

This agreement made it possible for the company to install poles, wires, and equipment along municipal roads, lanes, and alleyways as necessary to bring service to the local population.

This franchise was for a 10-year term, and the councillors made very sure in the agreement, that the service should be first class, and be maintained well. Also, a clause stated that the Municipality would have the privilege, after 10 years, of purchasing the plant if they so desired.

The company was not to charge their subscribers more than \$2 per month for dwellings, nor more than \$3 per month for business or other concerns.

Signers to the agreement were: Reeve — W.A. Lang; Clerk — H. McDougall; President, Lakeshore Telephone Co. — H.A. Solly and Managing Director, Lakeshore Telephone Co. — Chas. S. Stevens.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PEACHLAND LIBRARY

By: Jean Todd

Before 1911 a Reading Room was established in a room at the back of the Presbyterian Church at the corner of Third and Beach Avenue. Mrs. R. MacKay, Mrs. W.D. Miller, Mrs. A. Smalls and Mrs. W. Sanderson were some of the ladies who took turns running the library.

Around 1925 the Presbyterian Church was sold to the Municipality and was used as the Municipal Hall. The Reading Room then became the Peachland Union Library. There were shelves with locked doors on them at one end of the room. Mrs. "Guffie" Aitkens was librarian — the room was also used as a kitchen. The Women's Institute ladies helped by holding whist drives and other functions for funds, and by selling the discarded books.

In 1935 a referendum passed as voters wanted to participate in the Okanagan Union Library through funds available from the Carnegie Fund in Victoria.

In 1936 Peachland became part of the Okanagan Regional Library, and levied a charge of \$1.00 per taxpayer for library use, Mrs. Florence Wraight and Mrs. C.W. Aitkens were librarians. While the new Municipal Hall was being built at the same location, Mrs. Wraight was librarian at the temporary location in the Baptist Church.

The library then moved to the new Municipal Hall in 1965. Mrs. Wraight retired in 1966 and Mrs. Jeffrey Todd became librarian, later was assisted by Mrs. H. MacNeill (1970).

The library moved to the room beside the Post Office from 1975 to 1977 where Mrs. McIntyre joined the staff.

The library was then located in the Stewart Building, and as Mrs. McIntyre moved to Kelowna, Mrs. P. Fowler and Mrs. J. Caudle were employed (1979), and all enjoyed the sojourn until February 1981.

The library then moved to its own location in the old Baptist Church at the corner of Highway 97 and Beach Ave. The Official opening was February 18, 1981.

Irrigation

PEACHLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

From 50 years of P.I.D. minute books.

A Synopsis by M.E. Smith

As early as 1899, J.M. Robinson, on behalf of the newly formed Townsite company had taken out water rights on two springs — one, the Miller spring, on DL 1185, and the other on DL 490. In 1900 he added two more. Orchard lots were selling well, and when these were cleared they needed more water than was available from springs, so in 1906 a water system was laid out by the Townsite company, using water from Deep Creek.

Later, sometime before World War I, a ditch was put in bringing water from Penask Creek into the system; W.B. Sanderson worked on this at that time. No minutes are available, but it seems licenses covering the amount of water being taken were not processed when the ditch was made, and trouble lay ahead.

Water came down by ditches and flumes to service the newly-planted orchards.

By 1916, when the orchards were bearing fruit, the settlers were becoming disillusioned — they had paid high prices for their land, spent time and money clearing and planting, and the ditches and flumes carrying the much needed water were deteriorating badly. Moreover, the Townsite Co. had made little provision for water storage badly needed in years when there was a light snowfall in the hills. Because of these problems, the Water Users met in Aug. 1916 to take some action on their grievances. Those present were Messrs, Morrison, Powell, Brown, Ferguson, Kerr, Hardy, Williams, Wright, Smith, Harrington, MacLaughlan, Keyes, T. Elliott, J. Elliott, Ashley, Keating, Davison, Smalls and Miss Minnie Smith.

On Oct. 16, 1916, a request was made that all unrecorded waters of Peachland (Deep) Creek be set aside for the organization of the Peachland Irrigation District. It was made to the Lieutenant Governor in Council by Wm. R. Ross, Minister of Lands. Following this, in Dec. 1916, the clerk of the Municipality wrote a "Synopsis of the Irrigation System in Peachland", which explains the position the Water Users were in.

