Who owned the pie dish and why?

Insurance companies are normally willing to insure anything.

Insuring public or private property is a standard practice in most countries in the world.

If, however, you were holding an open air garden party or a fete lt would be equally possible to insure yourself in the event of bad weather.

Needless to say, the bigger the risk an insurance company takes, the higher the premium you will have to pay.

It is not uncommon to hear that a shipping company has made a claim for the cost of salvaging a sunken ship.

But the claim made by a local authority to recover the cost of salvaging a sunken pie dish must surely be unique.

Admittedly, it was an unusual pie dish, for it was eighteen feet long and six feet wide.

It had been purchased by a local authority so that an enormous pie could be baked for an annual fair.

The pie committee decided that the best way to transport the dish would be by canal, so they insured it for the trip.

Shortly after it was launched, the pie committee went to a local inn to celebrate.

At the same time, a number of teenagers climbed onto the dish and held a little party of their own.

Dancing proved to be more than the dish could bear, for during the party, it capsized and sank in seven feet of water.

The pie committee telephoned a local garage owner, who arrived in a recovery truck to salvage the pie dish.

Shivering in their wet clothes, the teenagers looked on while three men dived repeatedly into the water to locate the dish.

They had little difficulty in finding it, but hauling it out of the water proved to be a serious problem.

The sides of the dish were so smooth that it was almost impossible to attach hawsers and chains to the rim without damaging it.

Eventually, chains were fixed to one end of the dish and a powerful winch was put into operation.

The dish rose to the surface and was gently drawn towards the canal bank.

For one agonizing moment, the dish was perched precariously on the bank of the canal, but it suddenly overbalanced and slid back into the water.

The men were now obliged to try once more.

This time, they fixed heavy metal clamps to both sides of the dish so that they could fasten the chains.

The dish now had to be lifted vertically because one edge was resting against the side of the canal.

The winch was again put into operation and one of the men started up the truck.

Several minutes later, the dish was successfully hauled above the surface of the water.

Water streamed in torrents over its sides with such force that it set up a huge wave in the canal.

There was a danger that the wave would rebound off the other side of the bank and send the dish plunging into the water again.

By working at tremendous speed, the men managed to get the dish onto dry land before the wave returned.

The divers found the dish, but it was difficult to haul out of the water.

The sides were SO smooth it was almost impossible to attach chains to it.

Eventually, chains were attached and they pulled the dish to the canal bank on a winch.

Unfortunately, it overbalanced and slid back.

They then fixed clamps to both sides and fastened chains to lift it vertically.

With a winch they hauled the dish above the surface and onto dry land.

It was the biggest pie dish in the world and, floating on the canal, looked very inviting.

It had been anchored to the side of the canal after it had been launched and was as big as many of the boats on the canal.

It was about eighteen feet long and about six feet wide, and the sides were about three feet high.

When a number of teenage girls and boys came along the canal path early in the evening, they thought the dish looked fascinating.

There were about ten of them and they all jumped or climbed into the dish one by one.

The first thing that happened was that they started slipping and sliding everywhere and all fell down in the bottom of the dish because it was SO smooth.

They all laughed a lot.

Then one of them turned on the large portable radio that he had brought with him and some of them started dancing. (At least there was no one near the canal to complain about the noise.)

Suddenly, the dish began to move in the water.

It went down one side, and then down one end, and the teenagers moved to the other end.

Then it started dipping the end and they all slid into a pile.

At that point, the rim of the dish reached the level of the water.

Once that happened, the teenagers couldn't climb back up to the other end, and the water started pouring in.

It capsized in minutes and sank in seven feet of water.

Fortunately, they all managed to swim to the bank and were safe.

The teenagers may not have done much damage, but if they hadn't held their party on the dish, it wouldn't have sunk and the insurance company wouldn't have had to pay to salvage it from the canal.

In the case of the pie dish, the insurance company concerned was asked to pay the costs of the salvaging operation.

When the pie dish had capsized, the men who came to recover it found it difficult to devise a way of getting it out of the water.

The huge wave in the canal was caused by the great quantity of water which poured off the dish when they were getting it out.

Eventually, the dish was successfully recovered by securing the winch chains with metal clamps and lifting it vertically.

The bigger the risk an insurance company takes, the more you wiil have to pay as a premium.

The sides of the dish were so smooth that attaching hawsers and chains to the rim was almost certain to damage it.

There was a danger that when the wave rebounded off the other side, it would send the dish plunging into the water again.

Three men dived time and again into the water.

A powerful winch was getting going.

This time, they put metal clamps on both sides of the dish.