



City Council - 1983. Front row: LaVern Karsjen Jr., Danny Clement, Dick Ray; Second row: Bob Thomae, Jerry Klosterman and Jack Gray.

Rhodes Elected Officials

As far as we can find the Rhodes elected officials consisted of a Mayor, five council members and a treasurer. All terms were for two years, elections were held every other odd year with the officials taking office in the following January. The position of treasurer was combined in 1975 with the city clerk position due to a change in state law and the resignation of James Hale, the last city treasurer.

At the last election in 1981, the voters approved changing the terms of Mayor and Council to four years, with alternating terms. This method always assures that three elected officials will have at least two years experience. So, in our 100th year anniversary, 1983, the first election for four year terms will take place. The city officials at present are Mayor LaVern Karsjen Jr., Council Members Danny Clement, Dick Ray, Jerry Klosterman, Bob Thomae and Jack Gray.

*Submitted by
William Overman, City Clerk*

Rhodes Waterworks System

The Rhodes or Edenville Waterworks System got its start in 1914. We have the specifications of the proposed system which was approved by the Iowa State Board of Health on July 22, 1914, and this is where most of our information comes from.

At this time H.W. Neff was mayor, Charles Blink Jr. was clerk and M.F. Baker, C.F. Dewey, W.A. Miles, A.F. Pike and J.L. Shearer were council members. They issued a \$5000.00 bond and issued a contract to build the water tower, pump house, pumping machinery and pipe line. The contractor was given five months to complete the system. We do not have any records of

the exact amount spent or the time actually required to install the system.

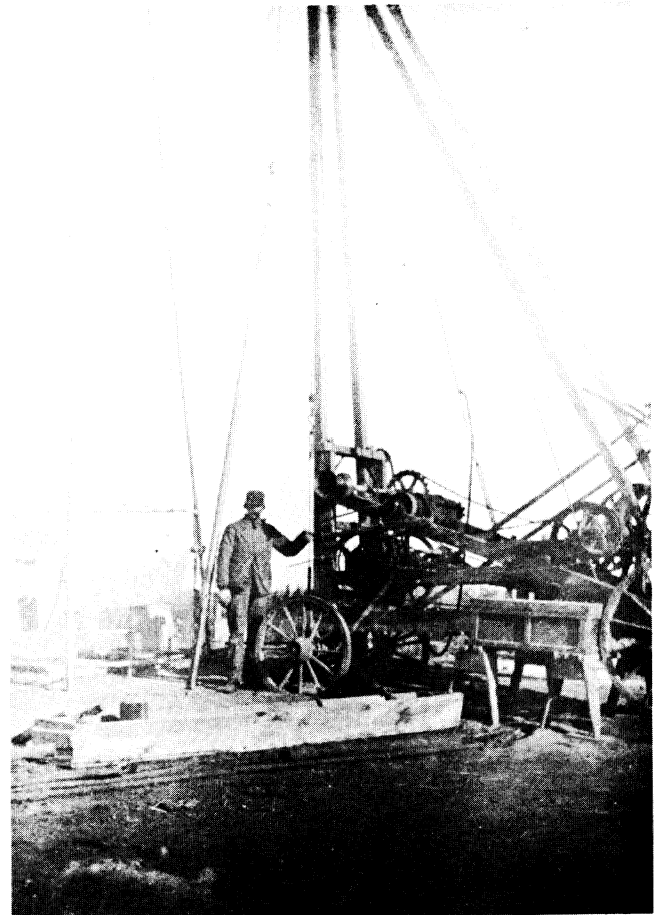
The water tower was to stand 100 feet high and have a capacity of 30,000 gallons of water. This is the same water tower which still serves the citizens of Rhodes.

The distribution system was to contain 100 lineal feet of 8 inch pipe from the water tower to the ground, 1990 lineal feet of 6 inch water main which runs from the tower, up main street, 4677 lineal feet of 4 inch water main, 17 fire hydrants and 7 gate valves. When actually installed these figures may have changed depending on needs at the time.

