

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK GUIDE

And Year Round Public Relations



FILE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

NCWM Publication 7
(Third Edition)
JUNE 1989

NCWM PUBLICATION 7
January 1989

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK
GUIDE
And Year Round Public Relations
1989
Third Edition**

**PEGGY H. ADAMS
Chief Sealer/Director
Consumer Protection/Weights & Measures
Bucks County, PA
Editor**

The National Institute of standards and Technology has a statutory responsibility for "cooperation with the States in securing uniformity of weights and measures laws and methods of inspection." In partial fulfillment of this responsibility, the Institute is pleased to publish this document for the National Conference on Weights and Measures.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
TEN GOLDEN RULES	1
PLANNING IDEAS	2
WHAT WEIGHTS AND MEASURES REALLY MEAN	3
SUCCESSFUL IDEAS	4
HISTORIC QUOTES	8
HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS	13
ACTS REGULATING STANDARDS	16
COMMUNICATIONS - GETTING INTO PRINT	19
NATIONAL WEIGHTS & MEASURES WEEK	22
EDITORIALS	24
PRESS RELEASES	28
FEATURES	44
IN THE NEWS	57
PHOTOGRAPHS	73
COMMUNICATIONS - THE BROADCAST MEDIA	76
RADIO	79
TELEVISION	84
COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC	87
COMMUNICATIONS WITH INDUSTRY	91
PROCLAMATIONS	93
NEWSLETTERS/ANNUAL REPORTS	103
BROCHURES	111
OTHER IDEAS FOR WEIGHTS & MEASURES WEEK	124
RESOURCES	127



TEN GOLDEN RULES

TEN GOLDEN RULES for an effective

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

- List your aims and objectives for Weights and Measures Week.
- Allow plenty of time to plan.
- Use your local newspapers, radio, television stations and cable television systems as much as possible. Involve them right from the planning stage and listen to their advice about what is news worthy.
- Involve state, county, and city Weights and Measures offices, as well as industry, in helping to plan your Weights and Measures Week activities.
- Plan exhibits - go out to where the people are - downtown shopping and office areas, shopping centers and neighborhood shopping areas.
- Don't be afraid of "razzamatazz" - it works and people enjoy it.
- Contact civic groups and plan presentations.
- Write your press releases and public service announcements a month ahead of time.
- Contact groups for speaking engagements to tell the Weights and Measures story.
- Plan for a proclamation presentation from your governor, commissioners, or mayor.



PLANNING IDEAS

NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

March 1 through 7

National Weights and Measures Week is only an introduction – a means of raising the community's awareness to the importance of the Weights and Measures official.

Your press releases, public service announcements, and brochures are all communication tools.

Your primary purpose is to educate the public about Weights and Measures and its effect on each individual and the economics of his home; the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the public under the Weights and Measures law. This knowledge will enable the public to assist in their own protection and to report violations of any Weights and Measures law that comes to their attention for the protection of the community at large.

The Office of Weights and Measures was established by Congressional resolution in 1836. A brief condensed history is included in this packet. The Publication NBS#447 has a more in depth history of Weights and Measures in the United States.

Ask your mayor, county commissioners, governor, or legislative body to issue an official proclamation in recognition of the week.

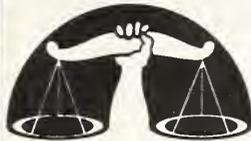
Request the school superintendents and principals to officially recognize the week and support various programs.

National Weights and Measures offers an opportunity for cooperation among all levels of government, business, and private consumer groups in meeting the consumer challenge.

National Weights and Measures Week helps us focus much needed public attention on Weights and Measures inspections and issues.

WHAT WEIGHTS AND MEASURES REALLY MEAN

NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK
March 1 to 7



Weights and Measures may be ranked among the necessities of life to every individual of human society. They enter into the economical arrangements and daily concerns of every family. They are necessary to every occupation of human industry; to the distribution and security of every species of property; to every transaction of trade and commerce; to the labors of husbandman; to the ingenuity of the artificer; to the studies of the philosopher; to the researches of the antiquarian; to the navigation of the mariner, and the marches of the soldier; to all the exchanges of peace, and all the operations of war. The knowledge of them, as in established use, is among the first elements of education and is often learned by those who learn nothing else, not even to read and write. This knowledge is riveted in the memory by the habitual application of it to the employments of men throughout life.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Excerpt from the Report on Weights and Measures by the Secretary of State, made to the Senate on February 22, 1821.

SUCCESSFUL IDEAS



WEIGHTS and MEASURES WEEK

Equity in the Marketplace

It protects your pocketbook!
It's good business.....
It's a necessity and
It's for everybody!!!

What can you do to promote Weights and Measures Week - Here are some ideas!

SPECIFICS YOU CAN DO!

1. Proclamation Resolution -

Make Weights and Measures Week official. Ask your Mayor, County Commissioner, Governor, or legislative bodies to issue an official proclamation in recognition of the week. Do this in January to be ready on March 1.

2. Press -

Despite the impact of television, the newspaper remains the basic means of informing the people and influencing public opinion. A radio or television show, though it may have great impact upon those who hear and see it, is lost forever to those who do not. On the other hand, a newspaper can be read at any time, and there is a mysterious power to the printed word which seems to give it more permanence and more importance than any other publicity media.

A. Make up a press release or use suggested releases enclosed by filling in the blanks.

B. Write editorials to the papers or give background material you receive from the Scale Manufacturers Association to editors. Have various merchants, manufacturers, or industry trade associations write editorials supporting your office and its work.

C. Feature a certain area of weights and measures - have photographers from newspaper take photos or mail out photos you have taken. Take picture of students on a field trip watching the inspector.

3. Radio -

Much of what has been said about TV also applies to radio - with the exception, of course, that you do not have the problem of making your presentation visual. In some ways, this is even more difficult, because the program depends entirely on sound, and the ability to articulate helps to make a good impression on radio.

A. Spot Announcements

1. This is one of the good ways to reach a radio audience, since they are read by professional announcers. Be sure that they are taken to all radio stations well in advance of the actual observance of the WEEK.

B. Interview Programs

1. Push this possibility on both radio and TV.
WARNING: Remember that you can make a bad, as well as a good impression on radio and TV, so do not go unprepared. Find interesting examples and stories about your work.
2. Another suggestion: Do not assume that your audience knows much about weights and measures work. The chances are excellent that they haven't the remotest idea in the world of what a weights and measures official is or what he does. Keep your conversation down to a level where an intelligent person who knows little or nothing about weights and measures will find it stimulating and interesting. If you do this, you will have a good show and make a fine impression on those who hear or see you.

4. Television -

If your city has one or more television stations, they provide a marvelous opportunity for publicity. Be sure to take news, stories, and other material to the TV stations well in advance of the WEEK and suggest that a TV short or program be devoted to the subject of weights and measures.

In dealing with television people, keep in mind that television is a visual medium. If you can come up with things that the public can see and be interested in - a condemned scale, an illegally set weighing device, or something of the like which you have come across in the course of your official duties - that might help. Still pictures, if they are large enough, preferably 8" x 10", can also be helpful in giving animation to a program of this sort. If the television station has a local reporter who takes film, perhaps you could schedule an inspection of local scales in a supermarket or something of that order. Be sure to take your material to all TV stations. if you have more than one in town.

A. Public Service Spots

1. Prepare a slide or urge the TV news reporter to televise local weights and measures offices in your area. Each State has various TV/radio media areas. Work with each area. Have different stories for each station in a given media area.
2. Contact companies who sell weights and measures equipment in your State to sponsor spots using their device in testing; i.e., test measure being used to test gasoline dispensers.

- A public service type of announcement sponsored by a prover manufacturer.
- Or scale weighing a commodity sponsored by a scale company and food manufacturer.
- Request them to salute your weights and measures agency.

B. Cable Television

1. Have public service program showing what you do locally; i.e., testing gas pumps, checking firewood, inspecting dryers, scales, etc. (Use NCWM film "The Marketplace.") Bucks County, Pennsylvania has two (2) cable shows which can be copied for a fee for VHS 3/4" or 1/2".

5. Schools -

Write for FUN SHEET and slide show idea.

The school system provides a wonderful opportunity for officials to tell the "Weights and Measures Story," during the celebration of National Weights and Measures Week, March 1-7.

Take a classroom or a business or marketing group on a field trip to a gas station or supermarket and show them what you do as an inspector.

6. Other Speeches -

Contact service groups and tell them what you do. Be specific as to the number of items or devices inspected. Explain that weights and measures is for the consumer and merchant.

7. Exhibits -

Place weights and measures testing equipment on display at your, State, city, or county office. An open house which includes your State laboratory might be possible. Talking scales and display models of digital scales or pumps loaned by industry members in your area are all possible. Demonstrate equipment at certain times in lobby of your office building.

Set up exhibits in banks, libraries, and stores with various weights and measures literature, metric information, history of measurement, "Third Man Theme" posters, "The Double Ride" poster, poster with John Quincy Adams' statement, pictures of inspectors on the job, etc. Prominently display a sign that says - Department of Weights and Measures, National Weights and Measures, March 1-7. Use the National Weights and Measures logo.

Take the posters you receive through the associate members and place in supermarkets information displays or service station windows.

3. Other Promotional Ideas -

Request supermarkets, hardware stores, etc. to put National Weights and Measures Week logo, date, and slogan on supermarket bags. Ask them to add the logo to food advertisements. Make up a placemat saluting Weights and Measures and have restaurants or coffee shops make some up and use them during that week.

Make up pamphlets of Weights and Measures facts and hand out as flyers; three are included.

Have a party. Connecticut's Office of Weights and Measures honors the office staff and invites the Department to a party including lunch and a cake.



HISTORIC QUOTES



Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he hereby is directed to cause a complete set of all the weights and measures adopted as standards, and now either made or in the progress of manufacture for the use of the several custom-houses, and for other purposes, to be delivered to the Governor of each State in the Union, or such person as he may appoint, for the use of the States respectively, to the end that an uniform standard of weights and measures may be established throughout the United States.

Approved, June 14, 1836.

Resolution No. 7 of the 24th Congress of the United States, Session I, 1836

GEORGE WASHINGTON

First message to Congress - January 1790

"Uniformity in the currency, weights, and measures of the United States is an object of great importance, and will, I am persuaded, be duly attended to."

Second message to Congress - December 1790

"The establishment of the militia, of a mint, of standards of weights and measures, of the post office and post roads, are subjects which (I presume) you will resume of course and which are abundantly charged by their own importance."

Message to Congress - October 1791

"A uniformity in the weights and measures of the country is among the important objects submitted to you by the Constitution and, if it can be derived from a standard at once invariable and universal, must be no less honorable to the public councils, than conducive to the public convenience."

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION - May 18, 1828

"That the purpose of securing a due conformity in weight of the coins of the United States...the brass troy pound weight procured by the minister of the United States at London in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven for the use of the mint, and now in the custody of the mint in Philadelphia...."

SENATE RESOLUTION - May 29, 1830

"Resolved that the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to cause a comparison to be made of the standards of weights and measures now used at the principal customhouses."

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION - July 27, 1836

"Resolved that the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to furnish to each State, to be delivered to the Governor thereof, one set of standard weights and measures of the metric system for the use of the States respectively."

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION - July 7, 1838

"That the Secretary of the Treasury cause to be made under the superintendence of Mr. Hassler, one standard balance for each state, and that when completed he cause them to be delivered to the respective Governors for the use of the respective States."

CHARLES PIERCE - OFFICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES - REPORT TO THE ALLISON COMMITTEE
1877

"Weights and measures is a very slight affair, I'm
sorry to say...a nonentity, having hardly any legal
existence...."

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION - MARCH 3, 1881

"Resolved that the Secretary of the Treasury be, and is
hereby, directed to cause a complete set of all the
weights and measures adopted as standards to be de-
livered to the Governor of each State in the Union,
for the use of agricultural colleges in the States,
respectively, which have received a grant of lands
from the United States....Provided the cost of each set
shall not exceed two hundred dollars.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES

GENESIS 23:16 And Abraham harkened unto Ephron; and
Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had
named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred
shekels of silver, current money with the merchant.

LEVITICUS 19:35-36 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in
judgement, in measure of length, in weight, or in
quantity. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah and
a just hin; see shall ye have: I am the Lord your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

DEUTERONOMY 25:13-16 Thou shalt not have in thy bag
divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not
have in thine house divers measures, a great and a
small. But thou shalt have a perfect weight, a perfect
and just measure shalt thou have; that thy days may be
lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth
thee. For all that do such things, and all that do
unrighteously, are an abomination to the Lord thy God.

PROVERBS 11:1 A false balance is abomination to the
Lord: but a just weight is his delight.

PROVERBS 16:11 A just weight and balance are the
Lord's: all the weights of the bag are his work.

PROVERBS 20:10 Divers weights and divers
measures, both of them alike abomination to the Lord.

PROVERBS 20:23 Divers weights are an abomination
unto the Lord and a false balance is not good.

EZEKIEL 45:10 Ye shall have just balance, and a
just ephah, and a just bath.

MICAH 6:10,11 Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable. Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?

LUKE 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye measure, it shall be measured to you again.

Note- Hin equals 1-1/3 gallons Ephah or Bath equals 8 gallons.

Credits: Quotations from the same sources as Historic Highlights. Biblical quotations were originally listed in August-September Western Weights and Measures Association's newsletter.

God commanded: "You shall have just balances"

Money and measurement in the Bible

When the modern state of Israel changed its currency in 1980, it harked back to the biblical past for the name of its new money, choosing the shekel, an important monetary unit in the Old Testament. As a result, the world's financial press was suddenly quoting the Bible, noting that the first time the shekel is mentioned is in Genesis 23:13-20, where Abraham bought a burial site for his wife Sarah with 400 shekels of silver.

In ancient times, the shekel was not a coin but a unit of weight (approximately 8.4 grams at the time), so Abraham did not count out 400 pieces of silver, he weighed it. The word *shekel* comes from the Hebrew *to weigh*, but the Hebrews borrowed their system of weights from the Babylonians and the Egyptians.

Weighing was done on two kinds of scales: one, a balance beam that hung by a cord; the other, balances that employed weights of varying shapes and sizes. Originally the weights were grains, so that in earliest times a shekel was equal to 320 grains of barley. But even when grains were replaced with weights of cast metal or stone, the ancients were never able to achieve a uniform standard. Indeed, archaeologists have yet to find two weights that are exactly alike. It was not only a lack of precision tools - the weight of a shekel varied from city to city, from merchant to

merchant, and even from use to use. There were royal weights and weights for common people; there was a commercial shekel as well as the "shekel of the sanctuary," with which the Hebrews were asked to make their religious offerings. Little wonder that some people brought their own weights along when making purchases.

The Bible is specific throughout in its numerous exhortations against dishonest weight. Leviticus 19:35, for instance, enjoins us: "You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity." Deuteronomy 25:13 declares: "You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, a large and a small," and in Proverbs 20:10 we find: "Diverse weights and diverse measures are both alike an abomination to the Lord."

Gold, being rare, was used mostly for state business, such as royal gifts and the payment of tribute. Virtually all commercial transactions in Palestine were conducted in silver. But a shekel of silver in Abraham's day did not necessarily have the same purchasing power later on. Abraham's 400 shekels bought much more than just a burial plot for Sarah; he got a cave, a field, and all the trees on and bordering the field. Jeremiah paid 17 shekels for the field at Anathoth

(Jeremiah 32:9), but we have no way of knowing if this was a bargain compared to Abraham's purchase or whether it merely indicates a stronger currency.

While the shekel was the basic unit of weight in the Old Testament, it was not the only one. Principal among the others were the gerah and the beka, which were smaller than the shekel, and the mina and the talent, which were larger. Of these, the Bible gives only the beka a specified value, that of half a shekel.

Coins came into circulation around the sixth century B.C. Although the practice of weighing rather than counting money was in use at the time of Jesus, coins were increasingly prevalent, and those of Roman, Jewish, and Greek origin were available for commerce.

The standard coin in Jesus' day was the silver denarius, minted by the Romans. In the 17th century, the King James Version of the New Testament called this coin a "penny." (It would be worth more than a dollar today.) The parable of the laborers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) indicates that a denarius was equal to a day's wage. Some scholars think that 30 of these coins comprised "the thirty pieces of silver" for which Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus. If so, all he got for the betrayal was a month's wages.

Just as the shekel was a basic unit of currency in the Old Testament, so was the cubit its principal unit of length. Measured as the length of a man's arm from his bent elbow to the tip of his middle finger, the cubit was hardly a precise gauge, but it became standardized over time, and it is found throughout the Bible, from Genesis 6:15-16, in God's instructions to Noah for building the ark, to John 21:8, where Jesus' disciples, fishing in the sea of Tiberius, are only 200 cubits from land. But just as there was more than one type of shekel, there was also more than one kind of cubit: a common one, which contained six handbreadths, and a royal, or sanctuary, cubit, which was equal to seven.

A handbreadth, also called a palm, was measured as the width of four fingers. It is not to be confused with the span, equal to half a common cubit, the distance between the thumb and the little finger when the hand is stretched as far as it will go.

The most accurate information we have about the length of the biblical cubit comes from an inscription found near Jerusalem in 1880, which describes the construction of a water tunnel by King Hezekiah. Mentioned in 2 Kings 20:20, the tunnel still exists, so when archaeologists learned from the inscription that it was 1,200 cubits long, some measurements were possible. Using the Israelite common cubit as their standard, and allowing for the fact that they did not know exactly from which point the 1,200 cubits were

measured, the scholars concluded that the tunnel was 533.1 meters, or 1,749 feet in length and that the cubit, therefore, measured 444 millimeters, or 17.49 inches.

Distances were expressed in such colorful terms as a "bowshot" or "a furrow's length," or in such vague terms as "a short distance," "a day's journey," or "a Sabbath day's journey." Land area was almost always stated in terms of a "yoke" - that is, the land a pair of oxen could plow in one day. A field was measured in terms of the amount of seed needed to sow it.

How rabbinical scholars have interpreted such inexact phrases can be seen in their reasoning that a Sabbath day's journey was equal to 2,000 cubits. This number has been arrived at in two different ways, but they both start with the section in Exodus that instructs the Jews in observance of the Sabbath, and particularly Exodus 16:29, where it says, "Let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." This certainly sounds as if everyone should stay at home.

In the first interpretation, scholars point to Numbers 35:5, where the Lord issues directions to Moses about building cities, saying that the cities should have city pastures extending 2,000 cubits outside their walls - much as today's "three-mile limit" extends a nation's territorial waters. This was taken to mean that the "place" in Exodus 16:29 could be the city itself, which would, of course, include the 2,000 cubits outside the walls. Thus was a 2,000-cubit journey on the Sabbath justified.

In the second interpretation, scholars go from Exodus to Joshua 3:4, where the Israelites are told that when they see the priests carrying the ark of the covenant they may "go after it," but only at a distance behind it of 2,000 cubits. Since the Sabbath was a day of rest and worship, and since the ark was an object of worship, and since priests (and perhaps others) were allowed to approach it for prayer, the conclusion was that a Sabbath day's journey of no more than 2,000 cubits, or 2,916 feet, was permissible.

The New Testament has a few linear measurements that are not found in the Old. Notable among these is the fathom (Acts 27:28), which is based on the Greek word for armstretch and represents the distance between the fingertips of the outstretched arms.

A scholar who has made a study of Bible weights and measures, R. B. Y. Scott, has calculated that, by our standards, Isaiah's "acre" was only about half an acre. He estimated that Goliath stood roughly nine feet, six inches high, and the possible weight of his coat of mail was 125 pounds. Whereas some scholars, using the royal cubit, calculate Solomon's Temple to be about 140 feet long, Scott, using the common cubit, says it was about 88 feet long.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IN THE UNITED STATES

- 1781 * Article 9, paragraph 4 of The Articles of Confederation in the grant of powers to the Continental Congress stated one of the powers to be "fixing the standard of weights and measures throughout the United States."
- 1789 * Section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States gave the Congress the power "To regulate Commerce....among the several States....To...fix the Standard of Weights and Measures."
- 1790 * George Washington's first message to Congress included a plea for uniformity in weights and measures.
- * Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, gave an extensive report on establishing uniformity in Weights, Measures and Coins. He proposed two plans.
- * In December 1790, George Washington's message to Congress again mentioned the establishment of standards of weights and measures.
- 1791 * In October, George Washington's third message to Congress again mentions the need for uniformity in weights and measures.
- 1792 * Congress established the decimal system for money. A proposal for a decimal system of weights and measures was received but no action was taken.
- 1795 * In January the House passed a bill in favor of retaining the existing foot and avoirdupois pound units and the appropriation of monies to establish a system of an integrated weights and measures. The Senate did not enact it.
- 1799 * The first federal weights and measures law was enacted as the Act of March 2, 1799. The law dealt with the testing of accuracy and the correction of weights and measures used in ascertaining duties on imports. The law directed the surveyor of each port to make such tests periodically with standards provided by the collector. As there were no standards drawn up, the law was ineffective.
- 1816 * In December, President James Madison's message to Congress reminded the body that no legislation had been enacted concerning uniformity in weights and measures standards. He also suggested the adoption of a decimal system as per one of the plans in the Thomas Jefferson Report of 1790.

- 1817 * In March, a Senate Resolution referred the weights and measures question to Secretary of State John Quincy Adams to prepare a statement relative to establishing regulations and standards and uniformity in weights and measures.
- 1819 * On December 19, the House passed a similar resolution.
- 1821 * On February 21, John Quincy Adams released his report which had 131 pages and 109 pages of appendix. He suggested that the standards be those that are accessible to the average man and that the Congress should consult with foreign countries.
- 1822 * House Committee requested the President to procure precise copies of the pound, bushel, and gallon.
- 1826 * In May, the House Committee on Weights and Measures called for determination of the length of a seconds pendulum. Lengthy debate ensued about the loss of revenue because of the differences in the standards used in the customhouses throughout the United States.
- 1827 * On October 12, Great Britain delivered the troy pound to the Philadelphia Mint which became the fundamental mass standard.
- 1828 * The first effective weights and measures law was passed. Known as the Act to continue the mint at the City of Philadelphia, it named the troy pound as the fundamental standard.
- 1830 * On May 29, the Senate adopted a resolution that the Secretary of the Treasury compare the standards in use at the customhouses and to report back at the next session. This task was assigned to Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler.
- 1832 * Hassler filed a report on the various differences in the values of standards at the various ports and recommended fundamental units: the yard of 36 inches, the avoirdupois pound of 7000 grains, the gallon of 231 cubic inches, the bushel of 2150.42 cubic inches. These units were adopted by the Treasury.
- 1836 * On June 14, Congress adopted a Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to deliver a complete set of weights and measures to the Governor of each State of the Union to establish a uniform standard throughout the United States. Hassler was appointed as the Superintendent of the Coast Survey which directed the Office of Weights and Measures and was responsible for the construction and the distrib-

ution of standards of length, mass, and capacity of customary systems.

1838 * In one of several amendments of the 1836 Joint Resolution, on July 7 Congress directed the Secretary of the Treasury to make and deliver one standard balance to each Governor. (Actually balances in three capacities were distributed to most states.)

* Sets of weights were delivered to some of the states.

1839 * Sets of weights were delivered to the customhouses.

1843 * In November, Hassler died. Work on the balances had just begun. Only half of the capacity measures and a third of the measures of length had been completed.

1856 * Full sets of weights and measures and balances had been completed and delivered to most of the states.

* Most of the hundred or more customhouses had received sets of weights and measures standards.

1866 * Joint Resolution of July 27, 1866 directed the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish each State with one set of standard weights and measures of the metric system.

* On July 28 a law was passed which made the use of weights and measures of the metric system legal.

1870 * Representatives from the United States and fourteen other countries met in Paris to consider the advisability of constructing new metric standards.

1875 * After another meeting in 1872, representatives of the United States and sixteen other countries signed the Metric Convention which created an International Bureau of Weights and Measures on May 20.

1878 * The Metric Convention was ratified by the President of the United States on May 28 and proclaimed on September 27.

1881 * Joint Resolution of March 3 directed the Secretary of the Treasury to deliver to the Governor of each State a set of weights and measures standards for the use of agricultural colleges.

1890 * On January 2, the United States received Meter 27 and Kilogram No. 20 which were placed in the Office of Weights and Measures.

* Meter No. 21 and Kilogram No. 4 were received in Washington and placed in the Office of Weights and

Measures .

- 1893 * The Mendenhall Order led to conformity between federal standards and those standards of other countries. The international meter and kilogram were regarded as the fundamental standards of length and mass.
- 1901 * The Act of March 3 created the National Bureau of Standards as the successor of the Office of Standard Weights and Measures of the Treasury Department. The new department was still part of the Treasury Department.
- 1903 * The National Bureau of Standards was transferred to the new Department of Commerce and Labor. NBS was directed to have custody of the national standards of weights and measures and to test the reference standards of the States. It was also directed to cooperate closely with state and local weights and measures officials by supplying technical information, advice on practical problems of administration and training of personnel. These activities were not of regulatory power and thus the Bureau had no enforcement power or authority.
- 1905 * Louis A. Fischer, Chief of the Division of Weights and Measures, started scattered inspections of weighing and measuring devices in several cities in New York. After this investigation and the fact that there were many complaints being received at his office, he decided to call a meeting of weights and measures officials and state government offices to discuss supervision of daily transactions. The first meeting was held in Washington and was attended by persons representing eight states, NBS, and District of Columbia. The need for uniformity was the beginning of the National Conference on Weights and Measures.
- 1911 * National Conference on Weights and Measures adopted a Model Law which was drafted by NBS after a resolution was passed in 1906.

ACTS REGULATING STANDARDS

- 1906 * Food and Drug Act of June 30 enacted that packages had to have declaration of content.
- 1911 * Standard Regulation of Coinage of March 11 changed the troy pound of the mint to the standard troy pound of the Bureau of Standards.
- 1912 * Standard Apple Barrel Act of August 3 established

grades of apples.

- 1913 * Amendment of the Food and Drug Act to include the addition of net weight with the provision that reasonable variations shall be permitted and exemptions be made for small packages through regulations.
- 1914 * Federal Trade Commission was created to regulate commerce. Under the law "unfair methods of competition in commerce and deceptive acts or practicesare declared unlawful."
- 1915 * Standard Barrel Act of March 4 established a standard barrel for fruits, vegetables and other dry commodities.
- 1916 * Standard Lime Barrel Act of August 23 required that barrels and other containers have net content declarations.
- * Standard Container Act of August 31 fixed the standards for baskets for grapes, fruits, vegetables and mushrooms.
- 1919 * Amendment to the Food and Drug Act known as the Kenyon wrapped meat amendment.
- 1921 * The Packers and Stockyards Act gave the Department of Agriculture authority over stockyards and live poultry markets.
- 1928 * Standard Container Act amended the Act of 1916 and was for intrastate as well as interstate.
- 1935 * Tobacco Inspection Act contained certain provisions dealing with weighers and inspectors of tobacco.
- * Federal Alcohol Administration Act enforced by the Treasury contains provisions relative to net contents and packaging and labeling of bottled distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages.
- 1938 * Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act of June 25 supersedes the Act of 1906 with exceptions for butter and wrapped meats.
- 1939 * Internal Revenue Code includes references to false weights and measures in connection with substances to be used for distillation.
- 1946 * The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 contains provisions for packaging of agricultural products.

1947* The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act requires statements of net weight or measure.

1966* The Federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act establishes requirements for labeling packages.

1976* The United States Grain Standards Act was amended to establish the Federal Grain Inspection Service.

The Information for Historic Highlights was found in the following:

The Federal Basis for Weights and Measures, NBS Circular 593; History of the Standard Weights and Measures of the United States, NBS No. 64; Measures of Progress - A History of NBS; A Long Arduous March to Standardization, the Smithsonian, March 1985; and Weights and Measures Standards of the United States - a brief history, NBS 447.



COMMUNICATIONS - GETTING INTO PRINT

MEDIA GETTING INTO PRINT

A news story is similar to an inverted pyramid. The most important facts are at the top and taper off in importance toward the bottom. Thus if part of the story must be deleted, due to space, eliminating the end won't hurt the story.

Know what you want to say and say it simply. Follow the five "W's":

What - Give the Weights and Measures office and department in full at least once, because initials may be misleading.

When - Give the time or period of time you are writing about.

Where - Note location or area where your story has or will occur.

Why - The first paragraph or two of the story is called the lead. Choose the most important facts and place them first. Be accurate and impartial. Make certain your facts are facts. Have definite information and do not misspell names or places.

Who - Identify yourself and your office. People need to know who you are. DO NOT take for granted that you are that well known.

Follow the lead with the essential information giving details in the order of importance. Stick to the facts - don't editorialize.

Type your story, double space on one side only of an 8-1/2 x 11 paper leaving 1-1/2 inch margins on both right and left sides of the paper.

If you are able to have your own news release stationary or letterhead - use that.

Start your release about 1/3 down the page, leaving room for typesetting information to be added or editor's notes.

Make certain you write the name of the contact person (you or someone else) and the telephone number.

At the top of the page or upper left-hand corner include the name of the Weights and Measures office and the department's address: street, city, state, zip.

Spell out numbers from one to ten. Use numerals for 11 on up. Never begin a sentence with a numeral.

Be as brief as possible. Most stories can be written on one page. Editors will call you if they want more details.

In upper right-hand portion of the page, type the date or the release date of the story. Indicate for immediate release or if it is specified, to be released after a certain date.

If you use two pages, type "More" at the bottom of the first page and place a key word on the top of the second page so if it becomes separated, the editor knows what news article it belongs to.

At the end of your release write "30" or "ssssss".

Duplicate, photocopy, or mimeograph your release. DO NOT send carbons to the newspapers.

Stories should be in seven or ten days prior to the release date.

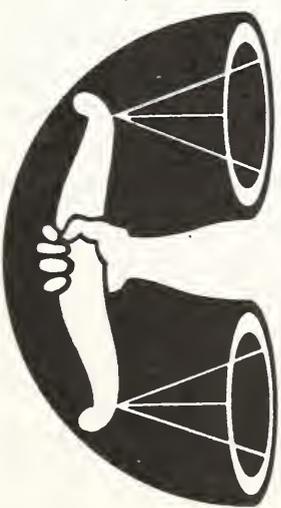
A news conference is a dramatic way to announce an important story, but it should be reserved for a special occasion. Hold it before an event - not after. Schedule it so that the newspeople have time to write the story for the news edition - morning for evening papers or afternoon for morning editions. Notify the media in advance. Select a location significant to your story. Set up the room for the number of people you expect with space for cameras, lights, etc. The conference should not last more than 30 minutes. Be prepared with facts to answer questions.

If you feel that you have been treated unfairly or inaccurately, contact the editor personally or by letter and note the mistakes and correct the misinformation. Ask for an opportunity to tell your side of the story.

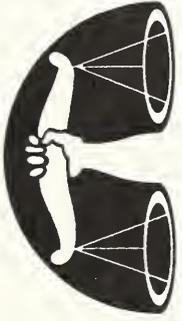
Negative news about you or your Weights and Measures office may occur at some point. Deal with it openly and forthrightly. It's impossible to keep bad news from the public, but you can dull the sting.

Give your story to only one editor on the same newspaper.

**NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK**
March 1 to 7



**NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK**
March 1 to 7

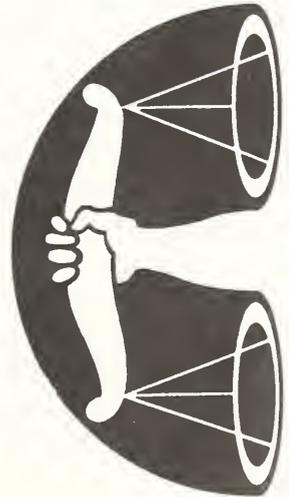


NOTE:
Type in
slogan
under
logo.

**NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK**
March 1 to 7



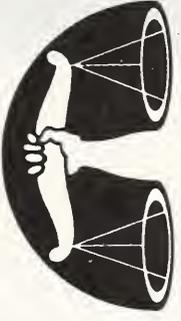
**NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK**
March 1 to 7



**NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK**
March 1 to 7



**NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK**
March 1 to 7



**NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK**
March 1 to 7



**NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK**
March 1 to 7



NATIONAL WEIGHTS & MEASURES WEEK



EDITORIALS

National Weights and Measures Week has been proclaimed nationwide during the week of March 1 through 7. National Weights and Measures enforcement began in 1799. This is the _____ Anniversary.

Congress was given the power to establish weights and measures standards in the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. In his first message to Congress, George Washington recommended uniformity in weights and measures standards. The first federal weights and measures law was signed into law by President John Adams on March 2, 1799.

This is the _____ Anniversary of the establishment of the Office of Weights and Measures. The theme of this year's Weights and Measures Week is _____

_____ It is through the Office of Weights and Measures that laws and standards have become uniform. It is now up to the states to accept uniformity in inspection methods for devices and commodities and in the regulation of current laws as well as training procedures so that equity can prevail.

The Weights and Measures official plays an important part in the vitality of the American economy and our system of commerce. Every citizen and every business has a direct financial stake in selling so that all transactions are fair to the consumer and to the business.

We salute the county, city, and state Weights and Measures official who protects the consumer when he buys five gallons of milk or a pound of meat, so that he gets what he pays for ... no more ... no less. He protects the owners of devices from losses in business by rejecting those devices that are out of tolerance on the minus side and the plus side. Each day these officials inspect and certify scales, gasoline and kerosene pumps, vehicle tank meters, timing devices, linear measures, firewood and coal methods of sale, and commodities. A seal of approval can be found on all devices certified by the officials.

Weights and Measures officials are the protectors of our pocketbooks. It is important that the public be informed so that they can distinguish between proper and improper methods of sale as well as report any violation that comes to their attention. You the consumer have a definite responsibility in insisting on good merchandising practices and correction of faulty equipment. You should take exception to shortages in the amount of commodity delivered, just as you would to a discrepancy in the amount of money returned to you in exchange.

Continued cooperation, more communication and education as well as uniformity will result in savings to consumers and support the honest merchants with equity in the marketplace.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IS CONSUMER PROTECTION!

MEDIA

EDITORIAL FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

Visit the editor and explain to him why you feel that he or she should write about Weights and Measures Week. Show the editor a possible editorial, but remember that he will want to write it himself.

Letters to the editor offer a simple way of calling attention to a matter vital to public concern. Keep the letter short and to the point.

Weeklies welcome local stories and are often the best outlet for local news. Don't underestimate the influence of a weekly paper.

Wire Services

The Associated Press (AP) and the United Press International (UPI) send important or interesting national, state, and regional news into the local news rooms of the county. If you have a big story - one with more than purely local interest that has a novel human interest twist, contact the regional or state office of AP or UPI. If you cannot find the telephone number, your local newspaper can help you locate them.

EXAMPLES OF EDITORIALS

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

EDITORIAL

National Weights and Measures Week will be proclaimed during the week of March 1 through March 7 by commissioners, mayors, and governors throughout the country.

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the uniformity of States Standards. In 1836 Congress passed a resolution requiring the Secretary of Treasury to provide each state with a set of standards. Two years later, the Secretary was required to provide each state with a set of balances.

The city, county and state weights and measures official plays an important part in the vitality of the economy of our state and nation. Every citizen and every business has a direct financial stake in selling so that all transactions are fair to the consumer and to the merchant.

Your weights and measures person protects the consumer when he or she buys any item sold by weight, measure or count that the correct amount is received - no more or no less. The official also protects the business by rejecting devices or packages which are out of tolerance or are not the correct measurement on the plus or minus side.

Each day weights and measures inspect packages for the correct weight, measure, or count and certify devices such as gasoline pumps, oil truck meters, all types of scales, parking meters, coin car washer, dryers at laundromats, linear measure, and the sale of firewood. You will see a seal of approval on the device if it is certified by the official.

In Pennsylvania the legislature mandated that each county appoint a weight and measures official and required each county to inspect and certify the devices in that jurisdiction. The state weights & measures office is part of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

As consumers we have a responsibility to insist on packages and devices which are accurate. We should take exception to any shortage in our packages or to faulty equipment. It is evident that we should salute weights and measures officials because they are the protectors of our pocketbooks. We should support weights and measures for our protection.

Opinions . . . Ours



Getting a fair weight

If you've ever been ripped off on a deal which sounded too good to be true or just didn't get a fair measure when you've spent hard-earned dollars, you can appreciate what recently happened in Cocke County.

For years we've heard people complain about coal prices rising while loads of coal appeared to be shrinking. Some were convinced that they just weren't getting their dollar value, and now it appears that at least some of them were right.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has successfully prosecuted two people who were allegedly selling coal at short weights. Both Kentucky men entered "no contest" pleas before General Sessions Judge Marcus Mooneyham last Friday and were ordered to make restitution to a local consumer who allegedly ordered seven tons of coal but received only four and a half.

Agricultural Marketing Inspector Eddie Woods took warrants and prosecuted the case; it was a great day in court for consumers thanks to Woods and District Attorney General Al Schmutzer's office.

Woods presented his evidence to Assistant District Attorney General Phil Owens, who explained the violations of the law involved in the case. Both defendants appeared voluntarily in court before the criminal warrants against them had been served.

The agriculture department's marketing division and the district attorney general's office are always alert for those who seem willing to victimize others just to make a buck. Woods and other inspectors don't just monitor coal sales; their eyes are also on almost everything that goes across a scale—from meats to tobacco.

If you think something is wrong with the measure of coal you bought or thought your burley baskets should have weighed more, don't be afraid to complain. The law requires sellers to weigh the order at your request and furnish a written notice containing the seller's name, the buyer's name, and the net weight of the product. It was a complaint from a consumer that got the state involved in the recent case.

Whether checking truck weights, inspecting and licensing scales, spot-checking meat weights, or measuring coal weights, the state department of agriculture, with concerned inspectors like Eddie Woods, is doing a fine job of protecting consumers.

While we're on the subject, we would also like to see a close check on heavily loaded trucks traveling through Newport. It seems that we are a favorable route for truckers—a short-cut between interstates 40 and 81—and many trucks come our way.

EDITORIAL

YOU CAN COUNT ON W&M OFFICIALS FOR "EQUITY IN THE MARKET PLACE"

Consumers in this area - - and everywhere in the U.S., as a matter of fact - - have strong allies in their efforts to make ends meet in these difficult economic times.

These "friends in the market place" are representatives of a little known but vitally important government agency - - The Philadelphia Bureau of Weights and Measures.

Emmett Murphy, Acting Chief of the Bureau, and his staff inspect thousands of commercial weighing and measuring devices every year to insure that you get what you pay for.

At the same time, local officials and their colleagues all over the country are protecting the interests of the merchants, food processors, and others who transact business by weights and measures.

For this reason, the theme for 1984 National Weights and Measures Week is, "Weights and Measures - - Equity in the Market Place."

National Weights and Measures Week has been observed for the past 25 years during the week March 17 to focus attention on the work of these important public servants.

The dates were selected by weights and measures officials and the Scale Manufacturers Association to mark the signing by President John Adams on March 2, 1799, of the nation's first weights and measures law.

Local weights and measures officials try to inspect each installation once a year on a random basis. "The element of surprise is important to our work," Murphy observes. Inspectors have no problem going about their work, however; merchants are always willing to cooperate.

Statistics compiled by the Philadelphia Weights and Measures Department indicate that of the thousands of weighing reports analyzed, the greatest incidence of short weight occur in meats, fluid dairy products, solid dairy products, produce, and flour products. Commodities with better records are candies, canned and bottled goods, baked goods, and frozen foods.

In addition to supermarkets and gas stations, there are hundreds of other installations to be checked - - warehouses, processing plants, truck scales, livestock operations, and on and on.

Each of the 50 states has its own Weights and Measures Department, which is responsible for testing and enforcement within its boundaries. Most are empowered to pursue criminal action when weight discrepancies occur, but generally the authority to order offending articles from the shelf is sufficient to correct the situation.

Most shortweights are due to carelessness and lack of proper scale care and are not premeditated, officials say. That is why it is important that everyone cooperate, not only with the Weight and Measures Department but with the merchant himself, by calling attention to possible weighing errors.

In the long run, everyone will benefit.

#

EDITORIAL

Sealers work for consumers

Service dull, but important

MERCHANTS nowadays don't display that famous sign, *Caveat Emptor* (Buyer Beware), above their portals. And while this may be difficult to prove, at least partial credit for that can be granted an obscure bureaucracy called the Office of Weights and Measures.

The federal agency doesn't deal in glamorous pursuits such as espionage, criminal prosecution, diplomacy or even the environment, which probably explains its obscurity. But the OW&M, whose establishment was a top priority of the Founding Fathers, is no Johnny-come-lately among capital paper-shufflers.

This week marks the 187th anniversary of the first weights and measures law, which was signed by President John Adams in 1799, and the 150th anniversary of the OW&M. Congress, which was given the power to establish weights and measures standards in both the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution, was urged to do so in the first congressional address of President George Washington.

Even the week's theme — "Standardizing Standards: Key to Progress" — sounds dreadfully dull. But every consumer and business in America has a vital stake in the weights and measures process, which assures standards of uniformity and fairness in all commercial transactions. Were such standards removed, the resulting chaos would be unimaginable.

The week has a special significance for Franklin County and its weights and measures employee, John Thompson. The county is only one of three governmental units in the state (besides Bucks County and City of Philadelphia) that maintains regular inspection of fuel oil meters on delivery trucks.

Last year, Thompson monitored 90 such vehicles for their meter accuracy. Also in 1985, he conducted tests of 618 scales in about 60 retail stores and 465 gasoline pumps at 58 service stations.

"We appreciate Franklin County's support of the weights and measures process over the years," said a spokesman in OW&M headquarters in Harrisburg. He said the service is provided because of the large number of county householders who use heating oil.

Consumers, which means just about everyone, obviously benefit from weights and measures enforcement. It's estimated that an average family of four saves \$400 a year because of product integrity.

But businessmen have an equally pressing reason to ensure that their product measuring devices are accurate. An error factor of even a fraction of 1% can give away thousands of dollars in profits a year. Enforced fairness works both ways.

Weights and measures enforcement is a quiet, unsung endeavor, but one that has few rivals for importance. It is the very keystone of our orderly system of production and exchange.

So, of all the special "weeks" jammed into our allotted 52, this one serves as a useful reminder that the quart of milk or pound of meat we buy contain just that — no more, no less.

Jo-Ann Huff Albers, *Publisher/Editor*

Frank J. Keegan, *Executive Editor*

John O'Donnell, *Editorial page editor*

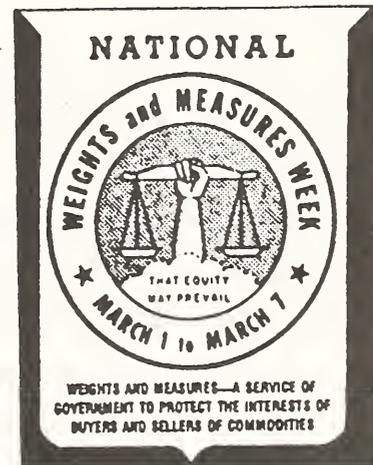
Public
Opinion

Chambersburg Post-Opinion, Saturday, March 8, 1986 in 1B

By GEORGE R. DELISLE

This week, March 1-7, is National Weights and Measures Week, a week during which we mark the work of some of our most unnoticed, and effective, consumer protection officials, our sealers of weights and measures.

It's a tribute to the work done by the sealers in our state and elsewhere that we generally take it for granted that super-market scales, gasoline pumps, and other devices which dispense commodities by weight or volume, are always accurate.



Sealers of Weights and Measures inspect and regulate devices used in calculating the prices of commodities as diverse as fuel oil, food products, taxi cab fares and pharmaceuticals. They regulate hawkers and peddlers, door-to-door salesmen, cordwood and coal sales — even the number of tissues in a box.

When you go to the store this week to purchase something that's sold by weight or volume — and that's just about everything sold at most supermarkets — take a moment to reflect on how important the work done by our sealers of weights and measures is to you.

□ □ □

PRESS RELEASES

NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK
March 1 to 7



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE

The (county/city/state)(commissioners/mayor/governor) (has/have) proclaimed March 1-7 as National Weights and Measures Week, an event celebrated annually by weights and measures officials throughout the nation. These dates commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the first weights and measures law in the United States on March 2, 1799.

This is the 150th Anniversary of the Office of Weights and Measures which was begun by a Congressional resolution requiring that each state receive a set of weights and measures standards.

According to (Director/Chief Sealer) of (state/city/county) Weights and Measures Week is to acquaint the public with the nature of this important service which protects consumers and business interests from incorrect quantity determinations. This year's theme is "Standardizing Standards - Key to Equity."

It is through uniformity in the methods and laws of certification and inspection of commodities and devices as well as uniform training procedures, equity will prevail in the market place.

The department states that scales and other measuring devices do become obsolete or out of adjustment just like any other mechanical equipment. Unlike many other devices, they continue to give quantity determinations, although incorrect, until they are tested, corrected, and replaced.

"It is the responsibility of our inspectors to make tests of commercially used weighing and measuring devices and report their condition to the owners," said _____ (Director/Chief Sealer).

"If the devices are correct, they are approved and sealed. If incorrect, they are rejected for use until corrected," _____ she/he stated. According to _____, weights and measures is one of the oldest and most important activities of government.

_____ said, "Every citizen and every business has a direct financial interest in seeing that all transactions are fair to both the buyer and seller."

(She/He) estimated that the average family of four has a stake of \$400 or more per year in weights and measures enforcement.

The department states that businessmen have even greater reason for making sure that their scales and measuring devices are correct. A small fraction of one per cent error can give away thousands of dollars worth of products and

profits away.

During the past year, the department has issued _____ citations and collected \$ _____ in fines. They inspected the following devices: (List number and types of devices)
The inspectors also check _____ commodities and rejected _____.

The department has planned the following events during Weights and Measures Week: (List activities)

The office is located at _____ and can be reached by calling _____.

#####

PAGE #2
National Conference of Weights and Measures Week
March 1-7, 1985 - continued

For Immediate Release
March 1, 1985

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK
March 1 - 7, 1985

The Bucks County Commissioners have proclaimed March 1-7 as National Weights and Measures Week, an event celebrated annually by weights and measures officials throughout the nation. These dates commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the first weights and measures law in the United States on March 2, 1799.

According to Peggy H. Adams, Chief Sealer/Director of Bucks County Weights and Measures and Consumer Protection Office, the aim of National Weights and Measures Week is to acquaint the public with the nature of this important service which protects consumers and business interests from incorrect quantity determinations. This year's theme is "Communications - Key to Progress."

The department states that scales and other measuring devices do become obsolete or out of adjustment just like any other mechanical equipment. Unlike many other devices, they continue to give quantity determinations, although incorrect, until they are tested, corrected and replaced.

"It is the responsibility of our inspectors to make tests of commercially used weighing and measuring devices and report their condition to the owners," said Ms. Adams.

"If the devices are correct, they are approved and sealed. If incorrect, they are rejected for use until corrected," she stated. According to Ms. Adams, weights and measures is one of the oldest and most important activities of government.

Ms. Adams said, "Every citizen and every business has a direct financial interest in seeing that all transactions are fair to both the buyer and seller."

She estimated that the average family of four has a stake of \$400 or more per year in weights and measures enforcement.

The department states that businesses have even greater reason for making sure that their scales and measuring devices are correct. A small fraction of one per cent error can give thousands of dollars worth of products and profits away.

The office states that 13,000 measuring, weighing, and timing devices were inspected and certified which included parking meters, driers in laundromats, coin car washes, scales of all types from prescription and jeweler to heavy duty scales weighing thousands of pounds.

All parking meters in the county were certified and inspected. Those meters which were rejected were repaired and re-inspected and certified. The rejection rate varied from 10% to 80% when the department was inspecting them. "The parking meters are the only device that do not have seals," said Ms. Adams.

"All other devices will have a round black and white seal, or a blue or red rectangular seal," she said.

The department also checked over 400,000 items for labeling, date coding, short weight measure and count. Over 30,000 items were rejected with a dollar value of about \$45,000.00.

Ms. Adams said the department issued 145 citations and collected almost \$7,000 in fines of the \$12,000 that were levied during 1984.

There will be exhibits and demonstrations in the Oxford Valley Mall, Richland Mall and the Bucks County Courthouse. Ms. Adams will be speaking at various organizations and on the local radio station.

To kick-off the week's activities, Ms. Adams participated in a press conference with Sheriff Larry Michaels and District Attorney Michael Kane in explaining the new precious metals legislation which includes licensing and enforcement by all three offices.

NEWS

BUCKS COUNTY DEPT. OF CONSUMER PROTECTION / BUREAU OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES
Bucks County Courthouse Annex / Broad and Union Streets / Doylestown PA 18901 / area code 215 / 933-9100 / 348-2311 / FAX: 933-2021 / 348-3144 - extension 486 / 491 / 493

National Weights and Measures Week has been proclaimed by _____ during the week of March 1 through 7. This week marks the 189th anniversary of national weights and measures enforcement.

The theme of the week is State Standards Program-150th Anniversary. In 1838 Congress directed the Secretary of the Treasury to make and deliver one standard balance to each Governor. This followed the Joint Resolution of 1836 when Congress directed the Secretary of the Treasury to make and deliver a set of standards to each Governor.

Congress was given the power to "fix weights and measures standards" in the Articles of Confederation and Article 8 of the Constitution. However, the first federal weights and measures law was not passed until President John Adams signed it into law on March 2, 1799.

_____ said "The Weights and Measures official plays an important part in the vitality of the American economy and our system of commerce by providing equity in the marketplace and thus protecting the consumer and the merchant."

_____ added,"Every citizen and every business has a direct financial stake in sellin so that all tranactions are fair to the consumer and to the business." "The residents of our (state/city/county_____) are protected by the Weights and Measures Official regardless if he or she are purchasing five gallons of milk or he pound of meat. The official sees that the consumer receives what he or she pays for...no more or no less. Owners of devices are protected from losses in business because the weights and measures official rejects the devises that are out of tolerance on the miuns side and the plus side. Each day weights and measures officials inspect and certify scales, gasoline and kerosene pumps, vehicle tank meters, timing devices, linear measures, method of sale of firewood and coal, and test commodities for accurate weight, measure and count. A seal of approval can be found on all devices that are certified by the weights and measures officials," stated _____.

(include name of contact person and their telephone number)

#####



AGRINEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ALICE WALTERS
(614) 466-8798

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK PROCLAIMED

In recognition of the 186th anniversary of the first weights and measures laws enacted by the Congress of the United States on March 2, 1799, Governor Richard F. Celeste has proclaimed March 1-7, 1985, as Weights and Measures Week.

According to Director Dale Locker, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), consumers take for granted the integrity of weight determinations in dozens of items.

"When you go to the store to buy five pounds of potatoes, you expect to receive five pounds of potatoes and when you drive your car to the gasoline station and ask for \$10.00 worth of gasoline, you expect to receive the correct amount," Locker said. "Nearly half of the income of the average family is used to purchase necessities bought by weight or measure. Thus, it is essential that accurate instruments are used to determine quantities."

The delivery of full quantities and the elimination of misrepresentation are under the watchful eye of your local weights and measures inspector. Hundreds of painstaking tests are required to bring about compliance with the laws against quantity misrepresentation. Therefore, consumers are able to buy with little fear of getting less than the amount for which they pay. Merchants also favor weights and measures enforcement since it prevents them from giving away product, as well as protects them from shorting their customers.

"It is the function of ODA's Weights & Measures Division to see that equity prevails in all commercial transactions," Locker stated. In other words, one of our Department's purposes is to see that buyers and sellers receive or give full weight or measure."

However, state and local weights and measures inspectors cannot be present at every transaction. The buying public has definite responsibilities and should insist on good merchandising practices. Cooperation of this kind should result in considerable savings to buyers and will give support to honest merchants who strive for "sixteen ounces to the pound" as the policy of their trade.

