

First Knightdale Water System 1925-1928

The first water system was owned by Mr. Lemuel Flowers, one of 18 children, His father was Mr. Johnny C. Flowers Sr. who had 11 children by his first wife ¹ and 7 by his second wife. The system consisted of one well and a 75' steel tower and a wooden tank. The well and tower were located at 400 Hester St. The location of the East Wake Fire Station #2. The tank capacity was estimated at 5,000 to 6,000 gallons.

The stand pipe was a 2" pipe with a distribution line that was a 1 ¼" line near the tank. and ¾" lines fed off main line, all lines were galvanized. No meters were used, there was a \$1.00 per month fee.

Mr. Flowers system was providing water for Knightdale School. As the demand became greater the Wake County Schools installed a water tank on the school site, near the location of the present gym. Mr. Flowers' system would fill the tank during the night to provide that the school would have water during the day.

As the need for water grew the present system could not keep up, prompting Wake County to dig its own well, this well was on Fayetteville St. at the south-west corner of the lighted ball park.

In the winter the wooden tank used for the town would overflow and icicles would form and hang half way down the tank for weeks at a time. Water lines that passed under the drain pipe in streets would freeze and have to be dug up and thawed out. On one occasion a long section of water line froze on Main St. and an electric welder was used to thaw the line. Dr. Weathers who lived on N. First Ave. stated that if he cut on his hot water just before sitting down to breakfast he might have enough water to shave with after eating. Every one was careful about leaks because one bad leak and no one had water.

Town of Knightdale installed a public water system, using several wells, and erected a new tank at 400 Hester Street.

Mr. Flowers, owner of the private system, was paid between \$5600 and \$6000 for his complete water system.

J.B. Parrish



First Town Well

Note

- ¹. Wife was Della Gardner, related to Ava Gardner.