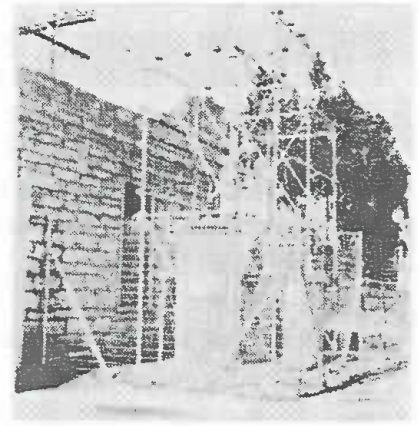


Lompoc Legacy



Lompoc Valley Historical Society, Inc.

Founded September 5, 1964 at Lompoc, California

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

No. 83

LET THERE BE LIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2000

LOMPOC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY AND SUPERINTENDENT'S 1918 DIARY PART III

Lompoc Legacy No. 83 concludes the 1918 Diary of E. A. Vaughan, the Superintendent of the Lompoc Light and Power Company. The diary was begun in Legacy No. 81, was

continued in Legacy No. 82, and is concluded beginning with the end of WWI, Nov. 11, 1918. This Legacy also describes the sale of the Lompoc Light and Power Company to the City of Lompoc.

1918 DIARY of E. A. VAUGHAN *Superintendent of the Lompoc Light and Power Company (Concluded)*

WWI Ends

Nov. 11 Clear-warm News this morning that Germany had signed Armistice terms and fighting had ceased. Celebration starts all over county. Lompoc celebration in evening, parade and bonfire.

Bob and I try out alarm circuit but wouldn't work by phasing out. Took family up town for doings in evening.

Nov. 12 Clear-clouds-showers News that revolution is spreading in Germany. Kaiser in Holland, etc. Boys straighten up poles on Chestnut and set anchors. Moore not working.

Nov. 13 Cloudy-rain Boys setting anchors nearly all day.

Nov. 14 Boys pick up and paint x arms.

Nov. 15 Rain-clear Bob on trouble A.M. We go over plans for work, etc. Mr. Moore called up saying he would send 3 linemen. Squire worked P.M.

- Nov. 28 Clear Thanksgiving Day Sawed wood and picked apples all day. Ate our dinner alone.
- Nov. 29 Clear Crew out to old Packard Ranch line, taking down x arms. Finish day on Standard oil job. Moore sent me check of \$3.00 paying for Liberty Loan Ad.
- Nov. 30 Clear Boys finish Standard oil Job, move transformer on Chestnut and arrange x arms on junction pole. Bob's kid sick with the flu. We finished bills and sent in vouchers for wages and current bills.
- Dec. 1 Sunday Clear Fire Chief Everett and I look over and decide on best manner of installing Fire Alarm Siren. Decided to locate siren on rear roof of City Hall Bldg. remote control switch in fire operation room and operating switch in office of Santa Barbara Tel Co at rear of operator's position. Bob and I go over residence extension on No H St. Smart of Mid Co PS Corp read meters in Sub. Alta rode with on street light inspection.
- Dec. 2 Clear Crew finished 1st St. removed our contacts from Tel Co pole. D and Ocean, G and alley between Ocean and Cypress. Moved street lamp from pole opposite jail to opposite City Hall. Also run in switch leg for fire alarm control. Attended a meeting of Fire Dept. who discussed installation of Alarm siren.
- Dec. 3 Clear Crew on No. H St. extension all day. Installing 6 pin x arms hanging transformers etc. Pay checks came up today. Helpers came in on a strike in evening asking for \$4.00 per day. Postponed discussion until tomorrow noon. City Board of trustees vote to order fire alarm siren on trial. Dodge tells me that Dyer, No. H St. has asked for an estimate on wiring house.
- Dec. 4 Clear Boys finish H St. extension and work south on H St. repairs. Went out on job and talked to two of helpers personally who agreed to stay on the job at present wages of \$3.50 per day. Talked to young Moore at noon. He also agreed to stay on job. Bob hired a Marine as helper. Sent in vouchers for local bills, order for remote control switch for city fire alarm. Tested and installed meters on H St. extension.
- Dec. 5 Clear Crew put on Calif. splices on pole next west of F on Chestnut, raised transformer and installed a secondary arm on pole opposite theatre nailed on brackets for bell alarm from Sub, and run secondary service to Sub. Wrote Sattler of S.B. Tel. Co. about pole rental and sent requisitions for time switch for street lights. Heavy rain in evening with some lightning and wind. No trouble.
- Dec. 7 Rain last night and during noon hour Boys run alarm circuit down H st. to office and to Adair's house. Prepare for changing main junction at "Sub" and nearly finish Locust, H and I St. job. Adair tells me that young Moore has a bottle of booze on job. Bought new pair of glasses from Zieshe.
- Dec. 8 Cloudy-showers Linemen with D L Martin...install x arms and transfer lines on junction pole at "Sub". Finished job at 11:45 A.M. P.M. helped Dodge test out wiring for motor in Fred Singleton's shop.
- Dec. 9 Clear Crew cleaning up small job on south side.

