

OFFICIALS OF THE WOMELSDORF-ROBESONIA JOINT AUTHORITY

Left to right: Henry D. Lutz, board member and assistant secretary; C. Jacob Speicher, board member; K. Paul Fernsler, board member and treasurer; Robert Kaufman, solicitor; Walter A. Rohrbach, board member and secretary; Roy L. Brady, engineer; John I. White, chairman; Charles M. Weiss, vice chairman; and Albert K. Lauck, board member.

Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority

Two Boroughs Combine Supply From Two Watersheds for a System With a Bright Future

by WALTER A. ROHRBACH

THE Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority is a comparatively small water authority which serves principally the Boroughs of Womelsdorf and Robeson in Berks County. The Authority also serves the sections of Heidelberg Township which are located along the transmission mains. Recently, the Authority purchased the Millcreek Water Company, a small family-

owned company. This purchase added the town of Sheridan and sections of Millcreek Township (all in Lebanon County) to the service area. At present the Authority serves approximately 1,075 customers.

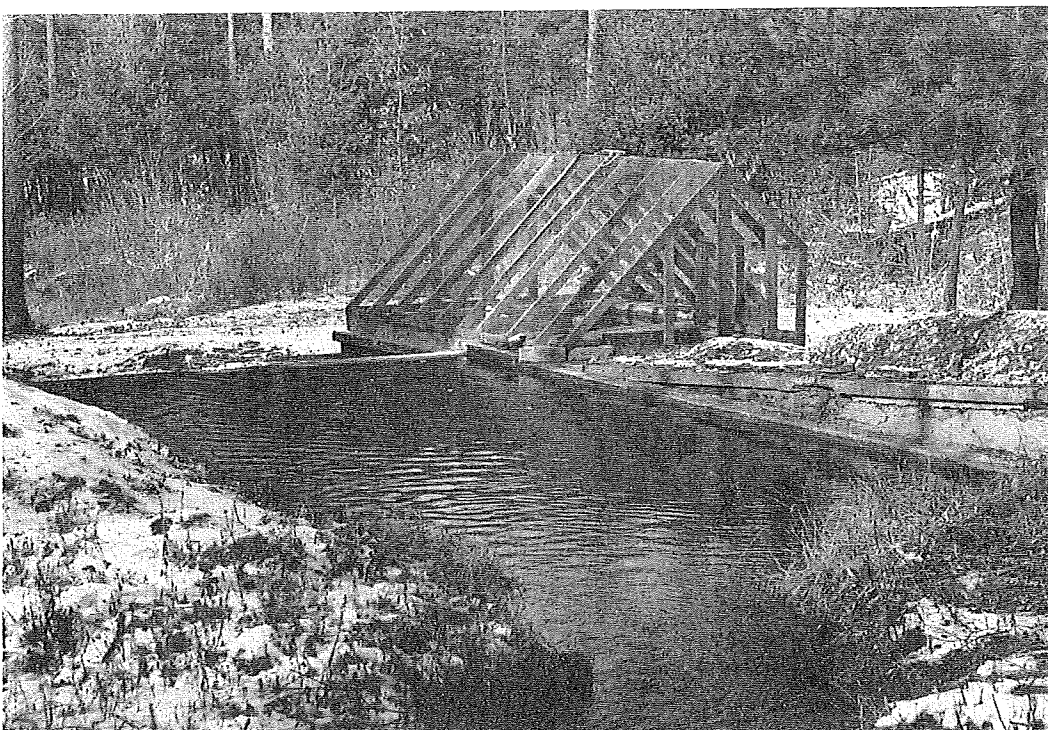
Although the water system has kept pace with the moderate growth of the communities in the service area, the seven-man Authority Board has been

steadily working toward better service, improving the quality of water, more adequate storage, and more scientific management of the water sheds. A guiding principle of the board has been that it has been charged not only with managing but also with conserving and improving a natural resource which is a rich heritage of these communities situated at the foot of scenic South Mountain where Berks and Lebanon counties meet in the beautiful and spacious Lebanon Valley.

The Service Area

The Borough of Womelsdorf, named for John Womelsdorf, is the oldest town in Berks County excluding the City of Reading. It was cut from the Conrad Weiser tract in Heidelberg Township and became a borough in 1833. Historically it is noted as the home of Conrad Weiser, the famous interpreter for the Colonial Government in its dealings with the Indians. Conrad Weiser State Park, which is adjacent to Womelsdorf, preserves his home and his grave,

The intake dam on Gold Spring Run at the Womelsdorf end of the water system which is owned and operated by the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority.



THE AUTHORITY

where George Washington once stood and spoke the words, "Posterity will not forget his services." A short distance to the north of the borough is Charming Forge, the former mansion of the renowned Baron Von Stegel.

The Borough of Robesonia was also formed out of surrounding Heidelberg Township. It was named for Henry Robeson, who planned the town in 1855, and it was incorporated as a borough in 1913. It is a picturesque town which is noted for its wide tree-lined streets. The huge slag bank on the south side and the stately mansions of the early ironmasters remind one of its early history. Today each of the boroughs has a population of approximately 1,600 persons and is typical of the boroughs in Berks County. Excluding the City of Reading, the county consists of medium-sized boroughs which have greatly diversified industry and which are surrounded by the well-kept farms of those who trace their ancestry to the Pennsylvania Germans.

The industrial customers of the Authority are a good indication of this diversification. Among the larger industrial customers are the Glo-Ray Knitting Mill and the Caron Spinning Company in the Robesonia Area; the North American Refractories, the Belle Chemical Company, and Marco Industries in the Womelsdorf Area; and the E. J. Lavino Furnace in the Sheridan Area. Others are: the Vogue Knitting Mill; the Linden Manufacturing Company, maker of Ship'n Shore Blouses; the Womelsdorf Manufacturing Company, maker of ladies wear; the Wagner and Emerich Feed and Flour Mill, at Womelsdorf; and the Robesonia Roller Mill; the A. C. Klopp Lumber Company, the Farr Nursery Company, with 128 landscaped acres; the J. H. Mays Seed Company; and Murdough's Landscape Service. There are many other small businesses in the area.

