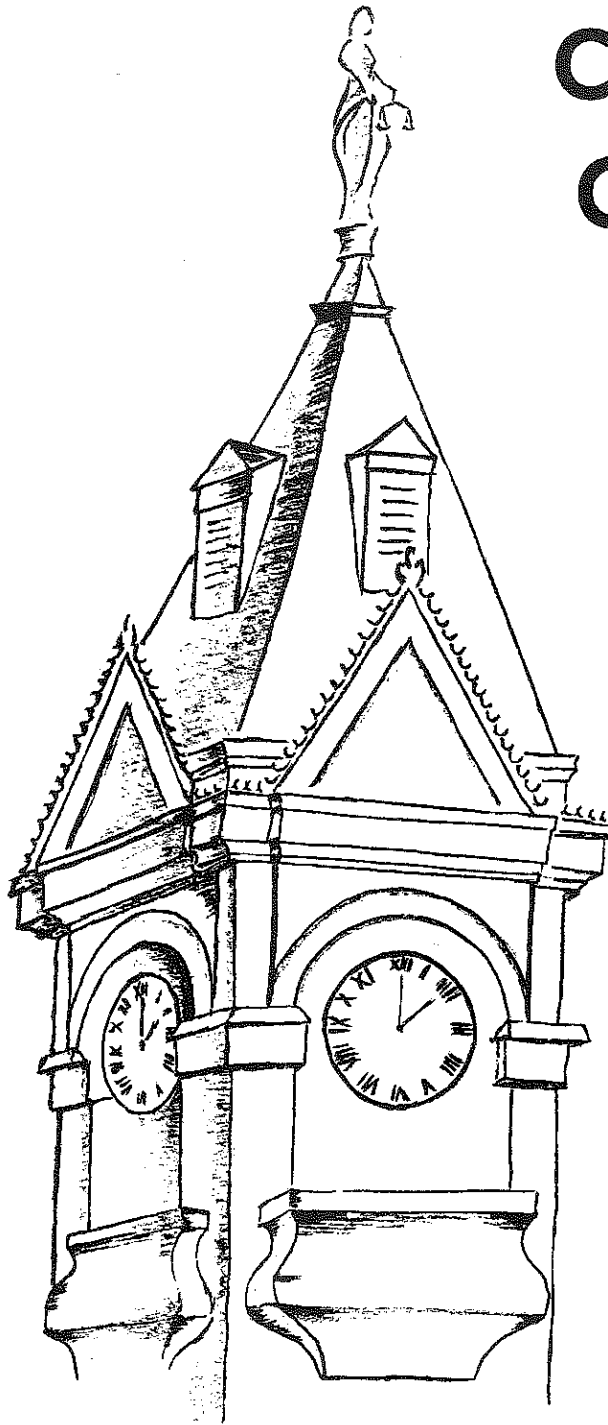
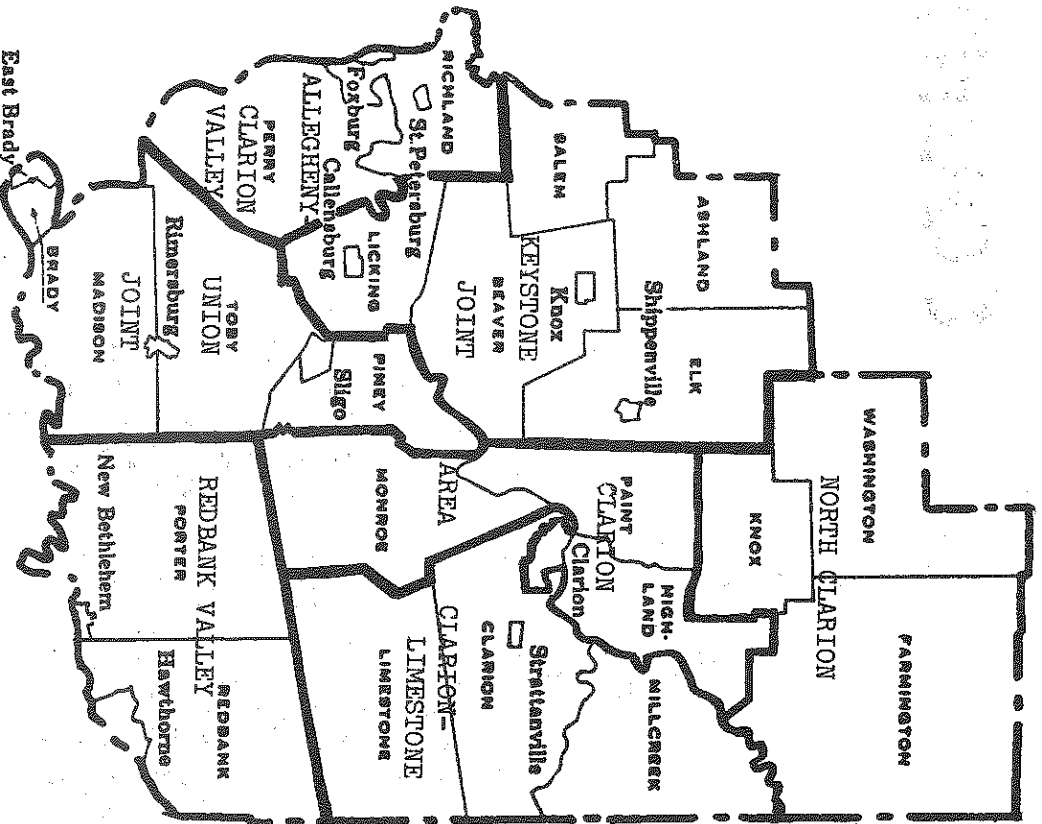


# THIS IS CLARION COUNTY



# CLARION COUNTY



TOWNSHIPS, BOROUGHS  
AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

# THIS IS CLARION COUNTY

Published by  
League of Women Voters  
of Clarion County  
March, 1973

## ● TABLE OF CONTENTS

Clarion County	
Its History .....	
Today .....	
How Clarion County Operates .....	
Executive Offices .....	
Chart of County Government Organization .....	
Appointed Officers .....	
Functional Boards .....	
Home Rule .....	
Borough and Township Government .....	
Financing Government and Schools .....	
Administration of Justice .....	
Courts .....	
Minor Judiciary .....	
Juries .....	
Other Legal Officials .....	
County Jail .....	
Police Protection .....	
Education .....	
Intermediate Unit Six .....	
Parochial Schools .....	
School Districts .....	
Voting Information .....	
Health and Welfare .....	
Clarion County Board of Assistance .....	
Jefferson-Clarion County Economic Opportunity Association .....	
Department of Health .....	
Department of Environmental Resources .....	
Other Sanitary Services .....	
Solid Waste .....	
Child Welfare Services .....	
Mental Health Committee .....	
Hospital .....	
Institutional Care .....	
Clarion County Council of Social Agencies .....	
Other Agencies .....	
Fire Protection .....	
Libraries .....	
Agricultural and Conservation Organizations .....	
Outdoor Recreation .....	
Selected References .....	
Index .....	

## MAPS AND TABLES

Map of Clarion County Showing Townships, Boroughs, and Schools Districts .....	Inside Front
County Government Organization .....	
Functional Boards .....	
Borough Governments .....	
Township Governments .....	
Financing County Government .....	
Taxes Paid in Clarion County in 1972 .....	
Clarion County School Districts .....	
Libraries .....	
County Court House Floor Plan .....	Inside Back

## FOREWORD

This booklet has been prepared by the League of Women Voters of Clarion County, published by the League of Women Voters Education Fund and partially financed by contributions from C & K Coal Company as a public service to the citizens of the county. We wish to thank the public officials, citizens, and League members who made this publication possible through their gifts of time and interest. We also wish to thank those businesses and individuals who, by contributing to our finance drives, have made the funds available.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization which works to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in their government. The League never supports candidates, but does take positions on issues after careful study and consensus.

Additional copies of this booklet may be obtained from Janice Horn, 32 Barber Street, Clarion, Pa. 16214. Price 50 cents.

