

1952

## Annual Report, Bangor, Maine: 1952

City of Bangor, Maine

ADVERTISEMENT

# CITY OF BANGOR

## --- ANNUAL REPORT, YEAR OF 1952 ---

### New Ordinances During Year Were Of Wide Variety

Ordinances passed during the year 1952 were as follows:

Making French street a one-way street between Somerset and Penobscot Streets, and Penobscot street one-way between Park and French.

Providing an annual payment of \$75 to plain clothes members of the police department in lieu of uniforms provided other members.

Repealing the ordinance establishing the position of city missionary and providing that the director of public welfare is vested with all the powers of the former city missionary and the authority to expend the income from trust funds created for the use of the city missionary.

#### ZONING ORDINANCE

Amending the zoning ordinance to change from a residential zone to a commercial zone the area located on the north side of outer Hammond street and also the area of the city farm including the Transit garage site and the adjoining plot of land created by the grading operations at that location.

A change in the regulations concerning the sale of beer with regard to licensees with a place of business outside of the downtown area. The city ordinances prohibit the granting of a license to a victualer engaging in the sale of beer outside the limits of a certain specific downtown area. Persons already engaging in the business prior to the adoption of the original ordinance were permitted to continue as long as they remained at the same address. The new amendment provides that if such a person is required to vacate the property in which he has the license, he could shift the location of his operations provided his new location was on the same street and within 500 feet of his previous premises. The ordinance does provide, however, that no such change can be made in a direction away from downtown.

Repealing the ordinance making West Street a one way street.

Repealing the no parking provision for Independent Street from Broad Street to Pickering Square and placing this section of the street in the one hour meter zone.

Amending the Personnel Rules to permit the chiefs of the police department and fire department to suspend the members of their departments not in excess of ten working days in any one calendar year without requiring a formal hearing by the civil service commission.

Authorizing the establishment of a metered off-street parking area in the Abbott Square parking lot and providing that all off-street parking receipts shall be placed in a separate fund for the purpose of maintaining and repairing the meters and the acquisition and improvement of off-street parking spaces.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Establishing a dental health advisory committee consisting of three practicing dentists and four lay persons to advise the health officer and the city manager with respect to the policy and administration of the city dental clinic.

Repealing the ordinance which required that the bonds of city officials be kept in a special safety



1952 BANGOR CITY COUNCIL—The above picture shows the first meeting of the 1952 city council. First row, left to right, are Councillors James A. Hughes, John T. Barry, Hilton Humphrey, Doris C. Rosen, back row, Chairman James C. Totman, James S. Stanley, John J. Flaherty, Jr., Arnold L. Veague, and Victor A. Viola.

### Assets And Liabilities

December 31, 1952

|  |           |            |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Money in the bank                                      |           | 59,927.50  |
| Less our liabilities                                   |           |            |
| Goods ordered but not paid for                         | 15,592.28 |            |
| Next year's taxes collected in advance                 | 12,789.10 |            |
| Due to other funds                                     | 180.00    |            |
| Funds held in reserve                                  | 7,733.82  |            |
|  |           | 36,286.20  |
| Our Cash Surplus                                       |           | 23,611.30  |
| Add loans of cash to other funds                       |           |            |
| Purchase of school site and Construction of New School | 17,200.00 |            |
| Total 1952 Cash Surplus from Budget Operations         |           | 40,811.30  |
| We also have uncollected surplus items                 |           |            |
| Taxes  | 56,065.49 |            |
| Sewer Assessments                                      | 4,404.73  |            |
| Cash in working funds                                  | 1,150.00  |            |
| Accounts receivable                                    | 30,375.35 |            |
|  |           | 91,995.57  |
| Total Surplus  |           | 132,836.87 |

A complete annual financial report has been published and is available to interested persons upon request to the City Auditor.

deposit box in the bank.

Establishing a recreation advisory committee consisting of five persons to advise the recreation director and the city manager on the recreation program of the city. This new advisory committee replaced the recreation committee which had functioned for several years on a year-to-year basis without any specific authority in the city ordinances. The ordinance establishing the new committee provides for overlapping terms for the members.

An ordinance regulating curb cuts and service driveways to establish certain standards and to give the city engineer the authority to control their construction. The ordinance provides that no person shall build or construct a driveway providing access to the street without first obtaining a permit from the city engineer. A penalty is provided in the event a driveway is constructed without first securing such a permit.

The enforcement provisions of the zoning ordinance were amended to permit the building inspector to issue building permits and certificates of occupancy without the requirement of a waiting period under certain limited circumstances where objection or appeal by other parties is extremely unlikely. The public interest is protected, however, by requiring that any permits issued without such a

waiting period shall be immediately advertised and providing for an appeal within five days after the date of advertisement.

The taxi-cab licensing ordinance was amended to make it clear that a license is required not only of taxicabs with their place of business in Bangor but also other taxicabs which are regularly engaged in picking up and transporting passengers within the city even though their headquarters may be located outside the city.

Repealing the provision of the ordinance which required the city hall bell to be rung each night at 9 p. m., as a signal of the curfew.

### New Form Chosen For Annual Report Of The City Of Bangor

This report is being published in newspaper form in the hope that it will reach more of Bangor's citizens. When published in book form only 2000-3000 copies can be printed. It is anticipated that this report for 1952 will reach almost everyone of Bangor's 9000 homes. Another advantage of the new form is that it facilitates earlier publication of the report. Still a third advantage, and one not to be overlooked, is that it is less expensive.

### Housing Problems Of Bangor Plague The City Officials

The serious nature of the housing problem in Bangor was recognized on April 1, 1952 when the city was declared a critical defense housing area. This designation was largely the result of the impact of Dow Air Force Base personnel on the housing situation. Even before this designation was received, construction of a housing development on the city farm property. In February, a proposal was received from a local contractor for the construction of pre-fabricated houses in that area. After looking at the plans for the houses in question, the City Council felt that a large development of these pre-fabricated homes would not be suitable for this property.

With the designation as a critical defense housing area, there was an authorization by the Housing and Home Finance Agency for the construction of 250 dwelling units under a program of relaxed credit restrictions. One hundred 75 of these units were to be rental units and the remaining 75 to be for sale. Applications were received at the local office of the Federal Housing Administration and an allocation was made to the Westover Construction corporation. This firm proceeded immediately with plans for the construction of these units proposing to use the city farm site.

#### VISIT OTHER STATES

In June, members of the City Council and the city administration made a flying trip in an Air Force plane to Westover Field, Massachusetts and to Burlington, Vermont to inspect projects similar in nature to that which was proposed for Bangor. The city officials who made the trip reported that the housing seemed to be very satisfactory. In the meantime however, the announced plans of the Air Force for the expansion of Dow Air Force Base was forcing the city to reconsider its land planning in the vicinity of the base. This culminated in a decision by the planning board in the early fall to the effect that the city farm property was not an appropriate site for a large housing development because of the fact that it lies squarely in the approach zone of one of the

### City Saves On Temporary Loan

Each year, it is necessary for the city to borrow funds temporarily until such time as taxes are received in the late summer and early fall. In 1952, the city of Bangor borrowed on tax anticipation notes, \$1,000,000 at an interest rate of 1.179 per cent per annum. After securing this loan, the city reinvested \$350,000 of this amount in 90 day U. S. Treasury bills. The interest received on these bills was \$1,354, or a rate of 1.548 per cent. In September, the city sold \$100,000 of bonds to finance improvements at the water works. These bonds, which are callable at any time, were issued to mature at the rate of \$10,000 per year for the years 1953-1962. They were sold at an interest rate of 1 1/4 per cent.

Over \$100,000 worth of notes were issued by the city during the year. Twenty-one thousand, five hundred dollars was issued for construction of the new stables at Bass Park. These notes were sold at a rate of 1.25 per cent and were in two separate issues, the first of \$12,500 to be paid off in five years, and the second, of \$9,000 to be repaid in six years. These notes will be paid from the increased rental secured from Bass Park. The city also sold \$95,000 of notes to finance the reconstruction of the interior of the Abraham Lincoln school. This issue was sold at 1.2 per cent and is scheduled to mature \$49,000 in 1953, \$40,000 in 1954, and \$15,000 in 1955. This maturity schedule was designed so that a major portion of this debt would be repaid before the first payment is due for the bonds to be issued for the proposed east side school.

air base runways. This decision made it necessary for the FHA to reopen the allocation of housing units for further applications and at the close of the year, plans were going ahead for the construction of the units in Brewer. Later developments prior to the publication of this report resulted in the cancellation of the plans for construction in Brewer and the shifting of the project site to the Strickland road area in Bangor.

#### CITY-OWNED HOUSES

Another housing development during the year was the attention directed at the condition of thirty five dwelling units owned and rented by the city in the Harlow street, Moses court area. These buildings were acquired in 1946 and 1947 with a definite intent to have them demolished so that the area might be used for construction of the proposed auditorium or for additional parking space. Since that time, the city's policy has been based on the premise that this was a temporary venture in the rental housing business and that the units would be torn down as soon as the housing situation permitted. Meanwhile, very little was done in the way of maintenance and repairs. A review of the situation in 1952 indicated that the housing shortage would not permit the mass eviction of these tenants and the demolition of these units. A definite policy was established to make repairs of structural defects and sanitary facilities which threatened the health or safety of the occupants. It was further agreed that as vacancies did occur they would not be filled and as fast as a complete buildings became vacant, they would be demolished.

Further recognition of the housing shortage in the city occurred when the city council in July requested the extension of rent controls from September 30, 1952 to April 30, 1953. This decision was reached after the council conferred with the Penobscot County Area Rent Stabilization Advisory Board and learned that in the opinion of that Board, the housing shortage in the area made the extension of rent controls essential. As a result of this request by the Bangor City Council, the federal government made the desired extension.

IN MEMORIAM — 1952  
Lieut. William E. Nelligan  
Fire Department

Capt. Edward D. Sheehan  
Police Department

Edward T. Smith  
Water Department

Ralph E. Smith  
Police Department

# 100,000 Children Use Playgrounds

The city's well balanced and diversified recreation program continued in full swing during 1952. Attendance at the city's eight playgrounds during the 9 week summer playground season was over 100,000. These youngsters had a wide variety of activities to choose from including baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, wading, swimming, archery, tennis, playground games, art, crafts, boxing, tumbling, pet shows, field days, and other special days. The Green Lake swimming project which ran for seven weeks was very successful. Due to the good weather, it was possible to have a bus load go to Green Lake every day but one during the seven week period. The total attendance at the swimming project was 1,963. The city has reason to be proud of the growth of this program during the post-war period. The figures for the number of participants in 1946 and 1952 as shown in the table below provide good evidence of this growth.

| GROWTH OF RECREATION PROGRAM |                        |         |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
|                              | Number of Participants |         |
|                              | 1946                   | 1952    |
| Playgrounds                  | 18,216                 | 100,523 |
| Boys baseball league         | 90                     | 216     |
| Mens softball league         | 120                    | 405     |
| Swimming-Green lake          | 0                      | 1,963   |
| Street Dancing               | 0                      | 8,400   |
| Basketball leagues           | 70                     | 288     |

Bangor is the center for motor-bus service to all points in Maine, New England and New Brunswick, Canada.