"Owing to the inadequate and unsatisfactory service, and to the notice given by the Peachland Townsite Co. Ltd. that they would only carry water (which they allege is according to their agreements with the water users) and would refuse to store any water for the purpose of irrigation: in view of these facts, the Water Users of Peachland made application under the "Water Act" to form an Irrigation Corporation. This application was forwarded to the Water Board and every assistance was given by the Water Branch Department to bring same to a successful finish. Everything went all right until the fixing of a price with the Company was attempted. They held out for what the Water Users considered a prohibitive price, with the result that

negotiations were broken off, and there appears no reasonable hope that either party will change their opinions.

This leaves the prospects of the Fruit Grower in this settlement in a very critical condition. Without water nothing can be grown, and no promise is given by the Company that they will or will not supply water this coming season.

The system has deteriorated to such an extent that it appears to be beyond the financial powers of the Company to put same into such shape as to ensure safety of operation.

What the Fruit Growers most urgently require is Government Assistance, in the form of taking over and maintaining all storage dams, and main ditches. The Municipality, or the Water Corporation, could then take over and put in proper shape all the laterals necessary for the proper distribution of the water to the Water Users".

In Sept. 1918, an Order-in-Council approved the spending of \$12,000. "to secure the enlargement, construction and repair of the reservoirs, ditches and dams and other works of the Peachland Townsite Co. Ltd." This was spent, and a further \$5,000. to complete the operation was recommended to be advanced. (No further record of this.)

P.D. Pattulo, Minister of Lands, appears to have "very forcefully" advanced the interests of the prospective Peachland Irrigation District, as on April 29, 1920 a letter was received stating that the sum of \$6000. for the Company's water system, had been accepted, despite J.M. Robinson, President, holding out strongly for \$10,000. A shareholder, Hon. G.H.V. Bulyea of Edmonton, and a summertime resident of Peachland, was instrumental in the sale of the system at the price offered.

With these negotiations completed, the Peachland Irrigation District was formed, classed as an Improvement District, and Letters Patent, setting out the requirements, was, in due course, received from the Water Branch.

The lots included in the Improvement District were District Lots 912, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1800, 2534, 2538, DL 221 except BL 11 & 12, and DL 490 except BL. 1 to 7 inclusive.

The Improvement District was to be known as the "Peachland Irrigation District", whose objects were to be the acquisition of works and licenses for storage and delivery of water for the said District.

The Water Act remained basically the same in all aspects for many years, except that on Jan. 16, 1934, a provision of the Act stated that "the only persons qualified to be nominated and elected as Trustees of the Peachland Irrigation District shall be such as are British subjects, of the full age of twenty-one years, and are owners of land within the territorial limits, and are NOT of Chinese, Japanese, or other Asiatic or Indian race. (When Letters Patent were revised in 1977 this racial provision was excluded.) Tax sale of lands with delinquent Irrigation Taxes was absolute. (This last provision was to be very worrying later during the Depression years.)

For some years after the P.I.D. was formed, trustees were also councillors, and it was not until 1935 that the Irrigation District was

divorced from council, and trustees numbered 3, rather than 4 or 5 as had been the case earlier. As were council minutes of the early years, the minutes of the water meetings were written in W.M. Dryden's clear and legible script. Although dealing with the public, and with many problems and complaints, the minutes written by each of the secretaries are exemplary in their tact and consideration of people's feelings.

The water system had been purchased with all of its liabilities, so, although it had been baled out with money from the government, this had to be paid back, and the ditches and flumes put in a workable condition. Consideration was given to lining the main ditch with cement, but this being too costly, Sam McGirr was put in charge of doing this job with lumber. James Michael and W.B. Sanderson were also workers on the ditch. Measuring boxes were built by Walter Shaw, and a Water Distributor hired. This latter was Albert Smalls, who was to serve faithfully and well for 20-odd years. His very first job seems to have been to remind people to send in their applications for water, or be shut off! Wages for Mr. Smalls for 1921 and 1922 were \$125.00 a month. This was for 7 days a week during the irrigation season, but Sunday was a partial day. Dumping water into pot-holes was strictly forbidden, and an arrangement was made with R.J. Hogg to put waste water on DL 1800, where presumably, it would eventually end up at the lake via the spring above the present Senior Citizens' Hall.

As early as this first year, P.I.D. had problems with users tampering with water gates, and the purchase of 100 padlocks was considered. This was a recurring problem.

By 1922, an indemnity for the trustees of \$3.00 per regular meeting was set.

An agreement which was made with Greata Ranch and P.I.D. whereby each got their allotted share of water seems to have worked fairly well over the years, with the Trustees and the Long brothers of Greata Ranch able to settle any differences amicably most of the time. A License to take water from Brenda Lake was given to P.I.D., but they were unable to use it as hard times were setting in, and there was no money available to do the work.

