Water Conservation Group Formed, Officers Named

More than one hundred Oklahomans became dues-paying members of the Oklahoma Water Conservation Association at an organizational meeting November 18. Constitution and by-laws were adopted at the meeting, and temporary officers elected.

Dr. Lloyd Church, Wilburton dentist, was named temporary chairman. Mr. C. Husky, director of the Oklahoma Planning and Resources board's division of water resources, became temporary secretary-treasurer. Temporary directors were elected to represent each of the six classifications of water use into which the constitution divides the organization. They were Albert Council, Anadarko, municipal; T. M. Markley, Tulsa, industrial; R. C. Longmire, Pauls Valley, agricultural water control; Clark McWhorter, Altus, irrigation; H. C. Bailey, Norman, recreation and wildlife; and Irving Hartwell, Hugo, flood control and navigation.

Tourist Industry Is Big, Study Shows

The Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri Ozarks attract approximately 20 million tourists each year, who spend between 40 and 50 million dollars, a National Park Service survey has revealed.

Tourist expenditures, the report said, were approximately a third of the region's cash income. The tourist industry ranked second only to the poultry and livestock industry in dollar value.

Study was made for the Park Service by the Institute of Community Development of the University of Oklahoma.

A breakdown of expenditures revealed $16 million went for food and refreshments, $14 million for lodging, $7 million for transportation, $3 million for entertainment, and $5 million of miscellaneous purchases and services.

Shirt Factory New Guthrie Industry

A new small industry, which will tailor shirts to order for individual customers, is getting in operation in Guthrie.

A. L. Brown of that city has purchased machinery and other equipment, patterns, and complete customer file of the Thomas Shirt Company and installed them at the Guthrie plant. The Thomas company, established in Oklahoma City in 1918, was offered for sale after its founder, Oscar Thomas, died last March.

Brown said the plant will employ about six people at first. After the first of the year, however, he plans to add sales personnel, and to expand the plant as demand for the product increases.

The meeting was called by Governor Johnston Murray, following up an Oklahoma Water Conference held at his invitation September 22. In his opening speech, the governor urged those present to "work together to see what we have and decide what to do with what we have, instead of working at cross-purposes in planning how to use this precious resource."

N. R. Graham, Tulsa, vice-chairman of the Planning Board, told the group the association will provide "a table to sit around to discuss our water problems." Such discussion is necessary, he said, because some water interests feel that others are trying to get more than their share of the state's water resources.

Purpose of the organization, as set forth in its constitution, is "to promote and support the development, conservation, control, protection, and utilization of the water resources of Oklahoma for all beneficial purposes."

Oklahoma's water problems, Husky points out, are becoming increasingly acute as demand for water grows and the supply remains static, or even declines. Growth of population and of industrialization boost the demand for water, and interest in irrigation is increasing, particularly in the western part of the state. Meantime, silt is decreasing space available in reservoirs, and below-normal rainfall is causing the ground-water level to decline.

Development of a comprehensive water resources plan, he said, is the only way to meet these problems, and close cooperation between state and federal agencies, local governments and individuals will be necessary to use water in the state to best advantage. The new organization, he believes, will help secure this cooperation.

Oklahoma's water problems won't be solved, he said, until supplies for current needs (principally irrigation, municipal and industrial) and foreseeable future needs (See WATER—Page 4)

Keystone Dam Work Speeded By Engineers

The Keystone Reservoir, which will cover 25,580 acres at power pool level, moved a step nearer reality in November with the final selection of a dam site by the Corps of Engineers, Tulsa district office.

Alternate sites have been discarded in favor of a spot two miles below the confluence of the Cimarron and Arkansas Rivers, according to Col. Stanley G. Raft, district engineer.

Next move in preparation for the dam will be development of the memorandum data, which would permit start of preliminary construction before detailed planning and specifications work for the dam itself is begun.

Speed-up of planning work will make possible the allocation of construction money in next year's budget.

