

Sixty-seven Blocks Of Paving In 1937-1938

GOVERNMENT MAKES PWA GRANT TO PAVE SQUARE AND RESIDENTIAL

(May 6, 1937)

Mount Pulaski's business section will be taken out of the mud this summer unless something unforeseen happens to balk the decision reached at the meeting of the board of local improvements with business interests around the square Monday night in the Council Chambers.

"Full steam ahead" was the statement of the mayor and members of the improvement board after the project had been explained in detail as to setup and cost by Alderman Rothwell, and all citizens present who have property interests around the square had expressed their approval.

The sentiment seemed to be heavily predominate that Mount Pulaski had been too long in the mud and that the city's reputation as well as that of the progressiveness of its citizens was very much "mud-bespattered" all over the state.

The "patiently-waiting" policy of the board of improvements toward the long-promised government grant, was thrown overboard, so to speak, and local interests will strike out for themselves, accepting the federal appropriation, however, if it should be made at a later date. But, failure to receive it will not prevent Mount Pulaski from having its city square paved this summer.

Alderman Rothwell in explaining Project No. 1, gave the setup which included 10 blocks of paving around and off the square. The four blocks around the square will be supplemented by two blocks which will lead from the square to the Vine St. slab, running from the Schafer Hardware and the Fuhrer Service Station corners. One-half block north in front of Dr. Connelly's and on Washington Street on the west side of the Odd Fellows building, and one-half block west past the Farmers Bank.

CONTRACT FOR SQUARE PAVING AWARDED FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1937

Bid of L. B. Dyer For \$54,245.22 Was Accepted.

(Aug. 5, 1937)

The contract for paving the city square and six adjoining blocks, was let this afternoon by the local board of improvements to L. B. Dyer of Hoopestown, Ill.

Dyer was the low bidder in the estimates submitted at the Tuesday morning opening of bids in the city council rooms, his figure being \$54,245.22, for the entire project. The bids were made in two parts, Dyer's bid being \$44,684.23 for the paving adjoining the business houses and the blocks running from the square; and on the 24 foot strip adjoining the courthouse, his bid was \$9,560.99.

The board of local improvements with Mayor C. L. Frazier as its president, and members, J. M. Rothwell and Clarence West, and councilmen Robert Aitchison and William Binder, and city clerk, Charles Schmitz, were present at the opening of the bids, the meeting adjourning until Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Has Been Long Wait

Thus this marks the end of a long, long period of patient waiting on the part of the local board of improvements as well as the business and civic interests of the city. Federal aid, which was promised about two years ago and later the full stamp of approval being placed on Project No. 1, retarded the completion of the paving plans for as long as there seemed to be hope of a 43 percent grant the board felt justified in waiting altho the city square was in a pitiful condition.

GOVERNMENT GIVES OK TO PAVING OF CITY SQUARE

(Aug. 26, 1937)

Mayor C. L. Frazier received a telegram from U. S. Senator J. Hamilton Lewis, at noon today, informing him that paving Project No. 2, had been approved for Mount Pulaski.

The message read as follows: Mayor C. L. Frazier, Mount Pulaski, Ill.

I have just been advised that Public Works Administration had allowed grant of \$74,454 for paving. Your application Illinois No. 1322.

J. Hamilton Lewis, U. S. Senator.

Would Pave 57 Blocks

The granting of this project covers a 45 percent grant on paving of what was listed as Project No. 2 and is for 57 blocks.

FIRST SPADEFUL OF DIRT DUG DEC. 29

(Dec. 30, 1937)

The first spadeful of dirt (mud would be more proper) was dug yesterday morning inaugurating the construction of Mount Pulaski's No. 2 paving project, which comprises 57 blocks.

In order to qualify for the government's grant of \$74,569, it was required that work be started within 30 days from which time an extension was granted by the federal government in order that all legal phases might be fully complied with. Hence, the starting of the work at this time of the year.

A full block off the square on South Washington and on South Lafayette past the Holmes Garage.

Grant Not All 'Velvet'

Not receiving anything of an encouraging nature this summer the board after serious consideration decided that with the sentiment of the property owners around the square so heavily in favor of going ahead without federal aid, that they would complete the necessary steps to bring it to a fulfillment. One of the encouraging and consoling features is the fact that practically every federal job has been so much more expensive than the privately handled ones that the cost of the Mount Pulaski paving will be very little if any more than would have been the federal grant with its red-tape and labor problems which draw a project out two or three times longer than necessary.