Formation of the Authority

The Boroughs of Womelsdorf and Robesonia had been served since 1904 by the Womelsdorf Consolidated

The intake dam on Furnace Creek at the Robesonia end of the water system which is owned and operated by the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority. Furnace Creek is the primary source of water supplied by the Authority. In 1957 the Authority will construct storage facilities and treatment facilities for the Furnace Creek water supply.



A TYPICAL WATERSHED AREA

The Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority recently constructed a road to the site of the storage facilities which will be constructed in the Furnace Creek watershed at the Robesonia end of its water system.

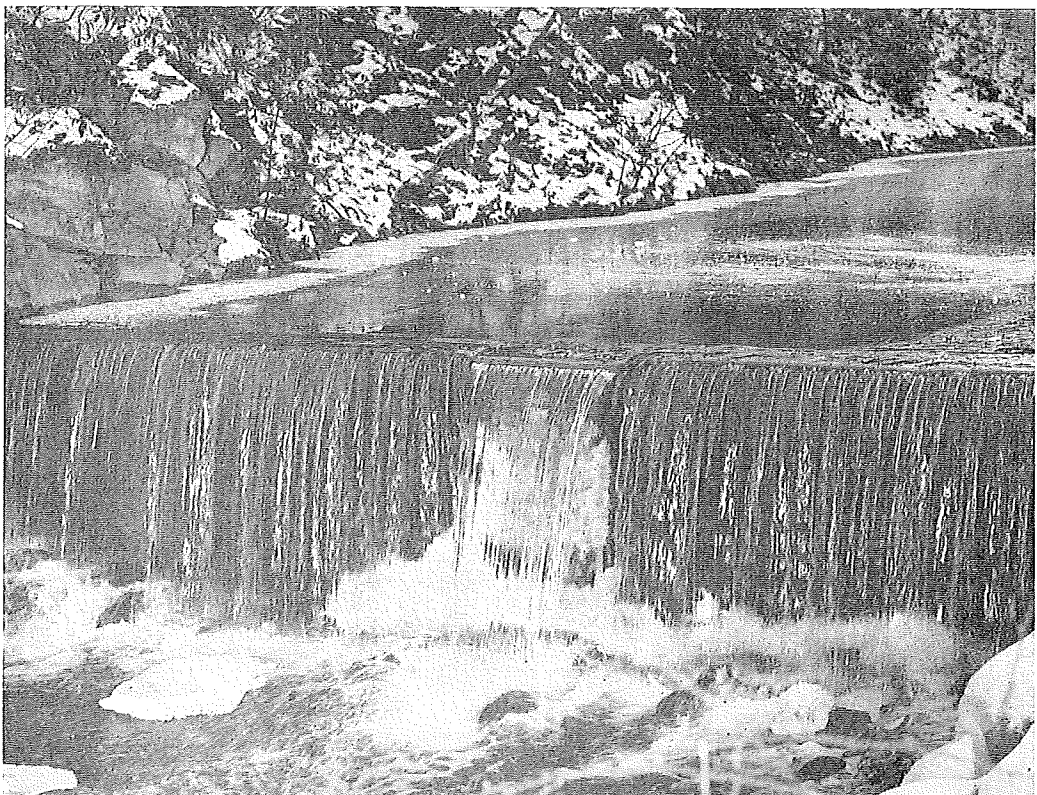
Water Company, a local corporation.

For various reasons an interest in municipal ownership of this system was growing for some time in the two communities. This interest was brought to the attention of the borough councils and after several months of discussion the first official action was taken on March 20, 1945, when the Womelsdorf Borough Council approved a motion engaging the engineering firm of Gannett Fleming Corddry and Carpenter, Inc., of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to make a survey to determine "the physical worth, earning capacity under municipal

management, and the physical condition including necessary work to be done to put the system in first-class condition." Shortly thereafter the firm of Weiss, Rhoads, and Sinon, also of Harrisburg, was engaged as legal counsel to guide the proposed action in procuring the system under the Act of 1874.

During the next three years very little progress was made and finally counsel advised that it would not be possible to form an authority under the Act of 1874.

Upon being advised that action should proceed under the Muni-





A typical residential area in one of the newer developments served by the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority

