

## THE 1920s—BOOM BEFORE THE CRASH



**In this 1920 aerial view, Rhode Island Avenue runs at a diagonal along the bottom and intersects 34<sup>th</sup> Street on the right. Plumer's Trolley Station is the black roof at the northwest corner of the intersection. Bunker Hill Road runs right to left through the photo's center. The open field in upper middle of the photo is now the location of Mount Rainier Elementary School, but in the 1920s was the carnival grounds. The wooded area at top left (Shepherd and 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets) is the remnants of the grove around the Clemson's by-then-raized house, "The Home."**

Before the Home Rule Act of 1952, the Maryland Assembly had to approve all municipal charter changes (including tax rates). Once a change was passed in Annapolis, the citizens of the town voted to ratify the charter amendments, or reject them.

The Act of April 9, 1920, known as the "\$50,000 Road Improvement Act," provided for the issuance and sale of bonds to finance construction of sidewalks, streets, and gutters (see next page). Half the cost of the improvements was charged to the owner of the abutting property. The first paved street was Perry Street from 34<sup>th</sup> to 37<sup>th</sup> Streets. The Act of March 5, 1924, allowed the town to borrow up to \$20,000 for sidewalk construction. In 1927, the legislature provided that construction of streets and sidewalks could be financed by town bond issues up to 8 percent of the assessed value of all real and personal property in the town. The cost was assessed against the abutting properties on a strictly front footage basis and paid in 10 annual installments, with interest.

**ROAD AND SIDEWALK LAW SUBMITTED TO THE PEOPLE  
AT ELECTION TO BE HELD ON JULY 26, 1920.**

**The Mount Rainier Road and Sidewalk Law.**

The law is in all essential particulars in accordance with the ideas of the Road Committee selected by the Mayor and Council. The original idea was to borrow \$50,000.00 and to pay same at the rate of \$10,000.00 each year beginning with the second year after the loan was made. This loan is to be evidenced by bonds drawing not over 5½ per cent and said bonds are not to be sold at less than \$97 on the \$100.00; in other words, the Mayor and Council can not sell or negotiate the bonds at a discount of more than \$3.00 on each \$100.00.

The bonds are made a lien against the town and are to be paid as follows: \$10,000.00 of these bonds would be payable in two years from the date of issue with interest at the rate of 5½ per cent, \$5,000.00 would be assessed against the abutting property where roads or sidewalks are constructed, and the balance of \$5,000.00 would be assessed against all of the property owners of the town, as general taxes are assessed.

As \$10,000.00 of these bonds would be payable in two years from date of issue the town would provide each year to raise the interest of 5½ per cent and \$5,000.00 each year on account of the principal.

**The Method of Assessment.**

In road improvements the abutting property owners on each side of the road improved would share equally one-half of the cost.

The abutting property owner on one side of a road improvement would pay one-fourth of the total cost and the town would pay one-half of the total cost.

In sidewalk improvements the abutting property where the improvement is made would pay one-half of the cost in two years and the town the other half.

**Only \$10,000.00 to be Borrowed.**

The present Mayor and Council have passed a resolution by unanimous vote not to borrow over \$10,000.00 in the event the people of the town vote in favor of the law. In case the vote is in

4

favor of the loan the people will have a chance to discover whether the law is a wise one or not, and if not may appeal to the Legislature of Maryland at its next session for a modification thereof.

**Petition For Road and Sidewalk Improvements.**

The law provides that whenever 50 per cent of the people living on any street or part of a street desire a road or sidewalk improvement petitions the Mayor and Council to that effect, the Mayor and Council must consider the merits of such petition. But it is provided, however, that the Mayor and Council shall have the final decision as to whether same shall be constructed.

**The Need of Road and Sidewalk Improvements.**

It requires no argument to demonstrate to the people of Mount Rainier that they can not enjoy the ordinary conveniences of proper living, to say nothing of the improvement of property values and the growth of the town, without making immediate effort to improve the present condition of the roads and sidewalks in the town.

The present tax rate for general purposes is limited by law to 20 cents on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation. The fund derived from this tax is not even sufficient to pay the ordinary current expenses, as this tax amounts to about \$1,850.00 a year.

The road-rebate fund amounts to about \$1,500.00 a year, and these two funds are all the money the town has to pay the growing expenses and to provide for the roads and sidewalks.

The assessment for the sewer and water system only cares for them, and unless the people are willing to make some slight sacrifice to raise some additional money as provided by this road and sidewalk law they can not obtain any relief from the present intolerable condition of our streets and sidewalks.

**Our Present Taxes Are Very Low Compared With Other Towns.**

The present tax rate in Hyattsville on an assessed valuation of \$1,268,734.00 is 65 cents per \$100.00 on land valuation and 60 cents on \$100.00 improvements, together with a special sewer tax of 20 cents on \$100.00 of total valuation. The total cost of all street work is assessed against the abutting property.

5

In Takoma Park, Md., the assessed basis is \$1,000,000; the tax rate is 75 cents per \$100.00 assessed valuation.

In Rockville, Md., the assessed basis is \$1,000,000; the tax rate is 60 cents per \$100.00 of valuation. There is an outstanding indebtedness of \$70,000.

In Mount Rainier the tax rate on an assessed basis of about \$1,000,000 is 20 cents on each \$100.00 assessed value, the sewer and water assessment has been 12 cents a foot; 15 cents last year; 19 cents this year on account of paying \$4,000.00 in bonds on April 1st next, and will be 15 cents a foot hereafter.

**The Law Safeguards the Taxpayers in All Particulars.**

All work is to be done by responsible contractors after open bidding and the decision as to what work is to be done is subject to the petition of the majority of the people.

It is seriously submitted that the people of the town in a wise view of their own interest and the future of the town may trust their Mayor and Council to borrow and expend wisely the amount of \$10,000.00, as provided in the resolution that accompanies the submission of this law to the people for their approval.

