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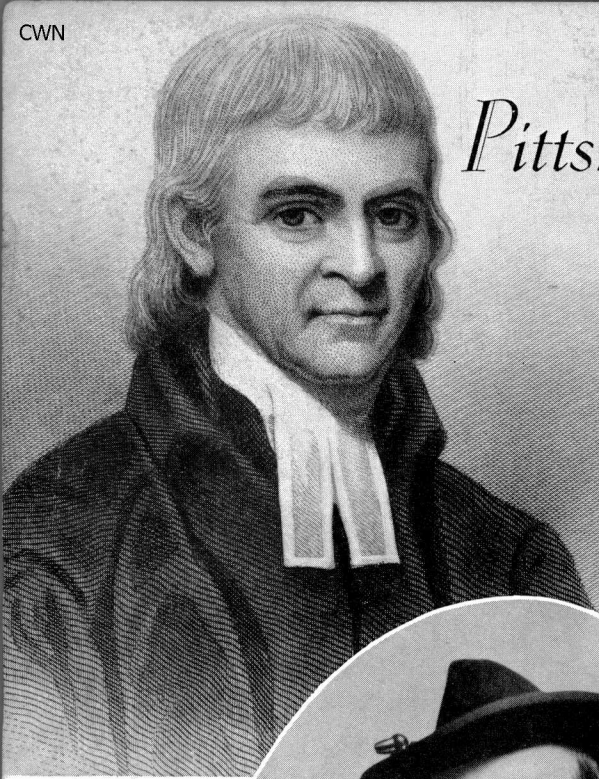
PITTSFIELD

MASSACHUSETTS

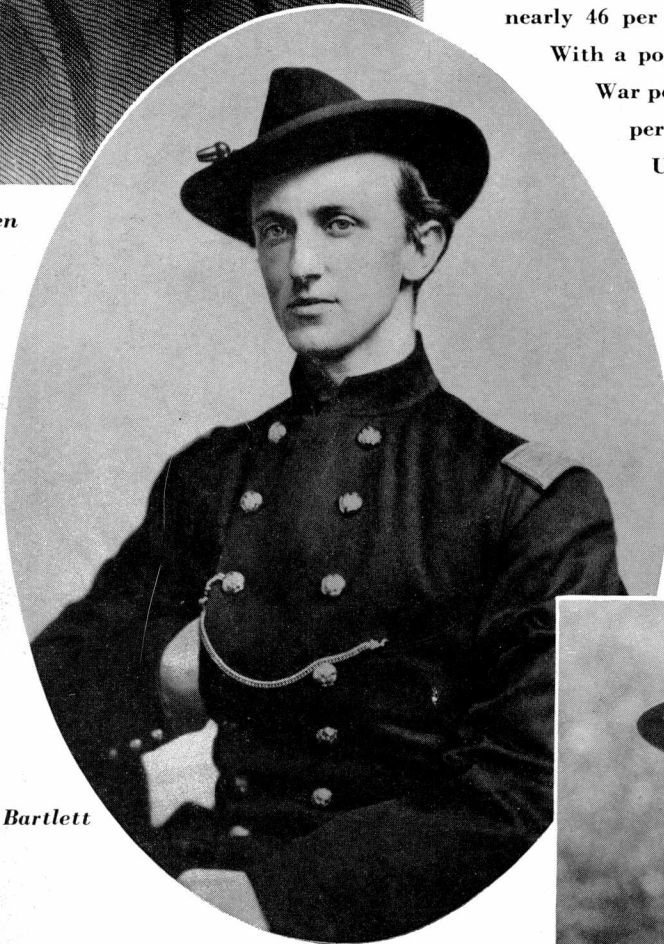


ANNUAL REPORT—1942

Pittsfield's Roll of Honor



Parson Allen



*Maj. Gen.
William F. Bartlett*

In each of America's major wars Pittsfield emerged with an outstanding hero. Parson Allen's exploit at the Battle of Bennington is a footnote in American history. William F. Bartlett, wounded three times in the Civil War and a major general at the age of 25, possessed a valor which likened his fame to that of Col. Whittlesey, the leader of the famed "Lost Battalion" in the Argonne Forest in October, 1918.

As Pittsfield sends forth her sons and daughters to fight for freedom in World War II with 3000 men and women in the U. S. arms and services by the end of 1942 out of its estimated 50,000 population, there is a tendency to forget that other American wars for freedom made equally critical demands on the city's manpower. In fact, out of a population of about 1100 souls during the American Revolutionary War, Pittsfield furnished 528 men or nearly 46 per cent of the town's population.

With a population of 9600 during the Civil War period, 1239 men of the town or 12 per cent of the population wore the Union blue. World War I called 2876 men into uniform from Pittsfield or 7 per cent of its then 39,000 population. As 1942 closed, there was a likelihood that before 1943 was done possibly as many as 5000 men and women of Pittsfield or 10 per cent of the city's population would be in the service.



Lieut. Col. Charles W. Whittlesey



JAMES FALLON
MAYOR

Mayor's Office
PITTSFIELD MASSACHUSETTS



To the Citizens of Pittsfield.

Fellow Citizens: - - In the following pages you will find an epitome or synopsis of the City reports; sufficient to enable you to evaluate the activities of the various Departments of your City Government. The complete reports are in the office of the City Clerk, and may be examined by you, if you desire further information thereon.

It is generally conceded that the perpetuation of free institutions depends upon the existence of an informed and unselfish citizenry. If, however, we must have selfishness, it should be enlightened selfishness. Therefore, it would appear that all citizens should study practical civics; using the records of the City Government as a primary course; those of the County Government as an intermediate course; those of the State Government as a High School course; and those of the Federal Government as a College course; so that they may thereafter teach to future citizens the knowledge of Civics, which they have thusly acquired.

"Knowledge is power". Knowledge of practical civics will enable you to determine whether your public servants are acting as servants of the public or as servants of private interests; and whether they are acting wisely or unwisely.

Therefore, permit me to suggest that you study the above mentioned courses diligently; and, prepare to apply the knowledge thereby gained toward the solution of your civic problems.

Respectfully submitted,

James Fallon
MAYOR.

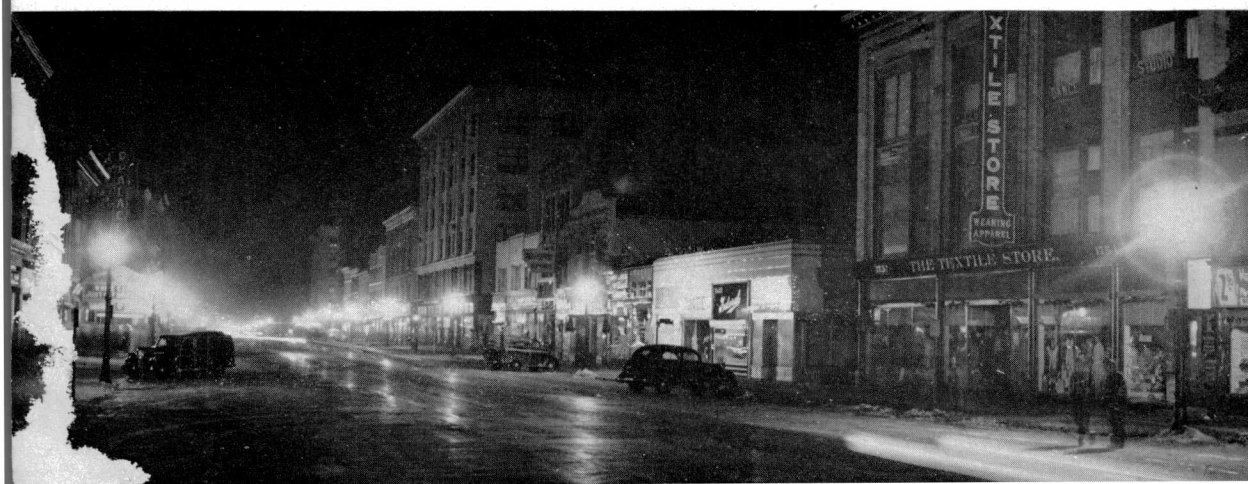
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A lone guard patrols the Report Center during a blackout.

The ban on pleasure driving brought a radical change in the appearance of North Street at night. Only cars parked were those engaged in business essential to the war effort.



City Personnel

MAYOR

James Fallon

CITY COUNCIL

Councilman-at-Large

Frederick D. Retallick, *President*

Walter S. Marsden

John T. C. Smith

Joseph W. Wood

Ward Councilmen

Ward 1 Thomas E. Enright

Ward 2 Harvey E. Lake

Ward 3 Clifford F. Reynolds

Ward 4 Leland C. Talbot

Ward 5 John D. Lynch

Ward 6 Peter T. McGovern

Ward 7 Albert W. Cheevers

Standing Committees

Accounts: Councilmen Marsden, *Chairman*,
Wood and Lynch

Claims and Licenses: Councilmen McGovern,
Chairman, Lake and Reynolds

Finance: Councilmen Retallick, *Chairman*,
Lynch, Wood, Marsden and Smith. Clerk,
City Auditor.

Ordinances and Rules: Councilmen Cheevers,
Chairman, Talbot and Reynolds

Public Safety: Councilmen Wood, *Chair-*
man, Lake, McGovern, Marsden and
Enright

Public Works: Councilmen Smith, *Chair-*
man, Enright, Cheevers, Lynch and
Talbot

Clerk of Committees

Harding W. Whitney

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Ward 1 James E. Cullen

Ward 2 Eugene J. Murphy

Ward 3 Ralph S. Bennett

Ward 4 Caroline C. Plunkett

Ward 5 Alston A. Tillou

Ward 6 Dr. Wm. P. Kelly, *Chairman*

Ward 7 William F. Henderson

PLANNING BOARD

William J. Hurley, *Chairman*

Lawrence K. Miller

Frederick M. Myers

Henry M. Seaver, *Clerk*

One Vacancy

BOARD OF APPEALS

James W. Carolan, *Chairman*

Sidney M. Benedict

Jesse O. Buckwalter

Adolph J. Kohlhofer, *Clerk*

Paul A. Tamburello

Associate Members:

Robert H. Burbank

Robert E. Wagner

LICENSE BOARD

Edward C. Boutwell, *Chairman*

Charles J. Lirot

Leland G. Spencer

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

John F. Colbert, *Chairman*

Louis J. Gilardi

Edward S. Harubin, *Clerk*

F. Harris Ray

PARK COMMISSION

William J. Butler, *Chairman*

Monroe B. England

Fred T. Francis, Jr.

G. Bartlett Hendricks

Archibald K. Sloper

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Roy A. Vincent, *Chairman*

Harry B. Jones

Luke J. Macken

City Council

Mayor: James Fallon

Council President: Fred D. Retallick

Number of Employees: 1

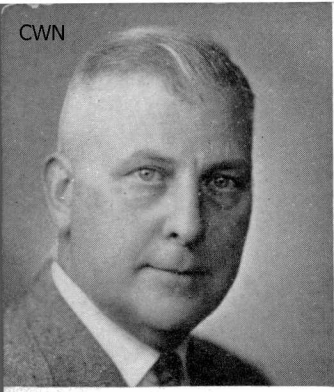
Number of Members: 11

1942 Expenditure: \$5,972

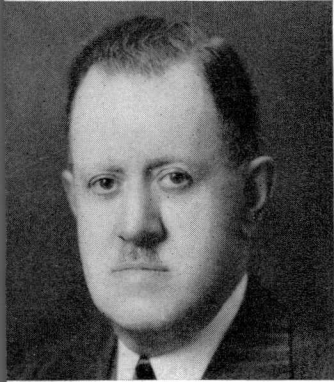
1942 Expenditure: \$3,218

1941 Expenditure: \$5,814

1941 Expenditure: \$3,399



JOSEPH W. WOOD
Councilman-at-Large



WALTER S. MARSDEN
Councilman-at-Large



THOMAS E. ENRIGHT
Ward One



HARVEY E. LAKE
Ward Two



FRED D. RETALICK
President

In January 1942 Mayor Fallon began his third two-year term, and a new City Council, of whom six were beginning their first term, took the oath of office.

The impact of the war was soon discernible in the conduct of civic affairs. At the very first regular meeting of the Council the Mayor submitted an order authorizing the Police Department to go to the aid of any city or town in the Commonwealth upon request. This was followed throughout the year by other orders relating to salvage operations, guards for the watersheds, necessary expenses for Civilian Defense, for the War Price and Rationing Boards, securing war damage insurance on public buildings, and finally, the purchase of \$60,000 worth of war savings bonds. A wartime casualty was the installation of new street lights.

During the year the Mayor and the Council locked horns on two major issues—(1) Upward revision of salaries and wages for City employees and (2) the acceptance of new City ways.

The question of City salaries was a carry-over

from the Council of 1941 when a survey was made by out-of-town service which specializes in such reports. The first proposed ordinance, sponsored by the Finance Committee was promptly vetoed by the Mayor, who later approved some raises in the lower bracket incomes, particularly in the Department of Public Works. Subsequently the Council appointed a special committee which worked all summer, and finally recommend a general, but modest, increase for all employees within the jurisdiction of the Council. The Council unanimously passed this new ordinance. The Mayor replied with a blistering veto, but the Council passed it over his veto without a dissenting vote. The Mayor was adamant, however, and indications were that the issue would be fought out in the Courts.

The Council was more fortunate in the contest over accepting new city streets. In spite of the Mayor's disapproval in several instances, the Council laid out and established three new city ways.

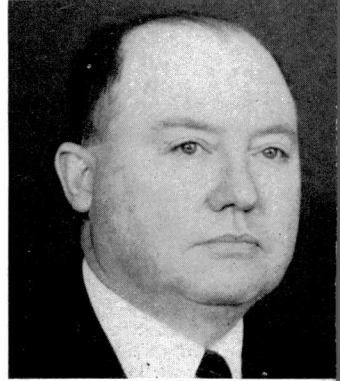
Most of the time harmony prevailed between the Mayor and the Council. The Mayor's appointments were all confirmed, his suggestions followed out without much debate, and his orders for money and City administration were adopted.



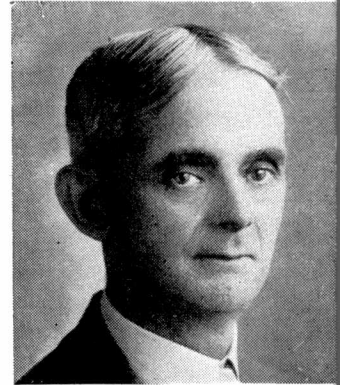
CLIFFORD F. REYNOLDS
Ward Three



LELAND C. TALBOT
Ward Four



JOHN D. LYNCH
Ward Five



PETER T. MCGOVERN
Ward Six

In Memoriam



JOHN T. C. SMITH
(Aug. 26, 1881—April 1, 1943)
Councilman-at-Large
(Jan. 1, 1942—April 1, 1943)



ALBERT W. CHEEVERS
Ward Seven



City Clerk

Clerk: Harold F. Goggins
Number of Employees: 4

1942 Expenditure: \$10,334
1941 Expenditure: \$10,804

The War continued to underline the activities of the City Clerk's office, where receipts reached a new high of \$31,234. The vital statistics division proved most responsive to the stimulus of War, applications for copies of records reaching unprecedented heights. Reflecting better times, the fees for recording and filing chattel mortgages and other instruments declined 30% from 1941 and remained well below the depression level.

