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**SUMMARY OF BELLEVUE IDAHO'S CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
INSIGHT INTO LIFE IN A SMALL IDAHO TOWN
1883 - 1956**

Excerpt from a paper entitled

**LIFE IN A SMALL MOUNTAIN TOWN
IDAHO PIONEERS - MATTHEW & ISABELLE CAMPBELL McFALL
EARLY SETTLERS OF BELLEVUE (1881) AND SHOSHONE (1893)**

By John W. Lundin, III and Stephen J. Lundin¹

¹ Copyright 2011. The McFalls are the authors' great grandparents through their father, John W. Lundin, Jr., who was born and raised in Shoshone, Idaho. Both John and Steve are lawyers, and were recognized by the Idaho State Historical Society as descendants of Idaho pioneers, as part of the state's 1990 centennial celebration. Steve lives in Olympia, Washington, and John in Seattle. John also has a home in Ketchum, Idaho. Steve is the author of *The Closest Governments to the People: a Complete Reference Guide to Local Government in Washington State*, published by the Division of Governmental Studies and

I. INTRODUCTION

The official Record Books for the Bellevue Common Council containing the City Council minutes begin in 1883, and are kept in the Bellevue Museum. A copy is available at the Ketchum Community Library in the Regional History Section. The minutes offer a unique insight into life in this mining town in the mountains of Idaho.

The Council had to individually approve all bills submitted to the city for payment. Residents who believed that activities of their neighbors constituted “public nuisances” applied to the Council for relief, as did others who felt that some problem in the city needed addressing. Elections were held every April for Mayor and Aldermen from Wards One and Two, and city officials were appointed in May, including the city attorney, clerk, marshal, treasurer, and other offices. There were six aldermen on the Council, plus the Mayor. They served rotating terms of two years. Tax levies were set, and appointments made to standing committees, including Finance, Water and Ditches, Streets and Alleys, Cemetery, Ordinances, and Flues and Chimneys. The Council heard appeals from residents who believed the assessments of their property were too high, or who wanted relief from the payment of city taxes. The Council also acted like a building department, reviewing plans for constructing buildings.

It is interesting to see how the Council used the services of the City Marshall, having him perform a multitude of tasks from cleaning up streets and ditches, passing information to citizens, and many other duties outside of law enforcement.

Fire was a constant problem and a source of concern for all of the original mining towns in the 1880s and 1890s, since their buildings were built of wood and most of the heating was by burning wood. The need for fire protection was one of the motivations for

to apply pressure to ditch owners to repair bridges over the ditches, threatening to cut off the water and fill in the ditches as a last resort. The Brown Brothers ditch running down Fifth Avenue, and particularly the Whitton ditch (financed by Henry E. Miller, the owner of the Minnie Moore mine and a preeminent businessman) running along Third Street, known as the Third Street Ditch, caused significant problems for the city as the owners failed to keep bridges running over the ditches in good repair. These were very large ditches that carried volumes of water, so substantial bridges were necessary to carry the city's traffic over them. The Brown Brothers ditch was 26 feet wide at the top of its banks, 20 feet wide at the bottom, three and one-half feet deep, and ran about 11 miles, according to its registered water rights. The Whitton canal was ten feet wide on the bottom and two feet deep, according to its registered water rights. The Third Avenue Ditch was finally abandoned in the 1920s by its then owner, the Cove Land and Livestock Company.

The granting of a water franchise to Bellevue businessmen in 1887, including the author's great-grandfather Matthew McFall and his friend Henry E. Miller, together with the right to use 50 inches of Bellevue's water from Seamonds Creek and a portion of Bellevue's tax revenues, generated controversy that lasted for years. Their company, the Bellevue Water Company, constructed the city's first water system, installed underground pipes throughout the city, and provided water to the city until the city purchased the water works in the early 1900s. A dispute over the amount of the city tax paid to the company in the 1890s led to a lawsuit between the company and the city.

During the International Silver Depression between 1888 to 1898, the Council had to deal with declining tax revenues, tax delinquencies, and often lacked a quorum to transact business. Bellevue experienced cash flow and financing issues, as did all cities

works. In 1946, Bellevue began looking at additional repairs to its system, and searched for financing. A new bond issue for \$27,000 was passed by voters in 1948, but the bonds were not issued because of a concern over the city's overall debt. Work was finally done in 1954 to finish the pipeline.

We noted the involvement of our relatives, including Matthew McFall, our great-grandfather, and Neil Campbell, our great-grandmother's brother, both of whom served on the Council in the 1880s, and had a variety of business dealings with the City of Bellevue. Neil's sons Stewart and George also played a role in Bellevue over the years.

The authors' great grandparents, Matthew and Isabelle Campbell McFall, moved to Idaho's Wood River Valley in 1881, attracted by the silver strike, where they built the famous International Hotel in Bellevue on the corner of Main and Oak Street in 1882. They met and married in Eureka, Nevada in the 1878, a place where a major silver strike attracted fortune seekers from all over the world. Isabelle Campbell moved to Eureka to keep house for her brother, Neil Campbell, who was also attracted by the mining and worked as a blacksmith. Isabelle's Campbell relatives followed them to Bellevue in 1884, and her brother Neil Campbell become involved in blacksmithing, livery stable operations, mining, and farming. Campbell's blacksmith shop and livery stable were on Main and Oak Streets, south of the International Hotel. He also owned a farm east of Bellevue beginning in Muldoon Canyon, extending to the cemetery, then south down Gannett Road. He had water rights in Seamands Creek, and played a role in issues over the Creek's water rights.

McFall was one of the Bellevue businessmen who owned the Bellevue Water Company that installed the city's water system in 1887, including putting the first wooden pipes throughout town. McFall and others, including Henry E. Miller (one of the first owners

city's weighmaster, and operated the city's scales in front of his blacksmith shop in the early 1900s. Neil's son Stewart graduated from the Idaho School of Mines in 1906, and worked as the engineer for Bellevue when it improved its water works in 1909.

Our family enterprises included 40 silver mines in Muldoon, the Big Wood Valley, and the Little Smoky mining district; ranches in the Little Wood Valley, outside of Bellevue, and near Stanton Crossing of the Big Wood River on highway 20; hotels, blacksmith shops and livery stables in Bellevue; cattle and wheat farms and mines in Camas County; hotels in Shoshone; and a sheep ranch and apple orchard in Lincoln County.

The family was also involved in politics. Matt McFall and Neil Campbell were aldermen on Bellevue's City Council in the 1880s. Neil's son Stewart Campbell was Idaho's Inspector of Mines from 1920 - 1932, which was a post of great importance in those days. Neil's son George Campbell was Blaine County Sheriff in the 1920s and 1930s, and was on the Bellevue Council from 1926 until 1940. The authors' grandfather John W. Lundin, Sr. was Lincoln County Auditor in the teens; Matt's son John McFall was Shoshone's city engineer and on its Board of Trustees; and Matt's daughter Stella McFall was Lincoln County nurse. Our family was part of mining's international nature. John McFall was a mining engineer in Chihuahua, Mexico, until he was forced to leave by the Mexican Revolution led by Pancho Villa, and John Jewell Campbell (Neil's nephew) moved to Nicaragua where he settled and owned gold mines.

A discussion of the important historical events has been included so the issues with which the Council dealt can be better understood.



Bellevue, July 4, 1903. McFall's International Hotel is in the background, with the Campbell Blacksmith Shop and Livery Stable to the right. The car is the first to drive across the country.



Matt & Isabelle Campbell McFall and children John, Stella, & Ella, 1888



Neil and Catherine Campbell & sons Stewart and George, early 1900s

But with the spring thaw of 1880 they were back as part of a mass movement of optimists common in mineral regions. Some 3,000 prospectors swarmed “as if in search of that which was lost” as one editor put it. They came on foot, on horseback, by wagon or by stagecoach. From Boise to Bellevue by stage took three and one-half days; horseback or team nearly twice that; the Blackfoot stage, soon on a daily basis, was comparable to the Boise run and cost \$25, with meals \$1 each and lodging 75 cents a night on the floor of a log cabin. From the railhead at Kelton, Utah, the Goose Creek and Wood River coach came in four times a week but took eight days. “And it was a rough trip you bet,” said one who survived it. “We had to wade in mud and water belly deep in some places.”⁵

The new settlement was named Jacobs City after Frank Jacobs who filed the first claim in Galena Gulch. In 1880, the Post Office said the town had to be renamed since there was already a Jacobs City. The camp was separated from the new town of Bellevue by the Big Wood River, which was impossible to cross during spring floods. The earliest crossing could be made where the river spread out to cover a great deal of ground, a spot known as Broad Ford. Jacobs City was renamed Broadford after the site.⁶

Life was not easy for the first settlers. On May 17, 1880, there was five feet and seven inches of snow left in the valley, making digging foundations for new cabins “tedious and difficult.” At the foot of Timmerman Hill, the spring creeks “ran so full in those days it became necessary to swim the coach and freight teams across.” Since mules have an antipathy to water, logs were kept at each side of the stream which “were placed under the necks of the mules to maintain the heads out of the water until a crossing could be affected.”⁷

⁵ Spence, *The Boom of the Wood River Mines*, page 9.

⁶ *Development of Minnie Moore Mine Renews Memories of Colorful Past*, Twin Falls Times-News, April 20, 1961.

⁷ Brandt Scrapbook, pages 13, 16, 94-95.

in tents. The one conspicuous exception was a log cabin, J.O. Smith's saloon."¹¹

In 1880, a correspondent for the Boise Statesman, J.B. Foster, described the flow of fortune hunters entering Bellevue:

Day after day, the stream of bonanza hunters continues to pour through our little town, each armed with pick, pan and shovel and such articles as are necessary for the simple culinary department for the prospector....Tents, wagons and willow shanties are scattered along the margin of the stream for half a mile: and as soon as some restless prospector folds his tent and leaves the scene for some new excitement his place is promptly filled by some newcomer.¹²

Providing water to the new cities was critical. On March 22, 1880, George Goodman, William Tunney, and A.J. Hash, residents of the Town of Bellevue, located, claimed, and appropriated water from Seamonds Creek located one mile east of Bellevue, "for the use and benefit and in trust and for and behalf of the inhabitants" of the Town. They posted a written notice claiming the water, and on March 25, 1880, filed a notice of location with Alturas County Recorder.¹³ Bellevue's Complaint in a lawsuit filed in 1884, alleged the men claimed 500 inches of water from Seamonds Creek, although the Court later found they claimed 300 inches. On March 26, 1880, the three men constructed a

¹¹ Brandt Scrapbook, pages 93-94.

¹² Spence, *For Wood River or Bust*, pages 11, 12.

¹³ Bellevue was first in Alturas County, one of Idaho Territory's original counties which included much of central Idaho. On February 7, 1889, Elmore and Logan counties were created from Alturas by the Idaho Territorial Assembly, with Bellevue becoming part of the new Logan County, leaving Alturas "only a small part of its original domain." The temporary seat of Logan County was located at Shoshone, but in a general election held October 1, 1890, the permanent seat was taken away from Shoshone and located at Bellevue. Idaho became a state in 1890, and its Legislature created Blaine and Lincoln County in March 1895, and dissolved Logan County. McCloud, George, *History of Blaine and Alturas Counties*, pages 73-75.

saying “one of two public wells in Bellevue at the time.”¹⁵ There was another well on Third Street. People without wells of their own took buckets to the wells and carried them back to their homes or places of business, a time consuming process. When Michael Brown, an early settler in the Wood River Valley, first came to Bellevue in May 1881, he met Matthew Williams, a miner who described the well when he moved to Bellevue in 1880.

Mat said all he knew about [the well in the middle of the road] was that the very few people who had come in first camped close to the road and never thinking that it would matter, they dug the well as near their camp as they could. Possibly it could have been those first twenty-seven who came in the late fall [1880] and then the next ones in, dug it a little deeper. Now it was the water supply for the town. He said he felt something different would come along now for so many people. He believed people in the cabins must by now have their own wells.¹⁶

The authors’ great grandparents, Matthew and Isabelle Campbell McFall, moved to Idaho’s Wood River Valley in the spring of 1881, attracted by the silver strike. They built the famous International Hotel in Bellevue on the corner of Main and Oak Streets in 1882.

Life in Bellevue when the McFalls arrived was described by a resident who said there were “more dead broke men here than I ever saw anywhere else in my life....Gamblers look as shabby as Sacramento vagrants.” Bellevue had 11 “gin mills” by mid-1881, Hailey had 18 as well as two breweries, Bullion had nine, and Ketchum had a dozen. In 1884, Hailey had 12 gambling licenses and Ketchum had eight. Prostitution thrived, and every town had its thriving “sporting district” with “single men’s wives” as they

¹⁵ The 1884 picture appeared in an article entitled *Bellevue Bustled in 1880s*, in the Wood River Journal, of an unknown date.

¹⁶ McGonigal, Mary Brown, *Spring of Gladness, Reminiscences of Pioneer Life in the Wood River Valley* pages 37-38.

Main Street was 100 feet wide and the side streets were 80 feet. Initial prices for lots were \$20 for corner lots and \$15 for inside lots.¹⁹

The Wood River Times of January 17, 1883, reported that Judge Dilley received and filed for record, the patent to the Bellevue town-site. It was registered in Washington, D.C. on January 2, 1883. The January 24, 1883 paper raised questions about the validity of the titles previously issued for land in Bellevue. Judge Dilley had issued deeds to Bellevue lots in advance of receiving the patent to the town-site, which were in then question. Further, Dilley's appointment as Probate Judge may not have been valid, since the Organic Act of Idaho prohibited members of the Legislature from holding any other office, and Dilley was a member of the Legislature when he was appointed Judge. His acts as Probate Judge may have been illegal and void, and the validity of the titles granted by him disputed. These issues caused Bellevue landowners who had purchased lots prior to November 1882, to refile for titles to their land, including Matt McFall, who had bought the lot on which his International Hotel sat on main street in 1881.

On January 12, 1882, Charles P. Tatro and Charles V. Whiting filed a claim for 1,500 inches or all the water from Seamands Creek. These claims gave rise to a conflict with Bellevue over water rights from the creek which had to be resolved. On February 6, 1882, Tatro, Whiting, and G.L. Waters filed articles of incorporation with the Idaho Secretary of State's Office for the Bellevue Water Company, which was organized to provide a water system to supply water to the city of Bellevue, using their claimed water

¹⁹ Patterson, Mark, *Privately Owned Land & City Owned Water*, RM-11 #4, paper in Ketchum Community Library.

A Common Council for the new city of Bellevue was elected in the winter of 1883. Minutes of the new Common Council begin with its first meeting on May 7, 1883.

C. SPRING 1883: RAILROAD ARRIVES AND TRANSFORMS THE VALLEY

The Wood River Valley was transformed by the arrival of the railroad in the spring of 1883, the Wood River Branch of the Oregon Short Line Railroad, a subsidiary of the Union Pacific.