**RESOLUTION.**

June 7, 1920.

**Resolved, By the Mayor and Common Council of Mount Rainier, Md., that in the event that the people of the town approve the act of the Legislature of Maryland, providing for street and sidewalk improvements, as provided by the act of the Legislature of Maryland, Chapter 133, Act of 1920, that the Mayor and Common Council agree and promise not to provide a loan in excess of \$10,000.00 for the current fiscal year of 1920-1921.**

House Bill No. 111.

October, 1920.

Chapter No. 133.

**A BILL ENTITLED**

AN ACT to authorize and empower the Mayor and Common Council of Mount Rainier, Maryland, a municipal corporation, with the approval of the qualified voters thereof to construct sidewalks, and streets and the gutters thereto, in said town, to issue and sell the bonds of said town not to exceed the total sum of \$50,000, at any one time, to pay for same, to provide for the redemption of such bonds and the interest thereon by an annual tax and an annual front-foot assessment on the real property in said town, where said sidewalks, street and gutters are constructed, and to make the principal and interest of said bonds direct obligation of said town.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT FOUNDED

The police department was established in 1923. Prior to that, the town had constables. During the administration of Mayor Negus, a paid police department was formed.

In 1926, Chief of Police, John Wimer, Jr. warned citizens that enforcement of the property maintenance and parking codes would be stringently enforced. He also noted that in violation of town and state law, “many residents of the town are operating their cars with District of Columbia tags.” (WP 7/25/1926)

In 1929, a state act allowed the town to assess up to 10 cents on each \$100 of assessed property value as a tax to support the volunteer fire department: “as long as it provided adequate fire protection.”



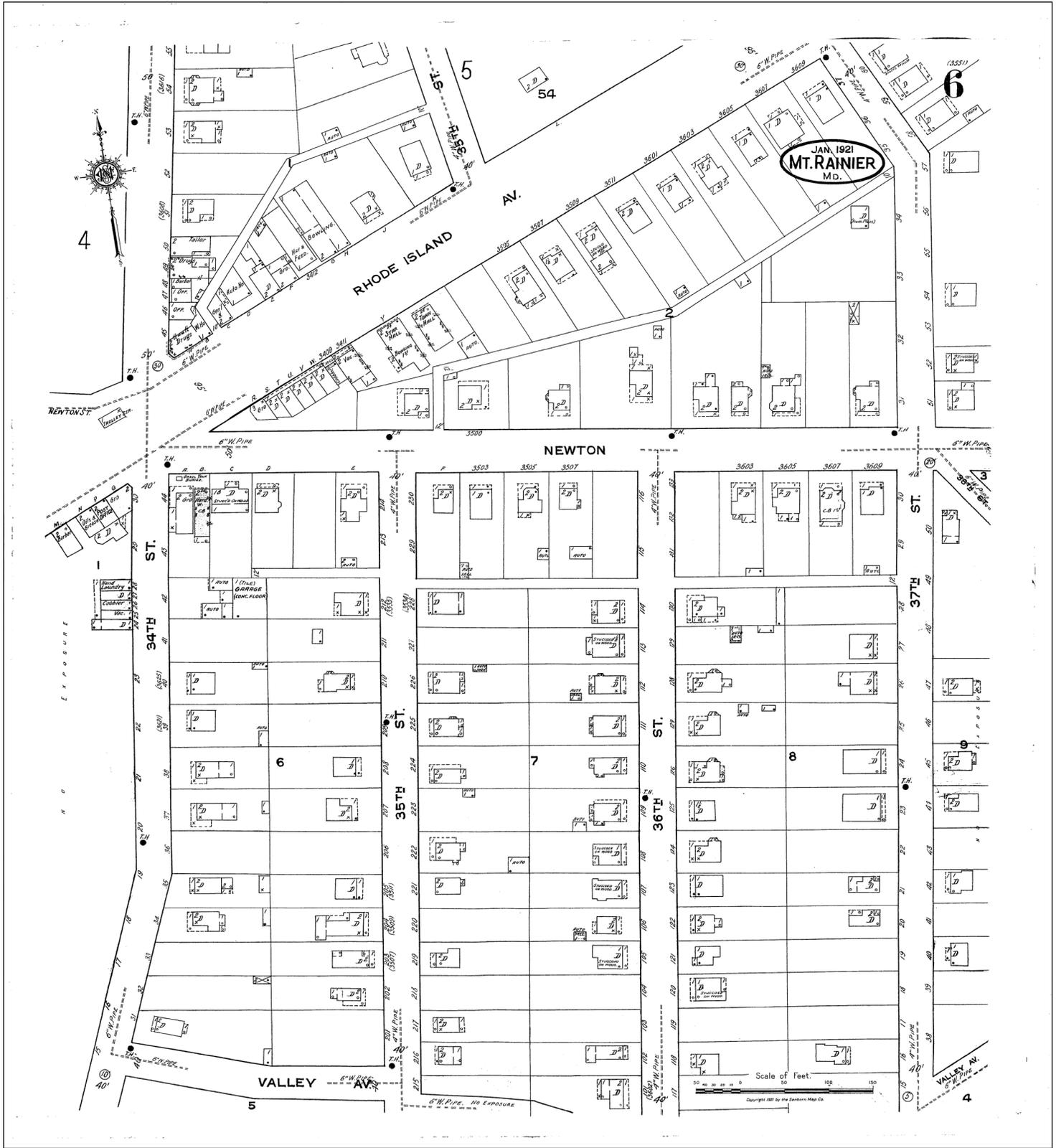
**The Prince George's Bank, a county-designated local historic site built in 1922, is a distinctive landmark with Tuscan columns and 10-sided cupola facing Mount Rainier Circle. At top left, the banner hangs on an old metal trolley-line pole. Plumer's Station (named for the nearby newsstand) sat at about the location of today's Memorial Park. The Latin American Folk Institute purchased the building in the late 1990s and restored the building, including the rotunda, for its programs.**

Photo of dancers in rotunda, courtesy of The Gazette; photo of Plumer's Station from Linda Nalls.

