

CHAPTER X

Community Services of Our Township Pleasant Acres

Support of the poor was provided for early in our area. On March 26, 1750, persons from each township of the county were appointed "overseers of the poor." We of Springettsbury were then Hellam Township; our appointees were Casper Williard and Peter Gardener.

Care and support of the poor were not neglected at any time of history in our county, but it was not until 1804 that the present system was adopted. On February 6, 1804, the legislature passed a special act granting the county commissioners power to levy a tax for purpose of purchasing land and erecting buildings necessary for the employment and support of the poor of the county. On April 16, 1804, the "Elm Spring Farm" was purchased from a tract of land within the plantation of Andrew Robinson. It contained 132 acres and 156 perches and cost 4,400 British pounds currency.

Elm trees surrounded the area, and an excellent quality of crystal clear water was available to serve the early residents. At the same time the directors also purchased a tract of woodland two miles farther northeast, consisting of 150 acres and 17 perches at a cost of 600 pounds. The land for the building was located in the area where Alexander Goode School is located, and the woodland was near Pleasureville.

The first buildings were erected in the summer of 1805 and they cost \$4,761.54. The poor of all the townships of the county were removed to these buildings in April 1806. A brick hospital building was erected in 1828 and it cost \$7,800. The paupers helped to construct this building and thus decreased the cost. The final almshouse and hospital building were still standing in 1907.

During the year 1885, apparatus for steam heat was installed.

The first election of "directors of the poor" was held October 9, 1804. In our year of incorporation, 1891, the elected director was William Rodenhouse.

In 1885 a fire destroyed the almshouse barn and another barn was built. A company to set up a rolling mill purchased a part of the "Elm Spring" tract. Change continued in York County, with factories being constructed. In the year to follow, many people left the farms and found employment in these factories, living nearby. To provide a supply of workers, townhouses were built, enabling employees to walk to work.

Our township and its residents prospered with this type of economy, until the Great Depression of the 20s, which caused many individuals to lose jobs and homes. Many persons turned to the York County Almshouse for sustenance.

With increased population and a failing economy, a bigger facility was needed, but at its present sight, this proved impossible. Thus, in May 1929, 140 acres of land about "5 miles east of York" was purchased from Victor H. Cocklin for \$18,069. By 1930 a modern "Old Main" building still admitted entire families of homeless or transient people who had no place to live or no relatives to support them. It operated as a farm, supplying a large portion of the vegetables, beef, pork, and fowl needed for the people living there, as well as for the York County Prison, until 1968 when "such farming" was deemed "impractical."

In the years after the Depression, legislation, especially Social Security, changed the lives of poor Americans, giving many a minimum retirement income that allowed them to continue living in the community. Fewer and fewer people came to York County Hospital and Home out of purely economic distress; rather, applicants now showed a combination of

health, aging, and financial problems, Such conditions led to a Medical Building being erected in 1948 and opened for occupancy in 1950. This shifted their focus to institutionalized nursing care. (This building is now the County Office Building, housing Children's Services, County Planning Commission, and Library Services.)

To make York Countians aware of the type of care provided at York County Hospital and Home, the public was invited to an open house in 1952, at which time a contest was held to name the facility. From the 422 entrants, Cynthia Snyder, a 14-year-old student from Mt. Rose Junior High School, was awarded \$50.00 for the winning suggestion of "Pleasant Acres." On August 7, 1952, the County commissioners officially sanctioned "Pleasant Acres" as the new name of the facility.

This year, 1990, on May 12, Cynthia Snyder Dark was invited to return as a special guest at another open house, where present administrator Patricia Konhaus, escorted her and her family members on a modern tour of Cynthia's "Pleasant Acres."

Cynthia noted changes that include the 1967 building of a well-equipped hospital to provide careful monitoring of the more acutely ill patients. At the same time, separate Laundry and Dietary buildings were completed. (A new laundry was built in 1987.) In May 1976, "Old Main" residents occupied a new, modern 6-story building with colorful, comfortable rooms for 500 residents.

