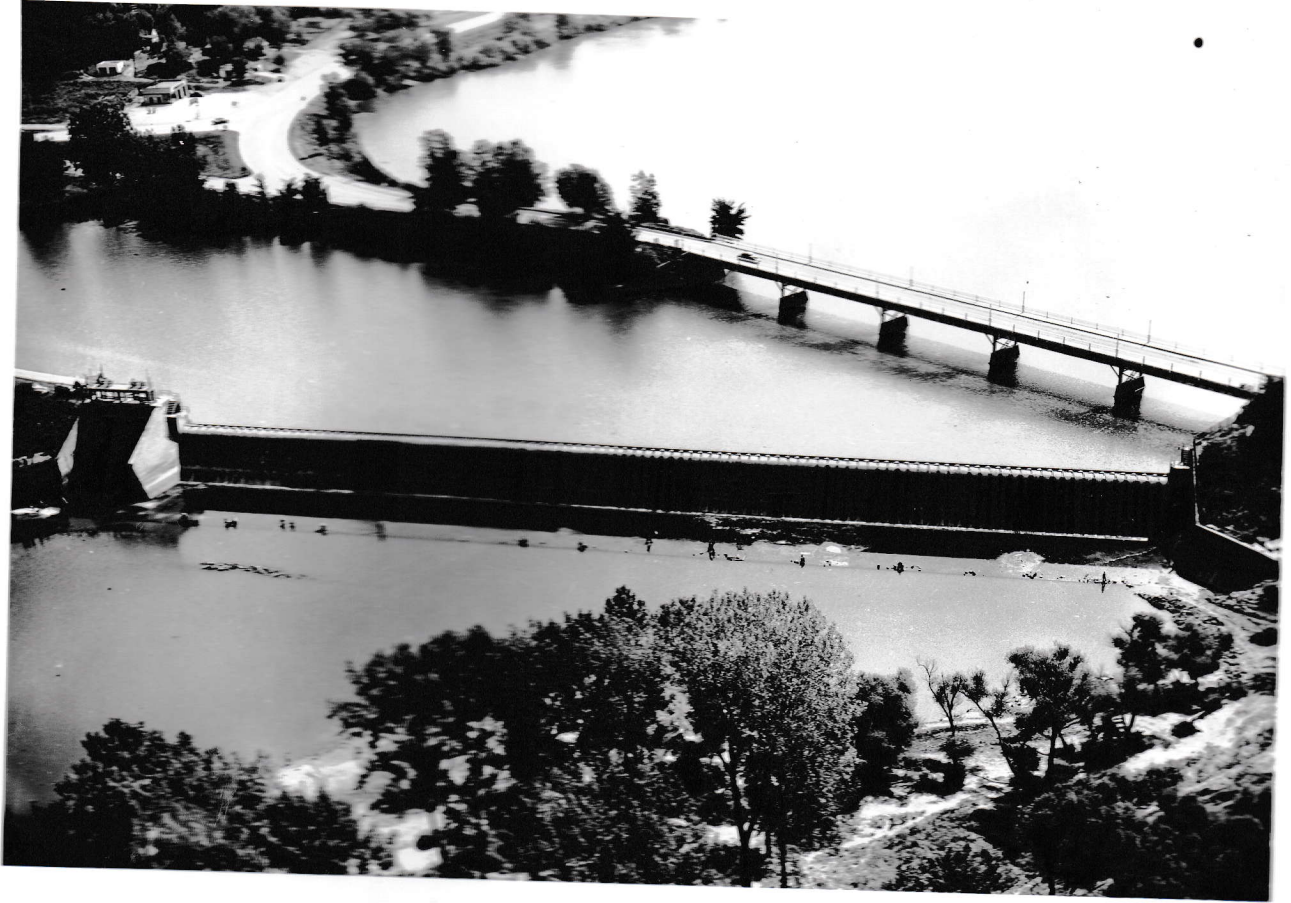


Register for Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

1. Structure: Decatur Impounding Dam
West of the present South Franklin Street Bridge,
formerly the County Bridge.
West of southbound Route #51.
2. Date of original construction: July 3, 1922
Dates of celebration - July 4, 5, 6, 7, 1923.
Contractor - L. N. Cope and Son of Decatur.
3. History:
 - a. See print-outs of souvenir program, July 4-7, 1923, including History of Decatur's Water Supply Problem, pages 6 and 7.
 - b. See local newspaper clippings:
 - (1) Review - July 4, 1923 - Unique Parade Opens Celebration.
 - (2) Review - July 5, 1923 - Auto parade.
 - (3) Review - July 5, 1923 - Johnny Weismuller Breaks Record in 500 Meter Event.
 - (4) Review - July 8, 1923 - Dance Floor to Remain in Nelson Park.
(Where Lee Homebrook's orchestra played nightly during the celebration)
 - (5) Herald - July 7, 1923 - Mayor Elder Dedicates Lake.
 - (6) Herald - daily column, May 30, 1966 - June 17, 1966 written by Otto R. Kyle on Decatur and Sangamon.
 - c. Richmond, Mabel E., Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County. 1930. Decatur Review, pp 298-301, story of Lake Decatur.
 - d. Other local newspaper clippings:
 - (1) Sunday Herald & Review, Oct. 8, 1967, Decatur Diary column, Water Supply Old Problem.
 - (2) Sunday Herald & Review, August 30, 1970, Decatur Diary column, Dam Built for Extra Water.
 - (3) Review, December 27, 1940, Lake Decatur 'Monument' to Staley, and A. E. Staley and the City, both articles written at the time of Mr. Staley's death.
 - (4) Herald, July 14, 1940, Lake Decatur Was Begun 20 Years Ago Tomorrow.
 - (5) Herald, December 3, 1946, obit Charles M. Borchers.
 - (6) Review, December 4, 1946, editorial, C. M. Borchers.
 - (7) Sunday Herald & Review, December 21, 1975, Water Sources No Longer Most Likely.



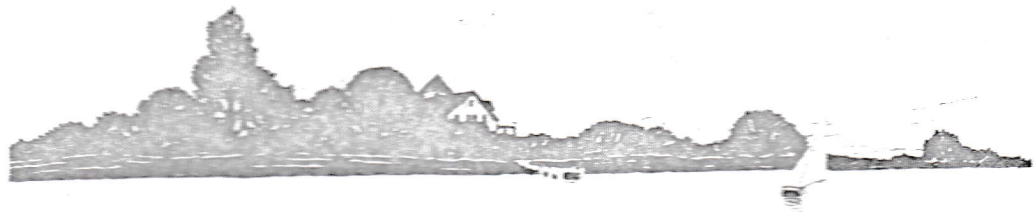
Leicester Falls and Dam - photo

Probably about 1922



Photo - Quentin Herald and town

Dec. 31, 1922



Decatur
Celebrates
the
Creation
of its own
Lake Decatur.

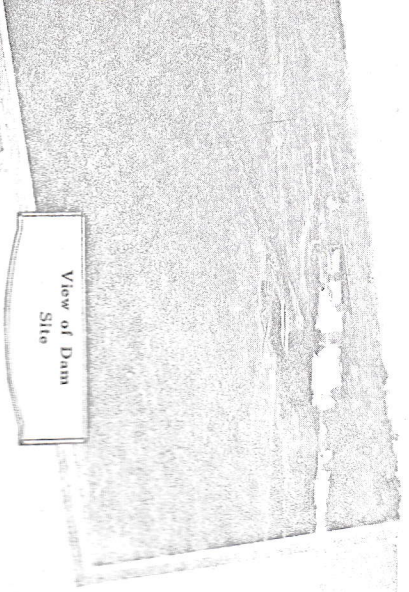


STEPHEN DECATUR

BY COURTESY OF CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INTED

ERY COMPANY



View of Dam Site

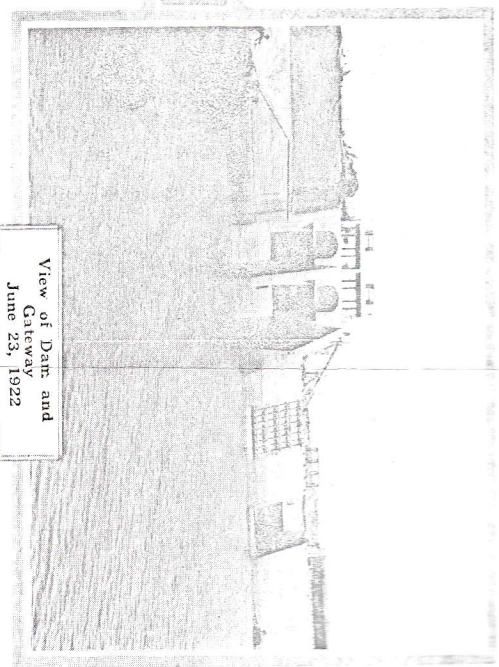


Concrete Work of Dam
June 1, 1922



Aug. 1, 1921,
Building Cofferdam

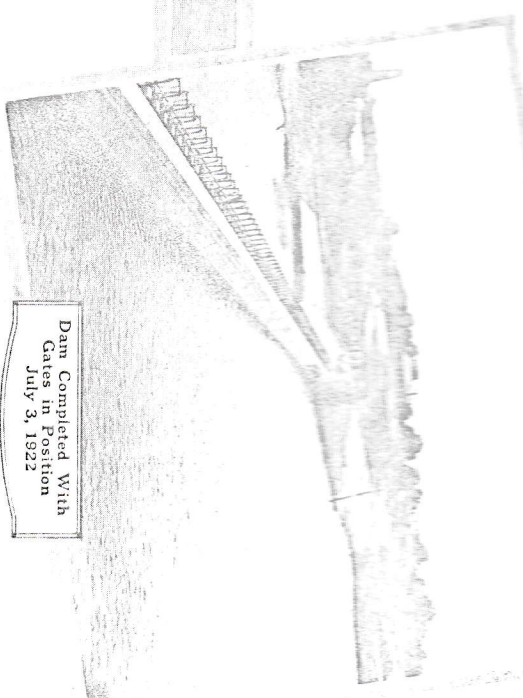
The Picture Story of the Building of Impounding Dam



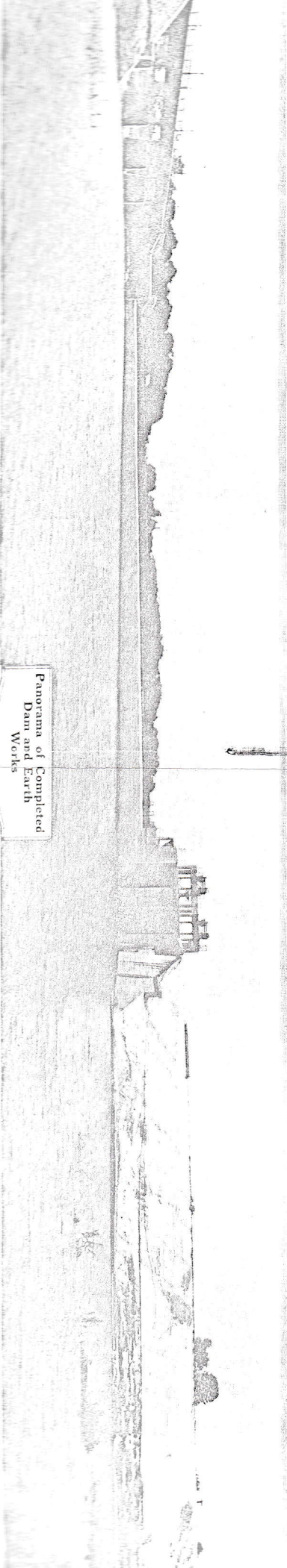
View of Dam and Gateway
June 23, 1922



Jan. 8, 1922
First Section of Dam



Dam Completed With Gates in Position
July 3, 1922



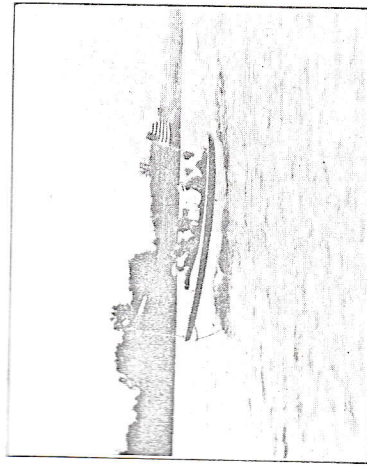
Panorama of Completed Dam and Earth Works

From the anniversary program
Lake Mead's 25th Anniversary
July 4-5-6-7, 1929

LAKE DECATUR. DECATUR

c. 2

Decatur Public L. M. F.
Decatur, Illinois



A view of Lake Decatur, 13 miles in length, covering nearly 4,000 acres and impounded at a cost of \$2,000,000

Old Decatur

Cordially invites you to be present July 4, 5, 6 and 7, 1923, at the celebration of the completion of Lake Decatur.

The program will include a remarkable swimming and diving contest, a great display of fireworks from the water, an historical pageant staged by more than 400 Decatur persons, a Venetian Night boat carnival and the annual regatta of the Central States rowing association.

Your former home city would be pleased to have your attendance at this great event.

Lake Decatur Celebration
Committee

History of Decatur's Water Supply Problem

FROM the time Decatur began talking some- what definitely about an enlarged water supply until the dam was finished and the lake created was about ten years. As long as twenty years ago it was realized that Decatur must store more water. It was only about ten years ago that big plans were first considered but even then the suggestion was for a lake only about a third as large as the one finally made.

Twenty years ago when David Moffatt was mayor we had a dry summer and the city now it must store more water. Nothing definite was considered, however, until 1912, when a survey of the river above the city was made.

After discussion started Decatur a plan of the future grew naturally. The Association of Commerce city plan commission with W. E. Hays as chairman was created and it had made the West city plan for a population of 150,000 people. The Stanley Sharrh works began to grow with a demand for an much water for itself as the whole city was then using, with a prospect of more than doubling this demand.

Decatur began to think that it had been undervaluing the possibilities and probabilities of development, so that when it came to making plans it would not be wise to think of the next ten or twenty years only, but that a long look into the future must be taken and something bigger and better created than any city in this part of the country had done. It was believed that Decatur would be a city of 150,000 by the time another generation had grown up, and preparations for that must be made.

PLANS OUTLINED

In his annual report to the city council in July, 1914, City Commissioner Harry Ruthrauff laid out a definite plan should be made at once for an enlarged water supply as it would take at least five years to develop any project. City Engineer J. T. Hicks was asked to bring in a report on the subject and he recommended a dam to impound water to a 605 foot level and submerge 1,000 acres of land.

This plan was discussed for some years. About this time A. E. Stanley began developing his stretch works and he asked for more water. Even then it was thought a lake three quarters of a mile wide and eight miles long at the 605 level, as planned by Mr. Hicks, would be sufficient and that was approved by the city council.

Then much more definite discussion of the principal needs of the city began. Engineer, Harry Ruthrauff, later Mayor, Stanley and Hansen is employed to go over

DECIDE FOR BIG PROJECT

The final outcome was a complete realization that Decatur had greater possibilities than any that had been considered and a determination to do something ample for and creditable to the great city that we would have in a score or two of years. It was in this spirit then that the city council decided in 1919 for a dam to raise water to the 610 foot level, with a foundation and front for the 615 foot level.

The department of public works of the state of Illinois, which had to be consulted as it has charge of the lakes and rivers, gave its approval to the project in October, 1919.

On March 16, 1920, the citizens voted to issue \$176,000 of water impounding bonds to pay for the dam. That vote was 3007 for and 195 against.

On May 21, 1920, the contract for building the dam was let to L. N. Cope and Son. On June 24 the setting of stakes began.

On July 15 there was a formal throwing of the first spadeful of earth, the occasion being celebrated by a gathering of 10,000 Decatur people, Mayor Borchers using a silver spade.

J. Albert Holmes was engaged as supervising engineer to carry out the plans made by Pearce, Greeley and Hansen.

WATER SUPPLY COMPANY

The municipality could finance only the building of the dam. It was necessary to secure about 4,000 acres of land on which to impound the water. This had to be done outside of the municipality's statutory financial possibilities. Beside the cost of the dam it was estimated that a million dollars would be needed for land, raising bridges, changing roads, etc. To provide this the Decatur Water Supply Company, a quasi public corporation not for profit, was organized. The capital stock was to be \$1,000,000, but \$1,200,000 was subscribed in five days by citizens of Decatur.

The company made a contract with the city by which the city's receipts from water rents were put into a fund to go for:

- First—Operating expenses of plant.
- Second—10 per cent to pay for waterworks upkeep.

Third—To pay 7 per cent dividends on the \$1,000,000 preferred stock of the company.

Fourth—To buy in the preferred stock of the company. It is expected that the receipts from the city water rents, aside from paying operating expenses and dividends, will in about fifteen years buy in all the preferred stock of the company, then the company will without further cost to

its business, and it was under his direction that the engineering, land buying and other big problems of the company have been in a big and far sighted way worked out with an energy and celerity that has gained the admiration and approval of the whole community. The city council when the contract was let consisted of Mayor Charles M. Borchers, and Commissioners Harry Ruthrauff, Alexander Van Praeg, J. W. Montgomery and John F. Mattes. It was under their direction with the active day and night supervision of Mayor Borchers that the actual work on the dam was carried to completion in as good time as possible for such a job and with saving in expense, due to wise working out of a contract that provided for saving to the city in case of lowered costs, while protecting the contractors against advances.

Mayor Borchers also cooperated in the purchase of the hundreds of tracts of land, and his fairness, knowledge of real estate values, and skill as a negotiator saved the city and company both time and money.

SOURCE AND EXTENT OF SUPPLY

The Sangamon river, which has always been the source of Decatur's water supply, is estimated to be ninety-five to 100 miles long above

Decatur. The source of the river is fourteen miles east of Bloomington. For ten or twelve miles it is little more than a ditch, but gradually develops into a river.

The highest mark ever made by the river at Decatur was on March 26, 1913, when it was 20 feet and three quarters high. Had the water gone much higher that day it would have entered the pumping plant. The lowest mark ever reached was on Aug. 10, 1920, when it dropped to twenty-five inches below the top of the dam then in use, the top being at the 594 foot level above the sea.

The building of the new dam gives Decatur a minimum yield of 76,500,000 gallons of water a day, and if the dam should be raised to the 615 level it would provide a minimum supply of 42,000,000 gallons every day.

At the time the dam was built there was considerable discussion about the possibilities of water power development. Engineers stated, however, that while they could develop enough power to run the city light plant it would be quite such an initial investment that it would be cheaper to buy coal.

Since Decatur first installed a water works plant the city has expended over \$4,400,000 on its water supply projects.

WATERWORKS CHRONOLOGY

- 1869—First ordinance—voted by Mayor Pugh.
- 1870—First water pipe ordered laid; failed.
- 1871—Plant and pipe installed.
- 1874—Reservoir built.
- 1877—Reservoir enlarged.
- 1878—Dam built.
- 1882—Clapp and Jones pump bought.
- 1884—Twin Allis pumps bought.
- 1885—First fighting plant installed.
- 1894—Warren filter plant put in.
- 1896—Plant rebuilt.
- 1908-9—New pumping station built.
- 1910—New light plant built.
- 1910—New dam built.
- 1913—New filter voted.
- 1914—New filter plant put in use.
- 1917—New Snow pump installed at water works.
- 1920-1921—Water impounding project, dam built and lake formed.

LAKE DECATUR FACTS

- Location—Dam—Sangamon river at Dresden, Illinois.
- Amount of Water Impounded—Eight billion gallons—two years' supply without rain.
- Height of Dam—610 feet sea level; flash boards to be added with make water level 612 1/2 feet.
- Previous Water Level—595 feet.
- Length of Spillway—400 feet concrete; total length of dam, 1,900 feet.
- Height of Concrete—28 1/2 feet, to 610 foot level.
- Cost—Dam, \$725,000; Land, \$500,000; Clearing, \$109,576; Roads and Bridges, \$475,000; Riprap, \$178,000; Total, \$2,011,576.
- Land Taken—3,400 acres at 62 1/2 foot level.
- Country—Bridge—Raised fourteen feet standing fifteen feet above lake level.
- Length of Lake—14 miles; width, half mile.

Lake Decatur Celebration Association

(A voluntary organization not for profit)

W. F. HARDY, President
W. A. HAMMILL, Treasurer
H. A. POULTE, Secretary

D. S. OAKES, DIRECTORS
W. C. STARR
W. H. WHELY

MEMBERS APPOINTED BY MAYOR

P. H. McEvoy	J. H. McCoy	H. W. McDavid	Howard A. Coulter
Dan Tart	Leo Songer	R. H. Hill	Miss Minnie A. Dill
W. C. Starr	Ed. Coleman	D. M. Swarthout	C. C. Nicholson
W. J. Jones	Forrest Ebe	Mrs. Alice G. Evans	C. A. Watt
C. L. Liebau	Miss Clara Baker	Rek Rees	W. H. Duvort
Dr. C. M. Wood	R. G. Williams	Miss Maria Buchanan	Rev. H. L. Meyer
W. A. Hammer	Dr. Will Barnes	Harry Barber	J. M. Allen
J. A. Henson	Mrs. Edna Koons	Leon Morrison	Geo. E. Chamberlain
H. L. Spayd	J. J. Richardson	Rev. R. B. Dwin	Rev. E. W. Clippinger
W. L. Kline	LaGrange Worthington	Miss Winifred S. Minton	George E. Hart
Otto Kyle	Frank Beck	C. H. Patterson	Stanley Gimms
Paul Hawes	Dr. I. H. Neece	Dr. J. C. Callahan	Elmer E. White
Rev. T. N. Ewing	Dr. J. T. McDavid	W. P. Shade	Miss Hannah C. Gevritz
L. A. Mills	H. F. Wilson	Mrs. C. G. Powers	Lynn Clark
Mrs. C. B. Erwin	W. H. Walter	Tom Folzath	Mrs. Ben Bachrach
Sam Tucker	W. M. Bering	Mrs. Della P. Gushard	M. L. Swarthout
R. E. Rainey	W. Lutz Krigbaum	W. D. Sneller	Dr. George S. Lyons
Alexander McCorry	Frank Post	Earl Weatherford	Alex. Campbell
Jack Grimm	Carl Head	J. A. Hedrick	M. L. Harry
John Knowlon	Abe L. Greenberg	Oscar Dawson	J. Frank Wallace
Bert Whitsett	Miss Mabel Dunlap	T. T. Roberts	Owen Scott
Ernest LaRosa	Jack Powers	Glenn Frede	Mrs. Carl Dick
F. M. Lindsay	Mrs. Tom Piner	L. P. Halladay	Mrs. Eugena Bacon
Herbert Jordan	Joe Riggs	R. C. Parrish	Mrs. C. H. Patterson
J. E. Tackberry	Miss Mary E. Fye	Mrs. Robert J. Murphy	Mrs. J. J. Moran
Herman Kerch	L. M. Cole	W. L. Shellabarger	T. W. Samuels
Arthur Metzler	Carlos Lyon	W. L. Shellenbarger	Mrs. Dan Macknet
J. S. McClelland	C. J. Doyle	Ralph Tenney	Mrs. Geo. Steele
David Oakes	Miss Eliza Thomas	Harry Stadler	Dan Dimson
Rev. A. M. Wells	Miss Eloise O'Mara	Charles Lee	Miss Mary English
		Wilbur Humphrey	Miss Bonnie Blackburn
		Miss Mildred Holmes	Chas. H. Leas
			Miss Marian Lyon

FINANCE—W. A. HAMMILL, Chairman
WELSH—D. M. SWARTHOUT

INVITATIONS—OWEN SCOTT, Chairman
PUBLICITY—DAVID C. OAKES

Program—Wednesday, July 4th

10:00 A. M. IN TOWN—PARADE OF ANTIQUES AND HORRIBLES
COMMITTEE: LYNN CLARK, Chairman

1:00 P. M. AT NELSON PARK—AQUATIC SPORTS

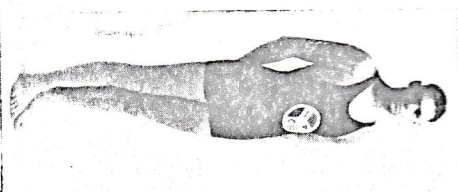
JULY 4-5-6 AND 7—1923

Swimming Events

Under Auspices of
Decatur Athletic Association



HONORARY REFEREE—A. E. Staley.
REFEREE—E. J. Manley, Swimming Coach, Univ. of Ill.
STARTER—Joseph White, Swimming Coach, Univ. of Ill.
JUDGES—H. Gill, George Hull, Robert Zupke,
Timers—Rodger Zombro, Guy Chamberlain
WATER POLO—Referee—Joseph White,
Captain—E. J. Manley.
DIVING JUDGES—Joseph White, E. J. Manley, Frank Hornum,
ANNOUNCER—Walter A. Johnson.
CLERKS OF COURSE—G. A. Johnson, Dr. A. E. Goodlyou, F. H.



