



BAGNELL DAM

A project to build a dam on the Osage River was studied as early as 1912. Financial difficulties plagued early work on the project and it wasn't until November 12th, 1924, that the Federal Power Commission issued a preliminary permit for construction of a dam and power plant.

One week after the permit was issued, the newly formed Missouri Hydro-Electric Power Company was authorized to perform the initial development work, but little progress was made for three years.

In 1927, a Boston engineering firm, Stone and Webster, Inc., was retained to do an exhaustive study. Union Electric Light and Power Company acquired all properties and rights from Missouri Hydro-Electric Power on July 27th, 1929. Some 17 years after it was first studied, the St. Louis based company brought the great Osage project to reality.

Drilling was done to examine the foundation site before any preliminary plans for construction of the dam were drawn. Work on the project was divided into three categories, the dam and powerhouse, transmission lines and the reservoir.

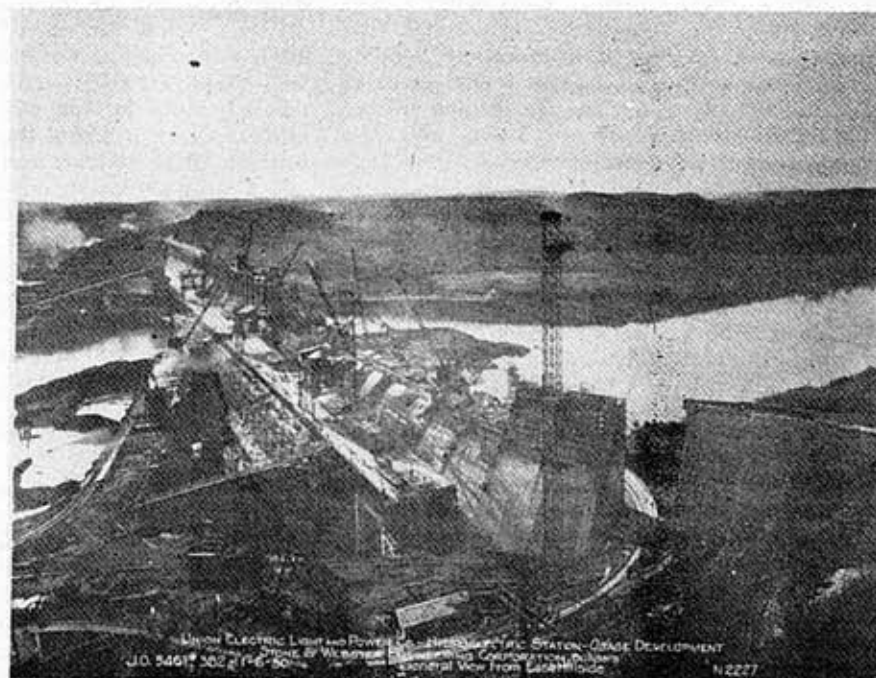
In the years before the dam's construction, agriculture and forestry brought money to the local economy. Between 1880 and 1915, forests were harvested for railroad ties.

The year of the Great Depression which hung like a dark cloud over most of America brought a boom-town atmosphere to what is now the Bagnell Dam Strip. In the summer of 1929... thousands of jobless men from across the land streamed to the area to work on the mammoth hydro-electric dam Union Electric Company was to construct to impound the waters of the Osage River. From East and West Coasts they came,

from Chicago and the Midwest, from north and south, bringing to the Bagnell Dam area a rich mixture of accents and viewpoints that remains to this day.

Laborers worked for thirty-five cents per hour; rod men on survey parties made fifty-cents an hour, and survey party chiefs made fifty dollars a week. At the end of a hard day, men from New York and Chicago in those prohibition days were delighted to find the American spirit of individual enterprise alive in the Ozarks. While there were no speakeasies, there was something even better readily available, the finest and most potent home brew in the country, known as "white lightning."

