

CWN

Two Centuries of Progress

1752 - 1952



PITTSFIELD 100 YEARS AGO

ANNUAL REPORT • PITTSFIELD, MASS.

Pittsfield Casualties In Korean War, 1951

In Memoriam

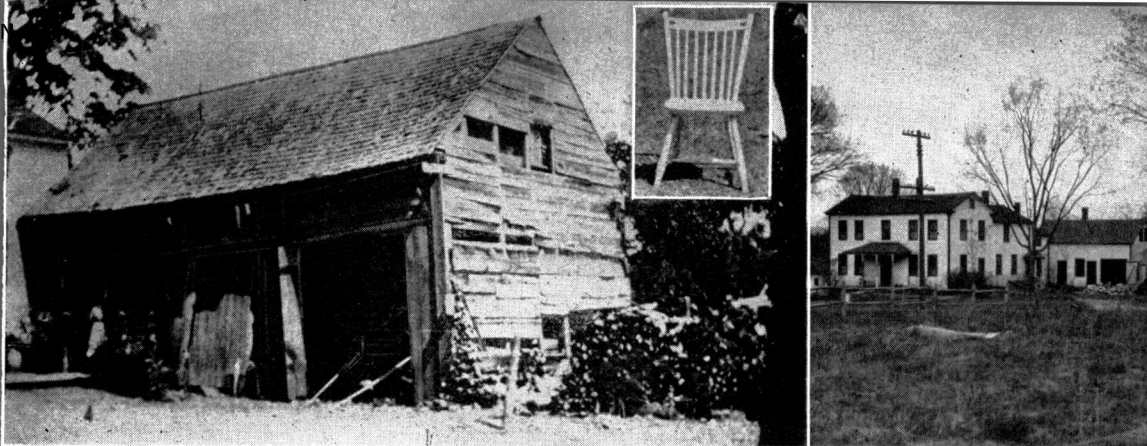
Corporal Eugene Hugh McGovern, 22, son of Alexander and Grace (Kelly) McGovern, killed in Korea Feb. 15, 1951. He was a member of Co. G, 23rd Infantry Regt., 2nd Infantry Division. He was awarded the Silver Star for heroic action.

Sergeant, 1st Class, Infantry, Edward Joseph Callahan, 27, killed in action in Korea, Feb. 4, 1951. Son of Frank and Elizabeth (Durwin) Callahan of 16 Adam St. Buried in Arlington Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

Corporal Bernard Alfred Greenleaf, 21, killed in action in Korea, March 20, 1951. Was a member of Co. I, 5th Regt. 1st Cavalry Division. Son of Alfred and Irene Greenleaf. Buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Pittsfield.

Pfc. John Edward Stammel, 20, son of Charles E. and Margaret (Scace) Stammel. Killed in action in Korea, Sept. 22, 1951. Member of 5th Marines, 1st Division, Buried in Rensselaer, N. Y.

Pfc. James C. Costello, Jr., 18, son of James C. Sr. and Blanche (Daigle) Costello. Was a member of the 1st Marines, 1st Division. Killed Dec. 4, 1951. Buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Pittsfield.



Solomon Deming's Cabin, Built 1752. Inset, Dorothy Deming's Chair. Some Timbers of the Original Cabin Remain in the Modernized L at Right. The House Was Once Known as Wells' Tavern.

“1752 Was the Birth Year of Pittsfield”

“In the summer of 1753 some of the settlers had log cabins prepared for their families,” says Historian Joseph A. Smith.

This was the beginning of the real settlement of Pittsfield, originally named *Pontoosuck*. Abortive attempts had been made previous to this year, land grants made, sold and resold, including the original plot, six miles square, granted to the town of Boston as early as 1735.

It was not until 1743 that any attempt was made to clear land, and no settlement was made then because of war and threats of war and when the first comers who had girdled a few trees and cut some brush returned in 1749 after the signing of the peace treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle, “this was of no advantage to them, as the young growth had covered the ground in a surprising manner”.

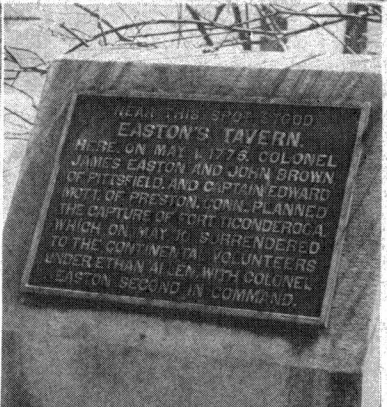
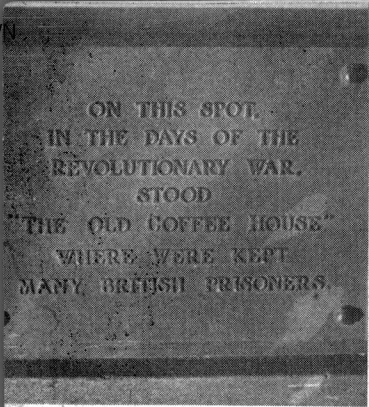
Meanwhile there had been several transactions in real estate in “what was commonly known as Pontoosuck,” and a number of the “proprietors” went to work again and had their “settling lots” surveyed by one Benjamin Day.

In 1752, in the summer “Solomon Deming brought hither from Wethersfield, Conn., on a pillion behind him, his wife, Sarah, who was the first white woman to have a home here.”

The first home, the first cabin in what was to become Pittsfield. Two hundred years ago.

That old cabin is still standing, much patched up, remodeled, modernized now, and surrounded by many new houses on Williams Street (not *William* Street as it is called in the city directory). It was named for William Williams who was one of the early “Proprietors”, or property owners.

There were Indian settlements or camps here before the white men came. One of them was on the Housatonic River at Unkamet's Crossing, now a part



of the great estate that was called Canoe Meadows where Jacob Wendell, another of the early settlers, built a house. He was the grandfather of Oliver Wendell Holmes, who came here to live for several summers. Canoe Meadows was on Unkamet's Road, an Indian trail from Stockbridge to Pittsfield that extended from Northampton to Albany.

These Indian camps were located also at the west side of what became Pittsfield, one of them on Indian Hill, the first rise of what is West Street today, opposite the Berkshire County Home for Crippled Children; another "a little southeast of the shore of Onota Lake."

The settlers built a fort near here, another somewhere near the center of the settlement, its exact location lost. They laid out streets and their settlement extended from Solomon Deming's cabin to a point south of Onota Lake. What is now called City Hall Park was known as WENDELL SQUARE and the settlement once was called WENDELL TOWN, but on June 23, 1773 John Stoddard who had come from Northampton and taken up land, and others, petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts to be incorporated as PONTOOSUCK TOWNSHIP.

The first town meeting was held August 12th, 1753. There were then a total of 60 settling lots. Taxes were assessed at this meeting of three shillings on each lot "for the support of preaching" and appropriations were made of forty English pounds, to build a meeting house, and fifteen pounds for bridges, roads and other expenses.

Another early comer was Charles Goodrich, who came over the Hoosac Range from the east with the first wheeled vehicle to enter the valley, a cart, for which he hacked a road through a trackless wilderness, marked only by blazed trees, presumably slashed by the early surveyor, John Huston.

(Continued on Page 58)



The Mayor's Message To Pittsfield Citizens



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF PITTSFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS

ROBERT T. CAPELESS
MAYOR

TO THE CITIZENS OF PITTSFIELD:

In the course of any given year consciousness of local government is likely to be confined to emergency situations when its more vital services are called into play or to the un happier occasions when its more routine services are not forthcoming as promptly as desired. It is only on the occasion of the annual report that we are able to give the average citizen the opportunity to look with interest at the whole picture of his government's operations and the work of the many devoted public servants who, with little recognition, do the wide variety of jobs necessary to keep a community functioning on an orderly basis.

Presented herewith is the annual report of governmental activities in the year 1951. I trust that it will give to the people of Pittsfield not only a wider knowledge of their government but also a better appreciation of the complexity of its operations and of the kind of people and the identity of the people upon whom its success depends. I can even hope that with such knowledge and appreciation will come a satisfaction that the results recorded herein are well worth the tax dollars expended in accomplishing them.

Respectfully transmitted,

Robert T. Capeless
MAYOR

FTC:knh

Pittsfield Becoming Healthy Place To Live

Pittsfield is steadily becoming one of the healthiest places to live in the country, especially for children. There were no deaths in the age group from 2 to 25 years during 1951.

For the first time since the Health Department has kept records there were no deaths from communicable diseases of Pittsfield people in the city. There were none from heart disease in children.

The death rate of the age group from 5 to 24 years is but .27 per thousand, or about one in 4,000.

This is by far the lowest death rate ever experienced by any age group in Pittsfield and it probably has never been equaled anywhere.

These are some of the high points revealed in the annual report of the Health Department, filed by Dr. Willys M. Monroe, Commissioner of Public Health.

And even old people live longer in Pittsfield than usual in most other places. As compared to the "standard million" of the population of England, Scotland and Wales, our people are very old. The percentage of those over 65 is more than double that of the "standard million."

The population of Pittsfield increased seven percent from 1940 to 1950, according to the Federal census taken in those years. This increase was confined almost entirely to the age groups 0 to 5 years and over 65 years. The number of young children increased 56 percent and the oldsters 32 percent, while the main body of the population increased only one per cent (from 5 to 65). There are good reasons for these health records and they are not by any means from fresh, pure air, pure water, congenial surroundings and climate. They are from modernized health practices.

For instance, the laboratory of the Health Department is given an "excellent" rating by the State Health Department in all subjects which are so graded and an "A" rating in all other work done by the Department.

The year 1951 was another of low prevalence of all communicable diseases. Even the usual childhood diseases were minor. Private physicians, especially pediatricians, do eighty percent of the immunization of children.

As to the absence of fatal heart disease "whether the major cause of this decline is due to our system of immunization or to the newer drugs, it would be impossible to say. It is, however, one of the most important benefits to children of recent years."

The two killers, tuberculosis and heart disease, among adults have taken toll, with six Pittsfield residents dying of tuberculosis in outside sanatoria and deaths from cancer increasing from 103 to 122—but this latter is "in line with the increasing age of the population." And the facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of such patients are state controlled.

Hospitalization, especially of expectant mothers, has become the rule,

almost 100 percent. Of the 1,983 births in the city all but three occurred in our three hospitals. Few cities the size of Pittsfield have so many obstetricians and family physicians trained in obstetrics. The maternal deaths in Pittsfield are almost all in the group who come from the adjacent countryside. Among Pittsfield mothers there has not been a death charged directly to child birth in five years.

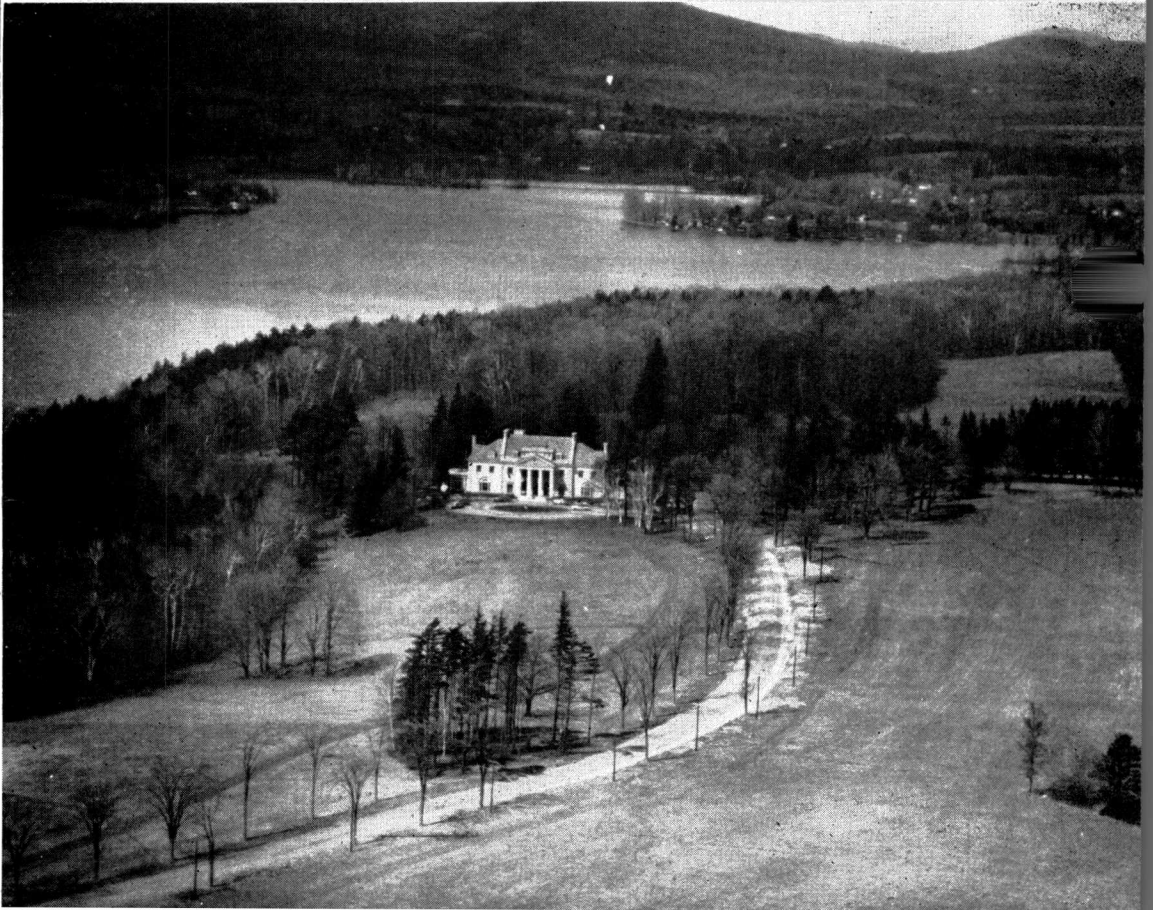
Due to general sanitation measures great progress has been made.

The west branch of the Housatonic River has been receiving less and less pollution as the sewer has been extended to West Pittsfield. In a year or two this branch should be completely rehabilitated. It is now one of the best fishing streams in the city.

Pittsfield is slow to take up with anything as new and unusual as flouridation of water. The dentists of the city have decided to continue with a program of education on this matter and "they feel that they are nearly ready to place the subject on the ballot" for a referendum.

The Health Department now has a staff of 33 but Dr. Monroe fears he may lose some of his best trained aides due to low salaries, still sub-standard despite last year's general salary increases.

Hillcrest, Pittsfield's Newest Hospital, Stands Amid a Beautiful Area. The Scenery Alone Is Healing to the Ill.



Has Done So Much With So Little

Expansion of park and playground areas and development of them under the Long Range plan has continued since 1947, with a new playground and an addition to a park as the major advances during 1951 with a cooperative program plan of action between the School Department and the Park Department well started in 1952.

The annual report made by Vincent J. Hebert, Superintendent of this wide ranging city division, reveals a vigorous and varied year-round recreation program which has furnished fun, healthful and instructive activities for hundreds of thousands in active participation or spectator attendance.

At the playgrounds alone, in a ten week season, attendance reached a total of 174,886; 79,869 used the beaches, pools and ponds at the lakes; (and incidentally 14 rescues were made); 29,984 enjoyed the picnic areas; and despite a tricky winter for skating and other winter sports an almost equal number (29,636) were served in winter sports, plus 2,760 who engaged in activities second to none in New England.

In competitive athletics 43,816 young people took part in baseball, softball, swimming, hockey, bowling, and Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club won the title of Northern New York Speed Skating Association.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day the summer program was in full swing with everything from picnics for which 5,440 kits were rented, to the Golden Age Club frolics which reached an attendance in its third year of 12,200, with a total active membership of 550.

Special city-wide events such as the Hallowe'en parade and dances, served 18,000 persons, besides colorful spectacles for many more thousands of spectators, and for the small fry, the Easter egg hunt at Clapp Park drew 1,800 kids from two to nine years of age in a rollicking frolic and prize getting search of the spring grass.

Band concerts and block dances entertained 6,000 with ten programs during the summer; neighborhood community center doings drew 2,861 children and adults, with leadership training in social recreation given members of the Parent Teachers group.

The Park and Recreation Department stimulated and supervised Christmas celebrations including carol singing and decorating of homes, stores and other institutions.

A graph published herewith illustrates more vividly than text can do, how the Department has *done so much with so little*, with a total expenditure of \$140,265, for all services, and \$12,050 of capital outlay.

The Department looks forward to many developments in its physical facilities and program. Already near completion is the replacement of a crooked stretch of Lakeway Drive at Burbank Park, a dangerous curve, bordering the bathing area, with a new, wide roadway which is to be edged by



Midget Skaters
Line Up (Left)



Easter Egg Roll (Above)



Miss Massachusetts Crowns Our
Winter Queen (Upper Right)



(Above) Onota Lake Bathing



(Below) A Merry Square Dance

(Above) A Ski Champ Comes Home



CWN

picnic tables and fireplaces and close to the new "Choo-Choo" track. This is a major job that has been done mostly by department labor on its own budget.

A safer stairway at Pontoosuc Park, and improvement of the Brown Street baseball diamond, a Recreation Institute serving all private and semi-private recreational agencies are among the aims not otherwise mentioned for near-future accomplishment.

The Pittsfield Park Department can claim to having laid the ground work for several champions, especially in winter sports which reached their peak in January-February, 1952. The names of Verne Goodwin, and Paul Bousquet are outstanding in the ski world, the former getting his start toward a final membership in the U. S. Olympic team at Springside Park when he was but four years old; the latter winning a string of trophies, including one for being the only American to speed to victory over members of the Austrian Ski Team. Sixteen year old Mary Ann Komuneiki was best point-getter for the Speed Skating Club, piling up 650 points. "Art" Longsjö raced to fame and gained a membership as alternate on the Olympic Team in 1951 and is aiming for the Olympic tryouts in 1956. The annual winter carnival, especially the ball with the coronation of the queen amid the beauties of her court, sled races for kids, ice fishing derbies all marked a high point in development of winter recreation out-of-doors and in. A "fishing clinic" was held in the Spring at the Y.M.C.A., repeated May 14, 1952 under the name of Fishermen's show.

Members of the Park Commission are: Michael L. Foley, chairman; William J. Carrigan, George D. Austin, David B. Lawton and Daniel E. Martin.

The reasons that prompt their service are well expressed in the annual report of the Superintendent, as follows:

The Park Commission is of the opinion that a community which invests in the provision of recreational leadership and facilities, receives great dividends as children are assisted in their struggle against "traffic wheels, fists, and sordid wisdom".

Industry and business today are well aware of the fact that skilled men, required to keep a plant running, want to settle permanently in a place where their youngsters "can have a chance to grow up right" and where life will be satisfying in the hours after they ring out at the factory, store or office—to these ends the Department of Parks and Recreation has designed its program.

"National Homes" Not Approved

The Board of Examiners and Appeals had little to do during 1951. They had to hold but one meeting. Approval was asked of the so-called "National Homes" type of house, manufactured at Lafayette, Ind. but the board could not approve these as they fail to comply with the local building code.

Members of this board for 1951 were John Fisher and Frederick Witham, architects; Robert Milne, contractor; Raymond Dunlap, plumber and Walter Fish, electrician.

