

County News

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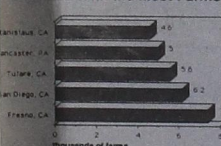
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Local taxes continue upward spiral

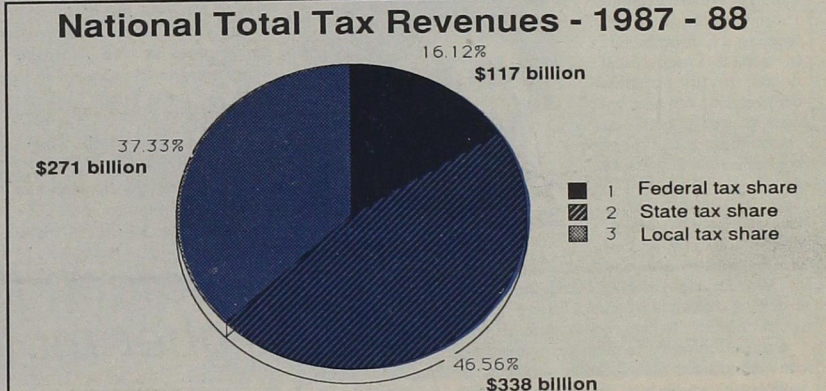
Continuing a decade-long trend, local tax revenues in 1988 increased more than both state and federal revenues, according to a new report by the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of the Census.

During that year, local tax revenues nationwide grew 8.4 percent, 1.5 percent more than state revenues and nearly twice as much as the federal increase of 4.3 percent.

Real and personal property taxes provided the most local revenue—nearly three out of four tax dollars. For states, sales taxes provided about one-half of all state tax revenue, and personal and corporate income taxes were the source of nine out of 10 federal tax dollars.

The amount of taxes received by all three levels of government totaled nearly \$1 trillion—federal (57 percent), state (26 percent) and local (17 percent).

Besides taxes of \$560 billion, total federal revenues exceeded \$1 trillion. These include \$310 billion



in Social Security contributions and \$80 billion in charges and fees.

Combined, state and local taxes totaled \$435 billion. Revenues from other sources totaled about \$880 billion, including \$118 billion in federal payments. These payments increased two percent in

1988, less than half of their average growth rate for the past 10 years.

Debt by all three levels of government rose to \$3.4 trillion in '88, up nearly 10 percent from 1987. More than three-quarters of this total was federal. State and local debt, totaling \$755 billion, in-

creased only five percent. The report, "Government Finances in 1987-88" (GF88, No. 5), provides additional, more detailed data on government revenues, spending, debt and assets. To order, call the U.S. Government Printing Office at 301/763-4100.

Counties, home builders join forces to solve infrastructure problems

By Tom Goodman
public affairs director

Calling the effort a milestone, President Ann Klinger joined with representatives of the home building community at a press conference in Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 19, to release a workbook designed to provide local governments and the private sector with a process to

solve the problem of financing needed infrastructure.

Entitled "Building Together: Investing in Community Infrastructure," the workbook is the first of its kind and the culmination of cooperation between NACo and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). Created to be used as a tool, the workbook, as its first page notes, "only succeeds

when well worn by county officials and home builders."

"County governments have always been in the forefront in providing a high level of services for their communities including adequate and safe infrastructure," said Klinger. "This book lays out a community decision-making process and offers viable ways for community leaders to work in concert with home builders rather than in conflict."

Klinger said she believes the workbook will "play a crucial role toward maintaining a high quality of life in the years to come. This is a milestone effort on the part of county officials and the building community."

The release of the workbook coincided with the NAHB national conference in Atlanta. Representing the home builders at the press conference was Dale Stuard, immediate past president of NAHB, who maintained that infrastructure continues to be an issue of national concern in the '90s.

"The deterioration of our roadways, water systems and public facilities must be addressed," Stuard said. "This workbook provides a framework within which community leaders and builders

can find fair and effective methods for financing the maintenance and expansion of their infrastructure needs."

According to its introduction, the workbook outlines a process designed to bring together various community groups to look at a broad range of infrastructure financing methods that are not only fair and equitable, but improve the state and local planning process for accommodating growth. The book begins by exploring the question: What is infrastructure and why is it important to your community? Other areas covered in the work-

"This is a milestone effort on the part of county officials and the building community."

Ann Klinger

book include establishing a working group, assessing financial resources, developing a plan, implementing the plan and getting the public involved in the process.

Development of the workbook grew out of a task force formed by NACo and NAHB in 1987. The

See **WORKBOOK**, page 14

America's counties Spotlighting infrastructure teamwork

By Ann Klinger
NACo president

As the last issue of *County News* dramatically demonstrated, meeting the infrastructure of capital improvement needs including new construction, replacement and maintenance of our communities is one of the major public policy issues for this decade.

In recognition of this fact and in the spirit of cooperation, members of the National Association of Home Builders and NACo have worked, for the last 18 months, to develop a community participation process and workbook which is now available to help communities help themselves.

Adequate infrastructure equates to sound quality of life. Whether communities are able to solve problems of congested streets, inadequate wastewater treatment facilities or contaminated drinking water, and whether we are able to reverse the decline in existing infrastructure and build new infrastructure will depend to a large extent on public/private cooperation.

How well can the public and private sectors anticipate and plan for needed capital improvements? Is it possible for the costs of needed infrastructure improvements to be equitably distributed within a community? Realizing there is no single best way to fund a given capital improvement in counties, the National Association of Counties and the National Association of Home Builders formed a joint task force on the financing of infrastructure in 1988.

The task force agreed, first, to prepare comprehensive guidelines for equitable financing alternatives of capital improvements, and second, to educate their members as to the issues and the availability and benefit of these guidelines.

Three other organizations have assisted and made this project possible: The Government Finance Research Center, Lincoln Institute for Land Policy and the Urban Land Institute. This effort should aid communities in state and local infrastructure issues. Basically, the workbook is an infrastructure financing educational program to inform and train the broadest possible range of community participants in community-based problem solving.

The task force noted that cutbacks in federal support have placed a growing burden on state and local governments to meet infrastructure needs. In distressed counties, both urban and rural, developing and maintaining the infrastructure is critical for economic development. Unfortunately, this foundation is decaying. Seventy-five percent of our county bridges need rehabilitation. More than 28 million Americans are not served by modern sewage treatment facilities. More than a million miles of highway will require resurfacing by the year 2000.

For the last few years, both state and local governments' ability to fund public benefit facilities were severely restricted by the federal government. While substantial federal support ended, the ability of state and local governments to access the tax-exempt bond market was reduced and made more costly, according to the Anthony Commission of Public Finance.

One of the goals of the joint task force was to eliminate restrictive tax provisions in the Tax Reform Act of 1986 that limited the reasonable use of municipal bond financing. Recently, issuers of public purpose construction bonds received some arbitrage rebate relief. Issuers are exempt from rebate if the proceeds are spent over a prescribed period of time; a welcome and common sense change in federal law.

If your county is interested in reviewing and perhaps field testing the new workbook, call Don Pepe at NACo, 202/393-6226. My congratulations and sincere appreciation to everyone who has made this project successful. The proof of its value will be in the implementation. Working with the private sector to effect needed changes, I know counties can.



Ann Klinger
NACo president

NOBCO announces national symposium on minority aging

When making travel arrangements to attend NACo's Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in March, plan to arrive in the Washington area two days early to participate in the National Symposium on Minority Aging for State and Local Public Officials, convened by the National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO).

The symposium is scheduled immediately prior to the NACo conference on March 15-16, at

Bowie State University in nearby Prince George's County, Md. Prince George's County will co-host the symposium.

NOBCO is working with the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA), as a sponsor for this effort, with support from the Administration on Aging (AoA).

The agenda for the symposium is designed to help state and local officials develop strategies they can take back and use in their communities as advocates for the

aging. These topics include housing, family support, community services, health and labor force participation economics.

As families increasingly look outside sources of support to help meet the needs of aging parents and relatives, state, municipal and county governments are becoming more involved in formulating, implementing and monitoring programs.

See NOBCO, next page

Nineteen legislatures levied higher motor fuel taxes in 1989

By Robert Fogel
legislative representative

Legislatures in 18 states and the District of Columbia levied higher motor fuel taxes in 1989, the largest number of states to do so in one year since 1981 when 22 states passed such increases.

The state with the highest net increase in fuel taxes was North Carolina, where taxes increased 5.45 cents from 15.7 cents per gallon to 21.15 cents per gallon. North Carolina has a variable tax rate and voted to increase the base rate by three cents.

The state also imposed a 25-cent auto inspection fee. This fee, along with the base rate increase, accounted for the bulk of the increase.

Louisiana increased its tax by four cents and its voters approved a constitutional amendment to dedicate motor fuel taxes to a transportation trust fund, bringing the number of states with such constitutional protection of highway revenues to 18. The average state gasoline tax for 1989 is 15.8 cents per gallon and the average diesel tax is 16 cents.

The federal tax on gasoline and

diesel fuel is currently nine and cents per gallon, respectively. Both are paid in addition to state local motor fuel taxes.

In North Dakota, however, voters rejected a motor fuel tax increase in a statewide referendum.

Bills in 19 other states legislatures are expected to carry over into 1990.

Nationally, gasoline and gasoline use per capita rose from 475 gallons in 1988 to 502 gallons this year. Kentucky was highest with 6 gallons, while the District of Columbia was lowest with 3.5 gallons.

1988-89 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Increase

State	MFT Increase (cents per gallon)	Effective Date
California	5	7/1/90
Colorado	2 (gasoline/gasohol)	8/1/89
D.C.	2.5	7/1/89
Illinois	3	8/1/89
Kansas	4	7/1/89
Louisiana	4	1/1/90
Nebraska	3.8	7/1/89
Nevada	2 (special fuels)	1/1/90
New Mexico	2 (gasoline), 7 (gasohol)	7/1/89
North Carolina	5.45	8/1/89
North Dakota	3 (gasoline), 2 (diesel)	Failed in referendum
Ohio	3.2	7/15/89
Oregon	2	1/1/90
Rhode Island	5	7/1/89
Tennessee	4 (gasoline, 1 diesel)	7/1/89
Vermont	3	6/1/89
Virginia	0.2	7/1/89
West Virginia	5	4/1/89
Wyoming	1 (decrease of 3 for gasohol)	7/1/89

NOBCO

from previous page

serve the elderly.

According to NOBCO Chairman Webster Guillory, "There are no volunteers in aging. It just happens to all of us ... as the population as a whole grows older, we must help ourselves to effectively use the resources that we have paid for and that should now be available. So we must be informed and inform others. We have a great challenge to our immediate future."

The national symposium is expected to attract public officials from all levels of government who will come together with senior activists, national minority public interest organizations, health officials, service providers and representatives from state and local agencies on aging.

Invited speakers include: Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan; U.S. Social Security Administration Commissioner Gwendolyn King (confirmed); and Dr. Joyce Berry, acting U.S. commissioner on aging, Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging.

The member organizations of the National Policy Institute (NPI) will serve as co-sponsors of the symposium.

The NPI organizations include NOBCO, as well as the National Association of Black County Officials (NABCO), Congressional Black Caucus, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, National Conference of Black Mayors, National Caucus of Black School Board Members and the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association.

