W. P. A. PROJECTS IN CECIL COUNTY

New Deal Brings Progress And Wealth Improvement

New Deal Brings Happier, Healthier And Better Times To Cecil County People

Long List Of Local Projects, Some Pictured On This Page, Have Been Sought For The Various Communities By Republicans And Democrats Alike

False Accusations As To Wastefulness And Extravagence Of New Deal Discredited By Great Improvements That Will Benefit Every Man, Woman And Child In Cecil County For Years To Come

The prime purpose of the Works Progress Administration is to provide jobs for employable persons who are found to be in need by the local Welfare Agency. Such persons are required to register with the National Reemployment Service so that they may be placed in private employment if any jobs are available in that field. The Relief Agencies certify these needy employable persons to the National Reemployment Service and the Works Progress Administration who thus become eligible for assignment to WPA jobs if there are no opportunities for employment in private industry. Under this procedure they are removed from dole, funds for which are obtained principally from state and county sources.

WPA Projects are initiated upon application to and approval by the Works Progress Administration on prosals for improvements to public property, submitted by Federal, State, County or other governmental agencies. The governing factor in initiating the WPA project is that there must be a sufficient number of certified relief case employables in the locality to justify the operation of the project.

WPA projects are financed principally out of Federal Funds on the basis that at least 70 per cent of the Federal Appropriation be for wages of the certified relief employables, the remaining 30 per cent can be utilized for non-relief costs such as supervision, materials and equipment rentals. Any additional costs in connection with the project are borne by the local governmental agency sponsoring the project.

Under the schedule of monthly earnings in effect for Cecil County WPA Projects the monthly wages of relief workers are limited according to their labor classifications as follows: Unskilled, $32.20; (140 hours at .23c) Semi-Skilled, $40.60 (140 hours at .29c) and Skilled, $48.40 (110 hours at .44c). The highest number of persons employed on Cecil County WPA projects was 137 men during the semi-monthly pay period ending February 28, 1936. This number has been gradually reduced so that for the period ending October 28, 1936 there are 47 men employed on active projects in Cecil County.

Project 193—Erection Of Fire Tower

This project was approved under an application submitted by the Maryland State Department of Forestry and consisted of the erection of a 100 ft. forest fire look-out tower and the development of a 10 acre woodland tract into a public park at Egg Hill located in the northwestern part of the third district of Cecil county. This tower is a second unit of a group of three look-out towers to be located in Cecil county for a forest fire protection measure. The first unit was erected at Woodlawn under a Maryland Emergency Relief Administration Work Project. Negotiations are under way for the acquisition of a suitable site for the third unit to be located in the Elk Neck section of Cecil county.

After the completion of the tower, the construction of the roadway connecting with the county road and the clearing of a fire lane around the entire tract, the project was suspended by the State Department of Forestry due to the lack of funds and the need of supervisory personnel on fire patrol duty. The development of the tract into a public park was deferred until additional funds are available.

The cost of the project exclusive of the purchase price of the tract was $4,600.00 of which $2,071.00 was expended out of WPA Funds for the necessary labor and $2,528.00 was contributed by the State Department of Forestry for supervision, materials and equipment rentals.

Project 334—Port Deposit Sidewalk

This project was approved under an application submitted by the Town Commissioners of Port Deposit and provided for the much needed improvements of all of the sidewalks in the town.

The total cost of the project was $6,403.00 of which $4,316.00 was expended out of WPA funds for labor and materials and $2,086.00 was contributed by the Town of Port Deposit for supervision, materials and equipment rentals.

Project 36—Elkton Concrete Reservoirs

This project was submitted by the Town of Elkton and provided for the construction of new twin reinforced concrete reservoirs of 900,000 gallons capacity each to displace the old earth embankment reservoir of about 400,000 gallons capacity. The old reservoir was in constant danger of pollution and was inadequate for providing the necessary storage capacity in consideration of the daily consumption and the impossibility of maintaining it in the proper condition under modern standards of health and sanitation.

This improvement was urgently recommended by the State Department of Health and they state that these new storage facilities are one of the best for a town this size in the state.

The total cost of the project amounted to $23,416.00 of which $17,672 was expended out of WPA Funds for labor and materials and $5,743.00 represented the town's expenditures for supervision, materials and equipment rentals.