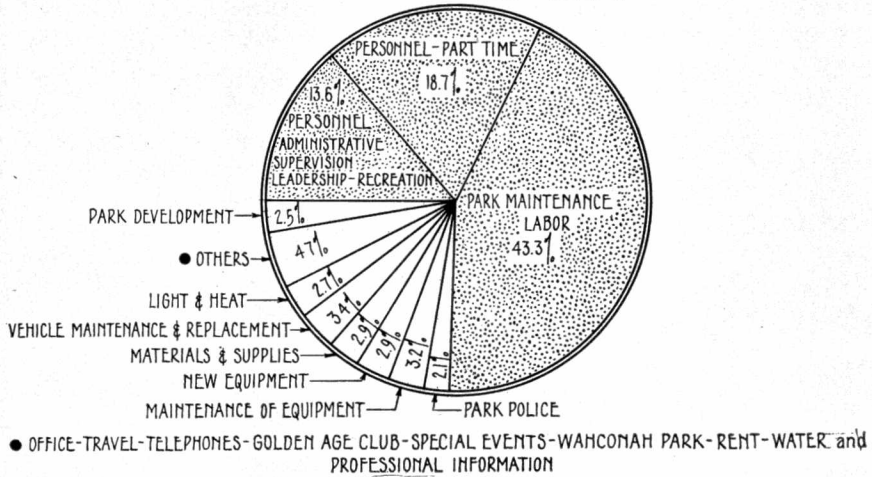
—1951—

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FINANCES AT A GLANCE

PARK AND RECREATION DOLLAR CAME FROM:



PARK AND RECREATION DOLLAR WENT TO:



Permits Decrease But Value Jumps a Million

Although the number of building permits issued by Inspector William A. Mandell in 1951 was considerably less than for 1950, the value of them, numbering 644, as estimated, is over one million dollars more than for the previous year, or \$6,413,494 as against \$5,254,100 in 1950.

An increase in housekeeping units is shown, a total of 381 as against 370 in 1950. There were permits for 488 new buildings, also an increase over 1950 when 467 were issued, reflecting a total value of \$5,932,814 while alterations, additions and repairs accounted for 156 permits at an estimated value of \$481,680.

Inspector Mandell inspected all existing signs in the city and ordered repairs or removal of those not up to standard, and the improvement is quite noticeable along the streets.

The adoption of new state and local laws and amendments to existing laws created new problems and duties for the department and the many inquiries presented, especially as to zoning laws, consumed much time and difficulties of solutions.

Natural gas posed a problem last year, especially in restaurants and other public places, by the failure of owners to have gas emergency lights converted, which meant repeated re-inspections.

Constant vigilance was kept in the interest of public safety and better building construction and fire prevention. The zoning ordinance was enforced with an eye toward civic pride and community well being.

Nearly \$90,000 In Fees

The Licensing Board probably has been more headlined in the news during the spring of 1952 than any other department of the city, because of its hearings on applications for amusement device licenses, but its routine work is what counts up.

Licenses were granted in 1951 that brought in revenue of \$89,964.01 and of them, the fees for amusement devices were for only \$1,303.33. The fees for all classes of liquor licenses amounted to \$86,380.68. The members are Sidney I. Katz, chairman; John V. Geary and Harry J. Burns.

Second Greatest Loss By Fires Came In 1951

The fire department of Pittsfield strung more than nine miles of hose, with water in it and over a mile of hose that was not filled because not needed, in fighting fires in 1951.

In response to alarms the department apparatus traveled over 21,716 miles, including travel for checking of complaints and making inspections. During the year the engines pumped for 51 hours and 22 minutes. There were 789 calls of which 673 were telephone calls, 62 were box alarms and 64 verbal.

Insurance losses by fire during 1951 were approximately \$125,680 out of a total insurance carried of \$3,024,290 on a valuation of \$3,361,370.

The greatest causes of fire were from grass, brush and rubbish blazes, forest, leaf and pine needles burning, for a grand total of 294 outdoor fires; from gasoline leaks 24; short circuits 24; soot in chimneys 19; oil burner overflows 23; lightning 18; overheated motors and grease or other food boiling over on stoves 14 each, and 13 from undetermined causes, one from thawing frozen water pipes with lighted cardboard. There were 41 false alarms, eleven calls each for ladders and lights, 20 chimney fires, 12 caused by careless smoking and 11 from smoking in bed and the same number caused by children playing with matches.

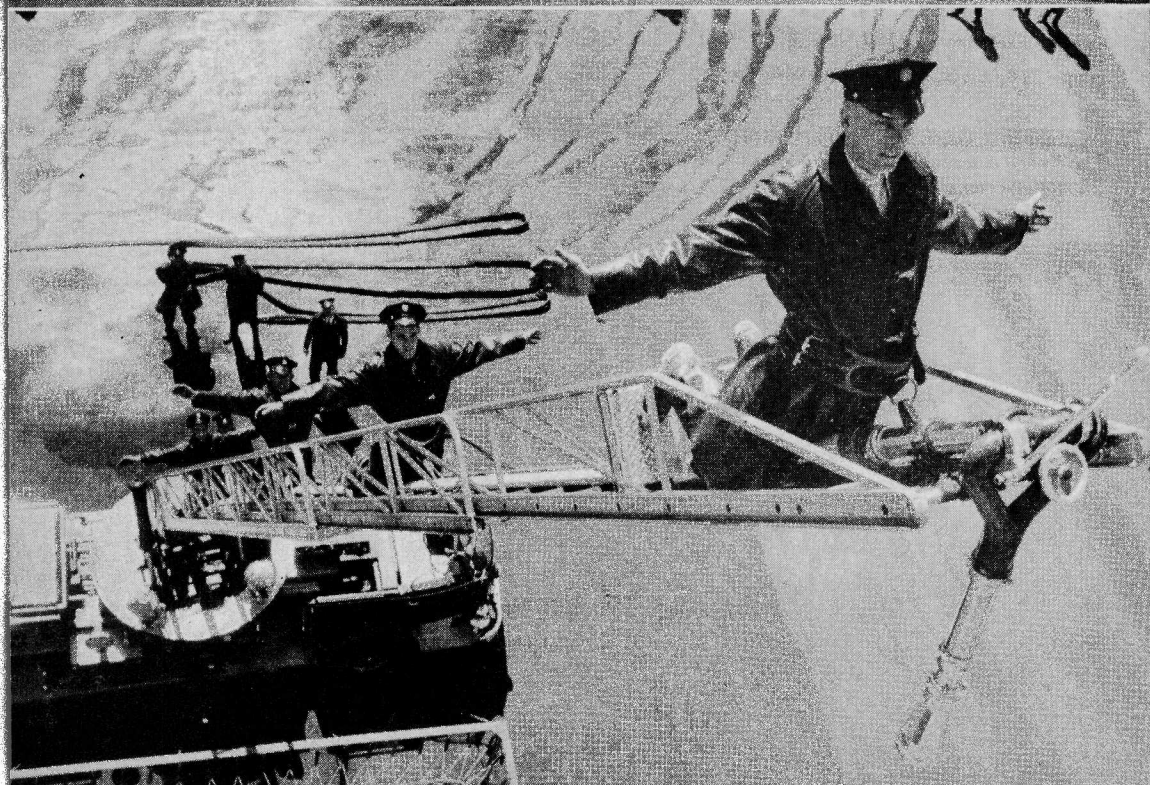
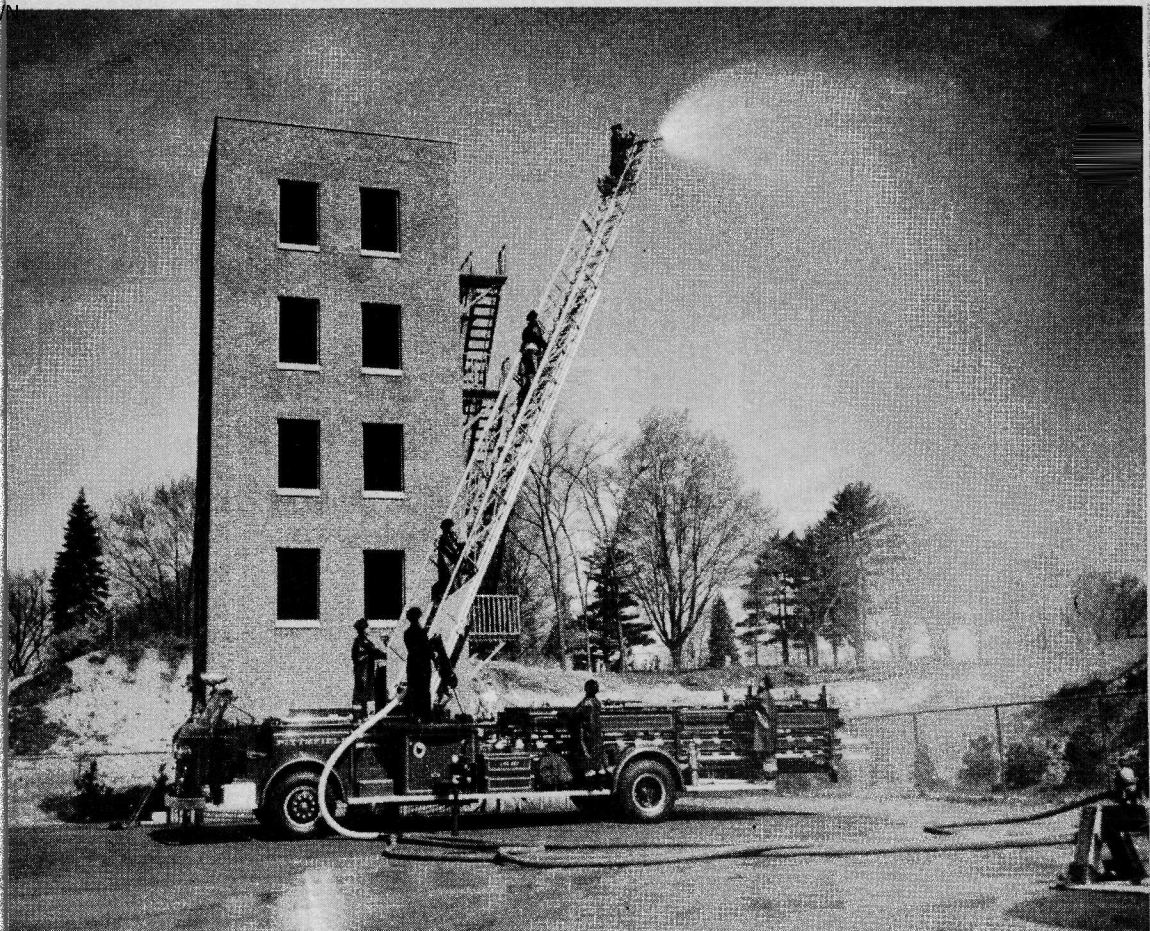
The fire department now has 15 pieces of apparatus housed in four fire stations and the personnel numbered 91 at the end of 1951. There was but one second alarm and two general alarms. Twenty-nine fires were investigated by Chief Thomas F. Burke and his assistants in cooperation with a representative of the State Fire Marshall's office.

Total appropriations for the year were \$347,874.02 and expenditures were \$336,730.23 plus some overtime pay and transfers, leaving a net balance of \$8,420.46.

A table compiled as a summary for the past ten years shows that the greatest loss for any year was in 1942 for a total of \$202,030.85 immediately followed by the least loss, in 1943 of only \$63,095.11, and 1951 showed the second greatest loss in ten years.

Those are some of the important statistics for 1951 and from 1942. Space does not permit a listing of the thousands of duties performed by the department in fire prevention efforts, to check fire hazards, of drills and talks in schools, but special mention is made of activities during "Cleanup Week" and "Fire Prevention Week" and of the directed fire drills in the hospitals.

The year 1951 saw the completion of several great steps for the betterment of the department. Under the Capital Outlay program the Fire Survey Commission with Donald P. Gerst as chairman reached some of the goals for which they had aimed for several years.



Some of Pittsfield's Fire Apparatus and Firemen in a Drill at the Peck's Road Station
(Left)

On Feb. 28, 1951 the old frame structure on Lebanon Avenue was abandoned as a fire station as the new station at 331 W. Housatonic Street was completed and was formally opened on that day, and the Peck's Road station on Memorial Day, 1951. Here is a drill tower and yard where members of the department under Capt. Joseph G. Coy spent 183 hours in drills and fire fighting practice. Chief Burke notes that good results have been obtained in the handling of tools and apparatus and the technique of fire fighting.

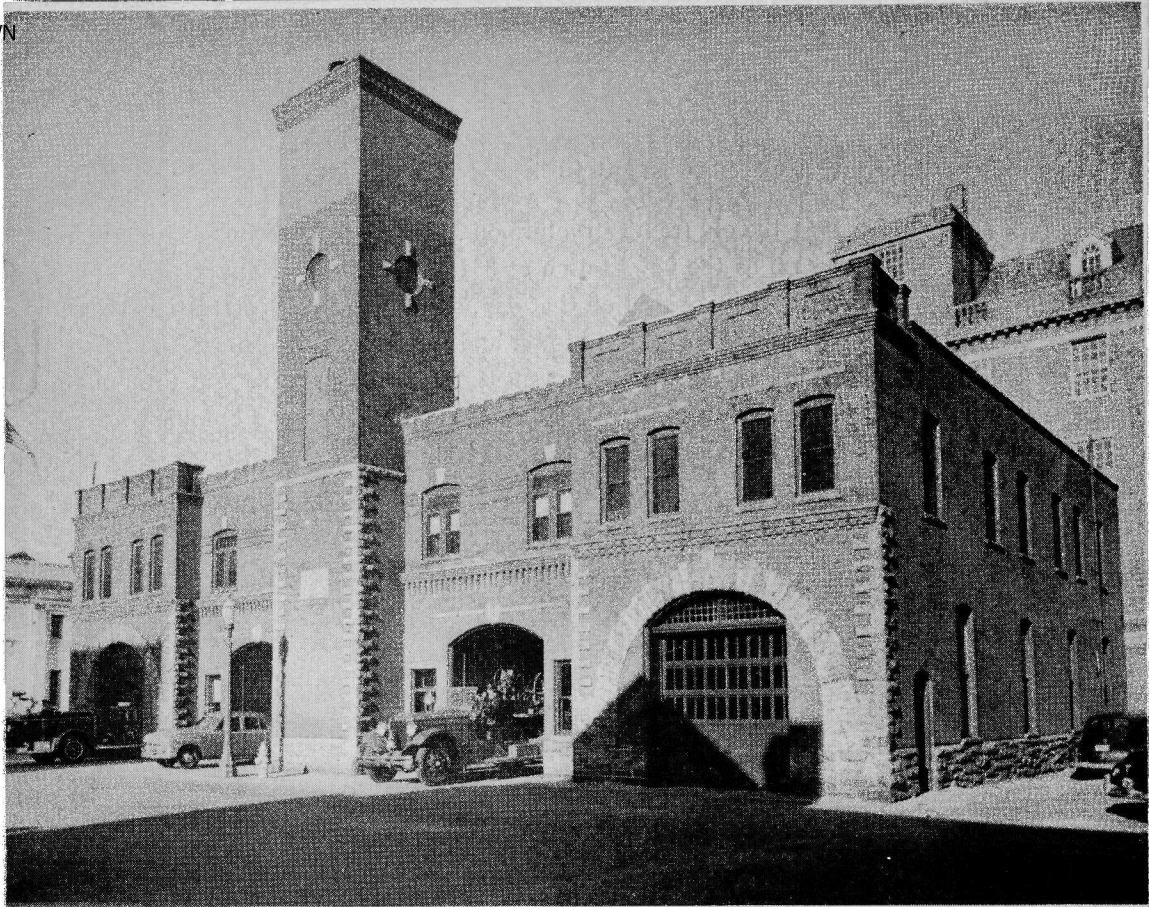
Delays in sounding alarms are mentioned as very serious and warning is made that this results in losses of life and property with appalling frequency. Such delays are often caused by the action of persons trying to extinguish a fire themselves and sometimes by excited persons who fail to give proper information in making a phone call alarm.

The development of a Civil Defense auxiliary force has been a major effort during 1951. This unit and its accomplishments are inspiring as was set forth in a recent report, and exemplified in the interesting demonstration of fighting wartime fires conducted in Schenectady in cooperation with New York state units. This unit was one year old in April, this year. It has 34 trained members.

For the past few years the Chief Engineer's car has been equipped with two-way radio by means of which he could receive or send messages through the Police Department radio, only. Although this method was a step forward in the growth of the Fire Department, it was unsatisfactory and failed to meet the increasing demands upon it, as important time was consumed in relaying messages to and from the Chief Engineer through a third party. Therefore, in June of 1951, equipment was purchased for a Two-way radio system and radios were installed in all the Fire Department apparatus with the control of this system located in the Fire Department.

With the installation of this system, time, which is an important factor in fire fighting, can now be saved as it is possible for the Chief Engineer and his staff of Officers to communicate at once with each other or with any piece of apparatus in the department. This is especially valuable in case of more than one fire at the same time, when it might be necessary to reroute apparatus or obtain the help of any of the various pieces available.

For the information and protection of the public a complete list of fire alarm boxes and their locations is published on Page 64 of this Report booklet. It is recommended that the entire booklet be posted in a convenient place in the house, shop, store or factory for ready reference in case of fire.



On Opposite Page, Central Fire Station, Morningside Station and Signal System Headquarters. (Below) The New West Housatonic Street Station.

Phone Fire Alarms More Used Than Boxes

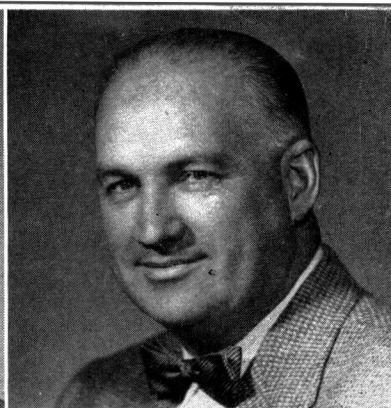
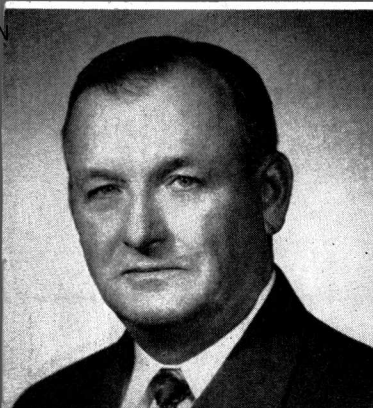
Superintendent John H. Sturgeon of the Police and Fire Alarm Department reveals in his report that a thorough overhauling of the system was conducted last year and a considerable extension of this network was made.

People are depending more and more on the telephone to give alarms. Out of a total of 793 calls, 675 were by phone, 63 were alarm box calls and 55 were verbal. During the year there were two General Alarms and one Second Alarm, a total of 41 false alarms.

Among the new installations were those at Pittsfield General and St. Luke's Hospitals and the Nurses' Home, and to the new Hillcrest Hospital. Numerous tests were made of all circuits. Six sirens were installed for Civilian Defense, each of which may be operated separately or all together. Two remote control stations to operate all sirens were installed, one at the Signal Station on Tyler Street and one at Redfield Schools. These are for both Region One and the City. There are now nine sirens.

15





Eugene J. Murphy

John J. Quinn

James E. Curtin, Chairman, (left above)

Dr. Thomas J. Dehey (left)



Problems and Progress The School Story

The year 1951 had more than its quota of problems for the School Department but despite this great strides were made in solving them and making great progress.

This is the conclusion reached by Superintendent Edward J. Russell in filing his annual report and the list of recommendations reflects a continuing number of similar problems to be solved in the future.

