

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 5, 1938

WASHINGTON STATE LIBRARY



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Two WPA projects providing for improvements to school grounds in Yakima and Benton County were announced today by Don G. Abel, state WPA administrator.

The Naches High School and Grade School grounds will be improved through a WPA allotment of \$18,957 with the school district as sponsors providing \$5,571 for materials and supplies. The work includes building bleachers, constructing sidewalks, backstops and fences, installing irrigation and culvert pipe, landscaping and seeding. Work is expected to be under way by October 13.

At Hanford in Benton County, the school recreational facilities will be improved by constructing baseball backstops and fences, excavating, seeding and landscaping and the construction of sidewalks. The WPA is providing \$3,769 and the School district is providing the materials and supplies. Work will begin October 13, according to Abel.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

BH

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR-602

OCTOBER 5, 1938



Don G. Abel, State WPA Administrator, today announced that no new assignments will be made on WPA for the balance of October. He pointed out that a total of 51,585 persons were assigned on WPA projects and that this is the total number he is authorized to employ.

Employment rolls at this time are more than double the amount employed a year ago, when the figures for October 1937 were approximately 20,000. Mr. Abel stated that he had discussed his request for authority to employ 54,000 for the month of October with Mr. Hopkins on his recent visit to Seattle and was informed that the present funds authorized did not permit an increase over the present quota.

"It is hoped that with the increase in employment in private industry, PWA, and other Federal Agencies, that there will not be such a demand for WPA employment," Abel stated.

"All WPA workers who have accepted or do accept private employment are assured reassignment on WPA when their jobs in private industry terminates within 90 days," Abel added.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
200 ALASKA BUILDING  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

BH



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR-603

OCTOBER 5, 1938



The Works Progress Administration, through state Administrator Don G. Abel, today announced two WPA projects for Whatcom County involving \$20,543 of federal funds.

The Whatcom Falls Fish hatchery in Bellingham receives \$10,533 for grading, landscaping, building a rock retaining wall and display pond, graveling and painting water mains and other incidental work. The project is sponsored by the State Game Commission who are providing an additional \$2,828 for materials and supplies.

Abel also announced a \$10,010 allotment to continue improvements to the Ferndale High School building and grounds. This allotment is expected to complete work began under a previous grant.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 10, 1938

PR-604



Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator, today announced four new WPA allotments totaling \$72,128 to continue and initiate projects in Eastern Washington this coming week.

Largest allotment is \$44,148 for the continuation of a women's project in Spokane County designed to furnish free home assistance in housework and care of children in the homes of the needy where the homemaker is totally or partially incapacitated because of ill health or confinement, or where some temporary emergency arises which make this assistance necessary. It is estimated that these funds will operate this project until June, 1939, Abel said.

At Clarkston in Asotin County, an \$18,635 federal grant has been made available for the construction of sidewalks and curbs. The City of Clarkston is providing \$12,644 for materials and equipment rentals.

At Tekoa in Whitman County the WPA has made available a \$7,545 allotment for the purpose of grading, surfacing and generally improving the streets and alleys. At Farmington, also in Whitman County the WPA is providing \$1,800 for improvements to grade and high school buildings and grounds. Work includes constructing sidewalks, steps, and piers; draining; laying pipe and other incidental work.

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ALASKA BUILDING

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Don G. Abel, State WPA Administrator, today announced allocation of \$28,373 of WPA funds to provide relief labor for demolishing several old buildings at Medical Lake, a state institution, and to salvage the materials for use in constructing a foundation for a stock barn.

The project which is slated to begin on October 13 is sponsored by the State of Washington. The stock barn will be constructed by the sponsor and the WPA will have no part in its construction beyond the erection of the foundation, and the demolition of the old buildings, Abel said.

Abel also announced a \$19,967 allotment for improvements to farm-to-market roads in Ferry County. The project includes excavating, installing pipe, clearing, grubbing, and other incidental work and is also scheduled to begin on October 13.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

200 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

October 10, 1938

PR- 606

IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator, today revealed allocation of \$200,548 of federal funds for flood control work along the Stillaguamish and Pilchuck Rivers and at Hatt Slough in Snohomish County.

The project which includes constructing earth embankments, brush revetments, riprapping, excavating ditches, snagging and performing incidental work is expected to be under way this week.

Snohomish County Commissioners as sponsors of the project are providing \$59,315 for materials and equipment rentals and supplies.

Abel also announced a \$1,500 allotment to improve the athletic field of the Edmonds School in Edmonds and for improvements to the Alderwood School in Alderwood Manor.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

200 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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The Works Progress Administration will begin construction Thursday (October 13) on the first boat scheduled to navigate the future 151 mile lake which will be erected by the completed Grand Coulee dam according to Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator.

Abel said 20 men will begin immediate erection of a ship's ways on the east shore of the forebay just above the dam, preparatory to laying the keel of a boat 64 feet long, with a 24 foot beam and designed to draw five feet of water. The boat, which is being sponsored by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, will be used by WPA in clearing debris from the lake bed of the huge future reservoir. After the \$9,000,000 clearance project, slated to be the largest WPA project in the United States, is completed the sponsor will use the boat for maintenance service. WPA will clear 28,440 acres of the future lake-bed along both banks of the Columbia River and its tributaries from the dam to the Canadian border and up to the contour line 1,310 feet above sea level.

More than 100,000 feet of lumber is on the ground and construction equipment is being moved for erection of a 40-man temporary camp at Lincoln, near the junction of the Spokane and Columbia rivers. This camp will house the crew which will then build an adjacent 350-man camp, the first of eight or ten intended to accommodate more than 3,000 men who will clear the future lake bed. Clearance will call for removal of timber, razing of ten towns and hundreds of farm buildings. Railroads, telephone lines, roads, state highways and bridges will be relocated on higher ground.

Two 200 horsepower diesel engines will propel the craft to any point on the rising lake which will ultimately have a shoreline of more than 500 miles. A power winch and heavy cable lines on deck are designed to pull the boat up the several rapids and to drag heavy snags to shore for burning. The bow is nosed up to allow navigation close to shore and a specially heavy planked flat bottom is designed to resist snags. A galley, dining quarters and bunks will accommodate a boat crew of eight. More than 300 men can be hauled from one part of the clearance project to another, on this boat, in addition to heavy construction equipment. Powerful flood lights will permit night work.



OCTOBER 11, 1938



WPA will organize and operate library services for public and school libraries throughout the state, starting October 17, under Federal allotments totalling \$152,000, according to an announcement yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator.

This extensive service, employing professional and clerical WPA workers, will supersede all the local and county-wide library service projects in Washington with the exception of the State Law Library at Olympia, said Abel. The project will operate under the sponsorship of the State Department of Public Instruction with the cooperation of various public and school libraries, with pledges for materials and supplies totaling \$52,081. Work will include cataloging and indexing, typing and filing of index cards, maintaining free reading rooms, rearranging books and exhibits, delivering books to shut-ins, and preserving and repairing library material. The staff will also assist in reference work, checking shelf lists, preparing pamphlets, assisting in compilation of bibliographies, transcribing manuscripts and other records, and aiding in extension of service to the blind.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Fluctuations in WPA employment figures serve to point out the rise and fall of employment in private industry, Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator stated today in commenting on the enrollment figures for the WPA in the state of Washington which now number 51,585 men and women. Abel pointed out that highest employment figures are usually reached during the winter and in early spring before seasonal employment opens.

"While the quota for October is filled and no more assignments for the month are being made, it is expected that there will probably be less call for WPA employment during the coming months as the influx of federal funds through PWA and other governmental agencies aids private industry, and which will absorb a good many of the workers which WPA cannot employ", Abel said.

In order to show the employment figures on WPA for the year 1938 as compared with the three previous years since WPA was established, Abel released the following table which is exclusive of the fine arts projects or Federal No. 1 and other Federal agencies which employ relief labor.

	<u>1935</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>
January		38,101	32,980	37,004
February		42,843	30,299	39,050
March		44,766	31,416	45,089
April		32,952	28,943	45,901
May		28,106	28,758	44,122
June		26,229	26,537	44,569
July		25,945	22,308	50,366
August		26,439	20,157	51,016
September	655	26,025	19,387	50,759
October	1,309	27,192	20,328	51,585
November	8,728	27,473	23,660	
December	26,857	26,515	30,643	

In King county, which has the largest WPA enrollment of any county in the state the fluctuation of WPA employment has been less noticeable than in the rural sections which offer seasonal employment in the harvest fields, Abel stated.

OCTOBER 16, 1938



Allocation of \$195,286 in WPA funds to continue the operation of training centers for household workers throughout the state, was announced today by Don G. Abel, state WPA administrator.

The projects which are now operating in Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma are designed to train and qualify girls in all phases of household and domestic work and child care.

"This project which trains needy girls and women in household duties has proven very successful in raising the standards of employment by which the applicants can command better wages and working conditions and at the same time prove to be more competent and valuable to the housewife through their training," Abel stated.

Other training centers are slated to be opened in Bellingham, Everett, Aberdeen, Vancouver, Yakima and Walla Walla in the near future according to Abel who stated that the expansion of the program was due to the exceptional fine results obtained and the encouraging reception accorded the project by the women of the state.

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OCTOBER 16, 1938



Development of Turnbull Slough near Cheney, wild game refuge, is slated to begin immediately, Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator, today announced.

An initial WPA allotment of \$41,136 has been made available for the construction of dams, dikes, water control structures; fencing, remodeling buildings and other incidental work. The project will employ about 100 men to be transferred from other projects now nearing completion in the vicinity, Abel said.

Turnbull Slough now covers an approximate 12,203 acres, 6,791 acres being recently added by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Biological Survey which is sponsoring the improvements, and is the largest migratory waterfowl refuge in the state.

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OCTOBER 13, 1938



Improvements to 16 playfields throughout the city of Tacoma and Pierce County was assured today by Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator, who announced a \$94,098 WPA allotment to carry on the work which would be available immediately.

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Park District which is providing an additional \$21,911 for materials and supplies, the project entails clearing and grubbing 50 acres, 50,000 cubic yards of excavation, 4 rock and timber kitchens, 5 miles of trails and roads, 20 benches and tables and 25 acres of landscaping.

The playfields included in the project are as follows: Portland, June Clark, Harmon, Jefferson, McKinley Park playfield and McKinley Playfield, Central, Ferry, Roosevelt, Wright, Lincoln, South, Puget, Garfield, Manitou Beach and Dawson Playfields.

This allotment will serve to continue and complete improvements began under a previous WPA project to improve various playfields in that vicinity, Abel declared.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 13, 1938

PR-613



Improvements to the water system of the town of Fircrest near Tacoma will be made with the aid of \$18,375 in WPA funds, Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator announced today.

The project which is slated to begin on October 17 will take a little over two months to complete and provides for excavation, laying pipes and backfilling. The city officials of Fircrest are sponsoring the project and providing \$10,803 additional for materials and supplies.

Abel also announced four western Washington projects to improve school grounds and buildings, largest of which is the Oakville School near Grays Harbor which includes repairs to the building and sewer system as well as to the grounds. The WPA has provided \$8,321 for this project, with the School district sponsoring the project with an additional \$3,215 for materials and supplies.

Edgemont school in Pierce County, has been allotted \$3,830 in WPA funds to provide labor to construct a sewer and filter for the septic tank and to otherwise improve the school grounds by grading and landscaping; Cathcart School in Snohomish County has been granted \$4,059 for almost identical work and the R. A. Long High School in Longview, Washington has been allotted \$1,592 to aid in the construction of tennis court fences and otherwise improve the playfield.

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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SUNDAY RELEASE

PR-614

OCTOBER 16, 1938



Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator, today revealed allocation of \$173,328 in WPA funds to continue the aid extended the State Department of Social Security, in the distribution of surplus commodities.

The allotment provides employment for needy persons numbering 236 men and women throughout the state in receiving, transporting, storing, handling and packaging and accounting for food, clothing, and other surplus commodities allocated or donated to the State Department of Social Security by federal, state and other agencies for distribution to relief clients or to public agencies and institutions.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 18, 1938



Six WPA projects providing for federal investment of \$71,837 to begin this week in southwest Washington were announced today by Don G. Abel, state WPA administrator.

Heading the list was a \$51,912 city-wide playfield improvement project for the city of Hoquiam. The project provides for constructing and installing playground equipment and broadcasting booth, constructing tennis courts, fences, bowling greens, bleachers, score boards, backstops, wading pools, archery ranges, store room buildings, kitchens, tables and benches, clearing and excavating, installing sprinkling and lighting systems and other incidental work.

The project is sponsored by the city of Hoquiam which is providing \$24,748 for materials and supplies.

Abel also announced details of the other projects as follows: Tacoma, paving, landscaping and draining area surrounding new municipal warehouse, \$6,838; Matron service for girl's rest rooms in public schools throughout Lewis County, \$6,000; Preparing up-to-date file of records for Pierce County Engineer's office, \$3,360; Completing repairs to Menlo High School, Pacific County, \$2,745; Preparing a new file of records for the County Road Engineer's office of both Mason and Thurston Counties, \$982.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR-616

OCTOBER 18, 1938



Don G. Abel, State WPA Administrator, today announced a project to improve school grounds and athletic fields throughout the city of Yakima, to begin immediately.

Sponsored by the School District #7 which is providing \$4,524 for materials and supplies, the project calls for excavating, leveling, seeding, placing pipe, pruning trees, extending walks, constructing retaining walls, installing manholes, erecting fences, extending irrigation systems and other incidental work.

The WPA is providing \$19,402 for this work, Abel said.

Abel also announced an allotment of \$2,625 of WPA funds to provide the school children of Stevens County with hot noon lunches for the winter months.

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208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 18, 1938



PR-617

Allocation of \$164,229 for 6 WPA projects within King County beginning this week was announced today by Don G. Abel, State WPA Administrator.

Largest of the projects to begin is the Kirkland city-wide street improvements with \$127,219 of federal funds, which will provide employment for about 213 men, to be transferred from projects now completed in the immediate vicinity. Plans include clearing, grubbing, excavating, constructing retaining walls, curbs and gutters. The city of Kirkland is sponsoring the project with \$33,726 for materials and equipment rentals.

Other projects announced by Abel are as follows: Lake Forest Grade School, \$10,442 for improvement of recreational facilities and construction of a sewage disposal system; Fort Lawton, \$9,886 for indexing all warehouse records and re-conditioning same, Honeydow Grade School, \$6,105 installing plumbing and improving playground, Seattle Sewers, 44th Avenue SW and W. Austin St., \$5,475, Renton School \$5,102 for improvements to playfield.

Abel also announced a \$2,565 allotment to improve the playground facilities of the Kingston school in Kitsap County.

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10-22-38



A \$64,126 WPA project to provide a recreational park, improve the cemetery, construct buildings, erect a flagpole and carve a totem pole for the Suquamish Indian Tribe, on the Tulalip Indian Reservation near Port Madison, was announced today by Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator.

Sponsored by the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs which is providing \$12,085 additional for materials and supplies, the work includes clearing and grubbing, landscaping, constructing tennis courts, ball park and bleachers, dressing rooms, comfort stations, Records building, Museum, rustic bridge approaches to beach, floating wharves, driving piling, making and carving gravestones, installing plumbing and water system, relocating telephone lines and improving drainage systems and other incidental work.

The project is slated to begin immediately, Abel said.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

10-20-38



Additional help for the Pierce County Hospital at Tacoma was assured today by Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator, who revealed an allocation of \$21,120 for the purpose of providing additional attendants, cooks, laundresses and seamstresses.

"This project is to meet an extraordinary condition and is for the purpose of augmenting the present inadequate staff, and no regularly employed personnel will be dismissed or replaced," Abel stated. The project is sponsored by the Pierce County Commissioners.

Abel also announced four other Pierce County projects as follows: Tacoma, \$2,412 to continue indexing Tacoma City Ordinances; Improvements to Woodland Grade School, near Puyallup by repairing the building and landscaping the grounds, \$1,390; Compile and index city records of Buckley, \$1,400; and to improve the drainage ditches south of Tacoma city limits, \$7,600.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



Exploding the theory, that workers are content to make their WPA employment a lifetime job, Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, in a statewide broadcast October 21 disclosed that less than fifteen per cent of the people who were on WPA when it started in Washington in 1935, remain on the payroll.