Project 607—Extension of Elkton Sewers

This project was submitted by the Town of Elkton and provides for the extension of sanitary sewers on Main street west of Landing Lane, from Locust Lane and High street, on Main street, as well as the extension of 8" sanitary sewer and 6" water main to new high school site on North street.

The total estimated cost of the project is $15,952.00 of which $12,959.00 is from WPA funds for labor and materials while $2,993.00 is being contributed by the Town of Elkton, sponsors of the project for supervision, additional materials and equipment rentals.

Project 583—School for Col. Children

This project was submitted by the Cecil County Board of Education and provides for the erection of a three room grade school to be built of Port Deposit granite for colored children in the vicinity of Port Deposit. This new building is being constructed to replace the existing frame school building built about 40 years ago, which is inadequate for present day standards. The front door of the present school building is but five feet from the state highway which the children use for a playground this constituting an accident hazard which is greatly in need of elimination. And on both sides of the building now used, adjoining properties form a barrier and prevent light, air and the degree of privacy needed for a school.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be $15,726.00 of which $10,780 is out of Federal Funds and $4,946 is the Board of Education's share of the cost.

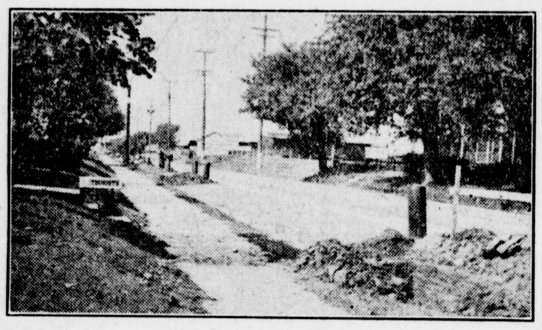
Project 277—Rising Sun Sewer System

This project was submitted by the Town Commissioners of Rising Sun and provides for the installation of a sanitary sewer system and disposal plant at Rising Sun, Maryland.

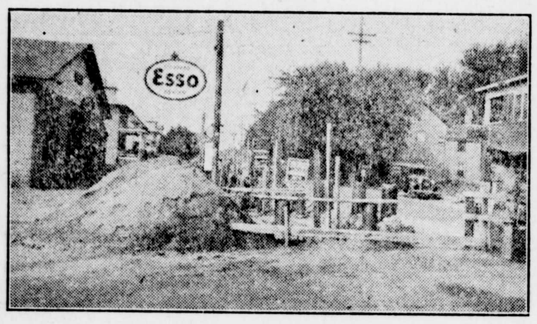
Heretofore the town had no public sanitary sewer system, all sewage being disposed of by privately owned septic tanks or cess pools. The State Board of Health found that there was a potential health menace existing in the town, due to the frequent overflowing of these pools and ordered the Town Commissioners to take the necessary steps to eliminate these undesirable conditions in the interest of public health. Thru the cooperation of Town Commissioners, The Works Progress Administration and the State Board of Health a project for the construction of modern and complete sewage system was approved by the Works Progress Administration on Sept. 24, 1935 and work was started on November 25, 1935. The work at this time is about 90 per cent complete.

The total cost of the project is estimated at $39,415.00 of which $19,539.00 is out of WPA Funds for labor and materials and $19,876.00 contributed by the Town Commissioners for Engineering and Supervisory costs, materials and equipment rentals.

Increasing Elkton's Sewer Lines

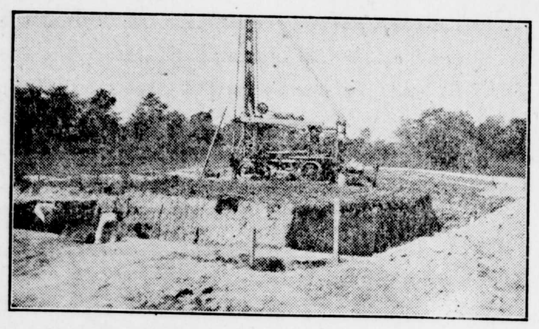


Making temporary sewer connection to storm-water underdrain preparatory to installing new sanitary sewers at Elkton.