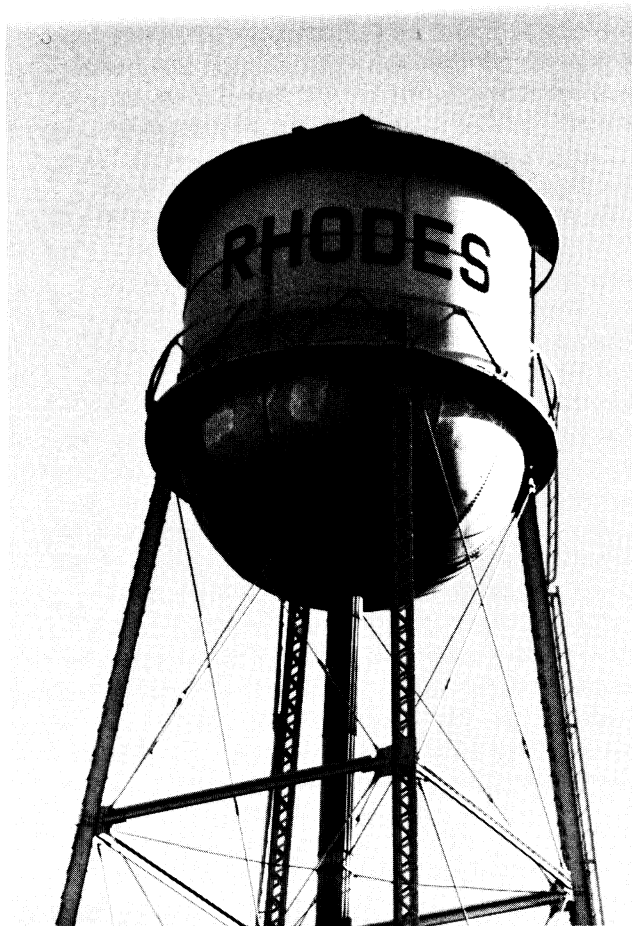
The pump house was to be built of hollow concrete blocks, with 3 windows, one double door and a scuttle hole directly over the well, so it could be removed. This is the present structure used, although years later the well was moved.

The engine on the pump was a Fairbanks-Morse, Otto, Charter or equal geared base oil engine of eight horse power. A 53 gallon fuel tank was to be supplied outside the building. The piping from the well was 4 inch, although the well might have been different as we don't know the specifications on the well itself. According to specifications we have, the well was dug by a different contractor.

The specifications also called for a drinking fountain, 30 inches high with a porcelain enameled



Albert Robinson and his well drilling rig.



Water Tower in 1980.

bowl 11 inches x 4.5 inches and a painted white iron pedestal, and a watering trough of heavy cast iron not less than 1 foot 9 inches high, 3 feet 10 inches long and 2 feet wide with the water basin not less than 12 inches deep.

We have then found where a petition was received by the Council on January 7, 1946 signed by 30 voters of the town asking that the city hold an election to issue \$6,000.00 in bonds to add an iron filter to the water works. Mayor at this time was Russell Buck and city clerk was Millicent Jensen, we do not have a record of the council members. On February 7, 1946 the election was held and passed. The iron filter removal system was installed by Ames Filter Co. and removes the iron from the water by passing it through several layers of different size rock and sand. It was installed in the pump house.

On August 30, 1952 a petition was received by the council signed by 54 voters of the town asking that a bond election be held to issue \$7,500.00 in bonds to dig a new well. On September 24, 1952, the election was held and passed. The bonds were sold to Melbourne Savings Bank at 2.5 percent interest. Layne Western in Ames was contracted to do the work. The well was dug on the lot next to the pump house and also under the water tower. Mayor at this time was Earl Walker, clerk Joe Malechek, treasurer Ralph Buck and councilmen; Maynard Jackson, Charles Blink, Willard Thursby, Leo

Malloy and Roy Mallicoat. The city attorney who handled the election was R.A. Rockhill.