There is a continuous shift of workers to private employment, Abel said, while others who lose their jobs come to the security wages of WPA as a last resort.

In a fifteen minute interview Abel answered pertinent questions about the Works Progress Administration in Washington which were asked by Al Rochester, State Director of the National Emergency Council, sponsors of the program.

WPA is now employing 51,300 in Washington and more than three million in the United States, said Abel, with workers in this state getting a decided edge over the national average in rate of pay. The average monthly WPA wage is about \$53 for the country and \$56.73 in this state, for an average of one hundred and ten hours work a month. WPA workers, Abel said, are paid at the same rate per hour as private workers for work of the same kind in that locality.

Asked whether WPA originated its projects, Abel said: "Ninety-eight per cent of the work is done on local projects requested and partly financed by local sponsors, such as city councils, county commissioners, or state departments. We've always believed the local community knows what it needs better than anybody else. Projects which are approved must be socially useful, can not be a part of the regular work of the sponsoring agency, and there must be enough unemployed needy workers in the community with the skill required to do the work."

Abel disclosed that over one-third of the WPA money expended in Washington has been for the construction and repair of roads; more than a tenth invested in parks, playgrounds and other recreational facilities; a tenth for education, statistical surveys and other "white collar" projects, and nearly a tenth for sewing and canning projects. About seven per cent goes for the erection and repair of public buildings,

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schools, hospitals and court houses. Approximately ten per cent in Federal allotments for work relief builds sewer systems and other public utilities. The remainder is spread over arts projects, airport construction, and hundreds of special projects asked for by various communities.

Figures, which are now available on WPA accomplishments for the first two years, show that in Washington work relief crews have constructed 1,500 miles of roads and streets and provided drainage, grading and other improvements for 2,000 additional miles as well as erected or improved eight bridges. Sixty-seven new public buildings or additions have been constructed, and 207 buildings have been remodeled or otherwise put in condition for more efficient use. Hundreds of schools and playgrounds have been improved and many new schools built, Abel disclosed. Forty new water and aqueduct systems have been constructed, 400 miles of sewer and four of the most modern sewage disposal plants in the United States to correct pollution of the Yakima river and elsewhere. Flood control and stream improvement has involved 20 rivers, 600 miles of clearing and one million square yards of revetment work.

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208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



October 25, 1938  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR-621



WPA allotments amounting to \$349,048 for four northwest Washington counties was announced today by Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator.

Snohomish County heads the list with seven allotments, largest of which is \$138,127 for the construction and reconstruction of 10 miles of streets and 2 miles of alleys in the city of Snohomish, and also spreading 4 miles of oil road mix. Other Snohomish County grants are: Sultan streets and alleys, \$72,443; Improving drainage ditches near Lowell, \$11,312; Improving school grounds in Goldbar, \$7,999; Everett, \$3,600 to prepare a record of existing public utilities throughout Snohomish County; Arlington, \$2,705 to improve the high school athletic field; Everett, \$1,620 to continue the work of compiling, indexing and repairing records of the City Clerk.

Anacortes, Skagit County, has been granted \$94,075 for improving 20 miles of streets, alleys and roads within the city. Everson City Park in Whatcom County has been allotted \$11,635 for improvements which include landscaping, seeding, building rustic bridges and other incidental work.

Island County receives two grants, according to Abel who said that \$6,000 had been set aside for a project to clean and renovate various public buildings and \$5,532 had been provided to furnish free assistance in housework and care of children in the homes of the needy where the homemaker is totally or partially incapacitated through illness or temporary emergency.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR-622

OCTOBER 25, 1938



WPA "white collar" workers in Pierce and Thurston County were assured of continuous employment today by Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator, who revealed that two allotments totaling \$16,044 had been made to carry on two projects now operating.

Largest of the two is the Pierce County Assessor's project which provides for preparing a new set of plat maps for the office, indicating and locating roads and right-of-way, cleared and uncleared land, buildings and improvements, contour lines, surveys of beach property and field surveys. This project has been allotted \$13,488, Abel said.

The other project which has been allocated \$2,556 provides for transcribing and indexing a new file of personnel records for the State Superintendent of Education. Both projects are expected to be completed early next year, Abel stated.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 25, 1938

PR-623



A catalog describing more than 150 titles in the American Guide Series will be issued this month by the Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration, 1734 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. Titles in this Series already issued have had wide distribution. An incomplete tabulation shows that 3,549,706 copies of publications compiled by this Project have been distributed, apart from material prepared for other projects and departments such as Recreation, Education, Agriculture, and so forth. Of publications distributed more than 500,000 copies represent material prepared especially for use in public schools. In New England close to 40,000 copies of the six State Guides have been distributed, representing an average distribution of almost 6,000 copies each.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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Four widely known New York artists, Hilda Deutsch, Ruth Egri, J. Solman and Kenneth Downer are scheduled to arrive in Spokane this week to join the faculty of the WPA sponsored by the Spokane Art Center which opened September 29, it was announced yesterday by R. B. Inverarity, State Director of Federal Art Projects.

Solman will design exhibitions and arrange exhibits for the gallery which will display art from all parts of the nation to be changed every three weeks, said Inverarity. More than 55 such galleries are already established through WPA Federal Art in various parts of the United States, including Sacramento, California, and Salem, Oregon, providing the largest art gallery circuit in the world, he declared.

Miss Egri will conduct a mural and painting work shop. She is regarded as one of the outstanding mural painters in the large New York Federal Art project. Downer will conduct painting classes and Miss Deutsch will hold classes in children's and adult sculpturing.

Inverarity also announced that the designs for three murals, which are now installed in the University of Washington Drama Library, and which were executed by Glen Sheckles, 3509 West Laurelhurst Drive, Seattle, on the Federal Art Project, have been selected for the nation-wide circuit.

The three designs, in water color, represent "The Theatre of the East" "The Theatre of the West" and "The Theatre in the Time of Shakespeare."

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
208 ALASKA BUILDING  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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OCTOBER 25, 1938



Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator, today announced allocation of \$14,930 of Federal funds to conduct a WPA "white collar" survey of Spokane streets and street improvements.

The work includes compiling data obtained by making an actual physical inventory of the size and location of curbs, street lights, hydrants, manholes, types of sidewalks and also compiling a sub-index of existing public hazards.

"This project is not a normal function of the government and no regularly employed personnel will be replaced," Abel stated.

The project is sponsored by the Spokane County Commissioners who are providing \$4,000 for materials and supplies, and is expected to begin this week.

Abel also announced a \$19,183 WPA grant to improve the playground facilities of the Roslyn School at Roslyn, in Kittitas County.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON





The Works Progress Administration has expended almost a half-million dollars in less than four months to add new significance to the observance of Navy Day, by making major improvements in Washington naval facilities, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state WPA administrator. More than \$3,200,000 has been invested from Federal work relief funds in the 13th Naval District since the program began.

First of four new hangars has just been completed and two more are under way by WPA at Sand Point Naval Air Station, north of Seattle, said Abel, who revealed that more than \$900,000 had been invested to enlarge and extend the station. Work now under way includes \$160,000 from WPA for the hangars and \$103,000 allotted for improvements in buildings and grounds.

Approximately \$2,300,000 in Federal work relief funds have vastly improved the facilities at the Bremerton Navy Yard, and enabled navy authorities to quicken the pace of national preparedness through this huge base, Abel said. A WPA building and grounds improvement project is now under way with \$597,320 in Federal allotments, while an \$80,000 project provides for construction of a storage building and chemical laboratory. In excess of 1,500 WPA men are now rushing through the Bremerton program and another 1,000 are erecting hangars and extending ground facilities for handling navy planes at Sand Point. The 13th Naval District is under command of Rear Admiral E. B. Fenner.

Abel also disclosed the huge extent of other WPA activities for national defense in Washington. Employing an average of 700 workers, 38 airport projects have been completed or are now in operation under work relief expenditures totaling \$1,784,448 in this state, Abel said, and 14 other similar projects have been approved. Airports or emergency landing fields have been built or improved at Ellensburg, Kelso, Chewelah, Kettle Falls, Walla Walla, Deer Park, Everett, Spokane, Colfax, two at Port Angeles, Wenatchee, Prosser, Montesano, Tacoma, Olympia, Bellingham, Springdale, Seattle, Yakima, Pasco and Mount Vernon.

More than \$3,000,000 has been expended for completed projects, or work under



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way, to improve the buildings and grounds at Fort Lewis and construct McChord army airport. Two new projects begin immediately at Fort Lewis. A \$71,136 WPA allotment goes for buildings and grounds improvements, while a \$162,804 allotment has been made to improve the field artillery range and the golf course. A riding academy will be built at Camp Murray with \$6,311.

Three hundred thousand dollars have provided for a higher standard of facilities for Fort Lawton. Improvements at Fort George Wright run more than \$50,000 and an operating project to improve buildings and grounds at Vancouver Barracks exceeds this amount by several thousand dollars.

Approximately \$4,000,000 has been expended by WPA in flood control and the clearance of river channels to safeguard rivers and harbors as well as protect roads important to the movement of troops in a national emergency, as well as for peacetime commerce, said Abol. This huge undertaking has been under the direction of the United States Army Engineers.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 26, 1938

PR-627



Three long range proposals for major WPA projects in Washington were suggested tonight by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, who was guest speaker at a dinner given by the Seattle Press Club.

Abel said WPA was doing some of its finest work where local sponsors provide ample materials for projects calling for a greater proportion of construction effort. He cited the extensive concrete paving job in Bremerton, fine school improvements throughout the state and the Sand Point Naval Air Base which he said was practically built by WPA.

"Go see the jobs where we have been provided plenty of material and equipment and there you'll find our finest work," Abel said. "The men give their best effort where they can see this type of project materialize before them."

An appeal for an extensive, practical program of reforestation in Washington was made by Abel as his second proposal. He pointed out that WPA could give the greatest possible assistance to an aggressive plan for recreating the timber wealth of this state.

Abel also advocated a greater program of flood control projects. "As extensive and successful as our flood control projects have been, we really haven't yet scratched the surface," he pointed out. "WPA could use from five to eight thousand men for the next ten years on this type of project, bring the many rampant streams under control, and thus stop the enormous economic loss the state now suffers annually from floods."

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 26, 1938

PR-628



Don G. Abel, State Administrator of the WPA, today accepted the resignation of Mr. George P. Harris, Coordinator of Women's and Professional Projects for Pierce, Mason, Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties. Abel announced the appointment of Kermit V. Livingston, of Auburn, as successor. Livingston has been on the staff of the Professional Projects of the WPA during the past two years.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 27, 1938

PR-629



Rehabilitation of the Lake Chelan Irrigation system will continue with \$29,809 federal funds, Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator, revealed today.

Slightly more than 3,000 acres of orchard land is served by this irrigation system, which was partially destroyed by fire in 1929 and rebuilt at a cost of \$206,000.

The project, sponsored by the Lake Chelan Reclamation District with \$17,434 for materials, supplies and equipment rentals, provides for constructing 2,500 lineal feet of 30" wood stave pipe, 2,640 lineal feet of 14" steel pipe and clearing and grubbing approximately 50 acres of land. Materials for constructing the wood stave pipe have been on hand for about three years but these improvements now being made by the WPA were postponed from year to year due to inadequate finances. The 14" spillway line has been needed for years. Reclamation District officials stated, and with the completion of this unit water that is now turned into Lake Chelan and lost will be diverted into Wapato Lake and used for irrigation.

Project plans also call for clearing and grubbing the ring of dead brush and trees which surround the Antillon Storage Reservoir (Long Slough) which was raised 20 feet in 1929 and of which only a small amount has been cleared. A previous allotment by WPA of \$8,517 for improvement to this district was exhausted early last year, Abel said.

Abel also announced a \$6,693 WPA allotment for improving the Columbia Irrigation District Canal near Konnowick, by lining 1,000 feet of it with concrete to prevent loss of water by animals burrowing, penetrating and rupturing the banks, causing loss of crops due to water shortage and excessive repair expenses. Both projects are slated to begin in the next week, Abel stated.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 27, 1938

PR-630



A \$168,311 WPA project to improve about 12 miles of streets and alleys in Mount Vernon was announced today by Don G. Abel, State WPA Administrator, who stated that the project is expected to begin on November 11.

The project includes 37 acres of grading, 50,278 cubic yards of excavation, installing 42,800 lineal feet of curbing and the hanging of 928 street signs in addition to building guard rails, landscaping and incidental work.

The city of Mount Vernon is sponsoring the project with an additional \$137,325 for materials and equipment rentals.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
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Two more WPA safe driving schools will open November 1, at Lake Forest Park School and the B. F. Day School, 39th and Linden Avenue, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, bringing the total number of these five-day, once-a-week courses in traffic accident prevention to more than 140 in King County since January 1.

The course at Lake Forest Park will be sponsored by the local Civic Club, the Garden Club and the Parent-Teacher group of the district. At B. F. Day School the class will be sponsored by the local pre-school group, the PTA, Ross School, Fremont-Woodland Heights Commercial Club, Evangelical Lutheran, Ashbury Methodist, Fremont Baptist and Church of God churches. ~~The classes~~ will be held simultaneously five consecutive Tuesday evenings, 8:00 to 9:30 o'clock.

Abel declared that more than 25,000 residents of King County have enrolled in these classes since January 1, and that rapidly growing state-wide interest has already resulted in the holding of classes in all urban centers, with plans now under way to open instruction courses in hundreds of the more remote areas of Washington. The state-wide program, which Abel said is intended to make drivers and pedestrians more safety conscious and prepare them for State Highway Patrol examinations for drivers' licenses, is under the sponsorship of the Automobile Club of Washington, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, PTA, religious and fraternal organizations and other civic-minded groups, in cooperation with county, city and state authorities.

Attendance averages more than 150 in these classes, said Abel, with the largest class on record, numbering more than 1,500, held last year at Ballard High School Auditorium. Twenty-five applications have been filed by sponsors for additional classes in King County, Abel said.

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The Works Progress Administration has invested more than nineteen million dollars in King County improvements and payrolls since the program began in 1935, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state WPA Administrator, with 13,515 persons now employed. Abel also announced \$897,860 will be allotted immediately to carry on or begin six projects in the county.

Operating labor projects now employ 10,614 while 60 "white collar" professional, educational, clerical, women's and arts projects provide jobs for 3,901 men and women, said Abel.

To continue the huge land use survey project, which is under the sponsorship of the assessor's office, a \$681,552 allocation becomes immediately effective. This project provides the largest "white collar" employment in the county, and was set up to ascertain whether descriptions given for tax purposes are accurate. No adequate card file or previous record existed, said Abel. This work is already completed for Seattle and several other communities of the county, under previous allotments. Thousands of previously unlisted improvements were discovered during the survey. The county commissioners have pledged an additional \$101,639 to augment the Federal funds.

Second largest allotment, \$94,823 is to continue elimination of a major health hazard through construction of sanitary units in rural and suburban districts where sewer systems are not available or practicable. The State Department of Health is backing up this King county undertaking by WPA with an additional \$31,560.

City-wide improvement of Renton streets and alleys by WPA will continue under a \$67,097 allocation, Abel said. In addition to general grading and ditching, sidewalks, curbs and some paving will be constructed. City funds for materials will total \$23,488. The Foster High School buildings, grounds and facilities will be extended and modernized under a \$16,851 Federal allocation combined with \$3,456 from local authorities. A new addition is the featured construction item. Redmond recreational facilities will be further developed through a \$31,676 WPA fund. The city pledged another \$3,359.95 for the project. Columbia Grade School near Cove is slated for a new auditorium with \$5,861 from WPA and \$1,599 in school district funds. Much of the material will be salvaged from an old building.





New WPA allotments totaling \$343,174 were announced today by Don G. Abal, state Works Progress Administrator, for San Juan, Whatcom, Clallam, Kitsap and Island counties. This amount, combined with allocations disclosed yesterday for King county, totals \$1,241,034 in Federal funds released within two days for projects in northwest counties.

Principal allocation today provides \$289,477 for road construction throughout San Juan county, starting November 14. Abal drew attention to the growing tendency of sponsors to increase their financial proportion of WPA undertakings and cited San Juan county's pledge of \$370,249.04, which substantially exceeds the WPA fund and assures ample money for equipment rentals and adequate material for a more permanent standard of improvement.

