

South Abington '72

An Annual Report to the People



Introduction

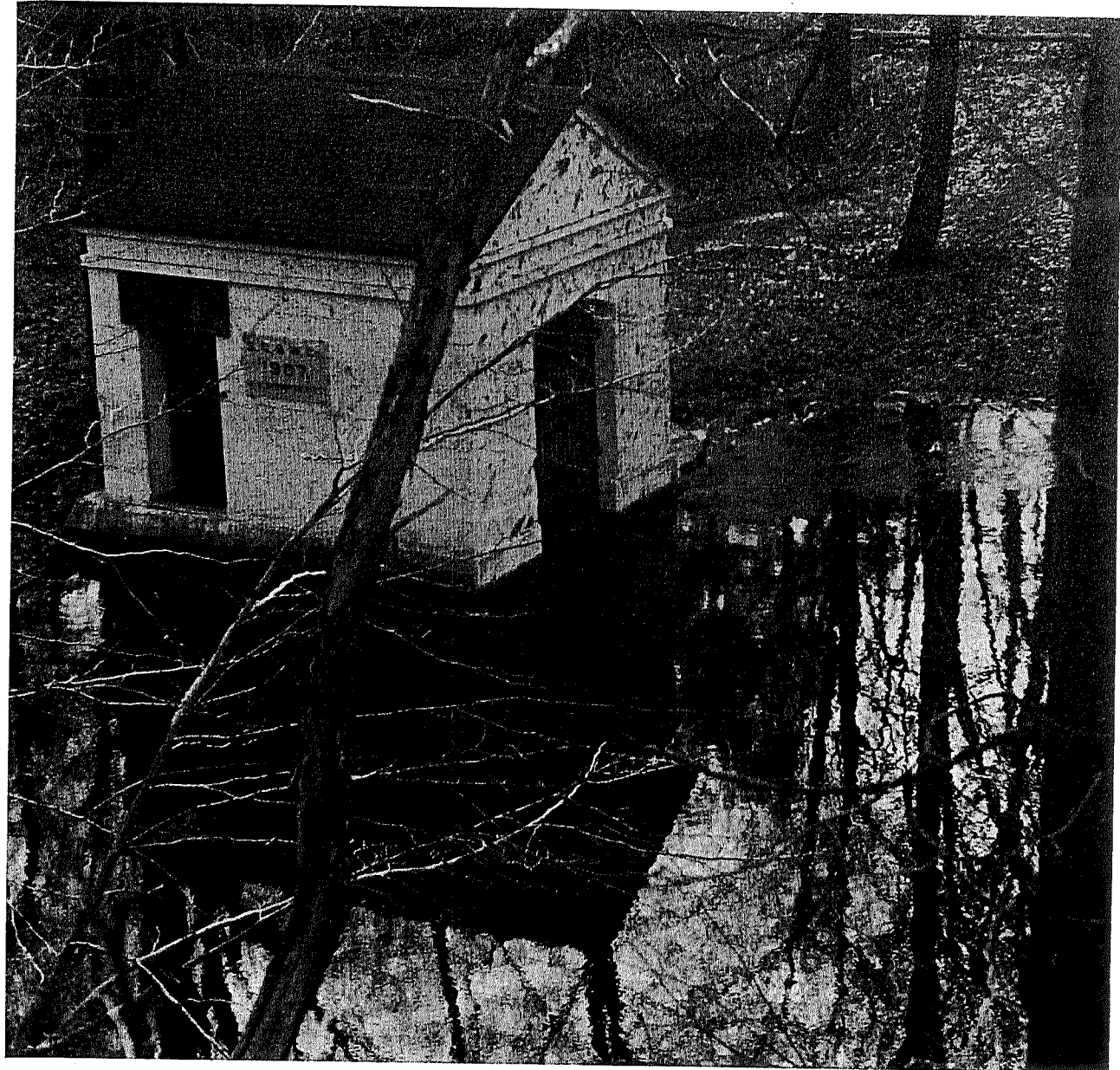
Dear Fellow Citizen,

We, the South Abington Township Board of Supervisors, realize that most citizens and taxpayers are not fully aware of how Township Government operates in Pennsylvania. Many of you are new to the area and to our Township.

In order to keep you informed of accomplishments of the immediate past, current programs, and plans for the future, we have prepared this annual report and calendar of events. It is our hope that you will become better informed on services available to you as a resident of the Township.

It would be impossible for the Board of Supervisors to undertake many of the Township's programs without the volunteer work of those men and women serving on our authorities, boards, and commissions. For these efforts we are justly proud and appreciative; we will encourage a still wider range of citizen participation in guiding the destiny of our Township.

Robert Buist, Chairman
Board of Supervisors



South Abington's History

From 1750 to World War I

Compiled by:

Inez Bailey and Rev. Russell Lawry

As early as 1750, the Wyoming Valley was surveyed by the Connecticut Company, and in the Connecticut surveys, Abington was called Ebbington, in honor of Colonel Ebbington, a land agent of Connecticut through whom titles were obtained on very reasonable terms. These titles proved illegal under Pennsylvania law and therefore valueless, so the landholders in anger changed the name from Ebbington to Abington. Originally, Abington embraced all the territory in what is now North, South, and West Abington, as well as Greenfield and Nicholson.

The early inhabitants of Lackawanna Valley, then called Lockowarna, enjoyed neither churches, schools, school houses or mills. Up to 1798 there were but two points in what is now Scranton, both of these in private homes, where preaching services were held by traveling preachers or missionaries, who traveled a circuit twelve times a year. Later, school houses served as churches until 1841.

The most prosperous of the little settlements in Lackawanna was Providence Village, long known as Razerville. What is now the center of Scranton was called Deep Hollow and later Slo-

cum Hollow. Means of communication were few and there being no bridges, the Lackawanna River had to be forded at three different public fords. The first bridge was built in 1796, and at this time there was in all Providence but ten horses, 28 oxen, and 55 cows. Deep Hollow was so marshy and wet that a log path or road was laid down over what is now Wyoming Avenue. James Leggett was the first white man to make a clearing above Providence Village, toward Abington.

Adventurous spirits kept exploring the wilderness, and in the spring of 1790 a group of trappers passed through the curved and rocky gorge opposite Leggetts Gap. In the spring of 1794 Stephen Parker, Thomas Smith, Deacon Clark, and Ephriam Leach, led by intrepied John Miller, slung their packs on their backs and with axe in hand, first marked and widened the wild man's path through Leggetts Gap. Five years later, with one poor horse, a drag made of poles behind the horse to carry a sap kettle, their axes and a few possessions, they crossed the mountain and first made their camp in Abington, March 15, 1799.

In 1802, Elder Miller settled on the site first marked out by the trappers twelve years before. He bought 326 acres near what is now Waverly, for forty dollars - twenty dollars in silver, ten dollars in maple sugar, and ten dollars in tin. Parker and Smith



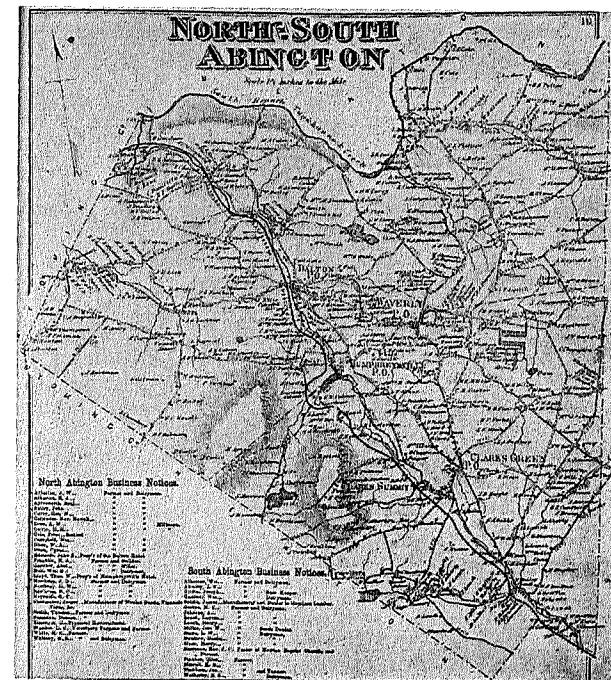
also settled in Waverly, but Deacon Clark selected the slightly spot which is now called Clark's Green in his honor. Ephriam Leach settled nearer the gap and built his little log house just below the present Leach Cemetery, on the site of the old Tripp residence (now razed for the new highway).

