



Public Forum



CALLS WATER WORKS FIGURES EXAGGERATED

Editor, WILMETTE LIFE:

I have on several occasions submitted through your publication to Mr. Dubbs a number of pertinent questions relative to the water works project, which have not as yet been answered.

Recent publicity in the Chicago Tribune of Sunday, June 18, and in the Herald-Examiner of June 24, prompts me to add to my list of questions submitted to Mr. Dubbs.

The publicity matter referred to contains in substance the following:

1. Total cost of plant \$500,000.
2. Pumping plant will be able to "draw in" 12,000,000 gallons (1,604,000 cu. ft.) daily.

3. It is estimated Wilmette will pay Evanston \$71,950 for water during 1933.

4. It is figured Wilmette's water bill in 1956 would be \$152,561.

5. Estimated annual savings up to 1956 ranges from \$12,000 to \$80,000.

These articles did not state that the plant could chemically treat and filter 12,000,000 gallons (1,604,000 cu. ft.) per 24-hour day, but that it could pump or "draw in" that quantity.

The plant capacity to deliver chemically treated and filtered water is not greater than its capacity to treat and filter water, and this was estimated to be for the \$600,000 plant, six million gallons (802,000 cu. ft.).

As treating and filtering capacity determine the quantity of water suitable for human consumption which can be supplied, why was the pumping capacity stated and the capacity to deliver treated and filtered water omitted if not to create the impression of vast capacity or bigness?

When consideration is given to the fact that Wilmette consumed only 622/10 million cubic feet of water in 1932, a pumpage of 585 million cubic feet per year, when interpreted as plant capacity, indicates the lack of need for an independent plant.

The water requirements of Wilmette are so palpably small that the more bigness, vastness and importance of an independent plant are ballyhooed, the more ridiculous the project appears.

Items 3 and 4 state that it is estimated Wilmette will pay Evanston \$71,950 for water during 1933 and \$152,561 in 1956.

In the "Engineers-Administration" promotional pamphlet, pages 28-29, estimates of water consumption are set up. These begin with a consumption forecast of 97.104 million cubic feet for 1932, reaching 217.876 million cubic feet in 1956 and remaining stationary at 217.876 from 1956 to 1971.

These figures of estimated consumption were grossly inflated, because of necessity, as the actual consumption and the use of the depreciation figure to retire the plant within 40 years as provided by law, would have pulled the foundation out from under the promotional set up.

Wilmette water consumption reached its high point in 1930 for which year it is given as 66.7 million cubic feet.

Since 1930 consumption has steadily decreased, being 62.2 million cubic feet in 1932, and for 1933 consumption has further declined and points to a maximum consumption of 62 million cubic feet and will probably be less.

The figures used in the publicity

items as to payments to be made to Evanston, were no doubt based on the inflated consumption estimates in the pamphlet referred to.

These inflated consumption estimates for 1933 and 1956, figured at 7 cents per 100 cubic feet (Evanston's present price to Wilmette) give us approximately the cost figures used in the publicity.

The consumption for 1930 (pamphlet page 14) of 66,700,000 cubic feet at 7 cents per 100 cubic feet amounts to \$46,690. This is the highest consumption yet reached by Wilmette and represents the greatest cost for any one year.

The consumption for 1933, if it reaches 62 million cubic feet, will, at 7 cents per 100 cubic feet, amount to \$43,400.

In the face of the fact that the water cost to Wilmette for a consumption approximately 4½ million cubic feet greater than the probable consumption for 1933 was less than \$47,000 publicity is put forth which creates the impression that the cost of water purchased from Evanston this year will be nearly \$72,000—Why?

Was this misrepresentation intended to add weight to Wilmette's case in the litigation? Or, was it put forth to offset the effect which will be caused by the discovery that capital charges alone on an investment of \$500,000 for the first year of operation will amount to \$50,000 and with the addition of operating and maintenance cost, will put the water production cost above \$72,000?

What will be Wilmette's reaction to an expenditure of \$70,000 to \$80,000 for water in 1934 which at the present purchase price could be obtained for \$45,000?

Now as to profits. It is stated that estimated profits will range from \$12,000 in 1934 to \$80,000 in 1956.

The same estimators estimated the water consumption for 1932 as 97.104 million cubic feet; the actual consumption was 622/10 million cubic feet.

The estimated profit of \$12,000 for 1934 is based on the inflated consumption estimate of 108.328 million cubic feet for that year and the cutting off of 2 percent of the required depreciation charge.

What the actual consumption will be in 1934 will be known at the end of that year. With a consumption in 1933 of 62 million cubic feet it is fair to assume that the 1934 consumption may reach 65 million cubic feet, but, for the sake of generosity, say one put it at 70 million cubic feet.

Seventy million cubic feet will cost with independent plant operation approximately 10.83 cents per 100 cubic feet, or \$75,810.

If purchased at 7 cents per 100 cubic feet it would cost \$49,000.

Thus, independent plant operation represents a loss to Wilmette of \$26,800 for 1933.

The same proportionate exaggeration of what it would cost us for water in 1956 applies to that year as it does in 1934.

The records reveal the facts and the comparisons which follow reveal the extent of the inflation and the deceptive nature of the figures which were used to gain votes for the bond issue.