Editor: Barbara Thornton, 163 Westwood Drive, Clarion, Pa. 16214

1972

The rolling, wooded hills and rushing rivers of Clarion were once the homeland of Indians, as was all the territory east to William Penn by Charles II in 1681. In years that followed treaties were concluded with these Indians giving rights to the new Americans, and in 1784 a treaty was signed which the Delaware and Seneca Indians, whose territory in Clarion County, lost their rights to this land according to a legal view of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The following year a land office was opened in the newly acquired west Pennsylvania territory, but wars with the Indians made settlement impossible until around 1796.

The iron and limestone deposits in the county and the abundance of hardwood used to make charcoal gave rise to the first iron smelting. The first furnace opened in 1830 and production reached its peak in the late '40s and '50s when the county produced half the iron in northwest Pennsylvania. It came to be called "the Iron County." After the Civil War, however, this industry died, leaving only the ruins of 31 furnaces which had operated here to remind us of that era.

Other mineral wealth was discovered as the furnaces died. About 1860 substantial oil deposits were found and an "oil boom" followed which reached its peak in the mid 1870s. About the time coal began to be produced here and this industry came to this day to be a main source of wealth for the county.

Throughout the 1800s lumber was also an important export from this region. Some of the most colorful stories come from the days of the boatmen or "rafters" who took the lumber down the Clarion and Allegheny rivers to Pittsburgh in those days.

The county of Clarion was formed in 1839 from parts of Venango and Armstrong Counties. Three commissioners, given the responsibility of locating the county seat, chose a plateau overlooking a bend of the river, on the Bellefonte-Meadville turnpike, an important trans-Pennsylvania road of that day. In 1839 the settlement of Clarion Borough began.

In 1841 the construction of the first courthouse began. This building served until 1859 when fire razed it. A second courthouse, built in 1863, burned in 1882, and was replaced in 1885 by the present building which dominates the landscape of the town. Another interesting public building is the jail, built in 1873 and still in use today.

In 1867 the institution which was to become Clarion State College opened its doors as Carrier Seminary of Western Pennsylvania, under the sponsorship of the Methodist Episcopal Conference. In 1887 its ties with the Methodists were severed, and it became Clarion State Normal School, supported by private and state funds. The name was changed to Clarion State Teachers College in 1929, by which time it was completely state supported. Finally, in 1960, it became Clarion State College, a liberal arts college.

## TODAY

**Physical Features:** The county has an area of 597 square miles and lies on the Allegheny plateau at an elevation varying from 884 to 1,912 feet above sea level. It is crossed by the Clarion River and bounded on the west by the Allegheny River. Agriculture and open space occupy 47.7 per cent of the county's area, forests 39.9 per cent, strip mines 6.5 per cent and the remainder is devoted to rights of way or residential uses.

**Population:** According to the 1970 census, the total population of Clarion County is 38,414, a 2.7 per cent increase over the 1960 census. Of this number, 27,243 live in rural areas, 6,095 in urban (this figure is for Clarion Borough and does not include college students) and 5,076 in boroughs of 1,000 to 2,500 population.

**Economy:** Clarion County produced manufactured goods valued at \$78.4 million in 1971, while the agricultural products from about 1000 farms brought in \$7.3 million. Wages and salaries paid to county workers amounted to \$19 million, but the average yearly personal income of an industrial employee was \$7,562, well below the national average. The principal industries of the county are coal mining and the manufacture of glass containers, mobile homes, and medical supplies. Owens-Illinois Glass Containers Division is the largest single employer in the county and Clarion State College is second.



## HOW CLARION COUNTY OPERA

### ELECTIVE OFFICES

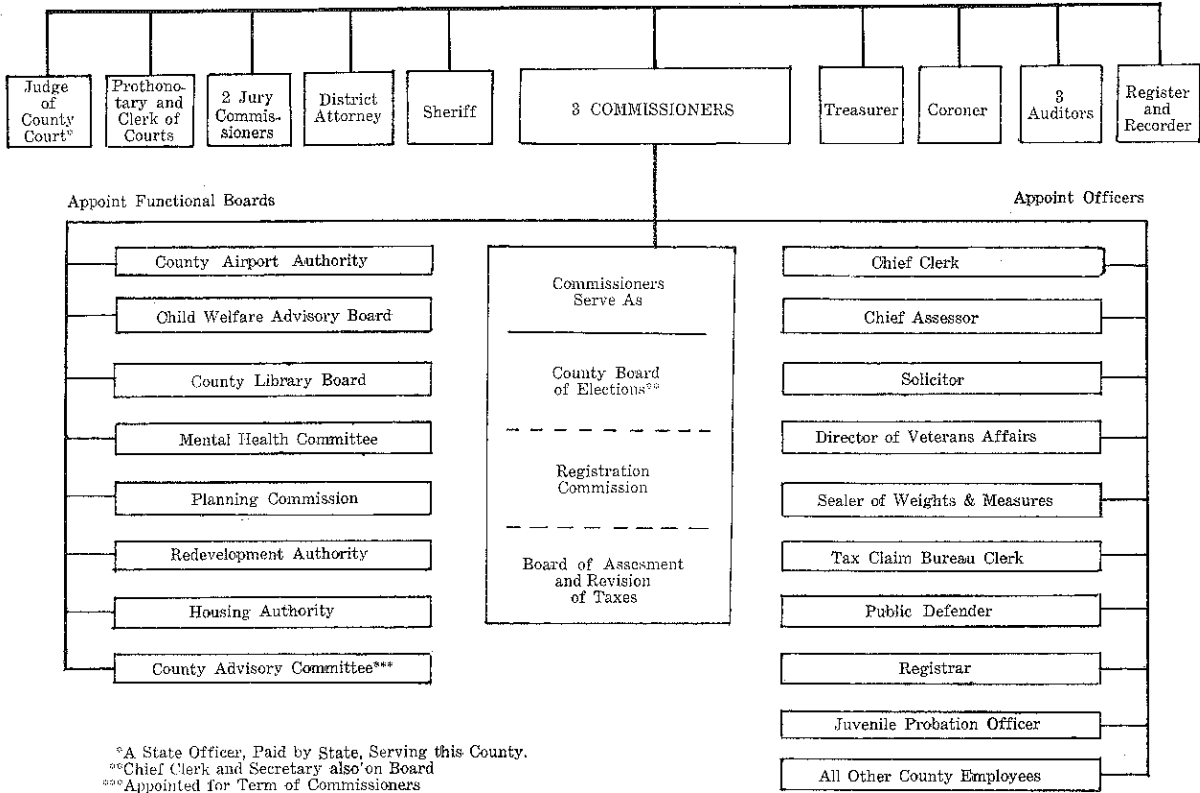
**County Commissioners:** The county acts as an agent of Commonwealth, and to carry out those functions specified by state law the voters elect as an executive board three County Commissioners. They are elected at large every four years by each voter voting for only two, so as to ensure minority representation on the board. They receive \$9,500 per year for their services. County business is transacted at an open meeting on Monday at 10:00 a.m. in the courthouse. At least one Commissioner is in the courthouse each day and on Thursday three confer.

The Commissioners have broad fiscal responsibilities, including the preparation of a county budget, the levying of taxes to meet obligations, and the issuance of bonds for major capital expenditures. They are also responsible for the assessment of property in the county. A further responsibility is for electing to register voters, and to serve as an election board to conduct and report elections. The Commissioners are also responsible for the maintenance and management of the county home, jail, and the courthouse. In addition they appoint a number of administrative officers (listed on the right hand side of chart on page 6) and members of functional boards (on the left side of the chart, page 6), as well as employees, all other county officials. The Commissioners also have authority over the operation of various county offices, although the heads of these offices are themselves elected by the voters.

**Prothonotary and Clerk of Court:** This officer serves for a four year term at a salary of \$10,500 per year (the extra \$1,000 is paid because this is a dual office). He is clerk of the County Court and keeps all orders and judgments of the Court. He receives and keeps petitions for opening and vacating roads and issues applications for passports.

**Treasurer:** He is elected for a four year term and is paid \$9,000 per year and is responsible for all county monies and their disbursement. He also issues dog, fishing, and hunting licenses in the state.

# CLARION COUNTY VOTERS ELECT



## COUNTY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

**Register and Recorder:** For this office a person is elected four year term at a salary of \$10,500 per year. He records mortgages, leases and agreements, issues letters of administration and testamentary (pertaining to wills), and collects estate taxes for the commonwealth. He also serves as the Orphan's Court.

