

A
HISTORY
OF
THE
WATER SUPPLY
VILLAGE OF DEPEW, NEW YORK
1898-1961
BY
EVANGELOS KONST

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Chapter 1

An Attempt To Purchase Water From Buffalo

In the summer of 1898, the insufficient spring water supply resulted in an inconvenience to the residents of Depew, the industry already located in the village and especially the industries contemplating building in the village.

On August 4, 1898, Mr. Box and other officers of the Depew and Lancaster Water Company made a request for Buffalo to supply Depew with water.¹ The petition stated that the city was asked to sell water in Broadway or Walden Avenue at the city line. Then it would be taken from the city line by the Depew and Lancaster waterworks system and pumped to Depew.

Mr. Box proposed that his company pay the city meter rates, the same as were paid by large consumers of water in the city.² He also stated that the spring water supply used by his company “is inadequate to furnish the supply of water that is necessary to permit the development of the town by establishing of railroad shops and manufacturing plants. The Depew water system now provides about 350,000 gallons of water per day, which is insufficient. The result is that industries, which would locate in Depew, cannot be obtained because of the lack of water.”³

At this conference “it was practically agreed that the city should furnish water to Depew, the industrial town which is a suburb of Buffalo.”⁴

Commissioner Drake of the Board of Public Works stated, “To supply Depew would probably be no inconvenience to this city, as when the new pump, No. 9 is working, the pumping capacity of the waterworks will be 192,000,000 gallons per day. The consumption of water in the city is about 105,000,000 gallons per day.”⁵

This means that the city has a margin of 87,000,000 gallons of water per day. The purchasers of water for Depew were asking for less than one million gallons, so Buffalo certainly had enough water to amply supply Depew without any strain on the Buffalo supply.

About one year later, the property owners of the village still desired 500,000 gallons a day from Buffalo, according to Michael J. Kelly, Commissioner for Public Works.⁶

Mr. Box made it known that if the petition were granted, “the city if desired could have pay for the water in advance or that a bond would be given to assure payment for the water furnished to the town.”⁷ If and when the petition was granted, the Depew and Lancaster Water company was to lay the mains, which would cost about \$45,000.

Commissioner Drake stated that the Board of Public Works “could not consistently favor water to outside towns, because it had been the policy to refuse requests to supply water outside the city.”⁸ He made it clear, though, that the Board would not oppose Depew’s petition if the Common Council granted it.

Assistant Superintendent Knapp of the Water Bureau was of the opinion that the only way for the city to supply water to Depew would be to pump it into a reservoir at the city line. He stated that the expense of enlarging the mains to carry the water to the city line would be probably \$3,000.⁹

Mr. Box made it clear to all that the petitioners did not ask the city to expend a dollar, but that the petitioners proposed to pay all expense of extending the mains or of getting the water to the city line.¹⁰ He did make it clear that he did not feel Buffalo should have the right to shut off the water to Depew once it started to flow.

If 500,000 gallons of water daily at two cents per thousand gallons were furnished to Depew, the revenue to Buffalo would be about ten dollars per day or about \$3,650 annually. Despite this, Buffalo Alderman Franklin said that the Depew men ought to pay 50 percent more for the water than is paid by the manufacturers in the city. This would protect our home people.¹¹

After hearing the Depew petitioners, the Aldermanic committee decided unanimously to report in favor of granting the petition under these conditions:

- The Depew people must pay all the expense of carrying water to the city line.
- The city may discontinue the water service to Depew when the city needs the water for its own use.
- The water shall be supplied at the regular meter rate of two cents per thousand gallons per day.

Although the committee postponed any action until after the vacation of the Common Council, the Depew men met with the Board of Public Works to make plans for a route to carry water to Depew.

“It looks as though the Village of Depew will have ample water supply and that it will not be necessary to build a private plant at Smokes Creek.”¹²

At another conference of the officers of the Water Company and the Aldermanic Committee of the Board of Public Works, permission was held up further because members of the Common Council were opposed “to supply parties outside the city line.”¹³ The arguments advanced by the petitioners were of sufficient weight seemingly to change the opinions of the city fathers. Although no definitive action was taken, it seemed to people at the time that the committee would decide favorably.

By October of 1898, the Buffalo authorities had made up their minds to supply water to Depew from mains in Walden and Doat Streets.¹⁴

They did this even though Colonel Knapp had said in August that the wisest plan would be to lay a large twenty-four inch main in Broadway which would be “larger than now necessary to supply Depew but it would provide amply for future needs for the city and of Depew.”¹⁵

About ten weeks after their first request for Buffalo water, the officers of the water company were in such desperate need for this precious liquid that they were willing to accede to all these conditions:

- Water was to be taken from the city mains in Doat Street and Walden Avenue.
- Quantity taken to be registered by a meter on a lot owned by Depew petitioners.
- Regular city rates to be paid.
- Cost of laying extra main in or out of city to be paid by petitioners, even though mains in the city would belong to the city.

- Buffalo had the right to discontinue the supply on reasonable notice, owing to any necessity.
- Buffalo has the right to take the entire Depew plant, mains and pipes by adjudication in the event Depew is annexed to Buffalo at any time.
- The Board of Public Works has the right to name the hours during which the water is to be supplied.

One week later, the committee of water referred to the preceding conditions and recommended that Depew's petition be granted. It also requested that the Board of Public Works be directed to enter into a contract to supply water to the Depew and Lancaster Water Company at the city line.

Everything looked as though Buffalo would grant Depew water in the near future, so the Depew and Lancaster Water Company planned to build a huge reservoir just outside the city and pump water to the village. The reservoir would be filled during the evening and early morning hours when the demand was at its minimum in the city.

Just when all truly looked well, real opposition began to develop from the various groups in the city.

The East Buffalo Businessmen's Association was "opposing the movement to get Buffalo water for Depew."¹⁷ They believed that if Depew was given an adequate water supply, Buffalo workmen and industries would be encouraged to settle in Depew. This would cause a decline in trade in Buffalo, which they felt would directly harm them. Therefore, they passed resolutions protesting the sale.

In November of 1898, Public Works Commissioner Martin Maher stated that the proposition "to furnish city water to the Village of Depew would die out."¹⁸ Much opposition had arisen on the ground that it would set a bad precedent. He added, "If we give it to Depew, we will have to give it to Sloan, Lancaster, West Seneca and several other suburbs."¹⁹

The opposition did not cause the Depew petitioners to give up the fight. They were very much alive and active and prepared to rush the petition without further delay.²⁰ However, very little was done to gain Buffalo water for the next eight months.

In July of 1899, Michael J. Healy, Commissioner for Public Works, declared he was in favor of the petition of the Depew people presented on August 4, 1898. He said that the request for 500,000 gallons is very little, considering Buffalo presently has a margin of 100,000,000 gallons a day. "There will probably never come a time when Buffalo will not have plenty of water for both the city and Depew,"²¹ stated Mr. Healy.

While most people in Depew were anxious to obtain pure water under almost any conditions, some persons were more conservative and still wanted to be certain of obtaining a large permanent source.

In a column of the Depew herald entitled "Note About Town", a Depewite, Bob Neiler, stated his views concerning water from Buffalo, thus: "While this may at present be the easiest way out of the difficulty, it places Depew at the mercy of Buffalo."²²

Mr. Neiler went on to state; it should be the duty of our village authorities to see that it is settled upon some independent basis providing reasonable assurance of a permanent and abundant supply.²³

The writer would like to make a point that, although the statement is certainly a good one, the water company officers needed water desperately and were not in a good position to bargain at the time.

In September of 1899, the hope of the village residents began to fade in regard to obtaining Buffalo water because of the numerous delays, which had occurred for over a year. The opposition began to grow in numbers and they made themselves heard. At this time the West Side Businessmen's Association of Buffalo led the fight against the sale of water to Depew. This group endeavored to get all other associations to unite in an all-out effort to have the Buffalo Common Council refuse to sell water to Depew. These associations and others called it the "Depew Water Steal."²⁴

Mr. R.Y. Milne, vice-president of the West Side Businessmen's Association showed his opposition to the sale of Buffalo water to Depew when he offered this resolution at a meeting of the association.

Resolved, that it is the sense of this association that a grant would be unwise, unprofitable and in direct opposition to the best interest of the city.

Mr. Milne felt that supplying Depew with water would be putting a premium for the removal of manufacturing plants to the suburbs where taxes are lower. He also stated that it is the city's loss not only from income but also from the stealing away of our labor and all the profits that accrue from wages derived therefrom.²⁶

The West Side Businessmen heard him defend his position in this statement; I am accused by the Depew herald of being jealous because Depew has captured some of our factories and a large amount of labor. I freely admit this charge and I consider it the duty of every citizen to feel likewise who has the city's best interest at heart.²⁷

Here the writer would like to add one word to the present popular phrase to make it applicable to Mr. Milne's remarks, which is "Boost Buffalo First." The writer believes many Depewites during the years 1898-1899 (as they waited patiently for water) would have liked to Boost Buffalo...right into the lake!

Although the opposition grew louder and more powerful, there were many people who favored Buffalo water for Depew because they agreed overall with these statements of two of the officials of the Depew and Lancaster Water Company made in 1898.²⁸

- Mr.Box: "Advantages would accrue to both Depew and the City of Buffalo if the petition was granted."
- Mr. Urban: "All big cities are built up and made big by the small cities which are built about them."

The writer believes that if the city officials were more liberal, they would have been looking further ahead to the best interests of Buffalo in the future.

The following is the writer's summary of reasons supporting the sale of water to Depew:

- Growth and importance of the city depends on growth and importance of the suburbs.
- No large industry would rather settle in a city than in a suburb.
- It is not a choice for large industries of Buffalo or Depew, but a choice often of Depew or some other suburb.
- Industries in other cities would locate in Depew if Depew had an adequate water supply.
- The city would still be the big market where suburban people would come to do their important shopping because of the large variety of goods there.
- It is better to sell to these large plants nearby than to try to force them to leave the area or to come into the city.

