American Iron Fares Well In 30 Years In Oklahoma

American Iron and Machine Works Co., of Oklahoma City, is willing to testify that Oklahoma treats her industries well.

Started thirty years ago in Tonkawa as a small repair shop for oil field equipment, the business has grown into a multimillion dollar industry—and all of its growth was in Oklahoma.

Equipment manufactured by American Iron is distributed on a worldwide basis through oil field equipment supply companies.

There are 425 employees, and an annual payroll of over $1,500,000.

When the shop was first established, its activities were confined almost entirely to oil field repair work in the Three Sands field near Tonkawa. The only items manufactured were an overholt and a sucker rod socket.

In 1926 the company moved from Three Sands to its present location in Oklahoma City. The manufacturing plant was still small, but the list of products was growing. A number of standard oil field needs were manufactured, plus many tools made to the customer's specifications.

From 1926 through 1944, American Iron established oil field repair shops in various localities in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Illinois, and Louisiana, and had manufacturing plants operating in Houston and Oklahoma City. During the war, a considerable amount of manufacturing was done even in the repair shops.

In 1944 the company decided to concentrate on manufacture of oil field equipment rather than repair, and selected Oklahoma City as the best place to do it. That location, company officials explain, is one of the most favorable points in the Southwest for utilization of the railroad's fabrication-in-transit rates. This permits shipment of drill pipe from eastern steel mills to the Oklahoma City plant for installation of tool joints, and reshipment to the final destination with only a slight charge for the stopover.

Other shops were sold, and the plant at Oklahoma City expanded.

In 1947 American Iron added a complete line of rotary tool joints to the standard products it already manufactured. Decision to enter this new field necessitated a $2,500,000 expansion program. This has just been completed with the installation of the second continuous type atmosphere controlled furnace and a new electric flashwelder, one of the largest of its type ever built. The company's heat treating installation is one of the largest in the Southwest.

Storage facilities for 1,000,000 feet of drill pipe were added as part of the expansion. The company's No. 2 Plant covers over 20 acres.

Shell Oil Planning Plant Enlargement

Enlargement of Shell Oil Company's processing and gas recycling plant at Elk City, 1914, has been approved. Plant processing capacity will be increased from 150,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day to 220,000,000 cubic feet, and injection capacity will be increased from 130 to 200 million cubic feet per day.

The original plant went on stream in February, 1951. It was designed to process 100 million cubic feet of gas per day and inject back into the producing formation 75 million cubic feet. In June, 1952, capacity was expanded to what it is at present.

Air Brake Firm Chooses Site As Plant Site

Ground-breaking ceremonies in March launched one of Oklahoma's newest industries, a branch plant of the Bendix-Westinghouse Automotive Air Brake Company. The new plant, in Oklahoma City's Willow Springs industrial area, is expected to be completed by July 1.

It is expected to employ a hundred people as soon as operations are begun, and, when it goes on a two-shift basis, three hundred workers will be required. According to Donald S. Kennedy, president of Oklahoma Industries, Inc., provisions have been made for doubling the plant size soon. This would raise employment to at least five hundred.

The building now under construction will provide approximately 25,000 square feet of floor space. It is being built by Oklahoma Industries, Inc., at a cost of approximately $175,000. Bendix-Westinghouse has a long-term lease with an option to buy at any time.

According to D. O. Thomas, president of the company, more than $1 million will be spent in equipping the plant, as much of it as possible in Oklahoma.

Employees will also be hired locally, and trained in the Oklahoma City plant, Thomas said.

Operations to be housed in the new plant will include reconditioning of air compressors and manufacturing some small parts for the air brakes the company makes for big transport trucks.

The Bendix-Westinghouse Automotive Air Brake Company is a subsidiary of the Bendix Aviation Corporation, the largest manufacturer of aircraft and aircraft engine parts in the world. It has twenty-nine plants in the United States, and four in foreign countries.

The Oklahoma City branch will service and distribute air brake products throughout Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and eastern Tennessee.

Our Cover

It's fishing time again at Oklahoma's state parks, and, from all reports, they're biting fast this spring. Planning Board Photographer Kazimir Petrasauskas took this picture of a fisherman making himself comfortable on the banks of Mountain Fork River on a recent trip to Beavers Bend State Park.
State Parks Readied For Summer

Parks Improved, New Recreation Areas Acquired

Oklahoma's state parks are being readied for the tourist season, which, judging by reservations already made, should be one of the biggest yet, according to Ernest Allen, director of the Planning Board's Division of State Parks.