"The total sponsor's contribution for the six counties on these projects runs well over a half million dollars," said Abal, "and this money will be used principally to buy material and obtain equipment needed to get the maximum benefits from WPA projects. Throughout the state huge expenditures are constantly being made for the extensive WPA program, resulting indirectly in the employment of many workers in private enterprises."

At Sumas, city-wide construction of storm sewers will start the same day, under a \$20,035 WPA allocation. City officials will buy pipe and other installation material with \$6,661.83. Pupils of Bellingham schools will be given diagnostic tests to be scored, checked, indexed and recorded by a professional WPA staff with \$4,960 in Federal funds. Matron service in girls' rest rooms of Clallam County schools begins at once with \$7,586.

Three Kitsap county projects total \$13,041. The cemetery at the State Soldiers' Home near Retsil will be improved with \$6,045, and a Keyport school playfield will be built with \$4,506, starting Monday. Two weeks later a crew will begin repairing the ground and school three miles west of Kingston with \$2,490. The Coupeville cemetery and the Clinton cemetery, near town, will get \$5,218 from WPA for general improvements, starting November 14, the same day that drainage work begins for farm lands near Bayview with \$2,957.





Eight eastern Washington counties will get a total of \$612,119 in new WPA funds for thirteen projects announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, to begin immediately or before November 15.

Chelan county heads the list with a single county-wide road improvement project calling for \$431,691. This huge sum assures continuance and expansion of the much needed WPA program of drainage, widening and surfacing secondary roads in this section. Abel drew attention to the growing tendency of sponsors to seek a more permanent standard of construction by increasing their financial proportion of WPA undertakings, and cited Chelan county's large pledge of \$181,385 as intended to assure ample funds for efficient equipment and adequate material.

"The total sponsor's contribution for the eight counties on these projects runs well over \$286,300," said Abel, "with their pledges exceeding WPA in two instances. Local authorities are showing a growing realization that their huge contributions for material and equipment indirectly result also in the employment of increasing numbers in private enterprises throughout the state."

Free WPA home assistance, where the home maker is temporarily incapacitated, will continue throughout Yakima county with \$29,845. In the district of Yakima bounded by Sixth, 14th, East D streets and Pacific Avenue, \$27,304 will provide new water mains construction. City grants will, for material, amount to \$27,565. Zillah street improvements will require \$31,863. Other allocations are \$13,034 for Pend Oreille county roads; \$19,133 to improve Roslyn school grounds; \$9,763 for building and grounds repairs to the Ellensburg Normal school; \$9,445 for school grounds near Veradale, and \$5,660 to modernize Spokane's Grace Campbell Memorial Museum building. City funds totalling \$6,350 will be used. Kennewick's irrigation canal will need \$6,693; fish conservation installations in Benton county call for \$4,727, and the Palouse High School athletic field improvements will be made with \$5,053.

NOVEMBER 3, 1938



635

Announcing \$668,618 in new WPA funds for fourteen projects in southwest Washington, Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, today said that six counties would begin receiving allocations on or before Wednesday, and not only would many hundreds of relief workers be assured of continued security wages as a result, but that the huge aggregate sponsor's contributions for equipment and material would provide many additional residents with private employment.

Total allocations for Pierce County amount to \$561,868 of which \$163,812 will be used to continue all WPA sewing rooms, outside Tacoma, until next June. To improve buildings and grounds of Tacoma schools WPA will provide \$157,806. Although local school authorities say other WPA projects have accomplished major improvements in the city's schools, they state there is still much to be done, and have pledged \$43,369.84 for needed material.

Observation posts, gun placements, telephone lines, guard shelters and golf course improvements will be made at Fort Lewis with \$162,804 from WPA, while \$71,136 will be used to recondition heating, plumbing and electrical equipment. Construction of a riding academy and landscaping at Camp Murray will take \$6,311.

Ground improvements at the La Center consolidated grade and high school will need \$47,800 from WPA. Grading and surfacing Kalama streets, and relaying water and sewer lines calls for \$22,035. New city park facilities and accommodations will be made at Kelso with \$5,091. Other allotments are \$2,104 for dike improvements at Castle Rock; \$12,200 for clearing the right-of-way and digging pole holes to erect the power lines from Alpha to Cinnebar and Cosmos to Packwood; \$11,570 for free home assistance to partially incapacitated mothers of Lewis county; \$2,476 to provide additional sewerage facilities at Pe Ell; \$1,966 to erect an addition to the Bay Center grade school; \$1,507 to complete the Tumwater city hall and \$17,771 to build sheds and a loading platform for the Port of Olympia.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 3, 1938

PR-636



Forty-five new WPA projects for various sections throughout Washington was announced today by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, to begin immediately, or within two weeks, under Federal allotments totalling \$2,521,771.

Abel said eastern Washington projects released in this group would total \$612,119. The northwest counties will receive \$1,241,034 and the southwest counties are slated for \$668,618.

"Total sponsor's contributions for these projects, "Abel stated, "would reach almost a million dollars. Most of this money will go into private business channels to buy equipment and material which the sponsors agree to furnish for the WPA projects." The State Administrator added, "Obviously many additional Washington residents will benefit through private employment as a result of this program."

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON





In a race with the steadily rising 151 mile reservoir above Grand Coulee Dam, extensive preparations for the huge WPA lake-bed clearing project will be speeded up this week by the addition of more men, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, State Works Progress Administrator, who said that the first permanent camp is now scheduled for completion about December 5, at Lincoln.

Abel explained that the waters above the dam, rise as the construction of the dam progresses, and that it is necessary to clear areas ahead of the moving shoreline which eventually will exceed 500 miles.

To rush completion of the camp, one of ten 350 men cantonments to accomodate workers on the ten million dollar project, the construction crew will be increased from 82 to 120. On the shore of the forebay, immediately above the dam, 25 men are now placing the ribs and planking on the 64 foot hull of the diesel-powered boat to be used by WPA in the clearance work. Abel said flood lights are being installed at the little "ship yards" to put on a night shift, increasing the crew to 40. As rapidly as barracks are completed, increasing crews of clearance workers will begin large scale operations which eventually will extend up the Spokane river and on the Columbia for a radius of ten to fifteen miles from the Lincoln camp. Sites are now being selected for the other camps, with the assistance of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, sponsor of the clearing project, which is the largest WPA undertaking in the nation.

The men building the permanent Lincoln camp are housed in a temporary camp nearby which was completed last week. The clearance work has already begun, to make way for the grounds of this camp and to grade adequate service roads. Construction equipment scheduled to arrive next week, Abel said, include three heavy-duty caterpillar type bulldogs with land clearing attachments and several flat-bed trucks.

The camp will cover an area of 16 acres. Eight barracks, each 130 by 20 feet and accomodating 40 men to the building, will be the dominant structures of the camp. About 20 other buildings include a kitchen, mess hall, infirmary, administration office, living quarters for administrative staff, complete refrigeration and ice plant, and auditorium.





A heavy bronze plaque, 24 by 34 inches, was placed on the new WPA constructed Kennydale school near Renton, Saturday, by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, at a cornerstone laying ceremony attended by more than 300 residents of the community, local school authorities and state and county officials. Congressman John M. Coffee of the Sixth District, which includes Kennydale, assisted Abel in raising the plaque to position.

Abel said the modernistically-styled structure to date represented a WPA investment of \$50,374, and that additional funds will be required to complete the project, scheduled for sometime next summer. The building is of reinforced concrete construction, 128 by 203 feet, one story and basement. The plan includes six classrooms, principal's office, teachers' reception room and a large auditorium on the main floor, with playroom, cafeteria, kitchen, lavatories, private dining room and boiler room in the basement. Eighty men are now working to rush the project through at the earliest possible time, scheduled now for next summer. The building will accommodate 180 pupils of School District #147, with provisions for future expansion, Abel said. Sponsoring school board contributions for materials have exceeded \$31,000 to date, the work is 65 per cent complete.

In addition to the Kennydale project, WPA is constructing two other schools in King County at Meridian and Pacific City. New schools have been completed by WPA at Kirkland, Coalfield and Ravensdale. Almost every district in the county has received improvements in school buildings and grounds under various WPA projects, according to Abel.

In addition to Abel and Congressman Coffee, other speakers at Kennydale included County Commissioner Tom Smith, County Superintendent of Schools Nina O. Buchanan and State Senator Earl Maxwell, master of ceremonies. A 20 piece WPA trained Kennydale school band and the Renton Veterans of Foreign Wars boys' drum and bugle corps provided music.

More than 60 miles of winding trails,, by-ways, lanes and crude roads on Mercer Island are rapidly being converted by WPA into a network of fast thoroughfares, with Federal expenditures to date of \$175,000, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator. The WPA investment will reach \$200,000 by the time the project is completed March 1.

Improvements are being made with an eye to providing rapid future services when the planned big bridge is completed, as well as furnish greatly needed present facilities for the island's 2,500 residents, Abel said. Work consists mainly in straightening bad curves, reducing grades, sloping ditch banks, widening and installing adequate concrete pipe culverts to handle storm drainage. All curves are designed for 40 miles per hour traffic, with super elevation and 15 per cent added as a safety factor. Curves and high fills are being given added safety protection by installation of cedar log guard rails of the type approved by the Washington State Highway Department. Abel pointed out that the roads were originally designed for slow country traffic and as scenic drives, but in recent years have proven grossly inadequate for modern needs. These roads have been widened to 28 feet with 24 foot graveled surfaces engineered to allow for oil-surfacing at some later date.

More than 500 WPA men have worked on the project since it began last April, with peak crews of 700. A 40-man clean-up crew will continue throughout the winter checking slides and putting through finishing details. King County commissioners have provided materials and equipment rentals, as sponsors of the work.

WPA recently made other improvements at Mercer Island, Abel said. New tennis courts have been installed at Roanoke Park. The playfield has been leveled and graded at Luther Burbank Parental School. A water system has also been installed at the school and dormitory rooms remodeled. Presidential approval has been given for a \$14,436.50 allotment to construct a gymnasium at the East Seattle grade school, on the island, and details are being worked out with the sponsors to begin construction.

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A \$3,840 WPA allotment announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, is the fourth of allocations totalling more than \$10,000 in Federal funds for laboratory research to increase wine production and utilize surplus Washington fruits and berries.

WPA laboratory chemists have been working since 1935 at the University of Washington, Seattle, on various yeasts studies to determine their practical application to the fermentation of small fruit. Abel said work includes research into comparative quality of wines produced from yeasts by fermentation of zymase, natural fermentation, and controlled fermentation, as well as investigations of wine spoilage under industrial conditions. Upon completion of this project results will be compiled for publication by the university. WPA made a \$3,276 allotment for the work in 1937; \$1,432 in 1936, and \$1,611 in 1935. The university contributed sponsor funds totalling \$13,626, to provide materials, rentals of laboratory equipment and supervisory personnel.

Officials of many Washington wineries have contributed wine samples for test, and in other ways assisted in the WPA research project. The project was proposed by the State Planning Board, the U. S. Department of Agriculture Frozen Pack Laboratory, and the university. Donations from fruit growers have been accepted and fruits placed in cold storage for laboratory work.

There are 39 licensed Washington wineries, all west of the Cascades except two at Grandview and one each at Pasco, Sunnyside and Selah. Washington wine production has grown from 263,139 gallons in 1936 to 650,824 gallons in the fiscal year ending September 30, 1938, according to Warren L. Dewar, attorney for the Washington Wine Council, representing the state vintners' association. Payrolls exceed \$650,000 annually and the industry represents an investment of more than \$2,500,000.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 10, 1938



PR-641

Two WPA projects were announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, for Grays Harbor county, and one for Pierce county, with \$46,386 in Federal funds to be released starting next week.

Free home assistance will be continued in Grays Harbor county under a \$30,420 allocation. This service is given to provide assistance in housework and care of children in homes of needy where the homemaker is totally or partially incapacitated because of ill health or confinement, or in case of some temporary emergency which makes this assistance necessary. Similar projects operate in most of the counties of the state, according to Abel. The project is sponsored by the county commissioners.

The school building and grounds at Moclips, will be improved under a \$4,307 allocation, which will be matched by a \$2,308.50 appropriation from the Moclips-Aloha School District. Work includes remodeling the gymnasium and manual training room, installing playground equipment, clearing, grubbing, sloping, excavating, and installing necessary drainage facilities on the school grounds.

Public buildings will be cleaned and renovated throughout Pierce county under a \$11,659 allotment. This project, which is sponsored by the county commissioners, assures continuation of work under a previous project. The program calls for cleaning walls, woodwork, furniture, and small equipment; and cleaning, washing and repairing furnishings such as curtains, draperies and upholstery.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
208 ALASKA BUILDING  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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WPA funds totaling \$92,803 were announced for five eastern Washington projects, yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, who said that the funds would all be released beginning early next week.

City-wide improvement of streets and alleys at Pasco will be done with a \$61,942 allocation, said Abel, and this project will include parking strips throughout the city. Work will consist principally in grading, surfacing, constructing curbs and gutters and all details connected with general improvement. The city will provide \$18,766 for materials and rental of construction equipment.

Grounds and recreational improvements at Mead Union High School will feature new tennis and handball courts, and a water system. This project calls for \$11,297 and will be completed by the middle of February, according to present plans. Local school authorities have pledged an additional \$3,010.

The Grace Campbell Memorial Museum building at Spokane will undergo complete renovation with \$5,660 in WPA funds. Work includes new electrical and plumbing facilities, painting, display cabinet construction and many detailed repair jobs. The city requirements for materials will exceed the WPA allocation, running more than \$6,300, said Abel.

Under the sponsorship of the Chelan county commissioners, WPA workers will repair and renovate contributed clothing, shoes, bedding, furniture and toys, through a \$11,924 Federal allocation. The products will be distributed free to needy.

A four months job of wrecking and salvaging the material of an old school building in District No. 46, Wenatchee, will be completed under a supplemental allocation of \$1,980. Previous work was done at the location for the improvement of grounds around a new school building .

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Heading the list of four WPA projects aggregating \$361,367, announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, for northwest counties, is a \$172,214 streets improvement program for Port Townsend, to begin Monday.

Kent grade school grounds will require \$6,089; school grounds of the school in District No. 115, northeast of Everett, will get \$5,425, and Edmonds streets, \$9,744.

All projects will begin within two weeks.

The Port Townsend improvement will include reshaping, grading, draining and surfacing the streets, building and repairing seawalls, laying curbs, and sidewalks. Incidental work, such as ditching and grading parking strips, also, are schedule items on the project, which is expected to operate for twelve months. The city has pledged funds for materials, totaling \$58,005.

Two months will be needed to do the grubbing, leveling, landscaping and excavating at the Kent school, said Abel, as well as for the laying of drain tile and building of a playshed. Project workers will demolish an old gymnasium and salvage the materials as much as possible.

The school near Everett will get new foundations, reshingling and general repairing, while the grounds will be extensively graded, drained and landscaped. For this work local school authorities have agreed to add \$1,394.95 for materials.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

NOVEMBER 14, 1938



A \$453,263 nation-wide WPA project has been launched to collect building and construction data for the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the survey will start immediately in Washington with an initial \$1,800, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator. Cities covered will be limited to those representing typical urban areas in the various population classifications over 10,000.

Four research workers have been assigned from the WPA rolls to begin in Seattle and two in Tacoma on the collection of data on building permits, by type of buildings, for years previous to 1920. Assignments will be given as rapidly as arrangements can be made at Spokane, Vancouver, Olympia and possibly Yakima and Wenatchee, Abel declared. Other phases of the project include collection of data on building permits, by type of material and by cost groups, for the year 1936 to 1938; obtaining of information on the number of dwelling units provided in nonincorporated areas within metropolitan districts of all cities having a population of 50,000 or over, and the gathering of information from which to correlate selling prices of residential buildings with permit valuations.

Abel said the data would be incorporated into the records of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to augment that Department of Labor agency's extensive information on residential housing, construction, sales and valuations obtained throughout the nation. The WPA project is scheduled for completion in approximately six months, he stated.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
208 ALASKA BUILDING  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 15, 1938



PR-645

In response to a nation-wide demand for information on the works being produced by the WPA Federal Writers' Project, a catalog was issued this week on the American Guide Series, principal undertaking of a national character, according to Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator. The catalog lists 152 publications, including 23 State Guides, which have been published or are now on the press.

Abel said there are 25 other State Guides, nearly completed, including a volume on Washington under production at the writing project quarters, 102 Chamber of Commerce Building, Seattle.