Prince George's County Councilmember Hilda Pemberton, president of NABCO, will serve as co-convenor of the symposium with Samuel Simmons, president of NCBA.

Hotel accommodations for participants in the symposium have been arranged at the Quality Inn/Capital Center, in Largo, Md., for Wednesday, March 14-15.

For more information, please contact Crandall Jones, Shirley Junior or Rosemary Davis in the NOBCO national office at 202/47-6953, 440 First Street, N.W., fifth floor, Washington, D.C. 20001.



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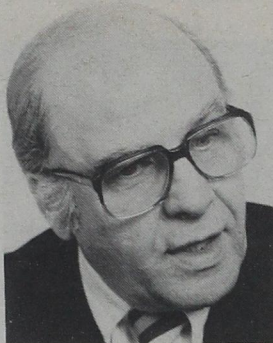
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Earth Day coordinators invite participation

"If you think carefully about it, there is one issue that stands alone, above all others. Right now, and in the long haul into the next century and in the centuries thereafter, no other issue is more relevant to the quality of life for the human species than the status of our resources: air, water, soil, minerals, scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, forests, rivers, lakes and oceans. It is this resource base that defines the habitat and the limitation for survival of all species, plant and animal, including humankind." These are the words of the most effective conservationist politician our nation has ever had. Currently counselor of the Wilderness Society, Former Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) spent 18 years as a senator from Wisconsin lobbying for Mother Nature.

Starting back in 1963, Sen. Nelson helped persuade President John F. Kennedy to kick off an environmental awareness campaign that included a tour around the United States giving



Gaylord Nelson, founder Earth Day

speeches on environmental consciousness. The tour found itself on the back pages of the news as the issues of the day appeared more pressing.

In the years to follow, environment was not even a minor issue on most politicians' agendas, including the three major presidential candidates in 1967. However, a major environmental crisis was brewing.

Lake Erie was in critical condition. Rivers were known to catch on fire and factories were blackening our skies.

Then in 1969 a major oil spill occurred off the coast of Santa Barbara, Calif. Soon thereafter, Nelson picked up a copy of the now-defunct radical magazine *Ramparts* and read an article about Vietnam teach-ins, and decided to apply the same strategy toward environmental concerns.

He then went on to contribute \$15,000 of his own money to organize the effort and to proclaim April 22 "Earth Day." The result shocked Nelson, now known as the "Father of Earth Day."

"I figured it would be a success," he recalls, "but [the response] was a dozen times bigger than I had ever guessed."

This success translated into the largest, organized, peacetime event in human history. Twenty million citizens participated in teach-ins, sit-ins, rallies and protests.

So began a new era of environmental consciousness in which politicians were forced to listen or be thrown out, such as

the 12 congressmen deemed the "dirty dozen" who were defeated in the next election for their unresponsive views on the environment.

The Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and even the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency also came on the tide of the movement.

The year is 1990, twenty years since the first Earth Day, and again we find ourselves with an environmental crisis which must be addressed. Problems such as solid waste disposal, acid rain, global warming and stratosphere ozone depletion are among the many. Sen. Nelson feels that it is again time to put these issues on the forefront of the political agenda by again celebrating Earth Day, sensitizing the public and allowing the grass roots to grow and organize itself. That is precisely the goal behind Earth Day 1990.

If one senator's office, acting as a clearinghouse, induced 20 million people to participate, it's hard to imagine what will come of Earth Day 1990, in which no less than ten national groups are organizing events, and hundreds of state and local groups have been formed to help organize activities.

What do organizers expect to

accomplish from Earth Day 1990? To start off, a world-wide ban on chlorofluorocarbons and non-recyclable packaging, a transition to renewable energy resources, a comprehensive hazardous waste minimization program, a heightened protection for endangered species and most importantly, a new sense of responsibility in the protection of the planet and individual communities and nations.

In the upcoming issue *County News* will be presenting many of these events and addressing other issues related to Earth Day 1990.

In the meantime, Sen. Nelson encouraged county boards to pass resolutions, issue proclamations and sponsor events.

The EPA has extended an invitation to help provide information, learning materials, even speakers to assist in activities. Marion Thompson, organizing support at the Earth Day Office and can be reached at 202/245-4150.

NACo is also interested in what counties are doing. If you have an idea, or need information on Earth Day 1990, please call D'Arcy Philips at 393-6226.

NFBPA conference scheduled

The annual conference of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) will be held April 1-4 in Washington, D.C. at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. "FORUM '90" will be the association's eighth annual conference.

Nearly 1,000 managers from the public and private sectors are expected to be in attendance.

The theme for FORUM '90 is

"The Next Decade: Expanding Horizons in Black Public Leadership." More than 40 workshops are planned on such topics as waste management, professional development, public finance, cultural diversity, substance abuse and AIDS, communication skills, rebuilding an Minority Business Enterprise program and ethics in public management.

Anticipated highlights of the

conference include a keynote address by author Maya Angelou on Tuesday, April 3, and a special panel discussion featuring members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Invited speakers for other keynote sessions include Governor-Elect L. Douglas Wilder (Va.), Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell, and Democratic Party Chairman Ron Brown.

Other aspects of the conference will include special discussions organized around local government disciplines, an exhibition of professional products and services available from the private sector, and numerous opportunities for professional networking with your peers from across the country.

Founded in 1983, NFBPA is comprised of more than 2,300 members, representing 40 states and 300 municipalities nationwide. Registration information is available by calling the NFBPA at 202/626-4900 or by writing: NFBPA, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 801, Washington, D.C. 20004.

OMB publishes new lobbying disclosure requirements for federal fund recipients

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently published a new requirement that may substantially add to the paperwork burden of local agencies that lobby the federal government. These agencies will now be required to formally calculate all costs of lobbying the federal government.

Section 319 of the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 1990 (P.L. 101-121) prohibits recipients of any federal funds from using those funds for lobbying purposes. It also requires each applicant for a federal contract, grant, cooperative agreement or loan to disclose all federal lobbying activities.

The new requirement is expected to slow the allocation of 1990 federal funds as agencies.

Interim final guidance on the new requirement was published by OMB Dec. 20, and is now effective. Comments of the guidance may be filed within 60 days of publication.

County News

"THE WISDOM TO KNOW AND THE COURAGE TO DEFEND THE PUBLIC INTEREST"

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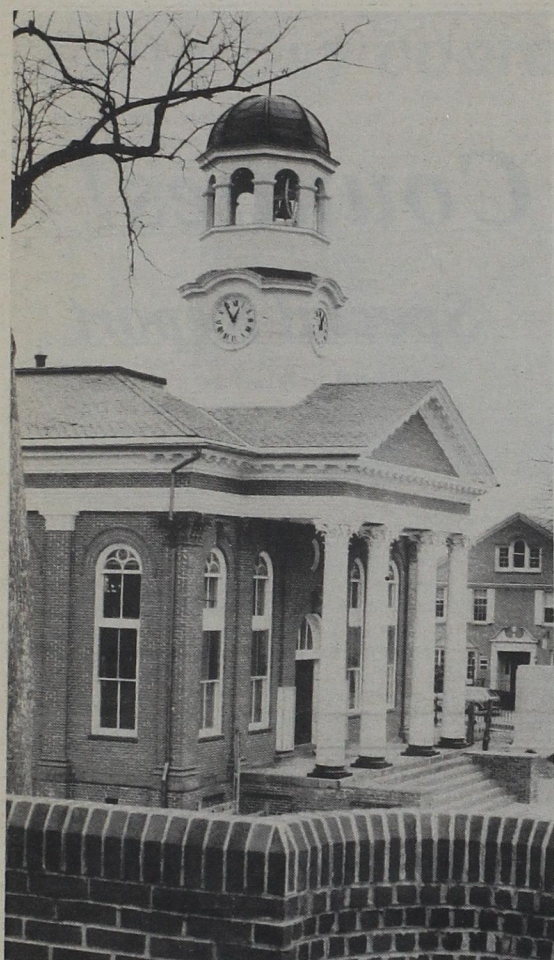
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Know your Counties!

Special Report





Counties: thirteen centuries of progress

The role of county government as an arm of the state and a unit of self-government can be traced as far back as 603 A.D. to an area in southern England that King Ine of Wessex divided into territories which became known as shires. Shires were controlled by the monarchy through the appointment of a governing official who, by 787, had as his right arm a "Shire-Reeve," a term which later evolved into "sheriff."

Following the 1066 Norman Conquest, shires became known as counties, territories governed by Norman counts or counts for the king. As counts became more and more preoccupied with monarchical matters, the business of running the county fell primarily into the hands of the sheriff. Over the next couple of centuries, the sheriff gained increasing influence as the king's military representative, chief of county police, tax collector and presiding officer of the court of freeholders or landowners.

County government evolved in England over several centuries and was brought to the United States with the English colonizers. The first American counties were established in 1634 when a portion of Virginia was divided into eight counties. The specific dates each of those was established is uncertain.

American independence fostered numerous changes to American government, including the strengthening of state governments and more defined county structures and roles. The primary county role, however, continued to develop as an arm of state government, wielding only those powers granted by state constitutions and laws. Connecticut and Rhode Island are the only two states today that do not have functioning county governments.

There are 3,139 county-type governments in the United States today. Of this total, 3,041 are county governments and 71 are city-county governments. City-counties are areas where a single government provides

combined city and county services.

Of these, 27 are city-county consolidations and 44 are independent cities which administer services commonly under the jurisdiction of counties. Denver, New Orleans, New York City and San Francisco are all examples of cities that have consolidated with surrounding counties. In 1805, New Orleans-Orleans Parish, La. became the first city-county consolidation. Lynchburg City-Moore County, Tenn. is the most recent, consolidating in 1988.

Depending upon geographic proximity, counties may be referred to as "parishes" or "boroughs." Likewise, county officials in the United States are referred to by a variety of titles. While the most common of these are "commissioner" and "supervisor," county officials are also called "freeholders, legislators, council members, assembly members" or, simply, "representatives."

Today, county government represents the most encompassing level of government. Counties provide schools, libraries, hospitals, highways, police and fire protection, health and welfare services, parks and recreation facilities and dozens of other services to their citizens. County government is also extremely diverse, responding to a wide spectrum of constituent needs and interests within an even larger framework of state demands and restraints. Twenty-three states currently authorize their counties to adopt home rule charters—a set of rules allowing "local self-government." Thirteen additional states allow or mandate some variation of home rule and 12 states have granted no home rule power to counties.

County governments serve populations and areas that range dramatically in size and scope. For example, Loving County, Tex., the

nation's least populated county, serves a population of 100 while Los Angeles County, Calif., the most populated American county, serves 8,295,900 residents and has a budget larger than those of four entire states. Yukon Borough, Alaska, the largest U.S. county, stretches 159,099 square miles (note that the entire state of California is only 156,297 square miles). The nation's smallest county, in geographic size, is New York, N.Y. which is only 22 square miles, but is the most densely populated county in the United States with 67,181 inhabitants per square mile.