The Buffalo Enquirer summed up its position concerning Buffalo water for Depew in the following statement: ²⁹

It would of course be best for Buffalo to have these great industries within the corporation limits and subject to city taxes, but this being out of the question, we should do what is next best and that unquestionably is to encourage them to settle around us.

We counsel the various businessmen's associations to consider that the bread they cast upon the water will come back into the city, as they certainly will be within a few years. Then the expense of moving will keep the big factories here.

Gradually, the support for Depew's cause dwindled as people grew discouraged and even newspapermen, who were so sincerely in favor of the matter, became silent.

In February of 1900 Mr. Byron, President of the Village of Depew, thought it advisable to send a petition to the Board of Councilmen in Buffalo in regard to the water question. However, Mr. Murphy, Village Attorney, stated that he was confident that there was no possibility of Depew's getting water from Buffalo.³⁰

Chapter 11

Crystal Springs Water Company To Supply Pure and Raw Water

The Depew and Lancaster Water Company officials had asked to purchase Buffalo water early in August of 1898. The opposition continued to increase against this plan to such a degree that by the last quarter of 1899, there was little hope of ever purchasing this valuable liquid from Buffalo.

At Depew's darkest hour, the Crystal Springs Water Company became involved in Depew's quest for water with its two-fold approach to supplying raw as well as pure water.

The Crystal Springs Water Company officials in May of 1899 asked the Lancaster town officials for permission to lay water mains through the Town of Lancaster to supply Lockport.

The available water supply was stated to be 125,000 gallons per day. The amount required for Lockport is said to be 5,000,000 gallons, thus leaving a surplus of 120,000,000 gallons for disposal for other towns and villages. ¹

They proposed to supply Elma, Ebenezer, Cheektowaga, Bowmansville and other villages with their extra water.

The company officials had first asked to lay pipes along Transit Road and other streets on the boundary lines of Lancaster and Depew, but later they decided their route would be along Ransom Road, east of the villages of Depew and Lancaster.

Although the Depew and Lancaster Water Company officials continued to request Buffalo water at this time, others in the village were anxious to obtain water from any source, as is well indicated in the following quotation:

If an abundant supply of good water is to be had, do not let the opportunity escape. This question of an adequate water supply is of great importance to these two villages-Lancaster and Depew-and it behooves the taxpayers to be very much alive to their own interests. The future growth of both villages depends in a great degree upon an abundant water supply.²

The following column heading and sub-heading of an article in the village paper perhaps more clearly states the feeling of the villages:

Water! Water!

Will anything be done to secure the Crystal Lake Supply? Dam it! (Or tap it). When it gets opposite our village, don't let it go by.³

The water problem grew more serious each day and articles often appeared which were similar to the one below:

Here we are only a few days past the middle of June, the dry season not yet upon us, and on all sides we hear complaints about the insufficient water supply. People living in the second floors do not expect to get any only in the early morning or late evening

hours, but the ground floor faucets are failing to give their supply. Last week there was hardly enough to be had for drinking purpose, even on the ground floor of some of our shops.⁴

There were times when Depew plants were forced to close at noon on hot days or when there was a high domestic demand for water. Perhaps even more dangerous and important than the industrial and domestic shortages were low pressures, which made fire fighting difficult and protection inadequate.

As the water shortage continued to grow worse, industries and individuals that had taken options to buy land or had purchased property in the village either postponed or cancelled their plans. Some even stopped construction work on buildings until there would be an adequate water supply.

Plenty of good water will build up the village and without it no new industries will come, and it will be doubtful if those that are here can be retained.⁵

The source of water for the Crystal Springs Water Company was Crystal Lake, located in the Town of Freedom, northeast corner of Cattaraugus County, and twelve miles from Arcade Village. The lake was one mile long and a half-mile wide. It was 1,800 feet above sea level and over 1,100 feet above Angola, which would cause a tremendous pressure for the water flow. The lake was entirely fed by spring water, which was described as being pure, and analysis had shown it to be softer than that of Lake Erie.⁶

The staff of the village paper seemed to desire water from the Crystal Springs Water Company and the writer presents the following statement to support this view:

The town or village is not obligated to buy water of Mr. Vandenberg's company, but for fire protection as well as other purposes this gravity system would be of inestimable value to our thriving village and we hope to see it put in when the line is built.⁷

Mr. Vandenberg and his associates owned or controlled Crystal Lake and they had proposed to lay mains to Orchard Park and Depew, supplying individuals or villages along the route. The Crystal Springs officials believed their water supply was ample for all demands to be made of it. They also stated they could lay one mile of their steel riveted pipe per day with their improved machinery

Mr. W.H. Moser of the Crystal Springs Water Company stated that the company had made arrangements to take the Lancaster village authorities to investigate their source of water and said also that, "That it was their intention to make a similar proposition to the village authorities of Depew. And further, that if contracts are readily entered into, the water could be furnished her before fall."⁹

The village paper in July of 1899, quoted the Lancaster Enterprise as stating that the Lancaster village officials had recently visited the lakes that are the source of supply for the Crystal Springs Water Company and "there was no doubt in the minds of every member of the party what an ample supply of water and water of the finest quality was to be had at these springs."¹⁰ The visitors seemed to believe that the company would always have enough water to supply all the villages on the line they proposed to lay.

At this time, the village officials of Lancaster seemed willing to enter into a contract with the Crystal Springs Water Company to supply water.

Seeing what their neighbors in Lancaster were doing, residents in Depew felt bad about the delays from Buffalo. They wondered why Depew did not buy water from the Crystal Springs Water Company. One Depewite stated:

From information received it would seem as if the Crystal Lake supply would prove just the thing for the town. The supply is abundant and pure, and being, I believe situated some hundreds of feet above the level of Depew, can be distributed by means of gravitation alone. While the Buffalo press and many public officials have expressed themselves as in favor of the scheme, there is a deep, dogged opposition in other quarters, due to pressure of an intimidatory nature exerted by many of the workmen residents in Buffalo, employed in the great shops of Depew, who are fearfully afraid from personal and selfish motives of anything that tends to encourage the growth of Depew. ¹¹

The neighboring Village of Lancaster received an offer from E.P. Vandenberg, President of the Crystal Springs Water Company, to furnish the village with five million gallons of pure water per day at a point along the southern or eastern boundary of the village. This offer was received on August 9, 1899.

The minimum water to be used was one hundred thousand gallons. The price was to be:

- 10 cents per 1,000 gallons for the first 100,000 gallons per day.
- 9 cents per 1,000 gallons for the second 100,000 gallons per day.
- 8 cents per 1,000 gallons for the third 100,000 gallons per day.
- 7 cents per 1,000 gallons for the fourth 100,000 gallons per day.
- 6 cents per 1,000 gallons for the fifth 100,000 gallons per day.
- 5 cents per 1,000 gallons for the water in excess of 500,000 and less than one million gallons per day. ¹²

On August 31, 1899, this offer was accepted and signed by the Trustees. This caused more Depew residents to feel the old conservative Village of Lancaster was leaving behind the new dynamic Village of Depew.

On October 5, 1899, a communication from the Crystal Springs Water Company to furnish the Village of Depew with water was read and referred to the Committee of the whole. ¹³

In October 1899, the Lancaster taxpayers “turned out in fine style and adopted the three waterworks propositions submitted by the Board of Trustees by a big majority. ¹⁴

Since the villages of Depew and Lancaster are adjacent to one another, whatever was done in one often-influenced actions in the other.

Lancaster and other villages south had been so well satisfied with the contracts with Crystal Springs Water Company, that the Depewites were anxious to accept an offer from this company to supply water by October 1, 1900.

The company guaranteed Depew not less than ten million gallons of water at 70 pounds pressure per square inch and Depew would have to buy a minimum of one and one-half million gallons on the average for each month. The cost would be 7cents per 1,000 gallons for Depew, up to two and one-half million gallons daily, 6cents per 1,000 gallons from two and one-half million to five million and 5cents per 1,000 gallons when over five million gallons were used per day. ¹⁵

Lancaster was offered water at five cents per 1,000 gallons by the Crystal Springs Water Company for water used over 500,000 gallons per day, while Depew would not

receive water for five cents per 1,000 gallons until it used over five million gallons per day.

Many people in the area favored the purchase of water from the Crystal Springs Water Company because they knew the source of supply (along the coast of the Allegheny range, in Wyoming and Cattaraugus County) was a number of lakes fed entirely by deep underground springs. They also realized that the 1,200-foot difference in elevation between the lakes and Depew would provide a seventy-pound per square inch pressure, which would be adequate for domestic and industrial use, as well as for fire protection.¹⁶

The company seemed to prefer to sell water in bulk to Depew at the village line, but the village officials could make arrangements with the company if they did not want to lay village mains.¹⁷

In October of 1899, it seemed as though the village would enter into a contract with the Crystal Springs Water Company and this was clearly brought out in the statement below from the village newspaper:

The contract will become binding upon the Village of Depew when a majority of the voters in the village have voted in favor of this proposition and authorized the Trustees to raise such money need to distribute or construct a system of water mains to distribute water through the Village of Depew from the place it's delivered by the company near the boundary of Depew.¹⁸

The special election was to be held before November 22, 1899.

On October 27, 1899, the President of the Village of Depew at a Board of Trustees meeting stated that "the meeting was called for the purpose of taking action on the proposed permit asked by Crystal Springs Water Company for permission to lay pipe via St. Mary's Street and Calumet Street to the New York Central Shop."¹⁹

This was the first time a company had proposed to use raw water from Cayuga Creek for industrial or any other purpose.

