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**INTERSTATE
SANITATION
COMMISSION**

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INSPECTION TRIP

AUGUST 9th, 1944

INTERSTATE SANITATION COMMISSIONERS

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F o r e w a r d

The Interstate Sanitation Commission is charged with the control of future pollution and the abatement of existing pollution in New York Bay and the adjacent waters.

The Tri-State Compact recognizes in its preamble that pollution creates a grave menace to the health, welfare and recreational facilities of the public and is occasioning great economic loss in the Interstate Sanitation District.

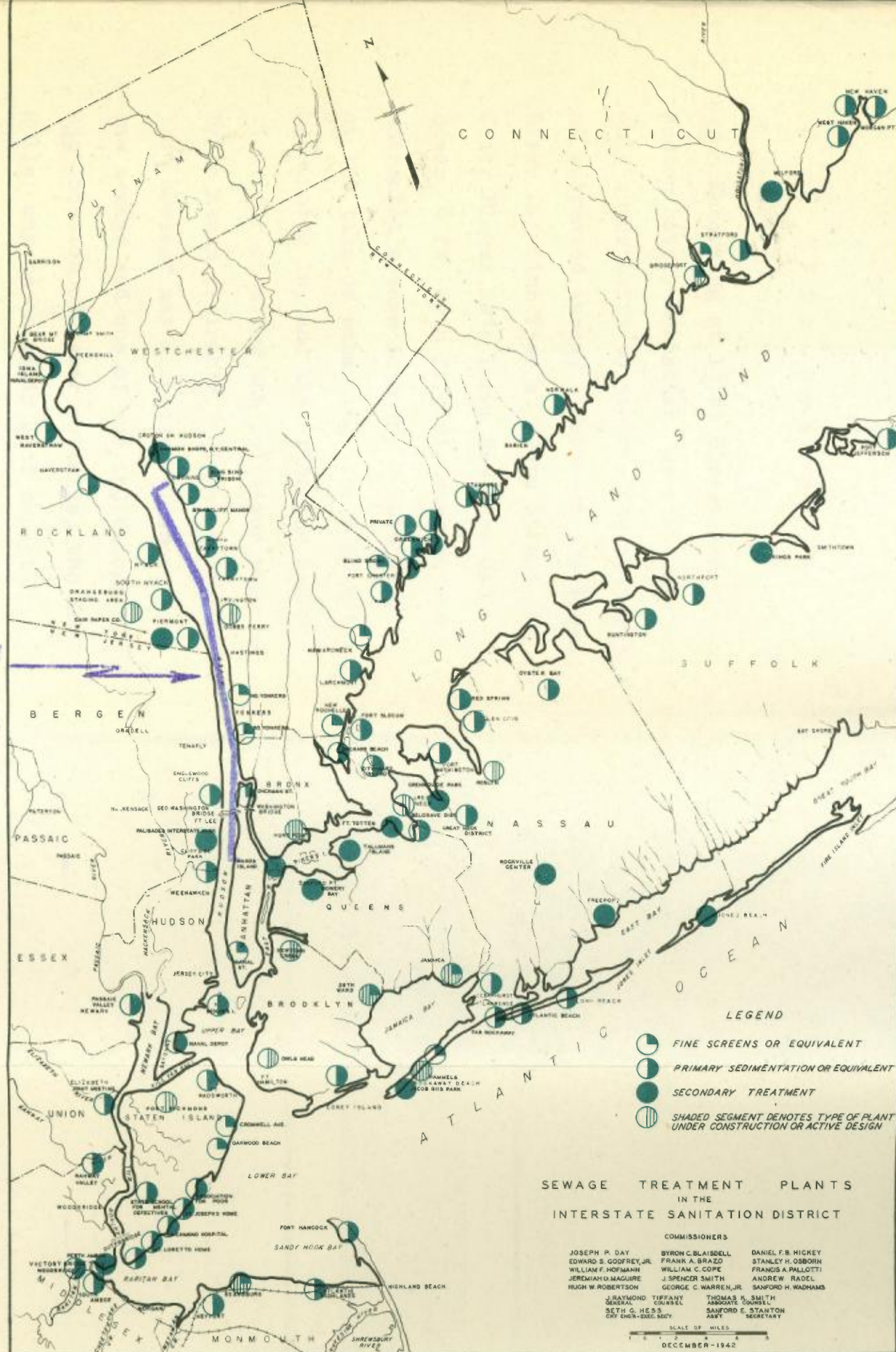
Since the Compact was drafted in 1932 and adopted in 1936, numerous plants for the abatement of pollution have been put into operation.

