

# **CITY OF MOUNT AIRY**



## **WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT**

## **HISTORY**

**WRITTEN BY: TIMOTHY F. McHONE**

In 1988 I was in my third year as Water Plant Supervisor at the Orchard Street Water Plant when the Engineering Company of Hazen & Sawyers was hired to do a study of the City of Mount Airy water system. When the study was completed it appeared the Orchard Street Water Plant would be closed.

When I read the study I wondered how much the water and wastewater systems had changed through the history of Mount Airy. I knew that most of what I had been told about the Orchard Street Water Plant was not very accurate. At that time I realized that with the end coming for the plant someone besides myself might want to know how it all started and what happened up until now.

I would like to thank all the following people and organizations which assisted and provided information for the completion of the "City of Mount Airy Water and Wastewater Treatment History":

Ruth Minick  
Carlos Surratt  
F.G. Doggett  
Will D. Merritt  
Jeff Boyles  
James K. Boyd  
David Puckett  
Marty Semones  
Kent Scott

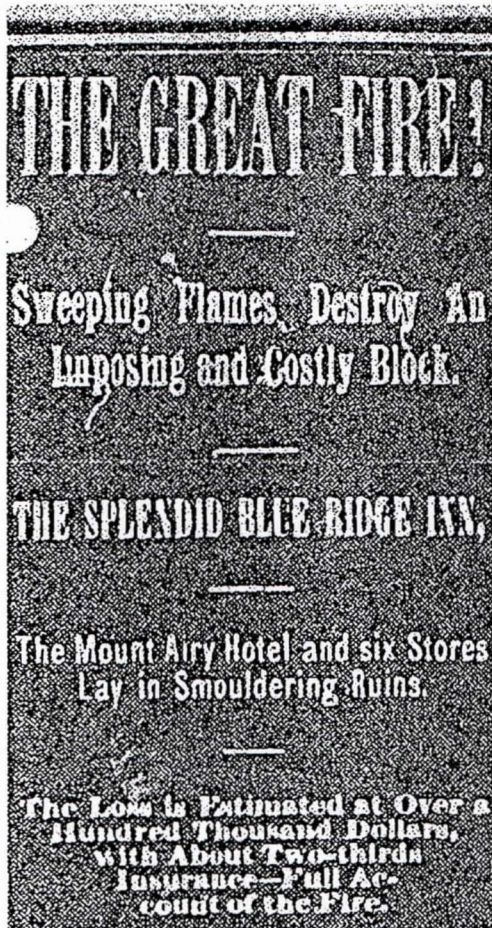
Surry Community College  
Surry County Historical Society  
Mt. Airy Public Works Dept.  
All of the Water and Wastewater Personnel



## Early History (1885 - 1912)

In 1885 the village of Mt. Airy was incorporated into a Town. Everyone drew their water from wells and springs. The waste system was usually outside toilets or inside tanks that were dipped out regularly and dumped into the nearest creek.

The need for a water system wasn't raised until after the great fire of 1892. On New Years Eve 1892 the Blue Ridge Hotel caught fire. Water could not be carried fast enough from surrounding wells to put the fire out. A bucket brigade was formed to the Ararat River but it was too little too late. Before the fire burned out, everything between Oak Street and Franklin Street was in flames. If there had not been a vacant lot on Franklin Street to act as a fire break, the fire would have burned most of the west side of Main Street. In 1892 there was no fire department and even if there had been, without water, they would have had a hard time putting out the fire.



*Newspaper Headline*

An article in the Yadkin Valley News about the fire got the citizens thinking about a water system. The article said, "It seems awful to think that, just here, if we would have had a steady stream of water forty thousand dollars could have been saved." This statement was made about the fire burning Merritt's Hardware.

There was an election scheduled for May 1892. A water project bill was added to the ballot. This project would provide for a well, pump, water lines and fire hydrants. The officials, which were in office at that time, did not approve of the project because of the cost. In the March 1892 edition of the Yadkin Valley News, an editorial written by George Pell said, "Isn't it a pity for a town to which we are so devoted to have to submit itself to the dictates of close fisted fogies and never have decent streets or lights, not even a little water with which to quench a raging conflagration. Surely if that is our fix we are people to be pitied." The water project bill passed but no action was ever taken to start the project. No reason was ever given for not complying with the wishes of the citizens.



No mention was made of a water system until a special election was held in 1896. This election had a vote on \$25,000.00 of water works' bonds. The bonds passed and the money was appropriated for the project. In April 1896 a civil engineer named Mr. Greenlee from Marion County was hired to do the surveying for the project. Mr. Greenlee finished the surveying in May, about the same time of the elections for mayor and city council. After the elections \$59.50 was allocated for a water works study. No mention was ever made if the study was completed.

In 1901 the Town decided to proceed with the project that was approved in 1896. There were already \$25,000.00 in bonds approved. The Town added a \$50,000.00 supplement and work began on the water system.

The first water lines were put in on North Main Street. The water for the Town was furnished by the Rucker and Witton Tobacco Company located two blocks from Main Street. It was soon evident that Rucker and Witton could not supply the Town with an adequate water supply.

In 1904 construction was started on a Town well just outside the northwest corner of the town at the site where the S.L. Spencer Water Treatment Plant, formerly known as the Orchard Street Water Plant, is now located. The well was 25 feet deep and was 40 feet across. This brick well was built on top of a spring which allowed the water to flow up into the well.

Also built on the same site of the Town well was a pump house containing a 400 gallon per minute water pump. A secondhand wooden water tank was bought and erected on Lebanon Hill where the North Main Street tank and stand pipe are now located.

In 1905 the Town was in short supply of water. It was decided to construct a small dam on Creasy Branch. The exact location of the dam is not known. Creasy Branch rises from an area between West Virginia Street and Terri Lane. This is a part of an area called Sandy Level. The branch flows under Gordon Street in a southeastern direction where it travels under Gravely Street at the corner of Dee Shinault's property. From there the stream flows under Highway 52 across the property owned by the Mount Airy Rescue Squad and under Fredrick Street to the driveway of Rippling Water Farms and into Lovill's Creek. The Creasy Branch Dam would have had to be located somewhere between Highway 52 and the headwaters to have provided enough altitude to provide gravity flow to the town well. From the well, water was pumped untreated into the system. At this time a gasoline powered 26 horse power pump, rated at 300 gallons per minute was added.

Also, in 1905 the first of two dams and power plants were constructed on Stewart's Creek. The Town later sold all power and gas utilities to private companies.



The water system would be sufficient until 1910. At this time a three foot high dam was constructed on Tumbling Rock Branch. An eight-inch water line was run 4,600 feet to the old brick well. This water, just like the other sources, was pumped without treatment.