The Trustees asked at this time for permission to investigate the headwaters of the North Fork and South Fork of Deep Creek, with the idea of securing more water. W.D. Miller was asked to do some scouting and assess what it would cost for a diversion ditch to carry water from a creek into the North Fork dam. This he estimated at \$4,000. By 1925 they were discussing storage at Wilson Lake and M. Aitkens was put in charge of clearing a trail to the lake. Labourers were paid \$3.50 per day. It was decided to make an earth dam at Wilson Lake if funds could be arranged. This being settled. O.G. Miller cleared the dam site, and a camp site, and Mr. Wright's tender to put in the earth dam was accepted, and the work was done. The gate and concrete work also were built at this time.

The trustees were barely able to keep up with repairs to the worst places in the system, and motions to pay accounts invariably carried the stipulation "when funds are available".

Dry weather always meant tampering with gates, and water users also had money problems in those early days. To add to the woes of the Water Trustees, a number of farms had been bought by returned soldiers with Soldier Settlement funds, and many of these had reverted back to the Soldier Settlement Board, and were not bringing in revenue.

1926 was another dry year, and water was in short supply. Mr. Pierce, Engineer, was sent to survey the possibilities of diverting North Fork Creek into the dam. This was estimated at \$2,250, and tenders were taken. Mr. Ashley was the successful bidder and was to receive \$2,000, or \$2,400, if the water could be received in the reservoir for use the coming season.

In Dec. 1927, for the first time, a yearly indemnity was voted for the Trustees — \$20. each, including the chairman. Wages in 1927 were 40¢ an hour for labourers; \$6. per day for a man and team of horses — man to provide hay, but P.I.D. would pay for hay to be delivered to the job. The building of the diversion ditch was again postponed because of financial difficulties.

The first steps were taken that year to have the P.I.D. separate from the Municipal Council. Wages for Mr. Smalls had gone down to \$100. per month, with the secretary being paid \$25. per month.

Like all Irrigation Districts in the Okanagan, P.I.D.'s burden of government loans was impossible to get rid of, and so the Peachland Trustees took steps to persuade the government to waive the interest on their loans.



Putting in metal flume. Ted Topham on left.

This was not their only problem — delinquent water users were taking water regardless of whether the Bailiff had shut their gates, and the Trustees had finally to call a special meeting of water users, when

some trustees threatened to quit if all were not treated equally. Some of the water users were most upset by the "no pay, no water" stipulation. They felt quite justified in arguing, "No water ' no fruit ' no money for water taxes". Temporary relief was given non-payers by taking notes for the amounts owed, and things went on, but always with frustrating money problems.

A motion was passed to make an application for 400 inches of water from Penask Creek, in Aug. 1927. The bungling, somewhere, of this application was to have dire results in a couple of years time. In 1928 a letter from the Government showed that Peachland had **NO RIGHTS** on Penask Creek! and they had been using it all along! In fact, the original ditch had been made with government funds and supervision as stated earlier.

In 1928 Peachland asked for 500 inches of flood water from Penask Creek, with little hope of getting any later in the season. Meanwhile, the government had decided to pay the water taxes on the Soldier Settlement Board holdings, which was some help. But to offset this, there had been damage to the South Fork dam, and repairs were needed on the North Fork dam also, and many stretches of flume. Tenders were called for repair work, and when there was trouble getting men, the Trustees finally had to allow one gallon of gas per trip to each man driving a car and taking someone else to work. Mr. Suddaby was put in charge of the project, and told to get the best prices possible for materials.

Continual pressure by the Okanagan Irrigation Districts to the Government finally brought some relief, and many of the loans outstanding against these Districts were cancelled. M.L.A. J.W. Jones was sent a letter of appreciation for his endeavors on behalf of the water users, as was W.F. Kennedy.

This would seem an end to most of the troubles — but worse was yet to come.

An extremely dry fall and winter left the lakes in the hills unfilled in 1929. P.I.D. had succeeded in their efforts to use Penask Creek water, but only in flood time — not later than June 20th. Till then they could use 66 ac. ft.

However, some water users were determined to use Penask Creek water as they had done previously, as their trees were suffering from the dry weather of midsummer and in danger of dying.

They, therefore, went to Penask and put in logs to divert the water into the ditch. The ranchers and Indians on the Nicola side of the divide were then short of water for their hayfields, and they shut the water off. When the Peachland men returned again to retake the water they were confronted with some very angry ranchers and Indians — and the Indians of the Nicola Country had a reputation of being pretty tough. Peachland got nowhere with the Water Board with their pleas in this matter.