In November of 1899, the staff of the local paper tried to clear up some misconceptions in regard to the difference in rates for pure water offered to the Village of Lancaster compared to the Village of Depew. It stated; "At no time can Lancaster buy more than a portion of its supply at three cents per thousand gallons."²⁰ The average paid by the Village of Lancaster would actually be 7 1/2 cents per thousand gallons as long as the quantity is 500,000 gallons or less per day. The staff continued: Lancaster will pay 10 cents for the first 100,000 gallons- no matter how much it may use, whereas in the schedule offered to Depew a flat rate is provided so that when the amount consumed reaches a certain quantity the entire rate is reduced.²¹

When Depew used over five million gallons of water per day, then the flat rate would be five cents per thousand gallons.²²

In November of 1899, the Crystal Springs Water Company tried several times to gain a permit to put down a line of pipe. Which would run from Cayuga Creek through Calumet and St. Mary's Street, to temporarily supply raw water to New York Central Shop. They would have to sink a well and put in a pump at the flats near Broadway in order to push the water about a distance of one mile.

Dr. Vandenberg, President of the Crystal Springs Water Company, and Mr. Henry Koons, President of the Depew and Lancaster Water Company, both attended the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Depew on November 6, 1899.²³

Dr. Vandenberg urged that the permit be granted to lay pipes as his company was under a contract to furnish raw water to the Central Shops and the time was limited in which they were to complete their contract.

Mr. Koons opposed the granting of permission to the Crystal springs Water Company to lay pipes through the streets. He stated that his company had 1,400 feet of iron pipe in Depew and they could put the creek water line in within five days, as the Crystal Springs Water Company had proposed to do.

Dr. Vandenberg stated that his company was willing to pay the village for damages that might occur while pipe was laid. The Crystal Springs Water Company agreed to post a bond satisfactory to the village attorney.

The Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, with an office in Buffalo, New York, had written to the Depew officials stating that the Crystal Springs Water Company was ready to meet all requirements in relation to furnishing a bond for the pipeline construction.

On Thursday, November 9, 1899, the Crystal Springs Water Company made the front page of the local paper.²⁴

The Crystal Springs Water Company have filed their paper of incorporation with the Village Clerk and are proceeding with the work of putting down pipes on Calumet Street. 10:30 a.m., Thursday, -as we go to press, the Village authorities have stopped the work of the Crystal Springs Company again, because permission has not been granted to lay pipes through the streets.

The staff of the local paper believed that feeling seemed to be the Depew and Lancaster Company and perhaps the Crystal Springs Company would never be permitted to lay its pipe.

On November 13, the Board of Trustees set the bond at \$3,000 for the Crystal Springs Water Company to lay pipe from the Cayuga Creek to the New York Central Shops.²⁵

When Dr. Vandenberg was stopped on Thursday morning, November 9, 1899, he verbally promised the village officials that his company would not tear up any more streets until the Village Trustees reached a decision. However, during that weekend he had a gang of men putting down pipes through the vacant lots, in Lancaster, just east of the Depew Village line, parallel with Calumet Street line, and was ready to go ahead to the Central Shops, without going through the Depew streets.²⁶

Mr. Waite, Master Mechanic of the Central, had informed Mr. Koons of the Depew and Lancaster Water Company that the Crystal Springs Water Company was to furnish water by November 19, to the New York Central Shops. The Crystal Springs Water Company officials stated they had only asked permission to lay pipes to temporarily help out the old water company (Depew and Lancaster Water Company).²⁷

Mr. Youmans, foreman of the Central Shop, said that the Central Company had been hampered for years for the want of sufficient water. The old water company had ample opportunity to furnish it but have failed.²⁸

Mr. Koons replied, that his company had scoured the country around to get good water for the Central so as not to give them creek water, but wherever it was found they were confronted with a court decision preventing them from using it, where found in sufficient quantities, and made up their minds the only thing for them to do was to go to Lake Erie in the vicinity of Stoney Point.²⁹

Mr. Koons felt at the time that it would cost about \$200,000 to put in a plant to bring water from the lake.

On November 13th, the Board of Trustees of Depew approved the petition of the Crystal Springs Water Company to lay water pipes on St. Mary's and Calumet Streets in order to supply raw water to the New York Central Shops.³⁰

Their work was stopped the first time because they started work without a permit. Their work was stopped a second time when Village Attorney, Murphy, pronounced the bonds worthless. The village officials ordered employees of the Crystal Springs Water Company to discontinue laying pipe. Pipe had been laid from the creek as far as the Lehigh tracks, with the exception of the section under the Lackawanna tracks and across Sawyer Avenue.³¹

Dr. Vandenberg cleared up the bond matter and his company was permitted to resume and complete their work.

The New York Central discontinued pumping from the old company's pipes Sunday morning, and as a consequence a good pressure came on, setting the water running in all open faucets in residences about town, where good housewives were watching for water.³²

The Crystal Springs water Company made connection with the pipe of the New York Central Shops, and started their pumps about three o'clock Tuesday morning pumping from their wells near the creek, at the foot of St. Mary's street. So far, this week, at least, the Central have been supplied with water from this source and have not been obliged to pump themselves.³³

After waiting so long, it was difficult for people to believe that they had plenty of water at last. They feared it would not hold out, so many hustled to get pails, tubs and all types of containers filled while it lasted, but to their surprise, it lasted all week.

The week of December 7 to December 13, 1899, was a happy one for the Village of Depew. The New York Central Shop had been a large consumer of water from the Depew and Lancaster Water Company and, therefore, when it started using the creek water, the old company had enough spring water to supply all its remaining domestic and industrial consumers.

The officials of the Crystal Springs Water Company were in their glory at this time, but then their bubble burst!

Friday it was learned that orders had come from New York to the Central shops not to use that water and before Saturday night connection had again been made with the Depew and Lancaster Company's pipes, and the Central were again getting water from that source.³⁴

People in the community were discouraged and became anxious again for a permanent solution to the water shortage, as is well demonstrated in the following statement:

It behooves the Depew and Lancaster Company to get a "hustle" on this winter, and prepare to have plenty of water by another summer, or a new company to organize and do something at once. No time is to be lost. Neither the shops nor the citizens will tolerate another such water famine as we had last summer with the Lake Erie so near by.³⁵

On December 21, 1899, the Depew officials accepted an invitation from Dr. Vandenberg to visit the springs and everyone seemed unanimously in favor of the Crystal Springs water.³⁶

President Edward Byron stated that, "there is no doubt in my mind as to the quantity and quality of the water, and the purest water that can be had."

Trustee Joseph Dunbeck added: "I think the outlet alone can furnish more water than Depew and Lancaster can use."

Trustee John Stein was much more confident and stated: "We found Crystal Lake with a plentiful supply of pure water, and I think as long as the mountains stand, and the Lord sends the rain to feed the springs, there will be water enough for Depew, Lancaster and Lockport for the next hundred years to come."

The staff of the local newspaper stated that an official investigation by parties interested in the welfare of Depew should be made, and if the above reports stand an official test, some decided effort should be made to secure this water and that without the slightest delay.³⁷

At any rate, no pure water from Crystal Lake Springs was ever to be purchased by the residents of Depew.

Before the people in Depew had a chance to contract with the Crystal Springs Water Company, a better proposition or plan was presented. A new company had formed to supply an adequate, pure and abundant supply of water from Lake Erie.

Thus, the Crystal Springs Water Company's supply of raw water lasted only one week and its supply of pure water never reached the Village of Depew.

The writer found no reason why the creek water had been shut off after being connected for only one week until May of 1900. At that time, statement was made by a representative of the Board of Directors of the Depew and Lancaster Water Company, which perhaps explains the reason. He stated that water from inland creeks and springs could not be used because of the lime contained in these waters. The limestone formation, which exists practically, all over Western New York, renders the water of the springs and creeks nearly useless for commercial purposes. It can of course be used for domestic consumption but the railroads and manufacturing companies are very much opposed to using it for their boilers, because it is so heavily surcharged with lime that when it is heated it leaves a deposit that is difficult to remove.³⁸

CHAPTER III

Depew and Lake Erie Water Company Provides Adequate Water Supply

In February of 1900, Samson Q. Mingle and William B. Cutter made a proposition to supply the Village of Depew with water from Lake Erie,¹ even though it appeared certain at the time that the Crystal Springs Water Company would supply the village from Crystal Lake.

The village attorney stated that the Village Board of Trustees had the power to let such a contract with S.Q. Mingle, General Manager of the Depew Improvement Company, and W.B. Cutter, President of the new trolley line and possessor of considerable real estate in Depew.

These gentlemen have about completed the organization of a new company, which will furnish water to all the shops in the village, including the New York Central, buy up the old water company, and put a line of pipes through to Lake Erie, including the erection of pumping stations, and building of a reservoir.²

The village was asked to pay five thousand dollars a year for a five-year period in order to be supplied by October 1, 1900 with fifty fire hydrants, water for flushing the sewers and for the disposal plant.

Although it now appeared that the Depewites preferred water from Lake Erie rather than from Crystal Lake, Dr. Vandenberg of the Crystal Springs Water Company continued to try to sell water to the Village of Depew.

“The attorney read form of acknowledgment and duplicate, following the contract with S.Q. Mingle and W.B. Cutter, which was signed by the Board.³ It was also agreed that as soon as the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company supplied water to the village, the payments to the Depew and Lancaster Water Company would cease.

William B. Cutter traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and other eastern cities where he completed arrangements for securing the necessary funds for the new water company.

On May 10, 1900 papers were filed in the office of the Secretary of State in Albany and in the County Clerk's Office in Buffalo, incorporating the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company.⁴

The seven members of the Board of Directors of the company organized to supply the Village of Depew with water from Lake Erie were: Charles R. Huntley, Frank S. McGraw, A.D. Bissell, S.Q. Mingle, William B. Cutter, Harry B. Mingle and Robert L. Cox. They elected these officers: William B. Cutter, President; Charles R. Huntley, Vice-President; and A.D. Bissell, Secretary and Treasurer.⁵

The company had a capital stock made up of 6,000 shares of common stock of \$100 each.

A representative of the Board of Directors explained that: The company will lay a large main from a point in the Lake Shore known as Woodlawn Beach, near the Village of Blasdell to the Village of Depew, and from there to Wende on the line of the Central. A large pumping station will be located at Depew and one at some other point near the lakeshore. The main will vary from 16 to 20 inches in diameter and will have a capacity of at least 2,500,000 gallons per day. The distance from the lakeshore to Depew is about 15 miles and from Depew to Wende about seven miles.⁶

The company attempted to select a route, which would supply the area where water was needed most at the time and where there was some indication that it would be needed in the future.

