

Nuclear Power Plant for Submarine Tops Engineering Achievements in 1954; Others Increase Power, Wealth

Washington — A new age of transportation and power opened in 1954. Its herald was the atomic submarine Nautilus, launched in Connecticut on a foggy January day.

That first ship ever built for nuclear engines stands out in a year of high achievement by the world's constructors, the National Geographic society says.

Nautilus will be capable of circling the globe submerged. More significant still, her engine room represents man's first large-scale harnessing of atomic energy for useful power. Atomic energy liners, locomotives, and electric plants have come a long step closer to reality.

Airborne Atomic Furnace
In December, nuclear power again was underscored by a contract awarded for an atomic "package reactor." The unit will be transportable by air. It can generate electricity in remote regions such as the Arctic, far from conventional fuels.

Engineering accomplishments all around the earth in the last year gave peoples more available power and productive wealth.

A push of a powerhouse button in northern British Columbia started Canada's vast hydroelectric and aluminum project centered at Kitimat. Across North America, the first ore from vast Quebec-Labrador iron deposits was shipped south to steel mills via the new port of Seven Islands on the St. Lawrence river.

The long-disputed St. Lawrence Seaway itself got under way as excavation began at two places opposite Montreal.

Near Oak Ridge, Tenn., the new Kingston power plant of the TVA system generated its first electricity. One of six TVA plants now being built, Kingston will be the largest steam plant in the world, officials say. It will produce enough power for a city two and a half times the size of Detroit.

Damming Missouri, Nile
At a telegraphed signal from President Eisenhower, Ft. Randall dam, one of the key dam projects for development and control of the Missouri river, began sending its first electric power out into South Dakota and Nebraska. Pine Flat dam, a 440-foot concrete wall, was dedicated on California's Kings river, ranking among the 10 highest dams ever built.

Around the world, the main flow of the Nile river was stopped at its source for a few dramatic moments as Queen Elizabeth II opened the great Owen Falls dam at the outlet of Lake Victoria in Uganda. That body of water, the size of Scotland, thus becomes the world's largest reservoir.

Earth-filled Travers dam in Canada's Bow River development began giving water to Alberta prairies. Capilano dam near Vancouver, Canada's highest dam at 325 feet, was dedicated in November. The Gaspe peninsula received new power cables under the St. Lawrence.

Power dams were finished in French Africa, Portugal, Puerto Rico, India, Russia, Greece, Turkey, Formosa, and Denmark's Faeroe islands. In Latin America, El Salvador dedicated its big "Fifth of November" dam. Mexico and Brazil opened new steam plants.

Perhaps the most unusual new hydroelectric plant, however, stands in a Catskill cornfield north of New York City with no water in sight. It uses instead water pressure in a deep, concrete-lined aqueduct from the new Neversink reservoir five miles away.

Aluminum, Steel, Oil
With electricity made by burning lignite — soft "brown coal" — a \$100,000,000 aluminum plant went to full production in Rockdale, Tex. Both Brazil and Colombia dedicated big new integrated steel plants, Brazil at Belo Horizonte, Colombia at Belencio.

The Philippine Republic's first oil refinery opened at Batangas bay south of Manila. Aden, Australia, Burma, Colombia and India operated new refineries. The second largest oil plant in Great Britain, with a million-ton annual capacity for crude petroleum, went "on steam" at Coryton near London.

The bottom of the Gulf of Mexico continued to be drilled for oil wells as far as 25 miles offshore. Petroleum then ran through a new submarine pipeline from tankers in Accra harbor to Gold Coast distribution points, as well as in a new 32-mile pipeline in Trinidad.

A shipyard in Hamburg, Ger-

many, launched the world's biggest tanker, the King Ibn Saud flag, it can carry 47,000 tons of oil, as much as a train of tank cars 25 miles long. Two other big tankers, the 45,000-ton World Glory and the 38,000-ton W. Alton Jones, were completed in American yards. Both will fly Liberian colors.

Marine constructors crowned the year by launching the aircraft USS Forrestal at Newport News, Virginia. The largest warship afloat, longer than any passenger liner, the Forrestal will not be completed until the end of 1955.

New Sea Havens
Major port and docking projects were undertaken in Venezuela and Peru; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Mtwara in Tanganyika; Tema, Gold Coast, and Samsun, Turkey. In this country, New York City, Newark, N. J., Philadelphia, Chicago and Mobile, Ala., dedicated new piers. Antwerp, Hamburg and London finished huge new docks; Karachi, Pakistan, opened the biggest drydock between Malta and Singapore.

The Turkish navy has commissioned a new naval base at Iskenderon, Australia completed a naval defense base at Manus island in the Bismarck archipelago.

Dutch engineers continued reclaiming IJssel Meer, formerly the Zuider Zee, closing the dikes on the third of five major areas to be taken back from the ocean. The course of the Hudson river was altered by a titanium mining project far back in its headwaters in the Adirondacks, near Tahawus, N. Y.

