

Town of Corydon Water Works

Established 1902

WATER RATES

—OF—

CORYDON WATER WORKS

PER YEAR, OR ANY PART OF A YEAR, FROM JAN. 1st TO DEC. 31st OF EACH YEAR, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

HOUSE USES —	From two to three rooms	\$ 4 00
	From four to five rooms	5 00
	From six to seven rooms	6 00
	From eight to nine rooms	7 00
	From ten to eleven rooms	8 00
	Each additional room	50
	More than one family using water—Each additional family	3 00
BATH TUBS —	Private, cold bath	2 00
	Private, warm bath	3 00
	Public, cold bath	5 00
	Public, warm bath	10 00
WATER CLOSETS —	Private, per seat	2 00
	Public, per seat	5 00
URINALS —	Private	2 00
	Public—constant running	10 00
	Wash basins, each	1 00
	Sinks	1 00
STABLES —	Each vehicle, washed with running hose	2 00
	Each horse or cow	1 00

History by Bruce A. Cunningham
Corydon Town Manager
January 2024



TOWN OF CORYDON

Indiana's First State Capitol

219 NORTH CAPITOL AVENUE
CORYDON, INDIANA 47112

www.TownofCorydon.com

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Hope Schneider, First Ward
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Lester Rhoads, Third Ward
Heather Davis, Fourth Ward
Harlan R. Fisher, VP & Fifth Ward

A STELLAR COMMUNITY

Bruce A. Cunningham, Town Manager
Sondra Smith, Clerk-Treasurer
Christopher L. Byrd, Attorney

History of the Town of Corydon Water Works

By Bruce A. Cunningham, Town Manager
January 2024

Foreword:

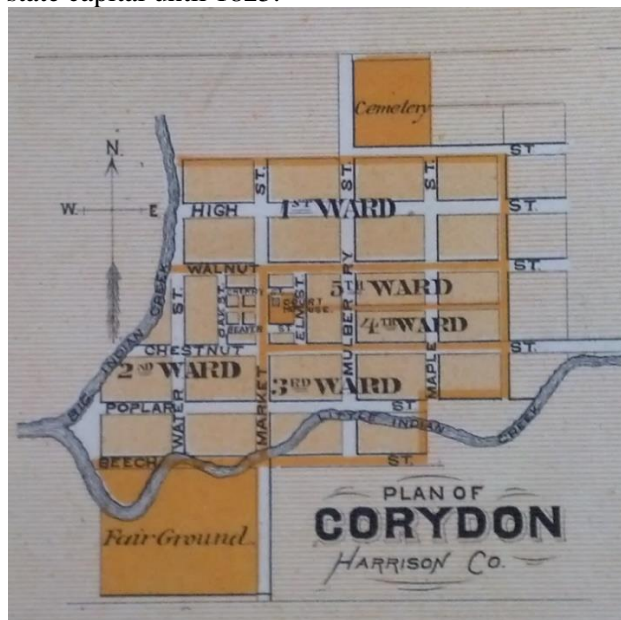
I have been in the public utility business for 30+ years. In my opinion, the delivery of chlorinated drinking water to the public may be the greatest health and safety benefit in the history of mankind. Diseases such as Typhoid Fever, Cholera, E Coli and Dysentery have been nearly eradicated as such. A century ago, these diseases killed many thousands each year across the country. Outbreaks from public wells and springs would wipe out entire communities because they did not understand where and how these diseases originated. As I write this in 2024, safe public drinking water is taken for granted. Some complain about their perceived water quality, without thinking about where we were just three generations ago. I have researched and written the following information to inform all of us about the journey we have taken for safe, public drinking water in the Town of Corydon, Indiana. I have always firmly believed that you cannot appreciate where you are without first understanding where you have been. Rest assured; this journey is far from over. I can only imagine the struggles during the next 100 years of our drinking water future.

From the January 8, 1925 issue of the Corydon Republican newspaper "Public service of every kind, in the majority of cases, goes without appreciation. Those in the trenches who work day in and day out with the best of motives to secure for the public their interest get but little praise but much condemnation. That is the price of public service."

One hundred years later, not much has changed in that regard.

Early Days:

Corydon was founded in 1808. It served as the capital of the Indiana Territory from 1813 – 1816. After Indiana's statehood in 1816, Corydon served as our first state capital until 1825.



Early Plat Map of Corydon

Corydon's population in 1826 was reported to be 275 persons.

Both Big and Little Indian Creeks were used for drinking water, bathing and sewage disposal. This resulted in a Cholera outbreak in 1832. Following the outbreak, the town only used the creeks for bathing and multiple wells were hand dug for drinking water.

There was one public water well on record, described in the Corydon Republican newspaper as "in the street south of the public square". It was described further as being "dug way back at a period of time the oldest inhabitant does not remember". In 1880, Governor Porter was said to "have drew forth an overflowing bucket of the clear crystal fluid and took a refreshing draught there forth." Clearly the early residents of Corydon appreciated refreshing drinking water.

In 1850 the population was reported to be 763.

In July of 1863, Brigadier General, John Hunt Morgan, as part of the Confederate Battle of Corydon, along with his Morgan's Raiders, passed through our town.

In 1866 the Keller Store opened in Corydon. Keller later entered into various businesses, including an electric light plant, manufacturing wagon spokes, operating a mill, farm wagon production, building barns, porch furniture, wooden truck bodies and ice boxes. Much later, Keller Manufacturing became known for quality wood furniture. I mention Keller here because of the notes below from the 1899 Sanborn Maps.

In 1871 a major fire broke out in Corydon and destroyed the entire block from Cherry ST to Beaver ST along with the Kintner House and the County Jail. There were no hydrants or fire protection available.

In 1882, an eight-mile spur of the Southern Railroad was extended to Corydon, called the Louisville, New Albany and Corydon Railroad.