While only 167 counties have populations greater than 250,000, these counties constitute 52 percent of the nation's population. Rural counties, or counties with populations under 50,000, account for more than 74 percent of all county governments, yet represent only 19 percent of the nation's population.

While county governments play diverse roles in governing, they also take a number of structural forms. The most common form of county government is the commission form, consisting of a plural executive board of between three and five members elected to four-year terms for single-member districts or at large. The board is empowered with administrative and legislative powers, making decisions democratically. It may frequently be called a council, board of commissioners or board of supervisors.

A second form of county government is the council-administrator form. Here an administrator is appointed by and is accountable to the governing board or legislative body. Administrators are charged with the daily administration of county affairs and are looked to for their professional skills in this capacity.

County administrators reflect many levels of authority from one

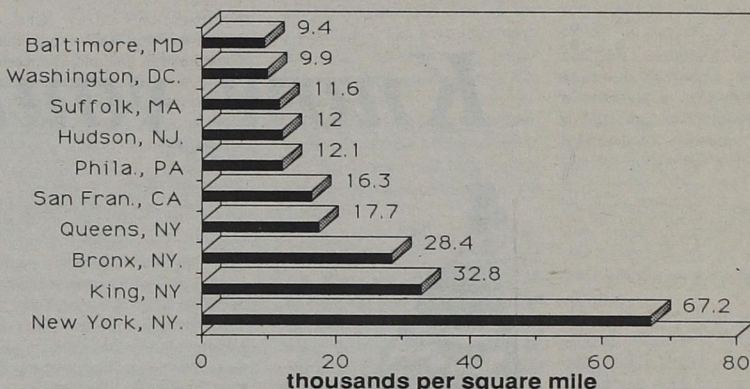
county to another and are referred to by numerous titles, including chief administrative officer, appointing officer, administrator, administrator and county manager. The manager title generally represents a greater level of autonomy and authority in managing county affairs.

A third type of county government is the council-elect form. This represents a political leader elected at large and charged with executive authority in county government. (At that time is similar to a mayor and is responsible for working with the county legislative body. Elective executives are generally strong supporters to their veto authority over the legislative body.)

Because counties are so diverse in structure, and because the populations they serve and the services they provide cross a wide ranging spectrum, a comprehensive discussion of the nature of county government in the United States is difficult to orchestrate. NACo has recently published a report entitled "County Government Structure: A State by State Report," which establishes a baseline of understanding the American county structure. To order publication, contact Judi Scott at 202/393-6226.

(Ed. Note: Information in this issue's special report "Know Your Counties" was furnished from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census by NACo's Research Department: Jim Golden, director; Fred Zeldow, research assistant; and Tony Cox, administrative assistant. All effort has been made to provide the most recent available data.)

Most Densely Populated Counties



Currituck, Perquimans, Pasquotank? What's in a name?

By Susan D. Grubb
staff writer

To early Americans, the names given to counties paid tribute to their Old World heritage, the new republic's founders, Indian tribes, explorers, frontiersmen and heroes of their wars. The naming of America's counties also serves as a historical look into the unfolding of new and expanding land.

Colonial America

Within 27 years of their arrival in 1634, Virginians had established eight counties. This colony's organization of government, perhaps more than any of the others, adhered to an English framework, and the names given to the counties also paid tribute to England.

Of the original Virginia counties, Williams City and Charles City were named for King James and the future King Charles I, and Elizabeth City for James' daughter, the queen of Bohemia. Henrico County is for Henry, the older brother of King Charles I; Gloucester stands for James' cutivrandson.

(At that time, some counties had the word "city" attached to its name. Early in the 20th century, Virginia separated its 39 city governments and their jurisdictions from adjacent counties.)

The House of Orange is honored by the counties of Orange, King William and King and Queen and counties, the last a tribute to the widomarchs William and Mary. The Hanover royal family had the abounties of Hanover; King George, the first George; Caroline, for his daughter-in-law; and Prince William for George II's son.

Virginia's counties were also named for the state's governors and lieutenant governors. The second Duke of Albemarle and the fourth Earl of Loudoun were both governors in absentia, however they received a county name. The first governor to actually live in the state, Norbonne Berkeley, the baron of Botetourt, was honored with two counties, Botetourt and Berkeley, the latter now lying in West Virginia.

Lieutenant governors Thomas Lord Culpeper, William Gooch, Alexander Spotswood, Robert Dinwiddie and Francis Fauquier also dubbed counties.

Fairfax County, stands not for a governor, but for Thomas, the sixth Lord Fairfax, a Scottish nobleman who inherited the northern part of Virginia from his mother.

It is fitting that Maryland's first county be named St. Mary's since its first settlers were Catholic.

Many of the remaining were named for the colony's founders, the Calvert family and its line of Lord Baltimores.

Britain's monarchs were not to be excluded in the state. Queen Anne's and Prince George's counties honor Britain's queen and her husband.

Established in 1663 by King Charles II, the colony of Carolina was under the proprietorship of George, the Duke of Albemarle. Not unsurprisingly, its first county, created the same year, was called Albemarle. In 1670, the "precincts" of Chowan, Currituck, Perquimans and Pasquotank, reflecting names of local Indian tribes, were formed. Today, the four are counties.

England's county names were another source for the colonies' counties.

Among the Pennsylvania

Quakers' first counties were Northampton, Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, York and Montgomery. New Jersey's include Gloucester, Middlesex, Cumberland, Sussex and Monmouth. There are Kent counties in Rhode Island, Maryland and Delaware, and a New Kent in Virginia. Also in Virginia, lie Stafford, Northumberland, York, Lancaster and Westmoreland. Delaware's Deal and St. John's counties were changed to Sussex and Kent by William Penn, to remind him of his native counties back home. After the American Revolution, Lancaster, York and Chester counties in South Carolina were formed and named not for their English counterparts, but for those in Pennsylvania.

County organization, particularly in Virginia, catered more to the self-sufficient, rural populations, unlike the colonies in

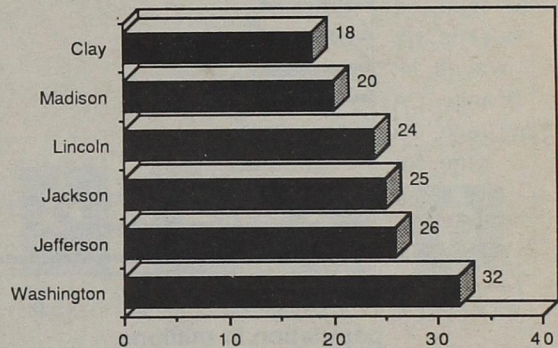
New England where towns and villages were more dominant.

The names given to New England's counties are reminiscent

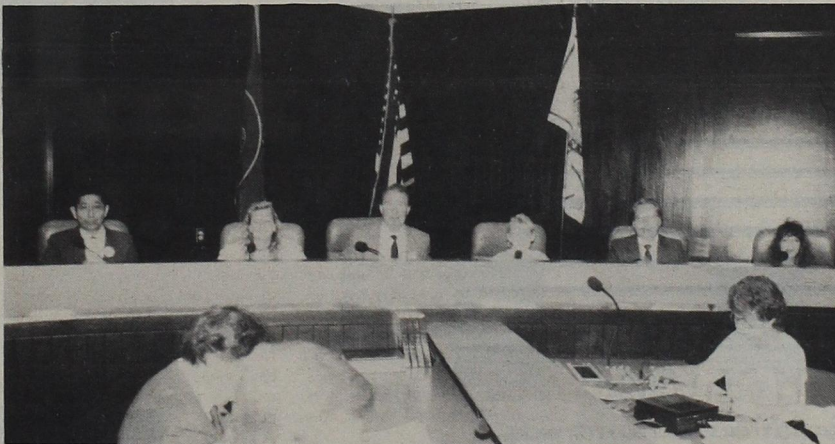
of England's towns and villages, possibly suggesting the region's

See NAMES, page 11

Most Common County Names



Educating citizens about the county role



Brockbank Jr. High School student "commissioners for a day" attend the Salt Lake County, Utah Board of Commissioners meeting. (l-r) Commissioner Tom Shimizu; Commissioner for a Day Nikole Bice; Commissioner Mike Stewart; Commissioner for a Day Amy Bliss; Commissioner Bart Barker; and Commissioner for a Day Angela Taylor.

By Beverly Schlotterbeck
editor

If you're looking for a way to get the public to know and even have some sympathy for the work performed by county government, take heart. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Across the country, counties are educating their citizens — present and future voters alike — about county government. And they are using methods to suit nearly every budget and inclination.

A look at the last few years of NACo Achievement Award winners quickly reveals that counties can take a day, a week or a month to tell their stories. They

also target different audiences for their messages. Some take a broad approach, aiming their education efforts at the public at-large. Others focus on high school students or community leaders.

Salt Lake County, Utah's "Commissioner for a Day" program targets high school students. Each month, county officials select a local high school, making a brief presentation to its students about county government and its services. Afterwards, they invite the students to submit a one page essay to the county on "How Salt Lake County Services Affect My Life." A panel of county employees judge the essays and authors of the three best are chosen to be "commissioners for a day."

On the day of the program, each student meets his or her mentor-commissioner and are introduced at the commission's regular meeting.

Later in the morning, they meet with one of Salt Lake County's eight other elected officials to learn about that office's responsibilities. At noon, they rejoin their mentor-commissioners for a box lunch and free-ranging question and answer period.

During the afternoon, the students, acting as commissioners, tackle a "real-life" public policy or management problem. Scenarios have included cutting \$60,000 from a \$400,000 Animal Services budget; selecting the type of helicopter the county should purchase for its sheriff's

department; and wrestling with property tax exemptions for hospitals whose charitable purpose is not clearly defined.

Salt Lake county officials report the program is a success not only with the students, but also with their parents and teachers who often accompany the quasi-commissioners for the day. Typical of their enthusiasm is one parent's reaction. "I especially loved having lunch with the commissioners and the candid and open atmosphere. I tell all my friends how informative the Commissioner for a Day program was. I feel closer to county government and a part of it now."

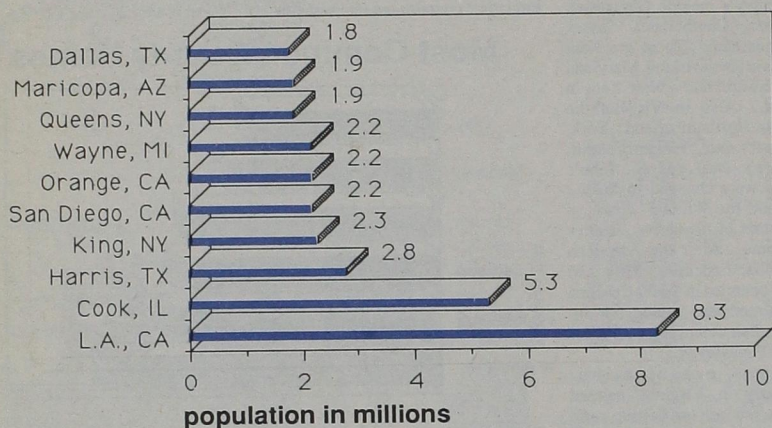
Like Salt Lake County, Utah, Lee County, Fla. also narrows the focus of its efforts. However, this Gulf Coast county selects community leaders, instead of students, as the target of its education efforts.