We the undersigned, and long suffering citizens, desiring to ameliorate and relieve the intolerable conditions of Ash and Thirty-Third streets, hereby pledge the amounts opposite our names, for the purpose of improving the said Ash and Thirty-Third streets by grading, guttering said streets between Thirty-Fourth and Thirty-Second streets, and Ash and Rainier Avenue, the total sum so subscribed to be not less than \$125.00, and work to begin as soon as practicable after the said sum has been raised and available.

Wm St Volker		5.00
John H. Whitman	Will pay soon Paid	5.00
Arthur J. Linn	paid	5.00
William W. Shingfellow	paid	5.00
R. Lewicki	paid	5.00
Ch. Donatos	paid \$10.00	25.00
E. E. Lamphier	Paid	5.00
H. H. H.		5.00
		5.00

**Petition for repairs to Ash (Shepherd) and 33rd Streets.**



**1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of central Mount Rainier. This map uses the “old” street names and addresses. The trolley station is visible in the middle of Rhode Island Avenue on the left edge. Newton Street above is now Perry Street. The Sanborn maps are available at the University of Maryland library. See discussion of the Sanborn maps in the “Introduction” to this web-based version of the city history.**

## CITY HALL MOVES

In the 1920s, the town offices moved into 3409 Rhode Island Avenue, purchased from Perry Boswell with proceeds realized from the carnivals held annually in those days.



Photo by Bob Page

**3409 Rhode Island Avenue, library and former City Hall/police station (now rented office space). In 2010, the city is raising funds to rebuild a new civic building on the site. 3405 Rhode Island Avenue, Star-Potts Hall, has a long history and has been the scene of many civic events. The City purchased it in 2010 with the intention of restoring the building.**

The carnival grounds were located on Bunker Hill Road between 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Streets.

Boswell had operated a grocery for many years on the premises before selling to the town.

In the early years before purchase of 3409 Rhode Island Avenue, the council met in a stucco building on Perry Street (the Liberty Loan Company in 1960), then a building known as Tony's Barber Shop located on 34th Street that was later torn down. (50<sup>th</sup> Ann. Book)

## PROPERTY ASSESSMENT PROTEST

In March of 1928, 400 people from Mount Rainier and surrounding communities converged on the County Commissioners office to protest the increases in property tax assessments. Charles B. Calvert, an attorney representing many of the Mount Rainier protesters, delivered a written statement that included the following reasons for the protest—points he made about a year before the Stock Market crash of 1929 and which resonate even in 2010 with the recent burst of the housing price bubble and mortgage crisis. In his six points, he noted the ability to buy homes with little down payment, a glut of available houses, and owners abandoning their homes.

- *First, that most of the houses constructed in [Mount Rainier] have been built within the last five years, at excessive building costs—double what they were in years prior to 1918, and that now there is a gradual depreciation of value of such buildings, which depreciation will increase with the coming years.*
- *Secondly. That the price at which property has been sold and held within the past five years is excessive, being based on the short supply of purchasable property and especially the lack of property that could be rented at a fair price, which shortage is now at an end, in that there is a large supply of purchasable property now on the market and rentable property may be easily had at less than a fair return on such property, all of which has greatly depreciated values in [Mount Rainier].*

• *Third. That prices at which property has sold for in [Mount Rainier] within the last five years are no standard of value, in that almost all sales now have been on a very small cash payment or no cash payment at all and monthly payments equivalent in amount to rent.*

• *Fourth. That on account of interest charges, the price of coal and taxes, many persons who have purchased property ... within the last five years have, in many cases, surrendered their property to the vendors and it is now difficult to interest new purchasers.*

• *Fifth. That it is not a fair, just or proper method of assessment to assess the property in [Mount Rainier] on past or present values, considering the progressive depreciation as already mentioned.*

• *Sixth. That the assessments made for old property, generally two-story houses, is grossly excessive, as there is neither a ready nor good market for such property, and even a good two-story house is worth in the market at least one-third less than the bungalow type house, even of poorer construction."*

Calvert's last point is interesting in that it would seem the real estate market in the late 1920s greatly favored bungalows (even of poor construction) over the older and larger four-squares and Victorian style homes. (WP 3/6/1928)



**In 1923, Gov. Ritchie attended dedication of Mount Rainier Elementary School in the 4000 block of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. The photo above is from the 1940s but the school had not changed much. See next page for 1923 photo.**



Source: Inventory of Historic Sites, M-NCPPC

**St. James Catholic Church, a county historic site.  
Designed by Murphy & Olmsted.  
Opened on Rhode Island Avenue in 1926.  
The prior church was at Bunker Hill Road and 36th Street.**

