

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

December 2022

Asset management for water distribution and sanitary sewer collection

*Al Schoemaker, PWLF
Director of Public Works,
City of Blair*

Does your water distribution and/or sanitary sewer collection system have an asset management plan? For the City of Blair, Nebr., the answer to that question was NO. Several years ago, it was decided that Blair had to do something different with its water and sanitary sewer systems maintenance and management. We were experiencing a sewer backup on average once a week and water main breaks were occurring at an alarming rate of one every couple of weeks.

To tackle such a project, the first thing we had to do was identify all the system assets. This was a task upon itself. We had to find every water valve and identify if it was a system valve or hydrant valve, locate and in many cases, raise sanitary sewer manholes to the surface. We had to locate all the fire hydrants, which sounds simple enough until you find them behind businesses and off the street sometimes behind properties. We then needed to develop a maintenance program for the system.

We started with flushing all the city's fire hydrants and we would do this each year thereafter. The first year we did this, was not good. Immediately, we started

receiving dirty water complaints from residents. Most of the complaints were with laundry and how the rusty dirty water ruined their clothes. That was not true, but they needed to be washed a second time using more water and detergent. What I learned was the city had never flushed fire hydrants in all the years they were in existence, thus rust and other undesirable materials that existed in the city's water mains was disturbed causing discolored water. Further, we found approximately 20 percent of the fire hydrants did not work, which caused much alarm for the community. We bagged any fire hydrant that flows less than 500 gpm as they are not useful to the city's fire department. These bags became the talk of the town as residents had never seen a bagged fire hydrant before. I was asked by the mayor at a city council meeting one evening as to why the bagged fire hydrants and why so many. After I explained they did not work, there was a gasp in the room as to concerns this raised. I was instructed to do whatever was necessary to get the fire hydrants either repaired or replaced to get them back into service.

We then went on to exercising all water system and fire hydrant valves. The first time we tried this process, we found it to be extremely time consuming and challenging. Many of the valve boxes were not straight and needed to be moved just so we could get on the valve to turn them. Many valve boxes were full of sand or silt, which needed to be cleaned out. And lastly, we found approximately 30 percent of the system and 50 percent of the fire hydrant valves did not work. They either were broken or would not turn. This was due to the lack of maintenance over the many years they were in service, but never exercised. This required multiple years of work to fix. To date, we are still working on the last of the water valves that need to be replaced some 20 years later, but we now have a water system that has good working and dependable water system and fire hydrant valves that the city employees can use in their maintenance of the system. We exercise every water system and fire hydrant valve each year to make sure they operate correctly and develop a work order list for any that need maintenance. Our staff understands the need to follow up on the work orders to make sure they eliminate any potential issues in the future when they need to work on a

Continued on page 2

1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 476-2829
Fax (402) 476-7052



UTILITIES SECTION

Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

Asset management for water distribution and sanitary sewer collection

Continued from page 1
water main.

Lastly, we jet or clean all our sanitary sewer mains every two years. We clean half the town each year flipping from the north to the south side every other year. We started out only doing a quarter of the sewer system each year, which is the industry standard recommendation for sewer collection maintenance. But as the years have passed and the city staff being able to be more efficient in their work has allowed us to expand our operations to half the city each year. The first year we cleaned the sanitary sewers, we found several partial blockages that were building up to cause sewer backup into someone's property. We were able to avoid

those backups by being proactive in our sewer maintenance. We found this same problem until we were able to clean the entire system over a four-year period.

And now we have incorporated annual televising of the sanitary sewer system to inspect it for any possible problems from structural to operational. We have found gas mains and service to cable television cables among other utilities bored right through our sewer mains. As for the gas mains, they could have caused significant issues with any gas leaks. The other utilities eventually would have caused sewer backups. In one particular instance, the gas main was an eight-inch-high pressure gas main. The gas company fixed that problem the same day it was

found. Mostly, we find repair locations that we can issue work orders to our utility staff to fix along with their general maintenance work, saving the city money from hiring contractors. Sometimes, the repairs are large enough we end up needing to call on contractors to assist us in making the repairs.

Overall, the program developed for the Blair water and sanitary sewer collection systems has paid in dividends to the city by reducing sewer backup claims and reducing the number of water leaks within the city. We have been able to identify problem areas in the city's utility system that has led to capital projects to make improvements to the city's water and sewer system that better serves the citizens of our city.

2022-2023 Executive Board

President

Bill Bischoff
Utility Superintendent
Wauneta

1st Vice President

Al Schoemaker
Director of Public Works
Blair

2nd Vice President

Duane Hoffman
Public Works Director
Oxford

Past President

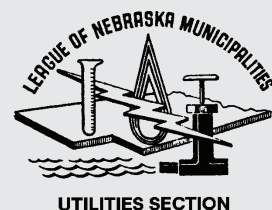
Eric Melcher
City Administrator
Aurora

Board Member

Pat Heath
City Administrator
Gering

Board Member

Gary Thurlow
Utility Superintendent
Atkinson



Board Member

Sarah Sawin
Asst. Director of Utilities
Kearney

Ex Officio Member

Layne Groseth
City Administrator and
Utilities Manager
North Platte

Nebraska utilities history – Coleridge

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or rob@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Coleridge, located in Cedar County when the railroad was extended to that point. , the townsite was named for Lord John Coleridge, the Lord Chief Justice of England, who at the time was visiting the United States. By fall 1883, the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha branch line was completed from Wakefield to the center of Cedar County and a depot was built. *The railroad missed the small communities of Norris (located just east) and Lawnridge (northeast of present-day Coleridge) due to right-of-way disputes. The communities merged, forming Coleridge as many of the buildings were moved from those communities to the Coleridge townsite.* The Lawnridge Post Office, which was established May 21, 1878, and the Norris Post Office were moved to Coleridge Sept. 10, 1883.

Mr. Whitten, a general superintendent of the Chicago, St. Paul Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad

named the town in honor of Lord Coleridge. On Aug. 14, 1883, a real estate office was moved from Norris and the first lots were sold and by 1885, about 32 blocks had been platted. In February 1884, a real estate firm was started along with a hardware store that spring. The Shumway Lumber Company was operating and a livery stable was moved from the townsite of Norris to Coleridge. By the fall, a bank was debated then later established. A school was discussed in 1883, the school district was formed in 1884 and the building was erected by 1885. A depot was located on Broadway and Chambers Streets as the north/south street names were Madison, Elm, Main, Chambers and Pearl. The east/west street names were Nebraska, Cedar, Broadway, Fulton, Canfield, and Douglas. On June 6, 1885, Coleridge was incorporated as a village with the board meeting held June 16. *The Coleridge Blade* newspaper was established in 1888 and by 1889, a two-story school building was built.

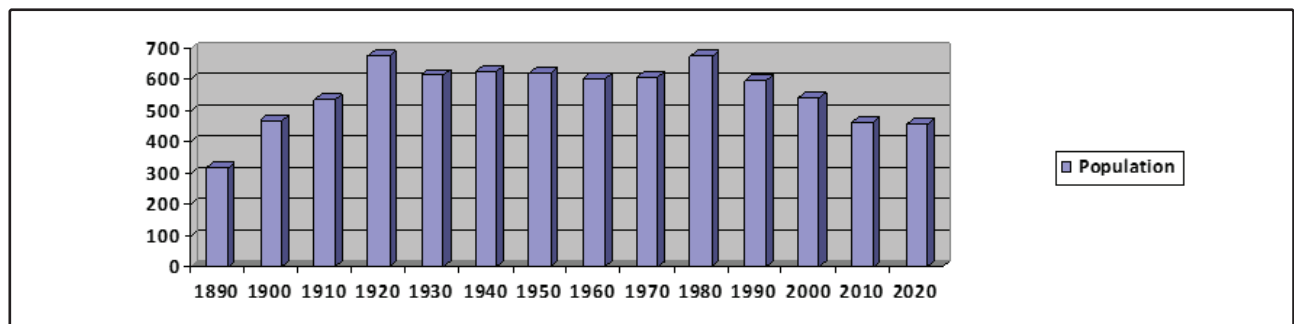
In 1890, the population was



Coleridge water tower. 2000 photo.