John Lewis, James and Ezra Dean, Job Tripp, Robert Stone, Ezra Wall, and George Gardner, also settled in Abington in the year 1802.

There were only two post offices in Lackawanna County. The mail was carried once a week on horseback from Wilkes-Barre. Lackawanna County was a part of Luzerne County until 1880. Later a post office was established at Clarks Green and Elder Miller was the first postmaster; also the first teachers were Nancy Bailey, Eliza Philo and Sophia Hall. Early town meetings and religious services were held in the school house until the first Baptist Church in Abington was built nearby. The school was built in a hollow below Waverly, opposite the George Stevenson Farm. Lemuel Stone was the first Justice of the Peace. He and Dr. Bedford were the first to do their harvesting without whiskey and were also conspicuous in the cause of temperance. Samuel Griffin kept the first store, located in Clarks Green.

The tide of emigration set in after 1800. Titles to land were easier to obtain and the harvests were excellent the greatest difficulty being the distance to the nearest market at Wilkes Barre, over a lonely trail of about thirty miles. "Many a time," said Mr. Leach, "have I passed through this notch, with my little grist on my shoulder, holding in my hands a large club to keep away the wolves howling around me; and to my faithful club often bitten and broken when I reached home, have I apparently been indebted for my life." During one of Mr. Leach's trips, a timid fawn, pursued by wolves, placed its head between his legs for protection.

The clearing of Mr. Leach embraced the Indian Salt Spring, one of the two sources of salt in Lackawanna Valley. This spring was located near the Stone Bridge, just north of the traffic circle. Mr. Leach's land extended up through the gap to the site of his log cabin, and it was on this narrow strip between the two mountains that the village of Leach's Flats was built. There were two hotels, one where Marsh's now is and the other on the site of Mrs. Clarence Thomas' home. Leach built a grist mill and saw mill in 1815 where the filter plant of the water company now stands. These were run by water power. There was a tannery almost opposite Banner Market (now the Pizza Store). The town em-



South Abington's History

braced several small shops and about fifteen houses. As the community grew a second saw mill was built by Leslie White and Fanton Miller about where the main highways concrete bridge crosses the stream now.

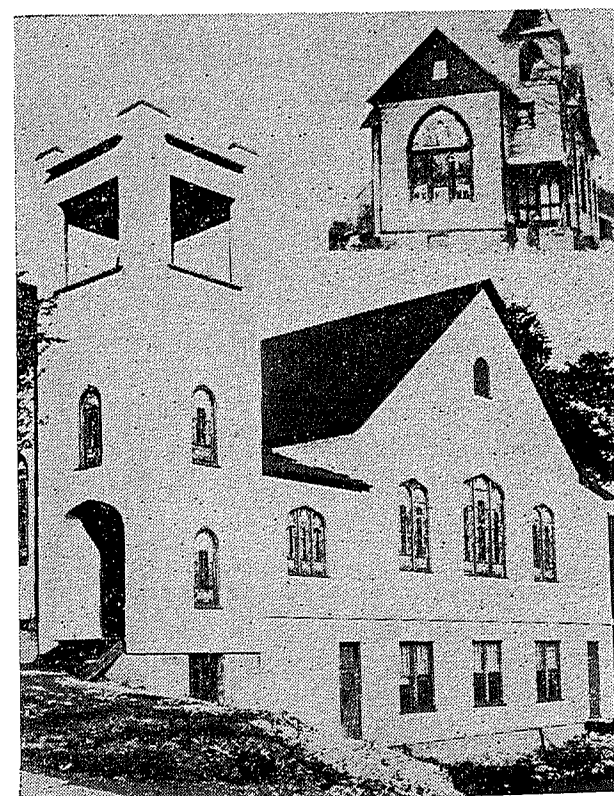
On October 6, 1867, 100 votes were cast for a division of the township. On November 25, 1867, South Abington was established. The Township maintained six public schools, two tanneries, two grist mills, two saw mills and a few stores and by 1880 the population had grown to 923.

The religious life of the community grew with other activities and Methodism took root. Bishop Asbury traveled the territory in 1793 and while here appointed Valentine Cook presiding elder of the Wyoming circuit, which included all the churches from Plymouth to Factoryville, and the route was traveled by preachers twelve times a year. It was in 1817 in the log house of Ephriam Leach that the first Methodist services were held by the Rev. George Peck, and it was here that services were held until a log schoolhouse was built near where Floral Haven stood. Church services were held in this school house until 1868 when the Little White Church was built and dedicated by the same Rev. Peck who first conducted services at Leach's Flats. Leach's Flats was a

part of the Wyoming circuit from 1817 until 1841.

Until 1880, Leach's Flats secured all its mail from Clarks Green, but at this time a post office was established. There being another Leach's Flats in Pennsylvania, it was necessary to select a different name. Mr. Roberts, then postmaster of Providence, after many unsatisfactory suggestions, decided to select a name at random by

opening a dictionary and taking the first word on which his finger rested. This word happened to be Chinchilla, which was presented to the Post Office Department, and accepted. The first postmaster was George Tanner, and he was succeeded by Catherine L. Bailey, in May 1881. (The name of the town was changed to Pershing at the time of World War One, 1919, but in 1925 a petition was presented to change it back to Chinchilla.)



The Edella Section 1790-present

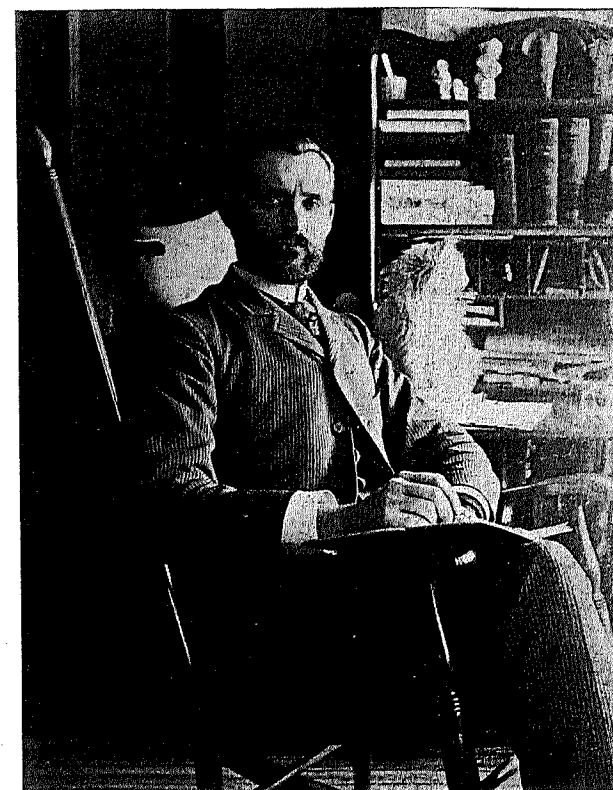
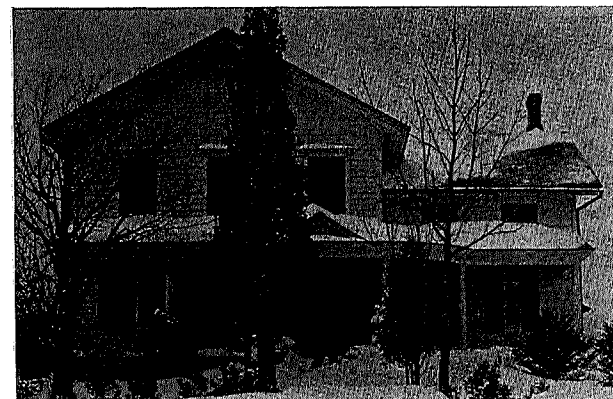
Compiled By: Jean Taylor

The Northeastern corner of South Abington Township was originally a portion of Greenfield Township according to old deeds dating back to the early 1800's, and deeds of the late 1790's. What is now Fairview Road was one of the earliest roads in the area. Lackawanna County was part of Luzerne County until approximately 1876. The birth of the new County and the building of the Lackawanna County Court House in 1881 to 1884 brought new business into the area and there was a necessity for a post office east of Clark's Green. About 1883 or 1884 Truman Edgar Clark became Postmaster at a post office located in his home, built about 1860, two miles east of Clarks Green in South Abington Township in the home now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Lalli. It was first thought to name the post office "Berton" after Mr. Clark's infant son, but it was soon learned that there were already two Burtons in Pennsylvania, so the name "Edella" evolved from Mr. Clark's middle name, "Edgar," and Mrs. Clark's first name "Ella" -- thus we have the present Edella section of our Township and Edella Road. At the time of Mr. Clark's death the Scranton Times carried an editorial noting that Mr. Clark had the distinction of having more than one area bearing his name, as he was a great grandson of

Deacon William Clark, who settled Clarks Summit and Clarks Green. Mr. Clark was Postmaster for some 70 years, with the exception of a few years around 1912, when his only son, Berton, was Postmaster for a term.