Miss Margaret A. Gray of the office staff checks the bound birth records which increased sharply in 1942 because of the War.

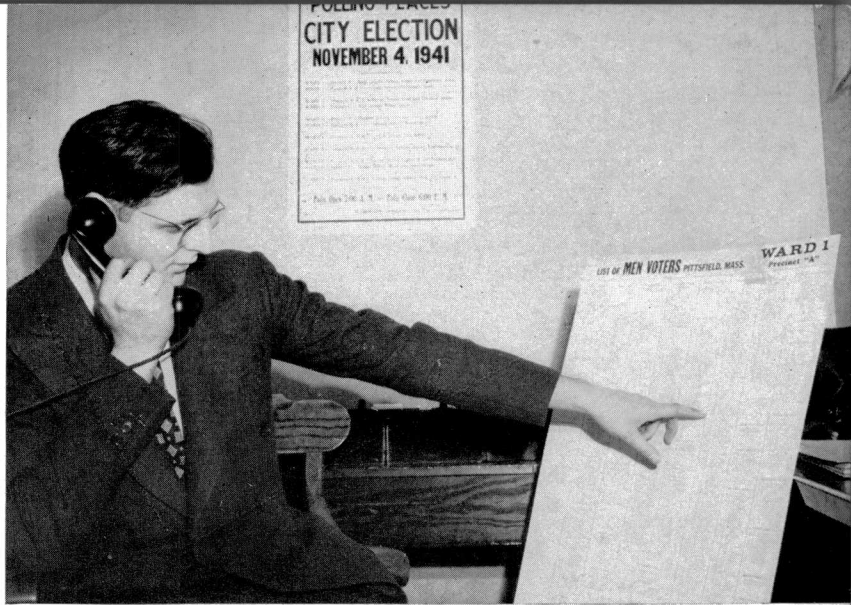
Traditional wartime increase in births prevailed in 1942, 1535 arrivals being recorded to outdistance 1941's previous high of 1357. But while the stork was busy death was not taking a holiday and 789 deaths were recorded, a number second only to 1918 when, during another World War, the influenza epidemic set a mark that has remained unchallenged. Although marriages declined, the 638 recorded were well above the average of recent years.

6 A reduction in fishing and hunting licenses, expected because of so many young men being in the armed services, failed to materialize. Instead the sales (7242 licenses) hit a new high and brought in \$14,865.25. Twenty-five cents for each license remained in the City Treasury, the remainder being paid to the State Division of Fisheries and Game.

Dog license fees reached a new high, aided by the Police Chief's relentless campaign against unlicensed canines. The 3714 licenses sold, plus transfers and replacements of lost tags, netted \$8,611.50. From dog license sales, the City is allowed the immediate use of only 20c for each permit. The major portion of the fees collected goes to the County Treasury with those from the rest of the county to form a pool from which are paid approved claims for damage to livestock by dogs. When all the year's claims have been settled and costs of administration paid, the remaining fund is paid back to the various cities and towns in the proportion in which they originally contributed.

At the year's end the City Clerk repeated his bewhiskered recommendations for additional storage facilities and recodification of the ordinances. Caught between rapidly accumulating records and already overcrowded storage facilities, the Clerk found it difficult to maintain a system that could efficiently meet today's great demand for birth certificates, etc.

Edward S. Harubin, of the Registrars of Voters, directs, over the telephone, a voter to his correct polling place on Election Day.



Elections

Supervisor: Harold F. Goggins
 Employees: 168 Election Officers

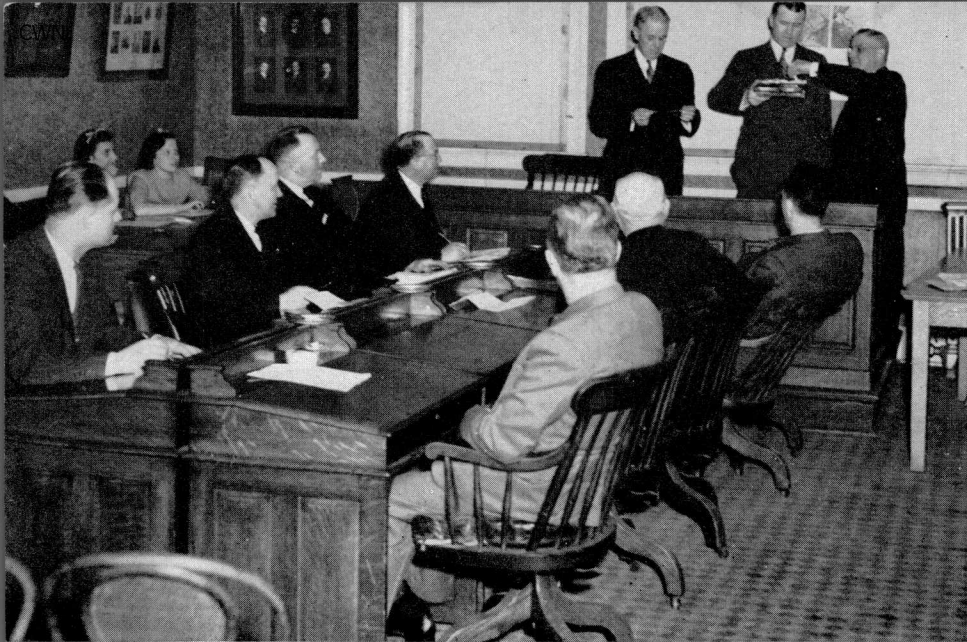
1942 Expenditure: \$15,599.83
 1941 Expenditure: \$ 5,315.00

As a result of the successful 1941 experiment, the 12 voting machines rented for use in Ward 2 were bought by the City in 1942 at a cost of over \$12,000. The voters of the second ward continued to be the electoral guinea pigs. The complicated primary and election ballots gave the machines a stiffer test than the relatively short municipal ballots of the previous year and, while the accuracy and speed of the final returns were all that could be desired, the length of time consumed by individual voters indicated the need for more education in their use. The novelty of the "gadgets" continued to intrigue many voters, sometimes to the irritation of voters awaiting their turn at the levers. The City Clerk recommended further purchases of machines.

Late voting continued to harass election officers. Although the polls were open for 12 hours at the state election on November 3, better than 30% of the voters cast their ballots in the last two hours. A local condition in some wards, late voting has been a substantial factor in late returns and has often resulted in last minute confusion at the polls.

Of the city's 25,478 registered voters, only 17,808 (69.9%) went to the polls on election day. In the primaries 5097 Republicans (77.2% of those registered under the banner of the G. O. P.) balloted while 3209 Democrats (50% of the registration) cast their ballots. The number of independent voters who exercised their right to enter the primary of, and thus enroll in, either party was not determined.

The introduction of the "War Ballot" for the use of persons in the armed services who are not registered voters but possess the qualifications for becoming such, marked the 1942 state election. Although the legality of such votes has been debated, they proved to be a minor factor in Pittsfield, only two such ballots having finally been cast. However, many of the registered voters in the armed services availed themselves of the regular machinery for absent voting, this class contributing the major portion of the 192 absent voters ballots cast on November 3.



Councilman Joseph W. Wood draws the name of a juror from the box held by City Clerk Harold F. Giggins, while President Fred W. Retallick and other Councilmen look on.

Registrars of Voters

Chairman: John F. Colbert

Number of Employees: 4 Board Members and 1 other

1942 Expenditure: \$8,465.60

1941 Expenditure: \$8,764

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Virtually all the year's activities of the Registrars of Voters are based on the annual door-to-door canvass, begun on January fifth and completed a month later. The 21 assistant registrars, who did the doorbell ringing, listed 33,794 persons twenty years of age and over. From these names the Registrars compiled alphabetical lists of men and women and prepared precinct directories by street and number. Upon the basis of all this information, plus deaths, removals and new registrations, the Registrars found 25,478 citizens eligible to vote in the fall primaries and election.

To its principal task of determining the qualifications of would-be voters, the Board last year added the duty of testing the fitness of applicants for positions as election officers. At the High School the Registrars examined applicants for these two-day-a-year jobs and listed for the Mayor an eligible list of 272 persons. From this list, with the approval of the City Council, the Mayor made his appointments.

Trial by jury begins with the Registrars of Voters. Bidden by statute to prepare a list "of not less than one juror for every hundred inhabitants nor more than one for every sixty" the Registrars last year prepared and transmitted to the City Council a list of 495 men "of good moral character, of sound judgment" who "were qualified to vote for Representative to the General Court." The Council proceeded to draw, without seeing the names, the number of jurors allotted to Pittsfield.

In its only recommendation the Registrars urged the purchasing of more voting machines each year until the entire City is equipped.

Sealer of Weights and Measures

Sealer: John F. O'Kane
Number of Employees: 2

1942 Expenditure: \$4411
1941 Expenditure: \$4824

Mr. Average Pittsfield Citizen has little conception of the wide range of articles that come under the careful scrutiny of the Department of Weights and Measures. For example, a person who is ill and has his temperature taken never stops to realize that the tiny glass instrument used by the doctor or nurse was carefully inspected by the Sealer as required by law.

The list of tested articles ranges all the way from the aforesaid thermometers to the heavy capacity scales—railroad, coal, junk, portable platform, express and meat beams. Milk and oil bottles must be sealed and food packages checked for net weight markings. During 1942 these inspections, reweighings and sealings totaled 23,473 and brought \$992.27 in fees to the City.

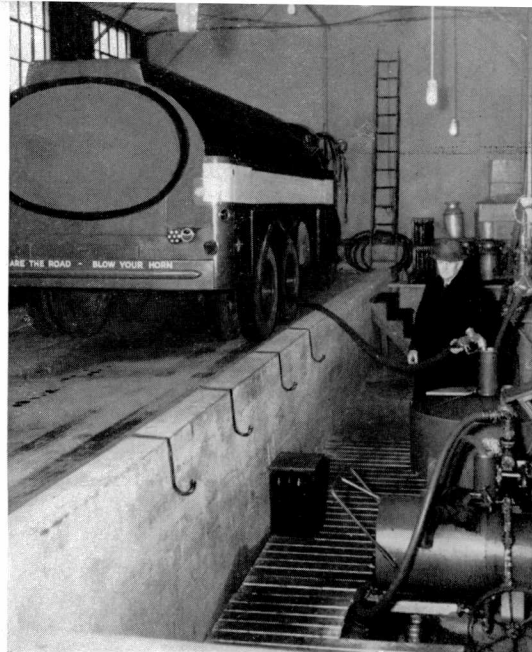
The department found good use during the year for its building and equipment, especially designed to house vehicle tanks being calibrated and tank meters tested and sealed for the measured delivery of petroleum products. It accommodates tanks 40 feet long with gross weight of 20 tons and is the only one of its kind in the country.

The War and resultant rationing increased the burden and responsibility of the department. Prior to rationing few persons observed the net weight markings on food packages, but now they are becoming "food weight conscious," and the Sealer hopes they continue to be even after the War ends. It is Federal requirement that all food in package form be marked by weight or count.

Because of a shortage of scale mechanics an additional amount of adjustment work has been thrown upon the Sealer and his assistant. In his annual report, Sealer O'Kane who will retire in 1943 after serving the City faithfully and efficiently since March 17, 1908, recommends an adjustment of fees to bring them in line with the work performed.

Charging a fee of three cents or ten cents for testing any measuring device is absurd in Mr. O'Kane's opinion, especially when fees of \$18 to \$20 are charged for sealing a vehicle tank requiring only from six to eight hours work. The present fee system, he feels is so unjust as to belittle the work and intelligence of the Sealer and his assistant.

He also suggests again that for the convenience of the public the department be moved from West Housatonic Street to City Hall.



City Sealer O'Kane, who retires in 1943 after more than 35 years service, tests one of the huge petroleum products tanks in the fully-equipped pit designed especially for this purpose.

Police Department

Chief of Police: John L. Sullivan
Number of Employees: 61

1942 Expenditure: \$126,779
1941 Expenditure: \$119,536

Law and order had a good year in Pittsfield in 1942. The decrease in crime may have been due to one or more reasons including the War, but most certainly a major factor was the increased efficiency of the Police Department composed of veteran personnel augmented by a small number of new appointees.

Arrests totaled 1595 as against 2129 in 1941, and the number of offenses recorded was 1857 as compared with 2415 the previous year. Arrests for larceny, chief offense against property, dropped from 36 to 16, and only 21 assault and battery cases were booked as against 38 in 1941. Decrease in the number of automobiles on the road and in the rate of speed at which they operated because of gas rationing showed in the motor vehicle offenses for the year which totaled 795 as against 1254 in 1941. Injuries due to motor vehicle accidents totaled 220 which was 75 less than in 1941. Fatal accidents dropped from nine to six.

War activity is reflected in the following items which do not appear in the police report during peacetime: Lights reported burning during blackout 156; convoys policed 21; deserters and AWOL 15; persons fingerprinted 4000, including Civilian Defense officials, ordinary citizens, and children.

While recognizing the decrease in arrests the Chief of Police was quick to point out that the war had thrown an increased burden upon his department. At the request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, the police made some 1200 investigations during the year. Nearly 100 raids or searches were made in connection with this FBI activity.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands who spent the summer in Lee was one of Pittsfield's distinguished shopping visitors and was provided ample protection by Chief of Police John L. Sullivan, left, and Secret Service men.



Although an Auxiliary Police Force was formed and trained, its purpose was for war emergency service only and not to augment the regular police personnel in pursuit of normal duties.

War did not prevent the public from depending upon the police as much as ever for the performance of a wide variety of miscellaneous duties. Parents can thank the police for the safe return of 83 boys and 38 girls under 17 who were lost. Ever vigilant, the blue-coated guardians of public safety reported 145 bad places in highways, 16 broken water pipes, 93 instances of damage to City property. The police recovered 38 stolen automobiles, found 66 missing persons, reported 154 street lights out, 6 wires down, 94 windows broken, 6 trees down, and even caught an escaped monkey.

During the year property valued at \$23,063 was reported stolen and \$17,901 of this amount was recovered. The police investigated the theft of 110 bicycles and recovered 100.

The Police Chief is also the dog officer and smoke inspector. Under the Chief's direction the annual campaign to get dogs licensed has become an increasing success. In 1942, 3,708 dogs were licensed which is an all-time high mark since the police took over this function in 1936. Chief Sullivan believes the number should be over 4000 and that the department has not reached its goal in bringing pressure on owners to get their dogs licensed.

It was a difficult year to enforce smoke regulations because of the increased use of soft coal. The police made many investigations and found for the most part that manufacturers and the railroads were trying to meet the smoke requirements. In some places coal was found to be of inferior grade.

Concluding the year the Chief noted trends towards an increase in morals cases and in drunkenness but considered the City thus far had been very fortunate and gave a large share of the credit to the churches and character building organizations. Among his many recommendations was the familiar one for more police officers, an examination for sergeants, abolition of the House of Correction in favor of four or five centrally located prisons, and appointment of a City Council committee on snow removal from sidewalks.

