our hope that this "catalog of municipal ideas" will be useful to Tennessee municipal officials and to other interested persons.

Victor C. Hobday
Executive Director

December 1959

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IDEAS

1959



Public Works

PUBLIC WORKS

Asphalt concrete facing was used for the first time in the United States in the construction of the Montgomery Dam. The asphalt face was laid to a thickness of twelve inches in three compacted courses on a slope of 1 (vertical) to 1.7 (horizontal). (Asphalt Institute Quarterly, April 1959, p. 4)

American ivy, otherwise known as Virginia Creeper or woodbine, contributes significantly to the deterioration of stone and brick structures by inserting filaments between the bricks and stones and encouraging the penetration of water to the interior. (Civil Engineering, April 1959, p. 35)

Manhole covers are raised after street resurfacing is completed in Omaha, Nebraska. When pre-set, the manholes often cause the paver to ride up, thus disturbing uniformity of material application. Too, it is hard to pre-set covers to exact grade; often they will be off enough to cause roughness. The post-setting eliminates these problems and automatically assures a smooth surface. (Street Engineering, December 1958, p. 12)

New, five purpose fixtures will replace New York City's 120,000 lamp-posts. The new lamp-posts, now in the design stage, will provide street lighting, traffic signals, police telephones, fire alarm boxes and street signs in a single installation. (Engineering News-Record, February 5, 1959, p. 26)

Re-capped tires are used extensively in Kansas City, Missouri, for equipment used only on city streets and not subject to high speed, or excessive roughness. Re-caps have proven an efficient and inexpensive tire replacement for a larger amount of the city's motorized equipment. (Street Engineering, September 1958, p. 40)

A system of concrete forms made from 1 1/8" plastic-impregnated plywood with steel backing bars is on the market. The manufacturer claims that concrete foundation walls can be built cheaper than a concrete block wall when these forms are used. Little bracing is required and sections are light-weight and easily handled when erected or stored. (Simplex Forms Systems, Inc., 5605 Industrial Avenue, Rockford, Illinois)

Underground gas leaks are principally caused by: frost, vibration, overhead pressure, settlement, tree roots, etc. (42%); lack of regular inspection by the utility (20%); failure to protect pipes during new construction (17%); delays in repairing leaks (4%); and inadequate testing (4%). (Consumer Bulletin, August 1958, p. 2)

A quick-drying building to aid wet workers is being planned by the Knoxville Utilities Board. The drying room, for workmen of the water main crews, will have a capacity of 80 baskets of clothes at one

time. The building, 20' x 20', costing \$3,000, will be of steel frame with aluminum sheeting sides and corrugated aluminum roof. When the men come in the building wet, they put their clothes in a basket which goes through a gas-heated section near the ceiling which will dry them immediately. (Knoxville Journal, January 10, 1959)

Under a new bonus plan instituted by the Jefferson County, Colorado, Board of Education, architects will get five per cent of any money saved from the budgeted cost of building projects. However, architects must redesign any buildings whose bids exceed the budget by more than five per cent. (Engineering News-Record, June 18, 1959, p. 37)

Catch basin gratings in Puyallup, Washington, were improved by rounding the tops of the grating bars. This improved design allowed water to drain much more rapidly, eliminated the bicycle hazard, and offered more protection to women wearing high heels. (Western City, April 1959, p. 30)

Jackhammer noise is said to be cut 55 per cent by a muffler developed by a Los Angeles company. The muffler consists of two jackets, heavily lined with soundproofing materials, that can be quickly zipped into place around the air hammers. (Nashville Banner, August 12, 1959)

An instrument rental service, offered by General Electric, provides instruments for more than 70 different kinds of measurement--many of them useful to critical manufacturing or laboratory processes. For sewage works usage there are more than 200 different "families" of instruments. Representing an investment of several million dollars, the instruments may be rented through any of the company's local service shops, or through its apparatus sales offices. (Wastes Engineering, June 1959, p. 330)

A daily bulletin on construction plans and progress is furnished city employees in Harper Woods, Michigan. Particularly, policemen and firemen are kept informed of developments on an expressway, a storm sewer system, and several paving, sewer, and water supply building programs. (Public Administration Bulletin, February 28, 1959)

An automatic "magic-switch" is now available which will turn warning flashers on at dark and off at daylight. This device is said to end the contractors' problems of paying laborers to turn flashers on and off or wasting batteries by leaving the light on 24 hours a day. (Engineering News-Record, December 11, 1958, p. 76)

The sidewalk superintendent watching the foundation work for a 31-story office building in New York City can pick up one of the 15 handy telephones to get a brief, but clear, recorded explanation of what is going on. On the second day the telephones were in service, some 2,500 persons used them to listen to the 45-second, non-technical, explanation of the work in progress. The workmen like the

wired-for-sound observation post because it keeps curious passers-by from driveways used for trucks. (Engineering News-Record, May 14, 1959, p. 30)

A mechanical curb trimmer, developed by the Public Works Department of Richmond (Va.), is used for maintenance of center grass plots in streets, parks, and along walkways. The device works off of a hydraulic cultivator attachment located between the front and rear wheel of a small tractor. It consists essentially of an arm to which is attached a colter disc blade. By using this device, the overhanging grass can be trimmed from the curbs and walks more frequently at much lower cost than by hand hoes. (The American City, November 1958, p. 14)

Inspection activities of a municipality should be consolidated in one department, according to a management consulting firm working for the local government of Bloomington, Minnesota. They showed that a central inspection office can reduce the number of secretarial positions needed, consolidate inspection forms, eliminate duplication of activities, provide better records of work load and divide the work among employees more equally, resulting in decreased cost and increased production. (Horizons, December 1958)

A self-propelled trencher which digs three inches wide and three feet deep is on the market. The winch-driven trencher can be started, set at the desired depth and left unattended while it is digging. (Engineering News-Record, October 15, 1959, p. 80)

Worthless truck tires are put to good use in Athens, Georgia. A blasting contractor, when blasting close to buildings, lays a cushion of 25 used truck tires over the shot hole and covers them with wire cable-mats. His blasts throw no rock at all and very little dust. In blasting as close as two feet from buildings, not one window was broken. (Construction Methods and Equipment, July 1959, p. 254)

POLICE AND FIRE

Metal tags protect diabetics against the possibility of being treated as drunks if involved in an accident. The tags are worn on a chain around the neck or wrist and give the person's name and address and the warning that he is a diabetic. (Traffic Safety, November 1958, p. 5)