Canada and the United States jointly set about face-lifting Niagara Falls, smoothing the somewhat jagged lip and building a series of control gates a mile upstream to help regulate the flow.

Hard Rock, High Steel
Hard rock men and sandhogs drove tunnels in many lands. An American firm bored New Zealand's Rimutaka tunnel 5 1/2 miles through the mountains above Wellington, making it the longest traffic tunnel in the southern hemisphere (longest in the world is the 12 1/2-mile Simplon tunnel in the Alps).

Japanese engineers after 18 years finished digging the second undersea tunnel between the main island of Honshu and the southern island of Kyushu.

The two-mile double-decked tube will carry motor vehicles on one level, pedestrians on another. In the United States a contract was let for an expressway tunnel beneath Baltimore harbor, scheduled for completion by 1958.

Toronto dedicated its new \$60,000,000 subway system. Moscow closed the last link in its "Great Circle" subway line, joining seven principal railroad stations and 18 city boroughs.

Major bridges spanned the mouth of Tampa bay on the new 15-mile Sunshine Skyway south from St. Petersburg, Fla.; leaped the Merrimack river near Newburyport, Mass.; crossed the Australia's Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric project finished one 3 1/2-mile irrigation tunnel and contracted for another 14 miles long, surpassing the 13-mile Alva B. Adams water tube through the Rockies in northern Colorado.

Connecticut river between Springfield and Agawam, Mass.; joined Georgia and South Carolina by the new nine-mile Eugene Talmadge Memorial bridge route across the Savannah river; and gave Kansas City another span across the Missouri river, the new Paseo bridge. The refurbished Brooklyn bridge restored full traffic to six lanes in place of the old four.

Vancouver, B.C., opened Canada's first eight-lane bridge. Two new bridges crossed the Danube river between Hungary and Czechoslovakia and between Romania and Bulgaria.

World Highways Lengthened
Road builders sliced through mountains and jungles. Among their feats were the Hummingbird highway in British Honduras, and new sections of the Pan American highway in Chile, Venezuela and El Salvador.

Red China's radio reported that 135 miles of a new road from Sikiang into Tibet had been opened to traffic. Tourists now can drive to within 75 feet of the main crater of Vesuvius in Italy. Mexico modernized the mountain-twisted highway to Acapulco and finished the 1,500-mile highway between the border at Nogales and Mexico City.

The limited-access Baltimore-Washington parkway opened its full 30-mile length, relieving

the overtaxed U. S. Route 1, notorious "Old Bloody." New York state dedicated three sections of its billion-dollar, 427-mile Thruway, bringing it from Buffalo to within 60 miles of Manhattan.

Ohio and Indiana worked on east-west expressways that will eventually join. When a four-lane project in Massachusetts is complete and a new bridge across the Delaware river links the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Turnpikes, a motorist will be able to drive from Boston to the gates of Chicago with scarcely a red light or crossroad, but many a toll booth en route.

Brooklyn opened the first section of its Prospect Expressway and Boston took traffic overhead on its central skyway. West Virginia dedicated an 88-mile turnpike between Charleston and Princeton near the southern border.

Track of the Iron Horse
Most major railroad building in 1954 was in Africa and Asia. The Sudan and the Gold Coast laid new lines. Johannesburg, South Africa, admired its new modernistic railway station, which includes a large restaurant on stilts over a garden and an 80-car class garage.

The Shah of Iran opened a new 95-mile rail link between Tabriz and Mianeh. Sources both in and out of Russia reported extensive rail construction in Siberia. One 400-mile line connected the trans-Siberian railroad with Ust Kut and the Lena river region to the north. Another through Inner Mongolia shortened by 600 miles the rail distance between Moscow and Peiping.

Airfields large enough for jet transports opened at Khartoum in the Sudan and at Dar es Salaam, capital of Tanganyika. Wichita, Kans., dedicated a new \$10,000,000 municipal airport to replace a field taken over by the Air Force.

In Brussels, Beirut, Mexico City, Panama City and San Francisco, gleaming new airport terminals were opened to use.

Chicago, on the other hand, went underground. Beneath Grant park in the congested loop area, just off Michigan avenue, motorists now can leave up to 2,350 cars in the world's largest subterranean garage.

Multi-Million Dollar Jackpot Stowed Away in Safety Boxes Left To Chicagoan

Chicago — (U.P.) — A 28-year-old brunette beauty today was hitting a multi-million dollar jackpot left by the fabled "merchant princess" of State Street.

At the last counting the lovely Mrs. Mollie Netcher Bragno stood as eventual heiress of well over \$12,000,000.

But state tax officials still weren't through unearthing and evaluating the piles of gift-edged securities stowed away in safe deposit boxes by Mrs. Brango's grandmother, the late Mrs. Mollie Netcher Newbury.