On previous inspection trips, the

sources of gross pollution have been inspected. Those who were present can testify to the horrible conditions which are thus created. This trip will traverse a portion of the District wherein considerable progress has been made in pollution abatement, and we will, to a large extent, forego the inspection of sources of pollution and instead observe the effects of pollution abatement.

INSPECTION TRIP

August 9th
1944



I t i n e r a r y

Embarking at 131st Street and the Hudson River, Manhattan, we will have our only opportunity to observe the discharge of untreated sewage. South of the Hudson River Day Line Pier at 129th Street (St. Clair Place) is a large New York City sewer, 4 ft. by 6 ft., discharging raw, untreated sewage into the Hudson River. At the time of embarking, the tide will be running in, and therefore the conditions for observing the pollution will be by no means desirable. Close observation however may disclose evidences of raw sewage and one of our indicators of the location of sewer outfalls, the sea gulls, may be on their good behavior

and may assist us in pointing out this source of pollution.

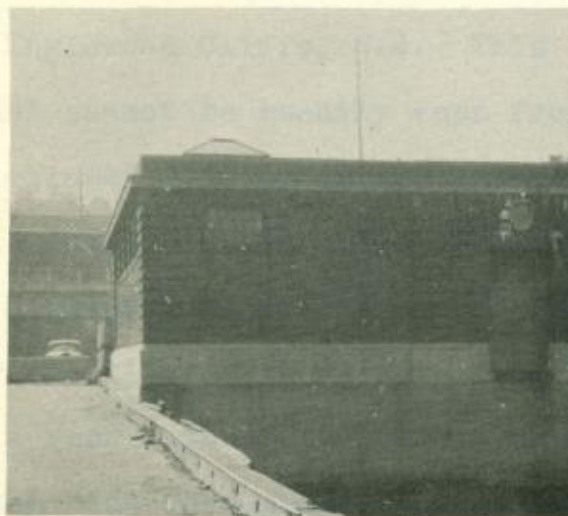
Having embarked on the "Vigilant", we will proceed northerly up the Hudson River to Ossining.

Dyckman St.

After having passed under the George Washington Bridge, the New York City plant at Dyckman St. appears on the east bank. (Illustration "A") The Dyckman St. plant does not afford adequate treatment, as it only provides screening. Although these screens remove large quantities of matter which would otherwise float on the surface, they remove less than 15% of the suspended solids, as compared with 60% required under the Compact.

Englewood Cliffs

Directly opposite, on the west shore,

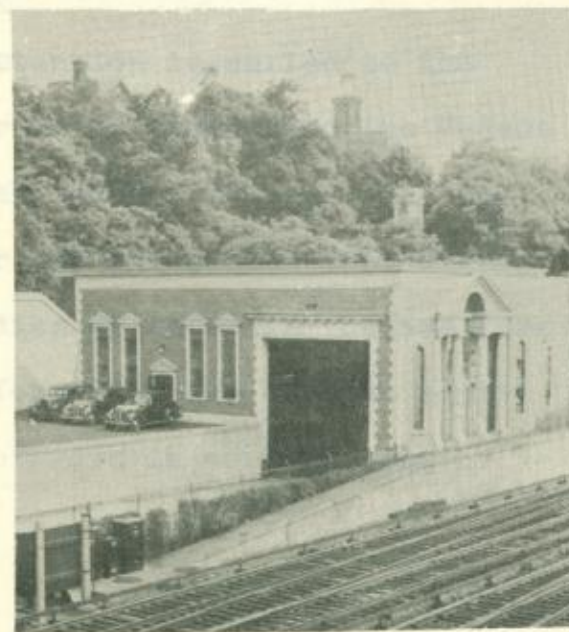


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DYCKMAN STREET
New York City