315 and some of the businesses included three general stores, two blacksmith shops, a furniture store, two lumberyards, a meat market, a saloon, a shore maker, an ag implement business, a dray business, a State Bank of Coleridge, a restaurant, a Merchants Hotel and the *Coleridge*

Continued on page 4



Nebraska utilities history – Coleridge

Continued from page 3

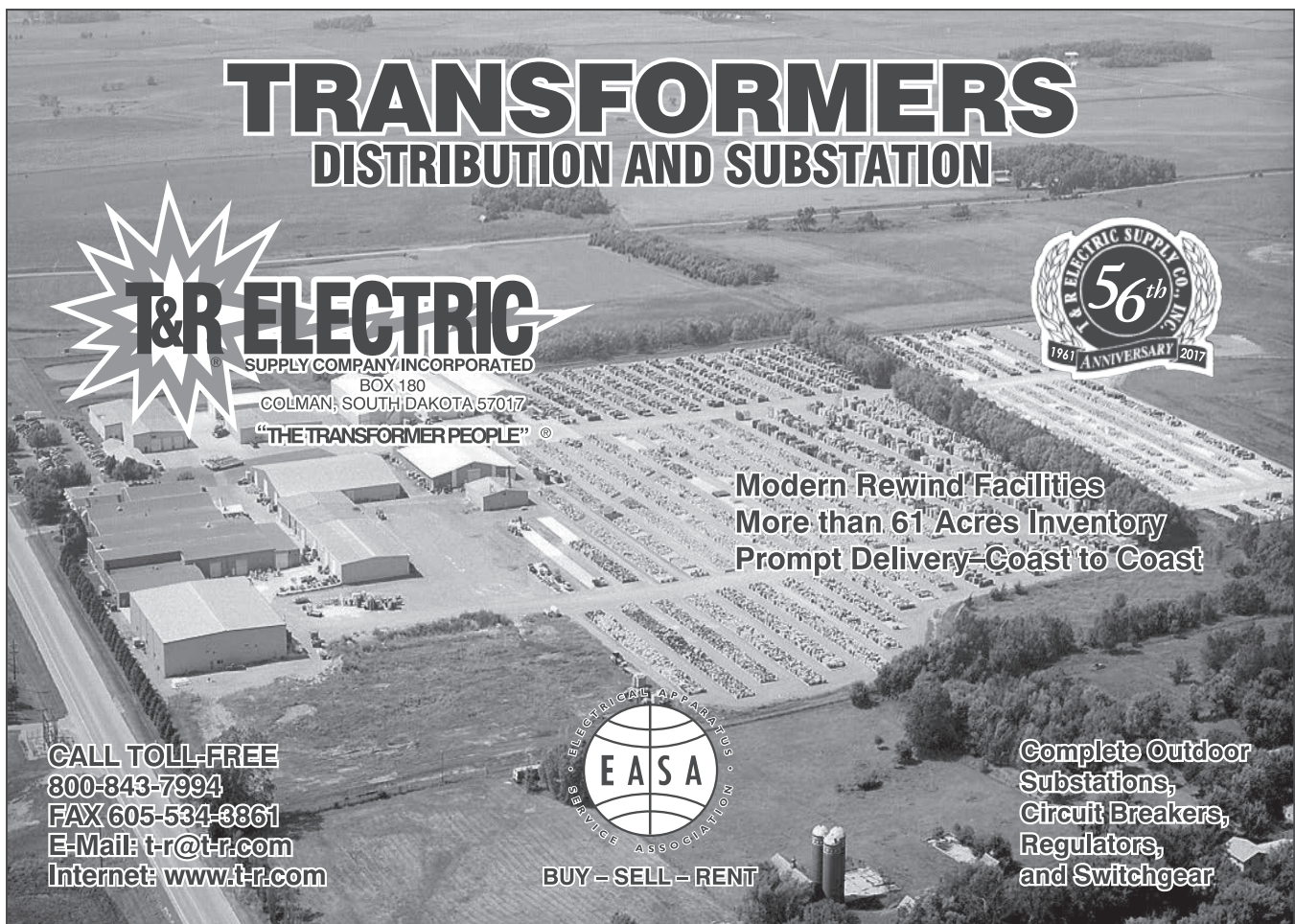
Sentinel newspaper. A new roller flour mill became operational Jan. 1, 1891 and a brickyard was operating in 1896. The Coleridge Cemetery was located on the southwest edge of town (1899) and by 1900, the population increased to 471.

In 1907-09, a new brick school building was erected, replacing the 1889 building. The population was 535 by 1910. A two-story brick Coleridge Community hotel was built in 1919 and by 1920,

the population increased to 674. In 1923, a fire department was established and a gymnasium/ auditorium and two classrooms with assembly rooms were added to the school. The water system in 1925 had flat water rates of \$1 per month and the municipal power had rates of \$0.11-\$0.20 per kilowatt hour (kWh). By 1930, the population was 616 and the electric system in 1935 was served by Interstate Power Company of Nebraska. In December 1940, negotiations were being made for


Consumers Public Power District to take over supplying wholesale power for the electric system from Interstate Power Company. On Dec. 16, 1940, Consumers Public Power District acquired the Nebraska properties of Interstate Power Company. The weekly *Coleridge Blade* newspaper still was being published in 1946. The population in 1950 was 621, the fire department had 28 volunteer firemen and a \$118,000 bond issue was passed to erect a new el-

Continued on page 5




TRANSFORMERS

DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION




T&R ELECTRIC

SUPPLY COMPANY, INCORPORATED
BOX 180
COLMAN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57017
"THE TRANSFORMER PEOPLE" ©



Modern Rewind Facilities
More than 61 Acres Inventory
Prompt Delivery—Coast to Coast

CALL TOLL-FREE
800-843-7994
FAX 605-534-8861
E-Mail: t-r@t-r.com
Internet: www.t-r.com



BUY – SELL – RENT

Complete Outdoor Substations, Circuit Breakers, Regulators, and Switchgear

Nebraska utilities history – Coleridge

Continued from page 4

ementary school, which was built about 1957-59. On Feb. 18, 1959, a fire destroyed the Coleridge High School (Bulldogs) building, which was built in 1909.

In 1961, school consolidation caused the reorganization of eight neighboring rural school districts, and a new school was built. The population was 604 in 1960 and estimated to be 617 by 1965. The 1970 census listed the population at 608 and the electrical system, owned by the village, was (leased to) operated/supplied by Nebraska Public Power District. The railroad lines were abandoned in 1972 and in 1976, the Chicago & North Western Railway discontinued service. The population decreased from 673 in 1980 to 596 in 1990 and the gas system was operated by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company.

In 2000, the population was 541, a new water storage water tower was erected in 2001 and by 2002, the electric system was operated/supplied by Cedar Knox Public Power District. In 2003, the water system had two municipal wells with a capacity of 1,150 gallons per minute (gpm) and average

peak consumption in the summer of 225,000 and winter at 55,000 gallons per day (gpd). The water tower had a storage capacity of 100,000 gallons, the fire department had 25 volunteer firefighters and 75 percent of the streets were paved. Solid waste collections were by J & J Sanitation, the gas system was operated by Kinder Morgan and the wastewater aeration sewage treatment plant had 55,000 gpd. Installing a new UV light disinfection system and some minor upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant was planned (project cost \$375,000). In 2009, the gas system was operated by SourceGas and the population decreased to 463 by 2010. Water rates were a base rate of \$16.25, then \$2.60 per 1,000 gallons with a deposit of \$150 with a tap fee of \$500 and a reconnect fee of \$35. Sewer rates were a base rate of \$10 then \$2.35 per 1,000 gallons and a tapping fee of \$300.

In 2012, the Wau-Col Water System #2 was being completed at a cost of \$3.1 million, with water served to Belden from Coleridge and water purchased from Wausa to 16 rural customers, Magnet and McLean. The water system

was owned by Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (dedicated Aug. 11, 2012). Coleridge in 2014 had 44 commercial and 244 residential customers, which were all metered. Since 2015, the natural gas system had been operated by Black Hills Energy. The “Veteran Memorial Plaza” project was underway in 2016 and K-4 and high school (9-12) students attended school in Laurel, a part of the Laurel-Concord-Coleridge School System

Coleridge has been an incorporated village since 1885 (136 years), has a population of 456, is a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and a Utilities Section member since 1979. The electrical system is operated/supplied by Cedar Knox Public Power District. The village maintains a cemetery, a public library, streets, a water system and a wastewater system. The natural gas system is operated by Black Hills Energy.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2022; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine,

Continued on page 6



- Municipal Pipe Cleaning
- CCTV Pipe Inspection
- Foam Root Treatment
- Manhole Rehabilitation
- Trenchless Sewer Liners
- Point Repair Liners
- Pipe Bursting

Phone - (308) 237-6651
Fax - (308) 234-5390
PO Box 1065 Kearney, NE 68848
johnsonservicecompany.com

Engineering a world where everyone thrives.



