

McConnellsburg Man Uses Concrete Pipe for Novel, Economical Bridge

Bridging creek beds has always been a problem to W. G. Hershey, who manages a farm near McConnellsburg, Pa. His latest solution: concrete pipe.

Using eight pieces of six foot long concrete pipe, Hershey laid out a 12x12-ft. culvert that could carry all the water from the heaviest rains that fall in his part of the country.

To build the culvert, two sections of six foot long pipe were placed end to end to give the necessary driveway width. Four of these double sections were put side by side to span the creek. Forms were braced against the ends of the pipe and quality concrete was then well rodded between the pipe. Mr. Hershey used a mixture of six gallons of water per sack of portland cement. Enough aggregate was added to give a stiff but work-

able mix. This mix was placed to a depth of four inches over the pipe to insure good distribution of wheel loads to the pipe. The concrete was covered and kept wet for five days to allow it to gain strength. Forms were then removed.

Mr. Hershey knows that his new culvert will hold any of his heavy farm equipment. He figures that it will not only carry all the water from the creek bed but will prevent costly washouts and delays to his farming operations.

This type of culvert can be built by farmers in almost any part of the country, says Maurice L. Burgener, farm engineer of the Portland Cement Assn., Chicago. It is low in cost, sturdy and will give many years of service, Mr. Burgener adds.

Vocational Aid To 20 Per Cent More Disabled

Harrisburg — An average of 168 physically handicapped Commonwealth residents were prepared for gainful employment during each working day in the past year, a 20.5 per cent increase over 1955, the State Bureau of Rehabilitation reported recently.

During the 12-months period, 4,200 disabled persons were rehabilitated and retrained for satisfactory jobs by the Bureau, while during the previous year the number was 3,337, according to John R. Torquato, State Secretary of Labor and Industry and Executive Officer of the State Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Figures show the economic status of the group was quite low when accepted for rehabilitation services, Torquato said. Some 47 per cent were dependent upon their families for their major support, 14 per cent were living

on insurance benefits, 13 per cent were receiving public or private relief, 10 per cent relied upon other sources of support including savings, and the remaining 16 per cent were living on their small earnings. However, many of the employed individuals were in temporary or part-time jobs.

The annual earnings of the 20 per cent who were wage earners when their rehabilitation programs were started, were estimated at \$1.3 million, Torquato added. However, some of these individuals were receiving supplemental public or private assistance. In addition, many were either in danger of losing their jobs because of their disabilities or were in employment which constituted hazards to themselves or fellow-workers, or were unsuitably employed otherwise.

After rehabilitation about 93 per cent of the 4,200 persons were in jobs from which they were earning a total annual rate of \$9.2 million, Torquato pointed out. The remaining seven per cent were farmer or family workers and their income was not estimated.

Forest Service Investigates Fire Deaths

Unburned gases carried up a chimney-like ravine from a fire were trapped by a cross current of wind at the rim of the San Diego River Canyon and in igniting, may have caused the sudden blow-up of flames which enveloped 11 firefighters on the Cleveland National Forest in California November 25, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

An investigative team of top-level experienced firefighting experts of the Forest Service reported no evidence of negligence on the part of individuals conducting the fire operations. The investigators could not determine the precise reason why the Inaja fire started its flash run up the side canyon. They found many complicating factors contributing to it.

"In a disaster of this kind", Richard E. McArdle, Chief of the Forest Service, said, "the Forest Service has responsibility to make a prompt investigation to learn why the tragedy occurred. Fighting forest fires is a dangerous business. We could hardly have had more experienced or better trained men on this fire. These men were experienced in ordinary fire behavior, yet something happened here and happened in a few minutes that caused the fire unexpectedly to blow-up. We need to find out what combination of conditions caused this so that we can be alert to detect these conditions and so avoid repetition of this tragic accident."

