Climie Hill was born in California and moved to Seattle with his family when he was a small boy. He and his three brothers all attended the University of Washington and received degrees in engineering. After graduating, Climie and his brother Sterling started the Hill Hydraulic Machinery Co., which had an office in Smith Tower. The two brothers invented and sold equipment for irrigation and pumping systems, including the Hill Hydraulic Ram, the Hill Chlorine Sterilizer, and the Hill Hydraulic Air Compressor.

In about 1910, Climie met and married his neighbor Grace Cruse. One year later, Grace's father William decided to move out to Bellevue to become “a gentleman farmer.” Climie and Grace came with him and purchased a property on NE 8th and 100th Ave NE. Climie’s office was still in Seattle, and he was often away from the Puget Sound area doing surveying or engineering projects. However, he also took an interest in the development of Bellevue, especially the water supply.
Shoreline Map: Bellevue

### Map Key:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbols for historical map</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Symbols for present-day map</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shoreline</td>
<td></td>
<td>Corresponds to the line of mean high water level (saltwater) or mean lake level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean lower</td>
<td>(Not shown)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low-water line</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Streams</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The historical mapping made no distinction between intermittent and perennial streams. Streams indexed with solid, inverted triangles are historical channels that have been filled, diverted to sewers, or significantly modified. Open triangles indicate historical streams that today enter the lakes or bays in a near-natural state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The historical wetlands were freshwater marsh except in Salmon Bay, where salt and brackish marsh existed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forested upland</td>
<td>(Not shown)</td>
<td></td>
<td>The historical forest vegetation was predominantly a mixture of Douglas fir, western red cedar, and western hemlock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland</td>
<td>(Not shown)</td>
<td></td>
<td>The historical grasslands included land that was logged prior to the surveys but not then developed for agricultural or urban use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural land</td>
<td>(Not shown)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Limits of land cleared for agricultural use. The polygons represent plots of different ownership or fields for different crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban land</td>
<td>(Now shown as streets, buildings, or structures)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreline structures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Piers, wharves, warehouses, and mills extending from the shoreline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid-waste disposal sites</td>
<td>(Not shown)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sites of filled or modified land where the filling has included general waste and demolition waste (Sources: Wilson, 1975; Phelps, 1978, p. 208).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note: The original manuscript was quite confusing, due to the tendency of the narrator and interviewer to change subjects without warning, and some inaccuracies in Ms. Anderson's own historical knowledge. The following document has been edited for clarity.

LILLY MAE ANDERSON: Now, you were talking on the tape we ran the other day about the water supply. And I'm interested in the beginnings of the water supply here. I didn't hear it very well and I wondered what you could tell me about the first wells.

JOSEPHINE GODSEY: Oh, everybody maintained their own water system before [they lowered the lake]. Bellevue had little separate systems, private systems. If anybody had a good well, that's where the neighbors would go for their water or even pipe it into their own. And in this Lochleven Community here, people were supplied by a well on the Strong property. And the storage tank for that was the Tower House.

LMA: Where was the Strong property and what was Strong's whole name?

UNKNOWN WOMAN: Reverend Strong, Reverend Strong.

JG: What was his first name? His brother was Sidney Strong in Seattle and [Rev. Strong] was on the way to the gulch.

UW: Meydenbauer Park.

JG: Meydenbauer Park. Just about halfway down the slope there almost under the First [Street] Bridge. And he... I think he had a pump. A gasoline pump. I don't know how people from other little districts got their water. There was an awfully good spring across the bay and I know lots and lots of people got their water from there. There was no trouble about water in Bellevue until the lake was lowered. People maintained their own wells and good water. And you didn't have sprinkling systems like you had now. If you did much [garden] watering, you carried it in a bucket.

LMA: And lowering the lake, did that lower the water table?

JG: That lowered the water table.

[Ms. Godsey and Ms. Anderson talk about the water system in Midlakes for a few moments, and then return to the subject of the Meydenbauer Bay/Lochleven area.]

LMA: I dug up some facts about the water system here in Bellevue to see if there was anything to fill in on it. I once did an article about... I went over there with a photographer, and we took a picture of the tank on the hill. The [current] water district bought out the old Bellevue Water Company late in 1946 when it served 400 customers. What was the Old Bellevue Water Company? Do you know?


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JG: 1946?

LMA: Um-hum. It said at first there were wells but the water table dropped and this was remedied temporarily when [a] pumping station began taking water from the lake.

JG: Oh, that’s the lake plant.

LMA: That was the lake plant.

JG: That’s right here on Meydenbauer. On Meydenbauer Point. At the top of the hill. Well, they experimented. They dug wells.

LMA: That was what the Bellevue Water Company was?

JG: Yeah. It seems to me they had a supply before which was quite limited and then Bellevue started to grow so, and the wells were not successful. The terrain was so that wherever their pipe… they couldn’t keep the gravel out of the pipes. So that is when they decided they would have to have a different system that went into the lake. And at first they pumped directly from the lake into, up the Meydenbauer Park gulley and up to a tank here, a wooden tank.

UW: It was by Grace Methodist, I mean Grace Lutheran Church.

JG: Right back of my…

UW: … property.

