

## LENOX WATER FACILITIES HISTORY

1874 -Julius Rockwell, William O. Curtis, Thomas Post and associates form a private water company called The Lenox Water Company. The first source was said to be in the deep ravine and springs on the east side of the Lenox Mountain range. System included Woolsey Reservoir #1 & Aspinwall Reservoirs and a distribution system. The Water Company developed the water supply system with John J. Marsh as engineer.

Population: 1,965

1879 - Drought

1880

1889 -Woolsey Reservoir #2 was built as a distributing reservoir for the water system. It had a capacity of 500,000 gallons with a surface area of .75 acres, a watershed of 80 acres, and an elevation of 1,423 feet. An eight inch cast iron pipe was laid from Woolsey Reservoir to the center of Lenox. The engineer for the project was G.A. Murdock.

1891 -The Lower Root Reservoir is developed as a supply reservoir on the west side of Lenox Mountain. The distribution system was of cast iron mains and galvanized iron services to supply summer cottages and mansions. Extra Root Reservoir water would go through the town and into the Woolsey Reservoir which acted as a balancing reservoir for the Root Reservoir water system. Woolsey Reservoir was used for overflow, fire protection, and as an emergency water supply.

1900s -Lenox Dale distribution system was developed by a private water company and was supplied with water from the Town of Lee.

1908 -Drought

1911

1909 -A pipeline was laid to Laurel Lake to supply additional water to Lenox residents.

1909 -The Root Reservoir dam was raised 6 feet by Ley Construction Company

1913 -Water Shortage

1914 -The Root Reservoir dam was raised again in lieu of building another dam below the existing dam as proposed by the State.

1910s Laurel Lake was used for emergency water supply

1919 -The number of water services was recorded at 320, while meters totaled 381. The Root Reservoir now had a capacity of 55 million gallons with a 12 acre water surface and a 600 acre watershed.

1933 -The Laurel Lake pump was abandoned since it had not been used for a few years.

1940 -The Root Reservoir dam was raised again.

1946 -The Root Reservoir now has a capacity of 65 million gallons with a safe yield of 0.30 million gallons per day.

1947 -Town votes to buy Lenox Water Company and to elect three water commissioners to manage the new water department. Purchase price is \$173,000 for assets of company, and \$60,000 is appropriated for improvements to the distribution system all to be paid from revenue from the sale of water.

1949 -A line was laid from the private Aspinwall Reservoir to Woolsey Reservoir to fill Woolsey when needed.

1954 -An electric motor to pump water from Aspinwell to Woolsey was installed.

1956 -26,000 feet of water lines were turned over to the Town of Lenox by the City of Pittsfield.

1956 -The West Street booster pump station was constructed to raise the

1957 hydraulic gradient in Lenox Center and to increase flow from the reservoirs. The pump boosted the available supply from 500,000 to 900,000 gallons per day.

1957 -Drought

1959 -The Upper Root Reservoir is built on Lenox Mountain at a cost of \$155,000, to be paid from water revenue. Whitman & Howard Engineers. The Upper Reservoir capacity is 70 million gallons, 17.5 acre water surface, and a safe yield of 0.32 million gallons per day. Watershed for both reservoirs is 1.14 square miles (730 acres); combined capacity of reservoirs is 127 million gallons. This project is first major addition to the water storage facilities since 1891. Debt for facility will be retired in 1990. Population: 4,253.

1963 -Drought. Water Department calls for study and investigation of adequacy of water supply for future needs and for additional storage possibilities.

1964 -Whitman and Howard, consulting engineers, begin study of ways to increase storage volume and increasing water supply. Town suffers from serious drought, worst since 1957. Critical shortage in Root Reservoirs.

1965 -Drought. Arrangements made to pump from Laurel Lake. Test wells drilled; results not promising.

1968 -Study proposes dam and reservoir on Yokun Brook, flooding 55 acres in Pleasant Valley Sanctuary and pumping station. Among conclusions: Since the water demand in Lenox has exceeded the safe yield of the Root Reservoirs, an additional supply is immediately needed. Population: 4,661 (1965 census)

1970 -Study committee recommends Pleasant Valley Sanctuary vote for a Special Town Meeting that year. Population: 5,714

1970 -Town does not vote on Sanctuary Reservoir; more well tests conducted; other alternatives studied.

