

# Inspector's Report

## Department of Weights and Measures

### Allegheny County, Penna.

#### Report for the Year 1936

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, THAT, in accordance with the Law, I have tested the Scales, Weights and Measures herein enumerated, and have Sealed or condemned them as set forth below.

	Correct and Sealed	Incorrect and Condemned
Computing	3941	970
Even Balance	1042	47
Uneven Balance	100	15
Torsion	66	4
Beam	64	34
Hanging Springs	64	46
Counter Springs	184	30
Counter Platform	156	17
Portable Platform	240	33
Dormant	230	71
Personal Weight	785	8
Motor Trucks	294	2
Butter	69125	12539
Oleo	1999	881
Lard	601	18
Bacon	5	0
Dry Measure	830	31
Liquid Measure	26100	133
Oil Pumps	1128	120
Gas Pumps	2824	1020
Grease Guns	86	0
Yard & Lin.; Measure	189	27
Avoirdupois Weights	5009	31
Packages	73868	2743
Baskets	38	0
Boxes	300	0
Bags	8	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>189335</b>	<b>18826</b>

Visits, 7049. Re Checks 1820—Total 8869.

Date of this Report January 6th, 1937.

EDWARD F. McDONOUGH, Chief,  
Bureau of Weights and Measures.

#### DEPT. OF PARKS & AVIATION

#### TO THE

#### BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

During the year 1936 the North and South County Parks were the community pleasure centers for millions.

Extensive improvements continued the transformation of virgin lands into full and natural recreational grounds.

Attendance and revenue records exceeded those of previous years, and there is no doubt that in the current year, especially with the completion of outstanding improvements in both parks, previous records will be surpassed.

The Allegheny County Parks are now among the best equipped areas maintained by and for the public anywhere. Changes made in facilities enjoyed by park visitors included: new picnic groves, new and improved swimming accommodations, golf course renovation, new tennis courts and club houses, archery range, supplemental and improved baseball, football, soccer, volley ball and mushball fields; enlarged grandstands at half-mile Fair Grounds track; refurbishment of electrical system and floodlighting to increase enjoyment of track and field sports and harness and running horse meets and races; safety measures for bicycle riders, better bridle trails, and greater opportunities for winter sports, such as the "solid-ice" skating rink in the race track Oval.

These varied pastimes are complemented by natural beauties which the park administration has been careful to preserve when making alterations.

Accomplishments of the year were extensive and may be summarized as follows:

#### NORTH PARK

The largest and most impressive addition to the North Park is the lake, covering eighty acres. Work was brought to an advanced stage of completion and it now remains only to landscape the extensive shoreline and five-mile drive which skirts the water, and begin filling. The boathouse was also completed, and a comprehensive program for the removal of valuable topsoil was carried out. North Park now has a comfortable and attractive lodge similar to the structure in the South Park. Park roads were resurfaced and improved; stone monuments built at the entrances, and much necessary reforestation done, in addition to widespread landscaping and planting to *embellish* the general park scene. This landscaping was largely made possible through the aid of Works Progress Administration funds. Thirty-five new groves have been created while others were entirely renovated and made more comfortable and attractive to picnickers. After careful planning and advisable relocation, there was laid out a perfect archery range for the use of Allegheny County bow and arrow enthusiasts. A new tennis club house and sixteen new courts are to be ready for use. And although the eighteen hole championship golf course in this park is today one of the finest and most expertly maintained, a new nine-hole course is being studied with a view to the further accommodation of Allegheny county golfers. A modern golf club house will be built during the summer of 1937.

Coincident with the opening of the park this year there will be ready for the public, one of the largest swimming pools in the country. Bath house, spectators stands, parking facilities, promenade, restaurant and rest accommodations will comfortably take care of the ten thousand bathers for which this new concrete pool has been designed. Aquatic sports-events

are to furnish additional enjoyment with races swum over the regulation fifty-meter course cross-pool from grandstand to grandstand where fifteen hundred spectators may be seated. A large reservoir and filtration plant are included among the year's accomplishments. Establishment of a comprehensive arboretum was planned, and there was selected a site whereon work will begin this year.