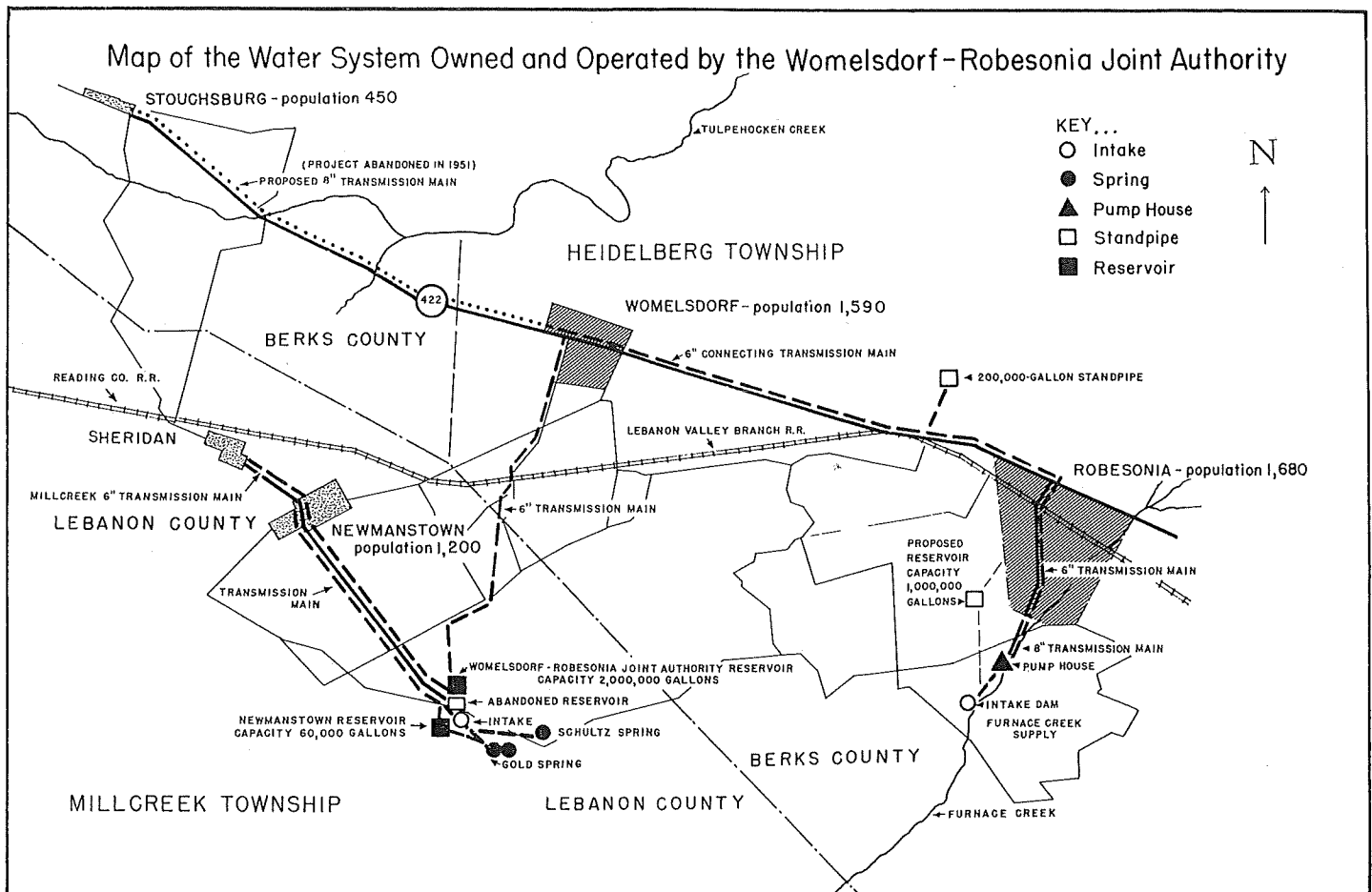
pality Authorities Act of 1945 the Womelsdorf Borough Council again contacted the Robeson Borough Council. It was felt that a cooperative project would be desirable since both boroughs were served by the system

and since a part of the water supply was in each area. Consequently on March 2, 1948, the Womelsdorf Council was informed of a willingness by the Robeson Council to join in the venture. This culminated in identical

ordinances "signifying a joint desire and intention to form an Authority" and that the name should be the "Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority." Finally on January 13, 1949, the Certificate and Articles of Incorporation were approved by the deputy secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

It was decided that the Authority Board should consist of seven men, three to be appointed by each borough and the seventh to be appointed by the other six men. This has proved to be a farsighted arrangement; each area feels that it is fairly represented. The original board was composed of K. Paul Fernsler, Harry A. Bordner, and John I. White, who were appointed by the Robeson Borough Council; Walter A. Rohrbach, Henry D. Lutz, and Robert G. Aulenbach, who were appointed by the Womelsdorf Borough Council; and Elmer L. Leisey, of Robeson, who was chosen by the six appointees. The Rev. Mr. Leisey was named chairman.

The Authority proceeded with a bond issue of \$260,000, which was used to purchase all of the outstanding stock of the Womelsdorf Consolidated Water Company at \$320 per share and



to provide sufficient working capital to begin operations. The issue consisted of 260 coupon bonds of \$1,000 each, all maturing serially from 1952 to 1983 and all bearing interest at the rate of 2.5 per cent. The Womelsdorf Consolidated Water Company was subsequently legally dissolved and the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was a working reality.

The Water System

This water system is unique. It serves two communities approximately one mile apart; and at each end of the system, approximately one mile south of each borough, an excellent water supply is utilized from its source on South Mountain. The Womelsdorf water supply comes from several excellent springs, chief among which are Gold Spring and Schultz Spring.

Gold Spring consists of two converging sources which form the main supply. Recently, however, this source has been noticeably diminishing, and it is fortunate that the Authority has a very adequate supply at the other end of the system. The Womelsdorf supply is further diminished by the partial rights guaranteed to the Newmantown Water Company, which supplies water to a large portion of the neighboring Borough of Newmantown. A deep well is also available at the Womelsdorf end of the system and is used when necessary in very dry seasons. Installations at the Gold Spring intake consist of several settling basins, a chlorinator, and a two-million-gallon steel storage tank.

The Robeson supply is drawn from Furnace Creek. This creek is an



The house and the storage barn in the Gold Spring watershed area at the Womelsdorf end of the water system which is owned and operated by the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority. An employee of the Authority who is responsible for daily maintenance chores on the property lives in the house.

excellent supply. It has as its source numerous springs in a four-square-mile watershed which extends from the foot of South Mountain to a fan-shaped plateau on its summit. Installations here include: a small dam across Furnace Creek, an intake, a chlorinator, and a 200,000-gallon standpipe. Although the Robeson supply is the most plentiful of the two supplies, this water is at times quite turbid and adequate storage facilities for this supply are lacking. The Authority plans to remedy these problems in the near future.

Basically, the system is composed of six-inch cast-iron transmission mains to each borough and a six-inch cast-iron transmission main between the two boroughs along U. S. Highway Route 422, which passes through both communities. Each of these transmission mains is approximately one mile in length. From the Gold Spring intake there is another cast-iron main running through the Borough of New-

mantown to the town of Sheridan, along which approximately 55 customers are served. This spur line is the recently acquired Millcreek System. Within the boroughs are the usual networks of two-inch, four-inch, and six-inch mains, generally found in a comparatively old system, plus the numerous six-inch main extensions made by the Authority.