Fishing is good at all the lakes this year, Allen said, and improvements are underway at several of the parks are making them more attractive than ever to visitors.

Three new recreation areas have been added to the state park system in time for the summer season. These include a state park at the new lake formed by Tenkiller Dam, and recreation areas at Wister Lake, in the southeastern part of the state, and on Grand Lake, adjacent to Pensacola Dam.

Though as yet undeveloped, the Tenkiller park is expected to be a fisherman's paradise. The state's holdings there consist of five islands in the lake, and three strategic points of land along its shore. One of these is on the lake's extreme southeastern shore, adjacent to the dam; another is at its northern tip, accessible by road from Tahlequah; and the third is on the western shore.

Fishing at Tenkiller is reported unusually good for such a new lake, Allen said. It's expected to be even better in the fall, and, by next spring, it should be nothing short of phenomenal.

The recreational area at Wister Lake assigned to the state is 20-acre Quarry Isle, Allen said. The state has no improvements there yet.

At the Grand Lake recreation area, the state has built picnic tables and a picnic shelter, drilled a well to supply water, and built a road to make it accessible.

Preparations to get Sequoyah State Park cabins ready for use are also moving ahead. A $15,000 water purification system has just been completed there. Fifty thousand pine tree seedlings have been planted to beautify the area.

Lake Murray, too, is getting ready for an influx of visitors. The road through the park is being completely rebuilt and blacktopped, with work to be completed by the middle of June. Two new roads to the park have been built, one from Marietta to the south side, and one from Highway 77 at Overbrook.

New displays are being readied at Tucker Tower Geological Museum by Curator Allen Graffham. The Lake Murray meteorite, a rare type composed of nickel and iron, is now on display there. The 600-pound siderite, one of the largest of its type found to date, came from the park itself.

Lake Murray Lodge is moving into a very successful season, Allen said. Week-end reservations at the lodge and cabin area are almost all gone, but there are still openings during the week.

Other parks still have reservations, Allen said, but he advised visitors to write early to be sure of getting what they want.

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A sparkling mountain stream, dammed to form 52-acre Lake Carlton, is one of the principal attractions at Robbers Cave State Park. Both lake and stream fishermen are being generously rewarded for their efforts this year. But the two visitors in the picture above aren't wasting their energy that way—they're just sitting and watching the water run over the dam.

Tour Of Lake Area Draws 2000 People

An estimated 2,000 people from Oklahoma and neighboring states toured the Fort Gibson Dam area April 12—eastern Oklahoma's "Great Lake Day."

Hourly tours left from Okay, Wagoner, Fort Gibson and Hulbert, beginning at 8 a.m., and other visitors made the well-marked 150-mile drive on their own. Maps were provided by the U. S. Corps of Engineers.

Some of the points of interest included the powerhouse, where visitors watched one of the huge generators in operation; Sequoyah State Park; the Tulsa YMCA camp on Cat Creek Cove; Waluhili, the Tulsa Camp Fire Girls' camp; Smug Harbor recreational area; the Helmerich and Payne area on Hickory Creek, where that oil company has constructed 16 cottages, a lodge and a boat-house for its employees; and numerous private clubs and cabin sites.

The old Chickasaw Nation capitol at Tishomingo is still in use as the courthouse of Johnston county.
700,000 Tourists Come To State Dude Ranch Yearly

A dude ranch and amusement park that caters to an estimated 700,000 tourists a year is Craterville Park and Ranch Resort, near Cache. This 2500 acre park in the heart of the Southwest's Indian country was once known as “Big Spring,” and for more than 100 years was a favorite site for Indian gatherings.

Founded by Frank Rush, Sr., in 1921, it is now operated by Mrs. Frank Rush, Sr., and Frank Rush, Jr.

Attractions include picnic grounds, a roller skating rink, a merry-go-round, ferris wheel, and pony rides. There are also a free museum, an Indian trading post, a modern cafeteria and a grocery store.

A unique activity inaugurated by the Rushes is the “Indian Trails camp for boys held each year during the second and third weeks of June. The campers, aged eight to fourteen, actually round up and “work” calves from a herd of 200 head of cattle.

During the fourth week of June the Rushes sponsor their own summer band camp, which is growing in popularity and size every year.