In May of 1900, the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company filed notice of condemnation proceedings to acquire a right of way across the Woodlawn Beach property near Stony Point. The Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company was about to purchase this land and the water company wanted enough land contained in this tract to build a pumping station and lay transmission pipes from the lake to Depew.⁷

As the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company became more important in the Depew area, the Crystal Springs Water Company began to fade out of view. In October of 1899, the Lancaster Village had voted to take water from the Crystal Springs Water Company. However, the Village of Lancaster did not accept the bond offered by the Crystal Springs Water Company. The Lancaster Trustees notified the company officials during October of 1899 and instructed them to file another bond in one week's time. They did not do so, and thus, on March 28, 1900, the Trustees rescinded the agreement. When the officials of the Crystal Springs Company heard that the Village of Lancaster intended to purchase water from the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company, they tried to prevent it.

Justice Childs of Buffalo said that the Village of Lancaster had the right to make as many contracts as it liked, but that if it violated any of them, the company whose contracts were disregarded could sue for damages. The Crystal Springs Water Company then threatened to sue for \$100,000 damages. The company at the time would not have been able to deliver any water by the time specified in the contract, so there was no fear of a suit.⁸

On May 1, 1900, the citizens of Lancaster voted favorably to build a system of waterworks and buy lake water.

This was one of Dr. Vandenberg's last attempts to sell water in the Depew area. After this, most talk of water was related to the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company.

In June of 1900, the surveys had been made and the site for the Depew pumping station had been located "on the block west of Vanderbilt Avenue, just south of the Buffalo-Depew Boulevard and west of the Tonawanda branch of the Leigh railroad."⁹

After the initial surveys and plans were made, the men who were to direct the building of the water system arrived in Depew. D.H. Witmer, superintendent of construction for the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company arrived the first week in June from Philadelphia. The second week, Howard A. Turner, assistant superintendent of pipe laying and W.M. Brown, foreman of pipe laying for the American Pipe Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia, also arrived in the village. James H. Dawes, general superintendent of the Pipe Company also appeared on the scene.¹⁰

Then carpenters arrived and awaited the lumber, which had been ordered to build the shanties for the large labor force that would put in the pipe line.¹¹

When a fifty-man force arrived, actual work was begun on the ground for the reservoir. Soon after this, an additional 150 men arrived to work on the task of laying the pipe from the lake to Wende.

Materials began to arrive in great quantities. Stone and cement for the reservoir began coming in by the trainload along the nearby railroads.¹²

Eight-inch pipe arrived to put in an extra line from Cayuga Creek to the New York Central Shop to replace the unused Crystal Springs Water Company line, in case water was needed to furnish the shops until water arrived from Lake Erie.

Work continued on the reservoir during July and foundation walls surrounded the space for it. Also in July, three railroad cars took workmen down the Terminal Railroad to Blasdell to begin work there. The first pipe was put in position at the Blasdell end about July 3, 1900.¹³

Mr. S.Q. Mingle really believed that the lake water would be much better than well water, as is clearly demonstrated in his statement below:

“Our water will be taken from Lake Erie at a point far above any possibility of contamination and will be as much better than well water as champagne is better than beer.”¹⁴

At the time, the location of the source was truly a very favorable one.¹⁵

At this time, the Village of Lancaster awaited water from the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company. Bonds for \$42,000 were sold to raise money for the construction of a waterworks system in the village that would distribute the lake water.¹⁶

By the middle of July 1900, fifty carloads of pipe had arrived and nearly two miles of pipe had been laid on the lake end of the line toward Depew. The reservoir was above the surrounding ground and was to be completed in another month. Mr. Crooker of Buffalo was granted the contracts for the pumping station by the lake and in Depew.¹⁷

In early August, four miles of pipe had been laid from Blasdell toward Depew. The walls of the pinging station at the reservoir were built up enough to permit the door and windows to be put in position. The site for the pumping station near the Lake Erie end had been located and work had started on the foundation for it.¹⁸

The Depew pump house and reservoir were almost completed by the third week of August. The walls of the pump house were up and the roof was then put on. The Depew reservoir would have a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons.

The pumping station was needed at the lake end because the Depew reservoir was seventy-five to one hundred feet higher than the lake. The pinging station at Depew was necessary to pump water up fifty to seventy-five feet higher to Wende.¹⁹

Before September, nearly five miles of pipe had been laid or about one-third of the distance to be laid for the project. Work had also begun on the pumping station at the lake. Dredging had started in the lake for the pipe to the inlet, which would be over a mile from the shore and about 300 feet of pipe had been laid out into the Lake Erie.

The foundations for the pumps and boiler were completed in September. The boilers, made by the Coatsville Boiler Works of Pennsylvania, arrived on cars near Transit Road and were kept in the yard of the American Car and Foundry Company until they were set in place. The pumps to be used were made by the Snow Pump Works of Buffalo.²⁰

The reservoir was almost completed in early September, and the pump house at the lake was ready for the roof. Over one fourth of a mile of pipe had been laid out into the lake towards the intake.

The sixteen-inch pipes were laid to Bellevue. They would be laid to the reservoir and then through the Buffalo-Depew Boulevard to Transit Road, Olmstead Avenue, Burlington Avenue, Ellicott Road to Central Avenue at Grimesville (East Lancaster) station. Then a 12-inch pipe would be laid along the New York Central Railroad to Wende.

By the end of September, over 1800 feet of pipe had been laid out into the lake towards the inlet and water could have been pumped in as soon as the pumps were finished if it had been necessary, even though the inlet was not finished.²¹

October of 1900 brought the completion of the Depew reservoir. The pumping house was finished and the pump engines and boilers were in position.

The pipe to Depew was in, except for a small section near the reservoir. The pumping station at the lake was almost completed and over 2,000 feet of pipe had been laid toward the intake.

On October 15, 1900 the Village Board of Trustees consented to “ the sale and transfer of the said pipe and all rights and franchises connected with the laying and maintenance thereof to the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company; and hereby grants unto the said Depew and Lake Erie Water Company the right to maintain said pipes as now laid in said streets and to make all necessary connections between said pipes and any other water pipes which may be laid by said Depew and Lake Erie Water Company.”²²

The board also permitted the company to recaulk the joints of the old water company.

In November of 1900, the pump house and machinery in Depew were completed and small fires had been lighted in the boilers. With the exception of some steam pipe fittings, the pump house and the machinery at the lake end were almost completed. Only 36 lengths of pipe remained to be laid near the pump house and a short length under the Lackawanna tracks, New York Central tracks and Lehigh tracks.²³

The intake pipe out into the lake had been laid over 5,000 feet and a crib placed about the end of it.

In early December 1900, the reservoir in Depew had to be filled and drained off a couple of times before water from the lake would arrive in Depew.²⁴

By the middle of December, the pumps at the lake were running and water was coming into the new reservoir in Depew.

On Friday, December 21, 1900, water from Lake Erie was delivered to Depew.

“The screeching of the steam whistles of the Depew shops, last Friday afternoon, about a quarter of five, brought the people out of their houses and stores looking for a fire, but after counting over a dozen blasts of the American Car and Foundry Company’s whistle, it began to dawn upon their minds that it was in celebration of the successful opening of the new water works.”²⁵

The water flowed eastward through the pipes of Depew to the Village of Lancaster, for the pipes of the neighboring village were still connected through the old waterworks system with the pipes of Depew. Water had been pumped westward from the springs (east of Depew) through Lancaster for years prior to 1900. Now the flow was reversed and it was an eastward flow from the lake through Depew to Lancaster.

The works had been started under the supervision of Superintendent Kelly of the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company and the hydraulic engineer of the American Pipe Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia, which put in the plant.

The route of the pipeline is from Woodlawn Beach through the Village of Blasdell to the White's Corners Road, along that road to its intersection with the Terminal Railway, thence along the route of the railway to a point within a mile of the Depew pumping station. From this point it follows the Ellicott Road to the station.²⁶

At the end of the year 1900, the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company supplied the large shops at Depew. The company also planned to arrange a supply of water for West Seneca.

Early in April of 1901, Village Attorney Murphy stated that Mr. Cook of the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company had not presented the detailed proposed contract between the village and the company.²⁷ In May of 1901, the bill of the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company was laid over until the detailed contract was received on May 21, 1901 and signed by both parties.²⁸

The company agreed to furnish adequate water pressure at fifty public hydrants, and water for the customary incidental uses such as flushing sewers and sprinkling the streets. The village would also receive 5,000 gallons of water per day for the sewage disposal plant, as long as the village installed the necessary pipe to conduct water to the plant from the nearest main of the company.²⁹

The Depew village officials agreed to reimburse the company with five thousand (\$5,000) dollars in monthly payments of \$416.66 each during the term of the contract, beginning on December 21, 1900, and continuing for a period of five years until December 20, 1905.³⁰

Edward Byron, President of the Village of Depew and William B. Cutter, President of the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company, signed the contract.

In February of 1902, the Western New York Water Company incorporated and William B. Cutter was elected President of this new company. The Western New York Water Company officials stated they would locate a plant in Cheektowaga. They probably would buy the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company plant to get water from Stoney Point and would furnish villages and cities in both Erie and Niagara County.³¹

At this time the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company officials were furnishing water to the Lackawanna Steel Company and were trying to get franchises to furnish Niagara Falls and Lockport.

The Depew and Lake Erie Water Company met with some opposition about the right-of-way for laying their pipes from the Depew reservoir to Kenmore in April of 1902. Mr. Anthony Gangloff, Mr. Joseph Lutz, and other farmers in Depew tried to prevent the company from going across their land, even though the village had given the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company permission to lay all pipes it deemed necessary in the village.³²

Superintendent Kelly of the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company verbally agreed to supply these farmers with free water, but the conservative farmers wanted to sign some papers to prove this before the work was done on their land.