Operation and Improvement

The transition in operation from the Womelsdorf Consolidated Water Company to the Joint Authority was very smooth and quite without incident. The smooth transition was made possible by the retention of the company's operating personnel. Maintenance Superintendent Lloyd M. Hasler's experience and knowledge of the system, its operation, and its problems not only contributed to efficient operation and maintenance, but also helped the members of the Authority Board to understand the system and to gain a valuable perspective in oper-



The two converging sources of Gold Spring on the Womelsdorf end of the water system which is owned and operated by the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority.



Gold Spring Run, which is fed by Gold Spring and Schultz Spring, on the Womelsdorf end of the water system which is owned and operated by the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority.

ating a municipal water system. Contributing further to getting off to a good start was the fact that the Board also retained the local solicitor and the local engineer who had worked with the law and engineering firms, respectively, during the acquisition proceedings.

The first big and unexpected expense came during 1950 when a main relocation project between the two boroughs was necessitated by the construction of a new three-lane concrete highway on Route 422. The cost of this relocation was more than half of the annual revenue of \$24,000, which had been anticipated by the engineers. Practically the only recourse was raising the rates, although the Board was very reluctant to do this. However, after studying other rate schedules and considering the constant increase in operating costs it was decided that

a substantial increase was the only way the Authority could even begin to afford the improvements and service which the communities had expected when the Authority was formed. Accordingly on August 1, 1951, the rates were increased 30 per cent; the schedule adopted in 1951 is still in operation today. (See accompanying schedule.) Since no widespread criticism occurred, the Board's action was evidently approved and considered to be reasonable by the majority of the customers. The majority of customers realized that if they wanted a good water system they would have to pay for it.

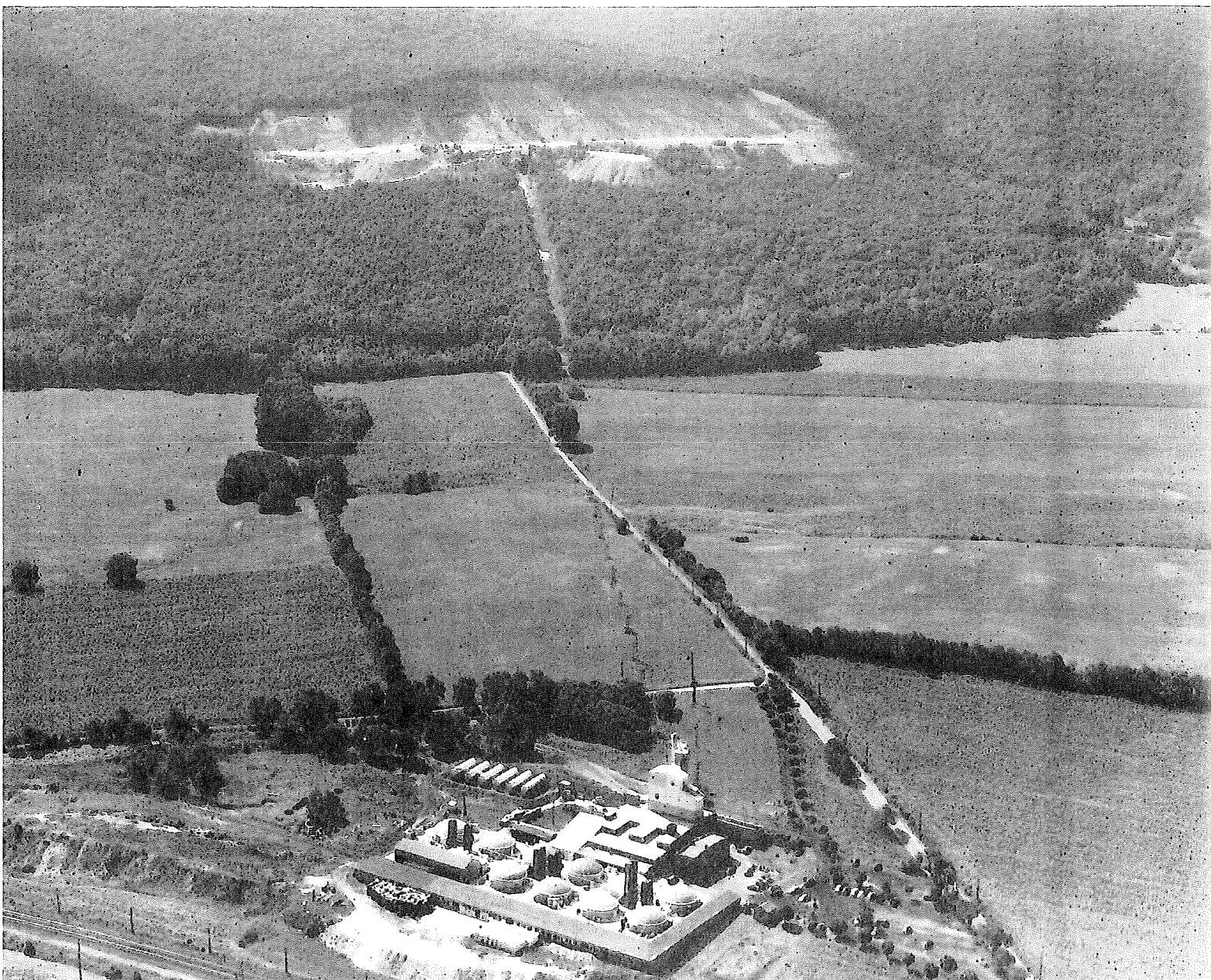
After operating the water system for some time the Authority Board decided that it would be more convenient and more economical to have the bookkeeping, accounting, and billing done locally instead of having these

operations done by a firm in Reading. The Robeson State Bank, through the cashier, K. Paul Fernsler, who is also a member and treasurer of the Authority Board, offered to do this work at a substantial saving to the Authority. The saving is evident in the recent financial statement, which shows that during fiscal 1956 the cost for the service was \$1,700. The bank has continually improved its facilities for doing this work. The most recent improvement was the purchase of a Burroughs Sensimatic billing machine.