Nebraska utilities history – Coleridge

Continued from page 5
1925, 1928; *Water Resources of Nebraska*, December 1936; *Nebraska Place Names*, 1925, 1960; *Perkey's Nebraska Place names*, 1995; *Coleridge Internet Website*, 2003, 2005, 2017; *The Ewing Advocate newspaper*, 1940; *Nebraska Our Towns...* North Northeast, 1990; *Maps Tell A Story*, 1991; *NEDED Website*, 2005; *Municipal Journal and Engineering*, 1912; *Nebraska Blue*

Book, 1915; *NPPD Website*, 2011; *Wikipedia website*, 2017-2018; *Water & Sewer Rate Comparison Study (NeRWA)*, 2010-2011; *Nebraska Health & Human Service (SDWIS) website*, 2016; *Nebraska State Atlas*, 1885; *Nebraska Blue Book*, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; *Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Cedar County, Nebraska*, June 1, 1988; *Biennial Report of Audits of Public Accounts to the*

Governor, 1935; *U.S. Congressional Serial Set, House Document, Vol. 238, April 14, 1936, the Federal Power Consumers Electric Rate Survey, Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 in the state of Nebraska*, 1935, and *Biennial Report of the Auditor of Public Accounts to the Governor of the State of Nebraska, Auditor of Public Accounts, Nebraska, 1916 Report*, 1919.

Water Environment Federation Burke Award

The NWEA Safety Awards committee presented the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) Burke Award to the **City of Norfolk WPC** in the Municipal Category and to Michael Foods Inc. in the Industrial Category. Both facilities have comprehensive safety programs, leading to an impressive number of years without any recordable safety incidents.

The Burke Award was established in 1982 in honor of George W. Burke, Jr., for his many years of service to both the water environment field and WEF as

staff manager of technical services. Burke was instrumental in developing WEF's annual safety survey and assisting in the production of several safety training aids and promotional packets. The award recognizes municipal and/or industrial wastewater facilities for establishing and maintaining an active and effective safety program.

How to apply. Safety award applications are available at nebwea.org. Applicants who have submitted safety award applications for three consecutive years

are automatically eligible for the Burke Award.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** What Nebraska County once was called L'Eau Qui Court?
- Q-2.** What villages/cities in Knox County are Utilities Section members?
- Q-3.** What villages/cities in Nebraska start with the

letter “V”?

Holiday Bonus Answers

Q-4. What are Santa's reindeers' names? Hint: there were originally eight!

Q-5. **How many of Santa's reindeers are male?**

Answers on page 18.

Six Basic Steps of (Electrical) Switching

- 1) Carry the switching order with you while switching.
- 2) Touch or point to the device identification name plate to verify its location.
- 3) Recheck the switching order for right location and right sequence.
- 4) Verify anticipated action on the device.
- 5) Perform requested action on the device.
- 6) Verify desired device position.

Safety shall always come first; there is no condition that requires any of us to work in an unsafe manner! *From the NPPD switching reminder card.*

SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

Are you planning for January safety meetings?

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Some winter/holiday safety topics may include: being prepared for winter driving, working in cold weather (frostbite and hypothermia) and safe snow removal practices (bladed trucks, skid steers and, of course, shovels).

Responsible safe driving tips should start with planning a route and making sure your vehicle has been properly maintained. Focus your attention on driving, minimize distractions and be aware of the surroundings (defensive driving). Be courteous to others, maintain a safe speed and keep your distance, especially in icy or impaired conditions. Be sure to signal your intentions if turning as turn signals were put on vehicles for a reason. Always wear your seat belt and see that all passengers wear them. More information can be found at www.nhtsa.gov.

As we venture into another “New Year” it seems the **wellness programs** tend to spark an interest in weight loss, exercising, better eating habits and resolutions that gamblers tend to bet on to see how long they last. I personally (Rob), am in my third year on one of my resolutions, but we will not discuss the others that failed miserably and fell to the wayside. Everyone should be thinking of doing something for their health and wellness. Preventative measures are a start such as slowly getting into a light exercise routine, doctor checkups, getting vaccinated and planning a more balanced diet.

Travel during the holidays tends to increase and we need to be sure our vehicles are in good working condition. We need to make sure we carry emergency kits containing blankets, warm clothes, first aid kits and other survival materials depending on where and when we might be traveling. Get plenty of rest and be prepared for any emergency. Traveling by car during the holidays has the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation based on fatalities per passenger mile. According to injury facts, hundreds of people die every year in crashes with alcohol impairment in about one-third of the fatalities. Drowsy driving due to lack of sleep is another area of concern. If planning a trip, leave early, plan ahead and take precautions for increased holiday traffic, possibly slick or impaired roads and let someone not driving make calls or answer cell phones.

Home and office decorations this time of year must be done safely. **Holiday decorations** have a tendency to get us in a holiday mood, but each year, thousands end up visiting emergency rooms due to injuries involving holiday decorating. **Overloaded outlets** for lights, candles and burnable material next to items that get hot may end up in a fire. Fire extinguisher training on locations and uses should be reviewed. Proper use of **ladders** is another area of concern when putting up decorations. Lighting strings/sets should be inspected for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wire, or loose connections before being

put up. Lighting should be shut off when you leave the house or office. The National Fire Protection Association reports that one-third of home **decoration fires** are started by candles and that two of every five decoration fires happen because the decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Cybersecurity awareness month was October, but cyberattacks are known to surge during the holiday season (December/January). Safe password maintenance should be a year-round practice, but we may tend to let our guard down with all the holiday traffic on the social media communication lines. Be sure to avoid unsafe or easy to guess passwords to avoid criminals accessing your systems. Do you currently have a password policy? How often are passwords changed? How do you communicate a cyberattack if one or more of your systems are affected? What data may be at risk of a cyberattack? Regular backups are crucial if data is compromised so be cyber safe!

Many office break rooms get a lot of candy and food brought in during this month and **food poisoning** may be a concern as some foods need refrigerated at specified temperatures. The handling of food needs to be done safely, starting with washing hands frequently when handling food. Raw meat should be kept away from fresh produce. Do not use cutting boards, plates and utensils for uncooked and cooked meats to avoid cross-contamination. **The Utilities Section hopes your municipality “enjoys a safe holiday season!”**

Nebraska utilities history – Gibbon

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or rob@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Gibbon, located in Buffalo County, had settlers in the area by 1865 with the Union Pacific Railroad extended to the area by 1866 and a “Gibbon Siding or Gibbon Switch” established. The siding had been named after Major General John Gibbon(s) a Civil War officer and later that year, a section house was erected. By April 7, 1871, the “Soldiers Free Homestead Temperance Colony” (Civil War veterans) was established as 65 original members came from Ohio to settle on land banked (one source listed 85 families in winter 1870) by the railroad. This group led by Colonel John Thorpe purchased land from the railroad for \$600. John Thorpe was a land agent employed by the Union Pacific Railroad who advertised for settlers. The fee was \$2 for membership with the promise of reduced land rates from the railroad. A survey for a townsite was started and soon an 18-block townsite had been initially platted by John Thorpe and George Gil-

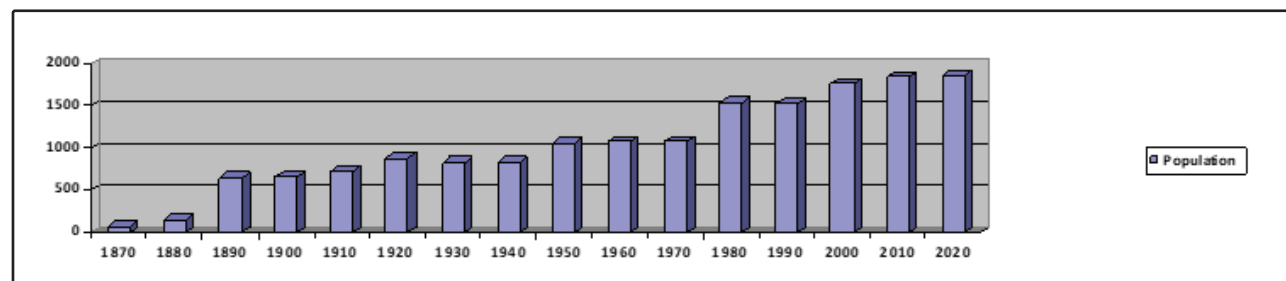
man (1871). The colony group arrived by train at night (apparently so they could not see how desolate the land looked). A prairie fire blackened the area (April 5, 1871) set aside for the townsite and two days after arriving, the settlers were confronted with a blizzard. The railroad left a number of box-cars until houses could be erected. On April 9, 1871, a church service was held, the population was estimated at 65 and on June 21, 1872, a post office was established as Gibbon. A temporary school was established and at a community meeting, each citizen agreed to pay \$1,000 for a building, books, benches, etc. In October 1871, Gibbon won the county seat and a courthouse was built (1872-73) in 190 days using local Gibbon bricks for \$16,000-\$22,000. By 1872, the population was estimated between 150-200 with about 20 homes, many of which utilized sod for construction. By fall 1873, a 24-square-foot (sq ft), two-story grist mill with four feet of buhr stone was established using waterpower from the Wood River. The mill had a capacity of 30 bar-



Gibbon water tower. 2000 photo.

rels per day using power supplied from the fall of a 10-foot dam. The community lost the county seat to Kearney Oct. 13, 1874 and the courthouse building later became the Gibbon Collegiate Institute. A cemetery had been located on the banks of Wood River and in 1876, the Riverside Cemetery Association was organized. The St. Joseph and Denver

Continued on page 9



Nebraska utilities history – Gibbon

Continued from page 8

Railway that constructed the Gibbon Cut-off (officially known as Hastings Branch) in 1871 become under ownership of Union Pacific by 1877.