Auxiliary Police Officer Timothy J. Ryan, on duty during a blackout, calls Fireman William H. Peaslee's attention to a light streak showing from a window across the street.



Officer R. Lawrence Naughton, right, fingerprints one of hundreds of civilians who voluntarily went to the police station to have their identification taken as a contribution to national defense.



Fire Department

Chief Engineer: Thomas F. Burke
Number of Employees: 62

1942 Expenditure: \$133,380
1941 Expenditure: \$131,898

Principally because of three large blazes, the total 1942 fire loss in Pittsfield was more than twice that of 1941, despite the fact that the number of calls received by the Pittsfield Fire Department decreased 34 per cent. The comparative figures were \$190,000 and \$90,000 and 460 and 686. The three big ones were in the W. T. Grant Company block, the Capitol Theatre, and Notre Dame Church.

Notwithstanding personnel limitations which show Pittsfield as the highest city in the state in the number of inhabitants per fire company and the lowest (1.10) in number of firemen per thousands of persons, the department ranked well in state and national fire prevention contests. It was second in its population class in the former, seventh in the latter.

The personnel currently includes 62 employees, distributed as follows: Chief (salary \$2882), an assistant chief, four captains, four lieutenants, a mechanic, 48 firemen, a clerk, and three telephone operators. In his annual report Chief Thomas F. Burke again requests additional personnel. He would like 17 men, to be designated as follows: another assistant chief, two more captains, two more lieutenants, and 12 privates.

Seriousness of several of the fires was emphasized by the increase in the number of general and second alarms. There were four of each against no generals and two seconds in 1941.

Grass fires as usual were the largest single type. There were 120. Chimney fires accounted for 41 calls. Cigarettes caused 19 fires. April, which is the grass fire season, was the busiest month from point of view of number of calls answered (111). Saturday was the heaviest day (with 81).





Fire Chief Burke presents a pin to Donald C. Gerst at the graduation of members of the Auxiliary Firemen's class, conducted by Lieut. Ward G. Whalen, at Mr. Gerst's left.

Discouraging aspects from the standpoint of those concerned with fire prevention crusading were the 15 fires which were started by boys with matches. For the department gives regular comprehensive lectures on this subject to school children. Another black item was the 13 in the needless call column. Glad tidings was the big reduction in the number of false alarms, from 30 to 5.

Fire inspections of public buildings and business houses are made at frequent intervals each year by officers and privates of the department. Inspections also are made in private homes and other places where there are oil storages, oil burners, or any known hazard. During the year 5654 inspections were made.

During 1942 classes in firemanship were conducted and 76 auxiliary firemen were trained as part of the City's Civilian Defense program. These men are not required to respond to regular calls of the Fire Department but some do because of their interest in the work. Lieut. Ward G. Whalen, in connection with the defense program, attended special classes conducted by the War Department at Amherst College. He also took a course at Pennsylvania State College on incendiary bombs. During the latter part of 1942 he was granted a leave of absence from the department to serve as supervisor of firemen training for the State Department of Education.

Chief Burke again raises the perennial question in his annual report. "What would happen if two fires occurred in Pittsfield at the same time when we consider the fact that present fire fighting equipment is scarcely adequate to control one ordinary fire?"

Using that as a springboard, he makes these recommendations: Establishment of a new station, equipment and apparatus for two companies, adequate drill grounds and drill tower at the corner of Holmes Road and William Street; moving of the Morningside station from its present location on Tyler Street to the corner of Benedict Road and Tyler Street; construction of a station on West Housatonic Street to house the Lebanon Avenue equipment; construction of a station in the vicinity of Peck's Road and Wahconah Street; and abolition of the list of reserve firemen so that younger men may take examinations to qualify as reserves.



Lineman Warren Briggs checks one of the City's five electric air raid sirens.

14

Fire and Police Signals

Superintendent: John E. Grady
Number of Employees: 3

1942 Expenditure: \$12,709
1941 Expenditure: \$13,617

A vital cog in the City's protection service is the Fire and Police Signals Department which operates and maintains on a 24-hour basis throughout the year the fire alarm, police telegraph, and traffic signals. On October 10, 1942, by vote of the City Council the superintendent of the department was relieved of supervision and control of the telephone operators, and they are now directly under the Fire Chief.

Two new fire alarm boxes were installed and five electric sirens for air raid alarms. Controlled from the Report Center on School Street the air raid alarms are located as follows: Roof of Central Fire Station; roof of Tannery building, West Pittsfield; top of pole at N. Y. N. H. R. R. bridge; roof of General Electric Building No. 43; and top of pole at junction of North and Wahconah Streets.

In addition to the air raid sirens, the department is responsible for the repair and maintenance of 183 outlights or lights in the traffic system, 10 police lights, 20 police call boxes, and 140 fire alarm boxes.

City Physician

City Physician: Clayton W. Nesbit, M.D.
Ass't City Physician: Frederick G. McKerr, M.D.

1942 Expenditure: \$1866
1941 Expenditure: \$2200

Ordinarily the work of City Physician is performed by the City Physician and the Assistant City Physician. Dr. Clayton W. Nesbit was City Physician until August, 1942, when his enlistment in the Naval Reserve Medical Corps became effective. No one was appointed to succeed him, and the entire work of the office was taken over by Dr. Frederick G. McKerr, Assistant City Physician.

Although no report is available for the services performed by Dr. Nesbit prior to his leave of absence a good idea of the scope of the work may be gleaned from a summary of the calls made by Dr. McKerr as follows: House calls 303, office calls 859, visits to infirmary 16, police prisoners treated 14, policemen treated 4, firemen treated 13, injury claims examined 3, grand total 1212.

Planning Board

Chairman: William J. Hurley
 Members: Philip C. Ahern (resigned)
 Lawrence K. Miller
 Frederick M. Myers
 Henry M. Seaver, clerk

1942 Expenditure: \$213.32
 1941 Expenditure: \$601.82

In the Planning Board's 13 meetings in 1942, eight of which were public hearings, the board was primarily concerned with policing and perfecting the zoning ordinance. Because of the restrictions and limitations on residential building imposed by the federal war agencies and the fact that the City is not among the critical industrial areas where housing shortages are acute, comparatively little time was spent by the board in its important function of approving the plans and layouts of new real estate developments. The board could not concern itself officially, except in engaging in informal discussion, with perhaps its most important task, namely, making studies and long range plans for the physical development of the City. This should be its most vital contribution to the community, especially at this particular period. With the cessation of the war, there may well be large scale public works programs to sustain employment during the demobilization of the war economy. If such subsidized public works programs are not needed immediately at the war's close, there, nevertheless, will be considerable physical developments under private auspices because of pent-up demand for more housing with the resultant need for more public facilities. These obviously need guidance and direction from a disinterested and impartial agency in the light of findings of fact and the plotting of trends. However, until such time as the Planning Board and the City Government feels that a full time professional planner should be engaged to assemble and correlate data and put plans on paper, the board must rely on its collective judgment, when it is asked, unsupported by an abundance of factual evidence.

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Among the board's principal recommendations to the City Council during the year were several clarifying amendments to the zoning ordinance. The board recommended inclusion of a definition of a "housekeeping unit" in the zoning ordinance to prevent evasions in the law whereby rooming houses could be, in fact, multi-family apartment houses. It also recommended to the City Council an amendment which would allow veterinarian hospitals to be established in Residence A zones, which under the present ordinance is now illegal, providing they are in uncongested areas and abide by certain limitations as to location in relation to boundaries.

The layout of streets and lots south and west of Dalton Avenue and Plastics Avenue was the only new development which the board approved. Various petitions for the acceptance of streets were referred to the board and recommendations were made after due consideration of each.

Philip C. Ahern, the new member, succeeding John J. Lynch, now a City Councilman, met with the board the first time at the February meeting, but he resigned September 1st when he removed to Cambridge. During the rest of the year the board functioned with four members.

Inspector of Wires

Inspector: Ralph T. Parker

1942 Expenditure: \$2215

1941 Expenditure: \$2272

Shortage of materials because of the war reduced electrical construction and repair work in 1942, and the number of wire inspections made dropped from 2331 to 1616. An ordinance authorizing the use of substitute materials approved by the National Electrical Code and the Board of Fire Underwriters was passed by the City Council in June in an effort to assist the priority-riddled contractors.

A significant development which promises to become even more important was the increase in the installation of fluorescent fixtures, 453 in 1942 as compared with 175 in 1941.

After 19 years of service to the City, Inspector Parker is contemplating retirement in 1943.



Wire Inspector Ralph T. Parker reads the latest bulletin of the National Fire Underwriters' Association. On Dec. 15, 1943 he will be 70 and will retire after 19 years of service as a City official.

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Board of Appeals

Chairman: James W. Carolan

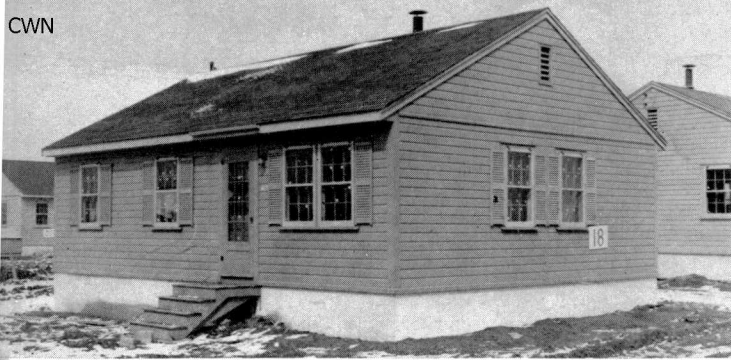
Board Members: 5 (Unpaid)

1942 Expenditure: \$402

1941 Expenditure: \$435

Continuing its function of acting on citizens' petitions for zoning ordinance variations, the Board of Appeals heard 25 petitions during 1942, granted 16 in full or for a short period of time, and denied 9. Thirteen applications were for additional housekeeping units, showing a continuance of the trend towards smaller living accommodations. However, federal regulations covering construction work has prevented any further extensive alteration work, and since September 1, no new application of any sort has been received by the board, which is unusual.

The board on February 18 lost by death Harry Goodrich West, associate member. It was during Mr. West's term as Mayor that the Zoning Ordinance was adopted. On May 28, 1928 he was appointed a member of the Board of Appeals and served until June, 1939. His health at that time made it difficult for him to attend evening meetings. He offered his resignation which was accepted, but he was prevailed upon to act as an associate member of the board. Robert E. Wagner was appointed to fill his unexpired term.



Building Inspector

Inspector: Robert S. Milne
 1942 Expenditure: \$3065.32

One of the 100 houses of the Federal Housing project on Benedict Road, started in 1942 and scheduled for completion in early summer, 1943.

Protection of the public through the review of

building plans and inspection of the resulting structures is the purpose of the Inspector of Buildings Department, long handicapped by an obsolete building code.

With the exception of the essential construction work of the General Electric Company, building during 1942 was at a minimum because of the war. Estimated cost of new buildings, additions and alterations was \$2,559,925, a gain of \$646,075 over 1941, but of this \$1,850,000 was G.E. construction. The trend in new houses continued toward the one-family detached dwelling, and 75 permits for this type of construction were issued, the average cost being \$4500.

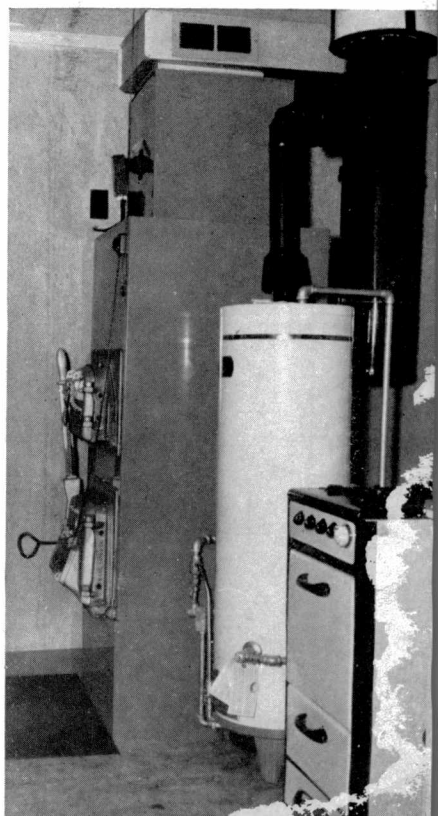
One of the little known activities of this department is the inspection of all hotels, lodging rooms and apartment houses that have eight or more sleeping rooms, to ascertain if necessary fire protection appliances are properly installed and maintained. Altogether this department issued 321 building permits, made 2042 inspections and licensed 51 elevator operators.

In compliance with provisions of the street sign ordinance all signs, marquees and other advertising devices were inspected, and the fees paid to the City Treasurer as follows: 125 signs, \$125; 13 marquees, \$13; 3 clocks, \$3; 3 barber poles, \$3; total, \$144. Seventeen permits were issued for flat signs, roof signs, and all signs not under the provisions of the street sign ordinance. In accordance with the provisions of the ordinance regulating awnings, 263 awning permits were issued and \$263 in fees collected.

Outstanding building developments in 1942 were: General Electric East Plant Motor Building and Boiler House; St. Mary's Church; General Electric Plastics Phenol Plant; W. T. Grant Company's rebuilding of stores destroyed by fire; Allendale Homes Inc., 18 single dwellings; General Electric Company's additions to Buildings 14 and 16.

Anticipating more stringent safety laws because of the tragic Boston night club fire, the Inspector of Buildings urges closer cooperation between state and city inspectors with a definite understanding as to jurisdiction.

The heating system, coal furnace, hot water heater, and stove, in the kitchen of a three-bedroom house of the Benedict Road housing project.



Berkshire Athenaeum

Librarian: Francis H. Henshaw
 Number of Employees: 23 (2 part time)

1942 Expenditure: \$52,757
 1941 Expenditure: \$46,872

Citizens of Pittsfield realize that successful training for a job must include the information available in books; that books and recorded music from the Library are ideal forms of recreation in these days of increasing taxes, decreasing purchasing power, and sharp diminution of many usual leisure time activities; that individuals must be acquainted with our rapidly changing economic, social, and political patterns, if we are to survive this total war. They are, therefore, turning with increasing frequency to their Public Library for this essential information and for recreational material.

During 1942, 406,694 books were circulated for home reading, an increase of 15% over the circulation for 1941. Seven thousand seven hundred and fifteen phonograph records were loaned for home playing, an increase of 107% over the 1941 circulation.

The High School Library continues to show an increase in the number of pupil visits, teacher visits, reference questions, and books loaned for home reading. Books are also supplied to all public schools, to three parochial schools, and to St. Joseph's High School.