A Bicycle Patrol, composed of 16 boys between the ages of 12 and 14, was recently organized in Dothan, Alabama. The Patrol is very useful in reporting burned out street lights, road hazards and promoting safety in other ways. The boys have been provided with special badges and hold weekly meetings at the police station. (Alabama Municipal Journal, November 1958, p. 35)

Policemen are needed at fires, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, New York City. A minimum of one patrol car and two men, or the equivalent in motorcycle police, should be sent to a fire alarm in order to prevent serious delay in fire department operations. Police should prevent automobile traffic from entering a block where there is a fire, motor vehicles from driving over fire hose, and unauthorized persons from entering buildings during or immediately after a fire. They also help by controlling double parking, regulating traffic at crowded intersections, and preventing parking along fire lanes. (The American City, November 1958, p. 13)

Bicycle licensing is handled by a fire department in Burbank, California. Licenses can be obtained at any of the six fire stations scattered over the city between the hours of 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. each Saturday. Boys and girls like the idea of going to the fire department "on business" and they likewise like the idea of having their bikes licensed. (Western City, January 1959, p. 25)

Volunteer firemen are summoned by a system which rings 70 telephones at the same time in Garden City, New York. The fire dispatcher, on receiving an alarm, picks up a special telephone on his desk and dials, simultaneously ringing phones in the homes of 70 volunteer firemen. The firemen get the calls on their regular phones, using no special equipment. (The Kentucky City Bulletin, January 1959, p. 3)

Women are employed on a 24-hour basis as clerk-operators for the central radio-telephone section of the police and fire departments in Park Forest, Illinois. The employees are given written and oral examinations and receive radio-telephone training before beginning work. The Village saves about \$5,000 per year by employing women in place of male police officers. (Public Management, April 1959, p. 100)

It's easy to summon police assistance in Oneonta, Alabama, no matter how frightful or confused the circumstances may be. Instead of having to remember or look in the phone book for the police station

number, they simply dial the exchange combination which precedes all local numbers and then dial H-E-L-P. (The Municipal South, February 1959, p. 42)

Standard fire hose thread is now required of all city fire departments in California--a move the National Fire Protection Association has been urging nationally. Savings up to half the cost of couplings is expected, according to the International City Managers' Association, and the initial cost of switching to the standard threads is small. (Alabama Municipal Journal, January 1959, p. 37)

"Formula H," a new, tremendously efficient fire killing dry chemical powder has been developed. It uses inert, non-toxic additives and a liquid synthetic resin to form a protective film around each granule of sodium bicarbonate. Individual granules are thus permanently separated, thereby assuring optimum powder flow under any and all conditions. (The Fyr-Fyter News, January 1959)

An "electric siren, public address system and radio amplifier" combination which is ideal for all classes of industrial emergency vehicles has been developed. It is economical, compact, easy to install, offering unmatched performance, operation and safety features. The all-weather speaker may be mounted on the car roof or on the fender. (The Fyr-Fyter News, January 1959)

Safety measures to follow in hiring a baby sitter are listed on a card developed by the police department and Crime Prevention Council in Statesville, North Carolina. (League of North Dakota Municipalities, March 1959, p. 19)

Dacron fire hose has been in use in Newtown, Pennsylvania, for more than three years and several advantages are reported to be gained in its use. Because of its greater flexibility and lightness, the Dacron hose is easier to handle on ladders, is faster drying, and easier to pack on the truck. A prime advantage of the new hose is the fact that 2,500 feet of it may be stored in a space on a truck originally intended for 1,400 feet of conventional hose. (Horizons, October 1958)

Checking automobile parking in non-metered areas is accomplished in Burbank, California, by using a small automobile with right-hand drive. The small car--equipped with three-way radio, siren, red light, shotgun, and other equipment--costs about \$100 less than a three-wheel motorcycle. By using this car, the city has been able to eliminate the \$300 per year hazard pay for motorcycle duty. (Public Management, June 1959, p. 147)

A new fire-explosion warning device has been developed after five years' research by a Minneapolis concern, which says the instrument not only signals the actual fire but smoke and vapors, too. It is said to be the first warning device sensitive to all three. (Chattanooga Times, February 8, 1959)

New super-lightweight car coats are being tested by Philadelphia policemen. The jackets weigh only six pounds, one third the weight of present coats, and are more durable. (American Municipal News, February 28, 1959)

Town police cadets, five teenagers, have been used in Berwyn Heights, Maryland, to relieve older officers for more hazardous duties. The cadets handle traffic responsibilities and serve as an auxiliary in the event of emergency. Police officers have sponsored this plan because they "want to do something about delinquency." (American Municipal News, November 15, 1958)

Grease fires in commercial kitchens can be prevented if some sort of flame arrestor or double flame baffle is incorporated in the steel grease filters to prevent the flame from passing through the filter and burning in the hood and duct beyond the filters. (Southern Building, July 1959, p. 12)

Civic betterment arising from professional training for city policemen is stressed by a Dallas, Texas, bank which pays the college tuition of one Dallas policeman a year. The idea came to the bank chairman during the construction of the bank when he was impressed by the efficient police handling of traffic and safety problems occasioned by the huge construction program. Realizing that many times policemen "went the extra mile" in cooperating with the bank and construction officials at the site, he considered ways in which he could give tangible demonstration of appreciation to the entire police organization. The scholarship fund made it possible for qualified young officers who showed interest and competence in areas of police traffic functions to attend the Traffic Institute of Northwestern University. (The Nebraska Municipal Journal, August 1959, p. 21)



TRAFFIC AND PARKING

A helicopter shuttle service has been authorized to be operated by the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, to cities within a 65-mile radius. The city may either operate the service itself or award a franchise to private enterprise. (The Municipal South, May 1959, p. 41)

Off-street parking must be provided in many cities by the owners of new, rebuilt, or expanded public buildings and apartments. Lower Merion Township, Pennsylvania, goes a step further, providing the parking lot too. Certificates of participation in the city lot are sold to owners of buildings within 300 feet at half the cost of one space (or a contribution of land equal to half of one parking space). (Public Administration Bulletin, March 30, 1959, p. 3)

Elimination of four-way intersections in existing, platted areas wherever possible for increased traffic safety was the objective of the Planning Department in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After an intensive study it was determined that the "T" intersection is equally safe in both controlled and noncontrolled access subdivisions, the accident rate in both cases being six accidents per 1,000 intersections. The four-way intersection produced 246 accidents per thousand in controlled access subdivisions. (The American City, April 1959, p. 137)