Really valuable work in the grafting of orchards was begun during 1936, and what is most important, the proper equipment for the termination of insect-pests in North Park was brought into use and a thorough campaign launched against the Tent Caterpillar. This work will be carried on exhaustively during the current year.

Babcock Boulevard, running directly through this park, was rebuilt and straightened. The buildings housing the park staff, known as the Administration Group, have been studied and improvements planned to make these structures equally attractive with those of the South Park.

#### SOUTH PARK

The natural beauties of the South Park were enriched by planned landscaping and by a general clean-up and repair program designed to embellish the appearance of the whole park.

The Vale of Cashmere, a beauty spot of jewel-like appearance and proportions; was advanced towards its ultimate completion by planting on a comprehensive scale.

Tree planting was carried out along the most extensive lines in the history of the parks, and these operations, coupled with a program of expert tree culture and care, will assure healthy trees, both newly-planted and otherwise. Pruning, trimming and fertilizing rejuvenated many trees which were found to be starving. Scores of spots were landscaped and banks planted. These widespread endeavors were accomplished largely with the valuable assistance of the Works Progress Administration clean-up project. The nursery in this park is developing into what might even now be called an "Arboretum" and will make an excellent beginning for a regular arboretum when established.

Completing the program for the refurbishment and readornment of the whole park, the administration group buildings and surrounding grounds were cleaned, re-arranged, and painted. Other buildings, including the Fair Grounds Group, South Park Cottage, Stone Manse, Girl Scout Cottage, Police Cabins and the like, were renovated and are now in first-class condition.

Conveniencies for the use of park visitors were materially improved. Outstanding in this quarter was the addition of ten thousand seats to the Fair Grounds grandstand, enlarged parking facilities, bus terminal, improved walks, additional hitching or cattle racks for Fair exhibitors, new fences, fence painting and repair; improved accommodation for livestock, construction of stone retaining walls, and repairs and rectifying work at the race track oval by the construction of a retaining wall to eliminate sinking and poor drainage. Three of the four park springs were given proper stone settings and the fourth, which now has a small open resting place, will receive the same treatment during the spring. Toilet facilities were increased one hundred percent throughout the park.

Recreation spots and sports facilities were given thorough attention. The tennis club house will be ready for occupancy with the beginning of play on the outdoor courts. The football field for the public schools has been completed. With the beginning of the second year in a program for the care and maintenance of the golf course, two reservoirs in which water will be stored to insure a supply for the golf course, will be ready to function. Opening the new South Park Lodge will provide additional indoor picnic places for park visitors.

New projects contemplated in conjunction with the Works Progress Administration, some of which are already under construction, are as follows: The Golf Clubhouse and nine hole course, the latter as a supplementary links to the present 18-hole championship course; regulation baseball diamond Museum building for the Fair Grounds group, additional exposition buildings, Concert Hall, rebuilding and enlargement of the Sully Grove Swimming Pool, pistol range, replica of Fort Duquesne from which (and the subsequent Fort Pitt) the City of Pittsburgh grew; croquet grounds, and grounds for bowling on the green; a Devotional Center, Dahlia Show at Joyce Kilmer Memorial Circle, and construction of additional small lakes.

Recreation (conducted as a year-round program) is herewith reviewed, and a resume of park attendance has been made.

#### PICNIC GROVES

Popularity of the County Park was attested by the volume of requests from diversified groups, ranging from 12 to 2500 persons, and picnic groves were in constant demand throughout the year. During the past year these permits were issued to churches, Sunday School classes, Bible classes, industrial and commercial groups, clubs, fraternal organizations, schools, social organizations, and family groups, as follows:

	Number of Permits Issued	Estimated Attendance
South Park .....	1,673	250,000
North Park .....	1,753	150,000

These figures do not include the attendance at the parks on Sundays and holidays when permits are not required, nor the record-breaking attendance at the Fourth Annual Free Fair.