*First Tumbling Rock Dam*



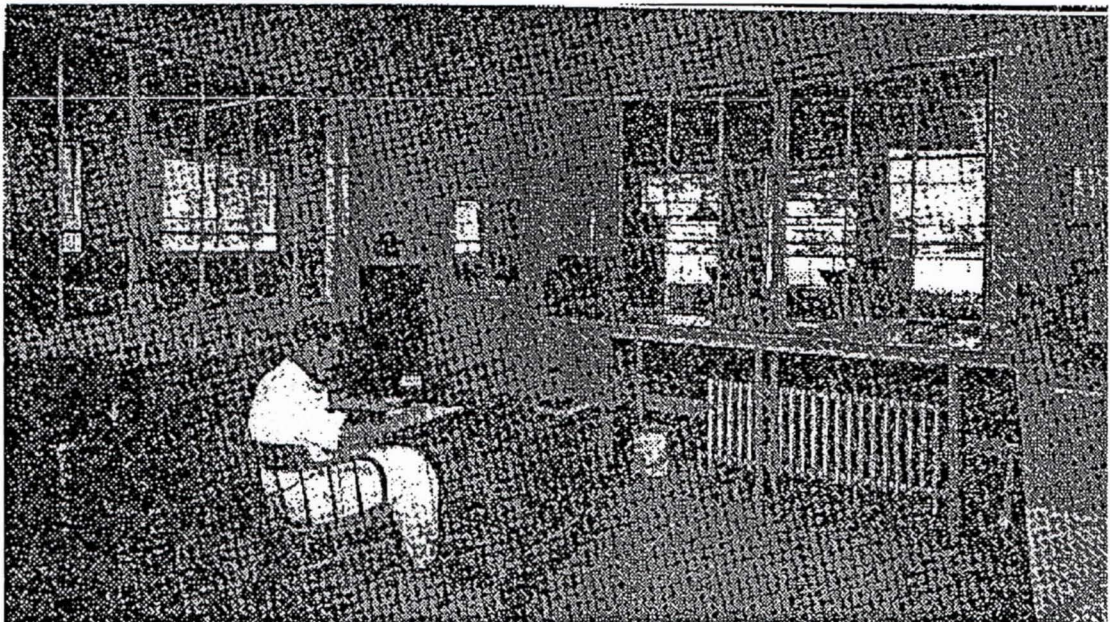
## 1913 - 1925

In 1913 it was decided that it was time for some type of treatment process. Construction started that year on a plant consisting of a very small coagulation basin, a chemical control house, two one-quarter million-gallon per day sand filter tubs. Only one of the filters was put in operation at that time. A concrete reinforced filtered water storage basin with a 150,000 gallon capacity and a 150,000 gallon elevated storage tank, to replace the wooden one on Lebanon Hill, was also built in 1913. The elevated tank on Lebanon Hill is still in use.

From 1896 until 1920 the sewer system consisted of pipes running on the East and West sides of Main Street. The line on the West side ran to Lovills Creek, and the one on the East side ran to the Ararat River. In 1920 three septic tanks were constructed. One of the tanks was located behind Mount Airy Table and Mantle Company. Another was located on East Pine Street approximately 200 feet below the bridge crossing the Ararat River. The third was in an area called Banner Bottom, approximately 1,000 feet upstream from where the bridge on Highway 52 crosses Lovills Creek.

The water use by 1922 had increased enough to put the second filter at the water plant in use. The water plant could now produce one-half million gallons of water per day.

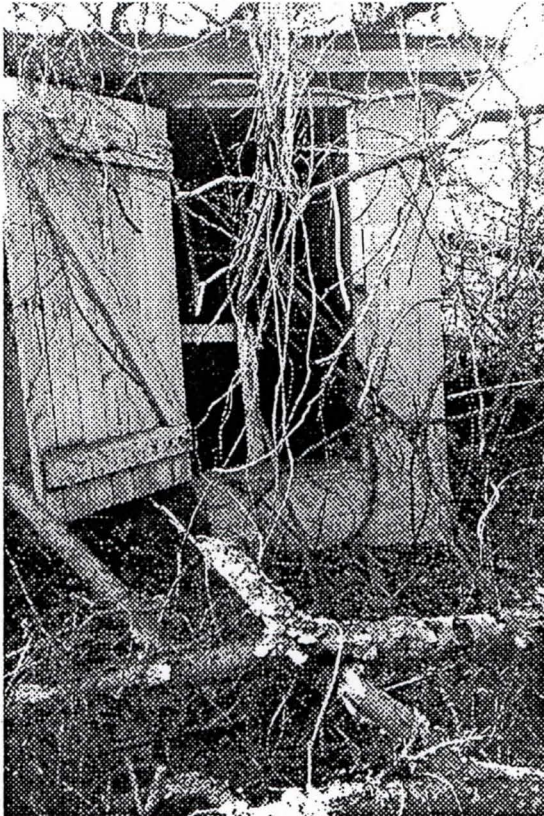
The North Carolina Board of Health in 1924 forced the Town to hire the first Superintendent of Water. The State wanted the Town to improve the plant efficiency. The Superintendent, C.W. Absher, set up the first laboratory at the plant. He also set up the first weather observation station at the water plant. Mr. Absher started keeping records in 1924. Also, that year a large coagulation basin was constructed. This basin is still in use.



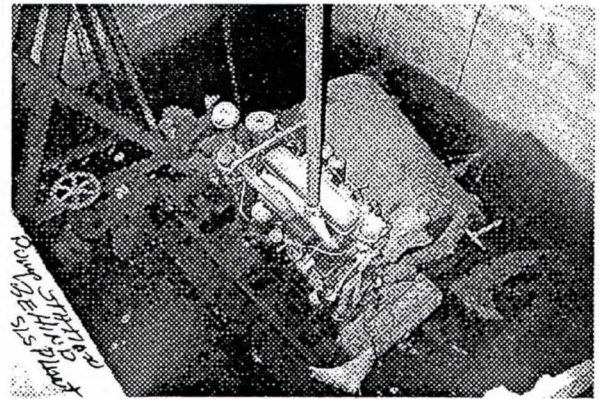
*Water Plant Laboratory*



Three years after starting up the second filter the plant was reaching its capacity. This increase in water use was putting a strain on the Tumbling Rock Reservoir, and in 1925 the town had to build a pump station on Lovills Creek. The pump station was constructed at a point where the water line from Tumbling Rock crossed Lovills Creek. That summer

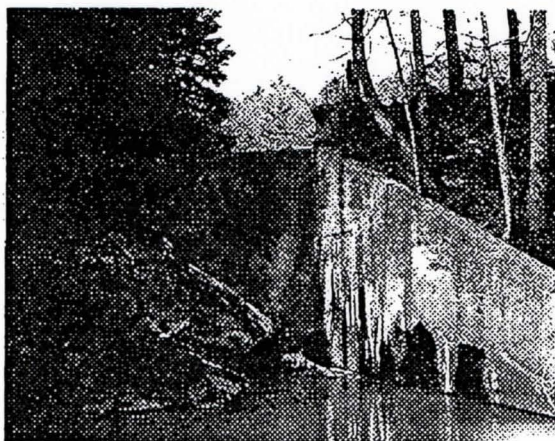


*Tumbling Rock Pump Station*



*Tumbling Rock Pump*

the town was having a drought that was seriously affecting stream flows. This was causing the power houses on Lovills Creek, and the Ararat River to operate short and irregular periods of time. It was decided that a new dam should be erected upstream from the old Tumbling Rock Reservoir. It would be 21 feet high and would impound 10,000,000 gallons of water. The reservoir is still there but is no longer used by the city. The reservoir is located beside Highway 52



