High spots have always had a fascination for people. Primitive man built his alters on the high places of his land. Poet's have sung their praises of the mountains. To the dweller in the valley or the plain, the mountains are a place of mystery and charm, the dwelling place of gnomes and fairies, the home of the winds and storms, the abiding place of the gods.

Pennsylvania has no high peaks like Pike's Peak or Mt. Shasta, whose summits are ever cloud hidden, or glistening with summer snows. Rather our mountain tops are so uniform in elevation that only the surveyor's spirit level can determine which is the highest. This very uniformity of elevation in itself leads to endless discussions as to where is the highest place in any neighborhood, county or the State.

The Geological Survey in the Department of Internal Affairs at Harrisburg, the authority in such matters, is often called on to settle disputes on the relative elevation of places. There also come to it many requests for information from those seeking health or commercial opportunity, such as fruit raising. The following brief statement answers some of the inquiries.

The surface of Pennsylvania is a dissected plateau or plateaus for there are at least two; that is, the State was long ago worn down practically to a plain but little above sea level. Then the earth's
forces lifted this plain, high above sea level in the central part of the State, and but little in the southeast corner of the State. Since that time - probably many millions of years ago - rain, frost, and streams have cut valleys and carried away the softer rocks, leaving the harder rocks standing as hills or mountains. As a result the highest point in nearly every county is surrounded by many other points almost or quite as high. So, too, the mountains in the Valleymont region between Allegheny Mountain and Blue or Kittatinny Mountain are remarkably level-crested. For example, the crest of Tussey Mountain northeast of Spruce Creek runs 3-3/4 miles without a variation of level of more than 20 feet; and this distance may be multiplied many times where the variation is less than 100 feet.

The elevations given in this paper are taken from the surveys made by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with the State Geological Survey, and in most instances are expressed only in round numbers; the actual elevation may be a few feet higher - in no case more than 20 feet. A few of the elevations in some of the eastern counties are taken from early reconnaissance maps which later surveys may prove to be faulty.

Undoubtedly the highest land in the State is on Negro Mountain in southern Somerset County. The whole top of this mountain for a length of 5 miles and a width, in one place, of 2½ miles is above 3,000 feet, culminating in three places above 3,200, the highest 3,220 feet. The next highest area is on Allegheny Mountain in the northwest corner of Bedford County where Blue Knob has an elevation of 3,136 feet and in the western corner of Freedom township, Clair County, where an unnamed knob is 3,000 feet. In the southeast corner of Springfield township of Fayette County there are two unnamed knobs on the crest of Laurel Hill that just reach 3,000 feet. These are believed to be the only spots in the State 3,000 feet above sea level.

Many places along the crest of Allegheny Mountain in southeast Somerset County are 2,900 feet or more, and a point on the county line between Cambria and Bedford Counties reaches 2,600 feet and is the highest point in Cambria County. Undoubtedly the largest area of high land in the State is between Allegheny Mountain on the east, and Laurel Hill on the west, including Somerset County and the southern part of Cambria County. Many spots elsewhere in the State rise above 2,500 feet but here there are many square miles above 2,500 feet.

The next largest area of high land is the north-central part of the State in Potter and adjoining counties, which forms a watershed draining to the Mississippi, the Susquehanna, and the St. Lawrence. Here large areas of nearly flat hilltops or plateaus lie between 2,300 and 2,600 feet. Higher points may be found in unsurveyed areas, particularly in the northern part of the State.

From the center of Potter County the hilltops east and west are at lower elevations except the tops of Elk Hill and East Mountain which culminate at 2,684 feet above sea level. The hilltops about Harveys Lake range from 2,300 feet to 2,400 feet. In the Pocono Mountains is another high upland, with large areas between 2,000 and 2,200 feet above sea. Large areas in South Mountain rise above 2,000 feet.
while the narrow mountain crests between South Mountain and Allegheny Mountain are 1,300 feet to 2,000 feet high, rising from east to west, with high points of 2,500 to 2,400 feet.

It will interest some to notice that all of the high points of the State seems to lie in one or the other of two imaginary plains. Everyone has noticed that looking off from the top of one of our mountains, the distant mountains appear to be flat topped and of about the same elevation as the one we are standing on. If the lowland between the mountains were filled up, a surface almost like that of the Great Plains of the west would result. Actually all or nearly all of the high spots and level crested mountains were parts of such a plain which once lay but little above sea level. Many millions of years ago this plain was elevated irregularly from a few hundred to 1,000 feet, the amount of uplift differing in different parts of the State. Then the land stood still so long that a new plain developed, above which rose many isolated peaks and ridge tops. Then came more uplifts. All of the higher spots in the State appear to be remnants of the older and higher plains which tilt from 3,200 in Somerset County to 200 feet or less at Philadelphia.