The Model Beer Ordinance recently passed in Clarksville, Tennessee, has produced a marked improvement in traffic conditions in the city since it prohibits delivery of beer on Saturdays. (The Municipal South, July 1958, p. 32)

An insufficient number of speed limit signs in the business districts, built-up areas, and routes leaving most cities is inadvertently making law violators of most motorists passing through cities. This is particularly true when city limit signs are far out and beyond the built-up areas. (M. U. Snoderly)

A new towing sling is being manufactured that is said to eliminate danger of damage to chrome and painted surfaces during lifting and towing operations. This is made possible by suspension on two high-strength, fabric lifting straps that provide a new type of cushioned safety. The bumper and bumper guards cannot be scarred, bent or defaced due to the fact that no metal comes in contact with these parts. (The American City, May 1958, p. 230)

Black and white sound motion pictures of drunken drivers, introduced as prosecution evidence, has increased by as high as 40 per cent the convictions of persons charged with driving under the influence. (The Municipal South, April 1959, p. 17)

Elimination of holiday office parties at which alcohol is served is being planned in many communities with the cooperation of business and industry. Other cities meet the crisis of holiday drinking and driving by organizing cab service or other transportation to take drinking drivers home. Others station police details around clubs and taverns to keep persons who have been drinking off the streets and out of traffic trouble. (Traffic Safety, November 1958, p. 19)

Parking meters in Toledo, Ohio, are set to give the citizens a break. They allow 62 to 64 minutes for the hourly deposit. (The Toledo City Journal, October 18, 1958, p. 1078)

Submerged combustion has been used by a parking lot operator to dispose of snow. By bulldozing the snow into a pit and using the oil burner, the parking lot was cleaned quickly, saving the cost of trucking it away. (Highway Highlights, July-August 1959, p. 30)

Determining the traffic pattern in any location can be done by the use of any cheap, white powdery substance spread on the pavement. Test the proposed channeling by using old paint buckets filled with sand, or rubber cones. If the device takes too much of a beating, take a second hard look. (Georgia Local Government Journal, July 1959, p. 30)

Supplementing sidewalk area at an elevated level will retain all of the favorable characteristics of the existing street system and eliminate or ease some of the more unfavorable aspects as now exist. Undesirable conditions such as pedestrian interference with vehicular traffic may be alleviated while a favorable condition such as taxicab curbside service and bus transportation curbside service could be retained. Supplemental sidewalk area could be provided at approximately the second floor level along the various business district streets. (Street Engineering, January 1959, p. 30)

12-passenger buses were purchased in Oxnard, California, a city which was too small for a regular transit system and too big to ask citizens to hike to market. Four bus routes were scheduled, covering each route every 30 minutes, all starting from the Plaza in downtown Oxnard. No home in the city is more than three blocks from bus transportation. Because of its small size, the bus is comparatively inexpensive to operate, yet roomy enough to take care of their loads averaging 25,000 passengers per month. (The American City, November 1958, p. 145)

A survey of street traffic designs in California indicates that curved streets and "T" intersections are safer. Subdivisions with these two features recorded only 10.2 accidents per year compared with 77.7 in older-style communities. (Street Engineering, September 1958, p. 8)

Traffic counting by radar has been instituted by the Florida State Road Department. The unit, suspended over the highway, counts vehicles instead of axles as the standard tube counter does, thus giving a more accurate hourly vehicle count; it also can be used to tally traffic in individual lanes. (Engineering News-Record, October 9, 1958, p. 17)

Wooden traffic officers in Bonn, West Germany, call attention to the city's safety signs. The movable arm of the figure points to the sign as an extra means of catching motorists' attention. (Traffic Safety, February 1959, p. 5)

Parking problems hold out many opportunities for imaginative solutions. In Germany, one parking structure looks and moves like an elongated Ferris Wheel. It operates on a conveyor system. The most important feature is that it holds 20 cars and requires only about 50 square feet of ground. (Engineering News-Record, July 30, 1959, p. 22)

Studies of commuting capacity of various facilities made by the American Association of Highway Officials recently disclosed these figures: 48,000 riders can be moved in one hour on one line by rail; 6,720 riders can be moved in one hour over one expressway lane by bus; and only 2,250 riders can be moved in one hour over an express-way lane by private automobile. ("Planning for Urban Transportation," Cornell University)

A noise control ordinance in Peoria, Illinois, permits a maximum level of 85 decibels at a distance of 50 feet for motor vehicle mufflers. (Illinois Municipal Review, May 1959, p. 26)

Flashing caution lights for school zones have been designed by the State prison. These lights, visible for 2,000 yards, will be operated only during hours when school students are crossing streets and highways. "These signs should make school zones safer for children and they are fairer to the motoring public," said Lt. John V. Fields, safety consultant with the State Department of Safety. He said one sign with two yellow caution lights which alternate in flashing is placed over each lane of the highway. "We are hoping civic clubs throughout the State will purchase the signs for the schools in their areas," Fields said. "They have to be purchased through a government unit as the State prison cannot sell to private organizations. Each sign costs \$46." (Nashville Banner, April 29, 1959)

Priorities in use of curb space should be given in the following order: movement should have first priority; loading and unloading next; short-time parking; and long-time parking. (Solutions to Parking Problems, Michigan State University)

Dyed cement is the latest idea for highways. In Los Angeles, they're talking of different colored highways to help drivers through confusing intersections. (News Sentinel, February 24, 1959)

Traditional yellow paint lines marking the no passing zones are often not seen by a driver in time to obey the law. It has been the feeling of the Iowa safety department for some time that part of the problem of illegal passing on their main highway resulted from poor visibility. Early this year, Iowa began an experiment that is now showing a 63 per cent reduction in the number of arrests for illegal passing on their main heavily traveled highway. The experiment consists of a large, triangular "No Passing Zone" sign posted on the left side of the road at the beginning of each no passing zone. (Traffic Safety, May 1959, p. 16)

Dramatizing the virtue of good driving instead of handing out summonses is an idea used in curbing traffic accidents in Buffalo, New York, the city rated at or near the top of all large cities in the prevention of traffic deaths. On one evening two patrolmen ordered 25 women drivers to the curb, then complimented them on their careful driving and handed them fresh orchids. (Applied Imagination, by Alex F. Osborn, Scribners, p. 6)