The 31 page catalog was prepared by the Washington, D. C. staff of the Federal Writers' Project, on heavy enameled paper with numerous photographic illustrations of various published guides. Abel said each state will be represented by a guide as well as Alaska, Puerto Rico and Hawaii. By-products have been guides to principal cities and towns, important national roadways; books on nationalities, folklore, history and special subjects peculiar to certain localities.

Volumes listed include "The Almanac For New Yorkers," "American Stuff," comprising two books of off-time contributions of writers; "Birds of the World," "Cape Cod Pilot," "Flax in Oregon," "The Hopi," covering Arizona Indians; "The Idaho Encyclopedia," "Italians of New York," "Origins of Utah Place Names," "The Swedes and Finns in New Jersey;" and "Wisconsin Indian Lore."

"These works should prove an important addition to the shelves of the country's libraries, schools, and of persons interested in source material of the American scene," observed Abel, and stated that additional information may be obtained by writing the Federal Writers' Project at Seattle or at 1734 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, D. C.

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NOVEMBER 15, 1938



More than 2,400 men and women left the WPA for private employment in Washington, between September 11 and October 10, and an additional 2,481 were absorbed by other Federal agencies on work relief programs, Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, announced today.

Abel said, "We are happy to announce that this substantial movement of workers away from WPA if continued will enable us to conserve our funds, without drastic payroll reductions, until Congress can provide additional appropriations.

Other Federal agencies in Washington, which obtain relief funds under separate governmental appropriations and have employed WPA workers include the Bremerton Navy Yard; the Sand Point Naval Air Base; the Army at Fort Lewis, McChord Field, Vancouver Barracks and Fort George Wright; the Coast Guard; the Department of Fisheries; the Forest Service, and the National Park Service.

Although figures are not yet available on the last 30 days, Abel said there has been a pronounced upturn in the number leaving the national WPA rolls, which, he said, is definite proof that unemployed are eager for jobs and are not content with work relief when other employment becomes available.

Aubrey Williams, Acting National Administrator, said that 173,202 persons voluntarily left their WPA jobs during September.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

NOVEMBER 15, 1938



Seattle is slated to have the last word in efficient fire alarm protection.

WPA allotments totaling \$12,580 were announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, for a "white collar" professional and clerical project to prepare a new revised set of records, files, drawings and maps concerned with the operation of the Seattle Fire Alarm System, and to collect data needed to speed up transmission and receipt of signals.

A field survey will be made to inspect instruments in fire alarm headquarters, Fremont sub-station, 35 fire stations and various other buildings, said Abel. All fire alarm instruments, numbering more than 350, will be checked, including punch tape registers, take-up reels, and gongs. More than 1,130 street fire alarm boxes, located throughout the 70 square miles of the incorporated area, will be inspected.

Abel declared all data will be classified and transcribed to an efficient new card index system which will show such information as location, date purchased, date installed, cost, type and date last painted. Officials of the Seattle Fire Department state the results of the WPA project will greatly speed up the efficiency of the alarm system, resulting in decreased fire loss and increased safety. No adequate records have been available before, and most facts have been missing or out-dated.

The city will provide \$4,915.93 for materials and equipment rentals, and will maintain the WPA project, slated for completion in ten months.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 17, 1938

PR-648



Approximately 200 representatives of state and local education and recreation bodies and WPA state directors in this field gathered yesterday in Washington, D. C., for a four-day conference to plan and integrate their work for the coming year.

This is the first time that state leaders of the two programs have been brought together at a single conference, said Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator who disclosed that Washington is being represented by Wallace Kelso, WPA State Director of the division of education and recreation and William Post, assistant director in charge of recreational activities.

A highlight of the conference, which was called by National Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, will be a joint session Friday afternoon at which Mrs. Roosevelt will act as chairman. All meetings of both groups as well as joint sessions will be held to evaluate the work of the two programs to date and plan more adequate schedules for the coming year. Abel said emphasis will be given by the education section to discovering means for greater occupational training for the unemployed, particularly those on WPA, so that they will be better prepared to take jobs in private employment. Another topic of importance will be the greater development of classes in traffic safety.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 Alaska Building

Seattle, Washington

BH

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 17, 1938

PR-649



Two Pierce County WPA projects were announced yesterday, by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, to start the day after Thanksgiving with funds totalling \$46,439. Puyallup park improvements will require \$41,128 and drainage work in District No. 21, near Tacoma, calls for \$5,311.

The park project will include clearing, grubbing, grading, leveling, graveling, building a caretaker's cabin, and erecting a community kitchen. There will also be new rest rooms, a rock garden, modern septic tanks, cabins and decorative entrances, as well as extensive landscaping. The city has promised to invest \$10,173 additional funds in the work, for materials and equipment rentals.

Drainage work covers the clearing of brush, roots and debris. Drainage channels of Wapato Creek will be widened and deepened and a flume and pipe will be installed. The district plans to contribute \$1,149.40 toward completion of the project.

Both WPA undertakings will be completed late in February, Abel said.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

BE





Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, announced his acceptance yesterday of an ~~urgent~~ invitation by the Hoquiam city park board, to present the new Hoquiam Athletic Field to the city, Thanksgiving Day, in dedication ceremonies marking completion of this main unit of extensive WPA recreational improvements in the Grays Harbor city, totaling more than \$94,900 in Federal funds.

Other prominent state and local officials will participate in the short ceremonial presentation, scheduled for one p.m., just prior to the kick-off in the annual tilt between the time-honored Hoquiam and Aberdeen high school football rivals.

Abel said WPA had invested approximately \$50,000 to date on the modernly designed and much needed Hoquiam recreational center, and that the athletic field represented the last word in up-to-date design and workmanship for outdoor events in a city of this size.

With the cooperation and energy of many civic-minded bodies of the district, funds were raised and pledged to assist the city in obligating a sponsor's contribution of \$54,493.43 for the local share of the project. This money is used to purchase materials and rent necessary construction equipment.

The playfield, at 28th and Queets, is 725 feet long and 450 feet wide, said Abel, with a turf football field properly crowned to supply adequate drainage in one of the heaviest rainfall areas of the United States. The new grandstand is 40 by 1,000 feet. When the entire project is completed there will be flood lighting, tennis courts, adequate playground equipment, two and a half acres of picnic grounds, two soft ball fields, bowling green, two score boards, soft ball court bleachers, playfield backstops, community kitchen, archery ranges, wading pools, modern rest rooms and modern shower and dressing room facilities for athletic participants.

Park board members anticipate that the opening of the new field will see the biggest attendance in the history of Hoquiam, based on the fact that it is the principal event of the year and the high pitch of local enthusiasm over the long-needed recreational center.

Approximately \$40,000 have been invested by WPA to improve irrigation facilities 651  
in the Green Acres district of Spokane county since the project started three years  
ago, Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, said yesterday, and additional  
new allotments will boost this total to more than \$81,500.

Another proposed \$9,104 project, to improve a mile and a half of irrigation  
canal, is now waiting for Presidential approval at Washington, D. C., Abel said. Four  
projects have been completed with WPA expenditures totaling \$32,050.26, to modernize  
the entire system of the area, dig new flumes, clean and widen silt-filled and caved  
in old ditches and convert rotted wooden channels into modern, permanent concrete  
improvements.

Two projects are now operating. A \$6,288 allocation from Federal funds is  
providing WPA workers for regrading and lining channels with concrete in Spokane  
County Irrigation District No. 5, and a \$43,210 project recently started in District  
No. 10, two miles north of Green Acres.

Most of the old ditches and canals were more than 15 years old, unlined, or of  
rotted wood. There was extensive impediment to flow due to seepage, gravel bars,  
sediments and rank growth of weeds, willows and underbrush. Finances of the district  
did not permit of the improvements without WPA assistance, Abel said, but with it,  
local authorities were able to provide needed materials and money for equipment  
rentals.

The first project, completed in 1936, called for \$10,887.27 in WPA funds, and  
resulted in more than 2,000 cubic yards of trenching, 1,400 feet of back-filling and  
the dismantling of 1,400 feet of old flume. Workers in 1937 regraded and finished  
23,200 feet of dirt canals six feet wide, lined them with concrete and installed 100  
weirs. Approximately 1,500 persons in District No. 10 benefited from reconstruction  
of 800 feet of main flumes. More than 980 feet of old flume was removed, 660 cubic  
yards of solid rock excavated and 100 feet of new concrete flume layed.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
208 ALASKA BUILDING  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



Continuance of employment on many projects now under way in Washington was assured yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, with the announcement of \$2,530,229 in federal funds to be released before December 6. Plans are also being made, Abel said, with part of the money, to start new projects and absorb the men and women engaged on programs nearing completion, wherever it is possible.

The largest allotment this month goes to Whatcom county, to provide \$1,553,618 for the construction and improvement of roads, throughout the district. As rapidly as certain units of road work are completed others are started, said Abel. Second largest allocation, \$544,516, will be used to develop a new county park and recreational center near Enumclaw. For flood and erosion control at the Nooksack River, \$161,330 in WPA funds have been set up to continue the work in Whatcom County. The county has pledged an additional \$378,986 for the roads and \$53,505.69 for the flood control. Lynden sewer construction will take nine months and \$38,986 from WPA. Sidewalks for West Holly Street, Bellingham call for \$7,774.

Hot school lunches for needy children in Jefferson county will be prepared by WPA women under an \$8,508 allocation. In addition to the big recreational park work near Enumclaw, the city will get drainage improvements with \$8,341 from WPA. Other King county projects will be Seattle sewers, 12th Avenue South and Roxbury, \$54,615; a new gymnasium at East Seattle grade school Mercer Island, \$14,436, and buildings and grounds improvements at the Rose Hill grade school, near Kirkland, \$5,692.

Eastern Washington projects announced by Abel are sidewalk construction at Dayton, \$36,177; and new or extended water systems with \$18,929 for Quincy, \$13,395 for Okanogan, and \$794 for school use at Plain.

WPA will lay concrete, wood and cinder sidewalks in various sections of Tacoma with \$36,853. Improvements at Aberdeen school buildings and grounds will continue with \$13,928. And a clerical staff at Vancouver will prepare new indexes and files for the Clark county-city health department. Sponsors of all projects provide funds for materials.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 22, 1938

PR-653



Five well-known players from the Los Angeles unit of the WPA Federal Theatre Project arrived in Seattle yesterday to augment the white contingent now in its third year as a theatrical producer in Washington, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator. The three men and two women, comprising the party, were chosen from the pick of 1,200 actors in Los Angeles, for the development of an additional acting troupe and provide road showings in the smaller towns of the state.

The group consisted of Winifred Greenwood, Jan Norman, a former Tacoma resident, King James, John Dunbar and Richard Glyer. Miss Greenwood is a veteran of the stage and screen both, having played with Wallace Reid, Elsie Ferguson, Mary Pickford and Mary Miles Minter. The Los Angeles actors are on "loan" to Washington for six months.

More than 100 are now employed on the project in this state, said Abel, half of which are actors and the others stage hands, custodians and office force. With the additional leading players plans are under way to alternate white units on the road and in Seattle presentations at the Metropolitan Theatre. The first white production of the winter season will be Dr. George Savage's play: "See How They Run," which will open at the Metropolitan December 5, for a week's run with two matinees. All five new players will take parts in the production, which was staged with a previous successful run of several weeks at the Federal Theatre on Rainier Avenue, Seattle. Dr. Savage is a member of the University of Washington faculty.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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November 29, 1938  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE



PR-654

Special cause for Thanksgiving was felt this year by more than 400 blind residents of Washington who are able to enjoy public library services with the assistance of WPA professional and clerical workers, according to Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator.

Books and periodicals in Braille are read by approximately 200 sightless beneficiaries of this free service, while the other half received talking book records which are played on special machines loaned through the United States Library of Congress.

The Seattle central library has been designated by the Library of Congress as the state distributor of the records, said Abel, and the WPA staff arranges the files, mails out the books and talking records, and rearranges them upon return, for use on the next call. The books and records as well as the machines are mailed, with free service by the Post Office Department, to all blind recipients.

Fifty-three WPA workers are now engaged in the downtown and 10 branch libraries of Seattle, said Abel, and more than 225 are assisting in library services throughout the state. Approximately 125 towns, villages and school districts receive the assistance under sponsorship of the State Library and the co-sponsorship of local library boards.

Service for the blind and shut-ins and the cataloging, indexing and repairing of books have been carried on with WPA workers for three years. They received recent assurance of continuance from Abel through announcement of additional state-wide WPA allotments totalling \$152,000.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

BH

Two floating construction camps to accommodate more than 50 men each, will be erected by WPA on scows as part of the housing facilities planned to handle approximately 3,000 men on the huge WPA clearing project for the future lake bed above Grand Coulee dam, it was announced today by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator.

The camps will be complete housing units with barracks, kitchens and dining halls, said Abel. They will be towed to any part of the rising 151 mile lake by the 64 foot diesel-powered boat now being built on the east bank of the forebay immediately above the dam. Two six-hour shifts of WPA ship-builders have the hull 80 per cent completed. Engine beds are installed and the two 100-horsepower diesel motors will be placed this week.

The floating camp barges were approved Saturday by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, sponsoring the ten million dollar WPA clearing project, and Abel said work would begin as soon as materials are available.

More than 130 men were assigned Friday to rush construction on the 350 man camp at Lincoln, first of eight or ten scheduled for erection on the project. The program is being speeded up to keep pace with the rising lake, said Abel. Already the backwater of the dam has climbed 30 feet and now reaches a point five miles upstream. Assuming that flood seasons, weather and other conditions are available and work scheduled on the dam are met, engineers estimate that by next June the water will be backed up to Keller, a distance of 20 miles. Keller is one of ten towns which will be entirely inundated when the lake is finally filled.

Inspection of the camp yesterday indicated completion of the substructures construction for buildings, excavation of trenches for sewer and water lines, erection of power plant, and side panels for the mess hall, foreman's bunkhouse and one of the barracks. The camp site is near the junction of the Spokane and Columbia rivers.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR-656

NOVEMBER 29, 1938



More than 400 persons attend classes each week at the WPA sponsored Spokane Art Center, and 600 others are on the waiting list for instruction in all branches of fine art, it was announced yesterday by R. B. Inverarity, state director of the Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration.

Although the Art Center formally opened only two months ago today, the opportunities for free instruction by widely-known eastern sculptors, artists and designers has attracted new hundreds each week, said Inverarity. Seventy-five per cent are adults, who learn to work with the various mediums of art under special guidance. From 75 to 125 persons daily visit the gallery sections to view the exhibits.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON





The WPA has opened the fourth of its Household Demonstration projects in Washington for the training of efficient women domestic employees, at 2227 Rucker Avenue, Everett, and 22 girls are now enrolled for the initial three months course, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator.

All phases of household training will be carried on in the three-story 12 room frame dwelling which Abel said was chosen for its desirable district and accommodations. Similar projects are operating successfully at Spokane, Tacoma and Seattle.

Courses are given by four senior demonstrators with a university home economics graduate as supervisor. Instruction covers five divisions: food preparation, table service and household management, laundering and home care. Household management includes details in buying and the planning of time schedules.

Abel said the girls are chosen carefully from lists of those certified by the State Department of Social Security as eligible for WPA and the National Youth Administration. A few young women who are not certified but who are in need of training to obtain a job, may enroll as trainees without compensation, if recommended by a recognized welfare agency.

"Approximately 180 girls are now satisfactorily placed in private employment after having received this training", said Abel, "and at wages and standards set by local committees from representative women's organizations."

Most of the girls are placed through the Washington State Employment Service, with offices in principal cities, but many are placed directly from the projects, according to Abel.

First of the household service demonstration projects was opened by WPA more than a year ago at East 217 Boone Street, Spokane. Early this year a similar project was opened at Tacoma and now operates at 3802 North 38th Street. The Seattle unit, at 101 Madrona Place North, which has operated several months, served luncheon to Mrs. Roosevelt March 22, and to Harry Hopkins, National WPA Administrator, September 17.

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Don G. Abel, State Works Progress Administrator announced today that due to the rapid depletion of WPA funds he has been ordered to immediately remove 5,000 employees from WPA rolls. The order affects single persons who will be rotated in employment each 30 days insofar as present and future funds permit, and those persons who are eligible for social security benefits.