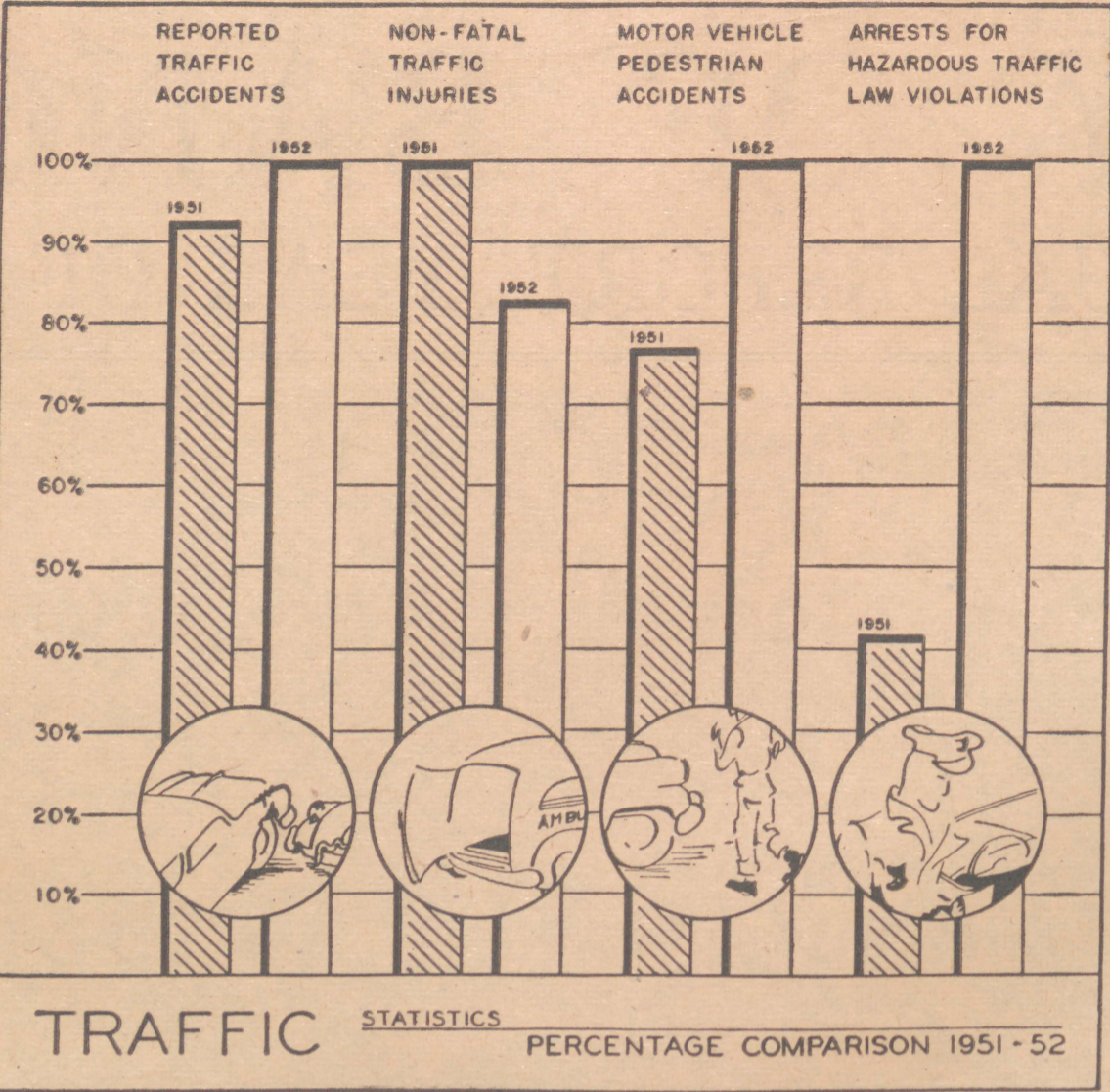
# Dow AFB Expansion Brings Problems To City Officials

The news released in May, 1952, that Dow Air Force Base was slated for expansion to become a major base of the Strategic Air Command brought rejoicing to Bangor merchants and headaches to its municipal officials. Earlier rumors of the proposed expansion had caused cancellation of a proposed by-pass highway to connect Hammond street and Main street to eliminate truck traffic through the residential west side streets. As more details were learned concerning the proposed expansion of the base, it appeared certain that not only must this by-pass be postponed but that the city was faced with some major questions concerning the relocation of Hammond street and Union street to permit the extension of the runways.

**VIGOROUS OPPOSITION**  
The suggestion that it might be necessary to relocate Hammond street brought instant and vigorous opposition from Hammond street business men who feared that a change in the traffic pattern might be detrimental to their interests. A series of meetings were held with representatives of the Air Force which were climaxed by a flat statement by Air Force representatives that Dow Air Force Base was

necessary for the continued use of the base to extend one of the runways a considerable distance across Hammond street forcing the relocation of Hammond street some distance to the south of its present line. Further discussions were held with representatives of the State Highway Department and the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads and a line for the proposed relocation was finally determined upon, which seemed to meet a minimum of opposition and cause minimum disturbance. The proposed relocation begins just to the west of the Hermon-Bangor line cutting across the land of the outer Hammond development, generally known as the Rice and Miller development, going between the new motel and the Sears Roebuck warehouse. The line then swings to the south following the general direction of the railroad track and proceeding east to the approximate location of Odlin road where it turns north again reaching Hammond street somewhere in the vicinity of the present entrance to the base. After careful consideration of the problem, the planning board and the city council agreed that they would prefer to have the extended runway also intersect the present line

Dow AFB—Page 8



# Police Department Expands Work In Auto Patrol Here

A third police cruiser was placed in operation during 1952 to provide additional coverage on the streets of the city. This was accomplished without any additional cost by re-assigning the use of the vehicles owned by the department. Three 1952 Ford sedans were purchased during the year as replacements. A new 1952 Harley-Davidson motorcycle was also purchased as a replacement. The new vehicles proved economical to operate costing an average of only 3.6 cents per mile exclusive of insurance and depreciation during their first seven months of operation. A recent review of the cost of operating police cruisers disclosed that the average cost per mile of operating a police cruiser during its first year is 6.24 cents. This includes depreciation, insurance, and all other items. The average cost per mile for operating a police cruiser which is kept for two years was 6.29. These cruisers average 55,000 miles per year and their motor mileage is actually much higher because the motors are kept running most of the time even though the car may be standing. It is believed that this low cost of operation is largely due to a preventive maintenance program under which each car is taken to a commercial garage at least once each week for an inspection. At the same time, the car is lubricated and the oil is changed. The inspection includes a road test and any minor repairs which may be necessary at the time.

**ACCIDENT PREVENTION**  
Another development in the use of police department equipment was the establishment of the accident prevent car which was painted white and fully equipped for investigating traffic accidents.

Three more traffic guides were added to the department in March, increasing the police department coverage of school crossings. This makes a total of nine women traffic guides employed by the city. These guides, who receive \$13.16 per week, are an inexpensive yet effective method of providing traffic protection to the schoolchildren.

Among the changes in personnel practices was the initiation of a new system of rotation of foot patrolmen. This new practice insures that each patrolman will become thoroughly familiar with all beats and at the same time, helps to prevent the development of a proprietary attitude toward any particular beat. A system of weekly reports was established together with a new system of personnel files containing an individual folder for each member of the department.

The organization of the department was improved by a better definition of the responsibility and scope of activities of the detective division. This division now operates under a police captain and includes a detective on the evening shift, the juvenile officer, and the police woman. At one time, three of these positions were held by officers with equal rank, that of police inspector, and each tended to function on his own rather than as a part of the detective division.

# City Solicitor Ends Nearly Half Century Of Service To City

The retirement of Attorney Benjamin W. Blanchard as city solicitor at the close of the year came as a climax to almost half a century of service to his community. His first venture in public life came in 1907 when he was elected to the common council of the city of Bangor. He served for several years and was on the council at the time of the disastrous 1911 fire when he became chairman of the council's fire committee. After several years of service on the city council he was appointed judge of the Bangor municipal court where he served two four year terms. He returned to municipal government when he was elected mayor in 1930 which was prior to the adoption of the council-manager form of government. He returned to the city council in 1935 and served again as its chairman in 1936 and 1937. In 1940, the city council elected him to the office of city solicitor

Oak Grove (Finson Road), Edgar H. Lewis; Maple Grove (Pushaw Road), Harvey H. Garrison; Pine Grove (Hammond Street), Walter B. Allen.

# Members Of The City Of Bangor's Family

**COUNCILMEN**  
Terms Expire January 1954  
JOHN J. FLAHERTY, Jr., chairman  
DORIS C. ROSEN  
JAMES S. STANLEY  
Terms Expire January 1956  
JAMES A. HUGHES  
ARNOLD L. VEAGUE  
VICTOR A. VIOLA  
Terms expire January 1955  
JOHN T. BARRY, Jr.  
HILTON HUMPHREY  
DEVEREAUX MCCARTHY  
**STANDING COMMITTEES**  
Accounts and finance, Veague, Barry, Flaherty; public works, Hughes, Humphrey, McCarthy; public safety, Stanley, Rosen, Viola; engrossed ordinances, Barry, McCarthy, Rosen.  
Officers elected by the council for a stated term, expiring in the year indicated:  
**ASSESSORS**  
Harry E. Torrens, chairman, January 1956; Alec M. Wescott, 1954; William J. Largay, 1955.  
**SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
Members: William W. Tulloch, chairman, January 1954; Grace A. Overlock, 1955; John P. Vose, 1955; Dr. Lawrence M. Cutler, 1956; Dr. Martyn A. Vickers, 1956.  
Appointees: superintendent, Roland J. Carpenter; school agent,

Lawrence H. Striley; attendance officer, Anne L. Fickett.  
**WATER BOARD**  
Members: Dr. Albert W. Fellows, January 1954; George Hawkes, Jr., 1954; Earle M. Hillman, 1955; Charles C. Morris, 1955; Donald J. Eames, 1956; Frederick T. McEwen, 1956; Arnold Veague, chairman.  
Appointees: superintendent, Donald P. Johnston; assistant superintendent, Paul G. Butler; clerk and collector, Harold L. Miller.  
**TRUSTEES OF THE HERSEY FUND**  
William P. Newman, January, 1955; Donald S. Higgins, 1957; John M. O'Connell, Jr., 1959; Boutelle Savage, 1959; treasurer of the City of Bangor, ex-officio.  
**BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**  
Consisting of the trustees of the Hersey fund and: Charles F. Bragg, 2nd, George F. Eaton, Horace S. Stewart, Erwin S. Anderson.  
Appointed by library board, librarian, L. Felix Ranlett.  
**TRUSTEES OF THE SOPHIA KIRSTEIN STUDENT LOAN FUND**  
Abraham M. Rudman, January, 1955; Arthur Smith, 1957; Margaret A. Bradbury, 1957; Robert N. Haskell, 1959; superintendent of schools, ex-officio.

**CITY PLANNING BOARD**  
Kent S. Hassen, chairman, 1953; E. Richard Drummond, 1954; Walter F. Ulmer, 1955; Francis A. Finnegan, 1956; Simear F. Sawyer, 1958.  
**RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
James F. O'Connor, chairman, 1956; James P. O'Loughlin, January 1954; Betty Berger, 1955; Alden Lancaster, 1955; Helen Libby, 1956; Victor A. Viola, ex-officio.  
**MEDICAL BOARD OF THE BANGOR CITY HOSPITAL**  
William A. Purinton, M. D., chairman, January 1954; Robert O. Kellogg, M. D., 1954; Eugene E. Brown, M. D., 1954.  
**BOARD OF APPEALS—ZONING ORDINANCE**  
Arthur G. Eaton, Sr., chairman, January 1954; Albert Winchell, Jr., 1955; John R. Carney, 1956; associate member—Ballard Keith, 1955.  
The following officers appointed by the City Council to hold office during the pleasure of the appointing power:  
City manager, Julian H. Orr; city clerk and auditor, Jay E. Alley; city treasurer and tax collector, Ralph L. Waymouth; city solicitor, Abraham J. Stern.  
**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**  
William R. Ballou, Joseph H.

# Voting Machines Recommended Here

The use of voting machines to replace the paper ballot was recommended in a report prepared by Mr. James Leotsakos, a special intern in the office of the city manager. This study had been prompted by the experience of the city officials with a recount following the municipal election in December, 1951. Advantages of machine voting were summarized as follows: an accurate count of the votes, immediate election returns, elimination of spoiled and defective ballots; elimination of the long and tiresome counting session following the close of each voting day, and elimination of lengthy recounts. The report recommended the acquisition of 25 voting machines and the consolidation of the city's wards and precincts to provide four voting places rather than the present eight polling places. It was pointed out that the reduction in polling places would result in a saving of approximately \$1100 per year which would help to offset the \$30,000 initial expenditure for purchasing the machines. The report included a study of the way in which the present wards and precincts could be combined with a slight shift of some ward boundaries to provide for four wards with substantially equal numbers of voters.