**Coroner:** He is elected for a four year term at a salary of \$30.00 per day when their services are needed. This is a part time job and there are no specifications for the job. It is his duty to investigate before a jury any death which there is reason to suppose is to natural causes.

**Auditors:** These officers are elected for four year term at a salary of \$30.00 per day when their services are needed. They conduct an annual audit of the accounts of county officials who receive public funds. No qualifications for the job are stated.

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

**Chief Clerk:** The chief clerk is the administrative officer of the county. He is responsible for the books and accounts of the Commissioners and for carrying out duties assigned by the Commissioners. The chief clerk is assisted by a staff of four.

**Chief Assessor:** The assessor is appointed annually by the Commissioners. He is responsible for maintaining up-to-date of the assessed valuation of all real estate in the county, the occupations of all county residents for purposes of taxation. He and his staff of from 4 to 6 persons prepare the assessed valuations and occupations for all the schools, townships, boroughs and for the County Commissioners so that they may prepare their budgets and determine new mill levies. The 34 local assessors, one from each township, provide him with the necessary information for valuing the real estate and occupation tax lists.

At present a complete re-assessment of real estate in the County is underway. This is being carried out by a professional firm, Automated Valuation Service, and it is the first general valuation ever carried out in the county. The general evaluation was done in 1958 by local staff of

sector's office. The present survey, to be completed in 1974, will provide the assessor's office with a complete list of the current estimated market value of all real property in the county, and will replace the old lists in which the values are well below current market values and in which there are many inequities. The valuation is based on size, condition, and interior characteristics of the property.

**Solicitor:** The Commissioners appoint an attorney as solicitor to represent the county in legal actions when needed.

**Director of Veteran's Affairs:** This appointed official deals with county responsibilities to veterans and their families.

**Sealer of Weights and Measures:** He is responsible for checking the accuracy of all scales in retail and wholesale establishments in the county. This is a full-time position.

**Tax Claim Bureau Clerk:** This position is held by someone in the Commissioners' office. The bureau is responsible for collection of delinquent real estate taxes. If real estate taxes have not been paid to the local collector by May following the year in which they are due they must be reported to the tax claim bureau, which attempts to collect them. If the taxes become two years delinquent the Commissioners may sell the property at a tax sale to collect the taxes due. In Clarion County this clerk also keeps personal property records for tax purposes. It is required by law that all county residents who hold certain stocks, bonds, mortgages, judgments and interest-bearing accounts report them to the county so that they may be taxed as personal property at a 4 mill rate.

**Registrar:** This position is usually held by a clerk in the Commissioner's office. The Registrar is responsible for the registration of voters.

**Public Defender:** See section on Administration of Justice, p. 17.

**Juvenile Probation Officer:** See section on Administration of Justice, p. 18.

## FUNCTIONAL BOARDS

There are a number of functional boards whose members are appointed by the Commissioners. Board members are and their duties are mainly advisory. However, the Commissioners have no control over the boards' actions. All their are open to the public, although the Redevelopment and the Housing Authority would like prior notification and the Housing Authority would like prior notification, as the meeting place may vary.

NAME OF BOARD & ITS DUTIES	MEMBERS	TERM OF OFFICE	MEETING PLACE
Clarion County Airport Authority	11	varies	4th
Child Welfare Advisory Board Interprets child welfare needs of the county to the Commissioners.	16	3 years	4th
Clarion County Library Board See p. 88	7	8 years	4th
Mental Health Committee See p. 80	3 on a 4 county board	3 years	2nd M Wed., Usual Place in county
Clarion County Planning Commission See p. 10	9	6 years	4th
Redevelopment Authority Plans for urban redevelopment within the county.	15	5 years	Last month, Cl.
Housing Authority Plans for provision of low cost public housing for elderly and low and middle income people.	5	5 years	same as at
County Advisory Committee	5	Appointed for the term of the present Bd. of County Commissioners	

**CLARION COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION:** This is a nine-member board created in March 1966, to comply with the requirements of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs, Bureau of Planning, for federally funded programs in the county. Its direct function is to advise the County Commissioners on such aspects of county development as housing, zoning, economic development, provision of utilities, and highway planning. Its powers are advisory only. A comprehensive master plan has been prepared and presented to the local government officials. The commission employs a professional, salaried planning director whose office is in the Court House. Otherwise the members serve without pay. For 1972 the total budget is \$27,000 paid by the county. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month and are open to the public.

#### **HOME RULE**

Any person interested in government should know that a recently passed bill of the State Legislature, Act 62 of 1972, is an historic piece of legislation. This Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law makes it possible for a municipality, including county, borough and township, to choose its own form of government. This bill makes it possible to carry out the provisions approved by the voters when the State Constitution was revised in 1968. The bill sets up the procedures for a municipality to study and, if so recommended, change its government. Upon petition of the voters and if approved by the voters a commission is elected to study a home rule charter and optional forms of government. Home places decision making in the hands of the people of the municipality, not in the hands of the State Legislature. Possibilities under the law are a Mayor-Council form of government, Council-Manager, and a small municipality form. Further information may be obtained from the League of Women Voters.

#### **BOROUGH AND TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT**

**Boroughs:** Each of the 12 boroughs of Clarion County, including the borough of Clarion, is governed by an elected mayor and a seven-member council. The mayor has the responsibility for the police while the council has the responsibility for all other functions. The mayor presides over the council meetings but does not vote except to break a tie. In addition to the mayor and council an auditor, assessor, and tax collector are elected for each borough. The council can pass ordinances relating to the health and safety of the residents and can issue bonds (with voter approval) for the construction and maintenance of streets, sewers, parks, pools, and borough buildings.

**Townships:** The 22 second class townships in Clarion County are each governed by three elected supervisors who are responsible for the administration of the township and administer it. They have responsibility for roads other than state or county roads within the township. Township supervisors may also float bonds for partial treatment plants, water treatment plants, and sanitary treatment plants, but the bond issues must be approved by a public referendum. Township supervisors are paid \$15 (in a few cases \$20) for attendance at meetings which must be held at least once a month. In addition to the supervisors each township has an assessor, 3 auditors, and a tax collector.



-12-

BOROUGHES	1970 POP.	Assessed Val.	WATER SUPPLY	SEWAGE TREATMENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS
Clarion	6,095	3,972,880	Clarion Water Co. (Clarion River)	STP(s)	Each of the boroughs has 7 councilmen, 1 mayor, 1 tax collector, 1 tax assessor, and 3 auditors.
New Bethlehem	1,406	1,202,165	Red Bank Cr.	STP*	
Knox	1,306	1,187,535	7 wells	Collection 1933 STP* 1937	
East Brady	1,218	767,765	2 wells & 1 spring	STP*	
Rimersburg	1,146	597,735	2 wells	STP*	
Sligo	825	462,000	3 wells	Wild cat system	STP: Sewage Treatment Plant(s) Secondary treatment. *Upgrading to secondary treatment. Wild cat system: no regular system of collection or treatment.
Shippenville	602	320,650	2 wells	Septic tanks or cesspools	
Strattanville	559	193,590	Clarion Water Co. (Clarion River)	Septic tanks or cesspools	
Hawthorne	552	292,805	Red Bank Cr.	Septic tanks or cesspools	
St. Petersburg	416	210,405	1 well & 1 spring	Septic tanks or cesspools	
Foxburg	353	166,320	5 wells	STP	
Callensburg	249	98,530	Individual wells	Septic tanks or cesspools	