Acting on instructions from Washington, D. C., Abel said 500 persons now employed on WPA, who are eligible for Old Age Assistance and more than 1,000 eligibles for Aid to Dependent Children, would be required to apply to the State Department of Social Security for their social security benefits.

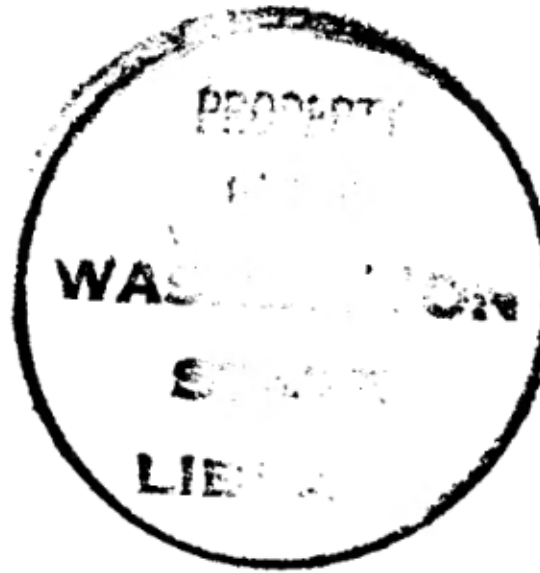
"The WPA in this State has been employing a peak load during the year," Abel said, "and the burden has been excessively heavy due in part to the great number of persons remaining on WPA payrolls when they should have been receiving social security benefits, and who cannot now be given employment because of the limited funds available."

Abel pointed out that the Federal Social Security Act provided for matching funds with appropriations by the State Legislature, to care for eligibles under the Act.

In order to give employment to people with the greatest number of dependents, only single persons would be affected in making up the balance of the necessary reductions, said the State Administrator. Younger single persons without dependents will be scheduled for a 30-day lay-off, after which they will be reassigned, and others released for a like period.

Single women over 45 years of age will not be affected and assurance was given that all employees of WPA who leave for private employment or by reason of sickness will be reassigned if they return within six months and are found to be still in need.

Between 45 and 53 thousand employees have been carried on WPA in Washington since last March, Abel said, "The anticipated absorption of workers in private employment has not materialized in sufficient volume to permit our continuing without these reductions for the rest of the fiscal year. The order was dictated by Washington, D. C., because of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1938, which required that WPA funds be so apportioned and administered, over the first eight months of the fiscal year, i.e., July 1938 through February 1939 as to constitute the total amount furnished to the WPA during that period.



Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, yesterday announced the opening or continuance of ten projects for sewer, water and irrigation construction, with allotments totaling \$295,648 and directly benefiting seven counties of Washington.

New water mains requiring about 160 men for a year, will be placed four and a half miles east of Vancouver. For this work Federal funds totaling \$110,628 will be augmented by the city's \$51,463 for materials. About 15,000 residents are expected to benefit from the completed project, which will include a new overflow tank, buildings at the source springs, pump and reservoir control station.

Enlargement of the Kent Water System, an eight months job will cost WPA \$36,153 and the city \$21,120. Principal work will be done South of Guilberson Street and West of Van De Vanter Avenue, benefiting 3,000 residents. Just north of Seattle on 30th Avenue Northeast, between 65th Street and East Seventieth Street a \$13,388 allotment will be invested in sanitary sewers. The county pledges \$3,083.

A \$26,295 WPA allocation will continue Yakima water and irrigation construction. Work will be done in the area bounded by West Chestnut Street, Tieton Drive, Stanley Boulevard and Hillcrest Avenue. City storm sewers on Naches Avenue, Race Street, South 8th Street, Summitview Avenue and Custer Avenue will be laid with \$25,519 from WPA; the city will appropriate an additional \$25,777 for the two projects. The Selah water system will be modernized with new mains and fire hydrants through a \$37,445 WPA appropriation, and city materials worth \$12,591.

Rip-rapping and filling for canal bank protection in the Richland Irrigation District, 12 miles northwest of Richland will be done with \$28,557 in Federal funds. Engineers say it will take a year to complete the work.

Ellensburg sewer extensions call for \$11,694 from WPA and \$2,462 from the city. Operations will be confined to the area bounded by Fourth Street, the city limits on the east, Capitol Street and Popular Street. East Wenatchee sewers will need \$5,319 Federal funds and \$1,406 City funds; and Lind water mains \$650 WPA funds to match the city's contribution of \$375.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 9, 1938

PR-660



Under the sponsorship of the University of Washington department of physical education, WPA recreational leaders will continue supervision and coordination of recreational activities throughout the state until June 30, 1939, under federal allotments totaling \$922,500, it was announced today by Don G. Abel, State Works Progress Administrator.

Abel said the allotment would carry on the state-wide program after December 16 and that the schedule calls for closer attention to the coordination of schedules for games, sports, arts, crafts, hobby clubs, music, dramatics and social activities. More than 840 recreational leaders assist in the direction of activities for 177,300 average weekly participation and attendance. Of this number 97,700 are under 16 years of age.

The University acts only in an advisory capacity, and co-sponsors in each community, such as school boards, city councils, park departments and county commissioners, have pledged an additional total of \$200,000 to provide necessary equipment and materials for the WPA recreational program, said Abel.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 Alaska Building

Seattle, Washington





Vancouver- The new tool supply project of the WPA will have quarters in the concrete warehouse and garage recently completed. This project, which will provide employment for about 30 skilled tool dressers, saw filers, painters and mechanics will service the many thousands of hand tools in use by WPA workers in the three southwest counties of Washington.

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Cosmopolis- WPA workers, in placing acoustic and insulation board on ceiling and walls, and placing plywood on lower halves of the school gymnasium walls, with varigated patterns on upper halves, are following out plans which have been used with success on several WPA school projects in the state. Local officials say the acoustics of the gymnasium will be greatly improved for combination gym and auditorium purposes, games, meetings and social affairs.

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Port Angeles- Workers preparing hot lunches for school children, in conjunction with the WPA and the Joyce Parent-teacher's association have revealed that a check of grade school children indicates that one third are under weight. To alleviate this condition as far as possible the WPA is now assisting in the operation of 22 hot lunch projects, with 184 units serving 16,286 children.

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Tacoma - WPA road construction and repair projects sponsored by county commissioners often reveal lack of clear title to old established secondary roads, and a recent project for white collar workers include an assessor's project for Pierce county, which provides \$13,488 to prepare new plat maps for indicating location of roads and right of way plans for future road improvements.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 Alaska Building      Seattle, Washington

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Ten allotments totaling \$117,237 for "white collar" clerical and professional WPA projects were announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator for both state-wide undertakings and local programs.

A WPA professional staff, under a \$43,548 allocation, will assist the University of Washington in a year's study of student mental achievements from various school subjects in the state.

WPA surveying crews in Pierce county will locate and restore lost or obliterated corners of sections and subdivisions of sections and place markers through \$24,852 in federal and \$7,630 in county funds. The entire job will take a year.

Four projects involve preparing and recording data for new or revised indexes. In the preparation of up-to-date real estate records for Chelan County's assessor \$4,388 from WPA will continue a project to prepare new plat and section maps from older records at Wenatchee. The assessor pledges \$1,950 for the work. To trace maps from field sheets and classify and record information gathered by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Spokane, a project is scheduled for six months with \$2,244.

The Tacoma Police Department, with \$3,945 from WPA, will get a supplementary file of lost and stolen articles. Goldendale city records will have a complete new filing and renovating with \$2,280. Fort Lewis Library services will be organized and operated for a year with \$6,948, and blind and shut-ins of Grays Harbor county will enjoy reading services by qualified needy through \$8,184 WPA funds. Beginning Thursday, King County schools will get matron service in girls' rest rooms, under \$14,566. Repairing contributed clothing in Kittitas county calls for \$6,332.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 Alaska Building

Seattle, Washington

BH

In answer to appeals for additional WPA assistance needed for school buildings and ground improvements in various localities of nine Washington counties, Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, today announced eleven allocations amounting to \$161,094 for that type of work to begin this month. Lunch rooms, athletic facilities, water systems and modernization are notable features of the program.

One of the principal projects is the improvement of Blaine's high school building and grounds with WPA funds totaling \$51,114 and District No. 330 pledges of \$14,413.67 for materials. Plans include a new manual training addition and grandstand for the athletic field.

A \$33,708 allocation will complete the Meridian grade school, four miles east of Kent, bringing total WPA assistance on this work to more than \$100,000.

At the Pack Demonstration Forest of the University of Washington, near La Grande, WPA crews plan to build septic tanks, water system, and new roads and plant trees, with \$31,839 together with \$8,525.32 from the University.

The old high school at Sumner will be torn down and high school and grade school grounds landscaped. Salvaged materials will provide many needed facilities, Abel said. Similar demolishing and salvaging work will be done at Carbonado with \$5,001. With a \$10,000 fund, relief crews will modernize both buildings and grounds at Morton high school, and Mineral, Randle and Packwood grade schools in Consolidated District #214, Lewis county, and \$13,928 goes for approximately the same kind of work on the Wishakah Valley School, 12 miles north of Aberdeen.

Fixing up the Sylvandale and Willapa grade school buildings, Pacific county, will take \$6,068 from WPA and \$2,541.62 from local school authorities. Razing or remodeling eight buildings and providing gymnasiums, lunch rooms and other modern conveniences is part of the renovating schedule. A teacher's cottage will be built with \$1,370 from WPA in District #60 southeast of Machias in Snohomish county, while the Fairview school near Port Angeles is slated for a new lunch room with \$1,332. New floors and badly needed partitions will be built by WPA with \$586 in the Colfax grade school.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 13, 1938

PR-664



Approximately \$750,000 in WPA payroll checks will be mailed to project workers of Washington before Christmas, at least five days ahead of regular schedule, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator. Every one of the 47,700 workers will receive a check.

"This advance issuance of checks, to give the project workers maximum assistance for a happy Christmas and stimulate business, is made possible through the crowding in of additional working hours for early completion of the payroll period," Abel said. "Instead of working the usual limited hours and days, full work weeks and days will be the rule."

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
208 ALASKA BUILDING  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON





665

Among the seven wonders of the Pacific Northwest, Seattle now boasts it has the only legless airplane flyer in the world.

George Copping, supervising clerk on the Works Progress Administration here, took his first solo flight Sunday, despite amputation of both legs below the knee several years ago, and the necessity of earning flying instructions as hanger handyman at odd hours, after working at his regular job on WPA.

Long continuous practice in the application of his mechanical legs to the foot controls, finally enabled him to operate the plane, though how he does it is still a mystery to his instructor, Lana K. Kurtzer, owner of a flying service at the foot of Lake Union.

Copping, who was in the United States Marine Hospital here, from December 1933 to June 1935, formerly was a sailor on a Puget Sound ferryboat. Infection as an aftermath of frozen feet, suffered several years before at Yellowstone Park, required the amputations. When the patient asked the doctor what he considered possible for him to do as a vacation, Copping jokingly was told that the most impossible would be to fly an airplane; and seriously some inside desk work if he was lucky enough to get it.

"From the moment I was determined to do that impossible thing," said Copping, "and I've done it, thanks to the opportunity I've had to make a living meanwhile on WPA, and for the instruction Mr. Kurtzer so generously and patiently has given me."

Copping told Don G. Abel, State Works Progress Administrator, who was at the hanger to congratulate the unusual pilot, that it took 18 months to learn to walk on the mechanical legs without a cane. It is the legless flyer's ambition now to obtain a private flying license by next summer and then try to obtain employment as a demonstrating pilot for some manufacturer of light airplanes.

Abel assured Copping, who has a wife, three children and two other dependents, that WPA would continue to do everything possible to make his ambition a reality.





Completion of a \$33,500 grade school gymnasium for Cosmopolis was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, who said the 65 by 87 foot frame structure would be formally presented to local city officials in a dedication ceremony tomorrow evening.

The project, which represents a WPA investment of \$21,410, and the balance from local funds, is described by engineers as one of the finest grade school gyms in the state, said Abel, and will be ready for use January 1. It is one story, seats 350 spectators in bleachers, and has some of the latest innovations and facilities for providing maximum enjoyment by participants in gymnastic events of the community, including maple floors, showers, dressing rooms and lockers.

Among dignitaries to participate at the ceremonies, in addition to WPA officials, will be members of the Cosmopolis school board, Charles Haynes, designer of the building, and representatives of the city, county and state. The local share of the cost was financed with special, locally voted levies.

Plans are reported to be in the making for development of a large recreation center and park at Cosmopolis, and announcement of this will be made at the dedication, say city officials.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
208 ALASKA BUILDING  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



December this year has more than one important day in bright red letters for Elizabeth Marion, 21 year old material clerk in the WPA sewing room project at Spokane, who yesterday informed Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator that she has just sold her first full length novel, and has contracted with the same eastern publishers for the second which she has started to write.

Miss Marion told Mr. Abel she was grateful for her opportunity to make a security wage on WPA while making her determined struggle during off-time hours to become an authoress, and now looks forward to being able to leave her project job in a very short time.

Miss Marion, who is the oldest of seven children, said her first novel, "The Shadows Gather 'Round Me," is scheduled for publication in April, and has its locale in the Palouse country of eastern Washington, near Fairfield, where she was born and was graduated from high school, in 1933.

"I have been trying to write short stories since the time I entered eighth grade, with rejection slips my only reward until now," said the new young novelist. "Writing does not seem like work because I write about something I know so well."

With advance royalty rights already in her possession, and more due when the book is published, Miss Marion is planning to attend the University of Chicago next fall.

When asked what the subject of her next novel would be, the jubilant WPA material clerk replied that "one can't write about everything one doesn't know about, —and all I know is life on a small Palouse wheat farm."

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WPA Adult education and recreation groups in the music division throughout the state will stage hundreds of Christmas chorals, cantatas, festivals and caroling expeditions in true holiday style and costuming, Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, said yesterday.

In both urban and rural areas of Washington, WPA music and recreation leaders are directing the Christmas activities for churches, lodges, service clubs, young men's and women's clubs and granges. Many of the organizations, said Abel, will send out "mobile units", in gayly decorated trucks, to present their programs repeatedly in out-of-way localities.

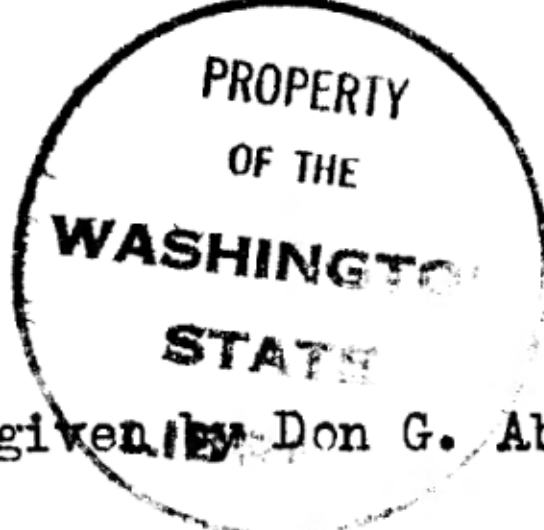
The holiday WPA program was launched in Seattle last night at two church programs. Twenty members of the Druzea business girls' Club, with Dorothy Bernier as soloist, presented the "Christmas Messiah", by Handel, before a capacity crowd of more than 300, at the Trinity Episcopal church parish house, Eighth Avenue and James Street. Fifty mixed voices staged the cantata, "A King is Given", at the Church of Latter Day Saints, Mormon, First North and Roy Street, after seven weeks of arduous training under experienced WPA music instructors.

Approximately 2,500 persons over 16 years of age attended WPA Adult Education music classes weekly during the past 12 months in Seattle, according to the State Administrator, and the coaching and instruction was given by 34 instructors. Everything in musical instruments from harmonica to symphony playing is offered, as well as all types of vocal classes. Abel said the Seattle "Y" Little Symphony is typical of the best in WPA orchestral work.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 18, 1938



PR-669  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Alaska Bldg., Seattle, Wash.

Indication was given by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, yesterday that the Snohomish county emergency landing field, would soon be enlarged and equipped as a major airport, with the announcement that Presidential approval of \$1,676,636 in new federal allotments for the project has been received.

Large scale operations will begin, Abel said, as soon after January 1st as county commissioners' sponsor matching funds of \$470,181 are available, regional WPA approval is received and final detailed study of the plans is completed by various affected aeronautical authorities.