"Lee GROWS (Government Resource and Orientation Workshop Series)" is operated by the county administrator's office. It recruits participants who can also be nominated by the county's commissioners. About 30 individuals participate in each session, with a series usually including two or three field visits and mini-seminars with county department directors and administrators. By the time the five-week program has ended, its participants have met with nearly all the county's officials and have addressed the county board.

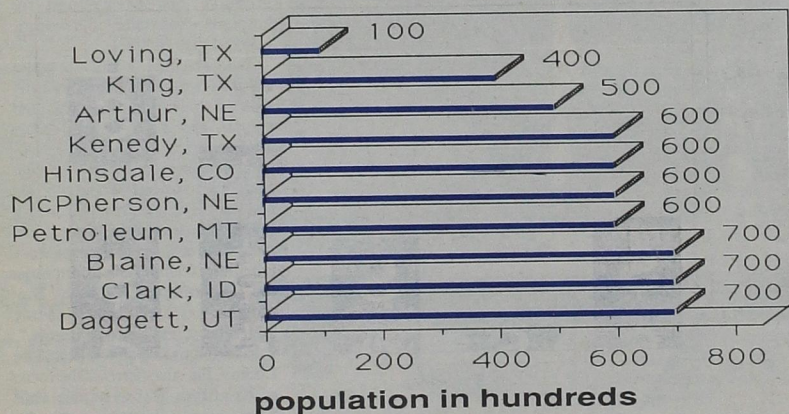
The administrator's office holds four to six series each year and reports that participants are quick to note, "[they] had no idea the county did so much."

See EDUCATION, page 12

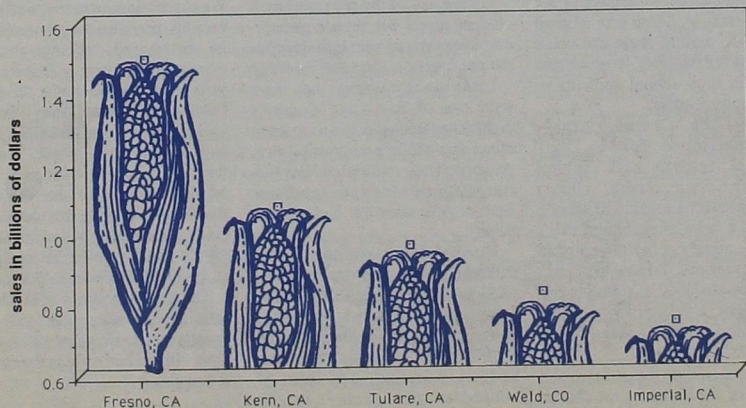
10 Largest Counties



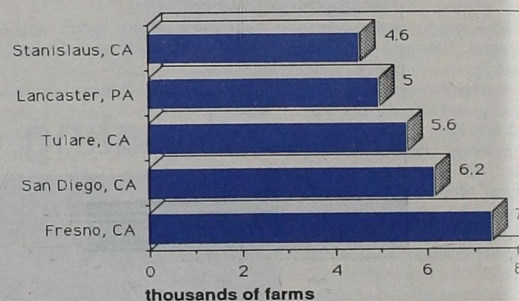
10 Smallest Counties



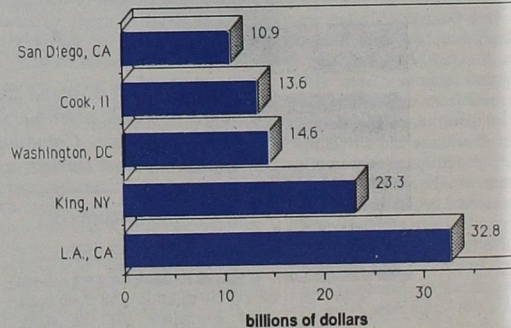
Counties With the Highest Agricultural Products Sales



Counties With the Most Farms

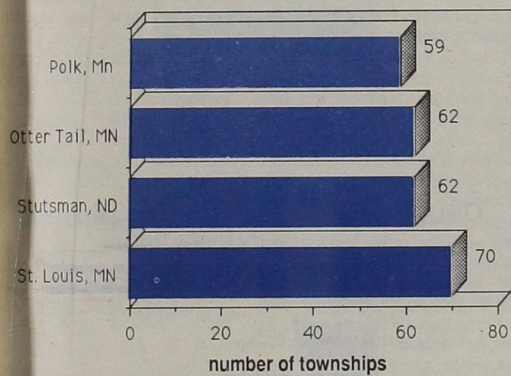


Counties in Which Most Federal \$\$ Spent

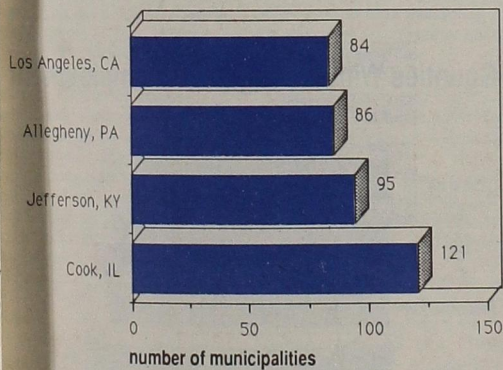




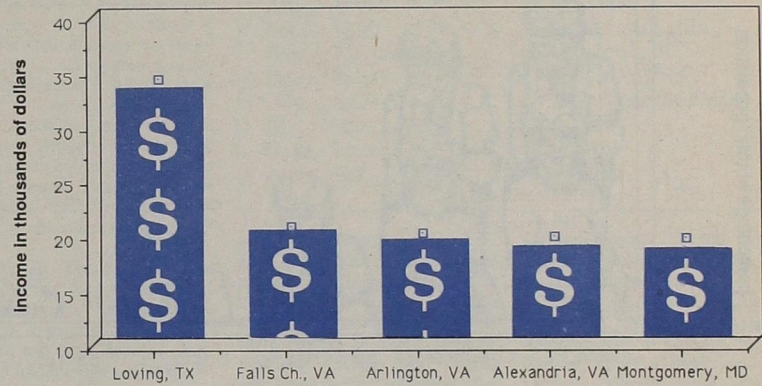
Counties With the Most Townships



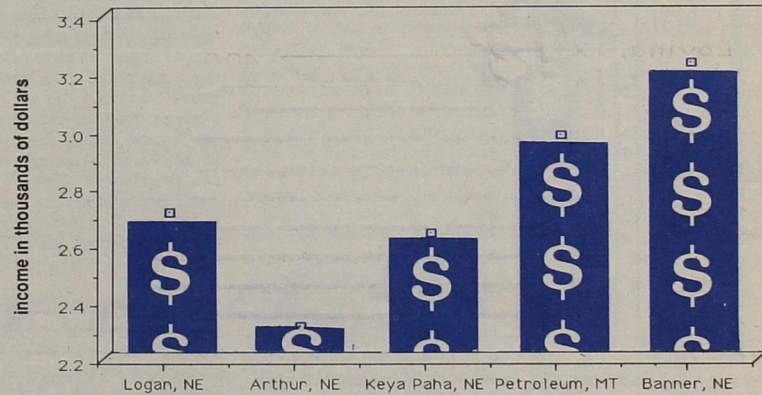
Counties With the Most Municipalities



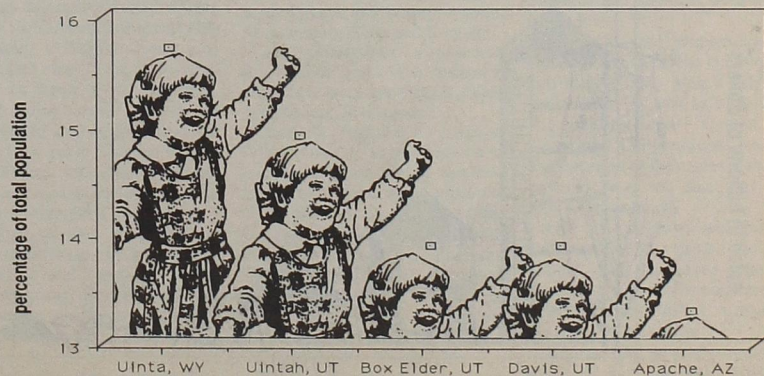
Counties With the Highest Per Capita Income



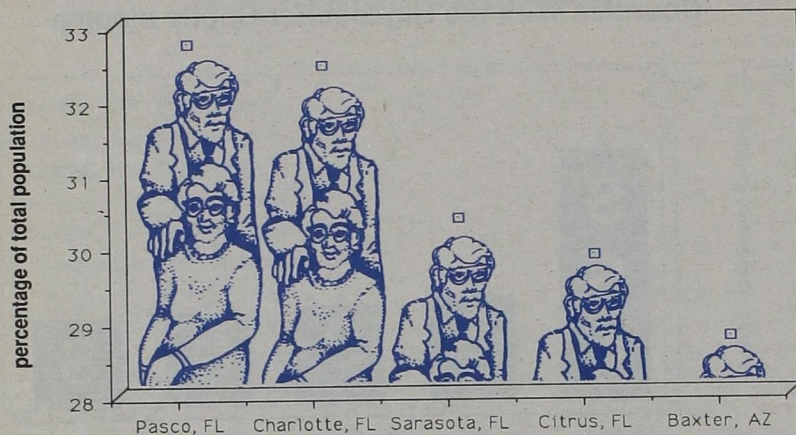
Counties With the Lowest Per Capita Income



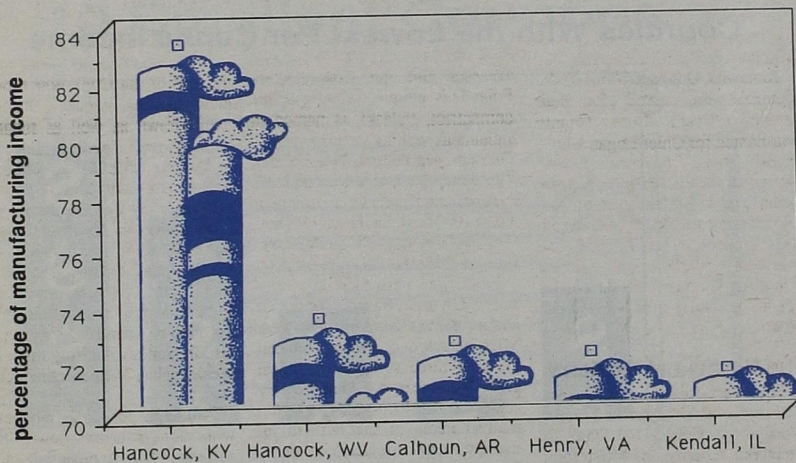
Counties with the Most Children Under Five