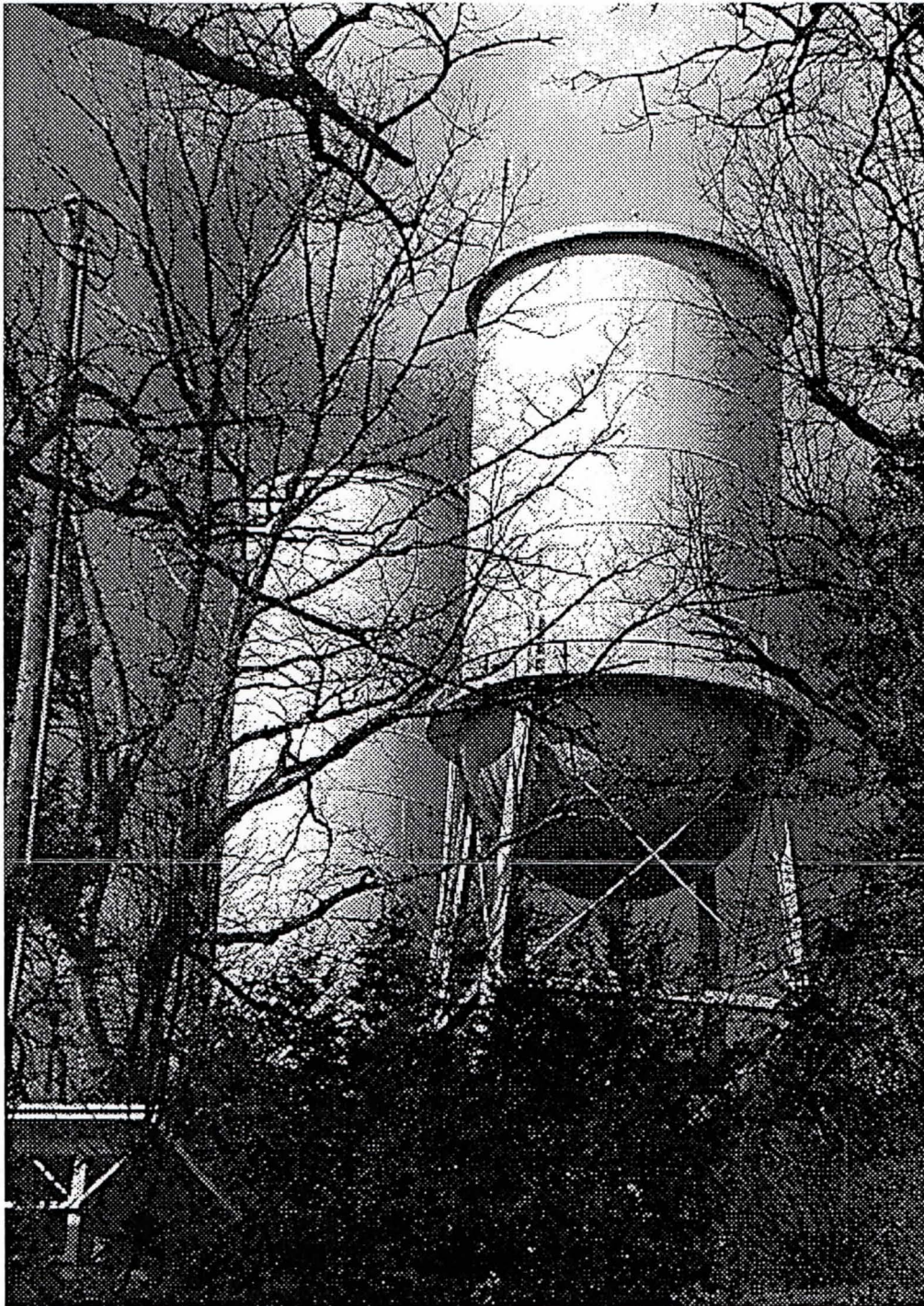
*Second Tumbling Rock Dam*



*Tumbling Rock Reservoir*



approximately 500 feet North of the Elks Lodge exit, and can be seen from Highway 52. The Town also decided to install a new 1,000 gallon per minute finished water pump at the water plant. To further protect the Town a 200,000 gallon standpipe was erected on Lebanon Hill next to the existing elevated tank.

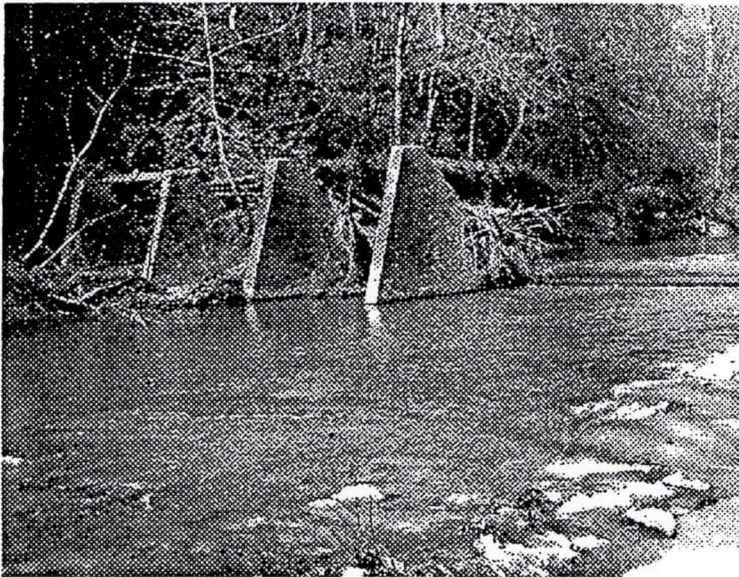


*North Main Tank and Standpipe*



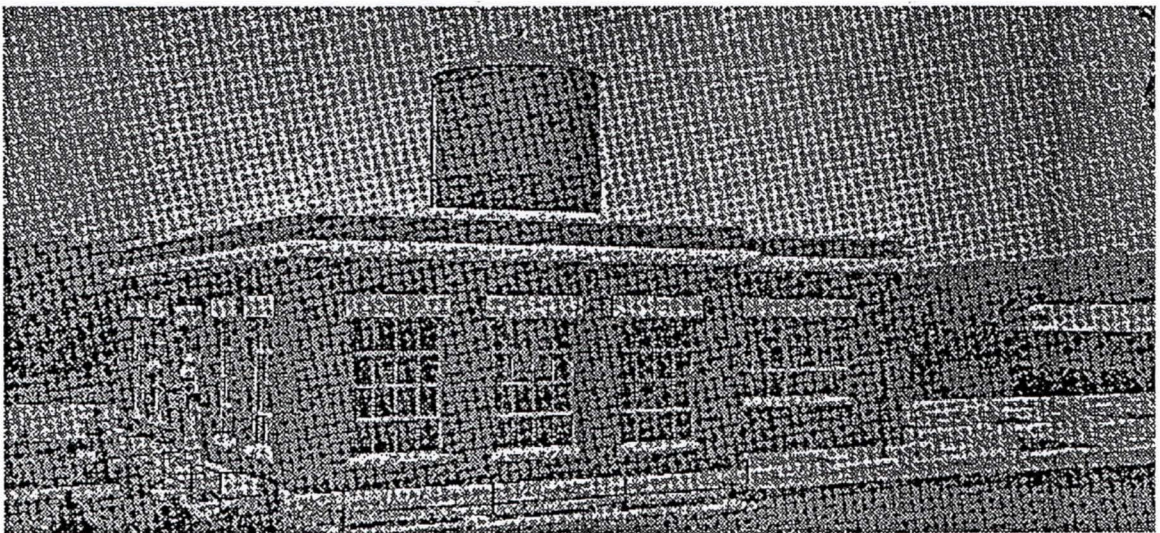
## 1926 - 1950

After another drought in 1926 it became necessary to start the Lovills Creek pump station again. The plant at this time was unable to provide good quality water. This problem was evidenced by many complaints by consumers. After a water study in 1926 a contract for a new water plant was awarded to Tucker & Laxton Company of Charlotte. The contract called for an impoundment area to be located approximately 3 miles from the plant site on Lovills Creek. The area called Greenhill Dam is no longer there. The concrete ends and some of the timbers of the dam are still there. There is a lake above the