In 1880, the population was 154, a new four-room public school was built with a high school established. Businesses included a hotel, a drug store, a hardware store, a harness shop, a grain elevator and several general merchandise stores. By 1882, the population was estimated at 200 with a monthly newspaper published, two general stores, two druggists, a hardware store, two grain elevators, a lumberyard and a coal yard. The Nebraska Baptist College was established (1882) and moved into the former brick courthouse building. The railroad had a depot along the tracks with a water tank for steam engines in 1884. On Jan. 14, 1885, Gibbon was incorporated as a village, which consisted of the original plat (about 14.5 blocks) along with an I.N. Davis addition, a M.D. Marsh addition, Cook addition, Putnam addition and a 5th addition. The mill was upgraded to increase production in 1877 and again in 1884 (roller process). After the upgrade, the mill could produce 60 barrels per day. In 1889, the mill again was remodeled (swing sifter installed) and a 21 horsepower (HP) gas engine was added with the capacity at 80 barrels per day.

The population increased from 646 in 1890 to an estimated population of 1,185 in 1895. The cemetery was taken over by the township in 1890 and by 1892, the brick Babcock Opera House

and Harrel buildings were built. In the 1890s, the Baptist Seminary moved the business college to Grand Island. The population in 1900 was 660, the Farmers Telephone Company of Buffalo County was established and telephones were installed (1902). The Gibbon Elementary School was built (1903) and the semi-private Valley View Golf Club opened. A brick village maintenance building was erected in 1905 and the flour mill was operated by a 50 horsepower (HP) steam engine and the mill had a capacity of 120 barrels per day. A private corporation installed an electric light plant (1908) to furnish lights for the village and individuals. A new high school was built (1908), a library was started (1909), electricity was installed and the Union Valley Telephone Company was established.

The population increased to 718 by 1910, and the "Blue & White Buffalos" had 63 students in grades 1 through 12. A two-story brick Carnegie Library was erected in 1911-13, the old Gibbon mill closed in 1914 and was replaced by a modern mill. In 1907, the village installed a water system and by 1915, the system consisted of a well pumped to a 60,000-gallon standpipe and the three-and-one-half-miles of four to six-inch mains, 22 hydrants, with a water pressure of 55 pounds per square inch (psi). The system cost \$15,000 and maintenance was \$500 per year. The fire department by 1915 had 40 volunteer firefighters, a hook/ladder truck, two hose carts with 800 feet (ft) of hose and an alarm bell. The Gibbon Electric Light Company

(1915) used an 89 horsepower (HP) gas engine and a generator with a rating of 50 kilovolt amperes (kVA). On Sept. 18, 1916, an application was filed by the Kearney Water & Electric Power Company for authorization to construct a transmission line from Kearney to Gibbon. The electric distribution system was supplied by the Central Power Company's power plants via transmission lines in 1919 and in November, plans were made to install a sewer system.

By 1920, the population was 883, streets were being paved and a sewer system was installed. The municipal water system was operating and in 1925, the private power company had electric rates of \$0.11 per kilowatt (kW). The village was using natural gas by 1932 and in January 1935, the electric distribution system was operated by Central Power Company. A two-story brick elementary school building was built in 1936 and the population increased slightly from 825 in 1930 to 836 by 1940. In 1941, the Central Power Company was dissolved and electricity was supplied by Consumers Public Power District.

From 1950-1960, the population increased from 1,063 to 1,083, the electric system was owned/operated by Consumers Public Power District, the library was operated by a board and the fire department had 35 firefighters. In 1962, the public water system had water rates of \$2 per month for both residents and commercial. A sewer system project was being planned and the sewer charge was \$1 per month. By 1965, the popu-

Continued on page 10

Nebraska utilities history – Gibbon

Continued from page 9

lation was estimated to be 1,205 and about 1967, Gibbon became a city of the second class.

In 1970, the population was 1,083 and estimated at 1,388 by 1972. After 29 years, the electrical system previously owned/operated by Consumers Public Power District, now was owned by the city and leased to Nebraska Public Power District. In 1976, house numbers were assigned to houses, a truck bypass was completed and the addition of a mile of new paving along the west edge of town from Highway 30 to Seventh Street then east. The population increased to 1,531 by 1980 and the natural gas system was operated/supplied by Kansas Nebraska Natural Gas Company in 1982. A wastewater treatment facility improvement project was in progress in 1983 and a monument was erected in Pioneer Park (1987). The windmill park, located three miles south on the north side of interstate-80, was established. The park featured the largest windmill in the state (20 ft. wheel on a 40 ft tower, rebuilt in 1973).

The population was 1,525 in 1990 and the wastewater operations were contracted out. The sewer system consisted of an aerated flow through lagoon system designed for 1.14 million gallons per day (mgd). Most streets were hard surfaced with Front Street (main business street) brick paved. By 2000, the population was 1,759, the Legion ballfield complex was built and the city was a member of ACE. A new brick public school facility was being built on the south side of town in 2008. The natural gas system was

operated by Kinder Morgan until 2008 when it became operated by SourceGas.

The population was 1,833 in 2010 and bids were accepted for the construction of a new swimming pool/water park. The project was started in 2014 along with a street project on First Street. A wastewater project in 2014 included going through SBR#1, fixing DO probes on all three basins and installing an 18-inch valve on basin #1. New cable floats on the basins, a new MTU control panel and looking into an ammonia probe were completed. In July, a fire destroyed the city shop building along with vehicles and equipment. The fire department purchased a new pumper truck and a project to paint the water tower was planned. The Mid-Nebraska Disposal and Clarke Bros. provided solid waste collection service where waste was hauled to the Grand Island Landfill. Since 2015, the natural gas system has been owned/operated by Black Hills Energy Corporation. Planning discussions in 2018 included the construction of a new Community Center/Fire Hall facility. In 2020, Gibbon received "Leadership Certified Community Program" status from DED. In October, residents voted on \$2.5 million in renovations/expansion of municipal buildings (city/fire halls), which was approved by November.

Today, the population is 1,857, Gibbon has been incorporated since 1885 and a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member. The city maintains several blocks of paved roads, parks with recreational complexes, a library, a swim-

ming pool/water park, along with water and wastewater systems. The natural gas system is operated by Black Hills Energy and the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) maintains/operates the city owned electric system. Police protection is provided by the Buffalo County Sheriff's Department.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1965-75, 1977-87, 1990-94, 1996-98, 2000-2021; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925, 1946, 2021; Pages of History, Nebraska High Schools (Present-Past, Public and Private, 1854-1994; Perkeys, Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2005; Nebraska Our Towns... Central North Central, 1989; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2018-2019; Johnson's History of Nebraska, 1880; Buffalo County Nebraska and Its People, Vol. I, 1916; Municipal Journal and Public Works, Vol. XLVII, November 29, 1919; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; Nebraska Historical Survey Reconnaissance Survey, Final Report of Buffalo County for Nebraska Historical Society, August 1993; History of Hamilton & Clay Counties, Nebraska, 1921; Nebraska State Atlas, 1885; 15th Annual Report of Nebraska State Railway Commission to the Governor, Issue 15, 1922; Utilities Section solid waste survey, 2015; The Insurance Yearbook 1915-16 Fire and Marine 43rd Annual

Continued on page 11

Looking back at 2022

The year 2022 once again was a busy year for the Utilities Section staff. Over 50 workshops, conferences and safety meetings were held this past year. The past 25 years, over 25,000 attendees have participated in training workshops and conferences sponsored or co-sponsored by the Utilities Section.