Since the Authority acquired the system it has spent \$73,484 for additions and improvements to its plant, property, and equipment. The additions and improvements include: a new intake and settling basin at the Gold Spring intake, a new chemical treatment plant at the Furnace Creek intake, the cleaning of approximately

THE PLANT OF NORTH AMERICAN REFRACTORIES

The plant of North American Refractories, located in the Womelsdorf area, is one of the many industries served by the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority. The company manufactures silica brick for the Bethlehem Steel Company. In the background is South Mountain, the source of the water supply of the Authority. The Gold Spring watershed area is located in the gap in the mountain at the upper right of the photograph. The Furnace Creek watershed area is located in a similar gap one mile east.





An auxiliary stream in the Furnace Creek watershed which is owned by the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority. The Authority may use water from this stream in the future.



An upstream section of Furnace Creek in the watershed area at the Robesonia end of the water system which is owned and operated by the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority.

10,000 feet of 50-year-old six-inch cast-iron transmission main at a cost of approximately \$3,000, the replacement and installation of new meters at a cost of \$4,120, the lining of the two-million-gallon steel tank with cement at a cost of \$13,184, reforestation with 15,000 transplants, and the purchase of the Millcreek Company for \$15,339. Various bottlenecks in the transmission mains are constantly being eliminated and old service lines are continually being replaced with copper services at a cost to date of \$6,077.

The Authority is fortunate in having a one-family dwelling and a barn of substantial size located on the Gold Spring property. This provides excellent storage facilities for supplies and equipment and a dwelling for an employee who is responsible for the daily maintenance chores on the property.

The services of the district forester have been utilized for the proper management of the watersheds. Under his guidance more than \$3,600 worth of timber has been sold and future reforestation has been planned. To date deposits for main extensions amount to \$11,677; and several additional extensions are contemplated during 1957.

Future Plans

In addition to the constant improvement of the watersheds and the distribution system, the big improvement problem facing the Authority is the construction of storage and treatment facilities in the Furnace Creek Watershed. The amount of treatment required has not been finally determined, but it is generally felt that

settling basins will be adequate and that filtration will not be necessary. The amount of storage capacity necessary is not expected to exceed one million gallons. The Authority is investigating the relative merits of steel tanks, pre-stressed concrete tanks, and a moderately-sized impounding dam. The Authority is planning to locate the new storage facilities at an elevation which will balance the pressure of the water from the other end of the system—the Gold Spring end. If the pressure is equal all valves between the boroughs can remain open. At present the Authority must use valves to equalize the pressure.

Preliminary studies indicate that it may be possible to make these basic improvements without resorting to another rate increase. The Board is studying numerous proposals and hopes to accomplish this within a sound long-range program.

Authority Policies

The entire water system of the Authority is metered. The Authority furnishes and installs the meters and connections free of charge; the meters and the connections remain the property of the Authority. The ordinary

upkeep of a meter is the responsibility of the Authority; however, each customer must pay for any repairs made necessary by freezing, hot water, or other causes resulting from his negligence.

Meters are read every 90 days. All bills are due and payable quarterly on or before the 15th day after the date the bill is rendered. The Authority prepares and renders bills on February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 and adds a penalty of ten per cent to bills not paid within 30 days after the date of the bill. When accounts become delinquent the Authority discontinues water service. When the Authority discontinues water service for non-payment of a bill or for any violation of the rules or regulations, it does not resume service until the customer pays the bill and a \$3.00 turn-on fee.

All applications for new service connections must be made by the owner of the property for which service is desired. The application must be made at least one day before water service is required and the application must be approved by an agent of the Authority. Upon approval of the ap-

FINANCIAL STATISTICS OF THE WOMELSDORF-ROBESONIA JOINT AUTHORITY—1950-1956

Year Ending October 31	Number of Customers	Total Revenue	Total Expenses (Operating)	Net Income	Assets	Bonded Debt
1950	974	\$27,267	\$ 6,816	\$10,791	\$281,298	\$260,000
1951	988	32,685	9,855	12,343	292,900	260,000
1952	973	38,330	16,063	6,780	305,450	260,000
1953	1,046	41,295	12,388	11,955	326,326	255,000
1954	1,055	40,582	19,306	4,925	336,964	250,000
1955	1,055	41,430	14,785	11,431	358,270	245,000
1956	1,075	42,730	14,296	13,289	373,568	240,000



This building houses the chlorinating equipment located at the Furnace Creek intake at the Robesonia end of the water system which is owned and operated by the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority.

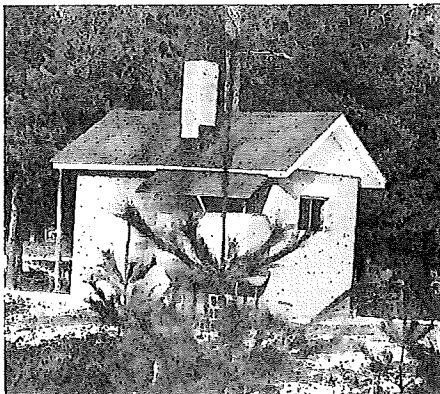
plication the Authority will tap the main, insert a corporation cock, install the service pipe to the curb, and install the curb stop and service line. The cost to the applicant is as follows:

Size of Pipe	Cost
¾ inch or less	\$50
1 inch	\$60
1½ inch or more	Cost estimated by the authority

The service line beyond the curb stop must be installed and maintained by and at the expense of the customer. The portion of the line installed by the customer must not be less in size and quality than the portion of the line installed by the Authority. All plumbing connections should be able to withstand a pressure of at least 125 pounds per square inch.

The Authority is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the service line between the main and the curb line.