At power pool level, the reservoir will extend 30 miles up the Arkansas River to near Cleveland, and 35 miles up the Cimarron River. Storage at power pool level will be 636,700 acre-feet, and at the top of the flood-control storage pool, it will be 12,242,300 acre-feet. Area of the reservoir at the top of the flood-control pool will be 55,400 acres.

Generating capacity has not yet been finally decided, but a 60,000 kilowatt production capacity has been recommended by the Federal Power Commission.

The Keystone project was approved by Congress May 17, 1950.

Our Cover

Only a color picture can begin to do justice to the beauty of Oklahoma in the fall. Our cover picture, taken in Beavers Bend State Park, offers a small sample of what the mountains and valleys of southeastern Oklahoma were like throughout November. The picture was taken, and color separations made, by Kazimir Petraskas, Planning Board photographer.
Making Sweet Potato Chips Is New Industry

After eight years in the experimental stage, sweet potato chips have become a full-fledged industry. Manufacture of the new delicacy promises to open a new market for Oklahoma sweet potato growers.

Pioneering the new product and on the ground floor in its production, is Ray K. Babb of Mangum, owner of the Southwest Food Co. there. His sweet potato chips are being retailed throughout southwestern Oklahoma, and he's getting ready to manufacture them in still larger quantities.

A potato with all the qualities that make for good sweet potato chips, called the All Gold variety, was developed at Oklahoma A & M College, as was the special process for making the chips. Babb worked closely with the college on the project.

Babb reports people all over the country have been calling him to ask how he makes his sweet potato chips. Since only the trade name and not the process, can be patented, he expects the industry to spread rapidly throughout neighboring states.

The sweet potato chips are golden in color, and, when served, make the table more attractive. The process by which they're made converts their starch to sugar. They stay crisp, and their unusual flavor has made a hit wherever they've been served. They're healthful, too; they have all the food value of regular potato chips, plus vitamins.

Sweet potatoes are already an important Oklahoma crop, and the new development promises to make them even more so. Average production is now 150 to 200 bushels per acre, and, according to Frank Cross, head of the A & M horticulture department, improved farming methods could boost this to 600 or 700 bushels.

Another advantage the potato chips offer is that more potatoes can be used. Only a small part of the crop can be used on the table, because the large ones are too pithy. These big yams are perfect for chips.

Producing potato chips has necessitated considerable expansion at Babb's Mangum plant, where he was already making Irish potato chips and fried pies. He recently rented a 25x90 foot building in Blair, and put a sweet potato curing plant in operation. He has also opened a sweet potato warehouse in Lone Wolf for storing, grading and shipping the chip potato.

Holdenville-Made Water Cans Sold In 40 States

Water cans produced by Covey Manufacturing Company, Holdenville, are being sold to dealers in 35 or 40 states, and in Canada and South America. Company officials estimate they'll sell 12,000 cans this year.

The firm, which was founded in 1938, now employs seven or eight men in the summer, and five men in the winter, when demand for water coolers slacks off.

Present owners of the company are P. M. Hodgins, G. R. Lyons and T. W. Treadwell. Hodgins and Lyons began working for Luther Covey, the founder, in 1944. They and Treadwell bought the business from Covey in 1949. Treadwell handles paper work and manages the office, while the other partners manage the plant.

Covey water coolers are equipped with trip-proof faucets; the water cans are not. Cans and coolers are made in two types, as well as in different sizes. Standard cans and coolers are insulated with dead air space, and the double duty cans and coolers are insulated with "Ultralite," a glass fiber.

All Covey cans and coolers are made of prime Cop-lye galvanized steel sheets, coated with a material that prevents color changes when exposed to the atmosphere.

Each has a lid that can be used as a drinking cup, an inside sealing ring for the lid, heavy corrugation for greater strength, double seamed bottoms for maximum protection, and an inch-thick solid redwood block between the inside and outside can bottoms to prevent sagging.

Though materials for the cans are shipped in from Ohio, all the work of manufacturing them is done in Holdenville, and the boxes in which they are shipped come from Oklahoma City.

Galvanized steel arrives at the Covey plant in flat sheets. These are cut, rolled and folded, and soldered together to form cans. The faucets are installed, and the cans are painted and sprayed. Labeling and boxing are the final operations.