Specifications on this new well was 295 feet deep with an 8 inch casing. The water level was at 90 feet when dug and would drop to 112 feet when pumping. The original pump would produce 137 gallons per minute. When it became necessary later to replace the pump, a smaller one was installed which produces 50 gallons per minute.

Virgil Work and John Bear served as Water Commissioners for many years.

Over the years water mains have been added. The water system now consists of over 8500 lineal feet of 4 inch water main, 26 fire hydrants and over 140 water meters.

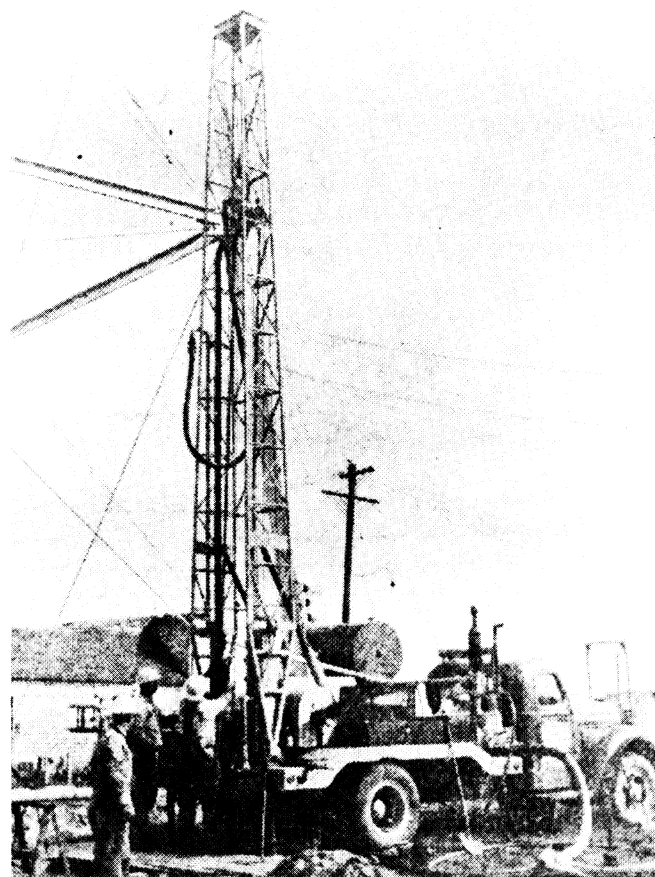
*Submitted by
William Overman, City Clerk*

New Well Drilled

1952

City officials at Rhodes estimate it will be another three weeks before the town's new 332 foot well will be ready for use, replacing one that went dry several weeks ago. Meanwhile, water will continue to be trucked in from State Center.

While workmen across the street were drilling the new well, Rhodes residents went to city hall and voted one-hundred to six for a \$7,500 water system bond to pay for constructing the well.



Rhodes new well being drilled, September 24, 1952.

Rhodes Sanitary Sewer System

On April 5, 1971, the first official action was taken by the Rhodes City Council, when a public survey was presented to the council. After citizens of the Rhodes community had expressed a desire for a sanitary sewer system, Mayor William Overman conducted a survey of voters of the city asking if they felt that the city should contract to have a preliminary cost survey taken at a cost of \$2,000.00. Out of 140 voters contacted, 110 voted yes.

The city council authorized contracting with Clapsaddle Garber Associates to conduct the preliminary survey.

On May 26, 1971, at a special council meeting, Mr. David Fox from Clapsaddle Garber Associates presented the results of his preliminary survey. Mr. Fox told the council that a sewer system could be installed in the city without any lift stations, and that the natural lay of the ground provided sufficient fall to serve the majority of the citizens. He also explained to the council how to obtain financing and the alternatives available to them. He recommended contacting Farmers Home Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture for information concerning grants and loans.

The Farmers Home Administration (FHA) required that eighty percent of the eligible users must agree to pay a \$25.00 hookup fee before they would proceed with the application for assistance. After the eighty percent was signed up, the application was submitted to FHA and the city was placed on a list requesting assistance.

On January 3, 1972, the city of Rhodes received a letter from the State Department of Health stating that they had conducted a survey of the city, and determined that a sewer system was necessary. This letter was then forwarded to FHA and gave the city a priority for funding.