Perhaps the best indicator of the change in Pleasant Acres is this review of a 1959 census: 185 domiciliary residents; 278 hospitalized residents; workforce – 175 paid employees and 1 farmer.

Today's 1990 census reveals: 423 skilled care residents; workforce – 550 paid employees and 1 full-time medical director.

In addition to professional nursing care, Pleasant Acres provides recreational and therapeutic activities; beauty and barber shops; chaplain; social and educational services; dental; podiatry, and eye care; dietary and laundry services; a pharmacy, and physical therapy.

York County Hospital and Home has come a long way from its early days as an almshouse to York County's largest long-term care facility. Admission requirements and type of resident have changed. Currently geared to professional care giving, the county home specializes in the care of geriatric residents, and provides restorative and rehabilitative services.

Commonwealth Fire Company

The original Commonwealth Fire Company was located in the village of Pleasureville, In January of 1924; there was a house fire in that village, then a small rural community. The fire was extinguished by means of a bucket brigade (the normal method of that day). After this fire, on January 22, 1924, a group of community-minded citizens met and discussed plans to organize a fire company. They established a committee to formalize their plans, and on March 18, 1924, held their first meeting and elected officers. Within two months, they had purchased their first fire apparatus, an American LaFrance Chemical Unit on a Brockway truck. It consisted of one 75-gallon and two 50-gallon tanks, and cost over \$3,000.

Now the fire company had an organization and a fire truck; what they still needed was a firehouse. They purchased land for \$100, dug the basement by hand, and constructed their own firehouse at a cost of \$2,500. Their new firehouse was dedicated October 18, 1924.

From that initial meeting of a few community-spirited men in January, Pleasureville had acquired a complete active fire company by mid-October of the same year. The community and the fire company grew as these men and their Brockway Truck served the village of Pleasureville.

In 1942, the second piece of apparatus was purchased: a Darley Champion Pumper on a Chevrolet truck. At that time, the Brockway's chemical tanks were replaced with a water tank and portable pump.

On April 5, 1949, the Ladies Auxiliary was organized and grew to 152 members. It fast became and still is today the supporting "right arm" of the fire company.

On October 27, 1951, a major new two addition was dedicated, consisting of a dining hall and social hall.

When the addition was dedicated, a parade was held. The cost of that addition was \$18,000. The members of the ladies auxiliary and fire company were commended for their work. The speaker for the ceremonies was York Mayor, Felix S. Bentzel, who traced the history of loss due to fires back through colonial days. The master of ceremonies was George P. Allen, Lt. USN, retired, a member of the Fire Company and resident of Pleasureville. Clyde Boring, President of Commonwealth Fire Company, read the dedicatory pledge for the company members and auxiliary.

In prior years the old band hall had been used as a meeting room or entertainment site. But, when the York Police Lodge bought this property for their home association, the people of Pleasureville had no building large enough or suitable for many of their activities. Consequently, when the fire company decided to build, they kept this fact in mind, and voted to erect a structure that would serve both themselves and the community.

The new addition to the firehouse contained a 36 by 50 foot auditorium, a dining room of the same size, and a modern kitchen. The building was furnished with 200 folding chairs and 20 folding tables.

Russell Dehl, Scott Billett, John Kendig, James Fisher, and Clyde Boring assisted Jack Grissinger, chairman of the dedication committee. Auxiliary members assisting with the plans were Dora Billet, Beulah Latterman, Mildred Wolf, Merie Kaltreider, and Charlotte Flury.

An active fire police force was also organized and became a vital part of the company's service.

In 1957 a 500-gallon Ward LaFrance Pumper was purchased, and two additional bays were constructed on the building. In 1959 they employed their first full-time, 24-hour-per-day, paid fire drivers. In 1965 a 1000-gallon American LaFrance Pumper was purchased at a cost of \$32,000, and by 1969 a rescue truck was purchased and equipped. Over the years, the area requiring protection by the fire company increased.

Today the Commonwealth Fire Co. No. 1 and the Springetts Fire Co. are the two volunteer companies that jointly cover the entire Springettsbury Township. Both companies respond simultaneously to all structure fires regardless of their location within the township.