The monthly *Utilities Section Newsletter* featured the following topics in 2022: Numerous Legislative Bills affecting Utilities/Public Works Departments, Annual Utilities Conference highlights, Snowball Conference and Electric Meter School highlights, Water Industry Service Awards (WISA) awardees, Water Tower Inspections, West Point Water Treatment Facility Open House, CDL license changes, Power Equipment Expo in Norfolk, Drinking Water Recognition, Sewer Collection System Cleaning, Memorial/Veterans Day tribute, June National Safety Month, Wastewater Epidemiology helping to track spread and prevalence of COVID-19, National Backflow Prevention Day, Drought, Water Tower Painting, National Cyber Security Month,

Nebraska utilities history – Gibbon

Continued from page 10
Issue, 1915; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1946: and Electric Rate Survey: Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 by U.S. Federal Power Commission, 1935.

and notice of the North American Snow Conference to be held in Omaha April 16-19, 2023 along with various construction projects around Nebraska.

Other articles highlighted included milestone recognition, incorporation date recognition, AWWA & NWEA awards, veteran memorials, article on “15 best small towns to visit in Nebraska,” water and wastewater license renewal workshops, construction projects across the state, awards availability, funding opportunities, along with numerous job and material classified ads.

Safety articles featured the OSHA Top Ten Cited Safety Standards, Safe Heart Health, AED Use, Eye Safety Month, Safety Award Recognition, Material Handling Safety, Playground Safety Manual, Hand Tool Safety, Trench/Excavation Safety, Heat Stress Prevention, Slips Trips and Falls, National Preparedness Month, Drought & Fire Prevention Week, Accident/Fatality Trend Data and general holiday safety.

On the lighter side each month featured Nebraska Breaktime Trivia – “Just for Fun” and the how well do you know Nebraska photos. Photos included the David City Auditorium, Clarkson City Hall, Callaway Light Plant, former Nebraska City post office building (now bank), Lewellen theater building and the Chadron Water Plant.

From 2006 to December 2022, 238 history articles on Utilities Section members have been featured in the newsletter. Starting in 2020, the newslet-

ter switched from paper form to digital format only. The monthly history articles highlighted in 2022 included: Arlington, Brainard, Cairo, Cedar Bluff, Ceresco, Chambers, Coleridge, Creighton, Eagle, Elgin, Elm Creek, Gibbon, Glenvil, Henderson, Howells, Humboldt, Johnson, Long Pine, Lyman, McCool Junction, Minatare, Mullen, North Bend, North Platte, Orchard, Pawnee City, Potter, Prague, Ralston, Shelton, Spalding, Sutherland, Trenton, Unadilla, Wallace, Wood River and Wynot.

2022 Host Thank You

A special “thanks” to the 2022 workshop/conference host cities and villages during this unique and interesting year. The Utilities Section would like to take this opportunity to thank the communities, their management and staff for their dedication, hard work and hospitality in efforts to host Utilities Section sponsored seminars, workshops and conferences held in 2022: Atkinson, Beatrice, Blair, Broken Bow, Burwell, Gering, Grand Island, Hastings, Hebron, Holdrege, Kearney, Lexington, Lincoln, McCook, Norfolk, North Platte, Ogallala, Sidney, South Sioux City, Stuart, Wayne and York. If your system would like to host a workshop in 2023, contact Rob at the League office at 402-476-2829 or email robp@lonm.org.

Nebraska utilities history – Trenton

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or robp@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Trenton, located in Hitchcock County, was somewhat started about a quarter mile west of its present location. A settlement was then called "Trail City" because of its location on the Texas-Ogallala cattle trail. People settled along the hillside between Elm and Bush Creeks at the cattle crossing on the Republican River. This area had become an area for cowboys to "wet their whistles" on their way through. The area included a saloon, a store, a post office, a newspaper, a school and an assortment of dug or sod structures. This area also was known as the Pow-Wow grounds, where Native Americans held their dances from 1923-1956. In 1869 to the early 1870s, cattle were moved into the area between the Republic and Frenchman River Valleys in southwest Nebraska. Large herds of cattle were driven on the Old Texas-Ogallala Trail,

which ran diagonally across the area, later known as Hitchcock County. By spring 1873, the population increased and settlers petitioned Gov. Robert B. Furnas requesting a county be organized. The request was honored with a signed proclamation in 1883 and the county was to be named Hitchcock County in honor of Phineas W. Hitchcock, a U.S. Sen. from Nebraska. Hitchcock County was organized July 5, 1873. The first county seat was located at a site just west of the present town of Culbertson. The upper floor of a store was used as a courthouse.

On Aug. 5, 1873 near the Republican River, a band of over 1,500 Ogalala/Brule Sioux Indian warriors attacked a group of Pawnee during their summer buffalo hunt. The Pawnee reached the Republican River, about a mile and a half to the south, and upon attack, retreated up the canyon. Of the original 700 in the Pawnee hunting party, more than 150 Pawnee men, women and children were

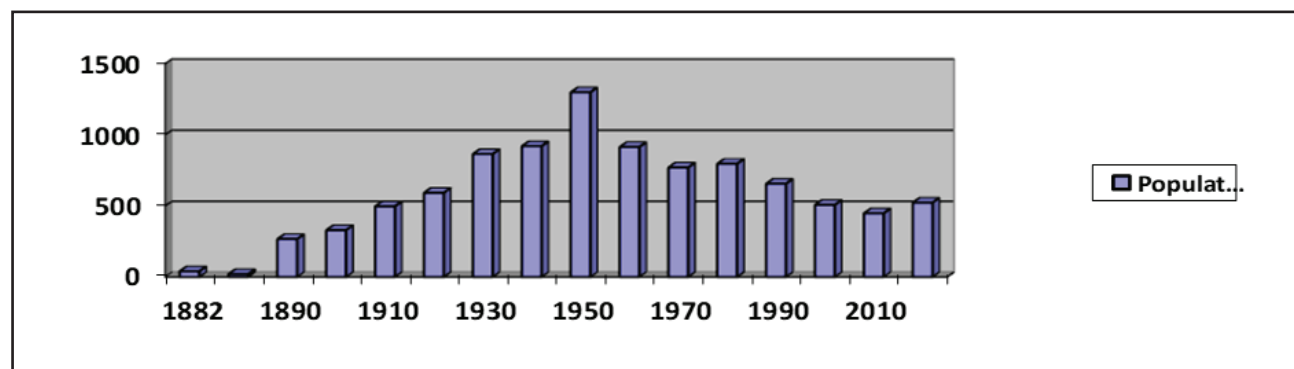


Trenton water tower. 2021 photo.

said to have been killed. The Sioux were ready to pursue further, but a unit of cavalry arrived and prevented further fighting. The area near the Republican River where the battle took place now is called Massacre Canyon.

Drought and grasshopper infestation in 1874 slowed growth to the area but in 1881, a townsite

Continued on page 13



Nebraska utilities history – Trenton

Continued from page 12

was selected along the Republican River by the Lincoln Land Company. Homesteaders were being attracted with talk of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad extending through the area. The tracks reached the middle of Hitchcock County by 1882-85. On Dec. 8, 1884, a post office was established and a school was in session (District 11). In September 1885, Anselmo Smith surveyed and platted the new townsite and

from October 1885 to January 1886, the population jumped from 20 to 160. A railroad depot (24 ft x 56 ft) was completed in June 1886 and a bridge was constructed over the Republican River. On Aug. 11, 1887, Trenton (named after Trenton, New Jersey) was incorporated with a population over 239 (one source noted incorporated 1885).

In 1890, the population was 267 (one source listed an estimated 500), a high school was started and sidewalks were being laid

from Railroad Street to the north end of the village. Some of the businesses included a general store, the Central State Bank, a harness shop, a lumberyard, a flour mill, a livery, the Commercial House, a saloon, a restaurant, a hardware store and two churches. The *Trenton Register* newspaper was being published by 1891 and a hardware/furniture store, millinery and billiard hall were in operation. A waterworks

Continued on page 14



Power Plant Problem Solvers

Leader in RICE NESHAP Compliance & Testing

Stationary Diesel & Dual Fuel Engine Mechanics

Multi-point Engine Inspection Service

Complete Engine Sales, Installation and Removal

Power Plant Design, Construction & Automation

Large/Heavy Equipment & Machinery Transportation

Parts & Service for: Alco, Caterpillar, Colt-Pielstick, Cummins, Cooper-Bessemer, DeLaval, EMD, Enterprise, Nordberg, Waukesha, Fairbanks Morse, Ingersoll-Rand, White Superior, Worthington and others

FMI **Farabee Mechanical, Inc.**
Hickman, NE 68372 • (402) 792-2612
farabee@inebraska.com
www.farabeemechanical.com

Nebraska utilities history – Trenton

Continued from page 13
was discussed in 1893 with bonds at \$2,000 and as one source noted “the good water almost broke the town.” Trenton won the Hitchcock County seat in 1894 from Culbertson, somewhat due to Trenton's location in the county and its position on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad.