CITY COUNCIL SAYS, "NO PARKING IN CENTER OF STREET"

(Sept. 30, 1937)

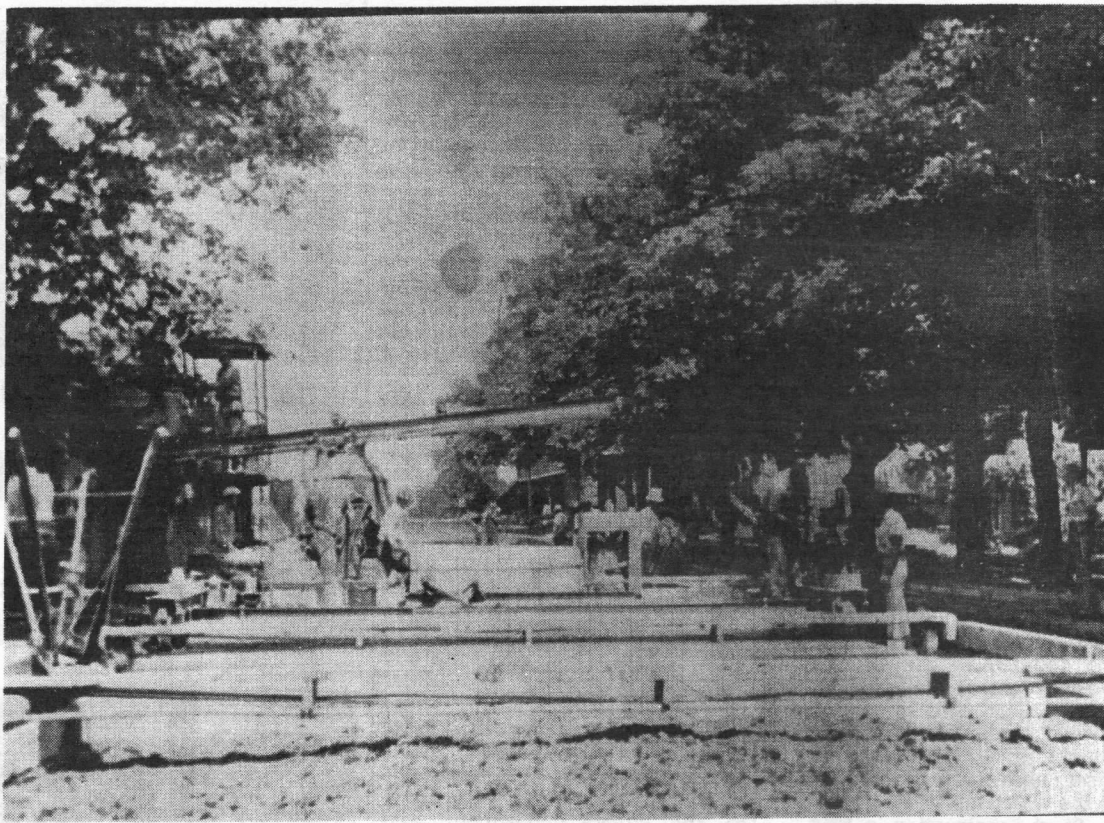
The city fathers at their regular meeting on Tuesday evening of this week passed an ordinance that abolished the parking of cars in the middle of the street.

All parking about the public square must be made at a 45 degree angle, with the sidewalks on the four sides of the square, with the right side of such vehicles toward the curb, reads the ordinance.

LATHAM VOTES IN FIRE DISTRICT

(May 28, 1942)

Latham residents, by a vote of 51 to 6 at a special election, held Tuesday, May 26, 1942, authorized the organization of a Fire Protection District, covering 6 square miles in Latham and vicinity.



Started Pouring Square Concrete September, 1937

(Sept. 2, 1937)

Pouring of the first concrete on the city paving project was made this morning, at 9:30 o'clock when the big Dyer paver dumped its mixture of gravel, sand and cement on South Washington Street, a block off the square.

The slab will be spread a width of 20 feet from a block south of the square to a half-block north of the square, ending at the Odd Fellows alley.

A temporary break will be made in the slab at the intersections at Myers Bros. corner and at the post office corner. When the west side strip has been poured to a width of 20 feet, the paver will move to the north side of the square and run a strip 20 feet wide.

Would Pave Six Blocks

The granting of this project covers a 45% grant on the paving of what was listed as Project No. 2, and is for 6 blocks. The failure of Project No. 1 to be allowed had led local officials to feel that there was little hope for the residential grant.