Users of the park groves find the following free facilities: South Park, in Snowden and Bethel Townships, covers 1,982 acres of land. In its confines there are now 72 picnic groves equipped with drinking water, 90 shelters, 1500 picnic tables, 106 comfort stations, 236 cooking ovens (with logs and firewood furnished), 59 horseshoe courts, 89 see-saws, 87 swings, 26 slides, 10 sand boxes, 4 baseball, football, soccer, and volley ball fields, 26 Mushball fields, and three shelter buildings with dance floors.

North Park, in Pine and McCandless Townships, covers 2,250 acres of land, and now has: 86 picnic groves, equipped with drinking water, 95 shelters, 1386 picnic tables, 160 comfort stations, 216 cooking ovens (with logs and firewood furnished), 120 horseshoe courts, 29 see-saws, 28 slides, 28 swings, 3 baseball, soccer and football fields, 33 mushball fields, 17 volley-ball fields, and three large shelter buildings with dance floors.

The excellent condition in which the County courses were maintained by the Greenskeepers and Golf Professionals is attested by the attendance and play records. Permit sales and rounds played in 1936 exceeded those of all previous years. Exclusive of those having permits, approximately 20,000 rounds of golf were played at South Park and 18,000 at North Park.

The receipts from all sources at the golf course together with a comparison of former years:

1932 .....	\$43,878.00
1933 .....	29,095.00
1934 .....	39,260.11
1935 .....	48,914.30
1936 .....	50,310.35

#### Permit Sales

	Unlimited	Limited	Junior
	\$20.00	\$12.00	\$5.00
1935 .....	607	223	95
1936 .....	648	250	118

**TENNIS**

Tennis was a very popular sport and the twenty Courts at South Park were continuously occupied. Erection of the tennis field houses made a valuable addition for the tennis groups. Still under construction, the tennis courts at North Park were not available, but in 1937 a banner season is expected. Tennis players proclaimed the County Parks' layouts the best in this section of the state.

Tennis tournaments held at South Park included the Pittsburgh Parks Tennis Championships, the County Parks Championships for men and women, both in singles and doubles, and various exhibition contests involving top-flight club and park netters of Western Pennsylvania. The National Public Parks Tennis Association Championship matches are to be played at South Park this year, bringing the foremost public parks tennis players of the United States to Pittsburgh.

Nominal rates are charged for the use of the tennis courts: Season permit, \$2.50, and an hourly rate charge of 10 cents per person with free play to children under 12 years of age.

Exclusive of children and those having season permits, the attendance reports show the popularity of this sport.

1936—Total Paid Attendance, 14,145. Total Receipts, \$1,530.00.

**RIDING**

Approximately 15 miles of bridle trails in North Park and 28 miles in South Park are maintained for the use of the horse loving and riding public. These trails penetrate beautiful sections, and are carefully maintained. Men, women, and children ride daily in the parks.

Harness races and show activities are manifestly popular. Races were staged on Wednesday evenings under the Fair Grounds floodlights during the summer season. These harness events were attended and enjoyed by thousands. Horse polo games were played regularly and were well attended.

On Decoration Day, the horse racing season was officially opened. Special authorization granted by the Board of County Commissioners permitted voluntary contributions to be received during the events staged by the South Park Matinee Club. Proceeds of this Memorial Day program were turned over to the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Red Cross for the benefit of the flood sufferers.

Prior to 1936 stabling facilities of the Round Stable, South Park, were free to horse owners, but this policy was changed when there was established a rate of \$1.00 per month, per horse, for polo and harness horses, and \$4.00 per month, per horse for pleasure horses.

Total rental in the sum of \$603.00 was received for the stabling of horses at the Round Stable, South Park.