With three new elementary schools now completed and two new junior high schools under construction the school plant has made a sudden jump unequalled in the history of education in the city. The junior high schools are designed to accommodate 2,000 pupils. Ground was broken early in the spring of 1952 and they are expected to be completed by the Fall of 1953. Each is located not only in a fine part of the city but strategically; one on the hill of the Stephens property now Springside Park grounds; the other on Williams Street, clear across the city.

The past year must be recorded as the first in a quarter-century to mark the opening of new elementary schools in the city. And no sooner did the public view them in October than they demanded the raising of the older buildings to comparable levels in functional improvements. Immediately this program was begun and it is now continuing under the School Building Commission with a planned expenditure of at least \$35,000 for equipment alone while rehabilitation will cost even more. A year-round schedule of improvements was adopted in 1951. It includes replacing of old-fashioned fixed desks with moveable furniture, modernization of heating and ventilating systems, structural alterations and lighting.



Ralph S. Bennett, Secretary



Mrs. W. Scott Hill



Edward F. Lavelle

The cost per pupils in Pittsfield continues its rise but still Pittsfield's cost per pupils is not equal to the average for the State.

The sentimental surge toward a return to "the three R's"; that is for a more simplified curriculum, has been satisfactorily answered by better coverage of basic skills that are more varied now than ever. Not only are the traditional subjects of "Readin', 'Ritin and 'Rithmetic" better taught but there is greater attention given to the three critical R's of right, respect and responsibilities in a democratic citizenship, plus those of human relations, artistic expression and rectitude, as well, it may now be added, of religion.

Pittsfield High School, meanwhile, is bulging at the seams, and unfortunately, the greatest pupils increase is in the ninth grade, which means a swelling quota of freshmen and this crowding will not be relieved until the junior high schools open. The technical high school has advanced in high standards, pupil achievement and in enrollment and equipment but is in danger of being stifled by lack of space.

About 2,000 adults are now taking classes and so varied have subjects become available that need for coordination is beginning to make itself felt.

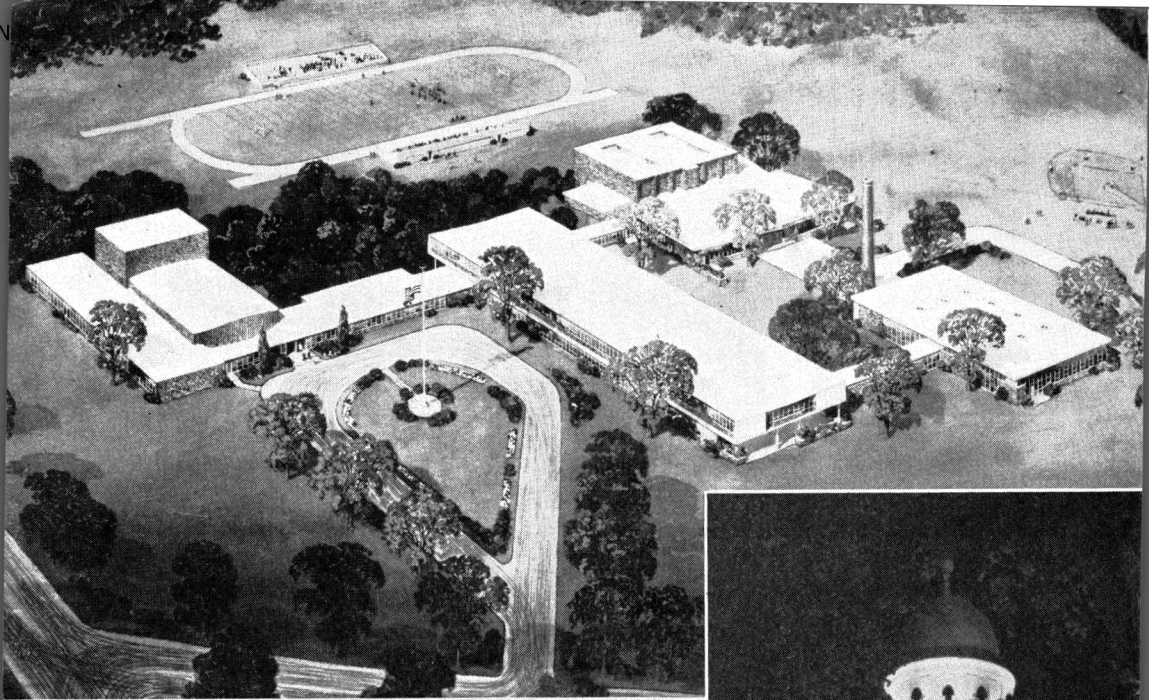
War has made Civil Defense a necessary study and practice adding to the duties of teachers. Here the Red Cross has stepped in with aid.

Anticipating the Harvard Report that was started in 1950 and is still continuing, research and curriculum studies have been carried on steadily. In the guidance department, for the first time in a century a comprehensive followup of graduates has been undertaken and a storehouse of useful information amassed. All schools are now fairly well supplied with basic audio-visual equipment (movies) and Pittsfield is congratulated in the Harvard Report for its progress in this direction.

Pittsfield ranked third among 81 cities and fifth among 69 cities in its school health and safety work. Progress in music, art and physical education has been steady and is being accelerated.

Among the ten recommendations made are the following:

That an Adult Education Council be established; that community use of school facilities be encouraged; that attention be given to the



Architect's Plan of Williams Street Junior High School

The Beacon Light of Learning (right)

need for an addition at the new Egremont school soon to overflow because of rapid residential occupancy of its nearby areas.

That definite steps be taken in 1952 to speed the erection of additional facilities for the High School, with a choice between an addition or erection of a separate Vocational-Technical building adjacent.

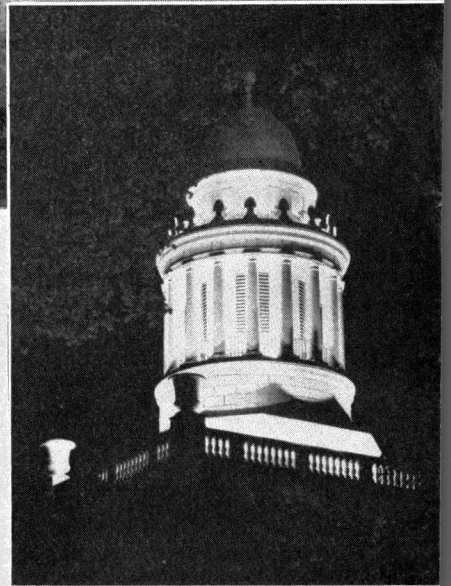
Special gratitude is expressed to the School Building Commission as well as to the City Council and other departments for their cooperation which has never been more active than during 1951.

Members of the Pittsfield Public School Committee:

His Honor, Robert T. Capeless, Mayor, Chairman, ex-Officio

- Ward 1—Eugene J. Murphy —170 Brown St.
- 2—John J. Quinn —116 Connecticut Ave.
- 3—Ralph S. Bennett* — 37 Marian Ave.
- 4—Mrs. W. Scott Hill —215 Bartlett Ave.
- 5—Edward F. Lavelle —762 W. Housatonic St.
- 6—Dr. Thomas J. Dehey—165 Bradford St.
- 7—James E. Curtin** —119 Lenox Ave.

*Secretary **Chairman



"Welfare Has Become Big Business"

State and Federal legislation, especially that passed in 1951 where 22 different acts were adopted affecting Public Welfare, is responsible for the continued high level of public assistance in Pittsfield, as in other communities.

This point is stressed by Commissioner Charles H. Hodecker in his annual report for 1951.

"There is a general misconception that everyone on the welfare rolls should be working or that he is a chiseler," the report reads. "This is far from true, as the majority of our cases receive Old Age Assistance . . . and another large segment is Aid to Dependent Children . . . The few that are employable (who are on General Relief) are marginal workers for various reasons . . ."

There were two major changes in the laws affecting public aid in Massachusetts in 1951 that are worthy of note. One was the Social Security Act, the other the Old Age Assistance Act.

"There is no doubt in the case of the Totally and Permanently Disabled law that there will be a definite drop in the general relief case load . . . which is shared by the State, Federal and local government."

Anticipating that about 100 cases would be receiving this assistance at the end of the year, it was found that actually there were but 68 on Dec. 31, 1951.

The imposition of liens on property owned by Old Age Assistance cases is expected to result in a few of these cases being closed—although most of these people are definitely in need and must remain on the rolls. Exemption of children from support of needy parents will have a definite effect on the program, as well as the \$75 monthly minimum on Old Age cases.

"For years in the annual report we have called attention to changes in legislation. Yet the general public seems to disregard any responsibility for new legislation until such time as it becomes law . . . It does no good to complain about the cost of public assistance after a change in law has taken place."

An Advisory Council finished its first year of aid to the Commissioner in 1951, and has established a schedule of regular meetings for the second Thursday of every month. One of the major reports of the Council was that something should be done at once on a new City Infirmary. Mayor Capeless, early in 1951, appointed an Infirmary Commission as follows: Frederick A. Brand, chairman; Charles H. Hodecker, secretary; Charles J. Germano, Robert N. Hart and James M. Rosenthal. At the close of the year architects were appointed and money appropriated for plans which have been made, now awaiting a further appropriation for the actual building.

. . . "There are a few persons who feel that the building could be deferred . . . but this is bound to be costly either in loss of life by fire or added costs due to inflation . . ."

CWN

Among the problems acted upon by the Advisory Council was that of Nursing and Boarding Homes, fairly well settled by the opening of two new Nursing Homes during the year. A study of hospital and medical costs is still under way.

The first piece of equipment to fit into the modernized administrative system of the city was moved in in December in the form of an elaborate machine which seems to think and figure for itself. Another modern step is the microfilming of old records to provide needed space.

Commissioner Hodecker feels that salary ranges for employees of the Welfare Department were not up to standard and he anticipated an adjustment in 1952.

CITY INFIRMARY REPORT

A decrease in enrolment came about in 1951, largely by a falling off in the number of transients, thereby reducing expenses appreciably. The total number of residents in 1951 was 269 as against 313 in 1950 and the number of transients fell from 160 to 99. There was but one child in 1951 as against 7 in 1950.

The Infirmary is largely self-supporting as to food. Its farm products included enough vegetables to be frozen or canned for the winter and plenty of sausage, corned beef, hams and bacon.

The meat and dairy products were:

5,785 lbs. beef	440 lbs. chicken	2,285 lbs. butter
496 lbs. veal	55 lbs. turkey	1,523 doz. eggs
5,380 lbs. pork		

Besides the urgent need for a new Infirmary building, Supt. William A. Knoblock cites an even greater one for the boss farmer's dwelling. He and family now live in a building that cannot possibly withstand the rigors of another winter. Its plumbing is completely rusted, the heating equipment useless, and "it is unthinkable to try to maintain it through another winter."

An estimate of the cost of a new infirmary building was submitted to the mayor May 13, 1952 by the special commission. It was based on bids received a few days before and the lowest was for over half a million dollars. Ernest J. Cramer's bid was for \$585,000.

The farm had on hand at the end of 1951, 19 cows, 7 heifers, 4 steers, 5 calves, 2 bulls, 31 pigs, 1 boar and 109 fowl and the various programs of pasture reclaiming, fencing and mattress replacement were continued. No major programs were planned for 1952 because of the antitipated progress of a new building.

A much enjoyed gift at the Infirmary, was the television set donated by England Brothers and the Admiral Corporation, but it is rather small for the audiences.

COSTS AND REASONS

Overall costs of General Relief in the Department have risen from \$296,-543.33 in 1949 to \$384,668.44 in 1951, but refunds and reimbursements reduced the 1951 costs to \$328,139.63.

Infirmary expenses were \$47,839.08, less refunds and only \$31,348.72, less receipts from the state, other cities and towns, individuals and sale of products.

CWN

Aid to Dependent Children cost a net of \$49,048 to Pittsfield. Federal grants expended were \$61,610.66.

Old Age Assistance cost Pittsfield a net of \$102,377.51. Federal Grants expended were \$381,244.08.

The City Infirmary cost Pittsfield an actual total of \$29,619.73.

The grand total cost of all welfare to Pittsfield for 1951 was \$509,184.73.

As one member of the City Government expressed it, "Welfare has become Big Business."

The Poor Were Deported Then

"When the Constitution of 1780 went into effect, the legal hardships of the poor were such as required years of liberal legislation for their relief; and how difficult it was to procure that legislation, the Pittsfield reader may learn by examination of the files of "The Sun," which for years was filled with pleadings for the abolition or mitigation of imprisonment for debt, by arguments which, although they seem simple enough now, were persistently resisted then."

"But if, by chance, the poor man escaped a prison, and, despairing of a livelihood in his native place, sought it elsewhere, he was pretty sure to be met at the threshold of his land of promise by some such welcome as the following warrant; which we copy from the Pittsfield town-records, where the like are thickly scattered:—

Berkshire, ss.

To the Constables of the Town of Pittsfield in the County of Berkshire, or either of them, greeting. Whereas it has been represented to us that Elisha Eggleston, his wife and family; John French, his wife and family; Calvin Dunham, his wife and family,—are likely to become burdensome and chargeable to the town if they continue their residence in it, these are therefore to authorize and require you forthwith to warn and notify the above-named persons that they, with their families, immediately depart and remove out of the town, and not to return again, without giving security to the town.

Given under our hands this 22d day of May, Anno Domini 1782.

Woodbridge Little,
David Bush,
Stephen Crofoot,
James Dn. Colt,
Selectmen of Pittsfield.

(Quotation from Volume I, Smith's "History of Pittsfield")



Civilian Defense Training Clears the Street in Practice

Wire Inspection Not One Man Job

There is no end to the extension of electrical wiring and fixtures, nor of the need for inspection of same. This is vividly shown by the report of Wire Inspector Ezra J. Cushing for 1951. Whereas in 1950 Mr. Cushing had no time to file a formal report, last year he compiled a masterpiece of five closely typed pages, well worth the attention of the Mayor and City Council.

There were 1,941 applications for electrical installations and that number of permits issued, a total of 2,520 routine inspections made, 96 investigations of reported fire hazards based on local complaints and 57 made at the request of the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety, of which 36 were in hospitals, 15 in convalescent and nursing homes, five for hotels and theatres and one for the Home for Aged Women. Forty percent of all fires caused by electricity come from faulty wiring and cause 60 percent of the damage.

At the end of the fiscal year 1951 there were 856 general inspections and 250 oil burner inspections that had to be held over to 1952. Mr. Cushing states that it is a physical impossibility for one man to handle all the work in the field and an assistant is urgently needed.

General Apathy Hampers City's Civil Defense

General Apathy, who has lost more battles and wars than any other general in history, has to be overcome in Pittsfield's civil defense organizing, training and activation, but by the end of 1951 Pittsfield had one of the most efficient C.D. corps in the state.

Communications, which are most vital in defense work, have been declared outstanding by experts for a city of this size. Director William H. Cooney reports that there are now nine air raid sirens, installed under the direction of John H. Sturgeon, superintendent of the Police and Fire Alarm system in cooperation with Ernest Grossenbacher of the Technical Service Division of the C.D. These sirens are supplemented by factory whistles and tests have shown that alarms are now to be heard in every corner of the city.

Civilian shelters have been found and signed in most parts of the city and in the schools. Trained men in uniform compose the Auxiliary Police and Firemen groups, with a total of about 40 in each. Two way radio is ready for use. Elaborate plans have been worked up for the operation of the fire, public works and police divisions and other divisions are now being prepared.

In the Medical Division, Dr. Ralph Zupanec has been appointed to replace Dr. M. Criscitiello and in cooperation with Red Cross personnel, instruction in home nursing and nurses' aide procedure has been given to over 200.

There are ten divisions, all told, each with its special duties. The most varied activities are handled by the Technical Service Division, under Chief C. A. Read. They include sirens, shelter, radiological monitoring, bomb reconnaissance, chemical warfare defense, and special weapons defense. A group of technical graduates form a cadre for future expansion.

Several drills were held during the year, conducted by Director J. B. Cooper and they tested communications, provided training in receiving and despatching messages by all means and encouraged public cooperation. On Sept. 21 a committee under Chairman C. H. Hodecker staged a parade which proved an impressive display of the city's resources in equipment and manpower.

With basic organization well established in 1951 and essential facilities ready, efforts for 1952 are being directed to manning those divisions for which the greatest number of volunteers are needed, especially the fire, medical and warden services.

"Our biggest obstacle is lack of public interest; our task is to find and enlist the small minority which is willing to work with us in establishing a corps of trained volunteers around which we can rapidly expand in an emergency . . . With the cooperation of our citizens we can be prepared."

Building Boom Kept On With 330 Houses in 1951

The building boom of 1950 kept on during 1951, it is revealed in the annual report of the Board of Assessors, and it even exceeded 1950's spurt, with approximately 330 new houses and an increase in commercial and industrial buildings.

Despite this, and revaluation of real property the tax rate jumped \$2.40 per \$1,000 for 1952 to the third highest figure in the history of the city. It was \$39.60 in 1951; \$42 for 1952.

The owner of real estate is still carrying most of the tax load and as this burden increases, it will be necessary to find other means of raising revenue. One means may be the application of the "Home Rule Bill" passed by the Legislature in 1951 to take effect this year, permitting cities and towns to appropriate an amount from available funds to reduce the tax rate.

Factors that resulted in a rise in the rate were the exemption on personal property of \$5,000 instead of \$1,000 that was in effect; receipts from state income and corporation taxes as estimated by Commissioner Long dropped from 1950 by \$158,524 in 1951; there was a large abatement of taxes to the Kinney Worsted Company (\$22,890) by decision of the Appellate Tax Board and at least \$1,500,000 in new building is not assessable. That is the estimated cost of the Navy Building on Merrill Road, now completed.

Other industrial or commercial building of note included remodeling of the Secunda Block by Lincoln Stores, Inc. into a three story department store, a new wing added to the G. E. Plastics division and remodeling of the Phenol Plant into a laboratory, completion of the freezer plant on West Housatonic Street and the roller skating rink on Dalton Avenue.

There was an increase in real estate valuation as a result of 1950 construction of just over \$2,000,000 and even a slight increase in personal property assessment while auto excise income went up \$82,000 over 1950.

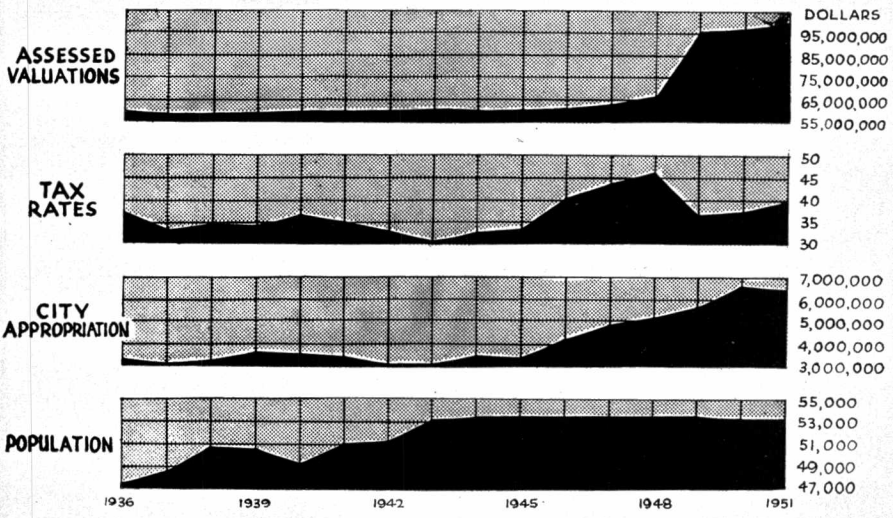
The net amount to be raised by taxation on Polls and Property in 1951 was \$3,963,954, an increase of \$265,304 over 1950.