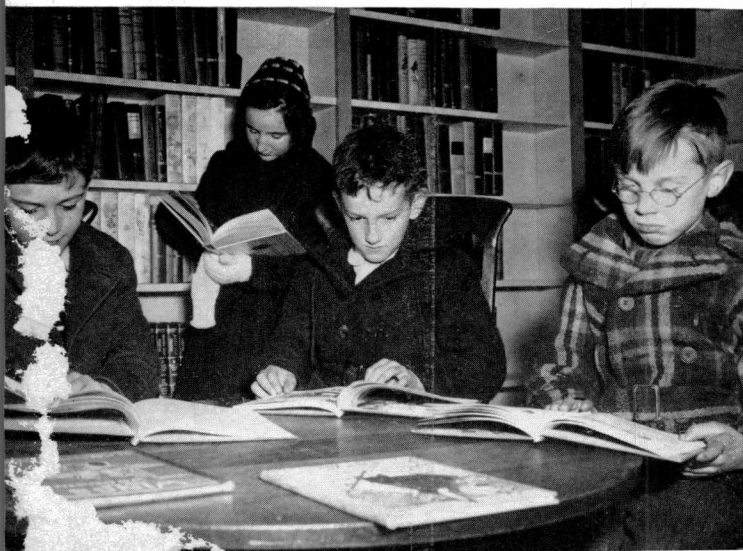
The book services to St. Luke's Hospital and the House of Mercy, as well as to such institutions as the Boys' Club and the Pittsfield Community Music School, were busy and effective supplements to the Library's regular services.

In co-operation with the Pittsfield Committee on Public Safety, the Library established a Civilian Defense Information Center as a part of the Readers' Adviser's work. This has met a definite need in the community for a center for information and for the distribution and circulation of books, pamphlets, and periodical information on Civilian Defense activities.

Outstanding among this year's gifts was the gift of \$1,000 from the Wednesday Morning Club to create a permanent endowment, the income from which is to be

One of the accomplishments of the Berkshire Athenaeum was the opening of the Morningside Branch Library on Tyler Street.

used in the purchase of books for the Anna Laurens Dawes Alcove for Young People. The Library received two bequests during the year: one from the estate of Ernest A. Pick, of \$500, which has been added to the general fund; and one of \$2,000 from the estate of Kelton B. Miller, the principal and interest of which is to be used for the purchase



of children's books in memory of his daughter, Marjorie E. Miller.

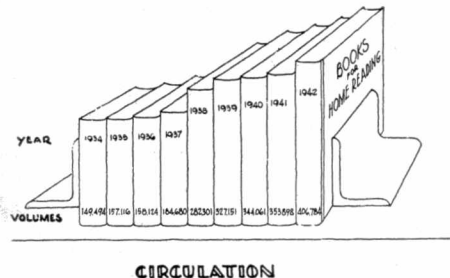
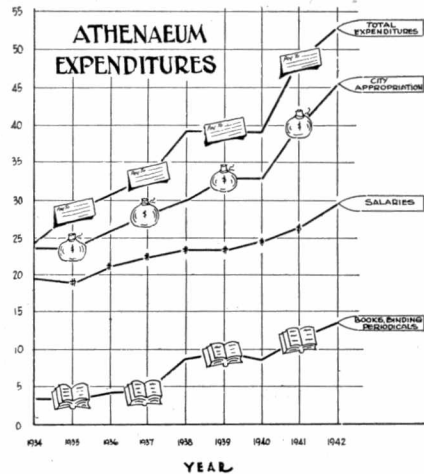
The Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum were most active and helpful. "The Book Mark," edited and published by the Friends, carried news of the Library and notes on books to the membership. The Friends were instrumental in the establishment of the Sadlowski Memorial, which set up a permanent fund of \$400, the income from which is to purchase books as a perpetual memorial to Roman Walter Sadlowski, the first Pittsfield boy to lose his life in the present war. An activity unique among the libraries of the country is the Friends' project whereby each draftee and enlistee, leaving Pittsfield for service with the armed forces, is given a "Pocket Book." In 1942, 1,715 books were distributed; post cards received from all sections of the country indicate that the men have thoroughly enjoyed the books on their journeys to camp.

During the Victory Book Campaign, the Library, acting as a receiving center for Berkshire County, collected over 41,000 books. Of these, some 22,000 books have been selected and forwarded to the New England Victory Book Campaign Depository or directly to camp libraries.

The outstanding event of 1942 was the establishment of the Morningside Branch Library. Although it was in operation only during the last three weeks of the year, the pattern of its usefulness to that area is already well developed.

The Library must not limit itself to preserving the records of the past and satisfying the immediate demands of the present. It must prepare for the future's revolutionary modes of industry, of transport, of social, international and interracial contact. All viewpoints must be represented. Every effort must be made, so far as books can do it, to the end that the successful outcome of this war be not followed by the bitter disappointment which followed Armistice Day of 1918. This is a tremendous task, but it must be undertaken, and the Berkshire Athenaeum will share in that undertaking.

THOUSAND DOLLARS



CIRCULATION



Miss Josephine Tierney, nurse, weighs an infant at the Well-Baby Clinic conducted by the Health Department to help mothers give their children a good start in life.

Health Department

Number of Employees: 17
 Commissioner:
 Willys M. Monroe, M.D. (on leave)
 Acting Commissioner:
 Dr. John W. Trask

1942 Expenditures: \$46,412
 1941 Expenditures: \$44,194

War conditions have greatly affected the work of the Health Department. During 1942 two of the department's clinic and two of

its school physicians joined the armed forces. Until the appointment of the present Commissioner on April 1, the chief clerk was Acting Commissioner.

The war has affected the milk supply. Several dairy herds have been sold, and many reduced in size, because of labor difficulties, with the result that the amount of milk available has been reduced. This has resulted in many calls on the milk inspector to arrange for redistribution of milk among the various dealers to meet the shortage. The inspector has also acted as chairman of a committee to save tires and gas in the redistribution of milk. The result has been that the mileage necessary to distribute the milk has been reduced to less than one-quarter of the former mileage. There has been a reduction in the mileage to transport the milk from the producers to the pasteurizing plants of approximately one thousand miles per day. The pasteurizing plants have made arrangements to pool the pasteurization in case of interruption due to air raids or other causes.

The war has also brought about a shortage of reliable help in restaurants, particularly for dishwashing, and has indirectly affected the collection of garbage. Because of greater pay inducements elsewhere, the garbage contractor has had trouble keeping his employees.

For a number of years the Commissioner of Public Health has been giving physical examinations in the City Hall during the summer to the pre-school children who would be entering school in September. At the same time, unvaccinated children were vaccinated, with parental consent. This year, largely at the request of the Parent-Teacher Association, the examinations of the pre-school children were made in June, in schools where there was space for the purpose and which were conveniently located in the different sections of the city. The Health Department school nurses supervised the clinics. Three of the city's pediatricians gave their time and made the physical examinations, noting any defects which needed attention. The School Department's examiner tested the children's eyes; their teeth were examined by the Health Department's dental hygienist. The parents were advised of the defects found, and of the importance of correcting those that were correctible. Some children were hard of hearing, some needed eyeglasses, some

needed adenoids or tonsils removed, some needed a change of diet, some needed teeth filled, and so on. During the summer the Health Department nurses kept in touch with the parents whose children had remediable defects. Most of the defects received attention before school opened in September.

During the year three baby clinics were held each week to which hundreds of mothers brought their babies, for consultation with the clinic physicians as to the babies' weight and diet, and on other matters relating to the growth, progress and welfare of the babies. Some came to have their infants immunized against diphtheria.

The Department's four school physicians have, as in the past, given emergency medical service to the schools, and have made physical examinations of over 9,000 pupils in the city and parochial schools. The Health Department's dental hygienist examined the teeth of the school children from the first through the sixth grades, sent notices of defects found, and cleaned the teeth of the children in the three lower grades. Three nurses spent all their time, and one nurse half her time, giving school-nurse service to the 26 schools of Pittsfield.

To prevent the spread of communicable diseases, 837 inspections were made throughout the year of restaurants and other places dispensing food or beverages, of places manufacturing ice cream, of bakeries, and of beverage plants.

During the year there were 548 complaints received, many of which had to be inspected several times before satisfactory abatement could be accomplished. These included everything from inadequate heat in rented quarters, smells of unknown origin, and the neighbors' chickens, to blocked up sewer pipes and leaking roofs which landlords refused to have repaired.

The milk inspector made 520 inspections of the 161 dairy farms supplying milk to the City of Pittsfield, 184 inspections of the 21 pasteurizing plants handling Pittsfield's milk, collected 1,201 samples of milk for examination to check the quality of the milk, its purity, and its bacterial content. The milk inspector has also acted as sanitary inspector and inspector of restaurants and bakeries.

The inspection, supervision, and control of the milk supply of the city was much better than average. Of the milk used in the city, over 99% was pasteurized. The people of Pittsfield can take pride in their milk supply. There are very few cities in the United States which have as good and safe a milk supply as does Pittsfield, and probably none has a better one.

The Health Department has a one-room administrative office in the city hall and a laboratory in the new police building. The office force consists of the Commissioner and two clerks. The laboratory is in charge of a bacteriologist. There are five public health nurses, one dental hygienist, and two inspectors. The part-time staff consists of two clinic physicians (pediatricians) who furnish the medical service at the Department's three baby clinics, one physician who furnishes the medical service at the Department's tuberculosis clinic; and four school physicians



Dr. John W. Trask, acting Health Commissioner, examines a child at the Pre-School Clinic conducted by the Health Department.

who examine children, give first aid treatment for injuries, and inspect sanitary conditions in the 22 city schools and the 4 parochial schools.

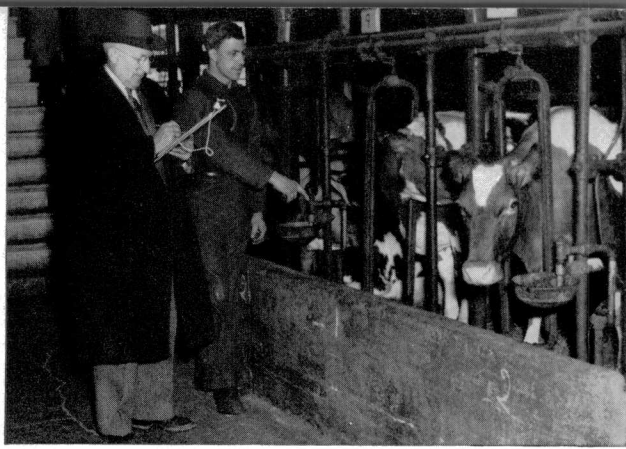
The Department's work in preventive medicine has increased. The results of vaccination against small pox have been good, of immunization against diphtheria better than usual: records show that at least 944 children were immunized.

The work of securing treatment for those infected with tuberculosis, of arranging for the examination and X-raying of those who had been exposed to the infection, and of arranging for the treatment of those found to be infected, was much better than is usual in cities the size of Pittsfield. On the fourth Wednesday of each month the State sends a specialist in tuberculosis, a roentgenologist with a portable X-ray machine, and a nutritionist to the Health Department's clinic, where all those who have been living in homes where there is, or has been, a case of tuberculosis, those who once had active tuberculosis, and others, can be examined and X-rayed to determine their present condition, and receive instruction about diet.

Since 1716 governments have given more and more attention to the protection of citizens from communicable diseases. For a long time progress was made step by step, either as a result of interest being aroused by the occurrence of serious epidemics or of new knowledge being acquired through medical research as to the causes or manner of spread of diseases. It is only within the last forty years that community health work has gone beyond the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases.

There is nothing more valuable to the individual, nothing more prized by the family, nothing more necessary to an army, than the maintenance of health. The problem is how to maintain it. One's health is affected by more than the communicable diseases. It is affected by what he eats, what he drinks, the amount of rest he gets, where and how he lives, and many other factors. In aiding the individual and the community to maintain better health, government health activities have made steady and continuous progress. For the most part the programs of government health departments have been sound and they have added to their activities about as fast as the increase of human knowledge would warrant. This has been as true in Massachusetts and Pittsfield as in any state or community.

Today the war is creating greater and unprecedented problems in public health, but the Health Department is organized to meet all conditions the future may hold.



Leslie Abell, Inspector of Milk and Sanitation, makes one of his many routine inspections of dairy barns to see that health requirements for purity of milk supply are being observed.

Licensing Board

Chairman: Edward C. Boutwell 1942 Expenditure: \$1559
 Board Members: 3 Number of Employees 1 1941 Expenditure: \$1463

Empowered not only to issue licenses but to supervise and regulate them, the Licensing Board is a small but highly important department of the municipal administration. In 1942 licenses issued by the board brought in \$64,570 of which \$63,415 was for liquor licenses. The board suspended three licenses for illegal selling—two for 30 days and the other for 3 days. An order was issued to all licensees of alcoholic beverages requiring proper washing and sterilizing of glasses, to safeguard public health. Licensees also were required to provide blackout curtains to conform with requirements of the Public Safety Committee. Francis J. Quirico, a member of the board, was inducted into the Army in August, and the Mayor appointed Charles L. Lirot a military substitute for the duration.



License Board Chairman Inspecting Blackout Precautions in a Package Store.

Soldiers' Relief

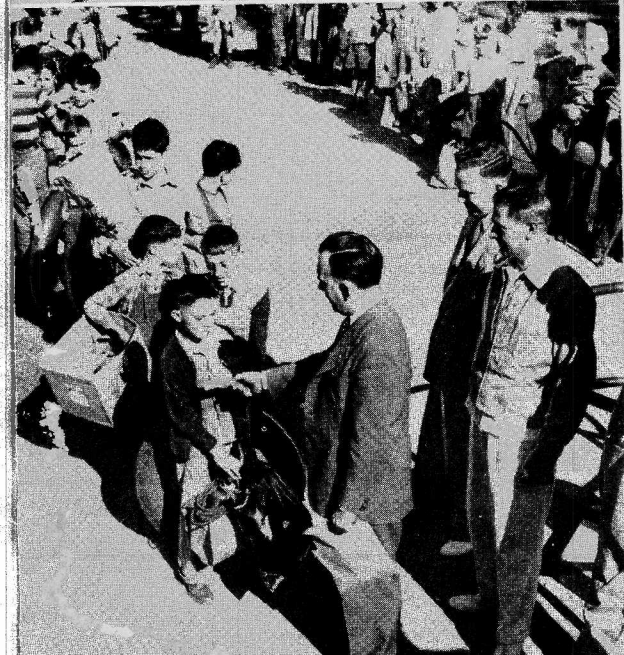
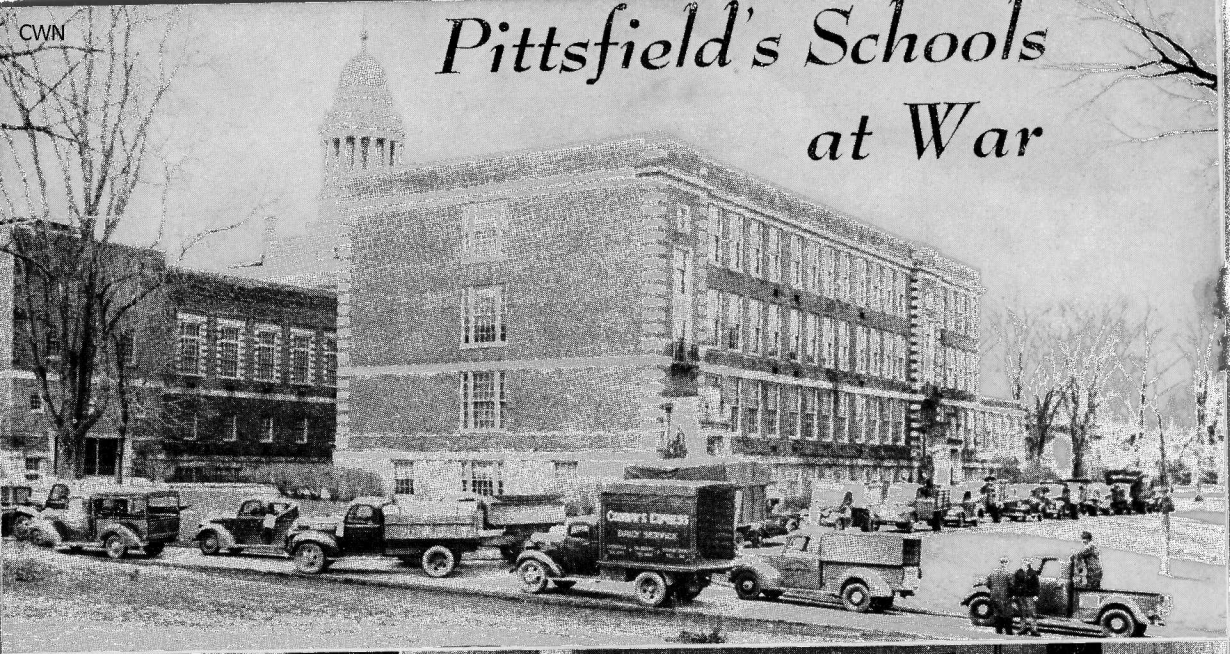
Director: John J. Shields 1942 Expenditure: \$43,700
 Number of Employees: 2 1941 Expenditure: \$50,370

Four classes of aid are provided by the Soldiers' Relief Department to war veterans and their dependents—State Aid, War Allowance, Military Aid, and Soldiers' Relief. The expense of the first two and a half of the third are borne by the State. Half of the third item and all of the fourth are borne by the City.