Eyewitnesses of the fire told the investigating team that during the day of the tragedy the main fire had been burning against the wind slowly up the river canyon with occasional short runs up the side ridges and ravines. The day shift had cleared by tractor a fireline along the top of the canyon rim to be used as control point if the fire spread that far. In order to stop the fire's travel up the river canyon they had started to clear a line down a ridge from the canyon rim to the dry river bed in the floor of the canyon.

The fire quieted down about 4:30 p. m. and was still quiet when the night shift came on at 7 p. m., according to both the day and night shift bosses. The night crew of 18, therefore, seems to have been justified in resuming construction of the fireline to the river bed. Another crew of some 20 with a fire boss dropped back on the rim and began burning out a swath 10 to 40 feet wide from the tractor-cut fireline. This is a normal fire control method, and was proceeding as planned without difficulty.

When one of the foremen on the fireline near the rim saw the fire in the canyon make a run toward the ridge on which the men were working he ordered the men out even though at that time he did not consider the situation particularly critical. The men started up the trail at a normal pace. As the fire suddenly gained speed, he shouted to the men to hurry but the fire exploded before 11 of them could reach the top. Seven escaped.

Several of the fire fighters, including the forest officers who lost their lives, stayed with the crew until the last, helping and urging others out even though they may otherwise have had an opportunity to escape. One of those who escaped credited a fellow crew man with saving his life when he became exhausted trying to escape.

The investigators found that when the fire made its flash run there was a local up-canyon wind as a result of eddies around a

Special School Milk Program Increased Milk Use in 1956

In reviewing the events of 1956 the Milk Control Commission today pointed out that the one outstanding factor influencing the price of milk to farmers was the substantial increase in the use of milk due to the Special School Milk Program. All milk thus sold gave farmers Class I prices for their product.

Whereas in previous years Pennsylvania returned to the Federal government something more than \$600,000, the aggressive action of Governor Leader's special team of consultants has now given assurance that all of the \$2,148,773 allocated to Pennsylvania will be utilized and another half million will be requested for the current school year.

This team consists of Clyde A. Zehner and Eli Nenadovich, both of Paxtang, and Earl W. Hetrick of Newville. They have been employed under a special administration (bi-ennial) appropriation of \$70,000 authorized by the General Assembly of 1956. This expenditure of \$35,000 therefore promises to bring to Pennsylvania children \$1,100,000 worth of nutritious milk in Federal aid, annually.

Reports from many schools throughout the State indicate that aside from the aggressive action of the Governor's team his insistence upon the inclusion of flavored milk in the Special Milk and School Lunch Program has been responsible for increased consumption among children, reported to be as high as 33% in the number of schools enrolled and 71% in the per capita consumption of milk among school children. Other factors in the use pattern may be attributed to the wider use of bulk dispensers and vending machines in schools.

Both Mr. Zehner and Mr. Hetrick have been presenting testimony at public hearings of the Milk Control Commission request-

ing uniform pricing of half pints during the school term and for quantity discounts to schools for dispenser milk. The Milk Control Commission, effective tomorrow, has responded to the testimony of Mr. Zehner in reducing the price of bulk dispenser milk by two cents per quart to schools in Area 9 (Johnstown-Altoona).

The Commission takes particular pride in the control of inflationary influences affecting milk as a segment of all commodity markets. The United States Department of Labor statistics show marked increases in prices of articles of food (1953-1956) as follows: bread, 13%; pork chops, 18%; canned orange juice, 26%; coffee, 23%; lard, 25%. An analysis of prices in Pennsylvania during the same period of time shows that average prices for milk rose only .84 of 1%.

This record was made in spite of emergency relief to farmers suffering from adverse weather conditions and a general price-cost squeeze of national proportions. This negligible price increase was favorably influenced by the Governor's demand for economies through store differentials and half-gallon packages in most areas of the State. Of particular interest is the fact that milk consumption in Pennsylvania advanced 4.190 in 1956 over 1955 while our population increased only 1%.



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