



Chapter 1 **THE MOUNTAIN MOVERS**

*“Make no little plans;
they have no magic to stir men’s blood.”¹*

— Daniel C. Burnham

The distinguished and

**PERHAPS
UNPRECEDENTED RECORD** of the Tulsa District in civil works construction is focused around two projects: The Arkansas River waterway and, to the south, Denison Dam on the Red River.

Those two endeavors drew supporters and detractors encircled by constellations of other multipurpose projects and accomplishments, including:

- More than \$2 billion in savings from flood losses over the past 50 years.
- Navigation projects that have moved 50 million tons of goods through the region since 1971, breathing a new form of economic vibrance into many communities.
- Electric power projects that captured \$3.3 billion of energy from falling water, to light the valleys of a darkened region.
- Recreation projects that brought health and delight to 1.2 billion visitors throughout a region where the word “water-ski” was foreign even 30 years ago.
- Water supply and irrigation projects that made available more than 2 million acre-feet of water supply storage in the region of the dust bowl, where before farmer and city-dweller alike had so often witnessed the extremes of nature’s drought and flood.

The Tulsa District moved mountains to bring water resources development to its region.

Shown at right: Hugo Dam in southern Oklahoma.