Over 20,000 men worked on the dam, laboring day and night for two years to create the Osage Hydro-Electric Plant, better known as Bagnell Dam, and in the process, created the



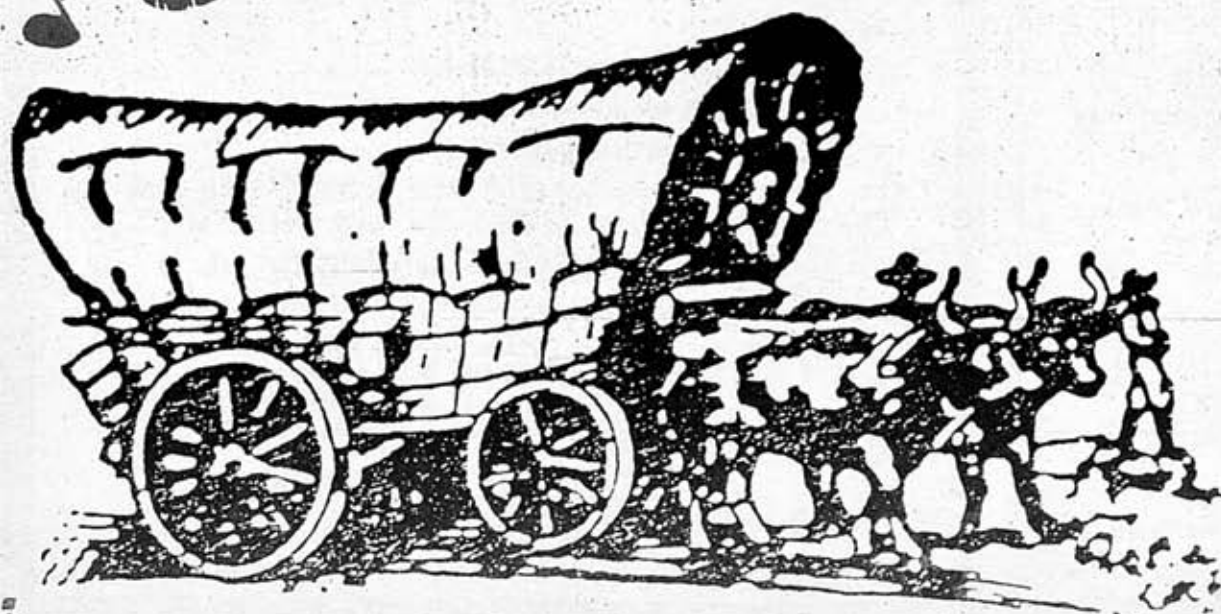
Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation builders work during the Depression years to construct Bagnell Dam. View from the east-side. (Photo courtesy of Union Electric)

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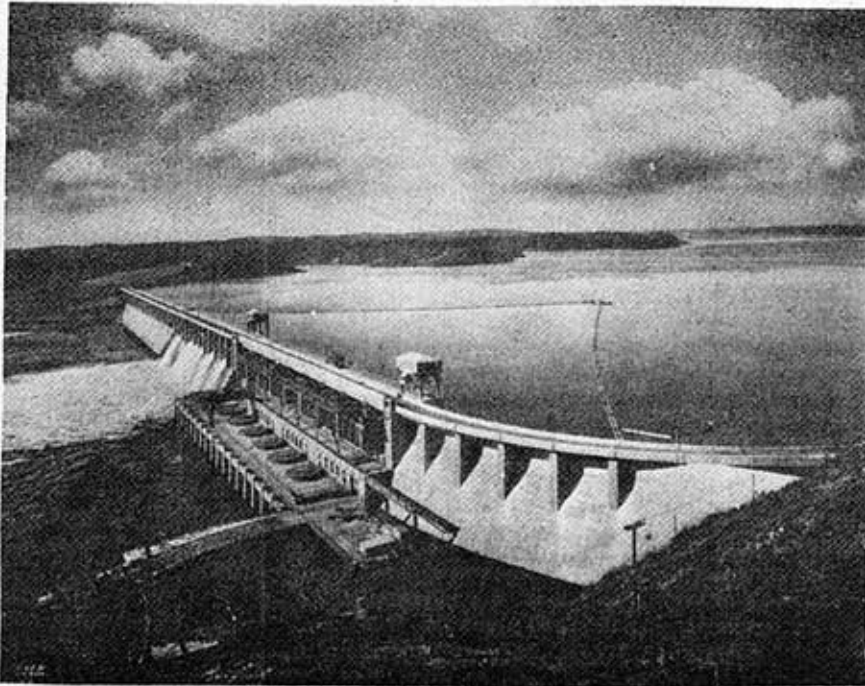
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From the same view, Bagnell Dam as it appeared following completion. (Photo courtesy of Union Electric)