Superintendent Kelly suspended work for a few hours. He telephoned Mr. Cutter in Buffalo, who instructed him to go ahead with the work. Mr. Gangloff was informed that he could not have the free water, as promised.

When Mr. Gangloff went into the trench to prevent further work, the Italian workmen were ordered to take him out of the way, which they did by force, and half a dozen or so of these workmen held and kept him away for about three hours, during which time the pipe was hurriedly laid across his land.³³

The Board of Health of the Village of Depew held a meeting in the offices of the Health Physician, Dr. Daniel Stratton. This group stated that the water from Lake Erie was taken in at the crib 7,000 to 8,000 feet from the shore and thirty feet below the surface of Lake Erie, where it was removed from any possible chance of contamination.³⁴

In July of 1903, Dr. W.T. Sedwick (for many years a chief biologist of the Massachusetts Board of Health and one of the leading bacteriologists in the country) inspected the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company's supply at the intake in Lake Erie, at the reservoir in Depew and at the tap in the pumping station at Depew. George C. Whipple of Brooklyn, New York, and duplicate samples by Dr. William G. Bissell of Buffalo examined all the chemical and bacterial samples taken by Dr. Sedwick.

The results obtained by these able analysts agreed that the Lake Erie water, as represented by the samples taken on June 19th, was pure and wholesome and compared favorably with the water furnished most American cities and towns having good public supplies.³⁵

These men also stated that there was a considerable excess of typhoid fever in West Seneca, but no similar excess occurred in Gardenville, Depew, Lancaster or Kenmore, even though the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company supply all.

Dr. Sedwick stated that the water had not caused the typhoid fever in West Seneca. He presented some data to prove his point by stating that there was no case of that disease among 700 boys and 100 adults in St. John's Protectorsy and St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, institutions located in West Seneca and supplied with water from the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company.³⁶

Prominent physicians in West Seneca and Dr. Sedwick felt the cause of the typhoid fever in West Seneca was not due to the public water supply, but to: polluted wells, infected surface water, secondary infection, overcrowding in boarding houses and bad sanitary conditions and habits prevailing among many of the more recent immigrants of that section.³⁷

In December of 1904, the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company was asked by the Depew Village Board to take care of the leaks in their mains and fill up the hole under the sidewalk in Penora Street.³⁸

Often the company officials delayed in repairing leaks where the village was paying for the metered water. However, they did not seem to delay action when the leak was financial loss to the company.

The Depew Village Board members became discouraged with the poor service provided by the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company in 1905. Therefore, when their five-year contract was coming to a close, there were few members who wanted to renew the contract.

Village Attorney, S.J. O'Hart (who had drawn up the papers for the incorporation of Depew on July 23, 1894), recommended the adoption of a resolution that the Board of Trustees, hath and hereby doth elect to terminate and end the said contract heretofore existing between the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company and said Village of Depew,

for the furnishing of water for hydrant services, of extinguishing fires and for use of the sewage disposal works.³⁹

The resolution was adopted and the clerk served a certified copy of it on the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company.

President Cutter delayed turning off the water until Saturday, December 30, 1905.⁴⁰

The \$416.67 bill for hydrant services for November 21, 1905 to December 21, 1905, was paid by the Board, thus ending the final 60 monthly payments of the five-year contract signed on December 21, 1900.⁴¹

The Village Board Committee of the Whole in December of 1905 visited the villages of Sloan and Kenmore and found out that the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company seemed to be furnishing these villages with water at lower rates than Depew.

Depew Village President, Michael Garry, stated that "at the time the former water contract was executed, there was a tacit understanding between the promoters of the water company and the village officials, that the contract at the time executed should be unusually favorable to the water company; in fact should be not less than \$5,000 per annum in order to encourage a successful promotion of the company, and bringing of water from Lake Erie, but that when the contract expired, there should be a substantial reduction of the price of the water to be furnished."⁴²

On January 5, 1906, the committee recommended a contract which they served on the water company. One month later, the Village officials still had no contract for water for fire protection and so appointed a three-man committee to investigate the practicality and feasibility of constructing a 25-foot dam across the Cayuga Creek at the disposal works and create a storage basin of water thereat, and construct a pump station in the old Zubrick grist mill; and a stand pipe to maintain adequate pressure, with an estimate of the cost thereof; and of piping the Village reasonably, for hydrants.⁴³

On April 2, 1906, Mr. Ince, representing the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company, met with the Depew Village Board members and asked that the contract be renewed on the same terms as in the former contract.

President Kieffer stated that the price of \$5,000 per year paid in 1901-1905 was not intended for the future. He did want the Board to meet with the water company and discuss the matter.⁴⁴

While the possibility of building a dam was still being studied, the disagreements were settled between the water company and the Village Board and a new contract was signed with the water company.⁴⁵

On May 28, 1906, the Board resolved that; the contract with the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company in relation to payment for hydrant service to may 11th, 1906, read at this session of the Board, be and the same is hereby approved, ratified, and confirmed.⁴⁶

In the summer of 1906, the company protested the use of fire hydrants by the village for the construction of village cement sidewalks.

In April of 1907, the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company was instructed to repair the break in the pavement of Penora Street caused by their men. Village officials sent a letter to the company stating; if this matter was not attended to within five days that the work would be done by the village and charged to the water company.⁴⁷

Street Commissioner Henry Ullman stated he reported a bad break in the water main on Penora Street to the water company, which he said Mr. Frisby had done nothing about.⁴⁸

In May of 1907, the Board asked the water company to repair the break in their mains at Warsaw Street, and at Ellicott Road and Tyler Street.⁴⁹

The continued poor service of the water company made many Depewites angry for they often delayed repairs to their lines and often left street with open holes.⁵⁰

Mr. VanAllen of the water company in June of 1907 claimed that the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company's piping in the public streets were often assessed too high.

In August of 1907, the village engineers were instructed to make an estimate of the value of the property of the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company within the Village of Depew.⁵¹

On January 6, 1908, Trustee Gustave Gramlich of the Village Board stated "the water company was not furnishing the village with the 50 hydrants as called for under the contract."⁵²

The Village Board resolved that; the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company be notified to file with the Village Clerk a map showing the location of the fire hydrants before any more bills for water are paid.⁵³

Since December 21, 1900 the Village of Depew had paid for 50 hydrants. In April of 1908, Chief of Police Philip Mehl stated in his report that the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company were maintaining only 44 hydrants in the village.⁵⁴

In June of 1908, the company was asked to place a hydrant at Broadway and St. Mary's Street and at the Buffalo-Depew Boulevard School House.⁵⁵

Trustee William Palmer in September of 1908 told the Board that the water company was not fair to the Village of Depew in the matter of water rates charged. He claimed that water was being sold at much lower rates in West Seneca. Also, he said that the Village of Sloan was being supplied with water, which was pumped to Depew and back again to Sloan at a lower figure than Depew. He urged that the matter of relief from excessive prices should be agitated immediately and not delayed until the contract was to expire.⁵⁶

The same year the Village officials did not pay the water bills to the company for a while. Village Attorney S.J. O'Hart stated that it was legal to withhold the amount due to the village for taxes from the water company.⁵⁷

In 1909, the Depew and Lancaster Water Company agreed to install a hydrant on Broadway west of the Terminal Railway.⁵⁸ The Company was planning to extend their mains down Broadway to St. Mary's Street in the spring of that year.⁵⁹

Since the time the contract between the Village of Depew and the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company was signed on December 21, 1900, there had been many disputes over the poor services provided by the water company.

As the years passed, things seemed to grow worse rather than to improve, and so perhaps residents of Depew hoped for better service when the Western New York Water Company merged with the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company on July 23, 1909 (exactly fifteen years after the incorporation of the Village of Depew).

Chapter IV

Erie County Water Authority Provides Wholesale and Retail Water

In 1944 the county made a survey of the water situation. Another survey was made by the state in 1947.¹

On April 27, 1949, the Erie County Water Authority was incorporated under the New York State Public Utilities Law, Chapter 43A for 12 years and thereafter until all liabilities have been met, whereupon properties will vest in Erie County. The 3 members are appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, subject to the confirmation by Board. Authority is empowered to acquire, construct and operate water supply and distribution systems in the county (excluding Buffalo, Town of Tonawanda, and Village of Kenmore) provided that it may not sell water in any area served by a system owned by a municipality or special improvement district unless requested to do so.²

This public benefit corporation was created by Chapter 845 of the Laws of the State of New York 1949 by the New York State Legislature. The legislature by paragraph 1053 of Chapter 845 made a legislative declaration that: It is hereby determined and declared that the authority and the carrying out of its powers, purposes and duties are in all respects for the benefit of the people of the County of Erie and the State of New York for the improvement of their health, welfare and prosperity and that the said authority is and will be performing an essential governmental function in the exercise of the powers conferred upon it by this title.³

This public authority is called the Erie County Water Authority only because of its geographical location in the County of Erie. The Erie County officials loaned the authority money to begin its operation.

In 1952 the authority stated that when it took over the Western New York Water Company, it would buy 20 to 25,000,000 gallons of water per day from Buffalo to insure its consumers an adequate supply. ⁴It would probably cost the city \$8,500,000 to expand its facilities to furnish the authority with this amount of water.

Mr. John P. Redwood, hydraulic engineer for the authority stated: If it is cheaper for us to buy the water from the city than to spend money remodeling the Woodlawn intake, the authority would plan on a gradual reduction of operations at Woodlawn and eventually keep that only for standby use. If it is determined that it would cost more to purchase water, we would have to get busy right away in planning remodeling of Woodlawn.⁵

In January of 1953 County Judge Carlton A. Fisher granted permission to the Erie County Water Authority to amend their petition from \$6,100,000 to \$7,000,000 as the value on the property of the Western New York Water Company. The additional amount was offered to compensate the company for the \$2,217,000 spent since 1951. The water

company had stated that \$25,000,000 was the approximate value of their properties and facilities.⁶

Richard Rosenthal, Chairman of the Western New York Water Company, accused the authority of “deliberate distortion of facts in its releases to the public.”⁷

State Senator John H. Cooke announced that he “will support the Erie County Water Authority in its fight with the Western New York Water Company”.⁸ Senator Cooke and William Sadler of Hamburg sponsored several bills later which were passed to assist the Authority.