NEWS



from

State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

MARY M. HESLIN, Commissioner

State Office Building - Room 105
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Conn. 06106

February 23, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SUBJECT: WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK
HARTFORD

Connecticut consumers enjoy a large measure of protection which probably is one of those things not even thought about. This protection takes the form of assuring accuracy in all the measuring devices used in the retail marketplace such as scales to weigh meats and vegetables in food stores, computers on gasoline pumps, meters which measure the amount of fuel oil being pumped into your oil tank etc.

Away from the spotlight of publicity are the weights and measures experts who make up the Division of Weights and Measures of the Department of Consumer Protection.

March 4 through March 10 will be National Weights and Measures Week and Commissioner Mary Heslin of Consumer Protection will be highlighting this often unsung group during that time.

Not only is the exactness of the scale which weighs your sirloin steak inspected by Weights and Measures personnel, but the scales which weigh in commercial trucks along the state's highways are also inspected and tested for accuracy. Clinical thermometers do not escape the watchful eyes of Weights and Measures Chief Allan Nelson and his professionals, these are also tested for accuracy on an on-going basis.

Recently cases of tampering with the computers on gasoline pumps led to court action when the defrauding of the public was unearthed by inspectors.

Local sealers, in communities of 75,000 or more, and the state inspectors are protecting the interest of merchants, food processors, and all others who transact business by weights and measures. Nationally, the theme for Weights and Measures Week will be "Weights and Measures--Equity in the Market Place."

National statistics appear to indicate that of the thousands of reports analyzed, the greatest incidence of shortweight occurs in meats, fluid dairy products, solid dairy products, produce and flour products, according to Heslin. Most shortweights are due to carelessness and lack of proper scale care and not premeditation, Nelson said.

In addition to supermarkets and gas stations, there are hundreds of other installations checked by Nelson's division, such as warehouses, processing plants, truck scales, livestock scales and taxi meters which are checked annually by the division.

////

National Weights And Measures Week slated March 1-7

March 1-7 has been proclaimed as National Weights and Measures Week, an event celebrated annually by weights and measures officials throughout the nation. Commissioner Jim Buck Ross of the Mississippi Department of

Agriculture and Commerce recognized the need for Mississippians to know about this special week.

These dates commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the first weights and measures law in the

United States on March 2, 1799. George Washington recommended a law guaranteeing weights and measures in the State of the Union message. This was the country's first consumer protection legislation, which was signed into law by John Adams in 1799.

PRESS RELEASE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK
MARCH 1st to MARCH 7th

"The primary function of the Sealer is to insure the interests of all who buy and sell. He has a particular responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves."

To the consumer, it sometimes appears that the scale is not weighing correctly, the package purchased does not have the correct amount in it, or that the gasoline pump is registering more gallons than it is giving.

"Possibilities such as these occasionally occur in the course of a day's work. Sometime these discrepancies do exist", he said.

Weighing and measuring devices such as scales or gasoline pumps are mechanical instruments, after all, and are subject to wear and tear.

A malfunction on the packaging line can result in the package not being filled with the stated amount, he said.

He added that a continuing program of merchant education is the single most valuable tool available for building a strong and friendly relationship between the merchant and the buying public.

I feel a need for more citizen participation in reporting all violations to my office, he said. This would help me greatly, as I cannot check all violations. More work is anticipated by civic groups to educate the public on weights and measures laws. The Weights and Measures Official must discriminate carefully and accurately between honest errors and frauds, assume full responsibility for action taken on violations and use authority with discretion in order to secure full cooperation of owners and managers.

If you would like verification or have any questions contact Town Hall by phone (622 7710) or mail.

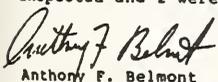
During the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1984, Mr. Belmont checked 852 scales with capacity up to 400 pounds. Of the total, 10 were adjusted and 56 ordered repaired.

During the 1983 1984 fiscal year Mr. Belmont inspected 6,499 packages of meats, produce, dairy and various other items by re-weighing them.

Results of these inspections show that 44 packages were overweight and 22 were underweight.

There were 937 gasoline dispensers inspected with a result of 74 being condemned for repairs and 49 adjusted.

Included this fiscal year, taxi meters. As a result 22 meters were inspected and 2 were condemned for repairs.



Anthony F. Belmont

Consumer Affairs Coordinator

Town of Greenwich

February 21, 1985

According to James Spencer, head of the Consumer Protection Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the aim of national Weights and Measures Week is to acquaint the public with the nature of this important service which protects consumers and business interests from incorrect quantity determinations. This year's theme is "Communications - Key to Progress."

Scales and other measuring devices get out of adjustment like other mechanical equipment. This can be costly to either the consumer or the business. "It is the responsibility of our field inspectors across the state to make tests of commercially used weighing and measuring devices and report their condition to the owners," Spencer said.

Weights and measures checking is one of the oldest and most important activities of government. According to Spencer, every citizen and every business has a direct financial interest in seeing that all transactions are fair to both the buyer and seller.

Businessmen have even greater reason for making sure that their scales and measuring devices are correct. A small fraction of one percent error can give away thousands of dollars worth of products and profits.

RELEASE AT WILL

Ventura County
Resource Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Press Release

For further information contact:
Bill Korth 654-2446

January 10, 1985

Weights and Measures Division

Most people have noticed those bars and lines on supermarket packages, bottles and cans. But most people do not know the purpose of these symbols. The bar symbol identifies practically every item in the store to a computer. It also automatically tells the computer to look up a price for the item when the bar is passed over a scanner at the checkstand.

The scanner uses a light beam which electronically picks up a code on the bar symbol on a package. The scanner is capable of identifying a product within a fraction of a second, and the cashier is usually passing the item at that speed. The customer and the store rely on the scanner to look up the correct price to be charged. No one knows if they are being overcharged or undercharged unless they take the time to audit the receipt.

The Ventura County Department of Weights and Measures periodically inspects supermarket scanners in order to audit and verify price and item accuracies. A Weights and Measures Inspector will actually visit a supermarket and "shop" for about 20 random items. He/she will then make a record of all items and their relative prices and "check out" at a random checkstand. The cashier will scan the items and a comparison will be made on the spot of the inspector's records and the receipt being printed out.

Out of 113 items which were scanned by the Department of Weights and Measures during the last month, seven price errors were found. This computes to a 6% error overall. Whether the scanner overprices or underprices, the customer loses in the long run because underpricing undermines the supermarket's slim profit margin which, in turn, raises prices for everyone. The Department of Weights and Measures' function is to keep the system in check so everyone gets a fair shake.



News and Information

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Jim Buck Ross, Commissioner
P.O. Box 1609
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Contact: Billy Cox
Information Coordinator

Release: February 15, 1985

NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK RECOGNIZED

CONSUMER PRO

March 1-7 has been proclaimed as National Weights and Measures Week, an event celebrated annually by weights and measures officials throughout the nation. Commissioner Jim Buck Ross of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce recognized the need for Mississippians to know about this special week.

These dates commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the first weights and measures law in the United States on March 2, 1799. George Washington recommended a law guaranteeing weights and measures in his State of the Union message. This was the country's first consumer protection legislation, which was signed into law by John Adams in 1799.

According to James Spencer, head of the Consumer Protection Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the aim of National Weights and Measures Week is to acquaint the public with the nature of this important service which protects consumers and business interests from incorrect quantity determinations. This year's theme is "Communications - Key to Progress."

Scales and other measuring devices get out of adjustment like other mechanical equipment. This can be costly to either the consumer or the business. "It is the responsibility of our field inspectors across the state to make tests of commercially used weighing and measuring devices and report their condition to the owners," Spencer said.

Weights and measures checking is one of the oldest and most important activities of government. According to Spencer, every citizen and every business has a direct financial interest in seeing that all transactions are fair to both the buyer and seller.

Businessmen have even greater reason for making sure that their scales and measuring devices are correct. A small fraction of one percent error can give away thousands of dollars worth of products and profits.

Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
State House Station 28, Augusta, Maine 04333

NEWS

NEW WOOD MEASUREMENT RULES ANNOUNCED
For Immediate Release -- January 31, 1985



Last week, in accordance with the directives of a revised Wood Measurement law enacted last spring by the Legislature, Commissioner Stewart Smith of the Maine Department of Agriculture announced the promulgation of rules affecting wood measurement practices of the state's forest products industry. Effective on April 30, 1985, the rules govern the measurement of wood used by the industry for paper, lumber and other forest products.

"Revisions to the Wood Measurement law and rules have been sought by woodcutters since 1978 and have been a legislative issue for the past five years," says Commissioner Smith. "The changes reflect the industry's current practices, but for the first time establish standards for those practices. The result will be a new uniformity and consistency in the industry, and greater accountability by companies buying wood to the landowners, cutters, jobbers and truckers who provide it."

One major change made by the revised law and reflected in the rules is that woods workers who are paid a piece rate for cutting and hauling wood must now be paid in full for what they are told to cut or haul, with no deduction based on the wood's quality. Previously, many disputes arose between woodcutters and forest products companies over quality deductions made for loads cut on a piece rate basis. Under the new rules, the quality of wood may only be taken into account in sale transactions.

Administration of the Wood Measurement law and rules falls to the Department of Agriculture because the State Weights and Measures Unit is part of that Department. "The changes in the Wood Measurement law bring fundamental weights and measures concepts to bear on the measurement of wood," notes Commissioner Smith. "These concepts - such as uniformity, accuracy, and verifiability - are absolutely basic to any transaction where a commodity is exchanged

between parties. In the piece rate situation, for example, the commodity exchanged is work. The industry might pay for that work by paying an hourly wage. Instead, it has chosen to quantify the amount of work by measuring the wood produced. The Wood Measurement law and the new rules establish the requirements and standards for carrying out that measurement."

In addition to establishing general requirements for measuring wood, the rules specify ten authorized measurement systems and the procedures for their use. The rules also require tally sheets, which provide a record of wood measured. A program is established for the licensing of persons who measure wood, called scalers, and there are provisions for the filing and investigation of complaints.

These rules do not apply to consumer purchases of firewood, which are covered by separate statutes.

Between now and the effective date of April 30, the Department plans a series of informational meetings to develop familiarity with the rules and help with the transition to the new requirements. For the first year, the Department's principal approach to enforcement will continue to stress information and education.

"We will be looking to the industry for good faith efforts toward making the basic necessary changes," says Clayton Davis, Director of the Division of Regulation, whose Weights and Measures staff is responsible for enforcement. "We will do all we can to help in making those changes."

Two thousand copies of the rules are being distributed by the Departments of Agriculture and Conservation. People not on an Agriculture or Conservation mailing list can obtain a copy by contacting the Department's Division of Regulation, Station #28, Augusta, ME 04333; telephone 289-3841 or 289-3219.

Press Contact: Clayton Davis, Dir., Div. of Regulations, 289-3841
or Bob Deis, Assistant to the Commissioner, 289-3888

NEWS



from

State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

MARY M. HESLIN, Commissioner
State Office Building - Room 105
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Conn. 06106

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HARTFORD

SUBJECT: NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK, MARCH 1 - 7

"It's National Weights & Measures Week--So What's It To You?"

March 1-7 is National Weights and Measures Week. What does that mean to you? "Everything," according to Consumer Protection Commissioner Mary M. Heslin. "Consumers should be aware of the critical role Weights and Measures plays in the marketplace."

Allan Nelson, Chief of the Department's Weights and Measure Division; shares the Commissioner's view. "Weights and Measures is consumer protection; in fact, it's the oldest form of consumer protection known to man."

Let's look at just a few examples:

THE SUPERMARKET

Weights and Measures inspectors make regular, unannounced checks of all food stores in the State. On a typical stop, the inspector will check the scales, the electronic scanning devices at the check-out counter and standard and pre-packed food items. Starting with a sample size of, perhaps, 10 boxes of cereal, the inspector first notes the net weight declared on the package. Then he or she will open 2 of the boxes, empty them and weigh the packages themselves to get an average "tare" weight. Using a 20-lb. capacity, battery-operated scale, he punches in the tare weight, then puts the 10 packages on and computes a net weight. The average of the 10 must meet or exceed the labeled net weight. Anything that fails to do so is removed from sale. Again, this is done for standard pack items (those packaged by the manufacturer, such as cake mix) and for pre-packs (those items put up by the store in advance of sale: grated cheese, for example.) Liquids are checked by similar methods, using a graduated cylinder. "Fortunately we don't find many problems in this area," Nelson says.

Meats are another story; short-weights are not uncommon. "Everything found short-weighted is ordered off-sale. We investigate, tell the manager how to correct the problem and warn that we'll be back in the near future. The store also receives a letter saying that we do not tolerate short-weights," Nelson says. He adds, "There are no "reminders" for a third offense; the Department takes legal action. "It's three times and you're out," says Nelson.

Electronic scanners are examined and, if errors are found, the store is expected to correct them before the inspector leaves. Nelson says he's in favor of the scanners. "This is the first time the consumer can review the receipt tape at home and compare prices. That's why it is also important to maintain individual item pricing. You know you were charged 39 cents for that particular can of peas."

(OVER)

GASOLINE STATIONS

Price declarations are just one area reviewed by the inspectors when they check gas stations. Here are some other laws important for consumers to know:

- Price signs must be posted on top of every pump. In the case of pumps on which you can physically change from the cash to the credit card price, the station must use a split sign listing both sets of prices.
- If the seller offers a discount to cash customers, he must display the credit card (or highest) price.
- If the station advertises its prices any place other than on the pumps (roadside, for example), and it is both a full and self-serve station, it must advertise both the full and self-service prices.

The Weights and Measures Division is particularly concerned about alcohol labeling at gas stations; that is, listing the maximum alcohol content of the gas, if any. Specifically, stations must list the percentage of ethanol, methanol or co-solvents. The information must be on the pump and, in the case of dual pumps, it must be on both sides of the pump. The federal Clean Air Act limits to 10 percent the amount of ethanol or methanol a product may contain and still be called gasoline. "This labeling is critical," Nelson says. "Alcohol in general may raise octane levels, but it may also damage some cars. And using it may void your automobile's warranty in some cases."

HOME HEATING OIL

Every oil delivery truck meter is physically checked by running 100 gallons of the oil through the meter into the State's portable volumetric prover. Good news. Nelson says he finds "most meters very accurate."

FUEL WOOD

Ever order a cord of wood only to find you received less than what you paid for? If so, the Weights and Measures Division is there to help. More good news. Fuelwood complaints have decreased this past winter. "Maybe the message is getting out that we take action," Nelson offers.

CHECKING THE STANDARDS

Many state agencies and municipalities turn to the Weights and Measures Division for calibration of their own weighing and measuring standards. So do (on a fee basis) a number of private industries, especially those with defense contracts which call for a measurement which can meet the criteria set by the National Bureau of Standards. Customers range from United Technologies to small spring companies. Testing requires much preparation: the proper temperature, humidity and air pressure are critical. And no job is too small. "We can weigh one one-millionth of a pound," says Nelson, "even a single human hair."

(MORE)

Bill Korth 654-2446
Weights and Measures Division

February 13, 1985

National Weights and Measures Week is observed March 1-7 each year by Weights and Measures officials across the nation. These dates commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the first Weights and Measures law in the U.S. on March 2, 1799.

The purpose of this observance is to allow the public to learn about one of the most important aspects of their daily life which is taken for granted. That is, weighing and measuring. If an accurate method of weighing and measuring did not exist, there would be virtual chaos and an economic standstill. Our economy is based on trade, selling, and barter; and weight and measure is the means to determine monetary value. Value cannot be determined unless there is some kind of measuring system and the Department of Weights and Measures was formed to keep this system in check.

The Ventura County Department of Weights and Measures was established in 1915 with one employee, the Sealer. Today the Department has five inspectors and a Sealer/Director, Bill Korth.

This team has the responsibility to annually inspect the accuracy of approximately 2500 gasoline pumps and 2000 commercial scales ranging from a one gram capacity to 50 tons. The Department also routinely inspects numerous liquified petroleum gas meters (LPG), taximeters and ambulance odometers, gas, electric, and water meters. Another full time job for one of the inspectors is checking packaged products in markets to assure accuracy of labeling and net weight of the contents.

A more recent and growing challenge for the Department is the inspection of 400 supermarket scanners within the County. This is a fairly new field which requires the inspector to shop for many products in a supermarket and scan them at the checkstand to make sure price and product are identified accurately.

The fact that just six people keep the majority of Ventura County's trade in check is amazing. The inspectors make tests of commercial weighing and measuring devices and report their findings to the owners and local governments. If the devices are correct, they are approved and sealed. If incorrect, they are condemned for use until corrected. Violations of Weights and Measures laws are usually misdemeanors but they may carry civil fines which amount to thousands of dollars.

One of the areas of Weights and Measures the public is exposed to most is small capacity scales and supermarket scanners. When you see that colorful round sticker on the scale at the market it means the scale has been inspected and tested by a Weights and Measures official. These scales have very close tolerances which means if they are found to be incorrect by only five thousandths of a pound when one pound is placed on the scale, the scale is condemned until it is repaired. These close tolerances are needed because pennies turn into thousands of dollars fast for a company when there is an average of ten scales in a supermarket chain store. This is multiplied by all the chain stores in the state. For example, a scale that is incorrect by one ounce making 100 weighings a day for 300 days a year at \$1.00 a pound will multiply out to an error of \$1875.00 a year. Multiply this by 10 chain stores with ten scales each and the total is \$187,500 a year loss of profit.

Right next to the scale in most supermarkets is the scanner. When a bar code on a package is passed over the scanner, the scanner identifies the product and a given price. Inaccuracies do occur with these devices and for this reason the Department of Weights and Measures must inspect them periodically.

Another field of Weights and Measures is the inspection of heavy capacity scales such as the truck scales the California Highway Patrol uses on the Conejo Grade and hopper scales which are used by sand and gravel companies to weigh concrete. These scales have a capacity of from 10,000 to 120,000 lbs.

Truck scale accuracy is especially important because the California Highway Patrol will issue citations to trucks weighing over 80,000 lbs. The Weights and Measures Department utilizes a 24 ton weight truck to inspect approximately 65 vehicle scales throughout the County each year. Besides checking the legal road weight of their trucks, drivers weigh the commodities being hauled such as produce, furniture, sand, etc., in order to charge the purchasing party.

Probably the area of Weights and Measures which produces the most volume of work for the Department is retail meters, commonly known as gas pumps. One inspector has the task of testing approximately 2500 gas pumps within the County. His job is very complex and includes checking for fuel contamination, octane ratings, mechanical operations of the nozzle, gas measurement accuracy, price sign advertisement laws, and cash discount sales. Cash discount sales have been a priority lately because of the increase of consumer complaints. The complaints come from people who are literally short changed. A consumer will pay cash for his or her gas and drive away, then realize later that there was a .04¢ per gallon discount for the cash purchase which wasn't received. The attendant either added the change to his till or his pocket. The Department will periodically make undercover cash gas purchases in an unmarked vehicle to determine if there are violations and how often they occur at a given station. If violations of this nature occur, a citation will be issued.

Besides weighing and measuring device concerns, the Department is concerned with the fair packaging and labeling of products on all the store shelves in the County. Of recent note is the Weights and Measures investigation of Nabisco Brands, Inc. for their deceptive packaging of brownies and fruit sticks. A \$250,000 court fine was levied on Nabisco which stemmed from a consumer who complained to the Department of Weights and Measures. After receiving the complaint, an inspector went to a supermarket and inspected a package of "Almost Home" cookies right from the store shelf. The cookies were packaged in such a way as to lead a person to believe there were two layers of cookies in the package but, in fact, there was only one. A void air space under the cookies made the package look more full than it really was.

The functions of the Department will be exhibited from February 15 to March 7 at the E. P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main St., Ventura, to commemorate Weights and Measures Week. Various working and antique equipment will be displayed.

NATIONAL WEIGHTS & MEASURES WEEK PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor W. Wilson Goode officiated at a ceremony on Friday, March 6, 1987, proclaiming March 1-7 as National Weights & Measures Week in the City of Philadelphia.

During this ceremony held at 11:30 AM in the Mayor's Reception Room, 202 City Hall, Mayor Goode presented a Proclamation to Commissioner of Licenses and Inspections Henry Herling and Weights & Measures Chief Emmett Murphy. The week long observance

was part of a National effort to acquaint the public with the many services provided by Weights & Measures officials throughout the United States. This year's theme, "Consumer Involvement for Progress" addresses the need 'or all citizens to be aware of this small but important government service, which is to protect consumers and business interests from incorrect quantity determinations in all buying and selling transactions.

Mayor Wilson Goode stated that the City of Philadelphia has maintained a program of weights & measures enforcement since 1913, under which our local officials are continuing to perform their duty of inspecting all weighing and measuring devices within the limits of this jurisdiction to insure "fair play" in all commercial transactions for the protection of all citizens of the City of Philadelphia whether they be buyers or sellers.



POST OFFICE Box 340
BEDMINSTER, PA 18910
PHONE 215 795-2694
February 19, 1986

PRESIDENT

JOSEPH BLASCO
140 W. SIXTH ST.
ERIE, PA 16507
814 452-3333, EXT. 359 (o)
814 774-9212; 4511 (h)

VICE PRESIDENT

EMMETT MURPHY
1 READING CTR. SUITE 600
11TH & MARKET STS.
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107
215 592-6080 (o)
215 248-4247 (h)

VICE PRESIDENT

DEAN ELY
532 WASHINGTON AVE.
JERSEY SHORE, PA 17740
717 527-3560 (o)
717 398-2811 (h)

VICE PRESIDENT

HELEN CAPOZZI
RD #8, Box 21C
GREENSBURG, PA 15601
412-836-5410 (o)
412-863-4316 (h)

TREASURER

JAMES ADAMS
RD #3, Box 172
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17092
717 787-6426 (o)
717 436-2064 (h)

SECRETARY

PEGGY H. ADAMS
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
BROAD & UNION STS.
DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901
215 348-7442 (o)
215 795-2149 (h)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

ALFRED LATTANEO
515 N. WING, COURTHOUSE
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380
215 431-6150 (o)
215 268-8195 (h)

DIRECTORS

RONALD R. CRUST
Box 574
MILLSBURG, PA 16853
814 355-5750

EMIL CATONE
RD #8, Box 21C
GREENSBURG, PA 15601
412 836-5410 (o)
412 446-5772 (h)

ROBERT TAYLOR
515 N. WING, COURTHOUSE
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380
215 431-6150 (o)
215 274-8470 (h)

Dear News Editor:

We urge your support of National Weights and Measures Week. Commissioners, mayors, and governors throughout the country will be issuing proclamations.

The Pennsylvania Association of Weights and Measures is providing you this editorial or public service announcement in hopes that your newspapers and television station can use it during the next two weeks. The newspapers and television stations are provided with a glossy logo which you can use along with the article or announcement. Classified newspapers could also use the logo.

If any newspaper would prefer to use the editorial as a letter to the editor, please sign our names to it.

Thank you for assisting us with this important public awareness campaign. Call your county or city weights and measures office for more information.

Sincerely,

Joe Blasco
Joseph Blasco, Chief Inspector
Erie County,
President, Pennsylvania Assn.
Weights and Measures

Peggy H. Adams
Peggy H. Adams, Chief Sealer,
Bucks County Consumer Protection
Weights and Measures,
Secretary, Pennsylvania Assn.
Weights and Measures

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICE IN

YOUR COUNTY OR CITY OR CALL PA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S
REGIONAL OFFICE OR CALL PEGGY ADAMS AT 215-348-7442

THAT EQUITY
MAY PREVAIL

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES



NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

JANE DEVINE, COMMISSIONER

CONTACT: C. Gardner 516- 360-4620

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 12, 1988

COUNTY'S DISCLOSURE LAW ON ALCOHOL IN GASOLINE INVOKED FOR FIRST TIME

Hauppauge: Suffolk County Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, Jane Devine, said today that five gasoline stations have had their gasoline pumps condemned or seized because the stations were not complying with local laws requiring the accurate disclosure to consumers of octane levels and alcohol content. Weights and Measures officials from the Department took this action after laboratory tests were performed on samples taken from the stations. The officials had responded to several complaints from consumers who experienced car trouble after purchasing gasoline.

"The laboratory tests show that the five stations were selling gasoline with octane ratings lower than the consumers thought they were purchasing, said Commissioner Devine. "They were also selling alcohol blend gasoline, without telling their customers about it," added Devine.

Devine explained that even though alcohol fuels are legal, local law requires that consumers must be told at the pump if such fuels are being offered for sale. This is because some blends can cause serious problems to motor vehicles and marine fuel systems. Devine's warning also applied to lawn mowers and weed wackers, which can also be damaged.

"Most car owner manuals have warnings about the use of alcohol blends, and several will not cover damage so caused under their warranty," said Devine. "Our local law, the first of its kind in the state, was instituted to insure that consumers will know if their gasoline station is selling alcohol blended gasoline.

Octane rating is a measure of the anti-knock characteristics of a grade or type of gasoline. Premium unleaded gasoline usually has an octane rating of 91-92 and costs more than regular unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 87, or mid-grade unleaded with 89.

At one of the five stations cited by the Department, a pump with a posted octane rating of 92 actually had an octane rating of 88.9. Another station's pump had an advertised rating of 92, yet laboratory tests showed its rating was only 89.5. The selling price difference was about ten cents.

"Consumers are being twice cheated", said Devine. They are paying more for an octane rating that they're not getting and... are running the risk of damaging their vehicles".

Devine said that 99 Group Inc. of Brooklyn operator of four of the five stations, has agreed to pay \$2,000 in penalties. According to Devine, the Department's investigation is continuing up the distribution chain.

"We urge consumers to contact the Department of Consumer Affairs if they suspect they have purchased contaminated or mislabeled gasoline".

February 17, 1988

Weights and Measures Week Proclaimed for March 1-7

National Weights and Measures Week will be observed in Alabama during the week of March 1-7. By proclamation signed by Gov. Guy Hunt, Alabama will join in the observance of this week which marks the 189th anniversary of national weights and measures enforcement and the 150th anniversary of the State Standards Program.

"The weights and measures official plays an important role in the vitality of the American economy and our system of commerce by providing equity in the marketplace and thus protecting the consumer and the merchant," said Albert McDonald, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. It is this department, through the Weights and Measures Division, that is responsible for weights and measures enforcement in the state of Alabama.

Weights and measures officials are honored during this week in "appreciation for the job they do in behalf of the public merchants" and "for their tireless efforts to save consumers money and to safeguard business," according to the proclamation.

"Every citizen and every business has a direct financial stake in buying and selling, so all transactions must be fair to the consumer and to the business," said Don Stagg, director of the Weights and Measures Division.

"All consumers in Alabama are protected by the weights and measures official, regardless if the consumer is purchasing a gallon of milk, a pound of meat or a gallon of gasoline. The official sees that consumers receive what they pay for...no more and no less.

"Owners of measuring devices are protected from losses in business because the weights and measures official rejects the devices that are out of tolerance on the minus side as well as the plus side. Each day, weights and measures officials inspect and certify scales, gasoline pumps, vehicle tank meters, and linear measures. A seal of approval can be found on all weighing and measuring devices that are certified by the weights and measures officials. Additionally, such officials inspect the methods of sale of commodities and test packages, from ice cream cartons to hardware items, for accurate weight, measure or count."

It's Weights and Measures Week

The Bucks County Commissioners have proclaimed March 1-7 as National Weights and Measures Week.

The national theme is "State Standards Program: 150 Years of Uniformity".

Peggy H. Adams, Director/Chief Sealer of Bucks County Consumer Protection/Weights and Measures said, "Each day Deputy Sealers in the department inspect and certify scales, gasoline and kerosene pumps, vehicle tank meters, timing devices, linear meters, and test all commodities used or consumed in Bucks County for accurate weight, measure and count."

According to Adams, the department certified over 9,000 devices and rejected 268. Most of the rejections were gasoline pumps which were out of tolerance. The department also inspected over 90,000 commodities and rejected 32,000 which included 10,000 bags of mulch and 10,000 bottle or cans of soda.

Examples of other shortages were; orange juice, milk, apple juice, lemonade, fruit punch, hot dogs, sausage, veal, beef patties, lawn food, rose food, grass seed, bird seed, weed killer, cottage cheese, macaroni, rice, common nails, floor nails, detergent, orange banana".

Adams also stated, "Every citizen and every business has a direct financial stake in selling so that all transactions are fair to the consumer and to the business".

Adams noted that the business does not know when the Deputy Sealers will come to do the inspections. The state law requires that the county certify all weighing, measuring, and timing devices that are used commercially. A seal of approval is affixed to the device when the device is certified.

Chairman of the Bucks County Commissioners, Andrew L. Warren said, "The Consumer Protection/Weights and Measures Department is one department that serves all of our Bucks County residents".

The department is located at Broad and Union Streets in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Consumers can call with complaints and for information between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling: 536-4690, 348-6000 or 946-8900 ext. 6060.



Bucks County Commissioners Mark Schweiker, Andrew L. Warren, Weights and Measures director and chief sealer, Peggy Adams, and Commissioner Lucille Trench at ceremony declaring this "Weights and Measures Week."

Page 28, The Free Press, Wednesday, March 4, 1987

At Your Service





During 1986 we purchased three electronic scales for package checking and have been able to double our daily lot inspections. We are in the process of adding a computer to the scales to make it more efficient.

This year we also noticed short weight because you, the consumer, were paying for the packaging of bulk candies, cheese boxes, polyethylene sheeting and bags, and various other products some of which exceeded allowable moisture variance.

Most alarming was the high incidence in rejections of gasoline pumps due to out of tolerance measurements. You, the consumer, were the loser and at some Quaker-town area gasoline pumps. These pumps were possibly changing prices because we found no lead seals inside the pumps which are placed by us or repair companies and prevent tampering and fraud. We have been issuing citations throughout the

Peggy Adams
By PEGGY ADAMS

This is Weights and Measures Week. This year consumers are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. Congress was given the power to fix the standard of weights and measures in Article 8. George Washington addressed uniformity in weights and measures in both his inaugural speeches.

Today Weights and Measures continues to play an important role in our lives. The Weights and Measures inspector is the third man in every transaction in the marketplace by protecting both the buyer and the seller.

Bucks County has 13,000 devices which must be inspected annually. These include scales, dryers, parking

NATIONAL WEIGHTS & MEASURES WEEK
March 1 to 7



CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT FOR PROGRESS

county and hope we can curb this problem.

Call our office if you have questions about any weights and measures area.

Additional news

This year we have certified 13,000 devices and inspected 78,000 packages.

The department will be inspecting polyethylene bags and sheeting which is another bad situation found throughout the country.

Bucks County has entered the 21st Century: We are using the electronic scales and will soon have them connected to computers. This will save time for the inspector and will also mean twice as much package checking will be done on a daily basis.

Bucks County has been one of a select group of jurisdictions participating in a national task force survey on moisture loss. They have been studying flour, meat and poultry products.

Weights and Measures is Consumer Protection. Consumer Involvement is the Key to Progress.

Peggy Adams is Director and Chief Sealer for the Bucks County Department for Consumer Protection and Weights and Measures.

State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HARTFORD

SUBJECT: GASOLINE STATION TESTING--
WEIGHTS & MEASURES WEEK

February 29, 1988

MARY M. HESLIN, Commissioner
State Office Building - Room 105
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Conn. 06106

"FILL 'ER UP!"

The Department of Consumer Protection is celebrating National Weights and Measures Week (March 1-7) in a BIG way. What's big? How about a one-ton truck? According to Consumer Protection Commissioner Mary M. Heslin, the new testing vehicle is already on the road, with its 5-gallon test measures mounted on three, 100-gallon storage tanks.

The whole idea, says Weights and Measures Chief Allan Nelson, is to allow the inspectors to test all the pumps in a gas station at one time without having to return the gasoline back to the large storage tanks. "It really speeds up the operation, enabling the inspectors to be much more efficient and accurate," Nelson says, explaining that the 5-gallon measures are situated at eye level, resulting in less fatigue for the inspectors. (The tanks plus the test measures together weigh 50-pounds-- quite a bit to lug back and forth. And with approximately 2,400 gas stations in the state and 16,000 individual pumps, all of which are tested at least once a year, that's a heavy load indeed.)

Why is it all so important? Think about this. There are 1.2 billion gallons of gasoline sold in Connecticut each year, according to the Connecticut Petroleum Council. If the accuracy of all those pumps were off just 1 cubic inch that error would represent over \$7 million!

In honor of National Weights and Measures Week, Commissioner Heslin offers the following guide to understanding gasoline laws:

1. PRICE SIGNS--every pump must have a price sign posted on the top and this must agree with the unit price posted on the face of the pump. Electronic pumps (where the price can be changed) must include a split price sign reflecting both the cash and credit prices. With mechanical pumps, the seller can offer a cash discount and simply give you the difference from the posted higher price. (Be sure you receive the difference if you're paying cash and a cash discount is offered!)
2. ON-PREMISE SIGNS--if a service station offers both full and self-service and wishes to advertise the product, both terms of sale--full and self-service-- must be posted on any price signs the seller displays and must be of equal dimensions. So, the seller can't have a large sign showing a lower self-service price and a small sign displaying a higher, full-service price.
3. OCTANE LEVELS--in case you didn't know, an octane rating is a numerical measure of the anti-knock properties of motor fuel. Minimum gasoline octane levels must be posted on each gas pump. Pay attention to these signs; the octane level can make a big difference in your engine.
4. ALCOHOL LABELING--any gas containing alcohol over 1% by volume must be conspicuously posted with the label right on the pump. It must list the percentage of ethanol and methanol. All new car manufacturers include in their owners' manuals the limit of alcohol that can be safely used with that car. Read your manual and don't experiment with gasoline alcohol levels which exceed the manufacturer's limits. You may damage your car and possibly void your warranty.

THINGS TO REMEMBER AT THE STATION

- * Be sure all indicating elements on the pumps are set at zero BEFORE you start pumping the gas. Sometimes consumers find that 1 or 2 cents show up. If so, let the Weights and Measures Division know about it; it is usually a computer malfunction and can be corrected.
- * Know what your tank holds. You might find a "hung pump" in a very busy full-service station where the attendant fails to turn the pump back to zero, but instead starts to fill your tank with the last delivery still registering on the pump. Thus may come the typical complaint, "My tank holds only 20 gallons, but he said he put in 22!" Again, contact the Weights and Measures Division.

For more information contact June S. Neal, Public Information Supervisor, at 566-2274.



News/ Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

Jim Beck Ross, Commissioner

P.O. Box 1609 Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1609

Contact: Billy Cox
Public Information
(601) 359-3642

Release: Feb. 20, 1988

NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK SLATED MARCH 1-7

March 1-7 has been proclaimed National Weights and Measures Week, an event celebrated annually by weights and measures officials throughout the nation. These dates commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the first weights and measures law in the United States on March 2, 1799.

This is the 150th anniversary of the Office of Weights and Measures which was begun by a Congressional resolution requiring that each state receive a set of weights and measures standards.

"Weights and Measures Week is to acquaint the public with the nature of this important service which protects consumers and businesses from incorrect quantity determinations," said James Spencer, head of the Consumer Protection Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. This year's theme is "Standardizing Standards -- Key to Equity."

It is through uniformity in the methods and laws of certification and inspection of commodities and devices, as well as uniform training procedures that equity will prevail in the market place, according to Spencer.

Scales and other measuring devices do become obsolete or out of adjustment just like any other mechanical equipment. Unlike many other devices, they continue to give quantity determinations, although incorrect, until they are tested and corrected or replaced.

"It is the responsibility of our inspectors to make tests of commercially used weighing and measuring devices and report their condition to the owners," said Spencer. "If the devices are correct, they are approved and sealed. If incorrect, they are rejected for use until corrected."

Businessmen have even greater reason for making sure their scales and measuring devices are correct. A small fraction of one percent error can give away thousands of dollars worth of products and profits away.



Under

C U R R E N T S

BY PATRICIA WEISS



The chips were up in Chips Ahoy!, which averaged an extra ounce per package.

WEIGHT WATCHERS

DO you get exactly what you pay for at your local food store? You'd probably like to imagine when buying butter, beer, meat or cheese that the weight you see is what you get. But the Weights and Measures Division of the state's Consumer Protection department doesn't take such things for granted. And, after tagging along on a recent inspection — during which it weighed products at random to verify that they contained every ounce their labels advertised — neither do we. Of 90 packages tested at Edwards Food Warehouse in West Hartford, only one weighed in precisely as marked.

This is not to suggest that errors are never made in the customers' favor. Rather, in the three months since the department began checking standard packs (products sold prepackaged to a store), it has found that grocery companies tend to give us all we expect and more. "It's amazing," said inspector Pete Wilson, our guide on this excursion. "Most things are overweight." How overweight? "Just a little. They want to play it safe, but they don't want to give too much away, either."

To test cereal and other dry products, a dozen boxes are selected at random. Wilson empties two of them into a shopping bag. (The boxes will later be returned to the manufacturer for a refund). He then weighs the packaging material from each and zeroes the scale at that weight. (The volume listed on the label should reflect contents only, exclusive of the box and any "free gifts" or coupons it contains.)

Finally, the remaining ten boxes are weighed in sequence. Should their av-

erage weight prove short — or should any one of them fall below the maximum allowable variation specified by the U.S. government (for a 14-ounce package, minus .04 pounds) — the store's entire stock of that product will be returned to the manufacturer.



Cheesy: The Jarlsberg Swiss was short by an average of \$.036 per package.

But such disciplinary measures are rarely required, and Wilson's random sampling of Kellogg's Crispix proved no exception to the rule. Except for a lengthy interruption from a shopper who recognized the product from the *Price Is Right* and wanted a free sample, the test ran smoothly. In fact, the price was better than right; Kellogg, we found, was giving away an extra 79 cents' worth of cereal in the lot.

Quaker's Mr. T also proved, like its namesake, to be a little more than we bargained for; it weighed in at a hefty extra ounce for the lot. And Ralston is sweetening its Sun Flakes with more than NutraSweet. In the ten boxes we tested, we found 39 cents' worth of free cereal thrown in to sugarcoat the deal.

The snack section held more opportunities to cash in on surplus calories. On the candy aisle, we calculated that Reese's was giving away extra Pieces

— a total of 17 cents' worth in the ten bags we tested. In its Chips Ahoy!, Nabisco had chipped in the most of any product Wilson weighed — more than an ounce, on the average, of surplus cookies per package, or an extra \$1.04 for the lot of ten. Even Wise could pad its profits if it got wise to its generous ways. Its customers may be dipping into 13 cents' worth of extra potato chips in every ten bags.

Favorably impressed by the standard packs, we moved on to the items packaged by the store itself. It was then, in the meat section, that we first encountered something to beef about. The extra lean ground beef, we found, was lean indeed. All ten packages we tested were a bit underweight, by an average of 1.3 cents apiece. A flustered meat wrapper came out to explain the discrepancy. She had subtracted the wrong tare (packaging material weight) when pricing each one.

The same meat wrapper had a similar excuse for why the sirloin steaks were short-weighted by an average of 2 cents apiece: She had neglected to change the tare when the store had recently added "dispers" (plastic-coated pads to absorb moisture) to their meat. "I didn't even think of it when they started hollering about the pads last week," she said. The discrepancy, .006 to .01 pounds per steak, may have been minuscule, but we wondered: How long would Edwards have gone on before making the adjustment had we not discovered its error? And how much might that neglect have amounted to in extra revenue for the store?

All five packages of beef chuck we tested were overweight, one of them by nearly a quarter-pound. But in the cheese section, the cheesy standards surfaced again: The Jarlsberg Swiss was short-weighted by an average of 3.6 cents per package. "All we need here is Mike Wallace with a camera," quipped Wilson, speculating that the error might be due to moisture loss.

"That, to me, is carelessness," said Allan Nelson, chief of Weights and Measures, when informed of our findings. Although he concurred that Ed-

wards' shortchanging customers on cheese was probably due to moisture loss, he didn't absolve the department manager from responsibility. "If he knows the cheese is going to sit there for two days and that every day it's going to lose a hundredth of a pound," he said, "then every day he should remove it from the shelf and reweigh it."

Nelson also ascribed the meat discrepancies to negligence, rather than deliberate error. Even if Edwards makes a few pennies off each of its customers, the meat wrapper doesn't see any of those profits, he observed. "The guy who's really at fault is the meat manager," he said. "Why isn't he checking up on the meat wrapper?"

Both Wilson and Nelson assured us that our experience was not typical. "It's atypical, even of Finest [Edwards'



Heavyweight: Mr. T packed an extra ounce of cereal in ten boxes.

parent company]," Wilson said. When informed of the situation and told that a return visit would soon be paid, store manager Mike DiBella declined to comment. Had the findings been better, an inspector would still return, but not for several months. "Just knowing we're out here — that someone's looking over their shoulder — has a tendency to keep 'em honest," Wilson said.

What if the problems persist? "Our policy, where you find errors, is three strikes and you're out," said Nelson. "A consumer expects and should get full net weight at the time of sale," he asserted. "The consumer has a trust. Why should that trust be violated?"



Some mis-steak: Edwards' sirloin was short by an average of \$.02 per package.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM MEEHAN

Consumers should benefit from new jewelers law

By Jack Shandle,
Courier Times Staff Writer

Selling your gold and silver to peripatetic dealers at flea markets will be a little safer this spring, county officials say, because a precious metals law passed in 1984 will soon be implemented.

In the past, small — and often inaccurate — scales have been widely used at flea markets. But beginning March 4, precious metals dealers must register with the county or face a maximum \$2,500 fine and year imprisonment, ac-

ording to county consumer protection chief Peggy H. Adams.

Besides using certified scales, dealers must post prices being offered for gold, silver or platinum articles, Mrs. Adams said. Presently, the county knows of only 29 scales being used to weigh precious metals.

That number will increase markedly once the flea market season opens, she said.

The law enacted in February 1984 has not been implemented because state officials have been slow in approving appli-

cation forms and other bureaucratic necessities, according to Sheriff Lawrence R. Michaels.

In addition to requiring registration, the law requires a dealer to describe in writing each item purchased and send that form to the district attorney's office. The dealer must keep the item in its original form — that is, not melt it — for five days.

During that time, police will have a limited opportunity to match the descriptions against jewelry, silver plate and other precious metal articles that have

been reported stolen.

District Attorney Michael J. Kane acknowledged Wednesday the law is unlikely to lead directly to the apprehension of large-scale illicit dealers, otherwise known as "fences."

The penalties will not deter a fence, Kane said, but the records being kept should help identify fences, who must have some sort of legitimate business cover. Law enforcement officials can then use other statutes and investigative techniques to seek an arrest, Kane said.

Kane took some pains to point out that

many reputable Bucks County jewelers strongly support the legislation and its enforcement.

Michaels added that burglars and thieves may find life a little more complex as a result of the law because the seller must be identified not only by name and address, but also by driver's license number.

Precious metals dealers must register with the county by April 4. Application forms will be available at the sheriff's office beginning March 4, Michaels said. The application fee is \$50.

Dealers in precious metals must register in Bucks

By Marie Kelly
Free Press Writer

DOYLESTOWN — A new law requiring dealers in precious metals to register in Bucks County could help the district attorney track down on thieves and "fences" for stolen items.

Bucks County District Attorney Michael J. Kane said the new state law, which became effective March 4, could help police recover more stolen items, primarily jewelry.

Precious metal dealers must register with the county sheriff, if they intend to deal in the county, or face a \$2,500 fine or one year in prison, according to Bucks County Sheriff Lawrence Michaels.

Whenever they purchase secondhand items they must notify the district attorney, who will circulate a list of those items to police. The dealers are also required to hold the merchandise for five days before reselling.

During that time, police will check to see if the items are stolen by comparing the descriptions to reports of stolen items. If so, the merchandise is confiscated and the district attorney will initiate a criminal investigation.

"It gives the police an opportunity to look at this merchandise and try to match it with items that could be stolen," Mr. Kane said.

Dealers who would be required to register include flea market

operators, pawn shop owners, precious metal dealers and jewelers who purchase secondhand items. Jewelers who sell only new merchandise are not affected by this law, Mr. Kane said.

"The great, great majority of people who deal in precious metals in this county — jewelers and wholesale buyers and distributors — are not only law-abiding businessmen, but are some of the most supportive of law enforcement," Mr. Kane said.

"By no means are we implying these businessmen are fences," he added.

Rather, Mr. Kane said the new law was to help identify those people who consistently buy or sell stolen mer-

chandise.

He said the new law will not instantly stop the buying and selling of "hot" goods or stealing in the county, but it might deter these acts.

Dealers are also required to take the identification of the seller — a name and an address. If the item is stolen, this, too, will be given to police, Mr. Kane said.

But the police will not be the only ones helped by this law, according to Peggy H. Adams, director of consumer protection in the county. She said the new law will also protect the consumer who buys precious metals. Dealers will have to use scales that are registered and inspected for accuracy by her department, she said.

Uplclose

Weights and measure man tips both ends of scale

By KEN KLEPPER
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — It may be true about your brother, that "He ain't heavy" as the song says; but if you had doubts, you could get a second opinion from professional weight watcher William Wilson.

As Clinton County Weights and Measures director, Wilson has weighed tractor-trailers and cans of candied yams, from the awe-inspiring huge to the bold-in-your-hand small, and everything in between.

It is Wilson's job to safeguard the bottom line of commerce, that products are, in fact, the correct weight, volume, and measure as advertised. For consumers, it has to be a matter of faith that a can of tuna really contains the 6.5 ounces of tuna as proclaimed on the label or that we actually get the amount of gasoline registered on the pump.

"I am the middleman between the consumer and the seller... People just do not have the tools needed to check these things out for themselves," said Wilson, 35, who wields a vast array of specialized gizmos to measure products and measuring devices themselves. His arsenal spans the range from a scale weight of one-hundredth of an ounce for testing grocery scales to a 100,000-pound capacity tractor-trailer scale — a flat-bed truck onto which trucks are driven and weighed.

Not even human beings are outside Wilson's jurisdiction. As a courtesy, Wilson makes sure high school wrestlers measure up by checking the scales, used to weigh them before competition. However, for the bulk of other people, the law does not object to those who lie about their weight and the scales of justice exact no penalty.

Like the tree marks left by a seasoned forester to blaze a trail, signs of Wilson's passing are everywhere, but are mostly passed unnoticed by the casual observer. His small square stickers, with date punch-boled in the side, are on each of the county's 383 gas pumps, 155 digital scales, and 265 other business scales and meters.

Wilson, who is president of the Northeast New

York Weights and Measures Association, said that the switch to digital electronics has caused a revolution in his field, resulting in the development of scales less vulnerable to human greed. Gone are the days when a merchant could up the price with a "heavy thumb" on the scale. "There are less ways to tamper with them. Digital scales have built-in motion meters and won't register the weight if you press down on them. You couldn't keep your hand that steady," he said.

Even so, human creativity is bound to come up with a way around such safeguards, so weight and measure inspectors are learning first-hand from the manufacturers how to spot signs of tampering. The digital technology may be so new that people haven't learned as yet how to use it dishonestly, he suggested. If you have a new lock, it is only a matter of time before someone learns how to crack it, he said.

Wilson has been the county's inspector for about three years and was the state inspector for four years before that. He said he likes the job and its variety. "I taught high school math for three years. I don't think I could work cooped up in an office any more," said Wilson, who spends most of his time on the road visiting business sites throughout the county.

During a typical assignment on Tuesday morning, Wilson pulled into Souza's Mini Mart in West Chazy to check some newly installed gas pumps. After pumping 10 gallons of gas into two measuring cans, he found that the leaded gas pump was underpumping by four cubic inches per five gallon measure. According to regulations, gas pumps cannot mis-register by more than three cubic inches. Wilson wired the pump shut with a lead seal until the company could recalibrate the machine.

Both the variety and importance of Wilson's work is, he thinks, enough to keep him going in it until his retirement, which is many years away. And after that? Well, as the bumper sticker on the back of his Chevy truck says, "Old Scale Men Never Die, They Just Become Unbalanced."



William Wilson

Small Agency Tackles Big Job

(Photo on Page 2)
By RUTH KENNEY

If you bought a package of 1,000 Christmas tree icicles for holiday decorating, chances are you didn't count them to see if the box really contained 1,000 icicles.

But somebody did — an inspector for the Ventura County Weights and Measures division. The agency checks the labeling and packaging of products and keeps tabs on weighing and measuring devices of all kinds.

In the case of the icicles, it turned out the packages averaged only about 700 icicles instead of 1,000. The inspection was performed as the result of an investigation by the Sacramento Weights and Measures office, which asked each county to check local supplies, according to Bill Korth, Ventura County sealer/director.

Korth said two of his inspectors took five boxes of the icicles and counted them, then weighed each of the packages to get an average weight. Once they decided on the correct weight, checking more boxes was comparatively easy.

Since most of the boxes were short about 300 icicles, they were taken off the shelves just before Christmas, Korth said. The county's results were forwarded to Sacramento, which is the manufacturer.

"The price was only 67 cents a box, but with thousands of boxes, it adds up," Korth said.

That, in a nutshell, is what the Weights and Measures Division is all about. Little discrepancies in measurements, compounded by large volume, can mean big losses for consumers or businesses.

"If Mrs. Jones buys a pound of hamburger for

\$1, we want to be sure she gets a pound of hamburger, not 15 ounces or 17 ounces, and the butcher gets \$1. We're really looking out for both sides," Korth said. "If the merchants lose by giving too much weight, they'll have to raise the price. Then everybody loses."

He said his department has found that weighing errors are usually against the store. "The checker is afraid to cheat the customer, so she'll undercharge a little. But the profit margin is only 1 or 2 percent, so the store is actually losing money. When we talk to the checkers, we try to stress accuracy in reading the scales."

In many supermarkets, electronic scanners have created a whole new technology to be concerned with. The department has been running

(See Consumers Page 2)

Weights, Measures Unit

Consumers, Business Aided

(Continued from Page 1.)

spot checks on the scanners, and inspectors are finding about 6 percent error in the finding about 6 percent error, in either direction, Korth said.

"We're looking at the number of items in error, rather than the dollars involved. When you consider the average supermarket has 15,000 to 17,000 items, the sheer logistics of keeping the computer up to date can be a problem."

It's also a problem for Korth's department, because he has only five inspectors.

"As technology increases, our work increases. Devices are now more sophisticated, and they take longer to check," Korth said.

To check a supermarket scanner, an inspector buys a number of items and then checks the accuracy of the device, which reads the Universal Product Code bars on the packages and sends messages to the computer to print the item and price on the register receipt. The computer also keeps inventory of what is sold.

In 1978, there were eight scanners in Ventura County supermarkets. Now there are more than 400, Korth said. In 1978, there were 10 Weights and Measures inspectors. Now, as a result of Proposition 13 cutbacks, there are five.

Another set of challenges from technology can be found in service stations. The self-serve pumps, in which the customer pays first and the pump automatically shuts off at the designated amount, requires the inspector to check both the pump and the electronic console in the clerk's booth, Korth said.

As the number of gasoline stations decreases, the use of the remaining pumps increases, Korth said, and that means more wear and tear on the mechanisms that measure the gas.

"We'd like to check the gas pumps more often," Korth said.

Another new wrinkle is the membership service station, in which pumps are operated by account cards, much like an automatic teller. The charge for the purchase is registered in a computer in an office at a different location, Korth said, and the computers must be checked along with the pumps.

In one such operation, an inspector found that a pump was registering a half-gallon of gas whenever it was turned on or off. When a defective pump is found, it is shut down until the problem is fixed, Korth said.

An even more difficult situation for inspectors is the kind of station that allows the customer to pay for gas by charging it to a bank account. Such systems are now being tested in Los Angeles, and Korth said, "It's just a matter of time before we get them." The problem will be the difficulty of checking the computers at the banks, he added.

