

A Generous Offer--Captain Thomas has made a proposition to deed to the city a twenty-acre tract of land for park purposes, situated along the river bank to the south of his residence. The only condition or consideration he names is that the city will expend not less than \$500 a year for a period of five years in improving the land. Captain Thomas values the property at \$2500, and as the condition on which the land will be ceded is one that a thrifty government would naturally follow, the city should not let this opportunity of acquiring grounds for a park to lapse by inattention and neglect--Hearld, June 28, 1889.

To the people of North Yakima

In October, 1893, the City council contracted with the Ontario Land company for what is now known as the City Park in Capitol addition, containing thirteen and two-third acres, the terms of which contract are substantially as follows:

"The city shall improve the same in a suitable manner and maintain it as a public park and pay the said company \$2,500, one-half in July, 1897 and one-half in July, 1898, with six per cent interest thereon annually in the meantime and should the city at any time cease to use the same or any part thereof for a park, the whole of said tract shall revert to the Ontario Land company.

The city has complied with the part of the contract to the present time and in so doing has expended thereon about \$1,200 and now has well on the way what in a few years more will make a beautiful and splendid park at as convenient a point as we can ever hope for.

In fact, should this one be abandoned it is very questionable whether we will ever have a park, a thing so much needed situated as we are in a desert. On the other hand on account of the hard times the general financial distress in public and private affairs the city council is strongly inclined to abandon the project at once and let the land revert to the company but in order to act intelligently in harmony with the wishes of the people the following plan is proposed to get without the cost the general subject on this subject.

A ballot box will immediately be placed in the post office in charge of Mr. Peter Herke and will be kept there until

7 o'clock p m August 3, in which every voter is requested to

"p blic park will soon be a necessity to North Yakima. A place where men and women fatigued from a week of toil may find rest on Sundays, a place where children may have recreation. At the present time there are many locations which could be used for parking purposes.

As North Yakima grows and the houses double up, when the business section becomes more congested, then will the need be greatly felt. At the present time there are plenty of places where fresh air and a place to rest can be found. The city should look into the future. The time will come and it is not far distant when it will be an imperative need--The Yakima Herald, May 13, 1907.

Parks

Fully 2,500 people were present at the opening of Sumach park yesterday afternoon when in a military and athletic tournament which will be made an annual event, Company E withdrew from Company C of Washington National Guard the silver loving cup which was offered as a trophy by W.L. Steinweg, president of the First National Bank and owner of the park.--Yakima Republic, ^{May 6} 1910.

Japanese of the city will meet tonight to consider a proposition to furnish a program of daylight and evening pyrotechnics at Sumach park which will be of sufficient dimensions to fully redeem their reputation established at the park last year when a considerable part of the fireworks which were locally made were practically a failure. Yakima Republic, May 20, 1910.

Baseball on a sun-scorched diamond had little attractiveness for even the most ardent fans Sunday afternoon and the seekers of recreation for the most part confined themselves to back-lawn activities where the Sunday paper could be read in the cool of the shade of the house.

Hundreds took refuge from the early season sun at Sumach park where the sun beat less fiercely through the shade and water tempered the heat to some extent.

There was a constant stream of visitors to the riverside resort all day long and until late in the evening the cars were running to the entrance full to overflowing with men, women and children. Nearly a thousand paid admissions were registered and counting the children it was

estimated 1,500 were entertained from noon until 11 o'clock at night.

Manager Kuranaga's new skating rink, the floor of which is 60 by 120 feet in size was opened on Saturday evening with a big attendance and yesterday it was full to overflowing. Numbers were turned away from the bathhouse when the racks were empty and more had their money refunded which they had paid to secure boats but waited in vain for. Mr. Steinweg has a fleet of 40 boats on the canal and he said today that they averaged 7 hours service each Sunday afternoon and evening.

The boat house, refreshment stand pavillion and the skating rink are now all fixed necessities and the portable band stand will be used on occasion. There have been several additions to the smaller amusement places on Pay Streak. There is not a night that a dozen to 15 couples do not seek a cool spot and seclusion in the windings of the canoe trail and the new theatre will soon be housing its full quota of moving picture and vaudeville shows. The floor of the structure has been laid and the rest of the construction will be rushed.

The refreshment pavillion was utterly out of keeping and the word went out "no more ice cream," early in the evening. For the present week several of the performers of the Lyric have consented to put on an open air performance in the amphitheater at the park--Yakima Republic, May 27, 1910.

