

Brookings Water Department Will Be Revamped

Started In 1913, All Mains And Supplies Are Being Changed

1913 Brookings had one of the most modern water systems on the entire Pacific Coast, and the materials become available. Brookings will again be able to boast of the best water system by early 1947, a water system completely re-vamped and built.

The original water system was built out by Bill Ward and built the Brookings Timber and Lumber Co. in 1913. The water main was built of redwood stave and stretched from the nine-million-gallon reservoir on Ferry Creek 11,400 feet to the old mill-

1919 Ferry Creek dam was built to increase the reservoir capacity to 12 million gallons. To further augment the water supply in the dry summer months, a long flume was built from the Ferry Creek reservoir to Joe Hall

Water distribution by this system covered the entire west side of the townsite as plotted at that time, and water was distributed from the principal main in the area through four- and six-inch wood mains. The system, serving the mill, and most of the houses in Brookings, also included 17 fire plugs.

After the mill closed down, the water system lacked maintenance and was in poor repair, and by the time the flume from Joe Hall could not be used. A four-inch main and a diesel pump was installed on Ransom creek at that time to insure adequate water for fire protection and a greater reserve for the low water season. The wooden water tank which stands across from the high school, has a 50,000-gallon capacity and was originally used as a water tower at the old mill, but after the mill closed, it was moved to its present site and connected with the water system. The Ferry creek reservoir was abandoned in 1945, although the dam was still taken from the creek, and the diesel pump at the Ransom creek reservoir were re-

placed by electric pumps. Just recently this reservoir basin was enlarged to 50,000-gallon capacity. The existing system is in the process of being completely modernized with cast iron, copper and transite pipes, replacing the old wooden mains which have been in use since the original water system was built.

When the re-construction program is completed, each house to be served by the Brookings Water Company will be connected to the mains by copper piping, and each house will have a meter.

A new concrete reservoir, overlooking town, will be built soon, which will have a 500,000-gallon capacity. The new lines are being laid so that they will extend up the north bank of the Chetco, above tidewater, so that an additional source of water will be available. This was suggested by the Public Utilities Commission engineers in a recent survey, estimating that the present supply would be inadequate in the next two years.

When the Brookings Water Co. completes its program, the water will be filtered and treated to meet the most rigid health and sanitation scrutiny. And it is estimated that domestic and irrigation demands will require one million gallons of water daily.

Many Ballots Were Wasted in Election

In discussion with members of the election board, since the elections, several points in connection with the handling of ballots were brought up, principal of which concerned the writing of names of proposed candidates on the ballots.

This provision of Oregon's law was made so as to take care of any emergency where it might be of benefit to the voting public when lack of the provision might cause a hardship or where a concerted plan is put under way to offset some candidate for office who either failed to file on time or was, at the last moment, persuaded to enter his name.

Usually, write-ins are the result of an organized effort of a number of people and unless they are so founded, they only make more or less useless work for the county boards.

When Jim Jones writes in his vote for Polly Smith as coroner, the only result of his effort is that the counting board has to make six entries of that one vote and include that in the totals for the county clerk to check and report to the state.

But, should there be a planned campaign to make Polly Smith a candidate for the job and sufficient electioneering put through so that Polly would stand a chance of building up a strong following, then her write-in total vote may carry her through to victory.

Then, too, the law requires that when a name is written in, the vote shall not be counted unless an X appears before the name, just the same as an appropriate mark must be placed before a printed name on the ballot to indicate the voter's choice of candidate. Most of the written-in names are not checked by the writers, as the law requires and

are therefore thrown out, for which members of the counting board are very thankful as it means less work for them.

Another failure of write-ins is the improper placing of the written-in names on the ballots. Voters who wish to write in names should study the sample ballots closely and be sure the proper place is chosen. Look at the sample ballots, and if necessary, ask a board member as to just where you should write in Polly Smith's name if you want to give her your vote for coroner.

Another error disclosed by the board members frequently occurs in voting in primary elections—failure to indicate choice of the proper number of candidates where more than one are running for the same office. In a recent election, it is said, several state legislator ballots were of no account because the voter who had checked them, marked X in front of both candidates while the ballot was plain in its statement, "Vote for one."

There were several examples of mis-direction of voting, according to reports, as may be seen on the posted tally sheets. For one, Oleta Walker was written in for county treasurer. Mrs. Walker was not a candidate for this office and could not be as she is county clerk and her term does not expire for two years. Arthur Crook, now serving as county commissioner on appointment to complete the term of a resigned commissioner, was written in for the job, even though a vacancy does not occur for two years.

Sample election ballots are always available before an election and careful study of these, together with realization of the real purpose of the write-in features of the ballot, election officials say, will make the voter's ballot more valuable to the voter and a little less useless work in counting the vote.

Local News Items

A lily growers meeting will be held next Monday evening at 8:00 at the Harbor Grange hall. Mark C. Cotton will be speaker. The following evening at Fort Dick he will hold another meeting.

Last Thursday evening a surprise shower was given Mrs. Archie McVay, when 17 ladies met at the home of Mrs. May Dixon, with Mrs. Agda Bickner as assistant hostess. A mock wedding was held as part of the entertainment after which pinochle was played. Refreshments were enjoyed, during which time, the bride

received a set of dishes. A well was drilled on the Neil Chapman place this past week. Thirty-four sticks of dynamite were used in sinking the well more than 70 feet. It is estimated that there will be 16 feet of water in a large reservoir, created by the blasting. Advertise in the Pilot—it pays!

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