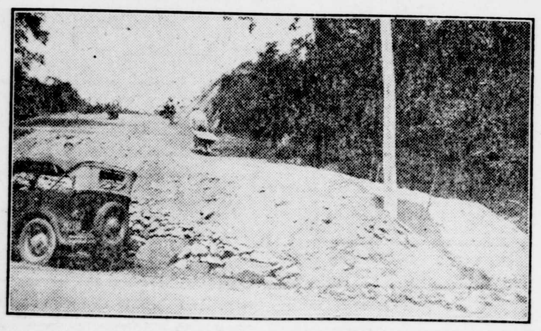


Installing new ten inch T. C. sewer at depth of approximately twelve feet at Landing Lane and West Main street, Elkton.

Giving Colored Children A Better Chance

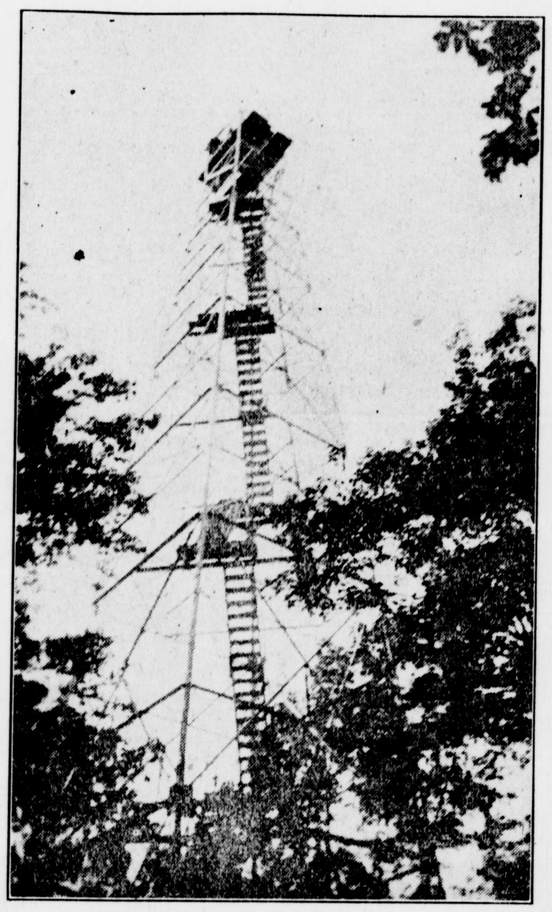


Excavating for basement and drilling artisian well for new school for colored children at Port Deposit.



Building new road to connect state highway with new school grounds for colored children at Port Deposit.

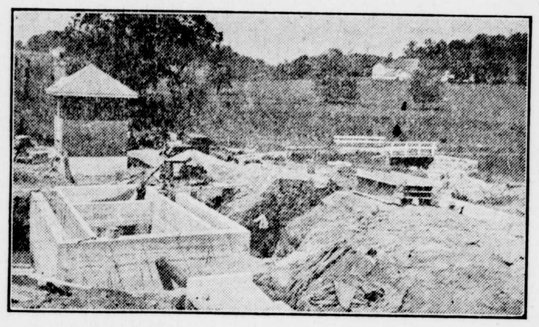
A Safeguard For The County



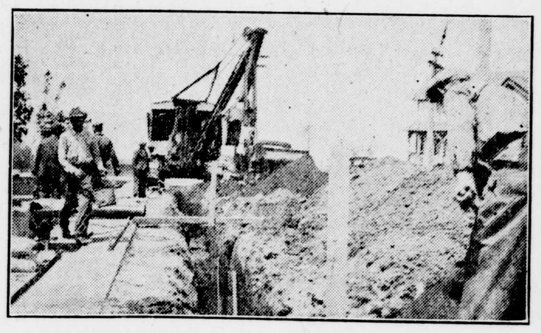
Forest Fire Tower At Pleasant Hill giving wide safeguard tod the entire county. Steel election completed to floor level of observer's tower.

WPA Aids Cecil County

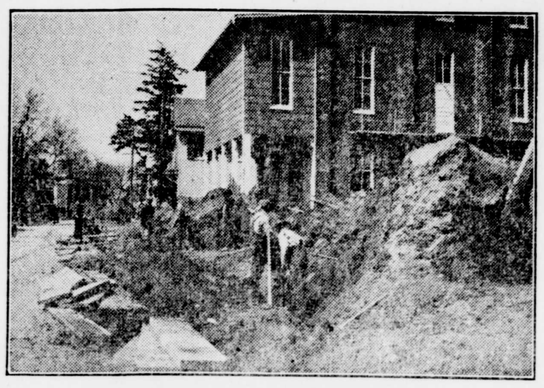
A Sewage System For Rising Sun



View of disposal plant under construction, Imhoff tank in foreground.

