

History of Harrison

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Harrison developed from a squatters homestead to a thriving village in about twelve years. A branch of the O.R. & N. Railroad from Tekoa, Washinton, to Harrison was completed in 1890 and was a prime factor in the development of Harrison.

In 1891 Silas W. Crane settled on a timbered tract which joins the present city on the south and east. He built the first house in Harrison which remained in the Crane family until 1936. The building is now used as the Crane House Museum. The same year Fred Grant purchased the Fisher Brothers Sawmill in St. Maries and moved it to Harrison. Known as Grants Mill it had a capacity of 60 thousand feet per day.

In 1892 S.W. Crane opened a General Store. In 1893 the first Post Office was established, the name was chosen and W.E. Crane became the first postmaster. W.S. Bridgeman opened a Gen. Merc. in 1893, another General Store was opened in 1894 by W.A. Reiniger.

The first newspaper called the Signal was established in 1895, later it was known as the Mountain Messenger and in 1900 became known as The Searchlight. A paper with that name is still published annually by the Oldtime Picnic Committee.

In 1895 a Methodist Church was erected and School District #29 was formed. The first year of school was taught by Mr. Edelbute in the Methodist Church. The first school was erected in 1896 and by 1903 there were 59 students.



purchased the property later that year and Harrison was connected to outside world.

The next few years saw the opening of the First National Bank of Harrison, the Opera House, various drug, grocery, hardware, furniture, clothing & jewelry stores along with tailoring, blacksmithing and shoemaker shops, and restaurants, hotels and a hospital. For a time around the turn of the century Harrison was the largest town in Kootenai County. In 1911 the City Directory reported a population of 1,250. Harrison's growth was a result of the development of 8 or more sawmills & box factories. With the mills and woods jobs, approx. 280 men were employed with a combined monthly payroll around \$25,000. Millions of board feet of timber were stored in the lake at Harrison. Lake Coeur d'Alene and the St. Joe and Coeur d'Alene rivers were the major transportation routes for timber coming out of the areas forests.

In 1917 the Grant Lumber Company caught fire and the ensuing blaze consumed about half of the business district. Much of the town was never rebuilt. The easiest way to get to Harrison was by water. The OWR&N Company which absorbed the OR&N railroad, constructed a 600 passenger steamer called "The Harrison" for transportation. There were several other steamers such as the Georgie Oakes that carried passengers and freight making the depot a popular place for area children. Passenger service was discontinued in the early 1920's but they

The original townsite was in the form of a triangle and covered approx. 23 acres. The Village of Harrison was Incorporated on July 21st, 1899. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Harrison was held July 24, 1899. George W. Thompson was elected as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

In August of 1901 a Spokane Company was granted a franchise to put in a water system with a pumping plant at a cost of \$20,000. An electric light plant was also installed in 1901 by Kimmel Brothers at a cost of \$8,000.

The following year came the telephone, connecting Harrison with points up the St. Joe and Coeur d'Alene rivers. Rocky Mountain Bell

continued to haul freight until 1932 when the line was abandoned.

Many early day photo's are on display at the Crane Historical Society Museum along with a lot of information about Harrison. Community spirit continues today with the Old Time Picnic, which is always held the last weekend in July.

"The Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes" is a welcome addition to the Harrison area. The Trail is 72 miles of easy riding and runs from Plummer to Mullan. If you have time, bring your bike (or rent one) and see for yourself.

There have been changes in ownership of some businesses, some new businesses up & running, and more expected. Check it out.