As to orchardists receiving water while in arrears — this was a thorny question, in which both sides felt they were right. Tax sales being absolute, it was decided to see if the Water Act could be amended, so that an owner might have 12 months to redeem his land. Mr. Smalls

gave the water users a minimum of water to make it last, with predictable results — nobody was happy. Even the division of Great Ranch and P.I.D. water seemed to be a problem at this time.

In July 1929, when checking with the Water Rights Branch in Kelowna it was found that the Order-in-Council to allow Peachland to use Penask Creek water, as asked for in 1925, had never gone through, otherwise the P.I.D. action in taking water from Penask Creek would have been perfectly legal! This was **not** conceded by the Dept. of the day.

The original petition before 1925, was for 100 inches. However, the ditch could carry 400 - 500 inches, and because P.I.D. used this full capacity year after year, the people of the Nicola divide objected strongly, and the water was taken away from Peachland. If they had been only taking 100 inches there would have been no problem.

To further tangle things up — no water rights had been taken out on the North Fork Reservoir! — so in August 1929, the Trustees passed a motion forthwith, to apply for 1000 ac. ft., and a motion to go ahead with a diversion ditch, and the required permissions and licenses. They were assured the license would be available. In the meantime, Mr. Smalls was laid off — there being no water to distribute.

A special meeting was called to discuss problems. The water users passed a motion to put in a diversion ditch. "Fine," they said, "now how do we pay for it?" There was no more money in the Government fund. Money was just not available. Stalemate.

A few weeks later the Government had agreed to make \$1600. to \$1800. available for repair work, but no money for the North Fork diversion ditch. Meetings were discouraging. One was taken up with a long dissertation by Mr. R.J. Hogg on Peachland's suitability for fruit growing; he advised growing alfalfa and raising sheep. A long discussion on the comparative merits of this versus orchards, and also on apple varieties, soil types, and the growing of cherries on the upper benches. The water system had been made for 800 acres, and was now serving only 500 acres, and these owners were now burdened with all the costs, as the rest had reverted, or been sold for taxes. To add to their woes, horses were running loose on vacant properties, with resulting damage to flumes.

April 1930 saw the country in the depths of the Depression. Major MacDonald of the Water Board spoke to the Trustees, found out what they wanted, but told them he hadn't the foggiest idea of what the Government intended to do, and doubted if any money was available. A.D. Ferguson asked the value of lining the ditch with clay, and received an interesting lecture on this, but as no clay was available, no immediate results could be looked for. They talked also of hopes for using water from Penask Creek and the minutes refer to what was called the "Penask Creek episode."

During the same month the P.I.D. felt badly treated by the Sanford Evans Report, and denounced the Minister of Lands as "having done nothing to clarify the situation, and neither had he made a pronouncement worthwhile since he had been invested in office." The



Peachland Irrigation District flume near Princeton Road, near present Riding Club.

meeting was bitter.

Finally in May, the Water Board gave in and promised aid to improve the system, and in June the trustees received permission to take 600 ac. ft. from Penask Creek — but again only during flood time.

A new source of water was found at Spring Lake and plans went ahead to dig a channel and bring water into the system, but not until much controversy over costs and practicability.

The North Fork Diversion was still being considered as the best solution, but money was the big hold up as usual. Meetings with government officials were frequent but very unsatisfactory, and one Deputy Minister of Finance who spoke to them at a meeting "...had nothing definite to say.. could promise nothing.... and as a good deal of his remarks were inaudible, nothing could be made of this contribution!"

By September 1930, the Government had relented again, and made \$1500. available. A foreman, J. MacKinnon, was appointed, and work was begun. Wages \$2.50 a day, foreman \$3.50 per day, man and team \$5. a day. Even at these rates, Mr. De Wolfe of the Water Department, said they were too high, and to arrange for a 9 or 10-hour day at the prices quoted.

This was surely a bad year. Rock was encountered that required a change of line; there was trouble with the packers; extra expenses, not enough men, not enough accommodation, timbers not ready, and so on. New packers were procured, Palmer and Coldham.

Tiny Dell, who was making trips to the packer's camp, demanded double the \$5. fee per trip when carrying powder. The trustees finally

agreed, but would only pay double one way — not on the return trip. This project was finally finished — with disputes still going on about payment for packers and teamsters, and complaints about prices being changed. Oh, to be a Trustee!

Despite all the difficulties of 1930, the new diversion ditch was a definite asset.