Nov. 16 Clear Moore working again today. Hired another helper. Boyce drunk. Paint x arms, wrap spliced poles. Ordered straps 1 1/2 x 3/8 iron for pole splices. Fuse blew on So. Alley 15 KVA transformer at 5:50. Re-fused myself. Alta sent candy to Grandma Vaughan. Wrote letter to R. E. Sudden about cost of street lighting. Proposition submitted to City of Lompoc \$182.50 per month all night schedule: 10 100 W Mazda, 32 50 W Mazda, 24 25 W Mazda Using multiple system. Estimate cost to city at an average of 10 1/2 Hrs. per night, 365 days per year. .154 cents per KWH.

Nov. 17 Sunday Wind Three linemen came up from Los Angeles.

Nov. 18 Cloudy-showers Crew started in on North Alley job. Set pole alley and G, string in secondaries etc.

Nov. 19 Cloudy-showers Crew on North alley job. Service to Singleton and Lowe. Attended meeting of Board of Trustees of City of Lompoc. After considerable discussion, passed resolution accepting our proposal to run all night schedule on street lights, at \$182.50 per month. Also discussed installing a fire alarm siren.

Nov. 20 Clear Making good progress on North alley job.

Nov. 21 Clear Finished North alley job and start on E St. job A lineman, Quimby, got across 220 volts and let go. Hung in belt until boys helped him down.

Nov. 22 Fog-clear Boys install section cutouts near E and Chestnut, transfer to new pole North alley and E and guy and raise lines Ocean and E. Pole spliced for replacement first pole north of Ocean broke in handling, had to splice another pole. Helped Dodge start Singleton motor, sealed meter there and in Lowe's tire shop. Bought stamped envelopes for office.

Nov. 23 Cloudy-rain Heavy rain P.M. Boys set 35 ft pole Ocean and E and transfer lines. Started work at 2:00 p.m. account of rain. Sent in Req. for Sangams Meter (?).

Nov. 24 Clear Home all day. Replaced several street lamps in evening

Nov. 25 Clear-cool Crew started on Walnut and L St. job. Hired a U.S. Marine for helper. Adair and Moore have trouble. Talked with Moore also Adair, differences fixed up. I read meters all day. Phased out wrong in banking secondaries. Also wrong connection on primaries for street lighting trans. Moore helped read meters part of day.

(Standard Oil Company was located at North A Street [beyond the 1918 grid] and Laurel Avenue. The company had its own R. R. spur to receive rail car loads of oil products to be distributed throughout the north county, including the Point Concepcion Lighthouse and Arlight at Point Arguello.)