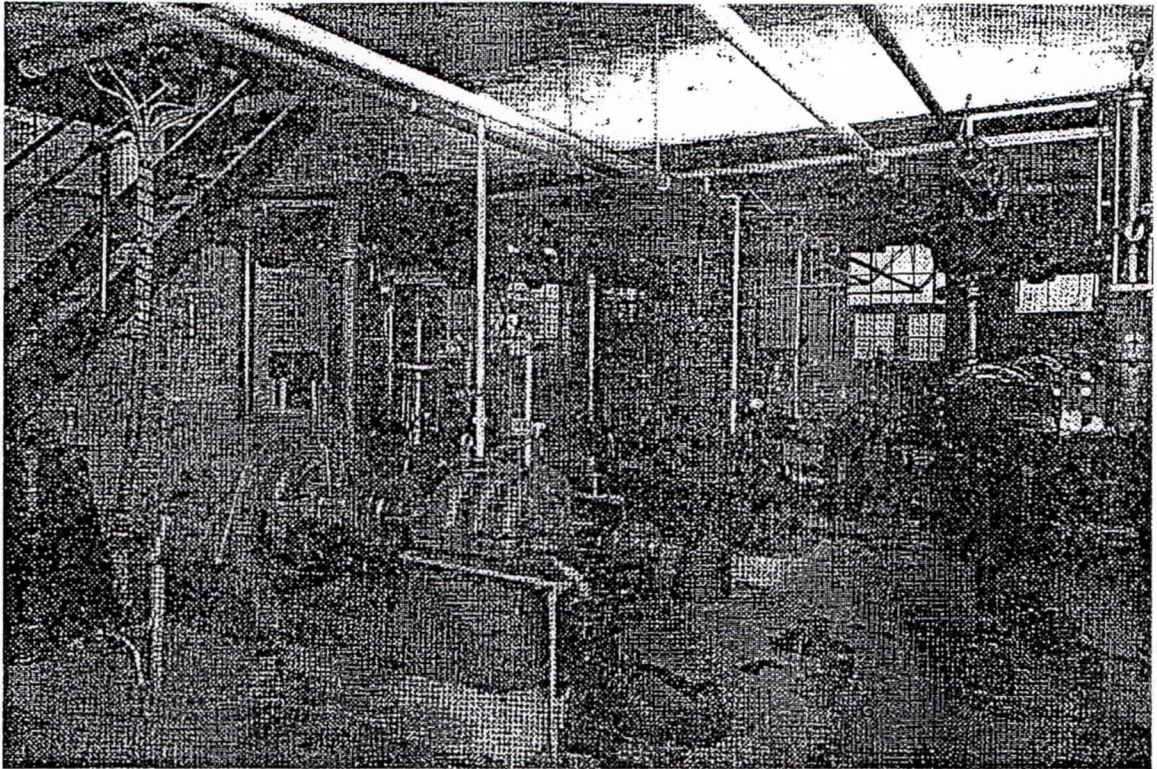
*Remainders of Greenhill Dam*

old site on another stream called Greenhill Lake. Also to be constructed was a new 500,000 gallon reinforced concrete filtered water storage tank, and a 50,000 gallon wash water tank, a new filter house and a new 1,000 gallon per minute finished water pump. All of the construction except for the pump is still in use. All of the old plant except for the coagulation basin was destroyed. All of the underground piping system was revised.



*1926 Mount Airy Water Plant*





*1926 Water Plant Pumping Facility*

In 1936 the Town hired F.G. Doggett as Superintendent of Water. The United States in 1936 was still in the great depression. President Roosevelt had many projects started to give jobs to numerous people. These projects were mostly public works' projects. That year the Town was finishing a dam and lake project that had been financed with federal money. Shortly before the project was complete, a reporter from the Mount Airy News went to the project site to see how well the project was progressing. The reporter walked around the site but could find no water in or near the lake. The reporter did not know that



