

The Corps

DAMMED AT FULL SPEED AHEAD

over the past half century, and looking back, the years blur into waves of action:

- To the west, Great Salt Plains Lake was completed in 1941; Fort Supply Lake in 1942; Canton Lake — after a recess for World War II — in 1948. Meanwhile, Denison Dam impounded Lake Texoma in 1944. Fall River Lake in Kansas and Wister Lake in eastern Oklahoma were completed in 1949.
- In the cost-cutting 1950s, with the onset of the Korean conflict, only four projects were actually completed: Heyburn Lake south of Tulsa in 1950, Hulah Lake northwest of Bartlesville in 1951, and Fort Gibson and Tenkiller Ferry Lakes in eastern Oklahoma in 1953.

But ground was laid for dramatic movement during the 1960s, when a record dozen major lakes (plus five locks and dams) were completed:

- 1960: Toronto Lake in southern Kansas;
- 1963: Oologah Lake northeast of Tulsa;
- 1964: Keystone and Eufaula Lakes to Tulsa's west and south, plus John Redmond Reservoir and Council Grove Lake in southern Kansas;
- 1966: Elk City Lake in southern Kansas and Millwood Lake in southwest Arkansas;
- 1967: Pat Mayse Lake near Paris, Texas, and Marion Lake in central Kansas.

In southern Oklahoma, Broken Bow Lake was closed in 1968, as was Pine Creek Lake in 1969.

In the 1970s, 13 projects were completed. The decade opened with five navigation projects: Chouteau, Newt Graham, Kerr, Mayo, and Webbers Falls. In southeastern Oklahoma, Hugo Lake was completed in 1974. Others included Dierks and Gillham Lakes in southwest Arkansas in 1975; Birch Lake north of Tulsa, DeQueen Lake in southwest Arkansas, and Waurika Lake in southwest Oklahoma in 1977; and Optima Lake in the Oklahoma Panhandle in 1978.

The 1980s rounded out the reservoir completion schedule: in Kansas, Pearson-Skubitz Big Hill Lake and El Dorado Lake in 1981; Sardis Lake (earlier called Clayton Lake) in southeastern Oklahoma and Copan Lake north of Bartlesville in 1983; Skiatook Lake northwest of Tulsa in 1984; and Arcadia Lake, the last of the big reservoirs, in November of 1986.⁶



In 1942, the Tulsa District completed Fort Supply dam on Wolf Creek (a tributary of the North Canadian River) in western Oklahoma. Named after Camp Supply, a frontier military post, Fort Supply is home to native prairie dogs.