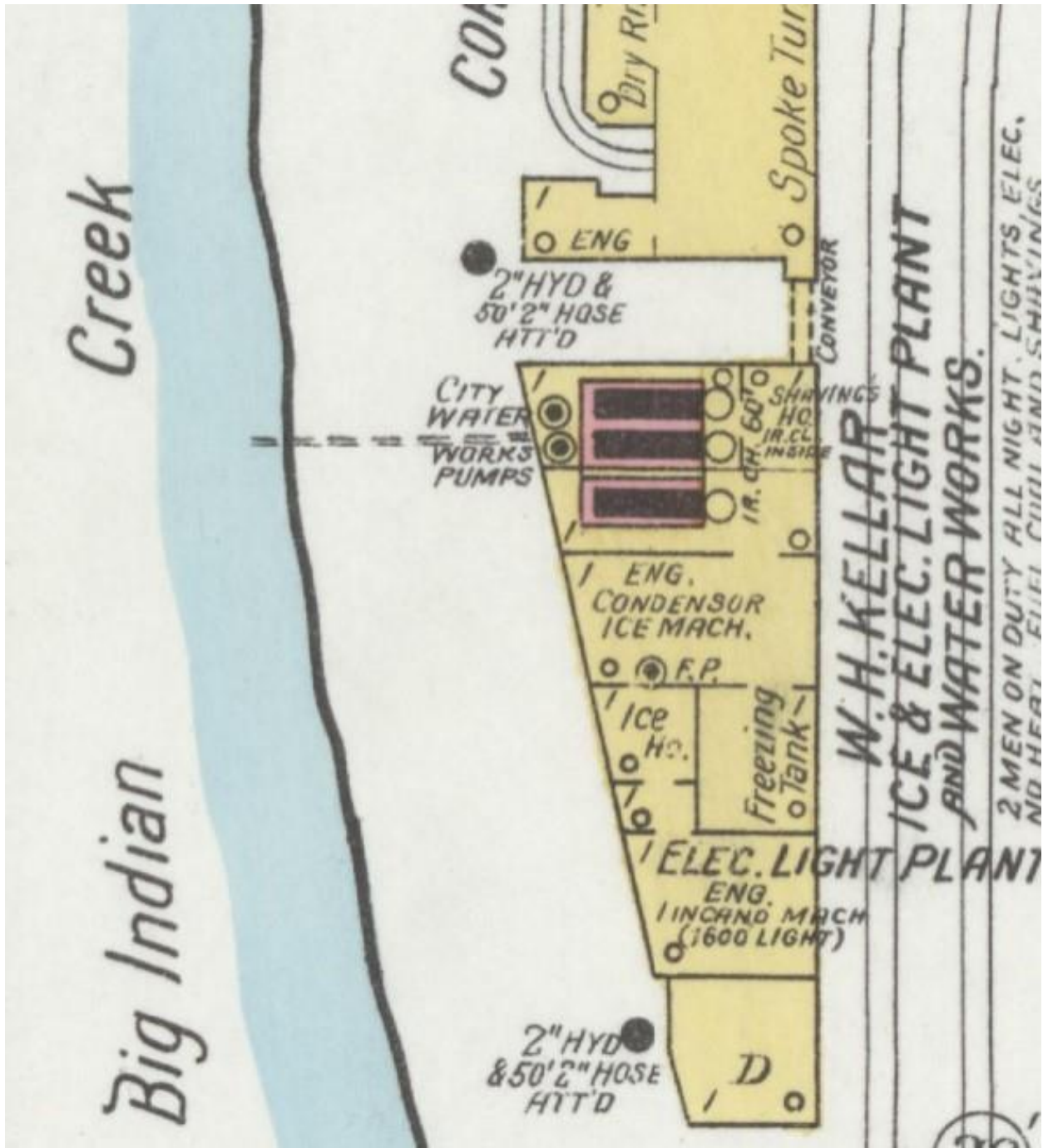
In 1883 a second major fire broke out. Seven businesses, horse stables and multiple homes were destroyed. Most of the western parts of Corydon were destroyed. Again, no hydrants or fire protection were available.

The December 1893 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps at the US Library of Congress make no mention of any public water in the Town of Corydon. It is assumed that there was no public water in place during these early years, other than some hand dug wells and the two branches of Indian Creek. It is assumed drinking water was obtained from those sources.

In 1899 the public well described above was abandoned due to the water going bad. From an article in the Corydon Republican – "The pump was removed and the opening covered over with a broad stone, and that covered with gravel until there is no longer a visible monument of where it rests."

The September 1899 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps at the US Library of Congress shows City Water Works Pumps and two hydrants with 50 feet of hose each, at the WH Kellar Ice & Electric Light Plant and Water Works property on Big Indian Creek. There is a note on the map that states the two pumps provide water to a 100' x 40' x 14' deep reservoir on a hill above town. This reservoir is known to have been located on property now owned by the Corydon Cedar Hill Cemetery and was located just east of what is now named N Maple ST. The note also states there were 2 miles of water pipes from 4" to 10" in diameter and water was used for domestic uses only. The water works were owned by WH Kellar. See below.

The references to Market ST in Corydon, is now known as N Capitol AV. The spelling from the maps is Kellar, even though we know it to be Keller.



Top Center shows City Water Works Pumps at the WH Kellar property.

NOTE Water supply from Big Indian Creek Reservoir on hill, 115 ft. above corner of Chestnut and Market Sts. (100' x 40' x 14' deep.) filled by two Worthington Pumps (6" x 4" x 6" & 7 1/4" x 4 1/4" x 6") 2 Miles of water pipes 4" to 10". Pressure at corner of Market & Chestnut Sts 56 lbs.

Water used for domestic purposes only. Water works owned by W. H. Kellar with whom the town has been unable to make any arrangement for the introduction of fire hydrants

No fire department or apparatus
Public lights electric.
Streets Macadamized.

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Note on 1899 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Town of Corydon

By 1900 the population of Corydon had grown to 1,610.

In March of 1902, the town awarded a contract to build a water works for Corydon. The low bid of \$15,768 was to build the pump house at Blue Springs along with all equipment and a 125 psi steam engine to power it. This included a reservoir on top the hill to contain the water. Records show it was built by John Wesley Doolittle and his son G. Carl Doolittle. There is an archive picture from 1902 showing the building already constructed. And in 1902, the Town of Corydon passed its first Water Works Ordinance, including a schedule of rates and charges. The Corydon Water Works were born. The first water rates were annual fees with no water meters to measure usage. Part of the tariff is shown below.

