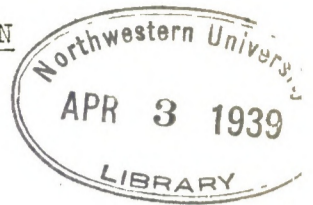


WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

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## WPA SUMMARIZES ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THREE YEARS' OPERATION

Colonel F. C. Harrington, Works Progress Administrator today made public a summary of physical accomplishments on 200,000 WPA projects in three years of operations.

The report covers work completed from start of the program in July, 1935, through June 30, 1938. Actual project operations were not under way on a large scale before late November of 1935. Thus the accomplishments listed are the products for the most part of only 31 months of work.

WPA, the report discloses, built or improved highways, roads and streets equal in aggregate length to 100 roads across the continent. New public buildings constructed by WPA workers were the equivalent of about six for each of the 3,000 counties in the United States.

New school buildings and libraries and additions to existing educational facilities alone were of a sufficient number to place one in each of the country's 3,000 counties. The educational buildings repaired or improved would provide nearly all of the 25,000 school districts with one improved educational facility each.

Outstanding among WPA's contributions to the public facilities of the Nation were:

17,600 new public buildings for cities, counties and states; repairs and improvements to 46,300 and additions to 1,700.

280,000 miles of highways, roads and streets constructed or repaired; 29,100 new bridges and 23,500 repaired or improved.

26,700 new dams for conservation purposes; 4,100 new storage dams.

6,100 miles of new water mains, aqueducts and distribution lines; 8,900 miles of new storm and sanitary sewers.

1,800 new athletic fields, 1,500 improved; 1,100 new parks, 4,200 improved or enlarged; 1,600 new playgrounds, 5,000 improved.

8,700 miles of new and 5,000 miles of improved ditches for mosquito control; 11,500 miles of other types of ditches excavated or improved, exclusive of roadside drainage in connection with road projects.

"For full appraisal of the program it is necessary to consider not only the permanent contributions to communities in the form of physical

assets but also the health, educational, cultural and service programs conducted through WPA non-construction projects," Colonel Harrington said.

"It is just as important, in evaluating the program, to consider the benefits afforded workers who have come to WPA as heads of destitute families. They have been helped, as only a constructive job could help them, to retain the morale of independent citizens and the work habits necessary for obtaining re-employment in private industry.

"Construction projects have made up the bulk of the WPA program from the start and at the present account for more than 80 per cent of WPA employment," Colonel Harrington continued. "The largest part of construction has been in highway, road and street building and repair. Forty-five per cent of all WPA workers are engaged on this type of work.

"The work of WPA employees has helped to keep our roads and streets abreast of automobile traffic requirements, to bring rural areas in closer touch with markets, schools and other vital services, as well as to make necessary improvements in public property of all types which otherwise could not have been provided."

Of the total mileage of highways, roads and streets constructed or repaired during the three-year period, about 30,500 miles or 11 per cent were within the limits of cities and villages, and 23,600 miles, or more than eight per cent of the total, were paved with concrete, brick, block or bituminous surface.

The bulk of the road work was in rural areas, where stabilizing and draining unpaved roads for year-around use has contributed directly to the evolution of the public school system by facilitating the consolidation of schools and the closing of hundreds of one-teacher schools each year. The bulk of WPA's school construction, moreover, has been of buildings with two or more rooms, and much of the school modernization program has made existing buildings of greater community service in the increasingly motorized rural areas.

The public building construction program, second largest in point of employment, accounted for the building of 2,300 new schools, 5,500 recreational buildings, 800 courthouses, city halls and other administrative buildings, 100 hospitals and a large number of other types of buildings including 300 warehouses, 150 firehouses and 100 airplane hangars.



