

TVA Outgrows Rompers: Project Will Be Seven Years Old in May

\$500,000,000 Baby Lifting Face of Tennessee

By DON WHITEHEAD
KNOXVILLE, Tenn., March 30.—(AP)—The new deal's \$500,000,000 baby, the Tennessee Valley Authority, will be seven years old on May 18, and already it has outgrown its rompers.

Conceived as the nation's first major experiment in planned economy two months after Franklin D. Roosevelt became president, the authority has grown until today many Tennessee valley inhabitants consider it a vital force in their lives.

Some, from the lowliest sharecropper to the industrial tycoon,



Dr. Arthur E. Morgan: "Contumacious," said President Roosevelt. So TVA got a new chairman.

think of TVA as a symbol of a new era in which the historic Tennessee valley is having its face lifted and its future carved anew.

Future Is Controversial
What the future will hold, of

course, is a highly controversial subject throughout the nation, depending on the point of view and perhaps upon political alignments. Those who direct the course of the experiment foresee marginal thousands lifted to solid economic security, soil and forests conserved, an entire region rehabilitated commercially and socially. Some others, of course, are less optimistic.

The basic plan for accomplishing this ambitious program was the unified development of the Tennessee river.

By a series of 10 big dams, the authority proposed to make the Tennessee navigable from Knoxville to the Ohio (almost 600 miles), control floods and produce electric power. All other activities stemmed from these projects.

Hardly had the ink dried on the president's signature approving the TVA act when idealistic TVA chairman Arthur E. Morgan was at odds with his fellow directors, David E. Lilienthal and Harcourt A. Morgan.

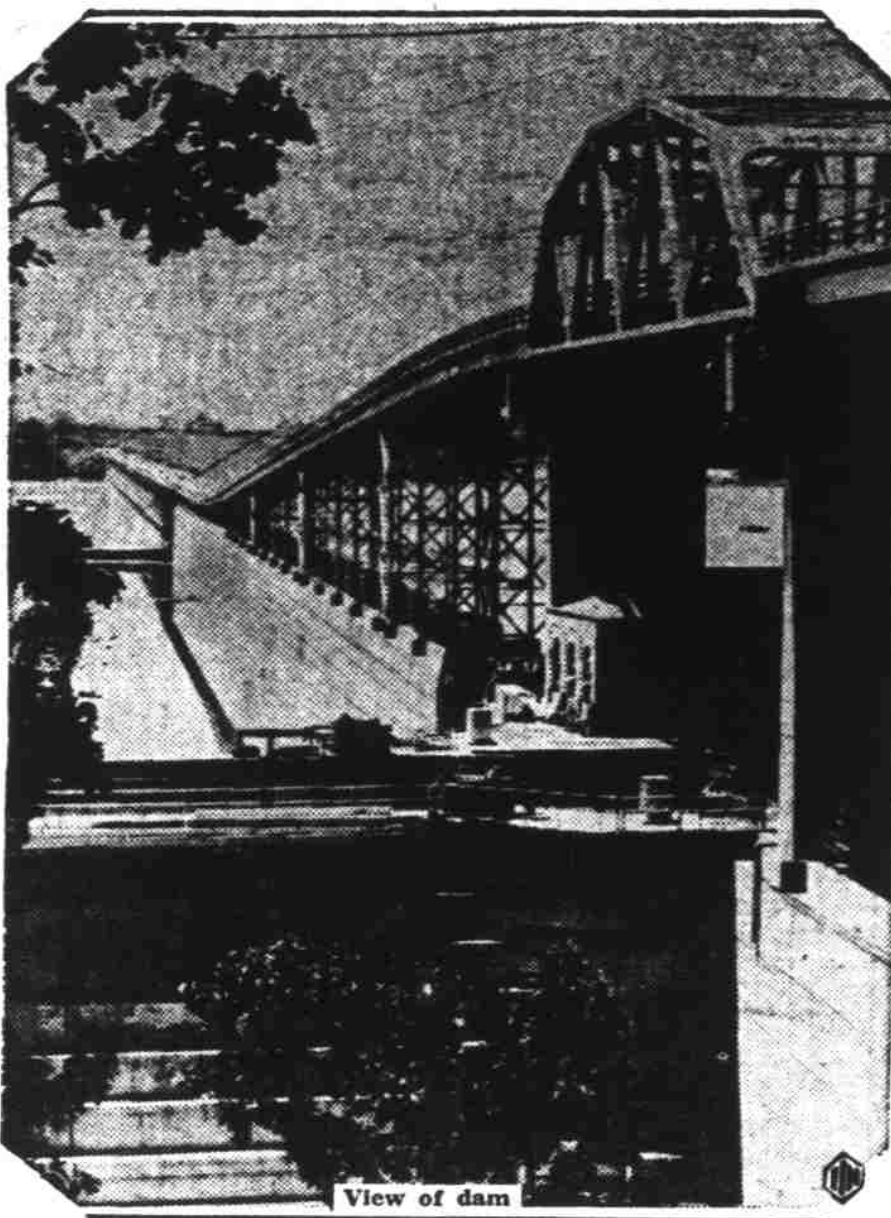
Dr. Morgan Ousted
This dissension was climaxed four years later with charges by Dr. Arthur Morgan of mismanagement and allegations that there was fraud in an unsuccessful attempt by George Berry, then democratic senator from Tennessee, to obtain damages from TVA for marble lands flooded by the authority's Norris dam on the Clinch river near here.