Between 1882 and 1884, the Oregon Short Line built a line between the Union Pacific's cross-country tracks at Granger, Wyoming, to Portland, Oregon, to open up trade in the Northwest. In August 1882, the Idaho and Oregon Land Improvement Company, a company affiliated with the Union Pacific Railroad, purchased the Hailey townsite as a terminus for a branch line, and the Oregon Short Line obtained the right-of-way for a new route from Shoshone into the Wood River Valley, "where tons of ore lay waiting for transportation."²²

In August 1882, Oregon Short Line crews surveyed the route from Shoshone to the Wood River Valley. The branch line was to begin at Shoshone, follow the Little Wood River north and east through the future town of Richfield, travel east of the lava fields to Picabo (bypassing the future city of Carey), to Gannett, then into the Big Wood River Valley to Bellevue and Hailey, which would be the OSL terminus. The last spike of the Wood River branch of the Oregon Short Line was driven at Hailey on May 7, 1883. Tracks were

²² Spence, *For Wood River or Bust*, pages 56-57.

expanding their operations.

The Mayflower mine, acquired for \$25,000 by Wood River investors, sold one year later to Chicago investors for \$375,000. The Elkhorn mine was sold by the prospector who discovered it for \$12,000, and by 1883, the buyer had taken sufficient ore from the mine to pay the purchase price and to yield \$300,000.²⁵ In early 1881, Henry E. Miller had purchased one half interest in the Minnie Moore mine for \$10,000, and the mine was sold in 1885, for \$500,000. The Wood River Times of March 5, 1884, published details of the purchase of the Minnie Moore Mine and its hoisting and concentrating works by an English firm. Cecil Brooke Palmer, of New York City was the purchaser of record, but the London firm of Dent, Palmer & Co. was the real buyer. Mr. Palmer was one of the Directors of the Bank of England. At the time of the sale, silver sold at \$1.14 an ounce and lead at \$100 a ton, making the gross value of the reserves of the Minnie Moore mine worth \$673,329. By 1890, over \$8.5 million in ore had been taken from the mine.²⁶

The Bullion mine sold in 1884 for \$1,050,000, also to British interests; \$685,000 in cash and the balance in shares. The mine had \$2 million of ore in sight at the time of the sale. The Triumph mine on the East Fork of the Wood River was discovered in 1884. Its owners turned down an offer of \$40,000 for the “underdeveloped but fabulous looking prospect.” The mine eventually produced \$20 million of ore.²⁷ The Idahoan property in

²⁵ The Alturas Mining Reporter, Nov. 1883, pages 28-29; Bancroft, *History of Washington, Idaho and Montana*, page 530.

²⁶ Holland, *Sun Valley: an Extraordinary History*, pages 76, 80; Mitchell, *History of the Minnie Moore*, page 9.

²⁷ Site Report - Wood River, Number 206,
www.idahohistory.net/Reference%20Series/0206.pdf.

III. SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF BELLEVUE'S COMMON COUNCIL

A. 1883 - 1888: BOOM YEARS FOR THE VALLEY

1883

The first Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Bellevue was held on May 7, 1883. Mayor B.M. Davis appointed two aldermen, a City Surveyor, Health Officer, and City Attorney. A City Marshal was appointed on June 5, 1883. At its May 9, 1883 meeting, the Council authorized the mayor to borrow \$1,000 to finance city business.

On May 11, the Council adopted an ordinance relating to the city's public ditches, controlling the use of the water in them, and a ditch committee was appointed to let a contract to clean the ditches so water could flow freely from Seamonds Creek to the wells in town. On May 16 and 18, the ditch committee reported that the ditches were being cleaned. On May 21, the Council approved a motion to allow 6" of water to run down each cross street to irrigate gardens, and authorised 11 named people to use the water for irrigation. On May 25, the Committee on Ditches reported that the job of cleaning the ditches had been completed, and gave permission to a resident to dig a ditch from the city's ditch to his farm, provided he built culverts across the street. On May 30, the Council approved the application of two more residents to use water for irrigation purposes.

On June 4, the Council prohibited cattle, horses, mules, sheep and swine from running at large in the city. On June 11, the Council ordered that Seamonds Creek be flumed and a gate placed at the head of the city ditch, and a committee was appointed to oversee the work. The work was completed by June 19, 1883.

On July 2, two residents were approved to use water from city ditches for irrigating

1884

In 1884, Bellevue's City Council continued dealing with the nuts and bolts of running a city government. The Council sought title to lots 3 and 7 in section 36 for property for the city, and took steps to build a jail for the city.

On January 7, 1884, the Council adopted an ordinance to regulate wash houses and to prescribe the place for the same. On January 10, the Council approved the following expenses from the fire fund: \$30.53 for repairing buckets, chains, bolts and iron; \$9.04 for lumber for public wells; and \$14 and \$17.50 for work on the city's public well. A committee was formed to circulate a petition to defray the expenses of submitting a petition for a Government Patent on land for lots 3 and 7 in Section 36, adjoining the city, and a diagram for a jail was presented. The Council was instructed to seek a price list from an Eastern firm for fire buckets.

The Brown brothers built their irrigation canal through Bellevue in 1884. They were early settlers in the Wood River Valley, arriving in 1881 from Utah. Five brothers eventually settled in the area.³¹

On January 12, 1884, three Brown brothers (John, Joseph and Michael) along with A.M. Miner, filed a claim with Alturas County to take 10,000 inches of water from the Big

³¹ Michael and John Brown had a "big ranch they had taken up" south of Bellevue, and their brother Peter, who moved to the area from Utah, had a 40 acre ranch "below Bellevue" bordering the northeast border of Michael's 200 acres, and another 40 acres south of Bellevue bordering on a north edge of Michael's land. The main Brown Brothers property was the Spring of Gladness Ranch, named for the many springs on the land, and was located eight miles south of Bellevue, two miles north of the intersection of the present highways 75 and 20. Michael and Peter had adjoining 200 acre tracts making up the ranch. The main part of ranch was on the east side of highway 75, with a small portion on the west side. The old house and barn are still there and are visible from the highway on the west side of highway 75.

signatures. On March 8, the Granger Ditch petition was denied by the City Council.

On March 8, 1884, **Matt McFall** submitted a bill to the Council for \$19 for rent of a room for the City Election. The bill was authorized to be paid on March 22. On April 12, 1884, the City Council passed an ordinance regulating the speed of trains and locomotives within the limits of the city. On May 2, the Council passed an ordinance prohibiting minors under 15 years of age from being on city streets after 9:00 o'clock at night.

On April 15, results of the city elections were reported. J.M Whitton was elected as mayor. On June 2, the Council approved a tax of five mills on all property in the city of Bellevue. The Council also appointed a committee to take charge of the fire apparatus belonging to the city. On June 27, the Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the stacking of hay, straw or other combustible fuel within certain limits in the city, unless covered so as to protect it from catching fire. On July 4, Mayor Whitton presented a bill for \$10 for the balance due to buy the lot for the jail. The Council authorized the Mayor to hire a man to watch the water ditch and keep it in repair.

On July 10, 1884, a special meeting of the City Council was called to consider Bellevue's water right to the line of water from Seamonds Creek and other places. J.E. Waters was appointed special attorney, and a special committee was appointed to take all necessary steps to carry out the object of the meeting regarding the rights and interest of the city of Bellevue. J.S. Whitton, as agent for the **Whitton Canal Association**, applied for a right-of-way for the Whitton canal Association to construct a water canal or ditch to convey water for irrigation from the Big Wood River between the towns of Bellevue and Hailey to Seamonds Creek, at the south east crossing of Chestnut Street on the east side the patented townsite of Bellevue from Elm Street to Chestnut Street, with the city of

Co.'s canal. A right-of-way was approved along the survey, from Elm Street south to Fifth Street, the east side of the ditch to be 10 feet from the ease line of said street. The ditch was not to be over 15 feet wide as it ran through Bellevue. However, other materials say the ditch was 26 feet wide at the top of its banks, 20 feet wide at the bottom, three and one-half feet deep, and ran about 11 miles from the Big Wood River just south of Hailey, through Bellevue to farms south of the city. Brown & Co. had to make "good and substantial bridges across their ditch" on all streets and keep them in repair. Bridges on Pine and Elm streets were to be 24 feet wide, and 16 feet wide on all other streets. The company also had to make sidewalks on each side on every street across the ditch as the Council may request. A written agreement was to be drawn up to carry out the terms. Brown's attorney presented a proposed agreement to the Council on July 23. On the same day, **Matt McFall** appeared before the Council and made a statement about the apparatus and fixtures belonging to the City Fire Department. The Fire Committee agreed to attend to the business "at once."

The Brown brothers built their ditch to carry water from its diversion point south of Hailey, which went east and south along the east side of the Valley, on the east side of Bellevue running along Fifth Street, and continued as far south as what is now known as the Cove Ranch located on the east side of the Gannett Road. The ditch was 26 feet wide at the top of its banks, 20 feet wide at the bottom, three and one-half feet deep, and ran about 11 miles. It was originally called the Brown Brothers Ditch, later was known as the Brown Brothers and Miner Ditch, then the Miller Packard Ditch, and is now known as the Cove Canal, which services the ranches south of Bellevue down to the Cove Ranch.

[t]he ditch was completed in due time. The water was turned in by irrigating time in

Supreme Court. A special committee appointed earlier that spring to investigate whether **Matt McFall** was committing a nuisance by keeping cattle so near the residence of Mr. E.B. Hall. The committee recommended that the Council declare McFall's actions to be a nuisance, and take immediate steps to abate the same. The Council passed a resolution that Brown & Co. be required to make boxes across their ditch to conduct the water from the small ditches.

The lawsuit to protect Bellevue's water rights was filed on September 22, 1884, against landowners who had appropriated water from Seamands Creek after March of 1880: *City of Bellevue v. Simpson Goble, Mrs. Jamie Goldsmith Womack, John Brown, Michael Brown, Mike Smith, A. Bryant, John Hubbard, and the Wood River Smelting Co.*, in the District Court of the Second Judicial District of the Territory of Idaho in and for the County of Alturas³⁶ On October 6, 1884, G.L. Waters, special water council to the city, reported to the Council that Mr. Hash and Goodman would sell to the city their interests in water rights which were then in litigation, for \$175. The lawsuit was decided in the fall of 1885, with Bellevue getting 300 inches of water in Seamonds Creek, not the 500 inches

³⁶ The Wood River Smelter was located at the foot of Lookout Mountain east of Bellevue near the mouth of Muldoon Canyon. The smelter was built in 1881, and expanded in 1883. The smelter at Bellevue, erected by E. A. Martin, was ready to be started up in September 1881, processing ore from the Munday mine, and it was expected to run until winter processing ore from the Queen Victoria and Minnie Moore. *Idaho, An Illustrated History*, page 110; McLeod, *History of Alturas and Blaine County*, page 30; Strahorn, Robert, *Idaho Territory*, page 59.

The News-Miner of January 27, 1883, reported that a heavy load of machinery for the Wood River Smelter at the foot of Lookout Mountain had arrived, which nearly completed the necessary machinery for the plant. The stack would be raised as soon as soon as a "competent machinist" could be found. The superintendent "is pushing affairs ahead vigorously and will touch her off on the 1st of May without doubt. After starting, it is doubtful if the fires are allowed to die out for months to come."

Ladder Company asked the city to donate a lot and lumber to build a house for the use of the Fire Department. The house was to be 20 x 30 feet with a 12 foot ceiling. James Whitton proposed to sell to the city, the south half of a lot in Block E, (less the ground sold to Alturas County for a jail) for \$200 payable by August 1. If the amount was not paid by then, \$5 per month ground rent would be charged. His proposal was accepted.

On March 16, **Matt McFall** and three others were named as judges for the city election to be held on April 6. \$33 was authorized to be paid to Mr. Fury for services rendered as sheriff in the water suit, and \$50 was paid to the clerk of the District Court for fees in the suit. On April 6, the Council authorized the payment of \$241.42 for lumber for the fire engine house, and \$12.50 for work on the city ditches.

On April 8, a special meeting of the City Council convened to consider a petition from the **Bellevue and Broadford Passenger and Freight Transportation Company**, for right-of-way through the streets and highways fo Bellevue to build and operate by horse power or steam, a railway for 50 years. An ordinance passed granting the petition.

On April 11, it was reported the J.S. Whitton was reelected as Mayor of Bellevue. **Neil Campbell** (the brother of the authors' great-grandmother) was elected as Alderman for the First Ward to serve a one year term from May 1884, receiving 61 votes.

On May 4, George Waters was paid \$150 for work on the water lawsuit, and \$1.50 was paid for a new rope for the city well. **Neil Campbell** was appointed to serve on the Committee on Water Ditches and Streets with two others. A tax of one cent on each one hundred dollars of assessable property within the city was passed. The clerk was ordered to publish a notice notifying residents they have to keep their dogs, cattle, horses, mules

Street, thereby draining that part of the city.

On August 21, the Bellevue Board of Equalization ordered stricken from the assessment rolls, property belonging to the Presbyterian and Catholic churches, and six widows, for a total of \$1,470 of land.

On September 7, William Pearson sought a right-of-way through Main Street to conduct 1,500 inches of water to his farm on land south of the city. The application was tabled. The petition of William Pearson was brought up again on September 16, and was tabled once again.

On September 16, the Special Committee on collecting firearms made an initial report and asked for more time to present its final report. On October 5, petitions were presented to the Council asking that Elm Street be opened to the River, and for Popular Street opened from Main Street to the eastern limits of Bellevue. A committee was appointed to look into the issues.

Bellevue's original water system was not sufficient to meet the needs of the growing community. Its limitations were seen during the fire of September 1884, that destroyed the Burnham and Ringgold livery stable, causing a \$7,000 loss and killing 14 horses.³⁷ The 1885 Sandborn map (used by fire insurance companies) rated Bellevue's water facilities as "not good," and stated the city had limited fire fighting capabilities; no steam or hand engine, and no independent carts.³⁸ The city had a population of 800 by that time.

³⁷ Spence, *For Wood River or Bust*, page 115.