J. Weismuller

- 1—100 yd. Free Style. Closed. Won by
- 2—100 yd. Free Style—Women. Closed. Won by
- 3—Fancy Diving—Spring Board—Men. Closed. Won by
- 4—220 yd. Free Style—Men. Closed. Won by
- 5—Fancy Diving—Spring Board—Women. Closed. Won by
- 6—500 Meter Free Style—Open. A. A. U. Won by
- 7—High Dive—Men. Closed. Won by
- 8—High Dive—Women. Closed. Won by
- 9—50 yd. Free Style. Open A. A. U. Won by
- 10—150 yd. Back Stroke—Open. A. A. U. Won by
- 11—Fancy Spring Board Diving—Open. A. A. U. Won by
- 12—220 yd. Breast Stroke—Open. A. A. U. Won by
- 13—High Diving—Open. A. A. U. Won by
- 14—100 yd. Free Style—Open. A. A. U. Won by
- 15—Tub Race—Open for boys. Closed. Won by
- 16—220 yd. Free Style—Open. A. A. U. Won by

~~Secret~~ 12/27/40

Largely Responsible For Lake Decatur

Lake Decatur's existence can be
in large measure attributed to A
Staley.

For some 20 years the people of
Decatur had considered their need
of a better water supply than they
had, but they had thought in terms
of a supply for a city of 40,000 or
50,000. It was the great and urgent
needs of the Staley company that
would stand for the reason for
a lake.

The company was planning a
large program of expansion, but
knew that the supply of water it
could get in Decatur was not ade-
quate. It went so far as to buy a
plant site on the Illinois river in
Peoria.

The Decatur school, one after
another, was held in the
Decatur Club, then at the
home of the Citizens Building
Company, and finally at the
home of C. H. Staley.

Professing to be a
man of science,
Staley was

the one who
insisted that
the people of
Decatur should
have a lake.

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From article at the
time of Mr. Staley's death.

UNIQUE PARADE OPENS BIG 4 DAY CELEBRATION BEFORE THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS

July 4, 1923

Lake Co

Rain Cuts Down Crowd Coming Into City; Program of Events to Be Carried Out As Planned.

The celebration for the Lake Celebration was opened Wednesday morning with one of the most unique events ever staged in the history of Decatur—the "Antiques and Horribles" parade. Thousands of persons lined the streets. The rain was somewhat and there were threats of rain throughout the day for a few minutes Wednesday morning it did not prevent the opening of the big celebration.

WEATHER INTERFERES

While the rain of Tuesday undoubtedly cut down the crowd and the stormy weather Wednesday held back many, there was a very large number of visitors in town early. It was expected that by afternoon there would be a great crowd at Nelson park for the afternoon events.

Although Wednesday there was no change in the program and a shower of rain was the only thing that could change any of the plans.

Take East Main or East Prairie avenue east to Seventh street. South on Seventh to East Wood street and thence east to the grounds.

Take South Broadway to Decatur Brewing Company. Take left fork down hill and turn to left. Proceed out Cantrell street to Nelson Park, where traffic will be directed to the grounds.

The Emerson Piano House used the famous Victor dog to portray a teaching tableau labeled "His Master's Voice." Perched on a high chair, the herald dog gazed wistfully at a whistling beer stein set beneath the eaves of a phonograph beer keg. From the phonograph on the dog's countenance he seemed to recognize the scent from the stein.

Another deal by the same company was a typical country couple come down from the crowd. The butter the pot and the eggs, chickens and other produce were all in the wagon and the crowd seemed to be enjoying the time of the show.

Section One

To Nelson Park

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Section One

PARADE PRIZES

The Decatur Malleable Iron rick float, roasting Jack Powers and his oil wells, was awarded first prize for the best take-off in the Antiques and Horribles parade by a committee of judges composed of Jake Hill, Poyntelle Downing and G. C. Knickerbocker. The Lions club entry of Ed Kelington's old-time companion bicycle had no rival in the competition for the best antique. Staley's "Pilgrim Ship" was awarded first prize for the best stunt. Linn & Scruggs' "Biggest Little Smell on Earth," and the Kiwanis club's ballot recount float took second and third in the take-off division. The Pines' picnic party took second in the stunt section.

explanation and in one group of onlookers a woman was heard to declare that she could smell the float as the thing went by.

DECATUR IRON AND METAL

The spirit of Decatur is still represented by the Decatur Iron and Metal company, as a truck dressed in a swimming suit and all ready for the water. He rode in a truck alone, showing the popularity of swimming since all Decatur has taken to the water.

Section Three

Raymond Sevier, a Decatur Boy Scout, clad in a barrel to fit the distinctive size, led this section, and following were:

HAERTING'S BARBER SHOP.

Haerting's float represented an old-time barber shop, not unlike the tobacco box case with its absorbent ashes and red plaid chair occupied by an adolescent youth whose auburn hair had just been lathered in the approved King Tut style. In the rear of the "room" was the checker game in progress between two of the little barbers, while several others, with long whiskers and hair, were seated about.

Over all was a large sign, representing the House of David for King Tut. Other sign were: "Don't Buy on the Floor," "Corn Cooled off," "Good Soup and Segars," "No Fat Swarth," "Don't Argue," "Yes, we have Leeches," "Bleeding and Capping," "Tooth-Pulling," "Painless Haircuts," "Home Spun Tubacker," "Don't Kuffed."

DECATUR COAL COMPANY.

Pit coal car, hauled by two mule, with driver braking the car by his foot on the pavement. The mules, unused to the excitement, caused a little of their own by kicking and plunging.

M. W. A. BAND.

Today's Program

AFTERNOON
1:00 p. m. to 4:00 p. m.—Events, Nelson park.
8:15 p. m.—Firework display on park.
Dancing until 12 p. m.

Chorus and Pageant Must Have Tickets

It will be necessary for members of the cast and chorus to have admission tickets Thursday afternoon and in order to get to their place on the stage or in the special booth previously mentioned, "pageant and chorus" tickets to be located at the office. All members of either section should apply there for tickets.

represented by Lewis...
"Don't Buy on the Floor," "Corn Cooled off," "Good Soup and Segars," "No Fat Swarth," "Don't Argue," "Yes, we have Leeches," "Bleeding and Capping," "Tooth-Pulling," "Painless Haircuts," "Home Spun Tubacker," "Don't Kuffed."

Section Five

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To column 1 next page

Section One

MALLEABLE IRON WORKS.

Jack Powers and his oil well project suffered at the hands of the Malleable Iron Works whose float depicted an oil derrick in a state of decrepitude that was only equaled by the condition of the long-haired patriarch who bore the label "Jack Powers." Weeds and brush had grown up about the derrick and the hair and beard of the driller was equally luxuriant. At either side of the derrick was a box with crisp black notes peeping from the cracks and overflowing the top. There were men crammed on top of the boxes evidently in an unsuccessful attempt to hold the bills in place.

Section Two

HALLADAY BUMPER CO.

The Halladay Bumper company was represented by two banners. One was "This parade is horrible. Who is responsible?" The reply was "I am." A place was prepared for the parade committee but the idea was that none of them showed up to take the responsibility.

A. E. STALEY CO.

The A. E. Staley float representing a Chinese garden was the most elaborate one in the parade. It was brought to Decatur from St. Louis where it had had a part in the Valedictory parade. The decorations were a very beautiful affair with Chinese lanterns, Chinese costumes worn by men and women. Two men and two women were represented as worshippers before an image of Buddha. The float was decorated with a moss covering and a pergola. Chinese lanterns were climbed. Chinese lanterns were further embellished the float.

WOMAN'S JAZZ BAND.

The woman's jazz band, made up of five women, played a variety of music with the accompaniment of a drum. They rode on a float which was the work of the committee.

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DECATUR COAL COMPANY.

The coal car, hauled by two mine mules, with driver braking the car by his foot on the pavement. The mules, unused to the excitement, caused a little of their own by kicking and plunking.

M. W. A. BAND.

Easterly Camp 1625, M. W. A. jazz band of eleven instruments—"to say nothing of the dog." A young lad wielded the cymbals and the other members of the band had various appropriate instruments. They carried this legend: "New Home for Men and Boys, Join Now."

BACKING FORD FOR PRESIDENT.

One of the bills of the parade was a Ford car driven backwards throughout the entire movement of the parade, and bearing the sign in large letters: "Backing Ford for President."

Section Four

PINES Y. M. C. A.

The Pines Y. M. C. A. under the direction of Dwight Stamper, presented a typical family picnic party, whose slogan was "We're on our way to spend the day at Lake Decatur."

The "head" of the family was a rather diminutive man, carrying an umbrella to keep off the sunshine or the rain, while his wife, a regular Amazonian figure, wheeled the baby buggy and its occupant. There were eight children. Charles was of rather large stature, as to length, following his mother in that regard, but his father in slenderness. Notwithstanding his height, he had not passed the knee-length pants stage.

Bob "took after" Charley; Robert also was tall; Susie was the only girl in the family; and because of that was made to carry the lunch basket, while her brothers carried the fishing poles. Then there were Harold with a small bag, another boy with a dog, and the "devilish" son, playing pranks on the others as he went along.

KIWANIS CLUB.

The Kiwanis Club put on seven floats as follows:

Y. W. C. A. camp, a neatly constructed cottage mounted on a truck, and bearing this banner: "Our Motto: We Build."

Caged "Hon" on a truck with the legend: "Another Noonday Lunch Club" said to have been given significance in connection of the recent visit of a carnival press agent to Decatur.

Joe represented the time-honored typical Irish police patrol driver, and had a mine mule for his steed.

"Lone Clark," chairman of the Antiques and Horribles committee,

with living gloves on his hands was returned valiantly with the remainder of the council. Maps of proposed streets, drafts of city ordinances, old books, papers and other debris littered the dusty floor.

LIONS CLUB.

The Lions club "Broken-Back Walrus" circus was complete from the great band wagon that led it to the steam roller "Calle-Hope" that brought up the rear with Ed Hayes squeaking out the typical circus tunes from some mysterious source. The band wagon, surmounted with a clown band, brayed circus music, while a troupe of bareback riders made use of their own feet, a cavort and prance in true circus style.

The clowns that followed in the wake of the wagons were true to type, with the comedy policeman, male and other standard features all there. King Tut on his leopard throne that has been pictured over the continent was also there and the indispensable trunk and string in a cake of ice had a prominent position.

A large float filled with the children from the Park Opportunity Home represented the work that the club has been doing for the children of that place.

TOM FITNER TELLS.

Commissioner Tom Fitner in the character of a South Sea islander attracted a whole lot of attention. He wore a red jacket, kipper, South sea, and a foot-lar wind shield and carried a bag of golf clubs. On his back he had a sign: "Tom Looking for the New Park Golf Course." "Say," yelled a friend at Mr. Fitner, "You not only took Van's job away from him, but you are stealing his stuff."

BORROWS NICKEL IN CHAMPAIGN TO RETURN HOME

Champaign News-Gazette: A. C. Paris is willing to believe that there is at least one honest man in Decatur. Monday a well dressed stranger appeared at the Miles & Parris shop and asked a loan of four cents, lacking this small amount of having enough cash to buy a ticket to Decatur.

Mr. Parris tendered him a five-cent piece. Tuesday's mail brought a letter from the stranger containing three two-cent stamps in payment of principal and interest on the loan, and a generous "thank you" from the stranger.

"If he had asked for a dollar he would have been all out of luck," said Parris, in commenting on the incident.

NEWS FROM THE SICK

Miss Josephine Starnes, 88, of 1115 N. 1st, who was confined to her bed for several days, is now able to get up and her appetite is improving. She was removed to her home.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Samuel E. Taylor, 35, of 1115 N. 1st, and A. A. Dyer, 30, of 1115 N. 1st, were granted marriage licenses by Judge J. W. Taylor.

From Column I From Column II July 4, 1923

Lake Celebration Program

Thursday, July 5th.

AT NELSON PARK.
10 p. m.—Pageant of the Waters.
11 p. m.—Pageant of the Waters.

Friday, July 6.

AT NELSON PARK.
7 a. m.—Central States Amateur Boat Races.
8 a. m.—Dedication ceremonies—Community Singing—Led by "Ides"
9 a. m.—Prof. W. H. Penhallow
10 a. m.—Dr. Meyer Charles M.
11 a. m.—Decorative Boat Race
12 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
1 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
2 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
3 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
4 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
5 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
6 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
7 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
8 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
9 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
10 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
11 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race
12 p. m.—Decorative Boat Race

Illuminated Boat Parade.
Decatur Boat Club.
Dancing until 12 p. m.

REGATTA EVENTS.

1:30, 2:15, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45, 4:15, 4:45 p. m.—Canoe Stunts.
2 p. m.—Junior Single Shell, 1 1/4 miles.
2:30 p. m.—Junior Four Shell, 1 1/4 miles.
3 p. m.—Junior Double Shell, 1 1/4 miles.
3:30 p. m.—Junior Light Weight Four Oar Shell, 1 1/4 miles.
4 p. m.—Junior Six Oared Barge, 1/2 mile.
4:30 p. m.—Half Mile Dash of Fours (open).
5 p. m.—Junior Eight Oared Shell, 1 1/4 miles.

WORLD'S RECORD FOR NEW LAKE

Johnny Weissmuller Breaks 500 Meter Event.

Johnny Weissmuller clipped eleven seconds from the world's record in the 500 meter free style event Wednesday afternoon at Nelson park, adding another record to his already long string of titles and breaking Lake Decatur and the Lake Celebration in with swimming history. Weissmuller swam the course in 6 minutes, 25 seconds, breaking the record held by Watson of Canada, whose mark was 7 minutes 6 seconds. Second place went to John Ball of the I-V Yacht and Canoe club of Peoria, who swam in good time. P. Pickell, C. A. A. was third and J. D. Norton, C. A. A. fourth. Weissmuller took the lead on the plunge, added yardage to it in every lap and touched the board at the end with a good 70 yard lead over the field.

WINS MANY PRIZES.

Weissmuller will add to his trophies the \$200 Staley cup offered by A. B. Staley to the man who broke a world's record at the Decatur meet. Weissmuller also will take home the prizes for the 50, 100 and 220 yard events, all of which he won in good time.

Aided by their star team-mate Weissmuller, the I. A. C. team took the majority of the events in the afternoon program. For the C. A. A. Halvorsen was the big point winner, taking the fancy and high diving events handily. Halvorsen lived up to his reputation of outdoor diving champion with his work Wednesday afternoon. Although pushed hard by Porter of the I. A. C. in both events, the big Swede's form was perfect and time and again he brought exclamations of admiration from the crowds that watched him.

PESKY BED-BUGS

(Pesky Devils Quietus) P. D. Q., the new chemical that puts the ever lasting to the Pesky bedbugs, roaches fleas, ants and cooties—Impossible for the pesky devils to exist where P. D. Q. is used.

Recommendations of Hotels, Hospitals, Rail and Companies and other public institutions guarantee to the public that the safest, quick and most economical way of ridding the premises by the use of P. D. Q., as this chemical kills the eggs as well as the live ones, and will not injure the clothing.

A 30¢ package makes a full quart, enough to kill a million bedbugs, roaches, fleas or cooties—and also contains a patent spout to get the drug into the hard-to-get-at places and saves juice P. D. Q. can also be purchased in sealed bottles.

Sold by Quaker Drug Co., West Drug Co. and other Leading Druggists.

WATER POLO ATTRACTS.
Those who saw the I. A. C. championship water polo team defeat the C. A. A. club by the slim margin of 3 to 1 got some idea of the sport and decided that it was no easy game. The battles in the water took strong and expert swimmers to withstand the heavy pull on wind and strength and for thrills the game adds a few to basketball.
The relay was won by the I. A. C. with Weissmuller, McGilivray, Siegel and Miller swimming against the C. A. A. team composed of Topp, Small, Leach and Elliott.
LOCAL TALENT GOOD.
Decatur showed that she had some excellent swimmers in the closed events for local entries during the afternoon. James Egan and Duane and Harry were the outstanding swimmers among the men. Leroy Van Halstrom, Mrs. Augusta Fisher and Dorothy Angeline showed up well in the women's events.
William Halstrom, coach of the I. A. C. swimming team, presided as referee at the matter of the local swimmers and was especially interested in the work of Harry in the 100.
THE SPECTATOR.
The results of the water polo, high, open and closed and the other water contests are as follows:
To reach the top of the water polo, the I. A. C. beat the C. A. A. 3 to 1.

6 FIREWORKS BOMBS LIGHT LAKE

6 Bombs Fall Because of Darkness.

Street and burned for at least ten minutes. The red glare on the water was beautiful and the dark shadows of boats as they crossed the path of light in the water made a striking contrast.
Just who was responsible for the setting off of the cross could not be determined. Several figures were seen to leave the spot as the cross was lighted.
25 AT ST. JOHANNES VACATION SCHOOL
Expect Fifty Before Close of Session on Aug. 2.
The Vacation Bible school conducted by St. Johannes' Lutheran church opened Thursday morning, with about twenty-five children enrolled. This number is very encouraging, as last year on the opening day there were only five or six children, and before the close the number increased to about fifty. It is believed that the session will be a large one this year.
The school is being conducted by Mrs. O. W. Berke who is much interested in the fact that the children are so interested in the school. The number of teachers is also very large. The school will meet every Thursday evening at 7:30 p. m. in the church. The school is a very attractive one and is a very successful one.

KEY CROSS IS BIG ATTRACTION

Across the lake a great attraction was the regular fireworks display. A beautiful spectacle was a 10-foot fire cross was set off at 10 o'clock at the foot of the lake opposite the foot of Decatur.

TWO DIE IN FRAY AFTER POKER GAME

Two men were killed in a frayed after a poker game. The men were playing a game of poker and one of them was killed by a bullet. The other man was also killed by a bullet.

Every Oak

When an Oak and class cups Curry Economy time—

SCOVILL'S **July** SUMMER **Furniture Sale**

WE ARE offering you the best values we have been able to give you this season in Summer furniture. The prices are of exceptional quality.

Threatening Clouds Mar Second Day Celebration But Optimism Prevails

First Day Attracts Thousands to Park But Only One Third Pay for Seats, Causing \$2500 Deficit.

The second day tried its best to hide the sun and bring down to the second day's lake celebration Thursday morning without success. The first day, hampered by a rain that cut attendance nearly in half and left the Lake Celebration management \$2500 behind, was a real success as to crowds and entertainment. Thousands swarmed the hills of Nelson park, but actually avoided the paid seat sections.

PARADE OPENS SECOND DAY.

The second day opened Thursday morning with the decorated auto parade, a quality event. For the afternoon program the "Pageant of the Waters" was to be given at 3:30 and at night the "Pageant of the Stars" at 8 o'clock. This great event is expected to draw thousands to the lake side.

REGATTA BIG SPECTACLE.

The regatta regatta, Friday and Saturday will be one of the biggest events of the week. To see eight clubs in their long

The crowd Wednesday afternoon was interested in the Chicago swimmers and divers and they got what they wanted. They saw the famous Johnny Weissmuller, world's champion swimmer in action. They saw him break a world's record. They saw other star swimmers in competition, such as has never before been staged here.

WONDERFULLY STAGED.

But with the rain and the small financial returns, thousands commented on the wonderful setting. The view of the lake, the wonderful lake front all brought forth comments that Decatur should act at once to make Nelson Park a great lake side resort, a place where Decatur as well as visitors can enjoy the lake.

Five Autos Win Honor of Being Best in Parade

Story of the auto parade will be found on page 15.

The judges for the Decorated auto parade Thursday morning decided not to give first, second and third prizes, but choose the five best entered by individuals. Each one of these entrants will receive \$5. They were:

- For grace—The pink road car, Mrs. M. Allen.
- For artistic effect—the red and bronze car Mrs. Raymond Lora.
- For appropriate ideas—Yellow boat, Mrs. H. D. Warner.
- For design—Lavender and yellow butterflies, Mrs. Earl Weatherford.
- For gaiety—Polly Tamm, Mrs. Will Starr.

ORGANIZATIONS

The first prize for the most decorated organization was won by the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. They presented a sunset on Lake Decatur. In awarding the prize...

AGED MAN IS STRUCK BY TRAIN

Ledger Pitcher Not Badly Injured.

Ledger Pitcher, an aged man who collects junk about town, was struck by Wabash passenger train No. 9 at the Water street crossing Thursday morning. He was taken in the Dawson and Wilkoff ambulance to the Decatur and Macon county hospital. He suffered injuries about the head and left shoulder, but was not seriously injured.

It is said that the man was warned by bystanders not to cross the track as a train was approaching, but he did not heed the warning.

SALLIE J. McCALL DIES THURSDAY

Death Comes to Decatur Woman After Years of Suffering.

Miss Sallie J. McCall died at 3:30 Thursday morning at her home, 842 North College street, the place where she was born.

The body was taken to the Dawson & Wilkoff funeral home and prepared for burial. It will be taken to the home Saturday morning. The funeral will be held Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the First Methodist church. Burial will be in Greenwood cemetery.

Miss McCall was a member of the Eastern Star and White Shrine of Urbana, the Illinois club of the University of Illinois, and the First Methodist church. She formerly was a supervisor of music in Danville, Champaign, Urbana and Bisbee, Ariz.

She was a sufferer for many years, but during those years bore her sufferings patiently. Death to her was a glad going, shadowed only by the thought of the loneliness which would fall on her devoted sister.

MRS. MANERVA SMITH DIES AT AGE 86

Had Been in Failing Health For Last Two Years.

Mrs. Manerva C. Smith, widow of Abraham T. Smith, died at 11:15 o'clock Wednesday morning at her home, 657 West Main street. She was eighty-six years old in June. She had been in failing health for the last two years.

Mrs. Smith's maiden name was Manerva Catherine Martin. She was a daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Albin A. Martin and was born in Gallia county, O., June 7, 1837. She and Abraham T. Smith were married in Macon county, Dec. 2, 1858. He enlisted in the army and served through the Civil war. At the close of the war they moved to Cerro Gordo. There Mr. Smith died in 1876. Mrs. Smith moved to Decatur in 1881, and in Decatur in 1883. She had made her home on West Main street for the 40th part of her life.

OLD RESIDENT

Mrs. Smith was known to a great many of the old residents of the city and her many friends. She was a member of the First Methodist church. She was greatly devoted to her family and a devoted friend to the poor.

RAILROADS BRING FEW CELEBRATORS

Less Than 1000 Come on All Roads.

DROP SHUTTLE TRAIN

C. I. and W. Handled 3000 Wednesday.

The day of railroads hauling trainloads of people to celebrations such as Decatur had Wednesday, seems to be over. From the number of trains seen approaching Decatur on the various highways and from the number sent on the streets and parked in the vicinity of the celebration, it was certain thousands of these were out of town last night and today have been a traffic of fifty miles was common.

The railroads kept no definite account of the number loaded into Decatur Wednesday but it is safe within the margin to say that the did not bring 1,000 people to the celebration.

2,400 On Shuttle Trains.

Just 2,400 tickets and several hundred cash fares, probably 1,000 in all, is all the patronage that was drawn by the C. I. and W. shuttle train between the Wabash station and Nelson park Wednesday. Company officials decided it would not pay to operate this train the other days of this week so the train was taken off.

"It cost us \$150 in all to operate the train Wednesday," said Trainmaster Partlow, "and Mr. Day of the passenger department estimates receipts at about \$100. While we lost some money on it, we would have lost had we continued it for the rest of the week."

"The train was actually permitted until it started to rain Wednesday night. Then everyone wanted a ride it. We loaded last two or three trainloads during the day, but after those after the rain started, and the greatest number was 300 on one train. The houses and stores near the business. Our right of way for the street car line down to Nelson Park was just a poor, unbroken procession of people all afternoon and evening."

Using Extra Men.

These are great days for the Wabash extra board employees at Decatur. On the 5th and 6th, both boards, there are few signs of regular engineers and men of regular classes off. In fact, there are three yard shovels and three car shovels all. There are the regular regular employees and the extra men off and a crowd of the board men being off.

In all these extra men, the Wabash extra board employees at Decatur are being used in the greatest numbers since the war.

MANY CHANGES IN CITY DURING YEAR

Filling Stations Come too Fast to Count.

into being. The taxi service has been reorganized and improved. Streets have been paved and beautiful drives laid out.

One hears and reads of new people who have become prominent in the social and business life of Decatur. Some of the people one always met in certain stores or at meetings have gone. Their places are taken by others.

Many things are familiar and have not noticeably changed. It is the unexpected that one notices and, while the familiar things are most pleasant to find again, the many changes are quite evident.

LODGE NOTES

PAST NOBLE GRAND CLUB.

Officers were elected Friday afternoon at the meeting of the Past Noble Grand club of Progress Rebekah lodge held in the parlors of the Odd Fellows hall, 142 North Main street. Those elected were:

President—Miss Carrie Ashton.
Vice President—Mrs. Margaret

Secretary—Mrs. Phoebe Walsh.
Treasurer—Mrs. I. A. Bell.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$322.15 for the year as 1922, making a balance of \$222.15.

The retiring president, Mrs. Corla Palmer, was presented a beautiful

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Margaret Moon.

Right Supporter to the Noble Grand—Mrs. Amy Courtwright.

Left Supporter to the Noble Grand—Mrs. Elva Kilpatrick.

Right Supporter to the Vice Grand—Mrs. Sadie O'Laughlin.

Left Supporter to the Vice Grand—Mrs. Bessie Baker.

Conductor—Mrs. Eleanor Babb.

Warden—Miss Marie Wacaser.

Chaplain—Mrs. Melinda Ashton.

Inside Guardian—Mrs. Effie Blankenship.

Outside Guardian—Miss Mable Wacaser.

At the close of the installation Mrs. Walsh presented her retiring officers hand made dollies, and the officers presented Mrs. Walsh a purse.

KLUMP OF THE NAVY VISITS IN MOWEAQUA

Moweaqua, July 7—Dean Klump, who is in the navy was here the Fourth with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Klump of Decatur. He recently returned from South America.