In the mid-1960's, Springettsbury Township encompassed 16.4 square miles, had 100 road miles, and a population of over 20,000. It consisted of rural woodland, farms, large industries, shopping centers, shopping malls, and heavily populated areas, much as it does today.

With the continual growth of the township and the increasing responsibilities for providing adequate fire protection, in late 1969 a building committee started to formalize plans to construct a new firehouse. In March 1970, an 8-½ acre tract of land along North Sherman Street was purchased. In the Spring of 1972 construction started on this site for a

new firehouse. In May 1973 the apparatus was moved from the original firehouse into the new facilities. The members completed many items of work on the new building after the apparatus was moved in.

Today the fire company has a modern and complete facility, incorporating a design to accommodate additional bays as required to meet the challenges of the future. The 1990 officers are President Michael J. Bashian, Sr., Vice President Anthony Surtasky, Secretary Brian Shelly, Treasurer Robert Forrest, Fire Chief Richard Roberts, Jr., Assistant Chief Robert Forrest, and Second Assistant Chief Joe Gabriel. Trustees are Joe Gabriel, Richard Roberts, Jr., Douglas Dzubinski, Vernon Steinkirchner, and George Holloway.

Civic groups for meetings and banquets use the fire company facilities. The kitchen is reserved for the use of their Ladies Auxiliary, which raises funds for the firemen through its catering and banquet services.

Springetts Fire Company

Organization of a fire company in the growing community of Yorkshire was the desire of a number of individuals as early as 1924, but not until Christmas Eve in 1925, when fire destroyed a large residence there, did *organization* become the concern of practically everyone living in the neighborhood.

At a meeting held in the Yorkshire Elementary School on January 23, 1926, a group of persons gathered to formulate plans to guarantee homeowners some kind of fire protection. During this meeting, a volunteer fire company was organized. It was named Springetts Fire Company, deriving its name from the township in which it would be located, and officers were elected to direct its activities. They were: President Mr. Oscar Heckert, First Vice President Mr. Samuel Smith, Second Vice President Mr. William Richley, Secretary Mr. Jacob Hay, Treasurer Mr. Harry Kissinger.

The first fire fighting apparatus was built upon a Buick chassis donated by Mr. William Richley, and equipped with chemical tanks, plus 150 feet of one-inch diameter hose. Interest in the fire company grew, and the membership did likewise. Monthly meetings were held at Yorkshire school until July 9, 1926, when the meeting place was changed to the store of Mr. Robert Dietz of Yorkshire. The apparatus, however, was housed in Mr. Leon Burg's garage.

It was Mr. Mahlon Haines, the primary developer of Yorkshire, who was interested in the construction of a community building which could also serve as a fire hall and a place to house fire-fighting equipment, who donated a plot of ground to the fire company. Consistent with the keen foresight previously exhibited, the governing body of the now prosperous fire company decided that the location of the proposed fire hall should be on the main thoroughfare; i.e., The Lincoln Highway, which is now known as Pennsylvania Route 462. Consequently, the plot of ground donated by Mr. Haines was offered as part payment for a larger plot of ground on the southern side of the highway at the western end of Yorkshire. The advantages of this location were very apparent because the fire hall would be nearer to our township's rapidly growing East York community, which also needed organized fire protection.

In July 1931, the Springetts Fire Company building was completed at a cost of \$10,000. Mahlon Haines was the financial benefactor and advisor to the construction. In the intervening years a Ladies Auxiliary was organized, and it at once became a remarkable success. The records indicate that membership in the organization included Mrs. R.S. Cannon, who served as First Vice President and Mesdames Elmer Frey, R.S. Frey, Jacob

Hay, O.M. Heckert, Harry Peeling, Samuel Smith, Guy Stauffer, Paul Swartz, and Will Swartz, and Misses Elizabeth Herr, Louise Myers, M.J. Smith, and S.R. Smith.