Located 105 miles southwest of Oklahoma City, Craterville is in the heart of an area rich is history, Indian legend, and native lore. In addition, it is at the main south entrance to the 65,000-acre Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Here may be seen herds of buffalo, longhorn cattle, elk and deer, and flocks of wild turkey. A million-dollar highway winds to the top of 2400-foot Mt. Scott in the heart of the reserve. Beautiful camp sites and mountain lakes lure thousands of campers and fishermen to the refuge each year. Approximately 100,000 people come annually to the Wichita Mountains Easter Pageant, which has its permanent home in the “Holy City,” near the foot of Mt. Scott.

Dedication Set For Oklahoma's Two New Dams

A giant double dedication for two of Oklahoma's big new dams has been slated for June 5 and 6, and committee members are already meeting to plan to observe this event in a manner befitting its importance to eastern Oklahoma.

Representatives from the Corps of Engineers and national, state and local officials will take part in dedication ceremonies. Fishathons and queen contests in cities throughout the lake area are being planned to stir up local interest in the event. Committee members estimated 20,000 people will attend each ceremony.

First meeting of Governor Murray's committee on dedicating the two dams was held April 3 at Muskogee, with Morton R. Harrison, chairman of the Oklahoma Planning and Resources board, presiding. Subcommittees to handle different events slated in connection with the dedication were appointed at that time, and previous dedications were studied.

Activities planned so far include Open House and a banquet in the Corps of Engineers new quarters in Tulsa Friday evening, June 5; dedication ceremonies at Tenkiller from 10:30 a.m. to noon June 6, with Sen. Ray Fine as master of ceremonies; luncheon for the official party at 1 p.m. and ceremonies at Fort Gibson Dam from 3 to 4:30 p.m., with Sen. Harold Shoemake serving as master of ceremonies.

The committee agreed to meet in full to plan the dedication every two weeks.

Interest Shown In Irrigation

Over 1,500 Oklahomans interested in irrigation have attended irrigation meetings held throughout the state since the first of the year.

Ira C. Husky, director of the Planning Board's division of water resources, said that his office has provided speakers for twenty-five irrigation meetings to explain Oklahoma’s irrigation laws and give water well information to farmers who plan to irrigate their land. The meetings were sponsored by the county extension agents and the Rural Electrification Administration.
Tourist Trade
Big Business,
Clinton Learns

An example of what the tourist business can mean to Oklahoma towns was revealed last month in Clinton. Tourist business there in 1952 amounted to $3,934,653, a survey by a Chamber of Commerce highway committee has revealed.

The committee, working with the U. S. 66 Association, spent three days polling tourist courts, hotels, garages, tire and appliance shops, cafes, bakeries, bus lines, drug stores, grocery stores and service stations to see what part of their business depends on tourist trade.

The survey revealed investments of $5,475,900 for all firms contacted. Number of employees was 503 and annual payroll was $1,194,865.

Breakdown by businesses is as follows:
Tourist courts and hotels—Investments, $1,440,500; gross tourist business, $399,158; number of employees, 64; annual payroll, $108,850.
Garage, tire shops and appliances—Investments, $1,581,000; tourist business, $2,470,000; employees, 167; payroll, $527,000.
Cafes, bakeries and bus lines—Investments, $557,400; tourist business, $637,000; employees, 158; payroll, $269,530.
Drug stores—Investments, $210,000; tourist business, $63,660; employees, 29; payroll, $21,840.
Grocery stores—Investments, $210,000; tourist business, $63,660; employees, 29; payroll, $21,840.
Service stations, gas and oil—Investments, $234,645; tourist business, $1,438,000; employees, 67; payroll, $234,645.

Raising Worms
New Business

A new Oklahoma industry that will be good news to fishermen is Fred Wilburn's Lucky Worm Ranch, at Broken Arrow.

Worms are kept in beds of compost made of correct proportions of sawdust, manure and dirt. There are no bottoms to the worm beds; proper feeding and watering keep the worms from wandering.

Worms are fed a carefully blended mixture of cottonseed meal, corn meal, and shorts.

Wilburn has six worm beds, each of which, he estimates, contains from 15,000 to 30,000 worms.

The men who work along the Turner Turnpike, to be opened May 16, won't just sell tickets to use the road; they'll also sell Oklahoma. They've just completed an intensive two-week course in what Oklahoma offers the tourist or vacationer, and how to convince said tourist or vacationer he just can't miss seeing what Oklahoma offers.