The mail was brought from the Clarks Green Post Office in a locked bag by horse and buggy in the summer and by horse and cutter in the winter months. This necessitated traveling the fields back of the Davidson home on Callennar Hill, then owned by Thurston Parker, and through the field back of what is now John Lomeo's property. For many years this chore was performed by one George Titus, who was beloved by all the small fry, as he usually carried a bag of Licorice candy known in those days before integration as "Nigger Babies."

Prior to about 1900 or 1905, the post office was located in the front parlor. Around this time, Mr. Clark added an ell to his home and located the post office in the new addition. Mail was sorted into individual boxes, which after the death of Mr. Clark were donated to the Lackawanna County Historical Society and are on display on the third floor of that building. There were no post office hours, people came any time of day or evening to pick up their mail, have a chat, buy cough syrup or Sloan's Liniment,



South Abington's History

or Frostilla for their chapped hands, or just to ask advice. After about 1909 they also used the "phone", as Mr. Clark and Arthur Miller built the first telephone line through from Clarks Green, and any one who needed a doctor came to the post office and Mrs. Clark would place the call. This was in the days when you cranked the phone and called the operator by her first name.

At the time of his retirement as postmaster and the discontinuance of the post office in the 1940's, Mr. Clark received a commendation from postmaster General Farley on his long years of service to his friends and neighbors. About the only compensation he received was the fact that he got his own postage free, which was considerable, as he was the largest dealer in carriages, sleighs, harness and buffalo robes in the Abington area, and was also a dealer in jewelry, diamonds, silverware, and also did job printing in his office. Mr. Clark lived in this family home from the time of his marriage in 1882 until his death at the age of 89 years in 1949.

Many Indian artifacts were found in the fields and ravine to the South of the present Fairview Road, and it is believed there was an Indian encampment of the Delaware in this area, which is North of Griffin Pond. In the old days this lake was known as Peleg's

Pond, and was a much smaller body of water until the present dam was built by the Scranton Gas and Water Company somewhere around the turn of the century. It is related that when early settlers were shingling their house by moonlight, (while they lived in a cabin nearby) they could hear the wolves howling down by the pond. The area abounded in all forms of wildlife including bear, "bob" cat and deer.

One of the earliest schools in the township was located on land owned by the Clark family on the Northeast corner of the present Fairview Road in the front lawn of the property now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Longo. Later it was moved up Griffin Pond Road, (then known as Scott Road) to a position across from Bob Habeeb's home, approximately where the present residence of the Heaps family is now located.

The farm of the Lomeo family was owned by the Leach family, and the homestead was one of the earliest houses in the area. This home unfortunately burned some years ago.

The present Fairview Estates is located on the old Meade farm, the house being recently razed, but the old stone chimney showing the upper and lower fireplaces still stands.

Until very recently there were remnants of an old rail fence on Griffin Pond Road near the present entrance to the St. Gabriel's Convent.

Around 1918 maple sugar and syrup were still being boiled off in a small building in this same vicinity, as there was a "sugar bush" on this knoll owned by Elmer White, a descendant of early settlers. To the best of the writer's knowledge it was the last operation of this kind in the township and area.

Students for the South Abington Township School in Chinchilla were transported in bob sleds in the winter, and many a time the drifts were too much for the horses, and residents would offer shelter and food for children, driver, and tired horses. There were no snow ploughs or cinder trucks in those days, and neighbors had to band together to dig out. It was considered just part of life in the country to be snowed in for a week.

Mrs. Neil Whitney and Mrs. Jean Taylor, the only grandchildren of Truman Clark, now live on portions of his farm and are the sixth generation of the Clark family to do so. One of the carriage houses used in the business of Mr. Clark still stands next to Mrs. Taylor's home. Our township is rich in folklore and in natural beauty and a place in which we can be proud to live.

South Abington's History

Summary of Historic Events

1790-1794: First trappers came through Notch. Parker, Clark, Tripp, and Leach.

About 1800: Ephraim Leach settled near North Chinchilla. His clothes probably made of leather. Nearest mill Laurel Line Station.

1800-10: Leach secures land from about city line to North Chinchilla. Place known as Leach's Flats.

1810: Leach locates tannery near Marsh's Hotel.

1818: First Methodist services at Ephraim Leach's house.

1821: Wolf drive. Many wolves, bear, and deer; one panther. Ben Leach locates saw and grist mill. Reservoir of present filter plant.

1830-40: Nearest Post Office Providence, John Vaughn Postmaster. Wild land sold \$3 to \$5 per acre.

1840-50: Construction of railroad. Fires are lighted with flint and steel. Few inhabitants have seen matches. First stoves. Fireplace lights house as candles are few.

1857: Hotel built by Henry Leach. (Now Raves Garden Center)

1860-70: Epidemic. Twenty persons dead within mile radius at one time. First kerosene lamps.

1870-80: Methodist Church built at North Chinchilla. Iron nails expensive, and buildings framed with wooden pins. Marsh's Hotel founded.

1880-90: Post office established at Chinchilla. Name changed from Leach's Flats to Chinchilla, post-mistress having a Chinchilla shawl. Joe Leach grist mill built.

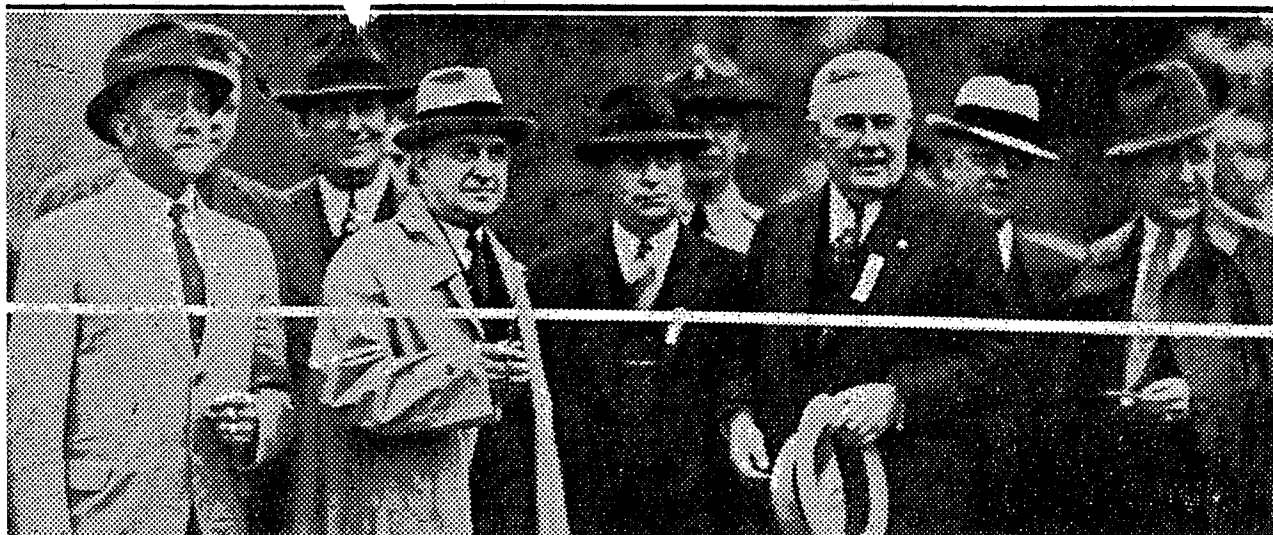
1890-1900: Railroad station at Chinchilla. Boyce Hotel built. Holgate's store established. Gas & Water Company buys land and closes

Henry Leach -- Don O'Donnell tavern.

1900-10: The Northern Electric Railroad passes through Chinchilla. Church moved to Depot Street. Burcher and Robinson plot opened and many new residents arrived. First electric lights in Chinchilla. First steam heat and bathrooms.

1910-20: Adams plot, North Chinchilla opened. Railroad station closed. Toll gate removed and highway becomes a county road.

Snip, Snip and New Chinchilla Highway Is Opened



South Abington Today

South Abington Township, because of its excellent location, is experiencing rapid urbanization. During the 1960's the Township's population increased by nearly 40 percent despite three annexations to the Borough of Clarks Summit. The three areas annexed by the Borough include Floral Park and parts of Crestwood Acres and Haven Estates, accounting for well over 200 dwelling units.

