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Tampa and Hillsborough County

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WPA progress report

Federal Works Agency. Work Projects Administration. Florida.

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WPA PROGRESS REPORT

In four and one half years of operation, from 1935 to 1939, the Florida WPA, built 5,419 miles of highways, roads, streets and associated facilities, constructed 22 airports landing fields, improved 41 others. Of the road building, 76 percent was rural, and has given more adequate transportation to farms, markets and schools. 723 new public buildings were erected, 532 were improved, and 74 were added to; these included school buildings, recreation centers, office and administrative, hospitals, penal institutions, firehouses, garages, storage buildings, and armories, libraries, auditoriums, gymnasiums.

In a mosquito control program the WPA^a drained 387,285 acres and used 4,545 gallons of spray. Three electric plants were built, two pumping stations, 11 sewerage treatment plants, three incinerators.

In increasing outdoor recreation facilities, 46 grandstands and bleachers were built and 5 reconstructed, with total seating accommodations for 45,000. 46 new parks, 92 parks improved, 11 added to; 54 playgrounds constructed, 57 athletic fields, 34 fields improved; 25 handball courts; 42 horseshoe courts; 182 tennis courts, 10 swimming pools, 4 golf course, 22 improved, 2 outdoor theatres.

In the Professional and Service Division, 4,661,145 garments were made; mattresses making project produced 1,379,845 mats, pads, comforts, quilts. 26,695 illiterate Floridians were taught to read and write, while 3,315 aliens enrolled in WPA naturalization classes became citizens.

The school lunch service served 2,473,554 hot meals free to underprivileged children; food preserving 104,065 quarts of food canned and 23,552 dried, all distributed to needy.

Braille project produced 118,269 pages of reading material for the blind. Library project catalogued 118,910 volumes in the libraries of the State and 162,923 library volumes were repaired by the bookbinding project, and 270,000 school library books were renovated.

Housekeeping Aide Services assisted in needy homes during illness and other emergencies: 104,000 visits were made. 792 Negro girls were trained by the household workers project, with 90 percent of them being placed in jobs. in 1940 there were 48 nursery schools with attendance of 1,440 children.

Planted 114,000 trees, constructed 91,000 feet of bulkheads, erosion embankmen t etc. 1,417,000 bushels of oysters planted. Florida has gained much both in physical assets and cultural improvement.