Residents of the towns of Lancaster and Cheektowaga (the Village of Depew is located in both towns) were wondering what the authority would offer the community, since many were discouraged with the service and rates of the Western New York Water Company.

No one in Cheektowaga will ever take water for granted again. Though western New York is bountifully supplied with the liquid, residents have found during the past years that although it is free as air in the Niagara River, it can become liquid gold after running through iron pipes.⁹

In a paid three-column advertisement the Western New York Water Company charged “The Water Authority Has Lied Again”. The company officials stated that for years the authority had made public statements that it could not raise enough money to pay anything resembling the present fair value of the property of the water company. However, they claimed that the First Boston Corporation had offered to buy a minimum of \$19,000,000 in serial bonds to enable the authority immediately to buy the water company’s property and get into business in July, 1952.¹⁰

At a public panel, the authority members stated that they could provide better service and put the water system in first class condition without raising rates because the authority would be paying no taxes, and would not have to show the profit a private company must show, the financing would be more attractive to investment houses.¹¹ The Public Service Commission had no control over the authority, but its books were subject to audit by state and county comptrollers and any improvement over \$500,000 required a public hearing.

In Albany three bills were passed which:

- Permitted the authority to pay the \$6,100,000.
- Validated bonds for the authority for five years.
- Granted the company a lien on the property until they received full payment.¹²

Mr. Hugh Dewey, President of the Western New York Water Company, said the company covers approximately 125 square miles of territory and serves a population of something over 200,000. About one-half of its sales are retail, the other half, as in Lancaster, are wholesale.¹³

Supervisor Benedict Holtz of Cheektowaga favored the Western New York Water Company’s desire to stay in business. Supervisor Stanley J. Keysa of Lancaster stated that the establishment of the authority was a bipartisan measure and was created to get water into sections of Erie County, which have no service. He stated that it had cost \$370,000 for the continuation of the authority up to the time, and another \$200,000 had been appropriated to keep it going and for use in litigation in the condemnation proceedings.¹⁴

In May of 1953, the Court of Appeals upheld the right of the county to temporarily advance county money to the authority, which was to repay the county from receipts from a bond issue. Since the authority had the right to supply water, it was something received by the whole county in exchange for a temporary advance.¹⁵

On the first hot days in June the water pressure dropped and the blood pressure of the residents began to rise again because of water shortages.

Harold R. Becker, County Fire Commissioner, said the pressure dropped from the normal 65 pounds to ten pounds at the Cleveland Hill Station.¹⁶

Company officials stated that the peak output of the Woodlawn pumping station was rated at 26,000,000 gallons an hour, but was pumping about 27,000,000 at the peak demand.¹⁷

Hugh S. Dewey, President of the Western New York Water Company, stated in July of 1953 that the sediment complained about in the water was traceable to a reverse flow in the mains when water was pumped in the new 1,500,000-gallon storage tank in Amherst.

Francis Koch, President of the Erie County Fire Chief's Mutual Association, stated that the pressure had retarded to dangerously low figures at times even after the new storage tank was put into service.¹⁸

Even the Cheektowaga Town Board (whose Supervisor favored the company), opposed the request for an increase in rates at this time. Councilman Felix Wroblewski said, Service of the Water Company should improve before any increase is to be considered, much better service as sufficient water pressure, elimination of foul tastes, etc.¹⁹

In July a reporter from the Depew Herald traveled for one and one-half hours in Cheektowaga. He found no one watering the lawns, yet when the survey ended at the Cleveland Hill firehouse at 3:15 p.m., the pressure was 24 pounds. This was low compared to a pressure of 40 pounds during cooler weather.²⁰

The prolonged litigation between the Erie County Water Authority and the Western New York Water Company ended with "the announcement that the water company had accepted \$13,500,000 plus adjustments, as the sale price for its water distribution facilities in the county".²¹

The public authority acquired on "October 27, 1953, the waterworks properties of Western New York Water Service Company, together with all rights and franchises".²²

The Depew officials were concerned with the loss in taxes on the Western New York water works along Buffalo-Depew Boulevard, once the county agency begins functioning. The Herald News learned that currently the water company pays more than \$8,000 in taxes to Depew alone. That amount then, will have to be made up by local home-owners as the assessment loss will be re-spread on private shoulders when budget preparation time draws near.²³

In February of 1953, John Redwood, consulting engineer for the Erie County Water Authority, stated that, when the original intake was opened in Woodlawn industry had not been built up around it, but now the steel plants and other industry had made this intake of dubious value.²⁴

Both he and the water company believed the final answer is in the construction of a new intake in the northern end of the county to supplement the present one in Woodlawn.

In 1955, the authority adopted a long-range development program of capital improvements to the year 2000. The initial major construction under this program was the Sturgeon Point project that began about three years ago. It involves the construction of a new water treatment plant and pumping station on Lake Erie in the Town of Evans and a new intake tunnel at Sturgeon Point. The project will cost about \$12,000,000.²⁵

On February 1, 1953, the authority put into effect a general rate increase which brought rates up to \$.43 per 1,000 gallons for the first 25,000 gallons used per month, \$.365 for the next 225,000, \$.32 for the next 2,250,000 and \$.205 per 1,000 gallons for water used over 2,500,000 gallons per month.

During the period from December 23, 1953²⁶ (when it began actual operation) until 1958 (when the Service Center was opened on Union Road in Cheektowaga), the authority continuously tried to expand as well as improve the water service and had spent over \$10,000,000 on capital improvements to its water system. Unfortunately, as is true in all water systems, a large part of these improvements lay underground.²⁷

The water is constantly tested at the source where it comes in and after it is processed.

The pumping capacity in the water filtration plant and the ten remote booster pumping stations increased to 210 million gallons in 1959 from 188 million gallons per day in 1953. Also, the water storage capacity was increased 29%, improving the ability to meet peak load demands in the same period of time.²⁸

In 1958, the authority began using the new Pine Hill five-million gallon water storage reservoir and pumping station, which has a fourteen and one-half million gallons pumping capacity per day. The station can pump either water from the City of Buffalo or the authority's system.³⁰

Water is usually pumped from the City of Buffalo by the Erie County Water Authority at Fremont and Starin station and from Pine Hill station at peak times of the day and during the summer.

In 1960, Mr. Onisk said about \$60,000 worth of Buffalo water was purchased by the Erie County Water Authority.

At the present time six of the pumping stations are kept running at all times, while the others are put on or cut off as the demand for water changes.

The Erie County Water Authority modernized its method of supervising and controlling its water distribution system through the use of a new central control panel at the Service Center in Cheektowaga. This panel contains recording instruments and devices that are connected electronically with all of the eleven pumping stations and facilities for the storage of water.²⁷

The writer visited the Service Center on several occasions and watched the two-man team on duty control the water from the production plant and from the City of Buffalo by the water distribution control system, which remotely controls the pumps at the various pumping stations. The supervisory control panel helped the operators find any leaks or mechanical failure in the system by various alarms and lights, which would go on when trouble developed. It also gives almost instantaneous information about conditions in the entire system that point out changes in the pattern of demands for water. What is done at one station affects the whole system. Some stations are twenty miles apart.

The writer was there one evening shortly before midnight and was permitted to accompany Mr. Louis Onisk across the street to the Cheektowaga pumping station. There

he saw the Number 3 pump go off automatically when the other man on the board shut the switch at midnight.

When the writer was at the Service Center at 9:07 P.M. one evening the Depew Reservoir level was 7.1 feet and below the clock the Depew flow read five million gallons per twenty-four hours. However, reading the twenty-four hour chart on the indicator at the time, it read about two million gallons for the 2:00 to 4:00 A.M. period that morning, and about six million gallons for the Depew flow from 7:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. that day. This agreed with the statement of the men on duty that demands tend to increase toward the afternoon hour normally and taper off after midnight.

When the authority bought the private company there were 395 miles of mains in service. In 1958 the operation and maintenance crews of the Erie County Water Authority maintained over 450 miles of water mains and other distribution facilities of the authority.³¹ In December of 1959, the transmission and distribution system had grown to 511 miles of mains, or an increase of 29% since 1953.³²

The Erie County Water Authority served 42,763 customers in December of 1959, an increase of 355 over the 31,674 in January of 1954. It also served 25,553 consumers in leased-managed districts of the Town of Amherst and the village and water districts supplied wholesale in 1959. It served an area of about 175 square miles.