Fleming, John E. Hess.  
**BOARD OF REGISTRATION**  
As provided for by Statutes: Erminie G. Kelly, Mildred M. Merrill, Hazel M. McNamara.  
**SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**  
Bernard C. Constantine, 1 George street.  
The following appointed by the City Manager and approved by the City Council:  
City Engineer James L. MacLeod  
Fire Chief John J. Nelligan  
Police Chief John B. Toole  
City Electrician Leon J. Cole  
Director of Welfare Dept. Ruth S. Lord  
Supt. City Hospital and Home Oscar L. Modesto  
Recreation Director Bernard Campbell  
Building Inspector Guy MacCrae  
Purchasing Agent Stanley Yonkauski  
City Physician Edward L. Curran, M.D.  
Health Officer Harry D. McNeil, M.D.  
City Planner Warkentin Schroeter  
**CEMETERY BOARD**  
Wilmot I. Brookings, Merrill R. Kittredge, Hazen A. Polk.  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF BURIALS**  
Appointed by the Cemetery Board.  
Mount Hope, F. Stanley Howatt; Mount Pleasant, Richard D. Crowe;

## Charter Revision Recommended By A Study Committee

On April 14, 1952, the City Council passed an order creating a Special Charter Study Committee with the assignment of undertaking a study of the City Charter for the purpose of determining what changes, if any, seemed desirable. The Special Charter Study Committee consisted of three members of the City Council, James Hughes, James Stanley, and Arnold Veague and three citizen members, George D. Carlisle, C. Everett Page, and Miss Mary Quinn. After many meetings in the summer and fall, the committee submitted its report to the City Council in November recommending a number of amendments to the City Charter grouped under four major headings. Of the recommendations of the committee, only one, providing for the replacement of the three man Board of Assessors by a single assessor, was turned down by the City Council. The other amendments were approved by the Council and were incorporated in three bills for presentation to the State Legislature.

### CONTAINS AMENDMENT

The first of these bills, Legislative Document No. 555 contains amendments to the business and financial provisions of the charter. Among the more important provisions of this bill are a prohibition against additional appropriations unless the city auditor certifies that funds are available, a clarification of the borrowing provisions of the charter to eliminate some of the difficulties which have been experienced in the past when it was necessary to float a bond issue, and authority for the city to create a capital reserve fund for future capital improvements without being required to specify the type of improvement at the time the fund is created. Other provisions of this bill are similarly designed to increase the flexibility of the city's financial operations, to permit the exercise of greater responsibility by the City Council, and to clarify certain other provisions which are no longer in keeping with today's conditions.

### CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION

The second bill, Legislative Document No. 580 provides for changes in organization powers and duties. This bill has been described as a housekeeping measure and contains no major changes. Among the changes which it does provide are several changes of official titles to correspond to today's usage, the elimination of certain offices which were abolished several years ago but were still named in the charter, and a provision which eliminates the necessity for the annual appointment of the Superintendent of Schools and provides for his appointment by the School Board on the same basis as in the other cities and towns of the State.

### ELECTION DATE

The third bill, Legislative Document No. 581, provides for changes in the election date and the budget calendar. The major change in this bill is the change in the date of the municipal election from the first Monday in December to the second Monday in October. Provision is also made for the city councilors to take office on the first Monday in November rather than the first Monday in January. The primary purpose of this change is to permit the City Council to give consideration to the annual budget before the beginning of the fiscal year on January 1. In the past, no consideration could be given to the budget until the new council members had taken office in January. This has resulted in the delay of the budget in some years as late as May. The argument for eliminating this situation is that inasmuch as the budget constitutes a financial plan for the year, its effectiveness is destroyed if a major portion of the year has already gone by before the plan is adopted. Another effect of changing the election date from December to October is the increased probability of good weather on election day with its consequent encouragement to the voters to go to the polls. A minor change also contained in this amendment is the establishment of a two year term of office for wardens and ward clerks with a provision for overlapping service so that at each municipal election the voters would vote for either warden or ward clerk but not for both.

The voters of the City of Bangor will have an opportunity to express their approval or disapproval of all of these proposed amendments to the City Charter. Questions will be



**PLAYGROUND AT FIFTH STREET**—The new playground at Fifth Street Junior High school grounds was an outstanding success last summer. Here children are playing with their pets. This new location was chosen last year to replace the play area at Bass Park.

## Fifth Street Playground Proves Better Than Bass Park Facilities

A major improvement in the playground picture in 1952 resulted from the generous gift of Mr. James A. Taylor of a plot of land containing almost 20,000 square feet adjoining the rear of the Second Street playground. This playground had been handicapped by lack of space and lack of shade. Mr. Taylor's gift makes it possible to remedy both of these shortcomings providing a much better play area for the children in that vicinity. In return for the gift of this land, the city agreed to erect a fence along the boundary line of the new area.

### FIFTH STREET

Another change in the supervised recreation program was the shift of the playground from Bass Park to the Fifth Street Junior High School grounds. In past summers, the playground in Bass Park has been closed for nearly three weeks each summer because of the operation of the Bangor Fair. With the advent of night racing and the greatly increased use of the tract for training purposes, it seemed highly inadvisable to attempt to continue with the use of this playground located as it was within the oval surrounded by the race track. Actually the Fifth street location proved to be more suitable in its relationship to residential areas. The chief loss suffered through this change in playground location was the abandonment of the concrete wading pool at Bass Park. It was hoped that by 1953, new wading facilities of a temporary nature could be provided. It is also hoped that some provision can be made for shade trees at the Fifth street

included on the ballot at the next municipal election covering each of three bills which were introduced in the Legislature.

location. No shade trees could be planted at Bass Park, which was an additional handicap of the previous playground.

During 1952, evening supervision was provided at the Chapin Park playground as an experiment to determine the need for this service. In previous years, it had been customary to have a special police officer assigned to this park during the early hours of the evening and to Cascade Park from the time it became dark until approximately midnight. During the past summer, the special officers duties were limited to Cascade Park in the latter part of the evening which made it possible to have a trained playground supervisor on duty in Chapin Park at no additional cost. The number of children participating in the evening program indicated that there is a wide spread need for evening playground supervision and plans were made to extend this service in 1953.

## Council Members Now Paid \$400 Each Year

In accordance with a bill passed by the 1951 Legislature and approved by the vote of the people at the municipal election of that year, city council members were paid in 1952 for the first time since the adoption of the council-manager charter twenty years before. This amendment to the city charter provides for an annual payment of \$400 to each member of the city council.

There is motor bus service to Maine points, Boston, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Motor trucking service to all points.

## Zoning Ordinance Continues To Play Important Role

The city's zoning ordinance passed in 1940 continued to play its important role in protecting property values and promoting the orderly growth of the city. Three requests for zone changes were reviewed by the city planning board of which two were approved and one was disapproved. The zoning board of appeals received twenty-three applications and petitions during the year all of which were granted.

A revision of the zoning ordinance has been an important project on the program of the planning department during the past year. Under the direction of Arthur C. Comey planning consultant, a new zoning ordinance was written and given careful study. A public hearing was held on the proposed new zoning ordinance in December and it was planned to have the revision ready for adoption during the first half of 1953.

## More Than Six Miles Of New Sidewalks Built

Birch street between State and Hancock streets was completely rebuilt in 1952. The old roadway was excavated to a depth of about 2½ feet and a new gravel base prepared. New granite curbing was installed and four inches of hot asphalt paving was laid as a surface. A beginning was made on the construction of Fourteenth street with the old roadway excavated and a new gravel base installed between Union and Arminta streets. The winter season interrupted this project so that it was necessary to postpone the remainder of the work until the spring of 1953.

### PAVING PROGRAM

The paving program for the year included the resurfacing of Center street between South Park street and Broadway. The old surface had deteriorated badly and a new hot asphalt wearing course was laid. A paving job was also completed on Cumberland street between Harlow street and Center street. This project had been begun in 1951 and the excavation base work and curbing completed in that year. Surface treatment was completed on 15th street between Allen and Union streets to complete the construction of this street and to permit its use as an alternate route during the period when 14th street was under construction.

An enlarged program of sidewalk construction and reconstruction was also carried on during the year when work was done on 19 streets on the west side of the city and 14 streets on the east side. New sidewalks built covered a distance of 6.03 miles as compared with 4.78 miles in the previous year. A total of 1767 cubic yards of hot asphalt mix was used in the sidewalk program.

## City Health Officer Reports 1,355 Cases Of Measles In City

Cases of selected communicable diseases, residents only, were reported by Dr. Harry D. McNell, city health officer, as follows:

|               | 1951 | 1952 |
|---------------|------|------|
| Influenza     | 161  | 8    |
| Measles       | 17   | 1355 |
| Tuberculosis  | 10   | 13   |
| Diphtheria    | 3    | 0    |
| Mumps         | 33   | 106  |
| Poliomyelitis | 2    | 6    |

## Permits For Building Construction

|                                     | 1950        | 1951      | 1952        |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| New dwellings erected               | 65          | 52        | 54          |
| New dwelling units from alterations | 13          | 21        | 9           |
| Total new dwelling units            | 78          | 73        | 63          |
| Dwelling units demolished           | 25          | 5         | 2           |
| Net additional dwelling units       | 53          | 68        | 61          |
| Other new buildings                 | 69          | 37        | 44          |
| Other buildings demolished          | 11          | 10        | 6           |
| Structures other than buildings     | 24          | 21        | 20          |
| Alterations and additions           | 87          | 99        | 117         |
| Total value of permits              | \$1,723,327 | \$896,311 | \$1,096,707 |

## Inauguration Of Night Racing At Bass Park Track

A new program of night harness racing inaugurated in 1952 prompted the decision by the city to construct new stables at Bass Park will stalls for 250 horses. These new stables were constructed at a total cost of \$26,350 of which it was necessary for the city to borrow \$21,500. The entire cost of these new facilities will be amortized through the increased rental payments provided through the amendment of the city's contract with Thomas Mourkas, the operator of the Bangor Fair.

The new facilities met with the enthusiastic approval of horse owners with the result that during the two weeks of night racing and the week of daytime racing during the fair, more horses were entered than had ever been seen in Bangor.

The necessary lighting for conducting night races was installed by Mr. Mourkas at his own expense and this equipment becomes the property of the City of Bangor. Other improvements also were made at the fairgrounds.



**TRAFFIC ACCIDENT CAR**—An all white "accident prevention" police cruiser made its appearance on the Bangor streets in 1952. The car was equipped with two way radio, a public address speaker, first aid kit, flares, and camera. This car is assigned to all traffic accidents and its drivers have been given special training in accident investigation and the use of the special equipment in the car.

# Early Part Of '52 Left 68 Inches Of Snow In Bangor

The open winter which we have just experienced tends to dim the memory of the snow which fell in the first part of 1952. In 1952, there were 18 snow storms with a total deposit of 68 inches. Most of these storms were easily handled but on February 18, the city was visited by one of the worst storms in many years with a total fall of more than 24 inches. The storm was accompanied by high winds which caused severe drifting and it took every effort of the public works department to keep the streets and roads open during the storm. The department did its work well, however, and Bangor was the only major city in the state where buses operated throughout the day of the storm. It was several days before all removal operations had been completed but at no time was the city inconvenienced in any way. The public works department received and deserved the highest praise for the efficient way in which it handled the storm.

Although the plowing and removal of snow is the most spectacular part of winter operations, the greatest expense is usually incurred in spreading salt and sand on the streets. Today there is a great demand for good driving conditions even during the winter months and as a consequence, the use of salt has increased greatly in recent years from 284 tons in 1947 to 550 tons in 1952. Another snow control job which receives little attention is the annual task of erecting almost 9 miles of snow fence in the fall and taking it down again in the spring.

## Ten New Mercury Vapor Lights Now Installed Downtown

A step toward improved lighting in the downtown area was taken last year when ten new mercury vapor lights were installed at important intersections. During the year nine other new street lights were installed at new locations and twenty-two new fixtures installed as replacements. New transformers were installed at the Abraham School and at city hall. A blinker traffic signal was installed at the intersection of Hammond and Hildreth Streets. New fire alarm boxes were erected at Thatcher and Main Streets, and Palm Street and Stillwater Avenue. In addition to their many responsibilities in connection with street lighting, traffic signals, and fire alarm, this department has the job of putting up and taking down Christmas decorations and this last year they located, cut, and erected a beautiful Christmas tree in Post Office Square.

Bangor has motor-bus passenger service with the neighboring cities and towns of Brewer, Hampden, Veazie, Orono and Old Town.