By 1900, the population was 329 and a local brick making plant had a capacity of 1,000 bricks per hour. An electric system was established in 1906, a courthouse was built in 1906 and in November 1907, a (16 ft diameter x 40 ft high) water storage standpipe was erected. The school was built in 1908 and the population increased to 497 by 1910. The water system in 1915 consisted of four (four-inch diameter) wells about 20 feet (ft) deep located near the center of the business district. Water was pumped with a horizontal triplex belted to an oil engine, 15 horsepower (HP) to the 60,000-gallon standpipe. The distributions system had 20 fire hydrants, 55 Pittsburg and Crane meters, with 55 service connections with a water pressure of 70 pounds per square inch (psi). Water rates were \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons. The 1916 electric lighting project bonds of \$8,500 at 6 percent interest came due June 1, 1936.

In 1920, the population was 592 and a church was built in 1925. The municipal power plant had electric rates of \$0.20 per kilowatt hour (kWh) with a minimum of \$2 per month. Water rates in 1925 were \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons (gals.) with a minimum of \$0.50 per month. In 1926, a two-story (brick) J.C. Hurst building was

built on Main Street and a new high school was erected that year for the green and white Trenton Warriors. By 1928, two weekly newspapers were being printed, the *Trenton Register* and the *Republican Leader*.

The population in 1930 was 865 and that year, a stone memorial was erected for the 1873 Massacre Canyon incident. In 1934, plans were made for a sanitary sewer system to be installed using a federal grant and loan allotment of \$47,000. A Public Works Administration (PWA) grant was secured and bids for the sewage disposal project were advertised. The village had graveled streets with curbs and gutters in 1935. On Trenton's 50th anniversary, the town was flooded in 1935 and one stated “the town was inundated by the “butte to butte” flood. The electric distribution system was operated by the Trenton Municipal Light & Power Plant. The municipal power plant in 1936 had a capacity of 275 kilowatts (kW) of internal combustion power generation.

The population was 920 in 1940 and the A.W. Duckworth Airport was activated in April 1946. The village maintained a public library and the Trenton Municipal Light and Power Plant provided electricity. In 1947, the power plant installed a new 0.3-megawatt (petroleum) engine. A dam that was built for the Swanson Reservoir in 1949 closed the original rail line to the town.

By 1950 the population increased to 1,299 and by 1951, the Trenton Municipal Airport had a 2,700 ft turf runway. The power plant purchased a Fairbanks model

38 OP engine in 1951 with the initial operation of the 0.4-megawatt engine in 1952. By 1956, the power plant had a diesel generation capacity of 800 kWh. In 1958, the village had eight miles of distribution line, 380 meters with the cost of street lighting at \$2,552.23 and the cost of pumping water at \$955.48. Electric rates were for residential: first 18 kWh at \$0.10, next 22 kWh at \$0.08, next 60 kWh at \$0.04, and excess at \$0.03 with a minimum of \$1.80 less 10 percent discount if paid within 10 days. Commercial rates: first 18 kWh at 0.10, next 82 kWh at \$0.08, next 100 kWh at \$0.04, excess at \$0.03, minimum of \$3.56. Power rates were for the first 300 kWh at \$0.05, next 300 kWh at \$0.04, and the balance at \$0.03. A new Burlington Northern station was built (1952-53) on higher ground along with the Lincoln to Denver line located north of town. By 1958, the fire department had 20 firefighters paid \$0.50 each for regular meetings, \$1 per fire call and \$1 after the first hour. A new 300 gallon per minute (gpm) well was installed in 1958 for \$11,255.52 by Cornhusker Well & Supply Co. of Lexington. The water system had 300 water meters in service and water rates of \$0.15 per 1,000 gals. for a minimum of 20,000 gallons. The municipal sewer system and disposal plant was maintained from a tax levy amounting to \$800 and a sewer charge of \$1 per month.

The population was estimated at 1,240 by 1958 due to the construction of Swanson Reservoir but by 1960, dropped to 914. A curb, gutter and oil mat paving of

Continued on page 15

Nebraska utilities history – Trenton

Continued from page 14
four city blocks was underway in 1960 and the airport was operated by the village with a Nebraska Aeronautics Divisions contract. The electrical diesel generation plant and distribution system was owned by the city and supplied by Southwest Public Power District. The diesel power generation plant was now for standby use only. The wholesale electric cost was \$0.011 per kWh, a meter deposit of \$20, and a street lighting cost

of \$2,680.07. Water rates were a flat rate of \$2.50 for residents, with big commercial users at \$2.50 for first 15,000 gals and \$0.15 to reach 1,000 gals. over. The new sewerage disposal plant built with a federal grant was maintained in 1962 from a one mill levy amounting to \$4,807.50 and a sewer charge of \$1 per month. The school added an elementary unit in 1962 and on July 23, 1969, a new brick courthouse was built. In 1970, the population

was 770, the El Dorado Manor Nursing Home was built (1971) and the school added a gymnasium and classrooms in 1977-78. The electrical system, owned by the city, was operated/supplied by Southwest Public Power District. From 1980-1990, the population decreased from 796 to 656 and a wastewater treatment project was in progress by 1985. By 1993, the electric system had 430 customers and the village oper-

Continued on page 16



The image shows the top section of the Banyondata website. On the left is the Banyondata logo, which consists of a stylized blue 'b' icon followed by the word 'banyondata' in a sans-serif font. To the right of the logo is a navigation bar with links: 'CURRENT CUSTOMERS', 'Instructions', 'Support', 'FAQ', and a yellow 'DOWNLOADS' button. Below the navigation bar is a contact section with an email icon and the text 'Have Questions? sales@banyon.com', and a blue button that says 'SCHEDULE A FREE DEMO'. Below this is a banner with the text 'ADMINISTRATIVE SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & SPECIAL DISTRICTS' and 'UTILITY BILLING - FUND ACCOUNTING INVOICING - PAYROLL - PERMITS & MORE'. At the bottom of the banner is a blue button that says 'SEE OUR SOLUTIONS'.

- **Utility Billing Software Solutions for Nebraska**
- **Full-Featured/Affordable. Special Offer:** 1/3 off Meter Device Interface Modules (All Popular-Proven Models)



The image shows the logo for UBLite software. It features a green circle with the text 'UBLite' in the center. Below 'UBLite' is the text 'Our New Low Cost Option A Basic Utility Billing Software System'. To the left of the circle is a blue circle with the text 'Add Online Payments'. To the right of the circle is a blue circle with the text 'Add AMR Meter Interface'.



The image shows a blue box containing contact information and a list of services. At the top is the text 'Contact For Demo (800) 229-1130 or schedule online at www.banyon.com'. Below this is a list of services: '32 Years Experience with Utility Billing Procedures', 'Online Support and Training – 2200 Installations', 'No Budget Busting License Fees', and 'Remote Use and Access – Easy to Use Reports'. At the bottom of the box is the text 'Hundreds of Customized Services and Rates'.

Nebraska utilities history – Trenton

Continued from page 15

ated a facultative retention lagoon system designed for 0.075 mgd. One interesting note in November 1996, a “Stegomastodon” was discovered and excavated by the University of Nebraska from a site about 2.2 miles east of Trenton.

A Trenton Country Club Golf Course (sand-greens) was operating in 2000 along with the Trenton Public Library.

By 2004, the school system was a part of the Hitchcock County Unified School District with Culbertson and Stratton with an elementary school in Culbertson (grades K-6). Telephone service was provided by Great Plains Communications. The Hitchcock County fairground is located on the southwest edge of town along with a ball field/football field. The park has playground equipment and a swimming pool. The population decreased from 507 in 2000 to 448 in 2010 but in 2011, Trenton received the "Best Tasting Water" award at the Rural Water Association Conference in Columbus. The airport was shut down in October 2015 and solid waste collection was provided by the village and hauled to the McCook Transfer Station. The library was housed in the former VFW building which was built in 1906.

