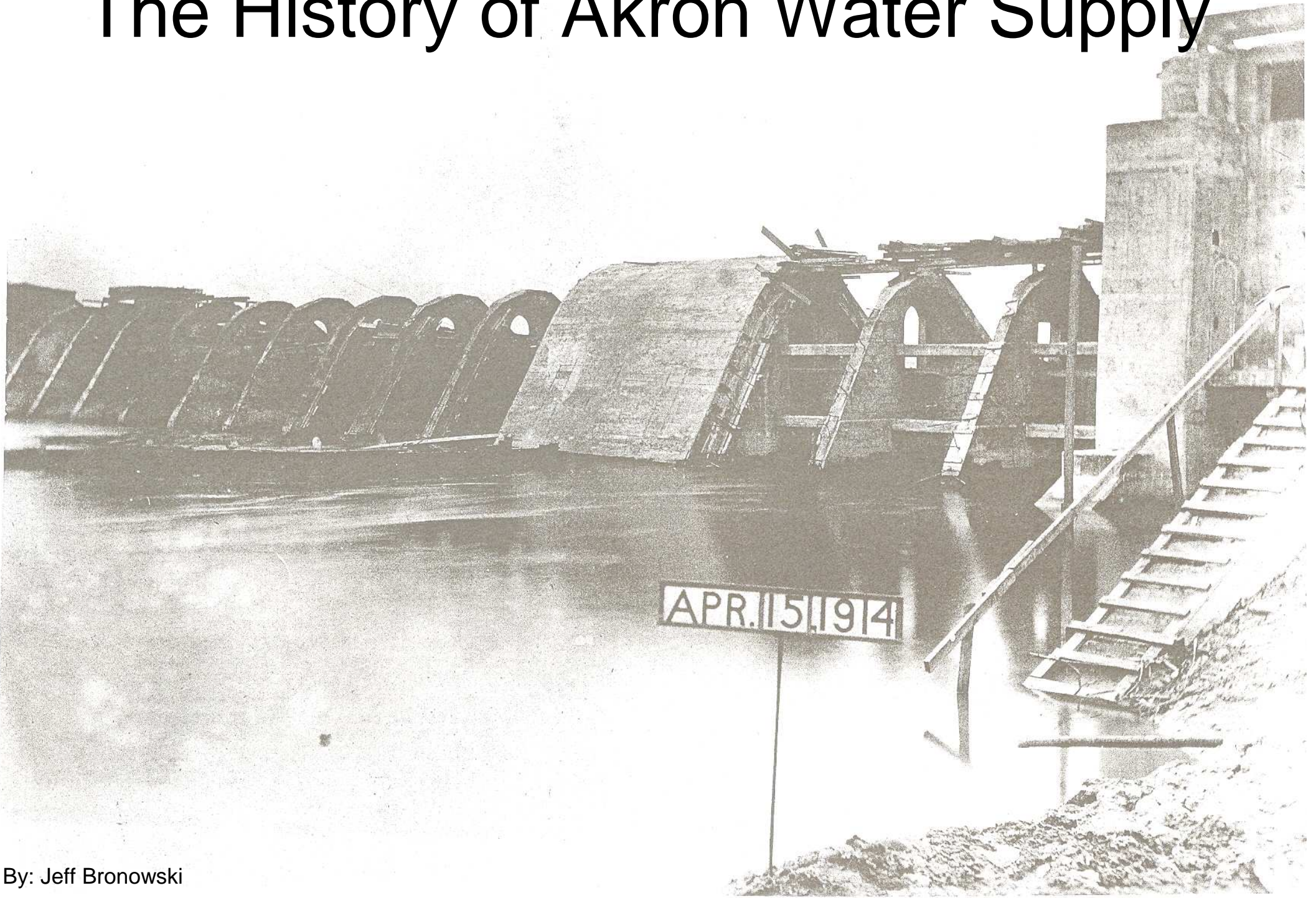


# The History of Akron Water Supply



# Founding Fathers of the Lake Rockwell Water Treatment Plant

Mayor Charles Kemple (1903 to 1907)

Charles Beebe (CB) Raymond (COC President)

F.A. Barbour and E.G. Bradbury (Engineers)

William T. Sawyer (1908 to 1911)

Service Director John Gauthier (1911)

Mayor Frank W. Rockwell (1912-1915)

