Aspen's Sanitary Sewer System

Engineering report by the Heron Engineering Co. The report outlines the feasability of a sewer system for the town of Aspen. Engineering and construction estimate are paid for by the Federal Works Administration. Colorado State Board of Health is pressuring Colorado towns without sewer systems, including Aspen, to desist the practice of dumping raw sewage into the State's rivers and streams. May: An election to form the Aspen Sanitation District fails 58-64. September: Interested citizens meet with representatives from a Denver Bonding Company to discuss procedures for organizing a sanitation district. November: A citizen's group including Aspen Mayor, A.E. Robison and Pitkin County Commissioner, Tom Sardy, petition to form the Aspen Sanitation District. December: No objections to forming the District are lodged during a public hearing, and a January '51 election is scheduled. January 22: The Aspen Sanitation District (ASD) is formed by a 82-58 vote after the District boundaries are changed from those proposed in the 1949 election, with properties along Eighth Street and adjacent to Castle Creek, from Hallam to the Aspen Meadows eliminated from the District. September: Colorado Dept of Health "condemns" Aspen's inadequate water system and lack of proper sewage disposal. The department requests the Aspen Water Company, the private owner and operator of the City's water system, and the Aspen Sanitation District to present reports on progress to remedy the progressively worsening sanitary conditions in Aspen, by October 15. October: Denver-based consulting engineers, Ripple and Howe present a report to ASD Board on proposed sewer system. ASD presents report to State Dept. of health. The City of Aspen negotiates with the Aspen Water Company to purchase the dilapidated water system because its owners claim to have no money available for necessary improvements. June 17: ASD holds bond election to issue \$300,000 in general obligation bonds to build Aspen's sewage collection system and "disposal" plant. Bond issue passes, 134-84. ASD delays construction of system while awaiting possible Federal funds to offset costs. The projected cost of the collection system is \$164,000 and the estimated cost of the "disposal" plant is \$135,000. June 4: The contract to construct the collection lines is signed with Peter Kiewit Sons' Construction. Kiewit's bid guarentees construction of 33,000 lineal feet of clay sewer pipe in 90 days. Contract for "Disposal Plant" is awarded to Spillane Construction. (In March the City of Aspen holds a bond election in the hope of raising funds to build a new water system, thereby rendering the privatly held Aspen Water Company obsolete, by issuing \$600,000 in general obligation bonds. The issue is defeated and the City Council is forced back into negotiations with The Aspen Water Company.) August: Construction of the collection lines is complete. The disposal plant is 98% complete, and the plant is slowly brought on-line. The District does not employ a single person. Operations are checked by one of the Directors, V. E. Ringle. Discussions on creating a "developer's district" to create a separate sanitary sewer system to serve the outlying Aspen area begin. Aspen Metropolitan Sanitation District (AMSD)is formed as a "developer's district." Construction of the Aspen Metropolitan Sanitation District collection system and treatment facility begins. ASD and AMSD are consolidated into a single district called the Aspen Consolidated Sanitation District which serves the Aspen and Metropolitan area. 1948 1949 1967 1984 1950 1951 1955 1957 1958 1965 1968