In July 1951 Roy A. Vincent who had served as assessor for 19 years and was a member of the City Council before that, and chairman of the Board for many years, retired because of ill health. Howard D. Sammis was elected chairman.

A recommendation made by the Assessors that police and firemen make the annual canvas of voters goes into effect this year.

"The department which determines the amount of money which must be collected in order to run the city will never be as popular as the agencies which are dispensing that money. Appraising and assessing will never be an exact science but we have come a long way since the day of horseback appraisal."

CITY TRENDS 1936-1951



SOURCE: ASSESSORS
CITY CLERK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chart by Pittsfield Taxpayers' Association

Repairs Old Buildings, Even Barns

Superintendent John P. Reddy of the Public Buildings department will have five new buildings to keep up, all of them schools, three added during 1951 and two being erected. His job has been to try to keep the many old buildings that the city owns in usable shape. The department expended \$67,129.93 for salaries and wages, \$79,084.29 for supplies, repairs, maintenance, light, water, gas, heat, and miscellaneous necessities, a grand total of \$146,214.22.

Pittsfield High School auditorium was rented 19 times during 1951, for \$1,499.88; rents from the Brush property were \$4,846.50 and receipts from other sources were \$66.

Pittsfield now has between 35 and 40 public buildings, including small additions, sheds, park field houses, etc., to be cared for, even old barns, and over 400 broken windows had to be replaced at the schools.

Youth Will Be Served, Service Should Be Also

As the city grows, so grows its corps of employees.

There has been an increase of 36 during 1951, making a total of 531 employed as of January 1, 1952 as against 495 on January 1, 1951.

An analysis of the turnover in the labor groups shows that city employment is gradually attracting younger persons, especially in the Police and Fire Departments, where obviously young and vigorous persons are desired.

A striking illustration of this is shown by a table compiled for the period from 1946 to 1952. In 1946 there was not a single police officer younger than 30 years of age. Today there are 25.3 percent of the force between 20 and 29 years of age. In the fire department in 1946 there were none under 30 years of age and today 36.3 percent are between the ages of 20 and 29 years.

In other departments the trend toward youth is similar though not as great. On the whole, today in the labor groups there are but 3 percent who have been in the city's service for 20 years or more and 60 percent have been in service less than five years.

On the one hand this indicates a gradual lowering of the number of older employees, but it also indicates a high rate of turnover as compared, for instance, with the employees of a private public service organization.

This latter trend suggests that means should be established to compensate persons with five or more years of service by an increment recognizing such service, and the establishment of more extensive vacation periods to persons with ten or more years of service, as provided for in the General Laws, and in keeping with employment conditions in business and industry.

Among the services provided by the Administrative Service during 1951, was centralized mailing through the Personnel office where 150,000 pieces of mail were put through the sealing and canceling machine and \$400 less than the \$3,500 appropriation for postage was expended. A saving was made by purchasing of envelopes for all departments save the Tax Collector and School Departments. A saving also in time has resulted by allocating to the night janitor the duty of collecting and processing mail and reducing the cost of mailing.

A further step toward mechanical accounting has been taken by the Public Welfare Department, and it is planned to extend mechanical accounting to other departments this year. This will eliminate much duplication of effort, simplify the systems of accounting and free clerical assistance for other work in their departments.

The Administrative Services Department has also acted as purchasing agent for the Civil Defense Department and handled personnel and clerical routines for the agency which has grown rapidly during the past year, as will be shown by its report.

Surplus Revenue Account Grows

Despite rather heavy and unusual expenditures during 1951 the surplus revenue account climbed to a total of \$691,877.53, a gain of \$106,473 over the surplus revenue account of December 31, 1951.

This is revealed by the annual report of City Auditor Anthony W. Sottile.

There was also a big increase in parking meter receipts, due to extension of the meter system during the year. The total was \$55,441.33, an increase of \$23,707 over the 1950 receipts. The balance in the parking meter account was \$61,500.04 as of Dec. 31st, despite a transfer of \$32,539 from the fund, which is somewhat more than transfers made in 1950.

Your pennies and nickels paid for the privilege of using a portion of the city streets or parking lot with your car continue to add extra income to the treasury and you hardly miss the coins.

There was an increase of \$18,661 in the post-war rehabilitation account, bringing it to a grand total of \$617,991.46. This is invested in government bonds.

The City Auditor is also treasurer of the Pittsfield City Employees Contributory Retirement Fund. His report shows that there was a total of \$541,793.95 on hand at the end of 1951. This included cash of \$7,142.76; Defense Bonds to a value of \$145,000; Bonds at cost, \$314,040.16 and bank stocks at cost, \$75,611.03.

On January 1, 1951 there was \$486,361.05 in the treasury. The fund received from employees \$64,707.95 and from the city \$35,511. It received interest on stocks and bonds of \$15,477.65 and had grand total receipts of \$115,697.52.

Expenditures during 1951 were \$60,264.62, including expenses of \$1,238.69; disbursements to members and beneficiaries of \$39,518.39; refunds to members \$19,233.77; accrued interest on purchases \$273.77.

During the year city employees had payroll deductions of \$456,634, for the following purposes:

Withholding tax, \$328,025.53; contributory retirement fund, \$72,335.56; Blue Cross and Blue Shield, \$35,753.14; Government Bonds, \$20,519.91.

Pensions and annuities paid to employees who were members of the contributory retirement system amounted to \$36,535, and to former city employees who were not members \$62,018. Total assets of the Retirement Fund are \$546,612, as of Dec. 31.

Total receipts of the City from all sources in 1951 amounted to \$8,548,609 and expenditures were \$8,380,233. Capital Outlay expenditures totaled \$375,084. This does not include amounts expended for construction of the three new elementary schools.

Manpower Problem and Water Waste Concerns Public Works Dept.

Pittsfield today is in better condition as to its water supply than it has been for several years, but householders and others whose supply is not metered or scheduled are using too much water daily. These facts are outstanding features of the report of Commissioner R. L. McClellan of the Department of Public Works for 1951.

“It should be noted” the report says, “that the average daily consumption of water is 9.33 million gallons. This figure is the same as for the year 1950 which is high for the population of the city. One reason for a portion of this high consumption is that home owners have no incentive to make repairs to their plumbing fixtures when needed.”

The plentitude of pure water drawn from the hills has given back Onota Lake, entire, to the public as a recreational center and to hundreds of thousands this is the greatest blessing provided by the completion of the Cleveland Brook Reservoir and repairs to Farnham Dam. The public use of Onota Lake and Burbank Park is expected to exceed all bounds during 1952, reasons for which are reflected in the report of the Park Department describing the developments made and planned for the park and lake facilities.

The Department has its troubles and these are not confined to complaints from the public, about such things as snow removal, needed road and sidewalk repairs and others of the myriad operations that are included in this Department's duties.

First and foremost in the report filed it is mentioned that “for another year, the main difficulty has been manpower. The restrictions and regulations under which this department is required to operate, severely interfere with the accomplishment of the work to be done. It is recommended that a study be made endeavoring to provide a more fluid and workable method of replacing employees and providing seasonal employees.”

Another recommendation is that snow plows be purchased for the eight garbage trucks at the incinerator, and that these trucks be used for snow plowing when the fall is greater than 8 inches, the reason being that the daily garbage collections cannot be made when the snowfall is greater than this; and thus extra snowplows will be available when most needed.”

The appointment of an assistant commissioner is also recommended.

The Public Works Department is responsible for a variety of installations spread over an area of over 42 square miles plus extensions far up into the mountains and even into other towns from whence comes the city water supply.

It has the care and repair of a total of almost 400 miles of streets, sidewalks, sewers and drains within the city limits, and many more miles of roads to maintain outside. It has 179 miles of water mains to maintain and more in



the building, to give some idea of the vastness of the public works under its care.

During 1951 there were 168 employees in the department, busy in a dozen different operations. There was a snow removal job by machines and by hand caused by a snowfall of 68.4 inches.

Almost a mile of new streets were accepted plus improvements to streets at new schools and half a mile of concrete sidewalks were laid, a mile and a half of bituminous-concrete walks. The Holmes Road bridge over the New Haven railroad was replanked and resurfaced, South Street from Bank Row to Memorial Park was resurfaced by contract and Peck's Road from Wahconah Street to the cemetery gate, New West Street from Center and on West to Onota Street; Merrill Road from the former Nugent school to Plastics Avenue, and early this year, from there to Coltsville.

These are all routine operations serving to illustrate the immensity of the task that the department has to perform, as a matter of course, to keep pace with the rapid growth of the city. There is nothing spectacular about them but they are as necessary as such major works as new water reservoirs that cost millions and employ hundreds more men.

The total cost of our waterworks system to date, not including the three million dollar bond issue for Cleveland Brook Reservoir, has been \$4,161,109.

Repairs to Farnham Dam which was built in 1912-13 cost \$78,850. They were started in June, 1950 and completed early in 1951 by the National Gunite Company, Inc. of Boston.

These are but a few of the many services performed for the people of Pittsfield by the Public Works Department which help to make Pittsfield a good place in which to live, work and play.

Need 200 More Vet's Housing Units

There is need for 200 more housing units for Veterans' Housing in Pittsfield, according to the report of the Housing Authority for 1951. There are about 190 applicants on the waiting list. The advisability of these additions is still under consideration.

The Authority has been in existence for six years as of April, 1952 and it is the outgrowth of the former Pittsfield Defense Housing Committee, established in 1943.

The Authority manages and operates two projects, Victory Hill on Benedict Road and Wilson Park, on property of the former Wilson textile mill. It has now placed 225 families, has five full-time employees to manage and maintain the projects, and meets monthly to discuss various problems and determine policy.

A recent census of both projects shows that total residents are 992; disabled veterans, 12; children, 520; school children, 192.

Victory Hill is a settlement of 99 units, and is a Federally owned unit under a lease agreement. It is directly under the jurisdiction of the Public Housing Administration in Washington, and this administration makes an annual payment, in lieu of taxes, of an average of \$9,000 annually. This has been made since 1943. The last payment was for \$10,100. This project has three, four and five room houses. The rentals charged are \$45, \$49 and \$53 respectively and include gas, electricity and hot water.

Wilson Park is a State-Aided Project, owned and operated by the Pittsfield Authority, but subsidized by annual payments by the State to keep rentals as low as possible. The average rental is \$42, but services include only hot water.

Wilson Park has definite income limits for admission and continued occupancy, ranging from \$3,500 for a family with one dependent, for admission, to \$3,750 for family with three or more dependents; and for continued occupancy, ranging from \$3,900 to \$4,150.

Members of the Authority are:

Chairman, Frank A. Woodhead; Vice Chairman, J. Howard Fryer; members, John H. Callahan, William J. Hurley, Mrs. Isabel England; Executive Director, Arthur C. McGill.

At the present time there is a Program Reservation for 200 additional units to be constructed under Title 111 of the Housing Act of 1949. The Reservation was received from Commissioner John T. Egan of the Housing and Home Financing Agency in October, 1951.

Pittsfield Gains Some Babies But Loses Some Dollars

Statistics are often dull, but some statistics are vital, showing the flow of the life-blood of a community, and so are those called telling of the births, deaths and marriages in the city.

City Clerk John J. Fitzgerald's report for that office, which he holds together with that of City Treasurer, gives an indication of the continued growth of the population or its decline, as the case may be.

There was an actual decline in 1951, despite a small increase in the number of births over those of 1950. The number is 2,025 as against 1,901, but there were 758 deaths last year an increase of 38 over 1950 and only 508 marriages as against 597 in 1950. These figures seem to indicate that there should be more replacements in the *infant-ry*.

To turn to dollars, from brides and babies, the city clerk's department took in \$40,480.28 in fees, the lion's share of which were paid by hunters, trappers and anglers, a total of \$17,160.50, of which \$15,216.75 was paid to the State Division of Fisheries & Game.

Dog licenses brought in \$9,572.95, varied licenses required by law yielded \$7,924.14 and miscellaneous fees \$5,822.69.

As *City Treasurer*, Mr. Fitzgerald reports cash on hand as of Jan. 1, 1952, \$2,153,988.29; receipts \$8,550,242.31; payments during 1951, \$9,201,123.96, leaving a balance on hand Dec. 31, 1951 of \$1,503,106.64.

There has been a decrease here, too, in cash on hand, of \$650,881.65, but a reduction in the bonded debt which stood at \$4,293,000 as against \$4,964,000 on Jan. 1, 1951, with veterans housing and water supply systems responsible for \$3,901,000 of the total.

This leaves the borrowing capacity of the city at \$2,214,086.

The advantage of having the two key jobs of city clerk and treasurer combined is obvious, and it took only 60 days trial for it to be so recognized by the City Council which made the arrangement permanent early in 1951.

Plenty of Rides

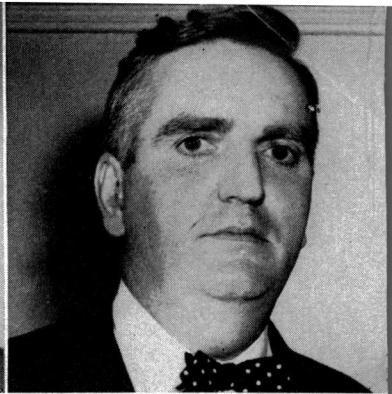
Public beaches were due to be opened June 21, this year, following school graduations. Early in May the park at Pontoosuc Lake was opened for picnics and amusements, with three rides provided for children, a merry-go-round, a boat ride and a buggy ride. At Onota Lake a new amusement is the "Choo-Choo" railroad, installed in a newly cleared area and at Springside Park a fishpond is being stocked with panfish by the PAL club, cooperating with the Park Department, to be caught with hook and line throughout the summer.



Patrick E. Callaghan, Pres.



Robert N. Hart



Charles J. Kidney

Your City Council Adjusts Salaries, Wages and Hours and Buys Land

The Pittsfield City Council consists of eleven members, four of whom are elected as members at large and one for each of the seven wards of the city. It holds regular meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The President is Patrick E. Callaghan.

It is a source of some pride, not only to the City Council but to all members of the City Government, and should be to the citizens of Pittsfield that the results of a survey made by engineers of the General Electric Company, and announced April 23, 1952, gave Pittsfield government a rating above that of the State itself. A majority of the 262 members of the Pittsfield G. E. Engineers' Association out of the 750 who were queried and who answered the four page questionnaires, rated Pittsfield government as "good". That is 57 percent of those answering considered this city well governed and only five percent thought the State government was more than "fair", while 38 percent rated it as "poor" and 31 percent thought it "intolerable."

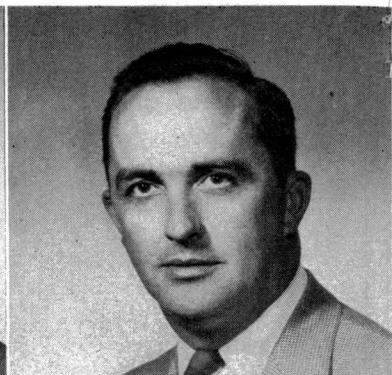
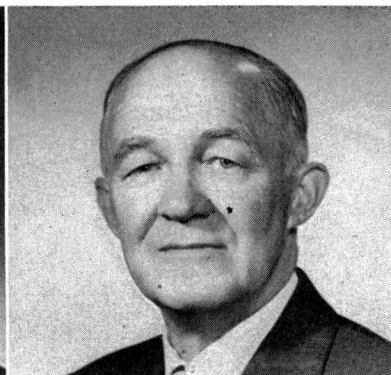
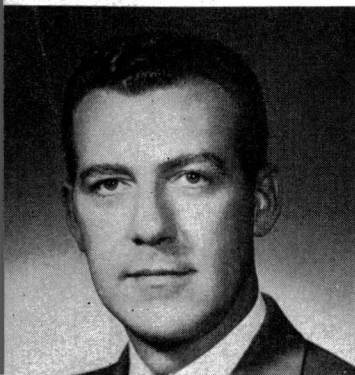
Perhaps the most important legislation passed by the City Council in 1951 was that putting into effect an over all salary revision for city employees and adjusting working hours for police and firemen, and authorizing payment of overtime for the engineering staff of the Public Works Department and its employees who are hourly rated.

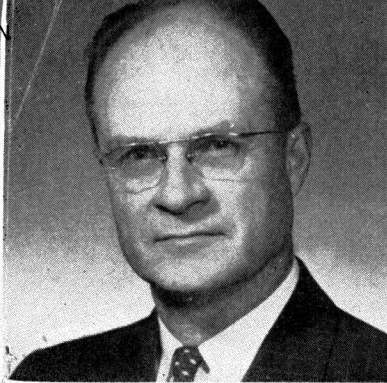
32 [Next in order of importance were orders for purchase of additional land for parks and playgrounds, which may have had an effect on the engineers'

Bernard J. Murphy

Leland C. Talbot

Donald G. Butler

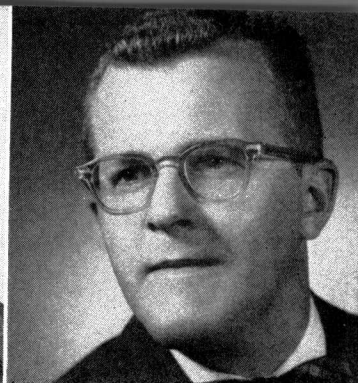




Harvey E. Lake



George A. Purnell



Donald F. Harrington

rating of outdoor sports facilities in the city which were marked as "excellent" by 41 percent of those queried.

Then, also, the appropriation of almost \$30,000 for Civil Defense indicated an alertness on the part of the solons for proper protection of the city and its inhabitants in case of war.

In preparation for the safe and sanitary housing of its poor the Council adopted an order setting up an Infirmary Building Commission, established a new, municipal parking lot at East and Willis Streets, granted the petition of the Pittsfield Coal Gas Company to distribute and sell natural gas, passed an ordinance increasing the personnel of the Police Department and another establishing a five day week for the Fire and Police Signal System employees.

The Council had to wrestle with many problems, including these, during 1951, many of them due to the building boom that has continued, and not the least of which was the urgent pressure for more money for school personnel.

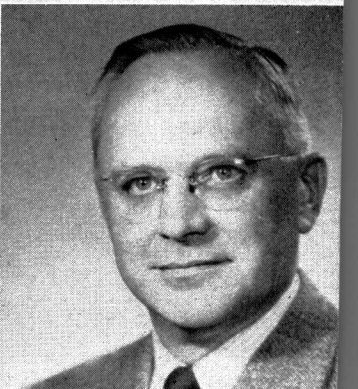
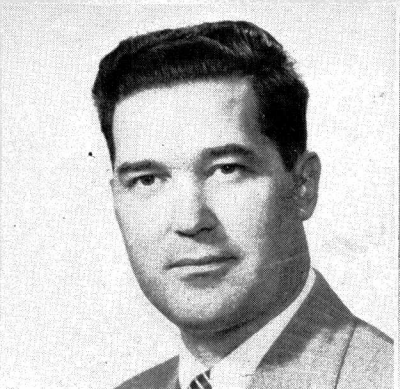
The new land purchased was playground land near Hibbard school, at a cost of \$14,500 and additional land at Clapp Park for \$8,800, the latter money coming from the so-called Bagg Fund left by the late Allen H. Bagg, for several terms mayor of the city.

The Council approved the transfer of the duties of City Treasurer to City Clerk John F. Fitzgerald and made his temporary appointment permanent. The annual meeting with the students of Pittsfield High School participating was held at the high school May 22, 1951, a popular and valuable extra curricular "class" in city government for the benefit of coming voters. Acceptance of Tor Court as a public way to Hillcrest Hospital paved the way for bus service to the new hospital and passage of ambulances and private vehicles from West Street to the hospital over a city street.