Discover Harrison, Idaho
City of Harrison, P.O. Box 73, Harrison, ID 83833
Telephone: 208-689-3212 - FAX: 208-689-9014

Last updated on 7/10/2014 10:31:47 AM

IDAHO SURVEYING AND RATING BUREAU

REPORT No. 4

Date of This Report: June 10, 1928

Last Report No. 3, September 22, 1922

HARRISON

KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO

CITY IN GENERAL

Incorporated. **Population** 450. The Export Lumber Company has a sawmill northeast of town. On the Northern Pacific Railroad. **Topography and Grades:** Ground rises from lake to beyond the town. In a general way, north-and-south streets roughly follow contour lines, and vary from level to moderate grades; while the east-and-west streets are short and very steep, many of them not being available for other than pedestrian traffic. The P.M.D. is fairly flat. Elevation of the lake at Harrison (mean) 2126; P.M.D. about 55 ft. higher, and of town in general varies from lake level to about 2500. **Climatic Conditions:** High winds occasional. Moderately long, warm summers with occasional showers. Winter temperatures moderate with short periods of cold weather. Snowfall moderate to heavy. Prevailing winds from the northwest. **Fire Record:** No record, but believed moderately high. Two sawmills formerly operated here were totally destroyed by fire some years ago. **National Board Grading:** Eighth Class.

FIRE FIGHTING FACILITIES

WATER SUPPLY. **Municipal works.** **Management** fair to good. **Records** incomplete. **Supply** from Coeur d'Alene Lake; adequate for all present and future needs. **Supply Works** consist of one Cameron centrifugal pump rated at 200 g.p.m. against 353-ft. head and direct-connected to a 40-H.P. 2200-volt General Electric motor. Takes suction from the lake through about 75 ft. of 6-inch iron pipe, and discharges into distribution system and two reservoirs as noted below. Intake submerged about 50 ft. below low water. **Power Supply:** A single 13,000-volt branch $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles long connects the town with a 110,000-volt transmission line between Wallace and Spokane, Washington. The potential is stepped down at the pump station near the edge of town to 2300 for local distribution. Moderately severe hazard from forest exposure. **Pump Station:** One-story frame and concrete with composition roof; not exposed. Interior hazards moderate; nominal protection. **Storage:** Two concrete reservoirs as follows: Low service, capacity 111,000 gallons, elevated 140 ft. above P.M.D.; high service, capacity 25,000 gallons, elevated 260 ft. above P.M.D. **Supply Mains:** From the pump station, the water is conveyed through 4150 ft. of 6-inch cast iron pipe to the distribution system. Thence one 6-inch cast iron main runs 400 ft. to the low-service reservoir, and one 6-inch main (440 ft. wood and 530 ft. cast iron) runs to the high-service reservoir. The latter is checked against flow from high service reservoir to low-service. Supply main not well gated between pump station and distribution system; reservoir leads well gated; general condition good. **Consumption** high; system not metered; no records. **Pressures** average 50.0 lbs., with wide variation, due to topography, well maintained under moderate draft. In P.M.D. pressures average 60.0 lbs. **Main Arteries:** 8- and 6-inch, fairly well looped. **Minor Distributors:** 4- and 2-inch iron and wood in very poor gridiron; 30.3% of the whole system is dead-ended. **Pipe:** Other than supply mains noted above, pipe is mostly cast iron and galvanized iron; rather small proportion is wood. Of all pipe in the system, 7.3% is 8-inch, 45.0% is 6-inch, and 47.7% is 4-inch and smaller. **Gate Valves** are widely spaced, not regularly inspected, uniform in operation and doubtful condition. **Hydrants:** Total number, 25; some good type, others poor; all double outlet; all have 4-inch connections to street mains with no gates on connections. Condition good to fair. Distribution good in P.M.D.; fair in other districts.

Protection: In P.M.D., flow tests show mains have fairly good capacity. Flow at the capacity of mains cannot be maintained for 5 hours, due to deficient pumping capacity. **Flow Tests:** At strong point in P.M.D. (Coeur d'Alene and Douglas), 1780 g.p.m. at 20 lbs.; at weak point (Pine and Lois Way), 1293 g.p.m. at 20 lbs. **Number of Standard Hose Streams Available at 50 Lbs.:** At strong point, $3\frac{1}{2}$; at weak point, 2. **Estimated Maximum Supply Available for 5 Hours:** 653 g.p.m. at 20 lbs. In residential districts, the flows are deficient, due to long leads of small pipe. In General, protection afforded by the water system is good as to volume for a short period and better than most towns of this size.