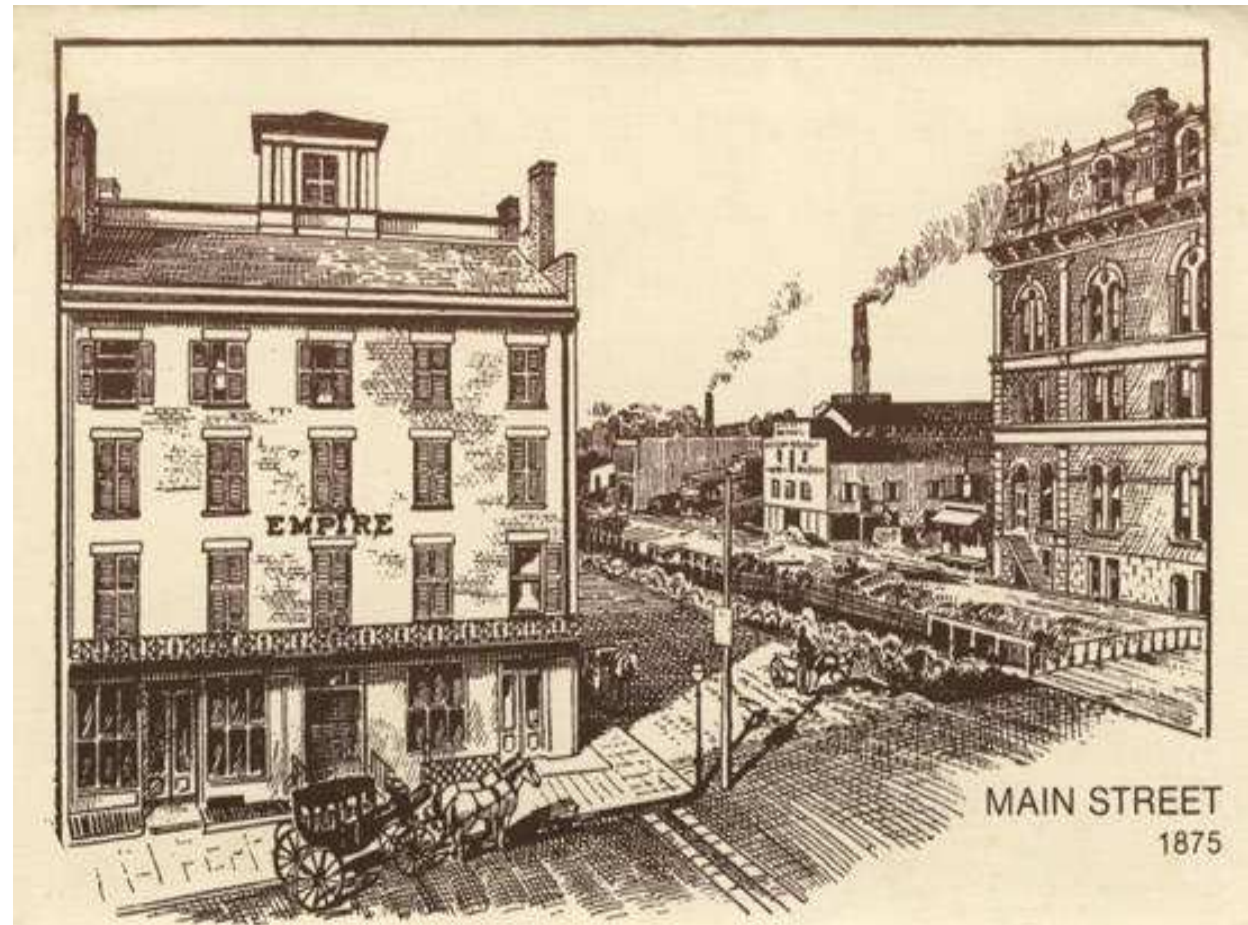
# 1870's

- March 11, 1869 E. Market Street Fire burned down all buildings between High and Main.
- Public began demanding water reservoirs for fire safety.
- Citizens pooled their money to purchase large cisterns.
- During the early 1870's, eighteen Cisterns were constructed with private money throughout the city holding 500 to 2,000 gallons.

In 1880 M.S. Frost (Consulting Engineers) and a group of prominent local men negotiated with the city a new sole provider water deal.

Deal was that company would construct water system as long as the City would agree to pay \$6,750 per year for water used for fire purposes to be supplied from 150 Hydrants.