Frank M. Pupo

Roy F. Brown

John F. Fitzgerald, Clerk



CWN

The personnel of the City Council is as follows:

Patrick E. Callaghan, President of Council past three years, now serving ofurth term as representative of Ward One. Has served on all committees and is at present chairman of Finance Committee; member Accounts Committee and Associate Member Public Health Commission. Appointed to Sewer Commission 1947 and Water Rates Commissioner 1949, and served as chairman. Occupation, foreman at G. E. East plant. Married, six children.

George A. Purnell, Member-at-large. Served for 25 years as Alderman, under the old charter with Mayors Francis, West, Barnes and Moore, as Councilman under the new charter with Mayors Bagg, Fallon and Capeless. Chairman of Committee on Municipal Insurance and on Drain Improvements; member Finance and Accounts Committees, Members Taxpayers' Association. Married, employed in G. E. Cost Department.

Harvey E. Lake, Member-at-large. Was elected in 1951 for his sixth term in Council, three years from Ward 3; three years at large. Chairman (1951) Committee on Ordinances and Rules; member Finance Committee, Public Safety and Public Works Committees; Chairman Claims and Licenses Committee for six years. Member (1952) Finance and Public Safety Committees. Employed in Distribution Transformer Department at G. E. He is married and has two children.

Charles J. Kidney, Member-at-large. Elected for second term, 1951. Served (1951) as Chairman Accounts Committee; served on Public Safety and Finance Committees. Chairman (1952) of Claims and Licenses Committee; member Insurance and Finance Committees. Employed in Methods Department, G. E. Married and has three children.

Robert N. Hart, Member-at-large. Elected first term, 1949 and now serving on Committees on Finance and Public Works. Appointed in 1950 to Welfare Advisory Council, serving as chairman. Appointed in 1951 to Infirmary Building Committee. Re-elected 1951. Occupation General Electric engineer. Married and has six children.

Donald F. Harrington, Ward 2. Elected 1951. Member Committees on Claims and Licenses, Account and Public Works; special committees on Municipal Parking Lots and City Report. Married, with one son, he has his own plumbing and heating business, is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Pittsfield Taxpayers' Association and Massachusetts Association of Master Plumbers.

Bernard J. Murphy, Ward 3. Now serving his third year, being re-elected in 1951 for second term. Chairman Public Works Committee and member

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Public Safety and Parking Lot Committees. Chairman City Report Committee, and Special Committee on Traffic Lights. Member A.I.E.E., Pittsfield G.E.E.A. and Stanley Club. Employed Electrical Research Laboratory, G. E. Married and has two children.

Leland C. Talbot, Ward 4. Now serving his sixth term in the Council. In 1951 he was Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and member of the Committee on Ordinances and Rules and of the Parking Meter Commission. In 1952 he is serving as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, member of Ordinances and Rules Committee and is Chairman of the special committee to frame an ordinance for the Traffic Commission. A former newspaper reporter he was Congressional secretary for ten years; clerk of the District Court for six years, is a Justice of the Peace and clerk of the Crippled Children's Home. Married, has three children, one grandchild. Mr. Talbot is a Department Manager of the Berkshire Life Insurance Company.

Donald G. Butler, Ward 5. Served first term in 1950-51 and was re-elected in 1951. Member (1951) of Claims and Licenses and Public Safety Committees. Member (1952) of Ordinances and Rules and Public Safety Committees. Employed by Berkshire News Co. Married and has one child.

Frank M. Pupo, Ward 6. Elected in 1951 for his first term. Member Committees on Public Works and Public Safety and Special Commission on Fire Station Building, and City Report Committee. Employed at G. E. Married and has one child.

Roy F. Brown, Ward 7. Serving his third term, Mr. Brown was chairman of the Claims and Finance Committees in 1951 and member of the Public Works and Ordinances and Rules Committees, also of the School Building Commission. In 1952 he is Chairman of the Ordinances and Rules Committee and member of the Public Works Committee and of the School Building Commission. Mr. Brown is employed in the Wage Rate Department of the General Electric Company. He is married and has one child.

John F. Fitzgerald, Clerk of the City Council. Has served in public offices since November 4, 1935. He was appointed Civil Service Clerk for the Licensing Board in 1935 and was transferred to the City Clerk's office in the same capacity in 1938. He was appointed temporary City Clerk Aug. 1, 1942 for five months during absence of Harold F. Goggins and again July 6, 1943 to fill out unexpired term of Mr. Goggins, resigned. First elected City Clerk, 1943. Re-elected in 1945, 1947, 1949 and 1951. Appointed City Treasurer, October, 1950. He is single.

(Addresses and telephones of the above members will be found in the "Directory of City officials" on Page 63 of this Report.)

Library Trustees Plan A New, Modern Building

The Berkshire Atheneum, Pittsfield's public library, is observing an anniversary, too. It is now 80 years of age as a library association and the stone building on Bank Row is three quarters of a century old. Incidentally, it threatens to fall apart of its own weight and the trustees and staff and Friends look forward determinedly to the erection of a new building.

Librarian Robert G. Newman, in his sixth annual report, states that the point has been reached when funds repeatedly expended to patch up the present structure would be more profitably invested in a modern building worthy of a library-minded community.

Plans are being made by a building committee headed by Atty. John Barker of the board of trustees, for a beginning in 1953. Already architectural plans have been drawn by at least two accomplished local architects, based upon the estimated needs for a new and modern library to give stack space for 200,000 volumes, an auditorium, reading room, students room, separate reference section, children's department, music and art section, private cubicles for researchers, and a dozen or more facilities not now existing.

Above all, it is desired to provide a Herman Melville room to house large private collections offered to the Atheneum and serve as the Pittsfield center for Melville studies.

In this connection the annual report states that the idea of such a section has been a cherished dream for many years, and now that Dr. Henry Murray of Harvard has offered his unique personal library of Melvilleania and similar offers have come from Mrs. Eleanor Melville Metcalf the trustees have approved of such a section as a fitting memorial to Pittsfield's greatest literary genius.

Despite the cramped and inadequate physical facilities of the present library, the program of the institution reflects the most modern library techniques and through the understanding support of the City Government and the community, by staff team work and Trustee interest it has been possible to continue and extend services.

The circulation of books, music films and records in 1951 was the largest in the history of the Atheneum. A total of 587,102 book loans were made; 31,885 phonograph records; 85 pieces of sheet music and 134 motion picture films.

The cost of free library public service in 1951 was \$98,389, a per capita expenditure of \$1.84. Of the total cost 92 percent was appropriated by the City. This total, large as it seems, is about one half of the amount recommended by the American Library Association for a city of Pittsfield's size. The answer is obvious.



Dr. Henry A. Murray of Boston Presents an Oil Painting of Herman Melville's Mother, Mrs. Allen Melville, (Maria Gansevoort) to the Trustees of the Berkshire Athenaeum in the Temporary Melville Room

(Left to Right) Librarian Robert G. Newman, Mrs. Lawrence K. Miller, Miss Agnes Morewood, Atty. John Barker, Chairman, Dr. Murray

In a separate report by Mrs. Lawrence K. Miller, president of the Library Association it is stated that for 70 years the original part of the Athenaeum has admirably served its purpose, but in the last several years structural weaknesses have become so evident that "we must wonder whether the present building is now adequate or efficient." And it is added "We do not want a million-dollar edifice; we need only a compact, well designed structure to meet the needs of an annual circulation exceeding half a million volumes."

Two Surveys Asked in Police Report for 1951

Two surveys affecting the police protection of the city are recommended by Police Chief Thomas H. Calnan in his annual report for 1951.

He would have an outside expert make a study of traffic conditions throughout the city and a survey of manpower needs made by Personnel Director Philip C. Ahern. At the same time he recommends that the rotary traffic system now on a trial basis be made permanent as soon as the State Department of Public Works concludes the study it is making and files recommendations.

"Everyone agrees that the system is a vast improvement," the report states, "and there is no question that it handles the heaviest volume of traffic without serious congestion."

Some notable work accomplished by the department is especially of interest, real human interest.

Deaths from fatal accidents were cut in half last year, from six in 1950 to three in 1951, and this record is credited largely to the work of the officers of the Traffic Bureau who arrested 824 speeders, the largest number in the history of the Department.

The Rescue Squad of the Uniformed Force revived 30 of 32 persons by the use of the inhalator, a remarkable record.

The Crime Prevention Bureau handled 327 cases involving juveniles and only 76 of them were taken to court. "When dealing with juveniles we firmly believe that cases should be disposed of without court action whenever possible," the report says.

Individual police work in two outstanding cases are cited as examples of smart crime detection. On April 8th, 1951, Officer Nicholas Hess, after receiving a radio call alerting him to an armed burglary on Crofut Street, apprehended one of the robbers within 15 minutes and solved a case involving two others.

On November 27th Detectives Blair and McGill, chased a pair of robbers from the scene of their crime on Columbus Avenue into New York state, and arrested them within an hour.

Officer Royal McGuirt, buzzing about the city in a jeep, turned in 11,549 tickets for parking violations, all in the interest of public accommodation and safety.

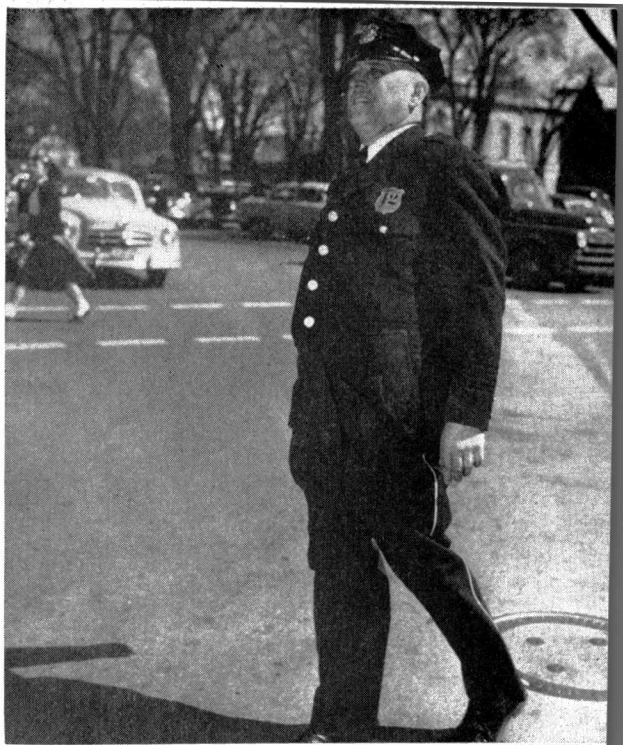
A high tribute is paid to Patrolman Frank Carlon, whom Chief Calnan calls "Pittsfield's Ambassador of Good Will," after receiving many letters of commendation from citizens commenting on Officer Carlon's politeness, courtesy and efficiency.

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Officer Frank W. Carlon "Ambassador of Goodwill"

This good-natured "cop" who is most often seen at the busy crossing on North Street between the Berkshire County Savings Bank and Pittsfield National Bank, is cited by Police Chief Thomas H. Calnan as one of many of the force to be commended by grateful citizens of Pittsfield for his politeness, courtesy and efficiency.

He is pictured here on the job as traffic officer, seeing that pedestrians get safely across the busy street. In the back-ground is City Hall Park, with waiting automobiles in the rotary traffic circle. He is one of the older members of the Department, as the number on his badge indicates.



Four new automobiles were purchased for the department this year costing about \$2,735, with a turn-in of four old ones. They are Chevrolets, replacing Fords. Four more at a similar cost were bought at the same time, one each for the Health Department, Board of Assessors, Veterans' Service agent and City Building Inspector.

Chief Calnan again calls for additional patrolmen for the department, saying that the appointment of eleven men necessitated by the reduction of working hours did not solve the manpower. The forty-hour week schedule makes it necessary to ask for fifteen additional men instead of ten.

The police department cost the city a total of \$267,494.71 in 1951, and all but \$757.80 of the total appropriation was spent. But monies collected as a result of police action reduced the actual cost by \$26,650.62. A total of 2,501 arrests were made, a record for ten years, but there was no fatal crime committed during 1951.

Stolen property valued at \$58,540.95 was recovered out of a total of \$67,056.26, and lost property valued at \$5,281.27 was found, out of a total reported lost, of value, \$8,730.75.

Five New Schools In Five Years

Five new schools within five years is the remarkable record which the School Building Commission expects to have accomplished by the end of summer, 1953.

Three of them have been finished and are occupied. Two of them are junior high schools in process of construction. The five buildings will cost upward of four and one half million dollars and will seat almost 3,000 pupils. On top of this, the commission has the added responsibility of planning and building an addition or annex to Pittsfield High School.

This program is one that never has been equaled in the history of Pittsfield and by few cities of its size in the country. It reflects a period of progress in educational facilities commensurate with the growth of the city, and as well, the unwisdom of an economy that *had* existed, like that of the old woman who lived in a shoe. An economy, also, which has necessitated the rehabilitation of all the existing schools in the city, which is another responsibility of the Commission.

The original Commission was appointed July 26, 1949 with Franz X. Brugger as chairman; the members, Alphonse J. Marchand, Supt. Edward J. Russell, Mrs. C. H. Vickery, Randolph H. Wilkinson, Mrs. Leonora Goerlach, Cyril H. Hannon. In 1950 Roy F. Brown replaced Mrs. Goerlach and later that year Mrs. Vera Fielding and Harold G. Kenyon were added and March 6, 1952 Eugene J. Murphy, Mr. Kenyon being named as vice chairman.

The architect for the three elementary schools was H. W. Haynes and Associates of Pittsburg, Pa. and the contractor, Robert T. Ley Company of Springfield. For the two junior high schools the architects were Perkins & Will of Chicago and the contractors were Carroll, Verge and Whipple Inc. for one and George E. Emerson for the other, both of Pittsfield.

The elementary schools are the Allendale School, capacity 350 pupils, serving the Morningside section; the Egremont School, capacity 270 pupils, serving the southeast section and the Highland School, capacity 190 pupils, serving the northwestern part of the city. These three buildings cost approximately \$1,200,000.

Ground was broken for the junior high schools early in 1952. One is being built on former Springside Park property, on Upper North Street and one on the former Root property between Williams Street and Pomeroy Avenue. Each will have a capacity of about 1,000. The cost is now estimated at \$4,356,286.49, and that was the appropriation for them. They will probably cost more.

The Commission has two sub-committees, one headed by Supt. Edward J. Russell on equipment for the junior high schools and the other headed by Mrs. Vera M. Fielding on rehabilitation of all old schools. (A report on this committee's work is attached.)

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In May, 1952, the work of the commission became so pressing that office quarters were engaged by Mr. Brugger in the Union Federal Bank building and a paid secretary was employed. Here Mr. Brugger has installed the voluminous records of the Commission which had hitherto been kept at his home on Spadina Parkway. Mr. Brugger has devoted full time to the work since early in 1950.

It is worthy of note that Mr. Brugger, a retired General Electric executive, was presented the 1952 Community Service Award for his outstanding contribution to the community and to the Community Chest, which he has served since 1941, and had advised for years before then.

Veterans' Service Focal Point For Any Veteran's Problems

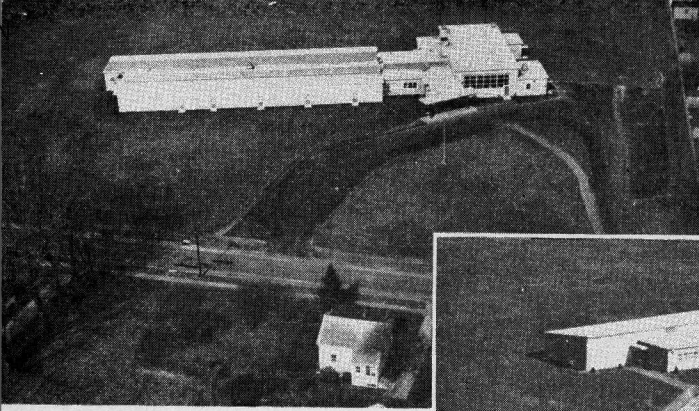
Understaffed and cramped for quarters, as shown by a survey conducted during 1951, yet the Veterans' Service continues to carry on, against increasing demands.

Theodore J. Handerek, agent of the Service, reports the average case load last year was 130 cases and this is steadily increasing. Hospitalization of veterans is one of the most important services given by the department.

The department handles all phases of veterans' work. From the time a man is discharged from the service he may call on the department on any matter, Federal or local, and be assured that he will receive speedy and accurate advice and assistance. Through contacts made over a period of years, the Service is in a position to help expedite any claim with a Federal, State or City agency. The Veterans' Service is now the focal point for solution of any veteran's problem.

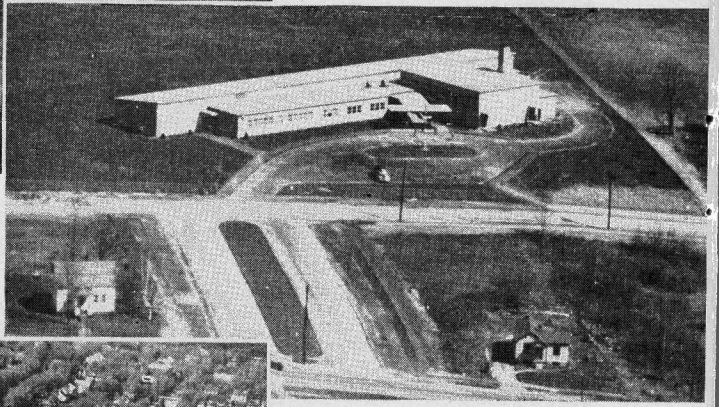
The Service had a total budget of \$98,748 in 1951 and it expended \$93,333. The city was reimbursed by the State in the amount of \$25,947.92 for the period from January 1 to August 31 for aid granted during that period. It has a staff of four whom Mr. Handerek formally congratulates in his report for "a job well done," and urges the need for more help and larger quarters.

Not only veterans but their dependents are aided, under the law which puts them in a category over and above the average citizen in the event of need.

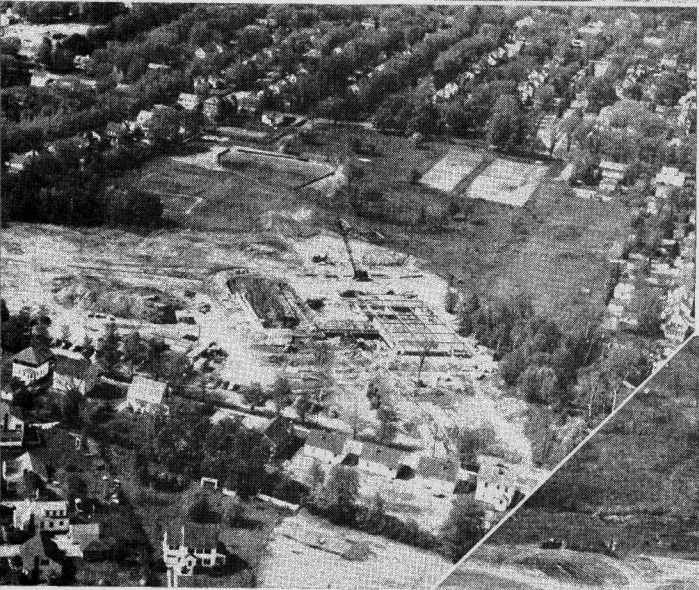


THREE FINISHED
TWO TO GO

(Above) Egremont School



(Above) Highland School

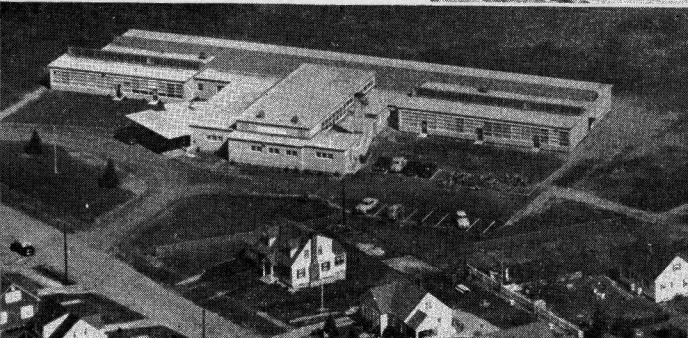


(Above) Williams Street Junior High School Started

(Below) Allendale School



(Above) North Junior High School Started



More Light, Beauty and Comfort In Old Schools

While new school buildings have been completed and new ones in process of construction, Pittsfield is not neglecting the needs of its older buildings and the pupils who attend them.

