

DID YOU KNOW?

178 Years Ago

The first municipal water filtration works opened in Paisley, Scotland, in 1832.

Drink Up

How many gallons of water are in the make-up of an average person's body? The average human in the US weighs on average 155 lbs. About 70% of our body is water and water weighs 8.34 lbs/gallon. When you do the math it comes out to about 13 gallons. Fat tissue is about 20 to 35 percent water, whereas muscle tissue is about 75 percent water.



Tons of Rain

One inch of rainfall drops 7,000 gallons, or nearly 30 tons of water, on a 60' x 180' piece of land (10,800 sq/ft).

America Drips

If every household in America had a faucet that dripped once each second, 928 million gallons of water a day would leak away



Dish Water

An automatic dishwasher uses approximately 9 to 12 gallons of water while hand washing dishes can use up to 20 gallons.

Source: American Water Works Association

History 101:

DELIVERING SAFE, RELIABLE WATER FOR 70+ YEARS

November each year serves as the anniversary for the formation of Skagit PUD. This year marks 71 years of providing reliable water service to the residents of Skagit County. But that wasn't always the case for customers.

Early Days

In 1936, the cities of Anacortes and LaConner had for many years owned their water systems, while the water systems of Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley and Burlington were privately owned. The three systems had been installed just before and during World War I. The systems were old and barely adequate to meet the quantity needs of the communities.

For many years the water systems were owned and operated by the Oregon-Washington Water Company, a Delaware corporation, and then had become the property of the People's Water and Gas Company.

In 1930, the Washington voters approved Initiative No. 1, giving them the authority to create their own nonprofit, locally regulated public utility



Promoting abundant water in 1962.

districts to "conserve the water and power resources of the state of Washington for the benefit of the people thereof, and to supply public utility service, including water and electricity for all uses."

On November 3, 1936, Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County was formed by voters with an approval of 6,173 to 4,971.

On approximately the third anniversary of the formation of Skagit PUD—November 4,

1939—the District formally went into the water business with 3,000 customers.

In 1940, Skagit PUD purchased the Clear Lake water system. Its principle value was the additional gravity water supply and the supply lines from other Cultus Mountain streams.

Due to increasing food requirements during World War II, the water needs of area food



In 1950, Skagit PUD leads a parade on South 2nd Street in Mount Vernon.

History 101: Processing plants in '40s created need for Judy



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processing plants grew rapidly. As a result, the industrial usage nearly doubled from 1941-44, and more than doubled by 1945. The water supply situation during processing season was critically close. Large quantities of water could not be



Old 9th and Highland Street open reservoir in Mount Vernon.

stored for summer use because of the lack of impounding reservoir capacity.

In 1945, a natural reservoir site was located east of Clear Lake, which could receive water from the various streams and permit its transmission by gravity

northwest into the Sedro-Woolley area and southwest to Mount Vernon.

Judy Reservoir (named after L.B. Judy, the District's first general manager) was available for use in 1947, and brought a dependable supply of high-quality, gravity-fed water to the valley. The consolidated storage and treatment facility also meant that chlorinated water could be delivered through 11 miles of transmission lines to Sedro-Woolley and Mount Vernon. The transmission lines loop together in Burlington, creating a strong backbone for the valley's water supply.

Today, Skagit PUD operates the largest water system in the county, providing nine million gallons of piped water to approximately 65,000 people every day. The PUD maintains nearly 600 miles of pipelines and has over 31 million gallons of storage volume.

The cities of Mount Vernon, Burlington,

and Sedro-Woolley receive the majority of our water. Due to public demand for quality water, the PUD also provides service to unincorporated and remote areas of the county. The PUD's service area includes part of Fidalgo Island at the west end of the county and extends as far east as Marblemount. From north to south, the District's service area starts in Conway and extends north to Alger/Lake Samish.



Cub Scouts take a field trip to Judy Reservoir in 1967.

7 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO AVOID FROZEN PIPES AND EXPENSIVE REPAIRS

Frozen and burst water pipes can ruin your whole day. With predictions of wetter and colder winter conditions, Skagit PUD is urging customers to winterize their homes. The best strategy in combating the cold winter months is a defensive one. By taking preventive measures to winterize your homes, you can not only save money but also save water and reduce energy usage.

1. Know what areas of your home—like basements, crawl spaces, unheated rooms, and outside walls—are most vulnerable to freezing.
2. Search for pipes which are uninsulated or pass through unheated areas. Wrap them with pipe insulation available at

- hardware stores.
3. If you have heat tape installed on exposed pipes, make sure the tape is still operational and installed according to manufacturer's specifications. Inspect the tape for cracks or fraying.
4. Everyone in your household should know where the main water shut-off valve is. Check the shut-off valve annually to make sure it's working properly. If a pipe freezes or bursts, shut off the water immediately.
5. Covering or wrapping your outdoor faucets is a simple job that can save you a big expense,



- both in water and plumbing fees.
6. Turn off and drain irrigation systems.
7. If no one will be home for an extended period of time during extreme winter weather, consider turning off your main valve altogether and hiring a plumber to drain your system. That way, if your furnace quits working, there will be no water in your pipes to freeze.