sprawling Lake of the Ozarks, one of the Midwest's most popular recreation spots and the fourth largest man-made lake in the United States.

In October, 1931, Bagnell Dam was completed and a new life for the area began. Two new towns had been created: Residents of Linn Creek, which was flooded when the dam was built, relocated "on the ridge," creating the town of Camdenton, or "in the valley," creating a New Linn Creek.

Enterprising merchants began setting up shop near the dam, anticipating the boom that would be in full swing in the 1950s, when Americans were celebrating the return of peaceful times and enough money for recreation.

Today, the strip is bigger and better than ever. Over 200 different, unusual businesses attract visitors

from all over the nation to the area between Bagnell Dam and the south city limits.

The Bagnell Dam Strip Association extends a warm welcome to all visitors and invites you to visit Union Electric's Bagnell Dam itself. Bagnell Dam was named for the old town of Bagnell.

The dam is one-half mile long and rises 148 feet from bedrock and impounds 628 billion gallons of water. If it were placed on a city street, it would hide from view seven blocks of twelve-story buildings. The 60,000 carloads of material used in construction of the dam would fill a freight train stretching from St. Louis to Tulsa, Oklahoma, a distance of over 400 miles. Lumber used in the concrete form work for the dam and support structures would build an Atlantic City type

boardwalk 60 miles long. More than 2,000 tons of reinforcing steel and 1,150 tons of structural steel were used.

Approximately 30,000 acres were cleared for the reservoir and 937,000 cubic yards of earth and 72,500 cubic yards of rock were excavated for the total project.

Ozark Superstitions!

A bird flying into a house is a sure sign of death in the family.

If a redbird builds its nest near the house it is a good omen.

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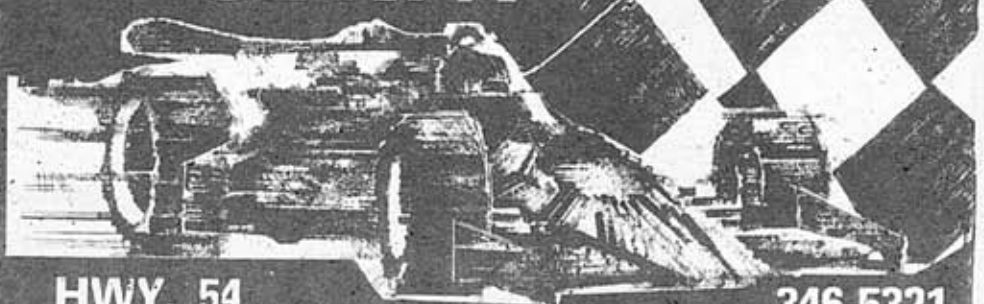
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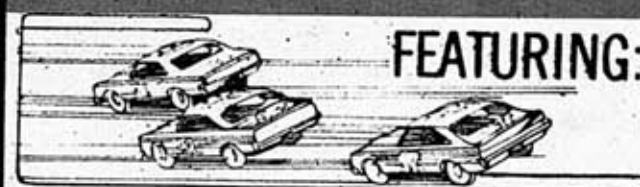
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