WATER RATES

— OF —

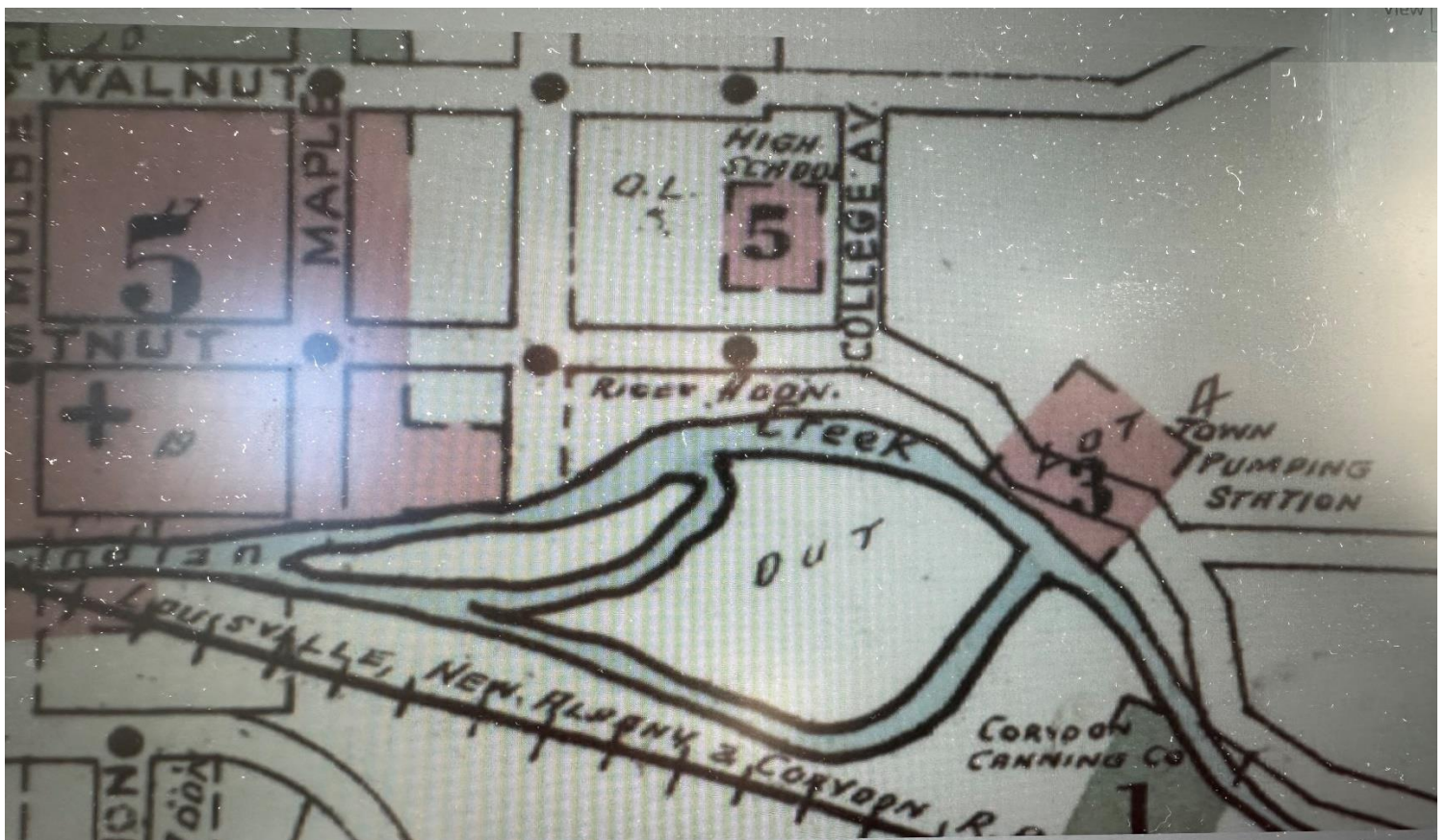
CORYDON WATER WORKS

PER YEAR, OR ANY PART OF A YEAR, FROM JAN. 1st TO DEC. 31st OF EACH YEAR, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

HOUSE USES —From two to three rooms.....	\$ 4 00
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From six to seven rooms.....	6 00
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More than one family using water—Each additional family.....	3 00
BATH TUBS —Private, cold bath.....	2 00
Private, warm bath.....	3 00
Public, cold bath.....	5 00
Public, warm bath.....	10 00
WATER CLOSETS —Private, per seat.....	2 00
Public, per seat.....	5 00
URINALS —Private.....	2 00
Public—constant running.....	10 00
Wash basins, each.....	1 00
Sinks.....	1 00
STABLES —Each vehicle, washed with running hose.....	2 00
Each horse or cow.....	1 00

The 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps were much more detailed. The 1893 maps were two pages, but the 1910 maps were five pages. The 1910 maps show the pumps at the WH Kellar property mentioned in the 1899 maps, but also show a pumping station at Blue Spring on the east side of Corydon. A note on the map provides more detail. It states that there are two independent water systems. One is owned by the town and the other by Keller. Hydrants in town are connected to the Corydon system only. The Keller system is the one described in the 1899 map with the reservoir on the hill. The Corydon Water Works is owned by the town supplied from a free-flowing spring with two Fairbanks Morse pumps with a combined capacity of 672,000 gallons per day, but the plant only runs 6 hours per day. Water was pumped from the spring direct to a reservoir 60' x 80' x 8' deep with a capacity of 220,000 gallons. The reservoir is clearly shown (along with the Keller reservoir) on the 1910 map. The town reservoir was located on Reservoir RD near the existing Town of Corydon East Tank. In 1910 the town had 42 "double hydrants" and 4 miles of water mains 4" to 10" in diameter. The town consumption was 54,000 gallons per day. (Note: The references to Market ST in Corydon, is now named N Capitol AV.)

The 1910 Corydon Water Works described above mentions a free-flowing spring. This water was obtained from Blue Spring, located on the north side of E Chestnut ST about 225 feet west of Kirkham AV. In the 1960's & 70's, this property was known as the Parks Chevrolet dealership. There was a pumping station built there in 1902. All the Town of Corydon's publicly supplied water was pumped from that location until 1927. The spring is still there today (2024), but a drainpipe has been installed to send the water to Little Indian Creek. There is still a catch basin located there with a steel grate and water can be seen and heard flowing. Eventually the town's daily water demand outgrew the capacity of Blue Spring. When demand neared 100,000 Gallons Per Day, another source had to be found.



Drawing from 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Town Pumping Station shown center – right.

WATER FACILITIES

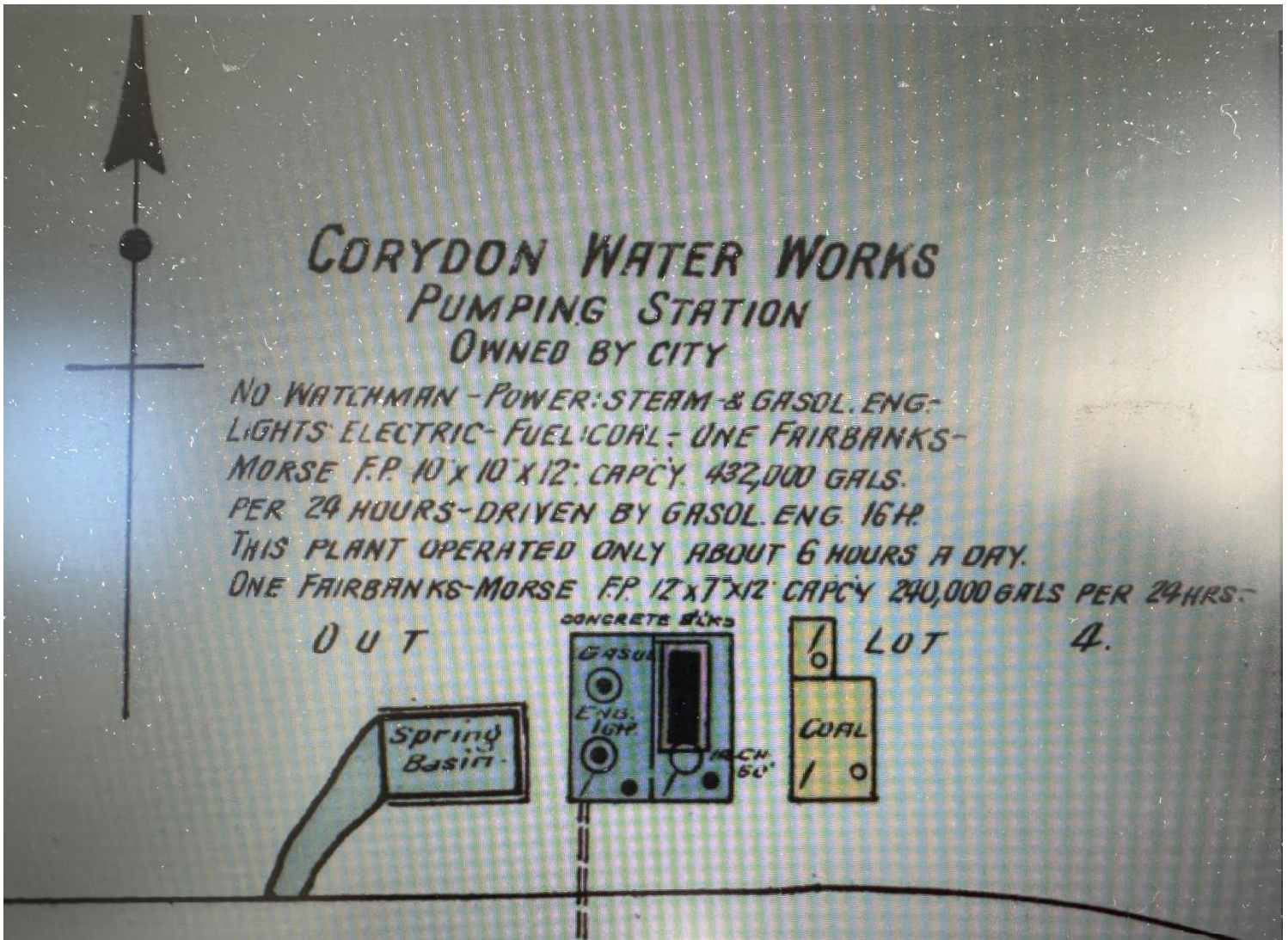
2 independent water systems. One owned by the town & the other by private parties. 2 systems of mains in the streets wholly independent of each other but only the town mains are connected to the street hydrants-