WPA activities in the interest of public health fell in both construction and service categories. Besides the thousands of miles of sewers and water lines laid or improved, there were constructed 400 pumping stations, 300 sewage treatment plants, 80 water purification plants and 35 garbage incinerators. In rural areas, no fewer than 1,144,000 sanitary toilets were erected in the Government's campaign against disease. More than 1,640,000 acres of lowlands and swamp were drained by the excavation of 8,730 miles of mosquito control ditches, a large percentage of them to destroy the breeding places of malaria-bearing mosquitoes.

Drainage work along roads involved, in addition to bridges, 313,000 new culverts, 22,250 miles of new ditches, 44,250 miles of improved ditches and more than 1,400 miles of drainage pipe.

WPA non-construction projects devoted to production of goods for distribution to needy families provided more than 180,000,000 garments and household articles and repairs to 1,300,000 pairs of worn shoes. Services of medical, dental, nursing and household assistance nature accounted for 15,000,000 examinations, immunizations and treatments in families who might otherwise have been denied them; and 7,000,000 visits to 1,000,000 families in need of household assistance.

Community health and welfare has further been advanced by the construction of thousands of recreational facilities ranging from athletic fields and swimming pools to tennis and badminton courts.

Under the extensive WPA conservation activities, thousands of acres of watersheds have been protected for future utility by treeplanting and erosion control projects. Hundreds of abandoned mines were sealed to prevent stream pollution. Underground fires were isolated to preserve valuable natural resources. Flood control projects have protected thousands of miles of stream valleys. In addition, WPA recreation and education projects have reached millions of persons.

Projects operated by other Federal agencies and financed by funds transferred from WPA, taking their workers from relief rolls, account for additional physical accomplishments not included in this inventory. Still other contributions to the public assets and welfare were made prior to WPA by the Civil Works Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

(The detailed summary of physical accomplishments is attached.)

PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT ON WPA PROJECTS

Through June 30, 1938

United States Summary

(Preliminary - Subject to Revision)

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount		
		New Construction	Repairs and Improvements	Additions
Public Buildings - Total - - - - -	Number	17,562	46,318	1,663
Educational buildings - Total - - - - -	Number	2,362	22,162	790
Schools - - - - -	Number	2,289	21,540	758
Libraries - - - - -	Number	73	622	32
Recreational buildings - Total - - - - -	Number	5,486	3,546	296
Auditoriums - - - - -	Number	215	247	69
Stadiums, grandstands, etc. - - - - -	Number	974	337	43
Gymnasiums - - - - -	Number	497	297	104
Other (pavilion, bath houses, etc.) - - - - -	Number	3,800	2,665	80
Hospitals - - - - -	Number	101	1,422	38
Penal institutions - - - - -	Number	92	321	17
Courthouses, offices, and other administrative buildings - - - - -	Number	792	2,999	126
Fire houses - - - - -	Number	149	1,403	23
Garages - - - - -	Number	1,141	547	66
Aircraft hangars - - - - -	Number	102	96	5
Warehouses - - - - -	Number	805	1,179	59
Armories - - - - -	Number	169	270	3
Other buildings and small structures (such as bus and street car shelters)	Number	6,363	12,373	240
Demolition of Buildings - - - - -	Number	XXX	12,312	XXX

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount
<u>Highways, Roads, Streets and Related Facilities</u>		
Highways, roads, and streets - Total - - - - -	Miles	279,804
Rural roads - Total - - - - -	Miles	245,280
Paved - Total - - - - -	Miles	11,567
New - - - - -	Miles	5,933
Repair - - - - -	Miles	5,634
Unpaved - - - - -	Miles	233,713
Urban streets - Total - - - - -	Miles	30,483
Paved - Total - - - - -	Miles	11,290
New - - - - -	Miles	5,001
Repair - - - - -	Miles	6,289
Unpaved - - - - -	Miles	19,193
Other (parks, cemeteries, etc.) -		
Total - - - - -	Miles	4,011
Paved - Total - - - - -	Miles	790
New - - - - -	Miles	456
Repair - - - - -	Miles	334
Unpaved - - - - -	Miles	3,251