Today, Trenton has a population of 516, has been incorporated for 135 years and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member. The village maintains the Trenton Cemetery, the park with a swimming pool, an airport, a library, water and wastewater systems and several blocks of streets. Individual propane tanks make up the gas



Trenton power plant. 2010 photo.

system and the electric system is a wholesale customer of Southwest Public Power District.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1985-87, 1990-95, 1997-2022; Nebraska Municipal Review, 1925, 1934; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Public Power Magazine, Vol. 51, Number 1, January-February 1993; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2004, 2015; Sargent Leader Newspaper, 1900; Department of Energy Website, 2004; Pages of History Nebraska High Schools, Present and Past-Public and Private, 1854-1994; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2018-2019; Trenton city website, 2019; History of Nebraska, Morton,

1906; Andreas History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; Johnson's History of Nebraska, 1880; Who's Who Nebraska Hitchcock County, 1940; Nebraska State Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-91; Municipal Journal & Public Works, Political Science Vol. 23, 1907; McGraw Waterworks Directory, No.1, 1915; Biennial Report of Audits of Public Accounts to the Governor, 1935; U.S. Congressional Serial Set, House Document, Vol. 238, April 14, 1936; Directory of Electric Utilities in the United States, Federal Power Commission, 1941; Utilities Section solid waste survey, 2015; and the Federal Power Consumers Electric Rate Survey, Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 in the state of Nebraska, 1935.

Credit hours reminder

If you attended the 2022 Snowball Conference and/or the 2022 Utilities Conference, your water and waste-

water hours are posted on the League of Nebraska Municipalities' website at www.lonm.org/utilities.

Nebraska Section-AWWA Celebration

Nebraska Section AWWA celebrated its “Diamond” 75th Anniversary at the Annual Conference held Nov. 2-4, 2022 at the Younes Center in Kearney. The conference had a good attendance and also welcomed a fourth association as the Nebraska Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) took part this year. Information on this group can be found at www.swana.org.

The conference once again had many good educational sessions, a full vender/exposition area, good competitions with the “Top Op’s” and “Best Tasting Water” competitions.

Members attending the conference received the section history book, T-shirts, mugs, pens and educational literature and brochures. *The section history books can be purchased for \$20. If mailing is needed, a shipping and handling charge will be added. Contact Rob Pierce at 402-476-2829 or 432-9172 if you are interested in purchasing a book.*

Three systems were recognized for “Cross Connection Control Program of the Year” at the Annual Nebraska Section-American Water Works Association banquet on Nov. 3. **Lincoln Water System, Metropolitan Utilities District and the Beatrice Board of Public Works-Water Division** were all co-awardees. These three systems are probably the

earliest systems in Nebraska to have a cross connection control program, which included the installation of backflow units. These three systems combined likely have more units installed than the rest of the state combined. Congratulations to these systems for outstanding cross connection programs dating back almost 50 years!

AWWA Webinars

AWWA offers webinars and, as a member, you can attend up to 20 “2023” webinars for a one-time price of \$195, a savings of over \$1,300. This price only will be available through Jan. 31, 2023.

Their 2023 webinars will include: 1) Pipeline inspection and condition assessment, 2) Water project planning and funding

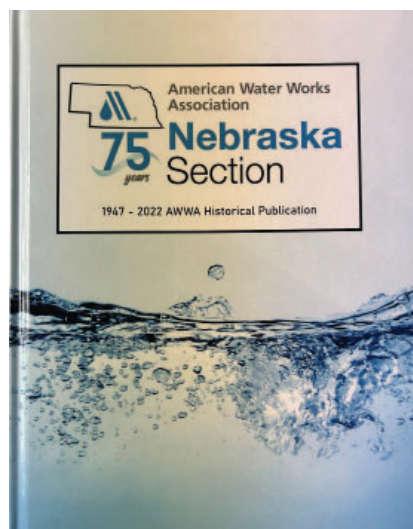
clearinghouse, 3) PFAS, 4) Future of the Consumer Confidence Report, 5) Hydraulic modeling for small systems, 6) Microplastics monitoring, 7) Diversity, and 8) Equity and inclusion programs, and much more. Do you have a 2023 education strategy? More information can be found at www.awwa.org/webinars.

Address Change: Nebraska Section AWWA

The Nebraska Section AWWA has changed its mailing address effective November 2022. The old address was Nebraska Section AWWA, PO Box 94791, Lincoln, NE 68509-4791. The new address is **Nebraska Section AWWA, PO Box 83743, Lincoln, NE 68501-3743**. If mailing anything to the Nebraska Section AWWA, be sure to use the new address.

AWWA Scholarships and Awards

The American Water Works Association has a variety of awards and scholarships available. Applications can be found at www.awwa.org/Water-Equation then click on the “scholarship” section at www.engage.awwa.org/PersonifyEbusiness/About-Us/AWWA-Awards. These are available to operators and students with some requiring membership.



Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share

Congratulations! **Incorporation Anniversary Recognition:** 110 years – Staplehurst (December 1912 or January 1913); 115 years – **Crofton** (1906-village) was platted in 1892 and incorporation noted as 1906 and another noted 1907); and 165 years – **Nebraska City** (Dec. 31, 1857-village).

Utilities Section members and associate members are bolded.

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about – new hires, promotions, awards, certifications, anniversaries/milestones, accomplishments, grants/funding or projects?

Let us help you celebrate events



and accomplishments! Please send information to any of the League/Utilities staff.

“Just For Fun” Answers

- A-1.** Knox County, was L'Eau Qui Court County from 1857-1873 when the name was changed to Knox in honor of Continental and U.S. Army Major General Henry Knox.
- A-2.** Bloomfield, Creighton, Crofton and Wausa. *Reference: 2022 Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials*
- A-3.** **Valentine, Valley**, Valparaiso, Venango, Verdel, Verdigré, Verdon, Virginia. Those in bold were all Utilities Section members in 2022. *Reference: 2022 Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials*
- A-4.** Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid,

Dunder (German-Donder or Donner), Blixen (Blixern or Blitzen). Rudolph was a 20th century inclusion. A 1949 Christmas song by Robert L. May for Montgomery Wards.

- A-5.** None. Apparently, males lose their antlers before mid-December (about November after rut). The females

shed antlers in the summer. Rudolph, therefore, was a female along with all others with antlers at Christmas. Note: Caribou are reindeer. Their eyes behind the iris are gold color in the summer but change to blue in the winter. In the summer, their hooves are softer, but get harder/sharper in winter.

Electric Meter Conference scheduled

The Electric Meter Conference is scheduled for Feb. 7-8, 2023 at the Kearney Holiday Inn. If you have topics or instructors to

recommend, contact Rob Pierce at 402-432-9172 or email robp@lonm.org. Be sure to mark your calendars to attend.



Bridging the Gap Between Idea + Achievement

At HDR, we're helping our clients push open the doors to what's possible, every day.



Omaha 402.399.1000
hdrinc.com

Classifieds

The City of North Platte is Hiring! Due to growth and retirements, the City of North Platte is currently looking to fill the following job positions:

- Director of Information Systems
- Personnel & Payroll Technician
- Assistant Concessions/Rides Manager
- Semi-Truck Driver (Maintenance Worker III)
- Sanitation Driver-Loader
- Assistant Accountant/Internal Auditor
- Part-time Parks Maintenance I
- Police Officer
- Part-time Technology Assistant – Library
- Senior Accountant
- Storm -Water Management & Code Enforcement Officer
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

Please refer to the City of North Platte's web site for the job descriptions of each job position listed at: <https://www.ci.north-platte.ne.us/>. A job application is on the City of North Platte's web site or you may get an application at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. Closing for the job positions will be Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, unless otherwise noted on the City of North Platte's web site. Please

submit completed job applications by email to: info@ci.north-platte.ne.us. Mail to: City of North Platte, Attn: City Clerk's Office, 211 West 3rd Street, North Platte, NE 69101.

Full Time Maintenance Personnel. The Village of Eagle (population 1,065) is currently accepting applications for full time Maintenance Personnel. This position requires a variety of duties including the operation and maintenance of light, medium and heavy equipment such as street sweepers, snowplow trucks, backhoes, skid steers and mowing equipment; operation of the water well system and wastewater treatment facility; routine building and property ground maintenance; general repair and maintenance of equipment; and experience in basic plumbing and construction or maintenance techniques. Municipal or maintenance background preferred. Candidate must have a valid Nebraska driver's license. Physical and background check required upon offer of employment. Certification as a Class IV Water Operator and Class II Wastewater Operator desired or may be required within 12 months of employment. Salary range is



\$13-\$19 per hour (without Water and/or Sewer License); \$16-\$26 per hour (with a single Water or Sewer License); and \$19-\$29 per hour (with both a Water and Sewer License). Benefits package includes health, dental, vision, disability/life insurance, retirement, paid vacation, holidays and sick leave. Applications may be obtained at the Village of Eagle office located at 747 South 2nd Street, Eagle, NE 68347 or online at www.eaglene.gov/employment-application. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please contact Nick Nystrom at 402-781-2748 or by e-mail at nick@eaglene.gov for additional job description information.