More than \$561,000 has been expended to date on the air field, located about six miles south of Everett on a site selected as one of the most fog-free in Western Washington, and strategically located both for commercial and military purposes. WPA has just completed two projects on the field with federal expenditures of approximately a half million dollars, said Abel.

In addition to clearing 405 acres, grubbing 520 acres and major grading operations, several modern airport buildings and extensive facilities will be constructed. Largest structure will be a 242 by 184 foot hangar, of structural steel frame and trusses and corrugated asbestos-concrete sidewalls, estimated to cost more than \$205,823. An administration building, 60 by 120 feet, two stories and basement is slated to call for \$111,240. The building will have a signal tower, concrete floors and walls, tile partitions and completely equipped. Concrete paving, drainage installation and extension of field and runways, engineers estimate will require 2,578,000 cubic yards of excavation, 453,336 square yards of surfacing, and 78,000 square yards of paving. Part of the latest in airport facilities will be an efficient lighting system, to be installed at an estimated cost of \$83,453, said Abel.

The fog-free district, according to United States Army Corps observers, is one of the best for the purpose in the Pacific Northwest, due to the prevailing air currents from the Strait of Juan de Fuca, which meet those of Puget Sound at this point. About 640 acres have been purchased by the Snohomish county commissioners for the development, and previous WPA projects have cleared 115 acres, and surfaced 103 acres for an emergency landing field.

The landing field was used for the first time December 13 by a Seattle transport plane. When Pilot Bert Richie of the Northwest Airlines was advised in advance of fog conditions at Boeing Airport, in Seattle, he continued from Spokane to the new field, where he reported virtually unlimited visibility. Future plans of the company call for the use of the field as a regular alternate for Boeing Field, airlines officials said.

Abel also announced completion of the Olympia Municipal Airport, would be made immediately with a new WPA allocation of \$10,857. Work includes installing electrical facilities and markers, guard rails, and landscaping, as well as more grading. The capital city will provide materials costing \$2,327.15.

Stressing the airport construction and improvement program by WPA as a vital factor in national defence, Harry L. Hopkins, WPA Administrator for the nation, said today that additional airport projects recently approved by the President and now in operation would total more than \$16,000,000. WPA has operated extensive air field projects throughout the state including those at Sand Point Naval Air base, McChord Field, and Boeing Field.



Hundreds of Santa Claus helpers, through the Works Progress Administration, are rushing through last minute touches on thousands of rejuvenated toys and dolls, contributed by various welfare agencies for free distribution to children of needy Washington families, and the huge task will be completed in time for old Saint Nick's round of collections, Christmas Eve, according to Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, yesterday.

More than 18,000 men, women and children in 524 WPA crafts and visual arts classes are proving dexterous amateur modelers, plasters, painters, carpenters, cabinet makers and seamstresses in giving new life and color to battered, discarded children's trinkets gathered in 300 communities, said Abel.

Although the huge holiday attendance at these classes originally resulted from a desire to make new personal Christmas gifts, wholehearted cooperation has been given to the toy-remaking program, and nimble fingers are turning out virtually carloads of bewitching dolls, and vari-colored trains, wagons, engines, hobby horses and game sets to gladden eager youngsters and prove there really "is a Santa Claus."

A special WPA project with \$6,332 in federal funds, was set up throughout Kittitas county, at the request of the county commissioners to repair and renovate contributed toys and other household articles for free distribution to needy. The commissioners, as sponsors are providing an additional \$1,527 for materials. Several women on the Vancouver WPA sewing project have completed dresses for 300 dolls which were renovated by city firemen, and similar work is getting finishing touches at Centralia.

More than 1,500,000 toys and other gifts will go out this Christmas from Works Progress Administration work rooms to children throughout the nation, said National WPA Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, yesterday. Fifty thousand men and women from relief rolls have given weeks or months of work on special toy projects in practically every state.

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A chorus of 40 mixed voices from the WPA Federal Theatre Project, Seattle, will tour Christmas Eve in a gaily decorated bus to stage spirited ten minute holiday choral programs at 14 prominent locations throughout the city, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator.

Members of the choral group have temporarily deserted makeup kits and regular acting rolls for this one night stand of heralding in the Yuletide, from six to eleven o'clock, Abel said, adding that the success of the organization as shown in rehearsals may contribute to make it a permanent feature of the Federal Theatre community service. The talent is equally divided between the white and the colored groups.

All the chorals will be sung outdoors, beginning at St. Mary's School. The next stop will be at Pioneer Square, 6:30. Routing the bus will then bring the singers to the County-City Building, 6:45; Downtown Post Office steps, 7 o'clock; Fourth and Pike, 7:15; Fifth and Pike, 7:30; Plymouth Congregational Church, 7:45; First Presbyterian Church, 8 o'clock; First Methodist Episcopal Church, 8:15; St. James Cathedral, 8:40; Meany Hotel, 9:15; University Methodist Church, 9:30; Columbia City, 10:30; Rainier and Atlantic Streets, 11:00 o'clock.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



DECEMBER 22, 1938



WPA allocations totalling \$476,937 were announced today by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, to continue development and improvement of Everett parks. Three King county park projects, and one each for Stevenson and Bellingham bring new Federal funds for immediate development of recreational facilities to more than \$584,000.

Work at Everett, Abel stated, includes the clearing, grading and landscaping of various city-owned park areas. Crews from WPA will build culverts, retaining walls, guard rails, bridges, dams for decorative and erosion control purposes, benches, bath houses, caretakers' houses, comfort stations, community houses and several outdoor kitchens. New athletic facilities will include baseball diamonds, backstops, grandstands and amphitheater. Funds allotted for this work are scheduled for operation until July 1, 1939. The city will furnish materials totaling \$126,130.

One mile south of White Center, a Seattle suburb, WPA will build a park and recreational center covering two city blocks and include baseball diamond with bleachers, picnic grounds with outdoor kitchens, tennis court, comfort station, community clubhouse and parking areas. Five months will be required to complete the project, Abel said. King county matches WPA funds with \$24,334.

To continue improvements of Preston recreational facilities, started under a previous WPA project, \$18,799 in Federal funds have been allocated. Building tennis courts and handball courts and erecting necessary service buildings are numbered among the important items on this project.

At Victory Heights Park, just north of Seattle, WPA will erect a community club house with \$2,445 Federal funds and \$259 from King County. Another community building will be built at Stevenson with \$4,805 from WPA and \$589 from Skamania county. Continuance of Bellingham park improvements and recreational development will be done with \$15,654 added to the city contribution of \$6,366.74.



Residents of Seattle and visitors to the city do not have to dream of the exotic flowers of far places, for the aristocrats of blossoms can now be seen free in massed display of the Volunteer Park conservatory, the valuable results of patient, detailed efforts of WPA women, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator.

About 300 gorgeous Persivalliana, orchids to you, - are in full bloom, and 500 more of five varieties will follow in close seasonal succession, climaxing months of careful cultivation and expert handling by women assigned by WPA to assist the Seattle Park Board in the propagation of shrubs and plants.

Abel said a staff of nine or ten women from the relief rolls are working through WPA at the Volunteer Park Conservatory, under the direction of Chief Gardener Jacob Umlauff of the Seattle Park Department, attending to the growing of 10,000 orchid plants and other rare and choice flora. The project requires cleaning and controlling of scale on each orchid plant every three months, with water, a sponge and what appears to be an oversized tooth brush. Continuous transplanting operations take up a half hour to each pot. Licorice fern, commonly found on large maple trees in Washington is used to pack in around the plants, which Umlauff says are classed as pseudo-bulb growths.

The orchids are grown in a temperature of 60 to 62 degrees at night and as high as 85 degrees in daylight. Umlauff explained it is a popular fallacy that orchids are parasites or a fungus growth and that they grow only in tropic countries. Some forms of the orchid family, all of which are independent plants, are found all over the world except in the arctic and antarctic, with rare specimens up to the snow line of the Andes. Magnificent species hang from limbs of tropical jungle trees.

"It takes from five to seven years to grow an orchid from seedling to the blooming stage," said the Seattle gardener, "and there are sometimes two million seeds in one pod of the varieties we handle."

Abel said the women on this WPA project are becoming expert in the handling of the choicest plant life at this floral conservatory.



Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, today announced federal allocation of \$2,521,532 to improve 730 miles of south King County roads, starting January 21. This is the largest single allotment announced for King County projects during 1938 and will provide 12 months employment for 3,200 relief workers transferred from discontinuing and completed projects.

WPA engineers estimate the improvements planned under the huge allocation will directly benefit more than 250,000 King County residents, and will include subgrading and gravel surfacing of 100 miles of 20 foot roadway, placing 253,600 tons of asphaltic concrete on 200 miles; and distributing oil road mix on 430 miles of secondary roads.

The program also calls for 422,400 square feet of graveled sidewalks, 38,140 feet of guard rails; widening, clearing and straightening dangerous curves and intersections, and removing roadside hazards within the right-of-way on 530 miles of roads. The WPA crew will also place 12,000 highway markers and street signs. All the road improvements will be protected against erosion with carefully planned drainage systems. Culverts will be installed wherever necessary and bridges will be realigned and widened, said Abel.

Although WPA will finance 64 per cent of the huge project, the King County commissioners have pledged an additional \$1,414,179 for materials and rentals of construction equipment.

"The southern part of King county is rapidly increasing in population," Abel pointed out, "and this fact, together with a steady increase in the use of county roads makes this big improvement necessary. Drainage in this area has been very inadequate for the most part, and hard surfacing of most heavily travelled roads will facilitate handling of traffic, particularly at the summer peak."



Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, today announced that WPA during 1938 provided security wages for an average of 46,500 needy workers and invested approximately \$33,550,000 in federal funds for this purpose on hundreds of projects throughout the state.

Abel disclosed that these expenditures bring the total WPA investment to date in Washington to more than \$80,700,000. First disbursements were made for WPA projects in September 1935, with a total of more than three and a half million checks issued since then. With a heavier employment load in 1938, Abel said, WPA was able to accomplish a much larger program than ever before. Failure of private enterprise to hire as many from WPA as anticipated, made the employment problem as heavy during the summer and fall, that reductions were necessary early in December to meet budget requirements set by Congress.

A vast growth in Washington's developed assets has marked the WPA program. Abel disclosed that more than 5,700 miles of roads and streets have been improved and an additional 550 miles of new roads and streets constructed. Forming a veritable network of traffic facilities of economic and military importance, the road program also involved construction of 6,700 new culverts, 380 bridges built or reconditioned, and 3,000,000 feet of new drainage ditch and pipe installed.

Sanitation and water supply has been greatly improved, with approximately 325 miles of new water pipe and 170 miles of new sewers in place and six new sewage disposal plants completed. Rural areas have benefitted through installation of 11,600 individual sanitary units. Abel pointed out that one of the greatest contributions to Washington's health as well as enjoyment has been the huge WPA investment in statewide development of outdoor recreational facilities. In addition to construction of 65 athletic fields, 25 parks, 60 playgrounds and five new municipal golf courses, WPA has modernized or otherwise improved 103 athletic fields, 90 parks and 253 playgrounds. Work in this field also includes building 23 swimming and wading pools and 150 tennis courts.

Educational facilities have received great impetus through the program, said Abel. Brand new school construction includes those at Kirkland, Tracyton, Belfair, Clover Creek, Jovita, Big Lake, Sultan, Boston Harbor, Granger, Kennydale, Coalfield, Panther Lake and Meridian. Repairs and improvements have been made to 400 more schools.

"Important as these labor projects are proving, the extensive operations of the women's and professional workers are equally as valuable to Washington," said the State Administrator of WPA. "Since the program began, WPA has distributed 30,000,000 pounds of surplus foodstuffs to needy Washington families, saved serious curtailment of free public and school library opportunities through renovation and repair of 1,400,000

books, served 6,200,000 free hot school lunches to undernourished children, and produced approximately 3,100,000 garments and other articles for free distribution to persons in need."

Education and recreation, Abel said, have also received professional attention. About 840 recreational leaders train and direct activities for an average weekly participation and attendance of 177,600 enthusiastic Washingtonians, in a statewide program, covering arts and crafts, hobby clubs, music, dramatics, and social activities. Almost every community is working wholeheartedly in this WPA service. About 45,000 persons each week attend free adult education classes given throughout the state by 640 WPA instructors who cover almost every type of course desired. Pre-school youngsters, numbering more than 400 yearly, are cared for from nine to three o'clock in 12 nursery schools.

The majority of the WPA women worked on sewing projects, at 55 sewing rooms in 19 counties. More than 3,300 women made all types of cotton garments for men, women and children. About 420 women were housekeeping aides furnished free by WPA to assist in housework and care of children in needy homes where the homemaker was temporarily incapacitated. Free hot school lunches projects operated in 22 counties, providing 16,000 lunches daily to undernourished children. WPA women assisted by PTA and other interested women canned contributed foods for this purpose during summer months. Abel said other women's projects now operating include: rennovating old clothes, shoes and furniture collected and disbursed by sponsoring agencies; housecleaning and rennovating of public buildings; propagation of shrubs and seedlings for public parks, and providing county hospitals with extra helpers in all lines of unskilled assistance.

Research and survey projects are providing communities with valuable data which could not have been obtained without WPA assistance, while furnishing opportunities to utilize services of needy professional and clerical workers. Vast new outlets for Washington agricultural projects have been created through development and perfection of methods for quick freezing of foods, at the United States Frozen Pack Laboratory, Seattle, and for better berry wine yeast culture, at the University of Washington. WPA mineral surveys have brought new realization of the importance and location of Washington mining opportunities. This work, together with rapid WPA development of mine-to-market roads, makes the Works Program virtual "god-father" of mining development, according to Abel. A study of wood pulp and wood chemical industries is being carried on by WPA chemists, under university sponsorship. The aim is to work out methods of utilizing waste Washington forest products. Research for future electrical heating methods is being undertaken to keep pace with present rapid Washington hydro-electric development.

Abel said the largest "White Collar" WPA project in the United States is the Land Use Survey of King County, now nearing completion, after providing over two years work for an average of 600 men and women. Every piece of property in the county is being



checked, and thousands of improvements, unearthed through this project, have never before been on the tax rolls. Traffic surveys have resulted in faster, safer movement of city motor congestion. More than 200 classes in safe driving were attended by more than 40,000 Washington residents during 1938, effecting major reductions in accidents to both motorists and pedestrians.

More important accomplishment of WPA, said Abel, is the providing of security wages for the thousands of workers who would otherwise have been destitute, or whose morale, skills, usefulness and health would have been impaired or destroyed through the idle and un-American dole system. Both the white collar and labor projects, he said, would continue in 1939 on a maximum scale permitted by Congressional appropriations.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 3, 1938



PR-676

Announcement was made by the State WPA Office orders have been received from their Washington, D. C. Headquarters that because of the rapid depletion of funds, it will be necessary to immediately separate an additional 7500 workers from the WPA rolls in the State of Washington.

The curtailed January allotment of WPA funds for this State will also prevent the carrying out of previous plans for the return to work of almost 6000 workers laid off in December.

Former arrangements for the rotating of employment of single persons must now be abandoned because of the lack of sufficient funds.

Acting on instructions from Washington, D. C., persons over sixty-five years of age and persons eligible for aid to dependent children have been referred to the State Department of Social Security, and are now being released from the WPA employment rolls.

In addition it will be necessary to release all workers who have only their first citizenship papers, as required by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, and also the single persons.

It was pointed out that married men receive preference in WPA employment because of the larger number of persons who would be benefitted by the limited funds available. The national average being 4 persons to each family.

The total employment quota authorized for January 1939 in the State cannot exceed 41,250, it was stated.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

BH

The first boat to ply the 151 mile future lake above Coulee Dam will slide down the ways into the reservoir forebay, near the dam, tomorrow at 2 P.M. after being christened the "Paul Bunyan", by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, it was announced today by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Service office at Grand Coulee.

Launching ceremonies for the power barge, which will be used on the \$10,000,000 WPA lake-bed clearing project, will be traditionally he-man, Paul Bunyan style, according to F.A. Banks, chief of the Reclamation Bureau operations at the dam, sponsoring agency of the project. Banks explained that women are not permitted within the works area of the huge hydroelectric development. The 64 foot boat is powered by two 100 horsepower diesel engines and will carry accommodations for a skipper and crew of eight. It will be equipped to transport 300 men and heavy clearing machinery and winches to all parts of the rising lake.