The authority made extensive capital investments. After one year of operation, the depreciated cost of the water plant and system was \$15,763,657, but by December 31, 1959, the plant cost had gone up to \$30,059,262.³³

The total income in 1958 was \$1,851,198, while in 1959 it was \$2,037,510. The bond interest in 1958 was \$974,602 and then \$1,084,037 in 1959. The bonds were used to finance acquisition of the waterworks properties of the Western New York Water Company, to repay Erie County for the advances, for capital improvements and for working capital.³⁴

The authority purchased the properties and plant of the private company for \$14,700,000 and spent over \$19,000,000 in improvements of these in the period from 1954 to 1960.³⁵

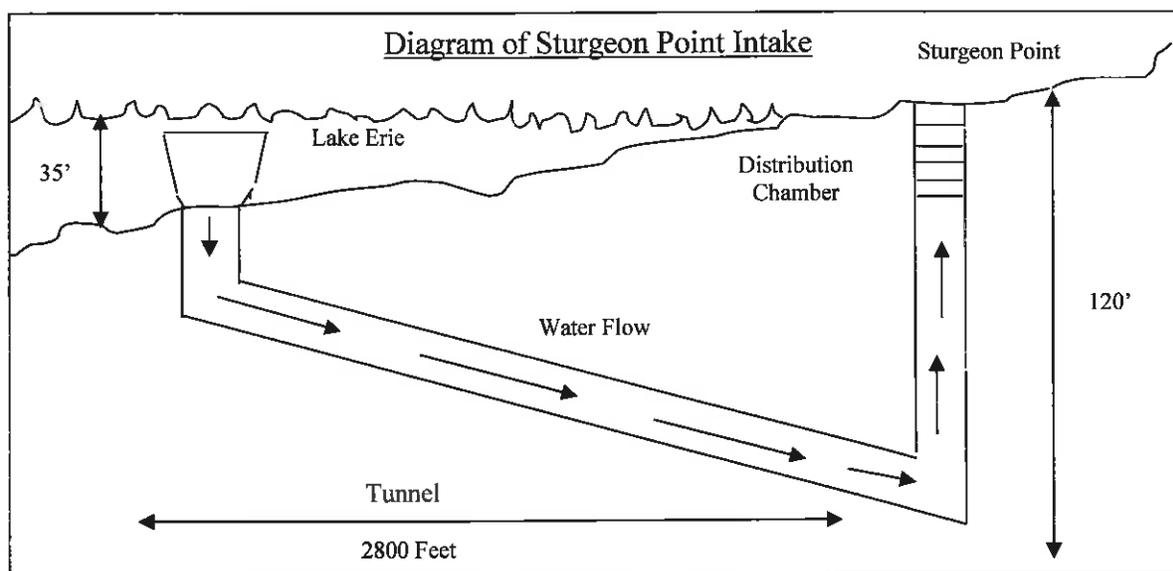
As of February 1, 1961, the Erie County Water Authority owed the sum of \$31,560,000 in outstanding revenue bonds and the annual debt service for 1961 is \$1,539,694.³⁶

The Erie County Water Authority late Thursday approved a general rate increase of just fewer than 20% for its users. It will become effective February 1st.³⁷

On February 1, 1961, the rate was raised to \$.34 per 1000 gallons for the first 3,000 gallons, \$.52 for the next 22,000, \$.44 for the next 225,000. \$.38 for the next 2,250,000 and \$.25 per 1,000 for water used over 2,250,000 gallons per month.

The Sturgeon Point Project, which is almost completed, is separate new water works with a filter plant, pumping station and large transmission mains that are connected to the Woodlawn system.

Figure 1



Water enters at left, travels below, and is pumped to surface path of water beneath lake.

Beginning with an intake crib located some 35 feet below the surface of Lake Erie, the water will flow through a six-foot tunnel some 2,800 feet in length. The tunnel can deliver in excess of 130 million gallons of water per day.³⁸

This is a quantity sufficient to take care of the needs of this area for many years in the future, according to employees of the Erie County Water Authority.

The Filtration Plant at Sturgeon Point has a rated capacity of sixteen million gallons. It can at peak load demands be operated at a rate of twenty-four million gallons. The filtered water pumps to be used will have a starting capacity of thirty-three million gallons daily, but additional filter and pumping units can be added up to the 130 million gallon capacity of the intake tunnel.

Fago Brothers of Tonawanda will finish the pipe work. The route will be along Southwestern Boulevard and Transit Road to Como Park Boulevard, then west of Borden Road along private right-of-ways, continuing north to Walden Avenue, Rossiter Avenue to the Depew Reservoir.³⁹

Part of the Sturgeon Point Project has been the laying of over thirty miles of large transmission mains and many smaller ones, called distributing mains. Pipes used today are lined with concrete. This is done because cubicles used to form inside the pipe cutting down the amount of water that could flow through them. The National Main Cleaning Company used to clean the pipes twice a year.

As of May 1961, the Depew station has an automatic valve installed to regulate the water flows from Windom (on Lake Avenue in the Town of Orchard Park) to Depew. The ten million gallon Windom Reservoir will have a pumping station built near it, which will pump to the Depew and Lancaster area. Pipes from the Windom Reservoir (10,000,000 gallons) to Depew (3,000,000 gallons) have been laid and water will flow through them as soon as the intake is completed at Sturgeon Point.

If Sturgeon Point is successful, it will be the principal source of water perhaps by the summer of this year. Then the Woodlawn station would probably be the standby station. At the present time, there are enough pumps but not a sufficient supply of water. Sturgeon Point will give the authority the volume of water that is needed. The new thirty-six inch diameter transmission pipe will permit the Depew area to have five times as much water as the old sixteen- inch diameter pipes did. If the old and the new pipes were used, Depew would be able to have six times as much water when both the Woodlawn and Sturgeon intakes are used, than Depew has at the present time.

Adequate pumping and pressures are not the problem today, but it is the low volume of water that causes the concern. During large fires and at the peak demands recently there has been adequate pressure, but just not enough water.

The water is taken out faster than a small pipe can replace it. This can be easily demonstrated by an example of a one-inch pipe bringing water into a barrel and many of the same size pipes draining the barrel. The water is drained out of the barrel and it is soon emptied because the intake cannot keep the barrel supplied with water fast enough for the demand of the draining pipes.

Sturgeon Point Project probably would have been in operation last summer, but it is said that two years ago a crane on a barge went over and broke something in the intake. This delayed the work.

In April 1960, a group of divers were scheduled to inspect the damaged Sturgeon Point water intake tunnel for Philsan Company contractors, so that a detailed report on repairs can be made to the Erie County Water Authority.

Opening of the water supply plant is long overdue. It was found the tunnel intake in Lake Erie had broken and silt had blocked the passage.⁴⁰

The new project will greatly increase the capacity of the system and make water more easily available to present and future customers in Alden, Amherst, Cheektowaga, Clarence, Hamburg, Lancaster, Orchard Park, and West Seneca, the Villages of Blasdell, Depew, Hamburg, Lancaster, Orchard Park and Williamsville and the City of Lackawanna.⁴¹

It also makes it possible to supply water to the Town of Eden, Elma and Evans.⁴²

Seventy-five percent of the \$12,000,000 Sturgeon Point Project is below the ground, just as three-fourth's of the authority's \$32,000,000 total investment in property and in the water plant is underground.

The Erie County Water Authority renders water supply service at wholesale to the Village of Blasdell, Depew, Lancaster, Hamburg, Orchard Park and Williamsville and to several small water districts and at retail to customers in the City of Lackawanna, Villages of Sloan, Depew (in part), and in the Towns of Alden, Amherst, Cheektowaga, Evans, Hamburg, Lancaster, Orchard Park and West Seneca.⁴³

The residents of the older central sections of Depew purchase their water directly from the Erie County Water Authority at retail prices. The Village of Depew buys water wholesale from the Erie County Water Authority at four meters for resale to customers in the newer sections of Depew who live near boundary lines of the village.

These are the locations of the meters where the village buys water for resale:

- Borden and Rowley Road.
- Broadway and Penora Street.
- Buffalo and Depew Boulevard and Hyland Road.

- Transit Road and Olmstead Avenue.

In September of 1953, the Village of Depew made preparations to extend its water lines by installing about 12,000 linear feet of water lines (estimated to cost about \$70,000) in the rapidly developed northwestern section of the village.

According to Village Clerk Anthony J. Krieger, the water mains will be extended to serve the following streets: Darwin Drive, Linda Court, Hanwell Place, Christophel Drive, Proposed Drive, Fairview Drive, Donna Court, Fairview Court, French Road and Rogers Drive.⁴⁴

In October of 1953, the Village of Depew was authorized to issue Serial Bonds in the value or amount of \$72,500 to finance the improvements to the municipally owned water supply and distribution system.

In December of 1953, the Village of Depew issued \$72,500 worth of serial bonds to finance the improvements.

In the period between June 1, 1959 and May 31, 1961, the total paid by the Village of Depew to the Erie County Water Authority for water for resale was \$24,230.97. The lowest bill was for November of 1959 when \$1,697.56 was paid. The largest bill was for the month of August when \$2,577.89 was spent for water.

In the period from June 1, 1960 to May 31, 1961, the lowest sum paid to the Erie County Water Authority was \$1,703.24 and the highest bill was paid for the month of August which amounted to \$3,099.12.

When Mr. John Kotz became Water Commissioner on April 15, 1959, he had to render the same type of services that are rendered by the Erie County water Authority. He must install, repair, read the meters of the customers and charge them for the water used.

There were 834 meters as of April 1959 that were connected to the village owned lines. This number increased to 1,030 by December 7, 1960 and 1,065 by May of 1961.

Since December 7, 1960, there have been thirty-five new customers supplied by the village; most of them have been on Hanwell Place and Domino Court.

Mr. John Kotz⁴⁵ Commissioner of the Village of Depew stated that the building development in the northeast section by Marrano Builders would probably add two hundred more water customers for the village. This would be about the maximum number the village would have because the location of the other undeveloped land in the village can more easily be supplied directly by the Erie County water Authority. Most of the land in the Village of Depew has been developed and so there will not be a large increase in consumers in the immediate future.

According to the present Village Attorney Joseph J. Schultz, the village was losing money on water until the last two years or so when the village started meeting expenses and eventually making a profit.

On May 31, 1958, the bonded debt for the Village of Depew for water was \$148,000.

The present rate charged by the Depew Water Department is a minimum charge of \$5.00 for the first 8,000 gallons and \$.55 for each additional 1,000 gallons for residents in the village. A rate of \$.65 per 1,000 gallons over 8,000 gallons is paid by non-residents who are supplied by the village owned lines.

According to John Kocialski, Village Treasurer, and John Kotz, the average rate paid by the Village of Depew for water from the Erie County Water Authority was about \$.29 per 1,000 gallons in 1960. It was an estimate, for accurate records of the amount of

water used by the village were not in the Depew Village hall, although the appropriations account book showed the amount of money paid the authority for each month.