The Buick fire apparatus, donated by Mr. Richley in 1926, had served the community well, but in 1938 it was decided that a new and more modern piece of apparatus was necessary. As the result of a concentrated effort by every member of the fire company, an American LaFrance firefighting apparatus was obtained, together with an additional 600 feet of 2-1/2 inch diameter hose. When the new equipment was delivered, an elaborate celebration was held to mark the progress.

The purchase of new equipment and the financial obstacles caused by the Great Depression did not permit the company to reduce its debt below \$10,000 until August of 1940. At this time, Mr. Haines presented a personal gift of \$4,000, after which a "Debt Reducing Campaign" organized by the members of the fire company resulted in an additional \$1,000 being collected from township residents. The war years followed, and growth of the company and debt reduction remained status quo.

By March 1947, Springettsbury Township's "building boom" was gaining momentum, and a public meeting, which was widely advertised, indicated interest in better fire protection. The trustees of the company, sensing citizen support, decided to forge ahead. On March 27, a contract was signed to purchase an International truck with a Howe pump at a cost of \$7,082.90, and in 1952, an International panel truck was added as rolling stock to be used as a service truck.

The need for more fire protection brought about the increased need for more and better equipment, and these needs meant a larger place for storage, maintenance, and operation had to be considered. At the fire company's monthly meeting, held January 1954, a Building Committee was appointed. Mr. Franklin H. Daron was appointed chairman, and Messrs. Harold Dettinger, Kenneth Hess, A.P. White, and Robert Williams also agreed to serve.

In October of that same year, a proposal was made to reconstitute the Ladies Auxiliary, and on November 11, 27 women attended a meeting. With the help of ladies from Commonwealth Fire Company of Pleasureville, the auxiliary organized again and elected Mrs. Norma Jean Kline as president. The auxiliary's support of the company has continued unabated since that time.

At the January meeting of 1955, their fire chief, A.P. White, reported the highest fire loss (\$515,000) in his 18 years of service. This was viewed as a clear indication that company relocation and added service was becoming imperative. A \$100 donation the following August started a Building Fund, and in September, Mr. Harry A. Brown donated a 1941 Cadillac ambulance in the name of Jno. E. Graybill and Company.

By March 1956, the Springetts Ambulance Club was organized, largely because of the efforts of Messrs. John Swan and Walter Torney. By June 1, ambulance service had begun. In 1957 a 1947 Cadillac ambulance was purchased from Kreutz Creek Ambulance Club. Since that time, the Springetts Ambulance Club has continued to update its equipment and serves the entire community with distinction. The club, since November 1961, is a separate organization operated by a board of directors. The members of the fire company were advised at the November 1956 meeting that the Township Supervisors had arranged to procure a piece of land owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad, which is the present site of the Springetts Fire Company. Sometime thereafter a Fund Raising Committee consisting of Messrs. H.Eugene Ball, Chairman; Glenn O. Kline; H.B. Reisinger, Jr.; Luther B. Sowers; and Russel S.C. Wolf, Jr. was appointed. On January 7, 1958, bids were opened for construction of a new building, and contracts totaling \$74,975 were awarded. One third of

the money needed was raised in the community, and the remainder of what was thought to be insurmountable indebtedness was established as a mortgage. A groundbreaking ceremony took place April 6, and the first stages of construction began April 9. In October, the original fire hall was sold for \$13,600, and the move to the new premises took place on Thanksgiving Day in 1958. On Sunday, April 26, 1959, a dedication ceremony was held on the premises.

Two months earlier, nine applications for positions as paid fire drivers were distributed, and in March, Messrs. William Garland and Donald Snyder were appointed. In 1987, there were a total of six paid firefighters, serving the fire company plus two relief firefighters (Jared Auchey, Gerard Wishard, John Shire, James Kimes, Daniel Flohr, John Kline, Linden Diehl, and Dave Eckman were these eight men).

As far back as October 4, 1954, the installation of radio equipment in the fire company building was suggested, but the cost was declared to be too high and the motion was dropped. However, in August 1959, approval was given for an ADT alarm system, and ten years later in October 1969, the York County Commissioners were given permission to install the equipment necessary to enter the county's communication network. Also, the year 1959 marked the beginning of a resident mascot. For the next 13 years, "Dutches" watched over company functions, and since his death, no satisfactory replacement has been found.

