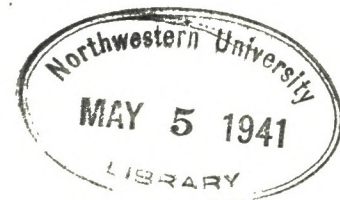


DOCUMENTS  
ROOMFEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATIONFor Release  
Sunday, April 27, 1941WPA IMPROVEMENTS NOW AVERAGE 180 MILES OF ROAD WORK, 9 NEW PUBLIC  
BUILDINGS TO EACH COUNTY IN UNITED STATES

More than 100,000 public buildings and 565,000 miles of roads have been built or improved by WPA workers, Acting Commissioner Howard O. Hunter of the Work Projects Administration reported today in a summary of WPA accomplishments during five and one-half years.

In these two principal categories, the work completed by the WPA is equivalent to 180 miles of road construction or improvement and nine new public buildings for every county in the United States.

The summary of WPA work from July, 1935, through 1940, is a record of physical contribution to community wealth in nearly every field of public works. The accomplishments include city streets, farm-to-market roads, utilities, schools, hospitals, armories and barracks, airports, and recreational, conservation and sanitation facilities, much of which has come to have important bearing on preparedness.

The mileage of road, street and highway work by WPA equals nearly one-sixth of the total mileage in the United States. Nearly 100,000 miles were built or improved during the last calendar year. The 565,000-mile total includes 41,500 miles of new high-type surface pavement constructed and 29,000 miles improved, and 495,000 miles of other types of pavement and unsurfaced roads built, reconstructed or otherwise improved.

Last year alone new buildings and additions constructed by WPA averaged two for every county in the United States. The program has run especially to educational and recreational buildings, with 4,900 of the former and 7,600 of the latter among the total of 28,400, exclusive of utility plants and airport buildings, constructed since the program began. Improvements have been made to 72,000 buildings, 11,000 of them during last year, and 3,600 additions have been constructed. Among the military buildings are 251 new armories, 368 improved and 43 enlarged.

"During the last five and one-half years the WPA has contributed heavily to the physical plant of the nation by giving work

to millions of needy persons who would otherwise have been idle," Mr. Hunter said. "The buildings they have constructed and modernized have helped to improve the functioning of our educational and other local governmental services. Because a half-million miles of rural roads have been made over, thousands of farm families have their markets and shops easily accessible the year around.

"Expanding commercial air traffic is using fields which in most instances have been constructed or made adequate by WPA workers. Commerce in the cities has profited by improved streets, and the people in crowded areas have new parks and playing fields.

"Now the preparedness program has given new importance to many of the facilities provided by WPA workers. Water and sewer systems which WPA has installed in expanding industrial centers are meeting new requirements. Heavy traffic incident to defense industry, construction and military training is borne over routes to which WPA has contributed.

"Arsenals, navy yards and military posts were better able to swing into the accelerated pace of the defense program because of WPA work on buildings and utilities. Health and sanitation works are of increased importance now that the armed forces are concentrating men in camps. Many of the airfields which WPA has provided have been taken over by the Army, and others are integral to the defense of the nation."

As the largest single agent in airport construction, WPA has worked at 750 sites in the last five and one-half years and is rapidly expanding that number under its current defense airport program. Two hundred new landing fields have been built, additions have been provided at 45 and improvements have been completed at 300. Nearly 1,800 buildings have been constructed or improved at airfields, and scores of fields have been drained and lighted.

As part of its highway program, WPA has constructed 69,100 bridges and viaducts and reconstructed or improved 42,400 others, together aggregating 770 miles in length. Last year new bridges were completed at the rate of 32 a day. Nearly 900,000 culverts have been built. Sixty-seven thousand miles of pipe or ditches have been provided for roadside drainage, and an even greater amount of existing roadside drainage has been improved.

WPA has operated one of its major programs in the field of publicly-owned utilities and sanitation. Two thousand pumping stations, sewage and water treatment plants, incinerators, and generating plants have been constructed and 1,000 reconstructed. Twenty-five hundred storage tanks and reservoirs and 3,600 water wells have been built.