**SWIMMING**

The swimming pools at South Park attracted over 200,000 persons. Water in these pools is constantly tested and kept up to the highest standard possible to maintain for health and sanitation.

Many competitive attractions were held, including the Amateur Athletic Union Swimming and Diving Championships, canoe tilting exhibits, and water polo contests by the Amateur Champions, the Dolphins of the Carnegie Library Club of Duquesne, Penna., and other aquatic organizations.

The Board of County Commissioners won approval from the swimming public when, because of intense heat, extended hours were permitted for swimming at night.

A fee of fifteen cents was charged for admission to the pool, with children under 12 admitted free of charge.

The attendance and revenue records for 1936 were as follows:

Attendance for 1936	159,000
Receipts of 1936 together with those of former years:	
1932	\$21,086.20
1933	15,173.95
1934	13,296.26
1935	13,880.07
1936	14,093.30

North Park pool will provide facilities for 10,000 people at one time, will have a bath house with facilities for over 5,000 bathers and locker accommodations. A wading pool will accommodate approximately 1,000 children with proper facilities for their enjoyment and comfort. Adjacent to the swimming pool proper will be parking space for 2500 automobiles. A concrete grandstand with a seating capacity of 1500 spectators has been erected.

**ARCHERY**

Archery enthusiasts in Allegheny County find the new ranges at North Park to be the finest in the country. Weekly, throughout the year, members of the Pittsburgh Archery Club hold competitive tournaments and other activities.

Hundreds are actively interested in this picturesque recreation, and thousands more pause by the roadside during the weekly "shoots" to witness the sport.

**BAND CONCERTS**

Band concerts and other musical entertainments were held not only on holidays but throughout the year. The Works Progress Administration cooperated to the fullest extent with the County Parks' program in furnishing musical entertainment.

During the entire Summer season, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at North Park, and Wednesdays and Fridays at South Park, the Works Progress Administration presented musical and vaudeville entertainment. Thousands were in attendance at the majority of these concerts and entertainments and apparently looked forward to these programs.

**DAY CAMPS**

The day-camp movement throughout the country is becoming exceedingly popular and is a step in the right direction to aid local community groups in the sponsorship of leisure time activities for children. This department cooperated to the fullest extent with local groups which were sponsoring the day camp idea.

Scouts especially took advantage of the facilities provided for them in both North and South Parks. Girl Scout troops were issued 97 permits for the facilities at South Park and 93 permits for those of North Park. These groups stayed for periods of from one to three days.

Boy Scouts, Boys' Brigades and other similar organizations took advantage of the reserved areas for camping purposes.

During the Fourth Annual Allegheny County Free Fair, approximately 500 Boy Scouts held a "Jamboree" at South Park and were suitably located in a "tended village" on the hillside above Community House.

The Commissioners have given to the citizens of Allegheny County a system of parks in which a year-round program of recreation has been developed.

The emphasis in public recreation has been largely recreation for the masses and the County Parks have been used more than ever before. All types and character of recreational activity, have been created or developed.

An estimate of the attendance at the Parks during the year 1936 is as follows:

County Fair .....	1,250,000
Picnic Groups (permits) .....	400,000
Picnic Groups (Sundays & Holidays) .....	750,000
Golf .....	130,000
Swimming Pools .....	225,000
Tennis Courts .....	25,000
Football Games (professional) .....	100,000
Football Games (high school) .....	10,000
Horse Polo, Motorcycle Polo, Baseball, Mushball .....	50,000
Bridle Trails, Archery, Horseshoe Courts .....	25,000
Soccer-Football .....	25,000
Winter Sports .....	10,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>

The following revenue was derived from Park Activities during the year 1936:

Golf .....	\$50,310.35
Swimming .....	14,093.30
Tennis .....	1,530.00
Round Stable .....	603.00
Concessions .....	6,892.35
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$73,429.01</b>