Although computers present a technological challenge to inspectors, some of the problems are caused by human beings. For instance, some stations advertise a discount of 4 cents a gallon for cash payment, and a few neglect to give the discount unless the customer asks for it. On Thursday, the third such case in less than a year was brought to Municipal Court, Korth said.

Robert Leonhard, owner of Simi Valley Chevron, 2568 Sycamore Drive, Simi Valley, pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawful computation of value, or not returning the rebate promised to cash customers. He was fined \$160 and placed on a year's probation, according to a spokeswoman for Weights and Measures.

"We rely heavily on complaints to up us off," Korth said. The department protects the anonymity of its sources, and the businesses being inspected never know if it's a routine or special inspection.

"We give customer complaints top priority — we try to send somebody out within 24 hours. If someone is complaining about contaminated gas, we try to get there as soon as possible," Korth said.



BILL KORTH
Agency busy

One customer complaint resulted in putting the bite on Nabisco Brands Inc. for one of the biggest settlements in state history, and an agreement that the company's "Almost Home" brand of cookies will be packaged in containers that give a more accurate idea of the amount of product inside.

Without admitting any wrongdoing, Nabisco agreed to pay \$250,000, which includes \$180,000 in penalties and \$70,000 to reimburse the district attorney's office for costs.

Pulling a package of Almost Home Fudge 'N' Nut Brownies out of a file cabinet, Korth said: "This is one of our favorite cases." He opened the package and showed a clear plastic tray that elevated the single row of brownies to make it appear that the box contained two layers. Also, the box itself was almost half an inch thick, ostensibly to make it possible to stack the packages on their side in the store.

"The brownies only take up about 25 percent of the package," Korth said. "This is a violation of the law, which says a package must not be non-functionally slack-filled." An example of permissible or functional slack-filling is a potato chip bag, which is filled with air to protect the contents from crushing. Non-functional slack-filling is considered deceptive packaging.

When Weights and Measures received complaints about the packaging of the cookies, its report went to the district attorney's consumer fraud unit for review. Nabisco, a huge food conglomerate whose headquarters are in New Jersey, agreed to modify the packages of fruit sticks and three flavors of fruit sticks to give customers a more accurate picture of the amount of product inside.

Korth's department is now investigating other products whose packages might be deemed too big, he said.

Because there are so few inspectors and so many locations to inspect, Korth tries to place the department's emphasis on areas that will protect the most people. As a result, the inspectors concentrate on gas stations, supermarkets and other high-volume areas.

"The biggest problem is really with industrial scales, but only a few people are affected," he said.

Korth has requested another inspector to help with the increasing work load, particularly with the weighing of trucks. He said agricultural growers are paid by the amount of weight in the truck, and household moving loads are charged

by weight.

"This amounts to millions of dollars every year," Korth said, and if the scales are inaccurate, somebody is losing money.

Most people are not even aware of the Weights and Measures office exists. "People just expect to get full weight," he said. However, the specialty has a long and honorable history. The importance of accurate weighing and measuring is mentioned in the Bible, and the Romans and Egyptians cut off the hands of merchants who did not give full measure, Korth said.

To make the public more aware of the department's functions, Weights and Measures officials nationwide observe National Weights and Measures Week March 1-7. The date commemorates the signing of the first Weights and Measures law in the United States on March 2, 1790.

Although Korth and his inspectors are employed by the county of Ventura, they actually work for the state Director of Food and Agriculture.

"California has the best Weights and Measures organization in the country," Korth said. Every county has an office, and all the offices must follow state policies and procedures.

"In many states, there is only a state office, or individual cities have their own offices. In some states, it's a political office and there's a whole new staff after every election," Korth explained.

Inspectors must have a degree in physics, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, law enforcement, commerce or marketing, and must take six examinations to be fully licensed. Korth, who has worked with the county office for 19 years, said he started out as a field inspector and worked his way up to head of the department.

He has had some interesting experiences in the field. Once, while inspecting electric meters, he accidentally shorted out power to an entire trailer park.

"It took about three-fourths of a day to get the power back on again," he said.

Another incident happened during an inspection at a meat market in Camarillo. When checking open meat counters, the department hires a buyer to purchase meat. After the sale is weighed and rung up, the buyer identifies himself and calls the inspector, who is waiting in the parking lot, to come in and reweigh the purchase.

Korth said he came in to reweigh the meat while the German-born butcher waved a meat cleaver around and shouted about Gestapo tactics and wasting the taxpayers' money. The butcher finally slammed the cleaver into a cutting board. Slightly nervous, Korth told the man he had underpriced one of the roasts by 75 cents.

Korth said he decided that was the last time he would inspect meat while a butcher was holding a cleaver.

Even if the public never becomes aware of Weights and Measures, Korth has been successful in raising the consciousness of members of his family. He said he went home from work one day to discover that his daughter had taken apart a popular brand of cold capsule to count each individual "lime capsule." Her investigation proved that the capsule did indeed contain "800 tiny lime pills," just as the ads claimed.

Oxnard
Press
Courier
3/3/85

The Advance of Bucks Co.

Weights and measures regulates \$600 million

The Bucks County Commissioners have proclaimed March 1 to 7 as Bucks County Weights and Measures Week in honor of the 181st anniversary of National Weights and Measures legislation.

Weights and Measures, Department of Bucks County Consumer Protection, regulates commodities worth \$600 million. The department's efforts, it is estimated, saves each family of four about \$362.

Peggy H. Adams, Chief Sealer of Bucks County Weights and Measures and Director of the Consumer Protection Department has released the statistics for the department in 1979. The following were certified: 3,311 gasoline or kerosene pumps; 1,392 coin meters on dryers at laundromats and coin car washes; 10 vacuum cleaners; 4,375 scales at 788 stores, 84 post offices and public, private or parochial schools; 34 measuregraphs and 101 yardsticks and tapes at fabric stores; 80 businesses were checked for sale of firewood; and the county assisted the state in certifying 227 meters on oil trucks of 68 companies; 18 LPG meters; 8 hopper scales; 97 large capacity scales; and 2 rail scales.

There were 298 investigations into firewood or gasoline complaints in addition to handling over 3,000 inquiries or complaints concerning gasoline related questions from June to September.

There were 24,140 items inspected for short weight, short measure and short count. In addition to those inspections, 2,320 items were also checked for labeling and coding. During holiday seasons, two inspectors checked 2,210 turkeys, chickens, ducks, hams and rabbits at every store in Bucks County.



Checking the pumps

County inspector Anthony Ruggia's gas pump check in Langhorne proved positive. Special notice is being taken of county inspectors this week, Weights and Measures Week in Bucks County.

Adams said, "We find the rejection rate is about 4 or 5 percent, except with commodities. We reject close to 10 percent of the commodities we inspect.

"Most stores and service stations are involved with maintenance contracts which reduce their rate of error."

The deputy sealers rejected the following: 84 scales and adjusted 203, 162 pumps, 49 dryers, 2 measuregraphs, 39 oil trucks and 2,031 commodities. Citations that were issued brought in about \$2,000 in fines.

"Our department is to see that the consumer receives his or her fair measure, but also that the businessman is also not giving more than the fair measure," states

According to the Chief Sealer, short weight errors can cost the consumer thousands of dollars.



Stephen Dunn / The Hartford Courant

Raymond Kalentckowski, a state Department of Consumer Inspection weights and measures inspector, pumps five gallons of gasoline into a test

container at a Plainville service station to check the accuracy of the gasoline pump. His work is to make sure customers get what they paid for.

Consumer Agency Man Ensures All Stores, Stations Measure Up

By KAY CAHILL
Courant Staff Writer

When Raymond Kalentckowski walks into a store or a gasoline station, the managers usually smile, but they aren't always glad to see him.

By the time he leaves, Kalentckowski may have pulled the entire fresh meat stock off the shelves or

shut down several gasoline pumps. "I'm sorry if I'm not always the nice guy, but that's not my job," said Kalentckowski, a weights and measures inspector for the state Department of Consumer Protection.

Carrying a black bag he calls his "doctor's kit," which is filled with 35 pounds of weights, Kalentckowski and 13 other inspectors roam the state, measuring food scales,

taxi meters and doctors' scales for accuracy.

The trunk of his large state car is filled with tanks for measuring gasoline and 50-pound weights for testing large slaughterhouse

scales. The back seat is stacked with log books in which he records the hundreds of thousands of measurements he takes each year.

His profession has a long history. "Weights and measures go back a long way," said Allan M. Nelson, chief of the Weights and Measures division. He formerly worked as a metrologist in the laboratory, testing the accuracy of the scales and weights inspectors use in the field.

"If you go back and do some research, you'll find that Wethersfield and Windsor and all the early Colonial towns had weights and measures people," Nelson said.

In a report to the U.S. Senate on Feb. 22, 1821, John Quincy Adams wrote: "Weights and measures may be ranked among the necessities of life to every individual of human society. . . . The knowledge of them as established in use is often learned by those who learn nothing else, not even to read and write. This knowledge is riveted in the memory by the habitual application of it in the employments of men throughout life."

Kalentckowski has been a weights and measures inspector for 12 years.

He once had a desk job, designing measuring tools for Pratt & Whitney, but this job suits him better because he is active, he said.

"This job is 50 percent head work and 50 percent bull work. When I'm training someone new, I tell them that. If they don't like it, they leave."

State inspectors today make annual rounds to the thousands of establishments that have a weighing or measuring function. They also respond to complaints and requests.

"Some of the complaints are totally weird," Kalentckowski said. For example, a teacher complained that she bought three boxes of straws for a school project. Each box said it contained 100 straws, but there were only 85 inside.

"I had to go to the store and count straws in all the boxes. There were straws everywhere."

Kalentckowski said the box was too small to hold 100 straws. "So I told the company they had to make a bigger box or change the label. They changed the label."

Requests also come from merchants.

Joseph Lenares, owner of the Public Market on New Britain Avenue in Hartford, moved his store into more spacious quarters next door to its former location one day last week and wanted to make sure his scales were still accurate.

Leaning against a meat case stacked with Italian delicacies, Lenares fiddled with a pencil behind his ear and watched Kalentckowski begin his tests. Lifting one gleaming weight after another onto the scale, Kalentckowski recorded the readings.

"Right on. Beautiful. It's good," Kalentckowski said each time, ultimately pronouncing all four scales accurate.

He applied a green state seal to the front of each scale so customers could see it and asked Lenares to move a large box of potato chips blocking the customers' view of one scale.

From the tiny Public Market, he drove to the gigantic Heartland Food Warehouse in Newington, where an inspector takes two full days to test the 50 or 60 scales, plus check the weight of produce and meat packages and test the com-

ment. A slight variation is not a big problem. But sometimes, when Kalentckowski checks the seal, he finds the pump has been tampered with and the meter altered to cheat the customer. Last November, for example, he arrested a Torrington gasoline station owner, John Beberian, for repeatedly tampering with his pumps. Beberian was convicted and fined \$1,190.

When the pumps are giving out too much gasoline, Kalentckowski tells the manager or tries to adjust the meter to be fair to the owners.

"If they're too high, I tell them so," he said, lugging his gasoline cans and funnel back to the car.



Once the gasoline pump has been checked for accuracy, this dated seal can be affixed, with a warning to neither detach nor deface.



classified

PERSPECTIVE

They Take the Measure of Measures

Inspectors Look for 'Short Weight'

By BRUCE CUTLER
Staff Writer

It's one of those "quiet functions of government" outside the spotlight of publicity. It's also one of government's oldest chores.

Inspecting grocery and meat market scales. Checking gas station pumps. Warning consumers who buy firewood.

These and other duties occupy field agents from the state Agriculture Department's Bureau of Standard Weights and Measures. They routinely work with local weights and measures officers in major cities and the state's 67 counties.

National Weights and Measures Week, which ends on Wednesday, marks the 185th anniversary of enforcement of weights and measures laws. Theme for the 1984 observance is "Equity in the Marketplace."

William S. Cooper, director of Dauphin County's operation, said his office handled about 100 complaints last year from citizens who felt they had been shortchanged at grocery stores or abetted at the gas pumps.

"Some of the complaints are pretty far-fetched," Cooper said recently, "and a lot are more the result of confusion than anything else."

He said while nearly 15 percent of all complaints concerned grocery store sales, the vast majority of the remainder were against gas station owners.

He said fuel pumps, due to normal wear, register in favor of consumers through increased use — an incentive to gas station owners to keep their pumps calibrated.

"Whenever we find one in error," Cooper said, "it gets fixed quick because we reinspect them in three days."

Ronald R. Roof, assistant director of the Bureau of Standard Weights and Measures, said 24 percent, or 1,885, of the 7,851 gas pumps in the state were "rejected" by state Agriculture Department inspectors last year.

"An error of only one-half of 1 percent will throw a gas pump out of tolerance," Roof said.

He said 65 percent of complaints from consumers on which the department acted in 1983 related to gasoline and kerosene; 19 percent to packaged commodities; 7 percent to firewood; 7 percent to defective scales at over-the-counter situations; and 2 percent to miscellaneous problems related largely to confusion created by modern scanning systems at supermarket counters.

"Last year we had 38 summary prosecutions," Roof said, emphasizing that the department's policy was first to gain voluntary compliance — and sometimes restitution — from alleged violators before settling accounts by going before local magistrates.

"Of those 38 cases," Roof said, "17 were for standard package violations — mainly antifreeze jugs and swimming pool chemicals — 14 were for random weight violations — mainly for produce and meat sales in suburban Philadelphia and Allegheny County — four were for firewood and three for gas pumping problems."

In several areas covered by weights and measures inspectors, Roof said, prosecutions are lacking because the businesses effectively police themselves. He specifically cited the liquid petroleum (LP) gas

and home heating fuel oil industries.

But, said District Justice Mary Cross, consumers increasingly are relying on a prosecution to deal with shady suppliers of firewood.

"Cheating is on the rise," Cross said in an interview, reviewing two recent cases before her. "In terms of both quality and quantity of firewood."

In January, the district justice in Lower Swatara Twp. fined one supplier \$50, plus \$26 in costs and \$59.13 restitution after an Oberlin woman filed a complaint with the assistance of an inspector in the Agriculture Department's regional office in Summerdale.

"I found him guilty of delivering only three-quarters of a cord when in fact he got paid for a cord and a half," Cross said.

"And the 'seasoned split oak' he promised to deliver was not seasoned, was not split and a lot of it was not oak," she said.

"Some of it was dogwood," she said, "and he didn't even stack it up like he said he would. He just dumped it in her driveway."

Cross said some firewood dealers delivered a "real con job" to their customers, shorting them in quantity and substituting poor quality wood.

"Many customers, maybe most, are too embarrassed to file a complaint, or afraid to file a charge," she said.

"Sometimes after they discover they will have to take a day off from work for the hearing, they decide not to go through with it," she added.

She said for those who decide to buy firewood, the most important thing is to get an invoice from the seller certifying the amount sold. Under state law, firewood must be sold by the cord — a stack of wood measuring four feet by four feet by eight feet, or 128 cubic feet — or "by a cord. Sales by 'hass cords,' or 'home cord' or 'truckload' are illegal.

According to C. Eugene Wingert, director of the regional office of the Bureau of Standard Weights and Measures, consumers who suspect they have been shorted in firewood purchases should contact the Agriculture Department's regional office.

Spokesmen at Central Pennsylvania Legal Services, Pennsylvania Public Interest Coalition and the state Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection agreed that most consumer complaints are channeled to the Agriculture Department's county weights and measures offices.

James B. Allen, past director of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Commissioners, said the system of concurrent jurisdiction between state and municipal offices works well and does not need a major overhaul. This system was enacted in 1913 and last revised in 1965.

According to Michael J. Pekula, director of the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, the midstate is "not a seething hotbed of dishonest dealers."

But, Pekula said, some new problems are developing in the weights and measures field.

"Take octane in your car gas, for example," he said. "We have no method — no scientific technology — to measure octane ratings."

"Octane ratings are supposed to be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission," Roof said, "but no-

body is doing anything about it.

"We have no technical capability to test for gasoline quality," he said, "and no authority at the state level to do so."

Another emerging problem in vehicular fuel, Pekula said, has been halted by negotiations between the Attorney General's Office and officials of the Atlantic Richfield Co. over the firm's use of methanol in gasoline.

Joseph Ackler, a company spokesman in Philadelphia, said the firm spent more than \$10 million over five years in research and fleet testing of "oxinol" — a blend of 4 1/2 percent methanol and 4 1/2 percent co-solvent designed to inhibit corrosion.

"The federal Environmental Protection Agency approved our application to market the product nationally," Ackler said, "and we started with 100 stations in Pittsburgh in November 1981."

"To date we've had no problems with the product," he said, adding that "oxinol" was introduced in the Pennsylvania market in January 1983 and to the New York state market in May.

ARCO is the only national gas refiner adding a methanol blend to gasoline, Ackler said. The blend is derived from coal, he said, and furthers the national policy of energy independence from foreign petroleum sources and Gov. Dick Thornburgh's policy of increased use of coal.

But two auto manufacturers — Chrysler and American Motors — announced last month they would not honor their new car warranties if consumers used gasoline containing more than 10 percent methanol. The manufacturers claimed that too much of the substance would corrode car engines. However, ARCO's product contains only 9 percent methanol, within the car manufacturers' tolerance limits.

Pekula said the Attorney General's Office last month gained an agreement from ARCO to provide notice of the methanol blend to customers at ARCO stations.

ARCO's "clear" unleaded regular, as the gasoline with methanol is called, also is sold to a few independent and unbranded service stations, but Ackler said the firm has asked these operators voluntarily to post the same methanol notice to their customers as ARCO is using.

Roof said the "vast majority" of consumer complaints handled by the Agriculture Department concerned "ricing and quality" of gas at the pumps.

But successful prosecutions were difficult, he said.

"The problem wears many faces," he said. "There is full service, self service and mini service, where the price of the gas depends on the services mode, and this can confuse the public."

"Then there's the price of gas based on the mode of payment — cash, credit or cash discount, and this can add to the confusion."

"Some stations do not clearly identify their prices, and this appears to be a conscious effort to confuse..."

"And metric pumps — well, they're not widely used, but some stations use them to thwart the public's attempt to discern the actual price per gallon."

"We encourage the public to select a station with an equivalent posting of price per gallon."

He added that the state has no regulations on gas price postings.



At the Pump and at the Store, Accuracy Is State's Goal
Dean Ely, state weights and measures supervisor, checks accuracy of gasoline pump, left, and then turns his attention to product coding at local grocery store.

"Based on some of our complaints," he said, "we've tried prosecutions but lost. Some of these stations operate within the law but they're confusing anyway."

He said that outright fraud — as in an advertised price on a sign along a highway and a higher price on the pumps — is unusual. "We found that situation at a Breeze-wood station and got it corrected," he said.

"Another frustrating problem for us is the computer jump at self-service stations," Roof said.

"It only involves a few cents — three cents is the most common amount," he said. "Because of the loss of pressure in the nozzle after a driver fills his tank to the top, the next driver gets a little reading (on the pump) but no gas, as the pressure is brought back up."

"We advise people to re-zero the pumps every time" they buy gas, he said, "rather than have to pay the three cents."

Roof said the agency's policy of unannounced inspections and reliance on consumer complaints as an enforcement tool is working to keep the pumps accurate.

"We have no program or appropriated budget for undercover buys," he said, but rely on consumers to play that role.

"Prosecution is used very judiciously by the bureau," Roof said. "We can 'red tag' and remove an inaccurate pump because we have strong authority."

That authority also applies to scales used in grocery stores and meat markets, he said, as well as to prepackaged containers.

"Automobile antifreeze is the big problem," he said. "When we find a jug that's short, we stamp it 'short weight' and remove it" from the shelves and return it to the packer.

He said that of 18,226 lots of prepackaged items inspected last year, 3,193 were "rejected as short weight."

"Ninety-five percent of these were shortages of less than 2 percent," he said. "Really gross problems are very few."

Butcher shops and grocery stores "give us good cooperation 99 percent of the time," Roof said. "A notice of warning with re-inspection 30 days later" is usually action enough to correct a faulty scale, he said. "If that fails, we'll prosecute."

He said consumer problems may develop over "wrappers" for food, usually the heavier containers used for selling shrimp or oysters, for example.

"Because of the volume of these sales," he said, "there's an inside profit [what we call the tare weight] (weight of the container) is not compensated for."

"All scales have the capability to compensate for the wrapper," he

said. "Customers should demand a strict accounting" on such over-the-counter purchases.

Roof called the fuel oil industry's record in Pennsylvania a good one because of enforcement and dealer cooperation.

"Customers get a printed ticket, usually at the time of delivery," he said of the established business practices.

As with all mechanical pumps, the pump on the delivery truck measuring the oil flowing into a home tank becomes inaccurate through friction, normal wear and tear, and the inaccuracy favors the consumers by providing more product than the meter registers.

"This is an incentive to the dealers to check their pumps often, and they do."

No prosecutions have been brought in the liquid petroleum gas industry, Roof said, but there are some problem areas.

"Based on the number of complaints we receive," he said, "the vast majority of the consumers understand the billing procedures of LP gas suppliers."

"But some suppliers bill by 'happy cooking units' or something like that and who's to know what that means?" he asked. "This is a justifiable issue to deal with."

"We need legislation" to settle in law, he said, whether LP gas should be measured in pounds, gallons or cubic feet.

"In this area," he said, "most of the complaints are the result of confusion by the public and they don't turn out to be substantiated."

But the coal fields, he said, present a different picture.

"We've had some prosecutions

up in Schuylkill and Luzerne counties," he said.

"It's like the firewood situation. A guy with a truck gets a load from a colliery and skims off the top — say in his garage one night — and delivers a short load to those answering his ad in a local paper that offers coal at something way below market price."

"The important thing is for a customer to get a weighmaster's certificate for the coal load at delivery. If there's no certificate, I'd suspect the delivery may have been tampered with."

Weighmasters are licensed by the state.

"If an offered price is well below the prevailing price," he added, "I'd advise caution. The best bet is to deal with a reputable dealer."

The bureau has a staff of 31, he said, including two officials and four secretaries at the main Agriculture Department building on North Cameron Street; 13 inspectors and two supervisors in the bureau's seven regional offices; five large-vehicle scale inspectors; two fuel oil inspectors; and one inspector each for LP gas, farm milk tanks and load rack meters at fuel oil companies' major storage facilities.

In addition to consumer-oriented monitoring of scales and measures, inspectors also check the nearly 400 portable vehicle scales used by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for truck weights, Roof said.

Also, he added, "about 30 stationary scales are used by local police to weigh trucks in suburban Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. They're checked every year."

Metric System Conversion Termed 'Still on Track'

Whatever happened to the conversion of weights and measures to the metric system in the United States?

"Good Lord," answered an official at the state Chamber of Commerce. "I haven't heard anyone use those words in years."

Nevertheless, John Tischer, federal coordinator of the Office of Metric Programs in the U.S. Department of Commerce, insisted that the changeover to the metric system was hale and hearty in the nation, and still growing.

However, he admitted the move is "a little bit slower than I had thought."

Tischer, who has worked with the metric system for 12 years, cited New York, California, Florida and Hawaii as leaders in the switch, along with those industries: autos, computers, farm equipment, pharmaceuticals and wines and liquors.

The metric system is a standardized system of weights and measures, based on the decimal system as is the U.S. monetary system. This is considered easy to figure prices per unit.

Under the Metric Conversion Act of 1975, a 17-member U.S. Metric Board was established to speed the conversion. But the board was dissolved and its duties switched to the metric programs office under a budget agreement between President Reagan and Congress Sept. 30, 1982.

Tischer said resistance to the conversion is less today than it was a decade ago.

The Commerce Department in 1971 recommended that voluntary metric conversions be completed within 10 years.



Conventional Weights Are Used to Check Accuracy of Modern Digital Scale

Features

Below: From an attache case holding 30 pounds of weights, Bezilla takes weights in increments up to 15 pounds to check the accuracy and balance of a store's food scale.



(Herald-Standard Photos by Charles Rosendale)

He keeps the balance
in Fayette County's

Weights and Measures

By PAUL SUNYAK
Herald-Standard Staff Writer

The next time you fill your gasoline tank, buy a pound of lunch meat or mail an extra-postage letter, you'll think of Bernard Bezilla.

He owns no filling station or grocery store, nor does he expect to be named postmaster general. He's not a consumer advocate, a la Ralph Nader, but he has a very heavy hand in making sure Fayette County residents get what they pay for.

Bezilla, 63, of Leisenring 1, is the county's chief sealer of weights and measures. Since taking the job four years ago, Bezilla has been a one-man insurance policy for fairness in the marketplace.

Starting at 7 a.m. each weekday, the grandfatherly Bezilla steers his county car, an AMC Eagle with 95,000 miles, on a circuitous and unpredictable eight-hour course.

Surprise is one element on his side: he makes up his own schedule, varies his once-a-year checks at each establishment and strikes with a thoroughness designed to keep 'em guessing.

"Most people are honest; they don't fool with the pumps or scales," says Bezilla, who is empowered to issue citations and shut down faulty equipment. "Knowing that I'm coming around ... that makes a difference, too."

From the letter scale at each of the county's 62 post offices to the mountain area filling station with 17 pumps — a half-day job in itself — Bezilla stands as a corrective measure.

He bridges the gap between a trusting but oft-unknowing public and the equipment malfunction or miscalibration, intentional or not, that could rip off consumers.

"He's doing a fine job out there," says Ron Roof, assistant director of the Bureau of Weights and Measures, State Department of Agriculture, which augments the inspection effort within the county.

"Up until Mr. Bezilla's time, Fayette County did not have a strong weights and measures program. It was pretty weak out there," continues Roof. "We're glad to see that the county commissioners are supporting a good weights and measures program."

Under an agreement called a "memorandum of understanding," county inspection duties are divided between Bezilla and state inspectors. Bezilla handles small capacity scales and liquid fuel dispensers (pumps), using skills sharpened by attending one or two tested seminars a year.

The state monitors prepackaged items in grocery stores (the wrapping or container can't count in calculating purchase price), meters

on trucks that deliver home heating fuel, fabric measuring machines, and timing devices such as parking and laundromat meters (although they're a low priority).

The state also checks bulk meters that dispense oil and gasoline at petroleum facilities (where tanker trucks load up), and vehicle scales that weigh trucks loaded with bulk cargo like tons of coal.

State law specifies that these inspections be done on a yearly basis, although manpower shortages may stretch the interval several months. Bezilla visited 356 establishments last year — he sends a monthly report to Harrisburg — and that number does not include revisits.

If he finds an error outside the acceptable range, Bezilla gives an establishment two days to correct the malfunction. If repairs aren't made by then he red tags the machine, making it illegal to operate.

If he finds the tagged machine still in use, he can cite the establishment for a fine of between \$50 and \$300 as determined by a district magistrate. A broken fuel pump seal is cause for an automatic fine.

The tiny lead seal, affixed to the pump's inner machinery by Bezilla, guarantees the fuel pump is tamper free. A slight adjustment of the pin it immobilizes could cause the pump to give as little as 4¼ gallons of fuel while showing 5 gallons on the meter, says Bezilla.

► Using a special five-gallon can, Bezilla extracts a sample of fuel from each pump. The can is calibrated in cubic inch gradients: one gallon contains 231 cubic inches and the acceptable five-gallon measuring range is 6 cubic inches high or low, so the difference can legally vary about one-half cup either way.

► Minus 30 cubic inches was his worst low-side pump reading; plus-20 was the worst high-side reading. "When I notify them that the number is over, they usually get it fixed fast," says Bezilla.

► After returning the fuel to its underground tank, so as not to screw up inventory, Bezilla uses a calculator to make sure the price on the pump is accurate. A one penny margin is allowed for the five-gallon purchase; he once caught a 25-cent difference.

► At grocery stores, Bezilla uses an attache case carrying 30 pounds of weights. He starts with a 15-pound weight and adds them in increments to 15 pounds. Food scale margin of error is tight: .01 pound for weights of one to four pounds, graduating up to .04 pound for weights of 20 to 30 pounds.

► Food scales, as well as postal scales, must also survive the "shift test." Bezilla moves the stacked weights, which resemble metal-coated cigarette packs, from the middle of the scale to each corner. The load must consistently weigh the same.

► Two 50-pound weights are used to measure post office platform scales, and Bezilla's 3,780-pound vehicle — give or take a tank full of gasoline — can be pressed into action for a rough reading on coal yard scales.

► Bezilla's expertise helps the Women, Infants and Children's Program keep track of babies' weights, and hence their nutritional needs, and he also monitors the scales used to weigh high school wrestlers.

• "Those boys sacrifice everything to make certain weights," says Bezilla. "It's a shame if the scales they use are out of whack."

• The inspector is himself inspected. In addition to the tests that conclude each seminar he attends, Bezilla must send his weights and fuel can to Harrisburg once a year for inspection.

"One little dent in that can would throw the whole calibration off, and so would dropping and chipping a weight," says Bezilla, who takes pride in his enforcement role.

"At the price of gasoline, even your teaspoons count. If you keep four teaspoons out of every gallon, at the end of the year your average pump has cheated the public out of \$1,000."

• Prior to taking this job, Bezilla worked 14½ years in the steel mills and worked 17 years at a Mount Braddock nitro glycerin plant. He would have been another casualty in a 1958 explosion that killed four men had a boss not stopped him for a brief chat as he was going into the plant.

However, that was not Bezilla's closest work-related brush with death. His current line of work, safe as it may seem, came closest to threatening his life and limb.

"I had a close one at Perryopolis," says Bezilla, who was checking fuel pumps. "A girl coming into the service station almost ran me over. I had to jump up on the island to get away from her car."

'There was a lot more cheating in the past'

Seeing if merchants measure up

By April Gavin
Special Correspondent

Call him the third man.

He is the man in between the merchants and the consumers, the shopkeepers and the buyers. He keeps customers from being overcharged in food stores, gas stations and taxis. He says his job affects "any conceivable thing you buy."

Anthony Belmont, 58, has been the scaler of weights and measures in Greenwich for 26 years, ever since national legislation called for a person to check the meters, scales and other measuring devices in towns with more than 25,000 residents.

During the fiscal year that ended in June 1987, Belmont checked nearly 2,000 scales, inspected more than 5,000 packages of meat, produce and dairy items and inspected 784 gas dispensers. He ordered 53

of the scales repaired, 56 of the food items re-packaged and 46 of the gas pumps adjusted.

"We always say that we are the third men," he said in an interview Friday. "There is the seller, there is the consumer and then there's us."

The third man status also refers to the low-profile nature of his job, he said. Not many know who their local weights and measure people are, he said, and fewer understand the nature of their jobs.

"I get a lot of complaints about prices," he said, "but we can't set the prices. I always maintain that what I want is 16 ounces to a pound."

Some of the confusion may be settled March 1-7, which has been designated National Weights and Measures week. March 2, Wednesday, will be the main focus of the week; it is the anniversary of the first weights and measures law, passed in 1799.

First Selectman John Margenot proclaimed a weights and measures week in the town during the same time period.

Margenot's proclamation stated that the economic viability of the town is largely based on "the continuation of a strong and effective program of consumer protection through the monitoring of all measuring devices."

Consumers are a lot more likely to get those 16 ounces to a pound now than 26 years ago, Belmont said. Digital scales and general consumer awareness have made fraud more difficult.

"There is no fooling around today like there was years ago," he said. "There was a lot more cheating in the past."

Belmont started working for the town in 1949, weighing trucks at the town dump. When the national law establishing sealers was passed in 1962, Belmont and 21 other people took the test for the job. In the end, then-First Selectman Grif-fith Harris appointed the lifelong Greenwich resident to the position.

Belmont said that all of the commercial scales in town have to be checked at least once a year, but added that he usually visits the larger grocery stores more often. Occasionally, he will come in for unofficial visits during weekend.

"I always watch the way they measure the chop meat and the chickens," he said, "because they are the fast movers."

The most frequent violation with pre-packaged meat, he added, is that the material the item is wrapped in is included in the net weight of the meat. Buyers are not supposed to pay for the packaging.

Belmont can't cause fines to be paid, he said. Any fines against a store are ordered by the state. But Belmont said that fines are usually not the most effective way of making stores correct their packaging.

"I've seen them have to take off whole cases of meat that they've weighed incorrectly," he said. "I believe me, when they have to repackage all that, then they listen."

Belmont is sure he has made some enemies in his years as a sealer, but "they won't say anything to my face."

He added that sealers usually do not publicize the stores that may have infractions "unless it comes out that they are wholeheartedly cheating."

"There is a human element involved," he said. "Sometimes the cashiers just don't care, but who has to take the fall for that? The store owner."

Belmont said his job, which he expanded a few years ago to add the title of town consumer affairs coordinator, benefits buyers and sellers alike.

"We're all consumers at one point or another," he said. "We've all got to buy food."



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY STEVEN DANIEL

Anthony Belmont, the town's scaler of weights and measures

It's A Weighty Job (But Somebody's Got To Do It)

CONSUMER
If you've ever wondered about the accuracy of that scale in the grocery store, it should reassure you to know that state weights and measures inspectors make regular, unannounced checks of all food stores in the state.

The Supermarket
On a typical stop, the inspector will check the scales, the electronic scanning devices at the check-out counter and standard and pre-packed food items.

Starting with a sample size of, perhaps, 10 boxes of cereal, the inspector first notes the net weight declared on the package. Then he or she will open 2 of the boxes, empty them and weigh the packages themselves to get an average "tare" weight. Using a 20-lb. capacity, battery-operated scale, he punches in the tare weight, then puts the 10 packages on and computes a net weight. The average of the 10 must meet or exceed the labeled net weight. Anything that fails to do so is removed from sale.

Again, this is done for standard pack items (those packaged by the manufacturer, such as cake mix) and for pre-packs (those items put up by the store in advance of sale: grated cheese, for example.) Liquids are checked by similar methods, using a graduated cylinder. "Fortunately, we don't find many problems in this area," says Allan Nelson, Chief of the Dept. of Consumer Protection Weights and Measures Division.

Meats are another story; short-weights are not uncommon. "Everything found short-weighted is ordered off-sale. We investigate, tell the manager how to correct the problem and warn that we'll be back in the near future. The store also receives a letter saying that we do not tolerate short-weights," Nelson says.

He adds, "There are no 'reminders' for a third offense; the Department takes legal action." "It's three times and you're out," says Nelson.

Electronic scanners are examined and, if errors are found, the store is expected to correct them before the inspector leaves.

Nelson says he's in favor of the scanners. "This is the first time the consumer can review the receipt tape at home and compare prices. That's why it is also important to maintain individual item pricing. You know you were charged 39 cents for that particular can of peas."

Gasoline Stations

Inspectors also check gas stations to be sure they comply with various regulations, such as posting prices.

The Weights and Measures Division is particularly concerned about alcohol labeling at gas stations; that is, listing the maximum alcohol content of the gas, if any. Specifically, stations must list the percentage of ethanol, methanol or co-solvents. The information must be on the pump and, in the case of dual pumps, it must be on both sides of the pump.

The federal Clean Air Act limits to 10 percent the amount of ethanol or methanol a product may contain and still be called gasoline. "This labeling is critical," Nelson

says. "Alcohol in general may raise octane levels, but it may also damage some cars. And using it may void your automobile's warranty in some cases."

Also checked are fuel oil delivery trucks. Every oil delivery truck meter is physically checked by running 100 gallons of the oil through the meter into the state's portable volumetric prover. Good news. Nelson says he finds "most meters very accurate."

The alternative to oil—fuelwood—is also on the division examination list.

Ever order a cord of wood only to find you received less than what you paid for? If so, the Weights and Measures Division is there to help.

More good news. Fuelwood complaints have decreased this past winter. "Maybe the message is getting out that we take action," Nelson offers.

In addition, many state agencies and municipalities turn to the Weights and Measures Division for calibration of their own weighing and measuring standards. So do (on a fee basis) a number of private industries, especially those with defense contracts which call for a measurement which can meet the criteria set by the National Bureau of Standards.

Customers range from United Technologies to small spring companies. Testing requires much preparation: the proper temperature, humidity and air pressure are critical. And no job is too small. "We can weigh one one-millionth of a pound," says Nelson, "even a single human hair."

These services and more are performed by a division which currently consists of one chief, one assistant chief, one metrologist, a senior inspector and 14 inspectors. (Some communities have their own Sealers of Weights and Measures who offer assistance.)

This staff is responsible for inspecting all food stores, all oil delivery trucks and all of the approximately 19,000 gas pumps in the state—and that's just a sample of their jurisdiction! Weights and Measures means accuracy of the clinical thermometer you buy in the drugstore, the taxi-cab meter, even the truck scales used by the State Police.

Nelson says that formal, on-going training is a must. Besides the one week of training the staff has had to date this year, the Weights and Measures Conference, slated for the week of October 21, will be devoted to more formal training and testing.

Commissioner of the Dept. of Consumer Protection Mary Heslin notes it's serious business. "The Weights and Measures Division represents the basic framework of consumer protection, that invisible corner stone which assures equity in the marketplace."

Nelson agrees. "National Weights and Measures Week gives people a chance to get to know us, and I'm glad. We do a good job."

■BUYERS BEWARE

State inspectors often discover scales tipped against consumers

Checkups find many inaccuracies in weights, measures

By John H. Stevens
Special to the Globe

CONCORD - Whenever you buy meat, gas, nails, ice or any other item sold by weight, be sure to check the scale or pump against the price, because chances are one in 20 you're being cheated, according to Stephen Taylor, the state's commissioner of agriculture.

Taylor's Bureau of Weights and Measures inspectors are finding violations of the state's measures laws with disturbing regularity, especially at meat counters, which they feel could be costing consumers perhaps millions of dollars a year.

In one recent three-month period, for example, Inspector Kevin D. Young found 77 percent of the food and bulk item packages he checked in 10 Seacoast stores to be underweight.

Verbal warning

In April, state Inspector Richard Cote discovered employees at a supermarket in central New Hampshire selling fish without subtracting the weight of plastic bags on the scale. Cote said he issued a verbal warning to store manager.

A recent spot check of a dozen 10-pound blocks of ice at the A&P in Portsmouth found 10 of the blocks to be underweight by 1.5 pounds on the average, said Young. The company which made the ice, Taggart Ice Inc., of Nashua, sells 3,000 blocks a month, Young said. Taggart owner Jody Ruonala said state inspectors came to his factory, weighed his stock of ice, and told him to replace his old mail room scale with a new digital model.

The biggest potential for consumer losses is at the gas pump, where the average error on a sale is four cubic inches short, Cote said. That's only a thimble full, but when you consider more than 450 million gallons were sold in New Hampshire last year, it could add up to big dollars, Cote said.

What about it?

So what is the state doing about this situation? Very little, Taylor and the inspectors said.

The regulations that inspectors have found retailers violating are unenforceable, said Taylor. State inspectors must prove strict liability, or willful violations, in order to make a criminal case against a retailer. Despite documented proof of thousands of violations during the past few years, there has never been a prosecution in the state's courts against those who sell the consumer short, Taylor said.

Taylor and his inspectors said they are frustrated by their inability to enforce the law they are entrusted with. Their enforcement

techniques have been limited to written and verbal warnings, plus a good tongue lashing now and then.

Sought compliance

"We've attempted to get compliance through administrative means," Taylor said. "In serious violations, I have summoned the offending parties in and through bully pulpit means tried to get them to stop violating the law."

Taylor said his inspectors are not properly trained to prosecute cases, nor does he have an attorney on his staff to do prosecutions. The attorney general's office and county attorneys in the state have been reluctant to work on what they consider petty cases of theft, Taylor and his staff said.

But with a first offense punishable by a \$10,000 fine, the state takes weights and measures violations quite seriously, in theory at least.

"If I steal \$1,000 from you, it's a terrible thing," Taylor said. "But if I steal \$1 from a thousand people, nobody thinks much about it."

Feel powerless

Inspectors like Young want to stop rip-offs, but they feel powerless and are discouraged by the judicial system's indifference.

"There's been no interest in pursuing prosecutions, because it creates paper work and friction with store owners," Young said, without pointing fingers. "It was like that before Steve [Taylor] got here. The government is very dogmatic, very resistant to change."

Instead of urging the system to recognize weights and measures offenses and their cost to consumers, Taylor wants to change the law. He is currently drafting new laws that he will find sponsors for in the next legislative session. The first step is to change the way scales and measuring devices such as gas pumps are licensed by the state.

Six inspectors

Currently, Taylor's six inspectors must physically inspect every scale and pump in every store in the state, and license the device as accurate. Every measuring device is supposed to be relicensed yearly, but the inspection rounds take 18 months. Taylor wants owners of scales to apply for licenses, which would be issued from the bureau office in the same manner that liquor licenses are given. This would free up the inspectors for enforcement.

The second change would make violations of measures and weights standards a civil, not a criminal penalty, punishable by an administrative fine similar to a speeding ticket. Inspectors could

then issue a ticket for \$50 to \$100 per improperly weighed package for a first offense, up to \$500 per package for a third offense, Taylor said.

The new laws Taylor envisions would put an emphasis on enforcement rather than scale inspections, which could lessen the consumer short-change.

'Problem with people'

"The problem is not the devices, but the people operating them," said Young. "There's a certain percentage of retailers who deliberately cheat, but the great majority of violations are careless, because there's no accountability."

The new laws would also raise money for the state, with relicensing occurring every 12 months, the state will boost revenues by \$50,000 yearly, Taylor said. Administrative fines could bring in \$100,000 more every year, Taylor estimated.

The revenues will offset the three additional weights inspectors Taylor will request in his next budget, and also be used for educating retailers and the public about the state's weights and measures standards, Taylor said.

Taylor feels retailers will not balk at his proposals because they are currently liable for short selling items packed by their suppliers, and the law would also allow the state to fine out of state suppliers. If retailers would rather stick with the status quo because it's not enforceable, they may want to reconsider: Young said his constant efforts to interest the judicial system in weights violations has brought a promise from at least one official, Rockingham County Attorney Carleton Eldredge.

"He told me if I bring the information, he'll prosecute the store," Young said.

Taylor also thinks he can generate political momentum for his proposed laws by informing the public about the extent of the problem. It's not that consumers don't care that they are being cheated, said Cote; in most cases, they aren't even aware.

Cote was buying lobsters while off duty recently, when he noticed the clerk did not subtract the weight of the bag on the purchase by the woman in front of him. He stepped in, flashed his identification, and told the woman she was being cheated. When the clerk subtracted the bag weight, the \$17 purchase price was 60 cents less, which "really surprised the woman," Cote said.

"All transactions, whether it's gas or peanuts, are based on trust and honor: you assume it's being done right," Cote said. "We've been lulled into a sense of security."



Inspectors Richard Cote, left, and Kevin Young check a gasoline pump in Hoo



Weight-watcher squad seeks cheats

Consumer Affairs unit of weights and measures keeps an eye on grocers' scales throughout the city

By AUDREY FAROLINO

THE next time you're paying for your salad bar selections, make sure the cashier doesn't try to charge you for the tare.

That's not an oddball Oriental vegetable, but a term that means the weight of the packaging something comes in. Tare weights should be deducted from the net weight you actually pay for.

"That little plastic container they give you is worth about 2¢ at \$2.99 or \$3.99 a pound," says Bob Kelley, assistant director of enforcement with the weights and measures unit of the city's Consumer Affairs Dept.

Ferretting out tare violators (and salad bar owners are the biggest offenders,

according to Kelley) is just one of the unit's tasks.

The unit's 35 inspectors and eight supervisors are the city's chief weight watchers, each armed with a nine-pound kit of standard weights to test the accuracy of commercial scales and eagle eyes trained to spot unscrupulous weighing practices.

(They are also responsible for checking on the weight of pre-packaged goods, and recently found some 400 short-volume cartons of Tuscan brand milk in area supermarkets.)

Kelley admits that in Manhattan at least, it's not always possible to get full compliance with laws governing trade scale use.

For example, scales are supposed to be positioned



CHECKING IT OUT: Inspector Lydia Bonilla of the city's Consumer Affairs Dept. uses her standard weight kit to test the accuracy of a deli scale.

between the buyer and seller, and there must be 10 inches of clear space around the weighing pan to ensure free motion — conditions that many cramped city stores would

seem to be in violation of.

"We give some dispensation on the set-up," says Kelley. "If you really went by the book, you could probably knock three-quarters of them out of

business."

There are some 30,000 up-to-30-pound commercial scales in the city. Kelley's unit certifies their accuracy yearly, issuing an official seal.

But some stores wash their scales often and hence wash away the seals; in that case, consumers can ask to see the certificate of inspection.

The unit also responds to consumer complaints, 1368 of which were filed against food stores during fiscal year 1988.

When responding to such complaints, the unit often works undercover.

"We make an undercover purchase, wait until the merchant prints or writes the price out, then announce ourselves, test the scale and see what the actual net weight was versus what we were charged," explains Kelley.

Inspectors also watch as other customers make purchases, looking for such practices as, say, a butcher with a mechanical scale calculating the price of meat at 79¢ a pound when

it's marked 69¢ a pound.

"You have to be sharp to catch that," says Kelley. Inspectors who spot such fishy activities can intercept a customer's package for testing — a practice that sometimes subjects them to bodily harm.

"We had one inspector assaulted by a little old lady because he intercepted her package. She took her umbrella and

"We had one inspector assaulted by a little old lady because he intercepted her package. She took her umbrella and started beating him, but he verified that the butcher overcharged her."

The unit doesn't see much of the old finger-on-the-scale and magnet-under-the-pan routines these days. Instead, violations tend to be along the lines of "punching in the wrong weights, or not taking off tare weights."

Electronic scales can automatically deduct the tare, provided the person doing the weighing hits the

Continued on Page 42

They keep city's scales in balance

Continued from Page 41

right button.

On older mechanical type scales, the common practice is simply to give the customer a bit over the requested weight.

During yearly inspections, the unit first verifies the store's compliance with basics of commercial scale use. Each scale must be designated "suitable for trade," meaning it conforms to standards set by the state Bureau of Weights and Measures.

Exceptions are the "old-fashioned hanging-type scales found in supermarket produce sections, which are often there for customer estimating only and must be labeled as such."

Scales are then put through their paces in a rigorous 15-minute test.

Inspectors try various combinations of weights from their kits (which have everything from two-pound weights to decimal weights) to test for accuracy.

"We also do up and down and sideways shift tests," says Kelley, explaining that this technique ensures that "if the liverwurst, say, doesn't plop directly in the center of the pan, you still get an accurate reading."

Scales connected with computerized cash registers are more complicated to test.

In this increasingly common system, food is placed on the scale while the cashier keys in a code indicating what the food is and the price per pound.

To test those systems, all the codes have to be checked to make sure they correspond to the right

food and posted price.

If a scale is found to be slightly out of balance or in need of minor tinkering, the merchant may be allowed to make the adjustments himself.

But if a scale needs professional repair work, it is "condemned" until an expert is called in to do the job. The scale must then be retested before use.

Notices of violations are issued if a merchant is caught cheating a customer, or if it can be proven that a scale has been deliberately compromised. Settlement of those

notices can cost up to \$400 each.

Merchants are also given notices if shortweighted pre-packaged goods are found on their shelves, even if it was the manufacturer's fault.

Because merchants object to that system, there is currently a backlog of about 40,000 unresolved notices (mostly for shortweight pre-packaged goods) made out to some 1,149 stores since 1983.

The Greater New York Metropolitan Food Council, an industry trade group, is negotiating with Consumer Affairs to work out a

blanket settlement of those notices, along with a different system for handling out shortweight notices on pre-packaged goods.

The settlement could range from the low \$800,000s up to \$2 or \$3 million, according to Howard B. Tisch, president for the Food Council.

One problem faced by Kelley's unit is keeping track of all the commercial scales in the city.

The city is broken down geographically into 45 "weights and measures general districts." In-

spectors are given a computer printout of the known businesses with weighing or measuring devices in their area. Firms that sell such devices are required to report those sales to the unit.

Kelley's unit also monitors food store compliance with packaging regulations, freshness dating, unit pricing, laser scanner accuracy, and more, as well as regulating anything "sold by weight" measure or numerical count, and that's practically anything you buy. We're an overworked department."

Saturday, JULY 16, 1988

Copyright 1988, THE TENNESSEAN
Second class postage paid at Nashville, TN

THE TENNESSEAN

A Gannett Newspaper
4 Sections
Volume 81, No. 1
Nashville, Tennessee

Oils not well, state fuel survey finds

Most products found below standards

ROBERT SHERBORNE
Staff Writer

Over half of the gasoline, kerosene and diesel products in Tennessee sampled recently by the state Department of Agriculture were substandard, a special legislative committee was told yesterday.

A third of the gasoline samples had lower-than-claimed octane ratings, while 55.5% of the kerosene samples had too much sulfur, according to the Agriculture Department study.

"Our greatest concern is the problem of consumer fraud," said David Waddell, assistant commissioner of regulatory programs for the agriculture department.

Consumers pay a premium price for gasolines with high octane ratings — although the study shows consumers are frequently not getting what they are paying for, Waddell said.

Similarly, low-sulfur kerosene, known as K-1, draws a premium price, but a majority of consumers are not getting that top grade of kerosene, he added.

Moreover, state Rep. Robb Robinson said kerosene which has been tainted with gasoline can be dangerously explosive when used in kerosene space heaters.

Robinson is chairman of a special house committee investigating the quality of motor fuels in Tennessee and the feasibility of establishing a statewide testing program for those fuels.

Tennessee is one of only two southern states — along with Kentucky — which does not test the quality of motor fuels sold within its borders, and the difference such testing programs can make is dramatic.

North Carolina, for example, has a strict testing program, and only 3% of the fuel sampled in that state last year was found to be substandard.

A random sampling of fuels from 111 outlets across Tennessee last year showed that 52% were substandard because they failed to meet either the posted claims of content or failed to meet minimum specifications of the American Society for Testing Materials, according to Agriculture Department study.

Representatives for both the major gasoline companies and the gasoline retailers in Tennessee voiced concern with the study's findings and vowed their support in correcting the situation.

Both denied their group is at fault for the substandard products.

"The branded companies jealously guard their formulas and we want the gas we are certifying to reach the customer," said Bill Hyde, executive director of the Tennessee Petroleum Council, which represents the major oil companies.

The gasoline coming into Tennessee from the major companies is the same gasoline which goes to other Southeastern states, Hyde said.

"If there are some bad actors they should be found and punished," he added. "We wholeheartedly support any activity which will correct this situation."

Mike Murphy, who represents the Tennessee Retail Gasoline Dealers Association, took a similar stand, saying:

"We want to go on record of being strongly in favor of state action. We are not in the business of hauling gas. We only pump what is delivered to us. We have taken a strong stand on consumer protection, and we feel people ought to get what they're paying for."

For whatever reason, this is not happening, according to the Agriculture Department study, which shows:

- 33.3% of the gasoline sampled had an actual octane rating lower than the octane rating posted on the pump.
- 27% of the samples which contained gasoline-alcohol blends had more than the 10% alcohol content which was posted. Several gasolines were found to contain alcohol which had not been labeled as containing it.
- 40% of the gasoline labeled as a "Regular Lead" product actually contained lower than normal levels of lead. Coincidentally, regular unleaded gasoline currently costs wholesalers less than regular leaded gasoline, which is used in many older automobiles, lawnmowers and tractors.
- 30% of the gasoline sampled did not meet normal "distillation" requirements, which determine the ease of starting, acceleration and mileage characteristics of the fuel.

"There is enough evidence to convince me we need a testing program in Tennessee," said Robinson. "But funding for it is another question. This won't be a one-time expenditure, but an on-going expense."

Waddell estimated the start-up cost of a state lab to test motor fuels at \$1.5 million and an annual expenditure for the program of \$500,000.

SAT./SUN. WEEKEND EDITION

MARCH 8, 1986

IN THE AREA ...