War Allowance originated shortly after Pearl Harbor and provided that the State could supply the necessities of life to the dependents of any service man by granting up to \$50 per month. Any amount in excess of \$50 was to be paid by the Soldiers' Relief Department. Much of this set-up was changed by the Allowance and Allotment Act, passed in June, but many of these allotments have not gone through, and families are receiving aid from the State and City. During 1942 the Soldiers' Relief Department made 56 applications for families to the State for War Allowance and helped hundreds of soldiers and sailors file their allotment papers. Most of these were persons who never had received aid from this department.

The average number of Soldiers' Relief cases in 1942 was 78 as against 96 in 1941, and the department turned back \$12,328 of its \$55,940 appropriation to the City. Seventeen veterans were sent to state and government hospitals.

Pittsfield's Schools at War





School Department

Superintendent: Edward J. Russell
Number of Employees: 375

1942 Expenditure: \$829,868
1941 Expenditure: \$804,266

For the Pittsfield public schools, Pearl Harbor was a signal for putting into operation a war program for which plans had been laid long in advance, in anticipation of an abrupt transition from defense to war. There were numerous directions in which teachers and pupils pioneered through unblazed trails, with little to guide them except the realization and determination that the schools, along with every other community institution, must contribute to victory in war.

Perhaps the most spectacular feature of the year was the emergence of the teacher as a key war worker. The service of teachers in the draft registrations during this year was merely a prelude to the elevation of the teacher to the role of No. 1 Civilian war worker in 1942, especially in rationing programs and salvage activities, and war stamp sales promotion.

PUPILS PLAYED VITAL ROLE

Competing with teachers as war workers were the pupils, who also found themselves playing an unusually vital role in the war effort. Pupils were afforded in war activities a means of achieving mental health in a difficult war environment. Red Cross work, First Aid, war savings promotion, salvaging, writing letters to fighters, air raid precaution, Victory Corps work, building model aeroplanes for the Navy, participating in school radio programs, and many other activities revealed themselves as excellent means for cushioning children against the dangerous wartime fears and feeling of anxiety.

The traditional school subjects enjoyed during the year a new and vigorous motivation supplied by the war. Physical education, mathematics, science, social studies, languages, the arts—vital parts of these subjects took on new meaning as their need was demonstrated in actual combat. Standardized tests administered during the year did not reveal the deterioration in school achievement that had been predicted by some alarmists. The warnings, heard at the beginning of 1942, that our provisions for education in elementary and secondary schools might be seriously disorganized by the war have been consigned to the distant future; it is generally believed that America will be spared the disruption of public education to which our allies and enemies have both fallen victims.

War subjects, such as preflight aeronautics, radio, nutrition, First Aid, aviation mathematics, Pan-American relations, joined the conventional curriculum. The close of the year saw the completion of plans to enroll all high school seniors in a special pre-induction course in mathematics. The year saw unusual gains in the intimate cooperation between the schools and the world at work. The Farm

Battalion idea, originated locally, helped harvest crops in 1942, and will undoubtedly become a nationwide movement in 1943. Christmas shopping was a pleasanter task for thousands because of more than 100 girls who received intensive training at schools for employment during the Christmas shopping season.

WOMEN TRAINED FOR WAR WORK

Even more spectacular has been the training of over 100 women in the Vocational Shops and their placement in industry. Greeted with skepticism and doubt at the beginning of the year, employment of women in industry has now been accepted as an unavoidable necessity in keeping war plants running at capacity.

Employment of mothers will be accompanied by a host of problems, many of an exceedingly serious nature. It has been demonstrated that a rise in juvenile delinquency may be expected, not as a result of the demoralization of war, but rather because of a disorganized home environment. Toward the close of the year, therefore, nursery and kindergarten accommodations, as well as before-and-after school recreational activities, were being studied to provide better adjustment and prevent delinquency of children who may suffer from a deteriorating home environment.

The health of pupils secured continued attention in 1942. The adoption of the Victory Corps gave new impetus to the provision for physical fitness, required for membership in the Corps.

A comprehensive health survey, made in 1942 through the cooperation of the State Department of Public Health, is starting to make itself felt in an improved health education program in many grades.

Kindergartens, which were a Depression casualty, returned to public favor in 1942 when there was an increased demand for nursery centers to care for the children of war working mothers.



The vocational division extended its activities under the war emergency. Nevertheless, facilities continued to be adequate in the Vocational Shops, converted from a garage with a minimum of initial outlay and low maintenance costs. Pre-employment training was in operation on a six-day a week basis for 24 hours a day. Over a thousand adults have been trained in the defense courses. Evening school attendance reached several hundred in the trade extension and apprentice classes at only a nominal cost to local taxpayers. Unique has been a pre-flight refresher course open only to Army and Navy aviation cadets.

Pittsfield continued to distinguish itself in the close cooperation existing between the school and community agencies. Pupils served the Community Fund in its publicity campaign, assisted the Chamber of Commerce in Clean-Up Week activities, as well as in Fire Prevention observance, and in a consumer research project. They observed a War Halloween with restraint, aided the library in collecting books for service men, did clerical work for the Draft and Rationing Boards, celebrated the President's Birthday, as well as other national observances, including Navy Day and American Education Week. They cooperated with the Police and Fire Departments in the interests of safety, took a radio and classroom course in air raid precautions, participated in the Roman Sadlowski Memorial, distributed copies of the City Report to citizens, took part in the American Legion oratorical contest, led in carol singing, while many played in school bands on patriotic occasions, and showed in innumerable ways that community consciousness is a distinct educational goal.

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The reduction of the staff in 1942 was unusual; at the close of the year seven teachers were on leave of absence in the armed services. The decision not to replace most of the teachers, along with the usual reductions, left Pittsfield with only 319 regular teachers. This shrinkage in staff contributed to a budget for 1943 of \$799,406.30, compared to \$794,023.00 requested by the School Committee for 1942. In this comparison it should be noted that the 1943 budget includes an item of \$5,000 for kindergartens, as well as pay raises of \$200 per annum for School Department employees.

Combined with a far-sighted policy in regard to teachers has been a renewed determination to reduce school costs to a minimum where economies can be effected. Care in the use of supplies, self-rating by janitors, consolidation of classes, full utilization of federal and state grants, receipt of state reimbursements, and in general close attention to every expenditure, ensure that each penny spent makes its contribution to educational efficiency.

The School Department of Pittsfield has met the challenge of war and has emerged from its ordeal far stronger, more eager to serve, with new prestige in the eyes of pupils and parents, better qualified to fulfill the destiny of American Democratic education.

City Solicitor

James M. Rosenthal

1942 Expenditure: \$3,754
1941 Expenditure: \$3,628

No paid associates or assistants has the City Solicitor, whose duties are to represent the city in all litigation; to give opinions when called upon to City officials and administrative heads; to draw such papers, including deeds, contracts, bonds, ordinances, orders, and land takings, as are required; to investigate claims presented against the City, and advise as to disposition of settlement thereof; to appear before legislative committees, if requested by the Mayor; to serve on such special committees to which he may be appointed; and in general to do all legal work connected with the activities of the City of Pittsfield.

The City does not provide its Solicitor with office space or stenographic assistance, but does furnish files. The City pays for the stationery, and stamps used, for actual court costs, out of town telephone calls, travelling expenses and for keeping up-to-date the series of law books known as McQuillin on Municipal Corporations. Otherwise all expenses connected with the department and its activities are borne by the City Solicitor personally.

During 1942 the Solicitor gave 68 written opinions—a higher number than usual, the annual average being somewhat over 50. Eleven of these opinions related to matters created by the war emergency. Included among the total were those concerning the use of Onota Lake water as a water supply and various opinions covering proposed wage and salary increases. They included reference to proposed ordinances giving the inspector of wires and of plumbing discretion to allow substitute materials, where those prescribed by ordinance were not to be had; to matters of sewage and water supply relating to the federal housing project; concerning the appointment of auxiliary police; various matters concerning blackouts; the tenure of city officials and employees who have temporarily been separated from municipal service to enter the armed forces of our country; and the effects of the federal wage stabilization act on municipal wages and salaries.

Nineteen ordinances were enacted during the year, most of which were drafted by the law department. The proposed building code was submitted to the Solicitor, and he reported to the City Council and conferred with the special drafting committee regarding it. Twenty-three claims were before Council's Claims Committee.

A familiar and active figure in Pittsfield is City Solicitor James M. Rosenthal.



Park Commission

Chairman: William J. Butler
 Board Members: 5
 Number of Employees: 12

1942 Expenditure: \$43,370
 1941 Expenditure: \$56,927

Taking inventory, as it prepared its 29th annual report, the Park Commission found that Pittsfield possessed approximately 540 acres of parks and playgrounds with an estimated value of \$551,000. Compared with most other Massachusetts cities, Pittsfield possesses an enviable amount of public park property. Adequately maintaining this vast domain is the function of 12 employees, operating under the five-man unpaid Park Commission.

The activities of the Park Commission are as varied as its parks are numerous. It maintains baseball diamonds, skating rinks, public beaches at Onota and Pontoonuc Lakes, a wading pool at Springside Park and ornamental flower beds and shrubbery. In addition, it has the task of snow removal and sanding about three miles of public walks in wintertime. Trimming and pruning existing trees, together with the systematic planting of new trees, is a notable activity, designed to preserve Pittsfield's arboreal heritage.

The principal specific activities of the Park Commission in 1942 began with the annual spring overhauling and painting of all playground equipment, bleachers and park benches. With the shiny new faces thus acquired, Pittsfield parks began one of the most successful seasons in the history of the City.

One of the principal events of the season was the opening of the newly-developed Wahconah Park grounds in July. Its new baseball diamond was made available to the Pittsfield Club of the Canadian-American Professional Baseball League, with a resulting jump in the attendance of the local citizenry. However, the contemplated grandstand at Wahconah Park was never constructed due to restrictions on building materials necessitated by war priorities.

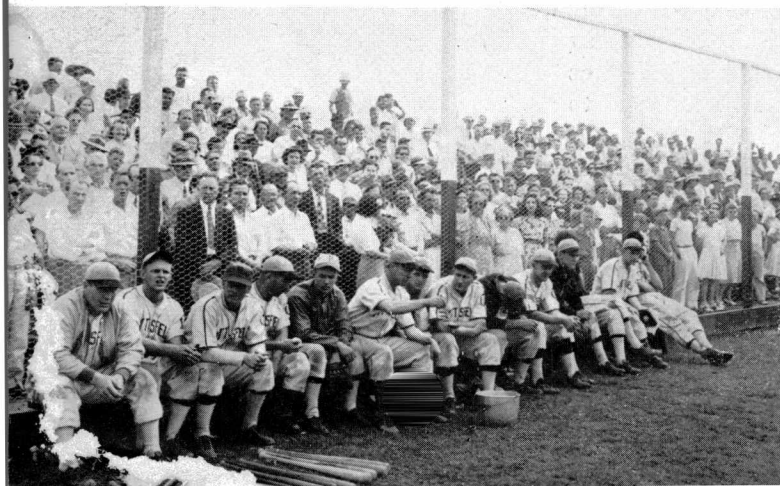
The war also entered into the picture as a stimulant to the playing of soft-ball games. Lack of transportation facilities apparently induced hundreds of soft-ball enthusiasts to participate in competitive leagues, with the result that the Park

Commission was called upon to provide new soft-ball diamonds at several of the parks.

Three lighted rinks for ice skating provided wholesome recreation for the youth of Pittsfield for about 10 weeks during the winter season. This, of course, was in addition to the maintenance of the usual daytime skating rinks.

Reopening of Wahconah Park for professional baseball brought out an enthusiastic crowd to cheer the Pittsfield Electrics, the city's entry in the Canadian-American League.

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Of particular interest to the children of Pittsfield was the enlargement of the zoo at Springside Park, by the addition of some coons and squirrels. The zoo was started in 1941 with a young buck deer and a few pheasants and ducks.

Wartime travel restrictions also caused thousands of Pittsfield residents to seek the pleasures of swimming and bathing at Onota and Pontoosuc Lakes, which are so readily accessible from all parts of the City.

Fertilizing, seeding, cutting, pruning and planting flower beds required the continuous services of the Commission's garden staff. The result of their labors was seen in many beautiful floral displays

The WPA recreational project, sponsored by the City, enjoyed a highly successful season and gave ample proof of the fact that the citizens of Pittsfield are truly recreation-minded and awake to the scenic beauties of their City. The 1942 attendance at the individual playgrounds and the community center, under WPA, totaled approximately 255,000 persons, a figure which is more than double that compiled in 1941.

The special events sponsored by WPA at the playgrounds ranged from baby shows, pet shows and doll shows for the youngsters to hot dog roasts, first aid courses and water carnivals for the older groups. The interest displayed in these events by the people of Pittsfield clearly showed that supervised recreation had a particular appeal.

Further impetus to this movement was provided at the year's end by the announcement of the City Fathers that provision had been made for the appointment of a full-time superintendent of recreation in 1943.



Springside House continues to be one of the favorite picnic spots for organized groups.