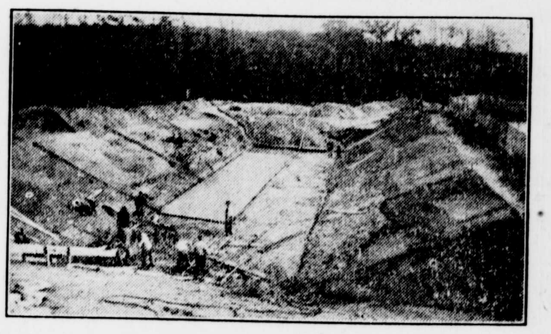


View of trenching operation on Mount street, Rising Sun.

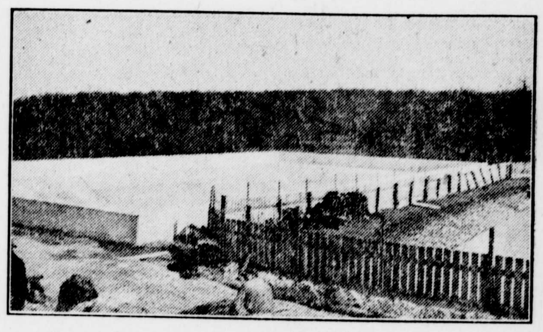


Back filling sewer trench on Queen street, Rising Sun.

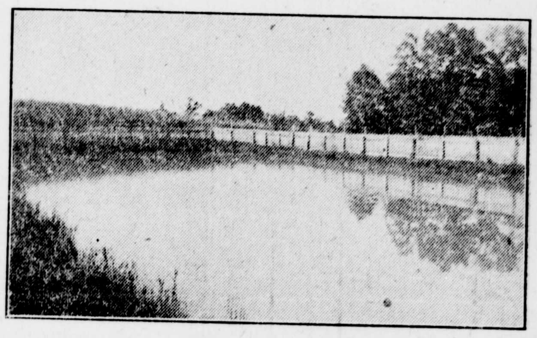
W. P. A. Reservoir Project At Elkton



Pouring reinforced concrete bottom slab for new twin reservoir for Town of Elkton.

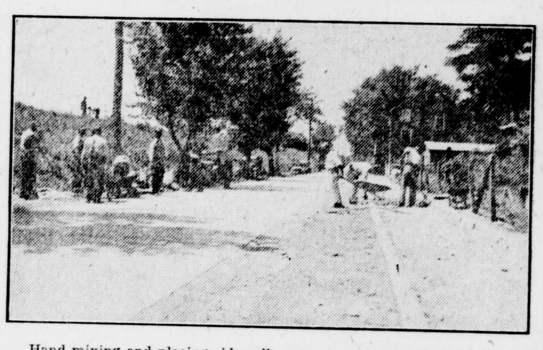


Partial view of new and old reservoirs, Elkton. The latter was also constructed as the new.

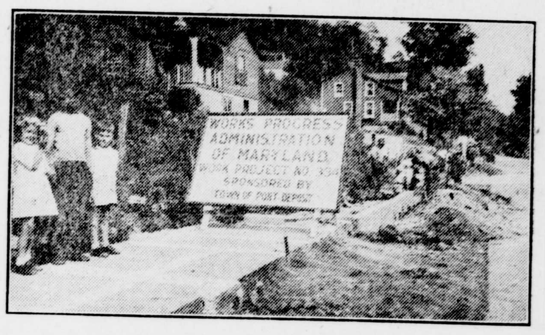


View of old earth embankment reservoir replaced by the new units.

Port Deposit Gets Needed Sidewalks



Hand mixing and placing sidewalk concrete on North Main street, Port Deposit.



Rebutting granite curbing to new line and grade preparatory to laying concrete sidewalks, Port Deposit.

Replaying granite sidewalk slabs to new elevation on North Main street, Port Deposit.