P.I.D. was still fighting, arguing, pleading, to the Water Branch about Penask water, and \$50. was borrowed from the bank so that a delegation might go to Kamloops to plead their case for water. This, however, was postponed. Unbelievable as it was, other districts were in even worse shape than Peachland. Wages were down now to 35¢ an hour, and the secretary offered to take a cut in pay to \$25.

The P.I.D. Trustees were still Council members in 1932, and had the added burden of being a Relief Committee. Trustees seemed to be at odds with one another; no doubt at times it was the personalities involved rather than events.

A new secondary dam was discussed for the North Fork reservoir. The game warden asked that the beaver be protected, but at this same meeting it was decided to blow up four beaver dams. Beaver were a recurring problem. They either dammed up the water in the wrong place, or let it out without the Trustees' permission!

The new secondary dam was built by Erwin Campbell and a Mr. Watson and finished Oct. 24, 1932. Finances were still deplorable, so these men were given promissory notes to mature in 1933.

Hard times deepened during the winter, and finally the Government did help a great deal; they reduced the P.I.D. debt from \$40,065. to \$5,741. to be paid in 30 annual payments of \$417.08.

In the spring the Trustees were dismayed to see that the new auxiliary dam had been breached — part of it being washed away by high water, and a large hole dug out by the beavers, had caused the trouble. The dam had been designed by Mr. Pierce and supervised by him, and had been built partly on an old beaver dam. Resignations were threatened, but later retracted, and an amicable spirit re-established.

The secretary's choice of words on these occasions is excellent.

In 1934 the P.I.D. was separated from Council, and was then comprised of three Trustees only, and a secretary. Due to the very hard times the secretary offered to do his work for \$17.50 a month, and this was accepted.

The new auxiliary dam was found to be useless, so that money was wasted. Several lots which had reverted to P.I.D. were turned over to the Municipality in lieu of \$1,500. which had been loaned to them, and which they were unable to pay.

(Minute books are not available for 1937 and 1938 no doubt lost in fire).

C.C. Inglis who had been secretary for many years resigned and a Capt. Brew was made secretary-treasurer, and in May, 1937 wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Police at Victoria requesting permission to carry a revolver while taking money to the bank in Kelowna. We have no idea if he was successful in this request.

By 1939 things were beginning to get better. The secretary's wage went up again to \$20. per month, and daily wages were \$3.20 per day. Neil Evans had replaced Mr. Smalls as water distributor, but with the outbreak of war he was granted leave to join up and Frank Bradley took his place.

There appears to be a general easing of money problems, and more amity among the Trustees. Agreements between Greata Ranch and P.I.D. were made on the upkeep of the road into the hills, and on the division of water.

With H.C. MacNeill having joined the Airforce, a new secretary J. Cameron took over, and a new water distributor, George Birkelund.

By 1943 Neil Evans was invalided out of the army and came back to his job with P.I.D. with a raise in pay to \$118. a month from \$115. Labour was now being paid 50¢ an hour with 60¢ an hour for a foreman. Non-producing land, owned by anyone serving in the forces, if not using water, was exempt from water taxes. The Trustees indemnity was now \$150., or \$50. each per year.

1944 was another dry year, and the Trustees were determined to avoid disaster. Again they asked for Penask Creek water through M.P., Mr. W.A.C. Bennett. This was not forthcoming, but instead, permission was given to make a diversion ditch from MacDonald Creek to the North Fork dam, and work was proceeded with very quickly in May, 1944. A late, heavy snowfall saved the situation, and Penask water, even on a temporary basis, was not required. On such short notice, metal flume was very difficult to get, because of wartime restrictions, but enough was finally procured. A camp was set up for workmen, and the ditch was finished by June 2nd, in time to get the benefit of the spring run-off.

Things continued to improve as the years went on, the ditches and flumes were gradually upgraded, and water was not lost so badly from leakage. For some time cement fluming was made in the off-season to be installed in the fall or early spring. The main problem with the project seems to have been getting a cement mixer; again, because of wartime shortages. A suitable one was finally located in Vancouver, and another mixer used a washing machine engine. The cement plant was beside Trepanier Creek, on a flat piece of land, long used by the Indians as a campground.

With the war ended, the Trustees had new worries. With returned soldiers being settled under the V.L.A., there would not be enough water if all the lots in the district needed it.

But to keep things cosy, the Trustees still had their usual troubles — slides damaging the ditches — and those beavers again at their tricks — this time repeatedly plugging the spillway, which then needed repeated attention. It was decided to raise the North Fork dam but this had problems too. For some reason the men and their foreman were at loggerheads, and it was not until a new foreman was appointed for the job that things went well. By November 21 of 1946, the dam, raised four feet, was finished and the gate tower repaired. None too soon, as snow was falling, and the temperature was below 0° F.