In 1880 the M.S. Frost and Son sold the rights of the water deal to to the Akron Water Works company headed by Frank Adams and George W. Crouse.



# Akron Water in the Mid to Early 1880's

- Many homes had Cisterns
- Many homes had private wells drilled
- Public water wells downtown (SW corner of Main & Exchange and NE corner of Howard and Market)

## Several Private systems

- Dr. Eliakim Crosby's private system
- Akron Cold Spring Company (1840's)
- Howard Street Water Company (1860's)
- C.C. Sherbondy Water Company (Bottled Water 1860's)



1850's Residential Cistern



Mid to Late 1800's Wooden Water Main



## Akron had a lot to be proud of in 1880's

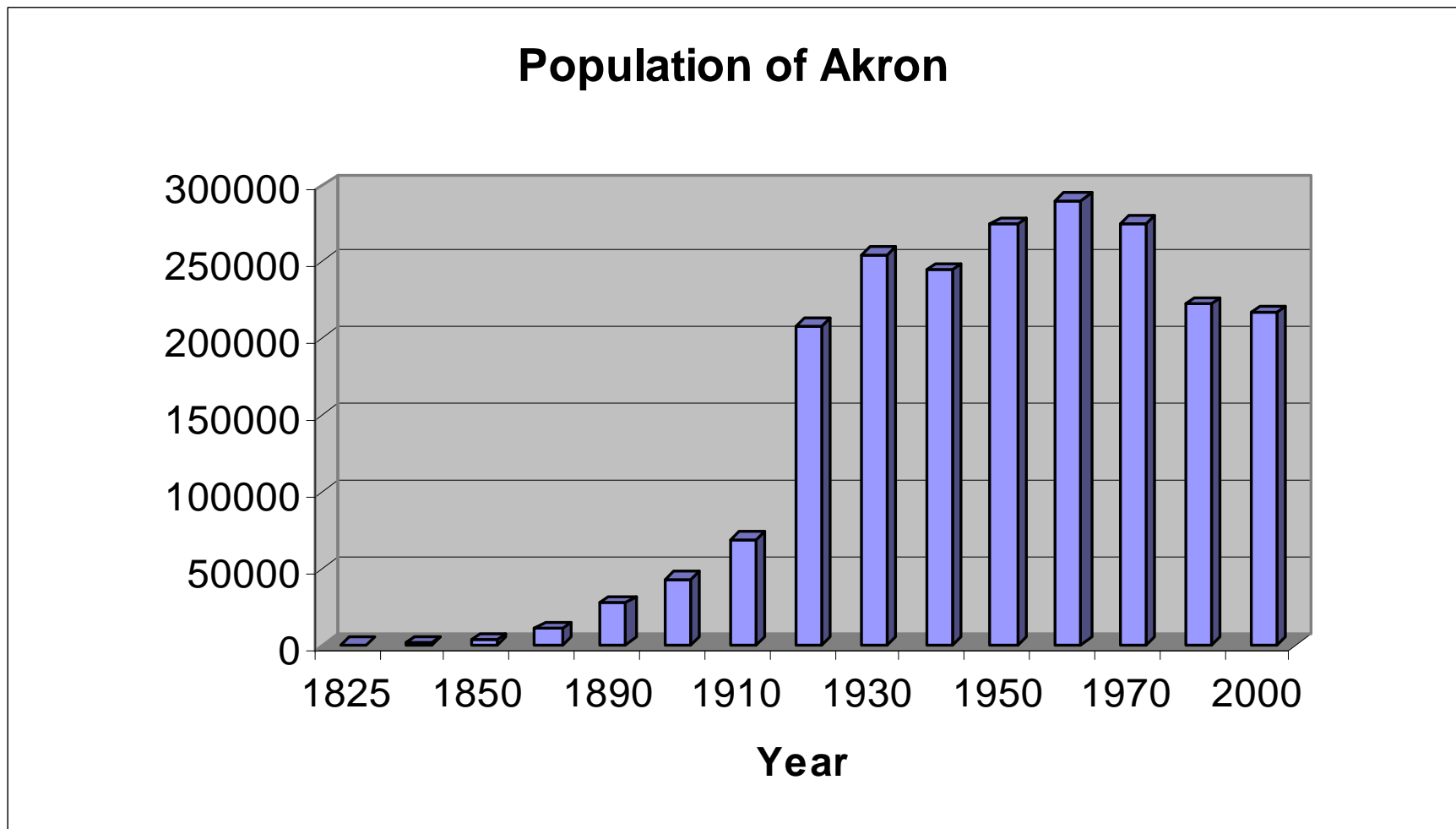
New City Hall

New Health Department

New Water Pumping Station

Akron was leading the country in street lighting and tall lighted masts

Akron was leading in telegraph and telephones