FIRE DEPARTMENT. Volunteer organization consisting of a chief, assistant chief, one captain and 15 men, all paid on response to alarms. Response is generally good. Appointments not regulated. Financial support from city fair. **Apparatus in Service:** Nine hand-drawn hose carts scattered about town. Condition generally fair to good. **Hose Supply:** Total on all carts, 1000 ft. $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch c.r.l. and 950 ft. $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch c.r.l. Most of the larger size is at locations on lower levels and is available to the P.M.D.

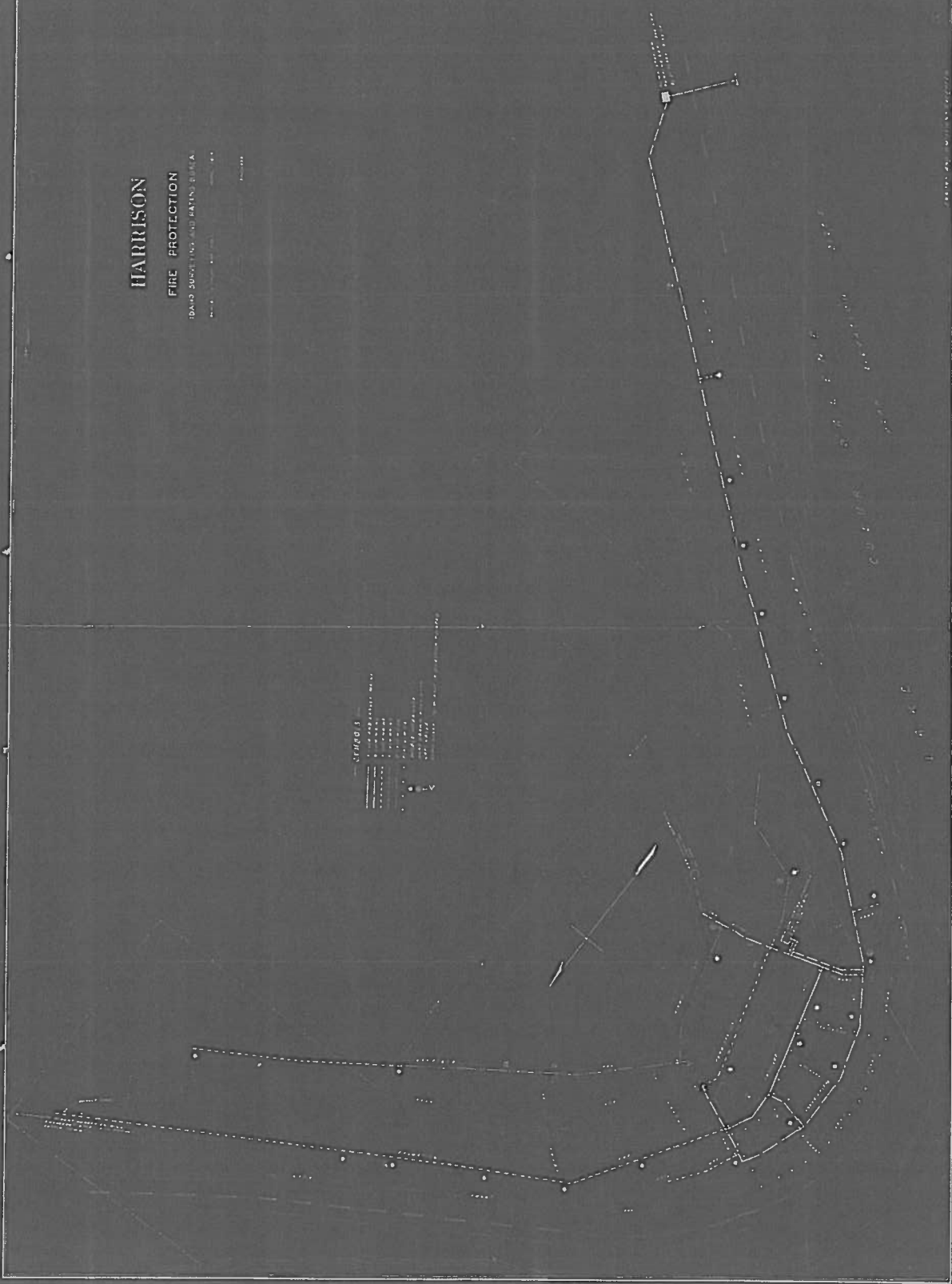
HARRISON

FIRE PROTECTION

BOARD SURVEYING AND PLANNING BUREAU

NO. 1000

1940



December 3, 1929.