The clearing project actually started Friday when a preliminary ax crew of more than 60 men began working down stream from the virtually completed 350-men WPA camp at Lincoln. Abel said today that final touches are being given to the 28 buildings of this camp, the first of ten of such camps to be erected throughout the clearing area and that the barracks are filling up.

He said that the project would eventually employ more than 3,000 men, drawn from other completed WPA projects in the state. Schedule operations will make it the largest WPA project in the nation.

Stumps, snags and all debris which might later threaten the dam or lake navigation, will be removed with the aid of the new boat. Its name was selected by Banks to honor appropriately the giant hero of many tall tales heard for generations among Pacific northwest loggers and river men.

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Clearing of the 151 mile future lake-bed of the Grand Coulee dam reservoir will be done by WPA crews under three classifications of work, depending upon the location, it was announced today by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator.

From the future lake shore, at the 1,290 foot elevation, down the lake-bed slopes to 40 feet lower elevation, all material of a combustible or buoyant nature must be entirely removed and burned, said Abel, to assure all shallow water areas freedom from dangerous obstructions to navigation. Old tree stumps, dead timber, snags, poles, posts, wooden buildings and brush must be entirely uprooted, pulled, grubbed or dismantled, stacked and burned. All non-combustible material, such as building foundations, walls and chimneys will be razed and deposited in nearby basements or depressions. All wire be coiled up and assembled with scrap metal for disposal or sale.

The territory included in the next 50 feet lower elevation will not come in for such stringent clearing. Operations to be known as Class "B", will be similar except that stumps and other standing combustible material may be either uprooted or cut off not more than six inches above the ground. For the rest of the area, down to the edge of the present river level of the Columbia, Class "C" clearing operations will prevail, permitting the cutting of trees two feet above the ground, and merely razing foundations, walls and chimneys. Ten towns will be removed.

All burning operations, Abel said, will be carried on in accordance with U.S. Forest Service regulations. The enormous clearing task will include covering 500 miles of shoreline of the future lake. About 3,000 WPA men will eventually be used in the work which got under way Friday with an initial crew of 60.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

BH



Assurance that extensive WPA park and recreational development will continue at Everett, was given yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator in announcing \$476,937 in immediate Federal allocations for the project. Five other allocations for grounds and recreational projects in Washington brought the total to more than \$537,500.

Everett city authorities have pledged an additional \$126,130.85 for the undertaking, which supersedes two other WPA projects for this development. Abel said this new allotment is intended to carry on the work until June 30, under the reduced employment quotas announced earlier this week as the result of instructions received from Washington, D. C. The project includes construction of caretakers' houses, comfort stations, shelters, outdoor kitchens, bear pen, grandstand, field house, tennis courts, drains, baseball diamonds, aviary pens, floral hall, amphitheatre and arbortorium.

Abel said indoor recreational facilities for Tracyton would include a new gymnasium for the grade school under construction by WPA. A \$29,341 allocation will be combined with \$6,173 from local school authorities.

Construction will begin this week on a swimming pool and bathhouse at Oakesdale, with \$11,225 from WPA and \$7,385 from the city. WPA engineers will rush construction in the hope of completing the project for use by the middle of summer, said Abel. The project will require installing a filtrator, plumbing and electrical facilities, laying pipes, placing framing, and laying bricks.

School grounds will be improved at the consolidated school in District No. 327, near Acme, through \$10,652 WPA assistance. A garage will be built also out of these funds. The district will provide \$4,023.91. Recreational facilities will be expended and modernized at the Phantom Lake Grade School, near Bollowue. The project, requiring \$6,190 in federal funds, will provide new tennis courts, a shelter building, and playfield equipment. School grounds improvements in Amens Addition, Kennewick, will be completed with \$3,173 and \$971 from the district.

To finance labor projects now under way or to open new activities under the reduced employment quotas, ordered earlier this week by Washington, D. C., Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, announced streets, roads and sidewalk construction allocations totalling \$2,289,837 for seven counties.

Heading the announcement was a \$1,607,501 allocation to continue road building and reconstruction throughout Snohomish County until June 30. Wherever possible crews, which have been employed on this work under a previous allotment, will continue operations in the same district, Abel said. Work will include sloping, cutting ditches, installing drainage facilities and building bulkheads, culverts and bridges. Snohomish county is pledged to an additional \$404,287 for the huge program of improving its traffic facilities.

For road improvements and construction throughout Commissioners' District No. 3, Kitsap County, WPA has allocated \$416,155, effective today. This project also is a continuation of an extensive program to widen, grade and surface secondary highways. Some sidewalk construction is included and the county is obligated to assist with \$173,389, for materials and construction equipment rentals. Present plans indicate more than 500 men will be employed until the end of June on this WPA project.

Garbage collectors, delivery boys and residents of Yakima who have struggled through narrow, rough alleys in many districts of the city, can look forward to substantial improvements in the situation, said Abel. Funds totalling \$118,600 from WPA is slated for use in immediate grading and leveling of alleys throughout the city, and will give employment to more than 250 men until about the first week in October. Yakima city authorities say they can provide an additional \$14,700.

New streets and general street improvements at Cosmopolis call for \$64,683 from WPA and \$37,645 from the city. Feature of the work will be substantial improvements to assist quick, safe movement of traffic through the main street from Aberdeen.

Pierce county is slated for two projects. For Tacoma sidewalk construction WPA is furnishing \$36,853. The work includes removing old sidewalks and dressing up parking strips. Abel said it is the first WPA project of its kind in the city. For Buckley streets \$7,215 has been allotted. The city will add \$1,611. Asotin county road construction will get \$28,836 from WPA to go with \$11,847. Sidewalk, alley and parking strip improvements at Redmond will be done with \$9,994 federal and \$1,960 local funds.

January 6, 1939  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR-681



Don G. Abel, Works Progress Administrator, today announced that he had approved a project calling for the rehabilitation of the Anacortes water system with \$59,792 in federal funds, and that the proposal has been sent to Washington, D. C., for final approval by the President.

The project proposal also pledges the city to an additional \$30,000 for materials and the rental of construction equipment, said Abel. Plans call for installations which would provide increased water service in areas of the city where old and smaller lines are no longer adequate. Local authorities are eager to have this work completed before a city wide project for street improvements becomes operative in this particular locality, and the city finances do not allow entire undertaking of the work.

About 20,000 cubic yards of trench excavation and backfill will be involved as well as the laying of 22,192 feet of six inch and 19,208 feet of eight inch water mains. Other items will include resetting 21 fire hydrants, installing 23 new fire hydrants, and making 400 temporary and 400 new service connections.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
208 Alaska Building  
Seattle, Washington





Eight new WPA allotments, totalling \$27,569, were announced today by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, for the construction, completion or remodeling of a wide variety of public buildings and grounds in seven Washington counties.

A \$5,821 fund was apportioned to continue general improvements at the Western Washington Experiment Station, near Puyallup. The state will provide an additional \$4,121 for materials and rental of construction equipment. Principal jobs will be the laying of water mains, replacing worn-out pavement, graveling roads and extensive planting and landscaping.

Hoquiam fire stations one and two will be remodeled with \$3,808 from WPA and \$1,270 from the city. Work includes installing partitions, ceilings, floors, foundations and new roofs and more windows.

Reconstruction and improvement of the transit shed at the wharf docks, Port of Olympia property, will be done with \$3,219. A WPA crew of about 25 men will enlarge the cold storage plant, install air ducts, and replace wharf piling, said Abel. Materials will be furnished by the Port under a city appropriation of \$2,765. The Tumwater city hall, under construction by WPA, will be completed with an additional \$2,712 in federal funds. About \$960 will provide sponsor contributions in necessary materials. The building is now about 70 per cent complete.

WPA painters will brighten up the City-County hospital at Dayton, under a \$1,592 allocation. A month's work remains to complete a frame livestock pavilion and improve adjacent grounds at Sunnyside, with \$1,411. The Deer Park Fairgrounds, Spokane county, will be surfaced and generally improved with \$7,825, and landscaping of the Clyde Rhodofer Library grounds, Sequim, will be accomplished with \$1,181.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

BH

January 10, 1939  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR-683



Completion of the ultra-modern, one-story reinforced concrete Kennydale grade school near Renton was assured yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, in announcing \$36,942 in additional federal funds effective for meeting payrolls on the project after January 23. Present plans call for completing the Class A structure before July 1.

Under a prior allocation of \$50,374 WPA erected the main structure, 128 by 203 feet, which was celebrated November 5 in a corner stone laying when Abel placed a bronze plaque in the presence of state, county and school authorities.

Abel said the new funds would build the gymnasium, provide plumbing, heating and electrical facilities; build a garage, fence and playshed and landscape the grounds. Material for part of the work will be salvaged by demolishing the old school.

Local school authorities have pledged an additional \$8,147 for necessary materials and rental of construction equipment. Previous sponsor contributions have exceeded \$31,000. The building will accommodate 180 pupils with ample provision for future expansion.

In addition to the Kennydale project, WPA is constructing two other schools in King County at Meridian and Pacific City. New schools have been completed by WPA at Kirkland, Coalfield and Ravensdale. Other new schools have been erected through WPA funds at Tracytown, Belfair, Clover Creek, Jovita, Big Lake, Sultan, Boston Harbor, Granger, and Panther Lake.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

BH

WPA water, sewer, drainage and flood control projects totaling \$519,401 were announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, for eight Washington localities. Seven of the projects will begin immediately and the eighth and largest, for city-wide improvement in the Wenatchee water system will start January 30, under a \$206,925 federal allocation.

The large Wenatchee project will include replacing worn out or inadequate mains with new cast iron pipe, and installing additional fire hydrants, according to Abel. WPA engineers state extensive portions of the excavation must be made through rock formations, where compressor operators and jackhammermen will be important members of the crew. The project will require more than 300 men for a year and call for \$75,816 from the city for materials and construction equipment.

In a city-wide undertaking for a better drained state capital, WPA will assist Olympia with \$191,146 for installation of combination sanitary and storm sewers, with manholes, catch basins, inlets and other necessary detailed construction. Olympia authorities will add \$91,938 to this fund for materials. Abel said the project will take an estimated eleven months to complete.

A sewage treatment plant will be erected at Orting, with pump well, sludge drying beds, manholes and all necessary equipment for the latest type sanitary disposal system. A \$75,964 allocation has been made for this work, and covers ditching, pipe laying, backfilling, fencing and building of service roadways. The city will purchase materials and rent equipment for the use of WPA crews with \$28,167. Seven months and an average of more than 150 men are requested for completion of the project.

In and near Stanwood \$13,895 will be invested by WPA to facilitate surface and tide water run off for flood control. Tide gates, spillways, ditching and clearing are features of the work, for which Stanwood pledges \$3,484.

Water District No. 53, near Angle Lake, south of Seattle, will get a new water system with \$13,779 from WPA and \$17,897 from the district. About 5,000 persons will be serviced through the improvement, said Abel. At Index flood control improvements along the Skykomish river will be completed with \$7,050 in WPA allotments. Materials for such items as bulkheads and revetments will be provided by the city with \$3,040. The Tenino water distribution system will be improved with \$5,332 from WPA and a city pledge of \$3,678. Kennewick water system extensions are to be made through \$5,310 in federal and the unusually large sponsor's contribution of \$6,881



LIBRARY  
A partial cross section of the widely divergent WPA Women's & Professional activities was disclosed yesterday by Don G. Abel, state in the announcement that \$408,454 in Federal funds had been allocated to continue or open six projects in King County and southwest Washington, for sewing, surveying and mapping, record indexing, and reading to blind and shut-ins. 685

To continue employment of approximately 200 women in eight sewing rooms of King County outside Seattle, Abel said \$264,710 had been allocated. This sum is expected to finance the project until July 1, with the aid of \$24,765 in sponsor's contributions for material and findings, from the State Department of Social Security. Abel pointed out that a total of \$495,158 in previous allotments had been made to provide employment in King County sewing rooms, in addition to a total of \$960,476 to operate five Seattle sewing rooms with 600 workers.

For the Cowlitz county sewing room, at Longview, Abel said \$40,984 in Federal funds had been apportioned, with the same sponsoring agency furnishing \$5,065. With this allocation WPA has invested nearly \$100,000 in sewing room employment in that county. Products from all sewing rooms are distributed free of charge to charitable institutions or to the needy, and a portion may be used on other WPA projects, said Abel.

State Department of Health birth and death records, from 1907 to date, will be transcribed, indexed, photostat copied and card-filed by WPA clerical workers at the Seattle offices of the health department. The project will require a staff of more than 50 persons for 12 months.

WPA workers will continue to read to the blind and shut-ins of Lewis county with a new \$9,286 allocation under sponsorship of the county commissioners.

Thurston county engineering records will be cataloged, transcribed and cross-indexed by a WPA clerical force under \$8,528 from federal funds. Materials will be purchased with \$2,664 from the county commissioners. The work, which will take a year, also includes field, engineering and office surveys for use in preparing outline maps under this project to show all roads in the county, according to Abel.

A \$16,812 WPA project will provide a complete new map of the city of Vancouver, showing all streets, alleys and city-owned property. Workers will conduct a survey to establish permanent markers and locate accurate positions for the map. City authorities have promised \$4,477 in materials and equipment for this needed work.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JANUARY 13, 1939

PR-686



Don G. Abel, State Works Progress Administrator, late yesterday received instructions from Washington, D. C. to add 2,250 certified workers immediately to the January quota. This raises the state enrollment for the month to 43,500 and was ordered to take care of 1,000 persons returning from assignments with other federal agencies, and for reemploying needy workers who left for private industry during the last six months, but have since lost their jobs.

Due to the rapid depletion of WPA funds the January quota was previously ordered cut to 41,250 persons, causing a drastic lay-off of 7,500. The order received yesterday was seen as a welcome relief to the problem by permitting absorption of the two groups without further loss of jobs to others.

Abel said many projects have been completed by WPA workers for other federal agencies in this State, and that 1,000 of this group are now returning to WPA rolls and must be provided for. Under the policy of urging all workers to accept private employment, whenever opportunity offers equal or better rates of pay, WPA is now straining every effort to reemploy those who have been found to be in need and have lost their private jobs since leaving WPA projects in the last six months.

It will not be possible, Abel said, even with the increased quota to reemploy single persons, aliens or those eligible for social security benefits.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING      SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

BH



Immediate use will be made of \$253,176 in federal funds approved yesterday by President Roosevelt to continue operation of the Seattle WPA sewing room at Eighth Avenue and Virginia street, according to Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator. The new funds will continue this special project for the making of heavy outdoor clothing and working apparel and employing an average of 200 women, for another 12 months.

Overalls and pants for boys and men of needy families are the principal garments made at this sewing room for free distribution through welfare and charitable institutions, said Abel. Articles may also be made for use on other WPA projects. The State Department of Social Security, which sponsors all WPA sewing projects in Washington, will provide an additional \$63,080 for materials and supplies and will have title to the scraps for other uses.

More than \$960,476 in federal funds have been previously allocated to employ 600 workers in the five WPA sewing rooms of Seattle, according to the State Administrator. To continue employment of approximately 200 women in eight sewing rooms of King county outside Seattle, Abel yesterday announced new allocations totaling \$264,710, which is expected to finance those projects until July 1. Sponsor contributions for the county allotments amounts to \$24,765. Abel said a total of \$495,158 in federal funds had been expended for this work in the county outside Seattle.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
208 Alaska Building Seattle, Washington





Coincident with a statement issued yesterday by Colonel F. C. Harrington, Works Progress Administrator, that more than 30,000 miles of roads and streets were built or improved throughout the nation, from last July to November, Don G. Abel, state administrator announced that approximately 5,800 miles of this type of construction had been accomplished by WPA in Washington since the program began three and a half years ago.

Abel said WPA in Washington has completed more than 400 miles of new country roads and converted 4,900 miles of narrow, twisted by-ways into wide, safe traffic arteries. An estimated 1,000 miles of fills, grades, cuts and straightening as well as extensive widening and surfacing have been done on farm-to-market and mine-to-market roads. Traffic has been accelerated through construction of 275 bridges across ravines and streams, and 102 other bridges widened and rebuilt.