Power From State's Newest Dam In Use

Power from Oklahoma's newest hydroelectric dam, Tenkiller Ferry on the Illinois River, has gone in use in Oklahoma and Arkansas. The Tenkiller generators have been formally connected to the lines of the Southwestern Power Administration.

The dam, with its 34,000-kilowatt capacity, is the sixth such federal government installation in Oklahoma and Arkansas. The six produce a total of 400,200 kilowatts.
World Trade Week Observed In Tulsa

Emphasis was on products with which Tulsa supplies the world during World Trade Week, observed there last month.

Nine Tulsa firms set up displays of the products they manufacture for export in downtown buildings.


Seminole Mattress Factory Operating

A new industry in Seminole is the Southwest Bedding Manufacturing Co., which is equipped with the most modern mattress manufacturing and renovating machinery now available.

The new firm was established by K. T. Stillwell, Seminole businessmen who had formerly operated a mattress factory in Muskogee for eleven years. He has been in the interior decorating business in Seminole since 1945.

Oklahoma's five-day deer hunting season in November was the biggest in the state's history, with all or part of seven counties opened to hunters, and approximately 10,000 sportsmen participating.

Pawhuska Plant Producing Feed

A custom feed mill and feed lot recently established at Pawhuska is employing from 14 to 28 persons, and is currently working 18 hours a day, in two shifts.

The building which houses the mill, originally built for a community-sponsored packing plant, was purchased by Sid Blair and V. W. Mendenhall, who remodeled it for their new concern, doing much of the work themselves.

The mill turns out a commercial livestock feed, and also does a good business in custom-mixed feeds, made to the specifications of farmers and ranchers in the area.

In addition, a feed is specially mixed for use in the feed lot operated in connection with the mill. Feeding pens, feeding bunkers and corrals were built on an acreage surrounding the plant.

Plans are already being made for expansion of the feed lots and for installation of more equipment in the mill.

Garbage Bin Made By Tulsa Company

A garbage bin which eliminates the danger of overturning, or of the garbage attracting pests, is being manufactured by the Cemstone Vault Company of Tulsa.

Called the Cemstone Sun-Dial bin, the unit is made of molded concrete. One-piece construction eliminates shrinkage separation. The lid closes out rain and rodents, and the bin is constructed so that there is no danger of children getting into the unsanitary garbage.

The Cemstone company has also added to its line a pre-cast sectional barbecue fireplace for outdoor cooking.

The company also makes burial vaults and septic tanks.

WATER...

(Continued from Page 2)

are provided. Solving these problems, he said, involves consideration of many factors. Included are requirements for hydrologic data (records of the quantity and quality of water in streams), flood control, navigation, agriculture, power, industrial and municipal needs, conservation and recreation.

Constitution and by-laws of the Water Conservation Association were prepared by a temporary organizing committee headed by Husky, who was appointed at the September meeting. The Oklahoma organization, Husky said, is patterned after similar groups functioning successfully in other states.

Permanent officers will be elected after a membership drive. In addition to the six directors elected, these will include five more representatives of each of the water use classifications, making a 36-man Board of Directors. This board will choose the permanent president, and a paid employee to serve as secretary-treasurer and executive office.

As problems come before the board, they will be referred for study to the section representing the particular use of water concerned. They cannot be considered by the entire board for 60 days, unless a majority of the section affected votes otherwise. Majority vote of the entire board is necessary for final action.

The president and six vice presidents, together with one other representative of each water use, elected by the membership of his own group, will comprise the Executive Board. Activities of the association will be directed by this body, which will report to the Board of Directors and the entire membership at the annual meeting.

The new organization is to be financed by membership dues, contributions, and gifts. Individual membership fee is $5; contributing membership, $25; and sustaining membership, $100. This money will pay the salary of the executive officer, and finance activities carried out by the association.
State Commission Makes Santa Real For Orphans

Like all states, Oklahoma provides for the physical needs of children who don't have parents to care for them. But Oklahoma goes a step further. At Christmas time, she recognizes the individuality of each child by providing him with just the gift he asks Santa for.

