

WPA Projects Here Valued Over Million

Federal Payroll for County in Last Year Was \$713,877.

Benefits amounting to more than a million dollars have accrued to Champaign county through the Works Progress Administration, which ended its first year of operation here last week.

Exactly 50 projects, ranging from a survey of federal archives to repairing village streets, were undertaken in the 12 months since Oct. 28, 1935. Total value to the county in worth of work and relief cost avoided up to the present date is \$1,275,000.

Saved Relief Cost

Despite the criticism of "boondoggling" levied against WPA, a survey by The Courier and the local supervising office shows that the total worth of the federal work here is about \$150,000 in excess of the total cost.

On Sept. 5, an examination of the records shows, the total value of work in the county amounted to \$874,450. Estimated relief cost avoided totaled \$336,000, for a total value to the county of \$1,210,450. Total cost of projects up to that time was \$1,060,000, leaving a gain to the county from WPA work of \$150,450.

Federal Payroll \$713,877

Since Sept. 5, however, new projects have been added, and further relief costs have been eliminated, raising the total value to the county to approximately \$1,275,000. Costs mounted to \$1,130,630.15, leaving the net gain to the community as WPA starts its second year at approximately \$144,369.85.

Federal payroll for the first year totaled \$713,877.70. Material furnished by the government amounted to \$187,281.45. Sponsors of projects contributed \$48,881 for payrolls, and \$180,590 for materials.

22 Projects Completed

Of the 50 projects in operation since WPA started, 22 have been completed. Now under way or temporarily suspended are 28 projects. They include, under general headings:

Survey of federal archives school building repairs, repairing sidewalks and pavements, rebuild-

ing of books, construction of disposal plant at sanitary district, repairing and improving farm to market roads, construction of new sidewalks, widening street intersections and repairing curbs, removal of rubbish, recreation, erection of hoghouses at county, farm, construction of I-beam bridges and culverts, community service such as sewing, distribution of surplus commodities, construction of storm sewers statewide traffic survey, survey of government finance relative to property tax, construction of tennis courts and playground equipment, study of land mortgage transfers and farm taxes, and repairing village streets.

Much Road Work

Largest project undertaken during the year was the Urbana dirt road grading and sidewalk repairing job, costing \$199,000. This project is still going on. Smallest project also was in Urbana. It was the \$755 job of repainting the interior of the Urbana library, and has been completed.

One of the major features of the WPA program in the county has been the construction and repairing of farm-to-market roads. Largest of this type was the Sidney township project, which cost \$155,000. It was an investigation into this project by Sidney citizens that

finally resulted in the ouster of Walter Eaton as town supervisor. This project also has been completed.

Most Employed 1,629

Largest number of persons on PWA projects was 1,629 last spring. At the present time there are 899 men and 148 women for a total of 1,037.

Amount of WPA work done in the county shows that road jobs made the largest contribution. One hundred sixty-five miles of farm-to-market roads were surfaced. Eight miles of streets were improved and seven and one-half miles of sewer installed. Miles of sewer repair totaled 34 miles, and 14 miles of drain tile were laid. Nineteen miles of drainage ditches were cleaned.

New sidewalks laid totaled 90,000 square feet. Ten bridges were built during the year, while 39 old bridges were repaired. Fifty-seven culverts were installed.

Three New Projects

Excavation and heavy grading summed up to 44,456 cubic yards. There were 262 catch basins and 18 flush tanks installed.

Since Oct. 24, three projects have been started. They include one sponsored by the county highway department for the removal re-

pair and replacement of impaired tile drains, catch basins and pipe culverts, and installation of new drainage structures on state aid roads in the county.

Another is the removal of a dump near the village of Fisher and planting of trees. The third is grading roads in Stanton township, construction of drainage structures and tile, and gravelling of roads.

According to Fred C. Lohmann, county projects supervisor, the second year of WPA is unpredictable. Whether WPA sees a second birthday will depend upon Congress and the next President.