KELLER OR PRIVATE SYSTEM water supply from Big Indian Creek-Reservoir 100'x 40'x 14' deep on hill. 115' above corner of Market & Chestnut Streets, filled by one Worthington pump 6x4½x6' & by one Scranton pump 7½x4½x6'-

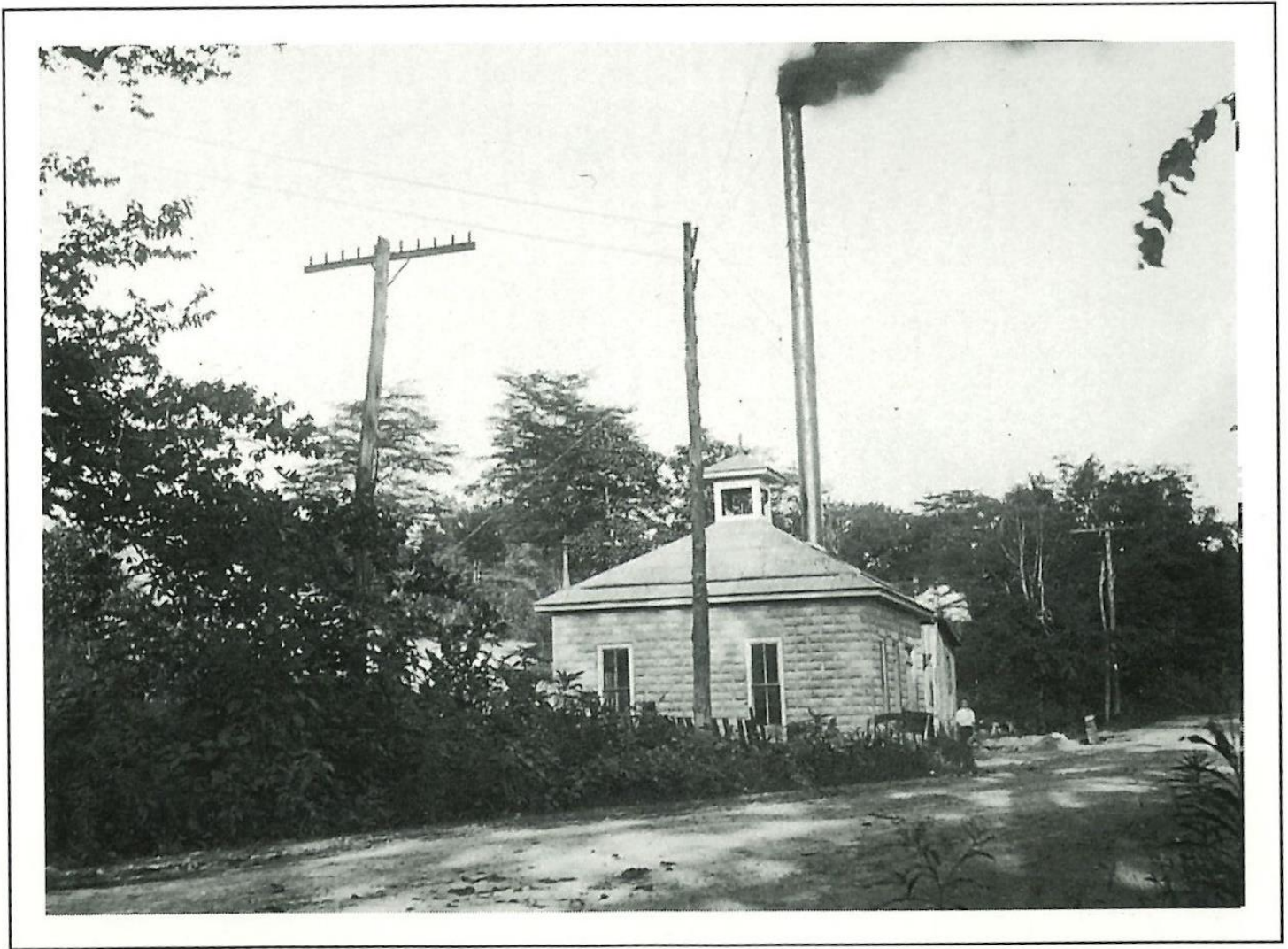
2 Miles of mains 4" to 10" - Pressure at Corner of Market & Chestnut Sts. 56 lbs. - Water used for domestic purposes-only except at Keller Mfg Co & Frank Wright Ice & Electric Light Plant. System now owned & operated by Frank Wright-

CORYDON WATER WORKS owned by the town. Reservoir system. Supply from flowing spring- Supply ample. 2 Fairbanks-Morse F.P. combined capcy of 672,000 gals per 24 hours. Plant runs 6 hours a day. Water pumped direct from Spring to reservoir-60'x 30'x 8' deep-174' above corner of Market & Chestnuts Sts. Capcy of reservoir 220,000 gals. Pressure at corner of Market & Chestnut Sts. 75 lbs. 42 Double hydrants. About 4 miles of Mains 4" to 10" - Domestic consumption 54,000 gals per day-

Note from 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Describes both the Keller Private water system and the Corydon Water Works. (Note: The references to Market ST in Corydon, is now named N Capitol AV.)