Playgrounds

In his annual report to the board of education submitted at the regular monthly meeting of the directors of school district No. 7 held on Monday evening, President M.W. Watt of the board submitted a report in which among other suggestions he urges that a central playground be established for the children of the city.

He points to the program which Seattle has made in this direction and urges the importance of keeping the children off the streets and away from "those secluded places which so often undermine both health and morals."

None of the school grounds in the city, however, is large enough for the purpose, even though it were properly equipped and Mr. Watt makes no suggestion as to how the result may be accomplished.

Mr. Watt reminds the board that the construction of another high school building, either on the present campus or in some other part of the city must soon be considered and states that it is his opinion that the establishment of a separate polytechnic school for the industrial and commercial courses would bring the school system into even closer touch with the social and industrial needs of the city.

Three grade buildings will have to be erected this year he says, one on Capitol Hill, another in the southeastern part of the city and a third in Modern addition.

D.C. Reed ^{supt.} ~~Principal~~, A.C. Davis, principal Yakima "epublic
August 12, 1910.

Triangle Park ?

Henry Wende has sold for \$3,850 cash his triangle lot at the head of Yakima avenue near Twelfth avenue. The purchase was made by a Spokane man by the name of Stoner, one of a firm of the Falls city who proposes to erect a business block thereon and open a general store therein.

The property is 117 feet by 352 feet by 370 feet and at one time the members of the Women's club had their eyes upon it thinking it a suitable site for a club building.

It was not found possible at that time to come to terms with Mr. Wende and now the land will be devoted to business purposes. Mrs Wende makes a nice clean up on the sale. He purchased the land two or three years ago for \$1,500 and now has made a cash sale. ~~and~~ Yakima Herald, January 4, 1911 (Wednesday)

The transformation of the parking strip through Naches avenue into a ~~parking~~ resting place with grass, seats and possibly play apparatus for children is to be undertaken by the city commission as soon as necessary preliminaries can be completed

The decision was made by the city commission after a delegation of the Commercial club headed by President Robert Lundstrom and Secretary Ware appeared before them.

The committee, consisting of George B Holden, C.E. Lum and D.C. Reed asked that only two blocks from Yakima avenue in each direction be thus improved, it is probable that the commissioners will go further in their work and improve several blocks in each direction.

Some form of walk will be constructed through the center. The trees, which in many places are exceedingly thick in foliage must be cut out. Mr. ^Wedman, a sworn foe of the locust, says that tree will go first. The thinning of the trees is necessary to give light to the ground so grass will grow. ~~PoOderOwd~~ Poplars will go next.

The matter of providing parks has been under consideration by the commissioners for some time but has never taken concrete form. The improvement of Naches avenue, however, is understood to be only the

first step in the organization of a park system, the rest of which will be worked out as the city becomes better able financially to undertake the purchase and improvement of other places.. The Yakima Herald, June 26, 1922.

City parks

Quick to feel the need of a start towards a city park system in North Yakima as suggested by Dr. C.E. Keeler in a recent letter in the Herald the American Woman's league has decided to take the initiative in the move.

During Blossom Festival week when the commercial value of scenery will soon be evident, the league members plan to sell tags to raise money as a nucleus for a fund whereby some of the desirable park sites may be purchased before the price is out of reach. Because the present burdens of taxation is so heavy the plan of voluntary contribution is adopted in order that those who are able and who feel the great need here of some plots of green within the city for recreation spots may give what they can, and that those whose interest is larger than their pocketbooks may at least give the small sum to be represented by the tags.

The American Woman's league is one of the youngest of the women's societies here. Dr. Keeler thinks there should be at least four small parks, one for each quarter into which the city naturally divides itself

Locations he points out as desirable are the triangle at the head of Yakima avenue, the land below the bench between Sixth and ~~Seventh~~ South Fourth streets, the street car corner at Miles avenue and Tieton drive and at Johnson's corner and the plot where North Sixth street and Lincoln avenues meet. The site once proposed for the capital grounds, bounded by Chestnut street on the north and between Ninth and Tenth avenues is another likely spot for ~~trees~~ trees and grass...Yakima Herald, April 10, 1912.

Naches avenue
parks

Dan Bean, park superintendent has found the mowing of the grass along the edges of the Naches avenue center park stretches so difficult because of the ditches between lawn and curbing that he will next week direct the filling of all the ditches and have them planted to grass .