Should a customer wish to have the



This building houses the chlorinating equipment located at the Gold Spring intake at the Womelsdorf end of the water system which is owned and operated by the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority. The evergreens in the foreground were recently planted by the Authority. The Authority planted the trees in the background several years ago.

size of the service line increased to a .75-inch service, the Authority will replace the line and pay the cost of the replacement of the line from the main to the curb stop; the customer will pay the cost of replacing the line from the curb stop to the building and the cost of any necessary changes to the water lines in the building.

The service line from the curb to the premises of the customer must be kept in good condition by the customer under penalty of discontinuance of service by the Authority.

Rates

The Authority's meters range in size from ½ inch to six inches. Under the rate schedule, which became effective on August 1, 1951, the customers of the Authority pay a minimum quarterly rate for the first 2,500 gallons ranging from \$3.90 to \$131.30, depending upon the size of the meter. The rate per 1,000 gallons decreases with consumption as shown in the accompanying table:

Number of Gallons	Cost per 1,000 Gallons
For the next 7,500	\$.65
For the next 10,000	.52
For the next 10,000	.26
For all over 30,000	.13

For water supplied for resale the rate is \$.13 per 1,000 gallons; the minimum charge per quarter is \$195.

The fire-hydrant rate is \$7.90 per quarter or \$31.20 per hydrant per year. The charges for fire hose connections, sprinkling systems, and private fire hydrants inside a customer's premises range from \$30 to \$65 per quarter according to the size of the connection to the street main.

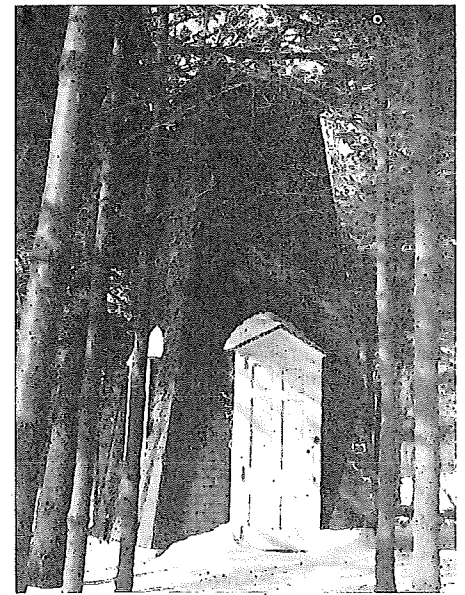
Extensions

Before the Authority begins the extension of a main to provide water service to the streets of a newly developed tract of land or sub-division, it must receive an application and a deposit covering the entire estimated cost of installing the main extension.

Within 30 days after the completion of one year of service to a new customer along the extension, the person who made the deposit receives from the Authority an amount equal to three times the annual revenue received from the new customer. However, the amount must not exceed the total amount deposited; no reimbursement is made after ten years from the date of the deposit.

Personnel

Four of the original board members still serve. They are: the present chairman, John I. White, who is the proprietor of a local restaurant; K. Paul Fernsler, the cashier of the Robesonia State Bank, who has served continuously as treasurer; Walter A. Rohrbach, assistant supervising principal of the neighboring Tulpehocken Joint School System, who has served continuously as secretary; and Henry D. Lutz, a local insurance company representative, who is presently serving as assistant secretary. Other members are: C. Jacob Speicher, the proprietor of a local insurance agency; Albert K. Lauck, a retired Textile Machine Works employee with a background



DEEP-WELL PUMP HOUSE

This building houses the deep-well pump at the Womelsdorf end of the water system which is owned and operated by the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority. The Authority uses water from the deep well as an emergency supply during very dry weather.

of plumbing experience; and Charles M. Weiss, the proprietor for many years of a local barber shop, who is presently serving as vice chairman. To Mr. Weiss, more than to any individual in these communities, does the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority owe its existence. It was through his interest in community improvement and municipal ownership and through his tireless efforts that the borough councils took the actions which resulted in the formation of the Authority.

Former members of the Authority Board are: the first chairman, the Rev. Elmer L. Leisey; Harry A. Bordner; and Robert G. Aulenbach. To date all

members have served without pay. However, in recognition of the time and effort the operation of the Authority requires, the two borough councils at their last meetings approved a salary of ten dollars for each member for every regular monthly meeting attended. This policy will begin with the March, 1957, meeting.

The maintenance superintendent is Lloyd M. Hassler; his assistant is Forrest G. Wagner. When necessary, temporary help is hired. The present employees of the authority are protected by the usual workmen's compensation and social security programs.

John S. Rhoda is the solicitor; Ray L. Brady is the consulting engineer; and Paul P. Merkel, former chemist for the City of Reading Water Department, is the consulting chemist. The annual audit is made by George L. Markley, certified public accountant.

The Authority Board meets regularly once each month in the council room in the Womelsdorf Borough Hall. In addition to the board members, the solicitor, the engineer, and the maintenance superintendent usually attend the meetings.

Since the amount of business conducted by the Authority is relatively small the Authority does not maintain a regular office staff or regular office hours. The official address of the Authority is the home address of the secretary at 421 East High Street, Womelsdorf. Customers may pay their water bills to the secretary, at the Robeson State bank, or at the Womelsdorf Branch of the Peoples Trust Company. The banks are centrally located in the boroughs and the customers of the Authority appreciate this convenience.

The Authority approaches the problem of public relations in several ways. The first responsibility of the Board is to the councils of the boroughs. At the end of each fiscal year the treasurer makes duplicate copies of the annual financial statement of the Authority for distribution to each member of the councils.

The Authority keeps the public informed of its activities through articles in the local newspapers. Also the maintenance superintendent has many opportunities to help people understand the policies of the Authority and the reasons for them. In addition several members of the Board have been invited to talk to various

JAMES G. GRIFFITHS DIES

James G. Griffiths, a former member of the Board of Directors and a past chairman of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association and retired general manager of the Municipal Authority of the City of New Kensington, died on March 17, 1957, in the Citizens General Hospital in New Kensington. Mr. Griffiths was 74.