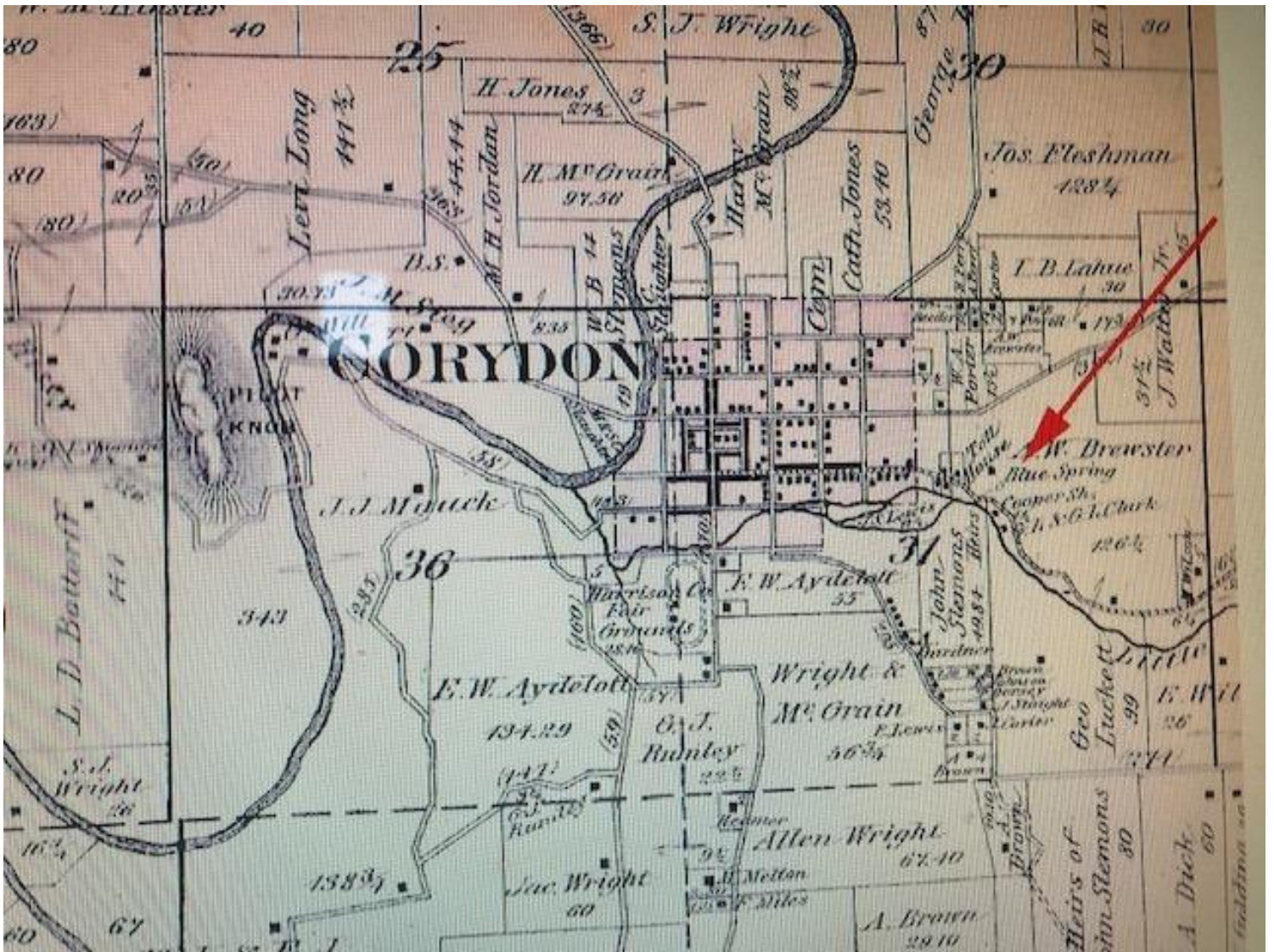
Drawing from 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Shows Blue Spring, Pumping Station and the Power Unit.



c 1910 H. J. Friedley

*The Blue Spring Pumping Station on Chestnut Street at the east edge of town—
Corydon's primary water source until 1926.*

This picture from 1910 shows the Blue Spring Pumping Station. In the background is the smokestack from the power generation unit.



The red arrow on this plat map clearly shows the location of Blue Spring located on the east side of Corydon.

As a side note, there was also the Blue Springs Bottling Works that sold a variety of bottled water flavors. This was a private business and not affiliated with the Corydon Water Works. This was located on W High ST in the old Corydon Creamery building next to the old blacksmith shop (across from Constitutional Elm). The bottling works opened in 1917. An article from the Corydon Republican newspaper in March 1917 stated, "Blue Spring water is distilled and carbonated in one machine and then is passed to another machine which does both the mixing of the water with the syrup and bottling." The plant could produce 3,000 bottles per day. The building burned in 1930.

In 1918 Indiana passed a state law requiring the testing of water sold for public use. In September of 1919, an analysis of the Blue Springs water was made by the State Board of Health, and it was found to be contaminated. The recommendation was made to boil the water until the Health Board sent a sanitary engineer to evaluate the water. In October of that year, John Diggs from the Health Board made his determination. During heavy periods of rain, the spring is influenced by surface waters and drainage from farm fields. He said in his report, "The continuation of the use of such a supply without treatment is exceedingly dangerous. It remains only for the germs of typhoid fever to be deposited on the drainage area of this spring to start an epidemic of the disease in the city." He went on to recommend that a chemical treatment plant be installed to feed chlorine into the water to "kill the disease germs in the water."

In May of 1924, the town board received a report from Charles Brossman, Consulting Engineer, from Indianapolis, IN. Mr. Brossman visited Corydon and inspected the water supply on May 13th & 14th. He describes the water supply as follows:

"The present water supply and pumping station is a short distance above town and consists of one steam boiler, one Fairbanks-Morse pump, which is used in case the electric pump is out, one Midwest centrifugal two-stage pump, pumping at 78# pressure with a lift of approximately from 6 to 16 feet on the suction end. This pumps water to the

two concrete reservoirs which are 45 x 60 feet, the depth of water 8 feet, and which we are advised holds approximately 300,000 gallons.”

Mr. Brossman goes on to discuss Blue Spring and the amount of water it can supply. While there in May 1924, he estimated the flow to be 600 gallons per minute. But in the dry summer months, the Blue Spring is not able to supply the demand. He also discusses the use of Fairgrounds Spring, Wheat Spring, Grable Springs and both Big & Little Indian Creeks and provided cost estimates to utilize each of those. His ultimate recommendation was to build a new plant on the banks of Big Indian Creek and use that as the source of supply. As quoted from the study:

“Our recommendation would be that the Big Indian Creek is the best possible source of water supply as there is no question about the water being there in the dry season and the future supply of the town is assured for all times. Whereas any of the springs are doubtful as to quantity in dry weather flow, which is the important times to consider. With a saving made in operation using an oil engine, this would assist in paying off the plant at Big Indian Creek. We would therefore recommend that the source of supply to be considered is Big Indian Creek.”

The 1924 water study says Corydon’s population is 2,000 and the town had 425 services connected. Corydon had 12 water meters installed and the other customers were on a flat water rate.

Corydon began plans to build a new water plant. It was not unanimously received in the town. Many claimed they were taxed enough and did not want more bonds issued. The matter was placed on the ballot.

In May of 1925, a special election was held in Corydon on the question of issuing bonds of \$19,000 to build a new water plant. The vote was 365 for and 167 against. On August 29th, 38 bonds of \$500.00 each were sold to fund the new water plant. In October of that same year, work began on the water plant. The contractors were Issac Orwick and William Mitchell.

After 1927:

In November of 1926, a 500,000 gallon per day water treatment plant came online that was built behind Cedar Glade on the south bank of Big Indian Creek (at the very end of Farquar ST). Water was taken from the creek and treated before pumping it into the town’s concrete reservoirs on top the hill. When first built, the plant had a 40 HP pump with a capacity of 400 GPM. The plant was rated at 500,000 gallons per day. Chlorine was added for the first time to the town’s water supply. Since 1929, written records have been kept of the amount of water pumped daily. At the end of 1929, the annual amount pumped was 53,736,000 gallons, for an average daily usage of 147,222 gallons.