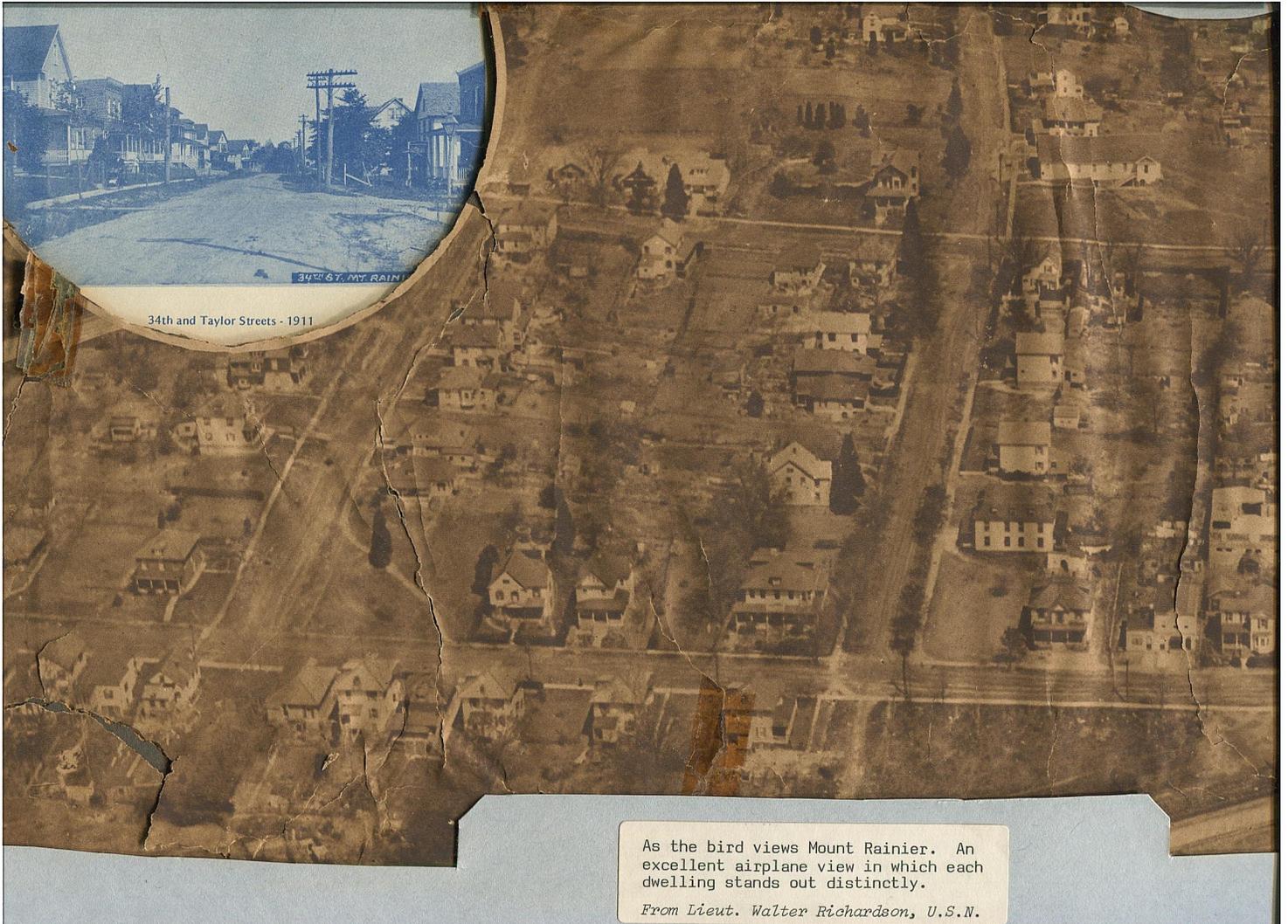
## NEW CITY CONSIDERED

In 1927, a plan was considered to combine 27 Prince George's communities into a city. The communities included Mount Rainier, Brentwood, College Park, Hollywood, Hyattsville, University Park, Berwyn Heights, Riverdale, Bladensburg, Cottage City, Colmar Manor, Edmonston, Tuxedo, and Cheverly. The plan included carving the new city out of Prince George's County, thus depriving the county of tax revenue from the area. This caused objection from the rest of the county. Of 50,000 county residents, 20,000 resided in the proposed new city. Ultimately, the legislature did not approve the plan. (WP 10/23/1927)



**September 1923. Maryland's Gov. Ritchie presides over dedication of Mount Rainier Elementary School on 32nd Street.**

"Mt. Rainier School Dedicated with Gov. Ritchie Attending." *Wash. Post*, 9/2/1923



**Another version of the aerial 1920s aerial view from City Hall collection. The horizontal street at the bottom is Perry St.; horizontal along top is Bunker Hill Rd.; 3800 block of 33rd St. to the right and 32nd St. at left.**

## WATER SYSTEM

The homes originally had individual wells and outhouses. Large homes clustered around Shepherd and 33<sup>rd</sup> Streets had a small water system supplied from the old spring (believed to have been the Clemson's source of water). In 1914, the town's health officer reported that the water supply was in a "frightful condition" and recommended that the council issue bonds to finance a water and sewer system. (WP 1/21/1914)

In 1917, construction began on the water and sewer system, but litigation slowed completion of the work. The town finally won a suit against the contractor, but no meters were supplied to connect houses that desired service.



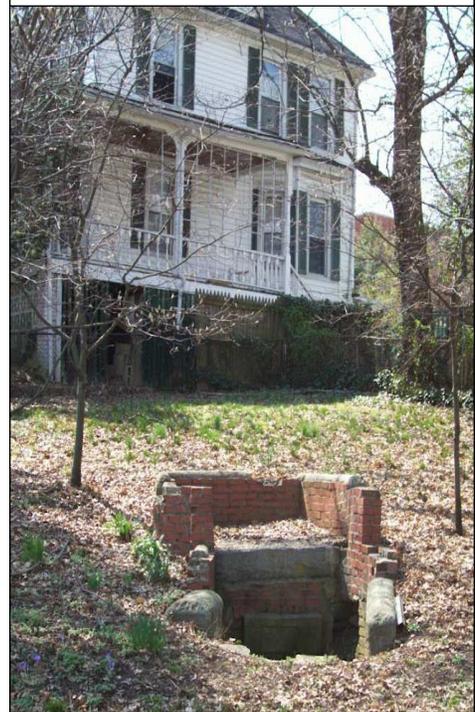
**Mount Rainier's water tower is visible behind the houses in this 1930s photo of the cornerstone laying ceremony at St. John's Episcopal Church at Rainier and 34th Streets. Only known photo of the water tower which would have stood near intersection of Shepherd and 31st Streets (probably at 4014 31st Street).**

The town's water tank was located at the high point, 3<sup>1st</sup> and Shepherd Streets (probably at today's 4014 31st St. which still has an odd concrete pad in the backyard that may be a vestige of the tower). Norman Venning who spent his life in Mount Rainier remembered that the location was surrounded by large old oaks that had been around the Clemson mansion. Many ancient oaks still stand in the yards of the nearby homes.

