

Figures and Facts of Life on OCEAN COUNTY NEW JERSEY

Compiled by A. PAUL KING, Freeholder — General Chairman, "ACRES OF DIAMONDS" TOUR

OCEAN COUNTY, the second largest by land area in New Jersey, was erected out of Monmouth February 15, 1850. The first village — **TOMS RIVER**, 1624, County seat since 1850, part of original Township of Dover.

Total land area — 639 square miles; less than 20% developed overall; 78% in trees today. Over 400,000 acres. Coastal area nearly 65% developed; upland only 7% in land use.

County Boundaries: Monmouth to the North; Burlington to the West; Atlantic County to the South and the broad expanse of the Atlantic Ocean to the East and the rising of the sun.

County Governing Body: **OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS** — 3 Members, directing 30 departments of County homerule government and providing over 1,000 public services.

Civil Divisions — **33 Municipalities**, plus Island Beach State Park on southern end of the Barnegat Peninsula.

Legislators: State Senator W. Steelman Mathis; Assemblywoman Lettie E. Savage.

County Population — 10,026 in 1850; 56,662 in 1950; estimated **98,425 in 1959**. Summer Population (Seashore) up 20 times — as much as 2,000,000.

Soil: Lakewood sand; sandy loam and sassafras (best for garden farming). Porous, good drainage. 44 inches average annual rainfall; mild climate, over 300 days sunshine a year.

Major Industries: Recreation and Travel \$250,000,000 a year; poultry farming \$20,000,000. Over 400 new businesses established each year; upland available for small, clean industry and light manufacture. Prime good-neighbor-type industry: Toms River-Cincinnati Chemical Corporation, paste and powder dyestuffs, labor force 500, doubling.

Total number of farms: 1214, mostly poultry farms; garden and dairy ranges. Land in agriculture: 47,496 acres. Cattle: 1198. Milk produced 526,111 gallons. 3 million laying hens plus 3 million broilers.

Manufacturing Establishments: 145, ranging from large commercial fisheries, sand and gravel pits, dress, furniture, chemical and gift handicraft.

Lakes and Streams: 54 including the Toms River, Manasquan and Metedeconk Rivers; Cedar Creek, Oyster Creek and Tuckerton Creek. Potahcong, Silver and Conrad Lakes; Carasaljo and Manetta in Lakewood Township. **Largest body of Water:** Barnegat Bay, 16 miles from Bay Head or Point Pleasant - Manasquan Canal southeasterly to Harvey Cedars. Salt-water bay fishing, clamming and crabbing, sail-boating.

State Parks: Barnegat Light State Park on northern tip of

Long Beach Island; Island Beach State Park; Colliers' Mills Game Preserve (Jackson Township). 'Forked River Mountains', historic site designation in Lacey Township, only 182 feet elevation! Highest elevation in County: Prospertown, 233 feet.

County Road Mileage: 614.73 miles in 32 Municipalities; Municipal streets 1168.5 miles. State Highway mileage within boundaries of Ocean County: 125 plus 51 miles of Garden State Parkway from Lakewood to Little Egg Harbor Township.

Total Existing Dwellings in Ocean County: 30,200; building at rate of 5000 a year.

Net effective Buying Power Income per Family: \$4,905.00 a year. Autos registered 48,886.

Transportation Facilities: Garden State Parkway; Public Service and Lincoln Limited Bus Companies; Pennsylvania and Central Railroad of New Jersey, Manahawkin and Lakewood Airports.

Newspapers: 1 Daily "The Lakewood Daily Times"; Weeklies: "New Jersey Courier" and "Ocean County Sun", Toms River; "Ocean County Citizen" Lakewood; "Ocean County Leader", Point Pleasant Beach; "New Egypt Press", New Egypt; "Beach Haven Times-Tuckerton Beacon", Tuckerton; "Ocean County Review" Seaside Heights; "The Shoreline News" Seaside Park; "The Observer", Brick Township; "The Bulletin", Jackson Township; "The Beachcomber", Ship Bottom.

Hospitals (3): Paul Kimball, Lakewood; Point Pleasant Hospital and Jersey Shore in Pt. Pleasant Beach.

Public Libraries: Bishop Memorial, Toms River; Lakewood, Pt. Pleasant, Beach Haven and Long Beach Island. **OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY**, Courthouse, Toms River (2) Bookmobiles.

Elementary Schools: 34 with 12,847 enrolled students. Five Public High Schools with 4258 in Toms River, Lakewood, Pt. Pleasant Beach, Central Regional and Southern Regional at Manahawkin. Estimated enrollment by 1960 — over 25,000. Two public and 1 private parochial schools; Georgian Court College (Catholic for Girls) Lakewood.

Historic Sites: Barnegat Lighthouse (Built 1856-58 by Gen. George Gordon Meade) on northern tip Long Beach Island; 1850 Courthouse on Washington Street, Toms River; (for reconstruction); Friends Meeting Houses in Barnegat and Tuckerton.

COUNTY PARKS: Ocean County Park (Onetime Rockefeller Estate) Lakewood, 575 acres; Tuckerton-Potahcong Area at Tuckerton; New Egypt in Plumstead Township.

Total Tax Ratables: Value \$162,680,818 (1959).

Natural Resources: Prime healthy climate with sand, sea and sunshine for relaxation; salt water fish; soft, sweet water; growing labor force; good soil drainage; mild climate.