West of Chestnut Ridge lies the younger and lower plain which averages only 1,300 feet above tide as far west as Pittsburgh. From this low area this plain rises to 1,600 feet in southwest Greene County, and to 2,300 feet in the north-central part of the State. Eastward the lower (imaginary) plain, drops down to 500 or 600 feet around Harrisburg and to 200 feet or less at Philadelphia.

Until the topographic mapping of the State is completed (now less than 30 per cent finished) it will not be possible to give a complete list of the high points in the State. The following partial list may be of interest. The following counties are almost completely surveyed, but may contain higher points than those given.

| Centre | Jefferson |
| Clarion | Lancaster |
| Columbia | Luzerne |
| Erie | Monroe |
| Snyder | Susquehanna |
| Venango |

The following counties have large areas not yet topographically surveyed:

| Bradford | Elk | Mifflin | Potter |
| Cameron | Forest | Montour | Union |
| Clearfield | Juniata | Pike | Warren |
| Clinton | Lycoming | Sullivan | Wayne |
| Crawford | McKean | Tioga | Wyoming |

All figures refer to elevation above mean sea level. Figures ending in zero may be exact, but commonly are within 20 feet below the actual elevation. Numbers in parenthesis after any number indicate that the elevation is reached by more than one point.
Adams County. Valley uplands 500 to 700; W. edge in South Mt.; highest point in county 2,060 on Big Flat.

Allegheny County. Hilltops lie in plateau level from about 1,240 near the S. boundary to 1,340 on the N. edge. Several points S. of New Kensington exceed 1,360.

Armstrong County. General elevation of hilltops about 1,500; N. of Cowansville, point 1,566. Highest point 1,720 N.E. of Muff, Wayne Twp.

Beaver County. Highest land 1,360, 1 1/2 mi. S.E. of Georgetown and 3 mi. S.E. of Hookstown. Hilltops in S. part of county about 1,200 rise to 1,280 along E. edge. Divide E. of Darlington 1,340 (2 places).

Bedford County. Highest point, Blue Knob, N.W. corner, 3,136; Kinton Knob, 2,547; Tussey Mountain, 2,541; Evitts Mountain 2,520; Warrior Ridge, 2,452.

Bucks County. General elevation between 630 and 1,000. Tipton Mt. (Longswamp Twp.) 1,220; Mt. Penn, 1,160; Spies Hill, 1,100; Irish Mt., 1,040.

Blair County. S.W. corner on Allegheny Mt., 3,000; N.W. corner, Allegheny Mt., 2,620; Brush Mt., 2,620; Loop Mt., 2,460; Tussey Mt. 2,225.

Bradford County. Hilltops form plateau between 1,600 and 1,700. Hills 1,660 near North Ghent, N. of Litchfield, N. of North Orwell, S. of West Warrior.

Bucks County. Hills from sea level at S.E. to 980 on N. boundary near county corners; Rock Hill (3 mi. S.E. of Quakertown) 820.

Butler County. Hilltops form plateau, 1,200 to 1,320 in S.W. quarter, to 1,560 on N. and E. edges. High point, 1,580, N. of Six Points, Allegheny Twp.

Cambria County. All highland. Uplands between 2,000 and 2,500 feet. Highest land, Allegheny Mt. up to 2,860 in S.E. corner, and Laurel Hill in the W. corner up to 2,780.

Cameron County. Not surveyed.

Carbon County. Irregular plateau, hilltops 1,600 to 1,800; Jake Mt. (Kidder Twp.) 2,220.

Centre County. Highest point, 2,580 in S.W. corner on Allegheny Mt.; S. corner (Harris Twp.) 2,520; Tussey Mt. (Bald Knob) 2,310, Nittany Mt., 2,240.

Chester County. Hilltops slope S.E. from 400 to 100. High points, Welch Mt. (Honeybrook Twp.), 1,020; Barron Hill 960.
Clarion County. Plateau upland reaches 1,912 in Mill Creek Twp. In W. part of county hilltops 1,400 to 1,560; N. of New Bethlehem, 1,660. In Washington Twp. many crests above 1,700; highest near Marble, 1,780.

Clearyfield County. Plateau, 1,800 to 1,900; S.E. corner in Allegheny Mt., 2,380; Chestnut Ridge, N. of MeGeos Mills, 2,240; N.W. of Blue Ball, 2,200.

Clinton County. Plateau upland 1,500 to 2,000. In Logan Twp., 2,460; Big Eagle Mt., 2,080.

Columbia County. Catawissa Mt. (in E. corner) 1,941; Buck Mt., 1,920; Big Mt., 1,843.