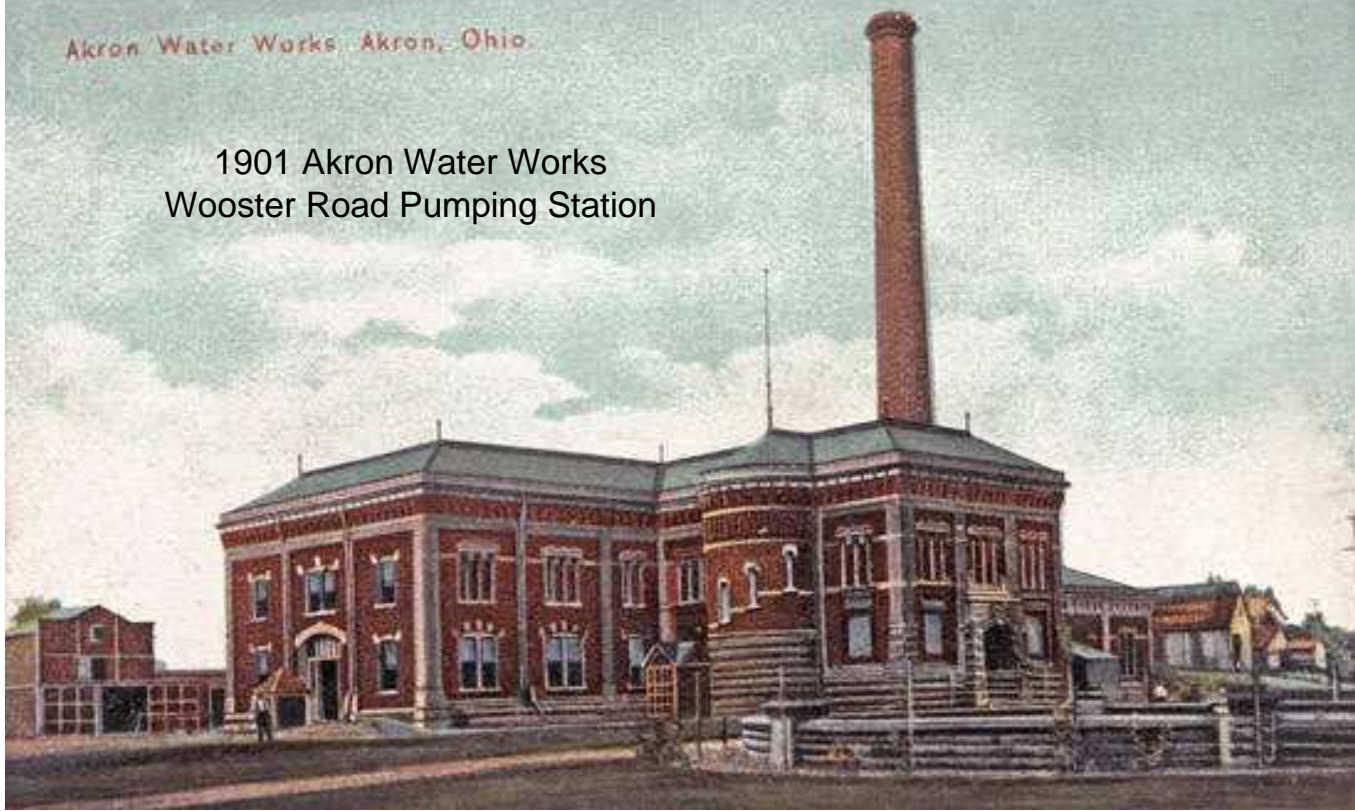
# 1881 to 1913

## Akron Water Works Company

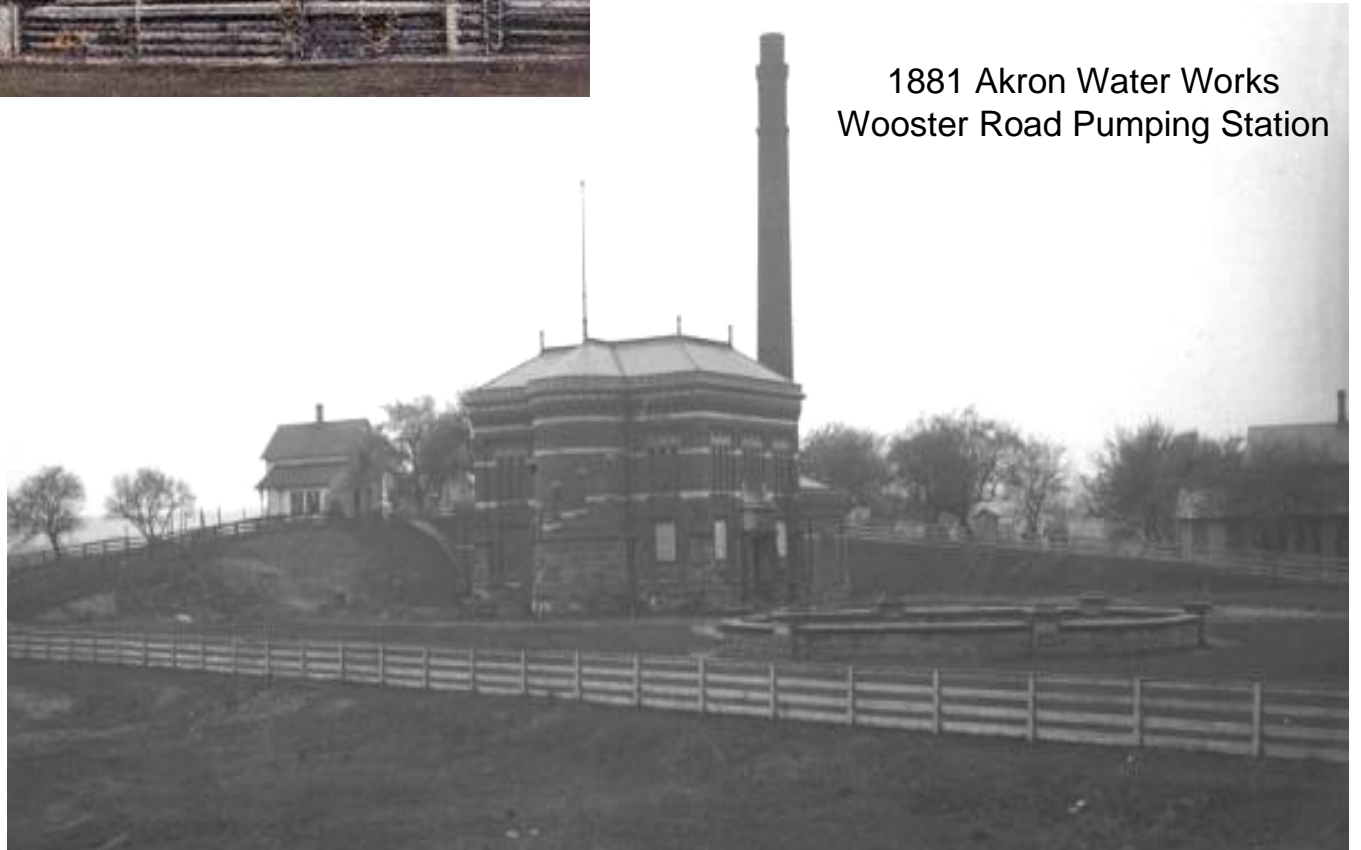
- In May 1881, the Wooster Avenue Waterworks was put into service on the Mallison Farm. Water was supplied from a large well 50 feet in diameter and 30 feet deep at the pumping station.
- The well drawn groundwater was pumped to a new reservoir on Sherbondy Hill.
- In 1890, 30 additional wells were drilled but was not able to keep up with demand.
- In the early 1900's the Water Company began Pumping from Manning's Pond. Water Quality got steadily worse.

Akron Water Works, Akron, Ohio.

1901 Akron Water Works  
Wooster Road Pumping Station



1881 Akron Water Works  
Wooster Road Pumping Station



# Early 1900's

- Capacity issues due to increased population continued to plague the Akron Water Works Company.
- Major fires continue to happen because of the lack of available water..
- Akron Water Works Company extends supply mains to Manning's pond and Summit Lake to take advantage of the Lake Water Supply.
- Quality of the water was poor because of the polluted Summit lake and distribution systems mains which were too small.
- In 1907, a new chamber of commerce was formed with its #1 priority being water supply. Charles Beebe Raymond was first active Chamber President and led a water committee to develop publically owned Water Plant.
- Chamber Committee decided that the City of Akron should buy-out the Private Akron Waterworks long term lease to provide water and recommended Akron find a new source of supply. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1911 voters approved the purchase of Akron Water Works for \$815,000 with a tremendous amount of debate.