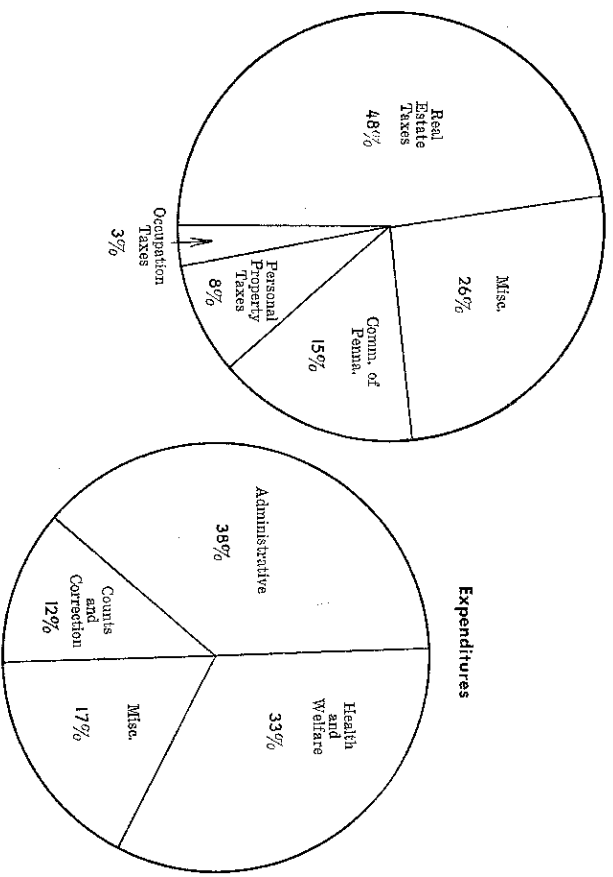
-13-

TOWNSHIPS	1970 POPULATION	ASSESSED VALUATION	ELECTED OFFICIALS
Ashland	872	552,995	Each of the townships has 3 supervisors, 1 tax collector, 1 tax assessor, and 3 auditors.
Beaver	1,424	904,445	
Brady	92	42,575	
Clarion	2,287	2,165,055	
Elk	1,295	810,550	
Farmington	1,500	1,412,325	
Highland	461	366,865	
Knox	1,117	641,865	
Licking	546	378,055	
Limestone	1,179	931,360	
Madison	1,453	678,355	
Millcreek	297	430,685	
Monroe	1,129	899,025	
Paint	1,215	1,464,215	
Perry	1,209	759,935	
Piney	465	394,310	
Porter	1,436	1,153,330	
Redbank	1,533	978,105	
Richland	553	358,715	

# FINANCING GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOLS

Clarion County citizens pay a variety of taxes to each of the taxing authorities; county, school district, township or borough in which they reside. A budget, based on estimated needs and sources of income, is prepared by each governing body. The county budget is advertised in the newspapers for three consecutive weeks before its adoption and is open for public inspection. In preparing the budget, the taxing authority must decide which of the taxes allowable by law it will in fact levy, and how much it must realize from each kind of tax. An individual's real estate taxes are figured by multiplying the tax millage levied by his assessed valuation. Clarion County presently levies 18 mills on the assessed valuation of real property. For instance, if your property has an assessed valuation of \$5,000 (at present most assessed valuations are below market values) and the county mill levy is 18, you pay \$90 in real estate tax to the county (.018 x \$5,000). For further information on property assessment see the section on the Assessor's office, p. 7.

FINANCING COUNTY GOVERNMENT



TAXES PAID IN CLARION COUNTY IN 1972

County Taxes	Clarion Area School Taxes *	Borough and Township Taxes
1. Real Estate Tax: 18 mills on assessed value of your property	1. Occupation Privilege Tax: \$10.00	The 34 townships or more of the boroughs levy the following taxes: Tax, Occupation Tax, Per Capita
2. Personal Property Tax: 4 mills on actual value	2. Wage tax: 1 percent on your earned wage	
3. Occupation Tax: The County Commissioners set rate of 18 mills on the assessed value of your occupation.	3. Real estate tax: 80 mills on assessed value of your property	
(For example, a housewife is assessed at \$25, a laborer \$150, a teacher \$350.)	4. Per Capita Tax: \$5 per person	
	5. Occupation Tax: 30 percent of assessed value of your occupation. (See column at left)	
	6. Real Estate Transfer Tax: 1 percent of the value of real estate, at the time of sale.	

\*School taxes vary from district to district. We have used Clarion Area as an example. See the table on schools for the taxes levied by each school district.

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

### COURTS

**Judge:** One judge is elected for the county to preside over the court of common pleas, the divisions of which are named below. He serves for a ten year term and may be re-elected. His salary is paid by the state of Pennsylvania, not by the county, and he is responsible to the state.

**Civil Court** holds four sessions each year, in February, May, August, and November. Special days are set aside each year for traffic court (motor vehicle cases), argument court, and equity court (a special kind of civil court in which a judge may sit without a jury).

**Criminal Court** holds four sessions a year also. Criminal cases involving juveniles (persons under 18) are heard in special Juvenile Court, held at least four times a year. In these cases the judge hears cases in closed court, or in his chambers, with only the District Attorney and the defense attorney present. Juries are never called for juvenile cases.

Domestic relations cases are heard frequently and deal mainly with non-support. They are heard by the judge, defendants, and attorneys. Divorce cases aren't heard by regular courts but are heard instead by masters, court-appointed attorneys who hear the cases and then present the testimony to the court. The judge then approves or disapproves the master's decision. Masters are paid a set fee for their time.

### MINOR JUDICIARY

**Magistrate Courts:** The magistrates, formerly called Justices of the Peace, became part of the unified court system under the new Constitution of 1968. They have original jurisdiction in most cases except juvenile cases and civil cases involving amounts over \$500. They may decide all summary cases, e. g. a traffic or borough ordinance violation, and all civil cases involving sums less than \$500. In some more serious crimes (felonies and misdemeanors), the District Magistrate cannot find the person guilty or not guilty but must decide if the state has made a case.

If so, the criminal case is turned over to Criminal Court. There are five magisterial districts in the county, and each elects a magistrate for a six year term. To qualify as a district magistrate person must attend a school of instruction and pass a written test.

**Appeals:** Cases may be appealed to the appellate courts: Commonwealth Court, Superior Court and finally to the Supreme Court.

### JURIES

**Grand Jury** has twelve members and an alternate who are chosen by picking from a "jury wheel" containing names of selected registered voters of both parties who voted in the last election. Two jury commissioners, one from each party, elected for year terms, make the selection at drawings held for each quarterly term of court. A grand jury is summoned for each quarter session, to hear evidence in all criminal cases and to return indictments if the evidence is not sufficient. Jurors are paid per day.

**Traverse Jury** (sometimes called petit jury) is made up of twelve members, chosen in the same way as above, to try the accused either Criminal or Civil Courts. A traverse jury serves for duration of each quarterly session, and members are paid \$20 per day.

### OTHER LEGAL OFFICIALS

**District Attorney:** He is elected for a four year term and must be a practicing attorney. His duties are to prosecute all criminal court actions in the county and to represent the Commonwealth in juvenile court. The District Attorney is subject to authority of the State Justice Department, the State Supreme Court, and the local court.

**Public Defender:** A public defender must be appointed by the county to defend those persons who do not have their own attorneys. He must be a lawyer and is paid from county funds.

**Officer of the Court:** The other officers of the court are a bailiff whose duty it is to keep order in the court, and a tipstaff, who takes care of court formalities. The Prothonotary also has duties.

related to the court, such as recording of all court orders and judgments. An adult probation officer from the state serves Clarion County under the supervision of the state Probation and Parole Board. A juvenile probationary officer is appointed by the court to supervise juveniles on parole.

**Sheriff:** A sheriff is elected by the voters for a four year term. His duties are to serve writs, preserve peace and order, commit prisoners to the county jail and oversee them, conduct sales of real estate for tax purposes and deliver deeds for property sold at treasurer's sales. He is also responsible for the county jail and may hire deputies to assist him (at present he has two).

## COUNTY JAIL

The jail is under the supervision of a warden, who is in residence at the jail. The capacity of the jail is 30, with one room set aside for women and one for juveniles.

## POLICE PROTECTION

**State Police:** The state police are responsible for policing the rural and suburban areas. They patrol state highways, conduct drivers' tests, and testify in court against offenders. Their barracks are on Route 66 near the Shippenville exit of I-80.

**Borough Police:** Each borough has a police force appointed by the mayor and council and responsible to them.

Intermediate Unit Six began functioning on July 1, Clarion Manor (on route 322, near Shippenville). It was by Pennsylvania State Legislature, along with similar across the state, to replace the county school offices. It includes Clarion, Jefferson, Venango, and Forest counties the school districts of Titusville Area and DuBois Area. The former county offices this unit does not have administrative powers but only performs consulting, advisory and co-ordinating functions, and provides programs for exceptional children. State allocates to the unit the money which formerly supported the county administrative offices the unit replaces. The unit can obtain additional funds by requesting them from the individual school boards.