Crawford County. Plateau, W. edge 400 to 1,200. Center of county, many small areas above 1,600. High point near Mt. Joy School in Wayne Twp., 1,720.

Cumberland County. Blue Mt., 2,240; South Mt., 2,100.

Dauphin County. Big Lick Mt. (near Williamstown) 1,730; Broad Mt., Jackson Twp., 1,720; Peters Mt., 1,780; Stony Mt., 1,600.

Delaware County. Upland (gravel covered) slope from 500 in N. corner to 200.

Elk County. Not surveyed.

Erie County. Lake Erie 573. Hilltops rise to S. to 980 and to E. to 1,780 in Venango Twp.

Fayette County. General elevation of hilltops west of Chestnut Ridge about 1,300; E. of Chestnut Ridge, upland 2,000 to 2,500 rises to 3,000 at two places in Laurel Hill and to 2,940 in N.E. corner. Chestnut Ridge reaches 2,778.

Forest County. Many hilltops above 1,700. Near Cultonville one reaches 1,740.

Franklin County. Blue Mt. (near Maple Grove) 2,340; Tuscarora Mt. (Big Mt.) 2,440; same W. of Horse Valley, 2,260; Rising Mt. 2,315; Conococheague Mt., 2,180; South Mt. (Snowy Mt.) and Big Pine Flat, each 2,080.

Fulton County. Tuscarora Mt. (Big Mt.) 2,440; Sidling Hill (Brush Twp.) 2,380; Bald Hill, 2,296.

Greene County. Hilltops, S.W. quarter 1,620; W. of Garrison, 1,640; S.E. quarter 1,520, and down; N.W. quarter 1,500 and down; N.E. quarter, 1,300 to 1,500.

Huntingdon County. Jackson Twp., Big Flat 2,400; Broad Mt., 2,380; Grass Mt., 2,325; Jacks Mt. (Butler Knob) 2,360; Tussey Mt., 2,280; Standing Stone Mt., 2,200.
Indiana County. W. part, 1,200 to 1,400; hills up to 1,620. N.E. corner 1,500 to 2,000. Several hilltops 2,020; Kinter Hill, Grant Twp., 2,002; Chestnut Ridge east of Indiana, 1,940.

Jefferson County. Widespread plateau, 1,600 to 1,800. S. of Brookville, 1,630. N.W., 1,940; McColm Twp., 2,040; S.E. corner (Chestnut Ridge) 2,223.

Juninta County. Black Log Mt., 2,260; Tuscarora Mt., 2,020; Shade Mt., 2,020.

Lackawanna County. Big Shiny Mt. (Brook Twp.) and Big Pine (Lehigh Twp.) each 2,220; Bald Mt., 2,223; Fell Twp., 2,180.

Lancaster County. Near Penryn Station, 1,200; Welch Mts., (near Mt. Airy) 1,100. General elevation between 300 and 600.

Lawrence County. Plateau. Large areas above 1,200; N. edge 1,320; N.E. of New Castle, 1,540; Slippery Rock Twp. and S. of Princeton, 1,440.

Lebanon County. General level between 400 and 600; South Mt., 1,340; Stony Mt. (N. corner) 1,600.

Lehigh County. Bluc Mt., near Lehigh Furnace Cap, 1,620; Bake Oven Knob, 1,540; Lower Macungie Twp., 1,080; South Mt., near Mountainville, 1,020.

Luzerne County. North Mt. (near Bear Run) 2,400; Bald Mt. (Bears Creek Twp.), 2,140; Little Sugar Loaf, 2,000; Penobscot Knob, 2,140. Upland plateau 1,500 to 2,100.

Lycoming County. Laurel Mt., 2,300; Pine Twp., 2,200; junction White Deer ridges, 2,140; Green Mt., 2,100; Backtown Mt., 2,080; Bald Eagle, 2,020.

McKean County. Plateau upland 2,000 to 2,500; S.E. of Red Rock, 2,320; N.W. of Bradford, 2,380.

Mercer County. Plateau; W. edge, 1,100; S.E. corner, 1,200; 1,400; N. edge 1,500 (2); Mill Creek Twp. 1,560 (many); 1½ mis. N.E. of Henderson, 1,620.

Mifflin County. Thick Mt. (Armaugh Twp.) 2,260; Standing Stone Mt., 2,200; Blue Mt., 2,100; Shade Mt., 2,020; Jacks Mt., 1,940.

Monroe County. Pocono Mt. is a plateau between 1,800 and 2,100; highest point, Histlers Ledge, 2,215; Camelback Mt., 2,131; Blue or Kittatinny Mt. (N. of Pen Argyl) 1,860.

Montgomery County. Uplands rise S.E. to N.W. from 400 to 600. High point 700 in N. corner, near Palm.

Montour County. Montour Ridge, 1,425.