In January 1960, an apparatus fund was established, and the following September, a functioning apparatus committee was appointed. Those who first served on the committee were Messrs. Glenn O. Kline, Chairman; Woodrow Landis; Edward Harman; and Walter Torney.

The company became a member of the Fireman's Association of York County in February 1961, and in September of that year, authorization was given to purchase a Ward LaFrance apparatus for \$21,477. It was delivered in March 1962. In August 1963, approval was given for the purchase of an International service truck at \$5,045, and delivery was made in November.

Investigation was begun in June 1965 regarding an addition to the premises. It was decided that more space was needed for storage and new apparatus. Approval for construction at an estimated cost of \$34,000 was granted in February 1967. Construction began in March and was completed in December.

The first meeting of the year 1969 included an item of business that gave approval for establishing specifications and seeking bids on a snorkel fire truck, and on May 29, a contract for \$78,752 was signed for purchase of it. The truck was delivered the following year. In September 1971, permission was given to purchase a 1972 Ward LaFrance Pumper at an approximate cost of \$27,427; it was delivered the following June. Still more space was needed, so in April 1974, a bid of \$115,000 was accepted from C.C. Dietz to construct another addition. The Springetts Fire Company, as seen today, resulted from the completion of this work.

In September of 1977, a special meeting was called to discuss replacement of the 1962 Ward LaFrance Pumper. After reviewing several bids it was decided to purchase a new Pumper from Pierce Fire Apparatus at an approximate cost of \$83,000. The new Pumper was delivered in February of 1979.

With the increasing population and construction of new business in the township, it was decided to put on full time ambulance personnel. In December 1978, three emergency medical technicians were hired. They were Kenneth Myers, John Smith, and John Kline.

In 1987, Springettsbury Township was served with a total of six EMTs: Kenneth Myers, Michael Fetrow, Bryan Sellers, Charles Grimm, Mary Lehr, and Owen Eppard. Volunteers also serve the township when there is insufficient coverage from paid personnel.

In March of 1980, it was decided to replace the 1965 Metro International rescue truck with a larger vehicle. In January of the following year, the fire company took delivery of a new Swab Wagon Co. rescue truck at the cost of \$65,000, not including equipment.

Plans were made in 1987 to remount the 1969 Snorkel. At a cost of approximately \$240,000, the snorkel boom and pump would be remounted onto a new chassis, and it was hoped they would have it completed by the end of that year.

In 1959, due to the growth of Springettsbury Township, the lack of manpower during the day, and for lowering of insurance rates, the officials of Springetts Fire Co. requested money from Springettsbury Township to provide paid fire drivers. At this time, two men were hired by money appropriated from the township. Eight years later, a third person was hired. In 1970, the force was increased to six so that two men would be on duty at the Springetts station at a time. This increase was needed so that a paid man could be assigned to the first due engine and the newly acquired snorkel. In 1972, one relief man was hired to work sick leave and vacation time for the paid men at both the Springetts and Commonwealth stations.

In late 1975, the paid drivers, who up until this time were employees of the fire companies, became official employees of Springettsbury Township and later were reclassified as paid firefighters, due to their increased work description and job responsibility.

In 1987, eleven paid firefighters worked at the two fire stations.

In 1956, Mr. Harry Brown donated an ambulance, and thus the Springetts Ambulance Club was formed. Due to the lack of space at the firehouse, the ambulance was housed in a barn on the property of Barley Convalescent Home until 1959. The ambulance was transported to the new fire station after it was completed.

In 1972, another ambulance was added. In 1987, there were still two in operation.