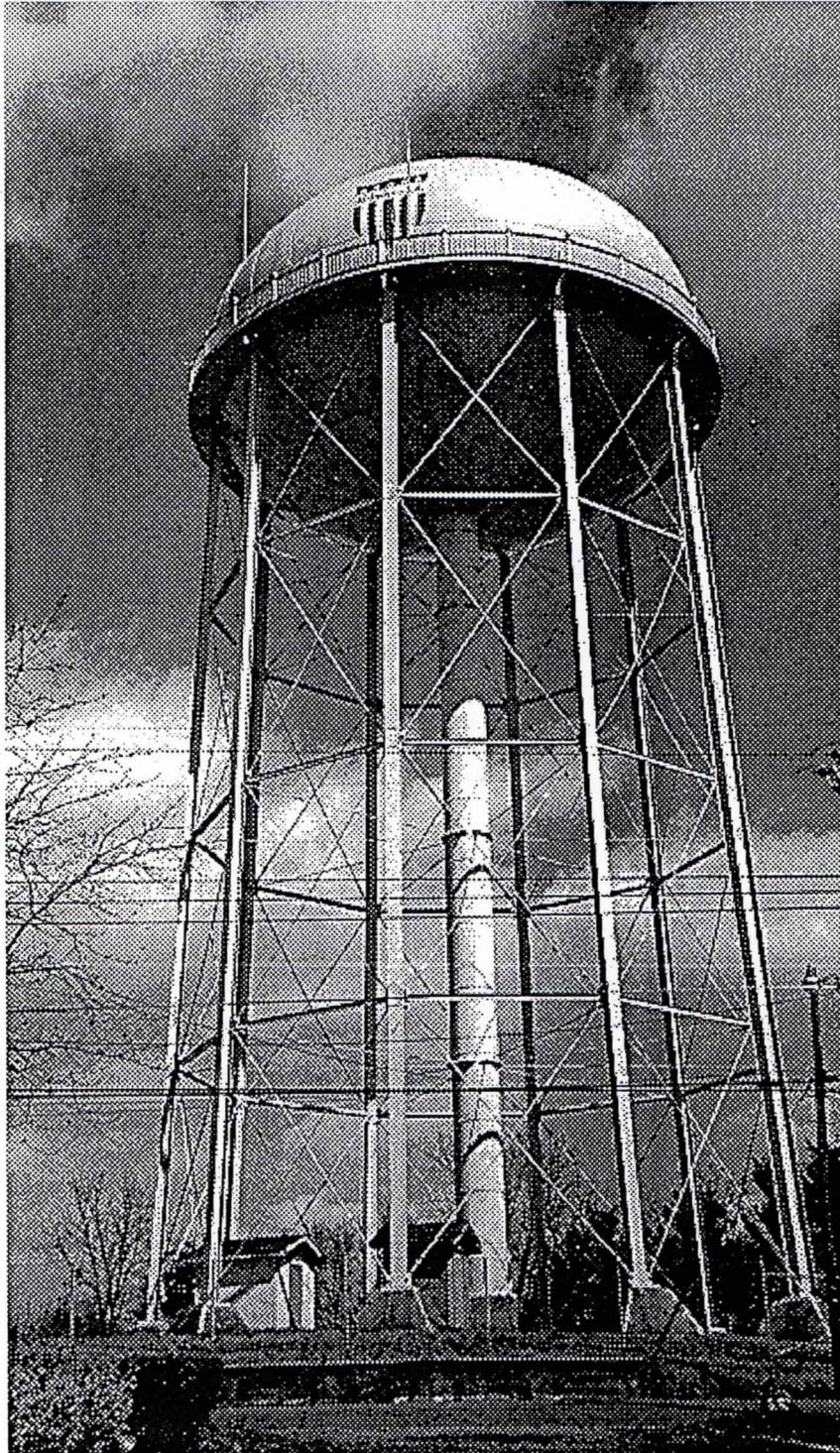
*Remainders of Dry Lake*

the town engineer had planned to wait until the project was complete to divert Tumbling Rock Branch into the lake bed. The article written was not only the talk of Mount Airy, but was also picked up by other newspapers. Within a week an inquiry was being made from the Office of the President. By the time federal inspectors arrived in Mount Airy the stream had been diverted and the lake was almost full. Even though the project was

a success and the lake was a beautiful recreation area for the citizens of Mount Airy, the lake would always be known as Dry Lake.



In 1947 a new 500,000 gallon tank was erected at the corner of Haymore Street and Rockford Street. This tank would equalize pressure in the system and provide twice the storage.



*Rockford Street Tank*

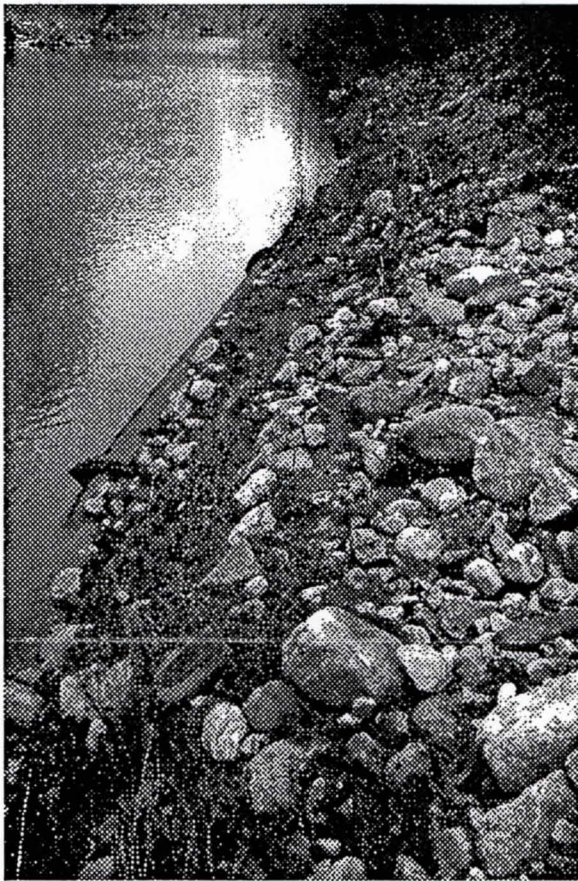
A new septic tank was added to the sewer system in 1948. This tank was located approximately 150 feet below the old Rockford Street Bridge across Lovills Creek.

The Orchard Street Water Plant was capable of producing 1.0 million gallons per day. This was planned to meet the water needs for at least 25 years.



## 1951 - 1968

By 1951 the capacity of the plant was being met and construction was started on the expansion of the Orchard Street Water Plant. When the expansion was completed, the plant could produce 2.5 million gallons per day. This plant was designed to meet the Town's needs for 25 years. At this time the Greenhill dam was abandoned and a pump station and reservoir were constructed on Allred Mill Road. The Greenhill waterline ran along the side of Lovills Creek at the site of the new pump station. For this reason it was decided to use the existing raw water line to the plant. To put water in the reservoir a T fitting was put in the existing line and a separate line was run to the reservoir.



*Old Greenhill Raw Water Line*

The wastewater system by 1959 was almost useless. The only thing the septic tanks were doing was keeping large and floating waste from going straight into the creeks. The tanks would hold the waste long enough for the biological process to start to break down the waste. The process would finish in the creeks. The North Carolina Department of Health informed the Town that this process would no longer work and that a waste treatment plant would have to be built. The Town appointed James M. Owens as the first Superintendent of Water and Wastewater in 1959. In September 1960 a new 2.0 million gallon per day waste treatment plant was put into operation.

The Town appointed Jack Leach as Chief Operator of the Orchard Street Water Plant in 1959.

The Orchard Street Water Plant kept up with the demand until 1967 when the design capacity was reached. Town officials thought that there was enough time to plan and construct a new water plant. The water demand increased faster than anyone expected and by the summer of 1968 The Orchard Street Water Plant was exceeding its capacity by at least 500,000 gallons per day. In order to provide enough water to the plant the old Lovills Creek pump station and the Tumbling Rock lines were put back in



operation. A new infiltration pump station was also built on Lovills Creek at Veteran's Park. Even though the plant was overloaded, no complaints were recorded on the quality of the water. The water met all state and federal regulations for drinking water. During this period work began on a new water plant on Stewarts Creek.



*Veteran's Park Infiltration Pump Station*



## 1969 - 1989

The Mount Airy Water Plant on Stewarts Creek, now known as the F.G. Doggett Water Plant, was originally designed to filter water at a 3.0 million gallon per day rate with an expansion rate to 6.0 million gallons per day. In the design stage the filters were changed from rapid sand to dual media. This change would allow the filters to operate at a 6.0 million gallon per day with an expansion rate to 12.0 million gallons per day. These figures only refer to the filter rates. The actual flows were much less. The Mount Airy Water Plant was turned over to the Town in 1970 and opened as the F.G. Doggett Water Plant in honor of the Town Manager. James K. Boyd was appointed as Chief Operator of the F.G. Doggett Water Plant. He had been an operator at the Orchard Street Water Plant since 1962.