By writing to Santa Claus every child in a chartered orphanage or similar institution can discover that someone takes enough interest in his personal wishes to send the gift he wants. There'll be a package on the tree with his name on it, and a sack of candy, fruit and nuts, as well.

This work is done by the Santa Claus commission, a state agency created for that purpose in 1937. Present members are W. G. Skelly, Tulsa, chairman; Forrest E. Harper, Oklahoma City; and L. B. Simmons, Duncan. Felix Simmons, Oklahoma City, is treasurer.

Mrs. Jessie Fountain, supervisor and buyer for the commission since its beginning, feels that the type of gifts the children choose indicates how much individuality means to them. Particularly popular, she says, are things like overnight bags and cedar chests, which give them a place to keep their belongings. Good grooming, too, rates high. Cosmetics are in demand among older girls, and a typical boys' request was for a shoe shine kit, a brush set, and men's cologne.

Idea for the Santa Claus commission was born in 1935. R. R. Owens, state budget officer then, and his wife visited an orphanage at Helena, and were shocked to learn how little Christmas meant to the children. They and their friends went to work, and that year took a gift to every child at Helena. Next year the project grew; donations poured in jars in public places; state employees worked late to wrap gifts.

In 1937 the legislature passed a bill providing a fund for gifts for orphans, and calling for the appointment of three Santa Claus commissioners. The present legislative appropriation is $2500. Private donations add about $4500 more.

Christmas shopping for the Santa Claus commission begins far back in the summer, when Mrs. Fountain starts buying dolls, toys, games and countless other items for over 300 children. When the commission first started its work, she discovered many children didn't know what to ask for, so now she sends a list of gifts for various age groups to the 28 institutions the commission serves, and the children can "window shop" from it.

The children write their letters to Santa early, listing first, second and third gift choices. Then Mrs. Fountain finishes her shopping, for, she says, you can't tell from year to year what the demand will be for a particular item.

Ajax Co. Gets In Larger Building

A new location with more room for expansion has been acquired by the Ajax Die Casting and Manufacturing Co., of Tulsa. The company recently completed a move from the location it has occupied since established in 1945 to the old Tulsa Ice Co. plant, which affords 15,000 square feet of floor space. The building has been remodeled to accommodate the new business.

The firm's work includes die casting of aluminum and zinc parts, pouring metal stampings, metal fabricating and plating, and manufacture of tools and dies.

In addition, the company specializes in development work. Given an idea of what a customer wants, it can make the dies and deliver the parts.

Customers now include many nationally-known concerns, as well as many companies in Tulsa's oil field equipment industry.

The business is owned and operated by M. M. Alexander and P. Rees Flint, who became associated after they worked together for another plant during World War II. When the war ended, they established the Ajax company, gradually adding to the equipment and building up the business until the move to a larger plant became necessary.

Alexander, an experienced shop man, runs that part of the business, while Flint handles administrative work.

Beatrice Foods Co. Plant Is Remodeled

Improvements at the Beatrice Foods Co., Pawhuska plant, including remodeling and installation of new equipment, have been completed.

Air conditioned office space was added during the remodeling operation, as well as more adequate refrigerated store rooms for the products.

The firm, distributor of Meadow Gold dairy products, purchased the plant from the Crownover company.
Plastic Valve Is Tulsa Product

First successful all reinforced-plastic valve is being manufactured in Tulsa by the Ed Conley Plastic Corp.

Tests have shown the new valves will operate at a normal pressure of 125 pounds, under 250-degree temperatures, Ed Conley, company president, said. Internal threads of the valves and fittings are reinforced to the very tip.

The plastic is made principally of materials from oil and coal, and is reinforced with a glass fiber. It's about two-thirds the weight of aluminum. Non-corrosive and particularly suited to chemical industries, the plastic is expected to outlast any known metal when its development is completed.

At present the product is sold at about twice the price of plain steel, but it is less expensive than stainless steel.