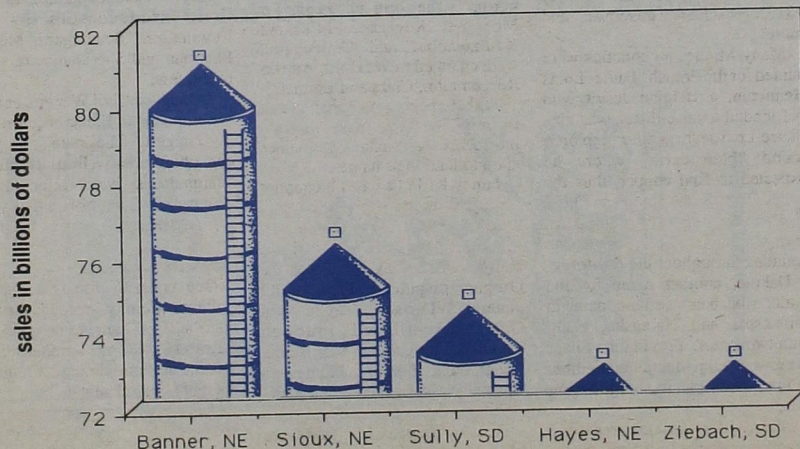
Counties With the Most Persons Over 65



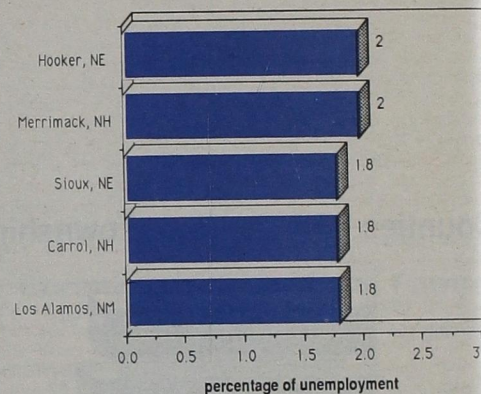
Counties With the Most Manufacturing Income



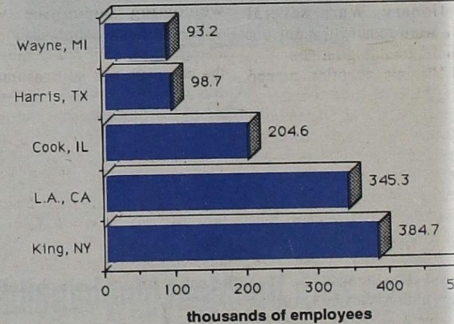
Counties with the Most Agricultural Income



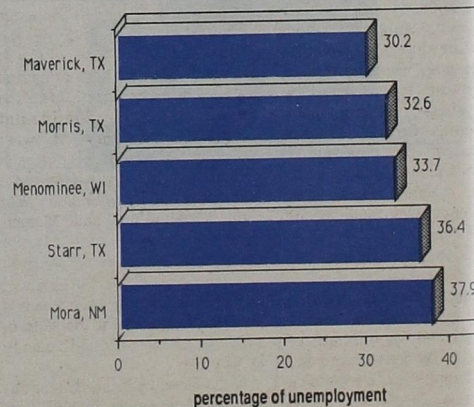
Counties With the Lowest Unemployment



Counties With the Most Employees



Counties With the Highest Unemployment



NAMES

from page 7

animosity toward the British monarchy.

In South Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana, the earliest county-like political unit was the "parish," where government was influenced by French and Spanish cultures, rather than Anglo-Saxon. To this day, Louisiana refers to its counties as parishes.

Native American names, which were generally derived from the names of nearby rivers, made a great contribution to county, as well as state names. The Massachusetts, Kennebec and Allagash in Maine; Merrimac, Connecticut and Housatonic in southern New England; and New Jersey's Raritan, Susquehanna, Potomac and Patuxent are a few examples.

Some of the original Virginia counties were named for members of local tribes. Powhatan County, for instance, was named after the chief whose daughter, Pocahontas, befriended Captain John Smith.

Tallahatchie. Spaniards Hernando De Soto, an early visitor to the area, and Simon Bolivar, the liberator of South America, also have counties named for them.

Louisiana parishes also acknowledge Indians with Ouachita, Avoyelles, Catahoula and Tangipahoa. The French are recognized with Terrebonne, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides and Baton Rouge. Local Frenchmen are also honored: Pierre LeMoynes d'Iberville and his brother, the sieur de Bienville. Even religious terms, Assumption, Ascension and Concordia, have parishes.

Once they came under American rule, Louisianians named parishes for Thomas Jefferson; Robert Livingston, negotiator of the Louisiana Purchase; and William Claiborne, their first American governor.

A number of parishes were also named for saints. One curious example is that of St. Tammany Parish. Tammany was a Delaware Indian chief who joined the welcoming committee when William Penn came ashore at Philadelphia. His friendship with the colonists was so treasured, he was raised to the rank of "patron saint" by those in the American Revolution.

Expansion to the West

Along with the war's conclusion came the expansion into Kentucky and Tennessee. Few counties in these states reflect British and Indian names. Some historians speculate this is due to Britain's attempt to confine settlement east of the Appalachian mountains and the animosity felt by many settlers toward the local tribes.

Ironically, only the word "Kentucky" represents the Native American in this future state which started out as Virginia's Kentucky County.

As the state of Kentucky was eventually divided, most of its first counties honored Americans, such as Lincoln, the Continental Congress' secretary of war; Jefferson; Madison; Nelson; and George Mason, famous Virginians; and Indian and Revolutionary War fighters Woodford and Mercer. France's house of Bourbon received a county; its government seat was named Paris. A county for George Washington was not named until the formation of the state in 1792 since he already had a county in Virginia.

Other Kentuckians with counties bearing their names include local politicians John Breckinridge, a senator; Isaac Shelby and John Breathitt, early governors; and statesman Henry Clay. Settlers

Bracken and Caldwell, Moses and Samuel Grant, and of course, Daniel Boone also have counties. Although Boone is associated most closely with this state, counties in six other states also bear his name.

In 1777, Washington County was recognized as Tennessee's first county. Two of Washington's generals, Sullivan and Greene, as well as Benjamin Hawkins, Washington's interpreter who helped arrange treaties with the Cherokees and Creeks in the region, had counties named for them.

Many of Tennessee's early governors lent their names. They include: Blount, Sevier, Roane, McMinn, Carroll, Cannon, James K. Polk and Sam Houston, later, founder and president of Texas.

Davidson and Sumner counties were named for early settlers, and Crockett County recognized Davey's legendary frontiersmanship.

As settlement in West Virginia continued, Native American names were favored for its counties.

Kanawha, Ohio and Monongalia counties were named after their respective rivers. Logan County was named for Chief Logan whose tribe was driven from Pennsylvania's Monongahela County and settled among the Mingoes, across the Ohio River, in West Virginia. The Mingoes also lent their name to a county there. Wyoming County, formed out of Logan, is also ascribed to a local tribe.

The Northwest Territory

Counties in the Northwest Territory, which stretched from Washington County in Ohio to Hennepin County in Minnesota, today number some 450 counties. Their names reflect Native Americans, French missionaries and traders, American soldiers in the Revolution and the War of 1812, presidents, governors and more.

Many Minnesota counties were named for the French. Father Louis Hennepin, a Belgian Jesuit who befriended local Indians, was one. Pierre Le Sueur, another explorer, found "blue earth" where he expected to find copper, thus the name Blue Earth County. Other Frenchmen, including LaSalle, Marquette and Joliet are named in counties throughout the territory.

Dakota, another name for the Sioux tribe, bears a county name in Minnesota and Nebraska, along with two states. Proving the Sioux were very nomadic, there are three Sioux counties in neighboring states.

Ohio, like others, reserved county names for founding fathers

SHORTEST COUNTY NAMES

Ada,	Idaho	Kay,	Okl.
Lea,	N.M.	Lee,	Ala., Ark., Fla.,
Bay,	Fla. and Mich.	Ga.,	Iowa, Ill.,
Bee,	Texas	Ky.,	Miss., N.C.,
Day,	S.D.	S.C.,	Texas and Va.
Elk,	Kan. and Pa.	Nye,	Nev.
Gem,	Idaho	Ray,	Mo.
Jay,	Ind.	Sac,	Iowa

such as Washington and Hamilton, as well as governors and local politicians. One unusual pretext for a county name was that of Gallia County which served as a hideaway for a number of Gallic (French) families. About 500 French aristocrats fled to this county after their nation's revolution in 1790.

Indians recognized revolutionary heroes, both foreign and domestic, in their county naming.

The county of Kosciusko, for the Pole who fought the British in America and the Cossacks in Poland, is unique. However, his compatriot, Pulaski, is named in Indiana as well as six other states. German war heroes DeKalb and Von Steuben are also recognized.

American fighters with counties named for them include: Wayne, Warren, Greene, Sullivan, Decatur, Morgan, Montgomery and Marion.

Michigan, more than any other state, favored Native American county names. Among them were Michilimackinac, which later had the first three syllables dropped, and Menominee, changed by settlers in 1861 from Bleaker—the maiden name of the wife of an unpopular local legislator, Anson Bangs.

Some time in the mid-nineteenth century, a few northern counties in Michigan took on an Irish flavor when Irish surveyors were sent north. The original names of Meegisee, Kayakee, Mikenaut, Kautawabub and Tonedagana were changed to Wexford, Antrim, Roscommon, Clare and Emmet.

As expansion continued throughout the 18th century, presidents were once again called upon to lend their names.

James K. Polk has 11 counties from Florida to Oregon because of his popular expansionism into New Mexico, Arizona and California, along with his settlement of the Oregon dispute. Presidential generals Harrison, Taylor and Garfield collected fourteen counties among them. Van Buren, Tyler, Polk, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan also had counties named for them during this period.

Senator Stephen Douglas from Illinois had a dozen counties named

for him mainly in the West, reflecting the popularity of his expansion philosophy.

Others who earned county names at this time include statesmen Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun, with 34 counties among them. Naval officers Oliver Hazard Perry and James Lawrence have ten counties, but John Paul Jones has only one in Mississippi.

Post-Civil War

As it was with the Revolution, the end of the Civil War brought new counties honoring the era's well-known as well as renaming already established counties.

During the Reconstruction period in the South, several counties were dubbed with northern names. Grant and Lincoln Parishes in Louisiana were formed in 1869 and 1873 by governments supported, in part, by black troops. In Mississippi, Lincoln County was formed under similar circumstances. Altogether, the president has 24 counties named for him.

Although his U.S. citizenship was not restored until 1878, Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, had four counties named for him.

With the exception of Grant and Lee, Civil War generals are not as apparent in county naming as were their predecessors in the Revolution. Beauregard, Meade, Sherman and Sheridan were some of the few.

During the Civil War era, county development in Kansas occurred in two stages. The state's original constitution, as well as its county designations were rejected by Congress. Congressional leaders felt that some of the names of the 35 counties were too Southern and they were renamed.

One unusual case was that of Calhoun County, named for the state's first surveyor-general. Because it was too reminiscent of South Carolina's John C. Calhoun, the name was changed.

Kansas was an early dumping ground for eastern Native

See NAMES, page 13

Education from page 7

Another Florida county Achievement Award winner, Collier County, cosponsors the 4-H "Know Your County Government Program for Teens." In operation since 1980, the present program consists of two full days and several evening sessions during which every effort is made to provide "hands on" experience for the participants.