Mrs. Charles Gilmore and baby of Decatur are visiting in the Winters' home this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harmon Myers and daughter, Betty, of Assumption spent the Fourth in the Wolf home.

Misses Harriet and Grace Eleanor Hillis, of Walker visited Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ahi this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Proctor and daughter, Sadie and Ruth, went to Nokomis

Thursday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Ernest

Winters.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bernards of Taylorville and Mr. and Mrs. Lon Mathias and daughter of Decatur were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harmon were dinner

guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ahi

Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom King and Fred

King of Decatur were Wednesday

guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough were

guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough

Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough were

guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough

Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough were

guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough

Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough were

guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough

Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough were

guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough

Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough were

guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hough

HOME BUREAU HAS BUSY SCHEDULE

Extension Worker Visits Mt. Pulaski Unit.

Miss Natalie Vasold and Miss Neva E. Woods attended the meeting of the Mt. Pleasant unit of the Home Bureau Friday afternoon which was held in the Warrensburg church. Miss Vasold, who is from the extension part of the state university, has been in the city for several days and visiting the various units for conference work.

GIRLS CLUB AT WORK.

In the meeting Friday, the Girls' Clothing club met with the older women. This club is directed by Miss Mary Conley and a demonstration of work was given during the afternoon. One child who had never used the sewing machine until the class began a few weeks ago did some very fine work in stitching. Sixteen girls form the class, meeting every week for work. Their ages run from ten to fifteen years.

HOLD CONFERENCE.

The adviser's schedule for next week includes the board meeting in the office on Monday morning. Miss Katherine Van Aken will be present for this meeting and for the conference which is to be held at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon in the W. C. A. Among the plans to be carried out at this conference, which for chairmen of the units and for the exchange toward which the work of the Home Bureau women have been making for several weeks. The third exchange is being made some of the finest work in the class. It is expected to be a successful one. The girls will be glad to hear from the women on the board of the Home Bureau. The Home Bureau unit will meet at 7 o'clock on Monday afternoon. The meeting of next week will be held at 7 o'clock.

DECATUR DRY GOODS CO
July Clearance
SHOES
WOMEN'S \$4 KING TUT SANDALS \$2.85
Sale of Blue, Green and Tan, or Cream King Tut Sandals, all sizes \$5 to \$8. Special price for quick clearance at \$2.85.
55 King Tut \$2.00

BIG 3 DAY SALE

Review

UNION SERVICES SUNDAY EVENING

Good Music At All Three Meeting Places.

The choir of the Grace Methodist church will furnish the music for the Sunday evening services at the E. A. Gastman school. It will sing "If Ye Walk in My Statutes," Calvert. Miss Vivian Mosbarger of Preston McClelland will sing a solo. Rev. A. M. Wells will use for the subject of his sermon, "Real Religion—Enough to Control."

At the union service at Fairview at 7:45 Sunday evening, Rev. W. H. Golden, pastor of the Central Church of Christ, will preach, his text being "The Birth of Power," and the quartet of the church will sing and lead the other singing. The committee has arranged to provide abundance of seats for all who attend this service.

Rev. Chester Smith of the First Methodist church will speak at the 8:00 P. M. service at the school on "God's Call for Men." Rev. F. Powell will provide the music and the pastor will have charge of the prayers and reading of scriptures. Rev. A. M. Wells will have charge of the program.

THRILLS OFFERED FOR FINAL DAY

Airplanes Arrive from St. Louis for Stunts.

BOXING ON TONIGHT

Need \$8000 to Meet Celebration Expense.

In a grand wind-up of thrills, Decatur's Lake Celebration will end Saturday after an afternoon of hair-raising stunts by air-men from the Robertson Aircraft Corporation, speed boat races, and the final races of the Central States Amateur Rowing association.

At night Decatur will be treated to a clean exhibition of boxing, wrestling and training camp stunts put on by U. S. army aviators from Rantoul as part of their recruiting publicity campaign. Throw in a program of canoe stunts, surf-boards riding and other added attractions and the total makes the biggest all-around program of the four day celebration.

PLANES ARRIVE.

Three planes from the Robertson Aircraft corporation of St. Louis arrived Saturday morning and landed at the Green Switch field. In the party were Major William Robertson, Harry H. Perkins, and Jimmie Douglas, one of the most fearless stunt men in the country whose specialty is wing-walking hanging by his heels from the under-side of the plane, and other stunts that are considered to bring the spectators from their seats.

Each of the three sport planes on the lake will be taken to the Green Switch field and there the stunts will be performed. The planes will be taken to the lake by a small boat and will be taken to the lake by a small boat.

One Auto for Every 11 Persons in Decatur

Have 4,223 Here Valued at \$734,100; 2,948 Pianos and 3,948 Phonographs.

SCRAPS OF NEWS

144 QUARTS

George Hauss, 2275 North Edward street, has a cherry tree in his yard which has already yielded 144 quarts of the fruit, and the tree still has many cherries on it.

The Review stated a few days ago that J. F. Mattes had a tree which yielded 100 quarts.

ST. JOHN'S CLUR

The Men's club of St. John's Episcopal church will have a fellowship meeting at the parish house Monday night at 7:30. Informal talks will be given by various church members.

RICHESON HOME

Superintendent J. J. Richeson returned from his vacation Friday and was on duty in the office Saturday. He spent a large part of his vacation on his farm near St. David and returned to the office Saturday and resumed his duties.

SIGNS TO TELL LANE USE RULES

To Be Placed on Bridges and Parks.

The work having been completed in the city of Decatur in regard to the installation of signs to tell the rules of lane use on the bridges and parks, the signs will be placed on the bridges and parks.

The signs will be placed on the bridges and parks and will be placed on the bridges and parks.

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Decatur has an automobile for about every eleven inhabitants, according to the figures just compiled by Assessor Coleman Adams, who has just completed the personal assessment list. His figures show that there are 4,223 automobiles in the city. Their assessed valuation is \$734,100.

That the automobile has superseded the horse almost entirely becomes more and more apparent. The city can now boast of only 103 horses. The number of cars in Decatur is 101, 102 and 103.

In the following table of the city there are listed the assessed values of the property in the city. The number of places in the city is 1,000, and the number of places in the city is 1,000.

PERSONAL PROPERTY VALUE \$1350 LESS Full Cash Value \$6,114,690 Books Show.

The total valuation of real estate and personal property in the city of Decatur this year is \$22,754,116, according to the books of Assessor Coleman Adams. The assessed value is just half of that or \$11,377,058. Mr. Adams completed the compilation of the personal assessment Friday afternoon. He found the full cash value of all personal property to be \$6,114,690, and the assessed value \$3,057,345, or \$3,057,345 less than the assessment in 1922. The personal assessment alone is \$3,057,345.

While the personal assessment is a little less, the total of all assessable property in the city is \$1,574,923 more than a year ago. This big increase is all in real estate and is caused by the additions, costing the hundreds of lots that formerly were assessed as lands. The assessed valuation of real estate is \$13,328,925, a gain of \$1,529,403 over a year ago.

MORE TO COME.

The state board of equalization and the Macon county board of review must pass on the figures turned in by Assessor Adams. If the figures are not changed by either of those bodies the city of Decatur will have \$5,000 more in 1924 with which to run the city than it had in 1923. Of course there is a possibility that the tax rate will be lowered. With such high property valuation it would be possible to lower the rate in certain instances, but it is expected that the city will wish to retain the present rate of \$2.50, for there will be plenty of places where that money can be used. It would be a mighty welcome addition to the city's finances this year, and will be just as welcome next year.

FREE PARKING ON BRIDGE GRADE

Only Narrow Lane Left for Passage.

One of the most important features of the bridge is the free parking on the bridge grade. The parking places are on the bridge grade and are on the bridge grade.

The parking places are on the bridge grade and are on the bridge grade.

TROUBLE AHEAD FOR AUTOISTS

Used Autos Before July 1 Must Be Licensed. Recent purchasers of automobiles who waited till after July 1 to get their licenses are in trouble. The license fee is \$1.00 and the license is for one year.

NO WHEAT THRESHED IN THIS VICINITY

Wheat has been threshed yet in the vicinity of Decatur. The figures on yields are not available, however, that the yield will run all the way from 10 to 20 bushels, 10th

MIDDLE-WEST'S STAR OARSMEN HERE TODAY

Rowing Regatta on Lake This Afternoon to Be Beautiful As Well As Thrilling Sight; Speed Boats Race Also

MODERN CAMP IS MOTOR CLUB AIM

Committee to Be Named Steps to Warm up Wel-

For those who witnessed the big water carnival Wednesday afternoon in which Volkswagen crashed a world's record, and stars from the C. A. A., the I. A. C. and the Illinois Valley Yacht and Cruise club gave an exhibition of swimming, canoe and dinghy work as well as a few motor boats, the Lake Decatur club is planning to build a modern camp on the lake. The club is now holding a series of meetings to discuss the plan. The first meeting was held last night at the home of Mrs. J. W. Smith. The committee to be named will consist of the following: J. W. Smith, chairman; J. H. Smith, secretary; J. H. Smith, treasurer; J. H. Smith, secretary; J. H. Smith, secretary.

SPRINGFIELD MEN SEE LAKE

Mayor and Several Hun- dred here Wednesday; Others to Come

A Springfield paper Thursday reported that Mayor Bullard and several hundred others from the capital city came to Decatur Wednesday for the celebration and particularly to see Lake Decatur. Springfield is interested in the lake and the delegation, on Wednesday was only one of the several that have been here recently as the capital city is seriously considering the suggestion of erecting a dam and improving a lake. The morning's mail at the Association of Commerce brought word from the Springfield chamber that a group of 150 prominent citizens and officials plan to come to Decatur in the near future in special cars and in automobiles to see the lake and study the features about it.

80 Craft in Illuminated Boat Parade

"Venetian Nights" to Be This Evening's Celebration Feature

Featuring this evening's celebration program will be the illuminated boat parade. The line will file past the reserved seat sections about 8:15 o'clock, proceeding west from behind the Nelson park bridge, on down to the edge of the park and back again. More than 80 boats are entered, including motor boats, rowboats and sailboats. Each boat will be decorated and most of them have been worked out by the owners. Brilliant lighting effects have been arranged. On the return trip each will be illuminated with red and green flames fired from the bow and stern. Motor boats to Tow School. The sturdier motor boats will tow the sail boats, rowboats and canoes. The sailing craft will be under sail, however, adding to the beauty of their decorations. The parade is divided into 12 divisions, each captained by a member of the Boat club. In each will be from seven to a dozen boats.

MANY RED MEN HERE JULY 28

Lodge Members from Sev- eral Cities to Have Out- door Adoption

Red Men of Decatur, Bethany, Madison, Charleston, Shelbyville, Witt, Waterloo, Moweaqua, Warrensburg and Springfield will conduct a joint adoption in the woods near Decatur on the night of Saturday, July 28. Representatives will send a delegation and several of the great chiefs have agreed to attend and take part in the ceremonies.

MISS SALLIE M'CALL, ILL FOUR YEARS, DIES

Well Known Decatur Woman Had Done School Music Work in Other Cities

Miss Sallie J. McCall, 342 North College street, died at 3 o'clock Thursday morning after a prolonged illness. Four years ago she suffered an attack of influenza. From that she never rallied and during the last 17 months of her illness had been confined to her bed. Her illness at times caused intense suffering. For herself, she was willing that the end should come but her thought was for her sister with whom her life had been passed and for whose care, in spite of her illness she felt she had been in no small measure responsible. Her intimate friends comment that to the last she was unselfish, thinking of the welfare of others. Miss McCall died in the home where she was born in 1863. Until the time when her health failed, Miss McCall had been engaged in school work as a supervisor of music in Danville, Urbana and in Blaine, Ark. In Urbana she was a member of Illinois club of U. of I. Order of Eastern Star and White Shrine. She was a member of First Methodist church of Decatur.

BLIQU CLOSED FOR WORK ON INTERIOR

Stage to Be Extended, Ceiling Low- ered and New Decorations Put on in Next 10 Days

In the face of the last performance on the night of the Fourth of July the Bliqu theater closed its doors to the public for 10 days, while it undergoes a thorough re-decorating. The theater will not open before July 14, but it is hoped to have it ready by that date. The manager plans to extend the stage of the theater to such proportions that wonderful performances can be given there with ease. He also plans to have sufficient space for the seating of the theater is to be 100 feet, or rather a false ceiling will be put in 10 feet below the present ceiling is needed. The present ceiling is 22 feet above the stage and makes artistic decorations on the theater.

CHANGING TO WIDE ON FLORISSA ST.

WITH THE SICK

23 MORTGAGES FOR ONE MAKE OF AUTO

Herald

July 7, 1923

Mayor Elder Dedicates Lake To The People of Decatur

The people of Decatur whose...
...unusual task and...
...splendid realization.

Mayor Elmer...
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...was unable to be present

Must Clear \$8,200 To Make Expenses

From a financial standpoint, the Lake Decatur celebration has been a decided success. Saturday's receipts must total \$8,200 to enable the celebration committee to come out even. No such amount can be looked for even with the added attraction of an athletic exhibition given by Chanute field airmen on the lakeside stage this evening.

A rainy Fourth combined with the amazing indifference of a great part of the public indicated that a deficit would be the probable outcome. The management immediately began to chop expenses. It would have canceled some contracts had there not been a penalty attached.

Afternoon crowds since the Fourth have been slim, and the evening crowds aside from those on the hill-top have largely been advance purchasers of boxes and reserved seats. Hundreds saw the fireworks, the water carnival, and the boat races without paying a cent.

Managers Get Nothing

One most unhappy result is that J. M. Allen and J. E. Tackeberry, who were entrusted with the control of the business management, and who have put in six weeks of the hardest kind of work, will receive nothing for their services. The contract with them provided that they should be paid after all other expenses were met, and that they were then to be paid on a percentage basis.

The committee is considering plans for making up the deficit. It has not yet made figures upon the costs of the celebration, and will not have until the 15th, but regards \$20,000 as a reasonable estimate.

Pageant Not Likely To Be Repeated

The pageant of the "Pageant of the Lakes" although it is being suggested probably will not be feasible. Some of the participants are leaving town, and the properties are being returned to their owners. The pageant was a success, but the cost was too high to be repeated.

The pageant was a success, but the cost was too high to be repeated. The pageant was a success, but the cost was too high to be repeated. The pageant was a success, but the cost was too high to be repeated.

The pageant was a success, but the cost was too high to be repeated. The pageant was a success, but the cost was too high to be repeated. The pageant was a success, but the cost was too high to be repeated.

...and the effective simplicity of the ending which represented a departure from the usual ending in which the entire cast marches off stage.

Mailing Celebration Programs to Friends

Lake celebration programs were being bought Friday by persons planning to mail them to friends and the committee in charge wishes to notify the public that it has enough on hand for all who care to follow the idea of advertising the lake and the celebration. They come in convenient envelopes ready for mailing so that there is little trouble in that respect. They may be had at headquarters in the Motor club office.

Concessions Doing Better Business

Better business was reported Friday by the Boy Scouts who are operating stands at Nelson park during the lake celebration, the excessive heat sending the spectators after cooling refreshment at least once during the afternoon and evening. The Scout executive committee now entertains hope of realizing a profit on the venture, although the amount will not be as large as was expected.

Temporary Taxi Drivers Boost Fare to Park

An agreement was entered into Friday by auto owners operating their cars as temporary taxis to Nelson park during the lake celebration to raise their fare from 10 to 25 cents, thereby allowing the regularly operated taxis a fairer margin on which to compete.

COUPLE SAVED IN MID-LAKE

Prompt Aid Prevents Drowning When Canoe Is Overturned

Only prompt aid given by C. R. Widick and Al Manning prevented two accidental drownings in the lake last evening when the canoe in which a young man and woman were riding was overturned in front of the Par-chal land about 500 feet off shore. The heavy waves were responsible for the accident. The two in the canoe, said to be Mildred Robinson, 1290 East William street and G. W. Thompson, along to the boat until a rescue boat reached them.

Both had taken in a quantity of water and were wearing waterproofs when help came. The city harbor-master was called, but the two were sufficiently recovered that it was not used.

RUN SHUTTLE TRAINS TO PARK TONIGHT

C. L. & W. to Run Shuttle Service to Fourth Street 9 and 11 This Evening

Shuttle transportation from the Wash-burn station at Nelson park will be resumed this evening. C. L. & W. officials announced Friday. A 20 minute schedule will be maintained and the fare will be 25 cents, the same as on the Fourth.

LOS ANGELES MECCA FOR FAKE DOCTORS

LOS ANGELES—The District Attorney's office is investigating the records of several physicians believed to have taken refuge here to escape prosecution for illegal practice elsewhere. It is charged that these men are developing a narcotic traffic by prescribing dope for rich elderly women. An official warning to persons requiring medical service was issued by the investigators.

State to War Owners of

Names of seventy-four Decatur auto owners who are said to have bought cars shortly before July 1 are waited until after that date to secure their licenses at a reduced rate have been sent to the state automobile department for collection by state police who have been in Decatur the past few days "cleaning up."

The charge in each an offense signing a false affidavit for a severe penalty may be levied against whoever is convicted. Offenders will be dealt by the state within a short time as investigators from the office of Louis L. Hines, son, state attorney, will be in Decatur.

Abe Marlin



The best all a girl kin do any-
...and her picture in th' paper
...with a dress on," complained Miss
...last night. "I day. We guess
...an' sleepin' done by folks
...has never got cotton pajamas.

July 6, 1923

Women's Decorated Auto Parade Beautiful Event

Judges Unable to Decide Which of Five Individual Entries Is Best So Divide Prize Money; Alpha Chi Omega First Among Organizations

The excellence of the decorated auto parade held Thursday morning by the women of Decatur as a part of the lake celebration, was demonstrated by the fact that even the judges were not able to decide on which should have first place and which should have first prize. The prize money was divided among five entrants. Thousands of people lined the streets to see the display of cars, which was the best ever held here. The judges had a hard time deciding which of the cars even should be considered for the prizes.

There were two sections for the event, one for women's organizations of the city, and the other for individual entries. Prizes were awarded in each section, and were as follows:

ORGANIZATIONS

- First—Alpha Chi Omega sorority of Milledgeville.
- Second—Girls from Lind and Sprague store.

Honorable mention—Susie's Kitchen Cabinet Band, by the Dennis school Mother's club.

INDIVIDUALS

The judges in dividing this prize among five contestants stated what particular point was considered in choosing that car over the others. The five were as follows:
Miss J. M. Allen—for grace.
Mrs. Raymond Benz—for artistic effect.
Mrs. H. D. Warner—for appropriate

Mrs. Earl Weatherford—for design.
Mrs. Will Scarr—for shyness.

Honorable mention was made of "The Poppies of Plauder's Field" by Miss Lenora Mueller and "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" by Mrs. Harriet A. Amaden.
The judges were Miss Caroline Lutz, Miss Esther Bequith and Mrs. Inez J. Bender. They were stationed on the second floor of the St. Nicholas hotel, where they were able to see the cars as they circled the transfer house.

Lavish with praise.
"All the entries were splendid," said Miss Lutz. "We had a hard time deciding which were the best. It was a beautiful parade."

The people on the street were lavish with their praise of the parade and remained in their places waiting for it to appear in order of some shower which threatened to spoil the decorations. Goodwin's band led the procession. And Susie's famous organization came later on a truck, their natty appearance and gleefully played instruments making up in the least what their music lacked in volume.

Mrs. H. D. Warner
Mrs. Warner's car led the procession. It represented a green and white steamboat with black and yellow accents and black and yellow flags waving from the top. The whole thing was done in a framework which was covered with colored streamers.

Mrs. J. M. Allen
Mrs. Allen's car was a white sedan with a red and white striped awning over the top. It was decorated with red and white streamers and flags. The car was driven by Mrs. Allen and her daughter.

ed crown. Four yellow streamers extending from a pole in the center of the car were carried by four girls who walked beside. These girls symbolized education, Y. W. C. A., home management, and social service. Miss Helen Killian represented the Mother Goose character, and the other parts were taken by Misses Lela Schaefer, Fern McCollum, Betty Lane Lindsey and Idella Davis.

Susie's Kitchen Cabinet Band
As Susie's famous band moved along in their yellow and white decorated truck they struck up into the various song hits with which they regaled their audience during their long run through the winter. The young maids with their smart decorated coats, white skirts and hats, and their clever ornamental instruments and their clever songs all along the parade created smiles all about the parade.

Miss Lenora Mueller
Miss Mueller's car was another which attracted much admiration from those who watched. Against a

brilliant red background were hosts of crimson poppies, their green leaves and yellow centers affording contrast. Miss Mueller, who drove, and Miss Mary Gilligan, her guest, who was in the car with her, were dressed in white with white hats.

Mrs. Harriet A. Amaden's
Mrs. Amaden's car had the outline of a big white shoe on it, the toe going down over the radiator and the tongue coming up to the steering wheel. She was dressed to represent the Mother Goose character, and crowded into the car behind her was a host of little children, who had as good a time as anyone in the parade.

Other Beautiful Cars

Other cars which were beautifully decorated and which showed that much time and thought had been expended on them, were in the parade. Miss Ruth Walters, in the "Navy Car" in red, white and blue, with two white figures on the radiators, was one which brought forth favorable comment. With Miss Walters in the car were Miss Esther Hart, Miss Erna Pritchett and Miss Sarah Bowman.

The F. E. O. car, of white with yellow flowers, its occupants wearing yellow hands about their heads, was another pretty one. Mrs. Lowell Carr, Mrs. Lindsey Huff, Mrs. A. J. Gamm, and Mrs. Philip King rode in this.

The Women's Relief Corps car was decorated with flags and bunting in patriotic colors. Occupants were Mrs. Julia Dugh, Miss Nettie Ellinger and Mrs. E. A. Rodgers.

Lets 'la'

THE text for this m... discourse, friends, that oft repeated rema... cerning the fact that it... kinds of people to make... world. It does, indeed... the type had been... felt free to take... and bag I left bare... steps to the office... watched the parade... morning, but no doubt... included to serve as a... such careless individual... self for leaving them... to leave personalities o...

A nature lover and a... people were once... whether there were... moment to be had out of... the country or in the... "In the country, the... much opportunity for... right next to nature... the flowers, and the... trees and other growi... first hand," said th... lover.

"But I like to stu... people," was the repl...

To anyone who like... people I think the last... in Decatur have affor... dental opportunity...

Lee's Correct Dress for Women

Our Clearance Sale Offers Hundreds of Ultra-Smart Dresses FOR WOMEN AND MISSES In Three Great Groups:—

\$23.00 \$33.00 \$43.00

Beautiful all Dresses for sports wear, street wear, afternoon and evening taken from our regular stocks and sharply reduced—to gain with hundreds of recent arrivals, purchased especially for this

—the S of th

There can be no... crowded all day yester... Sale at Lee's does not... moving garments—bu... are drastically cut in... entire season's stock... reduced, but more in... quality and complete... action.

DECATUR--WATER AND THE SANGAMON

BRIDGES -- In the early days of Decatur there were no bridges over the Sangamon. Streams and rivers were crossed by fording, sometimes with disastrous results. Emerson's Ford, Cow Ford and others served for years in Macon County. At least three of the bridges built were covered. One was the so-called County Bridge at the site of the present Lake Decatur dam; another was Rea's bridge, north of Decatur; and the other was at the Cow Ford, downstream from the present Staley Bridge.

NAVIGATION ON THE RIVER--In the spring of 1844 an effort was made by Decatur and Macon County men to navigate the Sangamon or pursue its possibilities. The county had been in existence for 15 years, and the closest markets for produce were Springfield, St. Louis and Chicago. Oxen hauled produce over rutted stumpy trails, and a faster, easier method was needed. The State Legislature had declared the Sangamon navigable; now it was up to the men to make it so.

Macon County men had looked at the Sangamon and believed that at high water time boats could reach the Illinois River and then the Mississippi with delivery of produce at St. Louis and other cities along the way to New Orleans. To make the test, a flat boat 16 x 54 feet was built in the spring of 1844, in hopes it would be the start of keel and flat boat navigation. The boat was loaded with 35 tons of produce and drew 26 inches of water. At the time she was put afloat the river lacked 4 feet of being bank full. At the mill dams at this time 2 1/2 to 4 feet of water was going over. By lightening, the boats could pass over the dams with safety. Captain William Rea (Rhea) was in command as the flat boat left Decatur. The Rea Bridge is now the only present memorial to this man. In the neighborhood of Long Point, south of Niantic in Sangamon and Christian Counties, they encountered drifts and problems. Two men whose names were not recorded, helped clear the channel enough for the flat boat to get through. The low water hampered movement, and near the junction with the South Fork of the Sangamon in Sangamon County, it was decided advisable to tie up until more water was in the river. Soon heavy rains came and with the banks nearly full the boat proceeded with ease and safety. The records are not clear as to where Captain Rea disposed of his produce, but he had tested the Sangamon in both low and high water. In his opinion, with drifts removed, navigation was possible even in low water.

A committee was formed to clear the drifts from the river. The work was divided into sections beginning at the northern line of the county to the western limits of the county. Smith's History of Macon County reports five more boats were built to carry produce to New Orleans. The boats were loaded with corn and hogs. They got as far as Long Point and tied up for the winter to await high water the next spring in 1846. In the spring, loads on two boats were transferred to the other three, making two with hogs and one with corn. At Beardstown the loads were too light for the current and waves. A large quantity of bran was bought and taken aboard for ballast. Two of the boats went through to New Orleans, and one stopped at Natchez. Captains of these boats were John Hanks, J.C. Braden, and Hosea Armstrong. Armstrong, at Beardstown, turned over his boat to Moses Spencer. This was the end of the Decatur and Macon County effort to navigate the Sangamon.