Conley pointed out that Tulsa leads the world in the development of reinforced plastic. Murdock Tank & Mfg. Co. is manufacturing reinforced plastic tanks; National Tank Co. has a plastics division; and the Fibercast Pipe Co., formerly Penn-Cast Fiber Corp., is the nation's largest producer of reinforced plastic pipe.

These, he said, with the Conley development, make it possible for Tulsa to offer a complete plastic “package deal.”

Carbon Black Plant Work Progressing

Work on the $2,750,000 carbon black plant at Ponca City is proceeding on schedule, company officials have announced, and is expected to be completed by May, 1954.

The plant, which is being built by the newly formed Continental Blacks, Inc., will produce 40 million pounds of high abrasion black annually, using oil as raw material.

The new plant is being equipped with a filter system that screens the smoke, and prevents venting of black particles into the air.

Plastic Valve Is Tulsa Product

Hugo Popcorn Plant Largest In Southwest

Largest popcorn processing plant in the Southwest, and one of the largest in the country, is located at Hugo, in the heart of southeastern Oklahoma's popcorn-growing country.

The Red River Valley Popcorn Co., ships to processors and packers in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and Alabama. These, in turn, ship all over the United States.

In addition, the firm markets its own product, Blitz Popcorn, and has recently added Blitz Raw Peanuts to its line.

The plant covers 20,000 square feet of floor space.

Contact growers on more than 8,000 acres of Red River bottomland in McCurtain, Bryan and Choctaw counties supply the plant with raw material.

The firm was founded 18 years ago by Almerr Blount, who became the first man in Oklahoma to ship a carload of processed corn out of the state. He had only 200 contracted acres to start with, and his plant occupied an 18x20 foot building in his back yard.

Blount is still general manager. His sons-in-law, A. R. Moore and R. H. Lennon, who joined the firm six years ago, serve as sales and advertising manager and plant manager, respectively.

Grady Poultry Week Shows Off Industry

Importance of the million-dollar poultry industry to every Grady Countian, directly or indirectly, was emphasized during Grady County Poultry Industry Week, observed November 16-21.

Newspapers and radio stations cooperated by using announcements and articles; their advertisers mentioned Poultry Week in their ads; merchants prepared special window displays; organizations used poultry topics for their programs; and cafes featured poultry menus.

Highlighting the week were the annual Grady County Poultry Federation Poultry, Egg and Cake Show, held November 19-20, and the first Southwestern Oklahoma Poultry Congress, in which 15 counties were represented, held November 20.
Engraving Firm Chooses Poteau Plant Location

Another new industry interested in being near the center of the west and the Midwest has located in Poteau. Russell H. Gray, president of the Gray Pantograph Engraving Company, said his company has taken a year's lease on a building north of Poteau on US 271, and plans to establish a plant there.

Gray said his company has done work for Plasteck, Inc., manufacturer of aircraft illumination panels which recently moved to Poteau from Connecticut. He said location of aircraft factories nearby, at Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Shawnee, Dallas and Wichita, helped attract him to the new location. This factor was also an important consideration in the Plasteck move, according to Joe Hassell, president of that firm.

Gray said he believes his plant will be the only one within a 500-mile radius doing the sort of work he does.

The Poteau establishment will be a branch plant. Parent concern will remain in Hoboken, N. J.

Gray founded his firm in 1947. He serves as president-treasurer. Other officers are Edward G. Carr, vice president in charge of finance, and Stanley Weber, vice president in charge of production.

Visitors Enjoy Foliage Beauty

The vivid reds and yellows of southeastern Oklahoma's forests, punctuated by the deep greens of its oaks, pines and holly, put on a real show for the more than one thousand Oklahomans who made the foliage tour sponsored by the Oklahoman and Times Sunday, November 8.

Most of the visitors came from the Oklahoma City area, and cities farther west. Over 400 of them made the trip in chartered buses. About 125 cars followed in the caravan, and forest rangers estimated another 400 cars covered the tour route later in the day.

The tour wound through the Ouachita and Kiamichi Mountains, with frequent stops for enjoying the view and taking pictures.

Cities along the route added to the pleasure of the 460-mile trip by offering refreshments. The Oklahoma City University Choir accompanied the tour, giving programs at each stop.