The general appearance of the parked areas will be considerably improved with the ditches which have not been needed for several years, eliminated, Bean will finish the planting of shrubs in the cityis triangle park at West Yakima avenue and Twelfth avenue Tuesday. The open areas will ~~be sown to grass~~ not be sown to grass until the new earth fill in the eastern portion has settled but will be kept wet down to prevent dust from blowing--The Yakima Republic, May 22, 1925.

City parks

The city park board unanimously refused to consider Resident A.B. Cline's resignation tendered as head of that group at their meeting last night at the city hall. They will keep it under consideration until the next meeting, May 1. During which time they hope to prevail upon Cline to serve another year.

The board adopted the "spirit of irrigation" plan for the beautification of the triangle area at West Yakima and Twelfth avenues and instructed E.N. Davidson, landscape architect who was present, to make a detailed drawing of the project for their approval next meeting.

J.A. Loudon, secretary, John T. Hedges and Harry Boyer were appointed a committee to receive donations for the purchase of shrubs and flowers for the triangle.

The members were favorably inclined to the Parent-Teacher association idea of supervising children's play at the North Furth street park and at the high school athletic field which probably can be obtained for the use of children in the mornings, Paul Huedepohl said. He and Miss Eva Mabry presented the association's plans for supervised play, which will cost about \$500 a season, including the hire of an instructor and cost of new equipment.

The board agreed upon a drinking fountain in the city park as a fitting memorial to Miss Ruth Schoonover, school nurse. There are sufficient funds available from the funeral flower fund to pay for it. It was proposed that the Rotary boys band play at concerts in the parks during the summer--Yakima Daily Republic, April 18, 1925.

City Park

A.B. Cline, president of the city park board for the past five years has presented his resignation and will be succeeded by another member of the board to be elected Friday evening.

Cline, as city commissioner of finance, originated the park board and has been its head ever since the group was established. He will continue as a member of the board.

The park fund now contains \$6,071. Since January 1 a total of \$2,200 has been expended for park purposes and the entire budget of ~~\$29,000~~ \$13,736 probably will be spent by the end of the year.

The park fund is paying \$1,000 a year on the city park at North Furth street with \$7,000 yet to pay and also owes the city ~~40~~ \$5,400 on the triangle area at Twelfth and West Yakima avenues. The sum of \$600 was paid out of the park fund when the property was purchased last year. After operating expenses and local improvement assessments for the year are paid, the fund will contain between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for any purpose the board needs for further improvements--
The Yakim Republic, April 13, 1925.

Larson Park

With the city short of funds for park work it is possible nearby residents will make an effort to raise money for beautifying the 20-acre tract donated to Yakima yesterday by Shirley Parker and his mother, Mrs. Rose B. Larson, Frank Fairchild who has been heading a group of property owners seeking the park intimated last night.

Gift of the tract of land which lies north of the new ball park and the 10 acres Parker recently gave to the Yakima Valley Junior college is contingent upon the park being known as Larson park in honor of the late A.E. Larson, Parker stipulated in his letter to city commissioners making the donation.

Parker also offered the ball park the 0000 and entire plant to the city with the provision he be permitted to use it for the next 20 years. Fairchild expressed the appreciation of residents for the donation and said work to establish the park will continue--Yakima Herald, May 6, 1937.

Parks

Capt. Thomas

The city has purchased a site for a park and thereon will be placed a septic tank and a crematory as these improvements are needed.

The purchase has been made of 20 acres belonging to Capt. Thomas near the Yakima river.

The cost was but a thousand dollars \$700 of the price of \$1700 going for taxes. Some years ago the city took over the land with the understanding that the old \$500 a year was to be expanded in improvements.

A thousand dollars was spent on the land and then the property was forgotten until it was revived by Capt. Thomas who practically gave it away to the town to be devoted for practical purposes.

The money will be paid over in two weeks. The sewer line of the city runs directly through the land and for this purpose alone it is stated, the land is worth more to the city than the price paid--The Yakima Herald, September 11, 1907.

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In fact, should this one be abandoned it is very questionable whether we will ever have a park, a thing so much needed situated as we are in a desert. On the other hand on account of the hard times the general financial distress in public and private affairs the city council is strongly inclined to abandon the project at once and let the land revert to the company but in order to act intelligently in harmony with the wishes of the people the following plan is proposed to get without the cost the general subject on this subject.