The Intermediate Unit is responsible to a 13-member board elected at large from the 153 school board members of the county. The board elects a president and a vice president. One school district can serve at the same time. Terms are for two years and are staggered. The election of Unit board members takes place at an annual convention of all the member boards. The board has the same convention final approval of the budget which has previously been approved by the Unit board and by the individual school boards must take place.

The function of the Intermediate Unit is to provide educational development and instructional improvement, educational consulting services, in-service training, instructional materials and services to exceptional children.

The unit provides a pre-school program for the handicapped, classes for trainable retarded, itinerant teachers for handicapped, speech therapists, adult basic education social work, and psychological services.

Other services of the unit include inspecting property of new schools, evaluating present school buildings where real estate data for the state, and providing consulting services for vocational-technical schools.

There is an executive director; the instructional materials service has a director, an assistant director and seven supportive staff members; the special education service has a director, 35 professionals and five para-professionals; and there are nine secretaries.

## PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

There are three parochial schools in the county, all under the general supervision of the Erie Diocese. Two of them, Immaculate Conception in Clarion and St. Michaels in Fryburg, are staffed by the Benedictines of Erie and include grades 1-8. The other, St. Josephs in Lucinda, includes grades 1-12 and is staffed by the Benedictines of St. Marys. Lay people are also employed as teachers. Each school is administered locally by the parish pastor and funded by its parish.

CLARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	SCHOOLS	NO. OF PUPILS	BOARD & FACULTY	COST PER PUPIL	TAXES LEVIED (see p. )
ALLEGHENY- CLARION VALLEY	Emerton Elementary Perry Elementary Parker Elementary St. Petersburg Elem. A-C Valley High School	K. 121 Elem. 724 Sec. 747 1,592	Board: 1 from each of 9 regions 3 administrators 86 teachers	\$752.17 (\$845.92)*	real estate wage occupational privilege per capita real estate transfer
CLARION AREA	Boundary St. Elem. Clarion Jr-Sr H. S.	K. 85 Elem. 670 Sec. 736 1,490	Board: 9 elected at large 3 administrators 78 teachers	\$703.55 (\$909.29)*	real estate wage occupational privilege per capita occupation real estate transfer
CLARION-LIMESTONE	Clarion Limestone Elem. Corsica Union Elem. Strattanville Elem. Clarion-Limestone H. S.	K. 75 Elem. 688 Sec. 676 1,439	Board: 3 each from 3 regions 3 administrators 73 teachers	\$676.40 (\$763.43)*	real estate wage occupational privilege per capita real estate transfer
KEYSTONE JOINT	Ashland Elementary Callensburg Elem. Salem Elementary White Elementary Shipperville Elem. Keystone H. S.	Elem. 953 Sec. 910 1,863	Board: 3 each from 3 regions 4 administrators 85 teachers	\$649.44 (\$716.41)*	real estate wage occupational privilege per capita occupation
NORTH CLARION	North Clarion Elem. North Clarion H. S.	Elem. 389 Sec. 446 835	Board: 3 each from 3 regions 2 administrators 37 teachers	\$653.00 (\$836.63)*	real estate wage occupational privilege per capita occupation real estate transfer
RED BANK VALLEY	Madison Twp. Elem. Mahoning Twp. Elem. New Bethlehem Elem. Porter Twp. Elem. Red Bank-Hawthorn Elem. Red Bank Valley H. S.	K. 99 Elem. 1,060 Sec. 1,026 2,185	Board: 3 each from 3 regions 3 administrators 98 teachers	\$619.89 (\$726.40)*	real estate wage occupational privilege per capita occupation
UNION JOINT	Himersburg Elementary Sligo Elementary Union Jr-Sr H. S.	K. 78 Elem. 609 Sec. 615 1,302	Board: 9 elected at large 3 administrators 67 teachers	\$718.26 (\$881.91)*	real estate wage per capita (2) occupation

## ● VOTING INFORMATION

### YOU MAY VOTE . . . . IF YOU ARE REGISTERED

You may register if:

- You have been a U. S. citizen for 90 days prior to an election.
- You are at least 18 years old by the day after the election.
- You have been a resident of Pennsylvania for 90 days immediately preceding the election.
- You have been a resident in the voting district 60 days prior to the election. (If you have moved from one voting district to another within 60 days prior to an election, you may return to your former district to vote.)
- You are eligible to vote in a presidential election, having lived in Pennsylvania 30 days and in your voting district for 30 days.

### REGISTRATION

**Where?** You must appear in person at the Commissioners' office in the County Courthouse during business hours (8:30-4:30) or at other places which may be especially designated prior to an election.

**When?** Registration closes 50 days before a primary or general election and opens five days after a primary and thirty days after a general election.

**Permanence:** Registration is permanent unless you fail to vote for two years. If you have not voted for two years you must re-register. Before your name is withdrawn, however, you are notified and by responding you may keep your name on the list. If you move you must give notice of your change of address. If you have changed your name or your party affiliation you must make the change in person at the registration office.

### PRIMARIES

Primaries are held on the third Tuesday of May, except in a presidential year when they are held on the fourth Tuesday of April. Municipal and township primaries are held in odd num-

bered years; general primaries in even numbered years and county party committee members are elected at the primaries, and, in presidential election years, delegate Democratic and Republican national conventions are elected. Democratic delegates may run "pledged" to a certain initial candidate. Only persons registered with a party primary of that party, but all registered persons may vote referendum submitted in a primary.

### GENERAL ELECTIONS

On the Tuesday following the first Monday of November odd-numbered years the following are elected: municipality, township, school district and election officials, state Court justices, judge of superior, commonwealth, and pleas courts (county courts).

On the Tuesday following the first Monday of November numbered years the following are elected: member United States Congress, state officers, and state senators, representatives and in presidential years, presidential

### ABSENTEE VOTING

Any registered voter who will be out of the county on day or who is too ill to visit a polling place may apply absentee ballot by requesting an application form from the of Elections not earlier than 50 days and not later than days before the election. However, emergency applications those who did not know they would have to be out of the on election day or for those who have become suddenly be filed up to closing time on the Friday before the All absentee ballots must be received at the Board of by 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election. There are visions for absentee registration in Pennsylvania ex members of the armed forces, federal employees over their families.

### CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Any eligible person wishing his name to be placed on the must file a petition in the form prescribed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The signers of the petition must be members of the party and qualified voters of the

district within which the nomination is to be made or the election to be held. There is a required number of signatures for each office and usually a filing fee. Every candidate filing a petition must execute a candidate's affidavit and a loyalty oath. Local office seekers file papers with the county election board; others, with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES

The Democratic County Committee consists of 49 committeemen or committeewomen elected by their own precincts, a chairman elected by all 49 precincts of the county, and a vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer appointed by the committee. The executive committee consists of these four officers, plus five members of the County Committee appointed by the chairman from various areas of the county. In addition, any state committeemen or committeewomen or state executive committee members from this county are members of the executive committee.

The Republican County Committee consists of 49 committeemen or committeewomen, a chairman, and a vice-chairman, all elected at the general primary, plus a secretary and a treasurer elected by the committee, a representative of the Young Republicans, and the president of the Clarion Council of Republican Women. The executive committee consists of the four officers, plus seven members of the committee, each representing an area of the county and elected by committeemen and committeewomen of that area.

The county committees encourage members to become candidates for office, and they also raise money for the party and make suggestions for patronage appointments.

Of 18,844 registered voters in Clarion County (November, 1972), there were 9,246 Republicans, 9,180 Democrats and 418 who were listed as independent or having no party affiliation. About 75 per cent of the registered voters generally vote in elections, but in Clarion County 83.4 per cent voted in the 1968 election and 80.6 per cent in the 1972 election.

#### YOUR POLITICAL ADDRESS

You are a member of State Senatorial District 41, of State House of Representatives District 63, and of U.S. House of Representa-

tives District 23 or 12. The boroughs of Callensburg, Brady, Foxburg, and Rimersburg, and the townships of Madison, Licking, Perry, Richland, and Toby are in District 23. The remainder of the county is in District 28.

#### ELECTION BOARD AND WATCHERS

The election board in every precinct consists of a judge and two inspectors of election. They are elected at elections and serve for four years beginning the first Monday following their election. In paper ballot district as those in Clarion County) each inspector appoints one serve at the election.