Gray plans to move, with his family, to Poteau, to supervise location of the new concern, leaving the other two men with the parent concern. He will bring two employees with him, and hire others in Poteau as the need arises.

Feathers Basis For Profitable Turkey Sideline

A unique sideline to the turkey business has been developed by Mrs. Hazel Laird, of Coyle.

Mrs. Laird's husband, Virgil, sells broad-breasted White Holland turkeys by truckloads to buyers, and she helps him market frozen, dressed turkey fryers at a roadside stand. Most people would think they'd exhausted the possibilities of the turkey business with that, but not Mrs. Laird; she also markets the feathers.

Using spun plastic as the base for her creations, she turns turkey feathers into all sorts of interesting decorative items and souvenirs.

Right now, the biggest seller is a feather Christmas tree made from tufts of fine plumage she plucks from the turkeys' breasts and legs. Each bird provides material for four trees. Also popular are souvenir turkeys, each made from all five feather sizes found on turkeys. Feather corsages and other gadgets that are in demand for party favors are also featured. In fact, most of Mrs. Laird's sales are from such special orders.

Passing of the Christmas tree season won't hurt Mrs. Laird's business in the least; she already has plans for making feather Easter bunnies.

So far, most of Mrs. Laird's feather creations are marketed at the roadside stand where the frozen turkeys are sold, or on special orders for party souvenirs. However, Mrs. Laird is contacting stores, with an eye to developing markets for when she has more time for mass production.

Handicapped Enjoy Snug Harbor Pier

Unique among fishing piers is the one opened this fall by Ed Wright at his Snug Harbor resort, on the lake formed by the Fort Gibson Dam. So far as Wright knows, his is the only pier in the country specifically constructed so it can be enjoyed by crippled people.

Made from a section of an old railroad bridge, the pier is built so that a car can be driven right out on it, and a wheelchair taken from it and placed against the railing.

Wright says about 25 crippled persons visit the pier regularly.
Deer Basis Of Big Business

Deer hunting in Oklahoma has become a million-dollar industry, and the south-eastern part of the state has possibilities that could up this total to $13 million, or more, according to Matt H. Whisenhunt, game technician with the Oklahoma Game and Fish department.

Estimated value of each of the 833 deer killed this year, in terms of money spent by hunters trying to get them, was $1,560.78.

Each of the approximately 11,000 hunters averaged three and a half days' hunting during the five-day season. A breakdown of expenditures for each hunter was as follows: For expendable items, such as shells and flashlight batteries, $26.95; other items, such as guns, trailers, and other things usable in the future, $11.39; lodging in hotels and tourist camps, $1.67; refreshments, $3.80.

Taxidermists should receive $51,370 for making the collars, including velvet, cotton and felt. Ann Loy works out her unusual designs in ribbon, sequins, cutouts and jewels.

A freshman in the A & M home economics school, Ann Loy plans to make fashion design her career. She's already making plans for expanding her present business to include cuffs, belts, purses, and an original line of dresses when she can devote her full time to it.

Business Outlook In State Is Good

Retail business outlook in Oklahoma for this year and next is "very optimistic," according to Aaron Gritzmaker, manager of the Oklahoma Retail Merchants Association.

Gritzmaker predicted an increase in production and employment next year after his return from a meeting of the National Conference of State Retail Association Secretaries in Washington, D. C.

Foyil Totem Pole Is Tourist Lure

An unusual tourist attraction in the Grand Lake area is a 90-foot totem pole near Foyil, built by a retired manual training teacher.

N. E. Galloway created the weird structure in eleven years of spare time work, drawing the plans, building the structure, and working out the decorations, himself.

The totem pole, made of steel and concrete, houses the wood-working shop which is Galloway's hobby. It contains eight rooms, largest of which is 10x12 feet, and the smallest, 5x5.

Galloway studied totem poles throughout the United States, Canada and Alaska before building his own. It is adorned with more than 200 Indian symbols, birds, animals and other designs. Statues of four Indian chiefs, each nine feet high, are at the top.