SOUTH YONKERS
Westchester County

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is Englewood Cliffs, N.J. This treatment plant cannot be readily seen from the "Vigilant". An order was issued by this Commission directing the Borough of Englewood Cliffs to provide means for sterilizing the sewage effluent, and as a result the municipality has recently taken bids for an adequate chlorinator. To meet some legal requirement, it has been necessary to readvertise for bids, which will be received on Aug. 24th.

Harlem River

Your attention is called to the Harlem River which flows into the Hudson River from the east. At one time, the Harlem River was one of the most highly polluted bodies of water in the New York area. New York City has done an admirable piece of work in constructing

sewage treatment works, and as a result, whereas the Harlem River, five years ago, was completely devoid of oxygen during the summer months and practically at all times had a gray and black cast - now it is a river of clear green water. Although some pollution still is carried from the lower East River, and from the Hudson River into the Harlem at the reversal of the tide, the quantity is small in comparison to what used to be discharged directly into this river. Those who travel by train to Connecticut, to Albany, or to Westchester County must have noticed a marked improvement in the character of the river. It is one of the areas where we are able to see the physical benefits that are being

derived from the construction of sewage treatment works.

Yonkers

Westchester County has two treatment plants in the City of Yonkers; both of which may be seen on the east bank of the river. (Illustration B) Each of these plants only provides screening and has the same limitations as the plant of New York City at Dyckman St. The South Yonkers plant was put in operation in 1929, and the North Yonkers in 1931.

Camp Shanks

Although Camp Shanks is located a considerable distance from the Hudson River, the sewage after having passed through an adequate treatment plant is discharged through a long outfall sewer into the Hudson River just above the

N.J.-N.Y. State line. Military security prevents us from stating the quantity of sewage being discharged; however it is a well know fact that this plant which handles all of the troops which from time to time are stationed at Camp Shanks discharges large quantities of adequately treated sewage.

Gair Paper Works

Also on the west bank of the Hudson River is the Gair Paper Works, situated at Piermont. This is an industrial plant and treatment works are provided for the industrial waste.

Piermont

The Village of Piermont has one of the oldest sewage treatment works in this district. The plant is at present quite inadequate and some steps should



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TARRYTOWN



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NORTH TARRYTOWN



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SOUTH NYACK



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NYACK

be taken by the Village to modernize and increase the capacity of the plant. The quantity is small, however it fails to meet Compact requirements.

Irvington

On the east bank of the Hudson, the Village of Irvington is constructing a sewage treatment plant. This plant was built by W P A and when this source of labor was withdrawn, work on the plant ceased. It is hoped that this plant will be completed and put into operation just as soon as labor and material are again available.

Tarrytown

On the east bank of the Hudson, the Village of Tarrytown has an adequate plant. Unfortunately the plant is located immediately adjacent to the Village gar-

bage dump, which detracts materially from the attractiveness of this sewage treatment plant. (Illustration "C")

North Tarrytown

The glass enclosed sludge bed of the treatment works of North Tarrytown may possibly be seen from the "Vigilant", but the plant itself is located just back of the road which parallels the river bank. (Illustration "D") This plant is at the foot of a steep hill, at the top of which are numerous dwellings. We have no record of any objections having been found as to the location of the treatment plant or to odors emanating therefrom.

South Nyack

On the west side of the Hudson

River the attractive plant of South Nyack may be seen. (Illustration "E") It is to be noted that this plant is located in the immediate proximity of dwellings and to the best of our knowledge no complaints have been lodged.

Nyack

This plant is located just north of the South Nyack plant, although it may be difficult to see it from the river. (Illustration "F") The plant likewise is in the immediate proximity of a desirable residential district.