Plans were being considered last week to either blacktop the remaining streets not improved or put them in shape for winter use. This will alter all plans and should the local board of improvements be successful in completing their part of the grant, the new concrete would have to be laid next year, although all necessary surveying work is completed.

SQUARE OPENED FOR TRAFFIC OCTOBER 9

(Oct. 7, 1937)

Mount Pulaski's newly paved square and side streets will be thrown open to the driving and parking public on Saturday of this week.

The completion of the slab some days ago has allowed sufficient time to elapse so that traffic may pass over it, and curbing and step work is far enough along that but slight inconvenience will arise from them.

Car owners who have been compelled to walk two or three blocks the past several weeks due to paving operations will thoroughly enjoy the novelty and the convenience of driving right into the business district and parking. They won't have to bring their hip boots along, either.

Logan county was named by Abraham Lincoln in honor of his friend, Dr. John Logan, father of the famous soldier and statesman, Geo. John A. Logan.

Start Pouring Of Concrete April 25

(April 21, 1938)

The first concrete will be poured on Mount Pulaski's 57 blocks of residential paving on Monday of next week, weather permitting.

Forms have been laid starting on South Marion street, at the Mt. Pulaski Grain Co. elevator, and running north to the water-works and this stretch of six blocks will be paved first. The paving operations will then swing over to Spring street at the Thos. Rothwell corner and thence south to the J. M. Rothwell Lumber Yard. This will give the truckers a complete cycle for their trips to the loading dumps along the Illinois Central.

After these streets are paved, West Jefferson will be paved to the J. M. Rothwell corner, thence north a block and a half and south to the high school street which will then be paved to complete that section and open the west side of the city to traffic.

23 BLOCKS PAVED APRIL 25 TO MAY 12

(May 12, 1938)

Twenty-three blocks of paving have already been poured on the residential district of the city and the end of this week will find the job half done as far as the 23 foot paving is involved. South Washington and West Jefferson streets were opened up to traffic yesterday after the joints had been poured with tar. Other streets will be opened up each day as fast as they are sufficiently set.

Parking Spaces Marked On Square

(Aug. 25, 1938)

Parking spaces have been marked off in "loud" yellow stripes around the square for the convenience and guidance of motorists and to conserve parking space.

The city has purchased a new striping machine that does the job neatly and quickly and the yellow stripes can be quickly repainted when they begin to grow a little dim.

No-Jaywalk Markings

Angle parking is marked around the entire square and part way down the sideblocks. Markings have also been made for pedestrian traffic — NONE OF THESE MARKINGS HAVE BEEN OF THE "JAYWALK" TYPE — but straight across the blocks large "STOP" signs have been marked on the pavement for traffic coming from the west at the Dittus-Brooker Service station corner and the Farmers Bank corner.

Paving Project Completed Here On Schedule

Pours Last Paving In Front Of Christian Church

(June 30, 1938)

Mount Pulaski's big paving program came to a close Monday morning when the last paving was poured in front of the Christian Church, on the side of the street adjacent to the church in order to give more parking space.

The completion of the 57 block project took place Friday morning. A short strip on South Spring from the Thomas Scroggin corner to the Illinois Central switch track just north of the Rothwell Lumber Co., completed the official project.

The first paving was laid in the block on South Spring between Wayne and Cooke streets and was started April 21. The contractor stated at that time they they would be thru by July 1st but skeptics predicted August would see the finish of the work. The work was finished in a little over 60 days in addition to the 57 blocks in the original project, the viaduct paving and the widening of the high school street as well as several other bits of paving were included in the slab laid. This was done despite weather conditions, one week only being able to lay two blocks. A gutter and curb crew which follow close behind the slab laying, will probably finish up this week end.

VINE STREET PAVEMENT HAS BEEN PAID FOR

(July 10, 1941)

The Vine Street concrete paving project, finished several years ago, giving Mount Pulaski its first stretch of pavement, is now a matter of history, as it pertains to the property assessments. All original assessments have been paid in full, in fact, there is a balance of slightly more than \$1,000 that will be rebated to the property owners. This includes those that paid in full at the start, and those that paid the last annual assessment installments. City Clerk Charles Schmitz, is now mailing out the checks to all concerned.

OBJECTED TO COURTING HANDICAPS IN 1800's

J. A. Kestler, of Mt. Pulaski, had been in the county ever since 1818. He thought times were better then, than now. He said the greatest hardship in those times was courting the girls. There was only one room in the house, and the old folks would sit and watch the proceedings. It was exceedingly hard on a bashful young man like himself.