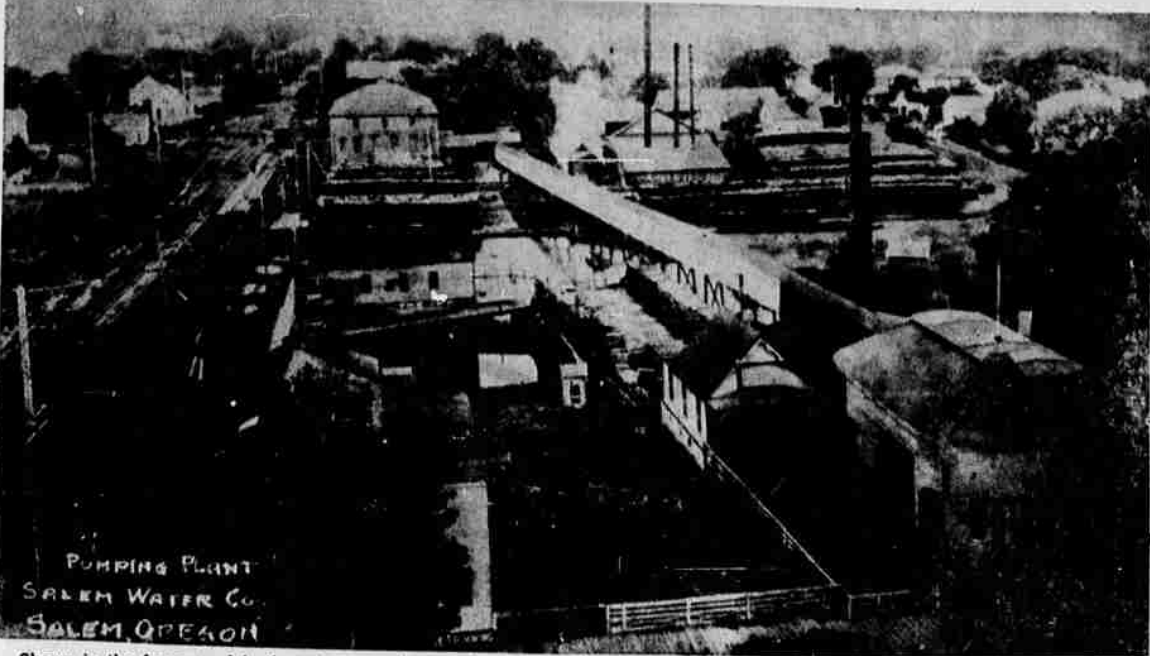


SALEM WATER COMPANY IN 1895



Shown in the foreground is the water pumping station built by Wallace interests and supplemented by steam power in 1890. The long, wooden shed reaching to a Pelton water turbine installed in the millrace adjacent to the Pacific Agricultural works housed ropes that ran over pulleys and transmitted additional water power to the pumping station. Stacks shown in the middle foreground are those of the local electric light plant, then a steam generating plant fired by surrounding piles of cordwood.

Waterworks Interesting Part in Salem History

By BEN MAXWELL

Disastrous fires that had cracked uncontrolled through false fronts and ramshackle hostilities that constituted the business district of the frontier town that was Salem in the 1860s was one argument. Others suspected that shallow, dug wells in the downtown district had become contaminated. Nearly everyone agreed that Salem needed a pure supply of water for human consumption and an abundance of it for combating combustion. In 1870 David Allen and J. M. Martin, a local grocery partnership, approached the council and asked for a franchise. This they received December 30, 1870.

Salem Water Company was organized February 21, 1871, with J. M. Martin, W. F. Boothby, N. Stapleton and David Allen as incorporators. Boothby was named president, Allen secretary. The 17-year franchise was specific: The company agreed to furnish the city with water for \$1800 yearly, lay a mile of pipe the first year and charge no higher rate than elsewhere on the Pacific Coast for towns of a comparable population. A downtown reservoir was also specified.

A rather fanciful plat of the town for 1876 shows this reservoir as a big water tower on the west side of Front Street between State and Court and on Lot 3 in Block 63 to be exact. Masonry supported a wooden framework 50 by 60 feet and towering 80 feet above was a wooden tank conceived as a reservoir to hold 270,000 gallons.

