

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue presents the first part of a history of the Rockford Water Utility. It starts with some background prior to the beginning of the municipal water works in 1875 and continues up to about the mid 1950s. The last fifty years will be covered in the next issue of the *Nuggets of History*.

I am the author of this article. I have been an employee of the Rockford Water Division for 12 years. During that time I have had access to many old documents and maps including city annual reports and water department annual reports. The water utility has maintained a wealth of records including old ledger books from as far back as the 1890s. I have also been able to talk to and learn from fellow employees, some of whom have been there 30+ years. I have found the history of the water utility very interesting and I hope that you do as well. Although there have been many changes in how the water utility operates; the basis principle of pumping water out of the ground, through mains and into peoples homes and businesses, remains the same after 130 years.

The water utility is very interested in preserving its history by collecting old photos, maps and documents. If you are in possession of any of these items and would be willing to donate them, or loan them to us so that they could be copied, please contact me at 987-5724 (day) or 986-4867 (evening). We are particularly interested in photos of old pump houses, reservoirs or water employees working.

NOTICE TO RESEARCHERS

If you have a subject that you have researched, or an idea for an article that you would like to pursue, give me a call. I would like to encourage original research into some aspects of local history that have not been adequately pursued. I can be reached at 987-5724 (day) or 986-4867 (evening).

Thomas Powers, Editor