Water Plant Behind Cedar Glade

The low head dam just east of the north bridge was built in 1936 using WPA labor. President Roosevelt started the WPA program in 1935 to combat the Great Depression. WPA provided the labor and the town provided the materials. The original dam was four feet high and impounded about 3,000,000 gallons of water for the treatment plant to pump from. In August 1954, an additional 16 inches was built on top of the dam and this impounded about 2,000,000 gallons of additional water.



Low Head Dam #1 Built in 1930's

Prior to 1934, customers paid a flat fee for water usage and there were no water meters. In 1934 the town began installing water meters and charging customers accordingly. This caused a reduction in the amount of water pumped, as customers began using less water.



Neptune Trident Water Meter – circa 1935

The area had periods of drought in 1930, 1943, 1951 and again in 1954. The flow in Big Indian Creek stopped altogether and the town found themselves without adequate water storage.

At the end of 1943, the amount of water pumped was 49,622,000 gallons, for an average daily usage of 135,943 gallons. The town served 393 customers.

In 1947, the town laid a new water main from the reservoir off Big Indian Road across town to the south hill, where the new Harrison County Hospital was to be built in 1948-49.

On March 10, 1948, a newspaper article in the Corydon Democrat discussed the current town reservoir. The State Board of Health has recommended the reservoir be covered and the State Fire Marshall said more pressure was needed in South Corydon. The Town Council discussed this at their meeting. The article also said, "The present reservoir is an open concrete pool protected by a barbed wire fence. Its capacity is about 430,000 gallons. A steel standpipe might be the solution, providing the cost is not too much greater than enlarging and covering the present reservoir. The steel tank idea may be a practical solution to the water problem, both of the present and for the future."

In 1950, a new 500,000 gallon standpipe was constructed by the open concrete reservoirs just east of the cemetery on Reservoir RD. The top of this steel tank was completely contained and covered.

In the drought of 1951, a temporary pipeline was laid on top of the ground from the Fairgrounds Spring, across Little Indian Creek, north on Water ST, across the Keller Manufacturing property, to the treatment plant on Big Indian Creek. A pump was used to move the water until rains came later that summer. This water was used to supplement water supplies.

At the end of 1954, the amount of water pumped had grown to 101,899,000 gallons, for an average daily usage of 279,175 gallons. The town served about 800 customers.

Due to the droughts, in 1955 a study was delivered to town officials from the Flood Control and Water Resources Commission of the State of Indiana to help find or expand new water sources. This study considered flow from springs upstream of Dam #1 and its impoundment. McGrain Spring, Conrad Springs, and Grable Spring were all studied, and flows were measured. Possible sources of water supply were also studied, including the Fairgrounds Spring, Blue Spring, Harrison Spring and multiple locations for possible reservoirs on both Little & Big Indian Creeks. Large impoundments of reservoir water were ruled out because of the rock and Karst topography of the area. Millions could be spent; with no guarantee the reservoir would hold water. It was from this 1955 study that the decision was made to build Dam #2 and Dam #3 upstream of the Dam #1 location. Water could be released in drought times to the Dam #1 pool and the water supply would remain uninterrupted to the treatment plant.

In December of 1955, the town sold the old Blue Springs lot and building to the highest bidder. Mr. E. A. Parks bought the site for \$3,000. The lot is directly across from the old Parks Chevrolet dealership on E Chestnut ST.

In 1956, the town hired Clyde E. Williams & Associates, Professional Engineers, to develop a plan to build two dams above the existing Dam #1 site, to improve the water treatment plant on Big Indian Creek, and to make improvements to the water distribution system in town. Bids were taken and the work awarded as follows: construction of two dams – Stone City Construction (\$162,456); treatment plant improvements – Stauth Brothers (\$95,557); and 30,000 feet of new water mains – L & K Company (\$138,230).

In 1957 the town constructed Dam #2 and Dam #3 upstream of the water treatment plant on Big Indian Creek. Dam #2 held 25,000,000 gallons and Dam #3 nearly 39,000,000 gallons. Of course, over time these amounts were significantly reduced due to sedimentation occurring behind the dams.

At this same time, Stone City Construction added the fish ladder on the north side of Dam #1.

In 1957, water mains were laid to cross the creek below Dam #1 to the north. This was a major addition to the Town's water system. Lines were run north to Wyandotte AV and then west, and south, to pick up the areas of Williar AV, Harrison AV, McGrain ST, Hill ST, Morris, Spencer AV and the Slemmons & McKinster ST area. Lines were extended onto Floyd & Franklin Streets. Lines were extended onto Highland AV, Ferguson, Higdon, O'Bannon, Cedar and Kirkham AV. Many new homes were connected to the water system.



Low Head Dam #2 Built in 1957



Low Head Dam #3 Built in 1957

The treatment plant work included pump and piping upgrades, new chemical feed pumps and mixing apparatus for pre flocculation and settling, changes to the settling basin, removal of a portion of the existing building, new valves, new chlorine feed system and other miscellaneous electrical work, painting, concrete, etc. The capacity of the treatment plant after these improvements was doubled from 500,000 GPD to 1.0 MGD.

The distribution improvements included the installation of 30,000 feet of water mains from 4" to 8" in size in the areas of SR 135, McGrain ST, Short ST, Lord AV, SR 62, Capitol Blvd, Kirkham ST, Hill ST, Harrison AV, Woodland AV, Jordan AV, Spencer AV, Summit ST, O'Bannon AV, Highland AV, New Albany AV and water to the Wiseman Addition, Stepro Addition and the College Heights areas. These new water mains picked up 135 new customers and added 56 new fire hydrants. This was a major addition to the water system in 1957.

In 1966 a second water storage tank was built on the west side of town on Hillview DR. Its capacity was / is 500,000 gallons. At that same time, a variable speed booster was built at the same location to provide better water service to the north part of Corydon's water system, including the industrial park area. At the end of 1966, the amount of water pumped had grown to 174,645,000 gallons, for an average daily usage of 478,175 gallons. The town served about 1,176 customers.



West 500,000 Gallon Storage Tank – Built 1966

In 1968, representatives from Ramsey Water conducted a study and discussed purchasing water from the Town of Corydon. Later, Ramsey decided to approach the Town of Milltown about purchasing water from them. Ramsey ended up drilling wells on the Ohio River near Leavenworth, IN. This shows how important every local community looked at the supply of drinking water to their own area. Safe drinking water had become expected by home and business owners.

In 1970, we installed 6 miles of new 10" and 8" cast iron water mains from our west tank, north to the industrial park, east to Hwy 135, and north along Hwy 135 to the end of our system.

In 1970, Corydon pumped 196,728,000 gallons of water for an average pumpage day of 538,000 gallons. Corydon served 1,290 customers.

In the summer of 1972, representatives of the newly formed South Harrison Water approached the Town of Corydon about purchasing water from South Harrison. South Harrison was purchasing a Ranney Well south of Laconia that was said to produce at least 7 million gallons of water per day and would have extra capacity to spare. Again, drinking water was so very important to our local communities. The town decided to follow up on this potential source of water.