Promoters, and they were not lacking here in the 1870s, visualized the lofty tower as a suitable viewpoint for showing the city to visitors and investors. To reach that elevated lookout around the tank they climbed a circular stair built around the shaft. They reached the top breathless but relatively dry when there was no wind and reservoir did not leak excessively.

President Boothby had gone to San Francisco and there obtained a patented Blake steam pump that would lift 150,000 gallons of water an hour, four and a half gallons per stroke and 60 strokes a minute. A suction line eight inches in diameter extended 75 feet into the river and, after the reservoir had been filled, discharged directly into the wooden mains that served the town. Willamette river water circulated through the Martin & Allen system for the first time September 2, 1871, and 11:30 a.m.

A decade later the water tower at the river front had come to be regarded as an unsightly landmark. Rank vegetation flourished around its well irrigated base and folks who went to the river bank to dispose of their garbage complained that wind whipped water from the leaking reservoir obstructed their intent.

April 1, 1881, Santiam Water Company, owned by Wheelton and Edwards and housed within the Pacific Agricultural Works, that venerable structure now being slowly dismantled at Trade and High Streets, was acquired by Salem Water Company. Power generated by a Pelton turbine wheel in the millrace and three and a half miles of pipe serving the central and southern part of Salem went with the purchase.

Salem's combined water systems were an attractive investment for R. S. Wallace, capitalist and newly arrived investor who acquired the local system February 8, 1885. He immediately went about improving his



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municipal boundaries established in the early 1880s. When Wallace interests disposed of the 42-year-old family heritage to Oregon-Washington Water Service Company, July 1, 1927 (Capital Journal on April 11, 1927 carried a news story about this transaction involving between \$850,000 and \$900,000) 6300 users were listed on books of Salem Light, Power and Water company (a reorganization April 10, 1911) with peak requirements of more than one billion gallons of water yearly. Aspirations towards municipal ownership of the local water system were manifest in 1909 when the measure failed to get sufficient support and again in 1914 when an ordinance in this direction passed the council. Promptly enough it received the mayor's veto. Late in 1931 a special election set up a plan for municipal ownership. An appraisal placed the value of the system at \$792,000. Three and a half years of hickering followed and finally, when the city got around to purchase of the Oregon-Washington Water Service interest during July of 1935, the price agreed upon was approximately \$1,000,000.

Willamette river, because of pollution, and aging installations, was no longer regarded as a suitable water supply for Salem. North Santiam river, long considered as a potential source of supply, was designated as such by municipal authorities March 2, 1936. Construction of an intake on an island in the North Santiam River near Stayton and leading the supply to Salem through a gravity system was an elaborate and expensive accomplishment in the late 1930s.

Fairmount reservoir built in 1936 about a mile and a half southward from the business district of Salem has a capacity of 10,000,000. More recently a 500,000 gallon reservoir was built in the Candalaria district, a 100,000 gallon water tower in Kingswood and a 250,000 gallon tower reservoir on Downs street. Last year saw completion of the 100 million gallon Turner reservoir to insure a greater flow capacity into the Salem system and provide an additional measure of security. West Salem is now supplied with water from the North Santiam by a 24-inch main carried by the new Marion street bridge.

John L. Geren, manager of Salem municipal water system and successor to Carl Guenther who left the city's employment

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Park Pictures To Be Shown

Colored slides of a trip through the Canadian Rockies and visits to Banff, Lake Louise, and Waterton National parks are scheduled to be shown to West Salem Lions club members when they meet at Golden Pheasant restaurant Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Junior Eckley who took these pictures, announces that besides beautiful scenery of mountains, lakes and waterfalls, he has many interesting shots of bear, elk, moose, mountain sheep and mountain goats.

Their return trip from Canada was by way of Glacier National park in Montana, and the Wallowa mountains of northeastern Oregon. Members are especially invited to bring guests.

Cold Wave Hits All of Europe

LONDON — Bone-chilling winds, whirling in from the desolate Russian Steppes, sent temperatures plummeting to the lowest point in years Wednesday throughout Europe. The weather man said more of the same was in store.