Nov. 26 Clear Crew finished Walnut St. job and finished day on Standard Oil extension. Adair has poor job on splicing poles. At Stearn's request inspected wiring installation from Standard Oil plant. Read meter pick ups A.M. Alta called on Mrs. Adair and bought junk for Thanksgiving dinner. Laid off one helper tonight.

Nov. 27 Clear Crew on Standard Oil job all day. Worked on bills, Etc.

adjusted old bill with Bert Hooker, bought corn popper and other Xmas dope. Took folks to Baptist Church for Christmas tree doings. Peak load on Sub tonight. 14 and 12 1/2 amps.

Dec. 24 Clear-Cold Bob and I put warning cards on ammeters at Sub. He also cut over to 110 volts street lights at E and Walnut and F and Ocean. Returned to A. A. Wilson 751 S. Spring St. LA to have gear box changed. Returned cross cut saw to Mr. J. V. Moore. We exchanged Xmas presents at office. Had our tree at home in evening. Lots of fun with the presents. Baby Eleanor well remembered. Alta has a bad cold. Nights very cold - freezing ice each night.

Dec. 25 Clear (Xmas) Sawed wood etc. in morning. We ate dinner with W. R. Dodge in their home on F St. Very enjoyable time. Home during evening. Baby Eleanor has a bad cold also Alta.

Dec. 26 Clear 22 - 68 Wet ground frozen this morning. Bob and I read meters all day. Eleanor's cold much better.

Dec. 27 Clear 24 - 65 Worked on bills all day. Bob reading meter pickups. Alta, Eleanor and Mother B called on Mrs. Adair. Mrs. Lewis called on us in evening. Received letter from Mr. Moore regarding work done and Tel bill.

Dec. 28 Clear Bob did some collecting and trouble work. Inspected street lights. Helped with bills, collecting, etc. Left overcoat at Allans to be remodeled. Had saw and ax sharpened. Talked with Bissinger about further credit to Lompoc Laundry.

Dec. 29 Fog Clear Split wood in morning, home all day. Wrote letters to Gene and Fred.

Dec. 30 Clear-cold wind Worked on bills and other small stuff. Bob read meters, pickups and on trouble. Fixed up lighting post in front of office. Talked with Chas. Lockridge of U.S. Army, formerly of this company. Also with S. B. Tel. Co. Wire Chief from Santa Maria.

Dec. 31 Clear-Cold We finished and mailed bills today. Also sent in vouchers for outside bills and salaries. City installing electric fire alarm siren. We run service for same to City Hall, remote control switch has not arrived. Finished up old year with work well cleaned up.

1919

The new fire alarm installed in time to herald the New Year. Siren a credit to the fire department and Lompoc citizens.

Chamber of Commerce makes plans for Community reception of 150 or more boys as they return home from service with Uncle Sam. Lompoc was presented with a German Helmet...by the chairman of the Victory Loan train.

Paving of streets committee: Charles Arkley, W.R. Smith and P.C. Schuck.

Chautauqua was in town.

Gov. Stephens political future dead so far as Lompoc is concerned. He failed to sign Lompoc road bill for arteries to main highway. Graduation exercises in Opera House followed by reception in K of P hall.

Admission Day celebration: free barbecue at Miguelito Park. Speaking, games, sports, dancing.

Board of trustees act favorably on Chamber of Commerce suggestion that city houses be numbered.

Steelhead fishing is great in the Santa Ynez river.

American Legion born in Paris, France.

Dec. 10 Clear Run neutral in street lighting circuit for lights around warehouses cutting same over to 110 volts. Install section cutouts F & Chestnut. Linemen completed job at noon today. Paid them off. Helpers picking up junk digging out poles, P.M. Martin and Moore quit job at 5:00 P.M. Paid them off. Alta and I bought Xmas presents.

Dec. 11 Clear-cold Bob and Squire put on guy boxings, burn off junk copper and clean up trouble. Took Eleanor, Alta and Grandma for a ride in the country. Received letter from Mr. Moore about time switch for street lights. Also from Sattler of Santa Barbara Tel Co about pole contact rentals.