In 1978, 3 EMTs were hired. In 1987, there were six paid EMTs. On evenings and weekends volunteers also play a part in the emergency medical service for Springettsbury Township. Past presidents of Springetts Fire Company were: 1926 to 1935, Oscar H. Heckert; 1936 to 1939, Guy Stauffer; 1940 to 1941, Harry Shive; 1942 to 1947, Adam Lehman; 1948, Robert S. Frey, Jr.; 1949, Harry Hieve; 1950 to 1956, Robert S. Frey Jr.; 1957 to 1960, Franklin Darone; 1961, Luther B. Sowers; 1962 to 1965, H.B. Reisinger, Jr.; 1966, William Gladfelter; 1967 to 1972, Philip E. Abel; 1973 to 1975, Luther Wertz, Jr.; 1975, Clair Runkle. Past fire chiefs were 1926, Mr. Burg, father of Richard; 1936 to 1948, Arthur P. White; 1949, Robert Williams; 1950 to 1955, Arthur P. White; 1956 to 1971, Glenn O. Kline; 1972, Richard C. Strickhouser; 1973, Kenneth Witmer.

The origin of the Springetts Fire Police dates back to the formation of the fire department. When a person is identified as being a member of a fire department, the immediate impression is that he goes into a burning building to help extinguish a fire. However, there are other areas in which a person can help in a volunteer fire department, and the fire police are one of these.

Their main duty is the control of people and traffic, and fire police respond to all fire calls, motor vehicle accidents, and emergency situations, where the fire company is summoned. Most of Springetts Fire Policemen have monitors and respond as quickly to the scene as other volunteer firefighters. Fire police have spent many cold hours on Interstate 83 and Route 30, while township or state police are investigating an accident and tow trucks are clearing the wreckage.

In 1976, George Hedrick was the fire police captain and had ten men under his command. They were issued yellow coats, helmets, gloves, flashlights, and citizen-band walkie-talkies. All were sworn in as fire police by township authorities.

At the 50th anniversary of the Springetts Fire Company in 1976, the Ladies Auxiliary stated they were proud of the fire company and the men who worked to make it such a great company. In 1955, their elected officers were: President Norma Jean Kline, First Vice President Savilla Smith, Second Vice President Mildred Eckert, Secretary Marie Slotten, Assistant Secretary Evelyn Smith, Treasurer Kate Kinard, Financial Secretary Mary Boll, Trustee: 1 year Jane Frey, 2 years Annette March, 3 years Frances Mayes.

The auxiliary moved into the new building at 3013 East Market Street, and between 1955 and 1959, they participated in many money making activities, such as selling vanilla extract, which earned them their first coffee urn, selling mending tape, cards, and their famous fastnachts. They moved their kitchen to the present location, and fully equipped it, then realized their full potential of money making through serving banquets, buffets, oyster bakes, etc. The Ladies Auxiliary also held Strawberry Festivals, rummage sales, and made salted nuts in their "spare time".

Working very closely with the men, they were able (since paying off all their kitchen equipment), to give about \$50,000 to the fire company since 1962. Part of this money went toward the purchase of the service truck, part toward the air truck, and part toward the snorkel purchased in 1970. Most of the money went toward debt retirement, as two additions were made to the building since it was erected in 1958.

Parks and Recreation

A recreational program for Springettsbury Township was created in 1958.

On February 6, 1958, the Springettsbury Township Board of Supervisors resolved to create a Park and Recreation Board, who then can appoint a Supervisor of Recreation. At that time, Mr. R. Bruce Bainbridge was chosen. Mr. Clarence "Doc" Bleecker backed the appointment of Mr. Bainbridge for the job as Recreation Director.

"Doc" Bleecker could be called "the father of Springettsbury Township Recreation."

Mr. Bleecker was a physical education director for York's YMCA for 35 years. He was a Township Supervisor for 22 years.

"Doc" was born April 21, 1890, and died January 30, 1970.

The week of July 12, 1990, was declared "Doc" Bleecker week, and he was honored by the township's recreation department. The year of 1990 would have marked the 100-year anniversary of his birth.

Each of the area playground program participants did something special in his memory. A plaque in his memory was placed on the "Doc" Bleecker picnic pavilion near the township offices on Mt. Zion Road. The Springettsbury Lions Club raised money for the pavilion that was built several years ago, as a memorial to Mr. Bleecker. "Doc" was a charter member of the Lions Club. He served as its president from 1956 to 1966. He helped to start their "Learn to Swim Program."