Because of the large opportunity for the employment of unskilled labor, and because of the widespread demand for better roads, highway projects constitute a major phase of the national WPA program, according to Harrington. The Washington WPA work schedule indicated a verification of this fact with the disclosure by Abel that almost half of all workers are employed on road work or street improvements of a wide variety.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 Alaska Building

Seattle, Washington



Reporting upon the critical need for adequate WPA emergency appropriations in Washington, State Works Progress Administrator Don G. Abel, yesterday wired Washington, D. C., headquarters that 16,872 employable persons, who are certified by the state as in need and unable to find private employment, can not be hired by WPA for lack of funds.

"All of the certifications have been made since September 1, 1938," Abel said in the telegram, addressed to National Administrator F. C. Harrington, "and the State Department of Public Welfare has made no attempt since early in December to certify any additional persons since it was felt that, in view of forced WPA employment reductions in December and January, no purpose could be served."

Abel pointed out in the telegram that WPA employment in Washington on December 1st was 53,500 and has been reduced, because of a depletion of funds, to \$43,500 for January.

"During the month of December 1938 there were only 418 persons who left WPA for private employment, in Washington," Abel said in the communication, "and we see no immediate prospect of an increase in this transfer to private jobs. The result is that there now is and will continue to be a great deal of hardship and suffering, among the thousands of Washington citizens who are in need and unable to find private employment, unless additional funds are furnished to provide more WPA jobs."

Abel informed Harrington that the Washington state Congressional delegation would also be apprised of this latest information on the acute need for more WPA funds for Washington.

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Extension of the WPA free hot school lunches for undernourished children, in Snohomish, Skagit and Jefferson counties, under county-wide allocations totaling \$42,936, was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator.

Under the Snohomish county WPA allocation of \$18,780, Abel said the latest additions to the list of schools enjoying the hot lunch service were Oso school, near Arlington, and the Pleasant Creek Valley School, near Bothell. The County Superintendent of Schools is sponsoring all these services in the county with \$6,500 in matching funds, while the PTA and the Grange are acting as co-sponsors.

With similar sponsorship as well as valuable assistance from other community organizations WPA hot lunch service will be provided at Fidalgo School, Anacortes until the end of the school year, under a blanket county-wide \$15,648 WPA allocation, latest of 12 schools on the list in this county. The sponsor has provided an additional \$5,400.

Plans are under way for a new unit at the Shine school near Port Townsend, expected to open January 23, according to Abel. A previous unit operates now at Clearwater, making the only two hot lunch services planned for Jefferson county so far, under an \$8,508 county wide apportionment in addition to \$2,000 in local funds.

"At the Oso School, members of the Snohomish county Grange have completely outfitted a room of the schoolhouse for preparing and serving the hot lunches," said Abel. "They installed hot and cold water, obtained a stove and built cupboards; typical of the excellent cooperation found in nearly every county of the state."

Other Snohomish county units operate at the following schools: East Sunnyside, Wilson and Rose Hill, Mukilteo, Stanwood, Norman, Alderwood Manor, Granite Falls, Silver Lake, Monroe, Maltby, Gold Bar, Sultan, Marysville, Lake Stevens, Emerson and Central at Snohomish, and Cathcart. Skagit county free WPA lunches are also prepared at Big Lake, Hamilton, Washington in Mount Vernon, Edison Union High, Clear Lake, Samish, Nelson, Day Creek, Bay View, Central in Sedro Woolley, and Bird's View.

Twenty-two counties of the state enjoy WPA hot school lunches for children of needy families, Abel said. More than 16,200 are served daily in 184 schools.

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In preparation for greater transmission or hydroelectric power in Washington, WPA workers will clear rights-of-way for Bonneville, Seattle and Tacoma lines, under federal work relief allocations totaling \$917,757, Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator announced yesterday.

Abel declared various crews will begin at once on clearing and grubbing along the route for the Bonneville electrical lines to Ccondit and Vancouver, in Klickitat, Skamania and Clark counties, with \$825,076 from WPA. The U.S. Department of Interior, sponsor, will furnish an additional \$96,400 for construction equipment rentals.

Work will begin January 26 on a \$60,327 WPA project to clear the way for a Seattle municipal light transmission line through Skagit county. This line, known as No. 2, is already partially completed through King and Snohomish counties from Diablo dam on the Skagit river. WPA crews on previous projects cleared the way for the steel transmission towers as well as set the concrete foundation blocks for them.

Along Tacoma's transmission lines near Allyn, Union and Hoodspert, in Mason county, WPA crews will start Monday on right-of-way clearing. The city agrees to match the WPA \$32,354 fund with \$7,864. Special attention will be given to removal of all thick undergrowth that offers fire hazards.

Another huge Bonneville WPA project may begin in the near future, Abel disclosed yesterday when he informed the Power authorities at Portland that he had passed favorably on the Department of Interior's proposal calling for \$582,578 from WPA for road and bridge construction along Bonneville transmission lines in thirteen Washington counties. Abel said the proposal has now gone to Washington, D. C., for the President's approval. This proposal asks that four WPA projects be set up under the huge allocation, for operation in Skamania, Klickitat, Yakima, Chelan, Douglas, Lincoln, Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Lewis, Pacific, and Grays Harbor counties.



The first tag sale to raise WPA sponsor contributions ever launched in the United States, according to Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, is in full swing this week throughout northern Snohomish county, with hundreds of volunteer workers and civic organizations in a determined drive to raise \$300 to match an \$8,160 federal allocation, for a 20-acre recreation park on Lake Goodwin, five miles east of Everett.

The \$100 mark was reached yesterday, in the sale of ten and 25 cent tags, when a pretty Daughter of Norway member, Lillian Holman, ensnared "Two-bits worth" of assistance from Mayor A. C. Edwards, on the city hall steps, Everett.

Abel said that plans call for starting of the project as soon as the sponsor funds can be raised and that "judging from this enthusiastic community spirit, it certainly won't be long now." Development of the site, on the east shore of the lake, which features a 250 foot lakefront and attractive bathing beach, will be done under sponsorship of the Rural Parks Association. Included in the plans are a community kitchen, outdoor stoves, baseball diamond, picnic grounds, boating facilities, playfield and baseball diamond.

Among the organizations participating in the tag drive for the sponsor funds are the Boy Scouts, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliaries, Sons and Daughters of Norway, three Parent-Teacher groups, two Ladies Aid groups, five Granges, Daughters of Norway, and many garden clubs. The ten cent tags, are of red cardboard, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the 25 cent tags are attractive green calendars,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  by 9 inches, showing a picture of the undeveloped Goodwin Lake site.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 ALASKA BUILDING SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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There were no shrieks from whistles of colorful side-wheelers on Ol' Man River, or the swaying dusky figures and throaty chantings of levy workers as background, but the 37,400 pounds of raw cotton unloaded by WPA workers at Seattle Friday looked exactly like it would on piers in the Deep South, according to the generally voiced observations of the crowd of curious onlookers. The cotton will be made into comforters for needy Washington families in a WPA sewing room.

WPA crews struggled with the huge bales, weighing 350 to 500 pounds each, until the entire car load was safely stored in the big warehouse, 24-W, Connecticut Street, also containing vast quantities of staple foods and other stocks received from the federal Surplus Commodities Corporation for distribution to the needy. The cotton will be removed later to a Seattle plant for processing and then turned over to the WPA sewing room at Bagley school 79th and Aurora Avenue, where 40 women, with special facilities, will soon be turning out an average of 600 comforters a month. These bed coverings will be made with cotton print, tied every three inches, and will be distributed through the State Department of Social Security.

About three pounds of the processed cotton are required for each comforter, said Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator. This is the third car in the Washington shipment of cotton from Surplus Commodities. The others, Abel said, are billed to Tacoma and Spokane for the same purpose. Although the total cotton received in this state from the same source now reaches 150,000 pounds, this is the first to arrive in the raw condition. The processed cotton is prepared into 15 pound rolls, in correct width to unroll on the cotton print.

This shipment is one of the few of baled raw cotton that ever came to Seattle. Shipments traveled through, enroute to the Orient, several years ago.

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More than 200 men are slated to work eight months, starting January 30, on the installation of city-wide sewers and erection of a sewage disposal plant at Ephrata, with \$93,386 from WPA, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator. Twelve other eastern Washington projects bring the total to \$220,616, and total projects announced for all parts of the state aggregate more than \$900,000.

With \$44,181 from WPA, improvements will be made at Wenatchee's Pennsylvania Park, Tourist Park, Baseball Park and athletic field near the north city limits. In addition to general grading and landscaping, rest rooms will be extended and modernized and crews will build tennis courts, bleachers, new lighting systems, wading pools, running tracks, fences and retaining walls. The city is contributing \$24,242. Under sponsorship of the county commissioners, free home assistance where the homemaker is temporarily incapacitated, will continue throughout Chelan county with \$18,085 from WPA.

Both grade and high school buildings at Spokane will get additional WPA improvements on work schedules intended to continue until early in June, with \$21,925 from WPA. The city is furnishing \$10,272 for materials. The city is also sponsoring a \$3,016 WPA project to complete a new file of records for the City Clerk's office. At Greenacres, where WPA has invested heavily in previous projects, an additional \$9,104 has been allocated to rehabilitate the irrigation system in District No. 5, near Liberty Lake.

Mechanical fish screens will be built and installed throughout Kittitas county under a \$22,230 WPA apportionment, and \$8,669 from the State Department of Fisheries. With headquarters in Ellensburg, the project will also include construction of head control gates and by-pass check traps of water diversions, in the Yakima River system. The completed project will protect salmon trout and other food and game fish from loss by entering into irrigation ditches and canals.

WPA crews will rehabilitate a pioneer graveyard at Union gap with \$9,354 federal and \$2,385 city funds. The domestic water supply system of Kennewick Irrigation District will be modernized and extended with \$5,310, and the Kiona drainage ditches of Benton county will be widened to improve the irrigation system, with \$4,600. Dayton's new WPA-built sewage disposal plant will get grounds improvements and landscaping with \$7,510. New lighting and vault facilities will be installed at the Columbia county courthouse, Dayton with \$1,635 from WPA and \$1,321 from the county, And the Tekoa water system will be completely remodeled, and extended with \$3,202.



The last grim vestige of the old schooner days is being swept away from things of the sea life, in at least one instance, with a WPA \$6,800 sluicing project to fill in a swamp of stagnant water and prepare several acres for landscaping on the grounds of Point Robinson Lighthouse, on Maury Island, off the south end of Vashon Island.

Bleak shores and barren lands formed the setting of this historic old lighthouse, since the beacon first blinked its warning light to passing ships, in 1885. In that year a crude steam-powered light house was erected that guided craft enroute south from Seattle to Tacoma and Olympia. In 1913 the present electric lighthouse was built, but the same low shoreline and stagnant swamp remained, until this WPA project changed things.

It is the first sluicing job ever undertaken by WPA in Washington, if not the entire country, according to Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, and is proving "one of the lowest cost dirt-moving jobs on record."

"We have moved 16,000 cubic yards for less than nine cents a yard," said Abel, "and plan to complete the sluicing of 35,000 yards by March 1."

The fill will remove a distinct hazard to public health, and was urgently requested by the U. S. Department of Commerce lighthouse division. As sponsor, this agency provided equipment rentals and supplies totaling \$1,500. About four acres of swamp will be reclaimed and the entire grounds will be planned for later conversion into a public salt water park, according to Abel.

An average crew of less than 10 men are handling the project. Water for the sluicing is from the Sound.

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January 30, 1939  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR-697



Colonel F. C. Harrington, Federal Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, will make his first nationwide radio address as new head of WPA, Saturday, February 4, from five to 5:15 PM., Pacific Standard Time, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator.

Abel said Colonel Harrington would be heard by Washington residents at that time over stations KJR, Seattle, KGA, Spokane, and KEX, Portland. Major problems currently facing the national work relief program will be included in the Federal Administrator's address, said Abel.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 Alaska Building

Seattle, Washington



A "kick-off" ceremony for the Washington Golden Jubilee year festivities is slated appropriately for February 22, when Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, formally presents the completed stone base and shaft of the bronze George Washington monument on the University of Washington campus to President Lee Paul Sieg who will accept on behalf of the Board of Regents.

Announcement of the rededication of the monument for Washington's birthday anniversary, was made yesterday by Mrs. D. R. Swem, Regent of Rainier Chapter, Seattle, Daughters of the American Revolution, which is sponsoring the ceremonies, and was the principal agency in obtaining the original monument unveiled June 14, 1909.

The statue was recently moved from the East 40th Street site to its permanent place atop the 24 foot, WPA built stone pedestal facing 15th Avenue N.E., back of Meany Hall, at the university's future main entrance. The entrance street, to be known as Memorial Way, will cut through from Roosevelt Way to the campus, with the elevated statue intended to hold the center of interest the entire distance.

WPA funds totaling \$21,281 were allocated to erect the pedestal, materials for which were supplied by university funds totaling an additional \$3,025. Abel said every available man capable of doing the work has been placed on the project to rush through the cutting and laying of the ornamental flag-stones on the grounds surrounding the pedestal, and the laying of sod, to handle crowds at the rededication ceremony. Mrs. Swem announced that a representative of the Washington Progress Commission would be invited to participate for the Golden Jubilee, and that Rainier Chapter, D.A.R., will place a bronze plaque on the statue to commemorate their part in obtaining it. The statue is the work of the late Lorado Taft, Chicago Sculptor, and was placed originally on a wooden pedestal, later condemned. For many years the heroic piece stood rather ingloriously on the ground, at East 40th Street.

Various patriotic organizations have been invited to attend and the WPA symphonic band will provide music for the occasion. Mrs. Swem said the time of the ceremony would be announced as soon as details could be arranged, but that it would be sometime between 11:00 AM and noon.



Thirty carloads of lumber and equipment have arrived at Camp Lincoln, first permanent camp for the \$10,000,000 WPA Grand Coulee dam reservoir clearing project, and will be fabricated into sections for erecting two new 300-man cantonments for workers at Keller and Gerome, it was announced yesterday by Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator.

The huge project, which began October 1, last year, with erection of the Lincoln camp, is gradually being accelerated with increases in man-power until now 427 men are working, Abel said, in efforts to keep pace with the rising waters backed up by the dam.

A diesel-powered barge, "Paul Bunyan" was launched January 4, to carry 350 workmen, a crew of eight, and heavy construction machinery for use in clearing debris from otherwise inaccessible areas. Abel now states that two 65 by 24 foot scows are being constructed with double deck living quarters, to house 78 men each as portable camps on the rising 151 mile lake reservoir. The scows will be towed to areas where land crews could not work, said the state WPA administrator, and will carry all necessary supplies and equipment both for operations and for feeding and housing the men.

Abel said allocations for the huge project are made as funds are available and the work progresses up the Columbia river and adjacent tributaries, and that about 108,000 man months of work is now estimated as the task required to complete the job, or the equal of 3,500 men working 31 months.

Materials are hauled by truck to Lincoln camp from Creston, nearest rail point, said Abel.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

208 Alaska Building      Seattle, Washington

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Coincident with observance yesterday of National Social Hygiene day, Don G. Abel, state Works Progress Administrator, announced that the Seattle WPA Federal Theatre project would stage the production "Spirochete," a play depicting historic episodes in the battle of science against syphilis. The show will open at the Metropolitan for the week beginning February 13.

Dr. Glenn S. Usher, Assistant Epidermiologist in Charge of Venereal Disease Control, State Health Department, who is volunteering as technological advisor for the production, yesterday witnessed special rehearsals of the play to correct and approve staging and lines necessary for the authoritative details of the presentation. Dr. Usher commended the Federal Theatre Director, Edwin G. O'Connor, on the entertainment as well as educational value of the play and learned that both individual and group reservations are already being received.

"Spirochete", pronounced "SPY-RO-KEET", will be a cast of more than 40 from the white division of the Federal Theatre and will be the most ambitious show yet undertaken by the organization in Seattle, according to O'Connor. The show takes its name from the medical term "Spirochaeta Pallida," or "the pale spiral," descriptive of the germ of Syphilis. The show was successfully produced last year by Federal Theatre, in Chicago, and has been endorsed in Seattle by the Orthopedic Guild, Seattle Visiting Nurses, Washington Medical Association, Seattle Milk Fund and Federated Clubs. Letters of endorsement and congratulations on the staging of the production were received this week by Abel from the American Social Hygiene Association, of which General John J. Pershing is president and Herbert Hoover, vice-president.

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