



Commissioners Corner

By Paul Pickett, Commissioner, 1st District

Of the many things that make Thurston PUD special, I am particularly moved by its heritage. People are often surprised to learn that the PUD came into existence in 1936, and that since that time we've had 28 Commissioners. The PUD has honored that heritage by hanging a roll call of those Commissioners in our office. Check it out if you stop by.



Yet, for its first 24 years the PUD was virtually inactive. Around 1960, Alvin Thompson, the developer of Tanglewilde and Thompson Place, sold the water system for that neighborhood to the PUD for a pittance. He saw the value of the PUD and wanted it to own a water system to begin the transformation to an active utility.

Around the same time, the PUD contracted with its first attorney, Don Taylor. Don served the PUD faithfully for half a century, finally retiring this year.

For most of that time, until 5 years ago, the PUD contracted with Olympia to operate the Tanglewilde/Thompson Place system. Then, in 2005 the PUD hired a manager, rented an office, bought the American Water Resources, and took over management of the Tanglewilde/Thompson Place system from Olympia. The rest is history!

After all those years, that legacy came home last month. On February 10th the PUD launched a massive renewal project for Tanglewilde/Thompson Place with a ground breaking ceremony. The two wells the PUD is drilling will be named for Don Taylor and for Bob Coker, a 20-year resident of Tanglewilde and long-time President of the Tanglewilde Recreation Center. They were honored at the ground-breaking ceremony by digging the first bit of dirt with a golden shovel.

The PUD and its guests were also honored by the presence of Alvin Thompson's widow, Mrs. Evelyn Thompson, and his son and daughter. When I told Mrs. Thompson that I felt we were fulfilling her husband's legacy, she told me he would have been very happy to see the good things the PUD was doing.

It was a very special day. The group escaping the cold drizzle in the shelter of the white party tent included County Commissioners Karen Valenzuela and Sandra Romero, Fire Chief James Broman of Fire District 3, the President and Board Members of the Tanglewilde Park and Recreation District and many other local citizens and officials. They helped the PUD to mark a milestone in the history of the PUD, joining the legacy of the past with history in the making.

Over the next few months, things will be a bit of a mess as contractors for the PUD drill new wells, build a new storage tank, and replace water lines on Stillwell Street. We apologize for the any inconvenience while the construction occurs. But please keep in mind that when we are done, we will be beginning a new era of clean, dependable, and affordable drinking water for our customers in Tanglewilde and Thompson Place.



We Need Your Help!

There are times that we may need to contact our customers for various reasons including repairs, service requests, account questions etc., and we need to make sure we have up to date daytime contact information for each customer. Could you please take the time to contact us via e-mail at ceaston@thurstonpud.com or by phone at **(866) 357-8783** to ensure that we have your current daytime phone number and/or email address. **Also**, if you call in an emergency please make sure that our service technician has a phone number to reach you and you should stay home until they arrive in case any questions need answering.



Think Spring!

Press Release

11th Annual Great American Water Taste Test

Washington, D.C. - The 11th Annual Great American Water Taste Test hosted by the National Rural Water Association drew entries from around the nation, and Thurston PUD representing Lazy Acres took home the Bronze Medal with a **3rd** place finish.

The National Finals held February 9, 2010, included 25 entries from across the United States. The five best entries were selected earlier in the day and then subjected to another panel of judges and the top three places were awarded medals.

Lazy Acres is one of Thurston PUD's systems in Thurston County. It's 97 connections are served with pure groundwater that requires no treatment.. Thurston PUD won the right to represent Washington State in the Great American Water Taste Test by winning the Evergreen Rural Water of Washington's Drinking Water Taste Test this past September.

Gary Rhoades, Evergreen Rural Water of Washington's Executive Director, said, "We are proud to have Thurston PUD as a member of our association and to have had them represent our state in the Great American Drinking Water Taste Test". He went on to say that this award wouldn't have been possible without the good work and dedicated employees of Thurston PUD.



On February 17, 2010 at Evergreen Rural Water of WA's Annual Conference in Yakima, Senator Maria Cantwell presented Thurston PUD representatives, Commissioner Christopher Stearns and Operations Manager Kim Gubbe with their award.

Thurston PUD Commissioner Paul Pickett said, "Our staff have earned this award with their hard work and dedication. The award recognizes our commitment to the quality of our water for all our customers."

Congratulations to Thurston PUD and to Lazy Acres.

Evergreen Rural Water of Washington is based in Shelton, Washington. They are a non-profit training and technical assistance provider to water and wastewater system personnel all across Washington State. They are an affiliate of the National Rural Water Association, based in Duncan, Oklahoma.