In 1972, the town received a Preliminary Engineering Report from Clyde Williams & Associates, Indianapolis, IN. Part of this study was to look at potentially buying directly from the owner of the Ranney Well that South Harrison Water was discussing. The distance the well is located from Corydon was a negative factor. If Corydon ran a line from the Ranney Well, it would pass through undeveloped rural areas with minimal customers that could be served. Other alternate sources looked at were Harrison Spring, Ohio River Wells, and a larger single reservoir on Big Indian Creek. Other recommendations of this study were to upgrade the existing storage, pressure, and piping around town.

The study states that a new source of supply needed to be found. Corydon's customer usage had increased and Big Indian Creek "is being utilized to the limit of its maximum safe supply." Also from the study, "The demand on the system will continue to increase. In fact, the State Board of Health has recently turned down a request by the Ramsey Water Company to serve an additional 190 customers to be supplied from the Corydon Water system."

Data from the 1972 study showed that Corydon had 21 miles of water main from 2" to 12" in diameter. Corydon also sold water to West Harrison Water, East Harrison Water and Ramsey Water. Those wholesale sales amounted to 6 million gallons per month and made up about 20% of the water plant's capacity.

During the time period above from 1968 to 1972, it should be very apparent that drinking water supply was a huge issue for the entire county. Everyone was looking for safe drinking water with a reliable source.

The 1972 study mentions that I-64 is under construction through Harrison County and will greatly influence Corydon's growth. It states that Corydon's population is 2,719.

In 1973, a pressure pump station was built along Valley RD to provide better pressure to the area around the hospital and Corydon schools. At this same time, improvements and additions were made to the treatment plant. An additional filter was installed to raise the capacity to 1.5 MGD.

In 1978, the town hired Floyd Browne & Associates from Anderson, Indiana to study the treatment plant and distribution system. Many shortcomings were noted in the treatment plant, due to it being operated nearly 24 hours per day. Down time to repair problems were nearly impossible to schedule. There were problems with the creek intake structure, one filter, chemical feeds, and flow meters. The report stated, "The Indiana State Board of Health has informed us that Indian Creek is not an adequate source of water supply. During dry summers the town can barely obtain enough water from the stream. During wet weather, high runoff periods the stream swells out of its banks and floods the water treatment plant." Later in the report it states, "It is urgently recommended that the town begin to develop a program or the necessary planning for either a new water treatment plant or the purchase of treated water."

At the end of 1979, the amount of water pumped had grown to 177,660,000 gallons, for an average daily usage of 486,745 gallons. The town served about 1,257 customers.

In 1980, Corydon hired Midwestern Engineers to study our water supply. Corydon was growing and industries such as the Arpac chicken processing plant needed more water. We also had an industrial park area that with growth also needed more water. At that time, the engineers took measurements at all three existing dams and estimated the total storage capacity had been reduced because of sedimentation to a total of 17,000,000 gallons. They also found Dam #2's discharge gate to be stuck

and inoperable. Alternative sources of water were studied. One alternative source was Blue River near Harrison Springs and the construction of a new 1 million gallon per day treatment plant at that area. Water storage tanks were also studied and a new tank on the south end of town was proposed.

In 1981, Corydon hired Layne Northern Company to drill a series of test wells along Big Indian Creek looking for an additional source of water. Finding a local source of water would be better and less expensive than building new infrastructure on Blue River and installing new lines from that location. Three wells were drilled. One near the Fairgrounds, one near the north bridge and one near Dam #2. Though some water was found, it contained sulfur and was not of sufficient quantity to further invest in those sites.

In 1984, Corydon built two new storage tanks. A new 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank, in the Industrial Park area of north Corydon, substantially improved the pressure and supply to the north part of town. A new 778,000 gallon tank was built to replace the 500,000 gallon tank on the east side of our system. These were major improvements to the system.



500,000 gallon Industrial Park Storage Tank – Built 1984



778,000 Gallon East Storage Tank – Built 1984

A large water system improvement was done in 1985, by Robert House Construction. This included installing nearly two miles of new 12", 10" and 8" water mains for pressure, supply and fire protection purposes. Lines were installed along N and S Water Streets, W High ST and portions of E High and N Mulberry streets. Lines were also upgraded on E Walnut, New Albany, and O'Bannon AV.

The drought of 1987 - 88 again proved to be a challenge for the Corydon water supply. Big Indian Creek stopped flowing and water was used up from the impoundments. Corydon hired a local contractor with a large crane to dredge channels through the sediment behind Dam #2 and Dam #3 to drain all water possible for use. The town asked customers to curtail usage and implemented restrictions. Corydon had to purchase water from neighboring utility companies (both Ramsey Water and South Harrison Water) to keep the water on to its customers. But both utilities were struggling to keep water on to their customers too. During this extreme drought, Corydon purchased a total of 102,000,000 gallons of water. An article in the October 14, 1987 issue of the Corydon Democrat stated that Indian Creek had run dry and stopped flowing. The Town Council asked customers to cut back on usage and instituted restrictions. In a Corydon Democrat article, Council President Fred Cammack said, "We are desperate. The situation is very, very serious. It's going to stay that way until it rains." Again, a better solution had to be found and a long-term plan put in place.

In 1988 the Town of Corydon discussed purchasing water from Ramsey Water Co. as a wholesale customer. At that time, Ramsey did not have the capacity to provide water to Corydon on a full-time basis. Ramsey did say they would help Corydon any way they could. So, in 1968, Ramsey wanted to buy water from Corydon as a wholesale customer, and twenty years later Corydon wanted to buy water from Ramsey as a wholesale customer! This once again highlights the struggles communities in our area have had supplying adequate drinking water.

A large water line project was completed in 1989 by Reynolds Construction comprised of nearly two miles of water main. A twelve-inch ductile iron water main was installed from W Poplar ST, across Big Indian Creek, west along Highway 62 and to our west storage tank on Hillview DR. Then 8" lines were installed from Williar ST, east to McGrain ST. This was a major improvement for water supply, pressure and fire protection to the west side of our water system.

In 1989, another study was conducted by Midwestern Engineers with other alternate sources of water. Again, the closest source of water to Corydon is Harrison Springs on Blue River about 4.5 miles to the west. The Blue River source would require a new surface water treatment plant. Two other locations were also looked at: New Amsterdam and Mauckport, both of which are located on the Ohio River. Though these two locations are farther away, they do offer the benefits of drilling ground water wells in the sand and gravel aquifers there. The treatment of ground water is cheaper than that of surface water.

Many are confused by the difference between surface and ground water. Surface water is pumped directly from rivers, streams, or reservoirs that impound rivers or streams. Ground water comes from wells drilled into the ground. I have heard people say, "You are drilling wells right beside the river, so it is nothing more than river water." They are not considering that the river (surface) water is being naturally filtered through 90 feet of sand and gravel deposited during the last glacier period. Testing of river water and well water will show that the water quality is vastly different. So yes, the river recharges the aquifer as water is pumped from the wells. But no, it is definitely NOT river water.

The 1989 study said that wells should be drilled to provide at least 2 MGD now, with the increase to 3 MGD later. Another benefit of coming from the Ohio River would be that the new water mains passing through south Corydon could supply a much-needed water storage tank there. With estimated construction costs nearly the same coming from New Amsterdam or Mauckport, the Town Council chose Mauckport. With the Mauckport site, most water mains could be laid along State Hwy 135 on existing public easements.