³⁸ Beginning in 1867, D.A. Sandborn Co. of New York produced maps used by insurance companies for underwriting to determine the risk in insuring individual buildings, and to establish premiums for 22,000 communities in the U.S. The maps give information about individual buildings, including building layout, construction materials, and structural details.

rights of the Townsite of Bellevue. On July 20, 1880, inhabitants of Bellevue for themselves and for the use and benefit of the Town, had appropriated 300 inches of water (not the 500 inches the City claimed) under 4 inches of pressure from Seamands Creek by means of a ditch, and caused the water to flow through the ditch into and along the streets and alley ways of Bellevue Township. The water had been continuously used by the inhabitants of Bellevue for household and domestic purposes, irrigation of gardens, watering stock, for protection against fires, and for other purposes. The defendants had jointly and separately and unlawfully interfered with the use and appropriation of Bellevue's water from Seamands Creek, and deprived its inhabitants of their lawful use of the water. The City of Bellevue was declared to be the owner of 300 inches of water from Seamands Creek. Although it was not specifically stated in the Court's decree, the defendants shared the water in the flow Seamands Creek above Bellevue's 300 inches.³⁹

On November 9, 1885, the District Court entered a judgment in favor of the City of Bellevue against the defendants in the water case, confirming the city's rights to 300 inches

³⁹ The Referee's decision was reported in the Wood River News-Miner of November 7, 1885. Forty- seven days was spent taking testimony and hearing arguments of counsel. Judge Waters of Bellevue and Texas Angel of Hailey appeared for the city, and the defendants were represented by F. E. Ensign and James H. Hawley (later the U.S. Attorney for Idaho and Governor of Idaho). The referee described the rationale for his decision in the interview,, and provided details that did not appear in the decision. "By my decision the city gets 300 inches of the water of Seamand's creek. It claimed 500. The evidence shows that by the time the city diverted the waters, a prior right to 200 inches of the water had accrued to Cox and Riddle. Edster had also diverted on ground now owned by Goble, all the water of the east fork of the creek by a short ditch, turning same into the west fork of the creek, but afterward abandoned it. When the city claimed 500 inches of the water, allowing for the 200 claimed by Cox and Riddle, but 400 inches remained for diversion down to the point of the city's ditch. The decision upon the whole testimony has allowed the city three-fourths of 400 inches, viz. 300 inches of water. There is, therefore, left in the creek 300 inches of water for the ranchers use."

A special meeting was held on December 15, to consider a motion to authorize the City Clerk to purchase in the name of the City of Bellevue, any city property that was being sold for delinquent taxes for the year 1885.

1886

On January 4, 1886, the first regular meeting of the Council in 1886, it “disallowed” a \$50 bill from Angel & Sullivan for services after the judgment in *Bellevue v. Simpson*. A bill from G.L. Waters for \$50 for legal services in the water case was laid over until final motion by the District Court. On January 23, G. L. Waters “made a statement of the present legal status of” the water case.” The Council approved his bill for \$70, and if the case was appealed, Waters will credit the city for \$60 on his bill of \$200.

On March 1, a general election was set for April 5, and **Matt McFall** and two others were named as election judges for the First Ward. The Mayor was requested to return to the Governor, the 60 Government arms and 10 boxes of ammunition he received on March 28, 1885, at the Council’s request, “for the purpose of enabling the citizens and people at this place to protect life and property during the riots of last spring.” This is a reference to the labor dispute that took place in Bellevue during the spring of 1885, involving the Minnie Moore and Queen of the Hills Mines, which were described in George McLeod’s book, *The History of Alturas and Blaine County*.

In early 1885, the superintendent of the Queen of the Hills mines sought a reduction in worker’s pay to \$3.50, telling the miners that the company could not afford to pay \$4 per day because of low prices for silver and lead and high rates for freight. The miners refused to accept a pay reduction, and on January 20, 1885, the Queen of the Hills mine was shut

On March 28, the Council also ordered the Marshal to arrest any person in the city limits who disturbed the peace or quiet of any neighborhood or family by loud or tumultuous noises, or by tumultuous and offensive conduct, threatening quarreling, challenging to fight, or fighting, or who assembled for the purpose of disturbing the public peace, or communicating any unlawful act, and does not disburse on being advised tor ordered to do so by a judge or justice of the peace or the sheriff, coroner, or other public officer.

On April 9, the Council approved payment of a bill from the Governor of \$33.80 for freight and transportation of arms and ammunition from Hailey to Boise City. On April 9, the results of the election were announced. O.S. Glenn was elected as Bellevue's mayor. On May 3, committee appointments were announced. **Neil Campbell** was reappointed to the Committee on Streets and Ditches, along with Whitton and Williams. The city Marshal and Assessor were appointed. On May 10, the Council adopted a motion fixing a fire district from Cottonwood to Oak Streets, and to the alley east and west of Main Street, and owners of buildings within that district be compelled to construct brick flues or chimneys on their buildings. The Council decided that \$6 be collected from each hotel and stable per quarter, instead of \$12. A tax of one cent on each dollar of assessed value was levied on all property in the city limits. On June 2, payment of \$153.34 was approved for costs paid by the Committee on Streets and Ditches. The Council approved a motion made by **Neil Campbell** instructing the Marshall to look after the city water in Seamonds Creek, and take all necessary steps for the arrest of all persons using said waters for contempt of court contrary to the decision of the Referee in the Bellevue v. Simpson case. The Marshall was

because of the labor strife, shot and killed William Thompkins, the night clerk at "**McFall's Hotel**" on April 14, 1885.

note of thanks from the city of Bellevue to J.M. Bice of Omaha, Nebraska, for his

zealous and untiring efforts and success in inducing a class of honest, industrious and intelligent people to come into our Territory, County and City, by a plain and candid statement in regard to our resources, climate and prospective prosperity and especially do we thank [him] for inducing certain capitalists to construct and build a first class flouring mill in said City of Bellevue. A certified copy of the resolution was to be sent to Mr. Bice.

Two ordinances were passed establishing a privately owned water works, to be funded by some of Bellevue's major land owners. This was a major step forward for the City, enlisting private capital to fund and improve the City's water system. Ordinance No. 19, granted L. Young, N.G. Delano, **Matt McFall**, George W. Wells, James S. Hogan, John Redding, James A. Lusk, Gregory A. McCormick, W. K. Rednay, G. G. Willey, Henry E. Miller, and their assigns, "the right to construct and operate a system of water works in the City of Bellevue, and the right of way through the streets, alleys, and highways thereof, and to provide a supply of water to said city for fire purposes." Ordinance No. 20, provided for the exemption from taxation by the City of "property the franchises and effects used and maintained in the erection and construction of a system of Water Works n said City."⁴⁴

On April 5, the Council authorized the Street Committee to cause the city's streets

⁴⁴ On June 18, 1887, the franchise holders transferred their franchise rights to the Bellevue Water Company. The franchise holders filed new articles of Incorporation for the Bellevue Water Company on August 17, 1887, with the Idaho Secretary of State's Office, and listed seven people as directors; Henry E. Miller, Matt McFall, John W. Kinnear, N.C. Larson, J.A. Lusk, N.C. DeLans, and W.H.Redway. The company was organized to construct a water works to pipe water into and throughout the City of Bellevue; to furnish and supply the City and the citizens with water; and to fulfill the terms of the franchise granted to H.E. Miller, S.B. Dilley, J.A. Lusk and others by an ordinance passed on March 8, 1887. \$30,000 of capital stock was authorized, and the company had \$5,000 of paid in capital. Miller was the company's president, Kinnear the Vice President, Redway the Secretary, and Lano the Treasurer.

be established, the grounds enclosed, and a system adopted for the burial of the dead. The closing of the streets and alleys was an outrage and should not be tolerated. There had been no decision in the case of *Bellevue v. Young*, but the City's attorney would call the attention of the Interior Dept. to the case and insist on a decision. The City Waterworks - ground had been broken and a large number of laborers were at work cutting the ditches in preparation for laying the pipe which was ordered and would be there in a few days. The Mayor said "we have good reason to believe that water will be flowing from the hydrants and fountains by July 4 next."

On June 14, the Council approved \$300 to grade Main Street from Oak to the south side of Chestnut. On August 1, the Council approved payment of \$180 to J.S. Whitton for work on the streets and ditches, and \$10 to **Matt McFall**. The Council directed the Mayor to appoint a committee to put in pipe and dig ditches at Galbraith's Corral, and **McFall** was appointed to it. On September, a committee was appointed to confer with the Bellevue Water Company regarding a bill from Angel & Sullivan. On October 18, the Council adopted a motion that the City Fire Department building be repaired.

On November 7, **Matt McFall** reported that the graveyard was enclosed and the fence completed. He also reported that work on the fire engine house was completed. The Council approved payment of \$22.50 to **McFall** for labor on the engine house. On November 26, the Council refused to pay the \$100 bill from Angel & Sullivan, attorneys. The bill from the Bellevue Water Company for \$637.88 was referred to the finance committee. The Fire Department was instructed to inspect all stove pipes in the City. On December 5, the Council approved payment to the Bellevue Water Company of \$637.88.

The Sandborn map showed that wooden pipes had been installed throughout Bellevue to bring water from Seamands Creek to the city. There was a 6 " main wooden pipe running north - south under Main Street until Elm Street, when it became a 4" pipe running to the north. There were 4" wooden pipes running east - west under Pine and Elm Streets hooking into the main pipe under Main Street. There were 2 ½ " wooden pipes running under the alleys between 4th and 3rd streets, and under the alley between 3rd and 2nd Streets. The pipes ran under the Bellevue school located between 3rd and 4th Streets and Cedar and Elm. There were double hydrants at Main and Pine, and Main and Cedar, and single hydrants were located at Oak and Main, and at the Bellevue School between 3rd and 4th. The franchise holders had transformed Bellevue's Water System to a modern one. The wooden pipes supplied water to Bellevue until the 1940s.

B. 1888 - 1898: INTERNATIONAL SILVER DEPRESSION

Historical Perspective

The International Silver Depression which began in 1888, and lasted through 1898, is said to be worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s.⁴⁶ The depression hit the

⁴⁶ In 1888, there was a national decline in silver prices, which precipitated a major depression. Silver prices began another downward trend in 1891, followed in 1892 by a disastrous price crash in silver, and 1893 was the formal end of the silver market's dominance. Britain ended the production of silver coins in India which caused panic selling on world metal markets, with the value of silver declining 23% in a few hours, finally ending with "no market in New York at any price." Other weaknesses in the national economy, including the failure of railroads and manufacturing companies, touched off a widening national depression. By 1893, over 15,000 commercial houses, 600 banks, and more than 50,000 railroads went into bankruptcy. The crash of 1893 precipitated the worst economic depression the country had experienced to that time, and the panic bore all the earmarks of a permanent disaster. Spence, *For Wood River or Bust*, pages 210, 213, 214; Satterfield, Archie, *Chilkoot Pass, Chapter V, The Big Strike*, Alaska NW Publishing Co., 1973, www.archiesatterfield.com.

When the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad went bankrupt on March 4, 1893, the

protecting fire plugs, hydrants and other fire apparatus. George Day was selected as City Marshal. An election would be held on April 2. On March 22, the Council decided that enforcement of the ordinance governing stock in the City be postponed in the discretion of the Marshal. On April 2, the Council appointed a committee to meet with the Railroad about street crossings in the City. **McFall** and others were appointed to the Committee.

L. Young was elected as mayor of Bellevue. James Whitton was elected as an alderman from the second ward. On April 30, the Mayor called a special meeting to discuss “whether the city would have law and order by the rigid enforcement of the City Ordinances, or whether the hoodlums and rough element should have things their way.” City officers were instructed to “enforce the laws for any violation of City Ordinance.”

On May 7, the Council approved payment of \$9.75 to the Bellevue Water Company for a hydrant, and \$76.66 for “city tax 1887.” Ordinance 24 was passed, preventing meddling or interfering with the property of the Fire Department or the City. The Council decided to postpone for six months, the enforcement of the ordinance against Mr. Daly for violating the Ordinance prohibiting the obstruction of streets, at which time Daley was to open the street. On May 7, the City Attorney was instructed to draft an ordinance against the “fast riding and driving and the unlawful use of fire arms” within the City. A petition requesting the closing of stores on Sundays was deferred. **McFall** and two others were appointed to the Committee on Water and Ditches.

On May 14, the Mayor called a special meeting to “look after the Water Work ditch business.” The Council resolved that the Water Committee use its own judgment with the Bellevue Water Company. The City Marshal was instructed to order Mr. Daly to remove his obstruction on Popular Street in 30 days.

the City, that is a large amount of money for this purpose. Section 20 of the Bellevue Charter authorized 1/5 % for water for fire purposes, but not more, and left to the discretion of the Councilmen to pay in their judgement, how much less would be fair and equitable between the tax payers and the Water Works Company. The Mayor acknowledged the many benefits derived from the Water Works, but he did not think it was good policy for the Water Works Company nor the City to levy a tax that would come from people already overtaxed. The Council voted 4 to 2 to adopt the tax in spite of the Mayor's opposition, with **McFall** voting for the levy. **McFall** then moved to ask for the resignation of the City Marshal and the City Attorney, "to reduce the expenses of the City." The two men resigned, although a new Marshal was selected on August 16.

The Council resolved on August 17, that the City Water crossing from the Whitton Ditch be turned off. On October 1, the Council approved payment of \$85 to the Ditch Committee for labor on the Water Works.

1889

On March 19, 1889, the Council approved payment of the following bills: \$250 for work on water ditches; \$125 for repair of the Broadford bridge; \$3.50 for fixing fire plugs; and \$2.50 for hauling boxes for fire plugs and filling the same. An election would be held on April 1. On April 1, the Council approved suing Mr. Daly to require him to open streets and alleys then closed and fenced. On May 6, Daly petitioned to lease certain streets and alleys now enclosed and fenced, but it was tabled.

On May 22, Mr. Whitton said \$220 was due for construction of the road running from Bellevue to Camas Prairie. On June 6, the Council amended the stock Ordinance, instructing the Marshal to enforce the Ordinance only in extreme cases where stock was

diverted. The plaintiffs asked for an injunction restraining the defendants from interfering with their 200 inches of water from Seamands Creek, exclusive from the 150 inches of Bellevue under the decree.⁴⁹

The case never went to trial, but was resolved by agreement between the one of the plaintiffs, Gobles (although not the Browns who were not parties to the agreement), and the two defendants Galbraith and Kimbraugh. The agreement was dated December 17, 1891. The parties to the agreement agreed that **all of the waters flowing from Seamands Creek** be "divided equally between the parties hereto (always excepting the 150 inches owned by the City of Bellevue)." It is not clear what happened to the Brown brothers claim to 100 inches of water in the stream - those claimed rights just disappear.

On July 25, the Council authorized the Mayor to employ counsel to prosecute all persons for contempt of court who in anyway interfered with the waters of Seamonds Creek, adjudged by the court to belong to Bellevue. On December 16, a petition was submitted by Kingsbury and McGowan for a right of way through Bellevue on a line not farther to the east than along Third Street, to construct a water ditch along the westerly side of Third Street along the line of the gutter between the sidewalk and the roadway. The ditch would not be more than six feet wide, would be straight and even, and have its sides either planked up or walled up, to be provided with good bridges at every road crossing. The petition was tabled.

On December 23, the Council authorized the Mayor to receive Lots 3 and 7 of

49 According to the complaint, Goble owned Lots 4 and 5 and the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of sec. 6, township 1 N of range 19 E, containing 118 and 17/100 acres. The Brown brothers owned the SW 1/4 of sec. 6, township 1 N of range 19 E.

and death dealing instruments, and a public nuisance.”