Briarcliff Manor

On the east shore of the Hudson is the small plant which serves a portion of Briarcliff Manor. (Illustration "G")

Ossining - Sing Sing Prison

The sewage treatment plant at the

Sing Sing Prison on the east shore of the river is inadequate and fails to meet Compact requirements. The New York State Department of Public Works has an appropriation available for the construction of an adequate plant, unfortunately the war intervened before work was actually begun. The Commission is taking all steps at its disposal to encourage the construction of this plant at the earliest possible moment.

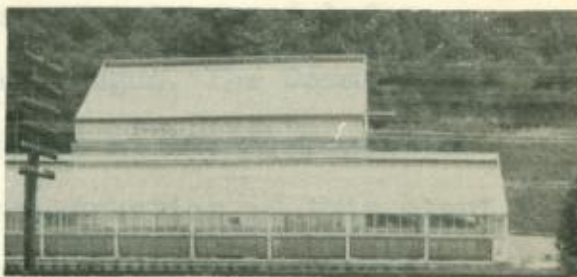
Ossining

Two treatment plants serve the Village of Ossining. (Illustration "H") The southernly plant is smaller and may be distinguished by the glass enclosed sludge bed and glass enclosed tanks. The northerly plant is one of the most attractive plants in this district, and we trust that we



G

BRIARCLIFF MANOR



H

OSSINING (south)

HAVERSTRAW



J

will have the opportunity of making a detailed inspection of this plant on the grounds.

Haverstraw

We do not expect to be able to proceed further on our trip, and will be unable to see the plant at Haverstraw. This however is a modern plant and under normal conditions discharges an effluent which meets Compact requirements.

(Illustration "J")

West Haverstraw

West Haverstraw has a new and adequate sewage treatment plant which generally meets Compact requirements.

Iona Island Naval Ammunition Depot

On the west bank of the Hudson River, the Navy has recently completed the construction of a modern sewage treatment plant at the Iona Island Naval

Depot. This plant is functioning well and meets the requirements of the Compact.

Camp Smith

On the east shore of the Hudson River at Peekskill, Camp Smith has a sewage treatment plant to provide for the needs of the summer encampment.

UNTREATED SEWAGE

Along the Hudson in the "District" remain now only two major sources of raw sewage, namely, at Croton-on-Hudson and Peekskill. Croton has already planned for adequate treatment which it hopes to undertake just as soon as labor and material are available. Peekskill has also included in its post war program for the waste which it discharges and we

feel confident that they will shortly undertake the construction of a waste treatment plant. On the lower Hudson (North River) there are still sources of pollution, both in New York and New Jersey. New York City is making detailed construction plans for post war projects, while in New Jersey a group of municipalities are taking active steps to acquire property and prepare construction plans for post war work.

Where there is no evidence of a municipality's willingness to prepare for post war pollution abatement construction, the Commission may find it necessary to take firm measures. Hearings are being authorized to determine where such steps are necessary.

A c k n o w l e d g m e n t s

The Patrol Boat "Vigilant" has been placed at the disposal of the Commission for this inspection trip by Rear Admiral J. W. Bunkley, U.S.N., Supervisor of New York Harbor. The Commissioners are sincerely appreciative of this courtesy.

We are indebted to the Honorable Herbert C. Gerlach, Westchester County Executive; James C. Harding, Commissioner of Public Works, Westchester County; as well as to our own Commissioner, Hugh W. Robertson, for their assistance in many of the details in connection with the inspection trip, particularly the arrangements at the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club, where we will have the privilege of being guests for luncheon.

Warden William E. Snyder has graciously granted permission to those Commissioners and their guests who wish, to visit Sing Sing Prison, following luncheon.

Acknowledgment is made of the courteous cooperation of the officials and employees of the Village of Ossining in connection with our inspection of the sewage treatment works.

Through the courtesy of Rear Admiral Stanley F. Parmer, U.S.C.G., the Commander of Flotilla #107, George E. Wood is providing ferry service from the "Vigilant" to the Ossining pier.