"Hotrodders" in Elizabethton, Tennessee, have been ordered to pay for gasoline police officers use in chasing the traffic offenders down. If it takes five gallons to catch a speeder, it's just that much more he has to pay, in addition to the fine. (Athens Post-Athenian, May 21, 1957)

An automatic collection idea for unpaid traffic tickets has been suggested by authorities in Washington, D. C. Ticket fines plus non-payment penalties will simply be added to the motorist's account at the License Bureau. If he doesn't pay up the full amount when the year rolls around, he doesn't get any license sticker. The system should bring in the ticket-holders promptly, might even cause some to avoid violations which rate tickets. (Knoxville News-Sentinel, November 19, 1958)

Overcoming dust on unpaved parking lots, driveways, road construction projects and other locations can be accomplished by using an inexpensive chemical preparation called "Pentrate." One part poured into 500 parts of water furnishes a working solution. (Safety Maintenance, December 1958, p. 49)

"Leapfrog" parking, alternate metered and free parking spaces at the curb, has been set up in Columbia, South Carolina, for semicommercial areas adjacent to the business district. This system will provide both for short-term parking with frequent turnover for customers of business establishments, and for long-term parking by employees working in nearby offices and persons planning to spend several hours in the central business district. (Public Management, January 1959, p. 21)

Integrating freeways with downtown facilities is the ingenious plan of an imaginative young consulting engineer in Los Angeles. He recently worked out the engineering problems and drew up designs for a multi-story parking garage which includes offices that can be erected around the perimeter of the building. A system was worked out whereby a tie-in between the freeway system, rapid transit facilities and imaginative

engineering could solve the perennial traffic congestion and parking headaches and permit nearly everyone to drive his car directly to and into his office building. (E. M. Khowry & Associates, Consulting Engineers, Los Angeles)



IDEAS

1959

Refuse
& Garbage



REFUSE AND GARBAGE

Humane animal disposal which is painless and inexpensive has won praise in Taylor, Michigan. The chamber is four feet high, five feet long, and three feet wide. By evacuating the air through a double-acting water-cooled vacuum pump, a quick and painless death is brought to the animals. (The American City, March 1959, p. 114)

Cleaning up the city by voluntary citizen action is a dramatic plan announced by the City of Philadelphia. The air raid test each Wednesday signals a fifteen-minute clean-up period for housewives, school children, and merchants to pick up litter on their own sidewalks. (American Municipal News, April 15, 1959)

Sanitary landfill operations with rubber-tired vehicles have been very successful in Buchanan, Michigan. Officials of Buchanan feel this is especially important to the smaller cities not having disposal operations of sufficient size to keep one machine busy during the entire work day. (Ohio Cities and Villages, September 1958, p. 284)

A refuse collection survey of about 60 cities last year indicated an estimated saving in collection costs of around 30 per cent through the use of modern packer-type trucks. (Ohio Cities and Villages, December 1958, p. 364)

Perfuming garbage cans--in addition to disinfecting--is a new practice of a New York City private garbage collection firm. Using the scent costs the company an extra \$1,000 a year but is considered money well spent when it keeps the customer happy. (Alabama Municipal Journal, November 1958, p. 33)

Colorful plastic litter baskets are now standard equipment in Kansas City, Missouri, police cars. As a result of a new comprehensive ordinance on littering, the policemen aim to set a good anti-litter-bugging example. The basket is designed to hang on the dashboard or other convenient place to receive discarded papers and other refuse sometimes carelessly dropped from automobile windows. (Missouri Municipal Review, December 1958, p. 189)



IDEAS

1959

HEALTH AND SAFETY

High school driving courses appear to make participating students about twice as safe on the road, according to a study conducted last year by the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. (The Lamp, Winter 1958-59, p. 22)

Designer inspection of construction is an effective means of preventing structural failures. One community in which a building collapsed is now preparing a law that will revoke a building permit for a project unless the engineer who designed it also takes responsibility for compliance with the plans. (Engineering News-Record, June 18, 1959, p. 312)

Proper food, particularly for breakfast, is an important factor in the prevention of accidents. According to a survey reported in Safety Newsletter of a plant which had an average of 1,500 employees, people on the first shift had more accidents than those working on the second shift. Investigation showed that approximately 75 per cent of the accidents happened to those workers who had not eaten breakfast; the largest number of the injuries occurred at 10 o'clock. (Consumer Bulletin, March 1959, p. 4)

A flashing warning light which uses kerosene as fuel is now available. It will operate for about 50 hours on 1/2 pint of kerosene, producing 50 to 60 evenly spaced flashes per minute. It is of durable construction, and designed to operate under severe weather conditions. Repairs require no special tools or training. (Engineering News-Record, May 21, 1959, p. 56)

Automobile exhaust gases may be reduced by means of non-catalytic afterburners for automobiles, according to a report by the Los Angeles Air Pollution Foundation. Their study indicated that automobile exhaust gases will burn under idling conditions if introduced into an ideal afterburner at 440°F, but under cruising conditions, the most unfavorable, a temperature of 1,240°F would be required. Such studies may lead to eventual elimination of automobile exhausts as sources of air pollution. (The American City, November 1958, p. 205)

Air pollution, particularly the kind that is emitted by automotive vehicles, can be lessened by planting trees. Trees take in carbon dioxide the way humans take in oxygen. Trees discharge oxygen. About a dozen trees are needed to offset one automobile. (The American City, July 1959, p. 33)

Rabies detection with a new fluorescent dye test may considerably shorten the time required to determine whether an animal has the disease. (Newsweek, June 8, 1959, p. 66)

Tranquilizer pellets, shot from a newly developed gun, brought in 14 dogs in Atlanta in a drive to rid the city of wild dog packs which might be infected with rabies. The gun shoots hypodermic-type pellets that make it easy to capture the animals alive. The dogs are turned over to the pound. (The Knoxville Journal, June 24, 1959)

Catching stray dogs was profitable for citizens of Newton, Illinois, last March. Two dollars was paid for each stray dog caught and delivered to the city dog pound on Saturdays. Reports that dogs were running in packs and killing small pets prompted this action by the city council. Dogs are prohibited from running at large, so any loose dog was eligible. The council provided that the dogs could be redeemed by paying \$2, plus \$1 per day for every day over two that they remained in custody. All dogs that remained over seven days were killed. The city required that all impounded dogs be licensed and vaccinated for rabies before being released. (The American City, May 1958, p. 208)

IDEAS

1959



WATER AND SEWAGE

A low range turbidimeter is available for monitoring the effluent from water filters. With its use the operator can determine the optimum rate of filtration consistent with high quality water. Also, the turbidity measurement is a reliable index as to the proper time for backwashing the filter. (Hach Company, Ames, Iowa)

"Water valve" is printed on colored posts to assist in locating water main valve boxes in suburban areas where valves are off the paved area in Morristown, Tennessee.

