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Times-Mirror Staff Photo

Leesburg Town Manager James Ritter places a brass ring around a section of old wooden water main found while the town was connecting a new sewer line on Wirt Street. Found about four feet below street level, the main is believed to be over 100 years old. The sections are thought to have been about 100 feet long and have 2 inch hand-bored holes through the middle to carry water. The brass connector at the top of the section was used to fit each log together and the ring kept the log from separating.

## Original Water System Included Wooden Pipes

By Penelope M. Osburn  
Times-Mirror Contributing Writer

A short time ago, while members of the water crew of the town of Leesburg were digging on Wirt St., they dug up a part of an old wooden water pipe that is presumed to be part of the plumbing of the town's original water system.

The story of the establishment of this water system is one of the most fascinating episodes of Leesburg's history. The campaign to raise money for the water was conducted by lottery.

At the time, lotteries were not only legal, but the largest advertisements on the front page of most city newspapers were of companies whose business was to conduct lotteries.

I hope nobody writes a letter to this paper about the inferior standards and the poor character of the residents of the town of

Leesburg at the time of the lottery.

At this time, the people of Leesburg had great enthusiasm for education and were eager to raise money to build a new academy. They were equally astir over the town's water supply.

The solution contemplated for this latter was to pipe water into town in wooden water pipes from Rock Spring, now the home of Mrs. Alfred diZerega, located near the junction of Loudoun St. and Route 7 in the western section of Leesburg.

The two enterprises, education and water, joined hands and staged a lottery for the two objectives.

The contract for conducting the lottery, preserved in the Clerk's Office of Loudoun County, was signed Jan. 4, 1834, by Presley Cordell, the Mayor of Leesburg

(Continued On Page A-2)

**Bulldozer Crushes Work**





Times-Mirror Staff Photo

Circuit Court Clerk Joseph Martz stands with the drum now used to draw Grand Jury members, but which originally was used for the lottery drawing which indirectly resulted in the construction of wooden water mains in Leesburg.

## Wooden Water Pipes

(Continued From Page A-1)

and the company to conduct the lottery and said:

"... the town of Leesburg ... by a certain Act of the Legislature passed on the 16th day

of February 1832, is authorized to raise by Lottery any sum of money not to exceed twenty-five Thousand Dollars, for the purpose of repairing or rebuilding the Leesburg Academy and endowing same and with the residue of the said sum of supplying the said town with water."

Six thousand tickets were offered for sale for \$5 each and attractive money prizes were awarded. In order to add dignity to the event and to inspire confidence, a group of leading citizens served as commissioners.

One of the valued relics of Loudoun County is the wooden drum from which the lottery tickets were drawn. It is now kept in the Clerk's Office.

Since the lottery, it has been used regularly for the Clerk of the Court, now Joseph T. Martz, to draw the names of citizens who will serve on the jury panel.

And now another relic, the piece of wooden water pipe, has been added to the history of this period.

Both the Leesburg Academy and the water system were built - but I have never been able to locate anything about how the money was allotted between the two.

**Herndon Family**

## s Moratorium

foot addition to their fire house at a cost of \$3,500. The decision stipulated that a fence at least six feet high must be built between the fire house addition and the adjoining south property line.

Granted a commission permit for the City of Fairfax to construct a utility shed adjoining their water plant on the Belmont Road. The metal storage building will cost \$2,500, according to city officials.

Granted a commission permit to the A.T.&T Company of Virginia to relocate a repeater station west of the dead-end road Route 603 near Herndon Junction. A permit for the \$20,000 station had been previously granted, but the company asked for a relocation due to a conflict with the property owner.

Referred to the Subdivision Committee a request for approv-

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