	Mil. Cu. Ft.
Inflated consumption estimate for 1932	97.104

Attend Daughter's Graduation June 19

Miss Marion McDonald, daughter of the C. Miles McDonalds, 1046 Michigan avenue, graduated this June from Wellesley college and her brother, C. Miles, Jr., graduated from the Northwestern Military and Naval academy at Lake Geneva. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald drove east for their daughter's commencement on June 19, and Marion returned with them. They came back last Friday, motoring through the White mountains.

Miles, Jr., also attended his sister's graduation, and he and Donald Briggs of Highland Park are now on a motor trip through the east. They will visit friends on Long Island and in Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Law, Jr., 417 Warwick road, Kenilworth, returned on Monday from a ten days' outing at their ranch in Chugwater, Wyo. Soon after returning home Mr. Law went by plane to New York on business.

Actual consumption	62.200
Inflation 56% plus	34.904
Inflated consumption estimate for 1933	102.716
Probable consumption	62.000
Inflation 65 6/10% plus	40.716
Inflated consumption estimate for 1934	108.328
Probable consumption (assuming very liberal figuring)	70.000
Inflation 54 4/10 plus	38.328

In the opinion of the writer any project that requires resort to misrepresentation, the use of grossly inflated estimates and employs tactics such as were and are being employed in an attempt to make a bad project look good, acknowledges its utter lack of merit.

Respectfully submitted,
M. W. Lauer
1114 Forest avenue
Wilmette.

Note: Since the above was written a copy of the proposed 1933-34 budget has been received. The budget estimates the water sales at \$102,000. The Engineer-Village pamphlet (page 23) estimates the average sales price for water at 16 cents per 100 cu. ft. At 16 cents per 100 cu. ft. sales of \$102,000 gives us a consumption of 63½ million cu. ft., which, at 7 cents per 100 cu. ft., (purchase price from Evanston) amounts to \$44,500. Thus the official record confirms the gross misrepresentation conveyed by the publicity statements that "it is estimated that for 1933 we will pay Evanston \$71,950 for water."

M. W. Lauer.

Editor, WILMETTE LIFE:

Being a resident of Wilmette and an ardent tennis enthusiast I would like to put a question to the public, "Why in a village the size of Wilmette, approximately 12,000, are there not more tennis courts?"

There is plenty of vacant space, centrally located, where pay courts could be put up and in a very short time, pay for themselves. It would also help the appearance of a few weed-grown and rubbish-covered lots that are to be found in the central part of Wilmette.

The only courts now in Wilmette are those located in the west part of town, at the Howard school.

Many residents, who would like to play tennis and have no means of transportation, would welcome centrally located courts where they could spend an hour or more in this healthful sport.

—J. F. Reames,
1323 Wilmette avenue,
Wilmette, Ill.

Enchanted Island Has Program for National Holidays

Mrs. Miles Seeley, 705 Rogers avenue, Kenilworth, who has charge of arranging celebrations for all national holidays in the Children's library called Story Cove on the Enchanted Island at A Century of Progress, announces the following celebrations for this and next week:

Friday, June 30: the Guatemala holiday at which the counsel general of Guatemala, Senior O. Barrios, will be a guest. Two young women from Guatemala dressed in native costume will talk to the children in their native language.

Saturday, July 1: Armenian day: several Armenian children will sing and do native dances. Sarkis Barsumian of Evanston is in charge of Armenian day at the Fair.

Sunday, July 2: Jugo-Slavia day. There will be a very simple celebration.

July 3: Palestine day. This is to be a big event. Rabbi Blumenfeld is in charge of the youth division which had offered to send 350 young people, but the library would not hold them all. There will be a chorus of twenty-five children who will sing old time Jewish songs. Also, a quartet of children will be dressed in various costumes of centuries ago, down to the present time. A group of ten children will do Palestinian dances.

On July 4: Kaskaskia chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has loaned the library its flag for the entire summer. Miss Priscilla Kellogg of that chapter will put on a program of Colonial dances done by children, preceding which there will be a parade around the island of thirty Boy Scouts and the children who will do the Virginia Reel. There will be a salute to the flag and the children will sing The Star Spangled Banner. Mrs. Seeley will tell the youngsters stories of the Colonial days and will give reasons for celebrating the Fourth of July in this country, pointing out other reasons besides fireworks.

Mrs. Lulu Allen Scott of Alhambra, Cal., who had been a resident of Wilmette for twenty years, is back in the village renewing acquaintances, while staying with the Hoppers at 1011 Greenleaf avenue. Mrs. Scott moved to California about thirteen years ago. She is leaving next week for her home.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Ellis, 823 Greenwood avenue, and their daughter, Mrs. Harding Van Schaack, 614 Linden avenue, motored to Hanover, N. H., last week to attend Robert Ellis's graduation from Dartmouth on June 21. They returned to Wilmette last week-end.

Mrs. Stella M. Tucker, 1214 Lake avenue, returned to her home last Thursday after visiting in Michigan for two weeks. She spent some of the time with her mother, Mrs. E. C. Belman of Perry and then visited relatives in Lansing, Owosso, Flint, and Bay City.

The Lorenzo C. Dilks of 227 Sheridan road, Kenilworth, are entertaining Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Perry of Easton, Pa. Mrs. Perry is Mrs. Dilks' niece. Mr. Perry is here to attend the American Society Engineers meeting in Chicago.

Mrs. James W. Shedden and her son have gone to their summer cottage at Linden Hills, near South Haven, Mich. Mr. Shedden will spend the summer in Wilmette but will go to Linden Hills week-ends.