Since 1970, it is estimated that the population increased another 29 percent to about 4,350. Since April 1970 about 130 new dwelling units were constructed, additional dormitories were built at the Baptist Bible College and St. Gabriel's Retreat House was completed and occupied.

The Township has installed a sewerage collection system and operates a wastewater treatment plant jointly with the Borough of Clarks Summit. Water supply and distribution systems have been improved in the Township.

The Township's main commercial area, located along U.S. Route 6-11 is being constantly changed and improved by private investors. The Township has approved preliminary plans for expansion of Abington Executive Park, Acker industrial park and Ivy Park. When fully developed, these sites will provide a well balanced community and a substantial tax base.



Your Local Government: What it is.

Pennsylvania is unique among the states because powers of elected officials are practically the same at all levels of government. The predominant form of government in Pennsylvania is the second class Township. South Abington, a second class township, is governed by a board of three supervisors who are elected at large by the qualified voters of the Township. These three supervisors serve both a legislative and an executive function. The job of supervisor is a part time job and does not allow for full time salaried officials. In order to carry out the complex functions of local government, certain persons may be hired by the Board of Supervisors. These employees include

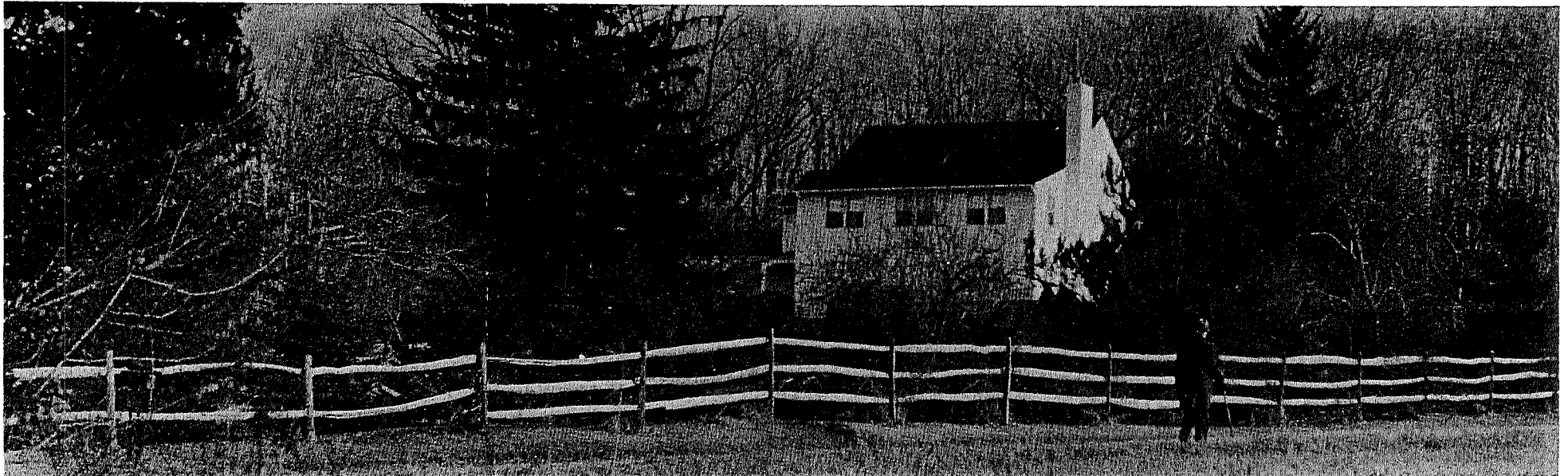
a legal officer, engineer, manager, clerks, the secretary-treasurer, and others.

The historic role cast for the township supervisor was that of a caretaker of roads and bridges. Today he is also empowered to establish a police force, organize a planning commission, make building, zoning, and housing regulations, regulate parking, construct and maintain sewerage systems, provide for and operate parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities as well as perform other functions comparable to those in an urban community.

The municipality is permitted to pro-

vide facilities and services on the Township level or to provide services and facilities on a regional level through joint cooperation with one or more adjacent municipalities.

The general laws governing townships are outlined in Act 567 - "The Code of Townships of the Second Class."



Growth From 1950 to 1973

POPULATION - U.S. CENSUS 1950	2,241
POPULATION - U.S. CENSUS 1960	2,449
POPULATION - U.S. CENSUS 1970	3,374
POPULATION - (ESTIMATED) 1973	4,350

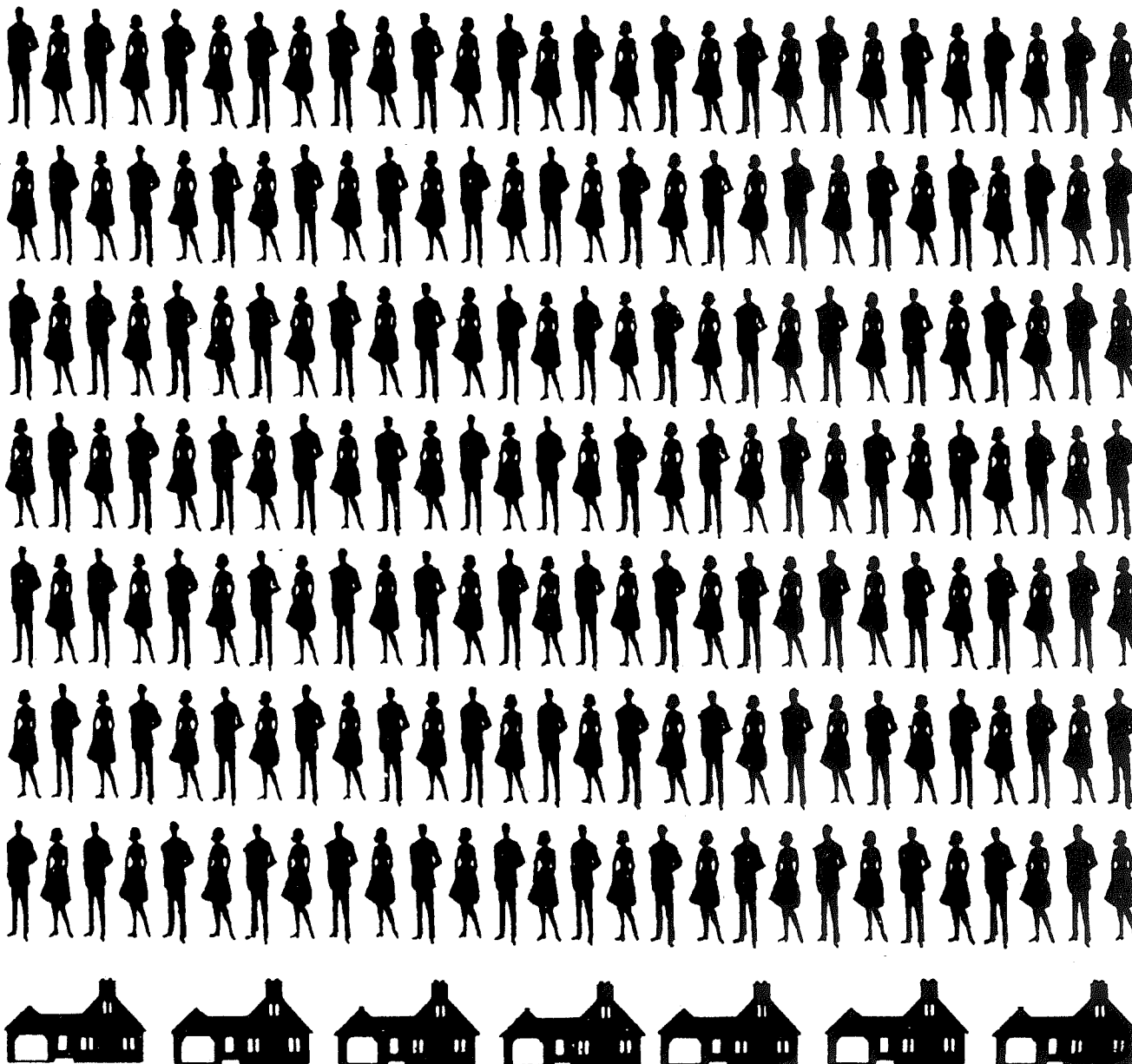
U.S. Census Data - 1970

COUNT OF ALL PEOPLE..... 3,374

COUNT OF PERSON BY AGE:

under 5	253
5 yrs.....	58
6 yrs.....	79
7-9 yrs.....	204
10-13 yrs.....	310
14 yrs.....	70
15 yrs.....	70
16 yrs.....	62
17 yrs.....	69
18 yrs.....	64
19 yrs.....	82
20 yrs.....	79
21 yrs.....	63
22-24 yrs.....	115
25-34 yrs.....	370
35-44 yrs.....	507
45-54 yrs.....	383
55-59 yrs.....	149
60-61 yrs.....	47
62-64 yrs.....	67
65-74 yrs.....	180
75 and over	87

COUNT OF ALL HOUSING UNITS	950
OCCUPIED UNITS.....	924
VACANT UNITS	26



Revenue Sharing

How It Involves You!