Introducing "Peter", young buck deer, at Springside zoo and his caretaker, Harry J. Watson. The photo was taken by Alden P. Healey, 59 Bay State Road.





Rupert Cady, a City carpenter, installs a wire mesh screen to protect children of Rice School from flying glass in event of an air raid.

Public Buildings

Superintendent: Frederic Van Wie
 Number of Employees: 18

1942 Expenditure: \$72,338.25
 1941 Expenditure: \$72,934

Repair and maintenance of all city-owned buildings is the function of the Public Buildings Department, and in 1942 its activities ranged all the way from installation of an electric clock in the Russell School to construction and installation of 400 galvanized wire mesh screens in windows and doors of schools to protect pupils from flying glass in event of an air raid. Other war activities included blackout preparations in nine schools, designated as medical centers, the municipal garage, and two rooms in City Hall.

On authorization of the Mayor and City Council the Public Buildings Department sold the Holmes Road School property for \$2425. Other receipts included \$971.25 from rental of the High School Auditorium and \$167.74 from two rooms at Mercer School used by St. Joseph's Church.

During the year the Department submitted a list of projects to the Public Works Reserve Committee for major building undertakings after the war.

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Inspector of Plumbing

Inspector: Henry T. Callan

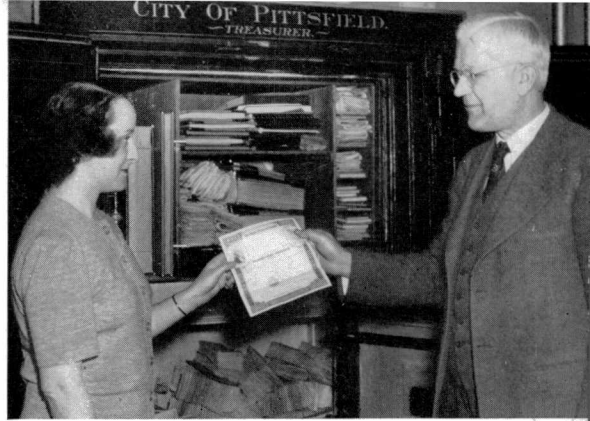
1942 Expenditure: \$2,315.16
 1941 Expenditure: \$2,349

Plumbing like other forms of construction, has been greatly affected by the shortage and curtailment of available materials. The new ordinance authorizing the use of substitute materials and methods during the national emergency has not greatly alleviated the situation. During the year, 817 permits were granted for all kinds of plumbing installations, while 1831 inspections were made of work installed. The inspector feels that a new plumbing ordinance, incorporating the latest features brought about by new methods and materials should be ordained so as to be in effect for the post war period, when considerable work will probably be done. This would also satisfy the need for a reference, since many newly-registered plumbers have not yet been able to obtain a copy of the plumbing ordinance because it is out of print.

Treasurer

Treasurer: H. Edward Hayn
Number of Employees: 2

1942 Expenditure: \$6,935.69



Miss Florence G. Bruce receives from Treasurer Hayn a war bond purchased on the employees' pay-roll deduction plan.

Outstanding in the Treasurer's 1942 report was the announcement that the City's bonded indebtedness had fallen to \$1,045,000, the lowest since 1907, the debt having been reduced \$214,000 during the year. Retirement, plus interest, amounted to six per cent of total municipal expenditures. Outstanding also was the amount of cash on hand at the close of business of December 31—\$847,101.03. Not only was this sum larger than any known to current City Hall officials, but for the first time within memory there were no loans in anticipation of revenue to be paid from it.

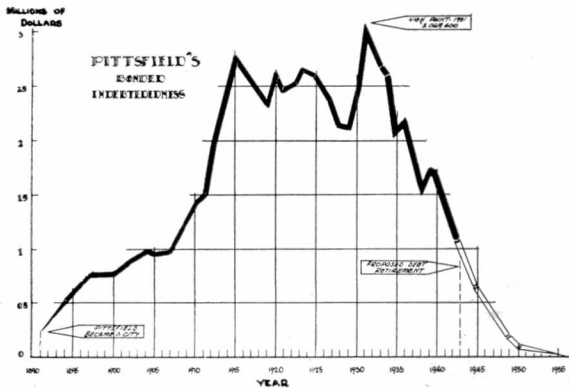
Because the first payment on the year's taxes is not due until July first whereas expenditures begin January first, the City must borrow on short term loans until the tax revenue begins to flow in. These loans in anticipation of revenue are a matter of envy to the small borrower, a microscopic 287/1000ths of one per cent having been paid in interest charges on the 1942 loans.

EMPLOYEES BUY WAR BONDS

War added a new function to the duties of the Treasurer's staff, that of caring for the deductions from employees' earnings for purchase of war bonds. Some \$3800 in war bonds had been delivered to employees' at the close of the year and an equal sum was held in the bank until accretions to individuals' accounts would permit more bond purchases.

The Treasurer also acted as steward for the funds in the Contributory Retirement Fund, the public employees' counterpart of the Social Security Fund. Disbursing during the year more than \$28,000 to its members, the fund had added in round figures \$22,000 in employees' contributions and \$31,000 from the city. At the year's end the fund held \$158,998, of which \$55,000 was in war bonds.

For 1943 the Treasurer was preparing to pay off another \$196,000 of bonded indebtedness and \$27,597.50 in interest. Also in preparation was the machinery to deduct the Victory Tax from employees' earnings.



Public Works

Employees: 137

Expenditures: \$440,800.59

The heavy hand of World War No. 2 was imprinted on the personnel, activities and accomplishments of the Public Works Department during the current year. Expending its nearly half million dollars of the public funds (some \$37,000 less than in 1941) it carried on the various duties and activities in furnishing water, sewerage, drainage and highway facilities to a city of 51,652 while severely handicapped by a growing labor and material shortage. In addition to the loss of men who entered the armed forces and war industries, the department was faced with the problems of the rationing of gasoline and rubber, and the curtailment of piping supplies and bituminous products, all contributing to a reduction in activities. Nevertheless with a general belt tightening all around, the year ended with the department functioning on a war-time basis.

ADMINISTRATION

In the administration of the affairs of the department, expending \$24,127.48, all the required planning, supervision, engineering and clerical work necessary to efficiently carry on was furnished at a per capita cost of \$.46. While the rationing regulations required considerable time and effort, the adoption by the City Council of the ordinance change eliminating the semi-annual tenant canvass, has cut down the time necessary for water billing while allowing actual search to be made for leaking water fixtures. One out of every 10 houses has been found to have leaks, but public cooperation has resulted in these being quickly repaired. Engineering work has been done on projects for a post-war reserve so that conditions similar to those in 1933 when cities were caught unprepared for such a

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The City's watershed on Washington Mountain took a terrific beating from the December ice and sleet storm. Many trees, like these evergreens, were hopelessly damaged and will have to be cleared to remove a potential fire hazard.

problem, will not be repeated.

The supply of road tar being considerably less than last year, only about 45% of the usual work was done. Some of the slack was taken up with Calcium Chloride treatment of the outlying roads, while the regular tar treatment was applied on others at a cost of \$.031 per square yard. Because of the curtailment of available tar, a further depreciation in the condition of many city streets will be unavoidable.



SNOW REMOVAL

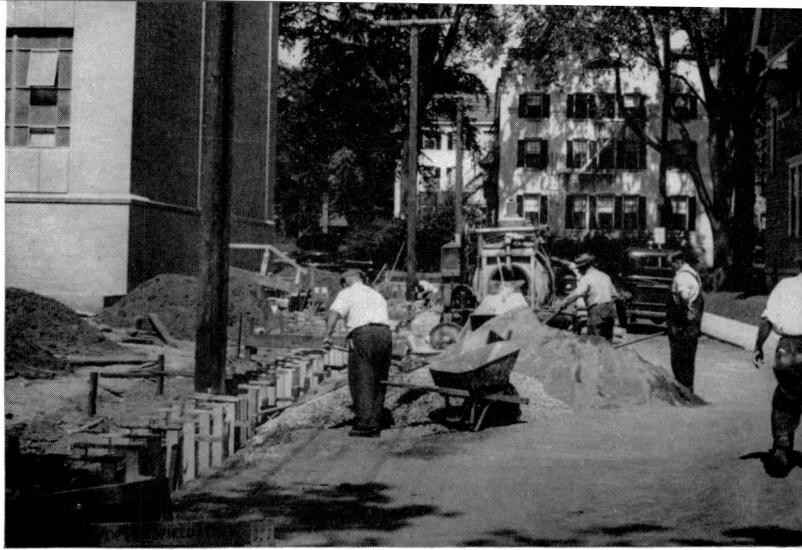
Winter sports enthusiasts welcome the sight of falling snow and lowering temperatures, but to the department it means the expending of labor, material and equipment to gather up the congealed moisture and remove it from our busy thoroughfares. Our annual snowfall of 42.20'' re-

quired the plowing of 1668 miles of streets at \$4.18 per mile and the hauling away of 14,000 cu. yds. of snow at \$.36 per cu. yd. In addition the sanding of slippery streets used up 1900 cu. yds. of salted sand at \$3.62 per cu. yd. With the coming of the warmer weather, streets have to be cleaned of leaves, dirt, debris, etc. and in this respect 697 miles of streets were cleaned at a cost of \$9.48 per mile. The public still persists in sweeping leaves and debris into the gutters, a practice expressly forbidden by city ordinance. This debris frequently being placed after the streets' regular cleaning causes drains and catch basins to clog. A new traffic marking machine was purchased for painting lines on city streets. In this work 38,816 linear feet of white lines were painted at a cost of \$.036 per linear foot.

The deaths and removal of our trees continue to overbalance the amount of new trees set out, and it is a question that will assume increasing importance as time goes on, since one of Pittsfield's priceless heritages is its shade trees. New trees will be set out when conditions are better, but public co-operation will be needed, since many of the newly planted trees die because of maltreatment. New young trees after being set out require the best of care, but a large number of them have been found defaced, bent, swung on, cut, and otherwise injured. Unless the public realizes their responsibility it is useless to continue this planting. Our regular spraying program continued, with the spraying of 7800 trees at \$.192 each.

The department took over the task of finishing the Churchill Street reconstruction, by applying a mixed in place tar surface. Twenty thousand sq. yds. were laid, costing \$.575 per sq. yd. We were fortunate in getting this work done before the onset of winter since the war situation would absolutely preclude its completion in 1943.

While the construction of concrete walks was kept at a minimum, the department did lay new walks abutting the new Conaty High School and St. Mary's Church in keeping with their development program. The work on North Pearl Street included the construction of a concrete curb thus placing the street in good condition since similar work was done on the opposite side of the street a few years ago. In all this work a total of 875 square yards of concrete walk were laid at a unit cost of \$3.96 per sq. yd.



Construction of a new curb and sidewalk on North Pearl Street did much to enhance the appearance of the new St. Joseph's Catholic Central High School.

To the uninformed the problem of removing the sewage and drainage from the city seems rather remote, but follow the waste material from the homes and industries into the 7762 sewer connections, through the 97.74 miles of lateral and trunk lines into the pumping station and then to the treatment plant, from whence it finally flows into the Housatonic River, purer even than the river water itself, and you will see that there is a lot more to the problem than the mere pressing of a button. For \$1.34 per person per year, a very perplexing situation to say the least, is taken care of. For every million gallons disposed of, the cost to the city is \$21.23 a saving of \$1.82 per million gallons over 1941. In the disposal of the sewage, the treatment plant operated efficiently with an average overall reduction figure of 92%. The sanitary sewage system was further extended by the addition of 1.20 miles of lateral sewers. 926 catch basins were cleaned of debris at a cost of \$5.38 each, while it cost the city \$.465 each to keep 7,619 basins free from snow and ice during the winter months.

Constituting over 20% of the department's expenses, the illuminating of city streets consisted of 2437 separate lights.

WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

The question of supplying 7 million gallons of water daily to the city continues to loom as one of the most important problems to the city. The G. E. plant, because of greatly increased war productivity, is our largest user, consuming 661 m. g. during the year, 54% of the total metered usage.

The city's reservoirs are under armed guard 24 hours daily, and to further protect the public from possible contamination to the water system due to bombing or sabotage, the department has purchased a chlorination trailer capable of being transported to any location to disinfect and furnish complete chlorine treatment when needed.

To accurately measure the consumption of water from the Ashley System, a backflow meter was installed. This meter, which would normally measure backflow at night during periods of low draw, has not as yet registered, showing that due to the unusual industrial activity, the night draw is very heavy.

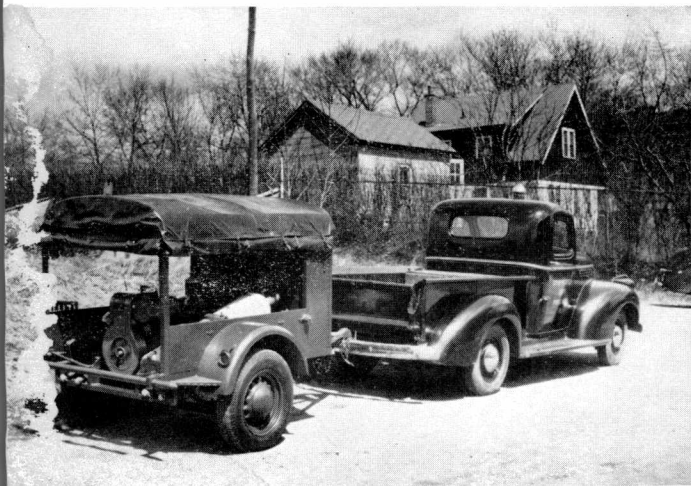
The pre-fabricated house construction of the Federal Government on Benedict

Road has required the extension of the water and sewer facilities to the site. This will require an underground pumping unit, order for which, has been placed.

Revenue from water rates was the highest on record, with but $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the rates outstanding. The number of new water connections dropped 45% from the high of 1941, reflecting the curtailment of construction activities. Our per capita consumption of 140

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Answering a war need is this latest of Public Works Department equipment—a portable chlorinating machine which, attached to a truck, may be rushed to the scene of trouble in case a water main bursts or other emergencies arise necessitating purification of the water supply.



gals. daily per person, continues to be high, and it is not amiss to add that the lowering of this figure remains, as it has from the early days of the city, a problem which must be solved sooner or later, undoubtedly by the extension of the metered system.

The water main system was further extended by the addition of 0.82 units of pipe. This was a considerable drop from the normal amount of extensions, but perhaps the decrease in expansion is best shown in the number of new water service connections installed. Whereas in 1941 a total of 205 new installations were made, 1942 saw but 116 service connections laid, a drop of almost 50%. A notable casualty was also the disappearance from use of copper service tubing.

