

Technological capabilities increase in Finance & Records Department...

RECORDS &



ABOVE, JO ANN CLARK, LEFT, AND HELEN FOLLIS DEAL WITH THE MOUNDS OF PAPERWORK THE 21ST CENTURY HAS CREATED FOR THE MODERN CITY.



ABOVE, UNLOADING CORN AND SUPPLIES AT THE QUEEN & CRESCENT RAIL YARD (CIRCA 1900) INVOLVED HAND-WRITTEN LEDGERS AND HANDSHAKES. NOTE THE PIG IN THE YARD (MIDDLE LEFT) AND THE YOUNG BOY IN KNICKERS (MIDDLE RIGHT).

Boxes and boxes of computers delivered to the city during the year heralded a sharp increase in our technological capabilities. After Y2K came and went without a glitch, the Information Systems Division went to work installing nearly 200 new computers and increasing our remote sites from 7 to 18. The staff added several more servers to meet the ever-growing demand for on-line services and took over housing our own Web site to boost our ability to provide information to the public.

The staff also helped to implement a new E-911 computer system and continued working to bring all emergency agencies together on-line. That job should be completed by early 2001.

The Collections Division rose to the challenge of getting the maximum interest rate from taxpayers' money. Through constant monitoring and prudent investment, interest earnings for the year were more than \$48,000 higher than budget projections. The staff also coordinated the Fiscal Year 1999 audit, which was completed on time and within budget. These accomplishments once

again earned the city the Certificate of Excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association—an honor that underscores our finance staff's commitment to accountability and to the wise use of taxpayer dollars.

In addition to normal finance and records duties, the staff also provided administration for two school bond issue elections and processed the sale of three bond issues, including \$2.2 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bonds for the Wal-Mart project, \$1.1 million in General Obligation Bonds for street improvements and \$1.125 million in Special Assessment Bonds for other street improvements.

Aggressive enforcement of the privilege license laws was a major focus for the Business Affairs Division, which also processed 10,000 purchase orders and handled almost 17,000 cases in Municipal Court. The staff also continued the important work of establishing purchasing policies, consolidating purchases where possible and analyzing prices—measures geared toward getting the best possible products and services at the lowest possible cost.