Federal revenue sharing is a new concept in the American system of taxation.

Passed last year by Congress, revenue sharing provided that several billion dollars in federal tax money will be distributed directly to cities and states. The ultimate hope in such sharing of funds is that eventually the heavy burden of local taxes --- principally real estate taxes which constitute the chief source of local tax funds -- will be eased.

To insure that South Abington Township will get its fair share of this tax

"pie" an accurate head count must be made, since the distribution will largely be based on population. The official residence of Americans on Dec. 31, 1972 is the key factor. Income tax returns will be used as the means of making this head count.

For this reason a revenue sharing section -- consisting of only two lines -- has been incorporated into 1972 income tax returns. Every person who files a tax return this year must complete this section.

Accuracy in completing the two lines will help your own community in getting its proper share of the federal money.

Your tax return lists not only your name, but the name of your wife, your dependent children and perhaps parents or relatives you will be claiming as dependents.

Please be sure to indicate on line 33 of your Federal Tax Return that you are a resident of South Abington Township.



Tax Structure

Real Estate Tax

In Lackawanna County, the basis for real estate tax is assessed valuation -- at present, property is assessed at 35 percent of its market value. The rate of tax is expressed in millage. A mill is equivalent to 1/1000 of a dollar.

If your home has a market value of \$30,000, it would have an assessed valuation of \$10,500. Annual taxes on that property at the 1973 rate would be \$1082, of which \$105, less than ten percent, will be used to provide Township services.

Real estate taxes will be distributed in 1973 to the County, School District, and Township as follows.

	Mills	% of Total
County (general)	11.95	11.6
County (institution)	8.11	7.9
School	73.00	70.8
Township	10.00	9.7
	<u>103.06</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Other Taxes

A one percent real estate transfer tax is levied on all property sold in the Township. This too, is split between the Township and school district.

A wage and income tax of one percent is levied on the earnings of all persons who reside in the Township. The total amount collected is split evenly between the school district and Township.

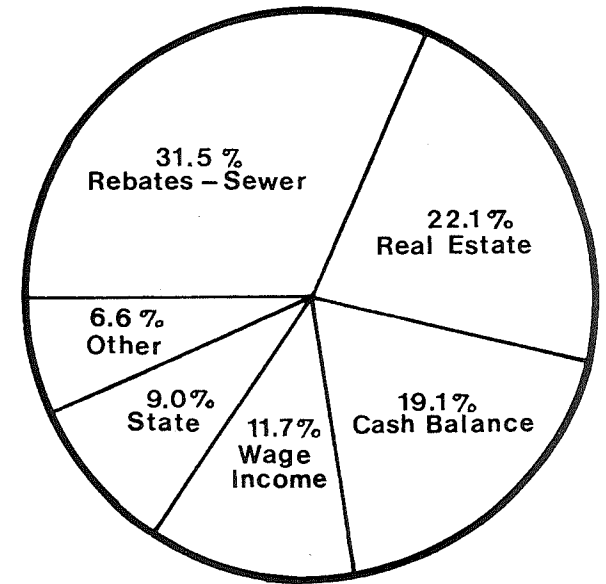
An occupation privilege tax of \$10.00 annually is levied on all persons working in South Abington Township. This is a good source of revenue, and is expected to become increasingly important as business and industry locate here.



Fiscal Report for 1972

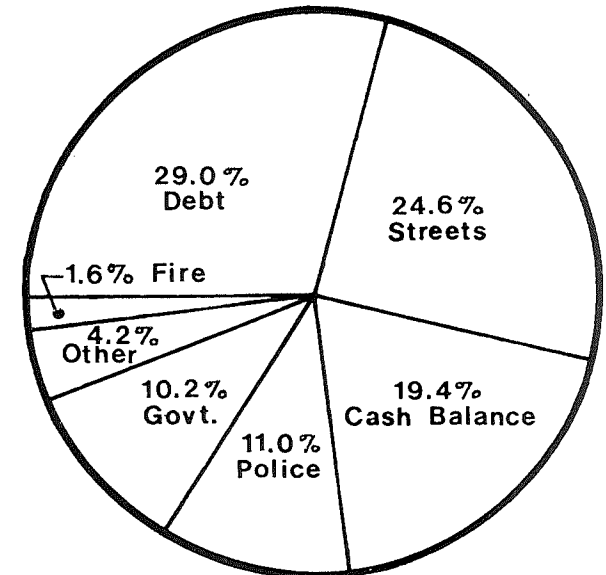
Receipts:

Cash Balance 1/1/72	75,212.99
Real Estate Taxes	87,009.65
Wage & Income Taxes	46,380.71
State Aids & Grants.....	35,283.32
Other Receipts.....	25,988.47
Rebates & Sewer Rents	124,258.39
	<u>394,133.53</u>



Disbursements:

General Government	40,169.59
Police Protection.....	43,692.22
Fire Protection	6,299.39
Streets & Highways	96,882.21
Other Disbursements	16,375.69
Debt - Retirements.....	114,406.80
Cash Balance 1/1/73.....	76,307.63
	<u>394,133.53</u>



Long Range Community Planning in South Abington Township

Comprehensive planning started in the early 1960's when the planning commission prepared a zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations.

Late in 1969, the Township officials, recognizing the need to prepare a comprehensive development plan for the nearly 9 square miles of land within the Township borders, hired a planning consultant.

The consulting firm, Keystone Planning Associates, is now completing the preparation of a comprehensive development plan and land development codes and ordinances.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan is a guide set down in words, maps, charts, and sketches which is used by local governing officials and private citizens in developing land.

Objectives of the Comprehensive Plan

1. To provide a technical basis for decision making in the Community on matters pertaining to land developments and public improvements.

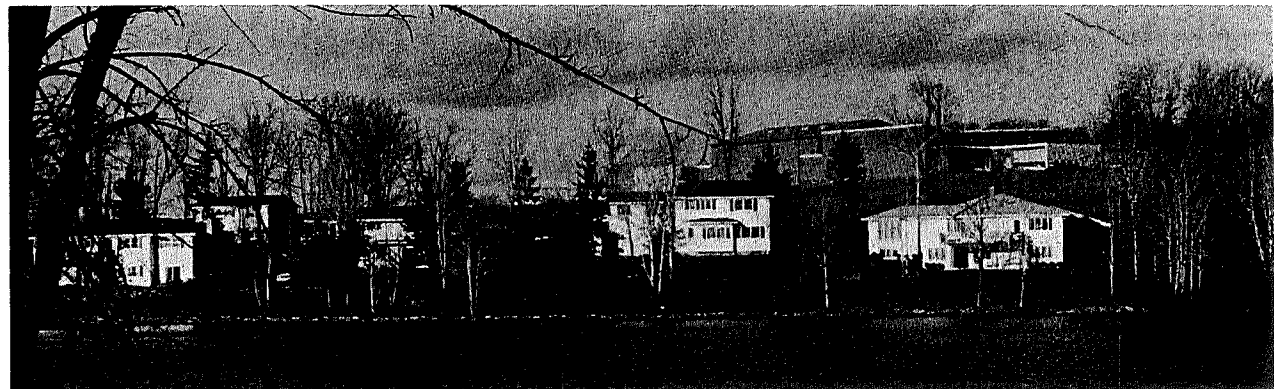
2. To explore local problems and to develop with the elected officials, planning commission, and the citizens of the Township, appropriate policies and plans.
3. To make technical studies of existing conditions and community problems for the purpose of arriving at findings that are in the best interest of the community and that can achieve local agreement and support.
4. To prepare a coordinated and comprehensive plan for the future improvement and development of South Abington Township.
5. To prepare a sound fiscal program for needed capital improvements, taking advantage of available State and Federal programs.
6. To establish strong design objectives and standards to improve the already attractive environment.
7. To update land development regulations to permit quality develop-

ment in accordance with modern standards and the new Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

8. To provide an attractive report that will be practical for use in everyday decision making and that will help to "sell" the community as a place in which to locate.