At a special council meeting on March 15, 1972, the city received notice that the sewer project would be funded by the FHA. The city council also appointed Max Buck as city attorney. Mr. Fox then presented a time table for completion of the sewer system. Negotiations were then started to acquire the necessary land and right of ways.

On March 20, 1973, an agreement was reached with the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company to give the city a right of way of 2455 feet at \$1.00 per foot and to sell to the city a strip of land containing 44.375 square feet for \$500.00.

On May 7, 1973, the city council signed an option to purchase approximately 8.766 acres, and secure a right of way for access to the land from Ralph Lehman at a cost of \$9,500.00. The city council also applied for a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency of the Federal Government.

On June 18, 1973, the city council held the environmental impact hearing on the proposed sewer project.

Finally on December 13, 1973, bids for the

construction of the Rhodes Sanitary Sewer System were opened, and on February 11, 1974 the contracts were awarded. Division A, Collection System to Public Development Company, Montour, Iowa at a cost of \$218,608.00 and Division B, Waste Treatment Lagoons to F.L. Warren Construction Company of West Des Moines, at a cost of \$129,229.45.

Also on February 11, 1974, the city of Rhodes issued \$204,000.00 in five percent bonds to the FHA, payment to be received in two installments as needed.

On March 6, 1974, the city of Rhodes gave notice to proceed to the two contractors, and work began approximately three years after the first action of the council.

On March 6, 1974, the city of Rhodes received approval from from Melbourne Savings Bank to handle the interim financing at 4½ percent interest.

July 12, 1974, a letter was received by the city from Public Development Company notifying us that they were abandoning the job due to lack of sufficient funds to continue the project. The city had paid \$5,061.51 to Public Development Company for work already done, and notified the bond company, Maryland Casualty Company of Baltimore of the failure of Public Development to complete their contract. On September 23, 1974, Maryland Casualty advised the city that they had contracted with Gjellefeld Constructors, Inc., of Forest City, Iowa to finish the collection system. Maryland Casualty had to pay approximately \$102,000.00 additional to Gjellefeld than the original contract with Public Development.

On October 25, 1974, the city received the Engineers Certificate of Completion on Division B by F.L. Warren Construction at a final cost of \$120,012.28. On February 10, 1975, final approval and payment was given to F.L. Warren Co.

On July 3, 1975, the certificate of completion of Division A was approved, with the final cost of \$220,499.38.

Also on July 3, 1975, notice to hookup to the system was given to the residents of Rhodes.

The final cost of the sewer system was \$426,166.00. The city had received grants from FHA in the amount of \$119,500.00 and from the Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$102,666.00. The city had borrowed \$204,000.00 from FHA at five percent interest for a period of 40 years.

The city also received from Maryland Casualty \$13,932.92 in liquidated damages and a grant from the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality in the amount of \$6,840.00. These funds were deposited in a sewer account at the Melbourne Savings Bank as the reserve fund required by FHA.

The treatment system consists of three lagoons, No. 1 - 2.6 acres, No. 2 - .78 acres and No. 3 - .26 acres totaling a surface area of 3.65 acres located in series. The collection system consists of approximately 18,000 feet of 8 inch sewer pipe.

The sewer rates are \$7.50 for the first 1000 gallons are part therefor, \$3.00 for the next 1000 gallons, \$2.50 for the next 1000 gallons, \$2.00 for the next 1000

...dies per 1000 gallons thereater per month based on the water usage.

During these 4 years of planning and construction many members of our community served in making this project a successful one. Mayor William Overman, Council Members; Russell Buck, Marvin Klaas, Dick Jones, Dan Clement, Bob Ellis, Ronald Good, Allan Eddy, Richard Snedecor, Bill Ficken, Jake Dannen, Bill Hildreth Sr., Leonard Eddy. City Clerks; Dan Good, Jeanne Sharer, Carol Eddy. City Treasurer, James Hale. Council's representative to contractors; Bill Hildreth Sr., City Attorney Max Buck. City Engineer Clapsaddle Garber Associates, David Fox assisted by Les Wolfe, Howard Stewart and sewer inspector Lee Walden. Sewer hookup inspectors; Gene Ryan and Leonard Eddy.