Under the direction of four members of the School Building Commission, 16 old elementary schools in Pittsfield are "having their faces lifted."

This program of making the classrooms in the old schools look and function much like the new facilities at Highland, Allendale and Egremont is being directed by the rehabilitation committee of the School Building Commission. This committee, headed by Mrs. Wendell S. Fielding, includes Harold G. Kenyon, Mrs. Charles H. Vickery, Superintendent of Schools Edward J. Russell.

Organized 18 months ago, the rehabilitation committee has spent collectively hundreds of hours on its task. During its organization period, opinions were asked of each Parent-Teacher Association in the city and of each school principal and her staff, on which modernization projects ranked top priority in their schools. The replies, compiled in a chart, showed the following needs to rank first with all groups concerned:

Fluorescent lights, Movable classroom furniture, Asphalt tile flooring, Tackboard or corkboard for classrooms, Classroom storage cupboards and work counters, Improvements to playgrounds, including leveling, grading, planting, and buying equipment according to the individual needs of each school, Other improvements to the school plant such as multi-purpose rooms, teachers rooms, additional toilets, teachers' rooms, libraries, or practical arts rooms, or improvements to such existing rooms that are not efficient.

By unanimous agreement, the rehabilitation committee is first tackling the problems of the old schools inside the classrooms. Here the average school-goer spends more than 90 percent of his time, and the classroom remains the focal point of his whole school program.

Fluorescent lights were installed in more than 100 classrooms and 10 principals' offices during the first six months of the rehabilitation program. This completed a fluorescent lighting program begun by the School Committee in 1946, which had modernized about 30 percent of the classroom illumination by 1951. Last year, \$45,925 was appropriated to bring classroom lighting completely up-to-date, and to supply re-wiring, new panels and entrances in eight buildings. A classroom painting schedule, aimed at beautifying the rooms and aiding illumination, was budgeted separately.

The need for fluorescent lighting was indisputable, as light meter readings taken by the committee, showed many rooms with only one-quarter or one-fifth of the light recommended for efficient seeing.

By careful budgeting during 1951, the committee was able to purchase

from its appropriation, corkboard for 135 classrooms. Only a few dozen rooms already had the tackboard space which classes use for art drawings, class projects, posters, notices, maps and clippings. By these installations in 16 buildings, every classroom now has ample tackboard, and another rehabilitation project can be marked "completed."

Refurnishing old classrooms with modern movable desks and chairs is the focal point of the 1952 program which will be carried out during the vacation months of June, July and August, in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. The committee has purchased 1920 tubular steel lift-top desks with matching posture chairs for these three grades throughout the system. The installations will be made in 60 classrooms in 15 grade schools, replacing fixed desks that in many buildings are 35-40 years old.

Matching blond hardwood desks with linoleum tops and matching chairs have been purchased for each fourth, fifth and sixth grade teacher.

Sixty-one floors in these same grades will be surfaced with asphalt tile in pastel shades of green, grey and beige during the summer vacation. The new floor surface will cover holes and worn areas caused by many years of fixed desks and seats, and will make a smooth surface for efficient use of the new movable units.

New pastel color schemes have been introduced in nearly 50 classrooms thus far, in a redecorating program under the superintendent of public buildings, following recommendations of the rehabilitation committee. Yellow, peach, aqua, and many shades of green, grey and beige are being used to disguise drab walls, Dark wainscoting and woodwork. Classrooms have been redecorated in Russell, Crane, Stearns, Tucker and Briggs schools. Redecorating will be carried on this summer and fall in Bartlett, Rice and Plunkett.

The rehabilitation committee is still faced with the all-important fact that 87½ percent of the city's children still attend old schools (while the three new buildings house only 12½ percent of the total). To the committee this spells more work, more planning, and a determination that serious rehabilitation keep right on for several years to come.

A New Bridge

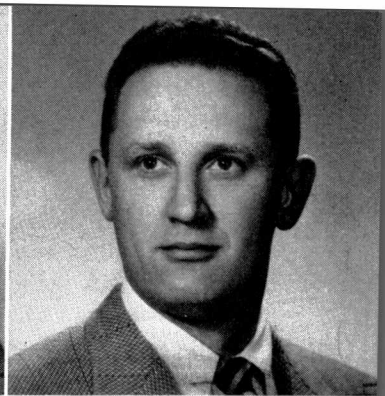
Relocation of the bridge across the middle branch of the Housatonic River on Wahconah Street has been started, to eliminate the S curve near the north end of Lenox Avenue. The project involves the taking of several parcels of land and a part of Bel Air Pond, so-called, beginning near the foot of the pond and extending to within a short distance of where Wahconah Street joins Upper North Street. The work is being done by the State Department of Public Works as Wahconah Street is U. S. 7 Highway. The plan was referred to the City Council because of the necessity of taking land by eminent domain, which had to be done by the city.



Francis J. Quirico



Paul A. Tamburello



Edwin Reder

Electric Rates Case Most Important To All

Attorney Francis J. Quirico, City Solicitor from January 1948 to May 1, 1952, when he resigned, handled a volume of legal business for the city which probably exceeds that of any similar period in the history of Pittsfield.

Besides the usual variety and volume of legal matters he was called upon to represent the city in two cases requiring prolonged hearings, both of them completed, and one of them of utmost importance to all the citizens of Pittsfield.

This case was that of the application of the Western Massachusetts Electric Company for an increase in rates. This involved hearings in Boston for 14 days and one day in Springfield, besides the necessary preparation of arguments and briefs during a period from November, 1951 to May, 1952. Mr. Quirico appeared before the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities and concentrated upon the propriety of the continuance of a differential which Pittsfield users of electricity, particularly residential users, have been charged over and above charges to otherwise comparable customers in Springfield. The hearings have been completed and when the report was filed in May the matter was under consideration by the Public Utilities board.

Another long-drawn case was that on the application of two persons for automatic amusements devices. This was concluded as of May 1 and subsequently the applications were denied by the Pittsfield Licensing Board before whom the hearings were held.

Mr. Quirico's recommendation, made in 1949, and repeated in 1950, that a full time City Solicitor and full time secretary be appointed, was acted upon favorably and on March 26, 1952 the Mayor approved an ordinance establishing the office of Assistant City Solicitor. On May 1, the date of Mr. Quirico's resignation, the Mayor appointed Atty. Paul A. Tamburello as City Solicitor and Atty. Edwin Reder as Assistant City Solicitor.

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The salary of the City Solicitor in 1948 when Mr. Quirico took office was \$3,500 a year. In 1949 it was \$4,000 and from February, 1952 was set at \$4,608 per year for the four months in 1952.

The salaries set for the City Solicitor and Assistant, March 26, 1952 were \$3,500 and \$2,000 respectively, or a total of \$5,500 for the two.

The total costs for all legal services in 1951 was \$7,557.51, including the large sum of \$3,032.32 for court costs, a marked increase over previous years due mostly to the two long hearings mentioned above.

During 1951 the Law Department rendered 48 written opinions on questions from municipal departments and 9 between Jan. 1 and May 1, 1952. The greatest number were submitted by the City Council, a total of 12 during these periods, the school Department next with but 4 and the Mayor with 3. In addition to these there were numerous verbal opinions of which no record was kept.

A total of 45 ordinances were drafted in 1951 of which 36 were enacted, and in 1952, a total of 23 of which 16 were enacted. Three especially important ordinances, and having the most amendments as well, are those affecting salaries, traffic and zoning.

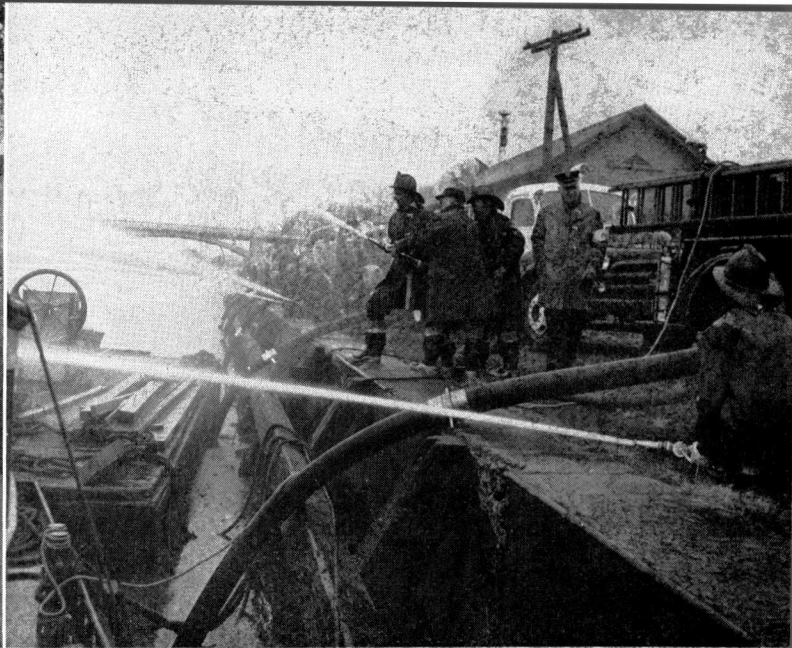
The Zoning Ordinance is being studied by the Planning Board looking toward an entirely new codification. The Traffic Ordinance, last codified and approved Aug. 17, 1948, has since had no less than 80 amendments and Mr. Quirico suggests that there be a new codification.

A total of 60 orders were prepared from Jan. 1, 1951 to May 1, 1952. Five Acts and Statutes were accepted by the City; relative to the pay of municipal employees while serving with the militia; to temporary minor repairs on private ways, to the licensing of open air parking places, to the hours of duty of firemen and the sale of water to Dalton.

Claims against the city for 1951 were about the same as in the two preceding years, but the first four months of 1952 showed a substantial increase. The greatest number were for street defects, of which there were 25 in 1951 and 19 in 1952. Claims for damages from falling trees took a jump to 10 in all, nine of them trees damaged in the hurricane of 1950. The grand total of claims was 83 for the 16 month period covered in the report, and only 16 were allowed, for a total of \$743.46 while 60 were denied and 13 were pending on May 1.

Claims and collections settled by the Law Department amounted to \$9,844.96, of which \$7,500 was reimbursement of Welfare Aid. There were 21 cases pending on May 1 in which the city was concerned either as plaintiff or defendant and tax appeals, contracts, examination of titles to real estate, attendance on meetings of the City Council, special commissions, and conferences with city officers all added to the great volume of legal work.

"I feel that I must repeat my statement in my report for 1950 to the effect that the City of Pittsfield may be faced with the necessity of greater expenditures for claims in coming years," says Mr. Quirico.



Pittsfield Civilian Defense Auxiliary Firemen Join Schenectady in a Realistic Fire Drill

No Plan For City Hall

“The first accomplished fact which confronts us at this time is a tremendous increase in the cost of personnel for the coming year. At the last election the citizens of Pittsfield by a most decisive vote effected a reduction in the work week of the Fire Department from 70 to 56 hours. They thereby in a sense affirmed the decision made by you in the middle of last year to reduce the Police work week from 48 to 40 hours. In order to carry out the mandate of that referendum and of your earlier decision, it will be necessary to spend about \$100,000 annually thereafter.” From Mayor’s Inaugural Address, 1952.

“An industrial wage rise inevitably is followed by salary increases to people in government, living side by side with industrial workers and subject to the same living costs.” Mayor Capeless.

“The total increase in personnel costs for the year 1952 is likely to reach a figure in excess of \$425,000 . . . In the light of this fact, it is obvious that we are left with little room for expenditures on the many projects of public improvement that we might otherwise desire to undertake.” Mayor Capeless.

“I am well aware of the need for a new City Hall. The inadequacy of the present building imposes on all of us who use it constantly increasing problems of administration . . . The only possibility that now holds any promise is the use of one of the older school buildings when the new junior high schools are completed. In any event, there is no plan to construct a complete new City Hall.” Mayor Capeless.

At The Collector's Open Window

It has become a habit with Tax Collector Lemuel G. Lloyd to shoot for a new record in the percentage of taxes collected out of those assessed. In 1948 his record was the best ever, with 98.94 percent of assessed taxes collected. Mr. Lloyd thinks it will never go much higher than that but he expects to equal it in 1952 although the tax rate is up again. His record for 1951 is, so far, 97.94 per cent.

Warrants were issued for 1951 for \$3,982,720.82 and of this total \$3,900,790.72 was all in by Dec. 31, leaving \$81,930.10 outstanding at that date, despite an increase of over a quarter of a million dollars in assessments over 1950—and since the books were closed at the end of last year considerable more was collected on the 1951 debits.

His annual reports shows that during 1951 collections for 1949 were made in the sum of \$20,164.72 out of \$21,958.80 that were delinquent and that closes the books on 1949.

For 1950 a total of \$74,025.70 was collected out of \$86,743.97 that was due, and there were some abatements, which means that collections are very nearly 100 percent now.

Again there was a sizable increase in the amount of motor vehicle excises assessed, a total of \$360,319.61 as against \$311,921 in 1950. Total collections in 1951 were \$311,924.65, just about equaling the 1950 assessment.

Beside the south window in the Tax Collector's office is a list of the tax rates for 14 years, since 1938, so that he who pays may read and note the trend of taxing. Here it is:

1938—\$34.80	1943—\$31.40	1948—\$46.40
1939— 34.80	1944— 32.80	1949— 37.00
1940— 37.00	1945— 33.20	1950— 37.80
1941— 35.00	1946— 40.40	1951— 39.60
1942— 33.40	1947— 43.40	1952— 42.00

“During the postwar years this City has experienced a great housing boom which has involved for the City Government a large outlay for necessary utilities.” Mayor Capeless.

Eight of the eleven members of the City Council this year are General Electric employees. One is employed by the Berkshire Life Insurance Company, one is a plumber and one a clerk. This is in contrast to the personnel of former Councils when it was mostly composed of independent business men. It reflects the trend toward affiliation of our city government with the largest industry in the city, its largest taxpayer and employer.

Rubbish Disposal Studied By Solons

Members of the City Council and citizens are concerned over the problem of rubbish disposal in the vicinity of the City Incinerator on East Street. Following the protest of a group of nearby residents against the dumping of material that cannot be burned in the furnaces of the incinerator, six members of the City Council and representatives of the Department of Public Health, Department of Public Works, the General Electric Company and the Tax Payers Association visited the Albany, N. Y. disposal plant on May 21 to witness a demonstration of the methods used in that city.

The visiting group witnessed movies and heard a lecture sponsored by the United States Public Health Service and the New York State Conference of Mayors, as well as looking on while bulldozers and other equipment buried bulky refuse in waste land.

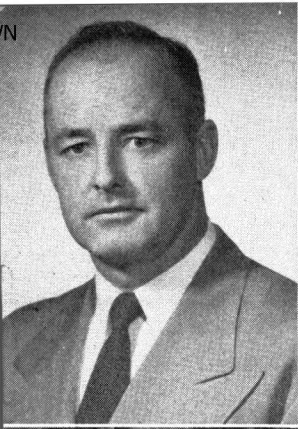
The General Electric Company is interested, as much of the rubbish that has been piled up in the area behind the Incinerator, comes from the local plant.

A special committee with Councilman George E. Purnell as chairman is expected to report on the problem, and will be guided by recommendations of the State Board of Public Health and local ordinances which forbid dumping behind the incinerator and according to an opinion of the City Solicitor, frees the city of responsibility for industrial wastes.

From The 1952 Budget

“The biggest single increase in the municipal budget is found in the School Department which has presented a request for \$1,197,643, an increase of about \$215,000 over last year it is enforced by operation of law. The largest part of the increase is chargeable to salary increases and salary increments granted by the School Committee . . . These salary adjustments are in line with those granted to other city employees and hence scarcely a matter of criticism on our part.”

“A few departments of the city have shown decreases, including the Planning Board (\$6,200) and the Civil Defense Department (\$17,000). The Welfare Department’s budget also is smaller for the first time in many years, not however, because of any decrease in the Welfare load . . . It should be emphasized too that the whole welfare budget is entirely a matter of estimate . . . with no guarantee as to ultimate accuracy. “Budget Message for 1952.



These Horses Never Get Anywhere But They Go

Above is a picture of the merry-go-round at Pontoosuc Lake Park, taken on an April day, the earliest form of entertainment out-of-doors in spring for the children that is furnished by the City.

It should be noted that the name of the department that is responsible for so many forms of entertainment is the Parks *and* Recreation Department. Pittsfield is rated high for a city of its size for its public park areas, and it is becoming highly rated in the organized, supervised use of its parks for both children and adults.

The scene above is reminiscent, by contrast, to the time when this park was operated as a summer picnic and carnival spot by the Pittsfield Street Railway and one of the thrills provided was a pair of white, diving horses, real live ones who leaped from a tower into the water. You took a nickel ride on a trolley car and the rest was free, save, of course, for what you ate. In the old days horses drew the cars. Now wooden horses draw the kids.

Above, left, is Mr. Vincent J. Hebert, Superintendent of the Parks *and* Recreation Department.

Great Variety of Land Use in City

During 1951 the Planning Board devoted most of its attention to the revision of the Zoning Law, which was set up in Pittsfield in 1927. The actual work of revising the Zoning Law was directed by Harold M. Lewis, Planning Consultant and Engineer, retained by the Board. He found that the zoning of Pittsfield was complicated by the great variety of uses of land and buildings within its boundaries.

As a basis for the revision of the Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Board made a land use study of the entire City. This study analyzed the uses to which land was being put within the total corporate area of the City. From it there has been developed a land use map upon which, by various types of symbols, are indicated the types of structures which have been built on used land and the characteristics of vacant land.

With this basis to go on, the Planning Board then analyzed the current zoning in order to arrive at decisions as to the need to revise the Zoning Ordinance.

By June, Mr. Lewis was prepared to present to the Planning Board the first indications of the revised zoning map and the Board began a series of meetings at which it discussed and analyzed its Consultant's findings and recommendations. The Board made many changes in Mr. Lewis' recommendations which required changes in the revised Zoning map.

In addition, the Planning Board examined in detail the revised Zoning Ordinance which accompanies the Zoning Map and made extensive recommendations for changes in the text to Mr. Lewis.

During the year the second of a series of neighborhood studies was prepared, at the request of the Planning Board, by Mr. Lewis which analyzed the growth and development of Neighborhood 21 & 22 in the Peck's Road area. Copies of this report were furnished to neighbors in the area under study and a public hearing was held at the new Highland School where those interested were given an opportunity to be heard in regard to the recommendations of the neighborhood plan.

Other phases of the Planning Board's work during 1951 included public hearings held for the purpose of approving new subdivision plans submitted by Pittsfield developers.