In the end, the system, including the springs and pumping station on Columbia Avenue (now Hamilton St.), was sold to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in 1922. See next page for part of the contract.



**Spring Park, 33rd and Shepherd Streets—yesterday and today**



**Wooden pipes wrapped in coiled wire supplied water in the early days. This section was dug up in 2010 during street reconstruction.**

**See also, "Wooden Water Pipes Replaced in Mt. Rainier." By Harold Willard. *PG Post*, 12/5/1959.**

(1)  
THIS AGREEMENT, Made this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and twenty-two by and between the Mayor and Common Council of Mt. Rainier, a Municipal Corporation, hereinafter referred to as the "Town", party of the first part and the WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION, a body corporate, incorporated by the General Assembly of Maryland, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission", party of the second part:-

WITNESSETH, That the Town and the Commission, in consideration of their mutual covenants and agreements herein made, as well as the sum of one (\$1.00) dollar, current money of the United States, by each paid unto the other, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have covenanted and agreed and do hereby covenant and agree, as follows:-

1. [The Town covenants and agrees to sell and convey to the Commission the water and sewerage systems owned and operated by it in the Town of Mt. Rainier, Prince George's County, State of Maryland, including all of the land now occupied by the pumping station, springs, etc., on Columbia Avenue, Hyattsville, Prince George's County, Maryland, and all other real estate owned and used by the Town in connection with said systems, except the Town Hall, all pipes, mains, conduits, hydrants, reservoirs, cisterns, engines, pumps, pumping apparatus, tools, meters, set and unset, equipment, appliances, materials and accessories of every type, character and kind, including all maps, plats, blue prints, account books and records used by said Town in the construction, maintenance or operation of said systems, together with all rights, ways, easements and appurtenances to the same belonging, owned, used or intended to be used in connection with said water and sewerage systems, at and for the sum of One hundred and six thousand five hundred (\$106,500) dollars, to be paid by the

**First page of the contract of sale of the city water system to WSSC in 1922. As part of the deal, WSSC promises water at no charge to the city for municipal uses.**

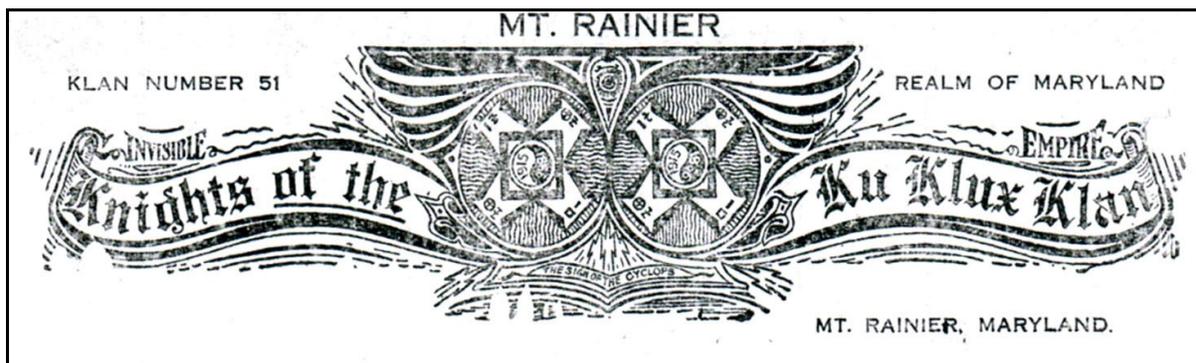
## KU KLUX KLAN

Owners of old homes sometimes find forgotten toys or old newspapers in the walls, but there are stories of more interesting finds. In 1976, the new owners of a house in the 4000 block of 30<sup>th</sup> Street made a discovery in the attic that shed some light on a little discussed part of town history. They found various items belonging to the Mount Rainier Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, including white hooded robes in dry cleaning bags, photos, and written records of meetings. The minutes of the 1920s meetings and Klan correspondence now are kept in the University of Maryland's Hornbake Library archives. Although the Klan records provide a glimpse of the activities of at least a small group of local men, it is difficult to determine from this limited cache of papers how much support existed in the community for Klan activities. After all, in addition to its segregationist doctrine, the Klan was anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant in a town with many Catholics and immigrants. For example, when the Klan disrupted a school graduation ceremony because a Catholic priest was selected to pronounce the invocation and benediction, the Mount Rainier Chamber of Commerce publicly expressed its disapproval, stating that "we do not feel such action in anyway shows the sentiment of a majority of our better-thinking citizens."

Clearly, the volunteer fire department was not supportive when (as the minutes reveal) the chapter's first cross burning (on Feb. 11, 1925) at the high-point location of Shepherd and 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets lasted only 20 minutes because the VFD arrived to put out the flames. Additionally, the minutes reveal that attempts to organize a women's auxiliary failed for lack of interest.

The meeting minutes leave no doubt about the involvement of some local elected officials. Klansman Kenneth Bovay thanked the members for their support in his election as mayor in 1925. The names of at least three town councilmembers of that era are included in the meeting minutes as members. The minutes indicate members who lived not only in Mount Rainier, but also Brentwood, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Hyattsville, and Washington D.C. In 1925, the Klan chapters in Hyattsville, Mount Rainier, Capitol Heights, and Laurel sponsored a July 4th celebration in Berwyn that drew 25,000 people from Maryland and neighboring states.

