

LETTERS —

Continued From Editorial Page

cost \$335,580. This includes the following:
 1. the intake dam and pumping station on Cartoogechay Creek (about 700 feet east of Highway 23);
 2. a 12 inch force main to the filter plant;
 3. a one million gallon per day filter plant;
 4. a 12 inch main from the filter plant to the existing 10 inch main (near the entrance to the Franklin Hosiery Mill);
 5. a 10 inch main from Golf View Drive to West Main St.;
 6. a 10 inch main from West Main St. along Bidwell St. to Harrison Ave. Items 5 and 6 are badly needed to improve water distribution in town.

The estimated cost of a million gallon per day water plant using Rough Fork Creek as the source of raw water is \$585,786, if a protected watershed cannot be obtained and a regular filtration plant must be built, or \$399,620, if a protected watershed is obtained and only mechanical filtration and chlorination is necessary. These figures include, in addition to the treatment plant; (1) the intake structure, (2) the 49,000 foot, 12 inch pipeline with its valves and fittings and (3) a one million gallon reservoir at Oak Hill.

None of the above figures include the cost of land or right-of-way. Practically no right-of-way would have to be acquired for the Cartoogechay project and only enough land for the filtration plant.

To summarize then, a one million gallon per day water plant from one million gallons per day to 2.5 million gallons per day, the size of the filter plant, pumps and clean water storage would have to be increased at a cost of \$165,000.

But if we wish to prepare for a 2.5 million gallon supply from the Wayah Watershed, instead of building the original one million gallon per day plant on Rough Fork Creek; it is recommended that it be built on Wayah Creek near Wayah Depot. A 16 inch pipeline would then be necessary to get the water to the Oak Hill reservoir because of the lower elevation. The cost of the larger diameter pipe would be partially offset by the reduction in length of the line. A regular filtration plant would be necessary here. A one million gallon per day filtration plant on Wayah Creek with the necessary intake structures, pipeline and reservoir at Oak Hill is estimated to cost \$640,000. To expand this plant later to yield 2.5 million gallons per day of treated water would cost \$115,000.

To summarize then, a one million gallon per day water plant on Cartoogechay Creek is estimated to cost \$335,580, on Rough Fork Creek \$399,620 (or \$585,786 if a protected watershed cannot be obtained), and on Wayah Creek, \$640,000. The total cost for a 2.5 million gallon water plant on Cartoogechay Creek is \$500,580 and on Wayah Creek \$775,000. If we apply the method of dividing dollars by gallons (as was done in your editorial recently), we save six cents a gallon on the one million gallon per day plant on Cartoogechay and eleven cents a gallon on the 2.5 million gallon per day plant.

I do not believe that there will be an appreciable difference in the quality of water from any of these sources. It is all good mountain water. The Cartoogechay watershed is several times the size of the Wayah watershed and includes the Wayah watershed. For those who insist that there is no water like unto that which comes from Wayah, it should be pointed out that about one ounce out of every 6 1/2 that flows in Cartoogechay Creek comes from Wayah.

Several months ago an editorial in The Press mentioned that several nearby towns use a watershed "in whole or in part" for their water supply.

If the water run-off in this area was adequate why would they only use a watershed in part? Marion, North Carolina has a population of 3000. Franklin may grow to this size in not too many years. Marion takes their water from two watersheds but in 1954 constructed a 2 million gallon water filtration plant and pumping station to supplement their watersheds. Sylva gets its water from springs and a watershed. Murphy has a watershed but must get part of its water from the Hiwassee River. Highlands has a watershed and wells. Canton gets two thirds of its water from a watershed and one-third from the Pigeon River. Bryson City has two watersheds and a supplementary well. It seems to me that it would be much simpler and more economical to develop one good source of water.

The yield from Franklin's wells has been decreasing over the past several years and the relative cost of our water has increased. Therefore, I do not believe it would be wise to continue their use, if we can develop a single adequate source of water. We can operate and maintain the million gallon per day filtration plant on Cartoogechay Creek for what the wells cost us now.

There is one more matter that should be mentioned—that of financing this project. The Local Government Commission in Raleigh first must approve the bond issue. Before this is done, they set up a schedule showing how the debt must be paid and the town government must show how they will meet these payments. It is not enough to say that with a better water supply and a growing community, the water revenue will increase and over a period of years this project will pay for itself. They want a definite commitment. Since sometime within the next several years, Franklin may be required to build a new sewage system the schedule of payments set up required larger payments on the principal for the first 4 years. If \$350,000 worth of bonds are issued, for the first 4 years, \$20,000 would be paid on the principal yearly, then for 11 years, \$10,000 per year, then for 10 years \$15,000 per year and then one final payment of \$10,000. Thus, generally the total yearly payments of principal and interest decline. In order to meet these payments during the first few years, without considering an increase in water revenue or increased revenue from other sources, it would be necessary to raise the tax rate to \$2.10. But as the revenue from water increases and as the annual real and property valuation increases this tax rate would be lowered.

I have tried to cover many of the controversial points that have been brought up in regard to the water project. The information I have given was gleaned from many sources and from discussion with people who have knowledge of these matters. I hope that when the election is held the people of Franklin will see fit to pass the bond issue and that the Town will get this much needed water.

JOSEPH W. KAHN, M. D.
Franklin.

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OFF FOR PINEHURST

Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Furr will leave Sunday to attend the annual meeting of the North Carolina Dental Society in Pinehurst. They will also visit Dr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Reid, Jr., and family in Jacksonville, N. C.

AT REUNION

Dr. J. H. Fisher spent last week end in Athens, Ga., where he attended the 10th anniversary reunion of his graduation from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia.

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