Nitrous oxide (laughing gas) has possibilities as a money-saving tracer for underground pipe leaks. A research institute reported that after a water solution of the colorless gas is injected into a pipeline, an infrared analyzer can readily detect the tracer gas at ground level above any leaks that might exist. (Engineering News-Record, October 15, 1959, p. 73)

Asphalt paved sludge beds were tried in Salt Lake City and were found to be advantageous over sand beds. It was found after the experiment that the asphalt base shortened the drying time and reduced maintenance and operating costs. (Water and Sewage Works, September 15, 1959, p. R-396)

Digested sewage sludge deepens the green color of lawns and stimulates a luxurious grass growth. Its benefits seem noticeable for several years. It should be applied late in March and again, if desired, early in September. (Water and Sewage Works, September 15, 1959, p. R-424)

A pipe cleaning apparatus, being used in Sterling, Illinois, avoids sterilization problems because the pipes are installed clean. The cleaner is made of three common scrub brushes, on springs, built around a half-inch pipe based with holes. The supply of water is from a garden hose feeding a 20-foot length of half-inch pipe. A handle at the opposite end enables the operator to revolve the brush. (Water and Sewage Works, March 1959, p. 135)

There is no sales appeal in sewers so most developers put in septic tanks, says Edward T. Thompson in the December issue of Fortune. The average home builder does not realize that up to 95 per cent of the water that enters a house must be carried away. Five or ten years later, the owner is stuck with sewer cost that will be far higher than if originally planned. (Georgia Local Government Journal, February 1959, p. 13)

Developing some major sources of water supply by the State and selling water to municipalities in the region is a plan approved by New Jersey voters in an election last fall. (Tax Policy, December 1958, p. 6)

Water users read their own meters in Pipestone, Minnesota, saving the city about \$750 per year. Under the self-reading plan, only postage and minor handling costs are involved. The water department sends out self-addressed double postcards to the customers, requesting that they fill in name, address, reading date, and meter reading. Accounts not returned within seven days receive an estimated bill based on 1 1/2 times the usage of the previous quarter. (The American City, February 1959, p. 29)

"Raising the price of water might be the best water-conservation technique," says Mr. Thomas J. Powers, Manager of Waste Control and Utilization for the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan. (Engineering News-Record, April 9, 1959, p. 27)

Air-cooled air conditioners for commercial installations should be encouraged where water conservation is necessary. While the air-cooled units are a little more expensive, the operation and maintenance expenses are less and they use no water.

Disposing of the solid materials in sewage has been successful in Chicago. In the new process, the sludge is pumped into a reactor where it is subjected to pressure and heat. Even though the sludge contains 88 per cent water, the solid materials are ignited and burned, leaving water and a fine ash. After the ash has settled, the remaining water is clear and safe to be pumped into any stream. (American Municipal News, November 5, 1958)

Underground water flow may be detected by use of Uranine B, a cheap, commonly used dye. (The Municipal South, December 1958, p. 32)

Corrosion in pipes can be prevented by separating dissimilar metals made of non-metallic materials such as cement asbestos, rubber fiber, or plastic. (Georgia Local Government Journal, July 1959, p. 23)

Water meter maids in Kansas City put speed, accuracy and glamour into the water works service. The girls can read as many or more meters than the men; housewives would rather have women than men entering their homes to read meters; the girls are reliable, more loyal workers, and more business-like in appearance. (The American City, July 1959, p. 231)

Sewage disposal costs may be cut sharply as a result of a Chicago sanitary district experiment. The new process appears to produce fertilizer from sewage sludge at less than one-third the present cost. High pressure and heat supplied by a reactor burns the sewage solids out of the sludge, though it is 88 per cent water. What is left is ash and clear water, safe to be pumped into any stream after the ash settles. (Public Administration Bulletin, December 30, 1958)

Meter readings are taken automatically by telephone and fed to a billing machine by an invention which has been patented by a pair of New Yorkers. Cards used with the new invention are prepared at the office of the utilities department, each card punched with a customer's telephone number and his last month's meter reading. When the card is fed into a sending machine, it dials the customer's telephone but does not make the phone ring. The connection opens a circuit to the meter and the new reading is sent back by electric pulses and punched on the card. It is expected that one clerk can handle the cards under the newly patented system. (The Municipal South, February 1959, p. 28)

IDEAS

1959



Finance & Taxation

FINANCE AND TAXATION

"Bargain buying" through the state saves municipalities and school districts in New York more than \$2-million annually. Under a law passed five years ago, these school and government agencies can buy supplies--52 varieties of them, ranging from fire hose to automobiles--at the same prices the State Division of Standards and Purchase pays through competitive bidding, under the state's contract with the sellers. (American Municipal News, November 15, 1958)

Increased tax yields for cities participating in urban renewal projects will enable the municipal governments to pay off construction costs within relatively short periods of time. New Haven, Connecticut, will invest \$575,000 into one project and revenues will increase by \$375,000 annually. The tax yield in Sacramento, California, will increase \$300,000 a year through urban renewal. (American Municipal News, December 15, 1958)

Property taxes will not rise on buildings that are repaired--improved wiring or normal maintenance--property owners have been assured recently in Detroit and Cambridge, Massachusetts. (Public Administration Bulletin, May 30, 1959)

Contracting for janitorial service in the city hall at Columbia, South Carolina, will effect an annual savings of almost \$2,400. (City Managers' News Letter, April 15, 1959)

Business license fees have been strictly enforced in University City, Missouri, resulting in a substantial increase in revenue for the city. A 100 per cent audit of all businesses indicated that they were grossly understating their returns. The city had reduced business license fees to indicate to businesses that it did not seek increased revenue from this source but did demand complete compliance. (Public Management, April 1959, p. 98)