*New Mount Airy Water Plant Built on Stewarts Creek*



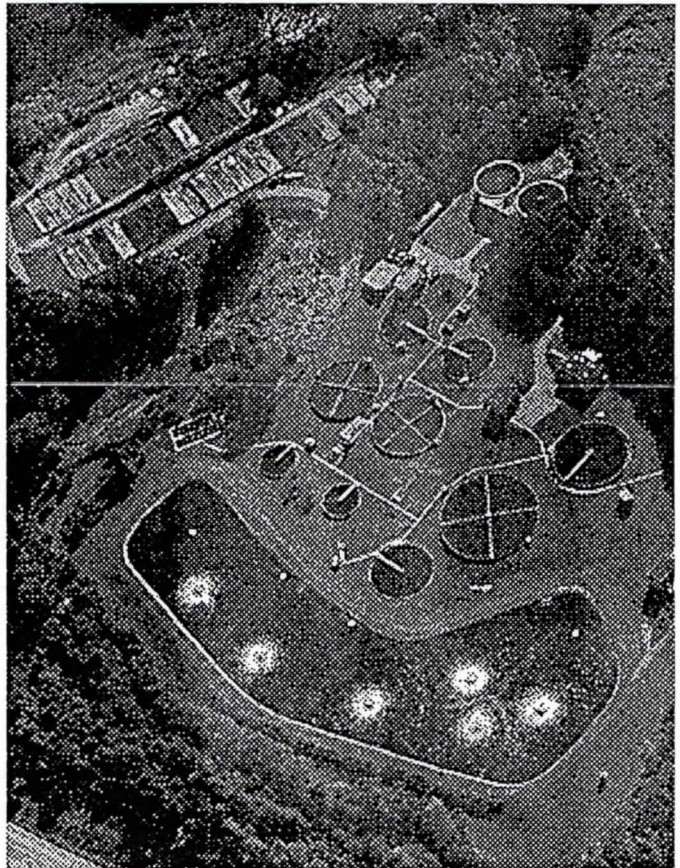
At the time the new water plant was opened, the old water plant was supposed to be shut down and be completely overhauled. The plant was never shut down and the only construction was the installation of electric valves and a gunnite coating was put on the basins.

In 1971 a flood control reservoir was constructed on Stewarts Creek. Also, that year the State of North Carolina required mandatory certification for water plant operators. The mandatory certification rule required that all water systems have an operator certified at least the same grade as the water system and that all operators have at least a minimum certification. The City of Mount Airy already had someone certified. The City Manager, Mr. Doggett, had received his "A" certification under the voluntary program in 1941. This rule also applied to wastewater plants. The state provided a grandfather clause to allow operators employed with a water system, at the time the rule went into effect, to maintain their position in that system regardless of their certification. Each operator under the grandfathers' clause was issued a limited certificate. In January 1972 the Chief Operators at both water plants, Jack Leach and James K. Boyd, were issued a limited or "L" certificate. Both operators already held "B" water certifications.

In 1972 the Safe Drinking Water Act was implemented by Congress. At first this act had very little effect on the water system but the long term effect would be astronomical in terms of added work, complicated rules and cost. Also, that year John Martin, Sr. received the second "A" certification for water plant operation in Mount Airy.

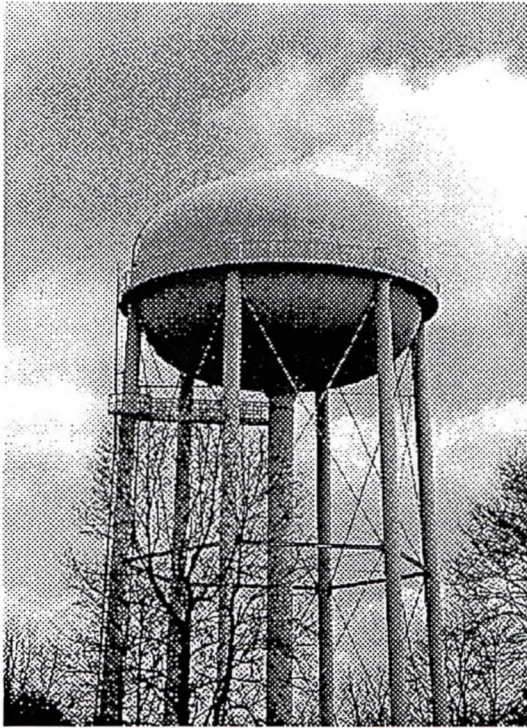
In 1973 John Martin, Sr. received the first Grade IV wastewater certification in Mount Airy. John was also the first to have dual top certifications for water and wastewater.

In 1974 the wastewater treatment plant was remodeled and expanded from 2.0 million gallons per day to a 4.0 million gallons per day.

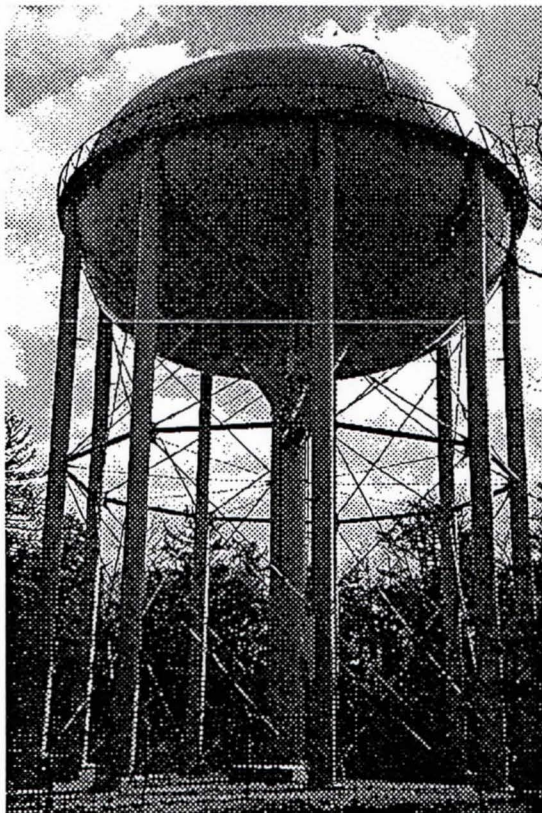


*1974 Wastewater Plant*





*Jones School Tank.*



*Franklin Road Tank*

In 1977 Tim McHone received the third "A" water certification in Mount Airy. Also, that year Jack Wyrick received the second Grade IV wastewater certification in Mount Airy.

In 1978 John Martin, Jr. received the fourth "A" water certification in Mount Airy.

Ever since the Town started to expand to the north there had been a pressure problem because the elevation rises to the north. In 1982 a 500,000 gallon tank was built across from Jones School. This corrected the pressure problems in that area.

Both water plants, in 1982, could no longer dump their alum sludge into the local creeks. A sludge handling facility was built at the F.G. Doggett Water Plant. The Orchard Street Water Plant began dumping sludge into the sewer system. The sludge is now being handled by the sewer plant.

After the Jones School tank was completed in 1982, plans were made for building the biggest tank the City ever had. The 1.0 million gallon, Franklin Road Tank, was completed in 1983. A lift station was also constructed to pump water from the system to the tank. This tank was exclusively for the Westwood Industrial Park project.

In 1983 a new wash water tank was constructed at the F.G. Doggett Water Plant. The old wash water system used water off of the main water line at the water plant. The line pressure and tank levels would drop every time a filter was washed. Also, in 1983, William C. Chappell, Jr. was appointed the second Superintendent of Water and Wastewater.



In 1985 Timothy F. McHone was appointed Chief Operator of the Orchard Street Water Plant. A five-year renovation project was begun by operators at the Orchard Street Water Plant. Less than halfway through the renovations, problems were encountered that were too extensive for the operators to handle. Most of the problems were related to upcoming changes in the Safe Drinking Water Rules.

In 1986 Marty Semones received the fifth "A" water certification in Mount Airy. Also, that year John Martin Jr. received the third Grade IV wastewater certification in Mount Airy. At that time he was only the second person to hold a dual top certification in water and wastewater in Mount Airy. The first person to have that honor was his father who died of a massive heart attack on the job at the Mount Airy Wastewater Plant in December 1975.