In Northern Greece, shivering in the coldest winter in 61 years, marauding wolf packs padded up to the outskirts of some cities in their search for food. Britian chalked up its coldest night in two years.

In Munich, Germany, the mercury dropped to 3.2. Below-freezing conditions were recorded all over Italy and Rome had its first real snowfall since 1950. In Berlin, four below zero was forecast.

From all over Europe the reports were the same: Villages cut off by snowdrifts, trains running late because of iced-up switches and cars skidding madly on glassy roads.

MAYFLOWER CAPTAIN KINGSTON, Mass. (U.P.)—The Jones River here was named for the captain of the Mayflower, which arrived at nearby Plymouth in 1620.

Taxation Very Close to People in Oregon

By CLAUDE STEUSLOFF

"Taxation is closer to the people in Oregon than most any state of the union because of the initiative and referendum," State Senator Howard Belton stated during the forum session on taxation Tuesday afternoon at the Western Oregon Livestock meeting. Of 394 measures on the ballot since 1902, when the initiative and referendum became law, 127 have been initiated.

School taxes make up 67 per cent of the tax load, it was brought out in discussion of the provision by which school election voters need not be taxpayers.

In explaining efforts of the tax commission to equalize tax assessment, Sam Stewart of the commission said that in 1953 the assessed value of livestock was at 15 per cent of market value, a much smaller rate than obtained ten years ago. In 1952, sheep were assessed at 21 per cent of market value, cattle 26 per cent, swine 36 per cent and horses 56 per cent.

Eastern stomach worms must be controlled in young cattle and both young and older sheep or stockmen will be forced to quit irrigated pastures, Dr. J. N. Shaw, Oregon State college veterinarian told the afternoon session during the panel discussion on pasture management. Liver flukes are also a menace on irrigated pastures, he said. Also some new irrigated pasture parasites have been discovered in beef calves.

Hubert Willoughby of Harrisburg; Lyle McKinley, Woodburn; Eddie Ahrens, Turner; Chester Weidel, Drain; Glen Martin, McCoy; Elton Watts, Silverton, and Joe Johnson, Oregon State college, other members of the panel, outlined their experiences with both irrigated and dryland herbage.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Shibley of Oregon City, whose outstanding work in cattle production and pasture improvement won for them the title of Oregon Grassman of the Year, were presented. The Herman Oliver trophy, emblematic of the title, was on display.

Rain, Snow in Third of Nation

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More rain, snow and sleet pelted wide areas in the Eastern third of the country and in the Far West again Wednesday. The rain and snow in the Eastern belt extended from the Great Lakes region and Ohio Valley northeast and through most of Pennsylvania, New York and the New England states. The snow hit the Western Great Lakes region with heaviest amounts of 2 to 4 inches over Southern Wisconsin, Eastern Iowa and Northern Illinois. Some sleet also was reported in Midwest areas.

Snow continued in sections of the Northern Rockies extending westward to a rain area along the Northern tier. Pacific Coast which spread from Northern California northward through Washington.

Mild weather continued in the Eastern and Southern sections of the country but colder air moved south and eastward into the Central Plains and Central Mississippi Valley. More sub-zero weather was reported in the Northern Rockies and Northern Plains, while temperatures were around seasonal levels in the Far West.

KSLM Children's Book Program Starts

Through special arrangements made by the Oregon State Library staff, KSLM will begin broadcast of a 13 week series of juvenile book reviews, "The Carnival of Books," each Saturday morning at 10:15 a.m. This series of programs originates in the NBC studios in Chicago and features dramatized excerpts and children's comments on the particular book selected each week.

City, county and state school officials, and librarians of nearby communities have endorsed the series as filling a definite need in providing greater incentive for book-reading by the younger students and efforts are being made toward organized listening parties. Books reviewed will be available not only at the library but at local book stores in the area.

Coffee Up 'Only' 10 Cents a Pound

SAN FRANCISCO — West Coast coffee drinkers, take heart. Your coffee will go up O-N-L-Y 10 cents a pound by April, according to estimates of importers and roasters who process most of the West's coffee supply. Increases to \$1.06 a pound were forecast, but boosts to \$1.25, predicted for some East Coast cities, were not anticipated here.

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