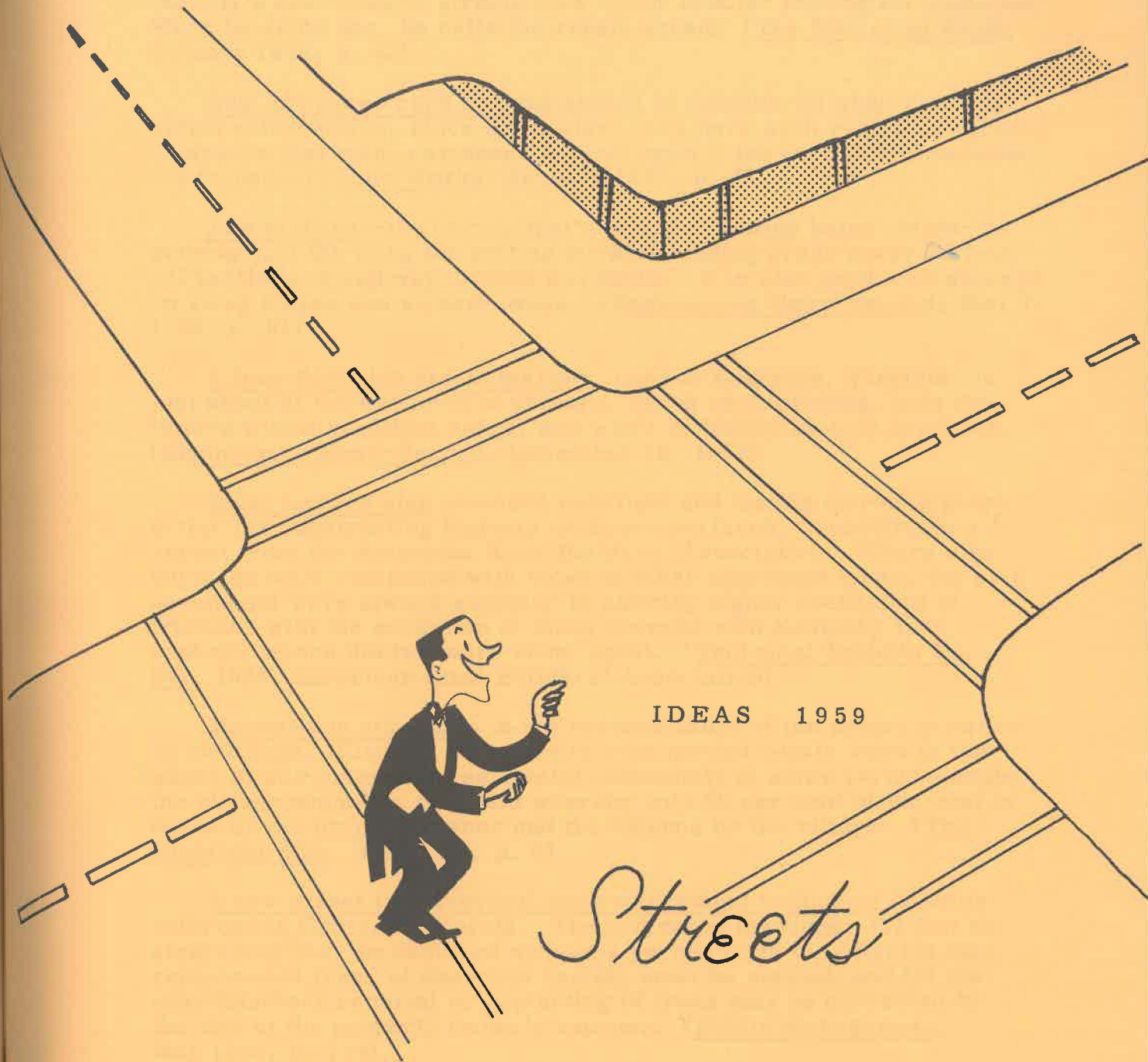
Gasoline and diesel fuel are purchased either semi-annually or annually through an advertisement for bids sent to all major fuel and gasoline suppliers in Kansas City, Missouri. This insures the lowest possible price, as the competition among the bidders has always been very high for large volume ordering. (Street Engineering, September 1958, p. 40)

Cooperative purchasing by government units has resulted in substantial savings in many instances, according to the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing. Twelve cities in Broward County, Florida, have won lower bids on such items as cars, trucks, gasoline, oil, and grease by buying together. In the first 2 1/2 years of joint purchasing, the three original cities in the agreement--Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, and Pompano Beach--saved nearly \$35,000 compared to prices paid on the same items purchased earlier by each city individually. (Public Administration Bulletin, August 30, 1959)

Charges for supplying information from police records of individuals, traffic accidents, etc., are authorized by the City of San Francisco. An ordinance authorizes establishment of fees for "furnishing reproductions of reports, records, documents, data or other material to the public." The money-making possibilities of this service that was once an accommodation is becoming increasingly popular among city police departments. (American Municipal News, June 15, 1959)

Collusive bidding on city or state purchases has been lessened in Texas. A new state law, aimed at discouraging identical bids, orders cities, counties, and special districts to award the contract by lot when all bids are the same. (Public Administration Bulletin, June 30, 1959)

A "rubber check" ordinance has been adopted by the City of Tacoma, Washington. Checks often cannot be honored because the writer has stopped payment, has insufficient funds, has no account in the bank, or because of an improper signature on the check. Under the ordinance, a penalty is added to the amount due and is collected in the same manner as any other indebtedness to the city. (Pennsylvania League of Cities, July 1959, p. 21)



IDEAS 1959

Streets

STREETS

The country's first inspector of potholes was appointed by the city council in Melbourne, Australia. The new inspector rides through the city's 300 miles of streets on a motor scooter looking for potholes. When he spots one, he calls the repair squad. (The Municipal South, January 1959, p. 42)

New and lower curb designs should be considered when planning street construction, since the modern cars have such restricted ground clearance that many car doors will not open if the curb height exceeds six inches. (Public Works, January 1959, p. 7)

Jute matting--the netting that's wrapped around baled cotton--is proving just the thing for getting the soil-holding grass cover on critical sections of highway ditches and banks. It is also used with success on steep slopes and stream banks. (Engineering News-Record, May 7, 1959, p. 61)

A four-foot high street marker, used in Lakeside, Virginia, is just about at the eye level of drivers, saves neck-craning, puts the letters within headlight range, and won't be hidden by tree branches. (Engineering News-Record, December 18, 1958)

Blast furnace slag provides excellent and lasting non-skid properties for constructing highway or street surfaces, according to a report from the American Road Builders' Association. Where slag surfaces were compared with those of other aggregate types, the slag pavements were always superior in showing higher coefficient of friction, with the exception of those covered with Kentucky rock asphalt, where the two were about equal. (Technical Bulletin No. 241, 1959, American Road Builders' Association)