The Mayor noted the complaints against the **Bellevue Water Company** regarding “filthy and unhealthy condition of the water.” Its reservoir was not protected from “cattle, stock, swine and fowls running at large, and the excrement from said stock, swine and fowls polluted and rendered the water unfit for culinary and drinkable purposes.” He suggested appointing a committee to examine the conditions of the water, so the Council could ensure that its citizens obtain “good and healthy water, for which they are paying a liberal price.” The Mayor said he considered the tax of one-fifth of one per centum of city revenue being paid to the **Bellevue Water Company** to be excessive, since the City paid for a right-of-way through the Galbraith Ranch for the Water Company, gave it 50 inches of the city’s water, exempted it from taxation for 25 years, and purchased fire plugs at a large expense. This taxation was “unfair, unreasonable, and wrong.” He suggested that the levy, if it could not be abandoned, be reduced to one-twentieth of one per centum of city revenue. Many citizens were dissatisfied with the exchange of water that was made, and urged the city use its own water.

The Mayor described the unseemly condition of the city’s streets and alleys and said the Council should compel individuals to keep them clean, including some of the members of the Council.

The Mayor said the ditches running through the city were too small and were neglected, and the water overflowed and spread over the streets, “compelling pedestrians to resort to the use of rafts and primitively constructed boats to get to their homes, which oftentimes is only accomplished after getting well soaked, and splashed with mud.” He suggested a levy to abate these grievances.

asked for more time to present its report. A report on the validity of Ordinance 31 was made, and Ordinance 31 was approved. A resolution was adopted regarding problems with the **Miller and Kingsbury ditch** running along Third Street. The resolution noted that the ditch was being built, but no work had been done for a month; the crossing of second street was left open, no bridges were laid, and the crossings were impassable; the company had made no efforts to provide lumber for the fluming and crossing of the ditch as provided in the ordinance, causing annoyance and inconvenience to citizens; and there was no excuse for the company leaving the ditch open; and the company had not graded Third Street but piled earth along the street making it impassable. The resolution gave the company five days to provide lumber to make the ditch complete, and 10 days to complete the ditch through the City. On September 1, the Marshal was ordered to notify the contractor to desist any further plowing or excavating on Third Street until the blocks then opened were fixed according to contract.

On November 8, the Council approved payment of \$125 each to P. R. Pool and Grover Hash to buy their land for a northerly extension of Main Street through their property, with S. W. Hamilton agreeing to deed 50 feet on the east side of his land to the City for a like purpose. A committee was appointed to look into an addition to the City of Bellevue. The Street and Ditch Committee was instructed to look into the Third Street Ditch Company and take any action they see fit.

1891

On January 17, 1891, a bill from the **Bellevue Water Supply** for \$356 for water supplies and fire purposes was rejected by the Council. Results of the election held on

holders assigned their rights to the Bellevue Water Company, which proceeded to install the water system required by the ordinance which was completed by September 1, 1887. Further, Bellevue had paid the required tax to the plaintiff for the years 1887, 1888, and 1889, and \$304 was owing at the end of 1890, which was not paid.

On May 18, the Council met to decide what action the city should take to defend the suit of the **Bellevue Water Company**. Bellevue was sued by the Bellevue Water Company over the city's nonpayment of the special tax levy to pay for water.⁵⁰ The Council instructed the Mayor be empowered to employ one or more attorneys to defend the suit. S. B. Kingsbury was hired to defend the city for \$100 cash down, \$200 if ended in the District Court, and \$200 more if taken to the Supreme Court, and be paid for all expenses. The Mayor was also empowered to employ a surveyor to survey and subdivide the Bellevue Addition. On May 18, new City officials were appointed, and a tax levy rate was established.

Kingsbury took an aggressive stance in the lawsuit. He filed an answer for the City of Bellevue, in which he admitted that the water system was constructed, claimed the 50 inches of water rights provided to the plaintiff were worth \$1,000, and that the city had wrongfully paid over \$700 in tax revenue to the plaintiff since 1887. The city claimed the supply of water furnished by the plaintiff was not adequate for fire purposes, and there were no pipes on most of the streets and the greater portion of the city was without water for fire protection purposes. The city further alleged it was illegal to tax property that is not benefitted by the water system or did not have water for fire protection purposes. The city

⁵⁰ Patterson, *Privately Owned Land & City Owned Water*, page 3.

The main Seamonds Creek ditch was to be cleaned.

On June 6, the Women's Christian Temperance Union petitioned the Council "to raise the moral tone of the Society of our town." They asked that the Council "prohibit the playing of baseball within the city limits on Sunday," saying it was impossible to hold the interest of the children "who are compelled to attend church," and it has cut into their membership. They also asked for the saloons be closed on the Sabbath. The petition was tabled. On August 4, the Council instructed the Marshall to prosecute all persons found unlawfully tampering with the city's ditches and water.

1893

On January 24, the Council expressed its sorrow over the death of Mayor William Pearson. On April 3, the results of the election were announced; George B. Neill was elected Mayor. On May 6, the Council directed the Committee on Water and Ditches to contract whatever indebtedness necessary to bring in city water and to protect the city from drought. On June 20, the Council decided not to sell city land for \$250 or more.

On August 7, an Alderman reported that the bridge over the ditch owned by the Brown Brothers and H.E. Miller on Muldoon Road was very unsafe for heavy loaded teams and wagons to pass over, and despite requests that it be repaired, it had not been fixed. The committee was instructed to put in a bridge at once and the city collect the expense and cost from the owners of the ditch. Several meetings involved a discussion of repair to the city's flag pole.

On September 23, the Council, sitting as the Board of Equalization, ordered that certain individuals appear on October 3, to show why the city assessments on their property should not be raised in the following amounts; A.E. Beamer, \$200; Mrs Irish,

result of the case was reported in the Wood River Times on July 3, 1895.⁵¹

1896

On March 23, 1896, the Mayor was authorized to convey by quitclaim deed, any property sold to the city for delinquent taxes, upon payment by purchasers for sums not less than the amount due the city together with costs.

On April 6, George Hill was reelected Mayor. The Council unanimously ordered that the **Third Street ditch be condemned** as a dangerous nuisance from one end to the other, until repairs were made and accepted by the city, and that no water be permitted to be turned into the ditch until the source was repaired and accepted by the Council. On May 9, Henry E. Miller addressed the Council concerning the status of the Third Street ditch, and the probable steps to be taken in the near future. His request for a reduction in city taxes on his land for the year 1893 was denied. The Marshal was instructed to collect the annual Poll-Road tax of \$2 from each person liable to pay the same.

On June 4, the Council gave permission to the **Whitton Ditch Company** to take water down the South side of Chestnut St. to the Third Street ditch, saying the company must keep the same in good repair and keep bridges wherever necessary. The Marshal was to notify all persons to put in headgates when taking water from the main ditch, or

⁵¹ Familiar names of parties to the lawsuit include the Gooding brothers (Frank - later Governor and Senator, Thomas, and Frank); W.C. Dill (a Shoshone doctor who had ran the Dill Hospital in a building he owned); N.C. Larson (a Bellevue businessman and property owner); Joseph Brown (one of the Brown brothers who was awarded 280 inches of water dating to September 1887, the second largest single claim); and several Kilpatricks (Bud Purdy, a descendant, now owns their ranches near Silver Creek - the Kilpatricks were awarded the largest share of water from the river, 1,000 inches of water dating to September 1883, and another 500 dating to April 1890). W.C. Hill claimed 60 inches of water from the Little Wood River on November 28, 1882. All claimants were required to return all waste water back into the river.

condition of the city ditch. The Marshal was ordered to widen the ditches on all the streets reached by water from the city ditch. On July 7, the Mayor read a communication from Sheldon Kingsbury regarding the pending suit with the Bellevue Water Company.

On September 6, the Marshal was directed to notify Henry Miller to repair the Third Street ditch at the south end of Third Street so the public could cross it without being in any danger in so doing. The Bridge Committee was instructed to repair the bridge on the road leading from Bellevue to Broadford, and \$95 was paid for the work at the meeting on October 5. The Marshal was ordered to repair or have repaired at the expense of the property owners, all crossings over ditches running through Bellevue. On October 5, the Marshal reported that the owners of the ditches had taken steps to make the crossings safe to pass over. The cost of fencing the Bellevue cemetery would be \$75 to \$85, and the Council decided to postpone the work. On November 1, the Mayor was instructed to consult a responsible attorney regarding the best way to force the owners of the Third Street ditch to fill it in, and was empowered to pay "a liberal amount for said legal advice."

1898

On February 1, 1898, the Council approved payment of \$100 retainer to Arthur Brown to look after the interests of the city in regard to the Third Street ditch. On March 7, the Mayor announced that Mr. Williams wished to purchase the Stone Building (or Lewis Building) owned by the city, and it was determined the price should be no less than \$250. On April 9, election results were announced, and James W. Ballentine was elected Mayor.

On June 1, the Council approved the purchase of 360 fence posts to build a fence around the city cemetery. On August 1, the Marshal was instructed to notify Henry E. Millet that he must fix the bridge crossing at the lower end of Main Street and also the lower end

On November 6, Mrs. Henry E. Miller appeared before the Council to explain the taxes on her husbands property for 1893, and offered to pay \$6 in full satisfaction of the debt. Her offer was refused. The Council resolved to accept \$75, and Mrs. Miller accepted the offer. The Mayor was instructed to meet with Mrs. Miller and tell her if she does not fix the water ditch, they will fill it up.

C. 1900 - 1920: ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE NEW CENTURY

Historical Perspective

Like the Great Depression of the 1930s, which was ended only by the stimulus provided by World War II, the depression of the 1890s was ended quickly by a single event, the Klondike gold rush in the Yukon Territory of Canada. The silver depression

ended dramatically, almost overnight, by a single event. Just as the outbreak of World War II ended the Great Depression, the Klondike gold rush ended the depression of the 1890s. The Klondike gold rush began on Saturday, July 17, 1897, and before a week passed, newspapers were announcing the depression was over and money was circulating again.⁵²

The riches brought back from the Klondike by the lucky few, the large amounts of money spent by prospectors going to the gold fields, as well as the money that had been hoarded by others which was brought back into circulation, resulted in an abrupt end to the depression of the 1890s. The nation, as well as Idaho, saw their economies rapidly improve. The Oregon Short Line realized it must increase the population of Idaho to stimulate demand for its services to ensure future profits, and it began to actively promote settlement and land sales into areas served by the Oregon Short Line railroad. The Land Company appointed an "immigration agent" who traveled around the country, lectured

⁵² Satterfield, Archie, *Chilkoot Pass, The Big Strike*.

produced \$445,865 of gold, silver and lead in 1900.⁵⁵

In addition to a boom in its mining industry, Central Idaho also benefitted greatly in the early 1900s from huge investments made by the federal government, private investors, and railroads that were promoting agriculture, land sales and tourism. The grazing of sheep in the summer in the hills north of Ketchum was a huge enterprise in the early 1900s, and it kept the railroad busy. The Wood River Times of October 9, 1901, reported that 700 carloads of sheep, approximately 210,000 head, were shipped from Hailey and Ketchum that summer.

The development of agricultural land in was greatly aided by the passage of the National Reclamation (Newlands) Act of 1902, which authorized federal funding of dams and water projects to promote agriculture and settlement of the west. The Act created the Bureau of Reclamation to implement its new programs. Federal Reclamation projects brought significant investment and population growth to Idaho after 1902. The dry lands of central Idaho benefitted greatly from the Act as many dams and irrigation projects were built in succeeding years using the newly available federal funds.⁵⁶

1900

On March 5, 1900, the Council acknowledged the receipt from Mrs. Henry E. Miller

⁵⁵ Czizek, *1900 Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines*, pages 3, 7.

⁵⁶ Milner Dam was built in 1903 irrigating both sides of the Snake River. Work on the Magic Reservoir began in 1907 and was completed in 1910 at a cost of \$2 million irrigating land around Shoshone and Richfield. The Minidoka Dam was built between 1904 -1906 at a cost of \$675,000, and the \$5,800,000 Minidoka canal project was completed in 1909 which irrigated 120,000 acres. The Fish Creek Dam on the Little Wood River near Carey was begun in 1916 and completed in 1920, at a cost of \$1 million. McLeod, *History of Alturas and Blaine Counties*, Third Edition, pages 117-118.

property in Sections 31 and 32, Township 2 N, Range 19 E; Buller had become a successor in interest to Goble for his property, lots 4 and 5 in Section 6, and other land in Township 1 N, Range 19 E; and the defendant Josselyn had become a successor in interest to Kimbrough for land in Sections 32 and 33, Township 2 N, Range 19 E.

The Court found that after his purchase of the Kimbrough property in 1898, Josselyn “began to claim and use all of the waters of said creek (except 150 inches belonging to the City of Bellevue) contrary to the provisions” of the settlement of the 1891 case. The Court found that in ordinary years, there was 500 inches of water flowing in Seamands Creek, which was sufficient when properly used to irrigate all three properties. (Note that the Court in the 1885 case found there was 600 inches of water in Seamands Creek.) The Court declared that the two plaintiffs and the defendant each were entitled to “one third of all of the waters of Seamands Creek after deducting 150 inches belonging to Bellevue “for irrigating, domestic and other agricultural purposes.” This decision carried forward the 1891 agreement between the three landowners that divided up “all of the waters of Seamands Creek after deducting” Bellevue’s 150 inches.⁵⁷

On March 4, the Council approved the purchase of supplies for the Bellevue Fire Department. On April 1, the election results were announced; J. M. Ballantine was

⁵⁷ The decision did not discuss how those three landowners acquired the right to all of the waters of Seamands Creek above Bellevue’s 150 inches. Possibly the landowners only had the right to the 150 inches of water deducted from Bellevue’s 300 inches in the 1886 modification to the judgment in the 1885 case. Somehow, the right to 1/3 of 150 inches in excess of Bellevue’s water rights got converted to 1/3 of the remaining water in Seamands Creek. It is not clear what happened to the 200 inches which the referee in the 1885 case said had been appropriated by two landowners, Cox and Riddle, before Bellevue’s rights were claimed, and the additional 100 inches of water remaining after the 1885 decision that was not allocated in the court’s findings.

meetings, and buying the Bellevue Water Works to operate it as a city run operation.

On January 6, 1902, a committee was appointed to make arrangements for a meeting hall for the Council. On March 3, the committee reported that W. R. Plughaff offered his two Main Street lots for \$7. On April 7, the election results were announced; Nicholas Paul was elected Mayor. The Marshal was directed to inform all persons concerned that no cattle, sheep, hogs shall be slaughtered in the city limits, and all property owners that their portions of the alleys must be cleaned.