WELLS--Decatur as a struggling young village in 1829 depended on private wells for its water supply. It was not until June 6, 1831 that the county commissioners authorized the digging of a public well. James Johnson was to dig it on the west half of lot 8, block 2 (the northeast corner of Lincoln Square along Merchant Street at East Main). A well finally was dug in the middle of the square and a wooden pump brought up water for those who cared to use the tin cup chained to the pump. When the first Transfer House was built, the well was filled.

While Decatur depended on private wells for water and suffered several bad fires, men were building dams across the Sangamon River. The first was built in 1832 by D. L. Allen. By 1844 four were mentioned in a Springfield newspaper report. They were the Spangler, Moffitt (Maffit), Miller and Whitely. These dams were for water power for saw mills and grist mills. Horse powered mills also operated in the area.

From The Chronicle, Vol V #1 - Spring, 1975. Macon County Historical Society, Cynthia Myers, Editor

WATER SUPPLY--Decatur did not go to the Sangamon River for a water supply for its citizens, manufacturers, and fire protection until 1871. This was 42 years after the village was established. The city of 5,000 was forced to take action when a rolling mill was established in Decatur to make railroad iron rails. To secure the plant the Decatur City Council promised to provide a location of ten acres and sufficient water for manufacturing purposes. Franklin Priest, one of Decatur's most energetic boosters, had considerable influence in getting the Cleveland Rolling Mill Company in Decatur. In the summer of 1870, the City Council leased ground from Gilbert Howell near East Wood and Broadway in what was known as Howell's Hollow. In July and August a well 10 feet square and 30 or 40 feet deep was dug, tapping a good stream of water. A Cameron pump with a capacity of 500,000 gallons a day was purchased from Kuperle and Company of St. Louis at a cost of \$1,460.

At a meeting on January 16, 1871 T.T. Flagler, agent for the Holly Manufacturing Company of Lockport, New York, makers and installers of waterworks plants, indicated, after a survey, that about 1,800,000 gallons a day would be needed for Decatur. Of this supply, the rolling mill would need 1/3 to 1/2 the amount. Flagler said that at a cost of \$100,000 for machinery, building, four miles of supply pipe and 45 fire hydrants, he could guarantee sufficient pressure to force a stream of water through a one-inch pipe to a height of 100 feet. The annual upkeep would be \$5,000 a year. At a City Council meeting February 6, 1871, a resolution was passed to purchase a 6-inch pipe to go from East Main Street through Broadway to Cerro Gordo Street and from there a four-inch pipe to the rolling mill and to provide grounds for the placing of a temporary engine and well as reservoir to supply water for the pipes.

WATERWORKS--After many meetings and discussion, six acres were purchased for \$3,000 from Peddicord and Burrows for the waterworks. The land was known as the Priest Distillery property immediately east of the Illinois Central and north of the river bridge. On June 19 a contract was awarded to the Dodson, Holmes and Company to build the new waterworks at a cost of \$34,937. The pumps were guaranteed to deliver one billion gallons of water a day, also three streams of water 100 feet high at the Old Square. A 12-inch main was to run from the waterworks to Old Square, a distance of one mile.

On March 4, 1872, with no planned observance, the pumps were tested by forcing water through the mile-long main to the Old (Lincoln) Square. The Decatur Republican of March 7, 1872 reported the event: "Last Monday evening the fire bell commenced ringing, and the people rushed out only to find that the alarm was given for the purpose of calling out the citizens to witness a trial of the Holly Waterworks. Hoses were attached to three fire plugs--one at Linn and Scruggs corner (2-4 Merchant Street), one at the St. Nicholas Hotel, and one on Imboden's corner at South Main and Wood Streets. A high wind was blowing, but the exhibition was very satisfactory. Three streams were thrown at the same time, each one of which reached far beyond the tops of the highest houses. This was only half of its capability. Decatur was now using the Sangamon River for its water supply.

ICE HARVESTING--The Sangamon River provided ice for Decatur from the 1860s and possibly earlier to the early 1900s. Harvesting ice was done by scores of men, the blocks being cut by big hand saws and stored in saw dust in ice houses. D. A. Maffitt used to put up from 7,000 to 10,000 tons of ice each winter, using 60 to 100 men at harvesting time. River ice still was being cut in the early 1900s, although artificial ice was being made and sold in Decatur in 1890 by the Decatur Ice and Cold Storage Company, 202-204 N. Broadway. The Maffitt ice house was at the foot of South Webster Street. In the 1870s Philip Klohr was in the ice business at Broadway and Priest (Decatur) Streets. By 1880 C.F. Butzhach was in the ice business at Main and Church Streets and the Decatur Ice Company (Joseph Michl and Charles W. Whitsit) had an office at 120 N. Water Street. In 1887 T. L. Antrin was in the ice business at 538 N. Main Street, and in 1889 W. A. Boley Ice Co. had taken over the business at that address. All these had to have ice harvesters on the river or have ice shipped in which was done when winter did not provide enough Sangamon

River ice.

SEWERS--While Decatur was getting a water supply from the Sangamon River above the city dam, it was polluting the river with raw sewage not far below the dam. In the early sewer system there were some open ditches south of East Wood Street to the river, but eventually the sewers were continued by the shortest route to the river. It was a practice followed by all cities in the nation that had streams to carry sewage away, hoping that by dilution and sunshine the water would be purified as it moved downstream.

Eventually for Decatur, due to the slow flowing Sangamon and dry periods, there were suits for damages brought by stock raisers who charged the polluted water killed their cattle. State authorities took notice and warned the city about polluting the river. Talk of a sewer system for the city started early in 1880 but it was not until 1888 that an ordinance was passed for the Union Street sewer. The sewer was built but ended just below Decatur. The Broadway sewer ended south of Wood Street. Both were later extended to the river. By the turn of the century protests were being made about the river, and by 1913 the condition of the river was such that the public demanded there be a radical correction.

In 1917 the Sanitary District of Decatur was created and was to include 21,120 acres. By 1924 there was an interceptor sewer, pumping stations, and a treatment plant. Decatur was on its way to handle the city's sewage and improve the condition of the Sangamon River.

THE STALEY COMPANY AND THE DAM--With a waterworks in operation in March 1872, the City Council was kept busy authorizing new water mains to all sections of the city as residents asked for city water. When the river was high, the water was often too muddy to use. A reservoir was needed, but it was not until 1874 that one was built. It was 100 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 6 feet deep to a bed of gravel through which the water seeped to provide a clean water supply. In 1877 it was enlarged to 500 feet in length. It was recognized a bigger reserve supply of water was needed, and in October, 1878 a dam was built below the Illinois Central Railroad bridge to create a small lake. The dam raised the river 4 1/2 feet. It was not until 1910 that a new dam was needed to meet the steadily increasing demand from residents and industry

Just as the coming of the rolling mill to Decatur in 1870 forced the city to establish a waterworks, the sale of the Wellington Starch Co. to Augustus E. Staley of Baltimore in 1909 was in 10 years to force Decatur to provide a lake of eight billion gallons of water to meet industrial demand. In the meantime, the Staley plant needed more water immediately. Construction of a glucose plant by the Staley Manufacturing Company created the need for the larger water supply. The company was assured of an adequate supply, but the need was immediate.

While surveys were made, engineers consulted, various plans discussed, and a final decision made for a big water impounding project, the Staley Company proposed a temporary dam be constructed where the present Staley Bridge crosses Lake Decatur. The Staley Company started construction of a dam in September, 1919. The dam was 350 feet long, 605 feet sea level, 10 feet higher than the city dam; total cost \$38,000. It was estimated the dam would create a lake of 600 acres between the C.I. & W. (now B. & O.) and Wabash Bridges. The Staley dam was put into use in August, 1920.

LAKE DECATUR DAM--The contract for building the Lake Decatur dam was let May 21, 1920 to L. H. Cope and Son and on June 24 the first stakes were driven. On July 15 there was a formal throwing of the first spade full of dirt by Mayor C.M. Borders as 10,000 watched. Pearce, Greeley and Hansen drew the plans for the dam and engaged J. Albert Holmes as supervising engineer. The dam was completed with gates in position by July, 1922. On July 4-7, 1923, there was a great 4-day Lake Decatur celebration with parades, aquatic sports of all kinds, a big pageant staged in Nelson Park, dancing and fireworks.

Wyers Cynthia, Editor, The -3- Chronicle, published by The
Macon County Historical Society, Volume I Number 3 Spring 1955

The dam had cost \$725,000; land \$599,000; clearing \$109,558; roads and bridges \$450,000; riprap \$128,000; a total of \$2,011,558. A total of 5,400 acres of land to the 625-foot level had been acquired. The lake was 14 miles long and a half-mile wide with an estimated capacity of eight billion gallons of water.

The above article is a summary of articles written by Otto R. Kyle, which appeared in the Decatur Herald from May 30 to June 17, 1966. A much more detailed account may be read from the original articles, including many illustrations.

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Decatur and the Sangamon

Glaciers Gouge River Valley

BY OTTO R. KYLE

The Sangamon River at Decatur and to the north is 15,000 to 20,000 years old, having been born when the Wisconsin glacier melted and retreated. The Sangamon valley and river west of Macon County are many thousands of years older.

The Wisconsin glacier was the last of four great glaciers that moved down into the Illinois area in the last million years. There may have been more glaciers before the last but are now generally discussed in geological history. The Wisconsin glacier did not move into Macon County, but the Sangamon valley and river were formed by the melting ice sheet that covered the Sangamon basin. The valley and river were formed long before the Wisconsin glacier came here.

Glaciers have moved in and out of Macon County in the past. The Sangamon is the last of four great glaciers that moved down into the Illinois area in the last million years. There may have been more glaciers before the last but are now generally discussed in geological history. The Wisconsin glacier did not move into Macon County, but the Sangamon valley and river were formed by the melting ice sheet that covered the Sangamon basin. The valley and river were formed long before the Wisconsin glacier came here.

The first of the four glaciers, the Nebraskan, left little in the way of deposits to mark its visit. The Kansan covered much of the western part of the state, a considerable part of this area being overlapped by the Illinoian glacier that covered almost the entire state except along the western edge above St. Louis and below Johnson County in the south. The last great glacier, the Wisconsin, covered the northeastern part of the state as well as much of Indiana and all of Ohio. It disappeared approximately 15,000 years ago.

Shelbyville Moraine

In the Decatur area the Shelbyville moraine marks the southern edge of the Wisconsin glacier penetration. The moraine runs east from Shelbyville to the Indiana line while to the west and north of Shelbyville the moraine crosses Macon County near Macon, swings northward to west of Harristown, Warrensburg and Clinton, then northwest crossing the Illinois River above Peoria.

The Sangamon valley may have been formed by the Illinoian glacier which pushed and ground the debris of previous glaciers and determined the face of Illinois except for the area covered by the Wisconsin glacier. It is interesting to note that the period between the Illinoian and Wisconsin glaciers is known as the Sangamon.

Radiocarbon Dating
James L. Brown in his "The World of Ice" says "Radiocarbon dating is able to open the earth's Wisconsin stage which, when with the several advances and retreats of the ice sheets, began nearly 70,000 years ago. Its last major advance culminated when the North American ice sheet reached as far as southern Ohio 18,000 to 20,000 years ago."

Radiocarbon dating has caused geologists to place the time of the four great ice sheets and intervening periods at about 500,000 years instead of the previous estimate of one million years. (All living plants and animals absorb radiocarbon. Absorption ceases when plants and animals die. The slow rate of disintegration of radiocarbon is known, and by testing the content of active radiocarbon the age of objects can be determined back to 70,000 years.)

The known age of the Sangamon River then, is 15,000 to 20,000 years. It may be much older.

Tomorrow: The Valley.



As Strongman Saw River

Robert E. Strongman, chief photographer of the Herald and Review, "shot the Sangamon" in a four-hour flight Sunday, May 22. Strongman took the pictures on this page and subsequent aerial views that readers will see in this series. First, Strongman had to find the source of the river. He used information from the text of Otto Kyle's history and found an upper reach of the Sangamon (left) between Sib-

ley and Gibson City. The photographer took about 80 pictures of the Sangamon from its source to where it joins the Illinois River at Beardstown, a winding route of 180 miles. Strongman indeed has seen from the air what author Kyle talks about on these pages. Readers will see it, too. Other pictures in this series have been taken from extensive files in the Herald and Review library.

Tues., May 31, 1966

Decatur and the Sangamon River

When Giant Beasts Roamed the Valley

The Sangamon River valley in Decatur County, Georgia, is a unique landscape. It is a valley that has been shaped by the forces of nature over millions of years. The river, which is one of the largest in the Southeast, flows through the valley, carving a path through the hills and mountains. The valley is a beautiful sight, with its rolling hills and lush greenery. It is a place where nature has created a masterpiece.

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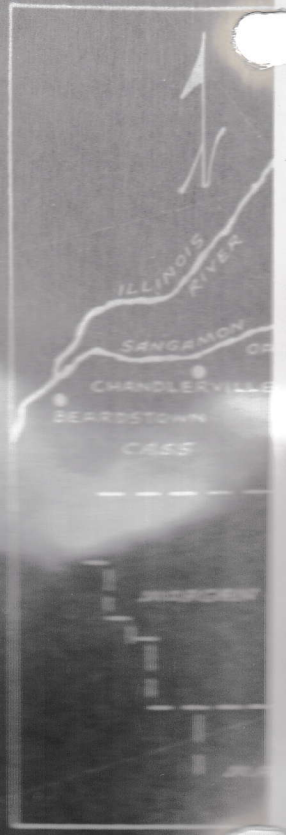
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Decatur and Sangamon

River on a Rampage

HUGH B. KYLE

The Sangamon River has not always flowed gently between its banks. United States Weather Bureau records show many flooding periods over the last century and a quarter. Some of its flood data follow:

January, 1881—Flood caused by rapid melting of extremely heavy snow. River at Springfield reached 30-foot depth. Many bottom lands flooded. This was in the winter of the historic deep snow in Illinois.

Spring, 1885—Flood stage in the upper Sangamon reached many heights then during the season.

May, 1881 — The Sangamon reached Springfield on May 17, 1881. The Sangamon in some places ran the usual width of the Mississippi and the water level was nearly as high as it was in the famous "great big day" of 1881.

1885—Severe floods caused approximately \$2 million damage in and around Springfield. Many bridges washed out.

1887—Flood only six inches over banks.

1883—Above Salt Creek the river attained height of 8 1/2 feet above banks and below Salt Creek a height of six feet.

1904 — Wide spread floods from excessive rainfall through watershed.

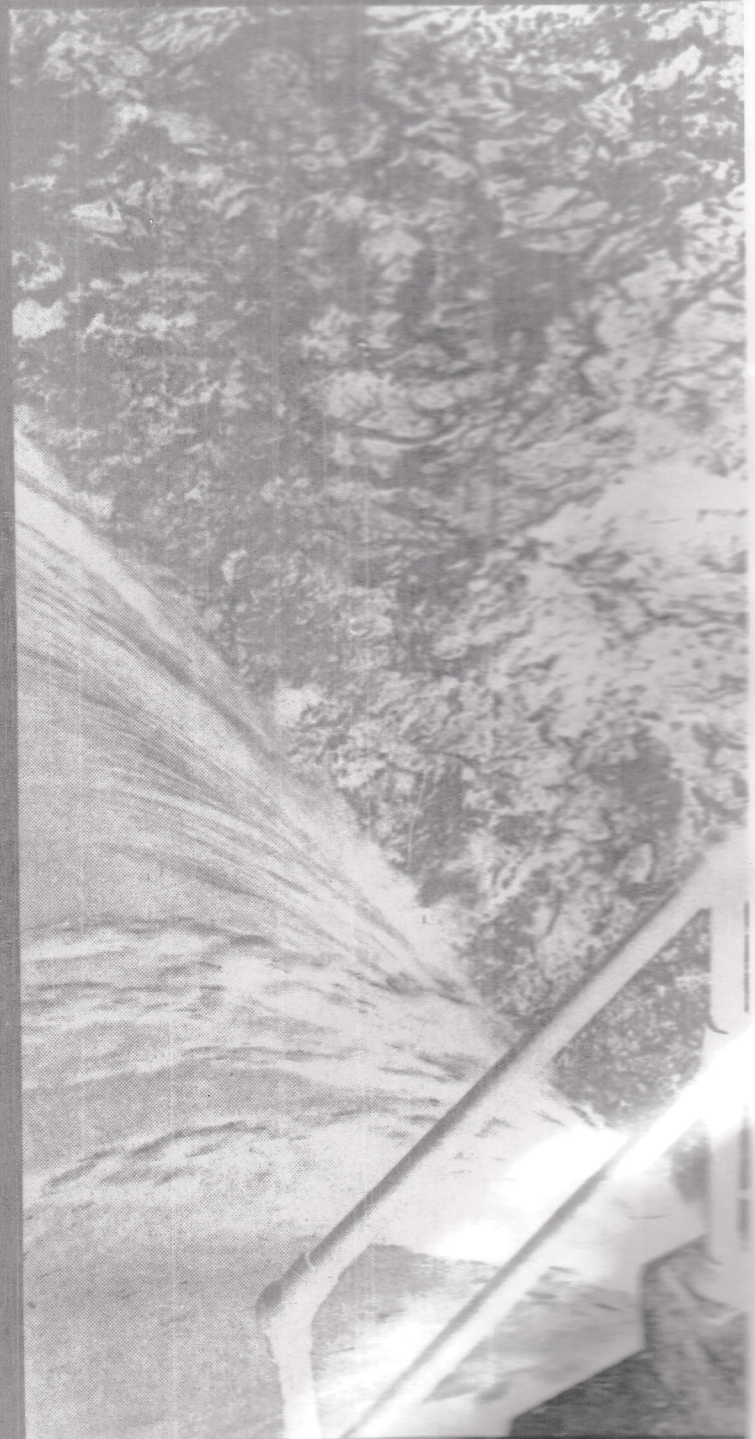
1926—Lake Decatur on Oct. 3 recorded flood six feet above the dam.

Bad Flood in 1943

Other wide-spread flood were recorded in 1887, 1888, 1890, 1892, 1898, 1900, 1902 and 1903 but the most devastating flood in the last 50 years was in 1943 when great damage was suffered throughout the valley.

The Sangamon valley has within its boundaries 94 incorporated cities and towns plus the geographical center of Illinois. The date the first human being entered the valley is unknown. When Christopher Columbus found the New world in 1492 thinking he had reached East India, there were natives in both North and South America. He called them Indians. How long they had inhabited North America is not known.

Tomorrow: Settlers enter Sangamon.



Water boils over dam at height of four feet in 1943.

Decatur Herald Thurs., June 2, 1956

Decatur and the Sangamon River

Settlers Find Rich, Beautiful Valley

BY OTTO R. KYLE

The first white people to enter the Sangamon River Valley undoubtedly were hunters and trappers but no writer has furnished an exact date. James Missette and Louis Joliet, French Jesuits, went down the Mississippi River and up the Illinois River in the summer of 1673 having entered the Illinois area from Canada. The French established New Orleans in 1718. In that 45-year period French settlements were started in Illinois along the Mississippi and the Illinois rivers.

Early French settlers in the area lived largely by hunting and it seems reasonable that some French hunters may have tramped along the Sangamon River hunting before there were any settlements. The Mississippi valley was under control of the French until 1763 when Great Britain took title to the territory east of the Mississippi. As early as 1766 Illinois had trade connections with eastern seaboard English colonies. There was trade with Illinois Indians. Some of that trade may have been with the Kickapoo Indians in the Sangamon River valley.

Richest Area

The real settlement of the interior of Illinois did not start until after the close of the Revolution in 1783 and it did not reach the Sangamon River valley until probably early in 1800. The valley early was recognized as probably the richest area of its size in the state. Prof. George W. Smith in his "History of Illinois and Her People" (1927), says Sangamon is Pottawattomi for "Good things to eat." But it was not always spelled Sangamon.

The Western Gazeteer or Emigrants Directory, published by Samuel Brown in Auburn, N.Y., in 1817, said regarding the territory: "The Sangamond, a crooked river, enters the State 130 miles from the Mississippi." The name "Sangamon" came in wide use for public reference to the river and the land in

Springfield as the name of a newspaper.

The valley got much publicity in the 1820's and later when a book, "Travels in Illinois in 1819," by Ferdinand Ernst, a German traveler, was published in Hildersheim in Hanover, Germany, in 1823. The book was widely read in Europe and when brought to the United States was well circulated. The book described the Sangamon country and gave much publicity to this area of Illinois. Incidentally, the book was translated for the Illinois Historical Library in 1903 by Prof. E. P. Baker of McKendree College.

On July 23, 1819, Ernst reached Edwardsville. At that time the Kickapoo Indians were camped near Edwardsville ready to make a treaty

with the United States ceding their lands in Illinois, which included the Sangamon River valley. Ernst wrote about the Indians, probably the first he ever had seen. At Edwardsville, Ernst met a man named Hallman who joined traveling forces with him. They went to Vandalia, the new capital of the state, where many told them about Sangamon valley land.

Started Log House

The two travelers started a log house and when it was nearly completed, Ernst left his companion to finish it while he came to the Sangamon country. By Aug. 27, 1819, he had made his way to Springfield by way of Edwardsville, Carlinville and Girard. He circled about Springfield looking at the area. He

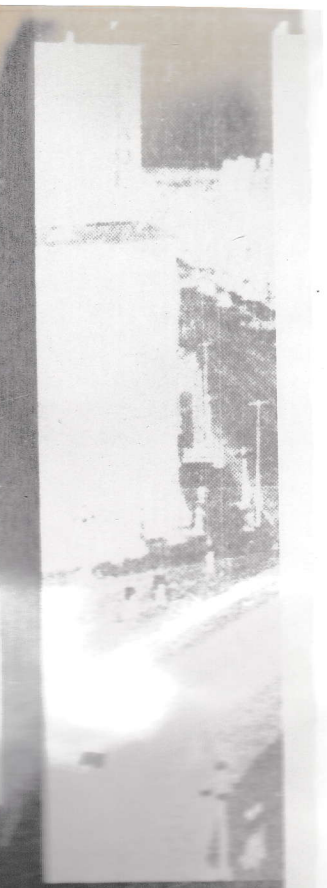
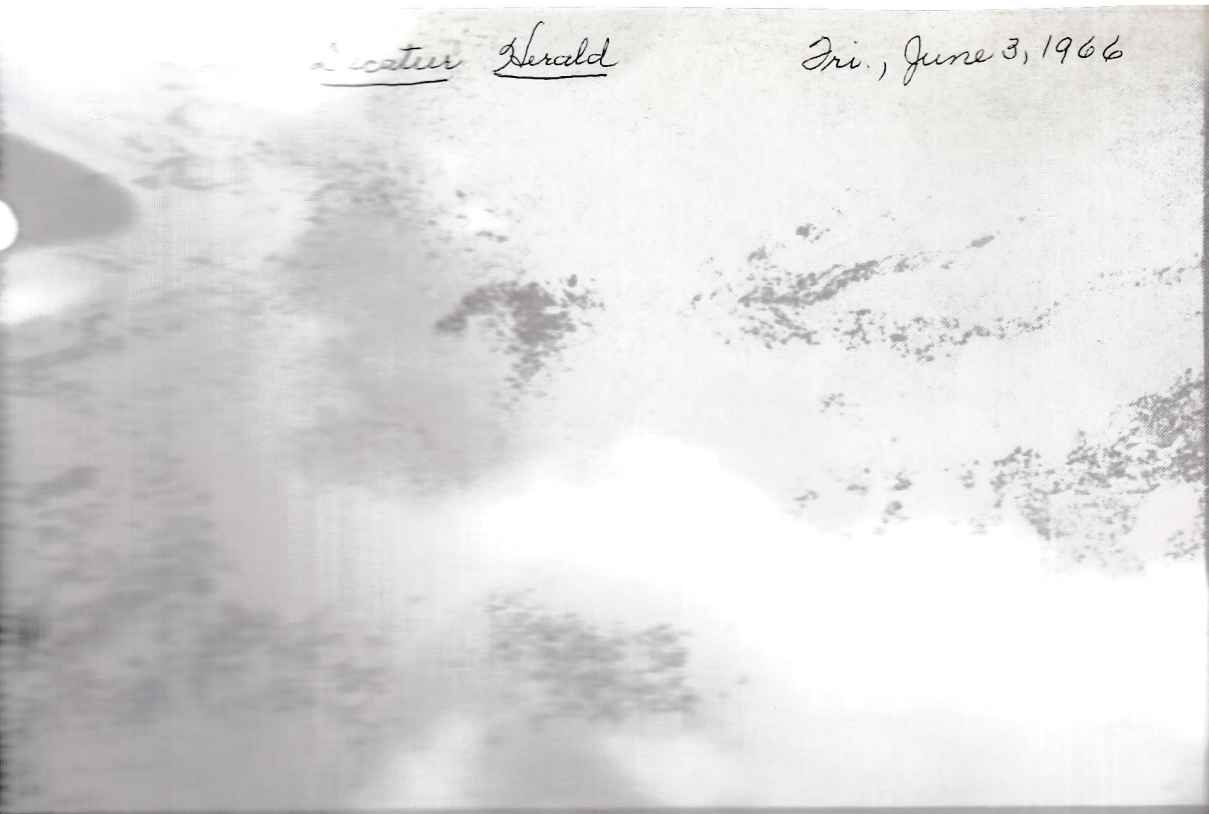
wrote about the prairies, the settlers moving in and said the country "is justly styled 'the beautiful land on the Sangamon,'" and the "region is one of the most important in the state of Illinois, or rather, will become such in a short time."

