

Yakima Growth

Sewerage system

Mayor R.K. Nichols, message July 9, 1890, in part:

"On the 24th of March this council of the city received and accepted the report of an engineer on estimates of cost and a plan ...the matters were referred to a committee of three councilmen...with the exception they recommended that the proposed system be extended one block westward to Moxee avenue instead of Wenas avenue.

A ordinance, No. 118 was passed April 3, 1890 which ordains that all that portion of the city, the blocks between E and Spruce streets, between Front street and Natcheez avenue, between West Chestnut and West C streets, between Moxee avenue and the N.P.R.R. right of way, shall have sewer lines extending along at least two sides of said blocks."

Section seven of the ordinances provides that there shall be a suitable outflow into the Yakima river about 41,800 feet.

Section three provides that the system shall be sufficient to accommodate a city of 15,000 persons, and that it cost not more than \$40,000. The election was duly held and our citizens almost unanimously voted in favor.

The question now for us to consider as guardians of this municipality is this: "Is the proposed system for which the city willing to pay \$40,000 principal with interest, adequate and sufficient to the wants and requirements.

The plat calls for a sewerage system of 89,260 feet in length, according to the scale. The engineer has given the city an estimate for only 31,000 feet at a total cost of \$28,865. This discrepancy I am unable to explain. ...which if added to the report will bring his sewerage system to \$36,865 upon reaching the Yakima river for an outlet.

The system called for by ordinance No. 118 will cost

by the city

the calculation of Engineer R.A. Jones, one fourth more or \$50,675.
.....I believe a study will show these general suggestions are
sufficient to prove:

That the proposed system is utterly inadequate.

That the ordinance calling for \$10,000 worth of bonds ~~had~~ must
be repealed; others enacted and a vote of the people on the
proposition of an issue not to exceed \$60,000 of bonds had, or else
the district proposed to be sewered must be diminished.

Further, the city cannot afford to take a leap in the dark....
that if found possible to construct with our means, the contract be
let to the lowest responsible bidder.....Yakima Herald, July 17 ,
1890.

Sewerage

After some discussion of sewerage matters an adjournment was taken by the city council until next evening when the contract was let to R. Schmidt for \$36,000.

This was not the lowest bid, there being one in for \$250 less, but for some unexplainable reason this was not accepted although it was regular and the required certified check accompanied it.

The lowest bidders, Messrs Burke and O'Conner of Butte, Montana, have been in this line of business for eighteen years and Mr. O'Conner who was here, carried handsome letters of recommendation as to his ability and responsibility--Yakima Herald, July 23, 1891.

Underground seepage water has subsided 19 inches in the past two weeks according to the observation of Deputy Health Officer E.C. Shellworth relieving some of the basements and giving the plumbers an opportunity to go to work again to connect the sewers which were ordered connected last spring.

.....Then the irrigating water was turned on and seepage water began to rise and people could not get down into their own cellars without getting their feet wet--

Yakima Republic, Sept. 16, 1910.

There have been 319 votes registered at the city clerk's office up to date and still they are coming in. This indicates a much larger population than the census gives North Yakima credit for. 10-3-90

The council has instructed Chief McMurtry and his assistants to wage vigorous war on the unlicensed canines. Dogs found running about the streets, not properly tagged, will be taken up and impounded and if not claimed the charges paid, they will be shot. 6-17-90

City Engineer Redman commenced the surveys today for the sewerage system. Contractor Schmidt is now gathering his force and expects to begin excavating the first of next week. He will probably employ about 100 men at the start and increase this number if the weather holds good. 11-5-91

City Scavenger Curry says he has his eye on the fellow who dumps garbage in the big ditches hereabouts and that a repetition of that offense will prompt him to file a charge against him. 9-21-93

C.L. Gano, who owns a farm in Moxee valley nine miles from this city sunk an artesian well to a depth of 317 feet last year and is now engaged in boring it deeper.

During the work he observed that the water contained much mineral for it snapped and sparkled and fizzled until he discovered a great similarity between its appearance and that of the water in the famous magnetic springs at Delaware, Ohio. Finally at a depth of 378 feet he stopped to make a simple test by putting his knife blade in the flow, where he held it less than three minutes.

When he took it out the blade was so thoroughly magnetic that it easily lifted a large ten-penny nail. Mr. Gano is much elated and believes that the water will prove of incalculable benefit to the people of the Northwest.