M. A. Keeger and Associates,

Harrison, Idaho.

Gentlemen:-

Complying with your request through Mr. W. L. Geist, I have made an examination of the water works system of Harrison, Idaho, and herewith beg to submit my report of such examination:

On November 19th and 20th, assisted by August Hart and his son, I measured up the pipe line system of the Harrison water works and run a line of levels to ascertain the elevations of the tanks on the system. I made an examination of the tanks and concrete reservoir, pumping plants and other accessories pertaining to the system. In general I find the water works system very inefficient for fire protection. Long lines of three and four inch mains with dead ends, which under the working head of the system afford little fire protection to the districts covered by them. The hydrostatic pressure in these mains is largely consumed in friction of flow in the mains. I am attaching herewith a map of Harrison showing the location of the various mains, tanks and pump house. I have relied largely on Mr. August Hart for information as to the size of mains and their location, as I am informed that they were largely laid under his supervision. The pipe line from the spring at the east end of town is omitted from my calculations as I understand the spring tapped by this line has been condemned by the state authorities and is no longer to be considered as part of the system. The two 50,000 gallon tanks are also omitted from my estimate of the physical valuation of the plant. These tanks are practically worthless. The concrete reservoir takes the place of the lower tank that is abandoned. The upper tank that supplies water for a limited number of consumers on the high levels of Harrison will hold water to a depth of possibly four feet in the tank or about 10,000 gallons. This tank is in bad condition

and not worth repairing. A new tank or reservoir should be substituted for it. The pumping plant apparently is in very good repair. The hydrants are of old pattern and not standard. The life of machine banded wood pipe varies greatly according to conditions under which it is used. As I am informed the original water works system of Harrison was laid in 1901 and in 1911 generally overhauled and much new pipe laid. We might say the present system dates from this later date. Since this date some mains have been replaced. I am not informed as to the amount of renewal work done since 1911 but presume where leaks have occurred new pipe has been laid and possibly some new lines have been laid. From all the information I have gathered I have placed the depreciation of the wooden mains in this system as fully 50 per cent of the present cost of such mains. The depreciation on cost of the pumping plant I have placed at 10 per cent per year or 40 per cent for the four years since it was installed.

The elevation of the floor of the pump house is 2134.8 above sea level. The bottom of the concrete reservoir elevation is ^{2318.56}~~2309.2~~ and bottom of the upper tank elevation 2410.2'.

The following is my estimate of the physical valuation of the water works system:

PHYSICAL VALUATION ESTIMATE OF WATER WORKS SYSTEM
OF HARRISON IDAHO.

1891' - 3" machine banded fir wood pipe 200' H	@ 28¢ fob Harrison	\$529.48
7605' - 4" " " " " " "	@ 37¢ " "	2813.85
711' - 5" " " " " " "	@ 45¢ " "	319.95
2525' - 6" " " " " " "	@ 53¢ " "	1338.25
1329' - 8" " " " " " "	@ 61¢ " "	80.69
		<u>\$ 5812.22</u>
Depreciation 50 per cent		2906.17
Present value of pipe		<u>\$ 2906.05</u>
Cost of pipe laying 14061' @ 2¢	\$ 281.62	
" " delivery " @ 1¢	140.61	
" " trenching back filling 1560 c.y. @ 60¢	<u>936.00</u>	
		<u>\$ 1358.23</u>
Reinforced Concrete Tank		
138 c. y. of Concrete @ 18.00	2484.00	
Roof	<u>500.00</u>	
		<u>\$ 2984.00</u>

Pumping Plant:

1 - 25 H.P. Fairbanks-Morse gas engine pump	\$2000.00	
1 Chlorine plant for sterilizing water	800.00	
400' - 6" wood pipe @ 53¢ intake	212.00	
Pump house	<u>100.00</u>	
	3112.00	
Depreciation 40 per cent	<u>1244.80</u>	
	1867.20	\$1867.20
Hydrants - 13 @ 25.00		325.00
Gate Valves 30 @ \$5.00 all sizes average		150.00
Corporation Cocks 150 @ 1.00		<u>150.00</u>
Total Valuation		\$ 9740.48

Very respectfully,



Civil Engineer.