■ **TOWAMENCIN TOWNSHIP** is hit by a \$1 million lawsuit over use of its sewer plant. Details on A3.

■ **BUCKS COUNTY** is warning consumers that buying in bulk is beneficial only if you are getting the proper quantity. Details on A3.

■ **THERE IS STILL** no resolution to the complaints raised by members of the Hatfield Township police force. Details on A3.

■ **NORTH WALES RESIDENTS** are less than happy about a letter sent to cable TV customers in the borough. Details on A3.



Edward Mirarchi (left), deputy sealer for the Bucks County Department of Consumer Protection/Weights and Measures, checks out a scale while visiting a food store in Upper Bucks. Meatcutter Donald Dodge looks on. (Staff photo by Eric Eberhardt)

Adding their seal of approval

Weights and Measures office ensures you get what you paid for

By James E. Stanton
Staff Writer

They are on the road daily, sometimes traveling to the far reaches of the county.

Through the year, the five deputy sealers for the Bucks County Department of Consumer Protection/Weights and Measures, attempt to inspect around 10,500

devices.

The devices include scales, gasoline pumps, parking meters — all weighing and timing devices used in commerce.

Last year, the county issued 171 citations for various weight or measure infractions, according to Peggy H. Adams, chief sealer and director of Consumer Protec-

tion. Fines totaled nearly \$20,000, she said.

Mrs. Adams said that most of the infractions are caused by manufacturers rather than the proprietors.

In 1985, for example, an inspection of 54,876 commodities on

See INSPECTIONS on Page 5



Peggy H. Adams, director of the Bucks County Department of Consumer Protection/Weights and Measures, watches as deputy sealer Tony Ruggia, using a measuring device, checks to see if motorists are getting the correct amount of fuel. The two were visiting service stations in Central Bucks at the time.



Nick DiGuglielmo, deputy sealer for the department, checks to see that the scales are balanced correctly during a visit to a food store in Central Bucks. (Staff photos by Gian Luiso)

Inspections in 1985 netted 171 citations

Continued from Page 1
store shelves showed nearly 8,000 to be defective by being underweight or under count, Mrs. Adams said.

In several cases, she said, consumers came out ahead because the commodities exceeded the required weight or count.

Once a discrepancy is found, she said, the shelves are cleared of the commodity.

"The manufacturer is responsible for replacing the items," she said. "The store owner doesn't lose anything except the (tempo-

rary) ability to sell the item."

Mrs. Adams said her inspectors are paying closer attention to packaging because of increased sales in bulk items.

Wrappers, she said, should not be included in the weight of such things as candy or meats.

"We found that the wrappings of catsups and mustards sold in bulk made up a substantial part of the weight," Mrs. Adams said. "Also, wax wrappings made up a substantial portion of the weight of cheese."

Within the past year, a number

of municipalities have begun maintenance programs for their parking meters.

Inspections by deputy sealers found many meters to be "shortchanging" motorists by giving them less time than they paid for.

Mrs. Adams said there is nothing more "basic" to the needs of shoppers than having proprietors maintain correct scales and timing and measuring devices.

One of the pieces of literature distributed by her office quotes from a report by a United States

president in office more than 160 years ago.

"Weights and Measures may be ranked among the necessities of life to every individual of human society," said President John Quincy Adams. "They enter into the economical arrangement of daily concerns of every family. They are necessary to every occupation of human industry."

The Bucks County Board of Commissioners proclaimed the week of March 1-7 as National Weights and Measures Week.

Sealer carries scales, stopwatch of county justice

By LEON BOGDAN
Press-Enterprise staff

BLOOMSBURG — His is a weighty responsibility, acting as the middleman between the merchant and the consumer.

As sealer of weights and measures for Columbia County, David Kovach is actually a one-man consumer protection bureau for the county. Last year, he tested more than 1,500 retail measuring devices.

Of those pumps, scales and parking meters he tested, Kovach rejected 206, or about 17 percent. "That's not bad, but we'd like that to be better," he says.

He takes his task seriously, moving unannounced from gas station to laundromat to store with a kit of pre-measured weights, a stopwatch and a gallon measuring can.

"They know we're going to come, but they don't know when," he says. "Most merchants are very cooperative.

"Although we did have one coal dealer threaten to hit a state inspector with a coal shovel while we were checking his load," Kovach recalls. "We spoke to him for a while and he calmed down. Yeah, we found some of his delivery compartments on the truck were off."

Although a few cubic inches of fuel or a tenth of an ounce on a meat scale sounds trivial, Kovach recognizes the potential loss of hundreds of dollars each year from such error — and the victim could be the seller or the buyer.

"Correcting one gas pump more than pays for itself over a year, to both businessman and

the purchaser," says the 33-year-old Berwick native.

"We're here strictly as a referee, a third party to make sure everybody is talking the same language on net weight and measurements," he says.

With this being National Weights and Measures Week, Kovach says he wants to increase his public visibility. He got approval to list his office in the Blue Pages of the telephone book. He can be reached through the courthouse switchboard at 784-1991.

And when out on the job, he wears a navy blue jacket on which large letters are emblazoned to identify his office.

"We're all consumers. And if people think they got ripped off, we want to hear about it — the sooner the better," he says, encouraging the public to phone him with complaints.

Indeed, the theme of this week, says Kovach, is "consumer involvement for progress."

Although outright retail fraud is seldom suspected in this area, Kovach insists that business people keep their devices regularly calibrated and serviced to prevent inaccuracies caused by the wear and tear of normal use.

"Ninety-nine percent of businessmen are very honest," he says. "Really, we're here for both the buyer and the seller. The retailer is also a consumer, and he wants to make sure he's getting his fair amount too when he makes bulk purchases."

If a device is rejected during testing, Kovach can "red tag" it out of use to have the businessman repair it. Approved devices receive a distinctive sticker each year.



MEASURES UP — David Kovach, Columbia County's sealer of weights and measures, eyes how a computer scale measures up at Gardner's Candies in Berwick. Kovach found it to be right on the money.

"We want people to keep an eye out for our stickers," says Kovach. "Timed air hoses, like the kind you see at convenience stores, are a big problem. Kids hang out there and pull the stickers off. I could probably put a sticker on there once a week."

He noted that any retail scale used in a purchase must be in full view of the customer when a purchase is made.

His annual report on testing in 1986 showed that he rejected 74

of 556 various scales; 80 of 506 motor fuel dispensers; two of 21 linear measuring devices, such as fabric meters and tape measures; and 104 of 418 timing devices, many of which were parking meters.

"If it's six seconds off, either way, it's rejected," he said of his tolerance on testing parking meters. Kovach attributes the relatively high rejection rate of meters to their exposure to the weather and "people banging

them" when coins become jammed.

In only one case last year did Kovach pursue full prosecution in cooperation with the state Department of Agriculture which oversees Kovach's work in the county. That case involved a coal hauler who was fined for having insufficient weight slips for his loads.

"With coal going for \$90 a ton we have to keep a close eye on that."

Weights and Measures Division

Inspectors Make Sure You Get What You Paid For

By Cheryl Stassen-Loock

Have you ever wondered if that box of Charlies you bought at the grocery store really has 16 ounces of toasted O's in it? Or if that cubed steak labeled .80 pounds really does weigh .80 pounds? Or if you're getting all the gas you paid for when you fill our tank?

In all of these situations, chances are good that you are getting what you paid for.

Before items such as ground beef are weighed and labeled, the meat department worker must weigh the packaging materials and then subtract that tare weight to arrive at the net weight of the hamburger.

That sounds simple enough, and for hamburger it is. Hamburger will likely be sold the same day it's packaged. But a roast might sit in the meat case a day or two before it's bought and it could lose moisture

before it's bought and it could lose moisture during that time.

The law requires that weights be accurate at the time the product is bought, so for a slower-moving product such as a roast, a store will generally label it for slightly less than its actual weight, anticipating a little bit of shrink.

Weights and measures agencies in other states and jurisdictions share information about the tare weight of products they check. Loock carries a computer printout which has tare weights for virtually all the products you'd find in your grocery. And he and the division's other inspectors save the packaging materials from products they use in their homes and add those to the computer record.

If it's necessary, inspectors don't hesitate to open a product in a store. But they try to use the known tare weights and avoid opening products, since opened items can't be sold and are a loss for the store.

Complaints Checked Quickly

Scales used for commerce are checked annually and stores are visited every several months. But if a consumer complains of an underweight product, it's

is not what you get, the Division of Weights and Measures is the agency to contact. The phone number is 682-671-6252. After the problem is checked out, the division tries very hard to call the complainant with a report.

Complaints about inaccurate gas pumps are not uncommon, but nine out of 10 times the consumer is wrong, Loock said. An automobile owner may know what the owner's manual says is the capacity of the gas tank, but he may overfill the tank so that the vent space also is filled. So even though he's put more than 16 gallons into his 16-gallon tank, that doesn't necessarily mean the gas pump is inaccurate.

Loock is one of six small scales inspectors. Five other inspectors check propane and larger scales. Their territory is the state of Nebraska outside of Omaha, since Omaha has chosen to operate its own inspection program.

It's good to know that the Division of Weights and Measures is protecting our interests. A hundredth of a pound here or there doesn't seem like much, but when you're paying \$9.99 a pound for a fancy deli item, the packaging weight could cost you as

By law, consumers can't be charged for the materials used to package the products they buy. This 'tare weight' must be omitted from the product's labeled net weight.

Most manufacturers and merchants who sell to consumers realize that it's in everyone's best interest for products to be labeled accurately. But to safeguard the interests of consumers, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Division of Weights and Measures checks scales and products for accurate weights.

during that time. The law requires that weights be accurate at the time the product is bought, so for a slower-moving product such as a roast, a store will generally label it for slightly less than its actual weight, anticipating a little bit of shrink.

Weights, measures are everywhere

²⁵¹ He's the man who checks the gas pumps at your favorite gas station to make sure you get what you pay for.

He's the guy who checks the scales at your local supermarket to ensure that the weight of the apples, salami or cheese you buy is indeed the true weight.

He's the one who tests the taxicab meters so you'll get a fair deal on your fare.

He's the person who checks truck scales at places like rock quarries, cement and coal companies and moving and storage companies.

He'll do everything from counting slices of luncheon meat in a package or paper plates in cellophane to check weighing dog food, soda pop and flour.

Who is this man? And why is he doing what he's doing?

He's one of the weights and measures inspectors who work for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services'

Bureau of Weight and Measures, that's who. And what he's doing is protecting consumers as well as merchants from inequity in the marketplace. What he does affects the economic welfare of every Virginia citizen as well as the thousands of Virginia tourists each year, since almost every commodity transaction must be counted, weighed or measured.

According to Inspector R.W. "Mac" McDougall, one of the Bureau's district inspectors, weights and measures are everywhere you look. Think about it, says Mac. From the time you rise in the morning to a breakfast of cereal out of a 22-oz. box, with milk from a gallon jug, orange juice from a 64-oz. carton and coffee scooped out of a one-pound can, to the time you lay down at night on your double bed with your 8-oz. cup of cocoa sitting nearby, next to your favorite magazine printed on 8 1/4 by 11"

paper and the thermometer you used last night to check the status of your flu. When you think about it, there's really not much in life that isn't affected by takes-for-granted, accurate weights and measurements of some type.

One consumer who complained to the Bureau last year that the motor home she'd bought was shorter in length than had been advertised got her money back when inspectors found that the dealer had included the length of the tongue in the size.

Another investigation by the Bureau into complaints that boxes of bloodworms sold by a particular dealer were consistently short led to inspectors sitting down and actually counting the wriggly critters one by one. After finding an average of only nine dozen per box instead of the claimed 12 dozen, the dealer's shipments were shut down until a more accurate count could be proven.

Another out-of-the-ordinary item checked in the past by Bureau inspectors for accuracy of measurement was barbed wire length.

According to J.F. Lyles, Bureau Chief, complaints and requests take priority over the day-to-day routine work of the inspectors. If a complaint of a product's inaccurate weight, count or measurement is verified, says Lyles, the item is ordered off sale and is then traced back to the plant, which has 10 days to correct the problem.

Inspector McDougall says one of the most common complaints involves gas pumps. "Someone might fill their tank up and then notice that the number of gallons registered on the pump is more than their tank is supposed to hold," he says. "What they don't realize is that what the car manufacturer gives as the tank's capacity is really just an estimate; it may hold a little more than it says." But then again,

sometimes the customer is right. In 1985, 26 percent of the gas pumps inspected by the Bureau were given rejection stickers and locked up; they were corrected.

Bureau Chief Lyles offers several suggestions for tension to keep in mind when shopping: filling up, so that they get a fair deal.

When buying gas, Lyles advises several suggestions for tension to keep in mind when shopping: filling up, so that they get a fair deal.

When buying gas, Lyles advises several suggestions for tension to keep in mind when shopping: filling up, so that they get a fair deal.

In grocery stores, Lyles continues, make sure the produce scale is zero before weighing your goods: buying at the deli where the clerk weighs the product for you, see if he or she first weighs the container empty (the "tare" weight) and that weight is then deducted from total.

PRESS-ENTERPRISE/Friday, August 12, 1988



Press-Enterprise/Bill Hun

WHAT YOU PAY FOR — Columbia County Sealer of Weights and Measures David Kovach, left, explains the process of checking gas pumps Thursday afternoon to commissioners Lucille Whitmire, center, and George Gensemer.

Sealer shows how job is done

By MIKE FEELEY
Press-Enterprise staff

BLOOMSBURG — Anyone walking into the Columbia County commissioners' meeting room Thursday may have thought they were at the local fill-up station.

Among the commissioners, other county officials and the press stood a gas pump.

David Kovach, county Sealer of Weights and Measures, said his office is in the middle of "gas pump season," and he wanted to explain to the commissioners what his office does to make sure the gas pumps dispense the correct amount of fuel. And he felt a visual demonstration was the best way to do it.

Kovach described the series of tests he performs when checking the pumps. He said those tests are designed to protect the business owner as well as the consumer.

While it is Kovach's job to make sure customers of the gas stations don't get cheated, he must also make sure the business owner isn't losing money because of faulty

"General wear and tear on the machinery is the biggest problem. Once and a while we will have crazy stuff where a pump will start to give away like crazy," Kovach said.

Kovach's office must test between 500 and 600 gas pumps each year, along with scales and other measuring devices used by businesses in the county.

The demonstration was a way for county officials and the public to see what he looks for when inspecting a pump, Kovach said. "This is a government service that is working for them," he said.

Kovach offered some tips for consumers when getting gas:

- Look for the county seal on the pump. That seal means the gas pump has been tested in the last year.

- Before gas is put in the car, make sure all the numbers on the pump read 0. When finished, multiply the amount of gallons by the price-per-gallon to make sure the price is correct.

- Don't use the car's tank size as a way to check if the right amount of gas was put in

supposed to be 18 gallons, it could vary.

- If there is a problem with a pump, make sure to identify it and report it to Kovach's office. There are usually numbers on the pump for identification, he said.



City wins sweet victory after probe pokes hole in Lifesaver sales claim

By Kathryn Balint
Tribune Staff Writer

The San Diego city attorney's office has settled a lawsuit on behalf of candy buyers throughout California who say they were tricked out of a few treats last Halloween.

The case began in October when Nabisco Brands Inc. sold "miniature Lifesavers," packages of the fruit-flavored hard candy handy for giving to trick-or-treaters.

The wrappers on the plastic, 8.1-ounce packages said that about 25

**Ninety percent of
6,800 packages
examined
contained 24 or
fewer rolls of
Lifesavers**

ages of the Lifesavers, found that they did not contain the stated quantity and contacted local weights and measures officials," Newsome said.

A statewide survey was taken.

Ninety percent of 6,800 packages examined contained 24 or fewer rolls of Lifesavers, Newsome said. The packages, he said, were purchased at 48 stores in 17 counties — including San Diego County — between Oct. 2 and 23.

Because the initial complaint came from San Diego, the city attorney's office sued Nabisco. The suit was filed yesterday in San Diego Superior Court and settled at the same time on behalf of the entire state, Newsome said.

Under the settlement, Nabisco does not admit wrongdoing but agrees to pay \$54,000 in civil penalties and \$20,000 in litigation and investigation costs. The city and the county will share the civil penalties, Newsome said.

The settlement also enjoins Nabisco from selling packages whose message "contains a specific or approximate numerical quantity of goods when in truth less than the stated numerical quantity is contained in such packaging," the city attorney's office said.

Robert Foley, Nabisco's San Francisco attorney, had no comment on the settlement, his receptionist said yesterday.

rolls of Lifesavers were inside. "Unfortunately, there were fewer than 25 pieces in most packages," said Deputy City Attorney William Newsome, "and in California it's against the law to use a qualifying term in a statement of quantity which tends to exaggerate the amount contained in the package."

A San Diegan who felt shorted complained to the county Department of Weights and Measures.

"The citizen bought four pack-



Tribune photo by Peter Koelman

WILLIAM NEWSOME II HOLDS A SWEET VICTORY
Short trick-or-treat candy packages cost Nabisco \$74,000

Inspectors make sure weights measure up

By Jim Procter
Staff writer

They usually toil in obscurity, but consumers are affected by their work every day.

They are officials of city and county departments of weights and measures, the people responsible for checking the gasoline pumps, grocery store scales and any other commercial measuring device.

They make sure consumers get that gallon of gas, that pound of meat — not more, not less — whether it's bought in Gary, Valparaiso or New York City.

Their work is remembered each year during the first week of March, designated National Weights and Measures Week. The nation's first weights and measures law was passed in March 1799.

"Weights and measures officials safeguard equity at the marketplace," said Robert McCrady, director of Gary's Consumer Affairs and Weights and Measure Department. "They see that the consumer receives what he or she pays for and that the businesses' devices are accurate so that the business does not suffer losses nor that the consumer is cheated."

McCrady and his one deputy inspector are required by law to make annual checks of the commercial measuring devices in the city. Other area government units with weights and measures departments — headed by officials sometimes called "sealers" after the labels affixed after inspection — are Hammond, East Chicago and Lake and Porter county governments.

Armed with measuring containers and various weights,

McCrady and his deputy make the rounds. Operators of scales or pumps that don't measure up are usually given a week to calibrate the devices, said McCrady, who has been Gary's sealer since 1985.

"If we suspect it's intentional we require it be corrected in a day or two," he said. "We don't run into that many of those. The business people know they can't stand, the bad publicity and are good about having them calibrated."

Dean Brahos has been Hammond's city sealer for 28 years and has served under four mayors. Brahos said he is the Hammond weights and measures department's only employee.

Brahos said the annual error rate on the scales he checks is about 6 percent. Like McCrady, Brahos said businesses generally comply with requests to fix measuring devices.

"We give out warnings and they comply," he said. "Most of the stores don't want problems."

Inspection is not limited to edible items. Fabric measuring tables and garden supplies also are checked. Gasoline pump calibrations also are checked regularly. Any type of weighing or measuring that a retailer has done to prepare merchandise for the sales floor is subject to Government inspection.

At Meijer, we have employees who work full time testing, adjusting and replacing our weights and price marking machines. Other employees check the weights of our meat products daily by stripping them to the bare product and reweighing them. The product alone, not the package, must match or exceed the weight listed on the package.

news & views

Inspectors from the Weights and Measures Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture visit Michigan retailers frequently. Their job is to help protect the consumer by insuring that customers actually get what they pay for at the checkout counter.

At Meijer, all of our products are subject to government examination at any time, without advance notice. For example, several packages of meat might be brought to the back room, unwrapped, and weighed. Canned goods may be sent to a laboratory in Lansing to make sure the cans have been filled properly.

MEIJER

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ARE CONSUMER PROTECTION

why pay more? why pay more?

The Lansing State Journal, Monday, January 18, 1988

9/20/84
**Bristol Boro fails
parking meter tests**

By Catherine Fee
Courier Times Staff Writer

Four out of every five parking meters tested in Bristol Borough are cheating drivers.

That conclusion was reached Wednesday by the Bucks County Consumer Affairs Department and the state, which have been running time tests on the meters.

Eighty percent of 128 meters tested so far were cheating people of a few minutes, said Peggy Adams, director of the Bucks County Consumer Affairs Department. "They gave less. Most of them were between three and six minutes off."

Twenty-two meters remain to be tested and Ms. Adams hopes to finish up Friday.

Not only will the borough have to fix the meters, but the test results also throw into doubt hundreds of parking citations issued.



Peggy Adams
drivers getting bilked

Police Chief John Tortu said it is unlikely anyone will get a refund. It would be impossible to know if a person's ticket was the result of a malfunctioning meter, he said. However, if someone wanted to pursue the matter, he or she could go through the courts, Tortu said. He said it would hardly be worth it, though, because the fine is only \$1.

The testing in Bristol is part of a state push to check on the accuracy of meters, Ms. Adams said. Doylestown and Quakertown already have been checked and scored a respectable 10 percent off, she said. New Hope and Morrisville are next, she said.

The Bristol meters charge 10 cents for each hour of parking. People know the meters are well-patrolled and so only about five to 20 tickets a day are issued, Tortu said.

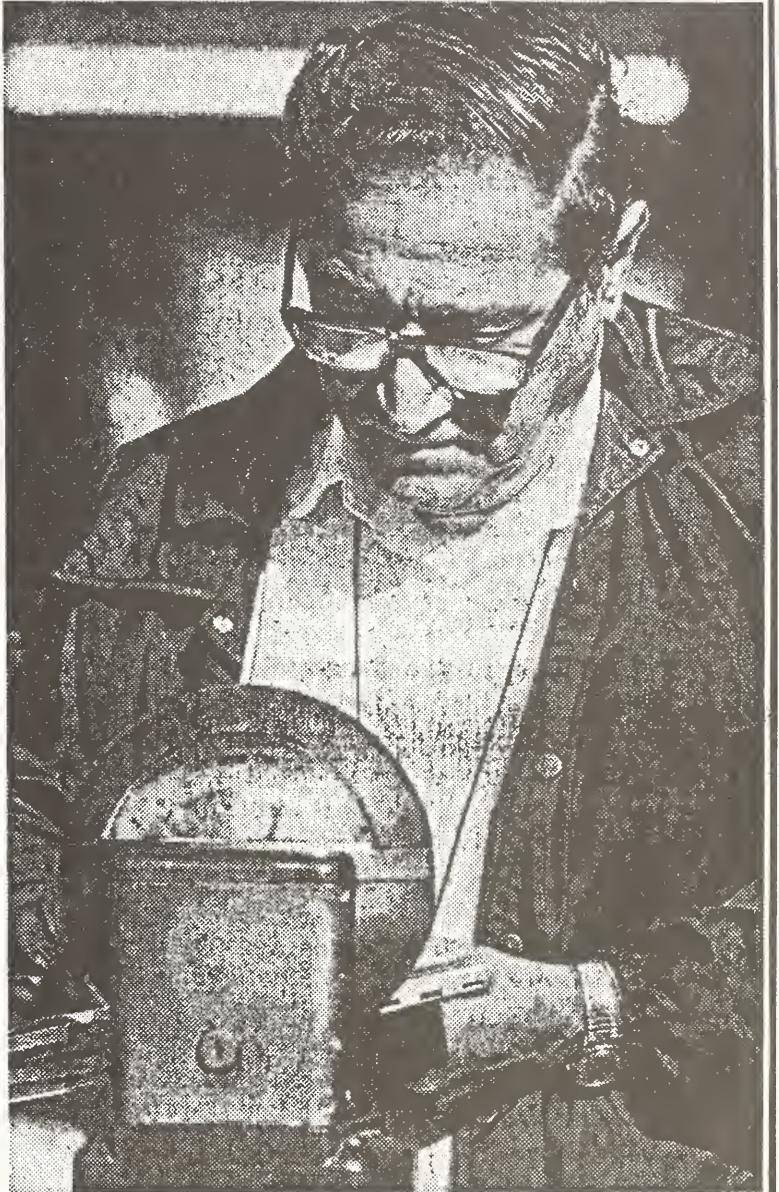
Tortu said the meters are about 2 years old.

"I don't think they ever had been really checked," she said following Wednesday's inspection. Her office has been kept busy the past few years checking gas station pumps for accuracy, she said.

Ms. Adams, with assistance from the consumer department and the state weights and measures office of the Department of Agriculture, timed the Bristol Borough meters.

To pass, the meters must give at least 60 minutes, she said. They are allowed by law to give six or seven minutes over, she said. However, no meters giving extra time were found, she said.

Serial numbers were missing and manufacturers' identification, both required by law, were missing on at least half



Courier Times photos by Ron Brown

Ed Mirarchi checks number on Mill Street meter

the meters, she said.

The meter checkers ran into some confusion, she said. Store owners and people wishing to park kept wanting to take off the bags placed over meters during their one-hour check, she said.

The Consumer Department will give the borough some

time to repair the meters and then recheck them, said Ms. Adams. She said she suggested the borough send Henry McCann of the traffic safety department to school to learn how to repair the meters.

Tortu said McCann has a stopwatch to time the meters.

Three Service Station Owners Charged With Altering Meters

By KAY CAHILL
Courant Staff Writer

For the first time, the state has brought charges against gasoline station owners, claiming they tampered with the price and volume meters on gasoline pumps to overcharge their customers.

Warning that the problem appears to be on the increase, officials at the state Department of Consumer Protection said this week that routine inspections by the department's weights and measures division during the past month have turned up at least three instances in which the official state seal was broken on gasoline pumps and the metering devices altered.

Charged with tampering with the price and volume meters on the pumps were two gasoline sta-

tion owners in Torrington and one in Norwalk, officials said.

Inspectors visit every gas station in the state at least once a year to test the pumps for accuracy in volume and price, Alan Nelson, chief of the weights and measures division, said.

"When we see our official seal is removed, then our curiosity is up," he said, even though sometimes the seal is removed by a repair person who neglects to replace it.

The inspectors pump 5 gallons of gasoline into a container to test a pump's meters for accuracy, Nelson said. "When you see all 16 pumps are under, you know some-

THE REGION

Prison Sentences In Gasoline Scam

By Adam Z. Horvath

Two Brooklyn men, convicted of cheating customers at their Lindenhurst and Wyandach service stations on gasoline sales, have been sentenced to up to three years in prison and fined in what authorities said were the stiffest penalties meted out in the state for gasoline pump fraud.

In June, Viachislav Ravinsky, 47, and Mieczyslaw Charkow, 26, both of 501A Surf Ave., Brooklyn, were each convicted in Suffolk County Court in Hauppauge of two felony counts of scheming to defraud, 17 misdemeanor counts, including possession and use of a false measuring device, and two county violations of having excess water in fuel tanks.

In Hauppauge Tuesday, State Supreme Court Justice Kenneth K. Rohl sentenced Ravinsky and Charkow each to one to three years in prison on the two felony counts, to run concurrently. Rohl also fined each \$250 on each of the lesser charges.

The prosecution contended that between March, 1983, and November, 1984, the two had cheated the public out of thousands of dollars worth of gasoline by tampering with pumps so that customers paid for more gas than was pumped.

The sentences were the most severe ever leveled in the state for gasoline pump fraud, according to John Bartfai, head of the state Division of Weights and Measures in Albany.

The two defendants earlier had turned down an offered civil compromise, which included a \$6,000 fine, court officials said.

Ravinsky, born in the Soviet Union, is a naturalized American citizen. Charkow, the prosecution said, is an illegal Polish alien who faces possible deportation after his prison time.

During the trial, Robert Burstein, the defense lawyer, said his clients were simply "incompetents" who did not understand how to run the pumps at the R & C station at 1373 Straight Path in Wyandach and the SRMC station on Montauk Highway in Lindenhurst. But prosecutor Russell Meyer pointed out that both men held engineering degrees from European universities.

State Charges Gas Stations Altered Meters

Consumers should also make sure that all the numbers on the pump are at zero before they start pumping, he said.

Nelson also said consumers should make sure that any discount offered by the station is actually deducted from the total price and they should look for the state seal on the pump.

Nelson and Consumer Protection Commissioner Mary M. Hillin said instances of tampering involve only a small number of gas stations.

The criminal penalty for a first offense is a fine of up to \$200 or three months in jail.

Consumer Protection officials refused to release the locations of the names of Hocrsak's stations.

Nelson said it is hard for a customer to tell when the volume meters are altered and suggested that motorists keep track of mileage.

Detecting alteration of a price meter is easier, he said. He advised customers to multiply the price per gallon by the number of gallons they are buying and then compare that figure to the price charged for the gas.

Police said they charged Monday with tampering, a price charged for the gas.

Dranginis said, "I own two gasoline stations in the area, but did not know their locations."

The pumps were set five times below the allowable deviation.

The Berberlans are due in Torrington Superior Court Nov. 22.

At a Norwalk station inspected last week, Nelson said, the price meter on one pump was charging 4 cents more per gallon than the price displayed on the pump and the charge was 3 cents more on a second pump.

John J. Hocrsak of 219 Shelton Drive, Shelton, was charged Monday with tampering, a price charged for the gas.

John J. Hocrsak of 219 Shelton Drive, Shelton, was charged Monday with tampering, a price charged for the gas.

John J. Hocrsak of 219 Shelton Drive, Shelton, was charged Monday with tampering, a price charged for the gas.

John J. Hocrsak of 219 Shelton Drive, Shelton, was charged Monday with tampering, a price charged for the gas.

John J. Hocrsak of 219 Shelton Drive, Shelton, was charged Monday with tampering, a price charged for the gas.

John J. Hocrsak of 219 Shelton Drive, Shelton, was charged Monday with tampering, a price charged for the gas.

John J. Hocrsak of 219 Shelton Drive, Shelton, was charged Monday with tampering, a price charged for the gas.

John J. Hocrsak of 219 Shelton Drive, Shelton, was charged Monday with tampering, a price charged for the gas.

Now you know what's going into your gas tank

By PATRICIA DALY
News Chronicle

A new consumer protection law that took effect in California on Jan. 1 was cause for rejoicing among officials of Ventura County who had lobbied vigorously for the legislation on behalf of motorists whose cars had been damaged by using gasoline blended with alcohol.

The law requires service stations that sell gasoline blended with more than 1 percent alcohol to post a conspicuous sign on their pumps informing consumers that they are

selling a blended gas and specifying the alcohol additive. If the sign specifies "methanol," the station is selling a blend of gas and wood alcohol; "gasohol" denotes a blend of gas and ethanol.

The only local stations known to be selling alcohol blends are two independent, discount stations — Gasco and Thrifty, according to William Korth, manager of the county's Department of Weights and Measures. Gasco reportedly sells gasoline with a 9.3 percent concentration of alcohol, according to Korth, who has the duty to ensure that

stations comply with the new law. Some auto experts claim an ethanol concentration of less than 10 percent is not harmful. Methanol produces the most problems, Korth said. The major oil companies do not blend alcohol with their gasoline, he said.

Korth said the county waged the battle for the new law — but county motorists provided the ammunition. In a period that spanned two weeks in the spring of 1982, his office received about two-dozen reports of cars damaged by gasoline laced with alcohol.

Korth verified the complaints by taking samples from 29 major and

independent stations throughout the county. The only samples that contained alcohol were from six Gasco stations, including the one on Thousand Oaks Boulevard, and a Terrible Herb station. A sample from one station had an alcohol concentration of 17 percent.

But motorists had no way of knowing the gasoline contained alcohol because no law required stations to give consumers that information and none of the stations that were selling alcohol blends in 1982 labeled their pumps with the information.

Varying degrees of damage were reported by the motorists. Some cars

simply needed new fuel filters; others required extensive repairs to their fuel systems. The owner of a foreign car with a fuel injection system got a repair bill of \$400 to \$500, Korth said. In another case, alcohol dissolved a vital plastic part in the engine of a new motorcycle. In most cases, the oil companies involved reimbursed the motorists for repair bills, Korth said.

Alcohol can be troublesome because of its unique characteristic as a solvent, he explained. Along with dissolving rubber and plastic parts,

(See GAS, Page 2)

Page 2—NEWS CHRONICLE, Thousand Oaks, Ca

Gas

From Page 1

alcohol can polish a car's gas tank by stripping away impurities and sediment that have accumulated over time. As the particles are flushed through the fuel system, they can clog the fuel filter and foul the carburetor.

Korth — armed with the damage reports — went to the county Board of Supervisors. They, in turn, persuaded state Assemblyman Tom McClintock, R-Thousand Oaks, to lend his support to a bill introduced by a fellow legislator requiring alcohol labeling on gas pumps.

"We felt that consumers had a right to know what kind of gasoline they were buying," Korth said.

Two American car manufacturers, Chrysler and Ford, lobbied vigorously for the legislation in Sacramento, he said. And the owner's manuals for their 1984 models warn of the dangers of methanol. Specifically, Chrysler's manual reads: "Do not use gasoline containing wood alcohol (methanol). Use of this type of alcohol can result in vehicle performance deterioration and damage to critical parts in the fuel pump, carburetor and other fuel systems components."

**CONTAINS
ALCOHOL
(ETHANOL)**

This sticker must now appear on all gas pumps where a 1 percent-plus alcohol mixture is sold.

American Motors Co. and Volkswagen also advise against methanol and Peugeot and BMW tell customers to avoid both ethanol and methanol, according to information released by the state Bureau of Automotive Repair.

The car manufacturers also warn that using an alcohol blend may invalidate the owner's warranty.

Korth said the county has not received many complaints about gasoline blends since the rash of complaints in 1982. He suspected that the independent oil companies have tightened their quality control and are using better methods to blend their gasoline to minimize problems.

Blending gasoline with alcohol became popular during the gas shortages of the 1970s as the country tried to stretch its supplies, Korth said. The federal government encouraged the practice by providing tax breaks to oil companies that embraced alternative fuels. Proponents of blended gasoline contend that cars run cooler and have better mileage.

Weighty week measures up at exhibit

Functions of the Ventura County Department of Weights and Measures are currently being exhibited at the E.P. Foster Library in Ventura in observance of National Weights and Measures Week, March 1-7.

The purpose of the observance is to allow the public to learn how important weights and measures are and how easily it's taken for granted.

If an accurate method of weighing and measuring did not exist, there would be virtual chaos and economic standstill, said Bill Korth of the Ventura County Resource Management Agency, Weights and Measures Division.

America's economy based on trade, selling and barter would be useless without some sort of measuring system and the Department of Weights and Measures was formed to keep this system in check, Korth said.

On March 2, 1799, the first Weights and Measures law was signed in the United States and the department in Ventura was established in 1915.

The exhibit at the Library, which includes working and antique equipment, will be on display until March 7.

*Feb. 21, 1985
Santa Paula Chronicle*

NEWS

from PAWM

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

POST OFFICE BOX 340, BEDMINSTER, PA 18910

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Philadelphia Tea Party"

Deputy Commissioner Clarence Mosley of the Department of Licenses and Inspections reports that the Weights and Measures officials, during pre-4th of July inspections, surprised area merchants by dumping 38,712 lbs. (9,678 - 64 oz. containers) of Iced Tea Mix from the shelves of area stores for having less than the quantities stated on the containers.

One product, Tetley Iced Tea Mix (sugar and natural lemon flavor) labeled as containing net weight of 64 oz. (4 lbs.) was found short measure from 1/16 to 6-7/8 oz.

Overcharges were found from \$.01 to \$.44 per container. An excess of 4,558 containers of the mix were ordered off the shelves. Weights and Measures also ordered that 5,120 containers of Top Value Iced Tea Mix (natural lemon flavor and sugar) found to have shortages from 1/8 to 7-9/32 oz., and overcharges of \$.01 to \$.34 be returned to the manufacturer.

The delivery of stated quantities and eliminating misrepresentation are under the watchful eye of Emmett Murphy, Chief of Weights and Measures and his staff. Murphy said "many people take the accuracy of Weights and Measures for granted, but it requires many thousands of man-hours to inspect, test and check-weigh items offered to the consumer to insure this accuracy."

Deputy Commissioner Clarence Mosley said, "the citizens of Philadelphia should be particularly proud of the outstanding enforcement record of the local Bureau of Weights and Measures."

#

Fair's food stand scales passed weight tests

By the Press-Enterprise staff

BLOOMSBURG — People got their money's worth at the Bloomsburg Fair, at least when it came to weighed items like fudge and taffy.

David Kovach, Columbia County's sealer of weights and measures, told the county commissioners Thursday he tested 60 scales at fairground booths and stands that week, and all but one passed muster.

That scale, he noted, was an extra that one concessionaire had as a spare at his stand. It was kept boxed and not used, Kovach said.

"We think it's important with fudge at \$4 or \$5 a pound," he said of scale checks.

Kovach also inspected the livestock scales, used in dairy and horse contests, and a large scale that was used in the biggest pumpkin contest.

They were good to the gram, he said.

Countywide, Kovach reported testing 148 scales or time devices, rejecting 22 of them.

Sixteen of 62 motor fuel pumps at various gas stations were rejected, mostly because serial numbers were illegible on the pumps. Kovach said the numbers are needed for his own records before an inspection sticker can be issued.

The stations have a certain time period in which to have the pumps reinspected, Kovach said.

Other checks led to the rejection of one of 39 counter scales tested, one of four hanging scales, three of 15 platform scales, and one of two portable livestock scales.

All 24 computer scales checked passed inspection, Kovach said.

Kovach said his office and phone number will be listed in the Blue Pages when the next telephone directory is issued for people with complaints about any weighting or timing service in the county.

Kovach can be reached at the courthouse by dialing 784-1991.

Gasoline discount system criticized

By ANTHONY GIORGIANNI
Cowan Consumer Affairs Writer

Question: If David E. Joseph of Hartford buys \$8 worth of gasoline at 99.9 cents a gallon, how many gallons of gasoline does David E. Joseph receive?

Answer: 6.6.

That's the brand of arithmetic a Hartford Texaco station was trying to sell Joseph in September. Although he is not a mathematician, Joseph knew he was being short-changed by 1.4 gallons.

Joseph, like many consumers nationwide, became a victim of the cash discount system used at many gasoline stations.

Consumer officials nationwide are concerned that station owners and attendants fail to give advertised discounts, instead charging cash-paying customers the higher price that is supposed to be charged to credit card customers.

No one knows how widespread the problem is or how much it costs consumers. But there is evidence that it affects tens of thousands of motorists.

- In California, 211, or 19 percent, of 1,111 stations surveyed by state officials since July 1986 failed to give the advertised discounts.

- Since last summer, two Connecticut stations, in West Hartford and Darien, have been charged with the same violation. Connecticut consumer officials say they receive about 30 complaints about the problem annually.

- In 1986, Mobil Corp. fired employees at several stations in the Northeast when it learned they were pocketing the advertised discounts instead of giving them to customers.

"I'm sure we have sporadic problems with this. I'm not going to tell you we don't. Everybody does," said Carole L. Edwards, a Mobil spokeswoman.

The problem is considered serious enough to be given priority by the five consumer officials who make up the laws and regulations committee of the National Conference on Weights and Measures.

The conference is a quasi-governmental organization charged with promoting national uniformity in state and municipal regulations governing gasoline pumps and other weighing and measuring equipment.

In January, the committee voted unanimously to ask the conference to change the way the cash discount system operates at some stations.

The change would affect stations that offer the cash discounts but do not have gasoline pumps capable of distinguishing between credit and cash transactions.

It would require those pumps to be set at the lower, cash price instead of the higher, credit price as now required in Connecticut and many other states.

Under the present system, after a cash-paying customer makes his gasoline purchase, the station attendant is supposed to deduct the amount of the discount — usually 4 cents a gallon — from the bill.

But in many cases, consumer officials say, attendants deduct the wrong amount or fail to offer the discount at all.

Consumers who are not aware that the pumps are set at the higher amount may not realize they have been shortchanged. And even if consumers are aware, cash transactions usually do not involve receipts, so consumers have no proof when complaining to officials.

"These kinds of surprises add up to frustration and anger on the part of consumers," said Carroll S. Brickenkamp, adviser to the national conference.

In Joseph's case, he gave the station attendant an \$8 pre-payment. Then he had to use a pump that was set at the higher, credit price of \$1.199 a gallon instead of the cash discount price of \$.999 per gallon. The pump shut off automatically at 6.6 gallons instead of at the nearly 8 gallons Joseph was entitled to. He was being shortchanged \$1.39.

"I had to go back to the guy and ask what happened to the rest of my gas," he said.

Joseph finally received the rest of the gasoline, but only after he argued with the attendant.

Caesar W. Rossitto, owner of Cross Automotive, a Wethersfield Mobil station, is aware of the potential for abuse of the system.

Above the time card file in the station's office is a note warning workers that: "Anyone caught not giving a discount will be fired."

Rossitto said he also spot-checks motorists to make sure attendants are giving them the discount.

"I'm not going to let any [attendant] make money on the side with me, not when customers are entitled to it," he said.

Consumer officials say the best solution is to require stations that offer cash discounts to have pumps that can be set to calculate either the

credit or cash price.

Although some stations already have such pumps, imposing that requirement could force operators of small stations to make expensive improvements or go out of business.

The alternative, consumer officials say, is to require that pumps be set at the lower, cash price. This, they say, would allow cash-paying customers to know exactly how much they will be charged.

They acknowledge that such a requirement would shift the problem to credit card customers, who then would have to pay a higher amount than the one displayed on the pump.

Representatives of Mobil and Exxon Corp. said they oppose such a change.

"We would be asking [credit card customers] to be as alert as we are now asking the cash customer to be," Edwards said.

But consumer officials say credit card customers would be harmed less under the proposed system than cash customers are now. Cash customers account for as much as 70 percent of the gasoline sales in the state, according to consumer officials.

They say the proposed system would shift the burden to attendants to justify the higher amount, and that customers could use credit card receipts to document complaints.

"That puts the burden on the station owner to be sure he is collecting the amount of money due him," said Allan M. Nelson, head of the weights and measures division of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection and one of the committee members who voted for the change.

The change is favored by Charles R. Matties of West Hartford, president of the Service Station Dealers of Connecticut, which represents about 100 stations.

"The existing system doesn't work well. Truth-in-advertising from my standpoint is that you come into my station, you see the cash price, and it's up to me to convey it to you that, if you want to use credit, you are going to pay more," Matties said.

Station owners, predominantly those who buy their gasoline from Exxon, Mobil and Texaco, offer the cash discount because they must pay the oil companies a 3 percent premium on credit transactions.

If the change is approved by the conference in July, it would become part of the National Bureau of Standards' laws and regulations handbook that is adopted by many states — including Connecticut — as the enforcement guide.

However, consumer officials are divided over whether the change would violate a law in Connecticut and many other states that prohibits retailers from imposing a surcharge for credit card transactions.

Officials in the state attorney general's office and the state Department of Banking said they would have to study the change to determine whether it could be adopted without changing the state law.



REGULAR OR NOT: U.S. Gas, located at Bay Parkway in Brooklyn, was among stations charged with selling regular gas as premium.

ANTHONY PESCATORE/DAILY NEWS

City bares hi-test scam

Gas stations selling regular as premium

SUSAN MULLIGAN

News Staff Writer

New York City drivers are regularly being defrauded by gas stations that sell low-grade gasoline as premium—and get away with it. And again, consumer officials reported yesterday. Consumer Affairs Commissioner Angelo Aponte urged that stations pulling a gas switch ripoff are charging drivers an average of 15 cents a gallon, but may cost them money actually in car repair bills.

Aponte said he could not estimate how widespread the scam is, but said that based on limited enforcement efforts his department last year cited 135 of the city's 2,700 stations for the ripoff. "Drivers roll into the gas stations and they get taken for a ride—in their own cars," said Rep. Charles Schumer (D-Brooklyn), who joined Aponte at a press conference. "What you smell is not what you get."

Premium gas sold for slightly more than \$1.07 per gallon in the city last month, compared to 91.8 cents a gallon for regular.

Aponte and Schumer released a list of the nine sta-

tions most frequently cited last year. Topping the list was U.S. Gas, a Texaco distributor at 6501 Bay Parkway in Brooklyn.

The station was cited 10 times for selling regular gas as premium and pocketing an estimated \$150,000 in extra profits, Aponte charged.

During the same time, it was hit with \$5,000 in fines, but hasn't paid. The city is suing for the unpaid penalties.

Jack Finkelstein, named by the city in the suit, could not be reached. An attendant at the station refused to say

how to get in touch with the owners, but said city workers yesterday removed the station's three high-test pumps. Aponte said the 135 stations cited last year were hit with a total of 171 gas switch violations.

The violations involve both brand-name and unbranded gas. Texaco stations, with 30 citations among 17 distributors, were hit with the largest number among brand-name gas pumps last year.

Texaco spokesman David

Press said the company had an official franchise relationship with only one of the violators, and voided the contract when the fraud complaint was made.

City consumer inspectors visit each gas station in the city once a year, and follow up on known violators, Aponte said. He said the department catches many violators because its staff does not test each pump on a regular basis.

6 PRESS-ENTERPRISE/Saturday, January 23, 1988

Many area parking meters, gas pumps are inaccurate

By LEON BOGDAN

Press-Enterprise staff

BLOOMSBURG — About one of every five parking meters and one of every 10 gas pumps checked for accuracy last year were off, according to a Columbia County official.

David Kovach, county sealer of weights and measures, said he found an 86 percent accuracy level among the 2,318 devices he tested around the county in 1987.

In an annual report to the county commissioners, Kovach said Thursday he approved 2,010 devices and rejected 308. Those rejected are taken out of use and can be retested at a later time if corrected, he said.

Among the devices tested were a variety of commercial scales, motor fuel dispensers, and timing and measuring devices, he said.

Parking meters around communities in the county had the highest rejection rate at about 17.5 percent. Of 882 tested, 155 were found to be inaccurately measuring time and were rejected, he reported.

Approval was given to 533 motor fuel dispensers, and 59 were rejected; 47 of 600 scales were rejected; one of 48 linear measuring devices was inaccurate, he said.

Kovach said 800 more devices were tested in 1987 than in the previous year. While he is uncertain what lies ahead in 1988, he said the department "will be doing its best to protect the consumer and businessman alike."

County cites gas stations for pumps, overcharging

By Peter Howell
Courier Times Staff Writer

The Bucks County Office of Consumer Protection has cited nearly 20 gasoline stations for maintaining pumps without required seals and for overcharging customers.

Investigators have visited stations across the county since November, issuing citations and tagging faulty pumps. Several stations have had as many as 16 pumps ruled inoperable.

Companies have paid fines ranging from \$75 to more than \$1,000, according to Peggy Adams, the agency's executive director. Several cases are still pending.

"I've never noticed so many rejections in 12 years (of testing)," said Adams. "It's really quite a problem."

In many cases, station owners failed to maintain lead seals on pumps. Without seals, owners can sell gasoline without the meter re-

coding it and thus bypass taxes. The seals also prevent owners from changing the flow to provide less gasoline than the meter indicates.

In some cases, stations owners were selling less than the stated amount of gasoline, Adams said. Typically, 5 gallons should contain 1,160 cubic centimeters of gasoline, or 232 cubic centimeters a gallon.

At Five Points Getty in Bristol Township, for example, agency investigators found customers were receiving only 1,137 cubic centimeters, 23 fewer than required. At other stations, the deficiency ranged from several cubic centimeters to 15 or 17 cubic centimeters.

Also cited were: BP Oil, Quakertown; Cullen's Golf, Bristol; Merit Oil, Upper Southampton; Kryden Texaco, Bristol; Sitkos Texaco, Yardley; Cross Keys Tex-

aco, Doylestown; Pennel Service Center, Pennel; Sami Inc., Warrington; Stan's Mobile, Pennel; and Skerdiant's Gulf, Upper Makefield.

"We may be only talking about pennies per person, but you add all that up and it's a lot of business," said Adams, adding that one station owner was giving customers more gasoline than advertised.

Adams said station owners are responsible for maintaining seals and ensuring pumps function properly. She said she was surprised by how infrequently owners said they checked their equipment.

The agency's crackdown comes as concern mounts nationwide about possible fraud involving service station owners. She said that as the price of gasoline has dropped, some owners might be tempted to tamper with pumps to reclaim old profits.

More knocktane than octane, alas

By JERRY CASSIDY

5/13/88

Daily News Staff Writer

Five gasoline stations have had their pumps condemned or seized because of inaccurate octane levels or addition of alcohol to the gas, Suffolk County's commissioner of consumer affairs announced yesterday.

Commissioner Jane Devine said that 99 Group Inc., which operates four of the five stations cited, has agreed to pay \$2,000 in penalties.

"Laboratory tests show that the five stations were selling gasoline with octane ratings lower than what the consumers thought they were purchasing," Devine said.

"They were also selling alcohol-blend gasoline without telling their customers about it."

Although the sale of alcohol fuels is legal, a local law in Suffolk requires that consumers be told at the pump if such fuels are what they are getting.

This is because some blends can cause serious problems to motor vehicle and marine fuel systems. Devine said the warning also applied to lawnmowers and weed whackers.

Won't cover damage

"Most car owner manuals have warnings about the use

of alcohol blends," she said, "and several will not cover damage so caused under the warranty."

She said the local law, "the first of its kind in the state," was instituted to insure that consumers will know if their gasoline station is selling alcohol-blend gas.

Octane rating is a measure of the anti-knock characteristic of a grade or type of gasoline. Premium unleaded gasoline usually has an octane rating of 91 or 92, and costs more than regular unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 87, or than mid-grade unleaded with a rating of 89.

At one of the five stations

cited by the Department of Consumer Affairs, a pump with a posted octane rating of 92 was actually pumping gasoline with a rating of 88.9.

Another station's pump bore a gasoline rating of 92, yet laboratory tests showed it rated only 89.5. The difference in price was 10 cents.

The investigation was started when several consumers complained to Devine's department about car trouble after purchasing gasoline.

Devine urged consumers "to contact the department if they suspect they have purchased contaminated or mislabeled gasoline."

Local news briefs

Bloom Fair scales pass accuracy test

BLOOMSBURG — Scales used by vendors at the Bloomsburg Fair turned out to be more than fair, at least at two candy stands.

Columbia County's weights and measures sealer, David Kovach, reported that two of 57 scales he tested for accuracy at the Fair last week were off — in favor of the consumer.

In each case, more candy than was actually recorded by weight on the scale was being sold. Kovach said the vendors corrected the errors soon after being tested.

County Raids Gas Station

Eight gasoline pumps at a Bohemia service station have been shut down by the Suffolk County Consumer Affairs Department and the owner faces possible prosecution for allegedly falsifying the grade of gasoline sold, Suffolk County officials said yesterday.

The officials said four premium-unleaded pumps at the Mobil station at 4130 Sunrise Hwy. were closed Tuesday after tests showed that the gasoline was actually regular to mid-grade, which should sell for a lower price.

In addition, they said, four regular-leaded gas pumps were closed because they were found to contain unleaded fuel.

Charles Gardner, the county's director of weights and measures, said officials acted on a tip.

Jane Devine, the county consumer affairs commissioner, said such incidents appear to be increasing, and that 20 stations have been cited from January through August, under a county law that became effective in September, 1987.

Devine said that most violations do not occur at any of the major brand-name stations. "We don't usually have this problem with stations like Mobil," she said.

Several calls to the owner of the station, Nejdet Yetim, went unreturned yesterday.

Gardner said the tests showed that the gasoline advertised as premium unleaded, or 93 octane, actually was only 88.9 octane — regular to mid-grade unleaded.

Officials said that the department will schedule a hearing to determine whether fines of up to \$500 should be levied against the station owner, and that the matter could also be referred to the district attorney's office for prosecution. —Dele Olojede

Dairy to Pay a Penalty

A New Jersey dairy will pay a \$7,000 civil penalty for selling short-weighted milk in Nassau, county officials announced yesterday.

A settlement between county officials and Tuscan Dairy Farms Inc. was reached at an administrative hearing earlier this month at the Nassau County Office of Consumer Affairs in Mineola, and was based on violations at 14 stores in Nassau last month. The settlement was finalized last week and announced yesterday, county spokesman Dave Wieser said.