The mileage of new water mains and distribution lines and storm and sanitary sewers increased last year by 7,100 miles to 32,500. This total is ten times the breadth of the continent, and the mileage reconstructed would cross the country more than twice. Along these lines, a million and a quarter service connections have been made or reconditioned by WPA workers.

Sanitation has been furthered in rural areas through the construction of 2,120,000 sanitary privies, a program which the U. S. Public Health Service credits with reducing sharply the incidence of various diseases. Last year WPA turned them out at the rate of 1,000 a day.

In addition to gymnasiums and other recreation buildings, WPA has constructed 2,000 stadiums, grandstands and bleachers with combined capacity sufficient to seat the population of Chicago. Improvements were made to 730 others and additions to 110. The nation's facilities for athletics, play and recreation have been immensely expanded by the construction of 2,700 athletic fields, 2,700 playgrounds, 1,500 parks and more than 700 swimming pools. Improvements were made to 2,300 athletic fields, 8,900 playgrounds and more than 500 swimming pools.

Erosion control and conservation, an increasingly important function in cooperation with soil conservation districts, has been advanced by the construction of thousands of check dams. Fifty-six hundred miles of fire and forest trails and 5,900 miles of firebreaks have been constructed. Improvements were made to 4,200 miles of river banks and 7,312 miles of streambeds. Areas aggregating more than two miles square have been riprapped.

Physical accomplishments summarized in the report include only work completed on WPA-operated construction projects. They exclude the "white collar," or community service, projects and the contributions of WPA workers employed on construction projects financed with

WPA funds which have been transferred to other Federal agencies. Buildings, utilities, roads and airports on Army and Navy reservations account for a great part of the expenditures from transferred WPA funds.

(Attached is a detailed summary of WPA accomplishments in tabular form.)

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FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECTS OPERATED BY THE WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION  
IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

Cumulative through December 31, 1940

(Preliminary)

		Number	
Highways, Roads, Streets and Related Items			
Highways, Roads, and Streets - Total	Miles	565,456	
Rural Roads - Total	Miles	497,516	
High Type Surface - Total	Miles	42,959	
New Construction	Miles	24,867	
Reconstruction or Improvement	Miles	18,092	
Low Type Surface and Unsurfaced	Miles	454,557	
Urban Streets - Total	Miles	59,059	
High Type Surface - Total	Miles	25,264	
New Construction	Miles	15,287	
Reconstruction or Improvement	Miles	9,977	
Low Type Surface and Unsurfaced	Miles	33,795	
Other Roads (In Parks, etc.) - Total	Miles	8,881	
High Type Surface - Total	Miles	2,037	
New Construction	Miles	1,249	
Reconstruction or Improvement	Miles	788	
Low Type Surface and Unsurfaced	Miles	6,844	
		New Construction	Reconstruction or Improvement
Bridges and Viaducts - Total	(Number	69,094	42,353
	(Linear Feet	2,215,111	1,858,114
Wood Bridges and Viaducts	(Number	50,173	23,572
	(Linear Feet	1,515,770	746,507
Steel Bridges and Viaducts	(Number	5,625	14,648
	(Linear Feet	289,255	938,970
Masonry Bridges and Viaducts	(Number	13,296	4,133
	(Linear Feet	410,086	172,637
Culverts	(Number	878,939	104,740
	(Linear Feet	24,377,508	2,738,344
Road Drainage Ditch and Pipe	Miles	66,781	79,900
Sidewalks and Paths - Total	Miles	19,827	6,579
Paved Sidewalks and Paths	Miles	16,735	4,823
Unpaved Sidewalks and Paths	Miles	3,092	1,756
Curbs	Miles	20,112	3,253
Gutters	Miles	4,970	764
Guardrails and Guardwalls	Miles	2,488	1,168
Road and Street Lighting	(Number of		
	Light Standards	25,000	63,000
	(Miles of road		
	equipped	694	1,409
Traffic Signs Erected	Number	773,000	.....
Traffic Control Line Painted	Miles of Line	5,167	.....
Roadside Landscaping	Miles of Road	.....	39,645
Car and Railroad Track Removal	Miles.....	1,376	

