

depth of 1020 feet and produced a flow of 3,350,000 gallons daily; this was a 10-inch well, completed in June, 1889. About this time private corporations began to sink wells in different localities, and it was noticed that in each case there was a reduction in the flow at the waterworks, besides a natural gradual decrease. The decrease in the original flow had reached 50% when the fifth well was driven at 7th and Silver Streets, about ten years later. Subsequent history of the water supply is the same—a gradual decrease, due to increasing consumption, and a slow natural exhaustion, which has been compensated by sinking more wells, until now (1924), there are 15 wells in use, producing a flow of 13,000,000 gallons daily.

The first structural improvements at the plant were made in 1896, when the pumping station was enlarged somewhat, whereupon portions of the old walls were torn out and the brick used in the construction of an aerating basin 50 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep. In 1897 the Sub-Tropical Exposition building was removed, and on the site near the northeast corner of the waterworks grounds a reservoir 200x160 feet and 13 feet deep was constructed, having a capacity of 2,400,000 gallons. This reservoir was covered over a year or so ago. In July, 1905, the City bought the land between Main and Laura Streets, north of Orange, and in the southwest corner of the plot built a covered reservoir with a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons, completed in 1911, at a cost of \$54,000.

In the beginning the waterworks did not pay expenses, but it gradually became self-supporting, and is now a valuable income producing plant for the City.

Big Jim and Old Joe

*Big Jim is the chime whistle at the waterworks and Old Joe was a 10-foot alligator whose home was a small artificial pond in the waterworks grounds.

Big Jim was the invention of John Einig of Jacksonville, who made it with his own hands out of sheet copper. It was installed at the waterworks in the early 1890's with a Trades Council ceremony. It was named "Big Jim" in honor of "Jim" Patterson, brother-in-law of the inventor. Mr. Einig afterward secured a patent on this style of whistle. Although parts of the whistle have been replaced, most of the original metal is still in use, and the pattern has not been changed.

Old Joe's early history will never be known. His first appearance in Jacksonville was as an attraction at the Sub-Trop-