Type	Unit of Measurement	New Construction	Repairs and Improvements
<u>Highways, Roads, Streets, and Related Facilities (Continued)</u>			
Road shoulders (not incl. above) - - - -	Miles	4,369	26,508
<u>Bridges - Total</u> - - - - -	Number	29,084	23,521
	Length in feet	932,648	916,137
Wood - - - - -	Number	20,825	14,244
	Length in feet	622,258	402,219
Steel - - - - -	Number	2,516	7,071
	Length in feet	135,360	437,655
Masonry - - - - -	Number	5,743	2,206
	Length in feet	175,030	176,263
Culverts - - - - -	Number	313,204	50,908
	Length in feet	8,362,554	1,306,783
Grade crossing elimination - - - - -	No. of crossing eliminations	41	XXX
<u>Sidewalks and paths - Total</u> - - - - -	Miles	7,429	4,040
Paved - - - - -	Miles	5,883	2,839
Unpaved - - - - -	Miles	1,546	1,201
Curbs - - - - -	Length in miles	6,554	1,569
Gutters - - - - -	Length in miles	2,266	492
Guardrails and guardwalls - - - - -	Length in miles	904	550
Lights for roads and streets - - - - -	Number	11,855	53,632
	Miles of road equipped	429	1,483
Roadside drainage - - - - -	Miles of ditch	22,247	44,255
	Miles of pipe	1,382	343
Roadside landscaping - - - - -	Miles	XXX	17,584
Street signs - - - - -	Miles of line painted	3,112	XXX
	No. signs made	961,000	XXX
	No. signs erected	420,000	XXX
Removal of car and railroad track - - -	Miles of single line track	XXX	682
<u>Airports and Airway Equipment (Excl. Bldgs.)</u>			
Landing fields - - - - -	Number	153	204
	Acres	19,472	35,779
Runways - - - - -	Length in feet	1,483,695	604,817
Air beacons - - - - -	Number	49	41
Air markers - - - - -	Number	10,223	XXX
<u>Recreational Facilities (Excl. Buildings)</u>			
Athletic fields - - - - -	Number	1,787	1,504
	Acres	10,012	10,628
Parks - - - - -	Number	1,067	4,232
	Acres	32,559	246,684
Additions to parks - - - - -	Number	110	XXX
	Acres	1,665	XXX

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
		New Construction	Repairs and Improvements
<u>Recreational Facilities (Excl. Buildings)</u>			
(Continued)			
Fair grounds - - - - -	Number	28	125
	Acres	1,519	6,799
<u>Playgrounds - Total</u> - - - - -	Number	1,594	5,010
School - - - - -	Number	896	4,042
Other - - - - -	Number	698	968
Swimming pools - - - - -	Number	471	225
	Surface area in sq. ft.	8,251,000	3,640,000
Wading pools - - - - -	Number	440	60
	Surface area in sq. ft.	1,490,000	216,000
Golf courses - - - - -	Number	143	214
	Number of holes	1,602	2,857
	Acres	11,170	21,211
Tennis courts - - - - -	Number	4,582	1,851
Handball courts - - - - -	Number	728	62
Horseshoe courts - - - - -	Number	1,142	70
Ice skating rinks - - - - -	Number	1,037	205
	Surface area in sq. ft.	41,519,000	18,473,000
Ski jumps - - - - -	Number	41	13
Ski trails - - - - -	Miles	62	32
Outdoor theaters - - - - -	Number	73	12
Band shells - - - - -	Number	116	33
<u>Water Supply, Sanitation, and Drainage Systems</u>			
Water mains, aqueducts, or distribution lines - - - - -	Miles	6,086	2,204
	No. of consumer connections	148,000	201,000
Storage tanks, reservoirs, and cisterns	Number	1,342	358
	Gals. capacity	716,500,000	16,269,946,000
Storage dams - - - - -	Number	4,091	469
Wells - - - - -	Number	2,059	2,022
<u>Treatment plants</u>			
Sewage (excl. cesspools and septic tanks) - - - - -	Number	315	229
Water - - - - -	Number	79	91
Garbage incinerators - - - - -	Number	35	26
Pumping stations - - - - -	Number	386	179
Storm and sanitary sewers - - - - -	Miles	8,855	2,600
	No. of service connections	222,000	28,000
Manholes and catch basins - - - - -	Number	237,000	126,000



Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
		New Construction	Repairs and Improvements
<u>Water Supply, Sanitation and Drainage Systems (Continued)</u>			
Sanitary toilets - - - - -	Number	1,144,000	15,000
Septic tanks - - - - -	Number	5,570	69
Mine sealing - - - - -	No. of openings sealed	15,591	XXX
Mosquito control - - - - -	Miles of ditch	8,732	4,960
	Acres drained	1,642,000	784,000
	Gals. of spray used	1,422,000	XXX
Drainage (other than roadside and mosquito eradication) - - - - -	Miles of ditch	2,018	9,490
	Miles of pipe	986	322
	Acres drained	2,891,000	8,728,000
<u>Flood and Erosion Control - Navigation Aids - Irrigation</u>			
Docks, wharves, and piers - - - - -	Number	154	177
	Ft. of useable waterfront	59,000	158,000
	Area in sq. ft.	1,849,000	7,976,000
Jetties and breakwaters - - - - -	Miles	25	1
Bulkheads - - - - -	Linear feet	331,000	126,000
Canals and channels - - - - -	Miles	59	197
River bank improvements - - - - -	Miles	XXX	1,407
Stream bed improvements - - - - -	Miles	XXX	4,417
Dams (other than storage or power)	Number	26,663	365
Riprap (other than river bank) - - - - -	Sq. yds. surfaced	6,859,000	1,467,000
Retaining walls and revetments - - - - -	Linear feet	3,725,000	463,000
Levees and embankments - - - - -	Linear feet	1,352,000	3,641,000
	Cu. yds. placed	13,748,000	14,345,000
Irrigation - - - - -	Acres	169,000	2,726,000
	Miles of flume or canal	379	3,035
<u>Grounds Improvements</u>			
Landscaping around public buildings - - - - -	No. of buildings	XXX	13,308
	Acres	XXX	34,100
Miscellaneous landscaping - - - - -	Acres	XXX	7,800
Lighting airports, parking lots, athletic fields, etc. - - - - -	No. of places lighted	410	57
	Acres lighted	10,566	3,127
Fencing - - - - -	Miles	7,959	10,490
Cemetery improvements - - - - -	Acres	XXX	4,500

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
		New Construction	Repairs and Improvements
<u>Miscellaneous</u>			
Police and fire alarm signals - - - -	Linear miles of line strung	932	XXX
<u>Tunnels</u>			
Vehicular- - - - -	Number	10	5
	Length in feet	1,244	5,408
Pedestrian - - - - -	Number	71	11
	Length in feet	10,986	3,220
Other- - - - -	Number	208	35
	Length in feet	111,184	20,962
Fish hatcheries - - - - -	Number	131	113
	Annual fingerling capacity	471,136,000	446,980,000
Monuments and historic markers- - - -	Number	517	100

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount
<u>Conservation Activities (Not Elsewhere Classified)</u>		
Reforestation - - - - -	Acres	54,300
	No. of trees planted	24,026,000
Firebreaks- - - - -	Miles	2,186
Fire and forest trails- - - - -	Miles	3,344
Spray treatments, disease, and insect pest eradication (except mosquito control) - - - - -	Acres sprayed	3,445,000
	Gallons of spray used	18,484,000
	Tons of poisoned food used	83,407
Rodent destruction- - - - -	Number	31,532,000
Planting oysters- - - - -	Bushels planted	4,941,000