Earlier this summer, Tuscan recalled about 400,000 half-gallon cartons of milk it sold on Long Island after it was discovered that each container was 2.5 ounces short. Nassau officials said yesterday that the error that caused the shortweighted milk appears to have been inadvertent.

Last month, the Suffolk County Department of Consumer Affairs levied a \$3,400 fine against Tuscan for the shortweighted milk. Half the fine was suspended for three months pending the company's future compliance.

Much of the recalled milk was donated to charities. — Phil Mintz



GEOFFREY PATTON/THE REPORTER

WEIGHT CHECK: Peggy H. Adams of the Bucks County Consumer Protection/Weights and Measures Department, shows how bulk goods can be improperly weighed. Nick Diguglielmo, center, of her office, and Eric Power of The Larder, Doylestown, look on.

Purchasing in bulk not always a bargain

By ROY TOMIZAWA
Staff Writer

Buying goods from the barrel, or buying in bulk, is becoming a popular way to shop all over the country, but it is not always the bargain people think it is.

In theory, scooping pre-wrapped cookies or candy out of a barrel in the local grocery store or drug store is supposed to be cheaper than buying the goods pre-packaged.

In fact, some people are getting ripped off. "The consumer is not getting a bargain but in reality is paying more than the items would be that are already pre-packaged," said Peggy H. Adams, chief sealer for the Bucks County Consumer Protection/Weights and Measures Department. "Actually, the consumer is paying for plastic, paper or cardboard."

For example, some store owners are not taking into account the paper that wraps the candy, the cardboard that holds the cookies, the plastic that covers the fruit rolls or the bag they put the goods in.

Because federal and state laws call for goods to be sold according to net weight, which is how pre-packaged goods are sold, the weight of the wrappings can add up in cost.

To drum up consumer awareness, the first week in March had been designated National Weights and Measures Week by the Bucks County commissioners. All week, Adams and her deputies have been inspecting stores that sell goods in bulk, distributing copies of the law and re-

mind the store owners and managers that violations will be prosecuted.

Thursday afternoon, Adams and her deputy Nick Diguglielmo inspected The Larder, a month-old store in the Cross Keys Plaza that specializes in selling a variety of goods by bulk.

Adams asked the store clerk to weigh a pound of Tootsie Pop lollipops. Only taking the weight of the plastic bag into account, the clerk rang up a price of \$2.29. If done properly, the clerk should have also subtracted the weight, or the tare, of the lollipops' individual wrappers and sticks.

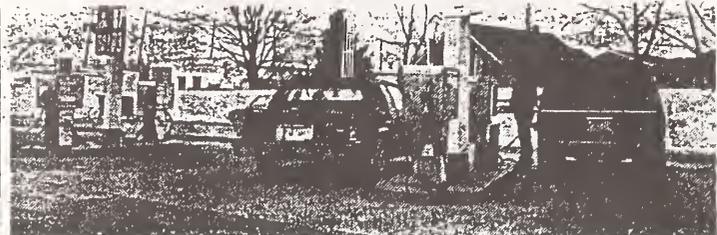
With the proper adjustment made, the new price of the lollipops was \$2.11.

For items like tea bags, Twin Sugar packets or candy cigarettes, the difference can be more dramatic.

Store owners are required to subtract a 48 tare, or .48 from a pound of candy cigarettes in order to make up for the cardboard boxes the candy comes in. It's a difference of almost 50 per cent in price.

Adams recognized the fact that the owners of the Larder were not making a conscious effort to cheat, but instead cited the improper training of the store clerks in operating the electronic weigher.

"With regards to the lollipops and such, it's a question of just understanding the rules and training the sales people," said Emily Jefferson, a co-owner of the store. "We certainly want to comply with the Weights and Measures Department."



THE NORTHVILLE service station on Saxon Avenue and Union Boulevard in Bay Shore was recently closed down for several hours after inspectors found water contamination in two underground storage tanks. Photo by Jennifer Williams.

Tainted fuel is target of proposed law

2/25/88
SUFFOLK COUNTY NEWS

by June Bolton

State legislators are working to protect the state from becoming what Assemblyman Paul Harenberg called a "dumping ground for tainted and contaminated gasoline."

According to the Bayport Democrat, while 30 states have enacted fuel quality standards, New York has yet to do so. Without these standards, gas stations may be selling fuel which is tainted with alcohol, or selling leaded gas as unleaded.

Motorists may find warranties don't cover damage to their cars from tainted gas, even if the drivers were

unaware of the contamination, Harenberg added. Legislation now being prepared by the Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs would prohibit the distribution or sale of gas, which does not meet certain standards for accepted additives, Harenberg said.

New Yorkers must be assured we'll get what we pay for.

At the county's Consumer Affairs office, Charles Gardner, director of Weights and Measures, commented, "We are long overdue for state legislation on the quality of motor fuel."

Suffolk County passed its own laws on fuel quality last year, becoming the first county in the state to do so. Those laws, which went into effect September 1, 1987, already protect motorists within the county, Gardner said.

Gardner cited a recent case involving the Northville gas station at Saxon Avenue and Union Boulevard in Bay Shore.

An inspector was sent to the station after Weights and Measures was notified one morning that four cars had stalled on the station property after drivers filled up there. The inspector found seven-and-a-quarter inches of water at the bottom of the underground storage tank used for regular leaded gasoline. The super-unleaded storage tank was contaminated with four inches of water.

Though county law requires tanks be tested for the presence of water within an hour of the opening of any gas station for the business day, "an employee at the Northville station admitted to the inspector they hadn't tested the tank," Gardner said.

The station was shut down for several hours until the Weights and Measures inspector gave the go-ahead for it to reopen around 1 pm. By that time, the problem had been corrected after 350 gallons of water and "contaminated product" had been pumped out of the two tanks. Station owner Tamal Antek has been cooperating by reimbursing the owners of the four cars for the damage done and for the cost of repairs, Gardner said, adding "most operators do cooperate" when the inspectors are called in time to establish clear evidence of fuel contamination.

The county follows up with notices of violation against the parent gas company after the inspector has submitted his report of the incident. Penalties are then determined at an administrative hearing in Gardner's office, where the gas company can be fined up to \$250 for each pump that

was drawing from a contaminated tank.

In 1987, the county handled 240 cases involving contaminated fuel. Foreign contaminants — mostly water, but in some cases dirt — were involved in about 170 of the complaints. About 60 of the incidents involved octane misrepresentation. The other ten had to do with excessive or unlabelled lead in gasoline, Gardner said.

County laws require anyone who sells or distributes gasoline in the county to register, pay a \$500 annual fee and provide the names of the company's officers and other detailed information on the business. Weights and Measures inspectors have the authority to seize trucks not properly registered and in some cases have done so, he added.

County residents would benefit from state-level legislation when they drive outside of Suffolk County, Gardner said.

The proposed statewide standards are now in the form of a draft bill, which "is probably 90% written," according to Stephen Liss, counsel to Assemblyman Harenberg. The bill will cover all contaminants, he said, and is expected to receive endorsements from the New York Automobile Association and from the Triple-A motorists' club. Still to be decided are questions concerning enforcement. Liss expects the bill to be introduced to the state legislature within two weeks.

Meanwhile, John Bunde, the East Islip man whose pickup truck was damaged by contaminated gasoline purchased at Texaco Food Mart in Great River said recently he had received a call from Jack Leonard, a marketing representative for Texaco. Leonard was polite, Bunde said, asking him to submit the bill for repair work Bunde says resulted from his January 4 purchase of a tank of gas mixed with water. Leonard told Bunde his written complaint would then be handled according to company procedures, Bunde said.

from the
Burlington
Free Press

Scam payoff is \$415,000

5 bilked of oil to split funds

By MARK JOHNSON
Free Press Staff Writer

Five Chittenden County businesses and educational institutions that were bilked in an oil delivery scam will split \$415,000 under an agreement announced Thursday.

Deliveries were shorted at the five institutions over a three-year period by two ex-employees of the now-defunct Augsbury Oil Co., who then resold the stolen oil on the black market at a cut rate, primarily to Steady Fuels Inc. of Burlington.

None of the institutions was aware it had been bilked until one of the Augsbury workers, Richard Bigue, came forward in early 1985. Bigue spoke up because he was afraid of being caught and because of a falling out with the other Augsbury worker, Daniel Pitts, Bigue's boss and brother-in-law.

Under the terms of the settlement, St. Michael's College received \$135,594; Burlington schools received \$117,104; the University of Vermont received \$86,287; International Business Machines Corp. received \$51,361; and Colchester Schools received \$24,653, according to William Sorrell, the attorney for Burlington schools.

Frank, would not confirm the settlement figures but acknowledged that each of those bilked was given a list of the settlement amounts for all of the institutions. Frank would not discuss the settlement because he said one of the institutions did not want the figures disclosed.

"All I can say is that as of today, the matter has been disposed of to the satisfaction of all concerned," Frank said.

Sorrell said the settlement was like "money that dropped out of the sky" because the institutions had had no idea they had been bilked. He was not aware how the money would be spent. School Superintendent Paul Danyow and Scott Lisle, the school's business manager, could not be reached for comment.

Augsbury, based in Syracuse, N.Y., had a division in Burlington and filed for bankruptcy in 1982 for reasons unrelated to the scam, which, according to Bigue, stretched from 1980 to 1983.

Bigue, a driver, and Pitts, his supervisor, shorted deliveries by using phony invoice tickets that denoted a larger amount than that actually delivered. The workers then sold the bulk of diverted oil for 50 cents a gallon to Steady Fuels.

The amounts were based on estimates made by Bigue and, according to Sorrell, the losses were covered by Augsbury's insurance carrier, Aetna Insurance Co.

Augsbury's attorney, Joseph

Warning on Tainted Fuel

The Suffolk Department of Consumer Affairs yesterday warned that contaminated kerosene, probably mixed with gasoline, had been sold at a gas station in Flanders since Tuesday.

No fire was associated with the fuel but one consumer complained that it had ignited faster than usual, according to Charles Gardner, Suffolk's director of weights and measures.

A sample was then analyzed at a private laboratory for the county. The lab found it to be significantly more flammable than kerosene, and Gardner said the fuel probably was mixed with gasoline. If the tainted fuel was used for a heater, for example, it could ignite something nearby, he said.

Refik Peksen, president of Ocean Petroleum Inc., based in Port Jefferson Station, said up to 100 gallons of the fuel may have been sold at the Texaco station on Route 24 in Flanders.

Four other stations operated by Peksen's company also received shipments from the same supplier that day. They were: Ocean Gas Station, Route 25A, Mount Sinai; Texaco, Montauk Highway, East Patchogue; Ocean Gas Station, Route 110, Amityville; and Texaco, Route 25, Jamesport.

The county condemned the kerosene pump at the Flanders station yesterday and ordered sales stopped until the contaminated fuel is removed. Peksen said he stopped sales at the other four stations, too.

—Henry Gilgoff

Weights, measures must be accurate, by George

By Mary Klaus
Patriot-News

George Washington, the father of this country and the father of weights and measures standards, would be proud. Nearly two centuries after Washington said "uniformity in the currency, weights and measures of the United States is an object of great importance," more than 100 Pennsylvanians are still on the job ensuring this uniformity.

"George Washington was our first consumer protector," Peggy Adams, secretary of the Pennsylvania Association of Weights and Measures, said yesterday at the group's 71st annual conference. About 100 people from throughout Pennsylvania are attending the five-day conference, which concludes today, at the Sheraton Harrisburg East in Lower Paxton Twp.

Adams, chief sealer of Bucks County Weights and Measures and director of its Consumer Protection Department, said that in Washington's day, "weights and measures people went on barges to weigh coal, and were stationed at ports to check [measurement accuracies of] imports and exports."

Today, she said, weights and measures employees visit stores, factories, gasoline stations, car washes and laundromats.

"We check all weighing, measuring and timing devices," she said. "We check scales ranging from prescription and jewelry scales to 150,000-pound truck scales. We check the timing devices on parking meters, coin car washes and laundromat dryers. We check gas pumps and fuel oil trucks. Whether you eat it or use it, we check all commodities sold by weight and measure. We make sure the devices are correct for both the businesses and consumers."

Adams said each county has a "chief sealer" responsible for ensuring the accuracy of items sold by weights and measures. She said the state has about 125 weights and measures employees.

"Bucks County has over 3,000 gas pumps and over 3,000 scales," she said. "We inspect and certify them annually. Customers or business people could be cheated at the gas pump without ever knowing it. We prevent that."

William C. Cooper, Dauphin County chief sealer, said Dauphin County has 1,660 gasoline pumps and 900 scales.

"The gas pumps are pretty honest," he said. "More often than not, the businesses give customers more gas than they pay for, maybe a half-cup of gasoline more for each 5 gallons purchased. We correct the meters and scales when they're off."

Joseph Blasco, Erie County chief sealer, who is association president, said the association is concerned about electronic scanning systems in grocery stores. "We wish grocery stores would put the price on each item," he said.

Adams said that in this era of self-service gasoline stations and computerized gasoline pumps that have different prices for cash and credit purchases, it is easy for customers to get cheated.

"It's easy for a bypass to be placed in the gas pump," she said. "That way, the meter runs, but gas actually is being pumped off and sent back into the tank. A customer could get 10 gallons of gas and pay for 15. So we open pumps, check for bypasses and check to see the meter works with the flow. Gas station owners or employees who put bypasses in can be fined, arrested or both."

Adams said that generally, Pennsylvania gasoline station managers are honest.



Peggy Adams and Joseph Blasco demonstrate how they check the accuracy of a gasoline pump

Guilty of 'Shorting' Oil

By Tom Demoretcky

A Deer Park fuel oil firm pleaded guilty yesterday to a felony charge of shorting welfare recipients on emergency fuel deliveries last winter.

Daughters Fuel Oil Co., of 28 Prospect Pl., pleaded guilty to fourth-degree grand larceny and agreed to pay \$4,928 restitution to Suffolk County. County Court Judge Kenneth Rohl agreed to an unconditional discharge after the firm admitted 112 instances in which trucks delivered less fuel than they were supposed to.

According to William Bartech, chief deputy commissioner of social services, Daughters had a contract with the county to make emergency deliveries of \$25 worth of oil to welfare recipients, for which it would receive the \$25 plus a \$25 service charge. Instead, he said, the firm would deliver only a few gallons and charge the county agency the full \$50.

Bartech said that the county has since contracted with another firm.

Bartech said that recipients were not left in the cold but that extra deliveries had to be made. He said drivers were questioned and admitted the practice but said that their employer ordered them to make the short deliveries.

Floyd Sarisoehn, attorney for Daughters, denied that drivers had been ordered to make the incomplete deliveries. He said the shortages to which the firm pleaded guilty were all done by one driver.

NEWSDAY 8/27/87

Fuel Labeling Draws Support in Suffolk

By Nick Charles

There was overwhelming support at a public hearing yesterday for proposed Suffolk bills that would require distributors and retailers to disclose octane and alcohol levels in gasoline, kerosene and diesel fuel and would register distributors with the county.

Representatives of local retailing associations present at the Consumer Affairs Committee hearing in Hauppauge welcomed the legislation.

"I think that they [the bills] are a good idea," said Richard Keasel, director of the state Consumer Protection Board. "I think the best way to go about this would be on the state level, but we have had little success getting such legislation through the state legislature. And if Suffolk can do it, fine."

Legis. Donald R. Blydenburgh, chairman of the Consumer Affairs Committee and sponsor of the bills, said the widespread practice of "fuel switching" results in consumers being overcharged for fuel and damage to vehicles run on inadequate fuels.

Charles Gardner, director of weights and measures in the department of consumer affairs, said the bills would bring Suffolk County into line with national guidelines on alcohol-blended fuels. "New York is one of 11 states in the country that do not follow the guidelines established by the federal government," he said.

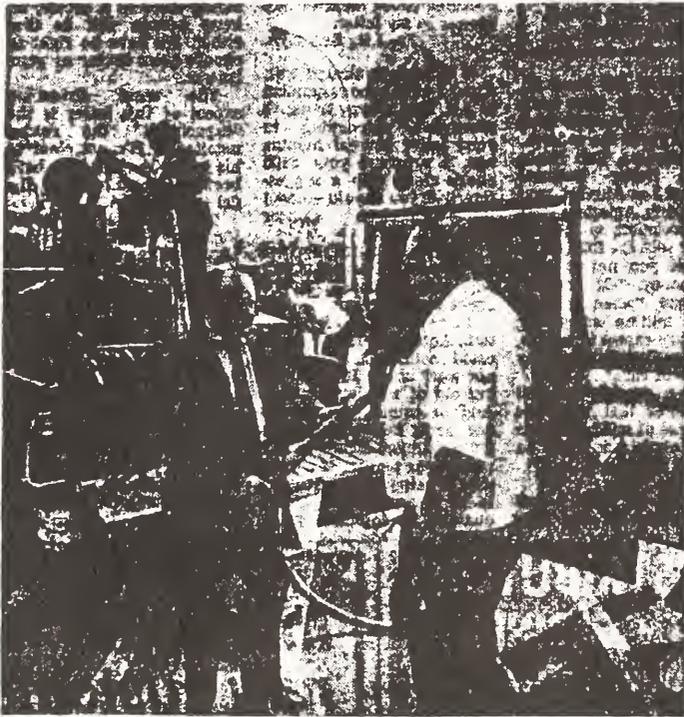
Gardner added that the county would not prohibit the sale of blended fuels, but would require identification so consumers would know exactly what they are putting in their tanks.

Long Island

Daily News, Thursday, May 2, 1985

CLASSIFIED ADS
IN THIS SECTION

Fear widespread fuel-oil scam



Suffolk County DA Patrick Henry inspects fuel-truck hose while member of his staff pumps oil into measuring tank.

HOW PROBE BEGAN

There is little that homeowners can do to verify the amount of fuel being delivered to their homes, according to Suffolk Consumer Affairs Commissioner Harold Withers.

Police and district attorney's investigators learned of a fuel-oil delivery scheme as a result of investigating a hit-run fatal accident.

The police arrested Stuart Cohen, 29, son of the owner of E.C.C. Amber Oil Co. of Copiague, and impounded one of the company's trucks after he allegedly ran down a man in North Amityville in February.

The younger Cohen, who lives at 45 Lebrook Ave., North Lindenhurst, was charged with manslaughter in the second degree, leaving the scene of an accident and driving with a suspended license after his arrest on Feb. 25 in the death of Donald Smith, 31, of 1149 Straight Path, Wyandanch.

He is free on bail while awaiting trial on the charges, according to the district attorney's office.

After seizing the truck for an investigation, police discovered that the pumping and metering devices had been tampered with.

District Attorney Patrick Henry said that investigators found a mechanic who admitted to rigging the meters. Henry

refused to identify him, however, stating that he is cooperating in the continuing investigation.

"Altering the meters is not so difficult to do," Henry said. "We are attempting to determine who else and where else it may have been done, if anywhere."

Withers said that his agency examines the meters on all of the licensed delivery trucks in the county and conducts spot road checks throughout the year.

He said that the tampering with the meters on the Amber trucks was not readily detectable. "It was internal," Withers said. "A roadside or spot check does not afford the inspector an opportunity to check the equipment internally."

He urged consumers to resort to the old-fashioned dipstick to see how many gallons actually were delivered and to call the Suffolk County Department of Consumer Affairs if they suspect that they are being shortchanged.

The average homeowner uses 900 to 1,100 gallons of home-heating oil a year, according to John Rooney, a spokesman for the Oil Heat Institute.

In all, more than 1 billion gallons of fuel oil are sold each year on Long Island, with more than 60% of that consumed by residences, Rooney said.

—Michael Hanrahan

Say truckers rig meters

By MICHAEL HANRAHAN

Thousands of Long Island homeowners have been cheated by oil-delivery drivers using rigged meters on their trucks, Suffolk District Attorney Patrick Henry said yesterday.

Henry said that the average residential customer bilked was taken for more than \$100 over a season of deliveries.

He identified only one company, the E.C.C. Amber Oil Co. of Copiague as participating in the scheme, but warned that investigators suspect the practice is more widespread.

Henry said his office has impounded nine trucks used by the firm in which the meters were rigged to return the heating oil back into the truck's tank after it passed through the meter for the purpose of billing the customer.

HENRY CHARGED that the drivers for Amber were setting the meters to return approximately 10% to 15% of the oil pumped at a delivery.

The drivers, in turn, would be paid 15 cents for every additional gallon they returned to be resold, said Henry.

The average Long Island fuel-oil customer paid between \$1.15 to \$1.30 a gallon this past season, according to an industry spokesman.

The district attorney said that when a customer received a delivery and a bill for 200 gallons of fuel, he actually might get only 175 gallons.

"The fuel-oil delivery business is one that is predicated on trust," Henry said. "When that trust is betrayed in this manner and to this extent, we find that to be particularly shocking."

HE SAID THAT the owner of the E.C.C. Amber Oil Co. and one of the drivers have been arrested and charged with grand larceny and a scheme to defraud.

Also, he said that Edward Cohen, 54, of 8 John St., Port Jefferson Station, is the owner and operator of the fuel-oil company, which is located at 500 Marconi Blvd.

Cohen pleaded not guilty to the charges before District Court Judge Gerard E'Emilio and was released after posting \$20,000 bail.

Charles Scopa, 23, of 460 Old Town Road, Port Jefferson Station, the arrested driver, was released on his own recognizance.

Henry said that more arrests will follow and added that the investigation is continuing to determine which, if any, other oil companies are involved.

He said that Cohen netted about \$100,000 a year from the scheme.

Gas Stations Caught Mislabeled Fuel

MANHATTAN Scores of city gasoline stations have been caught selling fuel from premium pumps, and such mislabeling may extend across the country, a congressman and the city's consumer affairs chief said yesterday.

The officials called for stiff measures to combat the mislabeling, including state licensing of gasoline stations and creation of a new Federal offense — gasoline mislabeling — carrying a \$10,000 fine.

"Drivers roll into gas stations and they get taken for a ride — in their own cars," said Representative Charles E. Schumer, Democrat of Brooklyn, whose district includes three stations frequently cited for mislabeling gasoline last year.

Inspectors found that 3 percent of the city's 2,700 gas stations mislabeled fuel in 1984. Mr. Schumer called that a sizable number that indicates "New York City consumers are getting defrauded up and down the line."

City Consumer Affairs Commissioner Angelo J. Aponte announced a suit against the most frequently cited station, U.S. Gas at 6501 Bay Parkway in the Bensonhurst section, and said city agents confiscated four of its five pumps yesterday morning.

The suit seeks to enjoin U.S. Gas from deceptive trade practices and to levy civil penalties up to \$50,000. U.S. Gas has 10 citations, Mr. Aponte said.

Mr. Aponte said the 135 stations cited by his department included 59 stations selling no-brand gas, 23 Getty, 17 Texaco, 12 Citgo, 12 Amoco, eight Mobil, three Gulf and one Sunoco. (AP)

Truck Driver Sentenced In Oil Shortchanging

A Nassau County Court judge yesterday sentenced an oil-truck driver to five years probation and 90 hours of community service for shortchanging the Massapequa school district by more than 1,600 gallons, authorities said.

Richard Divincenzo, 41, of Whitestone had pleaded guilty before Judge Marie Santagata to third-degree grand larceny on Jan. 7, along with his employer, Morgan Coal and Oil of Brooklyn. Santagata has ordered Morgan to make restitution of \$6,341 to the school district and pay a \$5,000 fine, said Nassau District Attorney spokesman Ed Grilli.

Grilli said authorities have also seized the Morgan oil truck that Divincenzo was driving when he was arrested April 14, 1986.

The district attorney is in litigation to keep the \$80,000 truck under a state statute allowing for forfeiture of property used in connection with a crime, he said. —Robin Topping

2 nabbed in \$1M gas-tax theft

By RUBEN ROSARIO and JERRY CAPECI

A Long Island gasoline wholesaler and a reputed mob associate were arrested yesterday on charges they stole more than \$1 million in gasoline taxes on sales of more than 11 million gallons of bootleg gasoline.

John Musacchia, the president of O.K. Petroleum, of Farmingdale, and his silent partner, Joseph Gambino, a reputed Luchese crime family associate, were arrested and charged with tax fraud and tax evasion in an eight-count indictment filed at the

new U.S. Court House in Hauppauge. The indictment was voted by the first grand jury to sit in the ultra-modern court house in an office complex on the West Drive.

Plead innocent

Musacchia, 51, of Heather Court in Dix Hills, and Gambino, 55, of Pacific St. in Massapequa, pleaded innocent before Federal Judge Leonard Weisler and were released on personal bonds of \$1 million for Musacchia and \$500,000 for Gambino.

According to the indictment, Musacchia and Gam-

mino stole \$270,000 in gasoline taxes in 1983 when O.K. Petroleum bought 3 million gallons of gasoline from another wholesaler without paying the required nine-cent excise taxes on each gallon of gas.

Continuing probe

Federal law enforcement sources say that four Mafia families—Gambino, Genovese, Luchese, and Colombo—currently share a 1½-cent "family tax" on each gallon of bootleg gasoline that is sold in the New York Metropolitan Area.

Edward McDonald, chief of

the Eastern District's Organized Crime Strike Force, said the indictment was part of a continuing probe of the Mob-infiltrated industry, which is said to rip off anyone from \$250 million to \$2 billion a year in excise taxes.

The indictment charges the men with stealing an additional \$770,000 in excise taxes in the first six months of 1984 through the purchase and re-sale of 8.6 million gallons of gasoline they obtained from a New Jersey company. The New Jersey company sold the gas directly to O.K. Petroleum but, through the use of false invoices, indicat-

ed that the gasoline had been sold to other Musacchia companies and that the excise taxes had been paid, when in fact they weren't.

If convicted, Musacchia faces 20 years in prison and fines of \$130,000. Gambino faces 15 years and \$120,000 in fines.

Strike Force deputy chief Laura Brevetti, who has headed a joint state and federal Oil and Gas Task Force since 1982, said that the task force has convicted more than 100 defendants, who have paid more than \$70 million in criminal fines and penalties.

PRESS-ENTERPRISE/Monday, January 11, 1988

3

Farmers reach end of rope Inspector finds bailing twine rolls short

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Press-Enterprise staff

BLOOMSBURG — County farmers are getting the short end of the rope, literally, when it comes to bailing twine, David Kovach, county sealer of weights and measures, said recently.

Reporting to the county commissioners, Kovach said a December check in supply houses found many 9,000-foot bails short by as little as 200 feet to as much as 1,700 feet. State inspectors surveyed five lots of about 100 bails each, he said.

Six hundred bails in Columbia County have been ordered held at the distributors, Kovach said.

The state bureau of weights and measures will decide what to do with the seized twine, he said. "They may have to be relabeled or they may be sent back to the manufacturer," Kovach said.

Twine is exported from Haiti, Brazil, Mexico, a country in Africa, he could not remember, and Portugal, according to Dean Ely, district supervisor for the bureau in Williamsport. The bails found short are from Haiti, Brazil and Portugal, he said.

Ely said he is unaware what plans may exist to fine or otherwise prosecute foreign companies selling shorted bails to American distributors. But, further checking will tell

whether manufacturers are correcting the problem, he said. A check is planned on bails now under way from Brazil, the bails probably will be checked right on the dock, Ely said.

"If they can straighten their acts out and get the labels on their products correct, that would be all right," he added.

He said local retailers probably will be made to relabel the product before it is sold. Relabeling is a penalty of sorts, because of the cost involved, he said.

Retailers, however, are caught in the middle, both Ely and Kovach said. They bought the product for resale in good faith, only to find the bails shorted.

And, in addition to being shorted, the twine failed checks of its tensile strength, the two said. Ely said preliminary checks show the twine breaks at 280 pounds of pressure, about 80 percent of the advertised tensile strength, 350 pounds.

He said the national bureau of standards asked Pennsylvania to

check for shorted balls after the problem surfaced in Oregon, Virginia and Canada.

The weights and measures bureau, within the state agriculture department, is responsible for checking all packaged goods, Ely said. Because of the twine discovery, the bureau is planning to scrutinize other packaged farm supplies, including fertilizers, seed corn and feeds, he said.

Consumer complains for change

Hartford Courant - 3/18/86
State agency orders West Hartford station to give cash rebates

By TERRY BARTLETT
Courant Staff Writer

When Cynthia Abrams got short-changed at a West Hartford gasoline station, she felt the amount was small but the principle was big.

Late last month, those missing two cents brought a cease-and-desist order against AC Automotive Inc., a Mobil service station at 1072 New Britain Ave.

The state Department of Consumer Protection ordered the station Feb. 26 to give motorists a discount off the pump price when they pay in cash.

State consumer officials said Abrams was correct when she wrote in her complaint letter March 10, 1985, that the action "is typical of many station owners in the area who are consistently 'nickeling' motorists every tankful."

Allan Nelson, chief of the Department of Consumer Protection's weights and measures division, said about 10 percent of the approximately 300 complaints his office receives each year concern cash rebates by gasoline stations. He said the problem stems from the practice of charging different prices for credit card and cash purchases.

Because state law prohibits stations from placing a surcharge on credit card purchases, the stations circumvent the rule by giving cash discounts instead, said Vic Rasheed, executive director of Service Station Dealers of America, based in Washington, D.C.

The computers on most pumps can handle only one price, so the credit card price is the one used. Attendants are supposed to refund money or give extra gasoline to cash customers, who make up about 70 percent of all gasoline purchasers in the state, Nelson said.

Rasheed said that many service stations began charging two prices in 1985, when some oil companies began charging dealers a surcharge for handling credit cards. He said the two-tier system has caused problems, sometimes because attendants pocket the money and sometimes because customers don't know they are entitled to rebates and drive away, he said.

State investigators looked into Abrams' complaint that she had been shortchanged by two cents at AC Automotive. They purchased gas on four occasions from the station, and failed to get their rebate three times, Nelson said.

If found guilty of cheating customers, a station owner could be fined from \$50 to \$300 for the first offense and \$500 to \$1,000 for each additional offense, Nelson said.

The AC Automotive case was handed over to consumer protection department attorneys, who issued the owner, Aldo Carducci, a cease-and-desist order for violating the state's Unfair Trade Practices Act, Nelson said.

Carducci said Monday that his station has a sign advertising cash rebates, and that it is his policy to give them. He said he has teenagers pumping gasoline for him and "I can't control everything they do." But, he noted, some of the attendants will run after people to give them rebates and some customers drive off without them.

BUCKS COUNTY-COURIER TIMES

171 citations are issued for scale violations

By James E. Stanton
Calkins Newspapers

Last year, the county issued 171 citations for various weight or measure infractions, according to Peggy H. Adams, chief sealer and director of the county Department of Consumer Protection. Fines totaled nearly \$20,000, she said.

Over the period of a year, the five deputy sealers for the Bucks County Department of Consumer Protection/Weights and Measures attempt to inspect some 10,500 scales, gasoline pumps and parking meters — all weighing and timing devices used in commerce.

Adams said most of the infractions are caused by manufacturers rather than the proprietors.

In 1985, for example, an inspection of 54,876 commodities on store shelves showed nearly 8,000 to be underweight or under count, Adams said.

In several cases, she said, consumers came out ahead because the commodities exceeded the required weight or count.

Once a discrepancy is found, the shelves are cleared of the commodity.

"The manufacturer is responsible for replacing the items," she said. "The store owner doesn't lose anything except the (temporary) ability to sell the item."

Adams said her inspectors are paying closer attention to packaging because of increased sales in bulk items.

Wrappers, she said, should not be included in the weight of such things as candy or meats.

"We found that the wrappings of catsups and mustards sold in bulk made up a substantial part of the weight," Adams said. "Also, wax wrappings made up a substantial portion of the weight of cheese."

Within the past year, a number of municipalities have begun maintenance programs for their parking meters.

Inspections by deputy sealers found many meters to be "short-changing" motorists by giving them less time than they paid for.

Tissue ticker

City counter nabs store owner whose rolls just didn't add up

By DAVID VIVIS
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — Most people probably never think about counting the number of sheets they get on a roll of toilet paper.

John Kelly does, but then again, he has to. It's his job.

Kelly is the director of the city's Division of Weights and Measures, and he recently caught somebody selling toilet paper that had fewer sheets than advertised.

It can be expensive business.

Ask Soon Song, the owner of John's Bargain Store at 1900 Atlantic Ave. He was just fined \$1,025 for the offense.

Song bought toilet paper packaged in cartons intended for industrial use. Laws regarding industrial packaging are a little looser than those in the regular consumer market, Kelly said.

Song got himself into trouble when he broke the case up and

sold the rolls one at a time, Kelly said. That amounts to a violation of state and federal consumer laws.

"When you buy by the case it doesn't really matter," he said. "When you buy one at a time, it does."

"So we took a couple of rolls and counted them."

It didn't take long to count the two rolls, Kelly said. The idea is to count off to 100, and then tear that section off and put it in a pile. When the roll is finished, you count the piles and add in the odd numbers.

One roll had 850 sheets and another had 790, he said.

Song pleaded guilty in Atlantic City Municipal Court before Judge Bruce Weekes to selling toilet paper rolls that did not have a ply count.

"I don't mind counting toilet paper," Kelly said. "It's not as bad as the time we had to count bloodworms sent down from Maine. That was awful."

PHOTOGRAPHS

Newspapers might assign a photographer to cover your event or item of interest. Hire a professional or use black and white 35 millimeter film. Choose items of unusual interest; i.e., an inspector doing an inspection, etc. (If you must, do it yourself.)

Use black and white photographs with sharp contrasts.

Photos should be glossy 8 X 10 or 5 X 7 crop photos with crop marks.

Do not use color or polaroids. Many newspapers cannot reproduce them.

Type a caption for each photo.

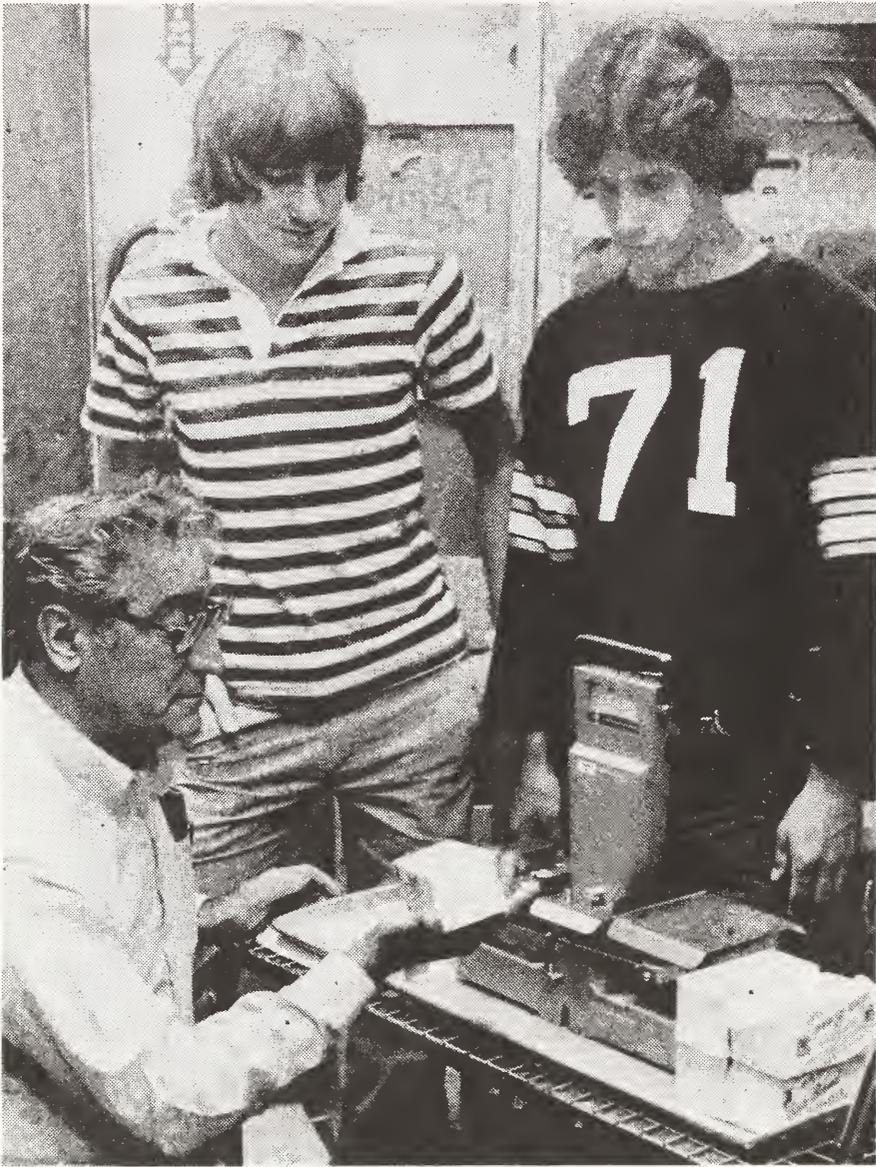
Type name and hometown of person in the photo.

Place information on lower half of typing paper.

Tape photo or use rubber cement to the paper. DO NOT staple or paper clip.

Identify photos with a label on the back of each photograph. DO NOT write on the front or back of the photograph, itself.

Mail photo in between cardboards.



A pound of flesh

STAR
2/26/85
88

Tod Miller of the County Weights and Measures Division conducts an inspection at a county supermarket, a reminder that next week is Weights and Measures Week. Here, Miller uses a counterweight to check the scale's accuracy.

DAVID KOVACH, COLUMBIA COUNTY
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES



Press-Enterprise/Bill Hughes

IN SEARCH OF ACCURACY — David Kovach, Columbia County's sealer of weights and measures displays some of the equipment that helps him keep scales and gauges on the mark. In Kovach's hand is the seal he affixes to a weight or measure after it has met with his approval.



COMMUNICATIONS - THE BROADCAST MEDIA

WORKING WITH THE BROADCAST MEDIA

The broadcast media has enormous reach, scope and impact. Television is unmatched for conveying action and commanding attention. Radio reaches listeners everywhere; all the time.

The nature of television news is storytelling. It relies on character, drama and conflict.

Television and radio interviews are "anti-conversational." You are communicating with an absent audience not just the interviewer.

They use the following to tell the story:

- * Live or recorded interviews
- * Panel discussions
- * One-time shows on a special topic
- * Public service announcements
- * Talk Shows
- * Newscasts
- * Community calendars
- * Editorials

Try to meet with any of the directors and producers, you expect to contact, fairly regularly. Find out how they want your releases, slides or pictures, etc. used. Ask them what their listeners want.

Many government and community groups are competing for the same PSA's. Have a definite plan and announcement prepared.

Occasionally you are in the position of being sought after by the media for information or comment. Be cooperative and candid. Think carefully before you comment. Questions and answers - There are various types of questions:

1. A focus question is one which allows you the opportunity to expand.
2. An avoidance question is one that you would rather not answer. The first way of handling that question is to acknowledge it by repeating key parts in positive terms.
3. A control question is one that you can pass back by noting some achievement and then redirecting it through a question to the interviewer.
4. A must question is a factual question.
5. The reporter often makes an assumption. If you disagree with the question, say so and clear it up; "Let me clarify....." or "Let me explain how I feel.....".

6. Answer incorrect and inflammatory sentences first. You have agreed with it, if you don't express your disagreement with the statement.
7. "Out of Bounds" questions are questions that don't involve you; i.e., "Do you agree with Ralph Nader?" or "What do you think of the governor?" Remove yourself from that area of questions, because once you permit one "Out of Bounds" question, you will have others.
8. "Loaded Question" - "Does your department pay enough to attract qualified employees?" A "yes" or "no" would be disastrous! You must be in control! Talk about the topic - Start a brand new sentence - Say, "I don't know", if you don't know or "I don't have those figures in front of me, but I will be happy to get them for you."
9. "Loaded preface" - "I understand you were convicted of a felony in Alabama in 1967. Tell me about your new job and why the budget was cut." If you don't answer it, you are in trouble. If it is true say, "Well that's true but that was a long time ago. We all make mistakes." If you don't answer it, the audience will assume you are guilty. Don't deny the truth. Tell the truth. Be responsible.
10. "Loaded Questions" - "Your agency is in trouble with your budget hearing. Do you think the legislature thinks Weights and Measures is unimportant or that you are overbudgeted?" You can say, "Neither is necessarily the case.....here's what the figures are....."
11. "Loaded Question" - "Are consumers having trouble getting their discount for cash because gas station attendants are crooks?" Say, "I believe the attendants are honest, it's just easier to forget about the cash discount, etc." Don't fall into the trap of calling the gas attendants dishonest, etc. That is what will be seen and heard, not any other thing.
12. "Hit List" - If you are given a list of 3 or 4 different items as charges stop the reporter and say, "Before we go on, let me clarify or explain what you said....." Otherwise you are convicted by charge 4.

Take time to think. Sometimes it is helpful to repeat the question to give yourself extra time.

Don't give inaccurate information as accurate. State that you are unfamiliar with the information and are not able to comment. If pressed about this type of information, suggest a source for it or that you will find out and report back to the interviewer. This situation can turn into a trap if you begin giving answers to questions that you do not know. There is nothing wrong with saying you don't know. Never lie to a reporter.

Make your key point up front. Be concise, realistic and convey a positive attitude. If someone with a varying opinion is questioned it is important that your case be strong.

If a reporter wants information you can't release, state that you can't release it.

Talk to the interviewer, not at him.

Do not be afraid to ask the interviewer to repeat the question.

Be careful about speaking "off the record." It may come back to haunt you. Do not confide in a reporter.

Be careful before the interview that the mike might be "live." Station owners and interviewers tape and anything you say is theirs and they can use it.

Don't call about non-stories. When you call, have something of interest to say.

Don't give personal opinions; you are still the Weights and Measures official.

Do not speak for everyone; i.e., "Tell me what you and your Weights and Measures friends feel about government interference." Say, "I am Director of Weights and Measures and my responsibilities are....."

If you are asked a question, "Why did the judge rule like that?" The reporter wants you to judge the judge. Say, "I really can't answer that. A decision has been made. We prepared our case and the judge or jury has made a decision. I have no other comment." If asked, "Do you think the judge is qualified?" Say, "I don't have that type of knowledge."

If asked, "Why was your budget cut?" Say, "I'm sorry it happened, but I will continue to see that our office continues our high quality....."

Try not to say "yes" or "no". Say, "Our policy in dealing with the situation is....." or "To the best of my knowledge....." A "yes" or "no" question is always followed by "why."

If there is an inaccuracy, go back and correct it.

Take care of one question at a time, if asked a lot of questions all at once.

Your comments will often be edited by someone else before they actually get to the audience. It is better to speak in small bursts. The first 50 words out of your mouth are the ones you want used.

A television impression often overrides substance. Your interview is a performance. You are a participant not just a respondent.

If there is any bad news, put it at the beginning of a newscast.

General Rules:

If you know you are going to an interview -

Have 3 or 4 points ready

Take cue cards with you

Tell the truth

Do not avoid questions; it doesn't work

Lastly - request a copy of the tape to critique yourself.

BROADCAST MEDIA

RADIO

1. Decide what you have to say - then ask if it is worth saying.
 - A. News Release
 - B. Public Service Announcements
2. Writing Your Message.
 - A. Style - 8½ X 11 heavy paper, triple spaced, all caps, no carbons.
 - B. Timing (length of Announcement of PSA.)
 - C. Rules to Remember when preparing your copy.
 1. Underline words for emphasis.
 2. Keep the copy simple and to the point.
 3. Use positive action words like "now" - "today". Radio has qualities of urgency and immediacy.
 4. 10 seconds = 10 to 25 words
20 seconds = 25 to 50 words
30 seconds = 55 to 75 words
60 seconds = 125 to 150 words

The average length of a newspot is 30 seconds or about 80 words.
5. Don't use tongue twisters and don't be vague.

Read your copy aloud to make sure it sounds right and is easy for an announcer to read.

Call your prepared news copy a news release.
6. Radio Tapes -
 - a. Use reel to reel tapes, as audio cassettes are inferior.
 - b. Use full track - ¼ inch tape with a speed of 7½ inches per second.

- c. Provide a complete range of PSA's - 10 to 60 seconds each.
 - d. Include a typed transcript of your copy
 - e. Label the tape and length.
7. Learn the station's deadlines.
 8. Talk Shows - Remember when on radio that you have to "paint pictures" for the listener. Use anecdotes to illustrate what you have to say.
 9. Call News Reporters - Give them a quick news story - what's happening, when, where, why and how. The station may want to interview you.
 10. News Releases - Issue a news release outlining events.

Include pertinent facts: date, broad description of events planned, comment on purpose and importance of the "Week".

At least two weeks before Weights and Measures Week, issue your news releases concerning Weights and Measures Week.

Find the deadline of each station, radio and television, as they may vary up to six weeks ahead of time.
 11. Be certain to list the contact person and telephone number at the top or bottom of your release.
 12. Put the date on the upper right hand portion of your release.
 13. Make certain you list the release date.

BY PROCLAMATION OF (GOVERNOR/MAYOR/COMMISSIONER) _____
MARCH 1-7 HAS BEEN SET ASIDE AS NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
WEEK TO HONOR THE (STATE/CITY/COUNTY) SEALERS WHO VIGILANTLY
PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND ASSURE ACCURACY IN ALL
COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS. 10 SECONDS

LOOK CLOSELY NEXT TIME YOU ARE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SUPERMARKET OR
SERVICE STATION. YOU'LL SEE APPROVAL SEALS ON THE SCALES OR THE GAS
PUMPS. THESE SEALS MEAN THAT YOUR (COUNTY/CITY/STATE) WEIGHTS AND
MEASURES INSPECTORS HAVE CHECKED THESE DEVICES FOR ACCURACY. THIS
YEAR MARKS THE _____ ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND
MEASURES ENFORCEMENT. DURING WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK, MARCH 1-7,
WE HONOR OUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTORS FOR THEIR HARD WORK
AND VIGILANCE IN THE MARKETPLACE. 25 SECONDS

YOUR COUNTY OR STATE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT PROTECTS
THE PUBLIC - CONSUMER AND MERCHANT ALIKE - IN CHECKING,
AND SEALING THOUSANDS OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES EACH
YEAR TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE ALL ACCURATE. THE CONSUMER IS
PROTECTED IN ASSURING FULL MEASURE. THE MERCHANT IS PRO-
TECTED TO INSURE HIM AGAINST GIVING AWAY ANY PART OF HIS
PROFITS THROUGH COSTLY OVERWEIGHT OR OVER-FLOW. SUPPORT
YOUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT DURING NATIONAL WEIGHTS
AND MEASURES WEEK, MARCH 1-7. 30 SECONDS

MARCH 1-7 HAS BEEN SET ASIDE AS NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK TO HONOR THE STATE, CITY, AND COUNTY SEALERS (INSPECTORS) WHO VIGILANTLY PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND ASSURE ACCURACY IN ALL COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

10 SECONDS

UNIFORMITY IN THE MARKETPLACE BEGAN 150 YEARS AGO WHEN CONGRESS DIRECTED THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TO DELIVER A SET OF BALANCES TO EACH GOVERNOR. A SET OF STANDARDS HAD BEEN ORDERED DELIVERED 152 YEARS AGO. WE SALUTE OUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTORS WHO ARE PROTECTING THE MERCHANT AND THE CONSUMER IN THEIR TRANSACTIONS IN THE MARKETPLACE.

20 SECONDS

WE SALUTE THE (CITY, COUNTY, STATE) WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTORS WHO PROTECT THE PUBLIC- CONSUMER AND MERCHANT ALIKE, IN INSPECTING AND CERTIFYING THOUSANDS OF WEIGHING, MEASURING AND TIMING DEVICES FOR ACCURACY. THE CONSUMER IS ASSURED FULL MEASURE AND THE MERCHANT IS PROTECTED FROM GIVING AWAY ANY PART OF HIS PROFITS. THIS YEAR MARKS THE _____ YEAR OF STATE PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE ASSURED UNIFORMITY ACROSS THE UNITED STATES THROUGH A RESOLUTION BY CONGRESS TO DELIVER A SET OF STANDARDS AND LATER A SET OF BALANCES TO EACH GOVERNOR. MARCH 1-7 IS NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK.

30 SECONDS

WHEN YOU VISIT YOUR LOCAL SERVICE STATION OR SUPERMARKET YOU WILL SEE THE SEALS OF APPROVAL OF YOUR STATE (COUNTY/CITY) WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIAL WHO HAS INSPECTED THESE DEVICES FOR ACCURACY. THIS YEAR MARKS THE _____ ANNIVERSARY WHEN CONGRESS ORDERED A SET OF STANDARDS AND THEN BALANCES TO BE DELIVERED TO EACH GOVERNOR. UNIFORMITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES MEANS EQUITY IN THE MARKETPLACE FOR BOTH THE CONSUMER AND THE MERCHANT. MARCH 1-7 IS NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK. WE SALUTE OUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTORS.

30 SECONDS

MARCH 1-7 HAS BEEN SET ASIDE AS WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK BY
PROCLAMATION OF (GOVERNOR/MAYOR/COMMISSIONER) _____.
IT HONORS THE (STATE/CITY/COUNTY) SEALERS WHO VIGILANTLY
PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND ASSURE ACCURACY IN WEIGHING
AND MEASURING IN ALL COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS. THEIR WORK
ASSURES THE BUYER AND SELLER OF HONEST WEIGHT - THAT WE GET
WHAT WE PAY FOR- NO MORE AND NO LESS. SUPPORT YOUR (STATE/
CITY/COUNTY) WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO
INSPECT THOUSANDS OF DEVICES AND COMMODITIES EACH YEAR IN
THEIR EFFORT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC WELFARE. FOR INFORMATION
CALL THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICE AT _____. 50 SECONDS

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK
PUBLIC SERVICE RADIO AND TV SPOT ANNOUNCEMENTS

When you make a purchase at the food store, fill your tank with gasoline at the service station or buy any merchandise by weight or measure, you pay according to what that weighing or measuring device indicates. You want to be sure that device is correct. But how can you be sure?

On March 2, 1799, the first Weights and Measures Law was signed by President John Adams. This law is your protection. For one hundred and eighty four years, Weights and Measures has continued to insure correct Weight and Measure.

Weights and Measures Officials are dedicated to the accuracy of your purchase. Officials test all weighing and volume measuring devices used in sales made to the public, and check over 200 billion packages annually to make sure they have correct labeling and weight. They work tirelessly to save customers money... and to safeguard merchants' businesses. Errors in either direction, over or under will cause someone to suffer.

The Week of March 1 thru 7, which has been set aside in observance of the signing of the first Weights and Measures Law, is our chance to salute the Weights and Measures Officials for the excellent job they have done in behalf of the public and the merchants.

Weights and Measures Officials, we at station _____, salute you!

BROADCAST MEDIA

YOU'RE ON CAMERA

YOU'RE ON CAMERA

1. Keep in mind the time limits - will you be making a 15 or 30 minute tape? Will you have enough material to fill that time?
2. Know your Material.
3. Organize Your Material - cover the most important points. End with a strong point.
4. Keep it simple - have an outline, if necessary, but do not read it; use it sparingly. This is one to one communication.
5. Avoid making agreeing noises and constantly nodding your head in agreement.
6. Look into the camera only when addressing the viewer.
7. Don't make nervous movements.
8. Don't smoke.
9. Pay attention to time cues.
10. Don't keep clearing your throat.
11. Sit still at end of taping session or program for a short period. Wait for someone to tell you that the camera is off.

TV APPEARANCE

Look good - no stripes or checks - particularly narrow stripes or small checks, since they produce a stroboscopic effect on television.

No loud colors - Many television sets distort color and you would look ridiculous in a red blazer that comes across as orange. Avoid wearing white, cream or pale suits or dresses, glossy fabrics or busy patterns. Don't wear vests as they make you look heavy. Don't wear rumpled clothing.