Apprentice Lineman. City of Benkelman is accepting applications for the position of Apprentice Lineman.
Continued on page 20

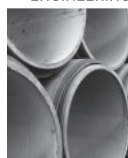
MONGAN PAINTING CO., INC.

Floor Coatings * Sandblasting * Epoxy Coatings
Water Plants * Storage Tanks * Swimming Pools
Sewage Plants * Ethanol Plant
PO Box 515 – Cherokee, Iowa 51012
Phone (712)225-0626 Fax (712)225-0627
Email: monganmd@ncn.net

MA Miller & Associates CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.

WWW.MILLER-ENGINEERS.COM • 308.234.6456

ENGINEERING • SURVEYING • PLANNING • FUNDING • ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



MILCO Environmental Services, Inc.

WWW.MILCOINC.COM • 308.234.1146

Classifieds

Continued from page 19
tice Lineman in the Electric Department. This position's responsibilities include, but aren't limited to: Construction and maintenance of overhead and underground electric distribution systems, operate a high lift bucket truck, digger derrick, and other equipment, assists other City operations, and perform other duties as required, available for 24-hour emergency calls. Requirements include high school graduation, ability to obtain a CDL license issued by the State of NE within 1 year of hire. Excellent benefits package is included. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a post-offer physical and drug test. The City of Benkelman is an EOE. Applications can be picked up at the City of Benkelman Office located at 126 7th Ave E, Benkelman, NE 69021 or by calling 308-423-2540. The City of Benkelman is an EOE.

Maintenance. The City of

Sargent is looking for a full time maintenance personnel. This job requires a variety of duties including: water, wastewater, streets, parks, primary and secondary power 2400/7200. Running the power plant and equipment. Must have a High School diploma or GED and a valid driver's license, and able to get a class 4 water license in the first year. Insurance and Retirement are included with the job. Vacation after the first year of service You will be expected to be on call one week a month. Application may be obtained from the city at 308-527-4200, cityofsargent@nctc.net or on the web at www.sargentne.com.

Water/Wastewater Director. Salary Range: \$64,032-\$95,148 annually. First Review of Applications: Jan. 3, 2023. The City of Seward is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Water/Wastewater Director. Ideal candidate will understand operations



of the current water/wastewater systems but possess the ability to transition to a new wastewater treatment facility (2024) currently in design. Candidate will perform administrative and technical work in the supervision, operation, maintenance, improvement of and technical control of the sewer collection system, lift stations, anaerobic trickling filter wastewater treatment facility (Class III), bio solids application, well fields, transmission mains, Reverse Osmosis (RO) water production facility (Class II), water towers, water distribution system, fire system, and water metering system. Experience with a Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) wastewater treatment system (Class IV) is preferred. Applications accepted until filled. Application review begins January 3, 2023. Must meet minimum requirements. Full job description and application: www.CityofSewardNE.gov. Seward City Hall, 537 Main St.; P.O. Box 38; Seward NE 68434 (402-643-2928) or info@cityofsewardne.gov. Reasonable accommodations available for persons needing assistance in completing application & should be made at time of application. All positions of employment with the City of Seward are subject to a Veteran's Preference. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Nebraska Water Environment Association Safety Awards

KEARNEY, Nebraska (Nov. 2, 2022) -- The Safety Awards Committee of the Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) recognized 13 Nebraska facilities for excellence in accident prevention and for implementing a safety program that includes training, materials and the participation of all employees. This year, gold, silver and bronze awards were presented to four classes of facilities: 10+ Operators, 5-9 Operators, 1-4 Operators and Industrial.

Listed below are the systems in their respective classifications and level awarded.

10+ Operators

- **City of Omaha Mo River WRRF** – Gold
- **Grand Island Wastewater Treatment Facility** – Silver
- **Lincoln Theresa Street Water Resource Recovery Facility** – Silver

5-9 Operators

- **City of Chadron** – Gold

Continued on page 21

2023 Training calendar

Visit our website at www.lonm.org
for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

January

Jan. 11-13Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference...Embassy Suites, Lincoln
Jan. 18Water Operator Training WorkshopLibrary, Blair
Jan. 19Water Operator Training WorkshopFire Hall, Columbus
Jan. 24Water Operator Training WorkshopHoliday Inn, Kearney
Jan. 25-26.....Snowball ConferenceHoliday Inn, Kearney
Jan. 31Water Operator Training WorkshopRowe Safety Complex, Nebraska City

February

Feb. 1.....Water Operator Training WorkshopLibrary, Seward
Feb. 2.....Water Operator Training WorkshopBPW Building, Beatrice
Feb. 7-8Electric Meter ConferenceHoliday Inn, Kearney
Feb. 27-28League Midwinter ConferenceCornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

March

March 7Water Operator Training WorkshopCity Hall, Chadron
March 8Water Operator Training WorkshopFire Hall, Gering
March 9Work Zone Safety Training WorkshopMidPlains Community College, Ogallala

April

April 11Water Operator Training WorkshopCommunity Center, Sargent
April 13Water Operator Training WorkshopMidPlains Community College, Valentine

Nebraska Water Environment Association Safety Awards

Continued from page 20

- **City of Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility** – Gold
- **City of Norfolk WPC** – Gold
- **Scottsbluff Water Reclamation Facility** – Gold

1- 4 Operators

- **Lincoln Northeast Water Resource Recovery Facility** – Silver
- **North Platte Wastewater Treatment Facility** – Silver

Industrial

- **Michael Foods Inc.** – Gold
- **Platte Valley Energetics, LLC** – Gold
- **Tyson Fresh Meats in Lexington** – Gold
- **Hornady Manufacturing Company** – Silver

HAROLD K SCHOLZ CO.

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
SWITCHGEAR ASSEMBLERS**

Switchgear Controls Relaying	Generation Automation Metering	Substations Service Breakers
---	---	---

7800 Serum Ave. - Ralston, Nebraska 68127
PH: (402)339-7600 FAX: (402)339-1821
E-MAIL: power@hkscholz.com
www.hkscholz.com

Utilities Section Webinars

(Credit hours for water 1-4, 6 and wastewater available where listed)

Safety Committees by Speakers Rob Pierce and Lash Chaffin, LNM, topics will cover requirements, liabilities, financial benefits, unions, etc.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$0.00 (free), non-members \$35

Safety Session Series (If you purchase all five sessions as a bundle, the cost for members is \$140 and for non-members is \$180.)

Implementing an Effective Safety Meeting by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM, topics cover requirements, topics selection, how and when to present, safety focus along with building a safety culture.

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: Lockout/Tagout Programs (Practices and Procedures) by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: General Roundtable Discussion (safety programs, injury/near miss issues and hot topics) by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: Slips, Trips & Falls by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Water/Wastewater Sessions

Asset Management by Speaker Shelly Rekte, DHHS, covers a general overview on asset management and associated record keeping options

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Pump Application, Operations & Maintenance by Speaker Brad Harris, Layne

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Well Rehabilitation and Relining by Speaker Brad Harris, Layne

(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Continued on page 23

Utilities Section Webinars

Continued from page 22

Steps and Guidelines to Drilling a New Water Well by Speaker Brad Harris, Layne
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)
Members \$35, non-members \$45

Water Storage Tank: Operation/Maintenance by Speaker Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)
Members \$35, non-members \$45

Backflow Sessions (If you purchase all four sessions as a bundle, the cost for members is \$60 and for non-members is \$100.)

Cross Connection Control Programs: Past & Present by Mike Wentink, DHHS
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4, 1.0 hour grade 6 and 1.0 hour wastewater)
Members \$35, non-members \$45

Cross Connection/Backflow Safety: Confined Space by Rob Pierce, LNM, topics covering a variety of confined space issues.
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4, 1.5 hours grade 6 and 1.5 hours wastewater)
Members \$35, non-members \$45

Basic Requirements of a Cross Connection Control Program by Speaker Rich Koenig, DHHS. Rich covers requirements, regulations, in a summary overview.
(Approved for 1.0-hour grades 1-4, 1.0 hour grade 6, and 1.0 hour wastewater)
Members \$35, non-members \$45

Public Education concerning a Cross Connection Control Program by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM covers options for educations, communication options, monitoring, feedback etc.
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4, 1.5 hours grade 6, and 1.5 hours wastewater)
Members \$35, non-members \$45