Dec. 12 Clear One Marine and Tom Kennedy went on job today. Set straight poles in country on No. H also East Ocean and repair guy at dead end. Locust and Alley between H and G set pole at entrance to alley and transfer lines from over private property.

Dec. 13 Clear Boys repair to anchor guys, finish boxing guys, dig out and pick up poles. Attended Masonic Lodge, stated meeting, elections of officers, etc.

Dec. 14 Clear Boys pick up dead poles and saw up butts for stove wood. Bob on trouble. In office during evening.

Dec. 15 Clear-cool Cared for Eleanor when Alta and Grandma went to church. Took Alta for a little ride P.M. Alta and I attend M E Church in evening Rev. McCain preached sermon.

Dec. 16 Clear Helpers sawing up old pole butts. Bob on trouble.

Dec. 17 Clear Finish sawing poles at noon. Laid off Tom Kennedy. Squire picking up and saw wood. Squire cleaning up around Sub etc. Bob on trouble. Talked with Mr. Wittemore about pole on S.P. Milling Co. property also our oil pipe line across their property. Planned on changing secondaries which cross over 10,000 volt transformers Alta and I bought walnuts from Batkins. Pine and D St.

Dec. 19 Clear Bob and Squire install alley arm on pole at sub, haul and pile wood, take care of H trouble. Alta bought shoes with Birthday gift from Mother B.

Dec. 20 Clear-heavy showers Squire cleaning up around Sub and hauling poles from office to sub. Bob installed side span guy on main junction pole at sub and on trouble. Attended Masonic Lodge evening. Mr. Lewis took 3rd

Dec. 21 Clear-cold Bob and Squire dig out pole in North Alley, transfer and dig out pole on South H St. also move secondaries from primaries. Inspect street lamps. Squire washed windows. Laid off Squire tonight completing the job, started Oct. 31th. Prepared Christmas cards.

Dec. 22 Sunday Clear Split wood and put on down spout on eve trough to cistern. Cared for Eleanor while mother and alta went to church. Took folks up canyon and picked holly. Alta and I went to Presbyterian church in evening. W. R. Dodge invited us to Christmas dinner.

Dec. 23 Clear-Cold Bob cut over two more street lights to 110 volts, cleared short Cypress and J, clearing up ground in lamp post at office and inspected street lights. Read meters in Laundry,

offered to sell the lighting system to the City. The company would take, in exchange, bonds bearing 6% interest. The Board appointed a committee of three to investigate the value of the property and the feasibility of the purchase by the City. Board members Moore, Sudden and Attorney Hardenbrook were appointed to the committee.

Privately owned Lompoc Light and Power Company operated within Lompoc city limits. At first the company produced the power it sold, but (in 1918) the company was purchasing power from Midland Counties Public Service Corporation, a subsidiary of San Joaquin Light and Power. That system was taken over by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

At the next council meeting on May 18, 1920, the Lompoc Light and Power Company made the following proposal:

"We propose to sell to the City of Lompoc, our entire electrical plant located in and near Lompoc, California, consisting principally of Pole-lines, Transformers, Meters, Tools and Equipment of every kind and nature, also six (6) Lots containing the Substation Building. This sale to include all the physical property owned or controlled by the Lompoc Light and Power Company, but does not include cash on hand, accounts due or accounts payable.

The price for this property is to be Twenty-seven Thousand one hundred and 50 (\$27,150) Dollars, payable in cash or in City of Lompoc Bonds to be accompanied by a legal opinion, to be approved by us.

This proposal is subject to the confirmation of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

This proposal must be accepted within thirty (30) days from date hereof and the transfer consummated as rapidly as possible."

