Ground-Breaking Held for New Utility Buildings

Muskogee was the scene of double ground-breaking ceremonies in January as construction got underway on two modern utility buildings which are estimated at a cost of $620,000.

One of the buildings, which is part of the Southwestern Bell Telephone company's $3,000,000 dial telephone expansion program, will house the company's exchange and district offices.

The other building will be the site of the Muskogee division of the Oklahoma Natural Gas company.

Various officials of the two companies and from other divisions and district offices participated in the program.

S. F. Ditmars, of the Ditmars-Dickmann-Pickens Construction contractors for the job, said that the Oklahoma Natural Gas company's building will extend 95 feet on Fifth street and 50 feet on Court street and will be two-stories with a basement, while the Southwestern Bell Telephone building will extend 128 feet on Court and 102 feet on Fifth and will contain 40,000 square feet of floor space. It also will be a two-story reinforced concrete structure with a full basement.

Ditmars expects the gas building to be completed about December 1 and the telephone building will reach completion in approximately one year.
GROUND WATER IS PROTECTED BY STATE LAW

While the nation's most precious resource, water, is running short in many sections, Oklahoma is now fortified by a state law designed as a safeguard against possible ground water shortages.

Geologists and other experts say the falling water table is a simple case of too much being taken out of the ground too fast for nature to replenish the subterranean lakes, rivers and rivulets that seep precious moisture through the rocks to fill wells and reservoirs.

The 22nd legislature of Oklahoma passed legislation known as the "Oklahoma Ground Water Law." This act places upon the Oklahoma Planning and Resources board the responsibility of protecting the ground water supply of the state.

This vital precautionary measure was taken because it was felt that unregulated methods of well drilling and water pumping will eventually result in exhausting priceless ground water reserves that under an orderly and regulated practice could last indefinitely.

Under provisions of the new law, when water taken from an area exceeds the water annually seeping into it, the planning board can declare a critical area.

With proper study, the board can determine what is a safe annual ground water supply in an area and in turn govern the quantity of water that can be safely withdrawn. This would include determination of proper well spacing as well as issuance of permits for specific drilling projects.

This procedure will result in a sufficient supply of water for all or, in the case of an acute water shortage, a protection to property owners on an equal basis.

Ninety-eight per cent of all forest fires in Oklahoma are caused by man.

Approximately one out of every four acres of land in Oklahoma is forested.

Completion of Elevator Puts Enid In World Spot

With the completion of a new 7,000,000-bushel storage elevator which now is under construction the city of Enid will rank among the first seven cities in the world in the matter of grain storage facilities.

The new unit which is being built as a project of Union Equity Cooperative Exchange is scheduled to be ready to receive the new crop next spring. This unit will give Union Equity the honor of owning the largest amount of wheat storage space in the southwest and when further planned additions are made this firm will have the greatest wheat storage capacity in the entire country.

Competing as it does against other grain terminals which are located on waterways, with much cheaper transportation rates available, the Enid set-up for grain storage really is very outstanding.

In addition to the storage owned by Union Equity, other elevator units here are owned by Continental Grain Company, Enid Elevator Corporation, Fequay Grain Company, General Mills, Inc., W. B. Johnston Grain Company, Pillsbury Mills, Inc., Salina Grain Company, and the Uhlman Grain Company. When the elevator now under construction is completed the total wheat storage in Enid will be 35,500,000 bushels.

The story of the growth of the Union Equity company to its present position is very much the story of the genius and ambition of one man, E. N. Puckett. Puckett came to Enid in 1926 with $3,260.00 and an idea. For four years he operated without any elevator capacity and then in 1930 he secured 150,000 bushel storage space. Since that time the company has grown rapidly to the position where it dominates the area and last year is reported to have made a profit of approximately $2,000,000.
PUBLICITY FOR LAKE MURRAY — No one knows better than citizens of Ardmore and the staff of the Oklahoma Planning and Resources board that Oklahoma now has the swankiest vacation lodge and resort in the southwest at Lake Murray State Park, just south of Ardmore. Formal opening of the park’s new improvements will be in May and the men shown above are rushing plans for dedication activities. They are, left to right, Dr. J. S. Clark and Russell Pearson, state planning board; Ernst Riesen, publisher, The Daily Ardmoreite; Walter Reed, Ardmore, and J. R. Lane, secretary, Ardmore chamber of commerce.

Planning Board Announces Manager of Swanky Lodge

The big job of managing Oklahoma’s swanky new resort lodge and other improvements at Lake Murray State Park has been given to J. R. Chaney, 28-year-old Oklahoma City hotel man, Clarence Burch, chairman of the Oklahoma Planning and Resources board, has announced.