Mr. R. Bruce Bainbridge still serves, 1991, as Supervisor of Springettsbury Township's Recreation Program. The Park and Recreation Board consist of seven board members. The township supervisors appoint these members for four-year terms. The members serve in a volunteer capacity, as an advisory agency to the Township Board of Supervisors concerning park and recreation matters.

The Park and Recreation Board are responsible for developing township recreation facilities and a recreation program utilizing not only township facilities but school district facilities as well. The Supervisor of Recreation is the executive agent for the board.

Mr. R. Bruce Bainbridge does an outstanding job as Supervisor of Recreation. His philosophy is: "If I can help someone today," and "I want to go that extra mile." He became interested in recreation at twelve years of age, when he became a member of the YMCA in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. At Penn State College he greatly enjoyed a course in recreation. After graduation from Penn State College, he was employed, for five years at York's YMCA. He created and opened their Camp Full O Fun, since renamed Camp Conejohila.

From this position, he then became a member of the teaching staff at York's Phineas Davis Junior High School. Later the school was termed Phineas Davis Middle School. He was head of the guidance department. He was also in charge of their Recreation club, which he organized for the students.

In addition to our highly qualified Park and Recreation Supervisor, our township is lucky to have dedicated persons in the recreational field. Some of the persons who contributed to our success are: the aforementioned "Doc" Bleecker; current, Mr. Lowell Wakeland; Mr. Donald Danley, Sr.; Park and Recreation Board members; and talented Playground directions.

Our township recreation program has grown over the years, since 1958, with our year 1991, representing 33 years of operating quality recreational activities.

The chairman of the first recreation board was Carvel Gibbs, who served from 1958 to 1974. Today the chairman is Douglas McIntosh.

In 1958, parks were located in these areas: Pleasureville, Yorkshire, East York and Hiestand.

Parks and areas used in the past but no longer being used include: Hiestand School; Bendix Field (Yorklyn) Caterpillar Fields (Baseball) 2 areas in August Schaefer neighborhood; Pleasureville Elementary School; Detwiler Tract, Wilshire Hills; and Binder Tract, Hiestand Area.

The Silver Anniversary of Springettsbury Township Recreation was held August 2, 1983. The program consisted of: recognition of present and past recreation board members and park directors. Items of interest of past activities. A concert by "Re-Creation" at the outdoor stage.

An effort was made to send out invitations to as many board members and park directors from 1958 to the present as could be located, from areas both local and far and wide. The activities included a smorgasbord picnic.

In 1983, recreation activities included: movies, music, bands, etc; special events, dancers, talent shows; Springettsbury Township Recreation Run; Physical Fitness Trail; aerobics, family bus trips; white water rafting; overnight campouts; athletic tournaments; roller skating; adult volleyball; arts and crafts show; awards luncheon. Most of these activities are still being offered.

The location of parks in 1983 were: Hawks; Pleasureville; North Hills Elementary School; Stony Brook Elementary School; Stonewood; August Schaefer; Penn Oaks; Yorkshire Elementary School; Kingston; East York Elementary School; Fayfield; Rockburn; Springettsbury, Mt. Zion Road area. At that time there were a total of 13 areas.

The location of parks in 1991 are: Hawks; Pleasureville; North Hills (held at Central Middle School); Stony Brook Elementary School; Stonewood; August Schaefer; Penn Oaks; Yorkshire Elementary School; Kingston; East York Elementary School; Fayfield; Rockburn;

Springetts Oaks; Springettsbury, Avalong; Camp Security Trail; and North Hills East Street. There is no supervised program at the Camp Security Trail and North hills, East Street areas. The 37-acre tract in North Hills area was acquired through the aid of Project 70. It offers great potential for future development.

As this information is being compiled, we are into the 1991 winter recreation program. This current program offers a variety of activities to Springettsbury Township residents. Included are: bus trips, discount tickets for ski slopes, aerobics and body works; golf lessons; basketball; volleyball; baton twirling; concerts; bowling program; boys' and girls' variety game nights.