The Board minutes went on to list all equipment, land and buildings in the proposal and the cost for each for a total of \$30,324.09. The electric system included 460 meters, 40 transformers, 9 miles of pole-lines, 6 lots and a Substation building...15 cents per KWH cost to the citizens was extremely high and service was undependable. The Board felt the City would be

able to operate the system more efficiently and still charge less per KWH.

Finally on July 6, 1920, the Board decided to put the matter up for vote by the citizens of Lompoc (providing that all election proceedings be prepared without expense to the city.) The election was held August 18, 1920 and was *passed by the citizens and approved by ordinance by the Board of Trustees. However, it took another two years of investigation, discussion and another election before the purchase was finalized. At a Board meeting during that two year period, the Midland counties Light and Power offered to purchase the lighting system and operate within the City...
*Rejected - see E. A. Vaughan's diary, below.

Finally in February, 1923, the Company was purchased by the City. The original substation building and some switching gear still stands between E and F streets near Chestnut Avenue.

E. A. Vaughan Diary extract, continued

June 1, 1920 Talked to Arkley, Moore about Mun. ownership. Board of Trustees vote to call Bond election to buy out L. L. & P. Co.

June 10 Inspected new motor equipment for City and pump line location. Mid Co P S Corp install boosters at Santa Maria.

June 11 Staked out line to City wells.

June 15 City Board voted to pay bond election expenses.

June 16 Started digging holes for Mig. Canyon City line.

July 2 Boys finish City line (Mig. canyon and I St. lead). Laid off gang.

July 6 Attend City Board - passed our bill for building line and continued bond proceedings.

July 7 Wrote letters about water meters

August 10 We helped Saunders with C of C dope sheets for Bond election.

August 11 ...arranged publicity dope with Adam of Record.

August 12-15 (Vaughan visited opening celebration of Kerchoff Dam Power House near Fresno.)

August 16 Visited steam Power House (in Bakersfield).

*August 18 Bond election for buying Lompoc Light and Power Co. * Issue defeated due to lack*

1920

Lompoc city population: 1876. Santa Barbara county: 41,097

Baker and Calvert plan to improve the Opera House and soon Lompoc will be able to point with pride to a \$40,000 theatre.

Board of Health ban on all public meeting places, flu epidemic.

American Legion Lompoc Chapter 211 organized with 40 charter members.

May 21, Proposition for sale of Lompoc Light and Power Co. to the City of Lompoc made Tuesday night at the board meeting by Mr. R. M. Moore, mgr. of the company.

City trustees started preliminary proceedings to submit **city ownership of the electric power plant** to the voters for final decision.

Oct. 11, George Roberts was buried today in San Jose cemetery.

Dec. 8, The new Catholic Church was dedicated with solemn mass.

Bodger seeds comes to lompoc
Lompoc Farm Bureau organized.

E. A. Vaughan's 1919 diary is missing, but his 1920 diary fills in details of life in Lompoc that year. There was continued growth in electrical distribution throughout the city.

Jan. 6 Received meter shipment and installed 5 of them Jan. 7.

Jan. 15 Wiring meat market

Jan. 16 Order for wiring job on Chinese Laundry

Jan. 18 Wiring Callis home

Jan. 20 Wiring Winn's house. Adding transformer, south alley

Jan. 23 Finished McAdam house

E. A. Vaughan's wife, Alta Vaughan was helping with billing.

Feb. 6 Midland Counties Public Service Corporation called asking curtailment of juice - low water, no rainfall. (MCPSC in the San Juaquin Valley was the supplier of electrical power to Lompoc since 1918. This confirms they were using hydro-electric generators)

Feb. 7 Started "Save Juice" slide at theatre.

Feb. 9 Distributed notices for "juice" economy.

Feb. 14 Board of Health closed the city because of the flu.

Mar. 2 Talked to Chas. Everett about motors.

Mar. 5 Attended Art Douglas' funeral.

Mar. 8 MCPSC cutting in Betteravia steam station.