Maintaining sidewalks is the responsibility of the property owner in LaGrange, Illinois. To expedite such needed repair work to the walks in this primarily residential community of some 14,000 people, the village adopted a program whereby only 50 per cent of the cost is borne by the property owner and the balance by the village. (The American City, July 1959, p. 9)

A new street tree removal and replacement ordinance is being enforced in Chico, California. The ordinance provides: (1) that no street tree may be removed without a permit from the city; (2) that replacement trees of approved variety must be planted; and (3) that unsatisfactory removal or replanting of trees may be corrected by the city at the property owner's expense. (Public Management, May 1959, p. 114)

Digging under streets without tearing up the pavement can be done with a machine known as a horizontal bore. The machine, being tested in Manhattan, cuts through rock at about a foot an hour. Of

course, you have to dig a hole before the drill can be put to use, but the hole doesn't have to be in the middle of the street. The machine's first test was successful--a hole three feet wide and 150 feet long was drilled 15 feet below one street and there wasn't the slightest interruption in the flow of traffic. (Chattanooga Times, May 27, 1959)

Use of a cement-stabilized gravel base course is perfect for hill street construction, according to city officials of Wasau, Wisconsin. They agreed that the central-mix method of producing this type of base course is advisable whenever it is necessary to bring in large quantities of "borrow" material. This type of soil-cement builds the best possible residential streets at nominal cost, according to the Wasau officials. (The Municipality, June 1959, p. 175)

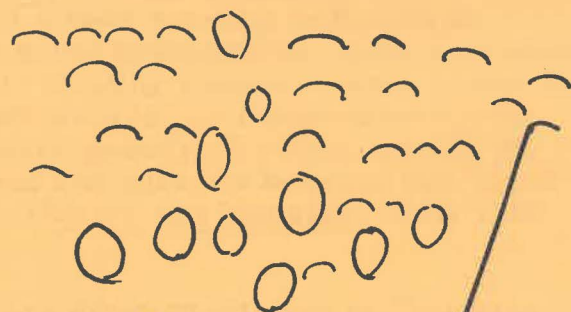
A bituminous road-paving material made from soft coal has been developed. The binding material comes in liquid form. It would take about 2,200 tons of coal for every mile of two-lane highway. (Engineering News-Record, June 18, 1959, p. 137)

Mixing asphalt patching material can be accomplished easily and economically by a new, portable, low cost machine which will produce high-grade hot or cold mix material. It has a rotary dryer with screw-feed type charging hopper, 100 gallon capacity asphalt tank with self-cleaning volumetric asphalt measuring system, pugmill and heating system. This machine is tractor mounted and sells for about \$3,000, f.o.b. plant. (The American City, February 1959, p. 189)

Corrugating the pavement surface on the major streets of the City of Los Angeles reduced accidents 59 per cent. The abrasive texture of the pavement surface was increased by grooving with a special apparatus developed by a contracting corporation. This treatment produced an asphaltic concrete surface as nearly non-skid as possible. (Practical Traffic Engineering for Small Communities, The Pennsylvania State University, February 1958)

IDEAS

1959



*Public
Relations*

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Suggestions on improving city services were solicited from citizens of Modesto, California. Annual reports with suggestion blanks were distributed to every homeowner. As a result, the city received thoughtful responses and constructive ideas on the returned forms. (Public Administration Bulletin, June 30, 1959)

Carbon copies of work orders are sent to citizens in Canton, North Carolina, to confirm that their request for service is getting action. (Pennsylvania League of Cities, July 1959, p. 9)

Public library branches in New York City are located by tentatively picking a spot where foot traffic is heavy. The spot is tried out with a parked bookmobile, and if results are up to expectations, a store may be rented for a temporary trial library. Only after it is certain that the right spot has been selected where the most customers will be reached will a library branch be built. (Fortune, April 1958)

Pictures illustrating the subject of each article discussed were projected on an eight-foot screen at a town meeting in Randolph, Massachusetts. As a result of the novel presentation, debate on most issues were cut in half because: (1) meeting members were better able to evaluate the pros and cons of each article; (2) complex problems such as zoning and street layouts were greatly clarified; and (3) the number of time-consuming questions and answers between the "floor" and "chair" were greatly reduced. (Mayor and Manager, June 1959, p. 26)

Certificates of Appreciation are given to citizens of Columbia, South Carolina, as an incentive to repair sub-standard housing. In two years, private sources spent \$1.5-million for rehabilitation. (American Municipal News, February 28, 1959)

"This Is Your City," is the title of an annual television series in Bangor, Maine. It began on January 18 with a 30-minute program and ran for three months. Each program included a discussion of some major problem or program in the city with the department head or members of the board or commission involved. (Public Management, March 1959, p. 72)

Neighborhood town meetings in Worcester, Massachusetts, have been sponsored for seven years by the Citizens' Plan E Association to acquaint citizens with the city government and to provide information for city officials on local problems. The points brought up at the town meetings have led to the installation of traffic signals, construction of playground facilities, additional police protection, and other community improvements. (Public Management, March 1959, p. 74)

Marinas, yacht clubs for the public, can do more for a resort town than a gross of chamber of commerce brochures. A sleepy fishing village five years ago, Apalachicola, Florida, became a slicked-up center for sports fishermen after it built a modern 200-boat marina. (Newsweek, August 3, 1959, pp. 62-63)

Business problems, practices, and products are being taught to city employees of Phoenix, Arizona, according to the International City Managers' Association. At regular classes, spokesmen for different firms explain their organization, management problems, and products so the 40 participants get acquainted with the city's economy as well as with business administration practices that might be helpful. (Public Administration Bulletin, July 15, 1959)

The city representative who investigates complaints in Roanoke, Virginia, leaves a card at the home of the complainant. The complainant then fills in the card and returns it to the city manager's office. (City Managers' News Letter, January 15, 1959)

Parks & Recreation



IDEAS

1959

PARKS AND RECREATION

Electroliers, the old-fashioned lighting equipment with soft, low intensity lighting, might again prove useful to the city by providing night lighting for city parks. (The American City, January 1959, p. 13)

A "Spit 'n Whittle" shed, a place for oldtimers to swap yarns, talk politics, and relive the good old days, was erected in 1955 in Temple, Texas, by public subscription, at a cost of \$500. (Texas Town & City, February 1959, p. 35)