In 1987 David Puckett received the sixth "A" water certification in Mount Airy.

In 1988 new consulting engineers, Hazen and Sawyers Company, were hired by the City to come up with a plan to upgrade the City's Water and Wastewater systems for future needs and to meet State and Federal rules. The report submitted by Hazen and Sawyers Company for the wastewater plant were to expand the old plant, which had a maximum rate of 4.0 million gallons per day, to 7.0 million gallons per day. This was to be accomplished by enlarging the facility and changing from a trickling filter system to an activated sludge system. The recommendations for the water plants were made with three options:

1. Shut down the Orchard Street Water Plant then expand the F.G. Doggett Water Plant to a 9.0 million gallons per day.
2. Expand the F.G. Doggett Water Plant to 6.0 million gallons per day and remodel Orchard Street Water Plant to meet State and Federal rules
3. Expand the F.G. Doggett Water Plant, build a new water plant on the Ararat River, and shut down the Orchard Street Water Plant

Hazen and Sawyers Company recommended option one because of its simplicity and the cost would be less to expand and operate one plant rather than two.

After the report was made public, a group of businessmen formed a committee to do an independent study of the water system. This committee did not like the idea of having just one plant. One committee member commented that all it would take is a crack in one waterline and all industry and business in Mount Airy would stop and we would be without fire protection. The committee also thought that the other options' costs were outrageous.



The independent committee hired Nelson Engineering, a local engineering company, to review Hazen and Sawyer's report and if possible come up with an alternative.

The Nelson Engineering report released in 1989 said that the best option was option 2, in the Hazen and Sawyer's report. This was to remodel the Orchard Street Water Plant and expand the F.G. Doggett Water Plant to 6.0 million gallons per day. The report said that this option could be done at about one half the cost suggested by Hazen and Sawyers. The difference in cost was caused by Nelson Engineering specifying that the Orchard Street Water Plant was not in need of as many repairs as Hazen and Sawyers had indicated.

Also, in 1989 David Puckett was promoted to Chief Operator of the Orchard Street Water Plant. Kent Scott received the fourth Grade IV wastewater certification in Mount Airy. In preparation for the ending of the State Laboratory contract analysis for coliform bacteria for water systems, Tim McHone and Marty Semones were certified for the analysis of coliform bacteria. Shortly after this both water plant laboratories were certified to run the coliform analysis. Kent Scott was promoted to Chief Wastewater Plant Operator. John Martin, Jr. was appointed the third Water and Wastewater Superintendent.

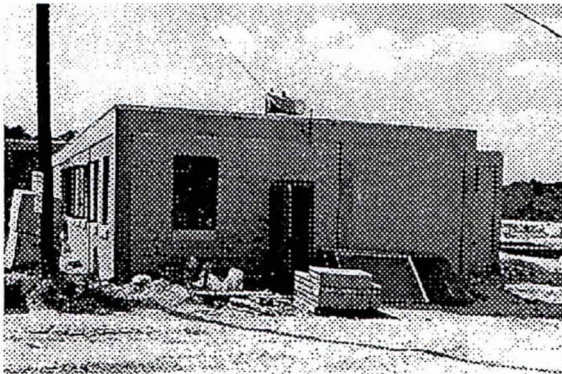
Shortly after the Nelson Engineering report was made public, the City decided that the differences in the costs on the two reports were so far apart that a third engineering company should be hired to find out who was right. The company selected was Black and Veach Company. Their job was to come up with a plan concerning the Orchard Street Water Plant. Black and Veach Company studied Hazen and Sawyer's report and Nelson Engineering's report and came up with their own conclusion. Their conclusion was that it would cost more than the original Hazen and Sawyer's report had suggested.



## 1990 - Present

The City decided that Hazen and Sawyers should go on with the Wastewater Plant expansion while they tried to figure out what to do with the water system.

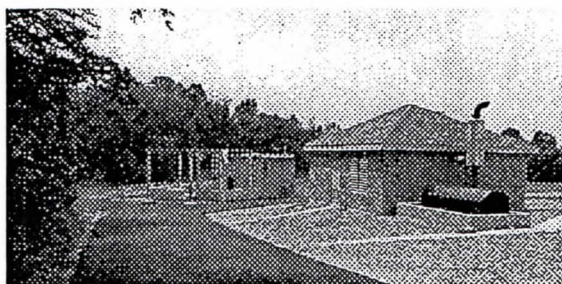
In 1990 bids were taken from several construction companies. The low bid was from Powell Construction Company at a cost of 10.3 Million Dollars. Work began on the wastewater plant in October 1990. Construction included an automatic influent screening facility, new variable speed influent pumps, new grit removal system, refurbishing of the intermediate pumping facility, an activated sludge basin, two new secondary clarifiers, refurbishing of the chlorination facility plus addition of a dechlorination facility, addition of a new 750 KW generator facility, a RAS/WAS pumping facility, a sludge dewatering facility, refurbishing of the digester facility, and refurbishing of the raw sludge facility.



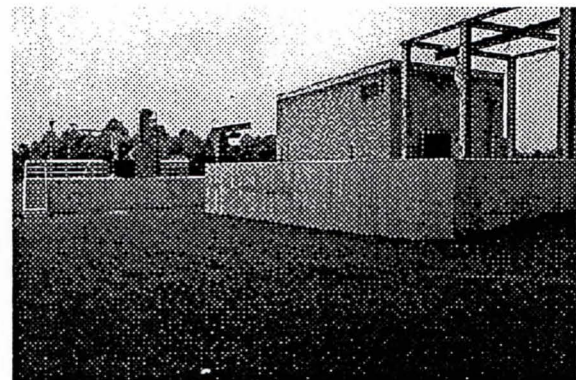
*Outside New Wastewater Laboratory*



*Inside New Wastewater Laboratory*

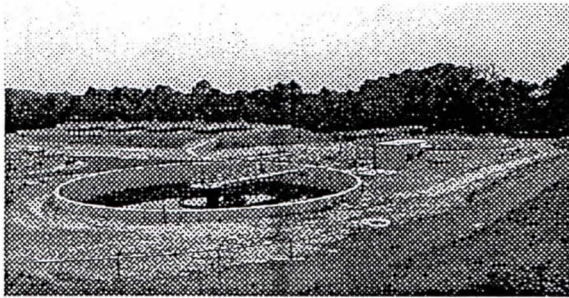


*Refurbished Influent Pumping Facility  
and Generator Facility*

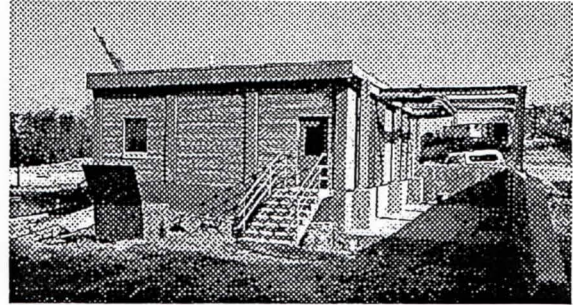


*Screening Facility and Refurbished  
Influent Pumping Facility*

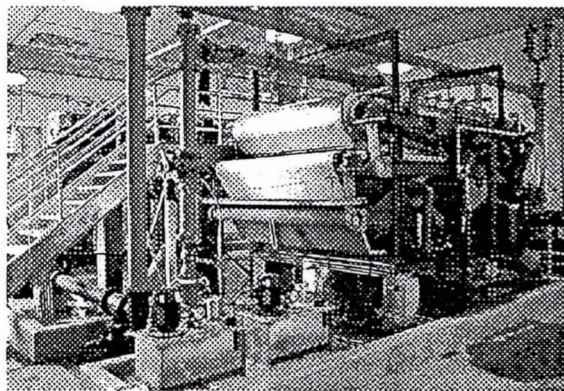




*New Secondary Clarifiers*



*New Chlorine and Dechlorination Facility*



*New Belt Press and Dewatering Facility*



*1991 Wastewater Plant*

In 1991 David Puckett and Brian Tickle received their certification in the analysis of coliform bacteria. Also, that year Tim McHone received his certification in process chemistry.