PHYSICAL VALUATION ESTIMATE OF Water Works System of Harrison, Idaho -

1891' - 3" machine-banded fir wood pipe 200' H @ 28¢ for Harrison	\$ 529.48
7605 - 4" " " " " @ 37¢ " "	2813.85
711 - 5" " " " " @ 45¢ " "	319.85
2525 - 6" " " " " @ 53¢ " "	1338.25
1329 - 8" " " " " @ 61¢ " "	810.69
4061 -	
	\$ 5312.22

Depreciation 50 percent

Present value of pipe

2906.17

2906.05

Cost of pipe laying 14061' @ 2¢ =	\$ 281.62
" " Pottery " @ 1¢	140.61
" " Trenching back filling 1560 cu. y. @ 60¢	936.00
	1358.23

Reinforced Concrete Tarry
138 cu. y. of concrete @ 18¢
Roof.

2484.00

500.00
2984.00

2984.00

Pumping Plant -

1 - 25 H.P. Fairbanks-Morse Gas Engine Pump	2000.00
1 Chlorine plant for sterilizing water	800.00
400' - 6" wood pipe @ 53¢ INTAKE	212.00
Pump House	100.00
	3112.00
Depreciation 40 percent	1244.80
	1867.20

Hydrants 13 @ \$25.00

325.00

Gate Valves 33 @ \$5.00 an inch diameter

150.00

TOTAL VALUATION

\$ 9740.48

Very Respectfully

CIVIL ENGINEER

Post-Concrete

Mixture 1 - 2 1/2 - 5 -

1 cu yd - Crushed Rock	3.00
1/2 " Sand	1.50
1 1/2 bbl Cement	3.75
Forms	1.00
Steel 95 lbs per cu yd	4.75
Labor	4.00
	\$ 18.00

Friction loss in 4" pipe 17 ft = 7 1/2 lbs
 6 " 11 " "
 8 " 10 " "

Friction loss through 2 1/2" hose per 100 ft approx 10 lbs

4" diam = 1 for 100 ft }
 6 " = 2 " " }
 8 " = 3 " " }
 10 " = 4 " " }
 12 " = 5 " " }
 14 " = 6 " " }
 16 " = 7 " " }
 18 " = 8 " " }
 20 " = 9 " " }
 22 " = 10 " " }
 24 " = 11 " " }
 26 " = 12 " " }
 28 " = 13 " " }
 30 " = 14 " " }

C. 1915
George Hall

Bob

XXII

WORKING FOR THE CITY OF HARRISON

During my stay at the box factory, the City of Harrison had purchased the water system from the privately-owned company. The man who had been running the pump and taking care of the mains resigned and the officers were looking for a suitable person to take over. I had been idle only a few days when the chance came. The mayor asked me if I would like to run the city water system. Of course I said that I would so I went to work for the City of Harrison and was with it for twenty-five years. A good many things happened to the town and myself during that time, some of which I shall write about.

The water system had changed hands two or three times since the first owner built it and it was badly run down. The mains were wooden, from two to eight inches in diameter. Water was pumped by a twenty-five horse power gasoline engine — a center crank with a heavy balance wheel on one side and the other side connected to a single piston pump with sixteen water valves. The water mains were connected to two tanks on the hill above Harrison, one above the other. The lower tank was concrete with a 150,000 gallon capacity. The higher tank was an old wooden one which leaked so badly it didn't pay to pump more than four feet of water into it. Anything over that leaked out too fast. There was a valve just above the lower tank so that the water could be shut off and held in the upper tank for the people who lived on the hill above the lower tank. A valve also kept the water from going into the lower tank while water was being pumped into the upper one.