When the Klan ceased to exist in Mount Rainier is unknown, but the town remained segregated into the 1960s. Mount Rainier was what is known as a "sundown town," meaning that blacks were not tolerated within the town limits after sunset.



MT. RAINIER

KLAN NUMBER 51

REALM OF MARYLAND



MT. RAINIER, MARYLAND.

March 15, 1932.

Mrs. H. L. Leathers, Secy.  
America's Gloomchasers.

Dear Mrs. Leathers and all of the Gloomchasers;

You are cordially invited to be present at a Box-party and Radio dance, which the Mt. Rainier Klan will hold in the Oddfellows Temple, in Mt. Rainier, Md. on the night of Wednesday March 30, 1932.

As is the usual custom at an affair of this type, the ladies and girls will be expected to bring a box of lunch which will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. This will be the only admission charge to the Box-party.

The affair will start at 8 O'clock.

The Maryland Patriotic Band will be present to render several selections.

A very enjoyable evening is assured to every one who comes out that night. So why not come to Mt. Rainier that evening and bring your wives, your sweethearts, and your friends???? "The more the merrier".

Sincerely yours

*R.P. Smith (Chauncy Ogletree)*  
Secy.  
Mt. Rainier Klan #51

Numerous Klan records such as the one above are kept in the University of Maryland Library.

"Records of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Klan No. 51, Mt. Rainier, Maryland," Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries.

## OTHER EVENTS AND FACTS

1920

- Population 2,462. By end of decade, 3,832.

1921

- Adah Chapter of the Eastern Star purchased Potts Hall, 3405 Rhode Island Avenue.
- The Baptist Church held Sunday night services in Star-Potts Hall.
- The Mount Rainier Billiard Hall was located on the ground floor of Star-Potts Hall. (TPG 3/8/1921)
- A chapter of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union organized with more than 50 members. (WP 11/27/1921)

1925

- The Baptist Church was built at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Shepherd Streets.
- Not long after the May 1925 election, the mayor and town council resigned *en masse* after a disagreement over appointment of the town's property assessor. A special election was called for July, but it was cancelled after the mayor and councilmembers rescinded their resignations. (WP 7/7/1925)
- Mount Rainier Home and School Association established a committee to ensure that fire gongs were present in schools and that blackboards were improved. (WP 5/17/1925)



Source: Celebrating Official Opening of Rhode Island Avenue, 1929

### Rhode Island Avenue — 1929

Looking eastward. Prince George's Bank on left. Star-Potts Hall on right behind trolley pole. Row of buildings on right edge were torn down for the new street-car depot in 1939.



Photo by Robert G. Page

**The Cameo Theater, 3824 34th Street, opened in 1923. It became a church in 1955.**

1926

- The civic league authorized Mrs. Bovay, the mayor's wife, to acquire 100 trees from the state Department of Forestry for distribution in the town. The league decided to beautify Spring Park and Memorial Park. (WP 4/11/1926)

1927

- 25 motorists were arrested in one day for failing to obey stop signs on Rhode Island Avenue. (WP 1/8/1927)

1928

- More than 200 people attended entertainment sponsored by the International Order of the Odd Fellows in Bluebird Hall. (WP 3/8/1928).

1929

- "City Delivery" of the U.S. mail began.

## SOURCES

- "Mt. Rainier School Dedicated with Gov. Ritchie Attending." *Wash. Post*, 9/2/1923.
- "27 Nearby Towns in Maryland Plan Merger into City." *Wash. Post*, 10/23/1927.
- *Celebrating Official Opening of Rhode Island Avenue, Hyattsville. Saturday, December 7, 1929.*
- "Records of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Klan No. 51, Mt. Rainier, Maryland," Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries.
- "Mt. Rainier Council and Mayor Quit Jobs." *Wash. Post*, 6/24/1925.
- "25,000 Klansmen Routed by Rain at Big Jubilee." *Wash. Post*, 7/5/1925.
- "Mt. Rainier Chamber Resents Klan Action." *Wash. Post*, 6/29/1926.
- "400 Prince Georges Citizens Push Mass Attack on Taxation." *Wash. Post*, 3/6/1928.
- "U.S. Worker Chosen Mt. Rainier's Mayor." *Wash. Post*, 5/5/1925.

*J. B. Mat...*

The various Units of Parade celebrating the opening of Rhode Island Avenue will form at the following designated points not later than 1:30 P.M. Saturday, December 7, 1929.

North side of Rhode Island Avenue West from District of Columbia line and North side of Monroe Street.

- State Police
- Company F of Hyattsville
- Governor
- State Road Officials
- B and O Officials
- Rhode Island Avenue Committee
- General Parade Committee
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Band

*Girls*

Otis Street, Maryland and 34th Street South Rhode Island Avenue, both sides of street.

Hyattsville -

- Mayor and Council of Hyattsville
- Fire Department
- Fraternal Organizations, *Hyattsville High School Floats*
- Hyattsville Elementary School Floats
- Business Floats
- American Legion
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts

East side of Eastern Avenue, Maryland to Rhode Island Avenue.

- Riverdale-
- Mayor and Council
- School Float
- School Boys with flags
- Fire Department
- Business Floats

Otis Street, D. C.

- ~~North Brentwood -~~
- ~~Mayor and Council of North Brentwood~~
- ~~Fire Band~~
- ~~School Floats~~
- ~~Citizens Association~~
- ~~Girl Scouts~~
- ~~Fire Department~~
- ~~Business Floats~~

*No. 07.*

East side of Eastern Avenue to Rhode Island Avenue.