Each elector may vote for one inspector, and the major spectator in any district is the one who receives the highest of votes at the election. The minority inspector is the one who receives the second highest number of votes at the election. Each candidate at any primary is entitled to appoint two electors in each election district in which he is on the ballot, one political party and each political body which have no candidates for general, special, or municipal elections. The electors are entitled to appoint three watchers in each election district, which candidates are on the ballot. All watchers must be registered electors of the district in which they act as one watcher for each candidate or party is allowed to receive the polling place at any one time, however.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

THE CLARION COUNTY BOARD OF ASSISTANCE is a state agency which is the main source of welfare aid in the county. It administers the following financial assistance programs: cash grants, medical assistance, and food stamps. Social services are also provided to eligible persons upon request.

Their office at 8 Grant St., Clarion, Pa., has a Public Welfare Administrator and a staff of thirty-six, including supervisors, caseworkers, technicians, clerks, and maintenance workers.

A Board of Directors, composed of seven citizens of the county, appointed by the Governor meets monthly. Among its duties are the selection of a Public Welfare Administrator from a Civil Service list of those eligible, as well as approval of all other staff appointments and promotions. Qualifications and salaries for the staff are set by the state. The Board also makes policy for the agency and serves as a liaison between the community and the agency. Any questions or need for services should be directed to this office.

JEFFERSON-CLARION COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC. is a private non-profit corporation (known as a Community Action Agency) funded under the auspices of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to mobilize and channel the resources of the nonpoor into antipoverty action to increase the capabilities as well as opportunities for participation of the poor in the planning, conduct, and evaluation of antipoverty programs in the community.

Other projects resulting from this basic funding include:

Project Headstart which is a federally funded educational program for 3 to 6 year old children and their families. The purpose of this program is to give a "head start" into public school to children from families whose income falls below income ceilings set by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This program serves 105 children and their families in the two counties; 3 Headstart Centres are located in Clarion County and service 63 children and their families.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps is a federally funded work training program for disadvantaged youth between the ages of 15 and

19 which combines work experience with education and encourage the disadvantaged youth to finish high school during the school year 50 youths are enrolled in the two 25 in Clarion. In the summer, the program expands rollees, of which 150 are Clarion residents. Eligibility rollment is set by the Department of Labor income cell lines.

Operation Mainstream is another Department of Labor operated by the Community Action Agency which work experience with education and counseling to improve employability of the low income individuals age 55 and secondary function of this program is to provide agency and private non-profit) with enrollees for job activities will have a beneficial effect upon the physical and environment of the community.

A Homemaker Service funded by the Department of Public Welfare and operated by the C.A.A. serves persons in the for the purpose of maintaining, strengthening, improving safeguarding home and family life for individuals and groups when such service is appropriate. This service supervised home help to families with children and to as well as to the physically handicapped or mentally

The Family Planning Service provides a high quality intensive family planning service to medically indigent women of the two counties. Included in this program educational, social, and medical services.

Other services rendered by the C.A.A. are the initiative "Meals on Wheels" program, social service referrals, a essay, transportation to social services.

In the planning stages are low income housing rehabilitation the provision of a limited service transportation system residents of the two counties.

The C.A.A. has staff available to lend technical assistance social action groups, as well as speakers who will express goals and objectives of the agency to interested groups.



Information on any of the programs operating or planned, can be obtained from the Community Action Agency, Court House, Clarion, or by telephone 226-8383.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The state Department of Health serves Clarion County through the Health Center located at 708 Main Street in Clarion. This center is staffed by two public health nurses, and a clerk typist shared with the Department of Environmental Resources. These are civil service employees, whose qualifications and salaries are established by the state. The staff assists in a well baby clinic held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, monthly tuberculosis clinics held in the center and monthly orthopedic clinics in Brookville and Oil City which residents of the county may attend. The nurses follow up on patients from these clinics and from cardiac, cleft palate, and cystic fibrosis clinics in Pittsburgh and New Castle. Home visits to evaluate need for clinical care, health education, demonstrations of nursing techniques to patients and their families, as well as to provide skilled home nursing services are also among their duties. Epidemiological follow up of all reported communicable diseases is carried out on a daily basis.

Clarion County is part of Region 6 of the state Department of Health. Mobile units operating out of the regional office in Meadville provide the annual diabetic and glaucoma screening programs.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The Department of Environmental Resources was organized in 1971 to deal with many of the environmental problems formerly the responsibility of the state Department of Health. This office an office at 708 Main Street with that department. This office serves not only Clarion, but Forest and part of Venango counties, and is under the Region 6 office located in Meadville. It is staffed by two sanitarians and shares a clerk with the Department of Health. The staff is paid by the state and meets state civil service qualifications. This department is responsible for enforcing sanitary standards for semi-public water supplies and for enforcing the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act 537 which deals with sub-surface sewage disposal. To ensure compliance with state sanitary regulations it inspects eating and drinking establishments, organized camps, campgrounds, mobile home parks,

schools, swimming pools, and institutions (such as rest homes and the county home). The sanitarians also advise subdivisions developers on standards and carry out epidemiological investigations. Laboratory facilities in Erie and Philadelphia are available for bacteriological studies. Any private household who wishes to have his water supply checked can obtain a bottle from the Clarion office free of charge and send a sample to the laboratories for analysis.

#### OTHER SANITARY SERVICES

Municipal water supplies and surface sewage treatment facilities are supervised by the Division of Sanitary Engineering, Meadville. Milk and meat are inspected by the state Department of Agriculture.

#### SOLID WASTE

Solid waste disposal in the county is entirely in the hands of private operators. Collection is made by trucks and materials dumped in landfills where bulldozers cover each day's accumulation of compacted rubbish with a foot of spoil bank material. Out of seven sanitary landfills in the county only two are claimed to fulfilling the requirements recently laid down by the Department of Environmental Resources. No site has been finally approved and some operators will not even apply for a permit. As the open dumps are phased out according to the state plan solid waste disposal may become more of a problem.

#### CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Clarion County Child Welfare provides protective services, foster home care, care in children's homes, adoption services, and services to unwed mothers. The agency is staffed by a director (shared with Jefferson County), two caseworkers, and a clerk. The staff is hired by the County Commissioners from the civil service lists of qualified persons. The agency, which had a budget of \$19,000 in 1972, is supported by the county and by the state Department of Public Welfare. Two hundred seventy-four children were served in 1971 and at the end of that year 19 children were in foster homes and 14 children in other types of placements.

There is a citizen's advisory committee of 15 county residents whose members serve for three year terms. They are elected by the committee and approved by the County Commissioners. The committee meets bi-monthly, advises the agency on policy, and serves as a bridge between the community and the agency.

#### MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Clarion County is part of a four county mental health and mental retardation unit, consisting of Warren, Forest, Venango, and Clarion Counties. The mental health clinic is in Oil City, but a satellite clinic operates in Clarion at 12 North Fifth Avenue. It is staffed by professionals from the Oil City clinic. Care is available to all residents of the county and fees are based on the patient's ability to pay. The clinic is the responsibility of a citizen's committee made up of residents of each of the four counties. Clarion County has three representatives on the committee. The clinic is supported by state and federal funds and by fees paid for services.

#### HOSPITAL

The Clarion Osteopathic Community Hospital is the only hospital in the county. In 1971 a fund drive in the community raised the \$400,000 which was its goal, enabling the Association to obtain \$300,000 in federal funds under the Hill-Burton Act, and another \$100,000 under the Aid to Appalachia Act. This money will be used to enlarge and improve the present hospital. When finished, the hospital will have 69 beds, a new intensive care unit, and pediatric and emergency units, as well as the present medical, surgical, and laboratory facilities. The hospital is open to both doctors of medicine and osteopathy and has a staff of 11 physicians, two dentists, a podiatrist, and 110 nonmedical employees. The hospital has Medicare, Blue Cross, and Blue Shield approval and is accredited by the American Osteopathic Association. A board of 14 lay persons and one physician sets hospital policy and advises the director.