When I took over the job, the city was not getting enough revenue to pay expenses. The first thing I did was to remove the cover on the pump over the water valves and there I received a real surprise. Of the sixteen valves, there was not one that was not worn, some so badly as to be useless. I mailed a hurry-up order to the Fairbanks-Morse Company in Spokane for a complete set of valves and light springs for that make of pump. The old spring was too heavy and stiff for that place. When the equipment came I took out all the old valves and springs, saving them to show the mayor, William Honsowetz, head planer for the Export Lumber Company at Harrison.

After the new valves and springs were installed the pumping hours were reduced from 16 to 12 hours daily and the gas and oil bill reduced \$100 per month. Then I started fixing leaky pipes - tough job. The pipes were wooden, wire-wrapped and rolled in sawdust when new. They had been in the ground a long time and were leaking along the sides and around the collar or joints. I used clamps made at the blacksmith shop to close and pull together the seams on the side, and at the ends we had wooden wedges that we used to stop the leaks, also wedges on the side of the pipes along with the clamps. Fixing leaks was new to me but I managed to get the bad leaks fixed in about a month and the water system began paying its way.

Serving on the city council were six men, a mayor and a city clerk, and all were elective offices for two-year periods. How I ever worked in that position for twenty-five years I often wonder about. After a month or two I was appointed to be city marshal so I was city water man and city marshal. At that time in Harrison there were five saloons which were run as well as most saloons those days. There were no brawls and I never knew of a lady being insulted on the street. I kept the drunks off the streets and, after we got to understand each other, we got along very well. I seldom had to arrest anyone.

In those days A. W. Burleigh had a bay and grain warehouse near the city boat dock and the pumphouse was close by. Mr. Burleigh loved to fish and, every chance he had, would be out on the lake trolling for trout. I watched the store for him and that supplemented my earnings.

The Red Collar Line had an agent and warehouse by the city dock where their freight was loaded, unloaded or transferred to the railroad warehouse. We took the job of transferring freight. I sometimes worked long hours keeping all my jobs going. This I could not have done except that the companies were all close together. Gasoline was shipped in those days in fifty-gallon barrels and many barrels were shipped in and through Harrison.

Sometimes, when I see Harrison as it is now, the old city seems to have been in another world.

I also did wiring and plumbing and never got caught up with the work that people asked me to do. When I looked around Harrison I could see very few houses in which I had not done either the wiring or the plumbing. Until we had day and night service there was not much need for electricity.

The city later purchased the city lighting system. It called an election and voted bonds to pay for both the light and water systems and made plans to change to a new pumping site in the south end of town. Two engineers were hired, one to survey for the pipe lines and one for the power line to be built four and one-half miles along the lake shore to the Washington Water Power's substation at O'Gara Bay, near the head of Coeur d'Alene Lake. A contract was awarded to a Mr. Green for the installation of the pump and pipe lines to the two water tanks located near the center of town. They also contracted with Washington Water Power to furnish electric power to the city. The Mayor was the city man on the job. I was taking care of only the water at that time and had nothing to say as I watched the work the contractor was doing. The city realized later that the work should have been supervised by someone who knew something of that kind of work.

When they put the suction pipe out into the lake, it broke in half twice. Upon investigation they found that, about 100 feet from shore, there was a ledge and the water was much deeper from there on. That problem was overcome by putting two 90-degree ells and a short piece of pipe between them at the edge of the ledge. That gave the pipe a chance to give at that place. The couplings were strengthened by placing a 3 x 8 plank over the joint and clamping it in two places on each side of the joint. At the outer end of the suction pipe a tee was screwed on the end of a four-foot length of pipe with an ell on one end screwed in the tee. A six-foot pipe was perforated with small holes, two feet down from the end, then that end was capped, the other end was capped and the other end was screwed into the ell. Both sides of the tee were made the same and then it was placed on a 12" square timber and clamped solid on both sides of the tee and on the ells so that the perforated pipes would be upright and stand four feet off the bottom of the lake. Two 3 x 8 planks were then clamped, one end out near each end of the timber, and the other ends were

clamped on the pipe. That made a good, solid structure for the pipe to rest on. The structure was then pulled into the water and a length of pipe was added, screwed into the coupling and the plank clamped on, pulled into the water and the same process repeated until the suction pipe was 200 feet from shore and 35 feet deep. Then the pipe was laid from the pump to the water's edge. They were going to connect the pipe together without putting a foot valve in the waste but I persuaded them to install a foot valve to hold the water from running back into the lake and emptying the suction pipe. The centrifugal pump had to be filled with water without air pockets before it would pump water.