One significant dividend from the program is the two-week unit on county government now included in social studies classes throughout the county's high schools. Ten years ago, teachers spent no time explaining county government because there were no texts. However, the program's developers drafted a booklet — "Make Government Your Business" — specifically for the program. It is now used by social studies teachers.

Another youth-oriented program, this one in Cobb County, Ga., reaches high school students involved with student government associations or government classes.

"Cobb County Government in Action" offers a day-long program consisting of visits to different government offices; a luncheon featuring a guest speaker addressing local issues or county leadership and afternoon panel discussions on themes centering around local issues, elections, the legislative process or the law. Ten to 15 students are selected by their government teacher and principal to attend the sessions.

If you're after the general public, you might take some cues from Multnomah County, Ore., Sullivan County, N.H. or Howard County, Md.

Multnomah's "Know Your County Month" uses TV, special events, volunteers and even T-shirts to spread its county message. And the budget is a comfortable one. In 1988, its public education campaign cost under \$2,000. The county T-shirts even made money, which was donated to the Citizen's Involvement Committee.

But if a month seems too long, try a week like Sullivan County, N.H. does.

Painfully aware that county government had always been a mystery to its residents, the county designed a three-part strategy to enlighten its citizens.

First, the county's commissioners arranged to deliver a one hour lecture on county government to Civics and Government classes in Sullivan's four high schools. As a follow-up, each high school selected 13 students to work alongside county officials and department heads, including the commissioners, registrar of deeds, county attorney, business manager, nursing home administrator, sheriff and correctional facility superintendent.

County officials also blanketed the county's civic, church and fraternal organizations with letters offering their services as speakers at the groups' meetings. In addition, they involved the media, inviting the press to meet with department heads or officials for one-on-one in-depth interviews which happily resulted in several feature articles on the county's departments.

Sullivan County's efforts proved to be so successful that the concept of a county government week was adopted statewide.

But if even a week seems too long, take the route being designed by Howard County, Md.

It will conduct its first "Discover County Government" day and exposition, March 10 at one of the county's largest shopping malls. Shoppers will be able to pick up sample permits. The sheriff's department will offer child fingerprinting; there will be a Recycling Program exhibit; and other displays designed to showcase county services.

So, take your pick — a day, a week, a month; shoppers, students or the public. Mix and match. But above all, get your citizens to Know County Government.

Watch for NACo's county survey

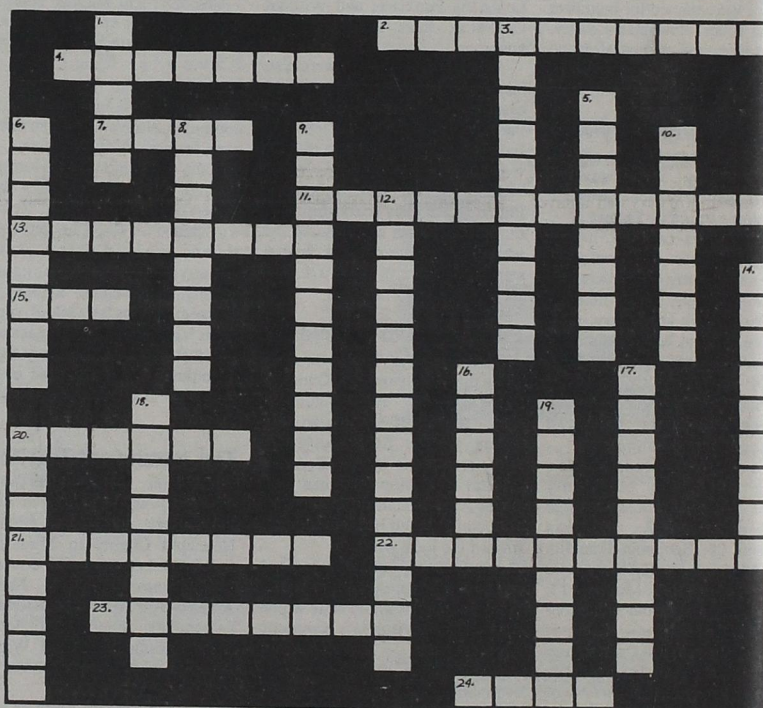
Much of the data for this educational issue of "Know Your Counties" was supplied by NACo's Research Department from the national database on counties. The database was created from a survey undertaken in 1985 and 1986 with responses from 1,040 counties, which represented 85 percent of the nation's total population. NACo's data source also contains all of the United States Bureau of Census data on counties. This database which covers many aspects of a county's role, function and finance is the largest data set we know of that is strictly directed toward counties.

NACo will update this important resource of county information with a new survey which will be sent to all counties in the summer of 1990. Your county's participation will not only be of immense assistance to NACo's efforts to respond to informational inquiries from the White House, Congress, federal agencies and other levels of government, but for your colleagues as well. We urge all of you to assist us in this valuable data collection effort.

County Trivia Quiz

- 1) Which state has the most local governments?
- 2) Which state has the most counties?
- 3) Which state has the fewest counties?
- 4) Which is the nation's largest county in geographic size?
- 5) Which is the nation's smallest county in geographic size?
- 6) Which county has the most independent governments within its boundaries?
- 7) Which county has the most townships within its boundaries?
- 8) What is the longest county name?
- 9) In what year was the first U.S. county established?
- 10) Where was the first city-county consolidation?
- 11) Where was the most recent city-county consolidation?
- 12) Which is the county with the highest point of elevation?
- 13) Which is the county with the lowest point of elevation?
- 14) Which county has more cows and chickens per square mile than people?

Answers: 1) Illinois (6,627 local governments), 2) Texas (254 counties), 3) Delaware (3 counties), 4) Yukon, Alaska (159,099 square miles), 5) New York, N.Y. (22 square miles), 6) Harris, Texas (492), 7) St. Louis, Minn. (70), 8) Northumberland (Pa., Va.), 9) 1634, 10) New Orleans-Orleans Parish, La., in 1805, 11) Lynchburg City-County, Va., in 1988, 12) Tulare, Calif. (Mt. Whitney, 14,494 feet. Note: Mt. McKinley, Alaska rises 20,320 feet, but is not in a borough or county), 13) Inyo, Calif. (Badwater Basin in Death Valley, 282 feet below sea level), 14) Lancaster, Pa.



ACROSS:

- 2) 31 counties named for this individual
- 4) Vice president for whom most counties are named
- 7) Most cities in this county
- 11) 17 times larger than Rhode Island
- 13) State with most counties named for presidents
- 15) Most frequent short county name
- 20) Nation's smallest county
- 21) Has greatest number of governments
- 22) Nation's largest county
- 23) State with most original/coined names for counties
- 24) Has most county employees

DOWN:

- 1) Highest percentage of elderly live in this county
- 3) County seat is Thermopolis
- 5) Has only 3 counties
- 6) Civilian for whom most counties are named
- 8) State with most counties named for Indians
- 9) County with most college graduates
- 10) First county official
- 12) Longest county name
- 14) County with lowest unemployment
- 16) Most governments in a county
- 17) Foreigner for whom most counties are named
- 18) State most partial to women's names for counties
- 19) Same size as Fargo, North Dakota
- 20) Highest per capita income

The solution to this puzzle will appear in the next issue of *County News*.

News from the nation's counties

North

ILLINOIS

• **TWO NEW DUPAGE COUNTY** Historical Museum exhibitions, which were opened to the public in 1989, recently received Superior Achievement Awards for the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums (CIHSM).

"Enduring Values in a Changing Landscape: DuPage County 1831-1989," the museum's permanent multi-media county history exhibit and a new costume gallery featuring clothing for the county's early years were honored by CIHSM, a division of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency administered by the Illinois State Historical Society.

The Museum's educational program for children on pioneer life also received a Superior Achievement Award.

In addition, the museum was one of five recognized for superior achievement for "Museum Spotlight," a special DuPage County Sesquicentennial event which involved 22 of the county's museums in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the county's creation.

MINNESOTA

• **ANOKA COUNTY** was recently awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the second consecutive year Anoka County has received the award.

The report receiving the award covers financial activity for 1988.

South

MARYLAND

• **MONTGOMERY COUNTY** recently announced a new program that encourages parents to seize suspected drugs from their children and bring the drugs to the police for testing without risking arrest.

The Drug Turn-In program, which also applies to relatives and friends, removes the possibility of legal action taken against the person who possessed the drugs regardless of the quantity.

Police officers trained to conduct tests on suspected drugs have been assigned to each of the county's five police stations. These officers have also been trained to

assess a person's drug problem based upon information given by parents or others and offer detailed information about treatment programs.

VIRGINIA

• The **SCOTT COUNTY** Recreation Department recently received the "Best New Program" award from the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society.

In only one year of operation, with a one-person staff and a budget of \$30,000, the Scott County Recreation Department managed to organize adult co-ed volleyball, youth basketball, t-ball and softball programs. Various classes were also offered including tennis, ballroom dancing, aerobics and jazzercise. A summer day-camp program and numerous special events were also organized and a special grant from the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs enabled the department to establish a county teen center.

Scott County was selected from departmental entries of all sizes and budgets throughout the state.

Midwest

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota voters recently overwhelmingly approved three tax referrals that will roll back tax increases approved by the 1989 state legislature. The three referred tax hikes were sales, income and gas taxes.

Along with higher taxes, voters rejected five other legislative decisions including mandatory seat belt use, video gaming, a legislative retirement plan, a school health curriculum and a constitutional amendment which would have allowed the governor to reorganize state government.

West

CALIFORNIA

• Those familiar freeway call boxes are now showing up on beaches in **SAN DIEGO COUNTY**.

As part of the Beach Call Box Demonstration Project, three call boxes are being tested at Carlsbad State Beach, Oceanside Beach and Sunset Cliffs in San Diego. The purpose of the 90-day test is to study the feasibility of increasing beach safety through improved communications.

The pilot project was made possible by the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE), which currently operates 1,000 call boxes along freeways throughout San Diego County. The solar-

powered, cellular phones are linked directly to California Highway Patrol dispatchers who access police, fire, paramedic and emergency roadside services for motorists.

The beach call boxes are linked to Carlsbad and Oceanside police operators.

• SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Private Industry Council (PIC) has been awarded \$257,576 for exceeding the performance standards as set by the U.S. Department of Labor for the program year 1988-89.

Since the start of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) in 1983, PIC of San Joaquin County has exceeded their performance standards without fail. These incentive funds, totaling \$1,374,128, are put back into programs to serve JTPA participants.

IDAHO

Approximately 100 elected officials representing two-thirds of the counties in Idaho met in Boise recently to attend the first annual Local Government Training Institute which was cosponsored by the Idaho Association of Clerks and Records and the Public Affairs Department of Boise State University.

Officials attended workshops on county officials' duties, lobbying, networking, communications and team building.

