

East Glacier's water system gets some needed repairs

BY JOHN MCGILL

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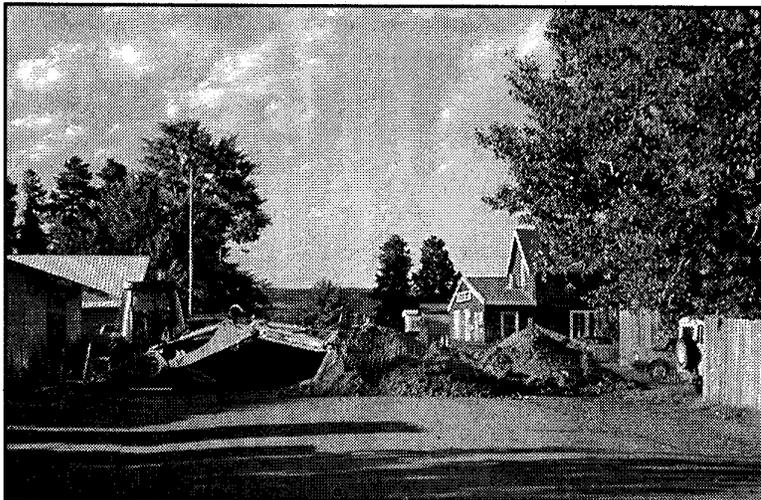
"Actually, this is all being done in preparation for the Tribe's taking over the water system in East Glacier," said Bill Grant of the East Glacier Water and Sewer District Thursday. Grant was looking over a stretch of dug out trenches across Washington Street in East Glacier Park, a project he and secretary Toni Irgens described as being something of a mystery-and-discovery project.

When the Blackfeet Tribe takes over responsibility for the water and sewer system in East Glacier Park - as soon as the Lower Two Medicine Lake water project is completed - the existing water board in East Glacier will be disbanded along with whatever funds may remain. Grant explained the board still had some money set aside for construction, and rather than send it back to the granting agency, the funds are being put to work repairing some of the ancient delivery systems on the East side of US Hwy. 2.

Unfortunately, said Grant, no one really remembers where the lines are in the system. Some years back Stanley Nelson, a retired man who did general repair jobs around town, was the only person who knew where most of the system lies, but since he died a few years back finding out what's where is kind of a detective job.

In fact, the lines being repaired on the block of Washington St. between Blondie's and Sun Tours run off a main line no one knew about at all until just last week. Grant explained each lot was being hooked up individually from that main line instead of the haphazard arrangement of lines mostly hooked up to a main line in the alley.

John Ray of Circle R Construction did the excavating, along with the efforts of Rick Lucke Construction. While the project is moving ahead, no one really knows when it will be completed. "It just kind of changes day by day," Irgens said.



This part of the East Glacier Water and Sewer project isn't specifically part of the newly discovered line but was a repair job on the next block to a set of apartments whose water service was interrupted.

Photo by John McGill