Whether he's asked where to catch fish or where to see an Indian, a Turnpike Authority employee will be prepared to answer. He'll also be able to tell visitors about Oklahoma's colorful history, her varied and beautiful scenery, and her museums, art galleries and historical shrines.

Approximately 50 men took the course, attending classes eight hours a day for the full two weeks. They came from all over Oklahoma.

Oklahoma history was taught by Miss Lucyl Shirk, an instructor at Roosevelt Junior High School. Miss Elaine Tucker of Classen High School gave a course in salesmanship.

In addition to attending classes, the men were given visual evidence of Oklahoma's many attractions—historical, scenic and cultural. They were shown a number of films on the state prepared for the Planning and Resources Board by the University of Oklahoma.

Another important phase of the training and indoctrination program was a series of talks by authorities on Oklahoma. These included R. C. Miller, Oklahoman—Times writer who constantly boosts Oklahoma's scenic attractions in his "Smoking Room" column; Dr. Charles N. Evans, executive secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society; Miss Muriel Wright, another leading authority on Oklahoma and author of several books; Morton R. Harrison, chairman of the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board whose stepped-up program to sell Oklahoma as a tourist state has resulted in increased tourist business during the past two years; and others.

Phillips Oil Company is planning a similar program early in May for the men who will operate its filling stations along the turnpike.

Enid is sometimes called the "Gold Spot of the South" because it is located in a rich wheat-growing area. The largest flour mill in Oklahoma and the largest grain elevator in the world are located there.
Durant Plant Holds Open House

Excel Body Corporation, only manufacturer of school bus bodies in Oklahoma, held open house at its Durant plant Friday, April 3.

Though a shortage of steel made it impossible to go through all operations, as President F. E. Hartnell had hoped to do, a tour of the plant in which use of each piece of equipment was explained was made by the visitors.

Guests from all over Oklahoma and northern Texas, as well as citizens of Durant, attended the open house. Approximately forty people, including out-of-town guests and Durant Chamber of Commerce directors, went to a luncheon at Southeastern State College before the plant visit.

Hartnell told luncheon guests his plant will make from 300 to 500 bus bodies a year to begin with, and build up as demand grows. Oklahoma alone offers a market for 350 buses a year, Hartnell said, and his company hopes to serve most of this market. He also plans to sell buses in at least 20 of the 22 states west of the Mississippi.

Hartnell intended to retire when he sold his steel business at Elkhart, Ind., but decided to put his know-how to work in the school bus business, instead.

Secretary-treasurer of the corporation is John Wilson.

Since making school buses is a seasonal business, Excel also produces a creep feeder for cattle, and does general job shop sheet metal work.

The plant occupies 60,000 square feet of floor space. There are 40 employees now, and there will be 125 when regular production starts in May.

Largest piece of equipment visitors saw was the 500-ton press on which all structural metal is formed, including window frames. Metal is previously cut to size on the square shear. Knives alone for this giant machine cost $1200.

Roof sections and hood are formed on the stretch press, which has a 350-ton capacity. Concrete dies for this machine are now purchased in the east, but will later be made in Durant. This machine can also be used to make aircraft parts, giving the plant a versatility Hartnell hopes will be put to good use.

All grease is carefully removed from the precision-made parts, and they're treated to resist rust, before they're assembled. Then the entire bus body is carefully cleaned again before it's painted. The hot lacquer process now widely used in painting cars is going to be installed soon, Hartnell said. So far as he knows, his is the only company using this improved method on bus bodies.

Sheets of glass are purchased and ground to size in Excel's glass department, and installed in the window sashes.

Steel tubing for seat frames is cut to size and bent to shape; seats and backs are welded to the frame; and cushions of high-priced rubberized hog-hair, covered with leatherette, are installed.

Bus bodies are mounted on the type chassis specified by the purchaser, and seats and accessories are installed last.

The average school bus (36 passenger size) costs $3500, complete with 1½ ton chassis.

Excel prides itself on producing a sturdy, good-looking bus which conforms with all the high standards of safety required for such a vehicle. Hartnell told visitors he's thinking of adopting the motto of a former owner—"Don't go for purty, but sure as hell stout," except for the fact his buses are "purty," as well as "stout."

In addition to school buses, Excel will produce bus bodies for municipal lines. Hartnell estimates, however, that this constitutes only about one per cent of his business.