No flashy or highly polished jewelry that will reflect studio lights.

Skip the lapel button as it distracts viewers.

If the interview is in your office - no mountains of papers on the desk unless for demonstration purposes.

Check the mirror -

----Hair Okay?

----Glasses clean?

----Tie or scarf straight?

----Jacket pulled down in the back?

----Makeup okay?

IN THE STUDIO

Men should wear over the calf socks so ankles don't show. Be sure shoes are polished and in good repair.

Sit forward on the seat up close to the desk or table. If this is a casual interview - relax but be careful how you cross your legs. Find a comfortable position or you will appear strained.

Do not touch the microphone.

Sound natural on the voice test using the same voice level and tone you'll use during the taping.

Look alert and sincere.

Speak clearly; distinctly. Don't speak too fast or too slow.

Don't use acronyms or jargon as the general public doesn't understand that.

TV VISUALS

Remember that television is both a sound and a visual medium. The most common visual aid for a typed PSA is the 35 millimeter slide.

Art work or printing that is placed on a slide should be done professionally.

Type your name and office on a sticker to be placed on the top of the slide.

Protect the slide, when mailing, between two pieces of cardboard.

Do not send slides or tapes, if the station will not use them.

If you are being interviewed, find out what support material or equipment can be used.

Send background material to the interviewer ahead of time so that he or she is familiar with your Weights and Measures office.

If you are not able to handle such an interview, choose a person in your Weights and Measures Department who is articulate, knowledgeable and speaks easily.

Don't overuse statistics.

Tell them you want a cassette tape of the interview or program.

Contact your local, public access channels or cable operator. These services often have a community access program on their own channels. Contact them for a slot during Weights and Measures Week and also for a show to demonstrate the various inspections you are doing. - i.e. inspection of a gas pump, scale, parking meter, dryer at laundromat or possibly do a supermarket inspection.



COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC

ADDRESS

IT IS GOOD TO BE WITH YOU AND TELL THE "WEIGHTS AND MEASURES STORY"- THE STORY OF ONE OF THE EARLIEST OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES. ONE THAT PLAYS A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN THE DAILY LIVES OF ALL OF US.

WHAT PUBLIC SERVICE IS PERFORMED BY WEIGHTS AND MEASURES? THAT'S A FAIR QUESTION.

IT IS THE FUNCTION OF OUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT TO SEE THAT EQUITY PREVAILS IN ALL COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR DEPARTMENT TO SEE THAT BUYERS AND SELLERS RECEIVE OR GIVE FULL WEIGHT OR MEASURES.

EVERYDAY, CONSUMERS TAKE FOR GRANTED THE INTEGRITY OF WEIGHT DETERMINATIONS IN DOZENS OF THINGS HE DOES WITHOUT BEING AWARE THAT HE IS DOING IT. WHEN YOU GO TO THE STORE TO BUY FIVE POUNDS OF POTATOES, YOU EXPECT TO RECEIVE FIVE POUNDS OF POTATOES. WHEN YOU DRIVE YOUR CAR TO THE GASOLINE STATION AND ORDER TEN GALLONS, YOU EXPECT TO RECEIVE TEN GALLONS.

THE ROMAN ADAGE, "CAVEAT EMPTOR," WHICH HAS SERVED THROUGH THE AGES AS THE WARNING OF "LET THE BUYER BEWARE" ON THE MATTERS OF QUANTITY HAS LOST MUCH OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS COUNTRY-AT LEAST IN THOSE JURISDICTIONS WHICH ADEQUATELY SUPPORT THE ENFORCEMENT OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES LAWS. THE VERY FACT THAT SO FEW PEOPLE TODAY KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT AGE-OLD MAXIM, "CAVEAT EMPTOR," IS A TRIBUTE TO THE PROGRESS OF OUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IN PROVIDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES FAVORABLE TO AN ATMOSPHERE OF CUSTOMER CONFIDENCE IN THE MERCHANT. AND FOR TODAY'S MERCHANDISING THAT CONFIDENCE IS MOST ESSENTIAL TO THE HIGH SPEED, MASS HANDLING OF HUGE VOLUME AT BOTH RETAIL AND WHOLESALE LEVELS.

THE DELIVERY OF FULL QUANTITIES AND THE ELIMINATION OF MISREPRESENTATION ARE UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF YOUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTORS. HUNDREDS OF PAINSTAKING TESTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING ABOUT THIS ATMOSPHERE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAWS AGAINST QUANTITY MISREPRESENTATION. THUS, WE ARE ABLE TO BUY WITH LITTLE FEAR OF GETTING LESS THAN WE PAY FOR. THE MERCHANT-SELLERS MOST OF WHOM ARE PERFECTLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD, FAVOR GOOD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ENFORCEMENT. IT PROTECTS THEM FROM GIVING OVERWEIGHT, AS WELL AS UNDERWEIGHT. ADDITIONALLY, IT PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR FAIR COMPETITION BY ELIMINATING THE UNDERPRICE ARTIST WHO OFFSETS THE LOSS IN PRICE BY SHORTWEIGHTING THE BUYER.

OFTEN WEIGHING MISTAKES ARE MADE IN WHICH THE SELLER LOSES MONEY WITHOUT EVER KNOWING IT. HIS SCALES MAY BE OLD, WORN OUT, OR SLOW. HE MAY BE GIVING AWAY MORE OF HIS GOODS

THAN HE CHARGES FOR, WIPING OUT PART OR ALL OF HIS LEGITIMATE PROFITS.

AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR, YOUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTORS TEST THE SCALES AND MEASURING DEVICES USED IN COMMERCE, TO PROTECT THE BUYER AND THE SELLER. IT IS THEIR DUTY TO MAKE CERTAIN THROUGH THE REGULAR INSPECTION THAT WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT IS CORRECT AND THAT FALSE AND INCORRECT SCALES AND MEASURES ARE NOT USED. THIS INCLUDES EVERY TYPE AND SIZE OF SCALE; LINEAR MEASURES USED IN SELLING YARD GOODS; GASOLINE AND KEROSENE PUMPS AT SERVICE STATIONS; PETROLEUM METERS; VARIOUS TIMING DEVICES, MOISTURE METERS ETC.

THE ENFORCEMENT OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACCURACY REQUIREMENTS AFFECTS THE PERSONAL WELFARE OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL. NEARLY HALF OF THE INCOME OF THE AVERAGE FAMILY IS USED TO PURCHASE NECESSITIES BOUGHT BY WEIGHT OR MEASURE. THUS YOU CAN REALIZE HOW ESSENTIAL IT IS THAT ACCURATE INSTRUMENTS ARE USED TO DETERMINE QUANTITIES. THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE BY HAVING THOSE INSTRUMENTS TESTED AND SEALED AS CORRECT. IN BUYING AND SELLING, POUNDS AND OUNCES ARE DOLLARS AND CENTS WHICH ADD UP TO LARGE SUMS OVER A BRIEF PERIOD OF TIME- A VERY SHORT TIME WHEN THERE ARE MULTIPLE TRANSACTIONS. IT IS OUR AIM TO PROTECT BOTH THE MERCHANT AND THE BUYER SO THAT ALL MAY RECEIVE FULL VALUE FOR THEIR MONEY.

ALL TYPES OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES ARE SUBJECT TO WEAR AND TEAR, THE SAME AS ANY OTHER PIECE OF DELICATELY ADJUSTED MECHANISM THAT IS IN CONSTANT USE. A SCALE MAY BALANCE PERFECTLY WELL WITH NO WEIGHT ON IT, BUT WHEN THE TEST WEIGHTS ARE PLACED ON THE PLATFORM, SIZABLE ERRORS MAY BE REVEALED IN ITS WEIGHING RANGE. EVEN AN ERROR OF 1 OR 2% IS SIZABLE ENOUGH TO PUT A SMALL BUSINESS OUT OF BUSINESS.

IN ADDITION TO INSPECTING THE WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT, IT IS NECESSARY TO FOLLOW THROUGH TO MAKE CERTAIN IT IS BEING PROPERLY USED TO DELIVER FULL WEIGHT OR MEASURE. AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THIS WORK IS THE WEIGHING, MEASURING AND CHECKING OF PACKAGED GOODS AND THE DELIVERIES OF COMMODITIES SUCH AS BREAD, VEGETABLES, BUTTER, MEATS, ETC. THESE ITEMS ARE CHECKED AT THE POINT OF SALE AND DURING IN PLANT INSPECTIONS FOR NET WEIGHT.

IF THE PACKAGE WEIGHTS ARE NOT UP TO STANDARDS, THE PRODUCTS ARE WITHDRAWN FROM THE SHELVES. WARNINGS OR PROSECUTIONS WITH FINES AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES MAY BE INVOKED. PROSECUTIONS HAVE A FAR REACHING EFFECT. THEIR REAL VALUE IS NOT REPRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF THE FINE IMPOSED, BUT IN CURBING DISHONEST PRACTICES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE CAUSE THE LOSS OF MANY TIMES THAT AMOUNT. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE ACTIVE IN PROSECUTING SHORT WEIGHT VIOLATORS RESTRAINS MANY OTHERS FROM ATTEMPTING SIMILAR PRACTICES. THUS THE

HONEST MERCHANT IS PROTECTED FROM UNFAIR COMPETITION OF THE OTHER FELLOW. THE MOST VICIOUS FORM OF UNFAIR COMPETITION IS THE UNDERSELLING MERCHANT WHO MAKES UP FOR THE LOW PRICE WITH SHORT WEIGHT. THE BUYER SHOULD WATCH THAT THE SCALE AND THE PUMP START AT ZERO AND SHOULD NOTE THE QUANTITY DELIVERED.

YOUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTOR CANNOT BE PRESENT AT EVERY TRANSACTION. THE BUYING PUBLIC HAS DEFINITE RESPONSIBILITIES AND SHOULD INSIST ON GOOD MERCHANDISING PRACTICES. COOPERATION OF THIS KIND SHOULD RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS TO BUYERS AND WILL GIVE SUPPORT TO HONEST MERCHANTS WHO STRIVE FOR "SIXTEEN OUNCES TO THE POUND" AS THE PARAMOUNT POLICY OF THEIR TRADE.

ALL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IN THE UNITED STATES ARE BASED ON THE STANDARD POUND AND THE STANDARD METER OF LENGTH, KEPT AT THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. OUR STANDARDS ARE BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS KEPT IN PARIS. THIS BRANCH OF SCIENCE IS THE TECHNOLOGY OF MEASUREMENT - KNOWN AS METROLOGY.

EVEN AMONG PRIMITIVE PEOPLE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WAS CONSIDERED A BASIC ESSENTIAL. BUILDERS OF THE PYRAMIDS CENTURIES BEFORE CHRIST USED THE CUBIT AS A UNIT OF MEASUREMENT, THE DISTANCE FROM A MAN'S ELBOW TO THE END OF HIS FINGER. IN ENGLAND, DURING THE 12TH CENTURY, THE FOOT WAS DEFINED AS THE LENGTH OF THREE BARLYCORNS TAKEN FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE EAR AND LAID END TO END.

WHEN EARLY PEOPLE LOOKED ABOUT THEM TO FIND SOMETHING THEY COULD USE AS STANDARD WEIGHT, IT OCCURRED TO THEM THAT GRAINS OR SEEDS COULD BE USED SATISFACTORILY FOR WEIGHING PRECIOUS THINGS. OF COURSE THE ADVANTAGE OF USING SEEDS IS THAT "ON THE AVERAGE" THE WEIGHT OF THE SEED OF A CERTAIN PLANT IS VERY MUCH LIKE THE WEIGHT OF AN IDENTICAL NUMBER OF THE SAME TYPE OF SEED. GRAINS OF BARLEY AND WHEAT WERE VERY COMMON AS EARLY WEIGHTS. THE SEED OF A CAROB BECAME A COMMON WEIGHT IN EASTERN COUNTRIES AND FROM IT OUR WEIGHT, THE "CARAT", USED IN WEIGHING DIAMONDS. IN OUR MODERN TABLE OF WEIGHTS FOR GOLD, SILVER AND DRUGS, THE SMALLEST WEIGHT IS THE "GRAIN". THERE ARE 5760 GRAINS IN THE TROY AND APOTHECARY POUNDS AND 7000 GRAINS IN ONE AVOIRDUPOIS POUND.

THE STORY OF THE POUND SEEMS TO BEGIN WITH THE GREEKS. ITS NAME COMES FROM A WORD MEANING "THE WEIGHT". THE POUND BECAME A VERY IMPORTANT MEASURE DURING THE ROMAN TIMES. THE ROMANS SPREAD THE USE OF THE POUND, THE FOOT AND THE MILE OVER THE WHOLE ROMAN EMPIRE.

THE STORY OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND OF WEIGHING DEVICES IS A LONG ONE - GOING BACK FAR BEYOND THE DAWN OF HISTORY. THE BIBLE IS FULL OF REFERENCES TO IT; A "FALSE BALANCE IS AN ABOMINATION TO THE LORD," SAYS ONE REFERENCE. TODAY'S SCALES BEAR LITTLE RESEMBLANCE TO THOSE CRUDE BALANCE

SCALES OF ANTIQUITY. YET DESPITE ITS EARLY CRUDITY, SCALES HAVE MADE AN ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO OUR WAY OF LIFE. WITHOUT THEM, TRADE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SIMPLY COULD NOT BE CARRIED ON AS WE KNOW IT. GOODS ARE BOUGHT AND SOLD BY WEIGHT; WAGES OR BONUSES IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES ARE PAID BY WEIGHT OF WORK DONE; TAXES ARE COLLECTED ON MANY ITEMS BY WEIGHT; WEIGHT IS USED FOR ACCOUNTING AND INVENTORY PURPOSES; SCALES ARE OFTEN THE BRAIN OF AUTOMATIC MACHINES CONTROLLING PRODUCTION IN MODERN FACTORIES; IN HUNDREDS OF WAYS, WE DEPEND ON THE ACCURACY OF DETERMINATIONS OF WEIGHT, LENGTH AND MEASURE.

IN GEORGE WASHINGTON'S FIRST MESSAGE TO CONGRESS, HE CALLED UPON CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES UNIFORM THROUGHOUT THE NATION AS AN AID TO COMMERCE. THIS HAS BEEN DONE ALTHOUGH THE ACTUAL REGULATION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IS LEFT TO THE STATES.

IN ACTUAL PRACTICE ALMOST EVERY MAJOR CITY AND MANY COUNTIES HAVE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENTS AS DOES EACH STATE.

THE LAW IMPOSES AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY ON THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT. WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION TO MEET THIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT IS A LARGE ASSIGNMENT, REQUIRING PUBLIC INTEREST. YOUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT IS AS GOOD AS THE MANPOWER AND FACILITIES, OR MONEY ALLOTTED FOR THE WORK. TO BE FULLY EFFECTIVE, WE NEED THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF BUSINESS AND THE PUBLIC. THESE LAWS WERE ENACTED FOR YOUR PROTECTION AND IT IS IN YOUR INTEREST TO GIVE THEM YOUR WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT.

NOTE- (BEFORE YOU END YOUR SPEECH, TELL ABOUT YOUR DEPARTMENT - HOW MANY INSPECTORS, WHAT THEY DO, STATISTICS ON DEVICES AND ITEMS INSPECTED, REJECTED, FINES ETC.. ALSO TELL THE LOCATION OF YOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBER.)

THIS SPEECH WAS TAKEN FROM A SPEECH PREPARED FOR NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK BY J. ELLIS BOWEN, SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OF NEWTON CENTRE, MASS WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION. THE SPEECH APPEARED IN THE JANUARY 1962 SCALE JOURNAL. YOU MAY ADD OR DELETE ANY PART OF THE SPEECH.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH INDUSTRY

NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK
March 1 to 7



1. Contact regional or state offices of trade associations or companies located in your state, city, or county.
 - a. Try to plan weights and measures activities such as use of logo in advertising, on bags, placemats, etc.
 - b. Plan television or radio ads with industry such as an equipment manufacturer or oil company showing a weights and measures inspector testing a gasoline pump. Use the NCWM logo.
- 2 During the year contact industry and businesses in your jurisdiction for the following:
 - a. Prior to the NCWM Annual Meeting or the Interim Meeting contact them for their viewpoints and suggestions for changes or amendments to Handbooks 44, 130, 133.
 - b. Inform them of new changes in the handbooks and send information packets.
 - c. Meet with them to demonstrate and explain new laws.
 - d. Ask businesses and industry to demonstrate new equipment for you and your inspectors.
 - e. Contact packers and manufacturers when you have rejected their products to see how the problem can be resolved.
 - f. Request the use of some equipment for displays and exhibits.



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DALE L. LOCKER
Director

8995 E. Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068
TELEPHONE: (614) 866-6361

RICHARD F. BELLESTE
Governor

Department of Agriculture Rule
for the
Labeling of Kerosene and Type of Retail Dispensing Device

RULE 901:6-1-06

- (A) ALL KEROSENE KEPT, OFFERED, EXPOSED FOR SALE, OR SOLD SHALL CONSPICUOUSLY BE IDENTIFIED AS NO. 1-K OR NO. 2-K. ANY OTHER QUALITY REPRESENTATION MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE SHALL ALSO BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON THE FACE OF THE CONTAINER AND/OR DISPENSING DEVICE.
- (B) ALL RETAIL KEROSENE METERING DEVICES SHALL DISPLAY THE PRICE PER GALLON OR PRICE PER LITER (NOT INCLUDING SALES TAX).
- (C) ALL RETAIL KEROSENE METERING DEVICES SHALL HAVE THE CAPABILITIES TO INDICATE THE AMOUNT OF FUEL DELIVERED DURING A SINGLE RETAIL TRANSACTION.
- (D) ALL RETAIL KEROSENE METERING DEVICES SHALL HAVE THE CAPABILITIES TO REGISTER THE SELLING PRICE PER UNIT (NOT INCLUDING SALES TAX).
- (E) ALL RETAIL KEROSENE METERING DEVICES SHALL HAVE THE CAPABILITIES TO REGISTER THE TOTAL SELLING PRICE (NOT INCLUDING SALES TAX) FOR A SINGLE RETAIL TRANSACTION.
- (F) AS OF JANUARY 1, 1985, STOP OR STROKE-TYPE PUMPS SHALL NOT BE USED IN COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF NO. 1-K OR NO. 2-K KEROSENE AND ALL RETAIL KEROSENE DISPENSING DEVICES SHALL HAVE THE CAPABILITIES REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPHS (B), (C), (D) AND (E).

Promulgated under R.C. Chapter 119
Statutory Authority R.C. §901.10
Amplifies R.C. §1327.57

Whoever violates this rule is in violation of Section 1327.61 of the Ohio Revised Code. Whoever violates Section 1327.61 of the Ohio Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree on first offense and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$750.00 or by imprisonment for not more than 3 months, or both, on each subsequent offense such person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1000.00 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

PROCLAMATIONS

NATIONAL WEIGHTS
& MEASURES WEEK
March 1 to 7



State of



Connecticut

By His Excellency WILLIAM A. O'NEILL, Governor: an

Official Statement

Weights and Measures is one of the oldest and most important functions of government. The necessity for weights and measures standards and the need to apply those standards to commercial transactions were recognized by the earliest civilizations. This necessity has been followed through the centuries to modern times.

With a growing awareness of the greater need for consumer protection, the importance of uniform weights and measures has increased. Accurate and clear labeling of goods and products is a necessity for anyone trying to fill specific needs or compare quantity, capacity or price.

Scales and measuring devices can become obsolete or malfunction. However, they will continue to give information, even if it is incorrect, until it is tested and corrected or replaced.

In Connecticut, it is the responsibility of the inspectors in the Division of Weights and Measures of the Department of Consumer Protection to inspect and test commercially-used weighing and measuring devices and report and certify their condition to users and to the government. This protects both consumers and businesses from incorrect quantity determinations.

Each year, the first week of March is set aside to commemorate the enactment of our nation's first Weight and Measures Law in 1799, and to make the public even more aware of the importance of this law.

Therefore, in conjunction with the national celebration of the 185th anniversary of our country's Weights and Measures Law, and in tribute to the dedicated men and women who work diligently to protect the interests of consumers, businesses and government in this area of critical importance, I am pleased to designate March 1 through 7, 1984 as National Weights and Measures Week in Connecticut.



William A. O'Neill
Governor.



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

WHEREAS: To meet the public need of standard weights and measures, the United States Congress enacted the first weights and measures law on March 1, 1799; and

WHEREAS: The custodian of the national standards of length and mass, the National Bureau of Standards, was created on March 3, 1901; and

WHEREAS: The use of honest weights and measures is important for the economic well-being of our state and for the daily lives of our citizens; and

WHEREAS: The proper administration of weights and measures laws is necessary to safeguard the interests of all those engaged in buying and selling commodities; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia has recognized these needs as a prerequisite to an orderly and equitable commerce by establishing a Weights and Measures Division in the Department of Agriculture; now

THEREFORE: I, Joe Frank Harris, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the week of March 1 - 7, 1984, as "WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK" in Georgia, and commend this observance to all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed. This 22nd day of February, 1984.



Joe Frank Harris
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Tom Sanders
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Proclamation

WHEREAS, March 2, 1984 will mark the 185th Anniversary of the first enactment by the Congress of the United States of a weights and measures law, citing the necessity for standard weights and measures enforcement as a public service; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has recognized the importance of standard weights and measures enforcement by establishing its own Bureau of Standard Weights and Measures in the Department of Internal Affairs in 1911; and

WHEREAS, the County of Bucks has maintained a local program of weights and measures enforcement since January, 1928; and

WHEREAS, Peggy H. Adams, Director of Bucks County's Consumer Protection - Weights and Measures Department in Bucks County, along with our local officials, are continuing to perform their duty of inspecting all weighing and measuring devices within the limits of this jurisdiction to insure "fair play" in all commercial transactions for the protection of all citizens of the County of Bucks, whether they be buyers or sellers; and

WHEREAS, Peggy H. Adams is the Pennsylvania Chairman of Weights and Measures Week and Co-Chairman of National Weights and Measures Week; and

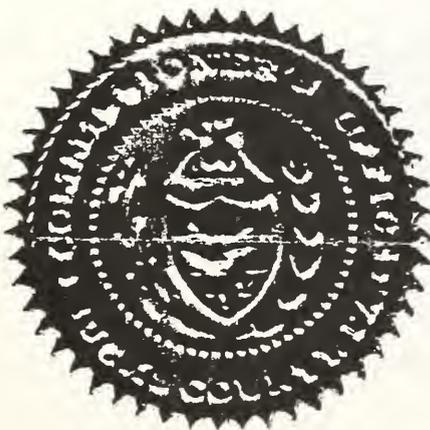
WHEREAS, March 1, 1984 through March 7, 1984 will be observed nationally as "Weights and Measures Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, do we, the Board of Bucks County Commissioners, Carl F. Fonash, Chairman, Lucille M. Trench and Andrew L. Warren hereby proclaim the week of March 1 through 7, 1984 as "WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK" in the County of Bucks. In so doing, we urge all residents of Bucks County to recognize the very valuable contribution which state and local weights and measures officials are making to the welfare of our community.


Carl F. Fonash
Chairman


Lucille M. Trench


Andrew L. Warren




Chief Clerk
February 29, 1984



TOWN OF GREENWICH

Town Hall • 101 Field Point Road • Greenwich, CT 06830

PROCLAMATION

Office of
First Selectman
(203) 622-7710

Roger J. Pearson
First Selectman

WHEREAS, on March 2, 1799, the Congress of the United States enacted its first weights and measures law citing the necessity of standards of weights and measures, and

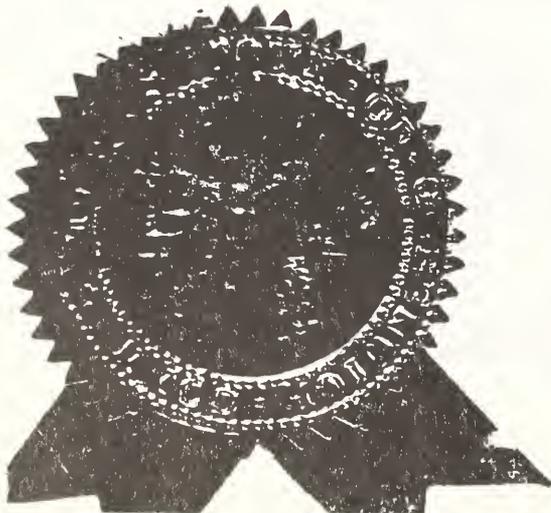
WHEREAS, the Town of Greenwich has recognized this need in establishing a Department of Weights and Measures which has regularly functioned for the public good, and

WHEREAS, it is the duty and function of said Department of Weights and Measures to inspect all weighing and measuring devices within the Town of Greenwich for the protection of all citizens, whether buyer or seller,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROGER J. PEARSON, First Selectman of the Town of Greenwich, do hereby proclaim that period between March 1st through March 7th as

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

and do hereby urge our citizens to recognize the valuable contribution to the economic welfare of our Town being made by the Department of Weights and Measures.




Roger J. Pearson, First Selectman

Dated this 27th day of February,
1984 at Greenwich, Connecticut



STATE OF ALABAMA

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the Weights and Measures Division of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries is an integral division of our State's government; and

WHEREAS, the employees of the Weights and Measures Divisions are responsible for ensuring that all measuring and weighing devices used in public sales are accurate; and

WHEREAS, weights and measures officials act as third parties in every public business transaction, whether at the gas station or in the grocery store, in an effort to protect both buyer and seller; and

WHEREAS, weights and measures officials perform their duties quietly and without recognition; and

WHEREAS, on the week of March 1 through 7, National Weights and Measures Week will be celebrated throughout the United States, whereby weights and measures officials will drop their anonymity and step into the spotlight of appreciation for the job they do in behalf of the public merchants:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George C. Wallace, Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim the week of March 1 - 7, 1984 as

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

in Alabama, and urge all citizens in Alabama to join in celebrating this week and express their gratitude to the weights and measures officials for their tireless efforts to save consumers money and to safeguard business.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Alabama to be affixed by the Secretary of State at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this the 8th day of February, 1984.



George C. Wallace
GEORGE C. WALLACE
GOVERNOR

ATTEST
Don Siegelman
DON SIEGELMAN
SECRETARY OF STATE

Proclamation

The American public should be confident that when a package says "one pound" there is one full pound in the package and that accuracy may prevail in all commercial transactions.

Protection is needed by the consumer in all areas of business, and the accuracy of every scale, gasoline pump, fuel oil indicator, rental vehicle odometer, weighing and measuring device used in commercial transactions must be constantly verified for accuracy.

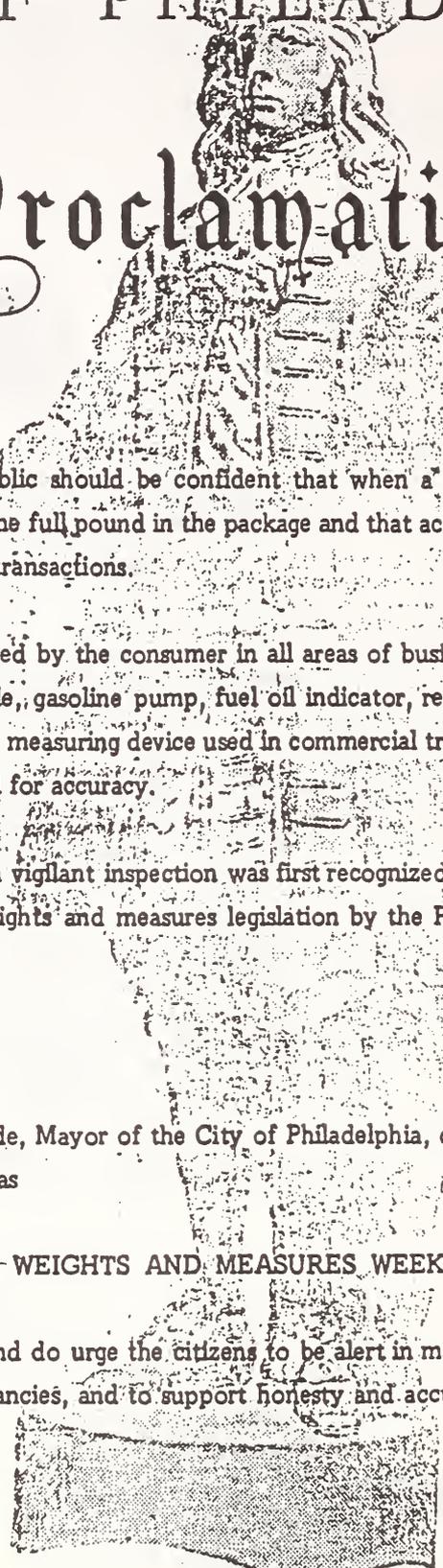
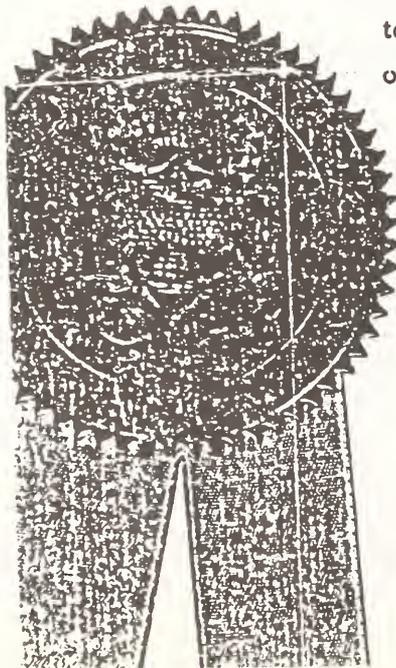
The need for such vigilant inspection was first recognized in Philadelphia by the signing of weights and measures legislation by the President 185 years ago this month.

THEREFORE . . .

I, W. Wilson Goode, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby proclaim March 5-9, 1984 as

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

in Philadelphia, and do urge the citizens to be alert in making all purchases, to report discrepancies, and to support honesty and accuracy in all aspects of trade.



W. Wilson Goode
Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 189 years ago on March 2, 1799, the Congress of the United States Enacted its first Weights and Measures Laws; and,

WHEREAS, the laws was based on the necessity of standards of Weights and Measures, the need of examining and trying Weights and Measures devices and the need for uniformity; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Atlantic City has recognized this need in establishing a Department of Weights and Measures; and,

WHEREAS, since adoption in the year 1902 by City Council, as Ordinance No. 60 in the City of Atlantic City, this department has functioned regularly in the public good; and,

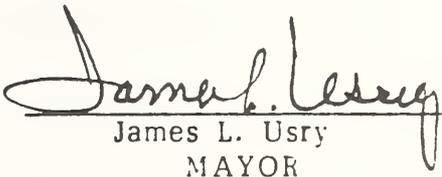
WHEREAS, said Department of Weights and Measures has continued to perform its duties of inspecting all weighing and measuring devices within the limits of this jurisdiction to insure equity in all commercial transactions for the protection of all citizens of our city, whether they be the buyer or the seller.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES L. USRY, Mayor of the City of Atlantic City do hereby proclaim that the period of March 1st through 7th, 1988 be:

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

in the City of Atlantic City and do hereby urge our citizenry to take cognizance of and recognize the very valuable contribution to the economic welfare of the communities of this nation being made by the Department of Weights and Measures in their respective cities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the City of Atlantic City, New Jersey on this 1st day of March, Nineteen hundred and eighty-eight.


James L. Usry
MAYOR



Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he hereby is directed to cause a complete set of all the weights and measures adopted as standards, and now either made or in the progress of manufacture for the use of the several custom-houses, and for other purposes, to be delivered to the Governor of each State in the Union, or such person as he may appoint, for the use of the States respectively, to the end that an uniform standard of weights and measures may be established throughout the United States.

Approved, June 14, 1836.

Resolution No. 7 of the 24th Congress of the United States, Session I, 1836

Proclamation

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK
March 1 - 7, 1987

WHEREAS, March 2, 1987 will mark the 188th anniversary of the first enactment by the Congress of the United States of weights and measures law, citing the necessity for standard weights and measures enforcement as a public service; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda has recognized the importance of standard weights and measures enforcement by establishing its own Department of Weights and Measures in 1915; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda has maintained a local program of weights and measures enforcement since 1915; and

WHEREAS, Patrick E. Nichols, Director of Alameda County's Weights and Measures Department, along with our local officials, are continuing to perform their duty of inspecting all weighing and measuring devices within the limits of this jurisdiction to ensure "fairplay" in all commercial transactions for the protection of all citizens of the County of Alameda, whether they be buyers or sellers; and

WHEREAS, March 1 through March 7, 1987 will be observed nationally as "Weights and Measures Week";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California, does hereby proclaim the week of March 1 through 7, 1987 as "WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK" in Alameda County, and urges all County merchants and residents to recognize the very valuable contribution which State and local weights and measures officials are making to the welfare of our community.


EDWARD H. CAMPBELL, CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT


CHARLES SANTANA
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT


DON VENATA
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT


ROBERT G. KNOX
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT


JOHN GEORGE
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT



Office of the Governor

Rose Mofford
Governor

PROCLAMATION

* ARIZONA WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK *

WHEREAS, 190 years ago, on March 2, 1799, the Congress of the United States enacted its first Weights and Measures Law, citing the necessity of standard weights and measures, the need of weights and measures as a public service, the need of examining and trying weights and measures devices and the need of uniformity since all business and commerce function on a weight or measure; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona has recognized this need by establishing a Department of Weights and Measures to administer and enforce all laws governing the uniformity of weights and measures standards and to regulate all commercial practices in the area of quantity determination; and

WHEREAS, said Department of Weights and Measures has continued to perform its duties to insure equity in all commercial transactions for the protection of all citizens of the State of Arizona, whether they be the buyer or the seller; and

WHEREAS, March 1 through March 7, 1989, will be observed nationally as "Weights and Measures Week";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rose Mofford, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim March 1 through March 7, 1989, as

* ARIZONA WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK *

and urge our citizenry to take cognizance of and recognize the valuable contribution to the economic welfare of the communities of this nation being made by the Departments of Weights and Measures in their respective states, counties and cities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



Rose Mofford
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this the twenty-first day of February in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-nine and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirteenth.

ATTEST:

Jim Shumway
Secretary of State



NEWSLETTERS ANNUAL REPORTS

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DICK THORNBURGH, Governor
RICHARD E. GRUBB, Secretary



VOL. 71

Harrisburg, March 18, 1986

No. 4



INSECTICIDE DETECTION TOOL — Dr. Gerard Florentine, operations coordinator, pesticide section of the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry, (far left) demonstrates the proper use of a new insecticide detection tool for Inspectors Monte Furry and Heather Koeberte, pesticide inspectors for the Department, and Joe Uram, pesticide case reviewer. The demonstration was part of a three-day training session for approximately 18 bureau inspectors and supervisors at the Department in early March.

Pesticide Profile Underway

Representatives of the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service conducted interviews during March for the 1985 Pesticide Use Profile, according to state Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Grubb.

The objective of the survey is to collect current information from applicators and farmers concerning pesticide utilization in the Conewago (West), Elk and Pequea Watersheds. This information will be added to the existing database of the Commonwealth's Chesapeake Bay Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement Program," said Grubb.

The profile addresses a range of topics including:

- ▶ total amount of pesticides used on selected crops
- ▶ application rates of pesticides
- ▶ farmers' use of integrated pest management

Crops planted in the fall of 1984 and spring of 1985 are the focus of the project. Crops planted in 1985 and abandoned because of poor stand, late freeze, drought or other disaster should also be included.

"The results, which will be kept confidential, will be used in designing follow-up educational programs to aid pesticide users in maximizing the efficiency and safety of pesticide utilization. In short, the project will assist all users of pesticides in the state,"

(Continued on back)

Pennsylvania Red Meat Production Up In January

Pennsylvania's January commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, totaled 86.4 million pounds, up eight percent from January 1985, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

Beef slaughter, at 117.3 million pounds liveweight, was up 21 percent from January 1985. Total head slaughtered was 98,300, up 18 percent and liveweight averaged 1,193, an increase of 31 pounds. Veal slaughter was 4.4 million pounds liveweight, three percent below last

year. Calf slaughter of 25,900 head was down six percent. The average liveweight increased five pounds to 170 pounds.

Hog slaughter, at 30.6 million pounds liveweight, was down 14 percent from a year earlier. Total head slaughtered was 131,800, down 13 percent; average liveweight decreased four pounds to 232 pounds. Lamb and mutton slaughter was one million pounds liveweight, down 28 percent. The number slaughtered was 9,200, down 31 percent. However, the average liveweight increased four

pounds to 110 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production in January totaled 3.48 billion pounds, up two percent from January 1985. Comparing January 1986 with January 1985, beef production at 2.14 billion pounds was up four percent. Cattle kill at 3.33 million head was up two percent, and average liveweight increased 20 pounds to 1,100. Veal production at 46 million pounds was up 10 percent from last year. Calf slaughter at 307,000 head was up seven percent,

and average liveweight increased seven pounds to 249.

Pork production totaled 1.27 billion pounds, down one percent. Hog kill totaled 7.19 million head, declining two percent. Average liveweight increased one pound to 246 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 31 million pounds, was down three percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 518,000 head, down seven percent. Liveweight averaged 118 pounds, three pounds heavier than a year earlier.

Weights/Measures Week Noted

Secretary Grubb called upon Pennsylvanians to tip their hats to the men and women who assure consumers a reliable system of weights and measures by noting the importance of National Weights and Measures Week, March 1-7.

Grubb said the efforts of state and local inspectors to assure fair transactions in the marketplace deserves special recognition during National Weights and Measures Week.

"What they do to guarantee consumer protection and product integrity benefits all of us, buyers and sellers," said Grubb.

Enforcement of weights and measures laws rests with the Department's Bureau of Standard Weights

and Measures and with local sealers and inspectors in counties across the commonwealth.

"Everything they do impacts on our daily lives, and is indispensable to the economy, to consumers and merchants," Grubb said. "The value of their service is beyond measure. Their responsibilities touch nearly all aspects of our lives, from checking the scales at supermarkets to the timing devices at car washes."

The nationwide observance is recognition of one of the oldest and most important government activities. The first weights and measures law was enacted in the United States in 1799.

Vegetable Research Projects Approved

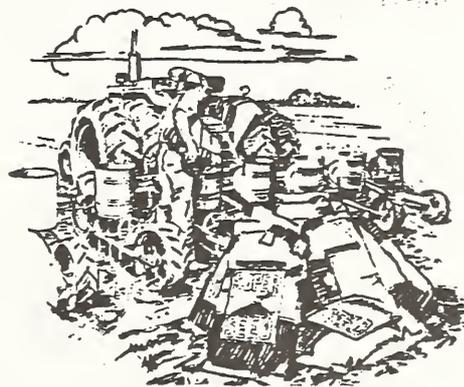
Secretary Grubb has approved funding of \$31,398 for six vegetable research projects aimed at improving production and controlling disease.

The 1986 projects were recommended by the Pennsylvania Vegetable Research Advisory Board, and will be carried out by researchers at The Pennsylvania State University and Cornell University.

Penn State scientists will focus on

evaluation of mulches and tunnels for early vegetable production, increased sweet pepper production, tomato disease control, disease management for vegetables and biological control of nutsedge.

A study of the effect crop residue disposal methods have upon survival of white mold fungus will be done at Cornell's Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, N.Y.



Use Properly Tested, Labeled Seeds

With thoughts of spring planting coming into bloom, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture reminds farmers and gardeners to buy only properly tested and labeled seeds.

Analysis tags on agricultural seed bags must list percentages of pure seed and other matter, germination rate and test date. The test date should not be more than nine months old.

"Seed expenses are less than five percent of crops planting costs, yet seed quality can be the difference between a good and bad harvest," ac-

ording to Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Grubb.

He cautioned gardeners to buy only vegetable and flower seeds, "packed for 1986" or whose package labels state the germination rate and test date.

Consumers also are protected, Grubb said, under new lawn seed labeling regulations that require disclosure of undesirable seeds, such as orchard grass, meadow fescue, timothy and annual bluegrass. Their presence must be noted by name and number per pound.

Advice: Buy Firewood by the Cord

(AUSTIN)--It's again that time of the year when you see lots of ads for firewood in newspapers, and loads for sale in pickup trucks alongside the road. And while most firewood dealers are reputable, Charles Forester, supervisor of Weights and Measures for the Texas Department of Agriculture, says the unsuspecting consumer can get burned.

His advice: always buy your firewood by the cord.

A cord is 128 cubic feet, Forester explains. "The common expression of measurement is a space four feet wide, four feet high, and eight feet long.

Forester urges consumers to pick a spot alongside their garage, fence or a tree before the firewood is delivered, and then to mark off the exact 4'x4'x8' dimensions for delivery of a cord. "Now, when the seller delivers the wood," Forester continues, "you have them stack it in those prescribed dimensions, and you'll know whether you're getting a cord or not."

There are several other precautions which Forester urges consumers to take.

First, never buy firewood by the pickup load. "There is no standard dimension for a pickup bed, because those vehicles range in size from compact to stretch cab. You never know what you'll be getting," he advises.

"Secondly, don't buy wood by the rick. There is no standard dimension for a rick. A rick can be almost anything

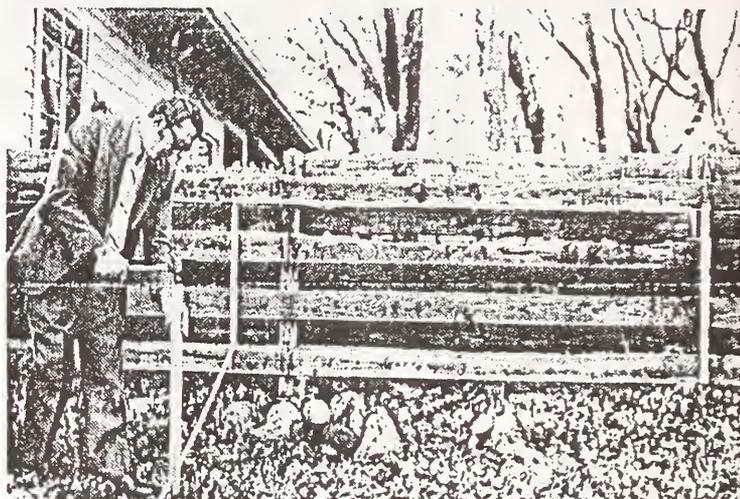
a seller wants it to be. Unfortunately, it's never what a buyer wants it to be," said Forester.

Additionally, TDA's weights and measures expert urges consumers to be wary of a dealer who offers a quick discount on the sales prices for dumping the wood in your yard without stacking it in the prescribed location.

Predicts Forester, "When you finally get around to stacking that wood, they've only unloaded a half or three-fourths of a cord. Now at \$100 for a half-cord, you're suddenly paying \$200 for a full cord. You don't realize it though until you stack it and measure it. You certainly can't measure the loose-laid wood out in the yard."

He and his staff will be glad to answer any questions about measurements of a cord or possibly questionable sales practices of firewood, Forester says. Most complaints, he says, actually come from the state's legitimate firewood dealers, because "they run a straight operation and they like to keep their business clean."

For more information, Forester invites your inquiries to TDA Headquarters in Austin (512/475-6577), or to any of the Department's 12 district offices scattered throughout the state. Again advises Forester, "Buy by the cord. And if you need help on measurement of the cord, let our office know, and we'll be glad to come out and assist you."



Charles Forester, supervisor of Weights and Measures for the Texas Department of Agriculture, demonstrates how to measure out the area for stacking a cord of firewood. He says always to buy firewood by the cord, which should measure 4'x4'x8'.

Deer Hunting: Income for Texas Ranchers

(AUSTIN)--A rancher's income from hunting leases may not be large, but it is still much more stable from year-to-year than fluctuating livestock prices. Those are some of the findings of Gary Carman, an economics professor at Southwest Texas State University at San Marcos, writing in a recent issue of the *Texas Business Review*.

In fact, in the Hill Country Carman found that some ranchers derive as much as 50 percent of their income from deer leases. "The Hill Country does have the habitat for the deer, and the landowners don't have good alternatives to hunting," Carman says, "so they've found hunting leases to be a very profitable endeavor."

Because livestock prices have remained so depressed in recent years, Carman learned that some ranchers who

would otherwise prefer not to have hunting on their property have decided to lease their land.

With leases totaling almost \$50 million a year, many landowners find it beneficial to nurture the wildlife on their property, especially deer, during non-hunting periods, just as they would any other cash crop. "The management of the herd is the key," says Carman, "because there certainly is a direct correlation between the quality of the horns, the size of the animals, and what people are willing to pay for them."

In the future, Carman sees an increased emphasis for hunters on game fowl, which require a smaller amount of land for hunting. He also encourages additional land purchases by the state for at least occasional hunting.



HOTLINE



Up-Date In The Divisions:

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES



Weights and Measures is out there on the front lines in its ongoing efforts to make sure Connecticut consumers get what they pay for, measurewise, anyway... Allan Nelson says that his inspectors have arrested one supermarket manager for a short weight violation levying a \$300 fine. "We are investigating other chains for the same violations," Allan said noting that "It is a constant battle." Allan observed further that compliance is generally good so far as package weight is concerned with about 90 per cent compliance.

Despite heavy advertising, especially on television, on the subject of ethanol in gasoline, Allan says there is still no alcohol in gas in Connecticut, his people check continually to see if any ethanol, or methanol is in the state.

Weights and Measures inspectors have completed their marina inspections which involved some 100 marinas, looking for alcohol at pumps servicing boats and conducting tests on each pump. No alcohol showed up in any test, Allan said also pointing that the marinas tested by our personnel were not those in cities large enough to have their own sealers. The marina testing commenced Memorial Day weekend and is now finished.

Gasoline testing was also carried out by Allan's inspectors concentrating on the interstate highways and the shoreline during this tourist season. "Our testing truck is on the road five days a week," Allan said.

In May, Allan attended the annual conference of Northeast Weights and Measures in Albany, New York and ... guess what? Our Allan was named Man of the Year. He is quick to point out that the honor last year went to Peggy Adams of Bucks County, Pa.

Last month, Allan also attended the annual national conference in Grand Rapids, Mich. at which he was not named Man of the Year.

FRAUDS ...



The Fraud Division which includes the Complaint Center has had a new telephone system in place since early June, a system which allows for the dramatic increase of calls getting through and being serviced, according to Frauds Chief Cliff Degen. The new system with a sequencing device

accurately counts incoming calls, Cliff said, and this counting device shows that the Complaint Center and Frauds handles some 400 calls a day. The week of June 24th, Cliff said the division handled an average of 2,192 calls. The phones are answered automatically during the night with a recorded message, but over 92 per cent of incoming calls are responded to. That does not count the calls coming in to the front office directly or to other divisions ... that's a lot of calls.

PRODUCT SAFETY ...



On February 16, 1988 the Department published proposed regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal calling for a ban of all-Terrain vehicles (ATVs) with an engine displacement of 90 cubic centimeters or less. The regulations also included a proposal to require permanent cautionary labeling on ATVs of more than 90cc warning that the ATV is for use only by those 16 years of age or older. A hang-tag label providing basic information on the proper use and operation of an ATV has also been proposed.

The regulations were proposed after the department concluded the number of injuries and deaths associated with the use of ATVs is excessive; over 900 deaths and 330,000 injuries. Close to one-half the victims are children under 16 years of age.

Under the State Child Protection Act, the department is charged with protecting children from product-related injury or death through the promulgation of regulations establishing safety requirements, safety standards, banned hazardous substances, labeling requirements and testing procedures.

On March 22, 1988 the department held a public hearing on the proposed regulations. Joseph Lieberman, Attorney General for the State of Connecticut and member of the National Association of Attorneys General task force on ATVs, along with a representative from the Connecticut chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Connecticut Traumatic Brain Injury Association, and the Department of Consumer Protection testified in support of the proposed regulations. The regulations were opposed by the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America.

Following the public hearing, the proposed regulations were amended to include a ban of all three-wheeled ATVs to be consistent with a federal consent decree between the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and manufacturers of all-terrain vehicles. The regulations are currently awaiting approval from the Office of the Attorney

General, following which they will be submitted to the Regulation Review Committee of the Connecticut Legislature for final approval.

LICENSING ...

In the wake of the L'Ambiance Plaza Tragedy in April 1987, the legislature moved to tighten existing regulations and write new legislation regulating through licensing general contractors, bringing forth PA 88-359 "An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Governor's Construction Advisory Committee."

The new legislation states: "On and after July 1, 1989, no person shall engage in or offer to perform the work of any general contractor or major subcontractor ... on any building having four or more stories unless he has first obtained a license as required under the provisions of Chapter 393 or 539 of the general statutes or from the department of consumer protection."

In other words, our department will be licensing general contractors, and regulations are currently being prepared for presentation to the Regulation Review Committee of the legislature for review later this year.

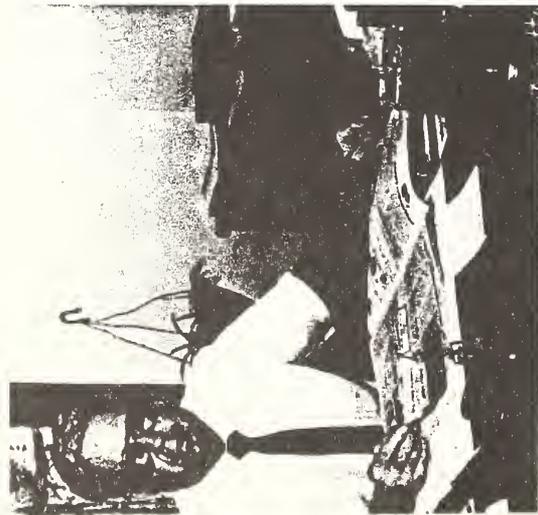
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING ...

Amazing numbers, like the 400 calls a day answered in the Complaint Center, Olivia Martuichek points out that the Home Improvement Contractor Unit has been registering some 500 NEW contractors a month since early 1988. In February, only 288 new contractors sought registrations, but that number skyrocketed to 504 in March, down to 372 in April, way up to 570 in May, and 395 in June. The total new registrations for fiscal year 1987-88 was 4,182.

DRUG CONTROL ...



The division is in the process of administering a \$300,000 Federal Grant which was received last November from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. That grant has allowed the division to upgrade its computer system, to purchase portable computer units with which to conduct field work, and to conduct a series of training programs for other agencies. Currently five regional training sessions are being planned to instruct municipal police personnel in the handling of pharmaceutical diversion cases.



market. See subheadings for more details.

ion

Inspection for peanut action and action and alyses, and nut inspec- id receiving

Peanut Inspection

The main office is located in Dothan, with field offices in Enterprise, Opp, Goshen and Eufaula. There were 80 buying points in southeast Alabama where farmers' stock peanuts were graded, most during September and October. During and after the farmers' stock season, several shelling plants and oil mills process these peanuts for use in this country and for export to foreign markets.

Grain Inspection

The main grain inspection office is located in Mobile. Field offices are located in Decatur and Guntersville. Seasonal offices are opened in Andalusia, Tuscaloosa, Demopolis and Uniontown. The largest volume of grain inspection is soybeans.

Aflatoxin Laboratory

Peanuts, peanut by-products, Brazil and pistachio nuts, corn, and other commodities are tested for aflatoxin.

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

1986-87 Annual Report

Grain Inspections	
Subtotal	Export in Bushels
Soybeans	2,143,270
Trucks, Balleys, Barges	10,185,000
Miscellaneous Inspections	
Fruits, Vegetables, and Tree Nuts	58,224,700 lbs
Allotment Analyses	3,000 TONS
Receiving Market Inspections	
Commercial Inspections	2,407
Defense Personnel Supply Center	11,184,000

Weights and Measures, Gins and Warehouses Division

Don E. Stagg
Director

This division is made up of three sections and is responsible for the administration of six groups of laws.

