But surely one could view this parched land and know that here was a young planner's delusion. Especially if, after a weekend of farm pond fishing, he was heard to exclaim, "Someday we'll build three dozen lakes — maybe more. There'll be a million acres of lakes two hours from this office — the world's largest concentration of manmade lakes, a water paradise. Shoot, you'll be able to go to the lake on your lunch hour. We'll have more shoreline than Minnesota, more than the entire U.S. Atlantic coast."

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U. S. Engineering Department Opens Tulsa Office

An important event in engineering and civic circles of Tulsa was the official opening of the office of the United States engineering department in the Petroleum Building on July 1st. This office will have charge of the numerous engineering projects authorized by the federal government. Capt. H. A. Montgomery, formerly executive assistant to Col. Eugene Reybold, division engineer, southwestern division of the U. S. Army Engineers, will be in charge of the Tulsa district.

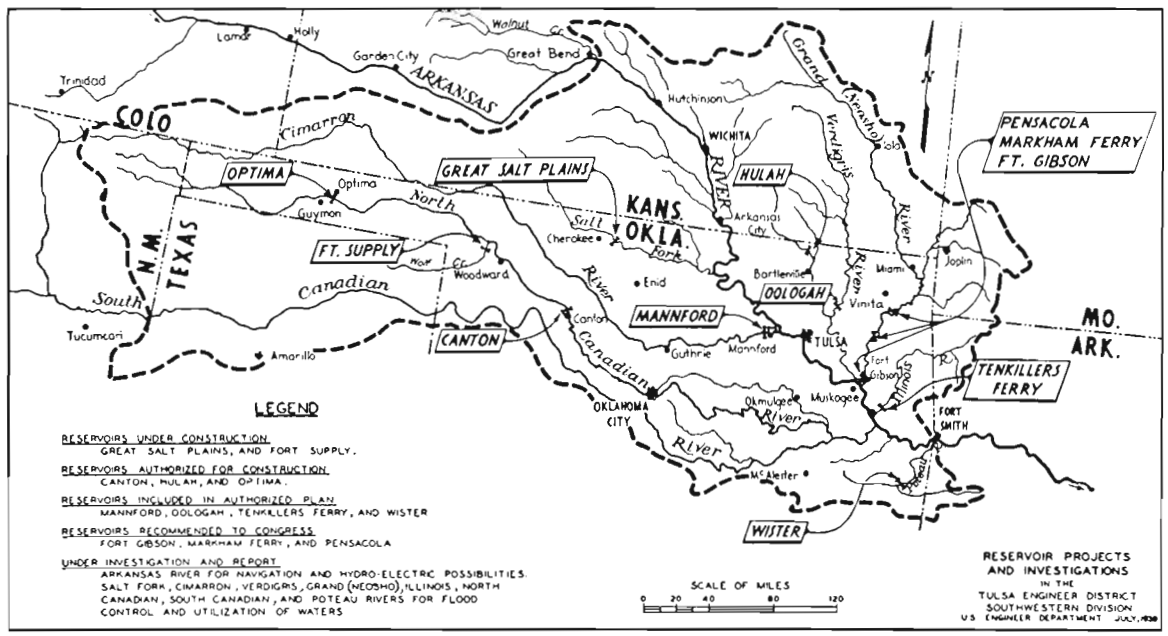
The Tulsa district embraces an area of 100,075 square miles of which about 65 percent is within the state of Oklahoma, 38 percent in Kansas and smaller portions in Arkansas, Missouri, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. Within this district the Arkansas River has a length of 494 miles of which 96 miles are classed as navigable. The total length of the Arkansas river within the limits of the Tulsa district is about 3,400 miles.

The purpose of the work of the U. S. engineering department is to supervise the construction of dams for flood control purposes on streams tributary to the Arkansas River. The waters to be impounded behind these dams will prevent flood destruction and will also serve to provide permanent pools for recreational and wild life refuge purposes. Each dam is so located to permit flood waters to be accumulated and later allowed to flow through normal channels to major streams thus preventing low water periods in the Arkansas and other rivers.

There are at present twelve projects under the supervision of this Tulsa district office. Two dams are being constructed, one at Fort Supply, Woodward County, and the other at Great Salt Plains reservoir site in Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Three other projects have been authorized with dams to be located at Canton, Blaine County, Optima, Texas County, Hulah, Osage County, Oklahoma. Four additional flood control plans are under consideration, and reports are to be made upon proposed dams at Mannford, Creek County, Oologah, Rogers County, Tenkiller Ferry, Sequoyah County, and Wister, LeFlore County, Oklahoma.

In addition to this work the office here will continue to cooperate in the work on the three dams on the Grand River. The Pensacola dams is now under construction and two other sites are included in this Grand River power project, one to be located at Markham Ferry and the other at Fort Gibson.

All of this work will give employment to more than 400 people, some of whom will live in Tulsa.



1939: The Tulsa Engineers Club welcomed the new Tulsa District Engineers by publishing a map of the bold vision for northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas. Employment potential: 400 workers. Nine lakes were planned or under construction. A few dreamers saw even greater possibilities. . . .