Oklahomans who couldn't attend the Open House at Durant had a chance to see a bus body made there at the Made-In-Oklahoma Manufacturers' Exposition at the Oklahoma City Municipal Auditorium April 8-11. One of the buses was parked in front, and Hartnell had a booth inside with pictures to explain how it was made.

Miami Electronics Lab Nearing Finish

A $100,000 electronics laboratory being built at Miami by the Eagle-Picher company is expected to be completed about June 1, according to Elmer Isern, Eagle-Picher vice president. It will concentrate on development of germanium for industrial products.

Building to house the laboratory is brick, and will provide 6,200 square feet of floor space. Twenty to twenty-five technicians, including metallurgists and chemists, will be employed.

Germanium, a by-product of smelting, is used for the manufacture of diodes and transistors, which are being made to replace the vacuum tubes of present television sets. It also has many other applications in the electronics field.
Oklahoma Stone Crushing Plant Is One Of Best

An Oklahoma crushed stone plant, operated by Dolese Brothers at Richards Spur, is considered one of the most modern in the nation.

The screening and blending section of this plant, destroyed by fire in 1949, was rebuilt with an eye to the future. Operations were revamped to meet present and future specification requirements.

One of the most outstanding new features is the plant's flexibility to blend sizes in proper proportion to meet varied specifications. Central panel-board control permits accurate proportion feeding from different bins to meet the specifications of any order.

Another improvement is the safety controls which were an important part of the basic plan. Interlocking electrical signal and control devices stop operations automatically when anything goes wrong, and prevent the machinery from starting again until difficulties are corrected and repair men are in the clear.

Crushing and blending operations are completely serviced by a dust collector system which guards the health of employees against dust hazards and protects the machinery from excessive wear caused by dust.

The plant is designed for a rated capacity of 750 tons per hour of crushed stone products, ranging from agricultural limestone and limestone dust to large sizes of crushed stone.

Dolese Brothers Company has been quarrying stone from the end of this ridge of Arbuckle limestone since 1907. In addition to the Richards Spur plant, the company operates quarries at Rayford, Big Canyon and Bromide.

Waurika Buys Plant In Bid For Industry

Directors of the Waurika Chamber of Commerce have voted to buy the ice plant in that city as a start toward attracting a small industry.

The plant, located on the Rock Island spur, is a brick building 60 x 80 feet, on approximately 20,000 square feet of land.

James Waid, president of the Chamber of Commerce, said his organization has several leads on industrial concerns looking for locations.

Shawnee Plant Makes Cookies

Cookies with the old-fashioned goodness of the homemade kind are being manufactured now in Shawnee.

Swanson's Homemade Cookie Company opened a branch there in February.

Glenn Hardman, formerly of Tulsa, obtained the franchise from the Battle Creek, Mich., company. The Swanson product is made with whole eggs and pure vegetable shortening, and, according to Hardman, is more like homemade cookies than anything else on the market. Baking is rigidly controlled under the franchise; the Swanson recipe must be adhered to.

A number of Oklahoma cities, as well as some in Arkansas, will be in the new plant's marketing area.

The cookie company occupies 7,000 square feet of floor space. Equipment includes a large-size oven, refrigeration units, and an automatic cookie cutting machine operated by three persons.

All employees, except a few in key positions, are being hired locally. Shawnee products are being used as much as possible in making the cookies, too.

When in full production, the company turns out 50 to 60 thousand dozen cookies a week.

Oklahoma Show Is Big Success; Repeat Planned

More than 150,000 people attended the third Made-in-Oklahoma Show in the Oklahoma City Municipal Auditorium April 8-11, and over two hundred Oklahoma businesses were on hand to display their goods and services.

At the request of the exhibitors, the show is to be repeated in the autumn of 1954. It will again be sponsored by the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board.

This year's show drew commendation from the House of Representatives. House Resolution No. 539 describes it as "of great benefit to the public by acquainting the public with the various products manufactured and made available within the State of Oklahoma."

It commends the "persons and firms whose products and industry are represented at the show for creating new industries in Oklahoma and for cooperating in the current Exposition by furnishing samples of products for display," and the Planning Board and its officers and employees for the "progressive spirit, ingenuity, and interest demonstrated by them in fostering and conducting" the show.