On May 8, the new city officials were installed into office. A report was made regarding the status of water and the **Bellevue Water Works** by Mr. M. W. Williams. Mr. Williams was given one month to make a proposition to the city offering the sale of the Water Works system to the city. The Marshal was directed to repair the headgate of the city ditch. On June 2, the Council gave Mr. Williams more time to make a proposition to the city regarding the Water Works plant. The Committee on Water and Ditches was authorized to employ a competent mechanic to properly repair the headgate. On June 5, the Council ordered that the city employ John McGinness to assist Mr. Williams in repairing the Water pipes, and a suitable lock was authorized for the west gate of the reservoir.

On July 7, the Committee on Water reported they were going to hire a water master, and it had employed Mr. Mandell to measure the water in the city ditch. The Mayor was empowered to purchase street lamps to be placed on Main Street at each fire hydrant.

On October 7, the Marshal was instructed to tell Mrs. Miller to put in a bridge over the ditch at the lower end of Main Street. R. F. Buller of Hailey asked for a right of way for a ditch down the east side of Second Street. A committee was appointed to look into the matter. On December 1, bills from John Turner for \$76.12 and from John Kasharek for

retained as attorneys for the city in the case of Buller and Brown vs. the City of Bellevue, a committee was appointed to deal with the lawsuit, and another committee was appointed to determine whether a special tax levy was necessary to pay expenses in the suit. On May 19, the Council passed a resolution retaining attorneys Sullivan & Sullivan of Hailey, and N. M. Ruick of Boise as counsel for the city, and the Mayor was directed to draw a note for a retainer of \$100 for 60 days of time, bearing 10% interest, for a retainer. On June 1, a special levy of 1% was assessed to pay for the pending lawsuit, since the city's revenues were not sufficient to meet the expenses of the case.

On July 9, the Marshal was ordered to make new culverts and place them in the new ditch crossings on Beach, Second, Third and Fourth Streets, including the alleys. On August 7, reports were made on taxes collected for July: \$42 was collected for road taxes, and \$20 was collected for tax on a Merry-go-round. On September 7, the Marshal was ordered to notify property owners to fix their sidewalks if they needed repairing. On October 6, the Council ordered that notice be published to owners of stock to keep them off the streets or the ordinance would be enforced. On November 2, the Council accepted a bid from G. B. Mitchell to light street lamps and to ring the curfew bell, for \$13 per month.

On December 7, a citizen complained about stock breaking into her yard and bothering her, and a committee was appointed to find a suitable place to be used as a stray pound for stock running at large in the city. A reward of \$25 was offered for information leading to the arrest of the party who destroyed the city flume carrying city water across the Brown Ditch. A citizen complained about water overflowing from the ditch on the east side of Main Street and flooding his property, and asked the ditch to be cleaned.

Paul was reelected as Mayor. On May 2, the Council received a communication from H. R. Wood, requesting cooperation with a citizens committee organizing a fire company for the protection of property against fire. The Council agreed. A committee was appointed to look after the lower portion of Main Street leading to the railroad Depot, the street being "almost impassible with loaded teams." The Ditch Committee was asked to look after the flume that was damaged in the fall conveying city water across the Brown Ditch, and to build a new flume or repair the old one.

On June 6, **Arthur Brown petitioned the Council for a resolution granting him the right of way for an irrigation ditch through the city "on or near the line of the Old Mill Ditch."** Brown said a former Council promised him this right of way for representing Logan County years before, the right of way being a payment for his services. A complaint was made about the condition of the bridge across the Miller Ditch over Third Street, and the Marshal was instructed to see that it was fixed.

On July 11, Arthur Brown addressed the Council concerning his request for a right of way. His claim was acknowledged, and the Council adopted a resolution stating that in the controversy between Logan and Blaine Counties in which the existence of Logan County was involved, it was agreed by the Council that as part of the payment of services of **Arthur Brown representing Logan County, he should have a right of way known as the Millrace.** Brown performed his services, and the Council will protect his right as far as it could, provided he withdrew from a case then pending in the District Court, where he and R. F. Bullen were suing the city of Bellevue. The Council also adopted an ordinance **granting a franchise to the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company** to place poles

in the Jungle Addition adjoining the **Campbell** lot for \$10. On February 13, the Marshal was instructed to hut up all unlicensed dogs and tell their owners they must pay the dlq tax or their dogs will be killed. On May 7, the Council decided to publish a notice warning against dumping rubbish on public streets or highways, and offered a \$5 reward for information about people responsible for such dumping.

On March 22, a special meeting was held regarding the **petition by H.E. Miller, R. F. Bullen and Arthur Brown for a right of way through the city for waters of what was known as the Third Street Ditch. The Council granted their petition, and approved the right to extend their ditch north of the city limits to the Brown Brothers Ditch,** and continue on the lower side of that ditch and adjoining it within a safe distance to a point where the ditch crosses Elm Street; then across Elm Street crossing the northwest corner of Block 61; then across Pine Street to a point about 100 feet north of the Southeast corner of Block 52; then on the west side of Fifth Street to the northeast corner of Block 55, which is the corner of Fifth and Popular Streets; then on the south side of Popular Street westerly to Fourth Street; then south on the east side of Fourth Street to the south side of Walnut Street; then westerly on the south side of Walnut Street to the old Third Street Ditch on Third Street; and then down the Third Street Ditch to Chestnut Street.

On April 10, the Council adopted **Ordinance 37, granting a right of way for a ditch to Arthur Brown. It also adopted Ordinance 38, granting a right of way to Buller, Miller and Brown.** A citizen asked the Council to compel the Railroad put in crossings where Poplar and Walnut Streets crossed the tracks.

The elections in April 1905, caused problems. On April 11, certain Members of the

& Broadhead agreed to attend to all cases for the city for a salary of \$50.

In October, Bellevue experienced its fire of note since 1884.⁵⁸ The fire, which caused \$10,000 damage, began in Seymour's saloon under McIrvine's Metropolitan hall, when a barkeeper was using a match to look for supplies behind a gasoline tank which supplied gas for lamps. The gas was set on fire and the fire spread so rapidly that nothing could be saved. The fire also damaged Mrs. Bradford's restaurant, Gibson's tailor shop, Mrs. Powell's Palace Hotel, and household goods in several houses. The fire was so hot that it scorched the Masonic Hall across the street and the front of Snowden's Hall 200 feet away. Had either of those buildings caught fire, "the bulk of the town must have been destroyed." The newspaper article said that Bellevue had been lucky to have been spared major fires, and the 1905 fire was "the most destructive fire in the history of the city." The Hailey hose cart responded to the fire but there was a lack of "sufficient pressure of water," highlighting a problem that had to be addressed.

1906

On February 7, 1905, the Council discussed the purchase of new fire hose, but it was deferred due to lack of sufficient funds. The hose was ordered on March 8; 300 feet at \$.85 per foot, from the Chicago Fire Hose. Co. On April 4, the Marshal was instructed to notify property owners to clean alleys and premises. N. J. Conklin was elected Mayor. Bids were to be taken to place loads of shale on Main Street.

On May 7, the Idaho Electric Supply Co. was informed that no further bills would be paid until it installed two incandescent lights in the Council room. M. H. Williams told the

⁵⁸ *\$10,000 Gone Up in Smoke: A Fire Consumes One-half of a Business Block in Bellevue*, Wood River Times, October 30, 1905.

to purchase the system. **A special election was held to determine whether the city should purchase the Water Works for \$4,800.** On June 27, the results of the election were announced: 25 voted in favor and 22 against the purchase. A further report of the committee on the purchase of the water works was “laid over indefinitely” at the next meeting. On November 7, the Council heard comments that the water plugs were leaky and the ladders torn.

1907

The Sandborn map of 1907, provided the same information about Bellevue’s water supply as it did in 1897, stating as before it was “good” and came from the same source in Seamands Creek. Bellevue’s fire equipment had not changed since 1897. Bellevue’s water system seemed to be in a state of disrepair; by 1907, the wooden water pipes installed in 1887 were decaying. One councilman made a motion to condemn the Bellevue Water Company, but it failed. Another councilman moved to notify the Water Co. to furnish better water pressure to provide better fire protection, which also did not pass.⁵⁹

On February 12, 1907, the Council instructed the city attorneys to prevent the pollution of Seamons Creek by the parties residing thereon. On February 26, a special meeting was held regarding taking action against T. A. Josslyn to prevent him from **polluting city water in Seamonds Creek.** A committee was appointed to see him regarding removing the cause. On March 6, George Artoosh told the Council on behalf of the shearing corrals that he would protect city water from being polluted by the shearing corrals of the sheep at the mouth of Sharp’s Canyon. The special committee reported that

⁵⁹ Patterson, *Water Under Pressure Comes to Bellevue*, page 2.

to committee. On July 25, the Council adopted an Ordinance containing specifications for the Main Street sidewalk. On August 7, the Ditch Committee reported that property owners on Third Street would not consent to have an open ditch built. A bid from Perinn & Lamb for \$2,275 to build the Main Street sidewalk was accepted.

On September 4, the decision of the District Court in the case of ***Bellevue v. Daly*** was read. Daly owned a ranch through which the city's ditch from **Seamonds Creek** ran, and his cattle waded in the water and their excretion polluted the water, making it unfit for drinking and endangered the health of the inhabitants. The city was entitled to a judgment restraining Daly from such actions, and restrained him from permitting his cattle to range along the bank of the ditch. Henry E. Miller then appeared and explained to the Council his new survey for a ditch in the upper end of town, and asked for permission to build the ditch as the most convenient one, in place of the right of way previously granted. The matter was referred to committee. A report was made that the crossing of the Brown Ditch was in bad order. There was more discussion of purchasing the water works from Mr. Williams, and a committee was appointed to look into the income and condition of the water works.

On September 14, the Ditch committee reported that Mr. Miller's request for a right of way through Sixth Street was the most feasible way. Miller told the Council he wanted plenty of time to see all property owners and interested parties, and the ditch company would pay all reasonable damage done to property around the ditch by board of arbitration. The Committee looking into the water works reported the income was \$228 per month. There was discussion of the cost of building a pumping plant, and a committee was appointed to look into the cost of putting in a new water system. On October 2, more

graduated from the Idaho School of Mines in 1906, and was opened a practice as a mining engineer.

On December 16, the bonds for the Water Works purchase were sold to M. H. Williams at par, for \$4,800.

1908

On January 3, 1908, the Council decided that the Marshal would perform the duties of both Marshal and Water Master for \$75 a month, \$25 coming from the Water Fund. He was to hire help when needed and was not to do work on service pipe. On February 5, the cement sidewalks were accepted by the Council, and warrants to pay the contractors for the balance due were approved.

On February 25, the Council heard a report that 365 rail cars would be shipped from the Bellevue yards the coming season. The Council adopted a resolution responding to a petition from stockmen telling the Oregon Short Line Railroad that if it enlarged its yard and loading facilities at Bellevue, the city would give free of charge, all water for use in its engines and other railroad purposes, and for the use of stockmen while using the yard, and grant them the right of way to put in stand pipes to enable their engines to be filled therefrom.

On March 4, the clerk was told to present a bill to George Arkoosh for Mrs. H. E. Miller, and if not paid, to forward it to Mrs. Miller. On March 14, the Council approved a request from William Shaffer that he be allowed to run a wrestling contest in the near future. On March 21, the city attorney met with Council to close up the Water Works proposition. He reported that everything was in good shape with the exception of the back taxes that Williams agreed to pay. Williams had signed the deed over to the city.

description for the City Marshal.

He shall besides his duties as City Marshal have charge of the water system and see that [the] city gets its share of the water and that settling tanks, ditches 7 reservoirs are kept clear, to see that all water users comply with the rules made by city council, get a list from the City Clerk of delinquents who shall be shut off, shall enforce the dog ordinance and keep the streets clean.

The Marshal would be paid \$50 plus \$25 from the Water Fund, plus 25% of fines paid and 25% from dog tax revenues. The City's attorneys reported on bonding the city to improve the water system. They advised not to issue further bonds under its charter, since this would raise an issue as the legality, and they suggested amending tis charter at the next session of the legislature.

On June 10, the Council agreed to purchase a six ton single beam scales for \$100, and place it in front of **Neil Campbell's** Blacksmith Shop on Main Street. On July 1, **Neil Campbell** was appointed Weigher or Weigh Master and make a report every month. The Council decided to place the city dumping ground across the Cahoon ditch west of town, 1/4 miles south along the river bottom. On August 5, the Council approved the building of a dog pound on land on the river bottom west of town.

On November 20, the Council passed an ordinance regarding the closing of saloons at midnight. The Bridge and Culvert Committee was to notify owners of bridges over ditches that were in bad shape.

In 1908, I. E. Rockwell's Idaho Consolidated Mines Company owned and operated the Minnie Moore mine and the Relief mine, adjacent to the Minnie Moore to the west, and the Queen of the Hills mine, next to the Minnie Moore. By 1908, the Company opened the new Minnie Moore mill, and Rockwell's company, Rockwell - White Power Company,

1909

The fourth lawsuit over the waters from Seamands Creek was filed in 1909, *T.A. Joslyn v. M.J. Daly*, in which **Neil Campbell** intervened. Note - the names are spelled differently here than in the 1901 case, including the name of the creek.⁶³

The Court implemented the 1901 decision, and found that the plaintiff Joslyn, the defendant Daly and the intervener **Campbell** “are each entitled to use one-third of the waters of **Seamans Creek** in Muldoon Gulch, ...less the prior rights of the City of Bellevue to one hundred fifty inches, thereof.”⁶⁴

lost their water.

Beyond the Rockwell - White power plant, the canal split into two sections. The west section went down the tail race to the Minnie Moore millsite, and emptied water back in to the river below Broadford Road. The other section ran down the east side of the Highway 75 to 2nd Street in Bellevue, although it may have moved up to 3rd Street and run the length of the city according to Tom Blanchard, Bellevue’s City Administrator. The canal’s outlet to the river can still be seen down the hill on Kirtley, just below the bench. At the bottom of the hill, there is a river access trail that follows the tail race for a long way until the ditch branches to the east, eventually crossing Broadford Road just west of a trailer court. The power plant had an easement for an electrical line that ran down Broadford Road from Bellevue to the mill to supply power.

⁶³ District Court for the Fourth Judicial District, Blaine County Idaho. Blaine County Book of Judgments 46, page 421.

⁶⁴ The plaintiff T.A. Joslyn was a party in the 1901 case, to property originally owned by Kimbrough (a party in the 1891 case) in Sections 32, 33 and 34, Township 2 N, Range 19 E, known as the Kimbrough Ranch. Daly was a party in the 1901 case as the successor in interest to Galbraith (a party in the 1891 case) to property in Sections 31 and 32, Township 2 N, Range 19 E. **Neil Campbell** was the successor in interest to Buller, a party in the 1901 case, to property formerly owned by Simpson Goble (a party to the 1891 case), lots 4 and 5 in Section 6, Township 1 N, Range 19 E, and 118.17 acres in Section 31, Township 2 N, Range 19 E.