The pump to be used was connected to a 40 horse, 3 phase motor, 2200 volts, and it was a three-stage centrifugal pump that could deliver 200 GPM at 300-foot elevation. When the pipe from the pump to the mains was to be connected there was no check valve ahead of the gate valves and finally, once again, I persuaded them to install the check valve to keep the water from running back into the pump. We never had any trouble with the new pump afterwards.

Water mains from the pump to the two tanks were next. Six-inch pipe called Kalemian, a malleable iron that was treated and had bell and spigot joints and was filled and corked with oakum and lead was used for the mile of pipe between the pump and tanks. A small amount of oakum held the lead from running through the joint while it was poured hot, then corked with a corking tool. I am describing this procedure so that later results can be understood. The suction pipe from the pump to the lake was the same as the other pipe and had leaded joints.

After the power line was constructed, the transformers installed and the pump installed, the company that had sold the pump sent out a man to start it.

But before this was done the city had not employed anyone to take charge of both the water and light system. There were five applications stating also the salary wanted. Since I hadn't been getting along with the mayor very well, I only sent in my application, not mentioning salary and not expecting to get the job, nor worrying either. The city clerk called me the next morning after their meeting and informed me that I had been hired as city water and light superintendent at a higher salary than the others had asked and with a raise over my present wages. So began another phase of my work in the electrical field, line construction and maintenance. I had done very little pole climbing but that didn't bother me. I knew that with each pole I would climb I could do better than the one before and that practice would solve any difficulty in climbing. As for the electrical work, I was familiar with that through my years of work on the ground.

When the company man came to start the pump, it would not pump the water. We went down to the lake and found the foot valve out of the water. We had to uncouple the pipe, unscrew the foot valve, raise the pipe and replace it so that it would be under water. With that done, the pump would pump water into the lower tank but not the upper one. The engineer connected his vacuum pump into the leaded suction pipe and found that suction pipe drawing air through the leaded joints. So we dug up the suction pipe from the pump to the foot valve in the lake and replaced it with screw joints so that the pipe would not leak. When that was done the pump delivered water to its full capacity to both tanks and continued to do so for many years.

The city did not have an inspector on the job when the mains were laid. The contractor laid the mains, covered them, discharged his crew, turned the system over to me and left town. The mayor was all smiles at his achievements when bang, one of the joints blew out! I had to shut off the mains and run a new joint.

The people were out of water and wondered why, when they had just had all new water mains put in. While fixing that leak I discovered what was wrong. The workmen had filled mostly with oakum and a small amount of lead that would not hold under pressure. I secured some lead and when the next one went out, I had a heavy hammer and corking tool and cut strips of lead and drove the joint full of lead. Finally things were so bad that I could not hold water in the upper tank. The joints would leak and the water would run underground and would not show up where it could be seen. I took the matter up with the council and suggested that the city hire a few men and have them dig down to each and every joint and I would recork them. We ordered 100 pounds of lead from the Bunker Hill smelter at Kellogg. We found 90% of the joints leaking. After we finished recorking we had no more trouble keeping water in the tanks.

However, that type of iron pipe was subject to corrosion and in a few years the mains started to corrode. At the end of sixteen years we had to replace the mains from the pump to the upper tank. The city had to vote another bond issue to pay for the new pipe. We replaced the iron mains with transite pipe, a cement type of pipe. After six years, when I had occasion to renew a length, I found no evidence of corrosion either outside or inside of the pipe. My personal opinion was that it would last many years.