#### INSTITUTIONAL CARE

Clarview Rest Home (County Home) is the only institution of its kind operated by the county. It is in Sligo and has space for about 50 patients who are accepted on the approval of the County Commissioners. Patients pay as much as they can of the month-

ly cost of \$245 and the remainder comes from county funds. The county home is under the direction of a superintendent by the Commissioners. The building of a new county home is presently being planned by the County Commissioners.

Warren State Hospital in Warren cares for mental patients from Clarion County. They are admitted on application to the State, but two doctors must examine the patients and certify their need for such hospitalization.

Polk State School and Hospital in Polk cares for the physically and mentally handicapped. Patients are admitted on application to the state.

Costs of hospitalization in the latter two institutions are paid by the families of the patients insofar as they are able. Remaining costs are met from state funds.

Clarion County Council of Social Agencies

CLARION COUNTY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES  
A Council of Social Agencies serves as a co-ordinating body for the various public and private agencies involved in social work in the county. In addition, it tries to define social problems and to find solutions for them. Representatives of this council, who are appointed by the various agencies, meet monthly.

For additional information about health-related social services see the section on health care, as well as the Health Services Directory published by the League of Women Voters of Clarion County.

## OTHER AGENCIES

### FIRE PROTECTION

Sixteen volunteer fire companies serve Clarion County, providing protection for all the major population concentrations. Their fire houses are located in Callensburg, Clarion, East Brady, Leeper, Foxburg, Hawthorne, Knox, Frogtown, New Bethlehem, Dutch Hill, Rimersburg, St. Petersburg, Shippenville, Sligo, Fryburg and Strattanville. The fire companies receive some financial help from the Commonwealth which levies a "Foreign Fire Tax" on out-of-state fire insurance companies and distributes the income from this tax on a per capita basis. The greater part of the operating funds are obtained, however, through a variety of 'Firemen's Benefit' social functions and raffles to which the communities respond generously, and from tax monies allocated by the boroughs to the fire departments.

### LIBRARIES (1971 statistics)

	Hours	Number of Volumes	Expenditures for Books & Periodicals	Amount of Local Support	Amount of State Support
Clarion 226-7172	M-S 9:30-5 M-F 6-8:30	20,295	2,865.28	15,919.38	5,435.78
Children's Section	M-F 3-5, 6-8:30 Sat. 9:30-5				
East Brady 526-3492	Wed. 3:30-7:30	(not in the County library system)	none		
Foxburg 659-3431	M-F 12-7 Sat. 10-12	4,641	820.80	3,588.38	2,947.39
Knox 797-1054	M-S 10-5 TTF 7-10	16,008	4,969.81	12,318.11	1,656.58
New Bethlehem 275-2870	M-S 11-5 M-F 6-9	15,363	4,336.96	12,904.50	3,208.28
Rimersburg 473-3800	M-F 11:30-4:30 M-F 7-9 Sat. 11-4	4,853	2,458.59	3,302.90	4,393.02

Clarion County Library Board: This board consists of one representative from each library in the county (five) and an active secretary and a chairman who are appointed by the Commissioners. The representatives each have three year terms. The board is responsible for the libraries, coordinating the statistics for the libraries, coordinating the activities, and distributing state funds according to local effort the area served. Meetings of the board are held the fourth day of January, April, July, and October at 1:30 p.m. in the Library of the Court House.

District Library: Clarion County is included in the state of Pennsylvania system with Venango and Jefferson counties and DuBois Clarion Free Library is the district center. The Carlson Library of Clarion State College serves as a reference and research center and handles interlibrary loans for the district. The office of the coordinator for the district is in the Carlson Library.

### AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

Clarion County Conservation District: At the hub of the county's agriculture is the Clarion County Conservation District organized in 1937 to protect and improve our soil and water resources. It was the first such district in the state. On the rim of the wheel are the 'cooperators,' the private landowners and the municipalities. Connecting the district direct to the hub with the cooperators on the rim are the various agricultural and Conservation Service (ASCS), Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration; the state Fish Commission, Game Commission, Conservation Commission, Extension Service, Department of Health, Bureau of Forestry; and the Clarion County Planning Commission. These cooperating agencies coordinate activities and operations to meet local conservation problems. Funding of projects is shared between the cooperators and ASCS. Technical assistance is rendered primarily by the Soil Conservation Service.

The Clarion County Conservation District office can be reached by mail at Box 468, Clarion. Its work is financed mainly by grant from the state Commissioners. The Commissioners are the seven directors who represent farm and urban areas. of the programs carried out directly by the district are: rev

tion and tree planting; youth education projects including field trips, and distribution of free seedlings for beautification, income, and erosion control.

**Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service:** The ASCS is the agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that administers specified commodity and related land use programs designed for voluntary production adjustment, resource protection, and price, market, and farm income stabilization. The county office is at 415 Wood Street, Clarion; office hours, 8:30-5:30. The office staff consists of an office manager and two program assistants. The programs of the ASCS are administered in the county by the farmer-elected county committee, under the general supervision of the state committee.

**Extension Service:** The Clarion County Cooperative Extension Service is located in the basement of the Court House. It has one full-time county agent who is qualified to work with agricultural problems and one full-time home economist. They are both appointed by Pennsylvania State University. Funding comes jointly from Penn State and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This agency's functions are mainly educational. The county agent works with all farm and garden organizations. He conducts meetings, writes news articles, and answers individual problems by phone, letter, farm visits, or in his office. The home economist informs people on household matters, particularly in money management, nutrition, disease prevention, and consumer problems.

**Leadership training for 4-H clubs** is handled by this office. Approximately 550 4-H boys and girls in the county are engaged in many different types of farm and home projects.

**Other Organizations:** A recent survey of Clarion County revealed 33 citizens organizations with conservation as their main concern or with conservation programs as part of their activities. Included in this list are sportsmen's clubs, ecology groups, women's clubs, and two watershed associations: the East Sandy Creek and the Redbank Creek Watershed Associations.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

The opening day of deer season is a school holiday in Clarion County, an indication of the popularity of hunting in northern Pennsylvania where the prolific deer herd is managed by the State Game Commission to offer recreation to both resident out-of-state visitors. Small game season also attracts sportsmen. "Hunting camps" have always been a part of the picture in rural areas but lately more and more seasonal homes are being built as city people discover our wooded streams. Approximately 12,000 acres of State Game land are open to hunters, hikers, bird watchers, and on designated routes to snowmobilers; but only a few streams are stocked with fish for fishermen.

Camping, hiking, picnicking, and swimming, are available at Cook Forest State Park located in the northeast corner of Clarion County and adjacent Forest County. Several private grounds cater to tenters and travel trailers. The latest addition is a large KOA (Kampgrounds of America) at Wentlings Camp on Interstate 80.

Recreation on the Clarion and Allegheny Rivers includes skiing, motorboating, canoeing, and kayaking. Red Bank offers good down-river canoeing in the spring. Above Dam Penelce leases a variety of waterfront campsites for campers.

Golfers may play on three courses, one of which is the continuously used in the United States - the famous Red Bank course.

Municipal recreation facilities in the county are rather limited, consisting of "magic squares" in Clarion and Strattanville (tennis courts which are flooded in winter for ice skating) and a small park in Knox; and the somewhat larger Alcola Park is run jointly by New Bethlehem, Hawthorne and Red Bank Boroughs and Porter Township. The Clarion County 100th Anniversary held at Alcola Park, Strattanville, Rimersburg, and New Bethlehem have new parks in various stages of planning or under construction. There are private parks in Limestone with a large swimming pool. The borough of Clarion maintains a public swimming pool.