Note that the description of Campbell’s land in this case differs Buller’s land in the 1901 case. Buller’s land included lots 4 and 5 and other described areas in Section 6, Township 1 N, Range 19 E. Campbell’s land in this case in Section 6 did not mention anything except lots 4 and 5, and the other described land in Section 6 was not included in the 1909 case. Also, Campbell’s land in the 1909 case included 118 acres

The lawsuit sought to determine water rights in the Big and Little Wood Rivers, and all of their tributaries. The Decree and Findings of Fact were filed on December 13, 1909, and contain a history of water appropriation from the rivers and streams from the beginning of settlement in the 1880s. Its findings include the dates when individuals and corporations appropriated water from all of the rivers and creeks, the amount of each appropriation, and the lands irrigated by the waters claimed by the various water and irrigation companies.⁶⁵ Of interest, even though the cities of Shoshone and Hailey were parties, the city of Bellevue was not, indicating as in the 1891 case, that the waters of Seamand's Creek were not covered by the decree. Some of the parties to the Seamand's Creek litigation were parties to this case, including the Bullers. The court noted that the Brown Brothers and Miner Ditch was then known as the Miller and Packard ditch.

On January 7, 1909, the Council met to discuss amendments to the City Charter, to include: the power to establish fire and sprinkling districts; the right to bond the city not in excess of 15% of assessment value, and to provide a means for collection of the same. Ordinance 49 was passed limiting the number of saloons in Bellevue according to its population, and to tax the same. On February 10, the Council voted not to repeal Ordinance 48, closing saloons at midnight. On March 3, the Council approved the request of free use of city scales for weighing freight for Richfield, after obtaining consent from

⁶⁵ The corporations involved in the lawsuit include the Alturas Water Co., the Big Cottonwood Canal Co., the Big Wood River Reservoir & Canal Co., the Hailey Water & Power Co., the Idaho Electric Supply Co., the Idaho Consolidated Mines Co., the Kilpatrick Brothers Co., the Little Wood River Swine Raising Co., the Mullins Canal & Reservoir Co., the Shoshone Light & Water Co., and the Utah & Idaho Improvement Co.

Richfield.

On August 7, the Council condemned the sidewalk on the south side of **McFall's** Hotel and notice was sent to the owner to repair the same in 10 days or the City would do the work and charge the property. Notice was to be given to J. E. Rockwell to put in a bridge over his ditch by September 1, or the City would build it and charge the property.

On August 14, the Council opened the **bids for the new Water System**. The bid of **Stewart Campbell** (Neil Campbell's son) of \$3,998 was accepted, with work to be completed by October 1, 1909. On August 23, the Council decided to employ M. Brown of Sullivan & Sullivan to investigate the law regarding the bond issue and to outline proper ways to proceed. Sullivan & Sullivan was hired by the next meeting. The contractor on the water works agreed to make connections with houses at the contract price.

On September 9, the Council approved Ordinance 53, although its substance was not reported. An Inspector reported the water system was in good shape according to the engineer. On September 15, the Council gave notice of an election on the water bonds. On October 5, a report on the progress of the water system was made. The Marshal was instructed to contract for all bridges and ditches that had not been repaired after the owners received notice to do so. The Water Committee was authorized to execute **a deed from J. Daly for a new right of way for the pipe line and reservoir site**, and to arrange with Daly for points of access to the line which will be regarded as roadway to be used for repair fo the line or reservoir where the road crosses Daly's property. It was resolved that when the city received a deed from Daly for water rights deeded to Galbraith, the city would deed to Daly a similar amount of water to be taken out at a place to be agreed upon

still owned the hotel even though he lived in Shoshone and ran the McFall Hotel. His brother-in-law, **Neil Campbell**, operating the International Hotel for McFall.

\$60,000 Fire in Bellevue: About Half of it Covered by Insurance - Hailey's Promptness to Help Appreciated, Wood River Times, October 18, 1909.

At about half-past 7 o'clock last Saturday evening a fire broke out in the rear of the International Hotel in Bellevue, that seriously threatened the destruction of the city. The hotel burned like a house of cards, and the fire soon communicated to the barn of Dr. Allen, that was consumed.

Many other buildings in town were burned, destroyed, or threatened by the fire.

The handsome brick block of the Bellevue Mercantile Company, immediately adjoining the International Hotel soon caught fire and the whole roof and interior were destroyed, despite the utmost efforts of the people of Bellevue and Hailey.... The Bellevue Mercantile Company's brick block fronted 60 feet on Main Street. It was two stories high with basement, and 90 feet in depth. Excepting for a cement block addition in the rear that was unimpaired, the destruction was almost total, even the front wall may have to be pulled down. It was the largest and only two story business on Wood River.

The Mercantile Company building cost \$40,000 and had \$25,000 of merchandise, but was only insured for \$25,000. The Marshal Hotel behind the International suffered heat damage, but was saved by its "protecting shade trees," and a nearby house lost its barn and caught fire, but was extinguished with water buckets before major damage was done

Neil Campbell's blacksmith shop across the street from the hotel to the south also caught fire, and was "a complete loss." It was not insured. Campbell's house "adjacent to the blacksmith shop on the alley and facing second street, was saved only after great exertion by a bucket brigade headed by [his son] **Stewart Campbell**, in the absence in Boise of his father and mother." Ironically, it was **Stewart Campbell** who had the contract

on the lot to the north of the International (the Masonic Building) was built of brick. That building still stands. Most of the buildings on the west side of the street were constructed of wood. A picture taken of Main Street in the winter after Bellevue's fire of 1909, shows that many of the buildings on the west side of the street, across from the International Hotel site, had been rebuilt of stone or brick.

On November 5, the Council authorized the Mayor to appoint an assessor to assess the property in the sprinkling district. On November 22, bids for purchase of the bonds were opened, and a bid of \$750 for each \$1,000 of bonds was accepted. On December 1, the Council resolved to allow **Stewart Campbell**, the contractor on the Water Works project, be allowed the amount due for hold backs for back-filling on alleys and the main line, and fixing a leak on the main line. Deeds from Daly to the city were declined. On December 1, the Council ordered that a change in the deed from the City to Daly be made, to authorize a 1" pipe instead of a 3/4" pipe.

On December 20, the Council approved the bonds to be issued to finance the new water works. A copy of a bond can be found in the minutes. The bonds were sold to the Bellevue State Bank based on their bid of \$12,000. On December 27, the Clerk was instructed to file the deed from Mr. Daly for the record. A bill for \$5,721 was authorized to be paid for pipe.

1910

January 5, 1910, the Mayor announced that Al Cahoon wanted to trade the city, 75 inches of water in the north end of town for 50 inches in the south end of town. It was agreed that it would be better for Cahoon to take up the matter with the Ditch & Water Committee. On March 5, the Council resolved that the City Weigher **Neil Campbell** settle

per annum. The City shall have the power to grant or refuse to grant any license. All automobiles used for livery or carrying passengers shall pay a license of \$20 per annum. Any person violating the ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not less than \$10 and not more than \$50.

1911

On April 6, A. E. Cahoon addressed the Council concerning problems in the city. He wanted a team to be hired or purchased to sprinkle and clean the streets, ditches and hauling shale on the side walks. A fire chief should be appointed to coordinate a volunteer fire department, and have them practice so there would be someone to take command in the case of a fire. The resolution regarding the water system should be enforced. The city was overrun with dogs, and the city needs a dog pound, and there are horses, cows and sheep on the streets. The curfew for children should be enforced. The election results were reported: Jon A. Drager was elected Mayor.

On May 3, the Council appointed John Davis as fire chief. On May 18, a communication from **Matt McFall** was received, requesting that the alley in block 55 be opened to the public. On July 8, the Clerk was instructed to ask the railroad company to put in two crossings over the railroad tracks, one on Popular and one on Walnut Streets. On December 21, the Council asked McFadden & Broadhead to draft an ordinance collect water rent from property owners when payment was delinquent.

1912

The year 1912, was a time of economic difficulty for Bellevue.

On February 1, 1912, the city treasurer gave a report on the state of the city's

On July 10, the clerk was instructed to deliver to **Neil Campbell** a bill of sale for the city scales after receiving \$150. The alderman who met with the County assessor in Hailey, reported that the plat of Bellevue was not on file, and one was needed before a special levy could be implemented. Plans for the additions to the city were on file. The assessor said that **Stewart Campbell** could make a plat from field notes. The clerk was directed to interview **Campbell** to see if he would prepare a plat for \$10. On August 7, the clerk reported that **Stewart Campbell** would prepare the plat for \$10 as soon as he returned from the Lost River. The clerk reported that **Neil Campbell** wanted protection from the City Council in case he purchased the city scales. The scale matter was turned over to W. J. Lawrence for adjustment. A report was received from the State Feed and Sanitary Inspector saying the Water supply for Bellevue was in good condition. On September 4, the Council decided to pay **Stewart Campbell** \$5 and the additional \$5 on receipt of two extra maps. The Clerk was instructed to notify the owners fo the Third Street Ditch to fix the bridge near the Dayton residence temporarily until the water can be shut off and a concrete bridge be constructed as the owners suggested. The water committee was asked to investigate fixing the settling tank.

Bellevue suffered another serious fire in September of 1912, when the Central Hotel and the entire block in which it was located, burned down. The Central Hotel, owned by Mrs. Thompson, was located north of the International Hotel on Main Street between Elm and Cedar Streets. Two people died in the fire. The Wood River Times of September 3, 1912, reported: *A Calamitous Fire in Bellevue – Two Men Perish, Only the Trunks Being Unconsumed – Over \$12,000 Worth of Property Destroyed – The Loss Total.*

franchise to the Rockwell-White Power Company, to construct and maintain wires for conducting electrical current for light, heat and power in Bellevue. The power plant had been built in 1907, to provide power for the Minnie Moore Mine's mill. A committee was appointed to meet with Rockwell and discuss an agreement. On September 25, the committee reported that Rockwell intended to put in arc lights or its equivalent to light the narrow road ear the Miller residence in the north end of town. The charge was to be \$8 per light per month for Main Street lighting. It was the intention of the company to install ten or twelve lights at the street intersection in the section of town east of Main Street and leave it to the people to decide by vote whether they wish them left there. The trial to cost the people nothing. If the lights are left permanently, the rate will be \$3.16 per light per month, or \$38 a year per light. On October 2, Ordinance 59 was adopted, granting the franchise to the Rockwell-White Company. The committee to investigate fixing the narrow road near the Mrs. Miller residence be postponed until the Rockwell-White power company installed their line, as lights would be put in near the place and help to avoid any further accidents

On November 12, the Council asked the clerk to notify the Cramer Electric Co. that their services for lighting was no longer needed. The clerk was authorized to execute a contract with the Rockwell-White Power Company. The clerk was authorized to sign an order showing the location of Main Street lights and the road near the Miller residence.

1913

On January 3, 1913, the Council accepted a citizen petition to keep lights in the residential district, at a cost of \$3 per light per month. Since there was a deficit in the

On August 27, it was decided to order two hydrants. On September 18, the Council ordered that owners of the **Fifth Avenue ditch** be notified to put their bridges in good repair: across Elm Street, Pine Street, Walnut Street, and widen them to a width of 32 feet, and to install a new bridge across the ditch at Oak Street 32 feet in width, in accordance with the grant made on July 14, 1884. Legal action would be taken by the city if the work was not done. The law firm of Broadhead & McFadden were paid \$25 for services in relation to the Brown ditch matter. On October 24, the Council authorized the cutting off of water on anyone arrears in payments.

On October 31, the Council approved the request of Mr. Miller to move his house through Main Street to his ranch below town, and be allowed to temporarily remove all telephone and electric wires during the move, with Miller being responsible for all damage caused. On November 6, the Council received a communication from Rockwell-White Power Co. granting permission to remove electric wires on Mail street during the move of the Miller residence and barn.

1914

On January 7, 1914, the Council accepted a bid for \$40 for the City Scales, provided the buyer fill in the pit and leave the street in good shape. This finally resolved the dispute with **Neil Campbell** over the scales in front of his blacksmith shop that burned down in 1909. On March 6, the Council approved payment of \$70 to Rockwell-White Power Company for lights, the city finally having sufficient funds to pay the bill. The Council approved a license for Picture Show, at a fee of \$2 per month. On April 1, the Council accepted a subscription for a new cemetery fence, and the Cemetery committee was

was sent to Rockwell-White Power regarding lights in the residential district. On May 4, the Council adopted Ordinance 63, extending the franchise of the Idaho Light & Power Company for one year. On June 2, the Marshal was instructed to prohibit all ball playing on Main Street.

On August 4, it was reported that J. J. Gray said it was satisfactory to change the city's open ditch in his field. The Council resolved to write the State Engineer for permission to change the city weir point of diversion for city water in Gray's field. The city sold the city Scales to K P Brothers of Picabo for \$55, finally ending the scale issue.

On October 28, the Council met to discuss a new pipe line to be installed in the alley between Second and Third Streets. It approved letting a contract for digging 410 feet of ditch for a new pipe line and filling in the same. On November 12, the Council heard a report that the new pipe line was inspected and it was in first class condition.

On December 1, the Council resolved to notify Mr. A. E. Cahoon to remove the drain in his irrigation ditch in 10 days.

1916

On April 5, 1916, the Council disallowed the bill from Rockwell-White Power Company until a meeting to adjust the matter of lights in the residential district. On May 1, the Council suggested that the Water Works Committee go over the ground relative to changing the open ditch in Gray's field. It was resolved to change the speed limit from six to twelve miles per hour.

On May 31, the Council met to discuss the request from the **Glendale Farmers Mutual Company to construct a line in the city**. The Council granted permission for

“Work Begun on Big Dam; 23,000 inches water to be diverted from Wood River; a large area of land near Bellevue to be irrigated.” The Utah and Improvement Company had sold its bonds, bought all the necessary equipment, hired a large number of men and teams, and work will begin the next Monday on a diversion dam that will divert 23,000 inches of water which will flow through the old Kingsbury & Madison canal and ditch, to irrigate 23,000 to 46,000 acres.

This is as fine land as there is out of doors. It will produce abundantly alfalfa, all kinds of grains, red, white and alsike clover, for seed, hay timothy, red top and pasture grasses. Dairying, hogs, beef, sheep and horse raising are very profitable. All kinds of vegetables, tree and small fruit of all kinds do well; field peas and beans grow prolifically.

The Wood River railroad ran through the land, as did the state highway. The land would be sold in 40 to 80 acre lots at an average price of \$60 per acre, including the water rights. The project was in the hands of substantial men in high standing in their communities, including John C. Cahoon, the President of the Salt Lake Pressed Brick Company; Col. Haynes, an Oregon hop grower; and A. E. Cahoon of Bellevue, who is the manager. The project began almost in the suburbs of Bellevue and would contribute to the prosperity of the Gate City.