Others wrote about the Sangamon Valley. Thomas Beard, when 21, left his Ohio home in 1817 and in 1819 was in Edwardsville with Gen. Murray McConnel on a horseback trip to the Illinois River to visit Kickapoo Mounds just below the mouth of the Sangamon River. In writing about the trip he reported the Sangamon bluffs "looking like miniature Andes in the distance."

Tomorrow: Lorton Trading Post.



A modern explorer on the Sangamon.



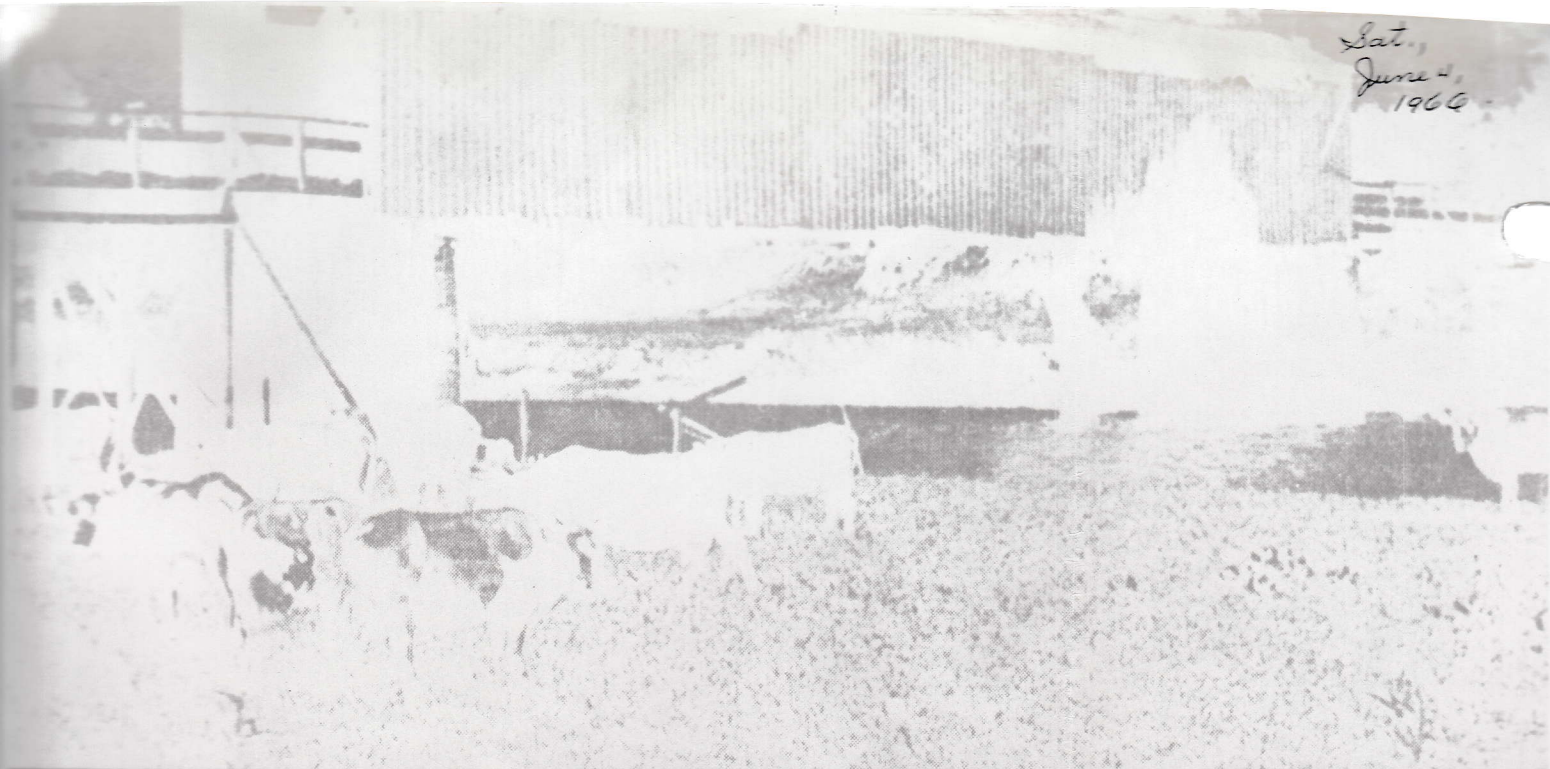
Wells for Drinking Water, Dams for Mills

The first wells were dug in 1840. The first dam was built in 1845. The first mill was built in 1850. The first bridge was built in 1860. The first school was built in 1870. The first church was built in 1880. The first factory was built in 1890. The first hospital was built in 1900. The first library was built in 1910. The first newspaper was published in 1920. The first radio station was established in 1930. The first television station was established in 1940. The first computer was invented in 1946. The first space shuttle was launched in 1968. The first moon landing was in 1969. The first AIDS case was reported in 1981. The first HIV test was developed in 1985. The first AIDS deaths were reported in 1982. The first AIDS epidemic was declared in 1987. The first AIDS vaccine trial was announced in 1990. The first AIDS orphan was born in 1991. The first AIDS memorial service was held in 1992. The first AIDS awareness campaign was launched in 1993. The first AIDS prevention program was implemented in 1994. The first AIDS research center was established in 1995. The first AIDS cure was announced in 1996. The first AIDS vaccine was approved in 1997. The first AIDS prevention program was implemented in 1998. The first AIDS research center was established in 1999. The first AIDS cure was announced in 2000. The first AIDS vaccine was approved in 2001. The first AIDS prevention program was implemented in 2002. The first AIDS research center was established in 2003. The first AIDS cure was announced in 2004. The first AIDS vaccine was approved in 2005. The first AIDS prevention program was implemented in 2006. The first AIDS research center was established in 2007. The first AIDS cure was announced in 2008. The first AIDS vaccine was approved in 2009. The first AIDS prevention program was implemented in 2010. The first AIDS research center was established in 2011. The first AIDS cure was announced in 2012. The first AIDS vaccine was approved in 2013. The first AIDS prevention program was implemented in 2014. The first AIDS research center was established in 2015. The first AIDS cure was announced in 2016.

which is not known. Under a state law passed in 1807, permission of the Court of Common Pleas in each county was necessary, especially if the man building the dam did not own property on both sides of the river. The law provided for a jury to investigate, fix damages, if any, estimate possible flood damage, etc. Rates for grinding grain were fixed by state law or the Court of Common Pleas within a county. The rates had to be posted and usually were from a seventh to a tenth part of bolted flour depending whether it was wheat, corn, barley, buckwheat or rye. There were different rates for grinding by horse or men power. Tomorrow? Bridges on the Sangamon.



Lat.,
June 4,
1966



Old Bridge: Picture looks southeast at the bridge which was built in 1840 on site of present County Bridge. It is on the route the Lincoln family took to Decatur

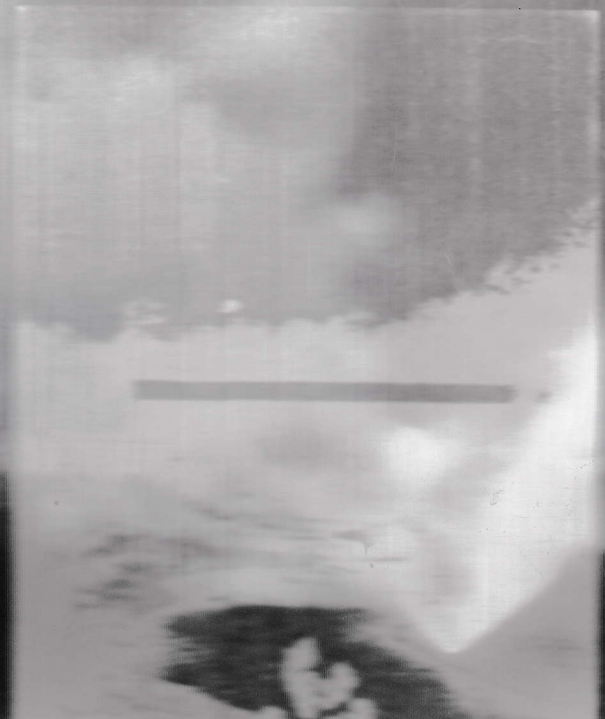
Decatur and Sangamon

Man Spans the River

BY OTTO R. KYLE

In the early days of Decatur there were no bridges over the Sangamon. Streams were crossed by fording often with disastrous results including drowning. Emerson's Ford, Cow Ford and others served for years in Macon County. When bridges

were built, at least three were covered. One was the so-called County bridge at the site of the present Lake Decatur dam and bridges; another was Rea's Bridge, north of Decatur and the other at the Cow Ford, down stream from the present Staley bridge across Lake Decatur.



Spanner Bridge

Decatur and the Sangamon River

Sunday, June 5, 1966

Sunday Herald and Review

Dams Provide Power to Saw Lumber and Grind Grain

STOTTOR KYLE

Captain David L. Allen, who came to Macon County in the fall of 1833, is credited with building the first dam across the Sangamon River at Macon. It was in 1833-34 to provide water power to operate a saw mill. The first dam built in the county had been on Sangamon Creek in 1832. James King, Jr. later was credited with building the first dam across the Sangamon and the second across the Macon River. The dam at Macon was the first dam in the county. It was built in 1833-34 to provide water power to operate a saw mill. The dam at Macon was the first dam in the county. It was built in 1833-34 to provide water power to operate a saw mill.

nois from York, Pa., in 1838, and settled near Monticello, but after a year he moved to an area on the north side of the Sangamon that later became known as the Riverside area. He bought the old Allen-Moffett dam and mill and added a grist mill. People came as far as fifty miles to the mill and often camped two or three days waiting for their wheat to be made into flour. Mr. Moffett's son, David, worked in the mill and later established an ice house becoming one of the prominent ice dealers of Decatur, harvesting his ice from the Sangamon. James and James Miller built a dam in the summer of 1837 on the river in what is now Section 34 of Harristown Township. The river cuts across the township which would place the dam south of Wicks in the area near the

bridge in the Rock Springs area. This is a comparatively short distance upstream from the Whitley dam site on the western boundary of Harristown Township. Whether this is the Miller dam referred to in the 1844 navigation report is not clear as it is far from the Moffett-Maffitt dam. The Millers also had a blacksmith shop at the mill site. Christopher Miller came from Kentucky in 1828 and settled in Section 14 of Harristown Township. His sons, Samuel, William and John came with him and settled nearby. James Miller came from Kentucky in 1829. Whether this is the James Miller who served four terms on the Macon County Commissioners Court starting in 1825-30 is not clear. He also served in 1830-31, 1840-41 and 1850-51. A John Miller was the second treasurer of the county, serving in 1838.



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fall of 1835 from York County, Pennsylvania. There were nine children in the family and all came except the oldest daughter. Mr. Spangler went first to Springfield in 1834 but came back to Decatur in 1835. He thought there were better business opportunities for his sons in Springfield but remained only six months. He settled on land near Oreana he obtained from the government. In all he had about 320 acres fronting on the Sangamon River and having been in the mill business in Pennsylvania, he built a dam and mill on the Sangamon. Jacob Miller, a son, who had helped his father build the mill, continued it after his father died in 1850. One of the most popular mills and also in the county was the Caulter mill two miles northwest of Decatur. It was a twenty-foot long saw mill operated by the name of the mill. The mill was a three-story structure built by W. F. Caulter. He thought he had in 1834. It is not clear whether there was a dam and mill there previously for people of the area but the Spangler mill is a saw mill structure. In any event the Caulter mill was a three-story mill place in what is now Section 23 of Oakley Township. There was a saw mill in connection with the wheat-bearing mill. At first the mill was run by water power. When timbers began to rot the mill was moved to higher ground and run by a gasoline engine. Mr. Caulter ran the mill for 23 years and his son-in-law operated it after him. There probably were other dams across the Sangamon in Macon County and perhaps saw mills that have been connected with the water power mill in the county. Oakley Township records show that the first mill there was built in 1834 and it is not recorded what power was used. Similarly in the same township Guy Spangler built the first grist mill. Although the water south of the Miller dam was not used for a mill in the Sangamon River, the bridge, for many years, was known as the Spangler bridge. James Spangler and his wife, Tennessee, navigating the river in Macon County in the

Young Abe Lincoln Saw Streams As Roads to Faraway Markets

BY OTTO R. KYLE

In the spring of 1844 a determined effort was made by Decatur and Macon County men to navigate the Sangamon River or at least see if it could be navigated. Such navigation was desperately needed to improve the economy of the county. The county had been in existence for 15 years—some of them desperate years for town and country. The prairies were swampy and filled with plow-defying prairie grass. Some land was in cultivation but roads were mere trails and there were no big markets close.

Poverty and ruin were experienced by many who had settled in the rich Sangamon valley. Its richness could not be utilized to the full until there was transportation of farm produce to markets. What was being hauled to St. Louis and Chicago as well as Springfield by mule over railroads that were rather good stage trails in many places, and when the driver needed the mules with his produce, prices were so low there was little left to pay mules and other goods after expenses of the trip were paid.

Young Abraham Lincoln was one of the men who saw the need for an internal improvement program. He realized the need for transportation and other improvements but the 1837 state effort to provide these improvements encountered formidable difficulties. First of all, the improvements were to be made with state credit but the panic of 1837 cut off any financial aid from federal sources. The state bank was in deep difficulties. In 1839 the state Legislature placed a heavy tax—20 cents or \$100—to use in securing a British loan. There was bond trouble and other failures with the result the work on the internal improvement program was halted in 1840.

In 1841, when the state could no longer pay interest on its bonds, the whole internal improvement program collapsed. Thomas Ford was elected governor of Illinois in 1842 and started at once to get the state out of its financial trouble and succeeded. In the meantime many sections of the state were disillusioned as to internal improvements, among them the Decatur community that had hoped to have a railroad.

Tomorrow: Clearing the Sangamon.



Abraham Lincoln
... he had a vision.

... he had a vision.

... he had a vision.

... he had a vision.

... he had a vision.

ound these bends with the use of a stern oar. The gentle current of the Sangamon made it easy to handle the craft at points where trouble had been expected. The success of the trip aroused great enthusiasm in Decatur and the county. One of the outstanding results was the organized effort to clear the river. Another was that several citizens announced they were ready to provide funds for building and putting keel boats on the river as soon as it was properly cleared of drifts and other obstructions.

All this Sangamon River navigation enthusiasm came seven years after the Illinois Legislature in its session of 1836-37 had proposed a vast internal improvement program that included a railroad through Decatur. It also provided for the improvement of the Warsaw, Illinois, Easton, Ill. and Easton, Ill. There was to be an Illinois Central railroad from the Illinois and Michigan canal in the northern part of the state to the Ohio river at Cairo. Also, two east and west railroads, the Southern Cross and the Northern Cross were postponed. The Northern Cross railroad was to run from Quincy through Decatur to the Indiana state line.

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Tomorrow: Clearing the Sangamon.

Successful Flatboat Trip Down the 'Sangamo'

Housees Keen Interest in Clearing a Channel

clearing the Sangamon River." The name of the river was spelled "Sangamo" and "Sangamon" in the secretary's report. John Rucker, who had come to Macon County in 1833 from Tennessee and who was to serve for 14 years as one of the county commissioners before he died in 1872, was chosen chairman of the meeting. J. H. Triplett was named secretary.

The object of the meeting was explained by Henry Prather, one of Decatur's influential citizens. He had come to Macon County in 1837. County historian John Smith records Prather as "prominently connected with all the public enterprises leading to advance the interests of Macon County and the city of Decatur. He was public spirited and nothing succeeded in advance the material property of the city or county except his earnest assistance and support in both cases and influence. He was

a member of the Legislature. Difficulties of clearing the river were pointed out by H.J. Armstrong.

A committee to devise and report a suitable plan of organization was appointed consisting of Henry Prather, Guy Fleton, J. Spangler, J. B. Moffett, William Cantrill, Elisha Freeman, Joseph Davis, C. Emerson, Joseph Stickel, William Cantrill, Elisha Freeman, Joseph Davis, C. Emerson, Joseph Stickel, J. D. Campbell, D. Morris, J. W. Gouge and Philo Hale.

The committee reported pointing out the Sangamon River drains about 200 miles of "as rich a portion of country as the state can boast of" and that the counties of Champaign, Piatt, Moultrie, Christian, Sangamon, Logan, Morgan, Cass and Menard are as deeply interested in navigation of the Sangamon as is Macon County.

The committee report also declared the spring experiment by Macon County sending a flat boat down the river proved beyond a doubt the river is susceptible of at least keel and flat boat navigation. The committee recounted the experiences of the flat boat journey and added:

"Nor is this all. There are now citizens in this county ready for putting keel boats on the river as soon as it is properly improved by which means we can get back freight at greatly reduced cost as well as get our groceries and other heavy articles of carriage. And last, though not least, who can calculate on the advantage that the clearing of the obstructions in the river would be to the health of the country. The obstructions in the river have long been regarded as one of the causes of the sickness we labour under during the latter part of summer and fall. With these facts is there a citizen that will not lend his aid to accomplish so desirable an object."

The committee recommended that for the present each county undertake the clearance of obstructions in its own territory, adding: "It is confidently believed by those who were engaged in the recent enterprise, that by proper organizations, if each able bodied man who lives within four miles of the river were to spend one day's work at the driest season of the year (say during the months of September and October) that the drifts could be cut and burnt up, as not to be any longer of serious difficulty to navigation. This being once done it will be natural to conclude that hereafter but little work will be required to keep the drifts from again accumulating."

The committee also pointed out that by the "present" mode of transportation (overland) it costs 20 cents a bushel to send wheat from Decatur to St. Louis and by river it could be transported for 10 cents a bushel. Overland transportation of pork to St. Louis that with a barrel and by river it would cost 10 cents a barrel.

The Macon County tax commission recommended that the river be divided into districts of about 20 miles each and

be appointed for each district to superintend all voluntary labor "that may be offered." It also recommended that the third Monday in October be the day for general commencement of river clearing in the county and that the citizens of Christian and Sangamon Counties in the neighborhood of Long Point, on the fourth Monday in October, aid in removing heavy drifts in that vicinity.

The division of the work in Macon County was to be as follows:

Beginning at the northern line of the county and running south to Spangler's mill be under the supervision of James Rea, Anderson Froman and J. D. Long.

From Spangler's mill to Moffitt's mill—Jacob Black, Joseph Stickel and William Shepard.

From Moffitt's mill to Miller's mill—Thomas H. Morris, H. J. Armstrong and John Hanks.

From Miller's mill to Whitley's mill—William Austen and J. Hosteller (Hosteller?).

From Whitley's mill to western limits of county—J. B. Moffitt (Moffett?) and S. G. Whitley.

The final action of the meeting was the adoption of a resolution that the flat boat experiment proved beyond a doubt there could be keel and flat boat navigation on the Sangamon "and it is believed that with no great expense it can be rendered also susceptible to steam navigation."

The resolution also urged "our" senator and representative to use all means to have the stream declared navigable at least as far as the northern line of Macon County and to use exertion in the next General Assembly to procure state funds for building locks or shutes in dams.

That fall Henry Prather went down the river making speeches and talking individually to farmers and groups about the necessity to clear the river so it could be used for getting produce to markets. Many responded, working for days in cutting and dislodging logs and drifts so high water would carry in the future to deeper water in the spring.

Thomas H. Morris on the Sangamon River.



Wed, June 8, 1966

DECATUR HERALD

Decatur and Sangamon

Two Decatur Boats Reach New Orleans

BY OTTOR KYLE

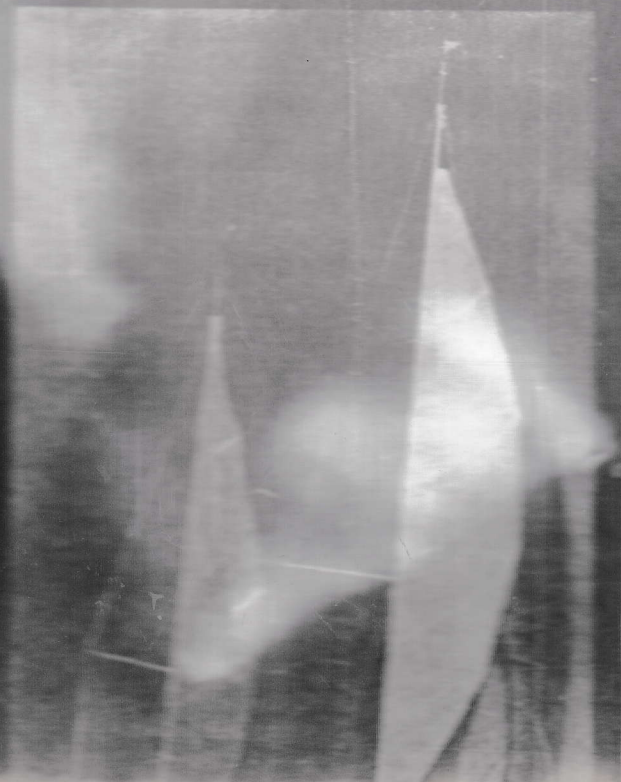
Smith's history of Macon County reports five more boats were built to carry produce to New Orleans. The history says it was 1846 but as the history is incorrect in saying the "navigation fever" and Capt. Rea's trip were in 1845 instead of 1844, as reported in the Springfield paper, it seems likely the five-boat expedition started in 1845.

The boats were loaded with corn and hogs. They got as far as Long Point and tied up for the winter to await high water the next spring, in 1846. In the spring, loads on two boats were transferred to the other three making two with hogs and one with corn. The three arrived safely at Beardstown but the boat loads were too light for the current and waves. A large quantity of bran was

bought and taken aboard for ballast. Two of the boats went through to New Orleans and one stopped at Natchez.

Captains of these boats were John Hanks, J. G. Braden and Hosea Armstrong. Armstrong, at Beardstown, turned over command of his boat to Moses Spencer. The whole project was promoted and backed by Hosea Armstrong, J. J. Peddecord and Henry Prather. People all along the Sangamon were interested in the navigation effort and large groups appeared to watch the boats. Some followed for several miles to aid if the boats should encounter trouble at mill dams and at drifts.

This was the end of the Decatur and Macon County effort to navigate the Sangamon. Tomorrow: Drinking from the River.



City's first and only riverside water treatment plant (center of photo) as it

Deatur and the Sangamon River

Wells Aren't Enough, City Decides in

...and sufficient water for manufacturing purposes.

...in 1870. The city council decided to purchase ten acres of land on the south side of the T. W. & W. opposite the Deatur Agricultural Works.

...The Deatur Republicans on May 12, 1870, reported on the rolling mill situation in this town article.

...The present appearance of the town of Deatur is a result of the rolling mill project in 1870. The parties who visited our city last fall and made preliminary arrangements for the purchase of the necessary grounds on which to erect the works, agree to their agents here last week making a formal proposition and asking that the contract might be closed at once.

...good place for a mill. Before a contract was signed Franklin Priest was elected mayor in March of 1870. After the well was dug in Howell's Hollow, a Cameron pump with a capacity of 500,000 gallons a day was purchased from Kuperle & Co., of St. Louis at a cost of \$1,450. On December 1, 1870, the pump was installed with Benjamin Hinkle as engineer in charge. At the time of purchasing the pump the council voted to lay a pipe from the well to the Illinois Central water tank at the railway station and then east to the rolling mill.

"Under contract terms, the company agrees to erect within nine months a rolling mill capable of manufacturing 50 to 60 tons of railroad iron per day, the city to donate ten acres of land in such a location as will be convenient to both the T. W. & W. and the I. C. railroads with water sufficient for manufacturing purposes.

"The City Council, after examining the contract, accepted it and purchased ten acres of land on the south side of the T. W. & W. opposite the Deatur Agricultural Works." (The location was in the vicinity of Jager street and the Vandalia railroad.)

Franklin Priest was mayor in 1870. The aldermen, forming the City Council that was in charge with the water problem, were E. M. Nisner, S. S. McClurg, Benjamin Hinkle, G. A. Simpson, H. F. Farnsworth, W. F. Hunter and J. Burgette.

In January 1870 when I. C. had been opened, the council decided to purchase ten acres of land on the south side of the T. W. & W. opposite the Deatur Agricultural Works.

A well-attended public meeting was held on the night of January 16, 1871, to hear T. T. Flagler, agent for the Holly Manufacturing Co., of Lockport, N. Y., makers and installers of waterworks plants. Flagler talked for two hours during which he said a survey of Deatur indicated a supply of 1,800,000 gallons of water a day should be supplied. He said that much was not needed immediately but it would be needed soon. Of this supply, he pointed out, the rolling mill, if successful, would need one-third to one-half the amount.

Flagler said that at a cost of \$100,000 for machinery, building, four miles of supply pipe and forty-five fire hydrants, he could guarantee sufficient pressure to force a stream of water through a one-inch pipe to a height of 100 feet. He estimated the annual cost of such waterworks for repairs, fuel, salaries, etc., at \$1,000 a year. He said Peoria and Dayton, Ohio, had Holly waterworks and were well satisfied with the thoroughly filtered water provided.