Chaney, who has been assistant manager of the Biltmore hotel for the past three years, already has reported for duty at the park and has begun formulating plans for the official opening of the new lodge and 44 new modernistic cabins and for the dedication to be held in May.

This huge improvement program is something new in Oklahoma and is being financed by the issuance of an $850,000 self-liquidating bond issue, to be retired in 30 years. This progress was made possible through an act of the Twenty-first Legislature, which authorized the issuance of self-liquidating bonds for the improvement of facilities at state parks.

The extensiveness of the new project is being acclaimed throughout the state as a step never before undertaken in Oklahoma.

Governor Turner termed it as “one of the most significant advances made by Oklahoma.”

He added: “Lake Murray has been—and still is—a fisherman’s paradise, but its new development will bring the addition of other activities, such as hiking, horseback riding, bathing, tennis, square dancing, boating, and conducted tours of places of interest in and near the park.

“In other words, Oklahoma is soon to have a real and very modern vacation resort—one that will compare most favorably with similar resorts throughout the country and on that will be a real credit to the state.”

Oklahoma Trees

Shortleaf pine (Pinus echinata) also known as yellow pine is the common pine found throughout the eastern part of the state. It grows both in the mountains and lowlands.

The tree grows to a height of about 100 feet. The leaves (needles) are in clusters of two or three and are from 3 to 5 inches long. The cones are the smallest of all our pines, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long.

They are usually found in clusters and take two years to mature. After the cones open and drop the small winged seeds they may hold to the branches for three or four years. The seeds are found between the scales and near the center of the cone.

In 1948 there were 103 sawmills in Oklahoma using pine sawlogs. They cut a total of 73 million board feet of lumber. The wood is rather heavy and hard, fine grained and less resinous than other important Southern pines. It is used for general construction, interior and exterior finishing, paper pulp and many other purposes.

The lodge has 26 guest rooms and a restaurant seating 300 persons. It is air-conditioned throughout with refrigerated air. The restaurant, which overlooks the lake through a sea of plate glass, can be divided into smaller dining rooms. There is also a lake view coffee bar seating 35.

Ten of the 44 new cabins have two bedrooms and will sleep six guests. These also are equipped with fireplaces. The remaining new cabins have one bedroom and will sleep four guests.
BUMPER PEANUT HARVEST BOOSTS DURANT’S INCOME

Three million dollars in peanuts but that is what Durant and Bryan county will net when their present peanut crop is completely processed. The end of 1949 brought them $1,507,009.20 and the crop is still being worked.

Durant is the biggest shelling center and one of the most important peanut markets in the southwest. Nearly half a million bushels of peanuts have been produced and marketed in Durant this fall, and approximately double that tonnage has been trucked and shipped in by rail for processing in four local shelling plants and in the oil producing Durant Cotton Oil and Peanut corporation.

At the peak of the annual peanut processing season, the four plants and the oil mill employ 232 people, and their year-round average payroll is 112 men and women. Thousands of Durant families are dependent on the peanut industry for their livelihood.

Five firms had buyers located in Durant during the current harvest season, but the bulk of the peanuts have been bought by the local shelling plants, The Farmers Co-operative Warehouse; Durant Peanut Company; Swift and Company and the Cotton Oil and Peanut Mill. All of the local warehouses are bulging with 100 pound bags of peanuts and imported peanuts have come to Durant by rail and highway.

By rail 456 carloads of farmers stock have been shipped into the shelling plants and the oil mill. One shelling plant manager estimated that the four local plants have 5,000 tons of peanuts stored in outside warehouses.

The M-K-T railroad has maintained a switch engine in the yards all fall just distributing the loaded cars to the mills and dispersing tank cars loaded with peanut oil, an important peanut by-product. It is estimated that the plant will ship 50 carloads of oil of 60,000 pounds capacity each.

CHICKASHA HAS UNUSUAL INDUSTRY—Screw parts ranging from the smallest sizes on up come off the production lines of the Badgett Steam Lubricator company, located in Chickasha. It is the largest multiple-spindle screw machine plant west of St. Louis.

Large Screw Machine Shop Thriving In Chickasha Area

It’s a mistaken idea if anyone thinks that the masculine mind is a pre-requisite for directing the wheels of industry.

Take the Badgett Steam Lubricator company, Chickasha, for instance. Mrs. Billie B. Badgett and Mrs. Clarence Davis, co-owners of the company, are doing an exemplary job in directing the activities of the largest screw machine plant west of St. Louis, Mo.

This unusual industry, located on the southwestern edge of Chickasha, manufactures screw parts of the smallest size on up. The plant, which has approximately 18,000 square feet of floor space, houses 13 multiple spindle screw machines, seven turret lathes, milling and threading machines and other equipment.

Most of the machine work done in the plant is on a contract basis. As an example, the company manufactured eight million lighter flint holders for a Dallas establishment. An Oklahoma City company ordered 10,000 aluminum smoking pipe barrels, consisting of six minute parts.