The comprehensive plan is based on studies of past development practices, physical limitations, and future potentials. It is related to the needs of the people and recommends actions that will result in a good living and working environment for everyone in the community.

The Township Officials recognize the need to have a well balanced community providing areas for housing of all types, for commercial activities, for manufacturing, and for public facilities.



Recreational Programs

The Commission effort involving Recreation was largely used in the setting up and operation of a summer program at the Chinchilla Grade School Playground. Considerable time, however, was used in an attempt to establish a playground in the Camin area. After meetings with Community Affairs personnel and property owners involved citizens residing in the area abutting the proposed play center voiced opposition to the project. Planning for the project was dropped at this point.

The Recreation program offered at the Chinchilla Grade School Playground over a period of eight weeks, included several additions to previous programs. Among the most successful innovations was the addition to the staff of a handcraft specialist for a two hour period each week to augment the craft program, the use of movies as Education-Recreation aids during inclement weather, and the conducting of a Learn to Swim program by the American Red Cross for youngsters not old enough to participate in the School District program.

Prior to the opening of the Chinchilla Playground, with the cooperation of the School District maintenance staff, lines were repainted on basketball and hopscotch courts, basketball standards repaired and painted and the wading pool repaired and painted.

Suggestions by the playground personnel and observations by the members of the Commission have been compiled and will be used in setting up the program for the 1973 season.

Road Garden Park, the Commission's first effort at improving the appearance of the Township, took on a "New Look" with the addition of trees and shrubbery which were planted by the State Highway Department as part of their beautification program. Tulips were also planted in the Park area by the local Girl Scout Troop. A flag pole and benches were also added to the area.

It is planned, to the extent of funds available, to develop areas at the juncture of Noble and Winola Road and at the City line into small park areas.

The Commission, with the approval of the Fire Co., operated a stand at the carnival for the purpose of raising funds for additional Christmas Decorations. Additional lighting was purchased for use in the Road Garden Park area.

Prior to the Christmas Holidays, a Community Sing was scheduled at Road Garden Park. Due to inclement weather the event was moved to the Fire Company building. The Fire Company Auxiliary served refreshments following the affair.

Playground Registration - 1972

Boys		Girls	
Age	Number	Age	Number
4	3	3	1
5	6	4	3
6	12	5	4
7	12	6	8
8	8	7	6
9	12	8	7
10	8	9	6
11	4	10	13
12	6	11	7
13	5	12	2
14	3	13	6
15	5	14	3
16	2	15	1
17	1		
Total	<u>87</u>		<u>67</u>

Attendance Composition - 1972

	11:00 A.M.	2:00 P.M.
Monday	8	44
Tuesday	12	49
Wednesday	10	40
Thursday	6	39
Friday	8	37
Average Attendance	<u>9</u>	<u>42</u>

Fire and Ambulance Protection

Chinchilla Hose Company

The Chinchilla Hose Company was formed in 1957 by a small group of volunteers. Over the years the organization has developed into one of the best trained and best equipped volunteer companies in the County.

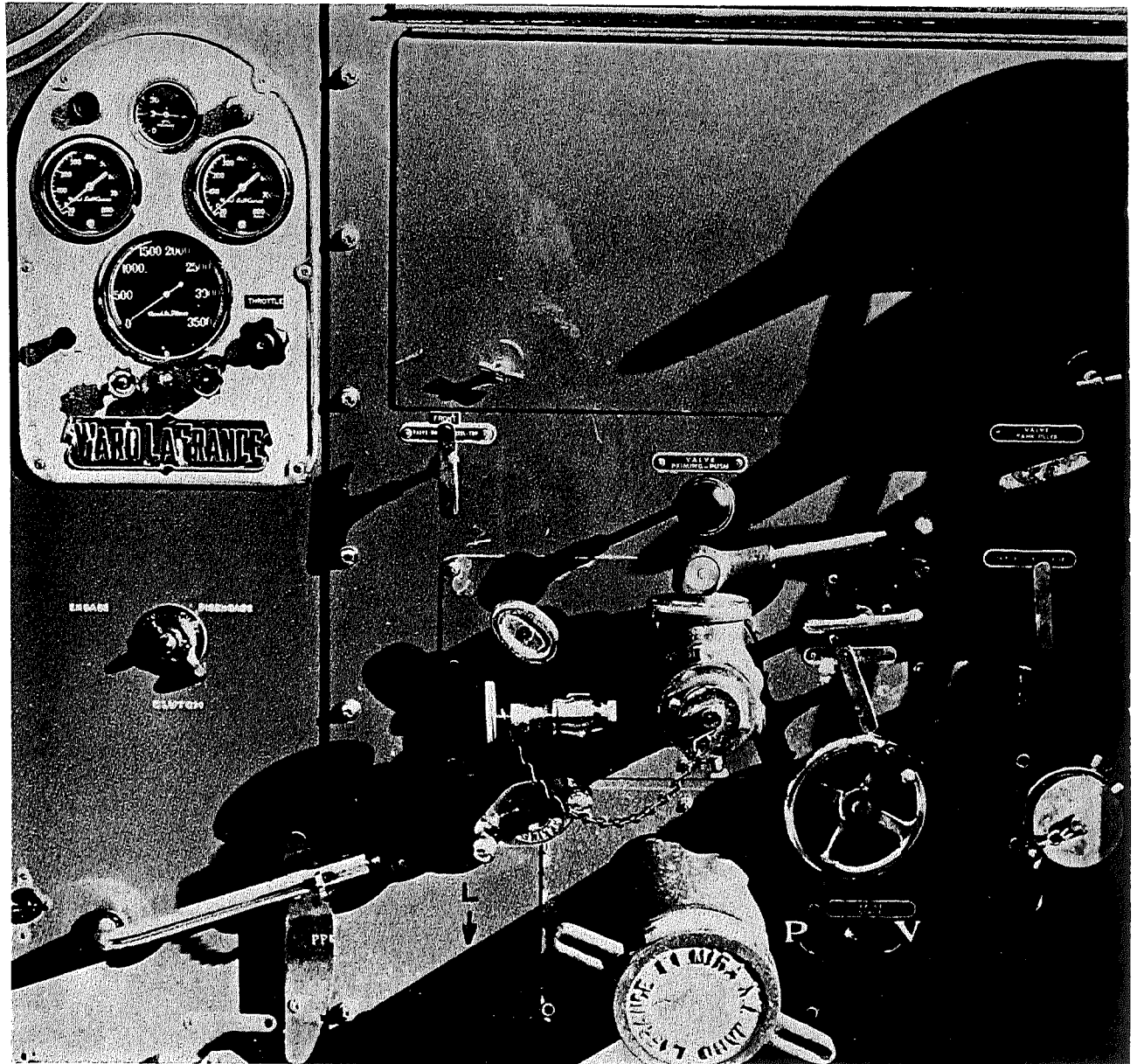
In a growing community, such as South Abington, it is imperative for a fire company to be well manned and well equipped.

During the past year the Fire Company Volunteers responded to 90 fire calls and 146 ambulance calls.

Aside from its primary duties of fire protection and emergency ambulance service the Fire Company is always ready to assist in preventing fire or accident hazards in the home.

The Fire Company has been given the responsibility of assigning house numbers. Owners of buildings should contact a member of the Fire Company and request a number.

The Fire Company, working in conjunction with the Township Board of Supervisors, secured a grant through the National Highway Safety Act for the purchase of a 1972 International Ambulance. This new ambulance, now in operation, is better equipped to meet



the emergency needs of our modern community.

With the influx of truck traffic on Route 81, it was found necessary to utilize a foam system for fighting fuel type fires. Industrial plants and apartment structures located within our Township make it necessary to increase our fire fighting equipment.