**BEFORE AND AFTER**—The above pictures show the Abbott Square Parking lot before and after its rearrangement. The new layout which is shown in the lower picture, taken from the roof of the Bangor High school, was put into effect in the fall of 1952 when meters were installed on the two outer rows. The new layout provides better maneuvering space and accommodates more cars. The number of entrances on Harlow Street were reduced from four to two thus reducing the danger to pedestrians on the sidewalk.

# Past Year Brings Improvements In Bangor Parking

During the year, considerable improvements were made in the off-street facilities at the Abbott Square parking lot and annex. The parking arrangement in the square was redesigned providing higher standards of width for maneuvering and at the same time increasing the total number of parking spaces from 226 to 234. The entrances on Harlow street were reduced to two and the curb and sidewalk along that side of the parking lot was relaid. Forty five parking meters were installed in concrete islands along Harlow and Franklin street sides of the Square. These meters were designed to permit two and one half hours of parking for ten cents or 15 minutes for one penny. The purpose of metering this portion of the lot was to provide additional spaces for shoppers parking. Previously, a major portion of the parking lot had been occupied by all day parkers who were employed in the downtown area. The council, in authorizing the metering of this off-street space, provided that the receipts would be reserved for improving and extending off-street parking. The installation of the meters was immediately effective with the result that vacant parking spaces can be found in these two outer rows at almost any time. Further improvements made in the lot included a seal coat of the entire area and the construction of wooden bumpers along the edge of the lot bordering on the Kenduskeag Stream. Improvements were also made in the so called annex adjoining Abbott Square where the surface was treated with tar and additional wooden bumpers provided along the stream. These improvements combined with the effect of metering a portion of Abbott Square proper have resulted in a considerable increase in the use of the annex area.

## ADDITIONAL SPACE

Additional space for off-street parking was created when Freese's department store made available to the city without cost, a lot located on May street. This lot has been made available for public parking purposes until such time as the store finds need for its use for other purposes. The city graveled the lot and installed a wooden fence around the perimeter. This lot will accommodate 24 cars and is within easy walking distance of the downtown shopping area. A large sign was erected at the lot and another sign calling attention to its location was erected in the parking lot at the rear of the Bangor House.

Bangor is the terminal of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad which runs South to Searsport, the ocean port on Penobscot Bay and North to the fertile farm areas of Aroostook, to the Piscataquis Valley and Moosehead Lake, and to the Great Woodlands of Maine.

# Preventive Program For Clinic Recommended As Result Of Survey

The year 1952 was an eventful year for the city dental clinic. A survey of its program was conducted, the location was changed to city hall, and a new citizens advisory committee created to supervise its operation. Early in the year, a request was made to the Association of Social Agencies for a survey of the city dental clinic to determine its proper function and place in the community. After several months of intensive work, the survey committee submitted a report of its findings and recommendations. This report recommended that the program of the clinic be changed to a practice of preventive dentistry to be carried on in the lower school grades. It was the opinion of the committee that the clinic could not successfully carry on both a preventive and a remedial program and the report included a recommendation for a supplemental appropriation to take care of emergency dental work outside the clinic.

## CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

The committee also advised that it would be desirable to have a citizens committee created to keep watch on the dental program and to advise the city in its conduct. As a result of this recommendation the City Council by ordinance created the Dental Health Advisory Committee consisting of three dentists and four lay persons appointed for overlapping terms.

This committee carefully reviewed the report of the survey group and voted to adopt the recommended program if the city council appropriated sufficient funds to carry out. Early in 1953, however, the committee agreed to continue the remedial program at least for the balance of the 52-53 school year.

## NOW AT CITY HALL

The dental clinic had been located in the Pine street school building since early 1951. During 1952, however, the Air Force requested that the entire building be turned over to the Filter Center for its use and occupancy. This made it necessary to move the dental clinic back to city hall where space was provided in the same suite of offices with the health officer under whose direction the clinic operates.

The new quarters were completely redecorated providing an excellent layout for the clinic.

This clinic, which was started in 1922 as a voluntary effort, still enjoys financial support from the Quipus Club to the extent of \$5000 per year. The city's first appropriation was in 1938 when \$300 was made available for the clinic. As other organizations which had supported the clinic withdrew their financial support, the city's financial responsibility increased until in the 1952 fiscal year, the city spent a total of \$8,145 for its support.

## Full-Time Tree Surgeon Now Employed By City

The city has abandoned the practice of having all forestry work done by contract and has employed an experienced tree surgeon to carry on this work. Contracting costs in the past have run as high as \$4,000 per year for a relatively limited amount of tree removal and tree pruning. The new employee was given an assistant to do the ground work and drive the truck. The truck assigned to this work had previously been purchased for use at the city farm and was burned over to the public works department when the farming program was abandoned. In its first year of operation, the new forestry crew accomplished a great deal of long needed tree work and enabled the city to handle complaints and emergency work with a minimum of delays. It was originally planned that the forestry crew would devote only the summer months to tree work but during the open winter, it has been found possible to continue the forestry program a good deal of the time. As a result of the new method of operation, the many trees located on city property were in a much improved condition at the end of the year.

The Bangor Theological Seminary, one of the oldest theological institutions in the country, has been located in Bangor for more than 100 years. In the town of Orono, eight miles north of Bangor, is the University of Maine.

# More Than 12,000 Days Of Care Given At City Hospital In '52

The administration of the Bangor City Hospital and Home in 1952 demonstrated a combination of continued efficient and economical operation with a high standard of care and concern for the physical and mental comfort of the patients and residents of the institution. Much emphasis was placed on developing the recreational opportunities for them and at least one entertainment program has been put on each month. During the summer, new lawn furniture and gaily striped umbrellas were purchased and set up out doors. These contributed a great deal to the enjoyment and comfort of the patients during the warm summer months. Patients with craft skills were encouraged to use them and some fine articles of leathercraft and woodworking were produced.

## MONEY SAVED

The year 1952 was the first year of operation using a commercial laundry. This program proved to be very successful and very economical. The cost of having the laundry done was less than the amount which was saved on fuel alone. The amounts previously spent for laundry supplies and for the salaries of two laundry workers represented clear savings. The nursing department was strengthened through the appointment of Mrs. Ruth D. Cluff, R. N., as nursing supervisor. The records show that over 12,000 days of care was

given at the institution last year. Sixty one per cent of the care given at the hospital was free care and seventy seven per cent of the care at the home was in this category. Both the hospital and the home accept paying patient or patients who can pay a portion of the cost when their circumstances are such that a private institution does not provide a satisfactory solution to their problem. The following table shows the record of care given during the last year.

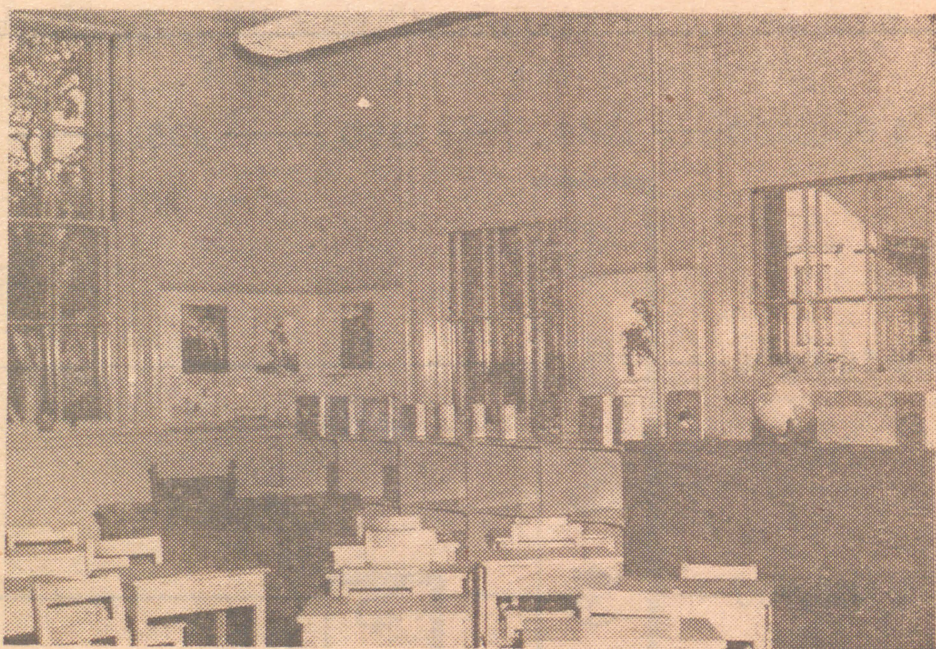
## CITY HOSPITAL AND HOME

|                                   | 1952   | Hospital | Home |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----------|------|
| Average No. of patients per day   | 19     | 15       |      |
| Average per cent of beds occupied | 87%    |          |      |
| Average length of stay (days)     | 132    | 171      |      |
| Total days of care                | 7,073  | 5,291    |      |
| Total days of free care           | 3,656  | 3,745    |      |
| Per cent days of total            | 61%    | 77%      |      |
| No. meals served to patients      | 21,252 | 15,756   |      |

Hospitals and institutions in Bangor include Eastern Maine General hospital, Stinson Private hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, Osteopathic Hospital, Bangor Orphanage, King's Daughters Home, Good Samaritan Home.



**ROOMS CAN CHANGE**—This drab-looking room at the Abraham Lincoln school was serving the children in that section of Bangor until last June—teachers did what they could with what they had to do with.



**AFTER RENOVATIONS**—This is the same room after the \$100,000 renovation program was completed in the summer of 1952. The old building, still solid structurally, is now in excellent condition and has a handsome and modern interior.

## Abraham Lincoln School Converted Into Modern Educational Building

The major accomplishment of 1952 in improving school facilities was the complete reconstruction of the Abraham Lincoln School and its conversion into a handsome and modern school plant. In order to accomplish this renovation, it was necessary to borrow \$95,000 and the total expenditure including some direct expenditures by the school department from the regular appropriations slightly exceeded this amount. The work was done during the summer vacation and was completed so that the reopening of school in September was delayed by only a few days. The major accomplishments were the sealing off of the third floor as a fire safety measure and the construction of two fire proof stair wells from the second floor to provide the pupils with a safer means of egress. The old toilet facilities in the basement, which had been a source of justifiable criticism for some time, were replaced with completely new facilities located on both floors. A small assembly and music room was made in the basement to replace the old assembly room which had been used on the third floor. New asphalt tile floors were laid throughout and the ceilings covered with acoustical tile. The old heating system which had been both inefficient and space consuming was replaced with modern heating units which can be individually controlled in each room. Many other minor changes were

made in improving the appearance of the building and the class rooms.

### LONG RANGE PLANNING

In fulfillment of the long range school planning program, a start was also made toward the construction of a new elementary school on the east side of the city. A site for this school had been purchased by the city in 1951 located on Fruit street and Mt. Hope avenue, next to the Garland Street athletic field. Early in the year, a school building committee composed of members of the School Board and the City Council was established to select an architect and have plans prepared for this school. The firm of Eaton Tarbell & Associates which had won national renown in the design of our Vine Street school was selected to draw up the plans for this new school as well. Much progress was made during 1952 in working out the details for the new school and as the year closed it was anticipated that construction would begin in the spring of 1953 with the school being ready for occupancy in September, 1954. The new school will be very similar in appearance and design to the Vine Street school with many improvements being incorporated as well. In the process of planning for the new school, the city decided to purchase frontage on Fruit street in order to provide more land and to avoid having the school hemmed in behind a back line of building lots.

## Bangor Reports Welfare Load At Low Point

Continued good employment conditions in 1952 were reflected in the fact that the number of individuals assisted by the city welfare department was at the lowest point in five years. As shown in the following table, the number of individuals assisted dropped to 642 as compared with 1016 only two years ago. Another interesting fact disclosed by this table is that although the number of individuals assisted was at a low point, the number of active cases had reached the highest level in five years. This is indicative of fact that the case load includes more single people and fewer large families.

| Year | Number of Active Cases | Number of Individuals Assisted |
|------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1948 | 350                    | 652                            |
| 1949 | 396                    | 844                            |
| 1950 | 404                    | 1016                           |
| 1951 | 395                    | 770                            |
| 1952 | 418                    | 642                            |

It has been necessary for the city to continue to supplement many cases where old age assistance or aid to dependent children payments are being received from the state. Although it would seem a reasonable presumption that the combined state and federal program of assistance to these categories should be on a sound basis designed to provide the necessary support, the city has found that in many instances the

on Fruit street. This was accomplished providing a site of 7½ acres which will provide ample space for school use as well as future playground development.