European Visitors studying American ways were guests at Lake Murray State Park when this picture was taken. They are, from left to right: Juan Mancinach, Barcelona, Spain; Verna Clark, Lake Murray employee; Trevor Parfitt, London, England; Henry Pousset, Marseilles, France; and Michael Durkan, Dublin, Ireland.
May 2 Pioneer Day At Guymon

Guymon’s 21st consecutive annual Pioneer Day celebration has been set for May 2. The event commemorates the Organic Act of 1890, by which the Panhandle joined Oklahoma.

To mark the occasion, a ten-mile parade through town, three rodeo performances, old-time and modern dances and two queen contests will be features of the celebration. There will also be a chuck-wagon breakfast, pilots’ breakfast, Old Timers’ luncheon, fiddlers’ contest, children’s bicycle parade and pioneers’ gabbie.

Governors of five states—Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Texas and Kansas—have been invited to attend.

Guymon, which claims the title, “Friendly Hub of the Panhandle Empire,” is uniquely situated to serve a wide trade area in three states. It’s atop the largest natural gas field in the world. Wheat and grain sorghums are the most important agricultural products, and beef and dairy cattle make an important contribution to the economy.

Property valuation at Guymon is one of the highest in Oklahoma—$33,523,891 in 1951.

Sapulpa Chosen New Plant Site

Another oil-related industry has moved to Oklahoma in order to be in the center of the petroleum industry. Combustion Research and Development, Inc., has moved its manufacturing plant from Chanute, Kansas, and is now in production at Sapulpa.

Hugh Wiant, president of the company, will manufacture a product he invented himself, the Wiant burner, used by refineries throughout the world.

The burner consists of a combination of metal work and concrete in a large, circular form, through which gas or a combination of gas and oil is burned. It has only two movable parts, and is set into the wall so that it is only partly visible.

Unique Scheme Promotes City, Area Around It

Working on the theory that what helps the surrounding area also helps Muskogee, the Chamber of Commerce in that city has undertaken a unique promotion program. On April 1 it launched an intensive advertising campaign to boost not just Muskogee, but towns all over eastern Oklahoma.

An important promotion medium is a daily 15-minute newscast giving developments throughout the area. Paul Bruner, Chamber of Commerce manager and former newspaper man, will be in charge of these programs, which will be broadcast without charge by Muskogee’s two radio stations.

New lakes and accompanying recreational facilities being developed in the area will receive a great deal of publicity in the campaign. However, industrial and agricultural progress will also come in for a fair share.

G. N. Irish, president of the Muskogee Chamber of Commerce, describes the new lake area as an asset of more importance than most people realize. Thousands of lake visitors, he points out, will come as potential investors. “A great many of them will have courage, vision and capital—and they will furnish leads to new commercial and industrial enterprises,” he adds.

“Eventually,” Irish said, “the development would come anyway. But by advertising, promoting and selling ourselves on the possibilities, we can greatly speed that development.

Oklahoma’s highest waterfall is Turner Falls, in the Arbuckle Mountains, near Davis.

Wiant moved to Sapulpa, he explained, because it offers the advantages of good transportation facilities and business contacts without costs involved in locating in a larger city.

The company has a shop, laboratory and retail outlet in Los Angeles, Calif.

Rains Come But Streams Low

Rains during the last two months have broken the year-long drought over much of Oklahoma and replenished farm ponds and city reservoirs.

Water flow in most of the state’s streams, however, continued below normal as late as the middle of April, the Planning Board’s division of water resources has reported. The Division said that during the month of March and early in April that part of the state lying south of a line from the southwestern corner to the northeastern corner received sufficient rainfall to replenish surface and subsoil moisture supplies and to cause substantial increases in surface runoff. Rainfall in the Panhandle area was still far below normal.

Water levels in lakes in eastern and northeastern Oklahoma have climbed during the month of April, but water supplies in the central and western areas are still critical. Resort owners have taken advantage of low water levels at several lakes to plant grains and grasses which will add fertility and provide better feeding conditions for fish when the waters rise again.

Upper Spavinaw Fishing Is Good

Upper Spavinaw Lake, a recent addition to the Tulsa city water supply, was opened for fishing April 1, and developments are planned to make it a first-rate recreation area.

The 3,300-acre reservoir is expected to be a mecca for fishermen this summer. Like all new lakes, it’s well populated with fish. Trout from Missouri, 20,000 fingerlings and some larger fish, are being stocked. It is hoped the cool waters of Spavinaw creek will aid in their propagation.

Water from spring rains is filling the reservoir, which was hard-hit by last year’s drought. At spillway level, the lake is about eight miles long and from one-half to two miles wide.