...the city council decided to purchase ten acres of land on the south side of the T. W. & W. opposite the Deatur Agricultural Works.



The river below is waterworks always a popular fishing spot.

Tri., June 10, 1966.

City Council Bases River Water Decision On Industrial Expansion, Fire Fighting

The city council of Decatur, Ill., on June 10, 1966, voted to purchase 60 acres of land on the Sangamon River for a waterworks expansion project. The council also authorized the city engineer to negotiate with the Illinois State Water Survey for the purchase of the land.

The council's decision was based on a report by the city engineer, J. W. Smith, who had conducted a study of the city's water supply and fire fighting needs. Smith's report stated that the city's current water supply is inadequate to meet the needs of the city's growing population and industrial base. He also noted that the city's fire fighting equipment is outdated and that the city's water mains are in poor condition.

The council's decision is part of a long-term plan to improve the city's water supply and fire fighting capabilities. The plan includes the construction of a new waterworks plant, the expansion of the city's water mains, and the purchase of new fire fighting equipment.

The council's decision is expected to be a major step in the city's efforts to improve its water supply and fire fighting capabilities. The city's water supply is expected to be increased by 50 percent, and the city's fire fighting equipment is expected to be replaced with modern equipment.

...of the capacity of the pump.

A resolution was adopted at the May 23 council meeting instructing the water committee to advertise for proposals for a building and machinery for a waterworks on or before June 15. The council then approved purchase of six acres for \$100 from Peabody & Brown for the waterworks. The land was listed as the "City Building property" located east of the Illinois Street and north of the river.

At a called meeting of the council on June 15, the city engineer, J. W. Smith, reported on the status of the waterworks project. He stated that the city had received several proposals for the construction of a new waterworks plant. The proposals ranged in cost from \$100,000 to \$200,000. Smith also reported that the city had received a proposal from Peabody & Brown for the purchase of six acres of land for the waterworks. The council approved the purchase of the land from Peabody & Brown for \$100.

The council also authorized the city engineer to negotiate with the Illinois State Water Survey for the purchase of the land. The council's decision is expected to be a major step in the city's efforts to improve its water supply and fire fighting capabilities.

connected with the rolling mill.

At the July meeting of the council it was reported the contractors were considering putting in a pump other than a Holly pump. Alderman Forstner introduced a resolution that was adopted, notifying the contractors the city would not accept any pump other than one manufactured by the Holly company. At the same meeting the contractors asked for payment of \$2,000 covering materials purchased. Thereafter about every week they asked for a five thousand dollar payment.

In subsequent meetings the council reported that the contractors had submitted the contract for the special water mains. The contract was for the installation of 100 feet of 12 inch water mains. The contractors also requested payment of \$1,000 for the materials purchased. The council approved the payment of \$1,000 to the contractors.

The council also authorized the city engineer to negotiate with the Illinois State Water Survey for the purchase of the land. The council's decision is expected to be a major step in the city's efforts to improve its water supply and fire fighting capabilities.

given for the purpose of calling out the citizens to witness a trial of the Holly waterworks. Hose were attached to three fire plugs—one at Linn & Scruggs corner (2-4 Merchant street), one at the St. Nicholas Hotel and one on Linbode's corner at South Main and Wood streets. Notwithstanding the fact that a high wind was blowing at the time, the exhibition was very satisfactory. Three streams were shown at the same time, each one of which reached beyond the top of the highest houses. It should also be stated that the pressure on the pipes at the time of the trial was not more than 20 psi, which is the normal pressure for the city's water mains.

The successful exhibition of the waterworks demonstration is a credit to the city's waterworks department and to the city's water supply. The city's water supply is expected to be increased by 50 percent, and the city's fire fighting equipment is expected to be replaced with modern equipment.

The council's decision is expected to be a major step in the city's efforts to improve its water supply and fire fighting capabilities. The city's water supply is expected to be increased by 50 percent, and the city's fire fighting equipment is expected to be replaced with modern equipment.



Sat., June 11, 1966



Decease and the Songomon River

Ice Merchants Made Good Use of "Cold Soap"

The ice merchants of the Songomon River valley in Alaska have found a new way to keep their ice from melting too fast. They use a special kind of soap called "cold soap" which is made from a natural substance found in the area. This soap is used to wash the ice blocks, and it helps to keep them from melting so quickly. The ice merchants say that this is a great discovery, and it will help them to make more money from their ice. They also say that the "cold soap" is very good for the environment, and it does not pollute the water. The ice merchants are very happy with their new discovery, and they think it will help them to stay in business for many years to come.

Boating at Riverside Park, located between Mueller Park and Jasper Street.

Sun., June 12, 1966

Nelson P

Decatur and Sangamon

Riverside Park Was Place to Go in 1890

By OTTO R. KYLE

In addition to swimming holes and picnic spots on the river, the biggest amusement venture was Riverside park established about 1890 on fifty acres fronting on the river directly south of the city and west of the present Jasper street. It was part of a real estate development by W. H. Starr and Isaac R. Mills who platted Riverside addition to Decatur. The Decatur Electric Railway company leased land along the river on which amusement facilities were built.

The Riverside Boat company had fifty boats on the river. Three small steamboats operated at various times. There were swimming facilities and a "shoot the shutes" for those seeking thrills. The park was immediately popular. Excursions were run from other cities. The park grounds were used for picnics and various gatherings. Eventually exchanges were held there. There were bath houses and water cottages. In the winter there was skating on the lake covered by the old waterworks dam.

Many celebrations were held there and in general it was a great outing place with the street car line hauling most of the people to and from the park.

As other parks were developed, especially Fairview park, Riverside park popularity dwindled. It was offered to the city but Nelson park property was purchased instead.

Motor boating, sail boats and such craft did not appear until Lake Decatur was formed but there always were many row boats and a number of canoes on the river.

There have been many baptisms in the Sangamon river over the years for those who wanted to be immersed. Most present day churches that baptize by immersion have church facilities for that use although there have been baptisms in Lake Decatur.

Tomorrow: Polishing the Sangamon.



"Shoot the Shutes" at Riverside in 1891.



Swimmers in Lake Decatur, 1891.



Mon., June 13, 1966

Decatur and the Sangamon

Raw Sewage Pollutes the River Sanitary District Is Created

By OTTO R. KYLE

While Decatur was getting a water supply from the Sangamon River above the city dam it was polluting the river with raw sewage not far below the dam. In the early sewer system there were some open ditches south of East Wood street to the river but eventually the sewers were continued by the shortest route to the river. It was a practice followed by all cities in the nation that had streams to carry sewage away hoping that by dilution and sunshine the water would be purified as it moved downstream.

Eventually for Decatur, due to the slow flowing Sangamon and dry periods, there were suits for damages brought by stock raisers who charged the polluted water killed their cattle. State authorities took action and wanted the city abate "polluting" the river. Springfield was concerned about its water supply being contaminated. Decatur was then compelled, about the

Talk of a sewer system for the city started early in the 1880s but it was not until 1888 that an ordinance was passed for the Union street sewer, an action that brought great opposition and a public protest meeting. However, the sewer was built but ended just below Decatur. The Broadway sewer ended south of Wood street. Both were later extended to the river. By the turn of the century protests were being made about the river and by 1913 the condition of the river was such that the public demanded there be a radical correction.

It was 1914 before something was done. In the intervening years there were lengthy discussions and proposals about what to do and how to pay for the disposal of sewage and eliminate the foul smell of the polluted river. There were talks to other cities by a group of citizens studying the problem. Engineering surveys were made. Eventually it was suggested that a contract and agreement agree with being and having power to correct

to handle the sewer and sewage problems of the city.

There was no such agency in Illinois and none provided for by Illinois statutes. The outcome was a bill presented to the state Legislature which enacted a law known as the Sanitary District Act of 1917. Under this law the Sanitary District of Decatur was created, the first of many others that were to follow throughout the state. The district was to include 21,138 acres.

With financial means available, plans to correct the unhealthy and obnoxious conditions of the Sangamon river were made. By 1924 there was an intercepting sewer, pumping stations and a treatment plant. Decatur was on its way to handle the city's sewage in an effective manner and to greatly improve the condition of the Sangamon although there were some demands that Decatur keep its treatment plant large enough to handle the city's sewage and protect the Sangamon River.

Continued Engineering of Sangamon.



Decatur and Sangamon

Straightening River Is Off-and-On Project

By JAMES W. HARRIS

The Sangamon River has been a part of the Decatur area since the first settlement here in 1803. The river was the main artery of commerce for the early settlers, and it remained so until the late 1800s when the railroad came. The river was a source of pride and a source of trouble. It was a source of pride because it was the lifeblood of the community. It was a source of trouble because it was so shallow and so twisting that it was often impassable for larger boats. The river was a source of pride and a source of trouble. It was a source of pride because it was the lifeblood of the community. It was a source of trouble because it was so shallow and so twisting that it was often impassable for larger boats.

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years, a formal application being made in November, 1921. On December 2, 1921, the final order was issued for the formation of the North Fork Outlets Drainage District. Initial plans called for a sixteen mile channel for the river to be dug from the Niatic bridge to a point two miles below the Holy bridge. Eleven thousand acres were in the district and it was estimated cost of the project would be \$214,698.

This cost covered right of way, excavation, bridges, damage to private property and clearing the right of way. Land was to be assessed at \$21 an acre. The right of way for the new channel was to be 200 to 250 feet wide with the channel 50 feet wide and four feet deep. Actually, when dug, the channel was 100 feet wide at the top and 40 feet at the bottom. The engineering was done by Corbitt and Nelson of Decatur and the McWilliams Contracting and Draining Co. of Chicago was responsible for the digging.

In April 1922 a dredge was ordered to start work as soon as a specific basin was located. The basin, occupying the left bank just above the Holy bridge, was the ideal spot for a large, 25-horse power dredge where an old mill race was abandoned. The dredge was made of heavy iron and was 20 feet long and 10 feet wide. It was 20 feet long and 10 feet wide. It was 20 feet long and 10 feet wide.

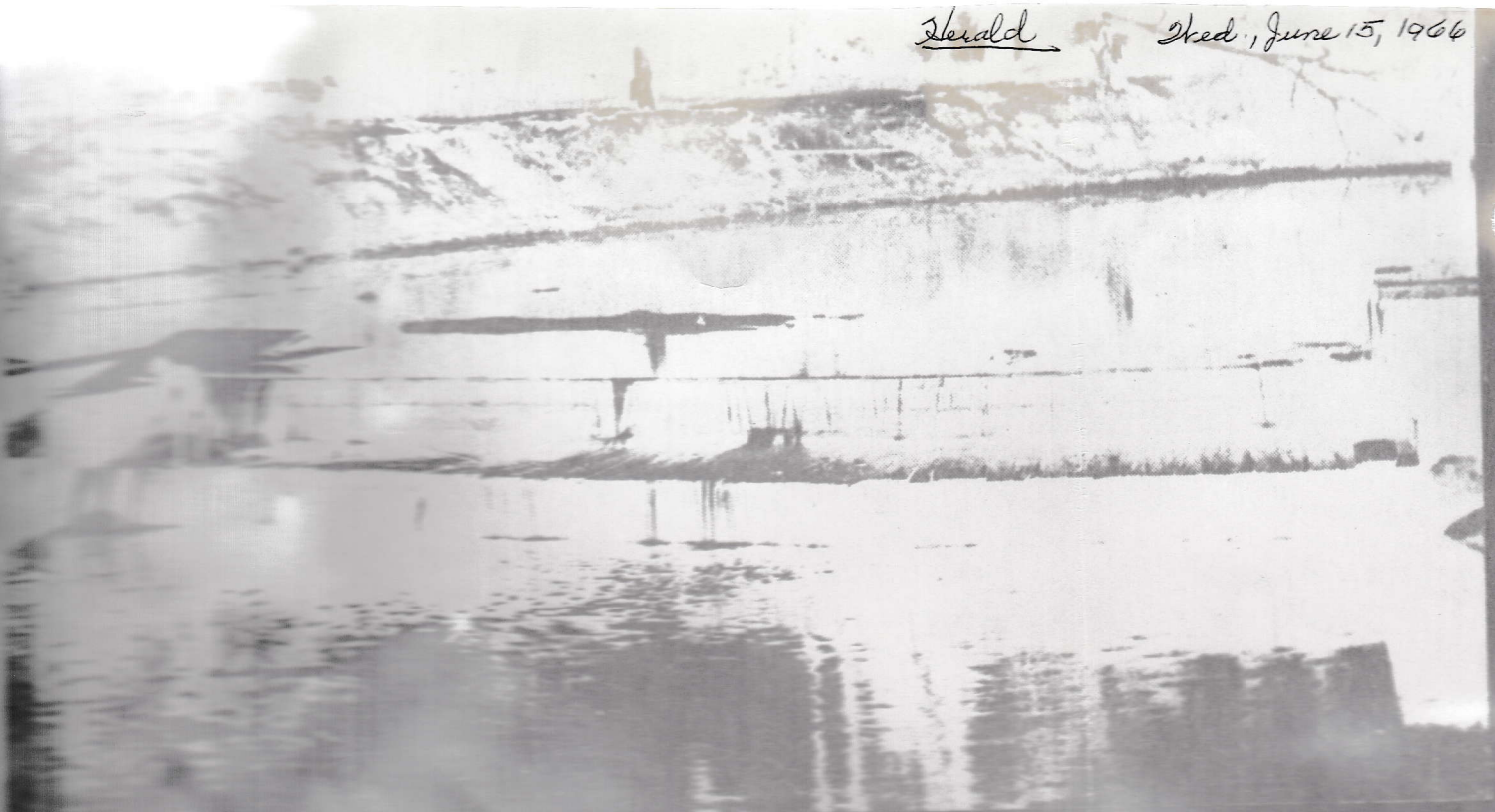
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The Sangamon at Decatur in 1888 — shallow and twisting.



WPA workmen hand-dredged the river basin in 1936.



The dam was built in 1920, just below the present dam. Picture was taken in 1924.

Decatur and the Sangamon River

Staley Co. Pushes for Larger Dam, Builds Own

Decatur, Ill. (Special Staff) — The Staley Co. has pushed for a larger dam on the Sangamon River at Decatur, Ill., to provide a more adequate water supply for the city. The company has built its own dam, which is now under construction. The dam is 250 feet long and 45 feet high. It will create a lake of 600 acres. The land to be covered would be needed for the larger lake project under consideration.

The dam was 250 feet long, 45 feet higher than the city dam, constructed with two rows of sheet steel piling filled in with gravel and dirt; total cost, \$38,000. It was estimated the dam would create a lake of 600 acres between the C.I. & W., (now B&O) and the Wabash bridges. The land to be covered would be needed for the larger lake project under consideration.

The dam was put into use in August, 1920, and the Staley pumping plant could supply up to three million gallons daily, relieving the Decatur plant. In August, 1921, a gate in the Staley dam was opened to give Decatur a bigger water supply. The Staley dam remained while the Lake Decatur dam was under construction, acting as a safety valve to control the water level at the construction site and was removed in February, 1922.

Tomorrow: Lake Decatur.

Fri., June 17, 1966
Herald

What Does the Future Hold for Old Stream?

The future of the Sangamon Valley dam and reservoir will be a matter of national importance. The project is being studied by the Illinois State Water Survey and the Sangamon River Commission. The project is being studied by the Illinois State Water Survey and the Sangamon River Commission.

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More than ten thousand acres will be needed for the water supply pool and flood control reservoir.

There will be park and recreational areas, access roads and other features. The state is planning to take part in the park and recreational features including fish and wildlife.

The prime purpose of the project is to provide for an orderly flow of water and reduce the damage from flood waters to a minimum from the Oakley dam to the Illinois River. The flood damage in the Illinois valley in 1943 was estimated at \$40 million and the annual flood damage at \$15 million with the damage in the Sangamon River basin, \$15 million annually.

Some facts about the project: Total estimated cost: \$50 million with Decatur paying \$15 million over a period of 10 years. Drainage area above project: 80 square miles. Dam to be 4,000 feet long and 65 feet high and made of earth and concrete. Construction of dam to start by 1968 and completed by 1972. The flood control pool will have a capacity of 132,000 acre feet of water. (An acre foot of water is an acre with water one foot deep.) The water supply pool will be at 200 feet above sea level compared to the Lake Decatur level of 200 feet and, with gates, at the 215 level.

Sedimentation of Lake Decatur will be considerably reduced with the creation of the reservoir.

It will take 30 days to empty the flood water pool to the level of the water supply pool.

Such is the future of the Sangamon River valley and the river.

— The End —

— The End —

— The End —

Research Notes on Sangamon

It was from research notes such as the following from The Decatur Republican that some of the "Decatur and the Sangamon River" series was compiled.—Otto R. Kyle.

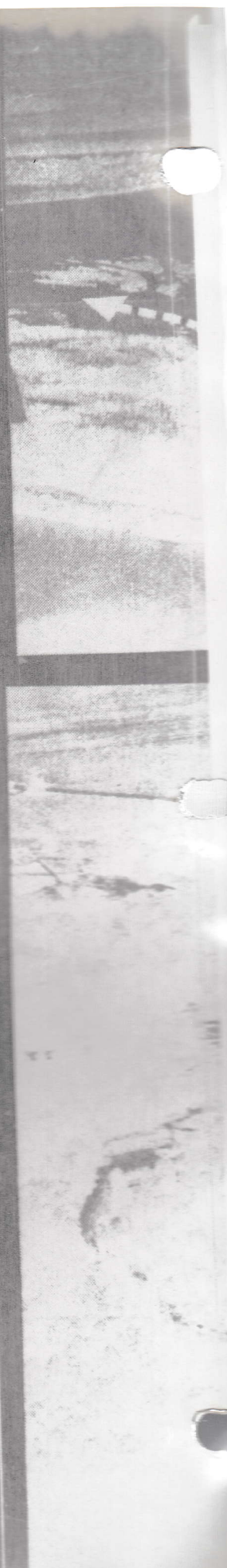
April 2, 1868—"A Convenient and substantial platform has been placed around the public pump in the center of the Old Square." (Lincoln Square)

May 7, 1868—"The Sangamon River has overflowed its banks and the bottoms are inundated for miles around. There are many contradictory reports (as well as other things) afloat. Some people say the river is higher now than during the famous flood of 1858 while others, on the contrary, aver that the Sangamon was as high last year. Be that as it may, serious fears are entertained for the county and

railroad bridges—the former secured by ropes yesterday evening. As we go to press it is raining with no sign of cessation so that we just as well be prepared for a high old time."

September 16, 1869—"Work is progressing rapidly on the new railroad bridge across the Sangamon. The trestle work is all completed on this side of the river and the stone work of the bridge is going forward finely. One abutment is nearly completed and coffer dams are being built preparatory to beginning work on the piers." (Railroad to St. Louis)

December 30, 1869—"A steamboat 65 feet in length is being built at Beardstown which, when completed, will ply the Sangamon river for the purpose of bringing out ties and lumber."



On Three Points In City Plan For 1923 —

Alplane View of Decatur Water Impounding Dam



This is the first published photograph of Decatur Water Impounding Dam taken from the air. Above the dam is the County bridge. The trees in upper left hand corner are on the former Maffit land. The streak in the lake is the old Maffit road grade not yet covered by water. The checkered line below the dam is the pipe line filling the hole below the a pron.

For A Better Decatur

Adont Street Plan: Create

...the late Mr. Ferguson was...
 ...to Ferguson...
 ...there was...
 ...members besides...
 ...appropriation to...
 ...but the mayor...
 ...has waived the...
 ...became a member...
 ...he sees no need now...
 ...other person to serve...
 ...without pay and that...
 ...increasing city ex...
 ...another pay...

Study Wilson Successor
 ...if he has decided who he...
 ...to fill the posi...
 ...vacated by S. Everett...
 ...assistant corporation...
 ...Mr. Lee said he will dis...
 ...the matter with other...
 ...members of the council in an in...
 ...meeting Thursday.

Wilson quit his post last week with the explanation that he wants more time to devote to his private practice as a law partner of Carl N. Weltepp. The job, paying \$90 a month, has duties principally concerned with prosecution of city cases in justice of peace courts.

WOMAN ARRESTED
 Mabel Bassler, 337 North Broadway, was arrested at 9:40 p. m. yesterday by police on complaint of Cora Beiler of the same address. The charge is disturbing the peace. Filed before Justice of the Peace E. E. Gray.

All of the information is to be compiled by township assessors who will receive government census forms from the county clerk. The assessors will be paid by governmental units for their additional work.

Frigid Blasts Delay Seismograph Crew In County Oil Tests

Yesterday's near blizzard and today's low temperature delayed seismograph operations northwest of Decatur, where 10,000 acres are being tested for oil possibilities.

The high wind that accompanied the cold weather makes it difficult for the seismograph crew to get sound recordings. S. O. Jarvis, owner of the block of leased land, said today. It is probable that another week will be required to complete the survey.

Activity at the old Wilson well, which also is in the Jarvis block, will be delayed for some time, the owner said today, due to the cold weather. The huge steam boiler used to run the rig in frequent drilling operations was drained yesterday and will not be put back in use until warmer weather.

Montague's statement that he is a special deputy sheriff and carries his guns and ammunition to engage in shooting contests is correct.

The charge of disorderly conduct was made because Montague and his young woman companion passed a night together in a Decatur hotel, which they were leaving when taken in custody.

Montague presented police four boxes of ammunition.

Cornel Keck to Speak Before Officers Dinner

Col. Morris M. Keck, Chicago, commander of reserve officers of the state, will speak here tomorrow night at 7 o'clock at a dinner which Maj. Walter Gregory is giving reserve officers of this sector in the State club house. Sixty-five officers will attend.

Livestock Brings \$1,000 Year to Best Farmers

The efficient handling of livestock accounts for nearly \$1,000 of extra income for the best farmers in the county. F. T. Ribben, chairman of the State fair, said today. The fair, which opened on Monday, is the largest in the state.

the hiring of another order writer, Mr. Kruzan said.

Cashing of the grocery orders will follow the usual twice-a-month procedure, and all relief clients will be warned that under no circumstance will they be allowed to receive all their groceries at once. Rigid co-operation of the grocers will be asked under the new plan, Mr. Kruzan said.

Charley Karr, the office's lone order writer, recognized as the fastest in the state in his capacity, recently turned out 433 orders in one day as compared with the average of 260 a day in other offices over the state.

Formerly known as the speediest typist in the Wabash office, Mr. Karr has been completing one order blank a minute under stress of the last month.

The new system in addition will greatly alleviate the backs of the 12 township case workers, Mr. Kruzan pointed out.

CHARGED WITH THREATS

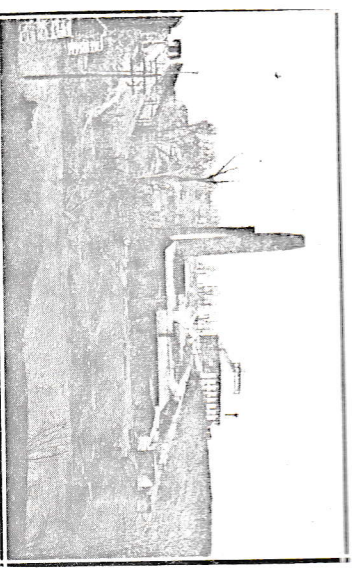
John E. Doney, of East Johnston, was arrested Tuesday by F. T. Ribben, chairman of the State fair, charged with threats against the fair. Doney, who is a member of the fair, was charged with threats against the fair.

WATER, ICE POUR OVER LAKE DECATUR DAM AS LAKE RISES



The marked drop in temperature has given the lake a new coating of ice, chunks of which, carried over the dam, churn their way downstream.

2,000,000 gallons each. They are still in use. These pumps raised the daily capacity to 7,000,000 gallons.



WATERWORKS PLANT IN 1896

new pumping station was erected at a cost of \$225,000 and a 6,000,000 gallon pump put into operation.

In 1910 a new light plant was erected at a cost of \$110,000, the city having installed a light plant about 25 years before. A new dam also was built that year.

The city voted March 28, 1913, for a \$135,000 bond issue to erect a new filter plant, and the contract was given later to the New York Continental Jewel Filtration company. The contract price was \$129,899.

CREATE LAKE

The next few years saw the biggest development in the story of the water supply for Decatur—the water impounding project which included the building of a dam and creation of a lake. This lake, called Lake Decatur, fourteen miles long and from one-half to a mile wide, contains enough water to keep Decatur supplied for two years without a drop of rain. Eight billion gallons of water are im-



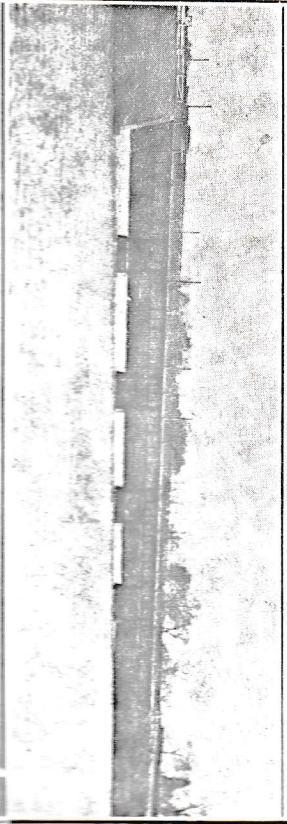
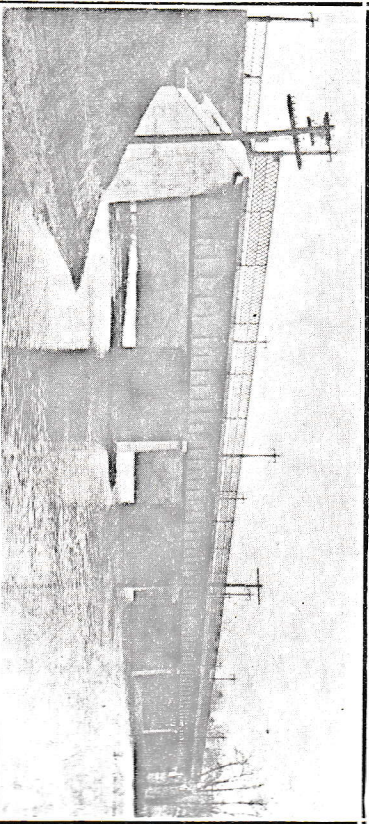
ONE VIEW OF LAKE

ponded. Decatur need never have a shortage of water. The total cost of the improvements was more than \$2,000,000.