		New Construction	Reconstruction or Improvement	Additions
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, EXCLUDING UTILITY PLANTS AND BUILDINGS AT AIRPORTS				
Public Buildings - Total	Number	28,387	72,365	3,626
Educational Buildings - Total	Number	4,914	30,706	1,855
Libraries	Number	124	814	62
Schools	Number	4,790	29,892	1,793
Recreational Buildings - Total	Number	7,604	5,095	510
Auditoriums	Number	346	272	117
Gymnasiums	Number	1,025	651	212
Other Recreational Buildings	Number	6,233	4,072	181
Offices and Administrative Buildings	Number	1,225	3,835	255
Hospitals	Number	143	1,688	85
Penal Institutions	Number	148	459	30
Dormitories	Number	895	3,425	42
Firehouses	Number	243	2,071	61
Garages	Number	2,126	1,624	169
Storage Buildings and Arsenals	Number	1,900	2,631	128
Armories	Number	251	368	43
Barns and Stables	Number	2,815	3,898	70
Other Public Buildings	Number	7,123	16,565	378
OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES				
Stadiums, Grandstands and Bleachers	(Number (Seating Capacity)	2,004 3,283,000	731 3,024,000	109 251,000
Fairgrounds and Rodeo Grounds	(Number (Area in Acres)	44 1,598	369 13,158	5 46
Parks	(Number (Area in Acres)	1,493 66,461	5,901 398,010	158 4,821
Playgrounds - Total	Number	2,704	8,884	95
School Playgrounds	Number	1,636	7,651	82
Other Playgrounds	Number	1,068	1,233	13
Athletic Fields	(Number (Area in Acres)	2,746 15,556	2,313 13,733	64 226
Handball Courts	Number	1,619	134	.....
Horseshoe Courts	Number	2,063	152	.....
Tennis Courts	Number	9,080	2,918	.....
Swimming Pools	(Number (Surface Area in Square Feet)	715 7,941,000	307 5,062,000	.....
Wading Pools	(Number (Surface Area in Square Feet)	748 2,355,000	73 303,000	.....
Ice Skating Area	(Number (Surface Area in Square Feet)	1,077 44,758,000	81 15,796,000	.....
Ski Trails	Miles	312	55	.....
Ski Jumps	Number	62	13	.....
Bandshells	Number	209	74	.....
Outdoor Theatres	Number	124	26	.....
Golf Courses	(Number (Number of Holes (Area in Acres)	228 2,490 16,170	378 4,486 33,713	.....

		New Con- struction	Reconstruc- tion or Improvement	Addi- tions
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SANITATION				
Utility Plants - Total	Number	1,999	987	90
Electric Power Plants	Number	39	152	14
Incinerator Plants	Number	93	49	--
Pumping Stations	Number	967	293	15
Sewage Treatment Plants	Number	733	357	48
Water Treatment Plants	Number	167	136	13
Water Mains and Distribution Lines	Miles	12,685	2,992	...
Water Consumer Connections	Number	323,000	381,000	...
Water Wells	Number	3,604	1,776	...
Storage Tanks, Reservoirs, Etc.	(Number	2,491	613	...
	(Capacity in Gals.	1,555,000,000	25,579,483,000	...
Storm and Sanitary Sewers	Miles	19,792	3,323	...
Sewerage Service Connections	Number	491,000	36,000	...
Manholes and Catch Basins	Number	637,789	373,549	...
Sanitary Privies	Number	2,120,000	.....	...
Abandoned Mine Sealing	Openings Sealed	213,000	.....	...
Telephone and Telegraph Lines	Miles	3,250	1,972	...
Police, Fire Alarm and Traffic Signal Systems	Miles of Line	1,340	1,688	...
Electric Power Lines	Miles	2,553	976	...
Floodlighting Athletic Fields, Parking Lots, etc.	(Number Lighted	826	128	...
	(Acres Lighted	12,528	566	...
Pipe Lines (Other than Water and Sewer)	Miles	550	106	...
FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL - IRRIGATION - CONSERVATION				
Fish Hatcheries	Number	146	147	110
Firebreaks	Miles	5,914	765	...
Fire and Forest Trails	Miles	5,648	1,605	...
Reforestation	Trees Planted	.....	109,212,000	...
Rodent Extermination	Number Killed	50,699,000	.....	...
Planting Oysters	Bushels Planted	8,039,000	.....	...
Levees and Embankments	Miles	460	1,001	...
Jetties and Breakwaters	Miles	111	5	...
Bulkheads	Miles	136	43	...
Retaining Walls and Revetments	Miles	1,581	127	...
Riprap	Sq. Yds. of Surface	14,673,000	1,857,000	...
River Bank and Shore Improvement	Miles	.....	4,204	...
Streambed Improvement	Miles	.....	7,312	...