1971 -Repairs to Lower Root Reservoir were made.

1972 -Repairs to Woolsey Reservoir were made.

1974 -Town votes to form consolidated Department of Public Works with Board of five members; water department comes under its jurisdiction.

1977 -Whitman & Howard developed a report on alternate sources of water.

1977 -Lenox began involvement in the Washington Mountain Brook Watershed project which the Town of Lee had been developing to provide water supply, flood control, and recreation.

1977 -Town builds a 1.7 million gallon storage tank and new pipeline from reservoirs across Kennedy Park, providing better pressure and more flexibility in distribution system. Cost: \$1,600,000 paid from general taxation.

1978 -A new line from the Root Reservoirs was installed on Reservoir Road to the existing line at Woolsey to fill the new Kennedy Park tank. A pumping station was built at the Lower root Reservoir to utilize the new force main.

1978 -Department of Public works Board recommends a reservoir be built north of Lime Kiln Road and west of Pittsfield Road on Vahle land. Proposal fails to gain necessary 2/3 vote by a handful of votes at annual town meeting. Population: 6,389.

1979 -The Woolsey Reservoir use as a distribution reservoir was discontinued.

1980 -Severe drought empties Upper Reservoir; town dredges it to increase capacity and remove sludge. Capacity increases from 70 million gallons to 94 million gallons. Cost: \$350,000 to be paid from water department revenues; new trench adds 50 acres to watershed: now 780 acres. Town pumps water from Stockbridge Bowl all winter.

1981 -Another dry year. Town dredges Lower Reservoir. Capacity increases from 65 million gallons to 75 million gallons. Cost: \$250,000, to be paid from water department revenues. Total storage capacity is now 170 million gallons. Town pumps from Stockbridge Bowl for second year.

1982 -Town talks with Town of Lee about joining Washington Mt. Brook project. Town joins Lee and Central Berkshire League of Women Voters in defending against lawsuit intended to stop project on grounds that other better alternatives exist. Towns and League settle lawsuit. Towns agree to share 2.45 million gallon water supply from project and begin to discuss how they will do so. Contract is set for first of two lakes which will provide water supply. Town pumps from Stockbridge Bowl for third year. Population: 6,517.

1982 -A treatment plant was built at Lower Root Reservoir to remove turbidity from the water. Krofta Engineering Corporation developed the design.

1982 -Emergency pumping from Stockbridge Bowl was need for approximately 2.5 months

1983 -A leak detection survey of the Town's distribution system was performed by Heath Consultants, Inc. Phase 1 of the rehabilitation program for the Town's water distribution system. Fifty percent of the eligible costs were reimbursed to the town for the leak detection and rehabilitation under the State's Chapter 805 Leak Detection and System Rehabilitation Grant Program.

1985 -A moratorium on new connections to the Town's distribution system was instituted by the Board of Public Works. It was endorsed by the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering.

1985 -At a Special Town Meeting on July 28th, \$5.973 million was appropriated for the Town's share of the Washington Mountain Watershed Project and design and construction of the Washington Mountain water treatment plant, Washington Mountain storage tank, Washington Mountain water transmission main, Walker Street transmission main, and Root Reservoir water treatment plant.

1992 -Town builds the 836,000 gallon Washington Mt. storage tank and transmission line providing better pressure and more flexibility in distribution system.

1993 -Town replaces the leased Krofta treatment facility with a new fully town-owned Krofta treatment facility.

1995 -Town installs pump station on New Lenox Road to increase amount of water that can be taken from the City of Pittsfield to 432,000 gallons per day.

2003 -Work begins on reconstructing and raising both the Lower and Upper Root Reservoir dams, replacing both the lower and upper reservoir spillways, replacing the lower reservoir gatehouse, and adding two upper reservoir gatehouses. The raising of the dams provides increased safety in case of flooding but did not increase the storage capacity of the reservoirs.

2004 -Town replaced the first 4,000 feet of the gravity main starting from the water treatment plant. The 1897 cast iron pipe was replaced with 12" ductile iron pipe. Cost: \$370,000 paid from water department revenues.

2005 -Reconstruction of the Lower and Upper Root Reservoirs is completed. Cost: \$3,300,000 paid from water department revenues.