The dam was erected at a cost of \$25,000. The length of the spillway is 480 feet, and the total length of the dam is 1900 feet. It is built to hold water at a 610 foot level above sea, and the addition of flash boards will raise the level to 612 feet. The water level before the creation of the lake was 595 feet.

It was necessary to purchase 4,000 acres of land at a 615 foot level for the lake. The land cost \$599,000. Other expenses in connection with the project were \$109,558 for clearing the land, \$450,000 for roads and bridges, and \$128,000 for riprapping. At the time of this development the county bridge was raised 14 feet, giving it a height of 15 feet above the lake level.

The dam itself was financed by the city, but the rest of the project was taken care of by the Decatur Water Supply company, a corporation of Decatur citizens formed to provide \$1,000,000. Stock in the company in five days was oversubscribed to \$1,200,000.



COUNTY BRIDGES

Upper Bridge before subject. Lower Bridge before subject. *Redwood, 17th & S., Centennial Academy of Decatur, 1880, pp. 99 & 107*



WATERWORKS AND DAM IN 1929

According to the agreement made, the income from city water rents is used to pay for the operation of the waterworks plant, to pay dividends on preferred stock of the company, and to retire stock. Within sixteen years from the date of organization all the stock will have been retired, and the land decided to the city.

This project, under way for three years, was completed in 1923. A five-day celebration marked its completion.

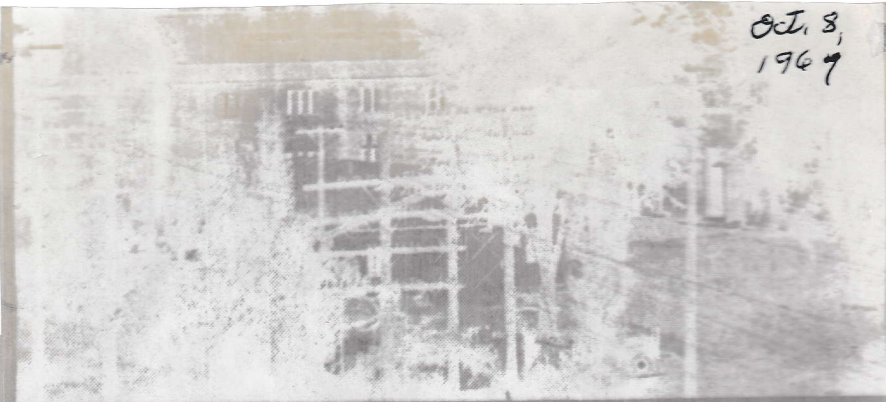
Improvements and additions have continued at the waterworks plant. In 1926 additions costing \$143,689.02 were made to the filter house. This increased the capacity of the plant to 18,000,000 gallons of water daily. Other recent improvements are a water softener, chlorinator, and new carbonator plant.

Water mains cover the entire city, and the number of water meters in use in 1929 was 13,625. That year the average daily consumption of water was 7,000,000 gallons.

The name of Harry Ruthrauff was linked with the waterworks history for many years. He was employed first in June, 1888, as a helper or caller of water pipe, then served as foreman and later as water inspector and plumbing inspector. In 1911 he was elected one of the city commissioners and was made head of the department of public property, which gave him oversight of the waterworks. He served in that capacity until 1927.

¹The first public well was authorized June 6, 1831, when the county commissioners gave James Johnson authority to dig a well in the town of Decatur on Block 2, west half of lot R, for a public well. Years later a well was dug in the middle of the old square and for many years an old wooden pump stood there, with a tin cup chained to it. This old well was filled up at the time the transfer house was built.

²At the time of the mass meeting of citizens in 1871 there was some opposition to the building of a waterworks plant. Franklin Priest, mayor, who was a far-sighted man, but whose advice was not always followed, made the remark at that time: "This is going to be a city. We should now begin to buy land for parks and sites for firehouses. Some day we will have to pay a high price for them, but now we can get land at the price of vacant property." The land he was talking about was included in the section bounded on the north by the Waldoak, on the east by Hilton street, on the south by Wood street, and on the west by Monroe Street. Some objectors said: "We've got a park now, Central park, but it is not used by anything but the rabbits."



Oct. 8,
1967

Decatur waterworks in 1934

Oct. 8, 1967

Decatur Diary

Sun. Herald and Review
Peters

Water Supply Old Problem

By Charlotte Huser
Of the Herald and Review

A hundred years ago, Decatur faced a problem that still plagues cities today—an inadequate water supply. By the turn of the century, the problem of water pollution had appeared.

Before 1868, Decatur, then a town of 8,000, got its water from individual wells and cisterns.

Then a disastrous woolen mill fire aroused citizens to the fact that the city needed a large water supply.

The first ordinance for a waterworks for Decatur was passed Jan. 11, 1869, but nothing more was done until an industry forced the city council in 1870 to live up to its contract.

The council first tried to furnish the water supply from wells on the site of the Decatur Rolling Mills and later in the branch, now Industry Court on East Wood Street. One well had a pump which supplied five million gallons of water a day to Decatur.

In 1871, the council and the citizens both realized that wells were a failure as a source of a large water supply. Before the end of the year, construction began on the first waterworks and the first mains were laid in Decatur.

Construction Details

The construction included a river intake and pumping station on the north bank of the Sangamon River at a point about a mile south of the center of the city. Three one-million-gallon pumps and one mile of 18-inch water main to the then existing distribution system were part of the program.

The water main was laid along what is now South Main Street.

But still was to be remembered for some time to come as "the year of the big drought" and the Sangamon struck in a series of water crises, showing the inadequacy of the river in its natural state.

Hansmann Mueller, gunmaker, was appointed in Octo-

This laid the foundation for the H. Mueller Mfg. Co., which he founded to make a tapping machine invented by him while he was city plumber.

In 1874, an infiltration gallery and reservoir were constructed along the Sangamon River bank to improve both the quality and the quantity of the water.

A wooden dam was constructed across the river channel in 1878 and between 1882 and 1884 three new pumps, each with a seven-million-gallon-a-day capacity, were added along with a 16-inch feeder main laid along Broadway.

Other pumps were added through the years; one a three-million-gallon, was installed between 1894 and 1896; another, a six-million-gallon, was installed in 1908 and a 20-inch

feeder main was laid on Franklin Street.

In 1909, construction began on a new pumping plant and the wooden dam was replaced with a lower pool concrete dam with an elevation of 535 feet.

In 1909, the problem of water pollution appeared. Upon complaint of residents living near a sewer outlet, Dr. Ben Bachrach, township physician, Charles Becker, township supervisor, and other township health board members, investigated the river and found that, indeed, it was being polluted.

They discovered that the source of the pollution was oil and waste from the Wabash Railroad shops as well as sewage from the toilet rooms.

The problem was apparently corrected and no mention was made of it again.



DECATUR IMPOUNDING DAM
 PICTURE NO 1 SHOWS SITE OF DAM SEPT. 5 1920
 PICTURE NO 2 SHOWS SITE OF DAM MAY 7 1921
 PICTURE NO 3 SHOWS INSIDE OF THE NORTH COFFER DAM AFTER WATER WAS PUMPED OUT. THE FIRST SECTION OF THE SPILLWAY AND NORTH ABUTMENT WILL BE BUILT IN IT. NOTE PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE EXCAVATING WAS COMPLETED WITH A CLAM SHELL MACHINE BEFORE PUMPING WAS STARTED.

L. N. COPE & SON,
 CONTRACTORS ENGINEERS
 DECATUR, ILL.

Decatur Diary August 30, 1970

Dam Built for Extra Water

By James M. Dodman
 of the Herald and Review

The need for additional water for Decatur was apparent when a survey was made in 1912 in connection with plans for a new sewer plant.

A report in 1914 by P.C. Hicks, then consulting engineer, recommended a dam 150 feet east of the County Bridge to impound water at the 605 foot level, submerging 1,000 acres of land in the Sangamon riverbottoms.

That same year, engineer Langdon Pearse, who came to Decatur in connection with a proposed sewage disposal plant, stated that the water supply

posed a serious problem since so much water was being taken from the river.

The A.E. Staley Mfg. Co. was anxious about adequate water if the firm were to expand. C.A. Ewing, president of the Association of Commerce, pointed out the advantages of a lake from a recreational standpoint.

In 1918, Hicks outlined to the city council a plan for a dam 150 feet east of the County Bridge, three-quarters of a mile wide and eight miles long. It was estimated that such a dam would supply Decatur with enough water for two years even if it didn't rain.

When it came to acquiring land, the city found that the Macon County Coal Co. owned rights under the site and was planning to run galleries there. The city owned the coal rights west of the County Bridge and the land, so it was decided to place the dam there.

A vote was taken on March 16, 1920 and passed 3,007 to 1,950 for the issuing of bonds in the amount of \$376,000 for the water impounding.

Bids were asked for by the City Council. No one bid. Two months later bids were again put out and on May 21, 1920, L.N. Cope & Son was awarded the contract.

The consulting engineers were Pearse, Greeley & Hansen, of Chicago.

Mayor Charles M. Borchers turned over the first shovelful of water space on July 15, 1920 for the \$2.5 million lake and dam.

By October, workers had discovered a blue-grey clay so hard that pilings could not be driven into it. A geologist was hastily called in and decided that the clay was firm enough to be the foundation of the dam. By November, an earth embankment was built on the north side of the river, just below the County Bridge, then a similar earthwork on the south.

Construction of a 469-foot spillway began and on Nov. 18, 1920, pouring of the concrete began. The dam was 28 feet, 6 inches high, thickness at the base 30 feet, with a 42-foot concrete apron and a 28-foot clay apron. The structure took 30,000 barrels of cement.

At 11:30 a.m. on March 8, 1923, the lake level reached the top of the dam and poured over.

The lake was dedicated in July of that year with a four day celebration attended by many

A POST card from the engineering firm shows the development of the dam.

began playing with its new baby with boating, fishing and swimming.

It looked like Decatur would never suffer a water shortage. It had a lake with eight billion gallons of potential drinking water, which, when planned, was supposed to supply the water needs of a city of 75,000 for at least 50 years.

Decatur was quick to take advantage of the recreational aspects of the lake. By 1925, there were 428 boats on the lake, including a 95-foot by 18-foot sternwheeler named the "Illinois," a 50-ton excursion boat with a 60 horsepower motor.

Beaches for swimming sprang up all along the shore. There was even a "price war" among them. At one time there was Lakeside, Fletcher's, and the Municipal bathhouses in the vicinity of the present beach house; a bath house at Faries Park and another at Riverside Park, near Eastmoreland.

Lake Grove later had a private beach, as did Spittler's, across Lost Bridge about a block north of the road. The city finally bought out Fletcher and Lakeside, tearing down the former and using the latter for canoe and boat rentals.

A new municipal bathhouse was started in February and finished to open in June 1926. This was replaced by the present stone structure as a W.P.A. project.

Not only did the dam furnish Decatur with recreation, but it helped make up Staley's mind not to move to the Illinois River and undoubtedly brought other grain processors to Decatur, to say nothing about a water supply that was badly needed.

Lake Decatur
Monument
To Staley



These articles at the
base of the Staley's
monument

A. E. Staley and the City

Dec. 27, 1940

Civic Contributions Evaluated by Henry Bolz

Editor's Note: The following evaluation of A. E. Staley's life and contribution to Decatur was written by Henry Bolz, secretary of the Association of Journalists and former industrial reporter for The Herald during the Staley plant's period of expansion. He was intimately acquainted with Mr. Staley.

A builder who made his own dreams of a great factory come true left our midst with the passing of A. E. Staley. He saw the fulfillment of his vision of a great industrial unit, of a monumental office building, of fertile farmlands producing high quality corn and sorbeans. Simultaneously he saw in his lifetime the fulfillment of a prediction that with these would come a greater Decatur.

As a reporter, it was my privilege to have many intimate conversations with Mr. Staley, particularly in the period that he was building his great industry, 20 to 25 years ago. Mr. Staley was one of my regular assignments. And what a fertile source of news! He was making news — and Decatur in those days.

Own Public Relations Man

That was in the days before there were experts in "public relations" to advise and help manufacturers and other business leaders. Mr. Staley was his own public relations counsel. He gave that his personal attention in addition to the many other responsibilities involved in the expanding business.

As a reporter, he used to say that he was interested in the public. I was a reporter for the Decatur Herald and he was a manufacturer. He had a strong interest in the public and he was a public relations man.

employees and finally himself and his family (those were always his three concerns) but invariably he told of some of his plans. These were not always for immediate publication, and as a young reporter it was not easy to comprehend these great buildings that he visualized on the site of his plant. Several years before any public announcement was made of the fine office building, I was fascinated with his vision of that building, all of which—and more—was to come true.

Bursting with ambition and determined to see that his plans for more buildings and more employment and more products for his customers would be carried out promptly, he was very seldom impatient over delays that slowed progress. He appreciated that public bodies necessarily moved slowly. Only on two occasions did he voice impatience.

One of these is of interest for in connection with it, he voiced what probably was a philosophy of his business life—his impatience with those who found reasons for "not" doing necessary things.

Sees Viaduct

In an interview one Saturday afternoon, he visualized the need of the viaduct on Twenty-second Street that now bears his name. He was asked, as was usually the case, to help me find the deep meaning of the plan. In later years, many business officials and others he passed in offering him their own opinions on the matter.

He was a man of vision and he was a man of action. He was a man who saw the need for a viaduct and he was a man who saw the need for a viaduct.

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Decatur Public Library
Decatur, Illinois

Roy Cope, 66, City Dam Builder, Dies in Hospital

Prominent Contractor Retired in 1938; Handled Real Estate

Roy M. Cope, 66, Beavertate road, prominent Decatur contractor whose firm built the city's dam and sewage treatment plant, died at 7:45 a. m. today in Decatur and Macon County hospital. He had been in poor health for some time.

Until his retirement in 1938, he had been a building contractor here. He was associated with his father in the firm of L. N. Cope & Son until the retirement of his father in 1922.

UPON THE RETIREMENT of his father, Mr. Cope became associated with Lewis Fisher, a member of the old firm, in the firm of Cope & Fisher.

Since 1938 he had engaged in the real estate business.

His firm handled a great many major construction jobs here, including the Millikin library, National Bank of Decatur, Decatur high school, the Bachman building, Washington school, and the Wash railroad office building.

However, the construction of the dam, started in 1920 and finished in 1923, has left the biggest mark on the community.

Construction of the 30-foot concrete dam, 500 feet in length, impounded a great natural reservoir of eight billion gallons of water for the city and gave the city its lake.

The sewage treatment plant was built about 1923.

THE FIRM also handled many major projects in other cities, including sewage disposal plants in Michigan City, Ind., Erie, Pa., and Zion, Ill., and water plants in Waukegan, Springfield, Anna, and Danville, Ky. The firm also built many of the largest elevators in this area.

Mr. Cope was born here March 16, 1884, the son of Leanden Nelson and Martha Gaskin Cope, and spent his entire life in this community. He was an early student at Millikin university, and was a member of the Decatur Club.

He was married to Elizabeth Rucker here Nov. 11, 1907.

He leaves his wife; a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Cope Andrews, Decatur; a son, Robert J., Decatur; a sister, Mrs. Edith James, Gulfport, Miss., and five grandchildren.

The body is in the Dawson & Wilkoff funeral home. Arrangements are incomplete.

Roy M. Cope, 66, retired building contractor and realtor, died this morning in Decatur and Macon County hospital.

Lake Dam Was Begin 20 Years ago Tomorrow

Twenty years ago tomorrow the mayor of Decatur, Charles M. ... shovels, shoveled a silver-plated ... into the earth, turned it over ... hundreds of spectators watched ... on the banks of the Saugamon ... and actual construction of ... city's two and a half million ... lake and dam was under-

This official ceremony was the culmination of years of agitation for a more adequate city water supply. According to the men who built the dam and lake, the silver-plated spade symbolized the most important single project ever undertaken by Decatur.

When the official ceremonies were over, the real work began. Ready, the Decatur Water Supply Co., a corporation of Decatur citizens organized to raise one million dollars, had bought up 4,000 acres of land for the lake, east and south of Decatur. The city council undertook the construction of the dam proper, and hired Contractor L. N. Cope & Co. of Decatur to do the work. Consulting engineers were George, Greeley & Hansen of Chicago.

Built Earth Embankments
An earth embankment was first built on the north side of the lake, just below the county bridge above the waterworks. Then a similar embankment went up on the south side, and the construction of the 469-foot-long spillway and concrete platform to hold the water controlling the waterworks began. Two concrete pipes, and two nine-foot-diameter floodgates, were built into the dam, giving it an overall width of 600 feet.

The county bridge, which now carries route 51 auto traffic, was raised 14 feet to provide sufficient clearance for the lake waters which were, of course, expected to rise.

To get the city's water supply from the lake, three circular intake gates, each 36 inches in diameter, were built on the north end of the spillway. The gates were connected with the waterworks.

30,000 Barrels Cement
On this vast project workmen labored day and night. More than 30,000 barrels of cement were poured into the dam. A tall steel tower was erected on the south side of the river as the base for a dragline shovel which scooped tons of dirt out of the river bottom and along the embankments.

Nearly three years after Mayor Borchert turned the first spade of earth, the dam was completed and the Saugamon river began piling up behind the concrete spillway. Lake Decatur was being created.

At 11:30 o'clock on the morning of March 8, 1923, the lake level reached the top of the dam and for the first time water poured over the spillway.

Five-Day Celebration
In July the same year, a total of 50,000 persons celebrated the completion of the lake and dam with five days of pageants, oratory, athletics, water carnivals and music.

Decatur then looked back on its achievement and considered these figures:

The lake and dam cost a total of \$2,294,749.51, of which the city government supplied \$904,749.51 and the Decatur Water Supply Co., \$1,390,000. The company paid \$605,000 for the 3,800 acres of land in the lake reservoir, \$117,450 for clearing the land, \$309,100 for lake bridges, \$151,300 for riprapping bridge embankments, and \$64,500 for removing roadways and stumps, and for general expenses.
By 1939 all of the water company's \$1,200,000 stock—which had been oversubscribed in five days—was retired and the land decided to the city without further cost.

WHEN THE LAKE DAM WAS BEGUN 20 YEARS AGO



The construction of this bridge (in the background), was one of the first steps in building the Lake Decatur dam. A similar embankment was built on the south shore of the river, and the concrete spillway was stretched between. The first shovelful of dirt was turned 20 years ago tomorrow.

8 Billion Gallon Basin

Decatur had then, and still has, eight billion gallons of potential drinking water stored up in the lake—enough to assure the city of a constant supply for two years without rain.

Today, 20 years after the project was begun, the lake means far more to Decatur than drinking water. The city's recreational life centers around this 214-mile-long body of inland water. New industries have sprung up along its northern end and the homes of Decatur residents line its shores from one end to the other.

The lake was planned in 1920 to adequately supply the needs of a city of 75,000 persons for at least 50 years. Only 20 of those 50 have now passed, but already-farsighted civic planners and citizens are looking forward to the day when

Charles M. Borchers, 77, Twice Decatur Mayor, Dies

Served Term In Congress

Charles M. Borchers, twice mayor of Decatur, once congressman from the seventh district, and candidate for governor of Illinois, died Saturday at the age of 77 years.

Death came to the veteran after a long illness at the St. Mary's hospital, where he had been taken Friday after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage in the 602 South Third street home. He never regained consciousness.

Although Mr. Borchers had been in failing health he had been at his law office the same day, as when he was stricken. He had returned with him to the yard, walked with the same vigor and determination with which he had fought in court and political arenas for the last 50 years.

The passing of "Charley" Borchers, a man of courage—a long fighter for himself and his family and for the city in which he lived.

Naval Career

Mr. Borchers was born in Decatur, Ill., in 1887. He was educated in the public schools and at the University of Illinois. He served in the United States Navy from 1907 to 1910, and was honorably discharged in 1910. He was a member of the United States Naval Reserve.

Mr. Borchers was a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Illinois State Bar. He was a member of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and the Decatur Rotary Club. He was a member of the Decatur Athletic Club and the Decatur Golf Club.

Mr. Borchers was a member of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and the Decatur Rotary Club. He was a member of the Decatur Athletic Club and the Decatur Golf Club. He was a member of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and the Decatur Rotary Club.

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CHARLES M. BORCHERS

congressmen who visited the Panama canal in 1913 to inspect the construction of the locks and canal.

His devotion to service won him a letter of commendation from President Wilson, but lost him the next congressional election. His old adversary, McKinley, beat him this time by a 1,200 majority.

Became Mayor Again

Mr. Borchers had barely picked up the loose ends of his law practice in Decatur when his friends entered his name in the race for mayor in 1923. He was elected, along with Dan Egan, and was his second term as mayor of Decatur by 36 votes.

It was during this four-year term that Mayor Borchers began the Lake Decatur project.

He was the leader of the other placed aside which turned the first step in the construction of the lake. Mr. Borchers formed the Lake Decatur committee, which also planned the construction of St. Mary's hospital, the largest in the city, and the new public library.

Mr. Borchers was a member of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and the Decatur Rotary Club. He was a member of the Decatur Athletic Club and the Decatur Golf Club.

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Busiest Year For Recorder

The Macon county recorder's office has just completed its busiest year in history, Clifford H. Bell recorder of deeds, said yesterday, with more than 21,000 instruments handled by the office between last December and the last of November.

The record figure was made without the inclusion of military service discharge certificates, which were handled and recorded by the office free of charge to returned servicemen, Mr. Bell pointed out.

\$13,117 Cash Balance

The 21,685 instruments which were recorded for a fee brought \$26,358.40 to the office, and the \$13,240.79 expenditure left a cash balance of \$13,117.61 to be turned over to the county.

Comparison with the 1946 volume of business reveals this year's recording work to be about double. In 1946, 11,300 instruments were handled, the fee for which brought a balance of \$1,200.00 to the county coffers.

High months during last year for real estate transactions were January and March, when more than 2,000 instruments were brought to the office for recording.

Real Estate Work

The recording volume of last year was a record collection of the kind of business, Mr. Bell said, with a large amount of real estate work being handled the year 1947. The recording market was very active, however, the recorder believes the market has been quiet, however, the recording office is making up of real estate transactions in 1947.

Miners File Few Claims

Only a small number of claims for unemployment compensation have been filed by miners in counties under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Unemployment Compensation office here, M. B. King, area deputy, reported yesterday. Mining territories included are Danville, Taylorville, and Springfield.

E. C. Mitchell, Decatur deputy, said only a few claims have been received locally either from miners or from persons affected indirectly by the strike. If the coal strike is settled by the end of this week or if prospects are bright at that time for an early settlement,



Registration of war souvenir machine guns and other military weapons and things will be completed at police headquarters today, as today by...

Higher Rates For Express

The express rates, representing an increase of 25 cents per 100 pounds on first class charges and 25 cents per 100 pounds on second class charges, will become effective in Decatur on Dec. 11, U. S. Railroad general agent of the Railway Express agency announced yesterday.

Based on a recent decision of the Interstate Commerce commission, the new rates represent an increase to meet the higher wages which have been offered for the agency since Dec. 1, 1946, increased taxes, and higher costs of materials, equipment and tools, Mr. Jackson said.

Increases in minimum and graduated charges for packages weighing less than 100 pounds are also included, but no increase is proposed on rates for daily newspapers, milk and related products. The company also expects the addition of income to hasten its program of rehabilitating war-worn equipment.

Crime Ebbs As Ammann Takes Office

Sheriff A. C. Ammann was greeted with a quiet day as he began his second term heading Macon county law enforcement yesterday. There were no bookings at the county jail, and deputies in patrol cars had no calls other than those necessary in routine business. Deputy Desmond Bean took over...

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Few Claims

Only a small number of claims for unemployment compensation has so far been filed by miners in territories under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Unemployment Compensation office here, M. B. King, area claims deputy, reported yesterday. Mining territories included are Danville, Taylorville, and Springfield.

R. C. Mulholland, Decatur deputy, said only a few claims have been received locally either from miners or from persons affected indirectly by the strike. If the coal strike is settled by the end of this week or if prospects are bright at that time for an early settlement, compensation officials do not expect any appreciable increase in claims. Approximately 1,800 state and servicemen's claims are now being handled.

In Chicago, however, drastic plans are already being made to take care of the flood of unemployment compensation claims expected, Mr. King said.

Oven Explodes, Little Damage

A gas explosion in an oven at the Greider Bakery, 220 East North street, shortly after 7 p. m. Monday, caused considerable excitement but little damage and no injuries.