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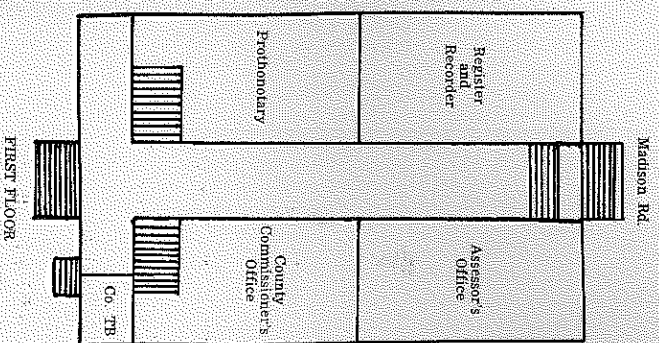
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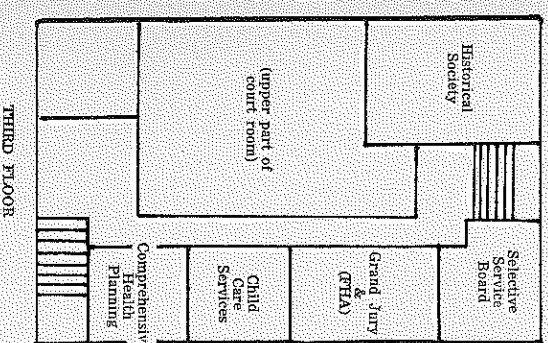
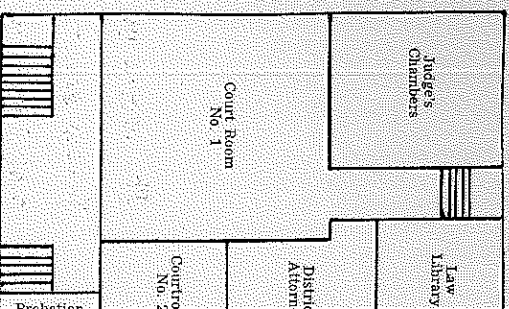
- Absentee voting ..... 23
- Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (U. S.) ..... 33, 34
- Agriculture, Pa. Dept. of ..... 29
- Alcola Park ..... 35
- Allegheny-Clarion Valley School District ..... 21
- Ashland Township ..... 13
- Assessor, Chief ..... 6, 7
- Auditors ..... 6, 7
- Beaver Township ..... 13
- Borough government ..... 11, 15
- Brady Township ..... 13, 25
- Callensburg ..... 12, 25, 32
- Candidates, political ..... 23
- Child Welfare Advisory Board ..... 6, 9
- Clarion Area School District ..... 15, 21
- Clarion Borough ..... 3, 12, 20, 32, 35
- Library ..... 32, 33
- Clarion Council of Republican Women ..... 24
- Clarion County Commissioners 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 30, 31, 33
- economy ..... 4
- financing ..... 14
- history ..... 3
- Industries ..... 4
- population ..... 4
- Clarion County Airport Authority ..... 6, 9
- Clarion County Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes .. 6
- Clarion County Board of Assistance ..... 26
- Clarion County Board of Elections ..... 6
- Clarion County Child Welfare .. 29
- Clarion County Conservation District ..... 33
- Clarion County Council of Social Agencies ..... 31
- Clarion County Fair ..... 35
- Clarion County Library Board ..... 6, 9, 33
- Clarion County Planning Commission ..... 6, 9, 10, 33
- Clarion-Limestone School District ..... 21
- Clarion Osteopathic Community Hospital ..... 4
- Clarion State College ..... 4
- Clarion Township ..... 28
- Clarview Rest Home ..... 6
- Clerk, Chief ..... 28
- Clerk of Courts ..... 28
- Clinics ..... 28
- Community Action Agency .. 2
- Conservation Commission, Pa. Cook Forest State Park ..... 6
- Coroner ..... 6
- County Advisory Committee 6
- County jail ..... 16
- Court, Civil ..... 16
- Court, Criminal ..... 16
- Court, Juvenile ..... 16
- Court, Magistrates ..... 16
- Court, Orphans ..... 16
- Court of Common Pleas ..... 16
- Democratic County Committee District Attorney ..... 6, 16
- District Library ..... 16
- Dutch Hill ..... 12, 25
- East Brady ..... 12, 25
- Library ..... 12, 25
- East Sandy Creek Watershed Association ..... 20
- Election Board ..... 20
- Elections, General ..... 20
- statistics ..... 20
- Elections, Primary ..... 2
- Elk Township ..... 2
- Environmental Resources, Pa. Department of ..... 2
- Extension Service ..... 33
- Family Planning Service ..... 33
- Farmers Home Administration (U. S.) ..... 33
- Farmingdon Township ..... 33
- Fire Companies ..... 33
- Fish Commission, Pa. ..... 33
- Forestry, Pa. Bureau of ..... 33
- 4-H clubs ..... 33
- Foxburg ..... 12, 25
- Library ..... 12, 25
- Frogdown ..... 20
- Fryburg ..... 20

Game Commission, Pa. ....	33	Porter Township .....	13, 35
Hawthorne .....	12, 32, 35	Prothonotary .....	5, 6
Headstart .....	26	Public Defender .....	6, 8, 17
Health, Pa. Dept. of .....	28, 34	Public Welfare, Pa. Dept. of ..	29
Health Services Directory .....	31	Recreation .....	35
Highland Township .....	13	Redbank Borough .....	35
Home rule .....	10	Redbank Creek Watershed Associa-	34
Homemaker Service .....	27	tion .....	34
Hospitals .....	30, 31	Redbank Township .....	13
Housing Authority .....	6, 9	Redbank Valley School District ..	21
Immaculate Conception School..	20	Redevelopment Authority ...	6, 9
Intermediate Unit Six .....	19	Register and Recorder .....	6, 7
Jefferson-Clarion County Economic	26-28	Registrar .....	6, 8
Opportunity Association ...	26-28	Registration Commission .....	6
Judge .....	6, 16, 17	Republican County Committee..	24
Jury, Grand .....	17	Richland Township .....	13, 25
Jury, Petit .....	17	Rimersburg .....	12, 25, 32, 35
Jury, Traverse .....	17	Library .....	32
Jury Commissioners .....	6, 17	St. Josephs School .....	20
Justices of the Peace .....	16	St. Michaels School .....	20
Juvenile Probation Officer ...	6, 8	St. Petersburg .....	12, 25, 32
Keystone Joint School District..	21	Salem Township .....	13
Knox Borough .....	12, 32, 35	Sanitary Engineering, Pa. Division	29
Library .....	32	of .....	29
Knox Township .....	13	Sanitary landfills .....	29
Leeper .....	32	Sealer of Weights and Measures	8
Legislative districts .....	24-25	Sheriff .....	6, 18
Libraries .....	32-33	Shippensburg .....	12, 32
Licenses: dog, fishing, hunting..	6	Sligo .....	13, 32
Licking Township .....	13, 25	Soil Conservation Service, Pa...	33
Limestone .....	35	Solicitor .....	6, 8
Limestone Township .....	13	Solid waste disposal .....	29
Lucinda .....	20	State Game Lands .....	35
Madison Township .....	13, 25	State police .....	18
Meals on Wheels .....	27	Strattanville .....	12, 32, 35
Mental Health Committee .....	27	Tax assessment .....	6, 8
Monroe Township .....	6, 9, 30	Tax Claim Bureau .....	14-15
Monroe Township .....	13	Taxes, delinquent .....	8
Neighborhood Youth Corps ..	26-27	Toby Township .....	13, 25
New Bethlehem .....	12, 32, 35	Township government .....	5, 6
Library .....	32	Treasurer .....	11, 15
North Clarion School District ..	21	Treasurer's sales .....	18
Operation Mainstream .....	27	Union Joint School District .....	21
Owens-Illinois Glass Containers	4	Veteran's Affairs, Director of ..	8
Paint Township .....	13	Voting information .....	22
Passports .....	5	Warren State Hospital .....	31
Perry Township .....	13, 25	Washington Township .....	13
Piney Township .....	13	Weights and Measures, Sealer of	8
Police .....	18	Weights Corners .....	35
Political parties .....	24	Young Republicans .....	24
Polk State School and Hospital	31		

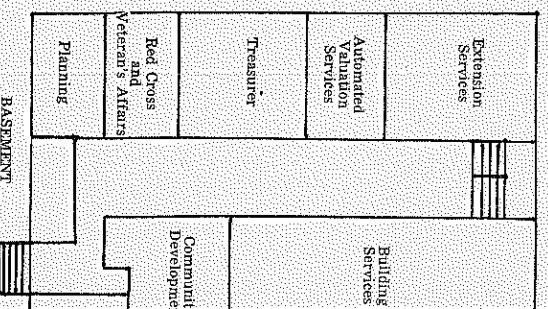
FLOOR PLAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE



SECOND FLOOR



BASMENT



The League of Women Voters of Clarion  
County gratefully acknowledges a special  
contribution from the C & K Coal Company  
which helped make possible the publication  
of this booklet.