Coming attractions for spring and summer of 1991 include: "Springettsbury Singers" directors performing in nursing and retirement homes and before various concerts; "Re-Creation," show of singing and dancing; bands-concert, stage, string, German, bluegrass, gospel, country, jazz, Army, Navy; Arts and Crafts Show; annual 10K summer run; boys' and girls' "Family Circus"; and family bus trips.

Our recreation program is highly regarded by persons from all over the state of Pennsylvania, many of who used it as a role model.

Our Police Department

Springettsbury Township Police Department was established in 1958 with only one police officer. To say that he had his work cut out for him is to clearly understate the obvious.

Steady growth and development of this township has fostered corresponding expansion of the police department as well.

February 9, 1958, this township boasted a police chief (Charles E. Laux) and a patrolman (Donald L. Shultz,) as well as one police patrol car. Patrolman Donald L. Shultz completed his basic course for Municipal police officers at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in Hershey, and received his diploma December 11th, 1959. That was the beginning of the professionalism of the Township's policing.

Currently the police department of Springettsbury Township includes: 25 full-time officers (three corporals, four sergeants, 17 patrolmen, and a police chief). Also, there are three school crossing guards and three civilian clerical employees.

The patrol fleet includes thirteen vehicles: six equipped with VASCAR-plus for speed enforcement, and several equipped with MDT's which line the headquarters based, state-of-the-art computer system to the patrol cars via radio-phone frequencies.

A complete array of police services is provided to the community by the department, including: public relations seminars, neighborhood watch programs, traffic law enforcement and criminal investigations. Specially trained officers add expertise in crime scene technology, accident investigation, juvenile problems, special weapon utilization, photography, crime prevention and in-service training.

Our police work around the clock so that township residents can feel secure and lead worry-free lives, enhanced by their dedication and vigilance.

Our Government

Early records of the township government have not been found. We therefore share what others have provided to us for publication.

In 1955, there were three members on the board of supervisors in this second-class township: Harry D. Witmer, chairman; Arther K. Wennerstrom, secretary; and Ivan L. Miller, treasurer. They recognized the need for land use regulations as a guide for long range planning and development.

In the 1955 study, it was recommended that the township supervisors create the office of township manager. The second-class township code of Pennsylvania requires three elected supervisors, one assessor, three auditors, one tax collector, and the appointment of a secretary-treasurer. Also, it is mandated that the township supervisors shall appoint a park and recreation commission in order to foster a sound recreation program.

Other areas of needs cited in the 1955 study: administrative organization, sanitation, building inspection, planning and zoning, police protection, and fire protection.

Clearly, the township had its work cut out and its sights focused on goals, with the idea of turning problems into opportunities, and coming to grips with the needs of a steadily growing populace.

Since 1963 this township has functioned under the supervisor-manager form of government, which combines the strong political leadership of elected officials with the management experience of the township manager.

The five supervisors are elected to staggered six-year terms.

The board of supervisors is the township's legislative body, its decision makers. Our two fire companies are described and information relative to their history listed in a separate section of this township centennial publication.

The planning commission, created by the supervisors in 1954, adopted a zoning ordinance in 1956; the first in all of York County. In 1964 the 1954 comprehensive plan was updated. Wastewater treatment work was started in 1976, and construction began in 1983.

In 1984, despite an increase in expenditures, the property tax remained constant, as it had since 1966, at 5.5 mills.

In 1989 the township offered the following services: police and fire protection, park and recreation facilities, planning commission, sewer authority, zoning hearing board, a clean-up program, waste water treatment department (owned by the township's sewer authority and leased to the township for their benefit.) It is worthy of note that all revenues are provided the sewer authority from the users of this system, and no tax monies are used for its operation.

Finally, a word about permits: a permit is required for garage and yard sales. Regulations limit each property owner to one sale per year of up to four days during a two-week period. Only "used goods" are permitted to be sold. Signs are allowed only on the property of the sale. There is no charge for a permit. Building permits are required for almost all work done on a property, with the exceptions of painting, carpeting, and wallpapering. There is no fee for a permit to repair or replace items. Plumbing permits are required.