Weights and Measures Laboratory Section

John B. Rabb
Supervisor

The Weights and Measures Laboratory activities include training personnel, inter-comparisons of standards with other states, testing new devices for Alabama Type Approval (prototype), calibration of mass, volume and length standards, and registration of service personnel.

Metrology is the engineering function devoted solely to the science of precision measurement and the related calibration of measurement standards. The Weights and Measures Laboratory has the metrology responsibility to oversee the use of physical standards of the state, which are traceable and related directly to the United States standards at the National Bureau of Standards. The standards are maintained according to state law and all metrology activities involving their use are conducted by the laboratory.

The major responsibility of the laboratory is to support field testing functions of the weights and measures inspectors. The laboratory is also available to private industry in Alabama.

Participation in various education and testing programs administered by the National Bureau of Standards has resulted in the laboratory receiving certification as a Class "A" facility — the highest certification possible.

The laboratory's large-volume inspectors test all truck meters, loading rack meters, and farm and dairy milk tanks. The special testing equipment can test devices with capacities up to 500 gallons per minute flow.

At the end of fiscal year 1986-87, the laboratory had examined, tested or calibrated 5,616 pieces of weighing and measuring equipment. A breakdown of these tests follows:

Equipment Tested	Total Tested
Weights	4,014
Measures	347
Scales	499
Meters	237
Milk Tanks	182
Truck Tank Compartments	337
Provers	6
Flasks	12
Prototypes	12



Under the registered serviceman regulation of the department, 795 scale and gasoline pump servicemen were certified in 1986-87. This registration allows licensed and certified servicemen to place a condemned device back in service, provided the error is corrected to legal specifications and tolerances.

Weights and Measures Section James H. Sellers Chief Weights and Measures Inspector

The primary function of this section is to ensure equity in all commercial transactions involving quantity. The weights and measures official stands between the seller and buyer to see that the interests of both are safeguarded.

Weights and measures devices such as supermarket scales, gasoline pumps or gasoline truck meters are tested for accuracy and compliance with state laws and regulations. When illegal or inaccurate measuring devices are found, the official ensures that the equipment is repaired or replaced.

Of the 14 inspectors in the Weights and Measures Section, four operate heavy-duty trucks used to test large scales in Alabama. All 79 Alabama stockyards must be approved by the heavy-duty inspectors of this section before operations can begin. This is done in coopera-

tion with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Packers and Stockyard Division. Large capacity scales used in Alabama include vehicle scale livestock scales, hopper scales, platform scales and monorail scales. Weights and Measures inspectors are assigned territories in which they check the weighing and measuring devices of wholesale and retail businesses. During the 1986-87 fiscal year, inspectors spent a total of 22,795 hours calling on 12,451 establishments with the following results:

Items Examined	Approved	Condemned	Lost
Scales	26,742	25,086	756
Weights	4,754	4,752	2
Pumps	34,371	32,072	2,299
Packages	3,701,551	3,486,107	215,444
IPC			18
Summers	63,000	5,073	3,270

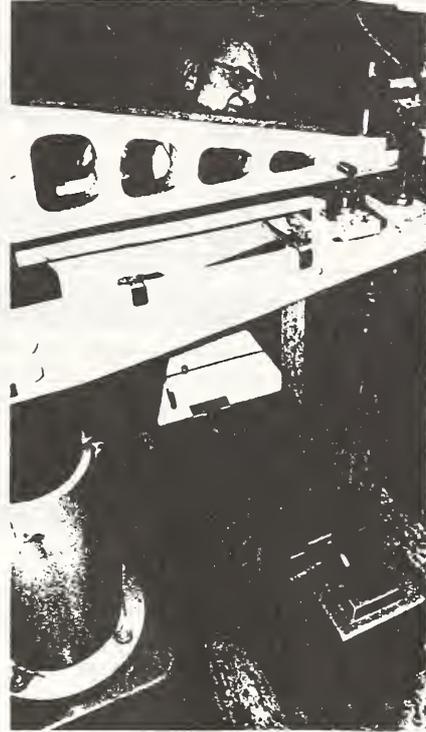
During the fiscal year 1986-1987 524 weighmasters, 17 licenses were issued to qualified weighmasters, 1144 required a 1,000 safety bond.

Gins and Warehouses Section Aubrey C. Dismukes Chief Warehouse Examiner

The Gins and Warehouses Section inspectors and supervisors all inspect bonded warehouses that store agricultural products, household goods



Enforcers of Oregon's weights and measures laws are (l to r) George Shefcheck, Toni Garabedian, Winn Briles, Jim Clifford and Ken Simila. At right, Jim Clifford checks a 500-pound weight.



Measure for measure

Keeping sellers honest

If it can be weighed, measured and sold, Ken Simila, administrator of the Department of Agriculture's Measurement Standard's Division, probably gets complaints about it.

Take fishing weights, for example.

"I've been cheated, took, had," began a letter writer describing an "underweight" fishing sinker. "If this isn't an example of genuine junk, I don't know what is."

According to the unhappy writer, the sinker, weighing approximately 1/2 ounce, ruined a long-distance fishing trip.

"He had his illusions shattered," says Simila, a stack of complaint letters on his desk. "Everyone has their own experience, in weights and measures-related labeling, of finding out there's no Santa Claus."

Whether they're investigating fishing sinkers or ensuring the accuracy of the meters and pumps that deliver \$3 billion worth of petroleum products to Oregon consumers, Measurement Standards' job is to see that you, the consumer, get what you pay for. That can mean checking weights of hairspray, shaving cream, salmon eggs, turkeys, golf tees, human-hair wigs, even the ping pong balls used to select winning numbers in the state lottery.

In the case of the underweight sinker, the letter writer had a legitimate gripe. Labeling a weight as "approximate" is a no-no, says Simila. A label must identify the product, the maker of the product and its exact weight.

Simila's division sees to it that Oregon products meet state packaging, labeling and weight requirements.

Every year division inspectors make sure that 31,000 licensed supermarket scales, hardware and feed scales, oil truck meters, propane and butane meters, pipeline meters, truck scales and livestock scales are accurate. They also monitor prepackaged items such as meat, poultry, seafood and deli products, checking that packages contain the amounts declared on the labels.

In all, \$19 to \$20 billion worth of products are weighed and measured in Oregon every year.

"We're constantly changing," says George Shefcheck, assistant administrator of the division. "We're always looking for ways to work smarter and harder because the industry out there is changing so fast."

The trend toward selling food in bulk is just one example of how the industry is changing.

As the bulk food business grows, so does confusion over how to weigh individually wrapped items such as crackers, granola bars, tootsie rolls and tea bags.

Shefcheck points to a chart in his office showing how the wrapping or "tare" can add dollars to the price of an item sold in bulk.

A certain brand of teabag sold in bulk is advertised at \$10.88 per pound. But the teabag's paper envelope, string and gauze bag account for almost 41 percent of the product weight.

From fishing weights to gas, they're looking out for you

Shefcheck shows through simple arithmetic how the consumer is really paying \$18.35 per pound for the tea, not \$10.88.

"I don't think the public is aware of all this yet," says Shefcheck. "If you knew that you were paying a hidden \$8 more per pound for that paper, would you buy it?"

Shefcheck recently met with major supermarket chains and made a suggestion: If the wrapping accounts for more than 10 percent of the total weight of a product, sell the product by the each, or individually, rather than by weight.

Only one major supermarket chain was willing to cooperate with the request.

"I think that once the markets are aware that they're over-charging in some cases, they should attempt to correct the problem, but in this case they're not."

Occasionally the division tackles special projects. Last year inspectors collected samples of motor fuels from around the state. Their objective: to see if posted octane ratings were accurate.

They found that of 86 fuels (from a possible 2,500 retail stations) 19 percent had actual octane ratings one number lower than their posted octane ratings. In six percent of the fuel samples, the actual octane rating was more than one number below the posted number.

During a followup survey the division sampled 24 fuels, focusing on possible problem areas.

This time, 29 percent of the fuels had octane ratings at least one number lower than their posted ratings. And 17 percent of the fuels had octane ratings two or more numbers lower than their posted ratings. Problem fuels were found in Portland, Springfield, Medford, Grants Pass and Ontario.

One firm, Giles Alcohol Fuels of Portland, was selling gas with posted octane ratings that were up to four numbers higher than the actual octane rating.

Oregon currently has no law covering octane standards, so the firm wasn't breaking a specific law. However, they were breaking the state's unlawful trade practices act. The financial fraud unit of the Justice Department handled the case by getting the station owner to sign an "assurance of voluntary compliance."

An assurance of voluntary compliance is a tool used by the Justice Department to obtain a quick resolution to a case.

By signing the document, the firm agreed to stop misrepresenting the octane rating of its fuel without admitting they violated the law. The firm also was required to pay \$2,000 for the cost of the Measurement Standards octane survey. (The division received \$1,000 as reimbursement for their costs.)

Overall compliance with Oregon weights and measures laws is about 90 percent. Most of the violations stem not from deliberate fraud, says Simila, but from lack of supervision of employees, or employees not paying attention.

Measurement Standards handles most of its own enforcement problems. If a violation persists, a department investigator contacts the violator. The next step is to refer the case to the district attorney for criminal prosecution or to the financial fraud unit of the Justice Department.

Simila says the highest fine ever assessed by an Oregon court for a violation of Oregon weights and measures law went to a Gold Hill grocer convicted of selling "short," or underweight, packages of meat.

"It raised our eyebrows," says Simila, "because even when we have convicted some of the biggest (violators) in Multnomah County, we've never seen more than a \$300 fine. And here this little mom and pop store got a \$500 fine."

Turns out the judge had a personal interest in the case.

"The deputy told us that the judge said, 'Well, my wife shops at this market and I'm tired of consumers being ripped off like that.'"

If you suspect a seller of breaking the law, don't immediately complain to Measurement Standards, says Simila. First, talk to the merchant involved.

"If the person has just made an honest mistake or is unaware of something, they'll correct it right there."

It pays to be alert when your gas is being pumped or when you're buying groceries, adds Shefcheck, who says he's always looking over checkers' shoulders, eyeballing the cash register.

"I suspect everybody," says Shefcheck, smiling. "By the time I retire, I probably won't even trust myself."

—Marla C. Maeder

Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97310-0110

Cattle owners:

Don't forget to vote at your local county extension office in the May 10 referendum on whether to continue the \$1 per head checkoff.

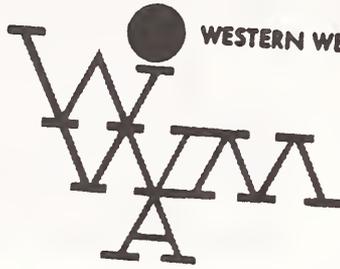
Allan Nelson
Dept. of Consumer Protection
State Office Bldg.
Hartford, CT 06106 G-17

OCT 20 1984

DEPT. OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
WEIGHTS & MEASURES DIVISION

Management Update

A MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER / STATE OF CONNECTICUT / WILLIAM A. O'NEILL, GOVERNOR
Volume VII - Number 14 / October 19, 1984



WESTERN WEIGHTS and MEASURES ASSOCIATION **newsletter**

JULY - AUGUST, 1988
M. R. Dettler, Editor

W&MTODAY

October 1988

Weights and Measures Today

National Bureau of Standards' Name Changed

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is the new name of the Commerce Department's National Bureau of Standards (NBS). NIST was created by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act signed

National Conference on Weights and Measures

double. Rese
early by calli

Novemb
ting materi
clusion in f
Please see
Technical
committe

- E
- T
- I

Conference, April 23-27, 1989 at the
odge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the
... Contact Les Bar... (314) 751-



News LETTER

CHARLES TOOKER-EDITOR
390 PULLMAN AVE. ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14615
tel. (716) 254-8958



NEWSLETTER

THE INSTITUTE FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Ray O. Elliott
DIRECTOR, AGRICULTURE PRODUCT DIVISION
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73105

PRESIDENT
David Watson
CONSUMER PRODUCTS SUPERVISOR
CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Cathryn F. Pittman
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES SECTION
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37204

SOUTHERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS

Board of Directors

ALABAMA
Don E. Stagg
ARKANSAS
Sam F. Hindman
DELAWARE
Eugene Kealey
FLORIDA
Wayne Ball
GEORGIA
Bill Truby
KENTUCKY
Charles Prebble
LOUISIANA
Philip A. Stagg
MARYLAND
Richard Thompson
MISSISSIPPI
Bill Eldridge
NORTH CAROLINA
N. David Smith
OKLAHOMA
Ray Elliott
SOUTH CAROLINA
Carol Fulmer
TENNESSEE
Robert Williams
TEXAS
Edwin Price
VIRGINIA
James F. Lyles
WEST VIRGINIA
Jim Rardin
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Earl Maxwell
HISTORIAN
James Sellers
SERGEANT AT ARMS
Eugene Kealey

NEWSLETTER

WEIGHING & MEASUREMENT

Vol. 74, No. 4

July/August 1988

Editor/Publisher
David M. Mathieu

Advertising Director
Michelle Johann

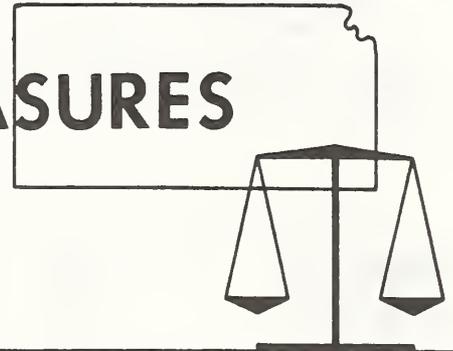
Business Manager
Ruby Mathieu

KANSAS WEIGHTS and MEASURES NEWS LETTER

RECEIVED

FEB 17 1988

Consumer Digest



Long Island

CONSUMER DIGEST

NASSAU & SUFFOLK COUNTIES' LINK TO CORNELL UNIVERSITY CONSUMER EDUCATION

JUNE 1988



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

NEWS

POST OFFICE BOX 340
BEDMINSTER, PA 18910

SUMMER 1988



SCALE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

932 Hungerford Drive • #36 • Rockville, Maryland 20850 • (301) 738-2448
Fax (301) 738-0076



8995 E. Main St.
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
614-866-6361

RECEIVED
JUN 12 1987
Consumer Protection Weights & Measures

Quarterly REVIEW

RICHARD F. CELESTE, GOVERNOR
STEVEN D. MAURER, DIRECTOR

Second Quarter Issue, 1987



U. S. Metric Association, Inc.

A nonprofit organization . . . established in 1916

Lorelle Young, President 2032 Mendon Drive San Pedro CA (213) 832-3763

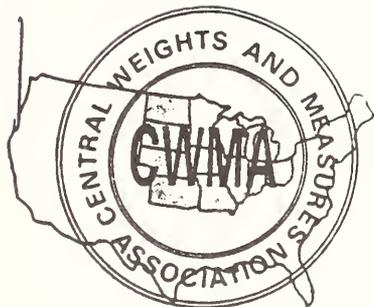


**news
FROM
newma**

**NORTHEASTERN
WEIGHTS &
MEASURES
ASSOCIATION**

CONNECTICUT
MAINE
MASSACHUSETTS
NEW HAMPSHIRE
NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK
PENNSYLVANIA
RHODE ISLAND
VERMONT
PUERTO RICO

SUMMER 1988



CENTRAL WEIGHTS & MEASURES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Second Issue

June, 1987



BROCHURES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SALE OF FIREWOOD

SECTION 36 (7) of the Weights and Measures Act of 1965 makes it illegal to . . .

Keep for the purpose of sale, advertise, offer or expose for sale, or sell any commodity or service in a condition or manner contrary to law or regulation.

SECTION 23.107., TITLE 70 of the Pennsylvania Code specifies . . .

WOOD USED FOR FUEL SHALL BE SOLD BY THE CORD OF 128 CUBIC FEET, OR FRACTION THEREOF, AND SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A STATEMENT OR INVOICE CERTIFYING THE AMOUNT SOLD AND PRESENTED TO THE BUYER OR HIS DESIGNEE AT THE TIME OF DELIVERY OR BILLING.

SECTION 2. (11). of the Weights and Measures Act of 1965 states . . .

"Cord." When used in connection with wood intended for fuel purposes, the amount of wood that is contained in a space of one hundred twenty-eight cubic feet when the wood is racked and well stowed.

Firewood may not be advertised or sold by the truck, the pile, the piece, or any other method other than by the cord. You must give an invoice at the time of sale. If you have any questions, please contact . . .

BUREAU OF STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
2301 NORTH CAMERON STREET
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

Telephone: 717-787-9089

HOW TO DETERMINE 128 CUBIC FEET (FULL CORD) OF WOOD (all wood compactly piled, 4-foot high stacks)

<u>Cut Length of Wood</u>	equals	<u>Length of Stack*</u>
12 inches		32 feet
14 inches		27 feet
16 inches		24 feet
18 inches		21 feet
19 inches		20 feet
20 inches		19 feet
22 inches		17 feet
24 inches		16 feet
26 inches		15 feet
28 inches		14 feet
30 inches		13 feet
48 inches		8 feet

A CORD MEASURES 4 FT. x 4 FT. x 8 FT.

*rounded to the nearest foot.

How "Short Measure" Adds Up

If a piece of meat, selling at \$4.98 a pound, has an error in weighing of only one ounce, the error will cost someone 31 cents before the package gets out the front door.

A scale that is incorrect by one ounce on each weighing, making 100 weighings a day for 300 days a year at a unit price of \$2.00 a pound, will cause an error of \$3750 a year.

An error of 3 tablespoons in 5 gallons on a gasoline pump will result in an error of thousands of dollars a year at today's average pump volumes.

What Should You Do?

"This scale is not weighing correctly."

"This package I bought does not have the correct amount in it."

"I think that gasoline pump is registering more gallons than it's giving."

Thoughts such as these occur to some consumers in the course of a day's shopping. Sometimes these suspicions are correct. Weighing and measuring devices such as scales or gasoline pumps are mechanical instruments, after all, and so are subject to wear and tear and error. A malfunction on the packaging line can result in a package not being filled with the stated amount.

What should you do if you feel you have encountered an incorrect weights and measures device or a short weight package?

Let Us Know!

First, we suggest you contact your weights and measures official directly. Check in the local telephone directory under the city, county, or State government headings. Look for a "weights and measures", "standards", "consumer protection", or "consumer affairs" listing; this is how this official is often listed.

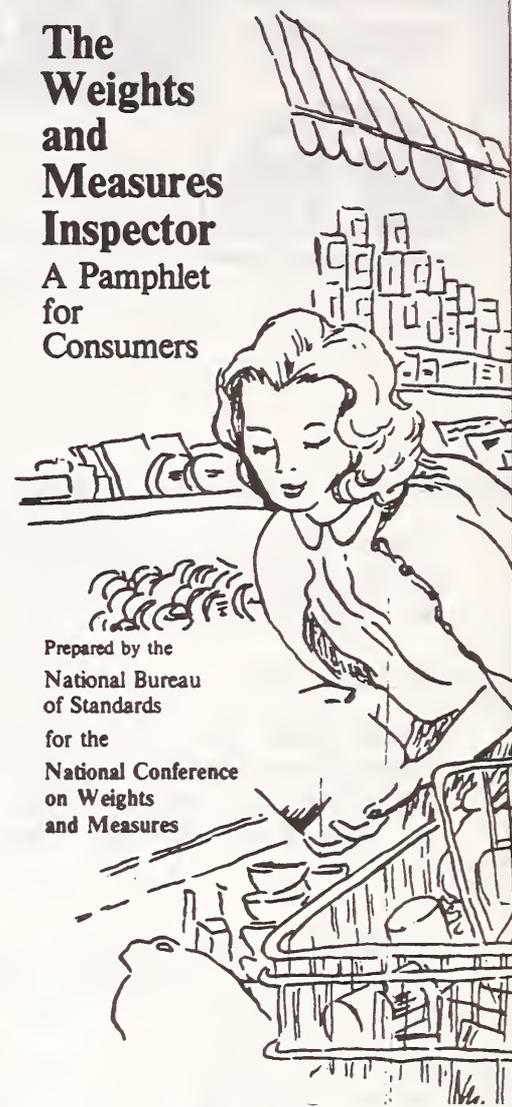
If you are unable to reach your local weights and measures official you may send your inquiry to:

National Conference on Weights and Measures
P.O. Box 3137
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Telephone: 301 921-2401

The National Bureau of Standards sponsors the National Conference on Weights and Measures, and cooperates with State and local weights and measures officials whose job it is to exercise quantity control in commerce. NBS provides technical assistance to those officials in the form of training, consultation, and publications. If you, as a consumer, direct an inquiry to your local official or to the National Conference, you will receive a prompt reply to your inquiry.

The Weights and Measures Inspector

A Pamphlet for Consumers



Prepared by the
National Bureau
of Standards
for the
National Conference
on Weights
and Measures

Are You Protected?

When a consumer makes a purchase in the supermarket, gasoline station, or other retail establishment, two elements are primary in the decision process: quality and quantity.

Quality is a subjective matter. One person's good quality can be another person's bad taste. In a free market society, deciding on the level of quality to purchase is left to the judgment of the individual purchaser. Government regulates quality only to the extent that certain minimum standards for health and safety are necessary to the public welfare. Beyond that, each individual is free to make his own choice of "quality".

Quantity

Not so with quantity. The quantity in the package can be determined and to a high degree of accuracy. It would be unrealistic for every consumer in the United States to spend the time and effort required to verify the amount contained in each package purchased. It is much more realistic to have a few people checking packages for the general public so that the consumer can reasonably be sure that when the package is labelled for example, "one pound," there is one pound in the package.

There are such people. They are checking the quantity of contents of packages in your supermarket today. What they do requires a great deal of training, a thorough technical knowledge of the varying characteristics of different types of commodities, and a wide range of precise measuring equipment and measurement techniques. They are your weights and measures inspectors.

At Your Service!

The weights and measures inspector does much more than just check package quantities. He or she also may be found, at any given time in a working day, checking the accuracy of such things as the scales and other measuring instruments in the supermarket, hardware, drug, or department store, the neighborhood gas station, rental car or taxicab agencies — almost every weighing and measuring device that affects your pocketbook. These officials check behind the scene - at grain elevators, livestock stockyards, scrap and precious metals dealers, and fuel oil companies - to assure accuracy.

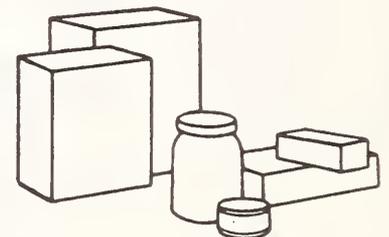
"That Equity May Prevail"

This is the motto of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. The Conference has been in existence since 1905. Its primary reason for existing is to make the motto "That Equity May Prevail" as true as possible in commerce. Weights and measures officials from each of the States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, meet each year with industry and consumer representatives to work out laws and codes and methods that will assure that

- consumers get what they pay for
- accuracy prevails in commercial measurement
- the same system is used nationwide

Packaging and Labeling

Nearly everything that a consumer buys today is prepackaged. It is important that the correct amount be in a package and that the consumer have adequate and correct information on the outside of the package. For example, the amount contained inside the package must be printed clearly in a specific location on the label.



An aid to consumers for cost comparison in some localities is the posting of the price per pound or price per ounce on the shelf; this is the "unit price".

An indication of freshness of perishable products is provided in some States by the printing of a date on the package that indicates the last day that the product should be sold or used.

Weights and measures inspectors play a central role in the marketplace to assure the consumer that packaging and labeling requirements are met.



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bureau of Weights and Measures

Court House, Norristown, Pa.

COMMISSIONERS
PAUL BAKER BARTLE
ALLAN C. MYERS
RITA C. BANNING

CHIEF DEALER
THEODORE FAVINGER

Dry Commodities

Standard legal weights which must be delivered when any of the following commodities are sold or offered for sale by the bushel, half-bushel, peck, half-peck, quarter-peck and quart. All baskets, measures and packages and bags must be plainly marked to indicate their capacity.

	Pounds per bushel	Pounds per half bushel	Pounds per peck	Pounds per half peck	Pounds per quarter peck	Pounds per quart
Alfalfa seed	60.30	15	7½	3¾	1 lb 14 oz	oz
Apples	45.22½	11¼	5¾	2	1 lb 13 oz	1 lb 6½ oz
Apples, dried	25.12½	6¼	3¼	1	1 lb 9 oz	12½ oz
Barley	48.24	12	6	3	1 lb 8 oz	oz
Beans, dried	60.30	15	7½	3¾	1 lb 14 oz	oz
Beans, castor (shelled)	46.23	11½	5¾	2¾	1 lb 7 oz	oz
Beans (Green or Wax)	32.16	8	4	2	1 lb	oz
Beets	56.28	14	7	3½	1 lb 12 oz	oz
Blue-grass seed	14.7	3¾	1¾	¾	7 oz	oz
Bran	20.10	5	2½	1¼	10 oz	oz
Broom-corn seed	60.25	12½	6¼	3¾	1 lb 9 oz	oz
Buckwheat	48.24	12	6	3	1 lb 8 oz	oz
Cabbage	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		
Carrots	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		
Cement	100.50	25	12½	6¼		
Charcoal	20.10	5	2½	1¼		
Cherries, with stems	56.28	14	7	3½	1 lb 12 oz	oz
Cherries, stemmed	64.32	16	8	4	2 lb	oz
Chestnuts, hulled	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾	1 lb 9 oz	oz
Clover-seed	60.30	15	7½	3¾	1 lb 14 oz	oz
Coal, anthracite	75.37½	18¾	9¾			
Coal, bituminous	80.40	20	10			
Coal, stone	80.40	20	10			
Coke	40.20	10	5			
Corn, shelled	56.28	14	7	3½	1 lb 12 oz	oz
Corn, ear (husked)	70.35	17½	8¾			
Corn-meal	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾	1 lb 9 oz	oz
Cranberries	32.16	8	4	2	1 lb	oz
Cucumbers	48.24	12	6	3	1 lb 8 oz	oz
Currants	40.20	10	5	2½	1 lb 4 oz	oz
Flaxseed	56.28	14	7	3½	1 lb 12 oz	oz
Gooseberries	40.20	10	5	2½	1 lb 4 oz	oz
Grapes	48.24	12	6	3	1 lb 8 oz	oz

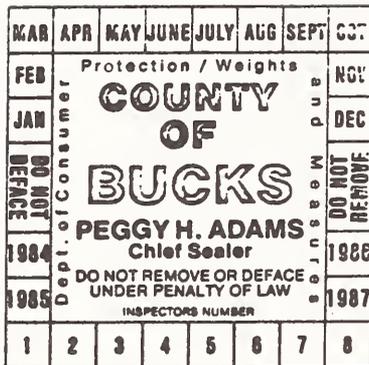
	Pounds per bushel	Pounds per half bushel	Pounds per peck	Pounds per half peck	Pounds per quarter peck	Pounds per quart
Hair (plastering)	8.4	2	1	½		
Hemp-seed	44.22	11	5½	2¾		
Herd's grass	45.22½	11¼	5¾	2	1 lb 13 oz	1 lb 6½ oz
Hickory-nuts	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		1 lb 9 oz
Hominy	60.30	15	7½	3¾		1 lb 14 oz
Horseradish	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		1 lb 9 oz
Hungarian grass-seed	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		1 lb 9 oz
Kaffir corn	56.28	14	7	3½		1 lb 12 oz
Lentils	60.30	15	7½	3¾		1 lb 14 oz
Lime	80.40	20	10	5		
Linseed	56.28	14	7	3½		1 lb 12 oz
Malt	38.19	9½	4¾	2¾		1 lb 3 oz
Millet	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		1 lb 9 oz
Oats	32.16	8	4	2		1 lb
Onions	60.25	12½	6¼	3¾		1 lb 9 oz
Onion Sets	28.14	7	3½	1¾		14 oz
Orchard grass-seed	14.7	3¾	1¾	¾		7 oz
Parsnips	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		
Peaches	48.24	12	6	3		1 lb 8 oz
Peaches, dried, peeled	38.19	9½	4¾	2¾		1 lb 3 oz
Peaches, dried, unpeeled	33.16½	8¼	4¼	2	1 lb 1 oz	1 lb ½ oz
Peanuts	22.11	5½	2¾	1¾		11 oz
Pears	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		1 lb 9 oz
Peas, green (unshelled)	28.14	7	3½	1¾		14 oz
Peas, dried	60.30	15	7½	3¾		1 lb 14 oz
Plums	64.32	16	8	4		2 lb
Potatoes	60.30	15	7½	3¾		1 lb 14 oz
Potatoes, sweet	54.27	13½	6¾	3¾		1 lb 11 oz
Quinces	48.24	12	6	3		1 lb 8 oz
Rape-seed	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		1 lb 9 oz
Raspberries	48.24	12	6	3		1 lb 8 oz
Redtop grass-seed	14.7	3¾	1¾	¾		7 oz
Rice, rough	45.22½	11¼	5¾	2	1 lb 13 oz	1 lb 6½ oz
Rutabagas	60.30	15	7½	3¾		1 lb 14 oz
Rye	56.28	14	7	3½		1 lb 12 oz
Rye-meal	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		1 lb 9 oz
Salt (course)	85.42½	21¼	10¾	5	1 lb 5 oz	2 lb 10½ oz
Salt (ground)	62.31	15½	7¾	3¾		1 lb 15 oz
Sand	100.50	25	12½	6¼		
Shorts	20.10	5	2½	1¼		10 oz
Sorghum-seed	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		1 lb 9 oz
Spelt	40.20	10	5	2½		1 lb 4 oz
Spinach	12.6	3	1½	¾	12 oz	6 oz
Strawberries	48.24	12	6	3		1 lb 8 oz
Timothy grass-seed	45.22½	11¼	5¾	2	1 lb 13 oz	1 lb 6½ oz
Tomatoes	56.28	14	7	3½		1 lb 12 oz
Turnips	56.28	14	7	3½		1 lb 12 oz
Walnuts (common)	50.25	12½	6¼	3¾		1 lb 9 oz
Wheat	60.30	15	7½	3¾		1 lb 14 oz

The above weights are fixed by law (Act July 24, 1913, as amended by the Acts of May 11, 1915, April 21, 1921, May 19, 1923, and April 27, 1925, May 8, 1931, P. L. 105 May 18, 1945, P. L. 788 and June 20, 1947, P. L. 708.)

All persons, firms or corporations selling or offering for sale the above-mentioned dry commodities by the bushel, half-bushel, peck, half-peck, quarter peck and quart, MUST DELIVER THE ABOVE POUNDAGES TO THE PURCHASERS.

**EQUITY
FOR
ALL**

OUR NEW SEAL



Are you aware of the very important service provided by state government employees called WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTORS?

The Weights and Measures Inspector guarantees that a high degree of accuracy is maintained in regard to commercial measurement.

Every BUSINESS and every CITIZEN has a direct financial interest in knowing that weights and measures in all transactions are fair to both the seller and buyer. Neither PARTY can afford to take the ACCURACY of WEIGHTS and MEASURES for GRANTED.

President George Washington knew the important role that uniformity of weights and measures would play in commerce when he asked for a special report in 1790. In 1799, a law was passed to inspect weights and measures at ports of entry.

Today inspectors install all commercial measuring devices, i.e., gasoline pumps, taxi and electric meters, grocery, freight, baggage, candy scales, etc.

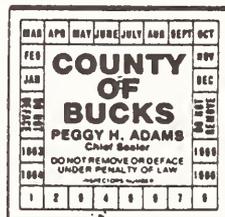
These devices are checked at the industrial, packaging and retail outlets. If the devices are correct, they are approved and sealed. If incorrect, they must be repaired or put out-of-service.

Inspectors also inspect packaged commodities sold by weight, measure or count for correct labeling and net quantity. Packages found in violation are removed from commerce.

Testing equipment used by the Weights and Measures Inspector is traceable to the National Bureau of Standards in Washington D.C. through our certified state laboratories.

CONSUMER BEWARE

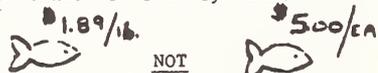
All measuring devices which have been approved by the WEIGHTS and MEASURES INSPECTOR will have a seal affixed to it. Devices are usually inspected semi-annually. LOOK FOR THIS SEAL FOR ASSURANCE THAT THE DEVICE IS ACCURATE.



Before any weighing is done on a scale always check that the scale indicates '0'. All weighing devices must have a zero indication. If the scale is not reading '0' have the operator rezero the scale before any weighing is done.



Fish cannot be sold by each.



Fish, meat, meat products, and poultry must be sold by weight.

Seafood, except shellfish in the shell, must be sold by weight.

When buying gasoline check the pump for any leakage, especially out of the nozzle, if you see any, stop use of pump and notify owner immediately.

BUYING WOOD FOR HOME FUEL? Know what you are buying!

A "CORD OF WOOD" is the amount of wood that is contained in a space of 128 cubic feet, when stacked.

Stack the wood as soon as possible, to insure that you actually have received the correct amount.

Request a dated receipt, with sellers name and address and phone number. If you are dissatisfied, you will have proof of purchase, to back your complaint.

Any problem encountered, regarding the amount received, should be filed with your WEIGHTS and MEASURES office.

METRIC SYSTEM

The metric system will prove easier to use than our current inch-pound system. Sizes and weights are expressed in multiples of 10, changing quantity involves only the movement of a decimal. By contrast, the inch-pound system demands that the users memorize and manipulate units of measure that have no apparent or logical relationship to each other.

CONSUMERS SHOULD BE ALERT OF POSSIBLE ATTEMPTS TO EXPLOIT PRICES OF COMMODITIES WHEN PACKAGING IS CHANGED TO METRIC SIZES.

The metric system shouldn't cause any problems that sound purchasing practices, such as comparison shopping cannot solve. In fact, the inherent simplicity of the system should make comparisons easier as shoppers become more familiar with it.

Supermarket Checklist

You are a better food shopper if you know your rights. This checklist will acquaint you with some laws and regulations which may be unfamiliar to you.

You can help us learn whether the Department's laws and regulations are followed in your supermarket. Take this list with you when you shop. If any questions on the checklist call for a "no" answer, we want to know about it. Write the name and location of the store where the problem exists in the space provided, and mail the form to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Supermarket Checklist

	YES	NO		YES	NO
Are advertised specials as described in the advertisement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do the labels on food prepackaged by the retailer give price per pound, net weight, and total selling price?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all advertised specials available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the weight of prepackaged food is not expressed in pounds and ounces, but in decimals, is there a weight equivalency chart posted at the customer's scale?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are prices marked on products or near the display during a sale?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do signs and labels on ready-made ground meats state the type of meat contained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are items charged out at the prices advertised?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are eggs marked with a grade and size on the box?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the unit price (price per pound, pint, or number) posted clearly on a shelf for all items required by law?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is an open date, for example, "Sep. 15" or "09 15" or "Friday" stamped on all perishable foods as designated by law?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are unit price shelf labels directly under the items they describe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are all packaged commodities labeled, stating identity, contents and weight of product, as well as the name and address of manufacturer, packer, or distributor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are they clearly legible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Are scales between buyer and seller?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name of store _____		
Does each scale have a Department of Consumer Affairs seal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address (Please be accurate). _____ _____		
Do you have an unobstructed view of all parts of the scale?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date checked _____		
Is the weight indicator at rest before weight or price is quoted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Is there either a customer scale, striped in red, or a sign giving the location of the scale within 30 feet of the display of all store prepackaged food products?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			



The City of New York
Department of Consumer Affairs
Protection and Education in The Marketplace

80 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10013
Edward L. Koch, M
Angelo J. Aponte
Commissioner

(Stores or chains doing in excess of \$3 million annual business.)

Laws that protect you at the food market

Advertised Items

Advertised items must be truthfully described. Reasonable quantities must be available at advertised prices.

Prices

Most food items must have a price marked on the merchandise itself. Items on sale for more than 14 days may have the price marked on the merchandise or a sign displayed near the sale item. If two or more prices are visible, the law now entitles you to pay the lowest price.

Unit-Pricing*

The price per measure (pound, pint, or number) must be listed for: canned and bottled vegetables, fruits, fruit juices, baby foods, tomato products, cooking and salad oils, tuna, salmon and sardines, jams and jellies, peanut butter, soda, coffees, pet foods, breakfast cereals, cake and pie mixes (dry), pasta products, paper products, dishwashing and laundry detergents, and scouring powders.

Scales

Scales must be between seller and buyer; allow unobstructed view; carry the Department's seal; start at zero; and come to rest before weight or price is quoted.

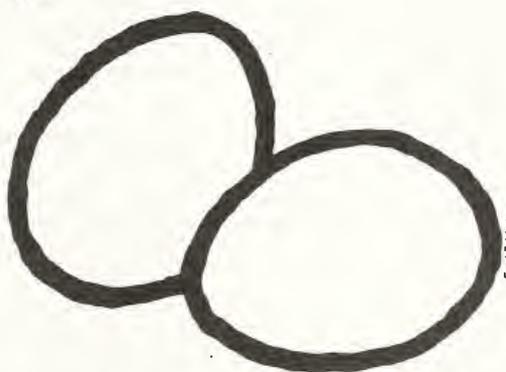
Customer's Scale

The customer's scale, striped in red, or a sign giving the exact location of the customer's scale, must be within 30 feet of prepackaged food products so the customer can check packages to prevent short-weight.

Ground Meat

Ground meat must be labeled with types of meat contained; only ground beef may be labeled "hamburger," no more than 30% fat is allowed, and any additives must be listed on the package.

Eggs



Eggs must be marked with grade, weight and size.

Open Dating

Perishable foods, including eggs, cottage cheese, cream cheese, bread, and cakes must have printed on the package the last recommended date of sale or last recommended date of use.

Packaged Commodities

Packaged commodities must be labeled with identity of product, net weight, measure or count of contents, and the name and address of the packer or distributor.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

80 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10013
Education & Outreach
Room 405

Department
of
Consumer
Affairs

The
City of
New
York



Protection and Education in The Marketplace

(Stores or chains doing in excess of \$3 million annual business.)

2nd printing 10/87

Weights and Measures Can Help You

Weights and Measures can help you, the consumer, by offering protection in many places by inspecting:

Grocery stores and small markets for accurate scales, correct package labeling, and accurate net weights.

Service stations for accurate petroleum dispensers, correct price computations, and correct dispenser labeling.

Livestock barns and grain buying stations for accurate scales and grain moisture meters. Weighing practices are monitored to insure correct procedures are followed.

Tobacco auction barns for accurate scales, posting of accurate tares and fees, and correct weighing practices.

Bulk petroleum plants for accurate fuel and L.P.G. meters. Meters on trucks that deliver fuel to service stations and residences are also checked for accuracy.

And More

Drug stores, feed stores, packing plants, refineries, manufacturing plants, warehouses, and many more businesses are routinely visited to assure "that equity may prevail".



The National Conference on Weights and Measures is an organization of weights and measures enforcement officials of the states, counties, and cities of the United States, Federal officials, and representatives of business, industry, trade associations, and consumer organizations. Tennessee is an active member of this organization fostering understanding and cooperation among weights and measures officials and all industry, business, and consumer interests.

Did You Know?

That the official standards for Tennessee Weights and Measures—length, mass, volume—are on display at the Weights and Measures Laboratory.

Think Metric!

The Weights and Measures Section is ready to assist you in metric conversions on volume, length, and mass, in their well equipped laboratory.

Everyday Metric Units

Basic Units

METER: a little longer than a yard (about 1.1 yards)

LITER: a little larger than a quart

(about 1.06 quarts)

GRAM: a little more than the weight of a paper clip

Metric information is available from Weights and Measures for any organization or school to inform you how to utilize the metric system.

Approximately 50% of your money is spent on goods or services involving weights and measures. It is good business to get the most out of your money. An alert consumer is the weights and measures official's best ally, and by knowing your problems and concerns, Weights and Measures will be better able to serve you. Become acquainted. Call, write, or stop by the office.

Weights and Measures



"That Equity May Prevail"



Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Authorization No. 325043, 10,000 copies. This public document was promulgated at a cost of 0.035 per copy Fall, 1986.

Prepared by the
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Division of Marketing

Who We Are

Weights and Measures

Weights and Measures is a section of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and has the responsibility of "seeing that things measure up." Every transaction involving the exchange of goods, property, and service is affected in a VERY VITAL WAY by some form of weights and measures. It is impossible to mention anything we eat, wear, or use that has not been weighed or measured—perhaps even many times. As our population has grown and the number of products on the market has increased, the responsibility to "see that things measure up" has become an increasingly more important duty of weights and measures.

Not only is this section maintained to protect the interests of the buyer—that is the shopper, wage earner, and homemaker, but also it is maintained to protect the interests of the seller—that is the manufacturer, packer, processor, wholesaler, and retail merchant as well.

Every day Weights and Measures' trained personnel are working to see that you, the consumer, get what you pay for in the way of quantity. Protection is accomplished through continuous systematic inspection and testing for accuracy of all weighing and measuring devices used in trade in Tennessee as well as checking of packaged commodities for quantity and correct labeling. A State Weights and Measures Laboratory, which is traceable to the National Bureau of Standards, is equipped and staffed in order that precise calibration of standards of mass, length, and volume be available to the private and public sectors as well as to government agencies.



Consumer Tips

Watch these Important Points in Buying and Stretch Your \$\$\$\$\$\$

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Watch the Gas Pump | State law requires gas pumps to have the price and gallon indicators returned to zero before your delivery of gas begins. |
| Watch the Scale | State law requires that every scale used for a direct sale be positioned so that it can be seen by the customer. The scale should begin from a zero indication. |
| Buy By Weight | A value comparison can best be made when solid commodities are sold by weight. |
| Don't Pay For Paper | All sales should be by net weight. At steak prices, a good sized meat tray may weigh one ounce and cost you approximately 10 to 15 cents or more. |
| Watch Out For Quantity | The "large" size, "jumbo" size, and "family" size tell nothing. Check the quantity declaration to determine the best buy. |
| Figure Your Best Buy | State law requires a quantity statement with all packaged food items advertised with a price. Prepare a shopping list. |

When a commercial weighing or measuring device passes inspection, you will find our green and white approval sticker conspicuously attached to the device. The seal shows that the device was accurate on the date of inspection. You will notice the inspection date by the month and year marked on the approval sticker.

If a device does not meet minimum tolerances or specifications, a red rejection tag will be securely attached to it. A specified length of time, usually 30 days, is given for repair. Only an individual or company registered with this department may work on a commercial weighing or measuring device.

What To Do

If You Have A Question or Complaint

Report suspected inaccuracies or violations of the Weights and Measures Act or Regulations to:

Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Division of Marketing
Weights and Measures Section
P.O. Box 40627, Meirose Station
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Phone (615) 360-0160

Our staff will route all valid consumer complaints or requests to the appropriate weights and measures official. If the requested investigation or inspection is received from one of the four largest metropolitan areas of Tennessee, it may be referred to the local weights and measures jurisdiction. These cities and counties offer weights and measures inspection services to individuals and companies in their jurisdictions.

In addition to administering the Weights and Measures Law and Regulations, the following laws are enforced by the Weights and Measures Section:

1. Grain Moisture Meter Act
- *2. Grain Warehouse and Storage Act
- *3. Certified Public Weighers Act
- *4. Weighmaster Act
- *5. Serviceman Registration Act
6. Burley Tobacco Co-Mingling Act

*Denotes licenses are issued to individuals or companies in accordance to the applicable law.



THE POST OFFICE GOES FIRST CLASS . . .

For most of a decade, our inspectors have checked all scales in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Class Post Office. There are about 2,000 of these in the State of Georgia.

THE METRIC SYSTEM WORKS . . .

The Weights and Measures Laboratory makes wide use of the metric system of measures in the use of its equipment in comparisons with other standards of measure.

FULL WEIGHT — A MYTH?

Georgia Weights and Measures Law, Section 112-107 declares you are entitled to full weight of the commodity purchased. Weight, volume or length must be indicated, exclusive of wrapping on the container.

DECALS . . .

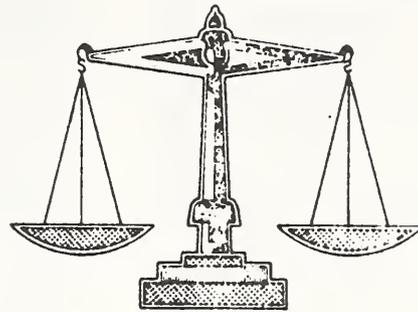
Seals (Agriculture Department decals) applied to a device at the time it was inspected, tells you that the device was working as it should when it was inspected. Its accurate operation could change any time after it was inspected.



GEORGIA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
TOMMY IRVIN, COMMISSIONER
1-800-282-5852



With the Producer. ..the Merchant.. and YOU in Mind..



FUEL AND MEASUREMENT
STANDARDS DIVISION
(404) 656-3605

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Thomas T. Irvin, Commissioner

OUR JOB . . .

Checking scales from 35 pounds to 400,000 pounds is the job of the 22 Weights and Measures Inspectors. Included in these are 21,500 annually-inspected scales performed by eleven teams. Grocery prepacking and counter scales are inspected by the consumer field forces personnel.

LIKE A FLASH, ALMOST . . .

Liquid Petroleum gas meter inspections began in 1972 with one prover unit. A second was added in December, 1973, cutting once-around inspection to one year. A third unit will be added in late 1980, cutting the cycle time to six to eight months.

TO THE LAST DROP . . .

Farm milk storage tanks are being checked by large-capacity water storage unit and a master meter. New tank calibrations are checked at the time of installation. Reinspection will take place as often as the crew can recalibrate the more than 900 milk-storage units.

REGISTERED AND BONDED . . .

1403 Certified Public Weighers are registered and bonded through the Fuel and Measurement Standards Office annually. These included such diverse public weighers as those handling Department of Transportation road building materials, livestock auctions, and public-weighing scales.

ALL THE GLITTER . . .

Scales and balances used in weighing of gold and silver at the time of purchase are routinely inspected by one of the small-scale teams or personnel at the Weights and Measures Laboratory.

CENTS OF VALUE . . .

If a roast of beef, selling at \$3.29 a pound, has error in weighing of 2 ounces, the error will cost somebody 41¢ before the package gets out the front door.

TEST WEIGHTS GET CHECKED . . .

All weights used in testing or servicing commercial scales are calibrated and sealed by personnel of the Weights and Measures Laboratory. About 6,000 of these weights are inspected, adjusted, and calibrated annually.

TO ASSURE QUALITY PRODUCT . . .

The Department's Fuel Oil Laboratory tests in excess of 19 thousand fuel oil samples annually. These tests include octane checks and other tests to assure quality. Antifreeze and other petroleum products are also checked by the Fuel Oil Laboratory.

TO ASSURE PUMP ACCURACY . . .

The 45,879 gasoline pumps in Georgia are inspected approximately three times annually. Tanks are inspected for water. Although the Division does not control prices at the pump, we do check for correct advertising.

IF THEY DELIVER . . .

Wholesale pumps, terminals and tanker compartments are checked in field calibration conditions annually by two teams. And still there are more . . .

HONESTY IS TOBACCO, TOO . . .

With the price of tobacco approaching \$2.00 per pound, honesty in weighing becomes the goal for everyone. Scales in tobacco warehouses are inspected daily. Sheets of tobacco, as well, are check-weighed to assure accurate weights.

THERE ARE MORE METERS . . .

Commercial moisture meters are inspected at all grain-buying points in Georgia. Standard samples of grain at a variety of moisture levels are calibrated in the Weight and Measures' Grain Moisture Laboratory for official field use.

COMPLAINTS GET INVESTIGATED . . .

If you complained about a short load of wood; thin polyethylene; short weight on the sale of paper, junk, etc.; short delivery of fuel; insufficient-filled container of a commodity; an appropriate team from the Fuel and Measures Standards will investigate the complaint, and the Division will take appropriate action.

STRICTLY OFFICIAL . . .

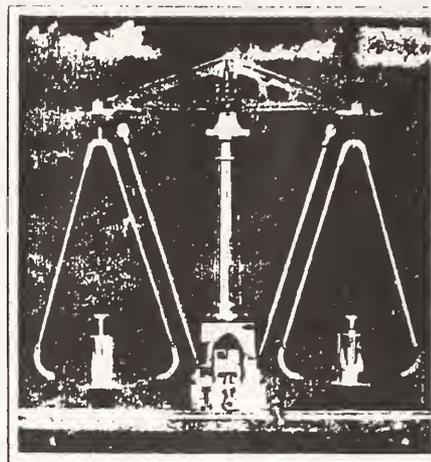
The Weights and Measures Laboratory is the keeper of the State's official standards of length, mass (weight), and volume. Traceability for legal and scientific purposes is attained through laboratory comparison with appropriate standards.



**TDA District Offices
Ready to Help
With Any Consumer Problem**

- DISTRICT 1**
1422 South Tyler, Suite 204
Amarillo, Texas 79101
(806) 372-3542
- DISTRICT 2**
4502 Engelwood Avenue
Lubbock, Texas 79414
(806) 799-8555
- DISTRICT 3**
3652 North Dixie Street
Odessa, Texas 79762
(915) 367-5002
- DISTRICT 4**
5015 College Drive
Vernon, Texas 76384
(817) 552-9954
- DISTRICT 5**
241 East McNeil
Stephenville, Texas 76401
(817) 965-5097
- DISTRICT 6**
2800 N. E. Loop 410,
Suite 301
San Antonio, Texas 78218
(512) 656-2315
- DISTRICT 7**
Exp. 83, 2 Bldgs. W. of
Morningside Rd.
San Juan, Texas
P. O. Drawer 690
Pharr, Texas 78577
(512) 787-8866
- DISTRICT 8**
1949 Stemmons
Freeway, Suite 120
Dallas, Texas 75207
(214) 744-0987
- DISTRICT 9**
202 E. Horton,
Box 1119
Brenham, Texas 77833
(713) 836-5641
- DISTRICT 10**
2935 Westhollow Drive
WBH Plaza
Houston, Texas 77082
(713) 870-9911
- DISTRICT 11**
421 E. Ferguson,
P. O. Box 780
Tyler, Texas 75710
(214) 597-6571
- DISTRICT 12**
3385 Laurel, Room 101
Beaumont, Texas 77707
(713) 832-3471

CONSUMER SERVICES DIVISION



**Serving the Interests
of Consumers and Producers**



**Texas Department of Agriculture
Reagan V. Brown, Commissioner**

Directly or indirectly, the Consumer Services Division of the Texas Department of Agriculture touches the life of nearly every Texan. If you drive an automobile, heat your home with LP gas, take medicines or purchase food and household products, this important regulatory division is working to see that you get exactly what you pay for.

But as well as safeguarding the interests of rural and urban consumers, many of the laws administered by the Consumer Services Division are intended to protect and benefit the producers of Texas agricultural products.

This brochure is intended to inform Texans of the services available to them through the Consumer Services Division of the Texas Department of Agriculture. If you feel you have a problem in one of the areas in which the Consumer Services Division has jurisdiction, please contact the TDA district office nearest you.

Reagan V. Brown

Reagan V. Brown
Commissioner of Agriculture



WEIGHTS AND MEASURES



This section of the Consumer Services Division is perhaps the most far-reaching, with responsibility to establish and enforce standards for weighing and measuring devices used in commercial transactions for the benefit of both buyer and seller.

A rectangular red, white and blue seal on gasoline pumps, supermarket scales and other devices is evidence that Texas Department of Agriculture field inspectors have tested the device and found it to be accurate at the time of testing. If a device does not meet established tolerances, it will be taken out of service until repaired and re-inspected.

The Weights and Measures Section also inspects packaged foods and other goods to ensure that the stated net weight of the product is true and accurate.

Other duties of the Weights and Measures Section include: Registering and testing antifreeze to make sure it meets prescribed standards; authorizing and supervising public weighers; enforcing standards for the packaging of wheat and corn products such as bread and cornmeal; testing milk samples for butterfat content; testing LP gas meters; and testing milk holding tanks used on Texas dairies.