## City Auditorium Facilities Improved During Past Year

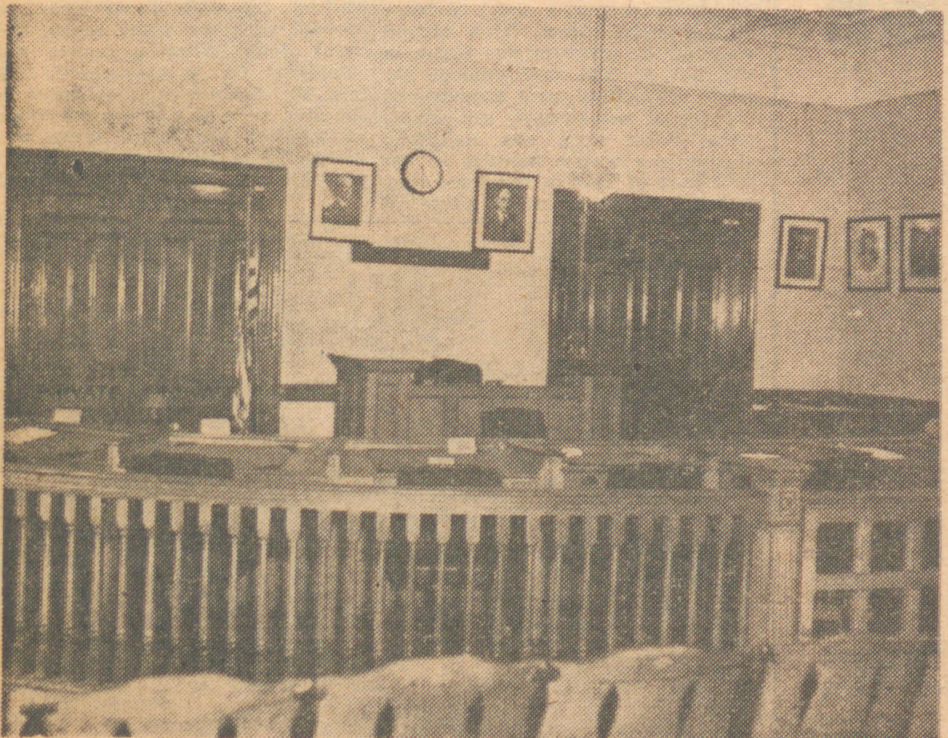
Improvements in facilities at the old city auditorium met with wide spread satisfaction and approval on the part of the public. Sparked by a drive conducted by local organizations to raise funds for improving the old auditorium, the city agreed to a program of basic improvements for convenience and safety even though the proposed new auditorium may soon supplant the old one in active use. New toilet facilities were constructed on the first floor to replace the extremely inadequate arrangements which had existed for so many years. Drinking fountains were installed and the entire interior of the building was repainted. For the convenience of spectators as well as the safety of the basketball players, new glass backboards were hung from the ceiling and proved extremely satisfactory to all concerned. Considerable improvements were made in the facilities for basketball teams by constructing a new dressing room, installing new heating and new shower fixtures, providing better toilet facilities, and painting the interior of the dressing rooms. At City Hall the major projects for the year consisted of completing the job of repainting the city hall tower, repairing and repainting the two fire escapes and redecorating the space made available for the city dental clinic which was moved from the old Pine street school.

Improvements were also made at the Pine street school where ar-

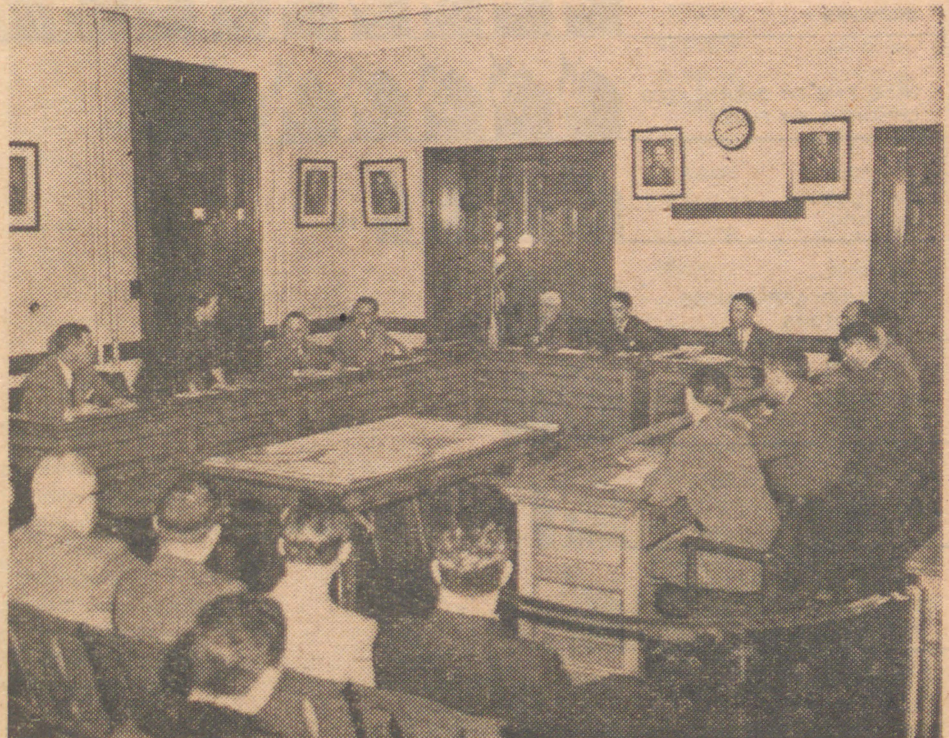
rangements were completed for leasing the entire building to the United States government for use as an Air Force filter center. Previously the filter center has occupied only the second floor while the first floor was used by the Girl Scouts and the City Dental Clinic and basement space was used for a polling place. The filter center's requirements for additional space made it necessary for the Girl Scouts to move and for the city to shift its dental clinic back to city hall. Arrangements were made to transfer the polling place to John Baptist High school where much more pleasant surroundings can be made available on election day. The lease arrangement with the federal government provided sufficient funds for the city to undertake some major maintenance at the Pine street school including the refinishing of floors, the improvement of toilet facilities, and the redecoration of some of the rooms.

Bangor has 24 parks, the area of the largest being nine acres. Bangor has four theatres. Bangor has 32 churches, two children's homes, the Home for Aged Women, the Home for Aged Men, the Bangor State Hospital, the Eastern Maine General Hospital, numerous private hospitals, the Good Samaritan Home, the King's Daughters Home, the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A.

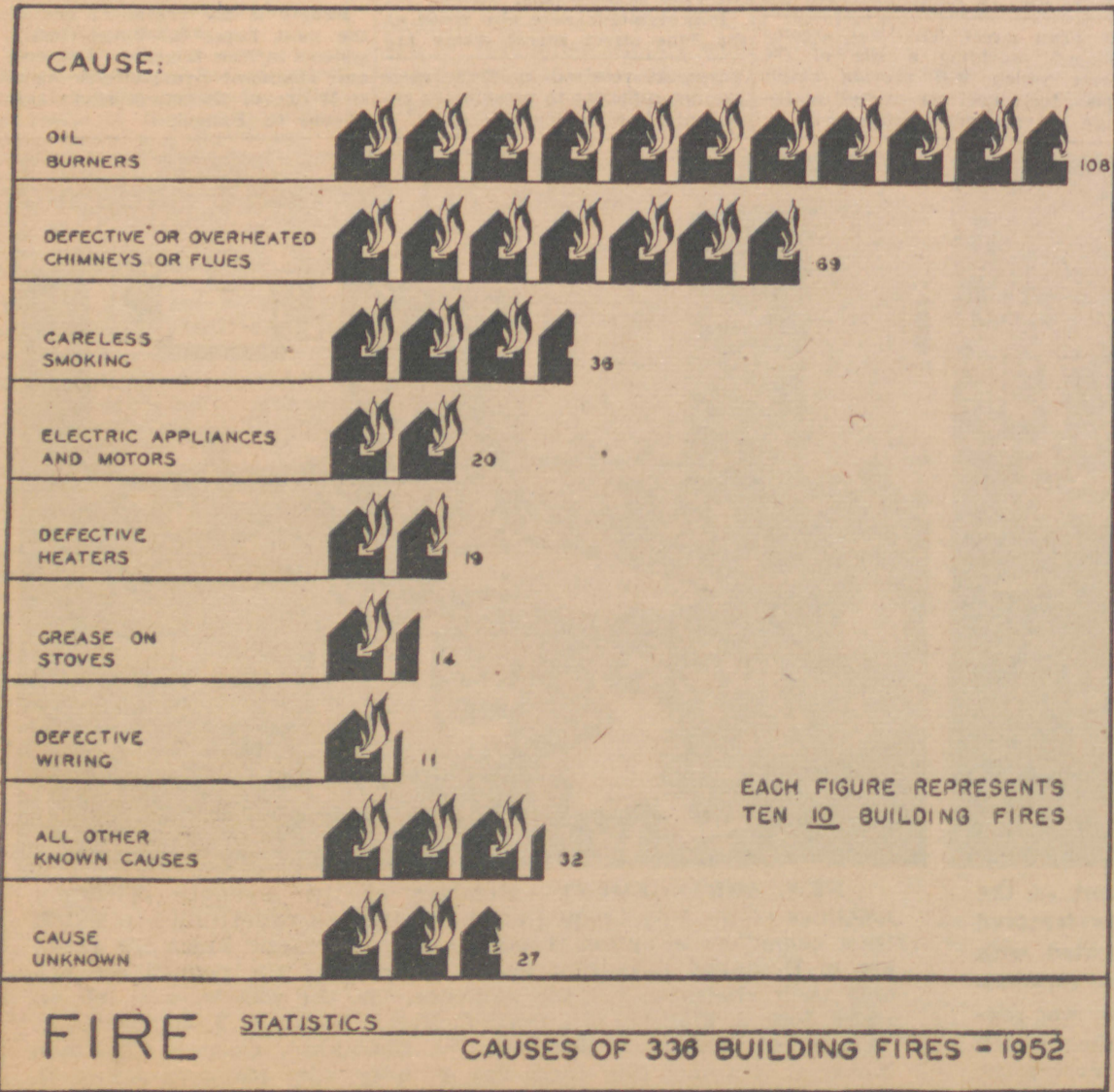
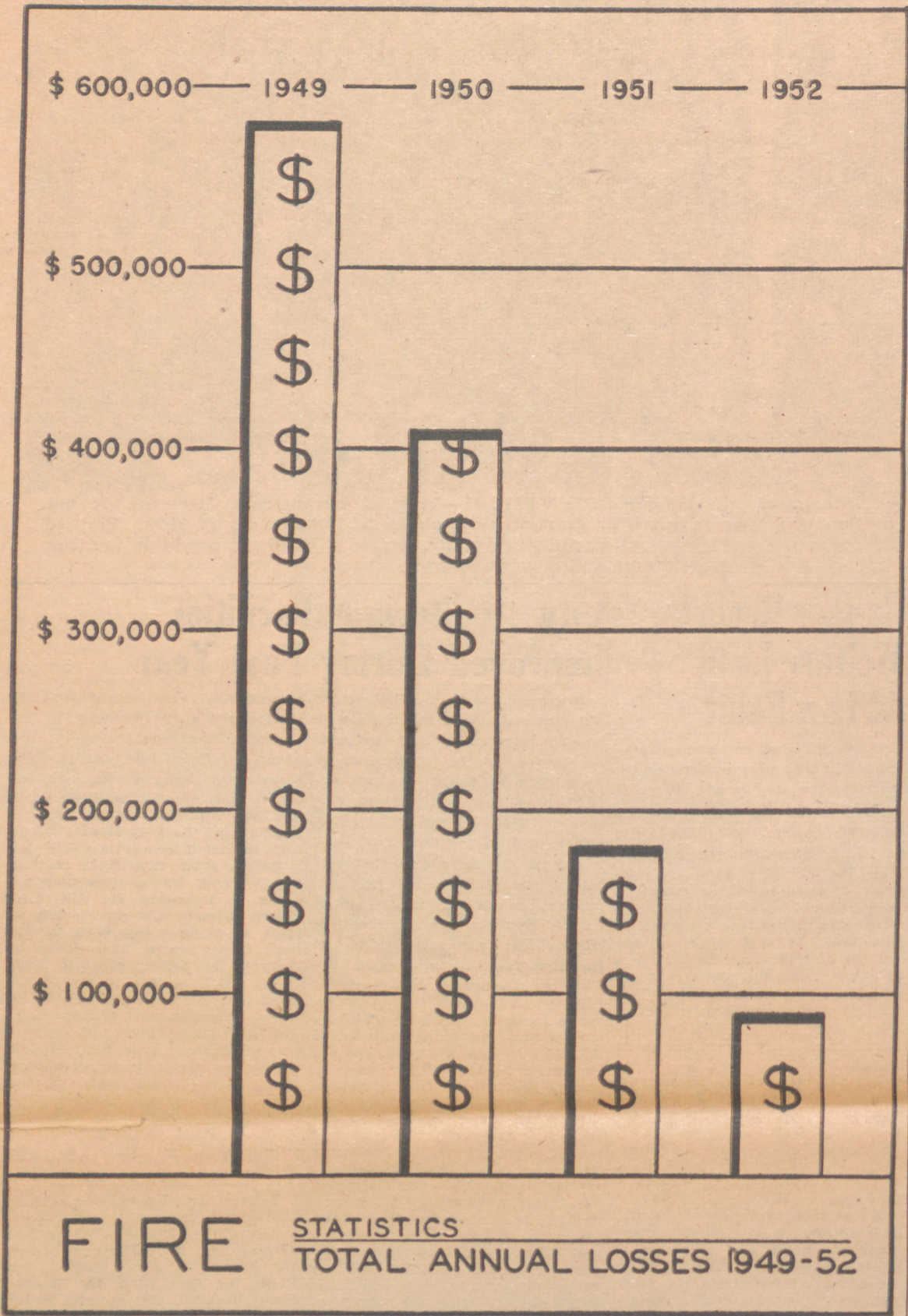
Bangor is the center of one of the most important hydro-electric systems in New England. Low-cost and abundant hydro-electric power is one of the many advantages offered by Bangor.



