

# CITY WATER SYSTEM CAREFULLY WATCHED OVER BY E. HOSLER

People of Ashland Have Always Zealously Guarded Splendid Water Supply. Plan Now on Foot to Augment Supply by Adding Cow Creek Water to Water of Ashland Creek.

Ashland people are forever interested in their water supply. Boasting of the finest, the purest water supply of any city on the Pacific Coast, Ashland has always zealously guarded this supply, is ever on the lookout to make it even better.

This city is peculiarly situated, with many farms located inside the city supply.

Up until last season, this irrigation water problem was one which taxed the city officials continually. However, last year the city entered into an agreement with the Talent Irrigation District, whereby six hundred acre feet of the water stored behind the new Emigrant Creek dam, was purchased by the city for the use of irrigators in the Bellevue district. This purchase releases a like amount of water, of quality good enough to be used as domestic water, which formerly had been used for irrigation purposes by the Bellevue farmers.

This purchase necessitated the building of more than two miles of ditch, in order to deliver the new water supply to the consumers, and the building of this ditch was just another job, among the many which fall upon the broad shoulders of Earl Hosler, capable superintendent of the water department.

For years almost without number, Hosler has been at the head of the city's water supply. Every year he has worked in improving the system, carrying out the guardianship of the city's most treasured resource.

The two miles of ditch, three feet wide, was constructed, together with the flumes necessary to carry the water over the low places in the road. In addition, more than two miles of the old Anderson ditch was opened up and cleaned out, in order that additional users could secure the benefits of the water.

To complete the program a syphon was constructed across Ashland creek. This syphon is ten inches in diameter, and has an outlet for diverting water to the prior rights below. This prior right water is two second feet, and represents the irrigation water of a number of users below the city.

Last season, but 57 acres of water were put under irrigation with the new city supply from the Talent Irrigation District. This was because the farmers were not prepared for the water, and partly because it was impossible to construct all the ditch necessary in time to benefit them. However, during the past irrigation season, 178 acre feet of water passed through the ditches and went onto the land.

In addition to the heavy work of building the ditches and delivering the water to the consumers, Hosler took his share of the burden of the construction of the new city warehouse, which was constructed jointly by the city water and light departments at a cost of \$20,000. In addition, minor extensions were made and one big extension on Indiana street was completed, to take care of the irrigators in that section.

The old ditch between Wimer and Sheridan street, to the Frost property was taken out of commission and a pipe line laid there to care for the water.

During 1924, the city water

supply was at a very low ebb during the summer months. It was necessary to put stringent restrictions on water users. This brought about the question of an additional water supply, and Stewart McKissick, local engineer was retained to make a survey of every possible water supply.

McKissick spent several months of last year surveying the Ashland creek canyon for the possible site of a dam. However, after he had made measurements upon almost every foot of the canyon, with this idea in mind, he reported to the city council that such a move was not feasible.

Later, McKissick made a trip into the Cow Creek country, when he completed a survey and brought back the recommendation that the diverting of Cow Creek water into Ashland Creek furnished Ashland's most feasible means of obtaining additional water.

This summer, Hosler, City Engineer Walker, City Electrician C. A. Malone and McKissick made another trip into the Cow Creek region, and spent several weeks in that section of the country, looking up various possibilities for augmenting the city water supply.

On August 14 of this year, it was found that 4.01 second feet of water were flowing in the creek. On September 5, 3.35 second feet were found, on September 20, 4.51 and on October 22, 3.03 second feet.

No definite action has been taken by the city on this matter as yet, since it will require a bond issue to finance the proposal. However, should the measure ever become a reality, Hosler will be on the job, ready to do his part.

However, this is not a story of Hosler, but a story of the city

water system. The two are so closely connected, however, that it is impossible to mention one without saying much of the other.

Two cabins have been constructed on Cow Creek, where men will be stationed during the winter to take measurements on the stream flow during winter months.

Two recorders were placed on the east and west forks of Ashland creek last year, in order to obtain permanent records of the stream flow of Ashland creek. A wire was also placed on Ashland creek, near the Pell building, where daily measurements are taken, in order to ascertain the amounts of water being supplied the prior users.

During the past few years, 3,500 feet of 12 inch water main was laid on Terrace street. This work was done at a cost of \$9,000. The four inch pipe on Gresham street, between Helman and Dewey streets was renewed, four inches cast iron pipe being laid. A total of 2500 feet of six inch cast iron pipe was laid on H street in 1923, and in 1922, 1000 feet of steel pipe was laid on Wightman street.

It will soon be necessary to replace portions of the pipe lines bringing the mineral waters into the city, and this job will also be up to Hosler.

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