The company makes parts for electric fans, automotive wheel bearings, vending machines, drinking fountains and many others, including parts for oil field equipment.

Mrs. Badgett’s husband, F. L. Badgett, started the business in 1928 in a 50 x 75-foot building on the same location the company now has. Efforts were centered exclusively on steam lubricator parts for oil field equipment. These parts still are being made, principally for the export market.

Mr. Badgett was killed in 1931 in an oil field accident. Beginning in 1935, Clarence Davis, son of the present co-owner, did much to promote the screw-machine business until his accidental death in an airplane crash in 1948.

The company employs 17 skilled machinists and helpers.

3,000 Visitors See Museum

The Cherokee Indian museum at Northeastern State College in Tahlequah since formally opened last May has attracted more than 3,000 visitors who came to view its historical collection. Mrs. Dennis Jones, curator, says. Guests have come from 180 cities and from Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Great Britain and Sweden.
GETTING THE JOB DONE

With each issue of RESOURCEFUL OKLAHOMA we will present in this space a map, chart, table or other data which we believe will help you in your work.

WORK STOPPAGES—1948

Percent of Total Workers Involved

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

* Less than a tenth of one percent
PRESIDENT SETS UP BUDGET FOR FLOOD CONTROL

President Truman's budget for the next fiscal year includes appropriations for more than $23,000,000 for flood control, rivers and harbors projects in Oklahoma.

The projects and amounts recommended for work during the 12 months beginning next July 1 are:

**Flood control:**
- Oklahoma — Canton reservoir, $375,000.
- Texas and Oklahoma, $1,000,000.
- Fort Gibson reservoir, $9,000,000.
- Great Salt Plains reservoir, $45,000.
- Hulah reservoir, Oklahoma and Kansas, $1,200,000.
- Kaw, $138,000.
- Oklahoma City floodway, $800,000.
- Oologah reservoir, $900,000.
- Polecat creek, $180,000.
- Tenkiller Ferry reservoir, $8,000,000.
- Wister reservoir, $431,300.

**Rivers and harbors:**
- Oklahoma-Arkansas River and tributaries, Arkansas and Oklahoma, $850,000.

An appropriation of $263,000 for the W. C. Austin flood control-reclamation project at Altus, also was recommended in the budget.

OKLAHOMA CITY FIRM EXPANDS

Nine months of negotiating were ended in January when Macklanburg-Duncan Co., Oklahoma City manufacturers, paid $75,750 to Oklahoma Industries, Inc., for a new seven-acre plant site.

R. A. Macklanburg, jr., vice-president and general manager of the company, said present plans call for a one-story factory, warehouse and office which will cover about four acres. Work on the new plant, he said, should start about the middle of February. The company hopes to move to its new location in September or October. The cost of the structure has not been estimated.

The Macklanburg-Duncan firm, which turns out metal weather strip, calking and glazing compounds, metal moulding, trim, door grills, letters and numbers, has operated in Oklahoma City the past 30 years. It supplies lumber and hardware outlets in every part of this country and several foreign cities.

Macklanburg states that under the expansion program they will greatly increase the number of employees in order to handle their increase in sales volume.

Chinese Elm Proves Most Popular Field Windbreak

Oklahoma farmers can now obtain as many Chinese elm trees as they need for beginning or completing windbreaks around their farmsteads and for field protection.

Because farmers prefer this particular tree over all others for shelterbelt and windbreak purposes, the state planning and resources board, division of forestry, has announced its nursery has been stocked this year with an ample supply of Chinese elm seedlings sufficient to meet the growing demand.

The first Chinese elms (Ulmus pumila) were introduced into the United States from Peking, China in 1908 by Frank N. Meyer for the Bureau of Plant Industry. In this country the species proved itself especially well adapted to the great plains area where it survived and grew rapidly where many other species had failed.

The experiment station at Woodward planted the first seedlings in Oklahoma in 1913 on various sites under their supervision. Because of their rapid growth and abundance of branches and foliage they rapidly became so popular that by 1923 hundreds of commercial nurseries were producing this tree. It is not uncommon to find ten-year-old Chinese elms more than fifty feet tall and wind barriers of this height will give effective protection for a distance of a thousand feet to leeward and winds of 40-mph velocity are reduced more than half within 600 feet.

These trees are made available through the county agent, soil conservation service, vocational agriculture teacher and the planning and resources board at the state capitol.

OKLAHOMA WINDBREAKS—Farmers in Oklahoma have learned to respect the value of windbreaks in their farming operations and in the western part of the state some of the best shelterbelts in the nation can be found. The above picture shows a successful windbreak pattern protecting farms from wind erosion in Greer county.