By 1947, the water distributor was getting \$180. monthly for the ir-

rigation season, and labour rates had risen to 65¢ an hour. This was a very dry summer, one of the driest springs on record, and only a general rain in the spring helped fill the reservoirs. However, all the water available in the dam was used up that summer.

About this time a suggestion was made that the Peachland Irrigation District, the Municipal Domestic Water System, and Trepanier Irrigation District unite. In a classic understatement, the secretary recorded that "the Trustees general opinion was that a joint board of these three Districts would lack co-operation."

New homes, new prosperity, and new indoor bathrooms, meant that cisterns filled with water in the fall did not last all winter. If the water was let down too late into the flumes then icing took place, with resulting damage and frustrations. Sometimes the water would be let down by unauthorized persons, and this made for much ill-feeling if damage and expense resulted.

In 1948, 10 years after Mr. Smalls retired as water Bailiff, finances finally permitted the Trustees to acknowledge his long years of service, and a purse of \$100.00 and a letter of appreciation were presented to him.

Ray Harrington was also thanked for the many trips he made, in all kinds of weather, usually on foot, to the North Fork dam to adjust the gate — and to keep beaver damage to a minimum.

An unheard-of-thing happened in 1949 — the Water Bailiff wanted 2 Sundays a month off! The Trustees did not receive this request too kindly, and pointed out comparisons of his wage with that of the orchardists. Persistence paid off though, and he was given 2 Sundays off, providing he find a man to work at 80¢ per hour for 5 hours each for 2 Sundays a month.

In 1948, some unknown object was plugging the pipe or tunnel, from the North Fork dam. H.C. MacNeill volunteered to work his way up the half full pipe to find the trouble. It proved to be a steel drilling rod. MacNeill then returned with a hacksaw to remove it. This had been collecting debris for years.

The winter of 1949 - 1950 was a devastating one for the orchardists. The lake froze over in the spring, temperatures went down to - 30° and - 40°F and the peach trees were wiped out, and all the fruit crops heavily damaged. The Trustees did their best to lower rates for the water users. These had been \$21.00 an acre, but were lowered to \$15.00. They tried to be as lenient as possible with regard to payments of taxes — no water was to be shut off for non payment. The soft fruit crop had been reduced from \$100,000. to nil. But the Water Comptroller turned down the reduced schedule, partly through a lack of communication between P.I.D. and the Water Rights Branch. At any rate, one government agent was in a real huff — no doubt he had been chastised by his superior, as he demanded the P.I.D. secretary sign papers absolving him, the agent, of any blame. The Trustees stood by the secretary, informed the agent that they would call a General Meeting, invite the Press, read all correspondence, and all accusations would be threshed out. This changed the picture, as the man in ques-

tion backed off in his charges, but not before the newspapers had got wind of the altercation and put a provocative article in the "Courier."

Amidst all this, a rather touching bit appeared in the minutes — "the piece of flume at Ibbotsons, demolished by a car driven by Mrs. Ibbotson, repaired — cost \$3."

In 1951 the Trustees decided to relocate the old cement flume shed and put it on property owned by A.E. Miller.

Changes were happening with more affluent times — some growers were installing sprinkler systems, and obtaining pressure by having outlets at higher elevations on the ditch or flume. In 1953 the first mention is made of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act coming to B.C. and helping with dams and reservoirs. Things were definitely better. Trustees now received \$75. each as a yearly indemnity and wages were \$1. an hour. Land sometimes could still be bought for a song as it is shown that 10 acres was sold to one lady for \$150. True, it was not too accessible, but nevertheless, 10 acres is 10 acres.

During 1953 the dam on the South Fork reservoir was badly needing repair, and this was upgraded in October.

Another sign of relative affluence was the fact that the secretary and Water Distributor were given Christmas gifts — fine hams — for the first time recorded.

By 1955 there are frequent references to dealings with Trautman-Garraway Mill, who used water for a pond into which logs were dumped. These dealings seem to have been worked out cooperatively, as the Trustees were aware of the importance of the mill to the community.

At the end of 1956 the secretary was able to report that the condition of the Irrigation system had never been better, and the condition of the farmer never worse. Severe frost, and low prices had played havoc with the orchardists' income once again. The Trustees again lowered the rates to assist them.

A new trend however was in the offing. Some farmers were considering subdividing their property, as a growth in population started to create a demand for home sites.

By now the Water Distributor was receiving \$230. monthly, the secretary \$50. per month.