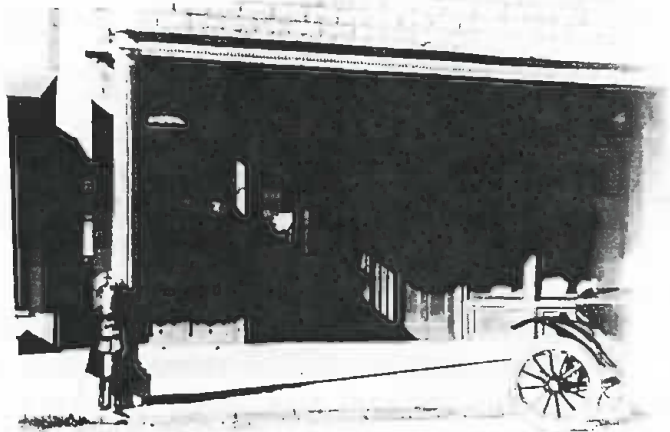
Mar. 9 Road bond election carried with large majority.

Mar. 13 Discussed business district additional street lighting with mayor.

April 2 Attended funeral of H. Beattie

April 17 Ellison-White Chautauqua setting up tent.

April 20 Set street post in front of office.



E. A. Vaughan posed his daughter, Eleanor by the lamp post installed on the sidewalk in front of the Light and Power Company office. From Vaughan's photo album

Municipal Water (and Power)

April 29 Talked with Chas. Arkley about city pumping

April 30 Talked to salesman about water pumps.

May 4 Chas. Arkley talked about city water pumping and City ownership of Light and Power Co. Moore had made them a price of \$27,800 approx.

May 5 City Board of Trustees discussed city water pumping and Municipal ownership (of the Lompoc Light and Power Co).

May 7 Lompoc Record has article on Municipal ownership of Co.

May 18 R. M. Moore arrived...presented proposal to Board (regarding sale of the Lompoc Light and Power Co. to the city).

Excerpts from "The History of the City of Lompoc's Electric Division"

On May 5, 1920 at the Board of Trustees meeting, Lompoc Light and Power Company

of proper campaign.
 Nov. 17 Small Pox epidemic threatened.
 Nov. 23 State board of health vaccinating children.
 Nov. 27 Attended John Kirkpatrick funeral.
 Dec. 1 Movie theatre in Santa Maria burned.

No more mention of Bond issue in 1920 Diary.

1921

The diary of 1921 shows the Lompoc light and Power Company continued to routinely provide electricity with no more reference to municipal ownership until discussions in summer and fall of the year.

January 4 Read meter changes, install element in Lewis range...City Dads ordered St Lt (street light) at O and Ocean.

Jan. 5 High Wind Inspected lines for wind trouble.

Jan. 13 Harry Sloan's wife died.

Feb. 25 Fire in Pioneer Garage.

March 29 ...wiring house for Chas. Everett.

April 1 PTA have School Bond rally at theatre.

April 9 School Bond Elections. High School Bonds defeated, Grammar School Bonds passed.

May 6 Ordered special arms (for power poles) Everett Mill & Lumber Co. for H St and Alley job.

June 25 R. M. Moore went over lines, talked of improvements - again trying to sell to city.

Aug. 31 Talked with F. B. Moore about city buying plant.

8

Sept. 12 Talked to callis about city buying system.

Nov. 18 Corner Stone of Lompoc Grammar School laid...

No more action on Municipal purchase of Lompoc Light and Power system in 1921.

On September 11, 1922 there was a conference with city authorities deciding on a 10 day option to buy the lompoc Light and Power Company.

Sept. 19, 1922 City Board started proceedings to buy Lompoc Light and Power System.

November 21, 1922 Bond Election carried by good majority to set in motion municipal ownership of Lompoc Light and Power Company.

Feb. 20, 1923 Attended City Board Meeting ...they appointed me (Vaughan) manager.

Feb. 26 '23...sale of L.L.&P.Co to City...today.

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