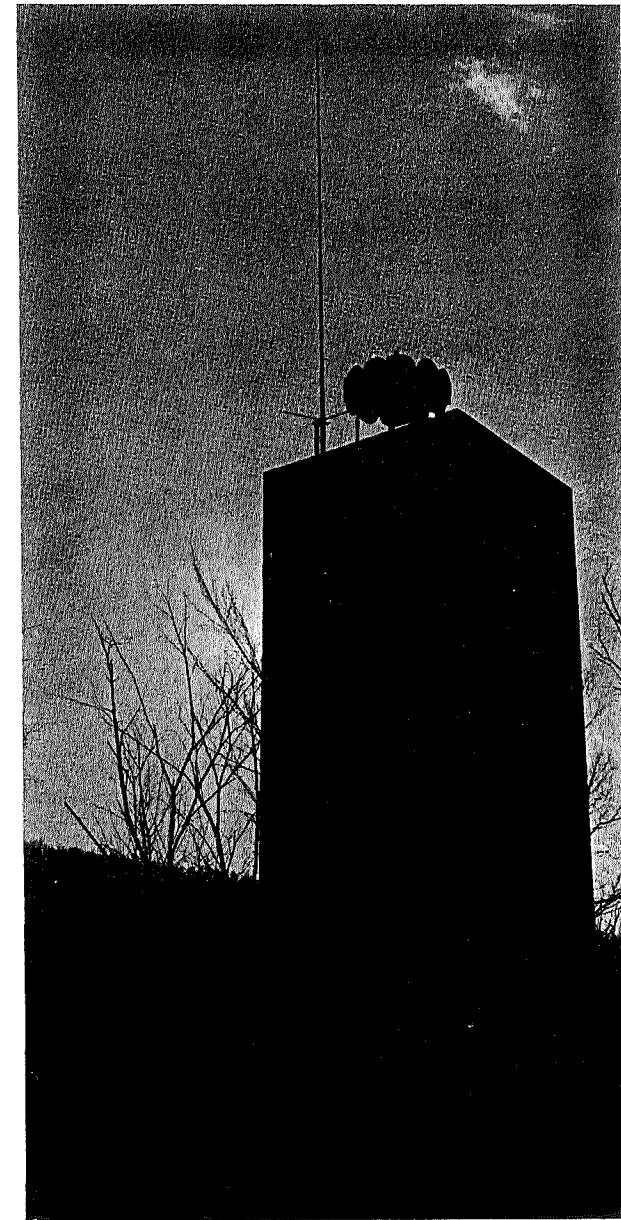
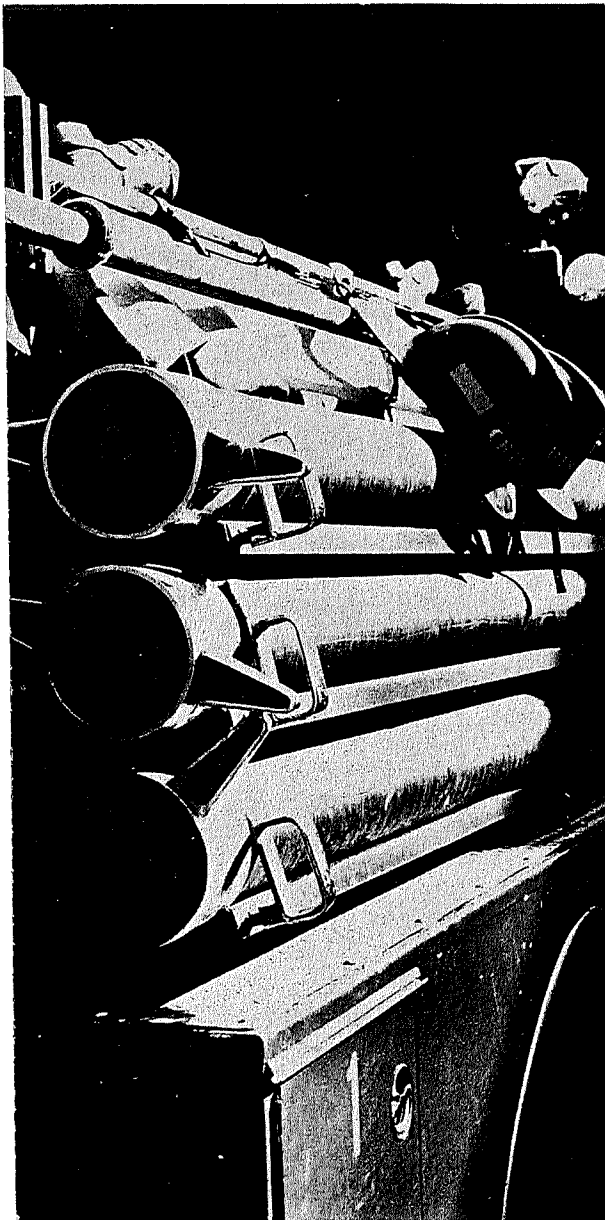
We urge all residents in our Township to take an active interest in this volunteer organization that is providing emergency service to YOU! A volunteer company is only as strong as those who help support it with not only finances, but with unselfish time and interest.

We invite you to come look over your Fire Company.....Look at the Building.....Look at the Work that YOU can do.....and then become interested and involved!!



In the case of FIRE
or EMERGENCY, call

586-1731



Service Provided in 1972

Total Requests For Service 1,484

Complaints Received 761

1. Dog	98
a. bite	9
2. Criminal complaints:	181
a. attempted burglary	3
b. burglary	11
c. larceny	43
d. defraudent inkeeper	2
e. malicious use of phone	8
f. vandalism	31
g. malicious mischief	15
h. indecent exposure	5
i. fraudulent checks	2
j. bomb scares	11
k. tampering with mail	2
l. forgery	1
m. disorderly conduct	4
n. hit and run	4
o. harressment	2
p. attempted larceny	4
q. unlawful entry	2
r. disturbance	6
s. resisting arrest	1
t. assault officer	1
u. assault and battery	2
v. vagrant	1

There were 10 civil complaints.
 There were 23 domestic complaints.
 There were 7 discharging firearms complaints.
 There were 20 prowler complaints.
 There were 14 suspicious persons complaints.

3. General Complaints	268
(road conditions, accidents on private property, dumping, snowmobiles, junk cars, gas odors, hunters, etc.)	
4. Juvenile Complaints	
General	37
a. missing persons	32
b. drug act	5
c. malicious mischief	23
d. vandalism	19
e. disorderly conduct	2
f. possession of alic. bev.	7
g. shooting near property	2

Motor Vehicle Section

1. Accident investigations	149
a. number injured	61
b. fatalities	2
c. amount of property damage (est.)	\$116,815.
2. Motor vehicle:(citations issued)	237
speeding	72
expired inspection sticker	53
expired plate	12
stop sign	15
reckless driving	6
failure to yield	2
red light	11
too fast for conditions	1
driving without glasses	3
faulty muffler	2
no sticker	2

no plate	1
driving with lost plate	2
permit violation by owner	1
operating without license	5
illegal inspection	3
failure to use turn signal	2
improper registration	1
improper turn	1
improper pass	1
passing school bus	1
illegal signs	4

3. Parking tickets issued 91

Duty Patrol Miles 74,541

Duty Hours

Chief Dunn (full time)	1,898
Sgt. Birtch (full time)	2,134
W. Waltz (full time)	2,084
W. Fetzer (part time)	643
T. Greene (part time)	714
J. Skrobak (part time)	372
C. Boam (part time)	358
M. Dunn (Clerical)	400

General Assistance

There were 61 motorists in distress given assistance.
 There were 87 assists to other police agencies.
 There were 21 assists to fire companies.
 There were 41 requests for property checks.
 There were 14 requests for traffic control for funerals.