JG: Right there.

UW: That’s a concrete tank, now.

JG: Well, they had a wooden tank, and it lasted, gee, it had two roofs on it. I remember the night that the roof fell in. And Mr. Rudolph maintained the pumping plant down on the lake and took care of the system up here. He’d come up every day to see it and take the measurement of the water and see how much was used.

BELLEVUE WATER COMPANY

The Bellevue Water Company is a local corporation, organized by Bellevue people for the purpose of securing a water supply for Bellevue and the surrounding district.

The water system will be a pumping plant on Lake Washington, and will be built in sections and extended as fast as the demand for water is sufficient and the money is available to do so. A franchise has been applied for.

The Bellevue Water Company is now fully incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington, and authorized to do business. It has a capital stock of $10,000, which is divided into 10,000 shares of $1.00 each.

It is the plan of the company to sell the stock of the company and for each 50 shares of stock sold to one person to give in addition thereto, one $50.00 bond bearing interest at 6% per annum. The bonds are secured by a first mortgage on all the property of the company, including the franchise, and made payable on or before ten years.

Each householder using water from this system must be the purchaser of at least one $50.00 bond. These bonds, however, are transferable, and in addition to paying a fair rate of interest, will be a safe investment for your money.

The water system is to be installed under plans to be submitted and approved by the County and State Health Departments.

The well known chlorine treatment for the sterilization of water will be used. This method is highly endorsed by health authorities and water works engineers, and is now in use by over 3,000 cities in the United States.

The cost of water will be kept as low as possible, but the aim is to have sufficient water for all domestic use as well as for irrigation and fire protection.

It is the intention to build a reservoir on the high ground at an elevation of 200 feet above the Lake and large enough to have an ample supply in storage for any emergency, and to add to the reservoir from time to time as the demand for water increases.

The officers until the first annual stockholders' meeting in December are:

D. D. Dobbins  President
Geo. Hanson  Vice President
F. J. Eitel  Secretary-Treasurer
J. D. Dill  Director
C. E. Hill  Director

Source: Eastside Heritage Center. 00.22.04.
Sections of King County Resolution 1248, granting a franchise to the Bellevue Water Company (1/2), August 6, 1923. *Source: King County Archives.*
Sections of King County Resolution 1248, granting a franchise to the Bellevue Water Company (2/2), August 6, 1923. Source: King County Archives.
Water for Home and Garden

Considering the essential value of water to a community such as Bellevue, one would think any prospect concerning the needs in this respect would be welcomed and earnestly supported by every one living in the area that it is possible to serve.

It is evident that the residents of Bellevue have failed to give this matter serious consideration. Therefore, I think it advisable to call your attention briefly to some of the advantages to be realized by having an adequate system of water distribution that will be ample for lawn and garden as well as house would use. To supply this need, the Bellevue Water Co. has been organized as a corporation with a capital stock 10,000 shares of par value $1.00 each.

Our plan is to install and maintain a pumping plant on Meydenbauer Bay at the foot of the ravine known as Park Place. The water is to be taken from the lake at this point and purified by the Chlorine process of sterilization. A site has been secured for a reservoir of sufficient size at an elevation of 200 feet above the lake level. The water is to be pumped into this reservoir and distributed from there over the district within the limits of a franchise recently secured from King County, the boundaries of which are as follows: On the West by Clyde road, on the North by Meydenbauer road, on the East by Lincoln Avenue and on the South by Meydenbauer Bay.

All of this territory can be supplied at a pressure ranging from 25 to 60 lbs. gravity pressure. The capacity of the proposed system has not been definitely decided. Work of preparing plans, specifications, etc., has been delayed in order to thoroughly canvass the entire district and encourage the support of everyone it is possible to reach.

The plan to finance this system is to sell stock in the company and as an additional inducement for investment of capital stock, a bond issue in the amount of $10,000 has been offered. The bonds are secured by a first mortgage on the entire assets of the company. With each fifty (50) shares of the capital stock ($1.00 par value) a bond in the amount of $50.00 is given, bearing interest at 6% per annum for a period of ten years, at which time the bonds are redeemable at full value. This arrangement secures the investor against further assessment and in addition to providing water under pressure at your home, pays you a reasonable return for the use of your money in establishing the project.

The rate it is proposed to charge for service will be determined by the actual cost of maintaining and operating the plant. At the end of three years, setting aside a sufficient amount annually to insure the redemption of the Bonds issued.

To stabilize the assets of the company and to properly safeguard the investors the Trustees have executed a Trust Deed to Mr. E. M. Sherman, whose duty it will be to see that the interest on Bonds are paid when due, maintain a system of Registration of the ownership of securities, to watch over the affairs of the company in such manner as would in any way affect the security of capital invested.

In constructing and operating a system of this nature a considerable amount of money must be available for the initial work, also a definite amount must be subscribed to insure the completion of the system.

It is the intention to put in a plant with ample capacity at the outset, rather than be compelled to increase pipe lines, pumps, etc., as the near future needs will require. Therefore, a definite amount must be pledged in advance to warrant the installation of equipment that will prove adequate for future business as well as immediate need.

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Hill Primary Source 5B


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