Subsequently, President Roosevelt removed Dr. Morgan from office for "contumacy" and a congressional investigation exonerated the directors of any wrongdoing. James P. Pope, former senator from Idaho, was named as a director to succeed A. E. Morgan.

During this time, TVA was in open conflict with privately-owned electric utilities in the valley, most of which were controlled by the Commonwealth and Southern corporation.

The fight over the legality of the authority's power program and effort to set up a "yardstick" for electric power rates proceeded through state and federal courts until finally the supreme court in 1938 affirmed a ruling by a special three-judge federal court upholding the constitutionality of the TVA program.

Battles Obscure Progress
The internal friction, legal scraps and congressional debate over the new deal experiment to a large degree obscured the progress the authority was making during those formative years. With the strife at an end, the court battles won and with the aid of a congress sufficiently friendly to provide appropriations, the authority's program emerged from the clouds of controversy as well advanced.



View of dam

Wheeler dam, one of seven TVA dams now completed. It cost \$35,000,000 and was designed to provide cheap power and irrigation for the section around Chattanooga, Tenn. Only three more dams, all near Knoxville, remain to be constructed.

So let's take a peek at the status of TVA on the eve of its seventh birthday:

Power:
The supreme court decision holding the TVA projects constitutional catapulted the authority into the position of being one of the country's largest power producers, with virtually an exclusive market for the sale of its cheap electricity.

Within a period of less than a year, TVA rounded out its "power" empire by the purchase of privately-owned utilities controlled by Commonwealth and Southern in Tennessee. Its customer increased from a few thousands to almost 400,000. Revenues boomed to an estimated \$15,000,000 annually.

Last December, the authority purchased the North Mississippi Electric properties of the Mississippi Power Co. for \$2,000,000, and last month arranged to buy the Alabama Power company properties in North Alabama for \$4,100,000.

Under the agreed plan, the authority purchased generating and transmitting properties while the

municipalities and cooperatives became owners of the electric distribution plants.

All Power Contracted
With this huge market, the TVA has under contract about all the power it can produce until the giant Kentucky dam near Paducah, Ky., is completed in 1945 or 1946.

Cheap electricity and an intense rural electrification program spurred the use of electric power in urban, rural and industrial areas alike.