Mr. Griffiths, who became the first Honorary Life Member of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association in 1955, was first elected to office in the Association at the conference in 1949 when he was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. In 1950 he was elected vice chairman of the Association and in 1952 he was elected chairman. He has served on practically all the committees of the Association.

Mr. Griffiths was in charge of the operation of the New Kensington water system for 35 years, first as superintendent of the Kensington Water Company and then as general

manager of the Municipal Authority of the City of New Kensington. When he retired as general manager of the authority on July 1, 1954, the authority named the area around the Valley Heights Reservoir "Griffiths Park" in his honor.

Mr. Griffiths was a past president of the Kiwanis Club in New Kensington and of the New Kensington Chamber of Commerce. He was a life member of the American Water Works Association.

A member of the First Lutheran Church in New Kensington, he was also a member of the McCandless Lodge No. 390, Free and Accepted Masons, and of the Coudersport Consistory of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. He held a life membership in Syria Temple.

Mr. Griffiths is survived by his wife, Mrs. Estella Mentzell Griffiths, and a daughter, Mrs. Anna C. Stroyd, of Mount Lebanon.

groups about the Authority and its operation.

Conclusion

The Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority is making steady progress on a long-range program which, the Board believes, will continue to provide the community with a more than adequate supply of the finest water obtainable from the springs of beautiful South Mountain. Since the Authority has operated the system it has not placed any restrictions on the use of water. Very few communities in the Reading area have not had restrictions placed on the use of water.

In observing these communities in

retrospect and then by looking into the future, one sees that the formation of the Authority was the beginning of area thinking, area planning, and area operation. Joint schools, which were then envisioned, have become a reality with the creation and operation of the Conrad Weiser Area Joint School System. The construction of a new \$2.5-million-dollar junior-senior high school is expected to begin this year.

Considering the natural and human resources of the area, only the vision, the courage, and the ability of the community leaders to work together can steadily develop the area into an increasingly finer and more satisfying place in which to live.

★ ★ ★ ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Walter A. Rohrbach has served as secretary of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority since its organization in 1948. Professionally Mr. Rohrbach is a teacher. He has taught at the Bethany Orphans' Home School, in Womelsdorf; he has served as supervising principal of the Penn-Bernville Union Schools; and at present he is the assistant supervising principal and director of secondary education of the Tulpehocken Area Joint School System. He is presently vice-president of the Berks County Schoolmen's Club.

Mr. Rohrbach is a graduate of Boyertown High School and Kutztown State Teachers



Walter A. Rohrbach

College. He received a masters degree from The Pennsylvania State University in 1942 and is presently engaged in advanced graduate work at Temple University.

Since July, 1947, Mr. Rohrbach has served as secretary to the Womelsdorf Borough Council. He is a past president of the Womelsdorf Civic Club and a member of the Lions Club in neighboring Bernville. For the past three years, he has served as chairman of the Western Division of the United Fund of Berks County. Mr. Rohrbach, who is a 32-degree Mason, is a past master of Lodge No. 307, Free and Accepted Masons, Womelsdorf, and a member of Reading Consistory and Rajah Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. He is a member of the Zion Reformed Church in Womelsdorf.

He is married and the father of two children—a son and a daughter.

The Authority Board.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.