In 1960 G.W. Hawksley, who had served as Trustee for 18 years, was presented with an engraved mug when he retired and, as the secretary recorded..." they then proceeded to christen the mug in a suitable fashion, to everyone's satisfaction."

In 1960 also, new ideas were being tested — a section of wooden flume was lined with polyethelene, and this was to prove quite successful.

With better times there was more money, but also more rules and regulations — sales taxes on pipe, overtime for labour, minimum wages, etc. etc.. Subdivisions were becoming more common, and new rules for these had to be worked out.

A new trustee, Fred Topham Jr. was sworn in in 1960 and Mr. Miller credited him with suggesting the MacDonald Creek diversion

ditch in 1944. The influx of tourists, hunters, fishermen, and prospectors was now causing new problems for the Water Board.

In 1961 there was talk of the Agricultural Resources Development Act — A.R.D.A. Some areas were pushing hard for this to take in B.C. in order to revamp water systems and to have water under pressure.

The winter of 1961-62 had a record snowfall, and water content at Trout Creek headwaters at 7.3 inches, compared with the average of 4.9 inches.

Trustees prepared for heavy flows from the springs in the District, especially the Dan White Spring. Mr. A.E. Miller retired that year, having been a Trustee for 16 years. At the Annual meeting when a presentation was made to him, he replied that he was one of two Trustees who had, literally, thrown themselves into their work — Ted Topham and himself had taken an unexpected swim when an upset boat threw them, fully clad, into the icy waters of North Fork Lake, while repairing the boom at the spillway.

That year, too, Chesel Haker, secretary for 19 years, accepted a position as secretary-manager of the Keremeos Irrigation District and left P.I.D., which showed its appreciation of his long service with a farewell presentation and scroll. Mr. Frank Bradley was hired as secretary-manager, a position he held until a few years after the A.R.D.A. system was installed in 1970. This was now a 12 month job — and a truck was provided for his use.

1963 promised to be a dry year, with the lightest snowfall since 1931, but rains helped, and the storage of water was adequate. By now Mr. Padgett, Water Comptroller, advised P.I.D. that Improvement Districts were eligible to make application for capital construction under the Federal Municipal Development Act. The Trustees decided to give this plan very careful study.

In 1965 there was an interesting note that a new transit had been purchased, to replace the **homemade** one used for many years.

Subdivisions were changing the face of Peachland — there were fewer and fewer orchards, and more and more subdivisions, with their attendant difficulties.

By 1966 an aerial survey was made of the Water District, with the idea of putting in a pressurized system, under the A.R.D.A. of the Federal Government.

Another important development was the decision of Brenda Mines to go ahead with their copper-molybdenum mine, and this required a large amount of water, to be used on a 24-hour basis. They proposed to put in a much higher dam on the North Fork, make a full diversion of MacDonald Creek into Deep Creek, and a diversion of Deep Creek into the North Fork Reservoir.

Pollution, recycling of water, and agreements with P.I.D. and Greata Ranch to share the water were gone into. This virtually assured Peachland of always having adequate water if an agreement was reached.

The Brenda Mines plans had the effect of giving the Peachland A.R.D.A. project a higher priority than expected. Repairs which had



Working at North Fork Dam, 1943.

been planned on the P.I.D. system, were held in abeyance as they waited for the feasibility study for Brenda to be completed.

All during 1967 questions relating to a pressurized system were discussed to protect the P.I.D. interests, with A.R.D.A. being the main topic at Trustees meetings.

The feasibility studies being favourable, the new dam was started on April 1st, 1968.

The A.R.D.A. survey being completed, a water users meeting was held in the Athletic Hall on August 17th, 1968. The cost of the new system was to be \$547,000., and required an estimated yearly revenue of \$34,000. A vote taken showed 126 in favour of A.R.D.A. project and 10 against.

By 1969 the Trustees indemnity had risen to \$600. a year or \$200. each, and it was to be a very busy year. Work commenced on July 2nd, 1969, with construction of an access road to the site of the diversion dam. The wage rate for labour on the A.R.D.A. project, \$2.25 an hour.

Ever since the Water Board had split from the Council, meetings had been held at either the secretary's or one of the Trustees' homes. Now it was felt that an office was needed, and 2 rooms in the MacLaughlan building were rented. The warehouse building was also upgraded, with a cement floor, and shelves to hold pipe fittings, tools etc. A photocopier was purchased, at a price that would have horrified the Trustees in earlier years — namely \$695., but it was necessary with the added paper work.

It was decided that a charge of \$540. be made for subdivided lots that were less than two acres in size.

In October tenders were taken for cement asbestos pipe, and A.R.D.A. got ready to roll!