METROLOGY LABORATORY

The Consumer Services Division operates the state's metrology, or "weights and measures," laboratory located in Austin. This facility is considered to be one of the finest in the world.

Metrologists at the lab certify that all mass, length and volume standards used by Texas Department of Agriculture field inspectors are properly calibrated. In addition, state standards for mass, length and volume are housed at the

laboratory. The licensing of scale repairmen also is carried out at the lab.

In addition to calibrating standards for TDA field inspectors, lab personnel also provide valuable testing services to private industry and government agencies.

AGRICULTURAL PROTECTIVE ACT



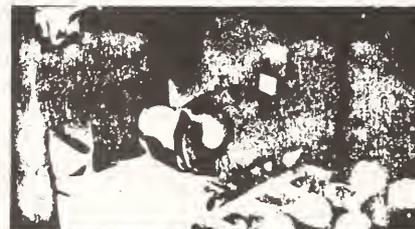
The Agricultural Protective Act provides a measure of protection for Texas producers engaged in the often-risky fresh produce industry. Under this law, and the Citrus Bonding and Licensing Law, dealers and commission merchants are required to be licensed. In addition, they make annual payments to the Produce Recovery Fund, which can partially reimburse a producer who suffers financial loss if a buyer fails to pay him.

Under both laws, procedures are established for hearings to determine the validity of claims against the Produce Recovery Fund. Final decisions on disbursements from the Fund are made by a six member Produce Recovery Board, composed of two dealers or commission merchants, two producers and two members of the general public.

TEXAS EGG LAW

The fact that Texas consumers enjoy the very highest quality eggs in the nation is no accident. The Texas Egg Law Section has the responsibility for ensuring that all cartoned eggs sold in Texas conform to the grade and size standards stated on their labels so that consumers know exactly what they are purchasing.

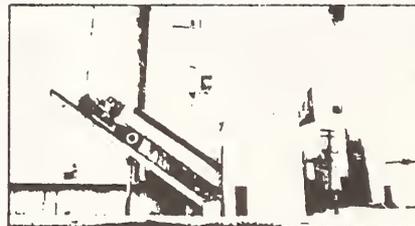
This section of the Consumer Services Division also licenses all egg retailers, dealer wholesalers, processors, warehousemen and brokers doing



business in the state. The establishment of the Texas Egg Law brought a measure of much needed fairness to the Texas egg industry, since it requires that all eggs sold in Texas—including those shipped in from out of state—meet the same rigid standards for interior and shell quality. Many of the egg problems in the past were caused by out-of-state packers shipping poor quality eggs into this state.

Valuable input from the Texas egg industry is provided through the Texas Egg Marketing Advisory Board, which is made up of industry members and is chaired by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

GRAIN WAREHOUSE LAW



The Grain Warehouse Section of the Consumer Services Division licenses and audits all grain warehouses in operation in the state on a regular basis for the protection of farmers who store their grain in these facilities.

Among the licensing provisions is the requirement that warehouses be properly and sufficiently bonded and that specific records be kept on all grain stored in each facility. This helps assure Texas farmers that any grain they store in a licensed warehouse will be there when they decide to redeem or sell it.

Basketball
 Playing court - 48 feet long by 24 feet wide (maximum dimensions); 71 feet long by 42 feet wide (maximum dimensions)
 Height of basket to center of ring - 10 feet
 Height of backboard - 18 inches in length, 18 inches in width (16 to 18 inches in length, backboard made of metal and is not more than 5/8 of an inch in diameter)
 Height of basket ring - 10 feet
 Free-throw line - 15 feet from the face of the backboard
Baseball (Little League)
 Home plate to pitcher's box - 46 feet
 Distance from home plate to first base - 84 feet 10 inches
 Distance from base to base - 90 feet (home plate included)
 Batter's box - 5 feet 6 inches by 5 feet
 Weight of ball - Not less than 5 oz. nor more than 5 1/4 oz.

Horseshoe Court
 Length between posts - 40 feet
 Between posts - 8 feet by 8 feet
 Length - Over-all 50 feet

Men's Volleyball
 Length - 80 feet
 Width - 30 feet
 Height of net from ground - 6 feet
 Bottom of net from ground - 3 feet

Women's Volleyball
 Height of net from ground, 7 feet 6 inches, other measurements are the same as for men.

Single Handball Court
 Length - 34 feet
 Width - 20 feet
 Service line - 16 feet from front wall

GASOLINE MILEAGE
 Start with full tank. Note mileage reading. After driving at least 150 miles, fill tank. Note mileage reading. Note number of gallons added. Miles traveled (second reading less "start" reading) divided by gallons added equals miles per gallon. Example:
 Mileage at end of trip - 10,459
 Mileage at start - 10,225
 Miles traveled - 234
 Gallons added - 13
 234 ÷ 13 = 18 mpg

For additional copies of this booklet write:
 Texas Department of Agriculture
 P. O. Box 12847
 Austin, Texas 78711
 TDA-C-7F



WEIGHTS AND MEASURES FACTS

Texas Department of Agriculture
 Consumer Services Division

KITCHEN MEASUREMENTS

STANDARD	EQUIVALENT
One pinch or dash	= 1/16 teaspoon
1/8 teaspoon	= 1/4 cup (2 ounces liquid)
1/4 cup	= 5 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon
1/2 cup	= 8 tablespoons (4 ounces liquid)
1 cup	= 16 tablespoons (8 ounces liquid)
2 cups	= 1 pint (16 ounces liquid)
4 cups	= 1 quart (32 ounces liquid)
8 cups	= 1 gallon
1 quart	= 1 peck (dry measure)
1 bushel	= 4 pecks (dry measure)
1 cord of wood	= 2 cords

NOTE: All measurements quoted are level.

LINEAR MEASURE

12 inches	= 1 foot
4 inches	= 1/3 (4/12) foot
6 inches	= 1/2 foot
1 foot	= 1 yard
3 feet	= 1 yard
5 1/2 yards	= 10 1/2 feet
40 poles	= 220 yards = 1 furlong
8 furlongs	= 1,760 yards = 1 mile
1 league	= 3 miles
1 degree	= 60 minutes
220 rods	= 1/4 mile
Vara Española	= 33 1/3 inches

NAUTICAL MEASURE

4,028 feet	= 1 nautical mile
1,852 meters	= 1 cable length
1 nautical mile per hour	= 1 knot of speed

SQUARE OR AREA MEASURE

144 square inches	= 1 square foot
9 square feet	= 1 square yard
30 1/4 square yards	= 1 acre
160 square rods	= 1 acre
10 square chains	= 1 acre
640 acres	= 1 square mile
Government survey lead	= 1 mile
1 chain	= 66 ft.
1 acre (square)	= 208 5/8 ft. x 208 5/8 ft.

CUBIC OR VOLUME MEASURE

A legal cord of wood is 4 feet high, 4 feet wide, and 8 feet long or 128 cubic feet.

NOTE: Fireplace wood is rapidly becoming one of the most expensive fuels for the household and one which the homemaker least understands how to buy by measurement. Do not buy firewood by "the pickup load" or by the "rick," which are not legal standards. Ask for the exact dimensions of the wood when it is stacked at our home, and buy according!

28 cubic inches	= 1 cubic foot
7 cubic feet	= 1 cubic yard
cord of wood	= 128 cubic feet

HOW TO FIGURE AREAS

Rectangle
 The area of a rectangle equals the product of the length and width. Area = L x W
 Example: A rectangle 10 feet long and 5 feet wide has an area of 50 square feet.

Triangle
 The area of a triangle is equal to half the product of its base and height. Area = 1/2 b x h
 Example: A triangle with a base of 10 feet and a height of 4 feet has an area of 20 square feet.

Circle
 The area of a circle is found by multiplying the square of its radius by π (3.1416). Area = π R²
 The circumference of a circle is approximately 3 1/7 (or 3.1416) times as large as its diameter. C = d x 3.1416 or C = π d

HOW TO FIGURE VOLUMES

Cylinder
 The volume of a cylinder is found by multiplying the area of its base by its height, or V = π R² h
 Example: A cylinder with a radius of 2 feet and a height of 10 feet has a volume of 251.33 cubic feet.

Cube
 The volume of a cube is found by multiplying the length by width by height or V = L x W x H
 Example: A cube with a side length of 10 feet has a volume of 1,000 cubic feet.

Oblong
 The volume of an oblong is found by multiplying the length by width by height, or V = l x w x h

DECIMAL EQUIVALENTS OF COMMON FRACTIONS

1/2	0.5000	1/32	0.0313	3/11	2727	6/11	5455
1/3	3333	1/8	0.1250	4/9	4444	7/8	8750
1/4	2500	3/8	0.3750	4/7	5714	7/9	7778
1/5	2000	2/3	0.6667	4/9	4444	7/10	7000
1/6	1667	5/8	0.6250	4/11	3636	7/11	6364
1/7	1429	2/9	0.2222	5/9	5556	7/12	5833
1/8	1250	2/11	0.1818	6/7	8571	6/9	6667
1/9	1111	3/4	0.7500	6/8	7500	8/11	7273
1/10	1000	5/6	0.8333	5/6	8333	9/10	9000
1/11	0909	3/7	0.4286	5/11	4545	8/11	7273
1/12	0833	3/8	0.3750	5/12	4167	10/11	9091
1/18	0556	2/10	0.2000	6/7	8571	11/12	9167

METRIC PREFIXES

Deca	10 (as in deagram or 10 grams)
Hecto	100
Kilo	1,000
Mega	1,000,000
Giga	1,000,000,000
Tera	1,000,000,000,000
Peta	1,000,000,000,000,000
Exa	1,000,000,000,000,000,000
Deci	1/10 (as in decagram, or one-tenth of a gram)
Centi	1/100
Milli	1/1,000
Micro	1/1,000,000
Nano	1/1,000,000,000
Pico	1/1,000,000,000,000
Femto	1/1,000,000,000,000,000
Atto	1/1,000,000,000,000,000,000

THERMOMETERS—COMPARATIVE SCALES

To convert Fahrenheit to Centigrade, subtract 32 degrees and multiply by 5/9. To convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit, multiply by 9/5 and add 32 degrees.

Fahr.	Cen.	Fahr.	Cen.
109	43	212	100
86	30	32	0
68	20	50	10
50	10	68	20
32	0	86	30
14	-10	104	40
-4	-20	122	50
-22	-30	140	60
-40	-40	158	70
-58	-50	176	80
-76	-60	194	90
-94	-70	212	100
-112	-80		
-130	-90		
-148	-100		
-166	-110		
-184	-120		
-202	-130		
-220	-140		
-238	-150		
-256	-160		
-274	-170		
-292	-180		
-310	-190		
-328	-200		
-346	-210		
-364	-220		
-382	-230		
-400	-240		

THE EARTH

Surface in square miles - 196,800,128
 Volume in cubic miles - 259,400,000,000
 Equatorial diameter - 7,926 miles
 Polar diameter - 7,899 miles
 Circumference at Equator - 24,899 miles
 Weight in tons - 6,000,000,000,000,000,000
 Time - 289.46 hr. solar or 197,765,780 acres

CUSTOMARY BUSHEL WEIGHTS

POUNDS	POUNDS
Barley - 48	Potatoes, Irish - 60
Beans, white - 60	Potatoes, sweet - 56
Clay soil - 80	Salt, fine - 107
Corn, shelled - 56	Flour - 60
Corn, on the cob - 70	Flax - 60
Miller seed - 50	Rye - 60
Oats - 32	Continued - 56
Onions - 57	Ordnance - 56
Peas - 48	

STANDARD MEASUREMENTS IN SPORTS

BASEBALL
 Home plate to pitcher's box - 60 ft. 6 in. - (18.44 meters)
 Home plate to second base - 127 ft. 3 3/8 in. - (38.79 meters)
 Distance from base to base - 90 ft. - (27.3 meters)
 Batter's box - 8 by 4 ft. - (1.22 x 1.21 meters)
 Weight of ball - Not less than 5 oz. nor more than 5 1/4 oz. - (141.74 grams to 148.83 grams)
 Bat - must be round, not over 2 3/4 in. in diameter at thickest part and not over 42 in. in length - (Not over 68.5 millimeters in diameter, not over 10.66 centimeters in length)

FOOTBALL
 Length of field - 130 yds. (includes 10 yds. of end zone on either side) - (119.72 meters)
 Width of field - 55 1/3 yds. (160 ft.) - (48.76 meters)
 Height of goal posts - 20 ft. - (6.09 meters)
 Height of crossbar - 10 ft. - (3.04 meters)
 Width of goal posts - 18 ft. 8 in. inside to inside, not more than 19 ft. 2 in. outside to outside - (5.43 meters inside to inside, 5.84 meters outside to outside)

Tennis
 Size of court - Rectangle 78 feet long and 27 feet wide (including 7 1/2 feet front and 36 feet wide ideas)
 Service line - 21 feet from net.
 Height of net - 3 feet in center, gradually rising to reach 3-foot 6-inch posts at each side of court.

Linear

1 millimeter (mm)	= 0.001 in.
1 centimeter (cm)	= 1/100 in.
1 decimeter (dm)	= 1/10 in.
1 meter (m)	= 39.37 in.
1 kilometer (km)	= 0.62137 mi.
1 hectometer (hm)	= 263.9 ft.
1 dekameter (dam)	= 3,280 ft. 10 in.

Square

1 square millimeter	= 0.00156 sq. in.
1 square centimeter	= 1/61 sq. in.
1 square decimeter	= 10.76 sq. in. or 1/9 sq. ft.
1 square meter	= 1.196 sq. yds.
1 square kilometer	= 247.1 ac.
1 hectare	= 100 sq. meters = 119.6 sq. yds.
1 are	= 1/100 hectare and in measuring land

Cubic

1 cubic millimeter	= 0.000001 cubic inches
1 cubic centimeter	= 0.061 cubic inches
1 cubic decimeter	= 0.264 cubic feet
1 cubic meter	= 1.357 cubic yards

LIQUID OR FLUID MEASURE

DRY	LIQUID
1 centiliter (cl)	= 0.102 cu. in. = 338 cc.
1 deciliter (dl) (10 cl)	= 6.102 cu. in. = 3.35 fl. oz.
1 liter (l) (10 dl)	= 61.02 cu. in. = 33.81 fl. oz.
1 dekaliter (dal) (10 l)	= 610.2 cu. in. = 338.1 fl. oz.
100 pounds = 1 central = 1 hundred short weight (cwt) 4 quarters	= 112 lb. = 1 hundred long weight

COMMON EQUIVALENTS (approximate)

1 bushel	= 2150 cubic inches or 1 1/4 cubic feet
1 gallon	= 231 cubic inches
1 cubic foot	= 7.47 gallons
1 cubic foot of water	= 6.25 pounds
1 gallon of water	= 8.33 pounds
1 cubic foot of ice	= 57 1/2 pounds
1 barrel (bbl) flour	= 198 pounds
1 ton hay	= 500 cubic feet
1 ton hard coal	= 35 cubic feet
1 ton soft coal	= 42 cubic feet

ANGLES AND ARCS

90 seconds (")	= 1 minute (')
60 minutes	= 1 degree (°)
90 degrees	= 1 right angle
360 degrees of arc (circle)	= 1 circumference
360 degrees of angle	= 1 complete rotation

PAPER

26 sheets	= 1 ream
20 quires	= 1 ream
500 sheets	= 1 ream
10 reams	= 1 bale

*20 quires = 480 sheets. This is a short ream. When bought by the ream, 500 sheets are obtained.

Linear

1 meter	= 1.1023 meters
1 centimeter	= 0.3937 inches
1 millimeter	= 0.03937 inches
1 decimeter	= 3.937 inches
1 meter	= 39.37 inches
1 kilometer	= 0.62137 miles
1 hectometer	= 263.9 feet
1 dekameter	= 3,280 feet 10 inches

Square

1 square meter	= 1.196 square yards
1 square kilometer	= 247.1 acres
1 hectare	= 100 square meters = 119.6 square yards
1 are	= 1/100 hectare and in measuring land

Cubic

1 cubic meter	= 1.357 cubic yards
1 cubic centimeter	= 0.061 cubic inches
1 cubic decimeter	= 0.264 cubic feet
1 cubic meter	= 1.357 cubic yards

LIQUID OR FLUID MEASURE

4 ounces (oz.)	= 1 gill
8 ounces	= 1 pint (pt.)
2 pints	= 1 quart (qt.)
4 quarts	= 1 gallon (gal.)
128 fluid ounces	= 1 barrel (bbl.)
2 barrels	= 1 hogshead (hd.)

DRY MEASURE

3 pints	= 1 quart
8 quarts	= 1 bushel (bu.)
4 bushels	= 1 chaffer (ch.)

COMPARATIVE WEIGHTS

Avoirdupois

16 drams	= 1 ounce (oz.)
16 ounces	= 1 pound (lb.)
100 pounds = 1 central = 1 hundredweight (cwt) 20 pounds	= 1 short ton (T) 2,000 pounds
2,240 pounds	= 1 metric ton

Troy (Precious Metals)

24 grains	= 1 pennyweight (pwt.)
20 pennyweights	= 1 ounce (oz.)
15 ounces	= 1 pound (lb.)
14.18 troy ounces	= 1 pound avoirdupois

Precious Stones

2 grains or 200 milligrams	= 1 carat
100 pounds	= 1 cental
Pure gold	= 24 carats
Good jewelry	= 14 carats

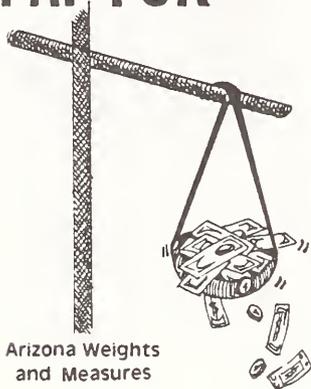
Apothecary Weights

20 grains	= 1 scruple
3 scruples	= 1 dram
8 drams	= 1 ounce
12 ounces	= 3.786 grams = 1 pound

Metric Weights

1 C.C. water	= 1 gram
1 milligram	= 0.013 grain
1000 milligrams	= 1 gram
1000 grams	= 1 kilogram (1,000 g.)
1000 kilograms	= 1 metric ton

HOW TO GET EXACTLY WHAT YOU PAY FOR



Arizona Weights and Measures

That Most Important Question:



How Much?



How can you be sure that you're getting exactly what you're paying for when you buy meat or milk or gasoline? The Arizona Division of Weights and Measures is responsible under law for monitoring the quantity of every product sold by weight, measure or count, and for inspecting and licensing the commercial scales and pumps that measure the quantity of the products you buy.

Fighting Inflation



The real purpose for our regulations is to make sure that no one is cheated. And that no one is cheating himself. Frequently we find stores giving some of their products away. If a store loses its profit margin because their pre-packed meat is overweight, prices go up. So Weights and Measures insures a fair profit for merchants and helps fight inflation.

Equity for All



When both the buyer and the seller know exactly how much is being offered for sale each party benefits. Weights and Measures exists so that equity will prevail.

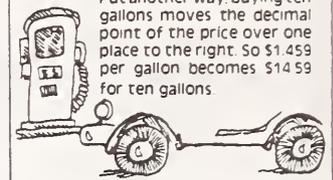
Check Your Zeroes



For the buyer's protection, the easiest way to be sure a sale starts right is to check the zero on a scale or pump. Before you buy, make sure the measuring device registers zero. Stores and gas stations are required to display the face of a pump or scale clearly, so you can check the zeroes first before you start pumping gas or weighing cauliflower.

Buy Ten Gallons of Gas

There's an easy way for you to check the accuracy of a gas pump for yourself. Just buy exactly ten gallons of gas. If the price of gas is \$1.45 9/10 per gallon, the total sale will register the same numbers, reading \$14.59 or exactly ten times the price per gallon.



Put another way, buying ten gallons moves the decimal point of the price over one place to the right. So \$1.45 9/10 per gallon becomes \$14.59 for ten gallons.

Read the Package



By making price comparisons, you can save yourself and your family a lot of money. The net weight on the package will tell you exactly how much you're getting for your dollar.

Special Offers



When a manufacturer offers a product as NEW or with so many CENTS OFF, such statements are within Weights and Measures regulation. You can usually find a standard-priced package nearby to compare whether the CENTS OFF statement is accurate. ECONOMY SIZE must be cheaper per unit by at least 5% than the same brand of product in a smaller package.

Open Dating



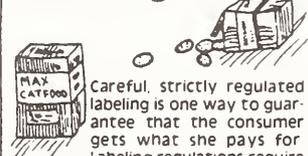
Look for "pull dates" on perishable and semi-perishable items. That way you'll get the freshest possible product for your family. Dairy products, bread, salad dressing, even peanut butter and breakfast cereals are dated by most manufacturers. Store managers who pay attention to pull dates sell fresher products and have fewer complaints as to spoiled goods.

Who Pays for the Packaging?



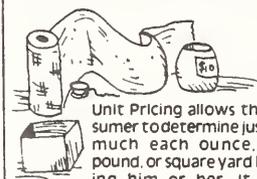
The price of packaging is included in the merchant's overall costs, but you don't have to pay steak prices for the plastic tray the steak comes in. Packaging is considered "tare" under weights and measures regulations. The liquid in packages of fish and chicken and the liquid from meat absorbed by the soakers on the tray is also considered tare. You pay the price per pound only for the edible product.

Labeling



Careful, strictly regulated labeling is one way to guarantee that the consumer gets what she pays for. Labeling regulations require that a package have the name of the commodity, the name of the manufacturer, and the quantity sold in that package all clearly stated on the package. Early English law required that no horse could be sold at night. Similarly, present day labeling regulations insure that the buyer knows exactly what is being bought.

Unit Pricing



Unit Pricing allows the consumer to determine just how much each ounce, inch, pound, or square yard is costing him or her. It is essentially a consumer aid made possible through computer technology and tends to increase larger quantity sales, thus providing additional savings to the consumer.

Protection for You



Inspectors from the Arizona Division of Weights and Measures check the scales in your local grocery store at least once a year using weights that are calibrated to the standards set by the National Bureau of Standards. They also check the weight and measure of products you buy including meat, milk, paper plates, and any commodities sold by quantity units.

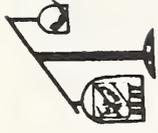
Look for Our Seal



When a commercial scale or gas pump passes inspection, our officials affix a seal of inspection on it. You'll find our seals are color coded (blue for 1981, green for 1982) and marked for month and day. The seal shows that the measuring device was accurate on the day of its inspection. All supermarket scales, 400 cattle scales and other commercial measuring devices as well as 14,000 gas pumps are inspected in Arizona each year.

For Further Information, Contact:

Arizona Division of Weights and Measures
3039 West Indian School
Phoenix AZ 85017



What are "Weights and Measures"

1. The contents shown on the container. The net quantity is the actual amount of product exclusive of the wrapper or container in which it is sold.
2. Meat and meat products must be sold by net weight.
3. When shopping be particular that you receive correct weight or measure the same as you would in receiving correct change.
4. In over-the-counter sales the scale used must be in view of the purchaser. The purchaser should note if the scale rests on the zero graduation and should observe the weight indicated when the weight of the product is being determined. Always bear in mind whether it is weight or measure you are losing, the result is less money in your pocketbook.
5. Gasoline pumps and petroleum products dispensing meters must start operation from a zero graduation, the same as a weighing device. Observe this setting on a pump or meter before gasoline or fuel is delivered.
6. All weighing and measuring devices are tested for accuracy by a sealer of weights and measures at least once annually. You can assist him immeasurably by observing that all devices used are on zero graduations at the start and in plain view of the purchaser.
7. Don't condemn a tradesman too hurriedly in case of short weight or measure. It could be an error, an inexperienced clerk or packer, or a faulty weighing or measuring device. Until you have good reason to believe otherwise, assume that the merchant is honest, and values his reputation for honest and fair dealing.
8. Bear in mind that your local weights and measures official and the facilities of his department are at your disposal. Do not hesitate to contact him if you feel he can be of service.



In the administration of weights and measures laws, rules and regulations is one of the many important functions of your government. It serves buyer and seller alike.

Do you know what a Sealer or Inspector of Weights and Measures is and what he does?

Did you ever consider what a muddle the world would be in without standard units of weight and measure? Without such units our complex way of life would quickly be plunged into chaos.

The weights and measures inspector has the big job of seeing that all the things we buy are accurately weighed or measured. When you consider the millions of commercial transactions in your community every year, it's a big and an important job.

If a robber were to steal fifty thousand dollars, it would be sensational news, yet losses to buyers and sellers can easily exceed that amount in a short time, if each of the millions of commercial transactions are only a few pennies off. That's why the weights and measures official is such an important person, even though few people are aware of the vital work he does in protecting the accuracy of our commercial transactions: seeing that buyers get as much as they pay for, and that sellers don't give away their profits through faulty or inaccurate weighing or measuring devices.

Be Guided By the Following Instructions.

1. After a weighing or measuring device has been checked by a sealer of weights and measures and found to be accurate be places an official seal on the device.
2. All commodities must be sold in a definite unit as prescribed by law: by weight, by measure, or in some instances by numerical count. Order by unit only, never by "box," "piece," or "50c worth."
3. Commodities sold in containers are required to have a plain, and conspicuous statement of the net quantity of



PROTECT YOUR HOUSEHOLD BUDGET:

Watch the weighing or measuring instrument and make sure it starts at zero. You may be paying for something you didn't get! Scales must be visible. Watch the gas pump meter.

Ask for a definite amount, not about 50c worth. When told the price, ask how much it weighs.

The weight of paper wrappings and the containers used in pre-packaging meat and other items MUST NOT BE INCLUDED. Pay for net weight only. ALL packaged items must indicate NET WEIGHT.

Read the label for the quantity statement. Don't let the apparent size fool you. The larger box may actual contain less. Remember that King Size, Giant, & Regular, mean nothing—read the label!

Compare the weights and prices. Compare values.

Food Piles—don't be taken in when you are told that you can buy wholesale or "get better for less". Check prices, quality and quantities before you sign up. You could be paying a higher price than store shelf prices for lower quality.

DID YOU KNOW?

That pint basket of berries must contain 12 ozs. of berries.

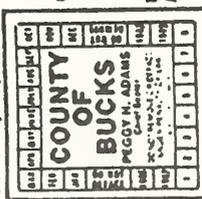
That when buying a quarter or half of beef the seller must give you an itemized list showing the hanging weight. The type of cuts and the net weight of the meat delivered.

That the average side of beef loses about 25% to cutting and trimming and could lose 36% or more.

That the department test standards are inspected and sealed every year by the State Bureau, which has its standards inspected by the National Bureau of Standards to insure accuracy.

That all commercial weighing and measuring and aiming devices must be inspected by the Department of Weights and Measures before being used and that they must be checked and certified yearly.

UPPER BUCKS: 536-4680
982-5144
CENTRAL BUCKS: 348-6000
343-9100
LOWER BUCKS: 355-7497
946-8900
Extension #6060
UPPER BUCKS COURTHOUSE
ANNEX: 538-0900, 0901
and 0902



BUCKS COUNTY CONSUMER PROTECTION WEIGHTS & MEASURES

A service of County Government for your protection. The BUCKS COUNTY WEIGHTS & MEASURES DIVISION has jurisdiction in the following areas:

1. Administers and enforces State and Federal laws pertaining to weights & measures.
2. Inspects and certifies all weighing and measuring devices used to offer products for sale.
3. Inspects pre-packaged commodities for accurate weight and declaration.
4. Investigates consumer complaints falling within the jurisdiction of Weights & Measures.
5. Has the authority to prosecute violators of any and all weights and measures laws.
6. Accuracy of scales
7. Proper visibility of scales
8. Accuracy of gasoline pumps
9. Accurate price computation devices
10. Proper advertising of gasoline prices
11. Accuracy of taring devices
12. Accuracy of computerized check-out systems
13. Proper seals of firewood
14. Accurate weight declaration on pre-packaged commodities
15. Accurate measure of pre-cut merchandise such as lumber & carpeting
16. Accurate count on pre-packaged merchandise
17. Accuracy of fuel oil truck meters
18. Checking for tare (packaging material) allowances on price & weight declaration
19. Accuracy of measure graphs & yardsticks
20. Weights and Measures inspects meat markets, super markets and small markets; service stations, yardage stores, drug stores, fuel tank meters, other scales at racetracks, Middle-town Grange, wool pull, feed stores, packing plants, manufacturing plants, wholesale distributors, flea markets, schools, post offices, scales used by police.

Protection is accomplished through continuous systematic inspection and testing for accuracy of all weighing and measuring devices used in trade in Bucks County as well as checking of all packaged commodities for quantity and labeling.

SYSTEMS OF MEASUREMENT

Both the avoirdupois and metric systems are legal in trade in the United States. However, in general business transactions, the avoirdupois system is used and the metric system has been confined to the scientific field.

In addition to the avoirdupois and metric systems, there are other systems of weight officially recognized -- troy for precious metals, apothecary for pharmaceutical products, and carat for precious stones.

APOTHECARY OR TROY
(Drugs and Precious Metals)

1 ounce 480 grains
12 ounces 1 pound

AVOIRDUPOIS
(Most widely used in trade)

1 ounce 437½ grains
16 ounces 1 pound
16 drams 1 ounce

APPROX. WEIGHT OF LIQUIDS PER GALLON

Milk 8.6
Water 8.3
Ethyl Gasoline 6.2
Regular Gasoline 6.05
Propane 4.24
Butane 4.84

LINEAL LAND MEASURE

Acre 10 Sq. Chains
Chain (100 links) 22 Yards
Yard 3 Feet

VOLUME

Bushel 2150.42 cu. in.
4 Pecks 1 Bushel
1 Peck 16 Pints

EQUIVALENTS OF THE COMMON CAPACITY UNITS USED IN THE KITCHEN

UNITS	TSP	TBSP	FL. OZS
1 Teaspoonful	1	1/3	1/6
1 Tablespoonful	3	1	1/2
1 Fluid ounce	6	2	1
¼ Cupful	12	4	2
1 gill (¼ cupful)	24	8	4
1 liquid pint	96	32	16
1 liquid quart	192	64	32

CAN CAPACITIES

CAN SIZE	CUPS
8 oz.	1
No. 1	1¼ - 1½
12 oz.	1½
No. 300	1¾
No. 303	2
No. 2	2¼ - 2½
No. 2½	3¼ - 3½
No. 3	4
46 oz.	5¾
No. 10	12 - 13

METRIC EQUIVALENTS

1 Teaspoon	5 Milliliters
1 Tablespoon	15 Milliliters
1/4 Cup	59.2 Milliliters
1/3 Cup	78.9 Milliliters
1/2 Cup	118.4 Milliliters
1 Cup	236.8 Milliliters
1 Pint	473.6 Milliliters
1 Quart	0.947 Liters
1 Gallon	3.7854 Liters
1 Ounce (dry)	28.35 Grams
1 Pound	453.59 Grams
2.21 Pounds	1 Kilogram
1 Gram	0.035273 ozs
1 Milliliter	0.033814 ozs
1 Liter	33.814 Fl. ozs
1 Centimeter	0.3937 inches
1 Meter	39.37 inches

Town of Agawam
Department of Weights & Measures
36 Main Street - Agawam, Mass.
786-0400



Weights and Measures — a service of government to protect the interests of buyers and sellers of commodities.

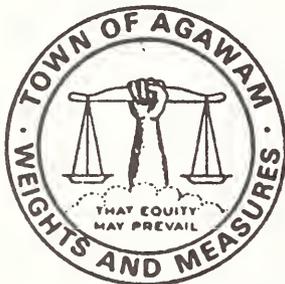
Louis D. Draghetti
Inspector of Weights & Measures

Town Manager

DID YOU KNOW?

Weights & Measures services performed in Agawam may result in savings of over \$250.00 annually for every family.

A TRIVIAL error
1 1 ounce
1 1 device
may cost
\$1,875.00
annually



Alert & Informed Consumers Save \$\$

The main purpose of your Department of Weights & Measures, is to keep our citizens from being cheated in their daily purchases of the necessities of life.

HOW TO SAVE DOLLARS

Calculate the price per ounce of commodities and then compare. (Quality is a subjective matter for the consumer to determine).

Observe the weighing or measuring device to determine what the total indicated delivery is; as originated from a zero indication.

Look for the seal of approval on commercially used devices.

Report suspected violations or inaccurate deliveries to your Weights & Measures Department.

Inspector of Weights & Measures
Louis D. Draghetti
Agawam Town Hall
786-0400 ext. 51

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS REQUIRE:

All commodities put up or packaged in advance of sale at retail, bear a plain and conspicuous statement on the outside of the package declaring the identity of the product by its usual name, description, or generic term and the net quantity of contents.

A scale be maintained in each retail outlet that sells prepackaged meats, and the package to be weighed at the time of sale if requested by the purchaser.

The posting of Unit Price Labels on shelves at or near the product or commodity display for sale in chain stores.

All clinical thermometers offered or exposed or kept for sale, must have the Massachusetts Seal marked upon each individual thermometer.

All persons coming into town to operate a temporary or transient business in a tent, booth, building or other structure, to be licensed as a transient vendor and post with the Director of Standards a surety bond. Such bonds not to be released until 60 days after the close of the vendors business with recourse against the bond, should bills be left unpaid, such as: rent, electric, water, etc.

All persons going from door to door carrying or exposing for sale any goods, wares, or merchandise to be licensed as a peddler must first file an application with the Commonwealth which certifies their character for good morals and repute.

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS REQUIRE:

All weighing and measuring devices used for sale, hire, or reward, be tested and sealed attesting their accuracy at least once a year.

All gasoline dispensers be equipped with an interlocking device that will not permit delivery of more gasoline upon completion of delivery without first setting the dispenser to zero.

Delivery Tickets and home delivery of fuel oil to be serially numbered and inserted in the meter at the time of delivery.

Net weight means only the contents inside packages exclusive of wrappers and containers.

Cash registers be so placed that purchasers may observe their purchases being totaled.

All meat, poultry and fish, except crustaceans, be sold at retail by weight.

All scales used for weighing food in the presence of a purchaser at retail be so placed that its indications and weighing operation may be observed by the purchaser.

The inspection of prepackaged commodities for accuracy of contents according to their statement.



**COMPUTER ASSISTED CHECKOUT
UPC - ELECTRONIC SCANNERS**

UPC stands for the UNIVERSAL PRODUCT CODE. Many manufacturers include this on their products. It is a series of bars and numbers, which identifies the manufacturer, specific item and size.

Products with the UPC symbol are passed over the scanner device and are electronically read. The information is transmitted to the store's computer which searches its memory for the current price. This information is sent back to the terminal (checkstand) and flashes on the customer display.

Prices are monitored by store personnel, who see that the shelf price and computer price agree. Also, Weights and Measures Inspectors on a routine basis check to assure accuracy on charges.

Your receipt will show, item, price, and date. Produce will be rung up by the checker, using a code for the specific product. Your receipt will tell the price per pound, weight and price charged.

Check your receipt. If you have any question regarding your purchases, take the receipt to the store manager. If you are dissatisfied with managers answer, or results, call you local WEIGHTS and MEASURES Office.



BUYING A SIDE OF BEEF - Be informed as to what you are buying and paying for.

Which **USDA QUALITY GRADE**? Most common are: **PRIME, CHOICE, GOOD**. Look for the USDA shield stamped on the carcass.

Which **USDA YIELD?** Graded 1, 2 with one (1) denoting the highest yield. Yields 3 and 2 most readily available.

What percentage of **TRIM LOSS** can you expect? 23% - 33% is average. Percentage dependent on: cuts, yield, bone, etc..

What will my **ACTUAL COST PER POUND BE?**
 $\text{Cost per LB} \times \text{Hanging WGT} = \text{TOTAL Cost}$
 (Example: $\$1.49 \times 330 \text{ LB} = \491.70)
 $\text{Hanging Weight} - \text{Trim Loss} = \text{Net WGT}$
 ($330 \text{ LB} - 99 \text{ LB} (30\%) = 231 \text{ LB}$)
 $\text{Total Cost} \div \text{Net WGT} = \text{Price per LB}$
 ($\$491.70 \div 231 \text{ LB} = \2.13 per LB)
ACTUAL COST is \$2.13 per pound.

Know the **cuts of meat**. Will you use all of them, or only a few, and have the rest made into ground beef? Possibly you would be better to buy a quarter beef.

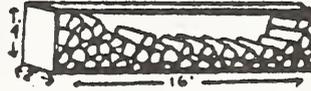
- A) **FOREQUARTER** consists of:
 #1-RIB #2-CHUCK #3-SHANK #4-BRISKET
 B) **HINDQUARTER** contains the:
 #1-FLANK #2-SIRLOIN TIP #3-ROUND
 #4-COIN END #5-SHORT END

Beware of **BAIT and SWITCH** tactics. Don't be baited in by a low price, only to be switched to buy a more expensive grade. Report such tactics to your local Consumer Protection Agency.

The seller is required by State Regulation to provide you a form, and keep a copy on file for one year, of the transaction. The form consists of:

- date of purchase
- hanging weight
- packaged weight
- type of grade
- firm's name and address
- customer's name, plus other details

Any problems, in regards to quantity, should be referred to your local WEIGHTS and MEASURES office.



BUYING WOOD FOR HOME FUEL? Know what you are buying!

A "CORD OF WOOD" is the amount of wood that is contained in a space of 128 cubic feet.

When buying a cord of wood, or portion of (1/4 cord, 1/2 cord); have an area marked equal to the amount you are purchasing (128 cu ft, 64 cu ft, 32 cu ft). Take into consideration the size lengths you will be receiving. (12", 18", 24").

Stack the wood as soon as possible to insure that you actually have received the correct amount.

Request a dated receipt, with sellers' name and phone number. If you are dissatisfied, you will have proof of purchase, to back your complaint.

Any problems encountered, regarding the amount received, should be filed with you WEIGHTS & MEASURES office.

OTHER IDEAS FOR WEIGHTS & MEASURES WEEK

NATIONAL WEIGHTS & MEASURES WEEK
March 1 to 7



EQUITY IN THE MARKETPLACE

Weights and Measures History in California



Department of Food and Agriculture
Division of Measurement Standards

January, 1984



NATIONAL
WEIGHTS & MEASURES
WEEK: MARCH 1 to 7



*Equity in the
Marketplace.*

I SUPPORT **WEIGHTS &**
MEASURES  **FOR MY
PROTECTION**

PROGRESSIVE FUEL OIL CO., INC. EST. 1959

KEROSENE • DIESEL FUEL OIL

24 Hour Burner Service • Auto Delivery Budget Plans

We Salute National Weights and Measures Week • March 1-7, 1988

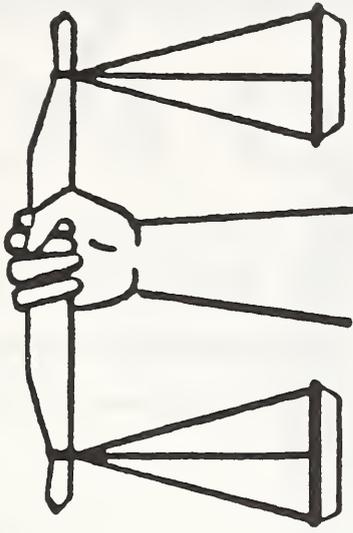
641-1055 • 653-2166 • 693-3124

When you make a purchase at the food store, fill your tank with gasoline at the service station, or buy any merchandise by weight or measurement, you think the transaction is only between you and the vendor. It may surprise you to know that every such transaction is participated in by a third man even though he is not present in person.

The "third man" is the Weights and Measures Official who checks all weighing and volume measuring devices used in sales made to the public. This "third man" is always present in spirit, protecting both buyer and seller. He is a dedicated man working quietly and tirelessly to save customers money...and to safeguard vendors' businesses. Errors in either direction, over or under, will cause someone to suffer.

The public and merchants look upon him as a friend. Because of this friendship, everyone wholeheartedly joins in celebrating National Weights and Measures Week, March 1 thru 7. This is one week that the "third man" drops his anonymity and steps into the spotlight of appreciation for the job he does in behalf of the public and merchants. After all, what he stands for is just "good business."

NATIONAL WEIGHTS & MEASURES WEEK: MARCH 1 to 7



Equity in the Marketplace.

POMONA OIL

ODESSA AVE.
POMONA, NJ

Call...
965-0666
641-3090

BUTTERHOF'S FARM & HOME SUPPLY

134 W.H. PIKE
Egg Harbor City
965-1198

STARN'S ShopRite

#1 Food Giant of South Jersey

- Abscon White Horse Pike & W. Jersey Ave.
- Rio Grande 640 Hurst Ave.
- Ventnor 5100 Wellington Ave.
- Somers Point Bethel & Rt. 9

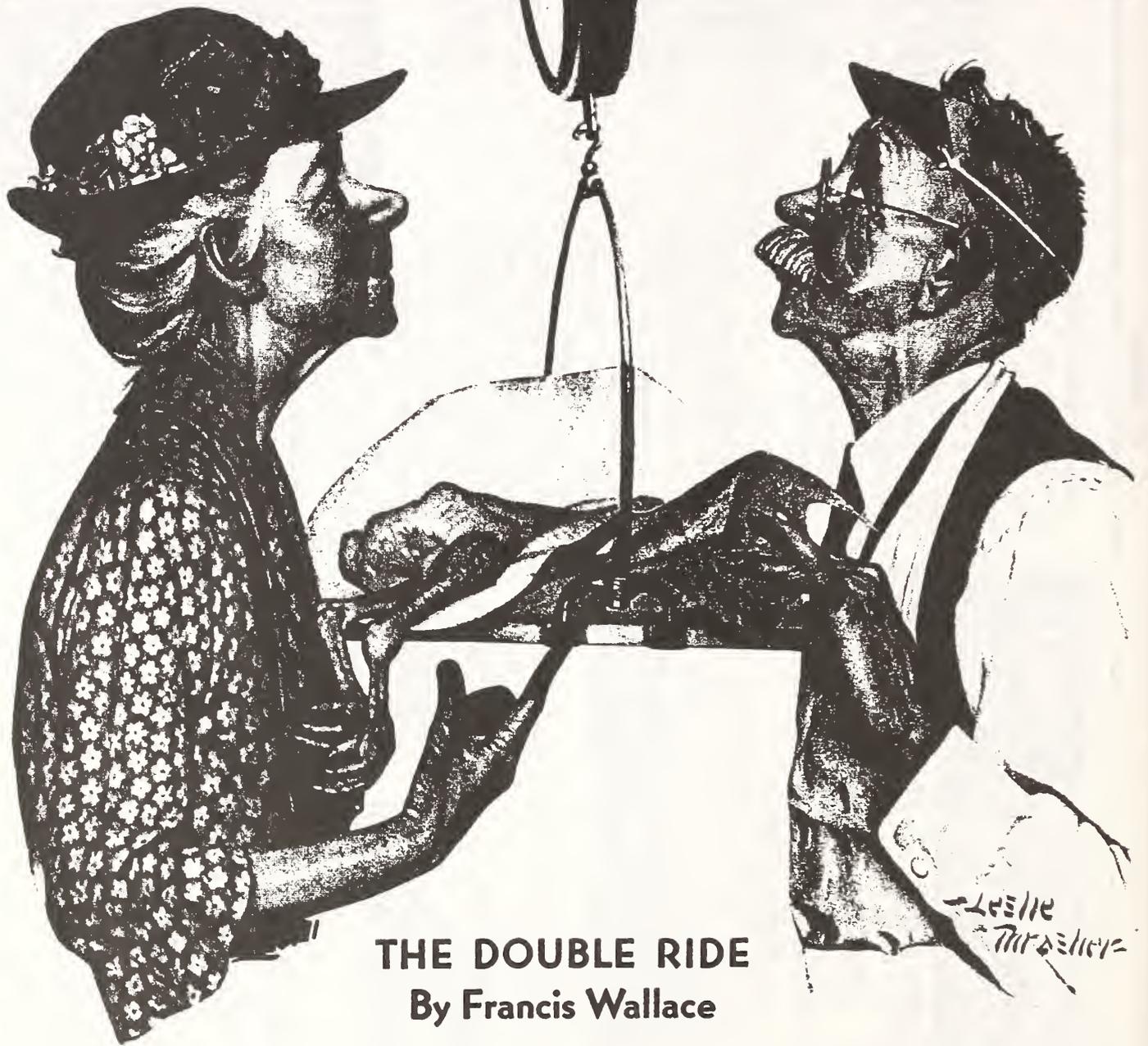
THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

An Illustrated Weekly
Founded A. D. 1774 by Benj. Franklin

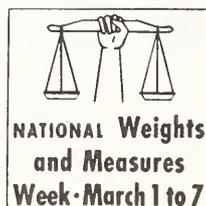
Volume 209, Number 44

OCTOBER 3, 1936

5cts. THE COPY



THE DOUBLE RIDE
By Francis Wallace



Reprinted By



WORLD HEADQUARTERS
TROY, OHIO 45374

Reprinted from THE SATURDAY EVENING POST
© 1936 The Curtis Publishing Company



* Pamphlet: "New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures"

Contact: State Director
Office Weights and Measures
1260 Routes 1 and 9 South
Avenel, NJ 07001
(201) 815-484

* Pamphlets: "It's Your Money," "What Are Weights & Measures?," "Rules To Govern Road Stands,"
"Department of Weights and Measures and Consumer Protection," "Cordwood and
Firewood," "Freezer Meat Bargains," "Are You Pennywise and Pound Foolish?," "Gas
Watch," "Packaged Commodities," "Think Metric," "Consumer Information," "Weights
and Measures," "Full Value," "Are You Poundwise and Penny Foolish?"

Contact: Superintendent
Cumberland County Department of Weights & Measures
and Consumer Protection
788 E. Commerce Street
Bridgetown, NJ 08302
(609) 451-8000

* Pamphlet: "Suggestions to Consumers"

Contact: Department of Weights and Measures
City of Evansville and Vanderburg County
Room 134, Community Center
Evansville, IN 47708

* Pamphlet: "The Energy Handbook"

Contact: State Director
Pennsylvania Bureau of Standard Weights & Measures
Department of Agriculture
2301 N. Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-6772

* Stickers: "Weights and Measures Is Consumer Protection"

Contact: Thomas Stabler, Exec. Director
The Institute of Weights and Measures
Franklin University
201 S. Grant Street
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 438-4548

* Poster: "The Third Man" (reprinted by Fairbanks Weighing Division)

Contact: Michael Adams
Colt Industries
71 East St. Johnsbury Road
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-5111

* Pamphlet: "The Weights and Measures Inspectors"

Parchment of 1836 Resolution
Contact: OWM
NIST
Gaithersburg, MD 20899
(301) 975-4004

* Slug for Postal Meter

Contact: Sy Feinland at Pitney Bowes at (203) 925-5211 or 800-243-7824 or any Pitney Bowes Sales Office. Cost is about \$24.

* Poster: "The Saturday Evening Post Double Ride" Number F7926

Contact: Patricia Warner
Hobart Corporation
World Headquarters
Troy, OH 45374
(513) 332-2037

* Metric Flyers

Contact: Stephen C. Perry
Toledo Scale Corp.
350 N. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 438-4600

* Pamphlets: "About Labels on Meat and Poultry Products," "The Packers and Stockyard's Act," FSQS Facts, and current publication list

Contact: Food Safety and Quality Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th and Independence SW
Washington, DC 20250

* Pamphlet: "For the County Fair"

Contact: State Director
North Carolina Department of Agriculture
Standard Division
P.O. Box 26056
Raleigh, NC 27611-6056
(919) 733-3313

* Pamphlets: "Weights and Measures," "Meat Identity Standards"

Contact: Director of Weights and Measures
Town of Agawam
Consumer Advisory Commission
36 Main Street
Agawam, MA
(413) 786-0400 Ext. 232

* Pamphlet: "With the Producer, the Merchant, and You in Mind"

Contact: State Director
GA Department of Agriculture
Agriculture Building - Capital Square
Atlanta, GA 30301
(404) 656-3605

* Pamphlets: "Serving the Interests of Consumers and Products," "Weights & Measures Facts"

Contact: State Supervisor
Texas Department of Agriculture
Consumer Service Division
P.O. Box 12847
Austin, TX 78711
(512) 463-7601

* Booklet: "Equity in the Marketplace - Weights and Measures History in California"

Contact: California Division of Measurements STD
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 366-5119

* Pamphlet: "How to Get Exactly What You Pay For"

Contact: Arizona Division of Weights & Measures
3039 West Indian School
Phoenix, AZ 85017

* Pamphlet: "Weights and Measures - That Equity May Prevail"

Contact: Tennessee Department of Weights & Measures
Box 40627 Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204
(615) 360-0160

* Pamphlet: "Supermarket Checklist"

Contact: New York City Office of Consumer Affairs
80 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10013

* Pamphlet: "Dry Commodities"

Contact: Montgomery County Weights & Measures
Courthouse
Norristown, PA 19404
(215) 278-3569

* Metric Information and Publications List

Contact: American National Metric Council
1010 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 320
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 628-5757

USDC Office of Metric Programs
Room 4816, Hoover Building
Washington, DC 20230
(202) 377-3036
FAX # 202-377-4498

United States Metric Association Inc.
10245 Andasol Ave.
Northridge, CA 91325
(818) 363-5606

* United States Department of Agriculture
Independence Ave. between 12th & 14th Streets, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Information USDA Related Subject Matter
(202) 447-2791

Inspector General's Hotline
(202) 472-1388

Meat & Poultry Hotline
(202) 447-3333

* Food & Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

FDA Directory Information
(301) 443-1544

Consumer Inquiries
(301) 443-3170

Product Complaints & Emergencies
(301) 443-1240

After 4:30 P.M. Monday thru Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays
(301) 857-8400

* Pamphlets: "Know What You Are Buying," "Equity For All - Bucks County Consumer Protection/Weights & Measures," "What Are Weights and Measures?," "History of Ancient Measurement," "Household Weights & Measures" (an NBS publication)

FDA Consumer Memos: "Metric Measures on Nutritional Labels" and "Computerizing Supermarket Checkouts"

Copies of assorted pamphlets from states and counties

Copies of "The Marketplace" VHS
VCR tape, \$10 for cassette copy and mailing

Contact: Peggy H. Adams
Chief Sealer / Director
Bucks County Consumer Protection / Weights & Measures
50 N. Main Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
(215) 348-7442

U.S. DEPT. OF COMM. BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET (See instructions)	1. PUBLICATION OR REPORT NO. NISTIR 89-4109	2. Performing Organ. Report No.	3. Publication Date JUNE 1989
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Weights and Measures Week Guide and Year Round Public Relations			
5. AUTHOR(S) Peggy H. Adams			
6. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION (If joint or other than NBS, see instructions) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS & TECHNOLOGY NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20234		7. Contract/Grant No.	8. Type of Report & Period Covered
9. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS (Street, City, State, ZIP) National Conference on Weights and Measures P.O. Box 4025 Gaithersburg, MD 20885			
10. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES <input type="checkbox"/> Document describes a computer program; SF-185, FIPS Software Summary, is attached.			
11. ABSTRACT (A 200-word or less factual summary of most significant information. If document includes a significant bibliography or literature survey, mention it here) This document provides guidance to state and local weights and measures officials concerning National Weights and Measures Week, March 1 through 7 of each year. It also provides guidance for public relations activities that can be used for the rest of the year.			
12. KEY WORDS (Six to twelve entries; alphabetical order; capitalize only proper names; and separate key words by semicolons) weights & measures; Weights and Measures Week; weights and measures public relations			
13. AVAILABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> Unlimited <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Official Distribution. Do Not Release to NTIS <input type="checkbox"/> Order From Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. <input type="checkbox"/> Order From National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Springfield, VA. 22161		14. NO. OF PRINTED PAGES	15. Price