Sales of electric appliances reached new heights. During 1939, residential consumers of TVA power purchased \$7,072,000 worth of appliances. Consumer use of electricity per residential customer increased from 194 kilowatt hours at the beginning of the year to 113 kilowatt hours at the close, at an average cost of 2.16 cents per kilowatt hour.

Flood Control:
Already the authority has seven of its dams completed and in operation. Wilson, Chicamauga, Wheeler, Guntersville and Pickwick Landing dams on the Ten-

nessee river, Norris dam on the Clinch river and Hiwassee dam on the Hiwassee river. This leaves only the Kentucky dam at Gilbertsville, Ky., the Watts Bar dam and the Coulters Shoals dam near Knoxville, all on the Tennessee, to be completed.

When the chain of dams, with their great storage basins, are finished the Tennessee river will be harnessed, changed from a flowing stream to a series of still lakes.

At floodtime, the dams will take the crest of the high water that sweeps into the Ohio river, and release it gradually. The authority estimates that the Tennessee, uncontrolled, contributes as much as 25 per cent to the flood crests in the lower Ohio and the dams will reduce flood crests at Cairo, Ill., and on the lower Mississippi from two to three feet—vital inches when the father of waters is on a rampage.

Navigation:
With completion of the series of dams, a nine-foot navigable channel will be provided from Knoxville to the Ohio river.

There is some traffic already on the river by boats of shallow draft, but when the channel reaches its maximum depth, the authority anticipates a heavy flow of freight by river, with Chattanooga as the major port.

Regional Recreation:
The development of the Tennessee valley into a vast playground on a regional basis is a future aim of TVA, but congress must give the agency the authority for this work, already recommended by President Roosevelt.

Under the plan, TVA would develop the lakes for boating, fishing, swimming and other forms of recreation, with cabins for vacationists and park facilities for tourists.

Norris lake now is a recreation center for thousands in east Tennessee, southeast Kentucky and southwest Virginia. There are 1800 boats, valued at more than \$300,000 and ranging from skiffs to 40-foot launches, on the lake.

Agriculture:
The gullied and scarred countryside in the valley gradually is being rebuilt under the direction of TVA and other government agencies, as part of the authority's program of water control on the land.

There are 26,000,000 acres in the Tennessee valley watershed of which 18,000,000 is farmland. Of this tillable soil, 7,000,000 acres is subject to erosion. To combat this, the authority has engaged in an intensive program of reforestation, farm terracing, erosion control and improved tillage to conserve the



Senator James P. Pope: Dr. Arthur's loss was his gain; he became director of TVA when Dr. Morgan was ousted.

soil and check the water. More than 88,000,000 trees have been planted by TVA in cooperation with CCC workers. Erosion control has been practiced

Low-Cost Farming Program Is Being Given Trial

on 94,400 acres on 8900 farms covering 1,314,000 acres.

The problem of low rural income was an obstacle, a study showing that between 1933 and 1936 some 6000 families in TVA reservoir areas had median net family cash incomes of \$100 to \$318 per year.

4-Point Program Formulated
Low-cost farm practices were essential and TVA is now engaged in a program of (1) research and demonstration of special low-cost machinery for handling soil conservation crops; (2) research and demonstrations of local processing of the region's farm crops; (3) studies of cooperative business, and (4) projects relating to the effective utilization of electricity.

During the past year, the agency's extension service specialists conducted 775 meetings demonstrations and schools on farm and home uses of electricity. The meetings were attended by 24,517 people.

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Salem Scout Press Notes

SCOUT CALENDAR
April 1—Marion district meeting and court of honor, Stayton, 8 p. m.
April 1—Special executive board meeting, chamber of commerce, 8 p. m.
April 5—Merit badge exposition, St. Joseph's hall, 7:30 p. m.
April 6—Merit badge exposition, St. Joseph's hall, 2:30 p. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Troop nine has the Pioneer merit badge for the exposition. The Owl patrol is to build a cabin and a small kitchen in it. The Elk patrol will build a bridge capable for holding 200 pounds. The Eagle patrol is to have a knot board on which all 12 knots are displayed and the four splines on one piece of rope.—By ED NEWMAN.