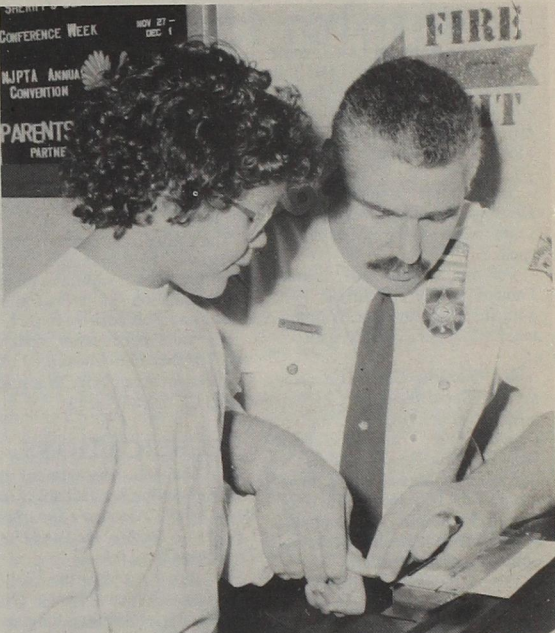
NAMES from page 11

Americans before they were moved to Oklahoma. Its counties reflect their tribal names as well as the names of resident tribes. They include: Cherokee, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa, Miami, Ottawa, Shawnee and Wichita.

County organization in Oklahoma was slow since it was long considered an Indian territory. For years, 15 counties were given alphabetical names from A to Q, as if waiting to be named after someone. Today, all have been named, except that K County was changed to Kay, which stands for no one.

Although it is home to Mt. Rushmore, South Dakota had no county named for the nation's forefathers. There was a Washington County at one time, however it was swallowed up by Shannon County. The state is also the first in 100 years to name a county after royalty when it organized Haakon, after the king of Norway.

States north and west of South Dakota often drew on descriptive words for county names. Montana leads the list with counties such as Mineral, Granite, Petroleum, Lake, Glacier, Cascade and Prairie. The



The **OCEAN COUNTY, N.J.** Sheriff's Department Ident-A-Kid program is solely for the protection of children and peace of mind for parents. No fingerprint copies are maintained by civil authorities. The fingerprint copies are given to parents for safekeeping.

"We continue to conduct the Ident-A-Kid program as a means of identifying children in case of a missing youth or an event none of us wishes to think about, but must," comments Sheriff William L. Polhemus. Shown is Sheriff's Officer Armando Cocci with Melissa Diggs of Jackson Township's Sylvia Rosenauer Elementary School.

naming of Treasure County was done in hopes that settlers might heed the call, although there was no treasure to be found.

Some of the more unusual names of western counties include Owyhee in Idaho, a Polynesian spelling of Hawaii. Ada County, also in Idaho, stands for the first white child born in Boise.

The Mormon influence in Idaho is reflected in Lehmi County, named for a character in the Book of Mormon. Surprisingly, Mormon names in Utah are few. One example is Nephi, the county seat of Juab County, named after a Mormon prophet.

Counties elsewhere in the West, excluding Arizona with its local Indian names, feature Spanish. There are 69 counties whose names have been derived from 65 Spanish words, mostly in California and Texas. Counties named for saints are also plentiful in the once Spanish Southwest.

Hawaii, the last to become a state, as well as form counties, derived its four counties' names from the Polynesian tongue. Three of the names are Polynesian words: "Hawaii" means "beyond the doors of death" and "Kauai" means "drying place." "Honolulu" is two

words — "hono" meaning "fair haven", and "lulu" meaning "calm or quiet." Maui is the name of a demigod from Polynesian mythology.

The state of Alaska has no counties. Instead, there are 29 census divisions called "boroughs." In naming its boroughs, the state followed the pattern of the lower 48 by drawing on its own heritage of Eskimos and Indians and foreign influences left by the Russians and other explorers.

The borough of Yukon-Koyukuk is one example. "Yukon" is an Indian word meaning "big river," and "Koyukuk," a Russian adaptation of it. The naming of Nome Borough, however, was simply a case of miscommunication. The story goes that a London cartographer misread a map drawn up by an English explorer.

Where the town of Nome lies today, the explorer had written "[C]ape Nome?" leaving the decision for naming the area up to the cartographer. He, in turn, mistook the "a" in "Name" for an "o" and the "?" as a request for approval. Thus was Nome, named.

CONFERENCES

■ **The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)** is sponsoring a conference entitled, "Building the Future: Community-based Housing Strategies for the 1990s," in Arlington, Va., Feb. 24-26.

Jack Kemp, secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Department, will be the conference speaker.

For more information, contact Frances Williams, NLIHC, 1912 14th St., NW, 15th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005, 202/662-1530.

■ **"Turning Global Competition into Local Economic Development: Making Europe 1992 and the Canada Free Trade Agreement Work for Your Community"** is the title of a conference being sponsored by the **National Council for Urban Economic Development (CUED)** and the **Economic Development Administration**.

The conference will discuss the issues related to the agreement, what it means to Americans and Canadians and pre-agreement tariffs and trading arrangements.

The registration fee for CUED members is \$120 and \$145 for non-members if postmarked before Feb. 12. After Feb. 12, fees are \$135 for members, \$175 for non-members.

The conference will be held in Seattle, Wash., March 5-6; Detroit, Mich., March 12-13; and Baltimore, Md., March 19-20.

For more information, contact Exporting Conference Registrar, National Council for Urban Economic Development, 1730 K Street, NW, Suite 915, Washington, D.C. 20006.

■ **The Institute of Transportation Engineers** is holding a conference in Garden Grove, Calif., March 11-14. The theme of the conference is entitled, "Meeting the Transportation Challenges of the 1990s: Land Development, Traffic Congestion, and Traffic Safety."

Topics to be discussed include: marrying transportation and land use decisions; alleviating traffic congestion; and addressing the

emerging traffic safety issues.

For more information, write the Institute of Transportation Engineers, 525 School St., SW, Suite 410, Washington, D.C. 20024-2729, or call 202/554-8050.

■ **The Privatization Council** will host its fourth national conference in Washington, D.C., April 23-24.

The conference, entitled "Public-Private Partnerships: Solutions that Work," will focus on the implementation of privatization efforts and their positive impact.

For more information, contact the Privatization Council, 1101 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 202/857-1142.

PUBLICATIONS

■ **The U.S. Department of Transportation** has available a report entitled, "America's Suburban Centers: A Study of the Land Use-Transportation Link."

The report explores the evolution of suburban employment centers and their implications for transportation and infrastructure planning.

The report is available at no charge from the Technology Sharing Program (DRT-1SC), U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590. Please send self-addressed mailing label and include report's title and document number, DOT-T-88-14, when ordering.

■ **The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** has released two summaries dealing with underground storage tank regulations "Musts for USTs" and "Dollars and Sense."

"Musts for USTs" summarizes the new regulations for underground storage tank systems. The cost is \$2.50 each. "Dollars and Sense" is a summary of the financial responsibility regulations for underground storage tank systems. The cost is \$1.25 each.

For a brochure on additional publications, audiovisual programs and computer software dealing with this issue, contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

Office of Underground Storage Tanks, P.O. Box 6044, Rockville, Md., 20850.

■ **The Federal Highway Administration** has published "Highway Statistics, 1988," an annual compendium of highway facts including motor fuel use and taxation, highway finance and motor vehicle registrations.

For a copy of the publication, contact the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

For more information, contact Tom Jasien at 202/366-0660.

MISCELLANEOUS

■ **The International City Management Association (ICMA)** is accepting nominations for its 1990 Annual Awards Program. Nominations must be received by Feb. 16.

The awards honor those who — through excellence and innovation — have made an outstanding contribution to professional local government management. The awards will be presented in 13 categories.

For more information, write to ICMA, 1120 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005-3800, or call 202/626-4600.

■ **The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)** announces the final call for papers for the 1990 National Solid Waste Forum on Integrated Municipal Waste Management.

The purpose of the papers is to exchange practical information and experiences that will enhance the implementation of comprehensive, integrated municipal waste management programs at the state and local levels.

The deadline for the papers is Jan. 22.

For more information, contact Kerry Callahan at 444 North Capitol St., NW, Suite 388, Washington, D.C. 20001, or call 202/624-5828.

■ Nominations are now being

accepted for the **Allied-Signal Achievement Awards in Aging**. The purpose of the awards is to recognize and focus public attention on the work of individuals who have made significant contributions to the enhancement of the quality of life for older persons through medical research, health care delivery or public policy in

medicine and health care.

The deadline for nomination is June 1.

For more information, write to the **Johns Hopkins Center on Aging**, Allied-Signal Achievement Awards in Aging, Francis and Key Medical Center, 4940 East Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21201, call 301/550-1248.

NACo to cosponsor long-term care insurance event

NACo is one of many organizations sponsoring the 6th Annual Private Long-Term Care Insurance Conference to be held in Orlando, Fla., March 7-9.

The conference offers the opportunity to learn about current public policy directions and innovations in the long-term care marketplace. The present status and emerging trends surrounding the private long-term care insurance market will also be discussed.

Senator John D. Rockefeller IV, (D-W.Va.), chairman of the Pepper Commission, will be the keynote speaker.

Early bird registration fees, postmarked before Feb. 5, are \$300;

\$225 for full-time federal, state or local government and elected officials employees. General registration fees are \$350 and \$275, respectively.

For more information, contact Health Insurance Association of America, Private Long-term Insurance Conference, 1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, Attention: L. Johnson.

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WORKBOOK

from page 1

task force agreed to focus on state and local efforts to finance the expansion, maintenance and rehabilitation of community infrastructure. Representing NACo on the task force were: NACo President Klinger; Prince George's County, Md. Executive Parris N. Glendon; Madison County, Ala. Commissioner Mike Gillespie; Clark County, Wash. Commissioner John McKibbin; King County, Wash. Councilmember Audrey Gruger; and Kikki Clayton of Baker & Hostetler, Orlando, Fla.

The workbook is the result of two years of discussion, research and authorship. The government Finance Research Center designed the process and prepared the text with support from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Urban Land Institute.

It is available to all county and community groups. NACo and NAHB will also field test the workbook in three or four counties in different regions of the country.

To order, contact NACo at 202/393-6226. The cost is \$15.

Get ready for Miami!

July 14 - 17

NACo's 54th Annual Conference

Neal R. Peirce

School finance cases spread; may predict reform

looks as if the ancient argument over equality of spending for school districts may be an important catalyst for school reform in the

Kentucky's Supreme Court last set the tone: Its sweeping decision didn't stop at finding unconstitutional the gross funding disparities between rich and poor Kentucky school districts. Instead, the court invalidated Kentucky's entire system of common schools, including laws creating school districts, school boards and teacher certification.

Kentucky's constitution requires a legislature to provide "for an efficient system of common schools throughout the state." But tolerating unequal funding, waste, duplication, mismanagement and political influence, said judges, the legislature was derelict in its duty. They affirmed a lower court declaration that Kentucky's children were suffering educational malnutrition.

Earlier last year, the Montana Supreme Court struck down that state's system of school finance. In October, the Texas Supreme Court, in a 9-0 vote, overturned Texas' financing system, noting an astounding 700 to 1 wealth differ-

tial — \$14 million of property per student in the richest district, \$20,000 in the poorest. "Property-poor districts are trapped in a cycle of poverty from which there is no opportunity to free themselves," said the Texas court, ordering the legislature to take "immediate" remedial action.