Assistant Fire Chief Lynn P. Martin said the explosion occurred when George Barrett, 247 West Eldorado street, a baker, struck a match to ignite a pilot light in a gas-filled oven. Mr. Barrett had turned on the gas before he noticed that the pilot light was not burning.

The blast knocked out a window pane in the front and back of the building, but the oven and other contents of the building were not damaged, according to V. P. Eaton, who operates the bakery. Normal work schedule in the bakery is continued.

Koscielny Remains Unconscious After Fall

Stan Koscielny, 42 years old, of 1247 W. Madison street, remains unconscious after falling from a second-story window at the home of his mother, Mrs. Mary Koscielny, last night.

Traffic Arrests

Police arrested 12 motorists last night for speeding or other traffic violations.

Company also expects to increase its al income to hasten its program of rehabilitating war-worn equipment.

Crime Ebbs As Ammann Takes Office

Sheriff A. C. Ammann was greeted with a quiet day as he began his second term heading Macon county law enforcement yesterday.

There were no bookings at the county jail, and deputies in patrol cars had no calls other than those necessary in routine business.

Deputy Dismond Bean took over the duties of office deputy, behind a camouflage of one huge bouquet of flowers and another smaller one. The sheriff himself spent a part of the morning with Melvin E. Bailey, newly-elected county treasurer, who succeeded Mr. Ammann in that office.

Waiting for the hour of midnight to roll around Sunday, Sheriff Ammann recalled that on the first day of his 1938-1942 term, his first call was from a farmer on route 121, who reported a cow on the highway. But even the cows were behaving yesterday.

Sports Club May Act On Fox Bounty Tonight

A resolution urging the Macon county board of supervisors to set a fox bounty is expected to be adopted at a meeting of the Macon County Sportsmen's club tonight.

H. Ray Myers, club president, announced yesterday. In addition to killing much game in the county, foxes have been reported by farmers as slaughtering poultry and small pigs, Mr. Myers reported. Practically all counties surrounding Macon have bounties ranging from 50 cents to \$25 per head, he added.

Afternoon program of the meeting are the Commodore Decatur tender ship quest. The tender master will be taken of the course and of the meeting when the tender is in the home of Arthur ...

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Wanted Lake Construction
Adequately interested in the lake construction job as a public works civic project, Mayor Booth at the site of the dam. His work in the lake at its completion was limitless, and that work stands as a monument to him.

Mr. Borchers was not a candidate in the city campaign for the next term. He again returned to his job as practising attorney, but by June of 1922 he was being urged to run for governor of Illinois.

Here, as in a subsequent race for a second congressional term in 1930, Mr. Borchers was his own chief censor. Refusing to rely on "organized politics," he was apparently satisfied with the bare announcement that he was a candidate.

His was always a peculiar type of campaign. Disdaining public speech-making, he ordinarily visited most of the prospective voters in person, talking quietly and sincerely, but making no promises. He stood on the quality of his name alone.

Loses for Governor
He was defeated in the gubernatorial primaries of 1924, as he was in the 1930 congressional election, and again took up his law practise.

Mr. Borchers' last candidacy for a public office was in 1935, when he was unsuccessful in a Decatur school board election. His candidacy was in the face of an impending school board financial crisis, when closing of the city's schools was contemplated for lack of funds.

Mr. Borchers endeared himself to friends in other ways besides his astuteness as a leader and a lawyer. He, as a young man, gained a small local reputation as a violinist—"fiddler" it was then—and played for a good many of the square dances which was the principal source of entertainment of the neighboring farmers.

59-Year Mason
Mr. Borchers was long active in Masonic Lodge work, achieving the position of past master of Masonic lodge No. 8 in 1901, and again in 1907. On March 21 of this year he was presented a 59-year jewel of service as a Masonic ceremony. He was also a member of the Macon chapter No. 11 of the Royal Arch Masons, as well as the Benevolent conspiracy of the Knights Templars.

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Decatur Day by Day

Ten Years Ago—1936

Ten-year corn samples feature the Macon County Farmers Institute and 4-H Club Corn show in the courthouse. Prizes total \$400.

Rabbits made their appearance in local food stores this week but the supply is limited.

Both West Main and West Wood streets are closed from Fairview to Oakland avenues today as workmen began tearing up pavement in preparation for moving the Wabash tracks west of their present location in Decatur's \$205,000 twin subway project.

Christmas decoration of downtown Decatur streets started today with placing of wreaths on light standards at all intersections. Each wreath is fitted with colored lights.

Twenty Years Ago—1926

The Second United Brethren church has bought property at Maple and Olive streets as a site for a new church.

Sale of Christmas seals got off to a good start with \$1,322 paid in so far.

Firemen at No. 1 station have completed 120 doll beds to be given away at Christmas time.

The Decatur Golf association has asked the park board to employ a golf professional for the Nelson park golf course.

C. A. Thrift will assume the office of sheriff tomorrow and has asked for 80 deputies.

Thirty Years Ago—1916

The city council received a petition for an election to vote on the recall of the commission form of government and decided to have the election as soon as possible. The Rotary club at its noon meeting unanimously endorsed commission form of government.

A mission of one week opened at St. John's Episcopal church.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Grindol observed their 25th wedding anniversary.

The Women's club committee in charge of the sale of Red Cross Christmas seals has received 26,000 seals or 40,000 more than the goal the women had set to sell.

Fifty Years Ago—1896

Albeman Gas Ahrens expects soon to go into the wholesaling of wines and liquors in connection with the bottling works of which he is manager. He plans to build a first class wine cellar and storeroom.

The most heavily contested football game seen here this year was played at the Edward Jones grounds by two opposing elevens of a team high school.

The men of journalism are gathering again and the number of staunch advocates of the press will get together in Chamber's hall and organize a unit of the American Press Association. A. G. Weather, Judge W. L. Smith, Frank and A. F. Smith and other prominent members of the press had

been claims, but finally had to be given in.

Italy tried to nationalize the area, even forcing the residents to adopt Italian equivalents for their names. This is one thing which adds to the confusion now in attempting to determine the make-up of the area's population. But Italy succeeded only partly, and the Venezia Giulia Slavs conducted such a guerrilla warfare against Mussolini's forces during World War II that he was hard put to maintain sovereignty.

Trieste under the Hapsburgs was the third port in the Mediterranean. It gradually declined after World War I but becomes increasingly important when that area is once again more or less unified, economically, under Soviet Russia. And the port would mean the difference between leaving Yugoslavia with virtually no important outlets and making her an important link between the world and Soviet Europe.

Why, then, have the Russians failed to support a satellite in this case where, probably above all others, they had some real justification?

There is no evidence that Russia intends to withdraw from the outposts she has established. Although Tito may have embarrassed Moscow by some of his embroilments with the western powers, there is no indication that he is out of favor. The reparations which will be paid into the Russian sphere by Italy, once the treaty is signed, are too inconsequential to have hurried the decision. There is no evidence so far of any real quid pro quo, such as a U. S. promise to relax her intention of putting the screws on what she considers unhealthy governments, such as those of Yugoslavia and Poland, through withholding relief supplies and credits.

The cynical view is that Russia, realizing the possibilities of future trouble in the internationalization plan, is deliberately leaving a time-bomb in the territory of the western bloc to explode later, when it might prove of more value to her than while American and British occupation troops remain. Holders of this view point out that maintenance of a general disturbance, pending the opportunity for more direct action, is a familiar Communist technique.

But to take this view is to reject the general belief that Russia, regardless of how she may hope one day to spread her ideologies, wants peace for now.

Coming simultaneously with the beginning of her demobilization in Germany, with agreement on the principles of inspection to further disarmament, and with admission of international interests in the Balkans, the Russian concession on Trieste seems more than a mere temporary expedient.

Stalin Reported Seriously Ill

London, Dec. 4 (AP)—Two British newspapers published sections yesterday that show Joseph Stalin of Russia is seriously ill.

The political correspondent of Reuters, citing his information as "authoritative reports," said Stalin is ill to such a serious degree that high ranking Soviet officials and his closest friends are now being

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Many Alternatives Still Must Be Considered

By itself, a reservoir on Big Creek near Mount Zion would not produce enough water to meet Decatur's projected water needs in the year 2020.

So far, that seems to be the most conclusive statement from consulting engineers M &

E — Alstot, March & Guillou, Inc.

For three months, John Guillou's firm has been studying possible Decatur water supply alternatives to the now-defunct Lake Springer project.

Guillou, the city's water resource consultant and partner in the firm doing the water supply study, has made regular progress reports to Decatur officials.

Because the study will compare the feasibility of individual projects and of two or more alternatives in combination, nothing too conclusive will be available until the final report is submitted to the City Council.

That report still is scheduled for release late in January, but as often is the case with studies of this magnitude, there is a good chance it will be late.

To date, Guillou's firm has examined a possible reservoir on Big Creek, Lake Decatur dredging, raising the water level on Lake Decatur and establishing a well field in the Mahomet Aquifer north of Argenta.

Still to be studied as water supply sources are Lake Shelbyville, waste water reclamation and reservoirs on Friends Creek and the Sangamon River.

All these are being examined as to cost and the amount of water they would yield in 2020 when combined with Lake Decatur.

Guillou said he is using 42 million gallons of water a day (mgd) as the total water yield Decatur will need by 2020.

A more accurate figure — Guillou's is about four years old — will be available when a water rate study for the city is completed by Warren & Van Praag, Inc. of Decatur. Guillou said the Warren & Van Praag figures easily will be plugged into his data when both studies are finished.

But it already is obvious a Big Creek reservoir cannot produce enough water, even with Lake Decatur, to do any good, Guillou said.

The drainage area of Big Creek, if a dam were to be built at the Boy Scout camp, is 49.14 square miles. A reservoir level of 650 feet above sea level (msl) would produce 9.4 mgd of water, and at 640 msl it would produce 6.1 mgd.

"Those rates are too small to

do any good," Guillou said.

But that is looking at Big Creek alone as an additional water supply source. Guillou added Big Creek could prove feasible if used in conjunction with another alternative, such as raising the level of Lake Decatur.

"There is a chance the city could pump water from Lake Decatur into Big Creek, using it as a holding structure," Guillou said. "Then the city could use that water in time of drought.

"This is a possibility still to be looked at," he added.

Lake Decatur dredging has been examined from two angles.

First, it was looked at as a single alternative, determining how much it would cost to dredge the lake enough to provide all the water Decatur will need in 2020. That alternative would require dredge spoil to be pumped over long distances using booster stations, an expensive proposition, Guillou said.

Second, it was determined how much additional Lake Decatur water storage could be available by doing only single-stage dredging — that is, dredging only where no booster stations would be required. That would bring the cost per million gallons a day of water down considerably.

Guillou said three potential spoil disposal sites have been identified near Coulter Mill Bridge at the upper end of Lake Decatur. All already are an city-owned property.

In its examination of single-stage dredging, Guillou's firm is seeking to maintain the winding nature of the Sangamon River, he said.

By itself, single-stage dredging will not provide all the water Decatur is expected to need. But like other alternatives, it could become a part of a combination project, Guillou said.

For example, single-stage dredging is being examined in conjunction with raising the level of Lake Decatur by further raising the dam gates, as first was done in the late 1950s.

Although the present bascule gates on Lake Decatur dam can raise the water level to 615 feet above sea level, they are raised in the summer to only 613.5 feet above sea level.

The City of Decatur owns



John C. Guillou

land around the lake to the 615-foot level, but that would not be enough should the lake be raised to 615 feet and a flood occur.

Guillou said the gates can be raised to the 615-foot level now only if operators at the dam can know how much water is flowing into Lake Decatur upstream so they can let water out as fast as it is coming in.

But Guillou's firm is seeing if the gates can be raised even higher than 615 feet, determining how much more land around the lake the city would have to buy.

Also included in the study of raising the Lake Decatur water level, Guillou said, is maintaining to some degree the wildlife areas at the upper end of Lake Decatur. He added, however, they could be maintained to the extent they now exist.

Now being studied by Guillou's firm are wells as an alternative source of water.

Specifically being examined is a possible well field in the aquifer north of Argenta. Production information from the Illinois State Water Survey is among resources being studied.

Yet to be determined is the cost of bringing water from the well field to Lake Decatur via pipeline or by pumping it into Friends Creek and letting it flow down to the lake.

The latter course would require Decatur control of water withdrawal rights along the streambed. If this control were not maintained, anyone along the way could pump water out of the stream, Guillou said.

Water Sources No Longer

By David L. Mahomet
It's been three months since the Decatur City Council has tracked with M&J Alford, March and Guillon, Inc. to study possible future water supply sources for the city.

When engineering firm partner John Guillon drew up an outline for the study, he thought one of two possibilities would pan out the best: either a reservoir on Friends Creek or on the Sangamon River.

"But now it looks like there is a chance it will be neither," Guillon said during a recent interview.

"We are farther from an adopted Friends Creek project now than when we signed the contract," Guillon continued.

Almost immediately after the apparent demise of the Lake Springer project last spring, Guillon and Decatur officials began talking up a reservoir on Friends Creek.

That talk just as immediately brewed a controversy. A Friends Creek reservoir drew opposition from the Argenta-Oreana School Board, the Argenta Village Board, the Macon County Farm Bureau and farmers in the Friends Creek area.

While criticizing those groups for fighting a project that has not even been designed, Decatur officials called Friends Creek "the most likely alternative" to Lake Springer.

"I wouldn't say that now with as much emphasis," Guillon said of the "most likely" designation.

At now, Guillon said, it is a combination of other alternatives may prove

the best way for the city to go by the time the first phase of his study is completed, sometime in January.

Guillon explained the initial jump on the Friends Creek showdown with Lake Springer's death.

"The effect was to shift momentum from Lake Springer to a regional Friends Creek project," Guillon said.

The idea was to include

At the same time, we have not cut out thinking of a regional recreation and water supply," he said.

More alternatives now is being placed upon what can be done to improve Lake Decatur, Guillon said of his study.

Guillon's firm is studying six possible alternative water supply sources in addition to reservoirs on Friends Creek

'We Have Cut Out Thinking Of a Regional Recreation And Water Supply'

regional recreational values with a Decatur water supply so the resulting project could qualify for partial funding from the federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR).

"Now, with the position taken by Argenta and to a lesser degree by the Farm Bureau, we just no longer are looking at regional recreation values as we did initially," Guillon said.

While not at all sure any more he can recommend a Friends Creek reservoir to the City Council, Guillon added "there is no question the county would be better off in the long run with Friends Creek than with another alternative."

But, Guillon said, should Friends Creek prove the most viable water supply source when his study is completed, that will be what he recommends to the City Council.

and the Sangamon River. They are:

- Lake Decatur dredging.
- Pipeline to Lake Shelbyville.
- Wells in the Mahomet aquifer.
- Waste water reclamation.
- A reservoir on Big Creek.
- Raising the existing Lake Decatur dam.

The firm first of all is looking at the eight possibilities as single-purpose projects — that is, how do they stack up as the sole source of Decatur's water needs in the year 2020?

Once that is completed, Guillon said the eight will be "shuffled together" to see how they would work in combination.

Some quick computations reveal a long eight

alternatives together yields 16,700,000 possible combinations.

Guillon won't look at all the possibilities, of course.

"I would guess we will end the report on 11 or 15 possibilities, including the eight single-purpose alternatives," Guillon said.

(Once that report is submitted, it will be up to the City Council to decide which of the 14 or 15 Guillon will be directed to study in depth.)

"Some combinations will be more obvious than others," Guillon added. "None are obvious now, as we have not done (studies on) all the eight singles."

While saying none of the possible combinations yet are obvious, Guillon did mention one combination several times — raising the Lake Decatur dam, combined with limited dredging in the upper reaches of the lake.

The study of dredging as a single solution to Decatur's water needs has been completed, but Guillon has not yet finished work on a study of raising the dam gates.

But he does have some preliminary comments on the combination of the two.

First of all, the cost of purchasing land necessary for raising the dam gates would be high, but there would be no cost in land for dumping dredge spoil, he said.

Guillon said he has identified three tracts of city-owned land near Coulters Mill Bridge that could be used as spoil disposal sites.

"If all comes back to the Sangamon River being the best water resource in the area," Guillon said.

'Most Likely'

Asked about the possibility of trying again for a reservoir on the Sangamon, Guillon said it is too early to tell. It could be eliminated as economically unfeasible.

Guillon was reminded of the fight that ended in the death of Lake Springer.

"The political thing is not my area," Guillon contended. "I will be candid, though, in referring to possible opposition from Champaign-Urbana.

"The political thing is real. That's what killed Lake Springer," he added. "That's not an area for engineering, though."

And concentrating on engineering, Guillon said he is looking chiefly at two criteria in ultimately recommending Decatur's future water supply course:

1. The approach with the least cost.
2. A project concerned only with water for Decatur, not with recreation or with a regional water supply.

But Guillon would be pleased if a third criteria can be fulfilled:

"It would be nice if this could be done without involving anyone else," he said. "That's not a constraint, just a nice plus."

New Reservoir Added to Water Supply Proposal

By Jan Gillars

A combination of alternatives, including a 544-acre reservoir near the intersection of Big and Long creeks, is seen to be the City of Decatur's water resource consultant as being the most feasible additional water supply for the city.

Consulting engineer John C. Guillou said he will recommend construction of the reservoir as the long-range project in a series of steps the city should take to accommodate estimated water needs of 57 million gallons a day by the year 2000.

Guillou outlined his recommendations Tuesday at a meeting of the city's Water Supply Advisory Committee. He is expected to send a formal report of his recommendations to committee members in about 10 days.

In addition to the reservoir, Guillou outlined several short-range projects that would be done in conjunction with building the reservoir.

These projects would include:

- installing sophisticated instruments upstream in the Sangamon River to monitor the river's volume and allow for water control at the dam on Lake Decatur.

- raising the level of Lake Decatur incrementally from its present 111.5 feet to 113 or 114.5 feet. Guillou said the second stage would cost millions of dollars.

- building another dam at the dam on the south of water reservoirs.

- installing a "retention basin" program to pump as much sediment out of the lake as is flowing in from the Sangamon River. If this is not done, Guillou said, the reservoir will continue to receive a load of sediment.

Guillou pinpointed the location of the reservoir as being about a mile and a half southwest of the Village of Long Creek and a half mile east of Illinois 121.

Most recent estimates place the cost of constructing the reservoir at about \$6 million.

Guillou said the more immediate projects would cost the city about \$4,000 to \$5,000 initially.

He said that during times when there is surplus water in Lake Decatur, the surplus would be pumped to the reservoir for use during droughts, estimated to occur about every 40 years.

And since the water level in the reservoir would remain relatively constant, Guillou said the reservoir will provide a "nice water corridor" for recreational purposes.

He said construction of the reservoir "will have practically no impact on tilling land" because less than 10 per cent of the area under consideration is in crops.

"In terms of dollars, this is more economical to do than any of the other alternatives," he said, referring to the stored water as "money in the bank."

"It's a whole of a good opportunity, really."

Guillou, formerly the city land use officer, said the city had not yet decided on the long-range project, but studies are proceeding at least preliminarily on the alternatives.

Among the alternatives presented were changing the lake impoundment from Big Creek and Long Creek, a well known area, to Long Creek and a possible dam on Lake Decatur at Decatur.

"Personally, I think the combination of alternatives is the best of all the things we could do."

Study Praised

May 5, 1976

"Reasonable and interesting" was the reaction today of City Manager Leslie T. Allen to recommendations that a combination of alternatives be initiated to provide the city with additional water to meet future needs.

Decatur water supply consultant John C. Guillou Tuesday said he would recommend construction of a reservoir near the intersection of Big and Long creeks as the major long-range project.

"We are looking for the most financially feasible water source and the one which presents the fewest problems in terms of operation and maintenance," Allen said.

He noted the costs of implementing the short-range projects — estimated to be \$4,000 to \$5,000 — are "minimal when you are talking about picking up that much storage."

The short-range projects would include installing sophisticated instruments upstream on the Sangamon River, raising the level of Lake Decatur, and pumping sediment out of the lake.

John W. Ziese, chairman of the city's Water Supply Advisory Committee, said today he is basically in agreement with Guillou's forthcoming recommendations.

"I am very pleased because there are several things the city can do almost immediately at minimal cost," he said.

He noted, though, he would reserve comment on the reservoir until he sees a cost analysis.

Guillou has estimated costs of constructing the reservoir at about \$6 million.

Allen said the city "has been talking in the range of \$4 million to \$6 million" for an additional water source.

Financing of the project would depend on whether the city attempts to do it all at once or in phases, Allen said.

But he speculated that the major costs of the project most probably would be financed through the issuance of revenue bonds.

Guillou has presented a number of alternatives to the committee, which is expected to formulate its own recommendations at a meeting on May 25.

"We all honestly pursued it," Ziese said. "I am very satisfied we have explored the subject to

William B. Sands echoed the remark.

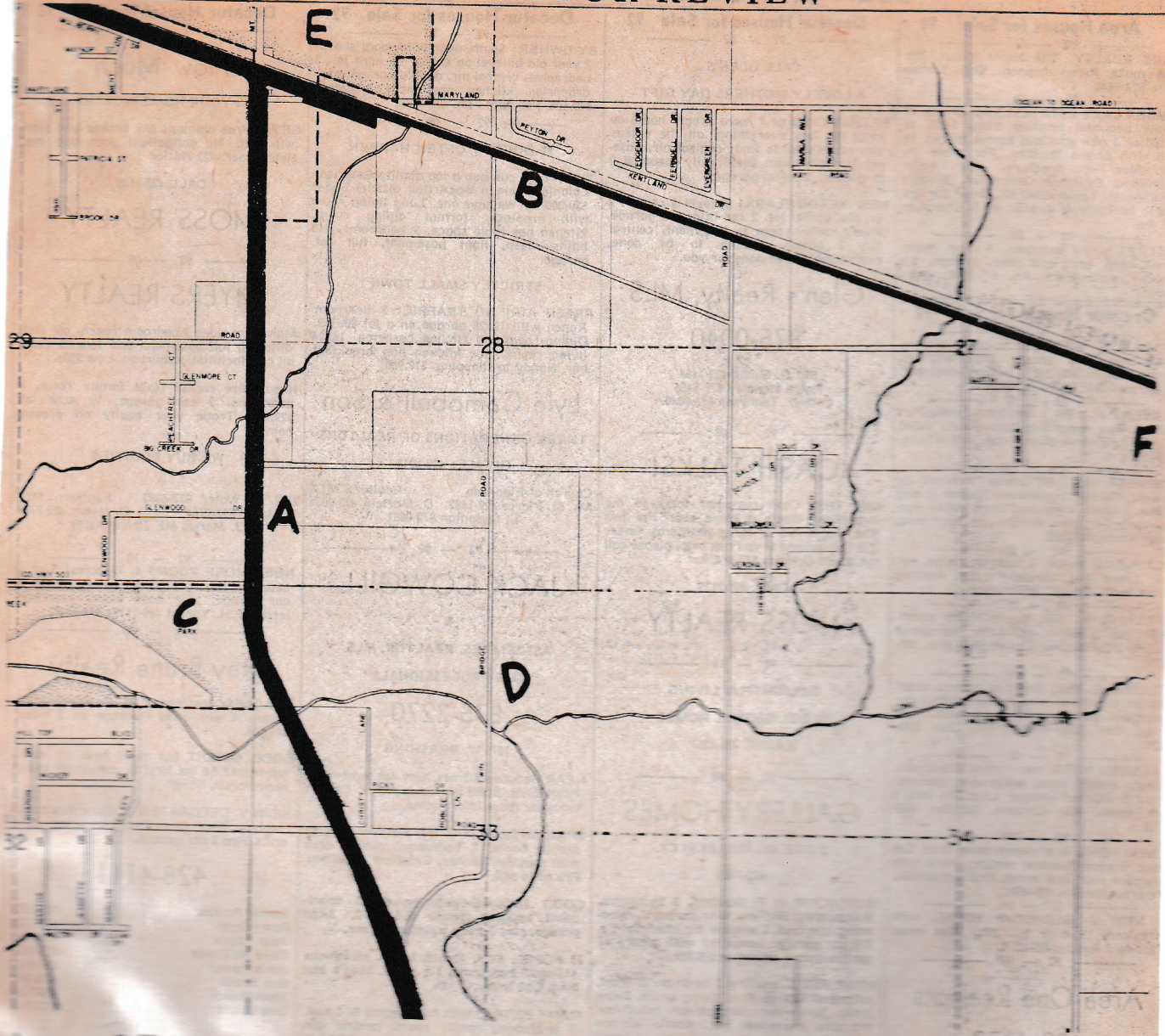
"I certainly am satisfied that Mr. Guillou has explored all reasonable alternatives," Sands said.

He noted he was not surprised at the recommendations, feeling all along that the combination of alternatives was the most cost-effective.

"There are a number of things we can do at a relatively small cost," he said.

The committee's recommendations will be sent in early June to the City Council, which will make the final decision on an additional water supply for the city.

THE DECATUR REVIEW



Area of Proposed New Reservoir

The area of the reservoir site proposed by consultant John Galtlin is shown above. (A) designates Illinois 28. (B) is U.S. 36. (C) is Decatur's Big Creek Park. (D) is the junction of Big Creek and Long Creek. (E) is the edge of the Decatur Airport property. (F) is the extreme western edge of the village of Long Creek. The reservoir would cover slightly less than a square mile of land in the area of the junction of the two creeks.