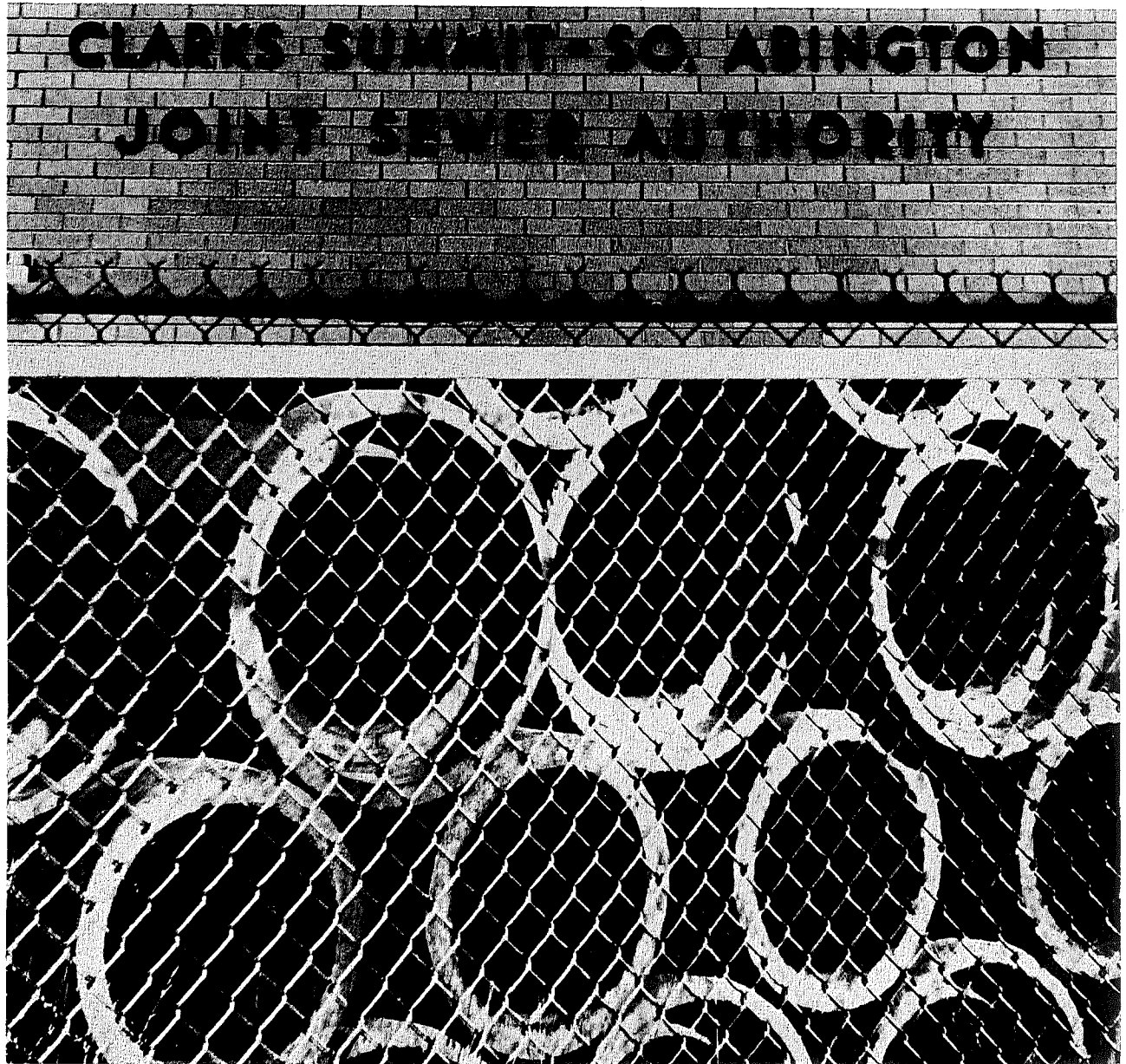
Sewer Authority

The Authority's Origin and History

Following a mandate from the State, the Board of Supervisors of South Abington Township, appointed a Sewer Authority in January of 1967. The Sewer Authority was given the responsibility of constructing sewage collection lines for sanitary sewage disposal in designated parts of the Township. The Authority, over a period of years, by issuing Bonds and receiving a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, financed the construction of the Township sewer system.

When it became evident that inter-governmental cooperation was required in the treatment of sewage, a Joint Authority was formed. This Authority is comprised of representatives from Clarks Summit and South Abington Township, and is responsible for the construction and operation of the Sewage Treatment Plant which serves both Clarks Summit and South Abington residents and business places.

The first phases of the sewer program are essentially completed, however, the South Abington Sewer System is constantly being extended. Private developers are required to install sewers that meet Township specifications. Future extensions of public sewers are expected to be made by the Authority as funds become available for such extensions.



What steps have been taken by the Sewer Authority?

Sewer mains were installed in streets and rights-of-way.

Lateral lines were installed from the main to property lines.

Inspections were made of each section of pipe and every manhole by the Consulting Engineer.

Following the inspection of the lines by the Authority Engineer, assessment notices were sent to property owners, assessing each front foot of the property at \$6.50 per foot. This bill was payable immediately and failure to make payments within 60 days resulted in the filing of a lien against the property. If a lien was filed, interest charges and other costs were added to the amount of the assessment.

Because the Authority realized that in many cases the amount of the sewer assessments was a substantial item in the budget of the property owner, it has permitted the payment of assessments over a period of years from the date of billing.

Many property owners borrowed funds from commercial sources or to extend existing mortgages and pay the entire assessment. Commercial lenders were able to provide a longer payment per-

iod than the Authority was able to offer. Construction of sewer laterals from the property line to the home was the responsibility of the property owner. Prior to installing the line property owners applied for a permit at the Township Building and paid a connection fee of \$50.00. The line installed on private property was subject to approval by a Township Inspector.

How does the Authority use moneys from your assessment, connection fee, and sewer service charges?

1. Your \$6.50 front foot assessment and connecting fee of \$50.00 is used to pay off Sewer Construction Bonds due to be retired by June of 1974. (This is the lowest front foot assessment rate in Lackawanna County.)
2. Your Sewer Service charges of approximately \$28.50 per quarter is used to pay off the Sewer Treatment Plant Construction Bonds, operation of the plant, and long term bonds for the sewer collection system. It is anticipated that as the number of equivalent dwelling units increases, the charges will be lowered.
3. The Sewage Collection System is leased to the Township for operation.

4. The Authority has retained the following for specific work in carrying on the project:

Project Engineers - Northeastern Engineering Co.

Consulting Engineers - Bellante, Clauss, Miller, & Nolan

Contractors - Wyoming Sand and Stone, and G. Weinberger Co.

Legal Counsel - Att. James E. O'Connell
Bond Counsel - Ballard, Sphar, Andrews & Ingersoll

Financial Advisors - Kidder & Peabody
Trustee - Northeastern National Bank

The Sewer Authority, with all members serving without compensation, meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Township Building at 7:30 P.M. The meetings have been and will continue to be open to the citizens of South Abington Township.

Abington Heights School District

School Year - 1972-73

The nongraded continuous progress program which began last year in Grove Street School will be extended this year to include Waverly, Glenburn, Division St. and Morgan Highway Schools, with implementation in S. Abington and Newton-Ransom schools scheduled in 1973-1974. However, none of the budget considerations involve local funds for program planning for the Middle School since this three year project is funded by ESEA Title III. Under the heading, "Staff Orientation to the Middle School Program," 77 teachers, 10 administrators, 28 parents, and 29 students will meet on a regularly scheduled basis to develop the curriculum, the policies, and procedures for this new school in terms of our community needs and desires.

Overcrowded conditions continue in our schools and over 200 new students have entered for the new school year. Three new members have been added to the professional staff which numbers 250, and teacher aides have almost doubled for the purpose of assisting teachers and freeing them from paper work so their time can be spent more profitably working directly with boys and girls.

The district has purchased one additional bus and contracted for a second, since growth in housing in outer areas of the school district is continuing.

The budget for 1972-73 reflects an increase of 5.2% or \$236,716 over expenditures of last year. The monies to meet this increase are expected from the increase in state appropriations, new housing tax receipts, and the newly implemented occupational tax which will bring the school district one half of such funds collected in the municipalities served. The budget allows the retainage of last years rated 73 mills.

Increased costs are found mainly in the area of instruction which accounts for approximately 61% of the total budget commitment. However, cost-of-living increases in salaries of non-professional personnel as well as are also included in budget consideration, as are increased costs of benefits for all employees.

Maintenance, one of the areas needing constant consideration, is staffed by a full complement of men. Necessary large improvements, such as the installation of a new boiler at the South Abington School and the black-topping throughout the district have been included in this year's budget expenditures. In addition, a needed water softener has been installed at the high school; throughout the schools, lockers have been repaired and replaced and general repair work is constantly underway in the schools.



Fiscal Report: 1972-73 School Year

Summary of Receipts

	BUDGET 1972-73	Percentage of Total
Local Revenue	\$ 2,485,586	54.86
State Revenue	1,977,448	43.64
Federal Revenue	48,000	1.06
Miscellaneous Revenue	20,000	.44
Total Receipts:	<u>\$ 4,531,034</u>	<u>100 %</u>

Summary of Expenditures

	BUDGET 1972-73	Percentage of Total
Administration	\$ 169,576	3.74
Instruction	2,708,245	60.68
Pupil Personnel Services	163,842	3.62
Health Services	47,300	.10
Pupil Transportation	155,994	3.44
Operation and Maintenance	438,461	10.55
Fixed Charges	349,758	7.72
Food Services	9,500	.02
Student Activities	41,600	.92
Community Service	4,750	.01
Capital Outlay	9,408	.02
Debt Service	314,000	6.93
Intersystem Payments	18,600	.04
Additional Cash Requirements	100,000	2.21
Total Expenditures	<u>\$4,531,034</u>	<u>100 %</u>