The report made by Engineer Lewis occupies 63 pages. It may be seen and studied at the office of Administrative Service, City Hall. The members of the Planning Board are, Frederick M. Myers, chairman; Lincoln S. Cain, Wolcott Fuller and Alphonse J. Marchand; Philip C. Ahern, Secretary. Bertram W. Mahoney resigned during 1951 due to employment reassignment.

Sees 3000 Flights A Year At Airport

Proposed schedule air service at Pittsfield Airport is expected to result in 3,000 flights per year, according to the report of the Airport Commission, headed by Earl Ferry, chairman, and the members, Harley S. Jones, Leo H. Traver, Fred D. Retallick and Rudolph G. Sarna.

In March of this year, due to the relocation and minor changes in the runway lights and range beacons an Army Fighter Squadron which ran out of gas was able to land safely at the port, and later a civilian pilot in the same trouble made a safe landing there.

Last Fall a contract was let to the Petricca Construction Company to build a portion of the taxiway in the main Administration area and at present the Fay, Spofford & Thorndyke Company is making plans for completion of this area, which is to include services for a new Administration building. City engineers from the Department of Public Works were loaned by Commissioner McClellan and did the primary engineering work in their off-time. This project is expected to be completed in August.

The use of the Airport has steadily expanded and considerable progress was made there during the past year and the first part of 1952. Wiggins Airways has filed with the CAB application for expanded schedule including three trips daily to and from New York City.

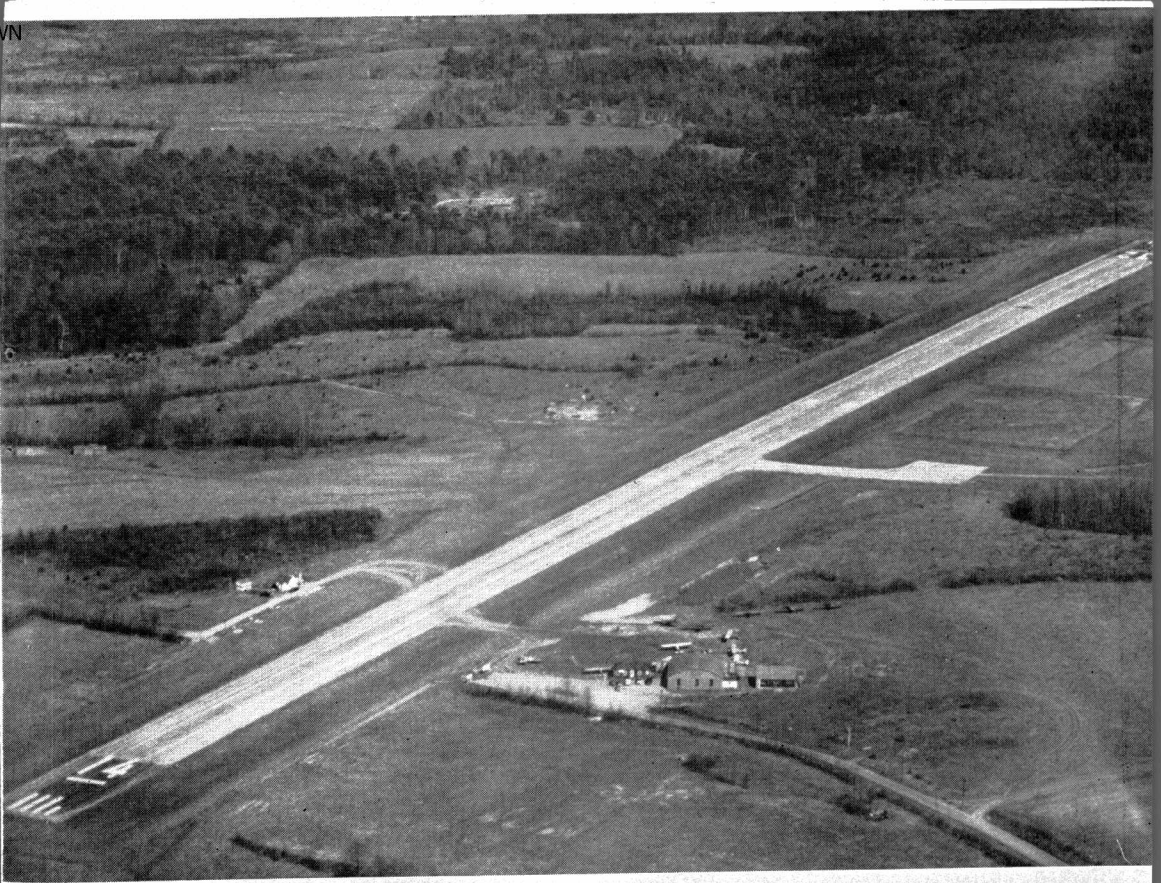
During the spring the work was complicated by muddy hazard conditions in the temporary Administration area but with the cooperation of Public Works Commissioner McClellan a low cost oiled, graveled surface was constructed for use.

Expansion of private hangar facilities have been held up pending completion of the Administration area.

Airport use for the past three years, 1949-1951, is listed by the Commission as follows:

	1949	1950	1951
Transient planes—private, single motor	520	No record	603
Transient planes—private, multi-motor	37	No record	75
Transient planes—Military	21	No record	50
Scheduled service—Flights	357	778	1,024
Scheduled service—Passengers (On and off) (4 months)	146	585	1,038

“For the next two years, you and I are committed to bearing full responsibility for the conduct of municipal affairs in the City of Pittsfield. That responsibility is not new to me, nor is it to most of you. It is nevertheless, a most sobering one and one that has become no less heavy with the passage of time. “From Mayor’s Inaugural Address, 1952.



An Air View of Pittsfield Airport as It Is Today

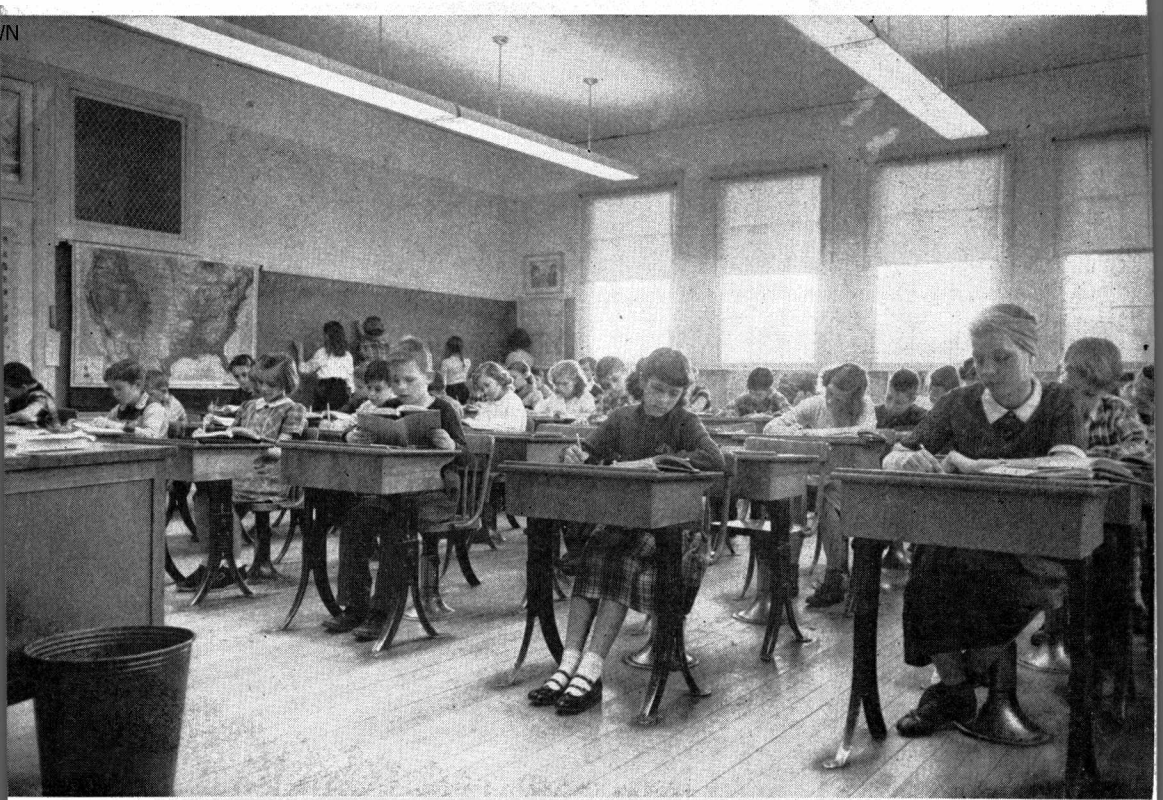
The Capital Outlay Committee

Under an ordinance established in 1944, the Capital Outlay Committee was established, composed of the members of the Planning Board, President of the City Council and the City Auditor.

Annually since 1944 the Capital Outlay Committee has met to discuss requests of operating departments for capital improvements. The Committee then recommends to the Mayor the amount of money which should be expended during the year for non-recurring expenses.

It is the usual recommendation of the Board that only a portion of the money expended under the Capital Outlay Program be included as part of the tax rate and it is generally felt by the Committee that a portion should be taken from the surplus funds of the City.

In 1951 the Capital Outlay Program consisted largely of capital expenditures for Public Works improvement such as construction of water and sewer lines, street improvements and the like.



New Light, New Paint, New Desks To Come When School Is on Vacation
(See Pages 43-44)

Study Of Outskirts Reveals Poor Land Use

A neighborhood planning study for Pittsfield especially bearing upon the sprawling scattered residential sections on the outskirts of the city was made during 1951 by the Planning Board as a part of its Master Plan.

Its report on the northern area of the city designated as Plots No. 21 and 22, and consisting of land running approximately from Peck's Road on the South to Hancock Road on the north was filed May 28, 1951, and published in a small pamphlet.

In the introduction to a detailed study it is stated that no one who has surveyed the outskirts of Pittsfield to any extent can fail to be impressed with the widespread occurrence of premature subdivisions spotted with occasional houses served only by poorly developed private streets. The seriousness and extent of this situation was pointed out as follows in a report prepared in 1946:

"There are in Pittsfield today as many unaccepted streets as there are accepted streets. Of over 350 streets which are unaccepted, only 296 have houses on them. These latter account for a total of 45 miles of unaccepted



The Busy and Beautiful Circle of City Hall Park

ways. Two-thirds of these unaccepted streets with houses are on the outskirts of the city and represent developments built between 1900 and 1920. The total number of building lots number 8,414, over 6,000 of which are vacant. The total valuation of the houses and lots on the 296 unaccepted streets amounts to ten per cent of the city's total real property valuation. It is, perhaps, understating the case to say that the condition of two-thirds of these streets is now no better than when they were plowed through by the original developers."

This phenomenon, brought about by wildcat land speculation, was taking place at the same time in all large urban areas in the United States. It involved the mapping of row upon row of alleged building lots on street after street that had no other reason except that they intersected some main line highway. These lots were in many instances only staked out on the land. Street improvements, sidewalks, and gutters were usually missing or were confined to concrete gutters and curbs with a strip of cinders between them to represent a street.

The result has been an appalling waste of resources, both public and private. In many instances public funds have had to be expended to install improvements. In addition, the municipality has suffered the loss of a high percentage of taxes which are left unpaid and allowed to accumulate against the lots pending their sale.



(Above) The Military Touch. Navy and Marine Reserve Center on Onota Boulevard at Burbank Park

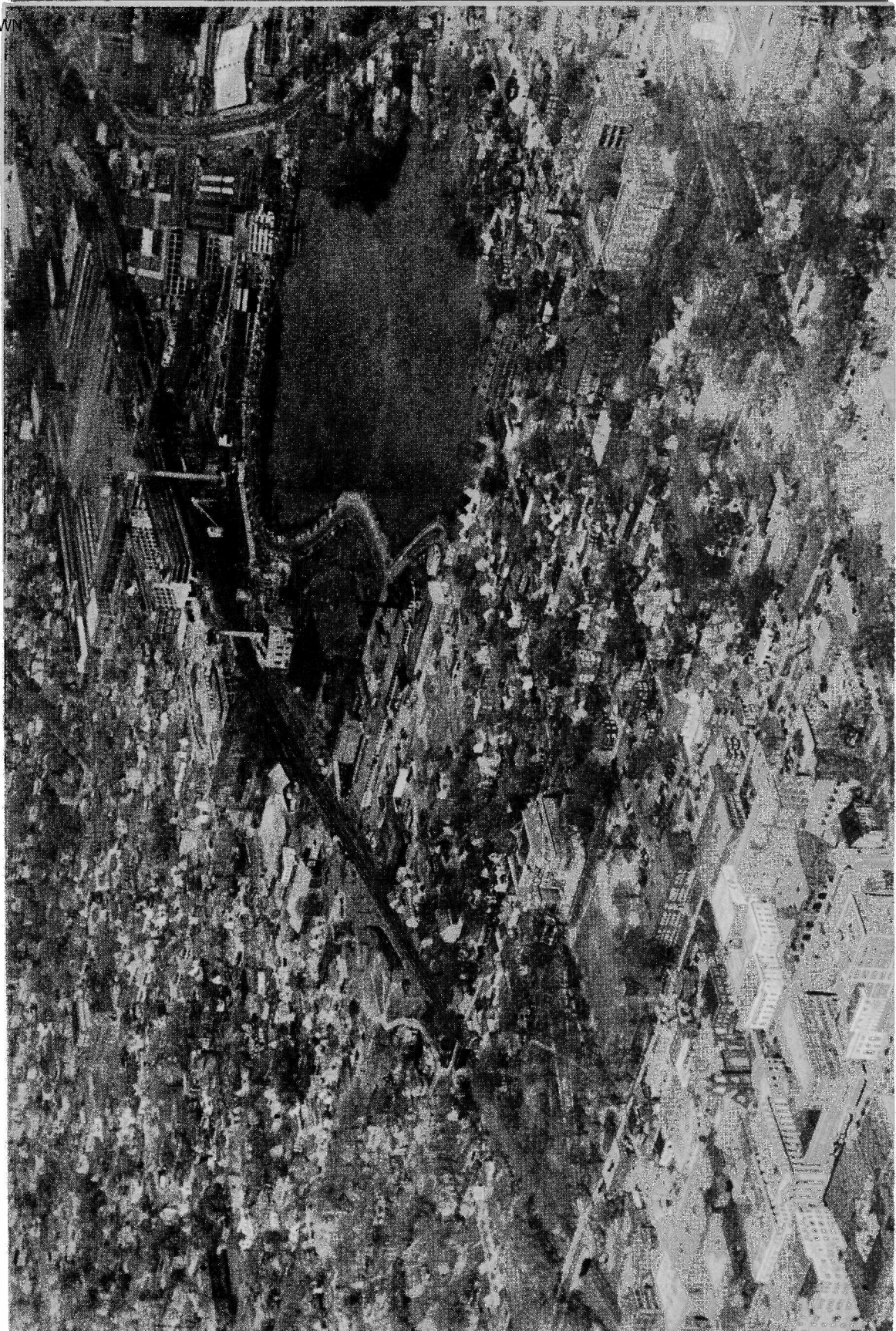
Care and Repair a Constant Job

Your City From The Air (Right)

The report of the Superintendent of Public Buildings, John P. Reddy contains several pages listing the maintenance and repairs to 31 buildings owned by the city. This list shows what was done in 1951 in a constant round of repairing, painting, glazing, plumbing, heating and attention to physical properties that wear out. But it does not tell what will have to be done this year and next and for many years.

During the current five-year period, for instance, ten or a dozen additional city buildings will have been erected and these will soon come under the expanding program of the Superintendent. After the special committee on School Rehabilitation has finished its work on some 16 old school buildings, which is being done by contract, these, also, will require inspection and "fixin' up". Already the three new elementary schools have required general maintenance work, the three new fire stations and the old Central Station as well; and the Incinerator, where new motors and heating units had to be installed.

Almost as soon as a new building is completed it has to be added to the list for general maintenance and repairs, and such items as the care of grounds and moving of voting machines, tables and chairs in and out of the polling places are only two of many added responsibilities of the Public Buildings Department.



"1752 Was the Birth Year of Pittsfield"

(Continued from Page 2)

David Bush or Nathaniel Fairfield are credited with making the first clearing and among the first settlers to stay in the town were Solomon Deming, David Bush, Nathaniel Fairfield, Gideon Gunn, Timothy Cadwell, David Ashley, Samuel Taylor, Stephen Crofoot, Elias Willard, William Williams, Jacob Wendell, John Stoddard, Jesse Sackett, Josiah Wright, Hezekiah Jones, Elias Willard, Abner and Isaac Dewey, Charles Goodrich, and among the landowners, as shown on a plan of the town in 1752, were also Col. Oliver Partridge, Col. Ephraim Williams, Elisha Jones, Lieut. M. Graves, Lieut. Moses Graves.

Some of these names are perpetuated in Pittsfield today in streets, avenues, lakes and ponds.

Most of the old Indian names have vanished, probably because some of them were too hard to pronounce but we have Wahconah Street, Pontoosuc Lake, Mohegan Street, Taconic Street and a few others to remind us of the aboriginal inhabitants. And as memorials to some of the early settlers, Williams Street, Stoddard Avenue, Deming Street and Playground, Goodrich Pond, Gunns Grove, Dewey Avenue, Crofut Street, Root Place, Ashley Reservoir and Brook and others.

Although Pittsfield, in modern times, has seemed fond of celebrations and anniversaries, especially those in which parades and pageants are featured, there was no observance of an anniversary of the *founding* of the town until 1911 which was elaborately celebrated in July as the 150th anniversary of the *incorporation* of the town of Pontoosuck as Pittsfield. In honor of Sir William Pitt of the British Parliament, who had supported the cause of the Colonies before and throughout the Revolution, the Indian named town became one of several in the new nation that thus paid tribute to Pitt.

The year 1911 was also the tenth anniversary of the town becoming a city.

Now that 50 years has passed since that event, we have a double anniversary within the two years, 1951 and 1952, for 1951 was the 100th year of the town of Pittsfield and 1952, as noted, is the 200th anniversary of the first settlement here. This year is also the 120th anniversary of the occupancy of our present City Hall as a town house, as the date, 1832, on the front of the ancient building indicates.

There was one glorious celebration in Pittsfield in 1844. It was called the *Berkshire Jubilee*. It began on August 22nd and continued on the 23d. That was a sort of *Old Home* gathering or *Homecoming*. The ceremonies were held on what is still known to some as Jubilee Hill, that rise of land west of the Boston & Albany tracks, now a densely inhabited residential section in the embrace of Circular Avenue, which at that time had but one house, that of Timothy Childs. One of the several speakers was Oliver Wendell Holmes, who told of his coming to Pittsfield to live in the mansion in the east part of town built by his maternal grandfather, Jacob Wendell.

It was perhaps the celebration of 1911 that first inspired the movement to have an added volume of the History of Pittsfield written to augment the two volumes that had been written by Joseph E. A. Smith, which brought the

story down to the year 1876. At any rate, the late Edward Boltwood, a talented author was commissioned to do the job and the book was published in 1916, bringing Pittsfield's story of progress down to 1915.

Since that time, a period of approximately 37 years, we have been through two World Wars and into a third that is not yet finished. In all of them Pittsfield has played a very important part, furnishing more than its quota of man-power and an enormous amount of war material. It has evolved from an "overgrown village" into a thriving municipality. It seems to be an appropriate time for observance of its birthday, for, as Historian Smith says:

"The Year 1752 Was the Birth Year of Pittsfield."