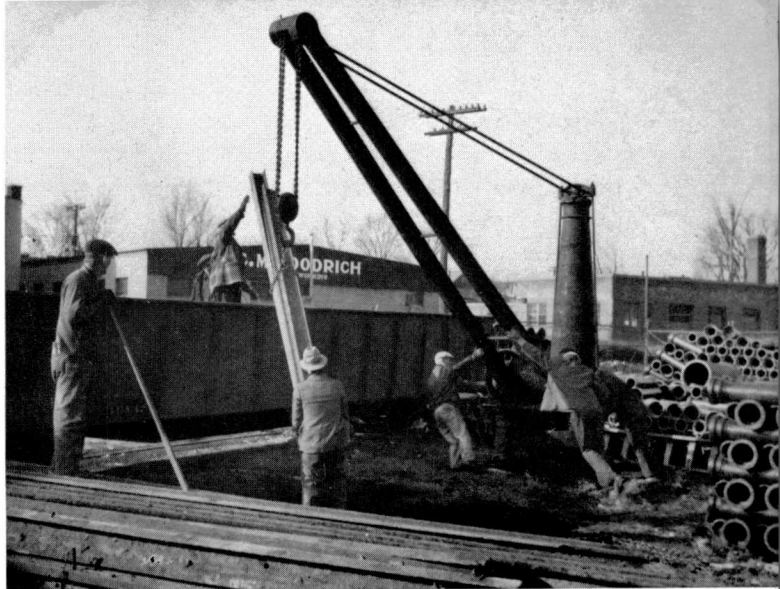
Ninety per cent of all installations were formerly made with this pipe, but due to the demands of war the Department has been forced to return to galvanized iron for service connections.

Because of the loss of mechanic labor the department was forced to discontinue servicing outside department cars. Every precaution was taken to reduce mileage of department vehicles, and that it was achieved is shown in the reduction of the amount of gasoline used, 42,290 gallons, 20% less than 1941.

Our operating costs of department vehicles, comparing favorably with other cities, will probably increase due to the inability to replace older apparatus with new equipment. However, for the record the per mile costs vary from \$.036 for small to \$.082 for large trucks, while special apparatus costs are correspondingly economical. With rationing assuming a more important consideration in public as well as civilian activities, further curtailment of equipment use can be expected.

WPA ACTIVITIES

WPA which in its heyday saw some 800 men employed on its roster, has tapered off to but one remaining project, the removal of street car rails. This project which will close March 1, 1943, has been responsible for the removal and resale of some 200 tons of steel rails at a net cost to the city of about \$2.50 per ton. In passing, a word might be said regarding the WPA program. While many criticisms of it may be justified, the benefits which it bestowed on Pittsfield in the opinion of those closest to its operation, far outweigh the disadvantages. Many a citizen is enjoying sewer and water facilities, better highways, bridges, and other numerous public functions because of the workings of the WPA. While it was but a stop-gap in the unemployment problem solution, it is felt that fairness in judgment requires giving "the devil his dues."



An important war project in 1942 was the salvaging of old trolley rails from city streets. Here, they are being loaded at the railroad siding for shipment to one of the scrap centers.

Public Welfare

Commissioner: Charles H. Hodecker
Number of Employees: 22

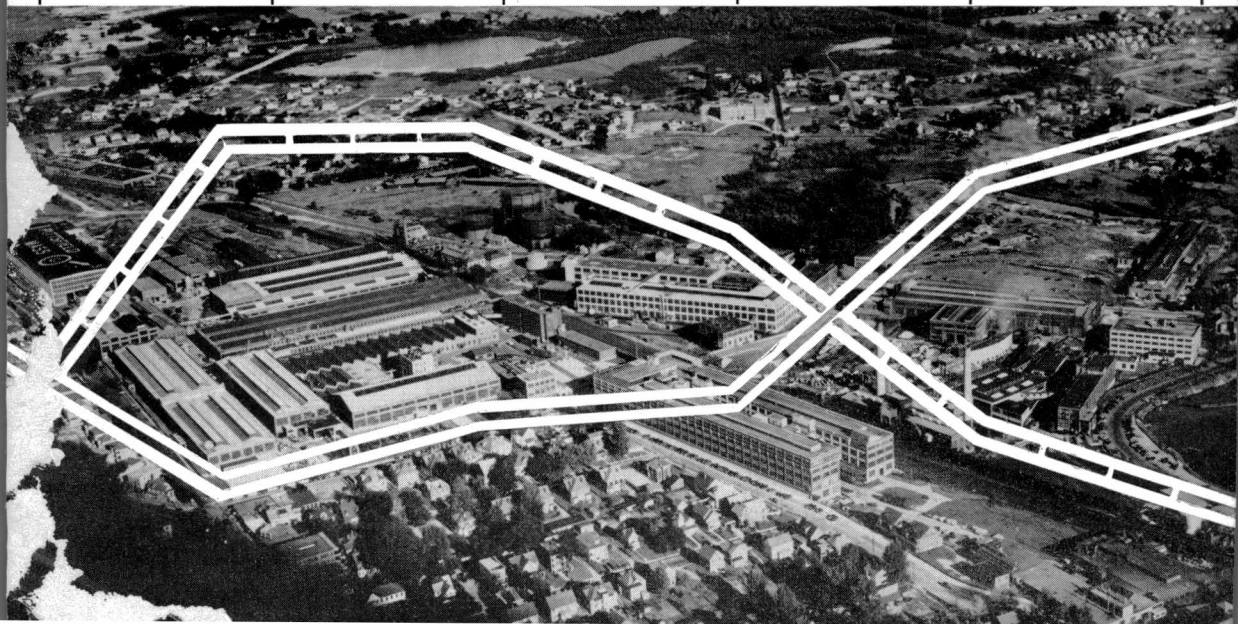
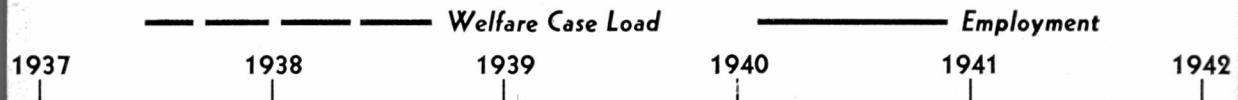
1942 Expenditure: \$234,612
1941 Expenditure: \$297,550

War dominated the activities of the Public Welfare Department in 1942. In one way or another, it substantially influenced the three categories of public assistance rendered by this department, as well as the City Infirmary, which is operated as an adjunct to the department. Being an accurate barometer of the economic conditions prevalent in Pittsfield, they showed from the very beginning of the year the sharp upward trend in re-employment, for Pittsfield in 1942 had become a vital center of war industry.

The urgent demands for manpower from local industry engaged in war contracts gave ample proof of the oft-repeated contention of the department that but a mere handful of its recipients were actually unemployable. It gave fruit to the rehabilitation program sponsored by the department in recent years. Under this program, recipients with physical disabilities which had heretofore prevented them from securing private employment, were given requisite medical treatment. Also, with the complete co-operation of the School Department, the recipients otherwise capable of doing machine work were given the opportunity of taking a well-rounded training course in the Vocational School. The persistent demand for these trainees encouraged the department to explore further possibilities of rehabilitation.

During the year two surveys of the department were conducted, one by representatives of the Social Security Board, the other by a committee appointed by the City Council. The Social Security Board in its report declared that the Pittsfield Welfare Department was outstanding in contrast to other municipal departments

The increase in employment in 1942 was reflected in the decline of the Welfare Case Load



surveyed in Massachusetts, in its administration of public assistance and in its determination of eligibility for Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children.

The City Council Committee concerned itself with staff problems and a study of work relief projects sponsored by the department. As recommended by both surveys, the City Council appointed an advisory board to assist

the Commissioner of Public Welfare on policy matters. The committee holds regular monthly meetings with the Commissioner.

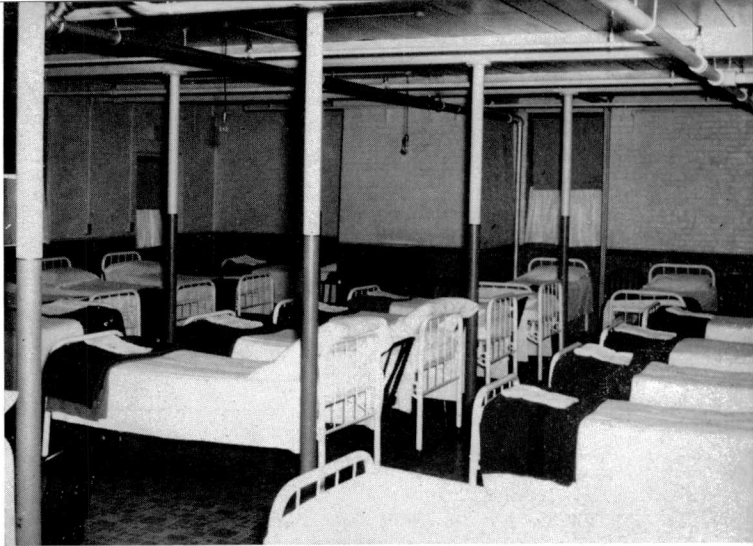
The General Relief case load declined steadily throughout the year, to reach a new low since 1930. Even the Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children case loads faltered in the upward trend that they had manifested for the past several years, and apparently levelled off under the impetus of general re-employment. The steadily rising cost of living, however, made it necessary for the department to substantially increase the case benefits in all three categories of relief. The principal budget item, food, in itself rose 20% during the year. Thus, the actual benefits per case reached an all-time high.

The total expenditures of the department for all assistance rendered by it to individuals, and by the City Infirmiry, was approximately \$57,000 less than in the previous year. The total expenditures by the department in 1942 amounted to \$637,000. However, reimbursements from various sources reduced the net cost to the City of Pittsfield to \$210,396. This figure, which is only one-third of the total cost, is worthy of particular comment because it shows all too clearly the great dependence of the City today upon grants-in-aid from the Federal and State Governments for public assistance.

Nineteen hundred and forty-two, it is interesting to note, also marked the first year in a decade in which the Public Welfare Department did not spend more money than any other municipal department. This year it was surpassed by the expenditures of the School Department.

INFIRMARY FIGURES

In 1942, the City Infirmiry, operated by the department, cared for 172 persons with an average enrollment of 75 inmates. This was the smallest number of inmates since the start of the Depression. All able-bodied inmates possessing the necessary qualifications were able to secure local private employment due to the labor shortage. The institution raised large quantities of fruits and vegetables and maintained a considerable amount of livestock, with the result that it was virtually self-sustaining.



The Men's Dormitory at the City Infirmiry

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Summary of Expenditures and Reimbursements for the Year—1942

	<i>Net Expenditures</i>	<i>Federal Grants</i>		<i>Cost to Pittsfield</i>
		<i>Expended</i>	<i>Reimbursements</i>	
General Relief	\$151,319.98		\$44,166.23	\$107,153.75
Old Age Assistance	376,565.02	\$170,918.80	151,452.49	54,193.73
Aid to Dependent Children	84,561.77	33,900.66	21,795.03	28,866.08
City Infirmary	22,185.42		2,002.94	20,182.48
	\$634,632.19	\$204,819.46	\$219,416.69	\$210,396.04

The greatly liberalized Old Age Assistance laws in effect during 1942 illustrate the tremendous change in social outlook in the past decade with regard to the care of the needy aged. Not only have eligibility requirements been liberalized, but the actual amounts of benefits paid to each individual case have been steadily increased under Legislative mandate, until they reached an all-time high in 1942. Numerous cases were dropped from the rolls during 1942 because the employment of their children enabled private family support to provide adequately for their needs.

The Aid to Dependent Children case load was affected in much the same manner as that of Old Age Assistance. Likewise, the increased cost of living, as well as the higher mandatory case-budgets, combined to produce the largest cash benefits per case in the history of this category of relief.

MEDICAL COSTS HIGH

Medical care and treatment continued to be one of the major costs in administering the various public assistance programs of the department. During the year, the Commissioner negotiated tentative agreements with the various hospitals in the City with a view to securing a satisfactory solution to the medical problem which has bothered the department for several years. Final action, however, had to be postponed pending new laws expected to be enacted by the Legislature in 1943.

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During the year the various WPA projects sponsored by the department were gradually being curtailed due to the wide-spread opportunities for private employment available to project workers. At the close of the year the department was notified by Washington that its Sewing and Surplus Commodity projects would be discontinued early in 1943.

All in all, 1942 was a most unusual year for the department. War brought some new problems, and eliminated a few old ones. Notably, it gave long sought-for relief to the taxpayers of Pittsfield who had shouldered a heavy welfare burden throughout the trying years of the Depression.

A section of the kitchen at the City Infirmary



Board of Assessors

Chairman: Roy A. Vincent

Board Members: 3

Number of Employees: 4; Temporary: 16

1942 Expenditure: \$16,727

1941 Expenditure: 16,202

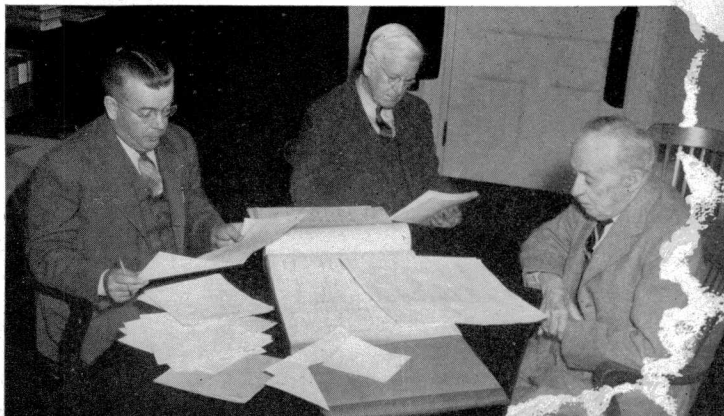
Announcing a tax rate of \$33.40, a reduction of \$1.80 from the previous year, was the Assessors' happy function in 1942. That was the figure applied to the \$60,698,420 in real and personal property to raise \$2,027,332 in taxes. The latter figure was added to \$33,396 from poll taxes and \$1,112,551 from estimated receipts and available funds to meet the total of \$3,173,279 required to pay municipal bills for 1942. Of the total required \$157,909 was in assessments from the state and \$98,259.64 was Pittsfield's share of county expenses.

Although in a somewhat different manner than in 1778 when the Assessors were directed to "assess the Town £180 to provide 6 Able Bodied Men to serve in the Continental Army," the current war brought its problems to the department. The erection of a federal housing project has created a problem in assessing that is new to Pittsfield. Because they are government owned the 100 units in the project on Benedict Road are not taxable but there is some promise of payments in lieu of taxes which will bring in substantially the same revenue. Still more obscure is the tax status of new war plants. Although privately operated these units are government projects and therefore not taxable. At present they are carried on the Assessors' books at nominal valuations, pending clarification of their status.

The federal housing project and war plants are only a part of the larger problem of tax exempt property. In the 10 years since 1932 tax exempt property in Pittsfield has increased \$2,113,810 whereas the value of taxable real and personal property increased only \$707,735 in the same period. The action of the commonwealth in taking from municipalities the right to tax manufacturer's machinery in 1936 struck over \$1,000,000 from the rolls of taxable property, accounting in part for the comparatively small increase in that category. From an analysis of tax exempt property it appears that, whereas in 1932 privately owned tax exempt property exceeded the value of government owned, the reverse is true today. In 1942 the various branches of government owned \$6,171,825 worth of property while private agencies held \$5,407,020 worth. The government figures will receive another boost in 1943 when the housing project is added.