In March of 1990, the town optioned the Beanblossom property west of Mauckport for the drilling of test wells. Two wells were drilled, but they were found to contain high levels of iron. In 1991, Corydon released the option to purchase this property.

In the fall of 1990, the town optioned the Bliss property on the east side of Mauckport for the drilling of test wells. Two wells were drilled in 1991 and the water quality was found to be sufficient. In the fall of 1991, the town exercised the option to purchase these 14 acres. This is the site of the present Town of Corydon well field seen from the Hwy 135 / Matthew Welch Bridge.

In 1991, the town pumped 352,023,800 gallons to our customers. That is an average of 964,449 gallons per day. The total number of customers served were 1,575.



Test Well Being Dug at Mauckport - 1991

So after bonds were issued and some grant funds were found, in 1992 construction began. Three gravel packed wells were drilled by Moodys Dayton. Fourteen miles of 18" ductile iron water main was laid from Mauckport to Loweth AV in south Corydon by Peters Construction. A 968,000 gallon water storage tank was built on Loweth AV by Caldwell Tank. A small water office was built near the base of the new tank for water quality testing and record keeping. In total this project cost about \$ 3.7 M. Later that year, additional large diameter mains were laid on the south hill area to tie in the existing water mains in that area to the new storage tank.

This project was to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water for many years in the future. The project was very ambitious and did have its hurdles. While laying the water main, Peters Construction encountered many areas of solid rock along Hwy 135. Though this should have been apparent due to the many openly visible rock cuts during the highway construction, more rock was encountered than Peters had anticipated. The water main installation portion moved more slowly than expected. A very large rock trencher was moved in, and progress picked up. But the trencher required the teeth to be changed out frequently and that was expensive. Cutting solid rock was hard on the trencher and it broke down. The arc flashes of welding repairs and other maintenance work on the trencher could be seen being done at night along the highway.

Eventually, the water main was installed, and the entire project was completed. Corydon now had a higher quality of drinking water from groundwater aquifers that required less treatment.

An over-sized chainsaw



Rock Trencher Opening Ditch for 18" Water Main - 1992



South 968,000 Gallon Storage Tank – Built 1992

After 1992:

In 1999, two additional gravel packed wells were drilled at Mauckport by Reynolds Construction at a cost of \$230,000. This increased the total pumping capacity from the wells to 4,500 GPM and provided redundancy in case one or two wells were down for maintenance or repairs.



Corydon's Five Wells Along the Ohio River During High Water Conditions. They are Elevated for This Reason.

In 1999, the Glidas Tank and Booster Station were built. The booster was built by Mitchell & Stark Construction at a cost of \$615,000. The 500,000 gallon storage tank was built by Caldwell Tanks at a cost of \$175,000.



Glidas 500,000 Gallon Tank & Booster – Built 1999.



Glidas Booster Station Interior View Showing Two - 2,000 GPM Pumps

In 2001, the town pumped 532,071,000 gallons to our customers, for an average of 1,457,728 gallons per day. The total number of customers served was 1,971.

In 2003, a new West Booster Station was built with upgraded pumps to supply water to the Industrial Park storage tank. Each of the two pumps can pump 1,000 GPM. Later, variable speed drives were installed on the pump motors. These drives allow the Industrial Park tank to be taken offline for painting while allowing the pumps to run continuously with a preset output pressure. This allows pumps designed for a constant flow to be used as constant pressure pumps.



West Booster Station - Exterior



West Booster Interior Showing Two – 1,000 GPM Pumps

In 2007, South Harrison Water approached the town about establishing an emergency interconnection near Central, IN. This connection is designed to provide up to 1 MGD to / from Corydon / South Harrison. The connection ties together Corydon's 18" water main with a 12" South Harrison water main and can deliver treated water during an emergency to either water system. This connection was a major improvement to both public water systems and was funded by the Harrison County Commissioners with Riverboat gaming revenues.



South Harrison – Corydon Emergency Connection



South Harrison – Corydon Emergency Connection

In 2010, the Town of Corydon installed emergency generators at multiple locations to ensure the ongoing supply of water during an extended electrical power outage.

In 2011, the town pumped 522,051,000 gallons to our customers, for an average of 1,430,276 gallons per day. The total number of customers served was 2,176.

In 2014, the town began installing an automated water meter reading system. This required changing out many of the old meters and on newer meters, just the top part (or meter head) could be changed. These electronic meters keep a data log of every 15-minute water interval usage for 90 days. Later in 2022 the town took the next step and put in radio towers on our water tanks to automatically read the meters. This allows our office personnel to contact customers quicker in case of a water leak on their side. Unfortunately, not all water meters can be automatically read by this system because radios do not work everywhere.

In 2019, both Dam #2 and Dam #3 were removed from Big Indian Creek as they were no longer needed. This effort was led by several environmental groups to re-establish historical unhindered flows to Big Indian Creek.



Dam #2 Removal – October 2019



Dam #3 Removal – October 2019

In 2023, the town pumped 409,176,000 gallons to our customers, for an average of 1,121,030 gallons per day. The total number of customers served was 2,492.

2024 & Beyond:

In March of 2024, Tyson Foods is expected to cease operations at their Corydon facility. Tyson is our largest water and sewer customer. It is unknown when or if a new business will take over the Tyson plant. The loss of Tyson will greatly impact our water and sewer departments. Loss of this revenue will greatly impact Corydon.

In fall of 2024, Dam #1 is scheduled for removed. The dam is now privately owned, and the owner wants it removed. Several environmental groups have joined in to fund the dam's removal. The town does not own the dam and does not have any say in its removal. The town's position is that we have no opinion either for or against the dam's removal. After this dam is removed, Big Indian Creek will be fully restored to its historical unimpeded flow.

After an extended water outage due to a leak on Poolside DR, the Town of Corydon and Ramsey Water officials are discussing an emergency interconnection near the industrial park. There is a connection there now, but it cannot supply water from Corydon to Ramsey due to pressure differences. Once again, our neighboring water utilities are coming together to try to plan to help one another during times of need.

What other plans do we have for the future? Will Corydon build a filtration plant to provide filtered water? At what cost? Will customers support or fight that effort? I do know that Corydon Water right now has the same problem that so many utilities have across the country: Ageing Infrastructure. With some 80 miles of water main in the ground, much of that reaching 50 to 75 years of age, how do we plan and pay for its replacement? It does have a limited lifespan and will be very expensive to replace.

Also, drinking water regulations continue to change at a rapid pace. New chemicals and compounds are detected at lower and lower levels. Just because we can detect some substance at the parts per quadrillion range, does that make it a health hazard? How much money can the public stand to spend to reduce or remove a substance? For reference, one part per quadrillion is equal to 0.0000000000000001 and yes, some proposals from the USEPA are looking at substances in this range.

I hope this document proves useful to those in the future who are looking back at the history of drinking water in Corydon and Harrison County. Remember, water is the only utility that the consumer CONSUMES. We use electricity. We use gas. We use telephone and internet infrastructure. We use the sewer. We physically drink the water and put it inside our bodies. We quite literally CONSUME it.

Drinking water will indeed continue to be a hot topic for many years to come. I wish the next generations of drinking water professionals the best of luck in solving these problems.

There is no more precious resource in our world than safe drinking water.

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- Multiple newspaper articles from the Corydon Democrat.

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