**FORMER ARRANGEMENT**—Under the old arrangement of the City Council Chamber, illustrated here, a semi-circle was featured where council members faced the chairman but were seated with their backs to the audience. This was not an ideal situation especially when someone was interested in hearing what a councilor was saying regarding a particular subject. The rearranging of the Council Chamber is only one of many items which have been done during the year to give Bangor citizens better service whether they are listening to a meeting of the Council or enjoying some major service of the city.



**NEW ARRANGEMENT**—Members of the audience attending meetings of the City Council are now given an opportunity to watch their councilors in action through a rearrangement where the desks are in U-shaped formation where members of the council see not only their chairman but the audience. In the picture, are, left to right, John J. Flaherty, Jr., Doris C. Rosen, Victor A. Viola, Arnold L. Veague, City Solicitor Benjamin W. Blanchard, Council Chairman James C. Totman, City Clerk Jay E. Alley, City Manager Julian H. Orr, and Councilors James A. Hughes, Hilton Rumphrey, John T. Barry, Jr., and James S. Stanley.



## Bangor Gives Aid To Other Towns When Fire Strikes

During 1952, the Bangor Fire department sent men and equipment to fight fires in other towns on 14 different occasions. Most of these calls were to surrounding towns but there was one trip to Frankfort and another to Rockland. The City of Bangor charges for out of town fire service at the rate of \$50 per hour for each vehicle and \$1 per hour for each fireman. When men have to be sent some distance, it is customary to call in off duty men to take place at the fire station and in that event the added cost of the off duty men is also charged to the town requiring our services. During 1952, a total of \$1045 was billed for these out of town services. The bill for the Rockland fire was waived by action of the City Council as a gesture of good will because of the disastrous nature of the fire. The Bangor department is usually not called upon to travel so far unless the fire is of major proportion.

### INSURED NOW

When the occasion arose to send the city's new \$17,500 pumper to a minor out of town fire concern was expressed as to what protection the city might have in the event of an accident. It was felt that Bangor taxpayers might be justifiably irate if an expensive piece of equipment was damaged in responding to an alarm outside of the city. Furthermore, it seemed very doubtful that the city would be able to collect so large a sum from a small town without considerable difficulty. Investigation of this problem disclosed that it was possible for the city to purchase \$1,000 deductible collision insurance. This insurance costs only a few hundred dollars per year and protects any vehicle in the city's fleet covering all damage in excess of \$100. Considering the expensive equipment the city operates, it was felt that this was worth while protection.

## Fire Department Gives Emergency Services In '52

Although every one is familiar with the work of the fire department in fighting fires and carrying out fire prevention work, many of its other services to the community are sometimes ignored. During 1952, there were several emergencies where the fire department was called into action when no fire was involved. For example, on August 21, at 3:05 a. m., the fire department received an emergency call to provide flood lights at Union and Front streets. The emergency in this case was a truck load of blueberries which had turned over on the railroad crossing. Another emergency request for the use of the flood lights came from the police department when they were hunting for a murder weapon which a suspect claimed to have thrown in the Kenduskeag stream near Morses bridge. This call came on August 19, just after midnight.

Apparently August was a month for unusual emergencies because only a few days later on August 24th the department received an emergency call to Kenduskeag Stream at the foot of York street. Three men had gone over the bank into the stream bed in an automobile. Fortunately for the occupants, it was low tide at the time and the department rescued the men from the stream bed by ladders and sent them to the hospital in the ambulance.

An emergency service rendered by the fire department which is well known and appreciated by the citizens of Bangor is the 24 hour emergency ambulance service. During 1952, the ambulance answered 584 calls for assistance. In addition to these calls, the ambulance responds to every fire alarm.

## Major Sewer Projects Completed Included Meadowbrook Project

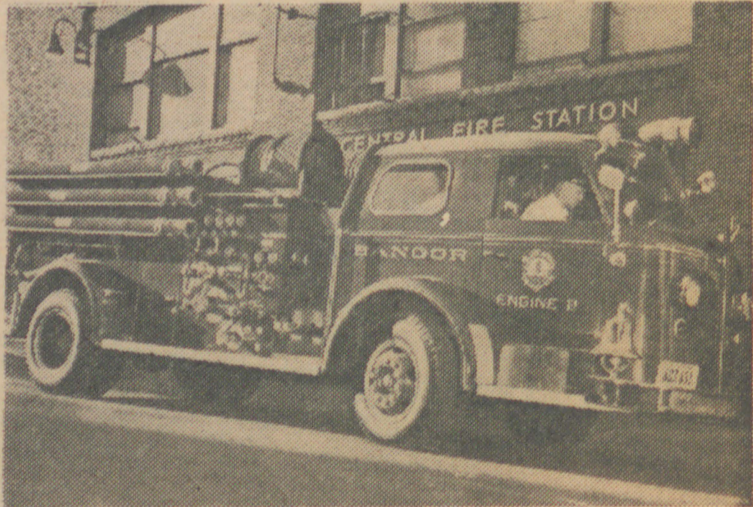
The outstanding construction project completed by the Public Works department during 1952 was the Meadowbrook trunk sewer extension. Plans for this improvement were initiated following the flooding conditions in the spring of 1936. However no work was begun until 1950 when the first stage of the construction involving a 48-inch trunk line from Kenduskeag Stream to the existing trunk sewer on South Park street was begun. This phase of the construction was completed in 1951. The second part of this job involved the construction of the 36 inch trunk line beginning at the end of the existing trunk line at a point above Milford street next to the old "bicycle track" and following a curving line for some 2700 feet to a point on Stillwater avenue a short distance beyond Fern street. This second stage of the program was begun in the fall of 1951 and immediately great difficulties were encountered because of the swampy soil conditions. Some work was continued during the winter months in the first part of 1952 in the hope that freezing conditions might cause an

improvement in the problem. The heavy snows which fell interfered with this program and work was suspended during the period of the spring runoff. The dry summer, however, created favorable work conditions and the department took full advantage of the situation to rush the project through to completion.

### LARGE ORDER

Two thousand and ninety two feet of 36 inch pipe were laid in six weeks. In the final week, during which the crew worked six days, a total of 364 feet of pipe was put in place. During most of this distance, the pipe had to be laid on gravel and the trench back filled with gravel to keep the pipe in place. While the department was waiting for suitable weather to proceed with the trunk sewer, the sewer along Stillwater avenue was completed for a distance of 2100 feet. By this means, the houses in the area were able to use the sewer as soon as the trunk sewer was completed to Stillwater avenue and connected to the line which had

Sewer—Page 8



**NEW FIRE ENGINE**—This \$17,500 1952 American LaFrance 750 gallon pumping engine was delivered to the Bangor Fire Department last year. The engine carries 500 gallons in its own tank and can pump water at the rate of 750 gallons per minute. The new pumper was assigned to the Central Fire Station and Engine #7 was shifted from the Central Fire Station to replace the 1928 American LaFrance pumper at Station #6 on Center street. Assistant Fire Chief John H. Cassidy is shown seated in the cab of the new engine.

## Five Employees Retire With 176 Years Of Service

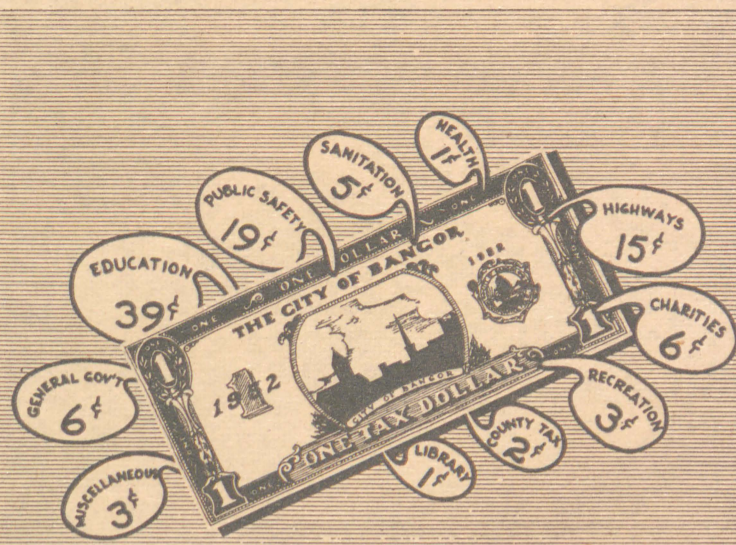
Five employees retired on a pension during 1952 from the various city departments. These five employees had a total record of 176 years of service to the City of Bangor. The oldest employee in point of service was James M. Walsh who retired in November as building inspector after working for the city for 45 years. When Jim Walsh came to work for the city in 1907, he started at the magnificent salary of \$5.00 per week. City Electrician, Murray Gallupe, who retired in March, had worked for the city almost 41 years. Most of this time was spent as city electrician with complete responsibility for the city's electrical distribution system. Captain Edward D. Sheehan of the Police department, who had served as juvenile officer since 1944, had a total of 22 years in service when it became necessary to retire in April because of ill health. Patrolman Ralph E. Smith was forced to retire for the same reason in August after 28 years of service to his city.

Another long-time public servant, who retired during the year, was Dennis J. Givren of the fire department who was pensioned in August after serving 40 years.

## Water Department Loan To Bring Improvements Here

In September, the city sold \$100,000 of bonds to borrow money for the improvement of the pumping facilities of the water department. The bonds are to be retired in a period of ten years and carry an interest rate of 1 3/4 percent. The major improvement to be accomplished with these funds is the construction of a new pump house on the west side of State Street to house the pumps which lift the water from the clear water basin into the mains feeding the distribution system. This represents the first stage of a program of improvements estimated by Western and Sampson, Consulting Engineers for the water department, to cost approximately \$600,000. These bonds will be paid from the income of the water department.

## Your 1952 Tax Dollar



## First Annual Financial Report Published In Bangor In 1952

In 1952, the city published its first complete annual financial report as a separate document. This report was distributed to financial institutions and other interested persons and was made generally available to the public. It contained a complete financial picture of the status of the city's accounts at the close of the 1951 fiscal year together with an analysis of the financial operations of the city during the year. Because of the publication of this report it was possible to publish only a few simplified statements in the general municipal report calling attention at the same time to the fact that

the financial report could be obtained by anyone upon request.