On May 15, 1961, the Depew Village Board of Trustees and Mayor John Domino voted to study the present water rate charged to the 1055 customers of the village. Unless the rate is raised, John Kotz, the Water Commissioner, said, "because of the 20% hike effected by the Erie County water Authority February 1st, the village will be losing money in that department".⁴⁶

Endnotes-----

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2. Buffalo Commercial, September 28, 1901, p.1.
3. Depew Herald, May 18, 1894, p.4.
4. Depew Herald, October 5, 1893, p.1.
5. Truman C. White, A Descriptive Work on Erie County, New York in Our Country And it's People, p. 574.
6. Depew Herald, February 16, 1894, p. 1.
7. Unknown source (probably Depew Herald, March 30, 1894).
Some claimed the springs were on Baltsar Nichter Farms on Nichter Road in the Town of Lancaster.
8. Depew Herald, April 6, 1894, p.1.
9. Depew Herald, April 6, 1894,p.1.
10. Depew Herald, February 23, 1895, p.4.
11. Truman C.White, p.574.
12. Depew Herald, June 7, 1895, p.1.
13. Truman C.White, p. 575.
14. Depew Herald, September 11, 1896, p.1.

Chapter 1 An Attempt To Purchase Water From Buffalo

1. Henry W. Box, George Urban Jr., J.J. Albright, Edmund Hayes, Henry Koons, Charles E. Clarke and other prominent men who were interested in Depew and Its progress made this petition at the office of the Buffalo Board of Public Works.
2. Buffalo Commercial, August 5, 1898, p.8.
3. Buffalo Commercial, August 5, 1898, p. 8.

4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Depew Herald, July 27, 1899, p. 1.
7. Buffalo Commercial, August 5, 1898.
8. Buffalo Commercial, August 5, 1898, p. 8.
9. Buffalo Commercial, August 8, 1898, p.9.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Buffalo Courier, October 15, 1898.
Depew Herald, October 20, 1898.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Buffalo Commercial, August 8, 1898, p.9.
16. Buffalo Courier, October 15, 1898.
17. Depew Herald, November 10, 1898, p.5.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Depew Herald, November 17, 1898.
21. Depew Herald, July 27, 1899.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. Depew Herald, September 14, 1899, p.1.
25. Ibid.
26. Ibid.

27. Depew Herald, September 14, 1899, p.1.
28. Buffalo Commercial, August 8, 1898, p.9.
29. Depew Herald, September 14, 1899, p.1.
30. Depew Village Board Minutes, Book #5, February 5, 1900, p. 95.

Chapter 11 Crystal Springs Water Company To Supply Pure And Raw Water

1. Depew Herald, May 11, 1899, p.1.
2. Depew Herald, May 11, 1899, p. 1. “behooves” not “behoves.”
3. Depew Herald, June 22, 1899, p. 1.
4. Ibid.
5. Depew Herald, June 22, 1899, p. 1.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid. Note: The newspaper staff spelled “Vandenberg” incorrectly.
8. Depew Herald, June 22, 1899, p. 1.
9. Depew Herald, July 13, 1899, p. 1.
10. Depew Herald, July 27, 1899, p. 1.
11. Depew Herald, August 17, 1899, p. 1.
12. Depew Herald, August 24, 1899, p. 1.
13. Depew Herald, October 12, 1899, p. 1.
14. Depew Herald, October 5, 1899, p. 1.
15. Depew Herald, October 12, 1899, p.1.
16. Depew Herald, October 19, 1899, p. 1.
17. Ibid. (The Village of Depew presently buys water in bulk at four places for resale to 1065 residents served by village-owned lines.

18. Depew Herald, October 26, 1899, p. 1.
19. Depew Village Minutes, Book # 5, October 27, 1899, p. 60.
20. Depew Herald, November 2, 1899, p. 1.
21. Ibid.
22. The rate quoted by Buffalo for water in 1898 was \$.02 per 1,000 gallons.
23. Depew Village Minutes, Book # 5, p. 64.
24. Depew Herald, November 9, 1899, p. 1.
25. Depew Village Minutes, Book # 5, p.70.
26. Depew Herald, November 16, 1899, p. 1.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Depew Herald, November 16, 1899, p. 1.
30. Depew Village Minutes, Book # 5, November 13, 1899, p. 69.
31. Depew Herald, November 23, 1899, p. 1.
32. Depew Herald, December 7, 1899, p. 1.
33. Depew Herald, December 7, 1899, p. 1.
34. Depew Herald, December 14, 1899, p. 1.
35. Ibid. Note: "Behooves" was incorrectly spelled.
36. Depew Herald, December 28, 1899, p. 1.
37. Ibid. Perhaps the people were hesitant to purchase spring water because of the failure of the springs, which provided water to the Depew, and Lancaster Water Company.
38. Depew Herald, May 17, 1900, p. 1.

Chapter 111 Depew and Lake Erie Water Company Provided Adequate Water Supply

1. Depew Village Board Minutes, Book # 5, February 9, 1900, p. 99
2. Depew Herald, February 15, 1900, p. 1.
3. Depew Village Board Minutes, Book # 5, February 20, 1900, p. 110.
Depew Herald, March 1, 1900, p. 1.
4. Depew Herald, May 17, 1900, p.1.
Certificate of Western New York Water Company for the merger of Depew and Lake Erie Water Company, July 23, 1909.
5. Depew Herald, May 17, 1900, p. 1.
6. Depew Herald, May 17, 1900, p. 1.
7. Ibid.
8. Depew Herald, May 17, 1900, p. 1.
9. Depew Herald, June 7, 1900, p. 1.
10. Depew Herald, June 14, 1900, p. 1.
11. Ibid.
12. Depew Herald, June 21, 1900, p. 1.
13. Depew Herald, July 5, 1900, p. 1.
14. Depew Herald, July 5, 1900, p. 1.
15. In 1961, the source of supply is not as good because of its closeness to the Bethlehem Steel Plant and other industries that use and return water to the lake.
16. Depew Herald, July 12, 1900, p. 1.
17. Depew Herald, July 19, 1900, p. 1.
18. Depew Herald, August 9, 1900, p. 1.
19. Depew Herald, August 23, 1900, p. 1.
20. Depew Herald, September 13, 1900, p. 1.

21. Depew Herald, September 27, 1900, p. 1.
22. Village Board Minutes, Book # 5, October 15, 1900, p. 204
Depew Herald, October 18, 1900, p. 1.
23. Depew Herald, November 22, 1900, p. 1.
24. Depew Herald, December 13, 1900, p. 1.
25. Depew Herald, December 20, 1900, p. 1.
26. Western New York Water Company Index Map furnished by the Erie County
Water Authority.
27. Depew Herald, December 27, 1900, p. 1.
28. Depew Village Board Minutes, Book # 5, April 1, 1901, p. 314.
29. Ibid. , May 23, 1901, p.340.
30. Ibid. , p. 347.
31. Depew Herald, February 27, 1902, p. 1.
32. Depew Herald, May1, 1902, p. 1.
33. Depew Herald, May 1, 1902, p. 1.
34. Depew Herald, March 12, 1903, p. 1.
35. Depew Herald, July 9, 1903, p. 1.
36. Depew Herald, July 9, 1903, p. 1.
37. Ibid.
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39. Depew Village Board Minutes, Book # 7, November 20, 1905, p. 177
40. Ibid. , December 26, 1905, p. 182.
41. Ibid. January 2, 1906, p. 183.
42. Depew Village Board Minutes, Book # 7, January 5, 1906, p. 186.

43. Ibid. February 5, 1906, p. 197.
44. Ibid. , April 2, 1906, p. 210.
45. Ibid. , May 28, 1906, p. 234.
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47. Ibid. Book # 8, April 15, 1907, p. 325
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49. Ibid. , May 13, 1907, p. 343.
50. Ibid. , June 21, 1907, p. 363.
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52. Ibid. , January 6, 1908, p. 414.
53. Ibid.
54. Ibid. , April 20, 1908, p. 450.
55. Ibid. , June 15, 1908, p. 466.
56. Ibid. , September 21, 1908, p. 506.
57. Village Board Minutes, Book # 8, October 19, 1908, p.515.
58. Ibid. , February 1, 1909, p. 535
59. Ibid.

Chapter IV Erie County Water Authority Provides Wholesale and Retail Water.

1. Depew Herald, February 26, 1953, p. 1
2. John Moody, Moody's Municipal and Governmental Manual 1961, p. 1396.
3. By-laws of the Erie County Water authority on file in the Erie County Clerk's Office.
4. Buffalo Evening News, December 19, 1952.

5. Ibid.
6. Depew Herald, January 1, 1953, p. 1.
7. Depew Herald, January 8, 1953, p. 1.
8. Depew Herald, January 29, 1953, p. 1.
9. Depew Herald, February 12, 1953, p. 1.
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15. Depew Herald, May 28, 1953, p. 1.
16. Depew Herald, June 18, 1953, p. 12.
17. Ibid.
18. Depew Herald, July 2, 1953, p. 10.
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20. Depew Herald, July 28, 1953, p. 1.
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22. John Moody, *Moody's Municipal and Government Manual*, p. 1396.
23. Depew Herald, October 15, 1953, p. 1.
24. Depew Herald, February 26, 1953, p. 1.
25. The Sturgeon Point Project bulletin published by the Erie County Water Authority.
26. The bulletin Erie County Water Authority 1954 to 1960 listed the date of actual operation as January 1, 1954.

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28. Erie County Water Authority, Bulletin No. 1, 1960
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35. Erie County Water Authority Pamphlet, Why An Increase In Water rates? February 1, 1956- February 1, 1961.
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42. The present area served and the future areas to be served by the Sturgeon Point and Woodlawn station is shown on the schematic map on page 62, which the writer made from the information on the huge schematic map covering the wall of the Service Center, Union Road, Cheektowaga.
43. John Moody, Moody's Municipal and Government Manual, 1961, p. 1396.
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Maps

Erie County Water Authority Schematic Map, showing present areas served and future areas to be served by the Sturgeon Point and Woodlawn station. (Scale drawing of actual map on the wall of the Service Center, Union Road, Cheektowaga, N.Y.).

Official Map of the Village of Depew, Erie County New York, March 10, 1959. (Location of four meters where village buys water for re-sale from Erie County Water Authority).

Plates 20 – 21. Piping system of Erie County Water Authority, December 1902. (Red pencil indicates water mains of Depew and Lancaster Water Company in 1899).

Western New York Water Company Index Map, 1911, furnished by Erie County Water Authority.