Mrs. Bragno aided in the counting because, in addition to being Mrs. Newbury's chief heir, she is also executrix and trustee of the still growing fortune.

Under the terms of Mrs. Newbury's will, filed the day after her death last Dec. 12, Mrs. Bragno will immediately inherit half the estate, valued at about \$6,000,000.

More to Come
She will inherit the other half upon the death of Townsend Netcher of Palm Springs, Calif. Netcher is Mrs. Newbury's son and was once married to movie actress Constance Talmadge.

In addition, Mrs. Bragno will receive half of a separate estate left by her grandfather, Charles Netcher. Her share is expected to come to \$2,150,000.

Mrs. Bragno's wealth stems from one of the strangest and most famous alliances in the history of Chicago business.

Her grandmother, then Mollie Alpiner, was a poor Chicago girl when she went to work as a clerk in the newly-founded Boston store on Chicago's State Street in 1883. She rose to become the store's chief under-wear buyer, then, the story goes, the store's owner, the brilliant Charles Netcher, told her

"go to the cashier and get your time."

Mollie Alpiner started to cry and asked "What have I done?" Netcher answered "Nothing — but get your hat and coat and we'll get married."

Netcher died in 1905 and Mollie took over. She proved the equal of State Street's merchant princess, expanding the Boston Store's business from \$6,000,000 to more than \$28,000,000 a year.

The Boston Store is gone now and Mrs. Netcher died in her Edgewater Beach hotel apartment at the age of 87. Mrs. Bragno was at her side.

Estimates Short
When the will was originally filed for probate, the best estimates were that the estate would come to something over \$1,000,000.

The state tax officials didn't know what was in store for them.

Safe deposit box after safe deposit box was opened in the vaults of the City National Bank and Trust Company. Every few days came a new announcement of more millions, most of them in tax-exempt municipal bonds.

In addition there were jewels, including an \$8000 diamond-studded stomacher, and personal checking accounts ranging up to more than \$100,000 in other Chicago banks.

Mrs. Bragno, who wears her dark, heavy hair at shoulder-length, was trying to live up to her grandmother's reputation as a businesswoman today.

Used To Scold Her
She told how Mrs. Newbury used to scold her as a girl when she spent too much money on expensive dresses.

"She was a matriarch — always tried to teach us the value of a dollar," Mrs. Bragno said.

The heiress was educated abroad and was married in 1947 to Edward A. Bragno, president of a wine company. They live in an apartment she decorated herself on Chicago's near north side.

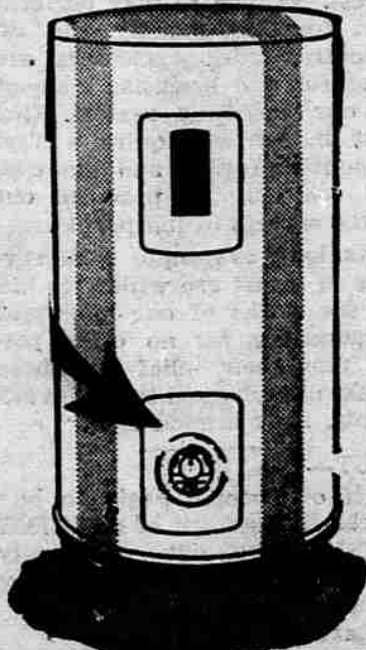
As usual, Mrs. Bragno was on hand yesterday when what may be the last of Mrs. Newbury's safe deposit boxes was opened.

The heiress to millions confessed she only had \$15 and a few coins in her purse.

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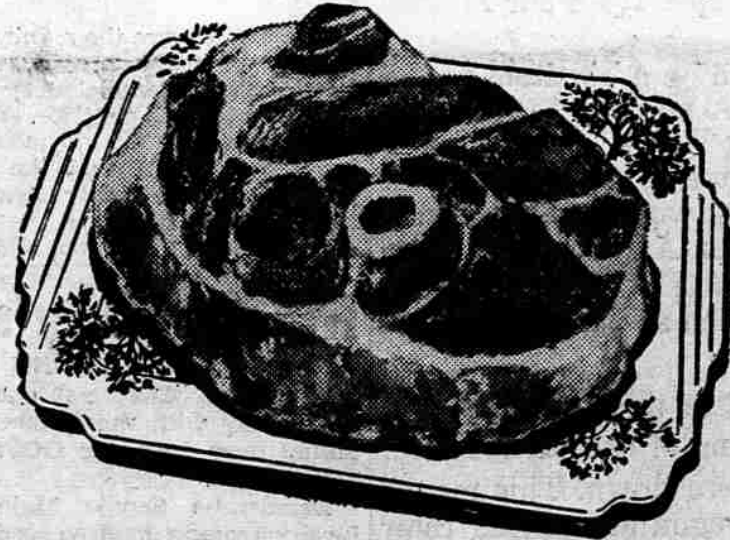
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