Another new venture in financial reporting was the inclusion of a small folder with each tax bill showing the distribution of the tax dollar to the various municipal functions and including summarized statements of the budget income and budget expenditures. Also incorporated in the leaflet was a brief statement of the unit costs of some of the better known municipal services indicating how much less expensive it is to have these services rendered on a community basis than it would be for each individual to attempt to purchase them directly.

## Public Works Department Has Many And Varied Assignments

It is frequently not appreciated that the public works department in addition to its own major responsibilities for streets, sewers, parks, sidewalks, and sanitation performs a great variety of other tasks for other city departments. Among the more important unusual jobs accomplished in 1952, were the finished grading work at the transit terminal site, the completion of the grading at the Vine street school, the preparation of the ground for the erection of the

horse stalls at Bass Park, and the rearrangement of the Abbott Square parking lot.

Some of the less important jobs include the leveling of the new parking lot on May street and the erection of a fence around it, building and maintaining skating rinks for the Recreation Department, erecting and removing bleachers at the football and baseball field at Garland street, and also at the auditorium, rearranging the council chamber, cleaning

## 'Old Smoky' Abandoned And New Rubbish Location Established

The selection of a new site for the Municipal dump and the development of specific plans for abandoning the old location on Essex street signified real progress toward the elimination of the long time East side nuisance frequently referred to as "Old Smoky." Residents in the vicinity of Essex street and Stillwater avenue have long complained of the unsightly and malodorous condition resulting from the municipal dump operations on outer Essex street. Early in 1952, the department of public works initiated a study to determine the feasibility of either changing the disposal method to the use of sanitary fill or of locating a new site for the dump.

### SANITARY FILL

The possibility of using the so called sanitary filled method of disposing of rubbish had been studied before in Bangor. Under this method the rubbish is compacted in a trench or other low area and covered with several inches of earth. The stumbling block which has prevented the adoption of this system in Bangor has been the difficulty of locating a suitable area with proper soil conditions. In the course of the study conducted in 1952, it was agreed that suitable sanitary fill operations could be carried on through the utilization of old gravel pit locations. Material remaining in the walls of the pit would be suitable for cover material and could probably be worked during the cold winter months. The operation of a sanitary fill system would be more expensive than an open dump because of the necessity for purchasing heavy equipment to operate the fill and providing the operators for the

equipment. Another problem which would present itself if an attempt were made to use abandoned gravel pit locations is that most pits are not large enough to hold more than one or two years of accumulation of rubbish. It would therefore be necessary to constantly seek out new locations to be used for this purpose and many of these locations are to be found only in the outlying areas of town.

Careful consideration was also given to the possibility of finding a new site for continuing open dump operations for rubbish disposal. All outlying areas of the city were searched in an effort to locate a site which would be sufficiently isolated so that it would not create a nuisance and at the same time not so far out that it would be impractical.

### NEW LOCATION

Finally a location was found at the end of the Kittredge road which appeared to meet both of these requirements. The new location will require a haul approximately three miles longer than the haul to the present dump site. The location is, however, very isolated and because of the topography it does not appear likely that this location will cause any objection for many years to come. After a careful study of the problem and the probable cost, the city council authorized the acquisition of approximately 110 acres of land in this location. In order to use the new site, it will be necessary for the city to completely rebuild the Kittredge road so that it can handle the traffic to and from the dump. Provision was made in the 1953 budget for the reconstruction of this road, the clearing of the dump area, and necessary fire safety measures. Because of the longer haul to the new dump location, plans have been made to add a second rubbish crew on a full time basis which will also permit some extension of the rubbish collection routes to outlying areas where this service has not previously been rendered.

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Bangor has Bangor High school, John Bapst Catholic High school, two Junior High schools, eight public schools, two parochial schools. Bangor Theological Seminary, Bangor Society of Art, Northern Conservatory of Music, Husson college, Beal Business College, Progressive Business College, University of Maine, Orono (8 miles from Bangor.)

## General Fund Revenue — 1952

|  | ESTIMATED REVENUE   | TOTAL REVENUE       |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES</b>                |                     |                     |
| Current years levy                           | 1,969,399.00        | 1,974,415.42        |
| Prior years levies                           | 40,606.00           | 42,609.25           |
| <b>OTHER LOCAL TAXES</b>                     |                     |                     |
| Auto Excise                                  | 150,000.00          | 144,058.62          |
| Poll Taxes                                   | 25,000.00           | 22,202.00           |
| <b>LICENSES AND PERMITS</b>                  |                     |                     |
| For Street Use                               | 53,700.00           | 53,350.37           |
| Street Privileges                            | 530.00              | 673.16              |
| Business Licenses                            | 1,400.00            | 1,600.50            |
| Police and Protective                        | 2,120.00            | 2,151.25            |
| Amusements                                   | 1,510.00            | 1,398.00            |
| Professional and Occupational                | 270.00              | 231.00              |
| Non Business Licenses and Permits            | 2,066.00            | 2,197.37            |
| <b>FINES, FORFEITS AND PENALTIES</b>         |                     |                     |
| Fines and Court Fees                         | 11,300.00           | 20,423.02           |
| <b>USE OF MONEY AND PROPERTY</b>             |                     |                     |
| Miscellaneous Rents and Concessions          | 152.00              | 480.09              |
| Interest on Investments                      |                     | 1,354.50            |
| <b>FROM OTHER AGENCIES</b>                   |                     |                     |
| State Shared Taxes                           | 45,400.00           | 41,816.96           |
| State Grants in Aid                          | 120,566.00          | 122,968.79          |
| Federal Grants in Aid                        | 20,000.00           | 20,849.84           |
| Miscellaneous Donations to City              | 2,810.90            | 2,810.90            |
| <b>SERVICES CHARGED FOR CURRENT SERVICES</b> |                     |                     |
| General Government                           | 7,434.00            | 7,371.35            |
| Safety                                       | 1,578.00            | 4,238.91            |
| Highway                                      | 1,000.00            | 432.55              |
| Sanitation                                   | 16,992.00           | 19,670.91           |
| Health                                       | 1,759.00            | 1,978.03            |
| Welfare                                      | 135.00              | 7,204.62            |
| Cemeteries                                   | 1,700.00            | 2,248.96            |
| Public Buildings                             | 21,000.00           | 20,210.40           |
| Schools                                      | 26,200.00           | 26,909.57           |
| <b>TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS</b>            |                     |                     |
| Transfers from Other Funds                   | 151,900.00          | 151,900.99          |
| <b>REIMBURSEMENTS</b>                        |                     |                     |
| General Government                           | 1,190.00            | 1,468.39            |
| Welfare                                      | 26,530.00           | 23,560.53           |
| <b>GRAND TOTALS — ESTIMATED REVENUE</b>      | <b>2,704,261.90</b> | <b>2,721,726.25</b> |
| <b>PROPERTY AND POLL TAXES—1952</b>          |                     |                     |
| Total Valuation of Property                  |                     | 36,077,270.00       |
| Tax rate—\$53.00 per thousand                |                     |                     |
| Total tax assessed on property               |                     | 2,018,095.00        |
| Taxable polls—7,624 @ \$3.00                 |                     | 22,872.00           |
| Total property and poll tax                  |                     | 2,040,967.00        |
| Lee overlays (reserve for uncollected taxes) |                     | 5,007.00            |
| Total tax less overlays                      |                     | 2,035,960.00        |

## General Fund Expenditures — 1952

| DEPARTMENT or APPROPRIATION TITLE | AVAILABLE APPRO.     | EXPENDED            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Legislative                       | 6,260.00             | 6,205.31            |
| Executive                         | 16,975.00            | 16,736.94           |
| City Clerk                        | 16,703.00            | 16,507.20           |
| Finance                           | 62,773.00            | 62,769.68           |
| Registration of Voters            | 7,705.00             | 7,607.11            |
| Assessment                        | 18,886.00            | 18,308.84           |
| Treasury                          | 17,884.00            | 17,725.58           |
| Purchasing                        | 7,306.00             | 7,200.61            |
| Planning                          | 6,251.00             | 6,249.14            |
| City Solicitor                    | 4,872.00             | 4,399.49            |
| Police                            | 218,146.00           | 214,277.54          |
| Fire                              | 255,061.00           | 246,479.18          |
| Electrical                        | 69,803.57            | 69,059.48           |
| Civil Service Commission          | 760.00               | 49.31               |
| Building Inspection               | 7,473.00             | 7,304.10            |
| Public Buildings                  | 44,036.90            | 41,795.77           |
| Public Works                      | 514,669.00           | 513,322.88          |
| City Home & Hospital              | 74,390.00            | 67,479.01           |
| Health                            | 41,109.00            | 40,668.09           |
| Welfare                           | 58,817.00            | 54,951.26           |
| City Physician                    | 2,440.00             | 2,417.89            |
| Sealer of Weights & Measures      | 35.00                |                     |
| Recreation                        | 25,398.00            | 25,164.48           |
| Pensions                          | 51,580.80            | 51,580.80           |
| Tax Paid to County                | 67,698.00            | 67,697.15           |
| Debt. Service                     | 153,635.00           | 153,576.03          |
| Outlay Account                    | 54,625.00            | 54,625.00           |
| Contingent                        | 257.63               |                     |
| Education                         | 846,735.00           | 844,013.49          |
| Public Library                    | 31,000.00            | 31,000.00           |
| Civil Defense                     | 2,500.00             | 905.82              |
| <b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>         | <b>2,685,713.60</b>  | <b>2,650,077.18</b> |
| <b>WATER FUND</b>                 |                      |                     |
| Revenues                          | Estimated 254,000.00 | Actual 283,227.39   |
| Expenditures                      | 254,000.00           | 259,797.70          |

Market Conditions Improved Says City Purchasing Agent

The city purchasing agent, Stanley Yonkausk, reports that in 1952 market conditions improved considerably over previous years. It was apparent that the upward spiral of prices was slowing down. A comparison of the prices for 23 selected commodities showed that the increase paid for these items in 1952 averaged only one percent above prices paid in 1951. Price changes for these commodities ranged from a six percent decrease for fire hydrants to an 18 percent increase for road tars. Delivery schedules were also improved in 1952 when items such as cast iron pipe and copper wire were shipped within four to six weeks as compared with six to eight months in 1951. The purchasing agent reported that 4900 purchase orders were issued through his office during the year for total purchases of \$89,123. Seventy nine percent of these purchases were made after competitive bidding and 54 percent of them were made locally.