Hal Hovey, in State Policy Reports, cites school finance suits pending from Connecticut to Alaska, Indiana to Michigan to Oregon to Tennessee. John Augenblick, a leading school finance expert, predicts a "tremendous resurgence of litigation." A critical ruling is due shortly from the New Jersey Supreme Court, one of the nation's most activist.

There's always a gnawing problem: How many of the schools' critical problems will be met by equalizing spending between poor and rich districts?

Since a 1971 ruling in California, 95 percent of the districts have come within \$200 of the same per-student funding. Yet calls for top-to-bottom structural reform of California's K-12 education remain intense.

Augenblick likens school finance reform to a Russian novel. "It's long, it's boring and in the end,

everybody gets killed."

But in today's climate of intense public concern about education quality, more and more states, such as Kentucky, will likely go well beyond dollars-and-cents equalization formulas. Financing can be an opening wedge to force state legislatures to take over the management of gravely underperforming school districts — as New Jersey has already done with Jersey City, and California with Oakland.

One promising idea for a state, once it's equalized funding, is to set student test score goals. School districts that easily exceed the goals would be freed of most state regulation. Districts that fail to meet the standards, or show steady progress toward attaining them, would be candidates for state takeover.

The Kentucky debate has already focused on such reforms as school-based management and abolishing local school boards. Kentucky does provide America's most poignant example of cheating children for adult gain.

School systems are the biggest employers in some poor rural counties, especially in Appalachian eastern Kentucky. Tax assessors, school board members, superintendents, sheriffs and prosecutors

operate politically for self-advantage.

"They assess — and often fail to assess — the property that is taxed to make good schools possible," Lexington Herald-Leader Editor John Carroll wrote in a recent investigative series. "They hire political friends as bus drivers, mechanics, janitors and cooks. They hire their relatives, turning away more qualified applicants. They harass and drive away teachers who speak out on school issues, then hire docile replacements. They immobilize school boards with feuds over jobs and money."

A striking contrast appeared on the Herald-Leader's front page on Nov. 26: Next to the lead story of how a half-million long-subjugated Czechs had rallied for freedom were results of the paper's poll showing 57 percent of Kentuckians believe teachers and parents are afraid to speak out against their local school board. In Appalachian Kentucky, 58 percent said teachers and other school workers are penalized if they support the wrong political candidates.

The Herald-Leader's series also documented property-tax abuses in Pike County, the assessor underassessing friends' property and

never collecting taxes in some cases. The Pike County school district, meanwhile, operating in the red, has cut teachers and full-time kindergarten.

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, named after the late and great Kentucky education reformer, Edward Prichard Jr., estimates that if Kentuckians taxed themselves at the national average, based on capacity to pay, state revenues would rise a half billion dollars yearly.

The ray of hope, says Prichard Committee Executive Director Robert Sexton, is the rise of "a new and different generation of political and educational leadership, more demanding of the political establishment and more sophisticated."

But in any state, it may be tough to get legislatures to move when suburban legislators suspect gross mismanagement in rural or inner-city school districts. Why vote to send more money down a rathole, goes the reasoning.

That's why more school-finance suits may be influential. They may spark tough state controls to stop cheating kids of an education, and darkening of their futures.

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Job Market

SOLID WASTE MANAGER - HITESIDE COUNTY, ILL.: Hiteside County, IL is seeking a Solid Waste Manager. Min. Qual. Bachelor's degree in related field or 5 years of professional exp. in Waste Management. Good communication skills. Salary DOQ, E.E.O. A.A. Employer. Send resume to: County Administrator, W. Azul La Luz, 200 East Knox Street, Morris, IL 61210. Must be licensed by 2/23/90.

MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR - SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIF.: \$80,000 per year (Plus an extensive executive benefits package) San Bernardino County is recruiting for an experienced administrator with five or more years of experience in a large, complex mental health or public agency, which has included program planning, development and evaluation, fiscal administration and human resource management. Please apply before February 5 to: San Bernardino County Personnel, 157 W. 11th Street, San Bernardino, CA 91504-0440, 714/387-5590. EOE m/f

BUDGET/MANAGEMENT ANALYST 4 - CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO: Salary range: \$186-465,174. Principal analyst position. Send resume to: Bd. of County Commissioners' Personnel, Rm. #417, County Admin. Bldg., 1219 Ontario Street, Cleveland, OH 44113.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SPECIALIST - CITY OF BOCA RATON, FLA.: \$27,622-44,782. City of Boca Raton currently seeking individual to support City Manager and Council in dissemination of information to the Community, develop and implement city cable television production. Graduation from four-year accredited college or university with five years successful work experience preferably in or related to local government of equivalent experience. Demonstrated ability in composition of written communication tools including newsletters, brochures, annual reports and other public relations materials. Must possess or have ability to obtain Florida Driver's License. Apply by sending resume to Lynn Wade, Personnel, City of Boca Raton, 201 West Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, Florida 33432. Telephone 407/393-7805. Deadline - 1/26/90.

ADMINISTRATOR - CLAY COUNTY, FLA.: One of Florida's fastest growing counties is in need of an experienced county administrator. Clay County's population 102,796. Qualifications required are a graduate degree from an accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Public Administration, or a graduate from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Public or Business Administration. Five years working experience as a manager or assistant manager of a city or county

with similar population is desired. Salary \$50,000 plus benefits and transportation provided. Please forward resumes and inquiries to Commissioner Dennis M. Frushone, Vice Chairman, Personnel Committee, Post Office Box 1366, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, 904/284-6352.

ADMINISTRATOR - GRAFTON COUNTY, N.H.: is seeking an experienced administrator for a 135-bed intermediate care nursing home with a full range of services. The applicant must qualify for or possess a current New Hampshire nursing home administrator's license, plus 3 years experience as an administrator preferred. Compensation dependent upon experience & qualifications. Excellent fringe benefits. Please send letter of application, resume and salary history to: Grafton County Commissioners, P.O. Box 108, Woodsville, NH 03785. Resumes will be accepted until March 1, 1990.

EEO COORDINATOR - ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLA.: Gateway to the Sunshine State - Salary Range: \$25,553-\$28,330 Annually. Develops equal employment/affirmative action programs to ensure compliance with Federal/State equal employment opportunity laws, regulations and requirements. Minimum training and experience qualifications: Graduation from college or university with a bachelor's degree in personnel management,

public administration, or a closely related field, and one year of full-time affirmative action, contract compliance review responsibilities; or an equivalent combination of training and experience. Pre-employment applications may be obtained by calling, writing or visiting the Escambia County Civil Service Board, 24 West Chase Street, Pensacola, Florida 32501, phone 904/444-8610. No resumes accepted. Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, February 23, 1990, 12:00 p.m. Equal opportunity employer/M/F/Handicapped/Veterans.

ATTENTION - GOVERNMENT SEIZED VEHICLES from \$100. Fords, Mercedes, Corvettes, Chevys. Surplus Buyers Guide. 1-602-838-8885 Ext. A2056.

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NACo 1990 Legislative Conference

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✓ CONFERENCE REGISTRATION/Postmark deadline: February 15, 1990 (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING AND RETURNING FORM)

Conference registration fee MUST accompany this registration form and must be received before registration or housing can be processed. Send a check, voucher, county purchase order, claim or the equivalent made payable to the National Association of Counties. Return completed form with payment by February 15, 1990 to: NACo Conference Center, P.O. Box 17413, Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C. 20041.
Please type or print clearly all applicable information requested below. Information following asterisks (*) will appear on the conference badge.

*Name (first, last name) _____
*Nickname _____
*Title _____
*County _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Registered Spouse (first, last name) _____
Registered Youth (first, last name) _____
Registered Youth (first, last name) _____

☐ YES, I would like travel assistance from the NACo Conference Travel Center.

✓ REGISTRATION FEES

Check the box that corresponds with your registration category.

EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION
Must be postmarked
by February 9, 1990

REGISTRATION POSTMARKED
AFTER February 9, 1990 and
ON-SITE registration

Member county attendee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$195	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225
Nonmember county attendee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275
Other government attendee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275
Other attendee (private sector)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300
Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Youth	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30

NOTE: ALL REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER FEBRUARY 15, 1990 WILL BE PROCESSED AT THE ON-SITE REGISTRATION DESK.

✓ HOUSING REGISTRATION/Postmark deadline: February 15, 1990.

☐ Please make my hotel reservations as indicated below.
☐ I will make my own housing arrangements.

Room occupant (first, last name) _____
Co-occupant (first, last name) _____
Arrival date _____ Time: AM _____ PM _____
Departure date _____ Time: AM _____ PM _____
Special housing request _____
Housing disability needs _____

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR DESIRED ROOM RATE

INDICATE YOUR FIRST CHOICE HOTEL WITH NUMBER 1. THEN NUMBER OTHER HOTELS FROM 2 TO 5 IN THE ORDER OF PREFERENCE. IF YOUR FIRST CHOICE IS UNAVAILABLE, RESERVATION WILL BE MADE AT THE NEXT AVAILABLE HOTEL ACCORDING TO YOUR RANKING.

HOTEL	SINGLE RATES	DOUBLE RATES
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— Hilton	\$92	\$112
	\$102	\$122
	\$112	\$132
	\$122	\$142
	\$132	\$152
— Highland	\$92	\$102
— Quality Hotel	\$84	\$94
— Ritz-Carlton	\$130	\$140
— Mayflower	\$109	\$109

DO NOT SEND HOUSING DEPOSITS WITH CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PAYMENTS. Follow the "Housing Deposits" instructions.

REMEMBER: You will be assigned the first available room rate which is closest to the rate you requested - based on availability at the time your housing request is processed.

✓ CANCELLATION POLICY

Postmark deadline: February 27, 1990

Refund of conference registration fee less an administrative fee of \$50 made if written notice of conference registration cancellation is postmarked later than February 27, 1990.

✓ CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

Credit card company _____
Card number _____
Expiration date _____

The NACo Housing Center and/or the NACo Conference Travel Center authorized to use the above card to guarantee my hotel reservations and issue airline tickets reserved by me to attend this conference. I understand one night's room charge will be billed through this card if I fail to arrive for assigned housing at the confirmed date unless I have cancelled my reservation with the hotel at least 48 hours in advance. I also understand that I may have any unused tickets for travel purchased by this card for full refund as a reservation penalty.

Cardholder's signature _____ Date _____

For further registration or housing information, call the NACo Conference Registration Center (703) 471-6180. No registrations or reservations can be accepted by telephone.

✓ HOUSING DEPOSITS

A mandatory room deposit is required in an amount equal to one night's room charge. It is hotel policy that each room reservation be guaranteed by either of the following methods:

1. Complete the Credit Card Authorization section of this registration/housing form. The NACo Conference Registration Center can guarantee your room with the hotel by your credit card. This is the easiest way to guarantee your room reservation.
2. Forward a check, money order, claim, purchase order or voucher directly to the hotel indicated on the Conference Registration/Housing Acknowledgement you will be receiving from the NACo Conference Registration Center.

✓ AFFILIATE INFORMATION Please check the affiliated groups to which you belong.

☐ NACRC ☐ NACCA ☐ NCECE ☐ NACHFA ☐ NACP
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☐ NACTEP ☐ NACCAE ☐ NACA ☐ NACHSA ☐ NABCO
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