1. Henry D. Lutz.

2. C. Jacob Spiecker

3. R. Paul Fennel, Treas.

4. Robert C. Kaufman, Solicitor

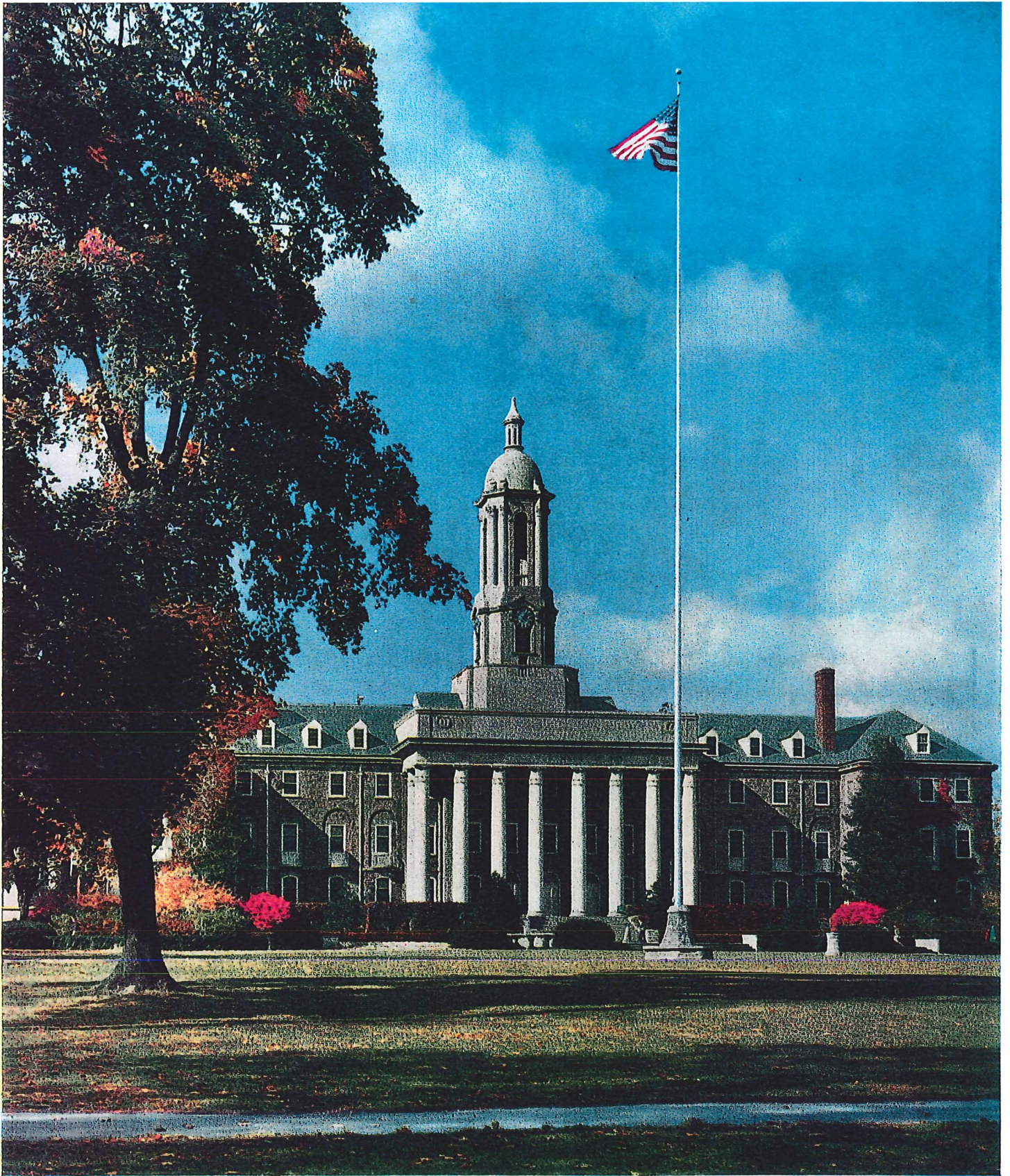
5. Walter A. Rothbach, Secretary

6. Ray L. Brady, Engineer

7. John D. White, Chairman

8. Charles F. W. Weiss

9. Albert H. Lauck



Old Main, The Pennsylvania State University

Featuring
Womelsdorf—Robesonia
Joint Authority

The *Feature Edition*
AUTHORITY

March 1957

AUTHORITY NOTES

The **Beaver County** Municipal Authority has authorized Michael Baker, Jr., Inc., to prepare design plans for the proposed East Rochester-Monaca toll bridge over the Ohio River. The structure will be .86 of a mile above the present Monaca-Rochester Bridge and 24.3 miles below the head of the river at the point in Pittsburgh.

The **Blair County** Airport Authority has announced that the board of commissioners of the county has agreed to provide the money necessary under the "matching fund" program to support the authority's \$486,000 airport improvement program.

The **Manor Township** General Authority, which was incorporated in January, 1957, is the first general borrowing and building authority to be organized in Lancaster County.

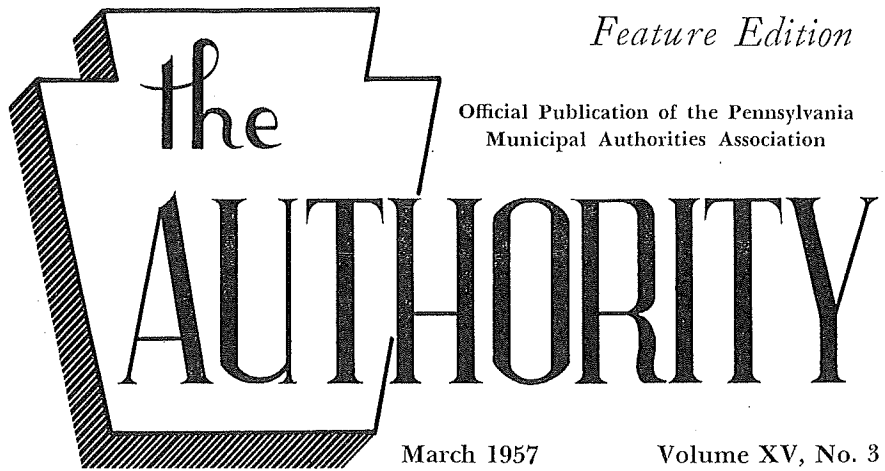
On January 5, 1957, an open house was held in the factory building constructed by the **Nanty-Glo** Municipal Authority. The building has been occupied by the Cambria Dress Manufacturing Company, which will manufacture the nationally advertised Jonathan Logan dresses.

The **State College** Airport Authority has decided to go ahead with surveys of the projected use of an airport in the State College area. The authority approved a proposal to have Dr. Roger Saylor, professor of business statistics at The Pennsylvania State University, make a survey of the residents of State College and surrounding communities. The State College Planning Commission has agreed to send a letter to the authority describing how various proposed sites for the airport would fit into the overall planning scheme. . . . The Borough of Philipsburg has asked the authority to consider the possibility of expanding the Black Moshannon Airport, which presently serves both boroughs.

The **Williamsport** Municipal Airport Authority has approved the construction of six metal "T" hangars at the Williamsport-Lycoming County Airport. The new structure will be built east of the administration building on the northern side of the field. . . . The authority also plans to extend a runway from 4,200 feet to 5,000 feet to accommodate four-engine planes.

Correction

The **Williamsport** Municipal Airport Authority was erroneously referred to as the Williamsport-Lycoming County Airport Authority on page three of the February 1957 issue of *The Authority*.



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* * *

COVER PICTURE

Old Main, The Pennsylvania State University

Old Main houses the principal administrative offices of The Pennsylvania State University. The tower of the four-story stone building stands on the campus like a sentinel guarding the campus and the business district of the Borough of State College. The university and the borough have expanded rapidly since World War II and the tremendously increased population has created a need for better water, sewage, school, and parking facilities and better municipal offices.

To keep pace with the rapidly increasing enrollment the university has constructed several new residence halls and the General State Authority has constructed several new academic buildings for the university. The university is now constructing a new sewage treatment plant to serve the university and the borough, which will be a customer. The borough has created a sewer authority to finance the installation of sewers in all the unsewered areas of the borough. The bond issue of this authority is reported in this issue of *The Authority*.

The borough also has a water authority, a building authority, an airport authority, and a parking authority. The joint school district of which the State College School District is a member has created a building authority.

The picture of the front of Old Main is reprinted through the courtesy of The Pennsylvania State University.

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