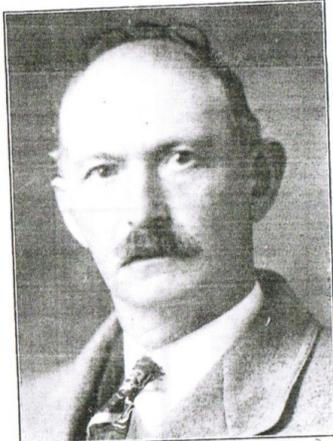
- Brentwood-
- Mayor and Council
- Citizens Group
- Fire Department
- Business Floats

School Floats: Mt. Rainier, Brentwood, Cottage City.

1929 Parade celebrating opening of Rhode Island Avenue.  
It appears that North Brentwood was dis-invited at the last minute?

## Suburban News April 8, 1928 *Washington Post*

- More than 250 people attended a public entertainment Monday evening in Bluebird Hall given by Mount Rainier Lodge No. 156 I.O.O.F. J. Enos Ray was master of ceremonies. After selections by Percy S. Foster and his orchestra an address was delivered by Representative Stephen W. Gambrill on the principles of Odd Fellowship. He also spoke on legislation in Congress concerning matters of interest to Maryland people. This address was followed by addresses by Dr. Arthur C. Tiemeyer, grand master of Maryland; William A. Jones, grand secretary of Maryland; and Thomas Jefferson, grand warden of Maryland.
- At the regular meeting of the mayor and council Monday evening bonded bids, eight in number, for proposed road construction were opened. The contract will be awarded later. The program, it is understood, probably includes all streets which can be constructed this year.
- The Charles A. Lindbergh Boys' Club will have a dance on Saturday evening in Bluebird ball room for the benefit of the club.
- The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission reported that the District authorities have been authorized to connect the sanitary sewer at Thirty-fourth street and Eastern avenue; which will do away with the pumping station there, and eliminate a nuisance much complained of.
- April 7 and 14 have been designated as registration days for voters in the coming town election in May. It is understood Floyd B. Mathias will be a candidate for councilman for the third ward.
- The regular meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the fire company was held Wednesday evening and was well attended. The auxiliary will give a benefit moving picture at the Cameo Theater of April 27. The regular meeting of the Mount Rainier Volunteer Fire Department will be held Tuesday evening.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>J. H. BEALL</b> <i>Mayor of Mt. Rainier</i></p> <p><b>A</b>PPPOINTED September 18, 1926, to complete the unexpired term ending May, 1927. Elected May, 1929, for two year term ending May, 1931.</p> <p>During his first administration of the office there was initiated the first comprehensive policy of public streets improvement. During the nine months he was mayor, from September, 1926, to May, 1927, there was authorized by the Legislature and approved by the voters of the town, legislation which has made possible the paving of 90% of the streets. With the completion of this year's program there will have been expended approximately \$225,000.00 in street and sidewalk improvements. The Act under which this work has been done is the model for not only many towns in Maryland, but other states interested in making improvements on terms that property owners can meet.</p> <p>During his last term the following improvements have been either effected or have been authorized:</p> <p>Extension of bright lights on Rhode Island Avenue, from the District Line through the town, and authorization for installation of traffic signal system at Thirty-fourth Street and Rhode Island Avenue.</p> <p>Completion of street marker program; Establishment of efficient police system; Ash collection service; Plans for garbage service; Reassessment of all property and equalization of assessments of the real property of the town on a standardized basis, resulting in tax reduction rate from 40 cents to 20 cents on the \$100.00; Inauguration of a Budget System of expenditures; Installation of an up-to-date accounting system in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.</p> <p>His motto is: "A dollar's worth of service for every dollar spent."</p>
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# Voters Attention!

The "Old Guard" Comes out of their Hole!—They must  
Mathias or all is lost. They cannot Control him  
He caught them at their own game. Who got the Cinders?  
Ask them. Why did they try to cover their tracks? Mathias  
put them on record. Only 1,000 cu. yds. were authorized  
out of 3,400 cu. yds.

Vote for Mathias and clear them out! If Elected

1. He will find out where your tax and carnival money goes.
2. He will clean out the "Old Guard" and with them will go secret and back door politics.

He will see that every man and woman has an equal  
voice in our affairs—both government clerks and new  
citizens. The "Old Guard" says "Government workers  
have no business interfering with the town's affairs."

## VOTE FOR HIM

Because this bunch are fighting him. It proves they fear  
him. Why?

## VOTE AGAINST HIM

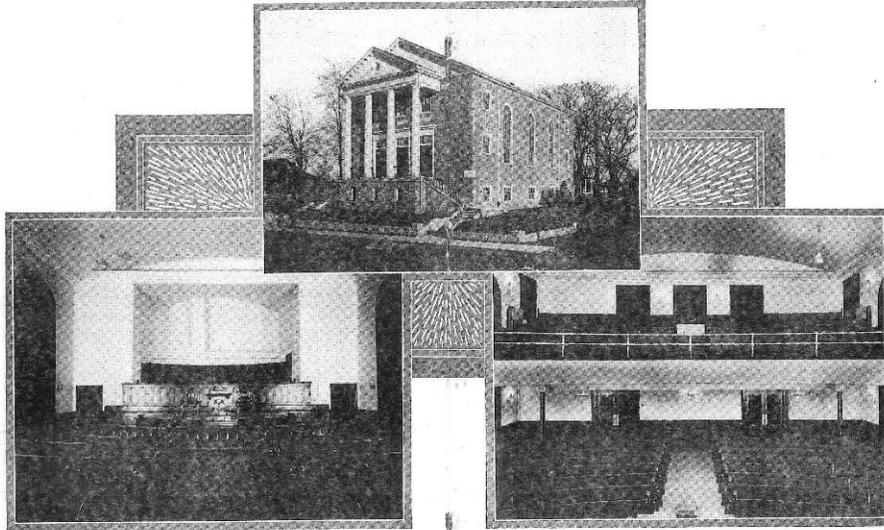
If you approve of the present bunch and their methods—the "Old  
Guard" will still dictate to you and control your affairs—they support  
them from they can control—Secrecy will characterize their conduct. Do  
you want a MAYOR or FIGUREHEAD? If a MAYOR, vote for