A ballot box will immediately be placed in the post office in charge of Mr. Peter Herke and will be kept there until

7 o'clock p m August 3, in which every voter is requested to

deposit one ballot either for or against retaining and maintaining the park; if in favor of retaining and maintaining the park write yes on your ballot together with your name, if opposed write no. Both men and women over twenty one years of age are entitled and requested to vote; also non-residents who own real estate in the city.

A plan of the park as already laid out showing driveways, walks, etc. will be on exhibition at the ballot box.

Wm. H. Redman, mayor

Yakima Herald, July 26, 1896.

At the meeting of the city council Monday evening the ballots regarding relinquishment of the city park were counted and there were 53 for and 63 against. The council should cease worrying its head over the matter. The sale was a bonafide one and cannot be abrogated even if every member of the city government and every citizen were opposed to it.

The sale was made and the deeds drawn in proper form. The price for the same must be paid. It is a hardship to pay any indebtedness during these times when money is so appreciated but the time will come when the wisdom of the council in purchasing the park grounds will be fully recognized and commended--
Yakima Herald, August 6, 1896.

At a recent meeting of the city council City Clerk Coe was instructed to write C.A. Congdon, president of the Ontario Land company requesting that the company take back the land now held for park purposes and release the city from any financial obligation in connection therewith--Yakima Herald, August 27, 1896.

Tomorrow the city of Yakima , as a municipality , will celebrate its 37th birthday.

Yakima, then North Yakima, was created by a special act of the territorial legislature on January 27, 1886. The first meeting of a Yakima city council was held on February 18 and after that Yakima went ahead on its own.

Pioneers are fond of recalling the "good old days" and certainly a comparison of the costs of government today and 37 years ago would lead the harassed taxpayer to look back with some longing to 1886. T.L. Bounds served as night watchman at the then splendid salary of \$45 per month, about as good a stipend as the pioneer town had to offer and given in recognition of the "dangerous character" of the employment. J.W. Beck, the city's first justice of the peace collected \$3.50 in fees during his first month in office. Office rent for the city staff, a considerable item of municipal expense until the present city hall was built, took \$3 a month.

Duties of the officials of those days and of the present are hardly comparable. During the initial month of Yakima's career as a municipality the marshal impounded 40 head of stock that had been making free use of Yakima avenue as a grazing ground and killed 13 dogs that were adjudged to be reverting to the wild and a source of annoyance.

Those were happy days, pioneers say. A man in those days could get a license to operate a saloon for a whole year for \$100--which is about what it costs a man nowadays to be caught with a flask of liquid cheer in his hip pocket--Yakima Republic, January 26, ~~1924~~ 1924.

City Hall

One of the legacies of the new commission will be left by the present municipal government is the city hall problem with which the council has been laboring for some time without much result,

If indeed the frame structure being erected at the corner of South First and Walnut streets could be considered such.

Several attempts have been made by the city council to build a city hall but after each meeting at which any action was taken that action was reversed or nullified in some manner.

The council went so far as to order the old city hall building on North Front street in front of the Northern Pacific station torn down and a new structure erected in its place at a cost of \$15,000. The building was torn down but nothing has since been done except erect a barn like structure for accommodation of the police department and the jail at the corner of First and Walnut streets. In the meantime the municipal offices are scattered throughout the city as they have been for some time past and as they are likely to be for some time in the future.

Early in the year the council voted to purchase the lot at the northeast corner of 4th and First streets and made arrangements to ~~order~~ issue \$50,000 worth of bonds to purchase the property and build thereon a city hall, despite the fact that the city owned a site on First and Walnut streets and also on Front streets. The building was to be 50 x 120 feet, three stories high with full basement. This action was later rescinded and on May 19 the city building inspector was ordered to prepare plans for adding an extra story to the old city hall on Front street.

On June 18 the council adopted a resolution adopting plans and specifications for remodeling the city hall

A new city hall and larger quarters for the fire department is a question that will soon perplex the city council.

The equipment for the fire department that has already been ordered by the council, together with the aerial truck that has been negotiated by the fire department will make the present quarters for the fire department entirely inadequate. This inadequacy will make the erection of a new fire barn an absolute possibility or else there will have to be a change made in the quarters of the city which are now located on Front street.

..The Yakima Herald, May 16, 1906.