The Boy Scouts of troop 11 demonstrated first aid for their sponsors, the Englewood PTA, last Tuesday night. Richard Vincent was seated on the stage while several of the scouts tied bandages on him. Some of these bandages were: Foot, hip, jaw, head, thigh, ankle, hand and the arm sling. After the meeting the scouts of troop 11 received refreshments.—By "BUCK" EILERT.

Dr. B. F. Pound, chairman of the organization and extension committee of the council, held a charter review of the new troop at Salem Heights, last Tuesday night. The new troop will be troop 19 and is sponsored by the Salem Heights Community church. Dr. Pound also gave a short talk at the regular troop meeting that night.—By JOHN COTTON.

Cascade Area council will hold its first merit badge exposition in St. Joseph's hall on April 5 and

6 at 7:30 p. m. Friday and Saturday, and a matinee on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 following a parade which will be held at 1 o'clock. This parade will organize at the YMCA.

This exposition is under the direction of a committee which consists of Gardner Knapp, chairman; Vern Mathis, Vern Kirkland, Bob Lange and Jack R. Taylor, secretary. Many of the sponsoring bodies are aiding their troops by furnishing different equipment for the demonstration of the merit badge that the troop has selected.

The Cascade area council Press club is sponsoring the lost and found department for the whole exposition while the SSS Willamette will set up a fair and booth for practical purposes and for demonstration. The senior scouts and the Life Scouts or above will act as service scouts for the show.

Notice to Executive Board Members

"Because of reasons beyond our control, we were unable to secure Ralph McDermott as scout executive. Therefore, I am calling a special meeting of the executive board for Monday evening, April 1, 8 p. m. at the Salem chamber of commerce, to hear the report of the special committee which will submit another name to fill the office of scout executive of the Cascade area council. Please see that someone represents your district. It is important.

"Thanks for your cooperation.
"Cascade Area Council,
"Boy Scouts of America,
"HARRY W. SCOTT,
"President."

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

McNARY'S CHANCES
We can't agree with those who dismiss the effort to secure the republican presidential nomination for Senator McNary as merely a combination of state pride and wishful thinking.

In fact the prospects today we believe to be brighter than they were three or four months ago, when the movement was first launched.

At that time, this department could see very slight chance for Oregon's senior senator to get the presidential berth, but we did see a fair chance for the vice-presidential.

This is still our opinion. But in view of the developments since that time, the presidential possibilities for McNary have increased, because those of the three leading republican candidates haven't.

We mean by that—there is, to date, no popular enthusiasm among the republican rank and file for Dewey, Taft or Vandenberg. Little likelihood there will be when the republican convention opens. Every likelihood that as time goes on these three candidates, now undeniably out in front, will be disposed more and more to kill each other off.

And if that happens, and no dark horse of formidable proportions emerges meanwhile, then we can think of no compromise candidate with a better chance of being struck by lightning than the capable and popular senior solon from Oregon.

As John Kelly has pointed out in his column Senator McNary has strong friends in both parties, strong enemies in neither. He is well and favorably known among the farmers. He is a genuine progressive, without being in any sense radical, and in view of an unbreakable convention deadlock, would be a "natural" as the best way out.

We still hold "Charley's" REAL chance lies in the direction of the second place on the ticket (if he wants it). But it is also true the possibilities of his grabbing the brass ring, if the convention develops into a rough and tumble merry-go-round and IMPROVING as time goes on.—Medford Mail Tribune.

Teachers Relected At Aurora School

AURORA—The faculty of the Aurora grade school, relected for the coming school year are: Nels Anderson, principal; Miss Serena Simon, Joan Gibson, Mrs. Bernita Hunt.

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