# MATHIAS

*is eligible to vote in state & county election  
has announced his intentions more than a year ago  
register, Mr. Dungan - Mr. Hughes*

Mount Rainier M. E. Church, South

Exterior and Interior Views



View of Pulpit

View of Balcony

Triangle Bible Class

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Teacher .....                 | MRS. D. J. ORCUTT    |
| Assistant Teachers .....      | { MRS. KENNETH BOVAY |
|                               | { MRS. W. G. ODEN    |
| President .....               | MRS. F. B. MATHIAS   |
| Vice-President .....          | MRS. ELZADA MERICLE  |
| Recording Secretary .....     | MRS. BERTIE HARLOW   |
| Corresponding Secretary ..... | MRS. F. W. GOODMAN   |
| Treasurer .....               | MRS. HERBERT NEGUS   |

Members

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| MRS. S. W. BOGGS       | MRS. A. P. KRENY     |
| MRS. CLIFTON BRILL     | MRS. HELEN KOONTZ    |
| MRS. PRUDENCE BRUFFY   | MRS. HARRY J. MILLER |
| MRS. ARLENE CARMICHAEL | MRS. J. H. MILLER    |
| MRS. LELIA CASEY       | MRS. LETTY MURPHY    |
| MRS. CARRIE CHISWELL   | MRS. JOHN PARSELL    |
| MRS. L. E. ELLIS       | MRS. W. T. SPANTON   |
| MRS. XENIA B. HAYWOOD  | MRS. G. W. SPECKMAN  |
| MRS. BELLE D. JELLI    | MRS. B. C. STINE     |
| MRS. ADDIE P. JOHNSON  | MRS. B. A. STUBBS    |
| MRS. GLADYS F. LEWIS   | MRS. J. H. WORTHEN   |

Associate Members



CHURCH BUILDING  
October, 1916, to April, 1925

- |                        |
|------------------------|
| MRS. J. W. ADAMS       |
| MRS. ROY BAILEY        |
| MRS. ANNA BOROUGHS     |
| MRS. FORREST DODGE     |
| MRS. J. F. EDWARDS     |
| MRS. GATES             |
| MRS. GRABILL           |
| MRS. ELIZABETH HANBACK |
| MRS. IRA HINDS         |
| MRS. VEDA O'HARA       |
| MRS. T. R. SHOWERS     |
| MRS. CHAS. STANTON     |
| MRS. J. D. SECREST     |

Men's Union Bible Class

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Assistant Teacher .....   | THOMAS J. HENDERSON |
| President .....           | IRA N. JOHNSON      |
| Vice-President .....      | H. J. BASCOM        |
| Secretary-Treasurer ..... | A. H. DODGE         |

Members

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| J. W. ADAMS        | J. H. MILLER     |
| A. W. ALDRIDGE     | W. C. MURPHY     |
| H. J. BASCOM       | P. F. MYERS      |
| H. W. BLANDY       | HERBERT NEGUS    |
| KENNETH BOVAY      | W. G. ODEN       |
| E. W. BROCK        | D. J. ORCUTT     |
| A. H. DODGE        | J. E. PARSELL    |
| W. P. EARNEST      | W. F. SAMSSELL   |
| J. F. EDWARDS      | J. M. SEYBOLT    |
| R. W. FREY         | EMERY B. SMITH   |
| WALTER C. FORSYTHE | W. T. SPANTON    |
| G. M. GILLETTE     | THOS. M. SPANTON |
| C. R. GRABILL      | B. C. STINE      |
| L. L. HAYWOOD      | L. C. STINE      |
| J. W. HINLEY       | ALBERT STEVENS   |
| E. A. JELLI        | BURNS A. STUBBS  |
| E. E. LAMPHIER     | CARL STAUDINGER  |
| OSCAR F. LEWIS     | R. C. SWITZER    |
| W. E. LINEBERRY    | A. WARMAN        |
| F. B. MATHIAS      | IRA WIDMEYER     |
| HAROLD MERICLE     | J. E. WIDMEYER   |
| J. E. MILLER       | J. H. WORTHEN    |

**History of the Mount Rainier Methodist Church with older church building pictured along with its replacement (at top).**

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND  
DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
1929 - 1930. GENERAL TOWN FUNDS

RECEIPTS:

General Town Taxes	\$7,611.04
Fire Depr. Taxes	2,476.01
Delinquent General Town Taxes	1,367.36
Interest, Penalties and Costs	527.65
Permits	1,062.50
Fines	347.75
Rents	221.00
Road Rebate	7,159.42
Miscellaneous	21.16
Total Receipts	<u>20,793.89</u>
Balance on hand May 13, 1929	5,592.53
Total	<u>\$26,386.42</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

To Fire Department	\$2,050.00
Interest on 1926 Bonds	63.75
Refund of Taxes	1.33
To Contractor and Engineer	-2,738.78
Salaries--Town Clerk, Corp. Counsel and Road Men	5,433.51
1926 Bonds Redeemed	3,000.00
Improvements	409.65
Motorcyle	450.00
Road Equipment	102.80
Civic Improvements	143.31
Street Lighting	1,958.68
Inspection and Police Fees	582.91
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,431.85
Legal Fees--Suit of Milor and Mulholland vs. Town of Mt. Rainier	400.00 **
Street Materials and Expenses	525.68
Town Hall Expense	287.11
Total Disbursements	<u>19,579.32</u>
Balance on Hand April 30, 1930	<u>\$6,807.10</u>

\*\* Balance due \$229.25