Northampton County. South Mt. (near Bethlehem) 1,960.
Blue or Kittatinny Mt. (N. of Pocono Argyle, flat top), 1,660; Hexenkopf hill, 1,030.

Northumberland County. Mahany Mt., 1,805; Line Mt., 1,648.

Perry County. Tuscarora Mt., 2,020.

Philadelphia County. Hill Crest (near Chestnut Hill) 440.

Pike County. Cranberry Ridge, 1,600; Bald Hill, 1,540; many hilltops 1,500.

Potter County. Plateau, 2,200 to 2,600. Many hilltops above 2,500; W. of Larch's Mill, 2,600.

Schuykill County. Bears Head (near Delano) 2,100; North Mahany Mt., 1,952; Mahantango Mt., 1,813; Broad Mt., 1,795; Big Lick Mt. (near Towcr City) 1,769.

Snyder County. Shade Mt., 2,040.

Somerset County. Negro Mt., 3,220; Allegheny Mt. (S. of Lincoln Highway) 2,949; Laurel Ridge (N.W. corner) 2,840; ridge N. of Buckstown, 2,720.


Susquehanna County. Elk Hill (North Knob), 2,684; East Mt., 2,400 plus; Mocosic Mt., 2,320.

Tioga County. S.W. of Bissburg, 2,380; Huckleberry Mt., 2,340; Brier Mt., 2,327; Pine Hill, 2,300; Laurel Hill, 2,260; Maple Hill, 2,257.

Union County. Naked Mt., 2,100; Mottany Mt., 2,000.

Venango County. W. edge of county, 1,500 to 1,580; near Lowell Corners (Pine Grove Twp.), 1,700; S. Victory Twp., 1,600 (3).

Warren County. Elk Twp., 2,220; Scandia, 2,140; Kinzua Twp., 2,048; Pikes Rocks (Sugar Grove Twp.), 1,982.

Washington County. Scenery Hill, 1,486; S.W. corner, 1,480 (several) and down; N.W. part, 1,420; Quakers Knob, 1,420; Florence, 1,380; N. edge 1,300.

Wayne County. Hardwood Ridge, Pocono Plateau, 2,236; Mocosic Mt., E. of Union Dale, 2,360. General plateau, 1,500 to 1,800.

Westmoreland County. Laurel Hill (Birch Rock Hill), S.E. corner, 2,950; same E. of Waterford, 2,840; Chestnut Ridge, S. of Conemaugh River, 2,620; same, E. of Derry, 2,380. Around Latrobe, 1,200 to 1,300.

Wyoming County. North Mt., large areas between 2,200 and 2,340, top 2,400; Miller Mt. (Eaton Twp.), 2,227.
York County. Round Top (near Mt. Airy) 1,380; Pigeon Hills, 1,220; Hopewell Twp. and along S. line of county, 1,060; Conewago Mt., 1,040 (4); Huntrock Hill (Codoro Twp.), 1,020.

The highest town or settlement bearing a name, according to present surveys, is Pocahontas in S. Somerset County which is 2,660 feet above sea level. It is believed that the highest town of any size is Berlin, also in Somerset County, which is 2,322 above sea level. Somerset, the county seat of Somerset County, is 2,260 feet in elevation. There are several railroad stations in northeastern Potter County above 2,200. Perkins, 2,414 feet, appears to be the highest of these. Compared with this, Gallitzin on Allegheny Mountain above the Horseshoe Curve grade is 2,165 feet. Kinzua Junction, 2,278 feet; Summit, McKean County, 2,130 feet; Hazleton, 1,600 feet.

What is the highest lake in the State? According to the Water Service in the State Department of Forest and Waters, Four Mile Pond in Wayne County (70 acres) is 2,565 feet (barometric). Ganoga Lake, Sullivan County (78.8 acres) and 2,320 feet above sea level, is second. Joan Lake (296 acres), Lehigh Lake (137 acres) and Lake Rose (47 acres), all in Luzerne County, are all about 2,200 feet. Among other lakes over 2,000 feet above sea are: Eaglesmere, Sullivan County, 116.9 acres; Bone Pond or Summit Lake, Five Mile Pond, Little Hickory Pond and Independant Pond, all in Wayne County; Grant Mehoopany Lake, Sullivan County; Bear Creek Ice Co's. No. 5 pond, Luzerne County (originally Bear Lake).

The following elevations of other large lakes, are of interest: Conneaut Lake (928.5 acres), 1,072 feet; Harvey Lake, Luzerne County (658.6 acres) 1,228 feet; Crystal Lake, Luzerne County (420 acres) 1,937 feet; Coxtown Pond, Wayne County (109.7 acres) 1,975 feet. With few exceptions all of the lakes in the State are above 1,000 feet.