

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

PROJECTS SPONSORED by the CITY OF PORTLAND

September 1935 to January 1939

On May 6, 1935 the President issued Executive Order No. 7034, establishing the Division of Applications and Information, the Advisory Committee on Allotment and the Works Progress Administration.

The basic purpose of this work relief program was to take persons off the relief rolls and to put them to useful work in the shortest time possible.

The program was intended, as far as possible, to have such persons engaged at their usual occupations. Accordingly the program of employment embraces many fields of activity.

This report includes all W.P.A. Projects sponsored by the City of Portland that were completed to January 1939, a total of 91 projects. The work included street improvements, such as grading and graveling, construction of sidewalks and curbs, sewer repair and construction, and extensive improvements to parks and golf courses. Building construction included a Fire Department drill tower, addition to the City supply yards at N.E. Stanton and Kerby Streets, a Sunshine Division building and addition, comfort station in Overlook Park etc. The program also included the employment of various types of professional persons, nurses, engineers, draftsmen etc.

Under the Street Resurfacing and Track Restoration program a total of 241,846 square yards of pavement was laid. Approximately 240 miles of City Streets were graded and graveled under the street graveling projects. Twenty six sewer projects were completed during this period and more than 16,000 lineal feet of sewer was repaired or replaced. In the Council Crest district, 15,500 lineal feet of trail building and clearing paralleling the trunk sewers

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in various canyons in this district was done, rendering these sewers easily accessible to patrol and repair crews during stormy weather. Repairing and re-painting damaged street signs and placing new ones involved a total of 18,261 signs. A balustrade was built on the harbor wall and dolphins installed for the mooring of ships. Many slides were removed from roadways and much slide prevention construction was accomplished such as, the building of retaining walls and drainage systems.

Noteworthy among these drainage systems was the Barbur Boulevard tunnel. This tunnel is 4 feet by 6 feet by 543 feet in length, lined throughout with Port Orford cedar. Its construction removes a slide hazard of large proportions which has been present since the highway was built.

The program for the employment of professional, technical and clerical persons included three city-wide traffic surveys and three delinquent tax surveys. These projects employed a large and varied personnel and added much valuable data to the records of the City Planning Commission and the Traffic Engineering Bureau. This type of project also included the establishment of much needed filing systems in various City departments, as well as the preparation of records of street and sewer improvements etc. and the employment of draftsmen in the work of bringing City maps to date.

Projects were also included to provide recreational and handicraft instructors in the various City parks, to supervise programs for all ages, particularly unemployed youth and school children during summer vacation period.

The projects embraced in this report represent an expenditure of over two and one half million dollars and a total of 33,164 man months of labor.