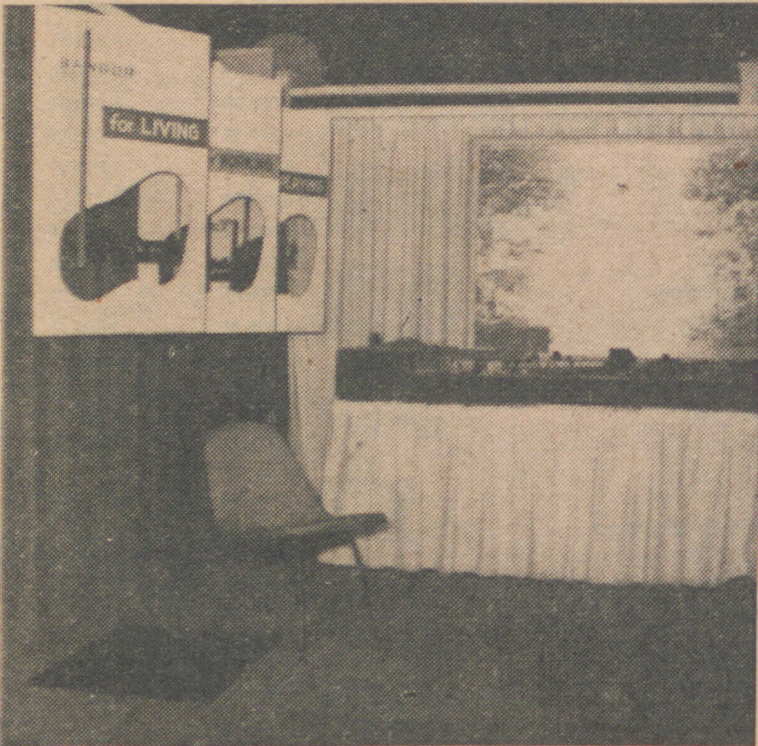
Dow AFB

Continued from Page 2

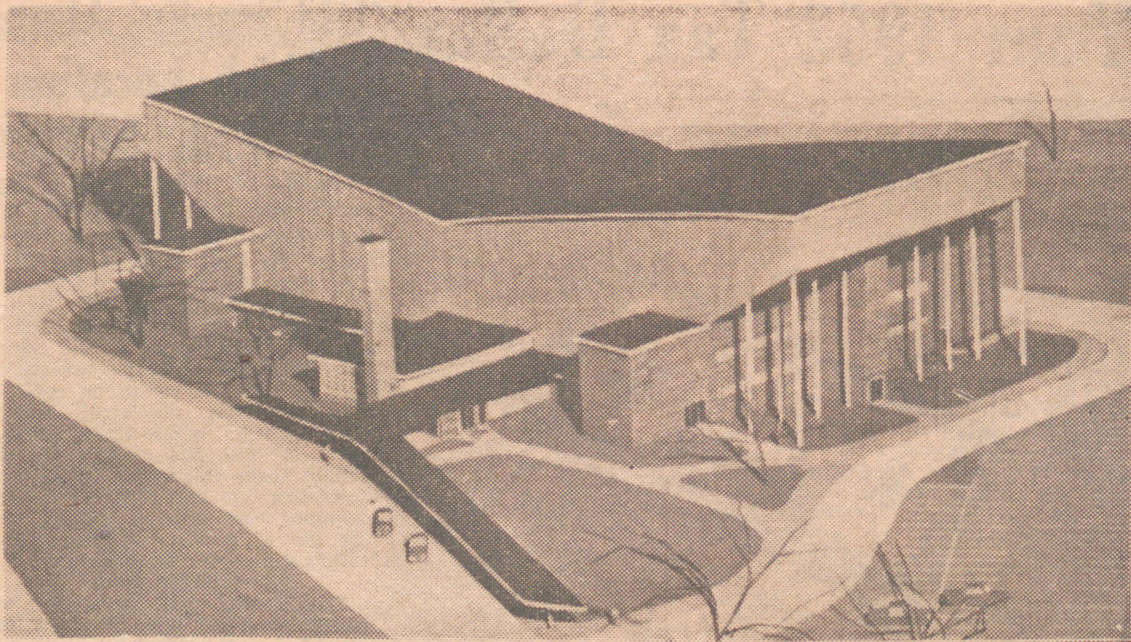
an essential part of the Air Force program and that it was absolutely of Union street in order to increase the distance between the southerly end of the runway and the Maine Central railroad tracks. One major advantage pointed out by the planning board in considering this relocation was the fact that the new highway location near the railroad tracks would create excellent industrial sites which had long been needed in Bangor.

Another problem brought to the fore by the expansion of the base was the question of proper land planning in its vicinity. The publication of the so called "Doolittle Report" which was a study of airport planning and airport safety problems emphasized the need for revision of our planning program to coincide with new safety concepts. As a consequence, the proposed revision of zoning for the city contemplates the establishment of open development areas in the so called runway approach zones.

This had immediate impact upon the city's plans for the development of the city farm property. Discussions which had been under way concerning the possible sale of this property for the construction of a rental housing project were terminated when it seemed undesirable to establish a high density use in this area. Later experience was to prove that the federal housing agency would not have been able to approve the construction of housing directly in the approach zone. A second immediate effect, was the decision by the planning board and the city council that it would not be wise to build the proposed city auditorium on the city farm property for the same reason.



**ATTRACTIVE EXHIBIT**—The Maine Event, a state wide exposition held at Portland early in September, was the scene of a Bangor exhibit designed and created by Ken Schroeter, the Bangor City Planner. The exhibit, designed to give evidence of Bangor's excellence as a place to live, work, and play, attracted much attention at the exposition. It was later dismantled and returned to Bangor where it was exhibited to the public in the city hall and again at the public library.



**ARCHITECT'S SCALE MODEL**—Above is a scale model of the proposed new Bangor municipal auditorium prepared by Eaton W. Tarbell Associates, architects for the Bangor Recreation Center. The building is designed to have a capacity of 7,500 persons. It will be of steel and masonry construction and is unique in that the roof pith starts on each end of the structure and slopes to the center. The Recreation Center Trustees have authority to issue up to \$1,200,000 in bonds for financing the construction of an auditorium.

Plans For New Auditorium Still Being Explored Here

The Bangor Recreation Center, a creature of the 1951 legislature, came to life in 1952 with the purpose of constructing a new auditorium for the City of Bangor. The Recreation Center, frequently referred to as the auditorium district, is not a city agency even though its members are subject to appointment by the City Council. Actually this agency constitutes a separate municipality with its own borrowing and taxing powers. The first trustees of the Center took office on January 14, 1952 and are State Senator Robert N. Haskell, Albert J. Schiro, State Representative Allan Woodcock, Jr., W. Weldon Dunnett, and Charles Bragg, II. Senator Haskell was elected Chairman of the Center and steps were immediately taken to proceed with the design of an appropriate structure and the location of a suitable site. The firm of Eaton Tarbell & Associates completed the design of a modern auditorium, a model of which was exhibited both locally and at the Maine Event, an exposition held at Scarborough Downs.

STRIKING MODEL

The model of the auditorium is striking in its appearance and has caused a great deal of comment.

The trustees of the Recreation Center have found that the determination of a proper site for the auditorium is a difficult proceeding. Initially both the trustees and a majority of the City Council favored a location on the city property known as the city farm. It developed, however, as planning went

forward for the expansion of Dow Air Force Base, that the proposed auditorium site was in or immediately adjacent to the so called "runway approach zone" as defined by the Doolittle Committee, a special commission appointed by the President to study problems of airport location and airport planning. Further consideration of the problem led to a recommendation by the planning board and agreement by the City Council that a project of this type should not be located in such close proximity to the airport flight pattern. Subsequent investigations of possible locations for the auditorium centered around Bass Park where the old auditorium is located. A request by the trustees of the Recreation Center for permission to use this location uncovered some legal problems which it was finally determined to settle by requesting the court for a determination of the uses to which the city can put Bass Park under the terms of the will by which it was left to the City. As the year closed, plans were going forward for securing this legal decision while the trustees of the Recreation Center assured the city government that as soon as a site could be agreed upon, they were ready to proceed at once with the construction of this long desired public improvement.

Sewer

Continued from Page 2

been laid in the street there. Ten hundred and thirty feet of sewer main was laid in Birch street at the Stillwater avenue end. This together with the sewer laid on Stillwater avenue made a total of 3130 feet of new sewer main in an area which for many years had been handicapped by the lack of sewer services. Other sewer jobs which were completed during the year serving residential areas were Lincoln street, 1025 feet, Meadowbrook road, 750 feet, Wood street, 450 feet, Sixth street, 88 feet.

Another sewer construction job which promised to be of major benefit to the business area downtown was the construction of the Hammond street storm sewer. One hundred and eight feet of 36 inch pipe was laid from the low point near the corner of Hammond and Central streets to the bridge at Hammond street where it discharges into the Kenduskeag stream. This area was one which was frequently flooded during heavy rain storms because the existing sewers did not have sufficient capacity to carry off the large quantity of water collecting at this point which was the low spot of a large paved area. The owners at the adjacent building made this project possible by constructing a new foundation under the building. Where previously the city had maintained a sidewalk laid over planking, it was able to place the storm sewer under the old sidewalk and to construct a new walk on the back-filled gravel. The few heavy rain storms which followed the completion of this project indicated a high degree of success in eliminating this nuisance.

Public Works Adds \$50,000 Worth Of New Equipment

During 1952, approximately \$50,000 worth of equipment was purchased for the public works department. Most of this represented the replacement of old equipment. One additional piece of equipment purchased during the year was a mechanical street sweeper bringing the number of these units in operation to two. It is believed that the work of cleaning up the streets in the spring will be greatly facilitated through the addition of the second machine. Items of replacement equipment purchased during the year included a power shovel, snow loader, one seven ton truck, one three ton truck, and two passenger cars.

Considerable improvements were made during the year in the public works garage. Coal burning equipment in the heating plant was removed and new equipment for using heavy oil was installed. This installation was made on a fuel savings basis requiring no investment of city funds. In a period of a few years, the savings realized in the purchase of fuel will pay for the installation of the equipment. As a result of this change, it was possible to convert the coal storage spaces into bins for the storage of salt. This was successfully accomplished and salt can now be loaded by gravity through an overhead chute into the trucks. This represents a great saving in time over the old method of loading trucks and increases the effectiveness of the department in combating snow and ice conditions.

NEW GENERATOR

During the year, an auxiliary gasoline powered generator ordered during 1951 was installed in the public works garage. This generator will provide power for the entire building including the police headquarters located on the Court street level. This building, combining facilities for police and public works operations, would be the nerve center of any emergency operations if disaster should strike our city. The provision of this auxiliary source of power could well mean the difference between success or failure in those emergency operations.

Police Department Makes Report

Number and Disposition of Offenses Known to Police

|                                       | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1952 Offenses Cleared by Arrest |          |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|---------------------------------|----------|
|                                       |      |      |      | Number                          | Per Cent |
| Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1                               | 100      |
| Manslaughter by Negligence            | 2    | 0    | 1    | 1                               | 100      |
| Rape                                  | 0    | 1    | 0    | -                               | -        |
| Robbery                               | 0    | 0    | 5    | 4                               | 80       |
| Aggravated Assault                    | 0    | 0    | 5    | 4                               | 80       |
| Burglary—                             |      |      |      |                                 |          |
| Breaking or Entering                  | 120  | 60   | 70   | 20                              | 29       |
| Larceny, Theft—                       |      |      |      |                                 |          |
| \$50 and Over                         | 57   | 41   | 46   | 12                              | 26       |
| Larceny, Theft—Under \$50             | 233  | 213  | 245  | 47                              | 19       |
| Auto Theft                            | 59   | 49   | 27   | 15                              | 56       |
| Total                                 | 471  | 364  | 400  | 104                             | 26       |

Voters Turn Out In Record Numbers

The year 1952 saw a record increase in the number of registered voters as well as a new record for the percentage of voters casting their ballots in the presidential election. The table shows a comparison of 1952 with the last previous presidential year, 1948. The net increase in registered voters of nearly 19%, and the 76% turnout at the presidential election were an indication of the widespread interest in political affairs in 1952 as well as the result of a well planned and executed citizens drive to get out the vote.

| Registered Voters            |        |        |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|
|                              | 1948   | 1952   |
| Number, January 1            | 12,925 | 12,218 |
| New voters registered        | 1,763  | 2,650  |
| Voters dropped               | -1,630 | -365   |
| Number December 31           | 13,058 | 14,503 |
| Net increase                 | 133    | 2,285  |
| Net % increase               | 1%     | 19%    |
| Voting Presidential election | 8,659  | 11,049 |
| % voting                     | 66%    | 76%    |

Personnel Changes Promote Better Relations Here

There were several changes in the personnel program last year designed to improve working conditions and to promote better relationships between employees and management. In September, the City Council voted to place the city hall employees on a five day work week the year around. For the past several years, the city hall has operated on a five day week during the summer months. The new program has worked out very well and judging from the small number of complaints received has not caused any great inconvenience to the citizens. Several of the offices have remained open on Saturday mornings when circumstances indicated their facilities would be needed by the public.

REGULATIONS

The personnel regulations for the police and fire departments were amended to provide additional disciplinary authority for the chiefs of these two departments. Previously the full control in all disciplinary matters was placed in the civil service commission. In order for the chief of either department to bring disciplinary action against an employee, it was necessary for charges to be filed with the commission which resulted in publicity unfavorable to the officer and to the department. The new regulations permit the chiefs to suspend men up to ten days in any one year without requiring a hearing before the commission. The rights of the employee are protected however, by providing that he may request such a hearing if he feels that the discipline is unjustified.

Several amendments have been made to the classification and pay plans during the year to meet changing circumstances. New classifications have been established for Engineering Assistant II, Tree surgeon, police secretary, and juvenile officer. The usefulness of the classification and pay plans depends upon their being dynamic rather than static so that they can grow and change as conditions may require.

Bangor is "at the crossroads to everywhere in Maine." Federal Highways Nos. 1 and 2; State Highways Nos. 9, 15, 202 and 222.