		New Con- struction	Reconstruc- tion or Improvement	Addi- tions	Sur- facing
<b>AIRPORT AND AIRWAY FACILITIES</b>					
<b>Airport Facilities</b>					
Landing Fields	Number	197	340	57	.....
	Area in Acres	24,623	54,868	3,363	.....
Runways - Total	Linear feet	2,280,000	464,000	.....	247,000
High Type Surface	Linear feet	1,362,000	155,000	.....	141,000
Low Type Surface	Linear feet	918,000	309,000	.....	106,000
Airport Buildings - Total	Number	608	1,183	82	.....
Administrative and Ter- minal Buildings	Number	94	63	19	.....
Hangars	Number	181	290	11	.....
Other Airport Buildings	Number	333	830	52	.....
Taxi Strips - Total	Linear feet	195,000	14,000	.....	19,000
High Type Surface	Linear feet	157,000	11,000	.....	9,000
Low Type Surface	Linear feet	38,000	3,000	.....	10,000
Aprons - Total	Square yards	1,851,000	439,000	.....	-
High Type Surface	Square yards	1,539,000	439,000	.....	-
Low Type Surface	Square yards	312,000	-	.....	-
Turning Circles - Total	Square yards	537,000	135,000	.....	-
High Type Surface	Square yards	387,000	18,000	.....	-
Low Type Surface	Square yards	150,000	117,000	.....	-
Airport Drainage	Number of airports	107	39	.....	.....
Airport Drainage Ditch and Pipe	Linear feet	4,772,000	376,000	.....	.....
Landing Areas Floodlighted	Number lighted	69	18	.....	.....
Boundary Lights	Number of light standards	10,017	1,889	.....	.....
Seaplane Ramps and Land- ing Platforms	Number	25	3	.....	.....
<b>Airway Facilities</b>					
Airway Markers	Number	11,412	3,150	.....	.....
Airway Beacons	Number	73	15	.....	.....
		New Con- struction	Reconstruc- tion or Improvement		
<b>MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS</b>					
Landscaping and Beautifica- tion Other than Roadside and in Parks, etc.	Acres	.....	112,000		
Ornamental Pools and Foun- tains	Number	764	73		
Monuments and Historic Markers	Number	1,072	.....		
Fencing	Miles	13,298	18,636		
Tunnels - Total	(Number	835	126		
	(Linear feet	361,419	73,127		
Vehicular Tunnels	(Number	25	7		
	(Linear feet	3,280	5,633		
Pedestrian Tunnels	(Number	162	35		
	(Linear feet	29,535	12,343		
Other Tunnels	(Number	648	84		
	(Linear feet	328,604	55,101		
Docks, Wharves and Piers	Number	294	293		
	Feet of usable waterfront	112,000	286,000		
	Area in sq. ft.	4,227,000	16,693,000		
Artificial Channels Other than Irrigation and Drainage	Miles	82	194		