The Brown Brothers canal irrigated lands to the east of the Oregon Short Line tracks along the foothills, and the Cahoon ditch irrigated lands west of the railroad tracks. John Coveny owned what is now the Cove Ranch, and his land was located both east and west

District 45 or Wood River Valley Irrigation District canal. Maps show the District 45 canal running parallel to and immediately east of the railroad right of way south of Bellevue.

proper and safe condition.

On September 7, the Marshal reported that he had turned water into the new ditch, but Daly and **Neil Campbell** had entered “a protect with the State Engineer who advised the Marshal to leave the water as it was previously.”

1918

On April 2, 1918, the Water Works Committee reported it would cost \$150 to repair the filtering tank, and a contract was approved. On August 8, Ordinance 69 was adopted, defining vagrancy.

On October 12, the clerk was instructed to notify **Neil Campbell** that if he did not pay his water rent regularly every month, his pipe would be cut. On November 6, the clerk was instructed to look up **Neil Campbell's** water right, since he stated he has one inch of water due to him in payment of a right of way through his property for the pipe system of the city. On December 4, the Council instructed the clerk to notify Douglas Miller to repair the bridges over his ditch (the one that runs along the last street in the southern part of Bellevue known as Chestnut Street).

1919

The main issue for the Council in 1919, was a plan to expand the Water Works, that was put up to a vote of the people in November.

The published **monthly rates for the Bellevue Water Works for 1919** are as follows: private dwelling, \$1.50; barber shop, first chair, \$1, second chair, \$.50; public bath tub, \$.50, private bath tub, \$.25; water closet, hotel saloon or store, \$.50; water closet, private, \$.25; butcher shop, \$2; forge, \$.50; laundry, \$5; printing office, \$.50; restaurant,

48 hours. The **water committee reported** that the plan to catch seepage water from the canyon was not feasible; the well they sunk near the settling tank did not strike any water. The plan of running a pipe line up to the springs was discussed. Engineer Wiley of Boise will be asked to go over the ground and pass judgment on the plan.

On July 7, the Council resolved to **notify the LeMoyne Brothers, Carl Grayson and Robert Campbell** that there was considerable complaint regarding the water supply of the city and the pressure that exists. If the water was not delivered to the city in the amount that is decreed to them, it would be necessary to appoint a water master in that stream.

In a letter to Mayor Martin dated July 14, 1919, **A. J. Wiley, a Boise Consulting Engineer, provided advice about improving Bellevue's water supply** by diverting 150 inches of water from a spring located on the LaMoyne Farms property in Muldoon Canyon, into a new 7,000 foot pipe running to the intake for the city's water supply from Seamand's creek further down the canyon. The plan was to bring the water into the city limits and then discharge it into an open ditch for use for garden irrigation. The engineer noted that this use of the spring water might be in conflict with a new ditch dug from the springs by the ranch owner. This was the first step in a trade of water rights in 1920, where Bellevue dramatically improved its water system.

On July 26, a **proposed bond election** was discussed. It was proposed to issue \$12,000 of bonds to be issued to pay for the improvements to the water works. On August 6, the Council heard a complaint about the loose stock running in the city's streets, and it ordered the ordinance on stock be enforced. There was apparently another fire in

sheep, as well as a need for its minerals. "When World War I broke out the demand for wool was great and Shoshone boomed once again."⁷² Central Idaho prospered during the war, and many of its farmers expanded their property holdings to take advantage of the new opportunities through extensive borrowing from banks, steps they would regret later. Idaho's mineral production increased significantly during World War I:

During the war, there was a large increase in production of lead, silver, zinc and copper, owing to the high prices of these metals....This situation is well shown by noting that in 1917 the total mineral production was \$54,845,153, of which \$804,809 was gold; an increase of over 100 per cent in lead, silver, zinc and copper, and a decrease of over 60 per cent in gold.⁷³

During World War I, mineral production in the Wood River Valley "was up" due to war demand, and the mines utilized new or little-developed deposits of an earlier era. Increased production in 1917 came from the Independence Mine on a tributary of Elkhorn Creek four miles east of Ketchum.⁷⁴

However, after the war, times change dramatically. Idaho was hit by an agricultural depression in the 1920s, well before the rest of the country was affected by the Great Depression.

But with the war over, excess productive capacity led to farm price collapse starting in 1920. Idaho potatoes that commanded a price of \$1.51 a bushel in 1919 brought only \$.31 in 1922. Idaho corn fell from \$1.65 a bushel in 1919 to \$.50 two years later. In the process of overexpanding at high wartime costs, too many farmers had assumed heavy mortgages based upon a greatly overinflated price structure. Then a severe market collapse left them incapable of meeting their mortgage payments. Aside from heavy losses to farmers, this unfortunate situation brought a rash of

⁷² *Shoshone Idaho: Survivor*, page 17.

⁷³ Campbell, Stewart, *Mining Industry of Idaho for the year 1921*, page 6.

⁷⁴ Spence, *For Wood River or Bust*, pages 228-229.

In 1920, Bellevue had a population of 629. Major improvements to Bellevue's water works waited for over a decade after the city acquired the water works, which happened in 1920 under the leadership of Mayor Herman J. Martin. Bellevue finally gained full control over its domestic water supply in 1920, improved its quality, and took steps to introduce water under pressure to the city.

On January 7, the Council authorized **contacting Mr. LeMoyne to make arrangements regarding the right of way for the proposed new pipeline extension.**

The city's attorney was directed to draw up a contract for a right of way through LeMoyne's field and maintaining the new pipeline, the right to excavate the spring and the right to develop any of the other springs that may be required to get the amount of water due the city. M on February 4, a petition was delivered to the Council to place street lights in other neighborhoods presently without them. The clerk was instructed to contact the manager of the Wood River Power Company to obtain a proposition. On February 27, a draft contract between the city and LeMoyne Farm & Livestock co. was approved. On April 7 the election results were reported; H. J. Martin was reelected Mayor.

On May 19, the Council authorized Mayor Martin to sign a contract with LeMoyne Farms. **A Memorandum Agreement signed on July 9, 1920, between the City of Bellevue and the LaMoyne Farm and Livestock Company,** allowed Bellevue to extend its water works by granting a 10 foot right of way over the LaMoyne property to allow the installation of underground pipes to bring water from the springs into the city, part of a plan to replace the open ditch that had previously been used to supply Bellevue's water. The agreement said that Bellevue had the right to use 150 inches of water from Seaman's

On July 16, Ordinance 73 was adopted, authorizing the issuance of \$11,000 of city bonds to pay for the work on the water works.

1921

In 1921, Bellevue had \$200,901.69 of assessed value of real estate. Mayor Martin continued his work to improve the city's water supply, and proposed building a new water works in 1921. To finance the project, voters approved the issuance of \$11,000 bonds, a special tax, and a sinking fund to retire the bond. A researcher on Bellevue history said "I am impressed with the detail and definiteness of the contracts agreed to which brought the 1921 version of Bellevue's water system into being."⁸⁰

Sunday closing hours generated a significant controversy in 1921. On January 5, the owner of the theater petitioned the Council for the right to run his show on Sunday nights, and the Council approved the request. On January 21, a citizens' petition was submitted protesting the exhibition of picture shows on Sunday nights. The Council modified its approval to grant the right to show pictures only for the next three Sunday nights. On March 2, 27 voters submitted a petition for the Council to submit the issue of Sunday night shows to a vote of the people. The Council agreed to submit the issue for a vote the next general election. On April 6, election results were reported: H. J. Martin was reelected Mayor. The Council adopted Ordinance 75, permitting the exhibition of motion picture shows on Sunday night.

On May 16, the Council approved a **temporary exchange of water from Seaman's Creek** with C. M. Grayson, and a copy of the two page Agreement was made part of the

⁸⁰ *Dispute Threatens Key Bellevue Water Right*, Mountain Express, 2/16/07; Patterson, *Water Under Pressure Comes to Bellevue*, page 3.

Bellevue upgraded its water system again in 1922.

On April 5, 1922, election results were announced; H. Martin was reelected Mayor. On September 6, J. C. Vernon Engineer attending the meeting to consult with the Council about installing a new pipe line. The Council hired Vernon as an engineer to draft plans and specifications for a new water system. On October 19, the Council denied the request of the Oregon Short Line Railroad to install crossing signs at its street crossings in town, since they would interfere with traffic and were not necessary since the speed limit was seven miles per hour. There was discussion of a pipeline to the LeMoyne ranch house. An individual line from the spring to the house would be more satisfactory.

On October 5, bids for **purchasing pipe for the new pipeline** were opened, and the bid from Continental Pipe Mfg. Co. of Seattle was accepted. On October 9, Engineer Vernon agreed to do the necessary engineering for the installation of the new water system, furnish all necessary plans, maps and specifications, and to supervise the installation for \$770 was accepted. On October 18, it was reported that quicksand had been discovered in the springs, and the immediate installation of cement work to save the flow of water was suggested. Ordinance 79 for the letting of a contract for the extension of the water line was adopted.

On November 24, the bid from Continental Pipe Mfg. Co. of Seattle for pipe was accepted. A bid from Mr. Vernon was accepted.

On November 1, the Council denied J. F. Daley's request for permission to carry water in the Whitton ditch for domestic purposes, since the water might damage property owners lower down the ditch. Engineer Vernon suggested that a fence be installed around the springs to protect the springs and cement work.

& Live Stock Company stating they had abandoned the **Third Street Ditch** and it would no longer be responsible for repair to the bridges over the same.

1925

In 1925, Bellevue had an assessed valuation of \$167,639. On January 26, the Council discussed a summons received by the city from Mr. Hicks claiming he was owed \$625 because the city apportioned more than its share of the waters of Seamands Creek. The city decided to hire McFadden & Perkins to represent it. On April 14, the election results were reported: H. J. Martin was reelected as Mayor.

On May 12, **Neil Campbell** petitioned the Council requesting permission to erect a gasoline and oil service station on his lot below his barn, with a porch projecting over the street. This was on his lot at the corner of Main and Oak Streets, where his blacksmith shop and livery stable had been located (they burned down in the fire of 1909 that also destroyed the International Hotel). The Council approved his request with certain limitations and that McFadden and Perkins draw up a contract with Campbell paying for their work. On May 18, **Campbell** applied for permission to

erect a Service Station on his lot below the Livery Stable on Main Street; said building to be build in good condition, painted white, with red roof; gas tank to be erected on the sidewalk edge; porch to cover drive way and to the sidewalk edge; and to project over the street about six or seven feet, but no posts will be beyond the side walk. The building will be first class in every respect, with ladies toilet and rest room. It will be an ornament to the town and something that every citizen will be proud of.

A picture of the proposed building was drawn on the letter. **Neil Campbell** died in Bellevue on August 20, 1925, at age 76. It is difficult to tell whether Neil built his service station prior to his death. The 1928 Sandborn map shows that the lot where his blacksmith shop was

service interrupted for two years by Leslie E. Outz.⁸² An article in *Idaho: The Place and its People*, published in 1933, said that George was first elected sheriff in 1928, and was reelected in 1930. George's 1951 obituary said he was Blaine County Sheriff for eight years, and "every one knows him as a man of thorough capability, reliable, resourceful, prompt and efficient in discharging all his obligations and duties." George "was the first native son of old Alturas to bear the distinction of holding this office," and was the first native of Blaine County to be elected Sheriff.⁸³

1927

On February 11, the Cove Ranch Land & Livestock Co. wrote the city clerk a letter advising that the company abandoned the Cove Ditch which passes through Bellevue, "which we have not used for a number of years." The letter was read at the March 7 Council meeting. On April 6, a committee was appointed to investigate bridges over ditches and see if culvert pipe could be installed. **George Campbell** was appointed to the committee. On May 2, the Mayor suggested the Council meet concerning the purpose of looking at bridges over abandoned ditches.

On August 3, the clerk was authorized to advertise for bids for repairing City Hall, re-shingling the entire building, putting shiplap on the south side and the ceiling of the hose house, putting lumber on the ceiling of the Council chamber, putting siding on the west end of the building, and painting the west and the south side and the belfry. On September 7,

⁸² The History of Idaho Sheriffs 1863-2000, www.blainesherriff.com/our_history.htm.

⁸³ Stenton, Bert, *Bellevue, the Gate City of Wood River*, Hailey Times, 75th Anniversary Edition, 1956, reprinted in The Wood River Journal, Bellevue Centennial Edition, May 26, 1983, page 26; Defenbach, *Idaho: The Place and Its People*, page 307.

1929

In 1929, the assessed value of Bellevue property was \$167,017. On April 3, election results were reported: E. H. Stanton was elected Mayor receiving five votes. The incumbent mayor, H. J. Martin, received one vote.

On June 12, the Council met to discuss installing head gates, checks and measuring devices on **Seamans Creek** and the expense of doing so. Attorney Van Wrinkle said the city had no liability in the matter but he wanted to discuss it with the water master. The Council resolved that the water master put in head gates and get the ditch in shape to take the city's share of water out of the ditch. On July 8, the clerk reported he had been negotiating with the bond firm that handled the bond issue for the Water Works, and they agreed to refund \$6,000 of water works bonds for the sum of \$500. The Council resolved to accept their offer.

1931

The assessed value of Bellevue's property for 1931, was \$146,752.

On February 25, 1931, the Council accepted a resolution from the State Department of Public Works to improve the Sawtooth Park State Highway within Bellevue, by grading, draining and surfacing with crushed rock to be followed with an oil treatment, as part of a Federal Aid Project. Measures had to be taken by the city to prevent the erection of advertising signs, vending establishments or structures encroaching on the right of way, and that no speed restrictions be imposed on the route without approval of the Department. This road was a way for opponents of a proposed Sawtooth National Park to buy off

150 to 100 watts. On April 6, the election results were reported: H. J. Martin was reelected Mayor. On October 5, the Mayor was directed to meet with the Highway engineer regarding the proper covering of water pipes and new water cutoff boxes along the Main Street.

1933

Bellevue was experiencing problems with its Water Works in 1933, likely from the old wooden pipes leaking, and began to look for sources of money to do the necessary repairs, looking initially to the federal government for help, since the city had no available money.

On April 5, 1933, the election results were announced: H. H. Martin was reelected as Mayor, getting 4 votes. On May 1, the company holding the city's water bonds asked that a special levy be assessed to pay the bonds that the company had; the city would respond saying it is doing it could at present.

On November 7, the Council received a letter from the State Engineer for the Federal Emergency Administration regarding **a loan for the city to fix its water system**. On December 5, the Council discussed the possibility of obtaining a loan for repairing the water system, and it was decided to get the necessary information together and submit it to the proper authorities. The Council resolved to adopt the Silver Creek water reservoir project.

1934

On January 2, 1934, the Council read a letter from Irwin E. Rockwell about the new pipeline installation. The clerk and watermaster were authorized to make a map of the city

On September 8, the Council approved the renewal as Ordinance 99, of the franchise for the West Coast Power Company, the initial one expiring on October 2, 1937, with some changes.

On November 2, the Sun Valley officials asked for the loan or purchase of the bill changer in the City Hall. The Council agreed to loan it to Sun Valley.