In June 1991 James Reece was critically injured while saving the life of a coworker at the wastewater treatment plant. Later that month James Reece passed away from the injuries he sustained during this unselfish act. James will always be remembered for giving his own life for a coworker. This tragedy initiated a strict and comprehensive safety program for the entire City of Mount Airy.

In 1992 Phillip Easter, Jonathon Stickel, Bobby Titan and Stan Goins received their certifications for the analysis of coliform bacteria. Also, Marty Semones received the fifth Grade IV wastewater certification in Mount Airy. He also became the third person to hold top dual certification in Mount Airy.

In an effort to resolve the problems with the different ideas from the three previous Engineering companies a fourth group, Finkbeiner Pettis & Strout, was hired. They were to consider the Orchard Street Water Plant only. The City Council had decided that the way to go was with two water plants, so the original plan (option 2) by Hazen & Sawyers



for the F.G. Doggett Water Plant would proceed. Bids were taken for the construction at the F.G. Doggett Water Plant. The low bid was once again Powell Construction at 1.6 million dollars. The electrical contract was awarded to D.L. Johnson Company. Construction began in early 1992 with a completion date of July 1993. Shortly after starting D.L. Johnson Company went bankrupt and the bonding company had to finish the electrical contract. Construction included raising the raw water dam by 5 feet, refurbishing of the raw water pump station piping and addition of a new 100 horsepower, 4.0 million gallon per day raw water pump, new raw water rate controller, an in line mixer, new three stage flocculation system, new plate settlers, new trac vac system for sludge removal, refurbishing of the filter surface wash system, a second wash water tank, refurbishing of the complete telemetry system, new 600 KW generator, polymer feed system, new 350 horsepower, 5.0 million gallon per day high service pump, refurbishing of the effluent piping and valves, enclosed chlorine facility, and numerous safety upgrades.

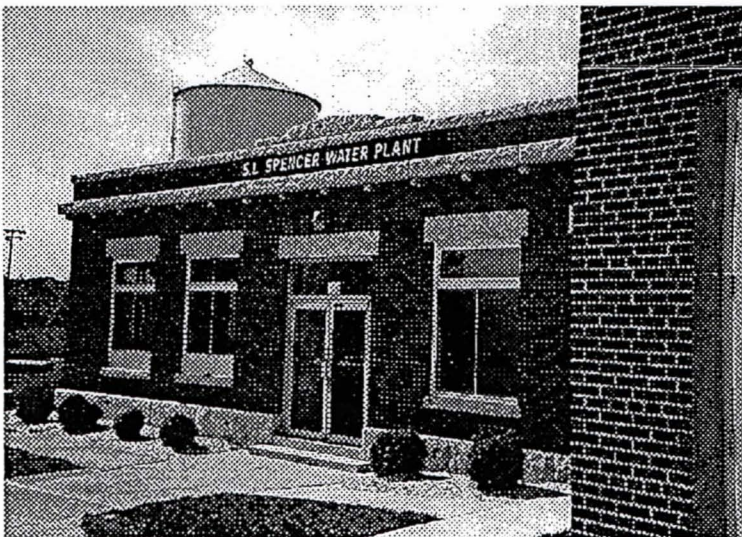


*1993 F. G. Doggett Water Treatment Plant*



Jeff Boyles, P.E. was appointed Engineering and Utilities Director in 1993. Jeff is the first person to be placed in charge of engineering, both water plants and the wastewater plant. James K. Boyd was appointed as the first Water Treatment Supervisor of both water treatment plants in July 1993. Also, David Puckett was appointed Assistant Water Treatment Supervisor of both water treatment plants at this time. Education and certification in 1993 hit an all time high. Chris Marion and Delmas Overby received their Grade IV wastewater certification. Also, that year Brian Tickle, Bobby Titan and Jonathan Stickle received their "A" water certifications.

In 1993 bids were taken on the construction of the Orchard Street Water Plant. The low bid 982,500 dollars was submitted by Crowder Construction Company. The electrical contract was awarded to Pike Electric at 215,721 dollars. The start date was to be when the F.G. Doggett Water Plant was completed enough to take on the full load of water demand in case it was necessary to shut down the Orchard Street Water Plant during construction. The completion date was set by the Department of Human Resources at June 31, 1994. The completion date was set at this date because of the need of the plant to complete a CT study. To meet the new guidelines set by the EPA for prevention of crypto sporidia and giardia lamblia in drinking water. The CT scan was completed on June 13, 1994. Construction included refurbishing of Allred Mill pump station piping, replacement of existing raw water pump, new piping from raw water pump station to the reservoir, new reservoir influent structure, new reservoir effluent structure, refurbishing of flocculation and sedimentation basins, new flocculation equipment, refurbishing of filters, new waste piping for number four filter, refurbishing of yard piping and valves, replacement of two high service pumps, new liquid feed chemical system, new chlorine facility, new ceiling and lighting in main plant, new 275 KW generator, and numerous safety upgrades.



*1994 S. L. Spencer Water Treatment Plant*

On May 4, 1993, the City of Mount Airy Board passed a resolution to change the name of the Orchard Street Water Plant to the S.L. Spencer Water Treatment Plant. The plant was to be named in memory of past City Manager, S.L. "Sam" Spencer.

In 1994 Dennis Hodges and Stan Goins received their "A" water certifications. Marty



Semones and David Puckett received their process chemistry certification. Dennis Hodges received his certification for analysis of coliform bacteria.

The City received the award of All American City for the year of 1994.

On April 15, 1995, the S.L. Spencer Water Treatment Plant was officially dedicated.

The Burke Safety Award was given to the Mount Airy Wastewater Plant in November 1995 for their safety program.

In 1995 Phillip Easter received his "A" water certification. Bobby Titan, Dennis Hodges, and Stan Goins received their process chemistry certification.

The City of Mount Airy Water Plants and Wastewater Plant now meet all requirements set by the State of North Carolina and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In 1995 the F.G. Doggett Water Treatment Plant has a design capacity of 6.0 million gallons per day. The S.L. Spencer Water Treatment Plant has a design capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day. The Mount Airy Wastewater Treatment Plant has a design capacity of 7.0 million gallons per day. In 1995 both water treatment plants combined to treat 1,790,497,000 gallons of water. In 1995 the wastewater treatment plant treated 1,900,000,000 gallons of raw sewage.

In 1996 Paul Hensley, Jr. received his "A" water certification. At this time all water treatment operators hold the highest available water certification.