Peachland Irrigation District soon had water under pressure; all orchards ran sprinklers instead of ditches; and the A.R.D.A. system made possible many subdivisions of property, which were needed for the mine workers, and the general population explosion in Peachland between 1970-1981.

A.R.D.A. THE WATER FLOWS ON

Info: Earl Sutherland and P.I.D. minute books

After the A.R.D.A. program became operational and everyone was receiving water through the new system, the Trustee's next task was to set the new Budget. P.I.D. was to pay back to the Provincial Government 1/3 of the cost of the project, this amount being \$320,000. Payments were to be made yearly until June 1, 1998 at 7.84% interest. This, plus operating costs made up the amount needed annually. Hook-up charges were spread over 3 years. Domestic water rates, and irrigation charges at \$35. an acre for orchard land, and \$21. an acre for hay land made up the remaining revenue.

By-laws and regulations were set up with all by-laws being approved by Victoria. Any subdivisions started after A.R.D.A. had to pay \$830. an acre, which was the government share of the cost. P.I.D. received 10% for administration. The rate was reduced 10% each year over the lifetime of the agreement.

With good pressure throughout the system, subdivisions began to spring up all over the area serviced.

These subdivisions meant problems with water flow, and with pressure fluctuations which the system had not really been designed for. Added to this were problems with subdividers not installing the proper sized lines etc.

Frank Bradley, water bailiff, now had a job far different than hitherto, and also a health problem. In 1973 Mrs. Lawrence took over the office, opening 4 hrs. per day.

It was felt that a full time employee would solve most of the problems and Elvin Robinson was hired in this capacity. On Mrs. Lawrence's retirement Bob Sime became Sec.-Treasurer still working four hours daily.

With more and more lots being created a Municipal Engineer from Kelowna was called in and he and Ken Blagborne from Summerland offered their services as consultants.

Concern was voiced by the Water Rights Branch about the P.I.D. problems and the trustees were advised to put a temporary freeze on subdivisions until the system was analysed. Water Rights Engineer Earl Anthony co-ordinated all pertinent data and some by-laws were re-worded. Subdividers were given a set of regulations to follow, and all plans had to be made by a qualified engineer, which then had to be approved by the P.I.D. engineer in Kelowna. The full time field man made inspections of all installations, and when all was in order, and charges paid, the water was turned on.

A five year plan was set up by the District's engineers, in cooperation with the Water Rights Board, with priorities set out.

In 1976 Lenore Sweet became the first woman Trustee in the history of the P.I.D. and in 1977 the board of trustees was expanded from three to five members.

Capital funds were used to upgrade #1 Pumphouse, and to put in a 100,000 gal. reservoir in the hills above the Riding Club, which gave better pressure to that area, better flow in case of fire, and enough water for further expansion.

Pressure reducing stations were also upgraded.

A study for a second five-year plan has pointed up new priorities, and the Trustees will have to consider these carefully for further expansion.

TREPANIER WATER USERS ANNUAL MEETING 1932

Penticton Herald April 1932, writer unknown

Peachland — The great annual event of the season for Trepanier came off on Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Trepanier School house.

This means that the annual meeting of the Trepanier Water Users' Community was held, to hear the financial statement, elect officers for 1932, as well as to discuss the work required for the forthcoming season. As usual, this meeting lived fully up to its polyacoustic reputation. Here, every year, the orchardists of Trepanier foregather to unload on one another all the pent-up wrath, woes, grievances (real and imaginary) of the past year.

The fame of this annual meeting of the "Water Users" has spread far and near; but alas only the elect are admitted; no unauthorized person may attend that meeting.

To gratify the great demand of the public today for news, even if that news had to be obtained under circumstances of the gravest danger, The Herald gives the first full report ever published in the press of one of these unique gatherings. It is a recognized fact that the Trepanier district, with its seven days per week daily water service at the usual acreage charge of around \$5, has one of the best, as well as cheapest, systems in the valley, yet its annual meetings are easily the most vitriolic.

The financial statement as read showed a gross income of \$582. The outlay for expenses was \$457. This included work, flumes and material, as well as secretarial expenses \$40, and bailiff work \$64. The tax rate per acre was \$5, with an extra call of \$1 per acre for some special work.

Then the fireworks started. One grower said in unmeasured terms that \$65 per annum was too much to pay the bailiff in these hard times. The bailiff replied and amplified his reply. While the smoke still rolled, another remarked that the secretary was anything but competent and should at least finish his figures at home rather than keep the meeting delayed to do so. Replies from the secretary were pungent etc.