Wanted, Men in Uniform

There were 27,500 persons eligible to vote in the Fall election in Pittsfield, as certified by the Registrars of Voters, and 39,474 persons found who were 20 years of age or over in the annual canvas conducted early in 1951. It took 18½ days for the canvas and difficulty was experienced in securing help. The Registrars therefore recommend in their annual report that the job be done by men in uniform, police and firemen on their off-time. This procedure, it is pointed out is followed in Springfield with excellent results. One change in personnel was made in the staff. Mayor Capeless appointed Richard W. Danckert to replace Luis J. Gilardi. John F. Colbert was re-elected chairman. The other members are F. Harris Ray and Patrick A. McCaherty.

For the first time in history women were added to the jury list when revised in April.

"It might be said of the coming two years that it will be a period of normalcy, or as close to normalcy as we will probably ever get." Mayor Capeless.

The School Building Commission to which has been allocated the greatest public building program in the history of the city since the new High School was erected; that is the completion of five new school buildings within five years and an addition to the High School, has been authorized to hire an office for the Chairman, Franz X. Brugger, for lack of any room in City Hall or its annex, the old Police Station. Rooms in the Union Federal Bank Building have been rented and Mr. Brugger has transferred all records from his home to this office, Rooms 6-7, second floor. For a time a temporary single room office was used while the suite was being renovated.



Donald E. Wechter at Work

“Water Can Be Dynamite”

Plumbing Inspector Donald E. Wechter includes in his dynamic report for 1951 an article from *Popular Science* titled “Water Can Be Dynamite”—proving that “even a 30-gal. storage tank can let go like a TNT blast unless protected against excess heat as well as pressure.”

A total of 750 plumbing permits were issued, 325 sewer permits and 106 range boiler permits. Mr. Wechter, stating that the volume

of work in his department has increased three-fold in 15 years and no end is in sight, requests the appointment of an assistant inspector.

Noting that much of the increase is due to wars, he remarks that as far back as World War II the City as well as the rest of the country was to be back on pre-war level—or better, long before this.

He Protects the Buyer

Out of a total of 3,980 weighing and measuring devices tested by Francis J. Hughes, Sealer of Weights and Measures in 1951, there were 192 requiring adjustment and 22 were condemned. A total of 5,605 re-weighings and inspections of food packages for delivery to consumers were made and there were 4,383 other inspections mainly clinical thermometers.

Fees received were in the amount of \$2,040.05.

Not a picturesque or exciting report, to be sure, but the Sealer is the protector of the buyer, especially of food and fuel, an important function in the life of Pittsfield.

History of City Hall

Pittsfield’s present City Hall has a history of 120 years of serving the city—and it was a gift to the Town of Pittsfield. Lemuel Pomeroy, a wealthy manufacturer, offered to build a Town House at his own expense in exchange for the original Town House, which still stands as part of a dwelling on East Street, farther to the east, and additional land, a lot on which to erect the Episcopal Church and another lot “at equal distance from the two churches;” that is, the Congregational and Episcopal Churches.

His offer was accepted and in 1832 he built a new Town House to which additions have been made. This building was used for various purposes, including religious services, and for several months as the County Court House.

New Infirmary Is Postponed

As a result of a meeting of the City Council June 19, 1952 erection of the proposed new half million dollar Infirmary urged by the Mayor but opposed by the Capital Outlay Group, was abandoned for this year. Despite modification of the estimated original cost of \$585,000 to \$513,253, the Council by a vote of 5 to 4, with 2 absentees, refused to adopt an order for the smaller sum. As June 19 was the deadline for accepting or rejecting bids, there is no chance of reconsideration.

The Capital Outlay Commission which is composed of the Planning Board, City Auditor and President of the City Council advised the Mayor a few days after the estimate was presented that it could not approve of the plans and cost and that it would recommend that not more than \$450,000 be appropriated for the new building. "In our opinion the needs and requirements of the project do not warrant the expenditure of this amount (\$585,000) was the report filed by Frederick M. Myers chairman of the Outlay group. "It is the sentiment of this commission that it would not be willing to recommend the expenditure of more than \$450,000."

It might be noted that nothing has been done toward the building of a new boss farmer's house at the Infirmary, which Superintendent William H. Knoblock reports is an absolute necessity, and who, with Commissioner Charles H. Hodecker of the Welfare Department, had condemned the old building as dangerous and almost impossible to maintain.

Chairman Brand of the Infirmary Commission is also chairman of the Advisory Council to the Welfare Department. He is a retired General Electric executive.

The Infirmary Commission, headed by Frederick F. Brand, had architect's plans made at a cost of \$23,600 out of a \$25,000 appropriation made in 1951. Plans were drawn by J. R. Hampson and bids were submitted May 17, 1952. Ernest J. Cramer was low bidder at \$501,050 but \$34,000 more would be required for a machinery shed, furnishings and additional land. As this report is being written the project appears to be killed, at least for 1952, with a loss to the City of the architect's fees.

As this Report is being written, efforts are being made to continue a study of the problem which has been under consideration for several years. Mayor Capeless hopes to salvage the project without too much loss of money, or the loss of the Infirmary Building Commission, the members of which felt they should resign. President Patrick F. Callaghan of the City Council, also a member of the Capital Outlay Commission, was placed in the position of opposing the original cost appropriation when it came to a vote in the Council, as the Capital Outlay group had voted against it save for one member, Atty. Lincoln S. Cain.

Emergency Service Telephone Numbers

FIRE DEPARTMENT—8241

Police Department—4556

Civil Defense—(Regional) Center—2066; Pittsfield Control Center—2535

Hospitals

Hillcrest—2-6933

Pittsfield General—7341

St. Luke's—6451

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CITY REPORT COMMITTEE

Bernard J. Murphy
Chairman

Donald F. Harrington, Frank M. Pupo
Philip C. Ahern

Clay Perry, Editor

Directory of City Officials

TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS	TEL. NO.	
Mayor	Robert T. Capeless	City Hall	2-7282	
City Council	Robert N. Hart, at large	332 William St.	2-5596	
	Charles J. Kidney, at large	59 Tower Drive	2-3283	
	Harvey E. Lake, at large	33 Parker St.	2-3403	
	George A. Purnell, at large	252 First St.	2-5084	
	Patrick E. Callaghan, Ward 1, President	147 Brown St.	2-7258	
	Donald F. Harrington, Ward 2	381 Tyler St.	2-9716	
	Bernard J. Murphy, Ward 3	3 McLaughlin Place	2-4837	
	Leland C. Talbot, Ward 4	292 Pomeroy Ave.	2-1759	
	Donald G. Butler, Ward 5	107 Boylston St. Ext.	2-8536	
	Frank M. Pupo, Ward 6	66 Circular Ave.	2-2057	
	Roy F. Brown, Ward 7	42 McArthur St.	4126	
	John J. Fitzgerald, Clerk	City Hall	6678	
	School Committee	Mayor Capeless, Ex Officio	74 Broad St.	7094
		Eugene J. Murphy, Ward 1	170 Brown St.	2-6451
		John J. Quinn, Ward 2	116 Connecticut Ave.	7726
Ralph S. Bennett, Secretary, Ward 3		37 Marian Ave.	5735	
Mrs. W. Scott Hill, Ward 4		215 Bartlett Ave.	2-5656	
Edward F. Lavelle, Ward 5		762 West Housa. St.	7621	
Thomas J. Dehey, Ward 6		165 Bradford St.	2-3318	
James E. Curtin, Ward 7, Chairman in absence of Mayor	119 Lenox Ave.	2-5874		
City Clerk and Treasurer	John J. Fitzgerald	City Hall	6678	
Civilian Defense	Wm. H. Cooney, Director	35 Bartlett Ave.	2-1260	
Administrative Services	Philip C. Ahern, Director	City Hall	2-1609	
City Solicitor	Paul A. Tamburello	28 North St.	4578	
Assistant City Solicitor	Edwin Reder	21 Bay State Rd.	2-9338	
Airport Commission	Earl E. Ferry, Chairman	92 Elizabeth St.	2-1571	
	S. Harley Jones	193 Dawes Ave.	2-1541	
	Leo H. Traver	20 Worthington St.	2-4575	
	Fred D. Retailick	92 Center St.	8939	
	Rudolph G. Sarna	110 Ridgeway Ave.	2-7208	
	Howard D. Sammis, Chairman	City Hall	8756	
Assessors	Eleanor M. Goggins	City Hall	8756	
	Auditor	Anthony W. Sottile	City Hall	2-2233
	Tax Collector	Lemuel G. Lloyd	City Hall	4220
	Insp. of Buildings	William A. Mandell	City Hall Annex	2-3659
	Insp. of Plumbing	Donald E. Wechter	City Hall Annex	2-2363
	Insp. of Wires	Ezra J. Cushing	City Hall Annex	9151
	Sealer of Weights and Measures	Francis J. Hughes	232 West Housa. St.	2-7202
	Insp. of Animals	Daniel J. Collins	1000 South St.	4841
	Fire Chief	Thomas F. Burke	Allen St.	8241
	Police Chief	Thomas H. Calnan	39 Allen St.	4556
	Supt. Fire and Police Signals	John H. Sturgeon	239 Tyler St.	8241
	Public Works Commissioner	Robert L. McLellan	City Hall	5608
	Public Building Supt.	John P. Reddy	City Hall Annex	5423
	School Superintendent	Edward J. Russell, Ph.D.	City Hall	7830
	Librarian	Robert G. Newman	Berkshire Athenaeum	2-1559
	Park Commission	William J. Carrigan, Chairman	257 Peck's Road	2-6409
		David B. Lawton	234 Dawes Ave.	6381
		Daniel E. Martin	262 Dawes Ave.	4753
Michael L. Foley		25 Copley Ter.	8406	
George D. Austin		77 Whittier Ave.	2-5445	
Vincent J. Herbert		City Hall Annex	6486	
Willys M. Monroe, M.D.		City Hall	2-5664	
Park Superintendent	Sheron A. A. Schmoyer, M.D.	779 Tyler St.	9757	
	Charles H. Hodecker	40 Dunham St.	2-6936	
	Theodore J. Handerek	40 Dunham St.	2-5942	
	John F. Colbert, Chairman	11 Second St.	2-4566	
	Frank Harris Ray	71 Pomeroy Ave.	3-0153	
	Richard W. Danckert	37 Memorial Dr.	3-0300	
	Robert B. Dillon	20 Forest Place	2-4913	
	Sidney I. Katz, Chairman	64 So. Onota St.	2-3146	
	John V. Geary	29 Acorn St.	6948	
	Harry J. Burns	891 West Housa. St.	4169	
Board of Appeals (Zoning Ordinance)	Charles L. Pincu	109 Livingston Ave.	2-1686	
	Sidney M. Benedict	80 Chickering St.	2-5165	
	James D. Sullivan	73 Allengate Ave.	2-4306	
	Robert E. Wagner	74 Wendell Ave.	8567	
	Thomas F. Murphy, Associate Member	20 Weller Ave.	2-1163	
	Frank W. Cimini	85 East St.	3-0656	
	Robert H. Burbank, Associate Member	153 Bartlett Ave.	2-0579	
Planning Board	Frederick M. Myers, Chairman	106 Crofut St.	2-2254	
	Lincoln S. Cain	7 Jackson St.	8367	
	Alphonse J. Marchand	188 Elm St.	2-4231	
	Wolcott Fuller	27 Brunswick St.	2-8357	
Housing Authority	Frank A. Woodhead, Chairman	110 Bartlett Ave.	2-2030	
	C. Arthur McGill, Manager	Wilson Park	2-2187 2-0020	
Victory Hill, Wilson Park				

Fire Alarm Boxes

- 12 Mass av and Chickering
 13 Pomeroy av and Broad
 14 South and George
 15 East and Willis
 16 East and Fourth
 17 Appleton av and East Housatonic
 18 Appleton av nr river bridge
 19 Elm and Newell
 131 Wendell av byd Broad
 132 East Housatonic and Bartlett av
 134 Pomeroy av and Howard
 142 South opp Taylor
 1421 South and Harding
 143 South opp Cole av
 144 South opp South Mountain rd
 145 Crofut st hill
 146 Pomeroy av and Noblehurst av
 147 Pomeroy av and Kenilworth
 149 Miss Hall's School, Holmes rd
 151 St. Luke's Hospital, East
 152 High School, East
 155 Fenn and East
 161 Elm opp Chickering
 181 Dawes av and Arlington
 182 Dawes av and Livingston
 183 Holmes rd and Marian av
 191 Elm and Holmes rd
 192 Malcolm av and Stratford av
 193 Malcolm av and Pollock av
 194 Elm & Wood av
 195 Hibbard School, Newell
 196 Hazelwood Ter opp Foote av

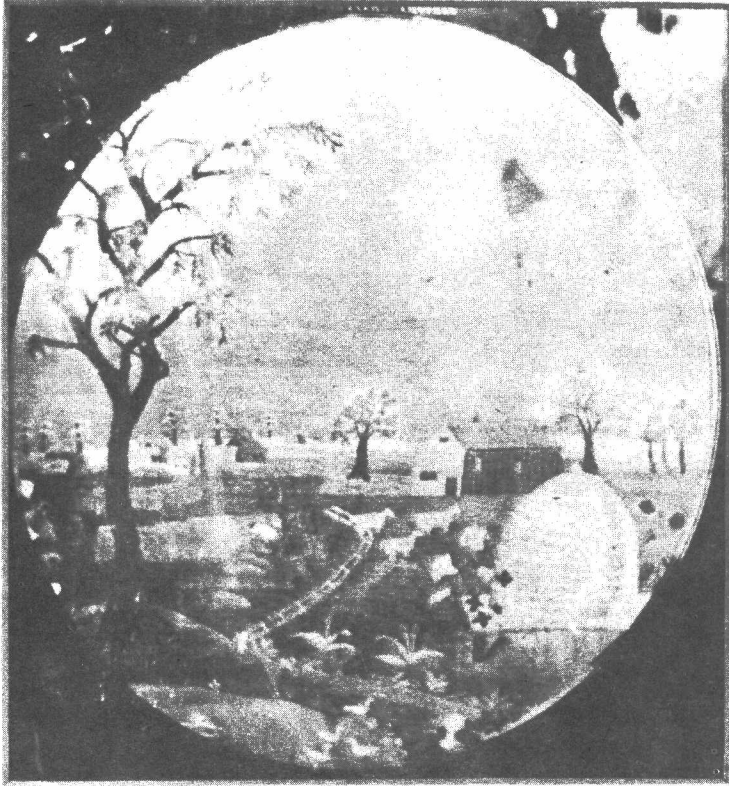
 21 W Housatonic and S Merriam
 23 S Church and Hurlbut
 24 South and East Housatonic
 25 West Housatonic and Beech Grove av
 26 Mill and Hawthorne av
 27 West and New West
 28 West and South
 29 Elizabeth and Buel
 212 Stearns School, Lebanon av
 213 West Housatonic opp Osceola
 214 W Housatonic opp Hungerford
 215 Lebanon av opp Hungerford
 216 Tuberculosis Hospital, off Lebanon av
 221 W Housatonic and Hampshire
 233 Eaton Paper Co
 241 South opp Church
 242 Center and Church
 243 South and Broad
 246 Center and Worthington
 1517 Egremont School
 55 Beachgrove Drive off Elm St
 272 Clarks wholesale grocers West St
 2321 St. Luke's Hospital
 2331 St. Luke's Nurses Home
 2353 Berkshire Eagle
 2462 PGH Nurses Home
 261 N Y N H and Hartford Roundhouse
 271 West and Edwin
 281 East and Allen
 291 Elizabeth and Henry av Redfield School

 31 Linden and John
 32 Columbus av and South John
 34 West and Dewey av
 35 Depot and McKay
 36 Columbus av and Daniels av
 37 Bradford and Francis av
 38 North opp Madison av
 39 North and Maplewood av
 312 Linden and Francis av
 313 Linden and Robbins av, Tucker School
 314 King and Hillside
 321 Linden and Onota
 324 Onota opp Bartlett School
 325 McArthur
 334 Division and Robbins av
 341 West top of Briggs hill
 342 West and Onota
 343 West byd Jason
 344 West opp Onota Lake
 345 Euclid av and Catharine
 346 West and Churchill

 347 City Farm Almshouse, West
 361 Columbus av opp. Berkshire Lumber Co
 362 Robbins av and Prospect
 371 North opp Summer
 372 North opp Union
 381 North and Burbank
 382 Wahconah and Russell Ter
 391 Maplewood av and First

 41 North and School
 42 North opp Columbus av
 43 Fenn and Pearl
 44 Replacement Box
 45 Fenn and Fourth
 46 Lincoln and Wellington av
 47 Brown and Curtis
 48 Burbank opp Spring
 49 Tyler a Woodlawn av Trinity Methodist Church
 412 North opp Depot
 421 Glenwood av & Stoddard av
 422 First and Orchard
 423 Tyler and Myrtle
 424 First and Melville, Notre Dame Church and School
 425 Fenn & Second St Reed School and Mt Carmel Church
 2482 P G H Boiler Room
 2542 Peek's Road Fire Station
 2552 G E North Gate
 2611 G E Plastic av Gate House
 2652 Connecticut av School
 3628 Brooks av School
 413 Rear of Union Federal Bank
 426 Lincoln and Fourth
 427 Second and Hamlin
 431 Briggs av nr St Charles Church
 432 North and Springside av
 433 North and Sherrill av
 434 Lenox av and Fairview av
 435 Lenox av and Weller av
 436 Lenox av and Pontoosuc av, St Charles School
 451 Tillotson Silver Lake Mill, Fourth
 452 Dalton av and Harvard
 453 Dalton av and Pittsfield av
 454 Crane School, Dartmouth
 455 Dalton av and Merrill rd
 457 Victory Hill, Benedict Rd
 471 Winter at Rice School
 472 Glix Brand Co Brown and Curtis
 473 Plunkett and Kellogg
 491 Tyler and Brown, Morningside Baptist Church
 492 Springside av and Draper av
 493 Springside av and Perrine av
 4571 Tower Dr opp Community Dr, Victory Hill
 4572 Tower Dr opp Community Dr Victory Hill

 5 Hathaway Baking Co, Wahconah
 52 Second and Lake
 53 Berkshire R R Co, East
 54 East opp Silver Lake
 56 Gas House, East
 57 Parkside av and Longview ter
 58 Merrill rd opp Nugent School
 582 Gulf Oil Corp, Merrill rd
 6 Wyandotte Mfg Co, North
 62 Seymour and Kent av
 63 North opp Cromwell av
 64 North opp Pontoosuc School
 65 Wilson and Mohegan
 612 North and Lakeview
 383 Russell Mill, Peck's rd
 71 Kinney Yarn Co, Elmvale Pl
 712 Wahconah and Pontoosuc av
 72 Peck's rd opp Paul av
 73 Peck's Rd and Lakeway Dr
 75 North and Tyler, Pittsfield Genl Hospital
 731 Berk Woolen and Worsted Co Peck's rd
 9 Wahconah and Briggs av
 462 Ken-Whitmore Coat Co
 4131 Rear of Berkshire Hotel
 4531 Wilson Housing
 4532 Wilson Housing
 4743 Hillcrest Hospital
 5183 West Pittsfield Fire Station



Earliest Known Picture of Pittsfield

Painted on silk in 1803, transferred to daguerrotype 50 yrs. later, photographed 1903 From the estate of Caleb Hubby, native of Pittsfield, who died in Waco, Texas. Shows the first meeting house, a bee-hive, a large elm under which Ethan Allen is said to have made a patriotic speech (left) and Sheep on the village green.