1938

On January 6, 1938, **Mrs. Campbell** and Mrs. Merrick discussed problems arising from the ice rink near **Campbell's** barn being built by the Civic Club. It was decided to ask that the city install a cutoff near the rink enabling the builders to use water through a garden hose. The assessed value of Bellevue's property was \$115,206.

On April 5, election results were announced: H. J. Martin was reelected Mayor, George Campbell was reelected as an alderman. On May 2, a bill of \$132 for pipe was approved. The watermaster was empowered to employ help to clean the settling tank and springs and repair the headgate on Seamand's Creek. **George Campbell** was appointed to the Committee on Water Works. A bill of **Neil Campbell** for labor of \$1.05 was approved. **Neil was the son of Dan Campbell, and the grandson of Neil Campbell.**

On August 2, an official of the Department of Public Health informed the Council as to the condition of the city Water System. After more tests were completed, the source of the impurities could probably be determined. Until that was done, there was nothing more to be done. There was a report that the WPA was going to build privies for families in Bellevue. **Neil Campbell** was paid \$32 for labor. It was reported that the WPA would furnish all labor for the purpose of using material furnished by the city in constructing the

from Fred R. Fenton Company of Boise, discussing his letter offering to handle a bond issue for the work. Bellevue wanted to issue \$18,000 of bonds "for the rehabilitation of the present water system." He suggested refunding \$8,800 of outstanding bonds issued earlier in the century dur serially until 1942, to thin out the maturities on the present indebtedness, so the city would not have a large amount of bonds coming due in any one year.. The Company would handle the bond issuance for a fee of 5% fo the par value of the bonds. The offer was accepted. The city attorney was to prepare a letter explaining the details to the people of Bellevue.

On February 14, the Council decided to use old pipe from the springs to the settling tanks, with new pipe from there to town and through the distribution system. Surface water would be taken out at the settling tanks. The plans were approved. A WPA representative gave an outline of the project through the various offices of the government.

On March 10, the Council gave a letter of appreciation to Representative Allen and Senator Heagle for their work done at the capitol getting the city bond bill passed. The bill would allow the city Council to set the tax levy up to 25 mills to meet payments on bond issues as they come due. After approval of the people by a 2/3 majority, to issue bonds up to 30% of the assessed value of the city to maintain, equip and construct a new water system.

On April 4, the Council addressed the issue of the reconstruction of the water system and plant, by installing mains, laterals, cutoffs, fire hydrants, intakes, catch basins, and other necessary instrumentalities along the existing water system and plan in the streets and alleys in Bellevue. The pipes would run southerly and easterly from Bellevue 15,000 feet. The plant would be equipped with all machinery and tools necessary to

refunded by the issuance of new bonds. Bids were opened from pipe manufacturers for pipe for the project. Bids ranged from \$9,672 to \$16,013. The Council decided not to select a bid at the meeting. On June 15, a special meeting was held to report on the bond issuance vote held on June 10. 88 votes were cast and all were in favor of the bond issuance. In the next meeting, the Council hired Raymond Briggs, of Boise, an experienced civil engineer, as a consulting and supervising engineer for the water supply project, for a fee of \$2,000. M. Drager was hired as foreman over the WPA men.

On June 24, the Council directed the clerk to get a bid for 4" steel pipe and fittings to come with the 8" steel pipe which was furnished by the government. On June 26, Engineer Briggs reported that 3,000 feet of 4" 12 gauge steel dipped and wrapped special welded pipe with dresser couplings and necessary fittings would be required for Main Street. On July 6, Engineer Briggs reported that the new pipe line on Main Street would be on the curb side of the old one, so it would not be necessary to dig up the old pipe. He was given authority to seek permission of the Highway Department to cross Main Street. He also was given authority to prepare an order for 8" pipe from R. Hardesty Mfg. Co., to be shipped in one car load. The Council decided to rent **George Campbell's** barn to store WPA tools for the project, for \$10 per month. This was **Neil Campbell's** barn used for his livery stable operations at Oak and Main Street Streets. The Campbell sons inherited the barn and property after Neil died in 1925. On August 8, the Council heard a report that the State Land Board would buy \$5,000 of Bellevue's bonds. T. L. Martin would buy \$5,000 of them. Ordinance 108 authorizing the sale of the bonds was adopted.

On September 7, a pipe line agreement with the State was approved and signed, permitting water lines to be laid across the state highway. In exchange for \$1, the state

estimated to be \$59,618. The city had exceeded project construction requirements and purchased materials far in excess of project demand, have all required approvals within actual disbursements of \$28,000. The project provided for \$40,164 of WPA labor, and there was \$30,000 in WPA labor still available. "At this stage we envisage a water system of almost double the extend of the project, and secured within the financial limitations of the City of Bellevue."

On March 19, the Mayor announced that the city's requisition for materials for the settling basis to be furnished by the WPA had been granted.

On April 4, the election results were reported: H. J. Martin was reelected mayor. **George Campbell** lost the election, and was not returned to the Council, receiving only 8 votes. He had served on Bellevue's Council since 1926.

On May 6, the city attorney informed the Council that the old pipe line easement granted by the LeMoynes was no good and the recent easement granted by J. M. Wright and J. W. Robertson were no good because of the fact that the mortgagees had not signed them. New easements were being prepared. West Coast Power sought permission to build a 44,000 volt power line through alley No. 2, saying it would be thoroughly modern line using a new tyupe of static eliminating insulators on the proposed line and on the present line. The matter was tabled. On May 21, a petition of 72 residents was presented asking the Council to deny the request for a new power line. The Council voted to reject the power line. On June 6, the Civic Club said it would pay for new pipe for the water supply for the cemetery and asked the city to provide WPA labor to install 200 feet of pipe. It was not possible to dig a new line since crops were planted, but the WPA will be asked to repair the existing cemetery line. The city attorney told the Council that

same amount of water if the city's development work affected his water flow. The Council determined that Robertson's spring was seepage water from the city's spring and the city had 150 inches of water rights, which for the past several years, it had received very little of what it was entitled to. The Council would visit the springs with Mr. Robertson.

On September 5, Engineer Briggs told the Council of his efforts in lining up the WPA to make more materials contributed to the water works project. On November 7, the Council accepted a bid for 400 feet of new fire hose. The Council decided to hire a man to keep the spring screens clean during the winter months. On December 11, the Council approved plans for intake chambers for collecting water at the springs for a reservoir feed line, presented by Engineer Briggs.

1941

On January 9, 1941, the water project was discontinued during the winter months until May 1. On March 6, the Council approved the purchase of fire extinguishers. On April 15, election results were reported; H. J. Martin was reelected Mayor.

On July 17, Engineer Briggs sought a formal release and final payment of his wages, and he requested payment of an additional sum. It was decided to pay him the final \$250 due him. The WPA asked for the city to accept the water project as finished and satisfactory. The Council deferred action on the request. On December 4, the Council accepted the water works and a letter of acceptance was to be sent to the WPA.

1942

World War II had started after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. On March 5, 1942, a civilian defense and air raid protection organization was discussed. On ordinance covering emergencies during air raids was discussed.

power franchise. The Clerk presented a quote for 10 inch 12 gauge spiral Welded steel pipe, dipped and wrapped 23 ½ pounds at \$1.10 per foot. Ordinance 119 was adopted, providing for a 10 mill special tax for general municipal purposes, and 5 mills for the Water Works and Library purposes. J. W. Robertson was given permission to tap the water pipe below the first inflow with a two inch pipe to maintain his own pipe line, and if the Robertson spring flow returned, he is to return the water to the City Water System. A new headgate was to be made of cement for Seaman Creek and a new channel to be made as soon as possible.

On December 14, the Idaho Power Company suggested an improvement to the city's lighting system, that would be better than its present system. The city resolved to put in four 500 watt lamps, and the Company was to draw up a contract for street lights including improvements and repair as necessary.

1945

On February 8, the Council determined the City was responsible for the pipe line from the Main to the cut off. On April 12, election results were reported: H. J. Martin was reelected Mayor receiving 6 votes.

1946

The assessed value of Bellevue's property was \$113,797. On April 11, election results were reported: George H. Merrick received 57 votes, Sidney M. Dragen received 14 votes and H. J. Martin received 7 votes. This was the end of an era for Bellevue, as Martin served as Mayor since the teens, and took the city through the hard times of the Agricultural Depression of the 1920s, the Great Depression of the 1930s, and World War II, and greatly improved Bellevue's Water System several times.

adopted, permitting the retail sale of liquor by the drink, with charges of annual license fees of \$225.

1948

On January 2, 1948, the Mayor reported it would be necessary to get a bonding company interested in buying bonds for the completion of the **Water Works**. The Clerk was to contact bond companies, and contact Engineer Briggs.

On June 4, McFadden reported he did not have the papers ready for the bond election but they would be ready the next meeting. On July 2, the Council adopted a Ordinance 128, calling for a **bond election to secure \$27,000 of funds to complete, repair, rehabilitate, improve and extend the present water system owned by the city, and to install a chlorination system**. In the election of July 27, the First Ward voted 42 to 1 in favor, and the Second Ward voted 24 to 4 in favor. On September 22, a discussion of the bond sale took place. The bonds would raise the city's indebtedness to \$46,000.

1949

The assessed value of Bellevue property was \$144,272,. On April 9, election results were reported: Sam McNary was elected Mayor. On May 2, a letter from Engineer Briggs discussed preparing papers for bids for eh proposed Water Project. On June 10, the Council and Engineer Briggs discussed financing of the water project. Sale of the bonds would bring the city's indebtedness to \$46,000, and the city would prefer to finance the project by other means. Briggs described how other places were handling the situation. I.E. Rockwell suggested seeing how many bonds could be sold locally.

On August 4, the city attorney discussed the Whitten Ditch. There was still no

owrk laying the pipe lines.

1953

On March 6, 1953, the Silver Star-Queen Mines, Inc. requested a lease or purchase of a strip of land near the railroad where the oil tank was located. The Silver Star-Queen Mines, Inc. was established in 1928, by Stewart Campbell, Neil Campbell's son, to hold title to two of his mines, the Queen of the Hills Mine near Bellevue, and the Silver Star Mine in Camas County over Dollarhide Summit. Beginning in 1949, the Silver Star - Queen Mines, Inc. operated both the Minnie Moore and Queen of the Hills Mines, and brought new jobs and prosperity to the Valley.⁸⁶

On May 4, election results were reported: Sam McNary was reelected Mayor. On October 14, the Chamber of Commerce suggested preserving the Old Jail Louise ot its

⁸⁶ In 1949, the Silver Star-Queens Mines Co, began rehabilitating the Rockwell shaft of the Minnie Moore under a working agreement to access the lower levels of the Queen of the Hills mine. During the summer, the headframe was replaced and the shaft was retimbered, and by the end of the year, pumps were unwatering the shaft and the old workings of the Minnie Moore. In addition to the work at the Queen, the company drilled a hole from the Hershey crosscut to the 1,000 foot level of the old Minnie Moore workings, to drain the old workings through the Rockwell shaft. In 1950, the Silver Star-Queen Mines, Inc. formally acquired the Minnie Moore property under a 25 year lease and bond, calling for a 10% royalty until the owners had been credited with seven million tons of lead. The Rockwell shaft was dewatered and the company cleaned out the 250 and 450 levels. On October 16, 1951, the Silver Star-Queen Mines, Inc. obtained a Defense Minerals Administration contract for \$133,837, with 50% government participation to operate the mines. A third of the contract involved work on the Queen and the rest for work on the Minnie Moore. Work under the Defense Minerals Administration contract continued through 1953, and explorations were done below the 450 level of the Rockwell shaft. In 1952, 42 rail cars of ore were shipped from the property. In 1953, the company connected the Hershey crosscut with the 1,000 level of the old Minnie Moore workings, and 48 rail cars of ore were shipped. Work continued until a second DMEA contract was obtained in 1955. Most of the work was directed toward exploring the Queen veins through the Rockwell shaft. "Large shipments of ore were made from the property every year from 1956 and 1959." All came from the Queen. Mitchell, *History of the Minnie Moore Mine*, page 32 - 34.

Uhrig Construction to see if they would extend the pipe line for \$.60 a foot and have the work done as soon as possible. On August 5, the Public Health Department reported that the water was safe.

On September 3, the Armco Drainage & Metal Products said it must know the kind and size of the pipe the city needed. The Department of Public Works has suggestions for the Water Works. Install a chlorinator. Send in a water sample for bacteriological testing. Weir boxes should have covers that do not allow water to enter. After cleaning, the tanks should be disinfected. Keep brush and growth from the spring area, and fence the spring area to prevent access by livestock.

1956

On April 6, 1956, election results were reported: I. J. Johnson was elected Mayor. This is the end of the Council Minutes that were copied.

whatever. This was only in '39, it was a WPA project too, they put a water system around Bellevue here. They'd had wooden lines in parts of it. They put in steel lines at that time.... up to about Fourth Street.... They put the main line down with the springs too, that was kind of developed partially at that time. Later, about 1947 or '48, they put steel lines from the, what they called the settling tanks east of Bellevue into town to replace the old wooden lines that kept caving in.⁸⁷

Another Wood River resident whose family were early settlers, Charlotte Rice, discussed the method of obtaining water rights in the early days, which included some dishonesty in their claims. Her family had a farm south of Ketchum near where the Red Top was then located.

Q: Well, you mentioned filing for water rights, you know, that you had 160 inches...

A: ...the people whose...who homesteaded the ground in here filed for their water...

Q: At the courthouse or...?

A: ...yes. They...at the beginning when people first started settling this they didn't have to file for the water. They just...went to the river and ...got out what water they could get out. They dug a ditch and ...they didn't have to file on the water. And then...I don't know, I think it was about 1918 to 1920, they passed a law that you had to file on this water and it became your water then, you see? Before that you had just take out of the river what you could get...or what you wanted. But now you had...you had to file on this and it became your water right....

I don't believe there was any cost to the filing. And...now, that was before 1920, it must have been about 1915 that they passed that law. And you weren't allowed to file on more than two inches an acre...of the ground you owned. And there's a lot of people...were honest about it, that you filed according to the year you claimed you used it, when it was first used....and...if you were smart enough...to lie a little bit about it, you had a good water right. And the people who were strictly honest, didn't get good water rights at all. Because...so many of them would say, I used this water in ...1883, or even back to 1881. Now, the place that my folks had the...part of it, there was a 160 inches and – now these filings must have been before - - must have been about 1908, I guess they filed - - started filing for water. And...old Grandmother Traeger, she has sense enough to stretch the truth, and she swore that this old Bledsoe on this one part of the ranch had sued 160 inches on the part of his ground that he homesteaded. And he...it was 1881, that he was supposed to have used that. And he had... he had only moved in the fall of the year and

⁸⁷ Interview of Joe and Teresa Bergin, Ketchum Library, pages 9, 26, 27.