Sewer operators to date have been; Gene Ryan, Dave Dunham and George Tuttle.

In April of 1977, a flow monitoring device was installed at the inlet of the treatment facility.

In 1980, riprap was put around lagoon No. 2 to prevent washing of the banks at a cost of \$1,794.34 and in 1982 it was put around No. 1 and No. 3 at a cost of \$5,185.43.

*Submitted by
William Overman, City Clerk*

Rhodes Youngest Mayor

April 3, 1948

Youth will be noticeable at the meeting of the city council as it meets here Monday night when new city officials will be inducted into office.

One of Iowa's youngest mayors-elect is Richard G. Snedecor, 26, recently named head of the government at Rhodes. In addition, three of the city councilmen are under 30. They are Keith Mallicoat, 28, Leo Malloy, 26, and Leonard Wilson, 23. Two other council members named in the city election are Thomas Triplett and Earl Walker.

"Altho the 'boys' on the council have not had much time to get their heads together on plans for Rhodes, they are hoping for a little more life in the town," Mayor Snedecor said. "There should be more activity," he said.

"At the same time there need not be any added taxation," the young mayor said. But he and members of the council hope to manage the government so as to get more done. All they need is co-operation from the townspeople, Snedecor asserted.

Snedecor has been a resident of Rhodes for 11 years, graduated Rhodes High School in 1939, after which he graduated from Iowa State College at Ames in 1943. He served as a captain in the army's field artillery and was overseas.

Mrs. Snedecor is the former Rhoda Hanita. The three youngest council members are married and two are ex-servicemen.

Snedecor is in the lumber business with his father, Gayle Snedecor in the Farmers Lumber Company.

Marshall County's Forgotten Villages - 1928

Marshall County has made several contributions to the limbo of forgotten villages. In the early days of the county ambitious settlers had visions of thriving cities on sites which at the time seemed most desirable, and village surveys were made and names bestowed often before more than a handful of settlers had acquired homesteads.

Today Jeromeville, Fredonia and Bromley are but memories, Liberty, Timber Creek, Vienna and Greencastle refer to townships rather than towns, Lafayette and Edenville are places now known by other names, and Bevins' Grove and Illinois Grove convey a meaning disassociated with corporations.

Lafayette was surveyed in August, 1852, but the plat was not recorded until July 21, 1856. It was entitled to a place on the map of Marshall County, as Lafayette, until 1858, when the name of the town was changed to Albion.

The plat of Liberty was filed April 28, 1857, but that was about as far as the town ever got. The site was about a mile and a half east and a mile and a half north of the present town of St. Anthony.

The plat of Jeromeville, a suburb of Marshalltown, was filed July 6, 1857. It was north and east of the present city, east of the Third avenue highway and north of the Iowa river.

Greencastle was platted September 7, 1857, to the south and east of the present town of Ferguson, but the promoters were doomed to disappointment. It died an untimely death when the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad missed it by two miles.

Edenville was the original name given the town of Rhodes. The plat was recorded August 29, 1856. The name of the town was changed long ago and the original title was forgotten, but the official change was not made until this year, when a special election was held for the purpose.

Timber Creek was a hamlet in the northeast corner of Jefferson Township and Fredonia was a settlement in Marion Township, five miles due east of this city. Bevins' Grove and Illinois Grove were post stations on Minerva creek, in Liberty Township.

Stanford, now marked only by a Friend's Church, was a post station a mile and a half north of Bangor. The Society of Friends built a seminary there and the school was attended in the late seventies by about fifty students. Two teachers were employed by the school.

Vienna was a post station near the center of Vienna Township.

The town of Bromley was platted September 21, 1881, by Charles E. Bromley, later a business man of this city. It was in Minerva Township, on the Story City branch line of the M. & St. L. and was a live town until a few years ago.