Looking ahead to 1943 the Assessors saw considerable uncertainty in the tax picture. Anticipating drastically reduced revenue from the gasoline and motor vehicle taxes, the Assessors hoped that probable reductions in the state and county assessments and possible increases in returns from income and corporation taxes would relieve them of the necessity of assessing against real and personal property a greater share of the City's costs than last year.

Assessors Roy A. Vincent, chairman, Luke J. Macken, and Harry B. Jones work on the computation of the City's tax rate.



City Auditor

Auditor: Anthony W. Sottile
Number of Employees: 3

1942 Expenditure: \$6,217
1941 Expenditure: \$5,928

The City Auditor is required by law to examine the financial books and accounts of all City officials, departments and committees entrusted with the receipt, custody or expenditure of City funds. He examines and inspects all original bills and vouchers on which money is to be paid from the City treasury.

The City Treasurer cannot pay any bill or payroll of any City department or officer until they are first approved by the City Auditor, who is authorized to disallow and refuse to approve for payment any claim that appears to him to be fraudulent, unlawful or excessive. He is required to report to the Mayor for proper action any fraud or irregularity that is discovered by him in his audits of the accounts of the City.

The City Auditor receives a written notice of every single receipt that comes into the office of the City Treasurer. He prepares the list of annual receipts of the City, which is made the basis for the Assessors' calculations in determining the tax rate each year.

It is not an exaggeration to say that every dollar received or expended by the City government sooner or later passes through the hands of the City Auditor for scrutiny. His department keeps a complete record of all the financial transactions of the City government and compiles its annual balance sheet.

In 1942, he handled \$4,406,962 in receipts from various sources, including revenue loans and grants from the State and Federal governments. He approved for payment the sum of \$4,127,188. His records show that the City wound up the year in the best financial condition in its history, with a surplus of approximately \$689,000.

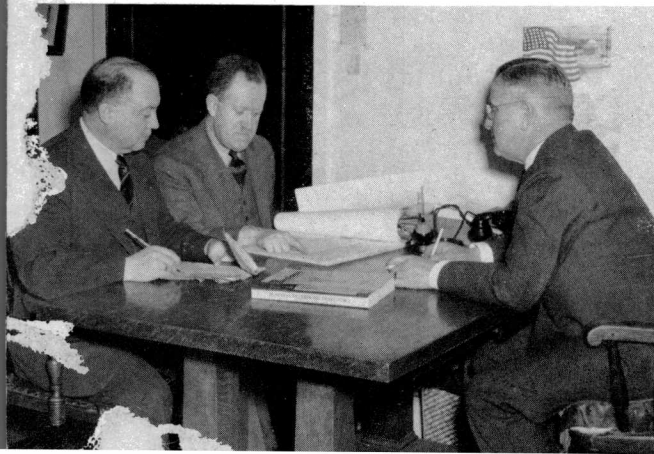
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An analysis of his annual report indicates the extent to which the City today is dependent upon financial assistance from the Federal and State governments. It shows that the City was reimbursed by them for approximately two-thirds of the total expenditures by the Department of Public Welfare. In addition, it received over \$200,000 from the State to help in defraying the cost of operating the school system. It received nearly \$100,000 from the gasoline tax fund collected by the

State to use in the highway work done by Pittsfield in 1942.

The City Auditor administers the retirement system for all City employees, with the exception of school teachers. A new function acquired by this office during 1942 was that of handling payroll deductions for the purchase of war bonds by City employees and Victory Tax payments. He is also clerk of the important Accounts and Finance Committees of the City Council.

Councilmen John D. Lynch, Walter S. Marsden, and Joseph W. Wood of the Finance Committee go over the monthly accounts in the City Auditor's office.



Tax Collector

Collector: Lemuel G. Lloyd
Number of Employees: 7

1942 Expenditure: \$14,159
1941 Expenditure: \$14,023

Linked in the popular mind with death, taxes usually are a sad subject to discuss. In Pittsfield, however, the Tax Collector received 94% of the 1942 tax levy during the same year. This is a record unexcelled even in the days of the golden twenties and, in all probability, since Pittsfield became a city.

Prosperity born of the war can claim much of the credit for this enviable record, yet in the last analysis, it is really due to the vigorous enforcement policy of the Collector and his department. Still another factor was the firm insistence of our local banks upon monthly payments for taxes from their mortgagors. Paradoxically enough, the records show that the citizen who is still paying for his home is the one least likely to be delinquent in his tax payments.

While the bulk of the work of this department consists in collecting direct property taxes, it also is the agency for collecting water rates and betterment assessments. Water rate collections enjoyed a particularly lush year in 1942, reaching a total of \$207,135.

The function of the Deputy Collector is a vital one. His efforts are confined entirely to delinquents, of which not a few are chronic. In 1942 his energetic activity resulted in this office receiving a collection of over \$11,000 from delinquents. By and large, they represent collections of poll taxes, personal property taxes and motor vehicle excise taxes.

WAR AIDED COLLECTIONS

From the point of view of the Tax Collector, war has its bright side in that most of the citizens of Pittsfield had little difficulty in finding employment in 1942 and, consequently, possessed enough money to pay their taxes to the City. For the duration of the war, it is felt that this trend will continue, although the weight of Federal taxes may ultimately darken the local picture.

In 1942, collections from all sources amounted to \$2,456,546, of which property taxes accounted for 91%. The percentage of the property tax levy collected in 1942 provides a pleasant contrast with that of 1933, the peak of the Depression, at which time only 68% was collected as compared with 94% in 1942. The percentage collected has climbed steadily throughout the past decade, not even faltering in the so-called recession of 1937.

A partial view of the Tax Collector's office which did a record-breaking business in 1942. At the counter is Collector Lloyd and looking for a poll tax bill, Eugene Zwingelstein of the office staff.



Civilian Defense

Chairman: Gardner S. Morse
Executive Secretary: Harry B. Johnson

1942 Expenditure: \$10,920
1941 Expenditure: \$1878

"On December 7, 1941, Japan struck at Pearl Harbor and overnight America was at war with Japan, Germany and Italy and the work which Civilian Defense had been doing in building a volunteer army of air raid wardens, auxiliary police and auxiliary firemen, rescue squads and first aid trained workers for the protection division, was enormously speeded up.

"The Report Center in the old police station was immediately put on a 24 hour a day duty basis and every minute since Pearl Harbor the Report Center has been manned by two persons. The number of air raid wardens has been increased from 650 to 2,200 and these men and women have all been trained in school, as have nearly 200 auxiliary policemen and 85 auxiliary firemen."

In these words, the Civilian Defense effort in Pittsfield for the year of 1942 is well summarized by Executive Secretary Harry B. Johnson.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Functioning under an executive committee created in June, 1942, with Gardner S. Morse as chairman, this body meets regularly and directs the operation of all safety measures within the City. Associated with Chairman Morse are the following public officials and leading citizens: Mayoral Secretary David J. Moran, Council President Frederick D. Retallick, Police Chief John L. Sullivan, Fire Chief Thomas F. Burke, Public Works Commissioner Leon H. Reed, Lawrence K. Miller, Carl S. Dixon, J. Howard Fryer, John J. O'Connell and James W. Washburn.

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It was fortunate for Pittsfield that an excellent defense organization had already been set up prior to Pearl Harbor under the direction of Mr. Johnson, serving on a voluntary basis, and it was a foregone conclusion that he would be engaged by the committee to continue his work, but on a full time salary basis. It appears that Pittsfield has taken adequate steps to meet any emergency. To carry out Civilian Defense plans an appropriation of \$10,500 was provided, this total being \$8622 higher than for the preceding 12 months, but from 33 to 50 per cent less than expended in most cities of comparable size in Massachusetts.

Equipment has been loaned the City of Pittsfield

Civilian Defense officials model new air raid helmets. Left to right: Fred N. Cummings, deputy chief air raid warden; Charles H. Hodecker, chief air raid warden; and Harry B. Johnson, executive secretary of the Public Safety Committee.





The entire family of Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Enright contribute blood at the House of Mercy Hospital to the Civilian Defense sponsored blood bank through the UERMWA union with which Mr. Enright is identified.

by the Office of Civilian Defense of Washington, D. C., to the value of more than \$10,000, including fire hose, pumping equipment, fire clothing, gas masks, helmets, fire ladders and identification armbands.

Test blackout raids were ordered and blackout rules issued to all private homes, stores, factories, and places of business with penalties attached for non-compliance. A series of alert signals were standardized so that the public might be informed of danger from air raids, and \$2500 was expended for sirens.

Six emergency medical centers were set up under the direction of Dr. Harry G. Mellen, with blacked-out headquarters and chests of medical supplies in each. The Social Welfare Agencies developed under the direction of Miss Katherine Salkeld, a sound and effective plan for co-operation with these medical units. There is a central mortuary to take care of victims, under Dr. Albert C. England's jurisdiction.

WOMEN'S WAR SERVICE

Women have played a major role in the Civilian Defense organization. The women's branch, called the War Service Division, under the direction of Mrs. August Kiligas, has an enrollment of 700. Organized under the Block Plan, women on each street are enlisted to carry into the homes of the City all vital information relating to health, food, and other war activities. Nearly 800 women have taken courses in nutrition. Forty-five women are serving in the Motor Convoy under

Fire Chief Thomas F. Burke inspects the equipment of the volunteer Benedict Road Fire and Air Raid Association.

the direction of Captain Alice Ende. Bond and stamp selling have been handled by women with outstanding results. Bond sales totaled \$75,000 and stamp sales, \$85,000. Salvage, share the meat programs, home nursing and first aid are some of the other activities engaged in by women.

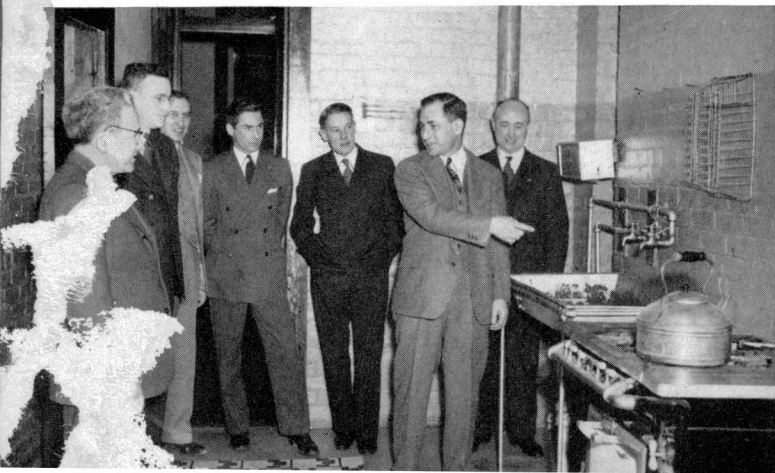


OIL HEATING SURVEY

Civilian Defense undertook the survey of the problem of heating Pittsfield homes. W. Bruce Knapp was chairman of the fuel oil committee. There are 1530 permits for fuel oil central heating and approximately 5900 of space heaters using range oil. The average consumption for central heating is estimated to be 2300 gallons a year; for space heaters, 650 gallons per year. The problem of seeing that all homes are heated sufficiently to prevent suffering from cold has proved to be a serious one.

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An interesting feature was the starting of a blood plasma bank early last summer. The tragic accident to an Army transport plane which crashed in Peru and caused the death of sixteen men, gave a great impetus to the work of building up this bank. Pittsfield now has a full bank of 600 pints of blood plasma. This work has been accomplished at the House of Mercy and St. Luke's Hospital, under the direction of William S. Brines, chairman.



Dr. Garvey Adeson calls the attention of a group of doctors and dentists to kitchen facilities in a school room—one of several which will be used as emergency medical centers in event of an air raid disaster.

HEALTH PROGRAM

Maintenance of health is one of the great necessities of the war and under the direction of Mrs. Henry D. Brigham a program of health education is being carried out. During the year, she addressed many Pittsfield organizations, pointing out that because of the absence of some 25 doctors who have entered the armed services and restrictions in heating and food it is more important than ever for the individual to safeguard his health. Mrs. Brigham worked closely with the Health Department on these problems.

The Committee on Public Safety gave considerable attention to the problem of emergency housing to take care of victims from cold or other causes. The Evacuation Committee under the direction of Dr. Thomas Flournoy made an inventory of available cots, blankets, mattresses, and other articles necessary for mass housing. Certain buildings were selected, such as schools, churches, and fraternal lodges where people could be properly housed, clothed, and fed, and given proper medical attention.

Pittsfield's citizens may well be proud of what has been accomplished in the past 12 months in this department which is most closely allied with the War. Personnel has increased from 800 to 4000, all of whom have been trained for some specific work—2200 of them air raid wardens under Charles H. Hodecker's guidance. These figures are exclusive of the General Electric Company's defense set-up which has some 800 people assigned to emergency jobs.



Capt. Alice Ende receives a certificate from Mayor James Fallon at graduation exercises of the Civilian Defense Motor Convoy Corps.

Members of the Civilian Defense Canteen and Nutrition Corps served food and coffee to volunteers who participated in Pittsfield's first Salvage Sunday.





Whom to Call

FIRE 8241
POLICE 4556

Or, in an emergency, dial "Operator," say "Emergency Fire" or "Emergency Police." Be sure to tell where you are calling from.

<i>If you want information on</i>	<i>Call</i>	<i>at</i>
Assessments	Assessors	8756
Bills and Accounts	Auditor	2-2233
Birth Certificates	City Clerk	6678
Building Permits	Inspector of Buildings	2-0242
Bon Fire Permits	Fire Department	8241
City Council	City Clerk	6678
Civil Service	Civil Service Registration Clerk	5608
Death Certificates	City Clerk	6678
Defense	Public Safety Committee	4860
Dog Licenses	City Clerk	6678
Elections	City Clerk	6678
Fishing and Hunting Licenses	City Clerk	6678
Fuel Oil Storage	Fire Department	8241
Garbage Collection	Garbage Contractor	2-7462
Health	Health Department	2-5664
Library	Berkshire Athenaeum	2-1559
Licenses	License Board	2-0242
Lights, Street	Public Works Department	5608
Marriage Certificates	City Clerk	6678
Mayor	Mayor's Office	2-7282
Old Age Assistance	Bureau of Old Age Assistance	2-6936
Parks and Playgrounds	Park Commission	2-0242
Plumbing Permits	Inspector of Plumbing	2-0242
Public Works	Public Works Department	5608
Rationing	War Price and Rationing Board	2-3686
Rent Control	Rent Administrator	2-1501
Schools	School Department	7830
Soldiers' Relief	Director of Soldiers' Relief	2-5942
Streets, Maintenance, Etc.	Public Works Department	5608
Tax Assessments	Assessors	8756
Tax Collections	Tax Collector	4220
Trees	Public Works Department	5608
Voting, Registration, etc.	Registrars of Voters	2-4566
Water Department	Public Works Department	5608
Weights and Measures	Sealer of Weights and Measures	2-7202
Welfare	Public Welfare Department	2-6936
Wiring Permits	Inspector of Wires	2-0242
Zoning	Inspector of Buildings	2-0242



