

mayors, now deceased, did indeed burn some town records in a fit of anger.

Anyway, the available information shows the first mayor or president of the Village Board to be Harrison R. **Webster**, and the first appropriation bill or year's budget he signed for the village was for \$1,369.46. The original ordinances, governing laws, duties of various officers, names of offices and corporation laws and the like, were written in longhand by Clerk, Rolla C. **Pierson**. J.C. **McCollum** was Village Treasurer. In July, 1899, certificates of indebtedness for \$6000 were issued on the credit of the Village of Louisville for the purchase and erection of a Water Works. That figure was raised to \$10,000 on March 1, 1900. On April 4, 1900, a franchise was granted to Wayne County for a telephone company to operate in Louisville for twenty years. They were to erect and operate the system.

On July 3, 1899, an ordinance was signed to construct a light plant for the village with a bond issue of \$2000. (Can you imagine - that amount wouldn't buy the light bulbs today).

On May 3, 1903, records show that J. R. **Clifton** was Village President. During his term an extension was made of East Chestnut St. to the east limits of the corporation line. On May 1, 1905, H. N. **McElyea** was mayor with A. N. **Tolliver**, the town clerk. The Board of Local Improvements was composed of E. B. **Gorrell**, S. B. **Moore** and G. W. **Jackson**, who proposed improving many streets and the courthouse square, all to cost \$13,560. S. B. **Moore** was the village engineer.

The next President of the Village Board was E. B. **Gorrell** who was also the newspaper publisher. It was 1912 and the building of sidewalks in the town was the main issue. The walks were estimated to cost \$20,600. The ordinance to build these walks was passed on April 6, 1914. The appropriation or budget for 1914 was \$5,700. (Don't know how they got \$20,600 out of that, but that was what the report said).

For 1919 the appropriation jumped to \$7,300 and J. M. **Moore** was President or Mayor of the Village with Fred **McCollum**, Clerk. I. E. **Ikenire** was clerk in 1920. J. M. **Etchison**, was President of the Board in 1921, and the group worried about motor vehicles on the streets, passing an ordinance requiring vehicles to park on the opposite side of the street from the business section and to keep to the right at all times.

In very few cases were the names of all village board officials listed, so if some are left out, it is because the records did not list them.

C. M. **Kemmerer** was Mayor in 1923, and during his term, Chestnut Street was paved to the depot in the west part of town. John **Brown** operated a hack or taxi service for passengers of the regular train stops. Mud was a problem for his hacks so they paved the street to the depot.