Park acquisition has been successful in Pensacola, Florida, (pop. 50,954) with a subdivision ordinance that requires dedication of five per cent of the gross subdivided area--or cash equivalent--to the city for parks, playgrounds, and playfields. (National Recreation Association, February 1959, p. 3)

Sturdy rolling gym stands provide an economical, efficient method for getting double use from gymnasium or auditorium space. Each row is a complete, closed unit--seat, riser, and footboard--giving the spectator a feeling of security. According to the manufacturer, these stands can support 240 pounds per linear foot, and the diagonal bracing resists sway load. (Ryerson Steel News)

Free talent for city beautification has been provided by high school students in Rockville, Maryland, and Long Beach, California. Rockville's formal gardens have been revived by the high school's landscape planning class, and new types of playground equipment, designed in the Long Beach State College industrial design classes, are now used by the city. (Public Administration Bulletin, March 15, 1959)

Civic projects such as making new trail signs, litter receptacles, or planting flowers and trees can be handled by Boy and Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls or other youth groups. You'll be providing the young people with valuable experience--and getting long-term benefits for your community two ways. (National Recreation Association Newsletter, March 1959)

"Saf-Pla" rubber playgrounds, consisting of free flowing granules of chemically treated rubber which can be applied with conventional equipment, have been developed by the U. S. Rubber Reclaiming Company, Inc. The company claims that, properly installed, the surface is flexible and just soft enough to provide a good margin of safety between serious contusions and breaks and mild bruises. (League of North Dakota Municipalities, June 1959, p. 9)

Public housing garden clubs in Norfolk, Virginia, play an important part in maintaining the landscaping and preventing future slums. Sponsored by the housing authority's home service department, each club is run by its own members. Annual cleanup contests are put on by each

housing project. Soil, seed, and bulbs are distributed to gardening tenants free. Authority administrators are convinced that the small cost of the program is more than matched by the yards plus the pride of the tenants in keeping their homes neat and attractive. (Public Administration Bulletin, February 28, 1959)

A simple sand-gravel type of filter which could be constructed of concrete block solved the problem of providing a low cost, easily operated swimming pool in Louisiana. It allowed visual operation, permitted use of a single pump for all operations, and chemicals could be added without expensive devices to meet any water condition. (Park Maintenance, March 1959, p. 65)

A portable band wagon which opens into a generous stage, a complete music shell, or reviewing stand can be used for all music groups, speakers, acts, rallies, or demonstrations in your own or neighboring communities. It folds into a compact roadable trailer and can be moved easily to the site of the activity. (Wenger Music Equipment Co., Owatonna, Minnesota)



IDEAS

1959

Miscellaneous

MISCELLANEOUS

A quick-wash rack was built by employees of the City of Temple, Texas, at a cost of \$896.36 for materials, including all pipe for drainage as well as a hardtop road to and from the rack. The city manager labeled the rack as one of the finest pieces of equipment for preventive maintenance, as he believes a clean piece of equipment is used, driven and worked better by employees. (The Municipal South, May 1959, p. 26)

Photographic dog control is used in Stockton, California, to enforce the city ordinance which requires that all dogs be licensed and leashed when off the owner's property. The city pound master, using a fast-developing camera, takes photographs of offending dogs, develops the photos in 60 seconds, and then canvasses the neighborhood to identify the dog and the owner and to issue a citation. (Public Management, June 1959, p. 148)

Free cement is offered to any municipal development agency in Arkansas--provided the cement is used to construct an industrial plant. Donor is Arkansas Cement Company, wholly-owned subsidiary of Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company. The utility figures that any plant brought to the state will become its customer. (Engineering News-Record, June 4, 1959, p. 17)

An industrial land bank has been established jointly by the Philadelphia government and the local chamber of commerce. The corporation plans to buy the little remaining industrial land in the city and clear other property needed for the city's industrial expansion. The corporation then will sell sites from this "land bank" to promising business firms. (Public Administration Bulletin, March 30, 1959)

Illegal conversions of property into more but smaller housing units in Cleveland, Ohio, subject property owners to imprisonment, or fines which can total up to 20 per cent of gross annual rent from the property. Contractors who do the conversion job also may be fined and jailed. (Public Administration Bulletin, May 30, 1959)

The roots of juvenile delinquency are in the home, according to Dr. Abraham Gardner, a psychiatrist in Lynn, Massachusetts. He suggests that parents should be held equally responsible for their children's misdeeds. Truancy dropped 90 per cent in one section of Massachusetts when school authorities threatened parents with a \$20 fine for each truancy. It is quite logical that when parents are legally responsible for what their children do, they show a lot more interest in what they do--and in seeing that they don't do it again. (News-Sentinel, December 19, 1958)

"Postal-CHEX," a new form of check printed on the back of a postcard, are being offered at the price of the postcard by a Tulsa, Oklahoma, bank. The idea will simplify payment of such things as utility bills, and the bank estimates that use of the new check may save its patrons as much as \$70,000 this year. (Colorado Municipalities, October 1958, p. 275)

To make democracy work as it should, it is vital to get out the vote. Pontiac, Michigan, adopted a new idea to that end. All the churches of that city rang their bells simultaneously once an hour while the polls were open on election day. (Applied Imagination, by Alex F. Osborn, Scribners, p. 5)

Portable classrooms, to meet school emergencies that might arise, are being used in Memphis, Tennessee, as well as large cities in other states. The temporary units were erected at a cost of \$4,000 each in Memphis in lieu of adding permanent rooms costing \$10,000 each. Weather permitting, they can be put up in five days. Each room, with pegboard interior erected in panels, has its own heating unit with gas connections on the outside. (Commercial Appeal, January 22, 1959)

A fertile field for recruitment was uncovered as a result of a study made in 1957 in Philadelphia by the National Office Management Association to determine why office workers quit. After a two-month period, 75 per cent of those who had left a place of employment were interested in coming back; after 11 months, more than half indicated such interest. (Personnel News, September 1959)

Juvenile delinquency is less of a problem in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, (pop. 92,000) than in some communities, due to support from a group of young people, called the "Department of Publicity Youth Commission," who are interested in guiding other young people. This arrangement proved more effective with a group composed entirely of young adults rather than an impressive list of leading citizens of the community joining together to make an effort to tell the young people what they "ought" to do. This method helps the young people to achieve their goal of gaining respect from the adults. (Iowa Municipalities, June 1959, pp. 21-22)