Work in Libraries

Cataloging for existing libraries - -	No. of volumes cataloged	27,553,000
<u>Renovation of books - Total</u> - - - - -	Number	56,191,000
Public school volumes- - - - -	Number	20,151,000
Public library volumes - - - - -	Number	26,714,000
Other volumes- - - - -	Number	9,326,000

Sewing Rooms

Articles made - Total - - - - -	Number	181,209,000
<u>Garments - Total</u> - - - - -	Number	139,642,000
Men's- - - - -	Number	26,846,000
Women's - - - - -	Number	35,309,000
Boys' - - - - -	Number	23,019,000
Girls'- - - - -	Number	30,440,000
Infants'- - - - -	Number	23,528,000
Other articles - - - - -	Number	41,567,000
Canning and Preserving - - - - -	Net pounds	48,061,000
School Lunches Served- - - - -	Number	238,330,000

Medical, Dental, and Nursing Assistance

Medical and dental clinics conducted or assisted- - - - -	No. of persons examined	4,211,000
	No. of persons treated	3,537,000



Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount
<u>Medical, Dental, and Nursing Assistance</u> (Continued)		
Medical examinations other than at clinics - - - - -	No. of adults examined	280,000
	No. of children examined	1,674,000
Nursing visits - - - - -	No. of group inspections made	215,000
	No. of persons inspected	3,960,000
	No. of home visits made	4,737,000
Nursing aid at immunizations - - - - -	No. of immunizations	893,000
<u>Art</u>		
Federal community art centers - - - - -	No. established	53
	Aggregate attendance	4,000,000
Drawings, easel paintings, murals and sculptured works - - - - -	Number	96,602
Etchings, lithographs, woodblocks, etc.	No. of originals	15,756
	No. of prints	76,000
Arts and crafts - - - - -	No. of objects made	43,000
Index of American Design Plates - - - - -	No. of plates made	7,940
Stage sets, dioramas, and models for visual education - - - - -	Number	10,610
<u>Music</u>		
Music classes (January 1938 through June 1938) - - - - -	Average monthly attendance	530,000
Music performances (Month of June 1938) - - - - -	Number	4,355
	Aggregate audience	3,030,000
<u>Theater</u>		
Theatrical productions - - - - -	Number	1,813
Theatrical performances (January 1938 through June 1938) - - - - -	Average number per month	1,077
	Average monthly attendance	476,000
Writing - - - - -	No. of books and pamphlets published	293
	No. of copies distributed	3,550,000
<u>Historical Surveys</u>		
Historic American Building Survey - - - - -	No. of structures measured	2,302
	No. of drawings made	16,244
	No. of photographs made	17,480
Historic American Merchant Marine Surveys - - - - -	No. of vessels surveyed	290
	No. of drawings made	775
	No. of photographs made	545
Historic Records Survey - - - - -	No. of states whose records have been listed	8
	No. of counties whose records have been listed	2,051
	No. of county inventories published	168
	No. of towns whose records have been listed	1,559
	No. of town inventories published	14
	No. of churches whose records have been listed	50,355

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount
Federal Archives Survey - - - - -	No. of agencies whose records were surveyed	29,142
	Linear ft. of files surveyed	4,918,000
Planning Surveys Conducted- - - - -	Number	757
Research and Statistical Studies Conducted-	Number	1,282
Maps - - - - -	No. of maps drawn	116,000
Indexing and cataloging - - - - -	No. of items indexed or cataloged	593,175,000
Braille - - - - -	No. of Braille pages transcribed	2,136,000
Housekeeping Aides- - - - -	No. of visits made	7,047,000
	No. of families aided	1,076,000
Museum Activities - - - - -	No. of articles constructed or renovated	4,745,000
	No. of articles cataloged	9,498,000

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Division of Statistics  
March 29, 1939