# Late 1900's

- In late 1910, the City hired F.A. Barbour and E.G. Bradbury out of Columbus for \$10,000 to prepare a study to find another Water Supply for Akron.
- On August 28, 1911, they submitted their report identifying the upper reaches of the Cuyahoga River as the location of choice.
- Before the report was released, Akron Mayor William Sawyer and Service Director John Gauthier began buying options on 2,000 + acres of land at a price of approx. \$150/ acre in the Cuyahoga River Watershed.
- Water power rights issue to deal with.
- Construction began in 1913.

# Main Street 1910



# Dam Construction 1913 - 1914



# Plant Construction 1913



# Kent Water Plant original construction 1913



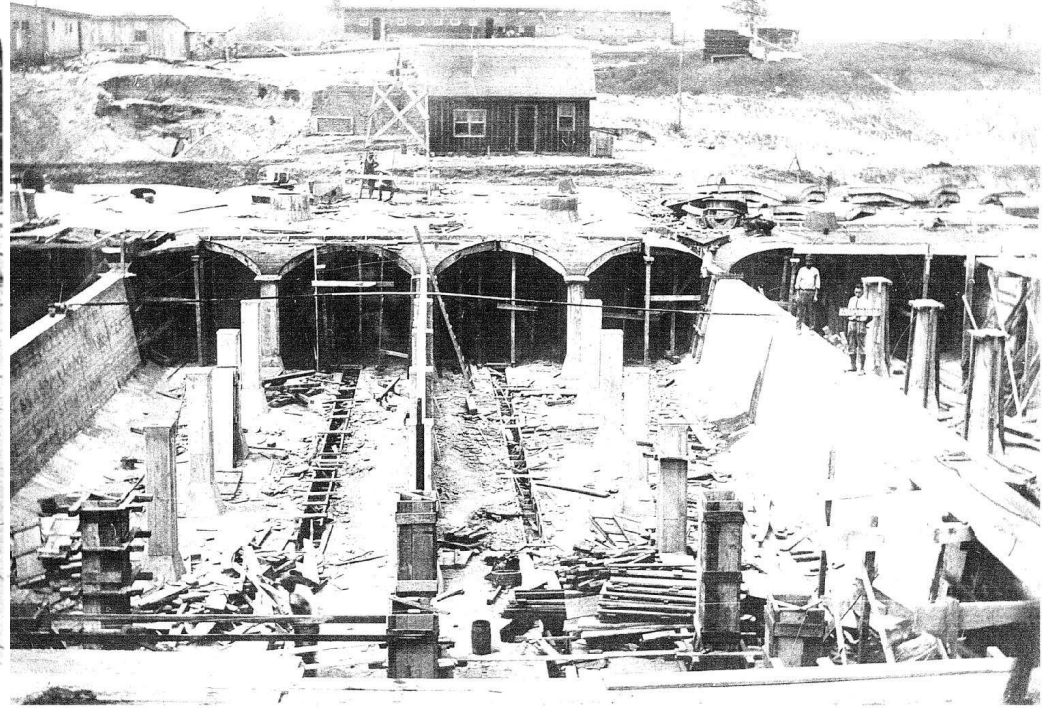
# Plant Construction 1913



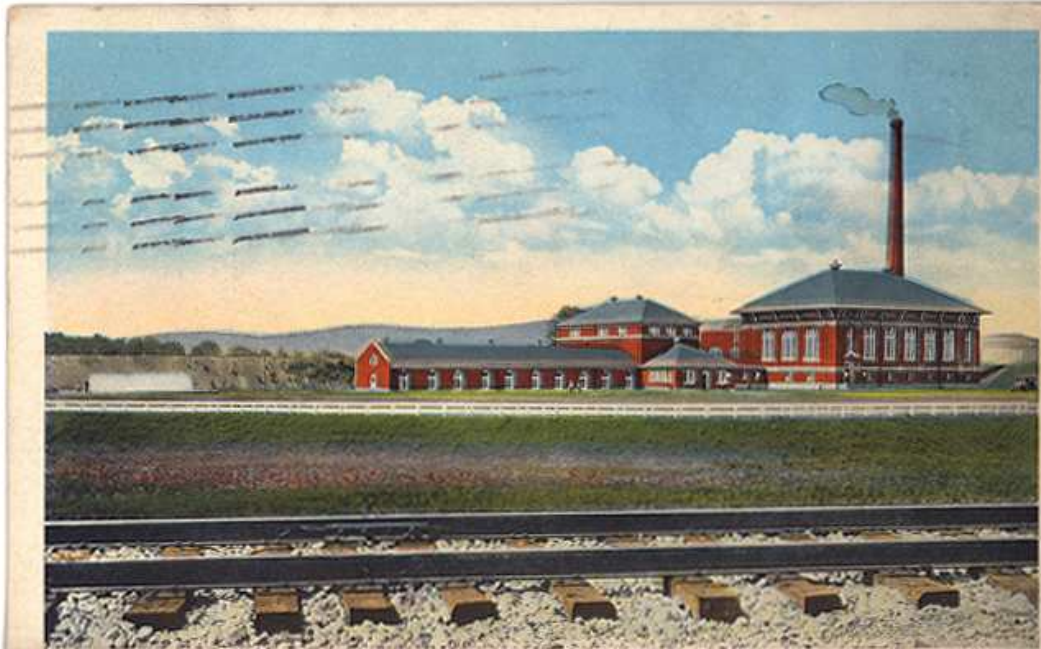
1914



#875



# Plant/Dam Completion 1915



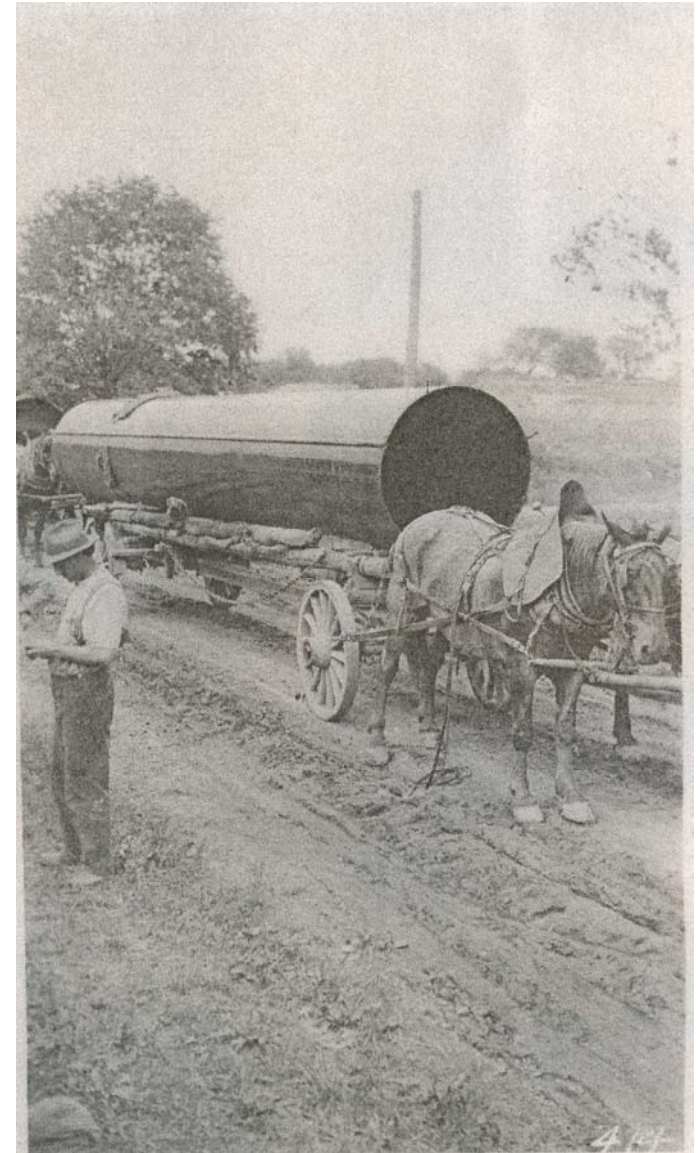
AKRON'S NEW WATER WORKS PLANT AT KENT, OHIO.



AKRON CITY WATER WORKS DAM.



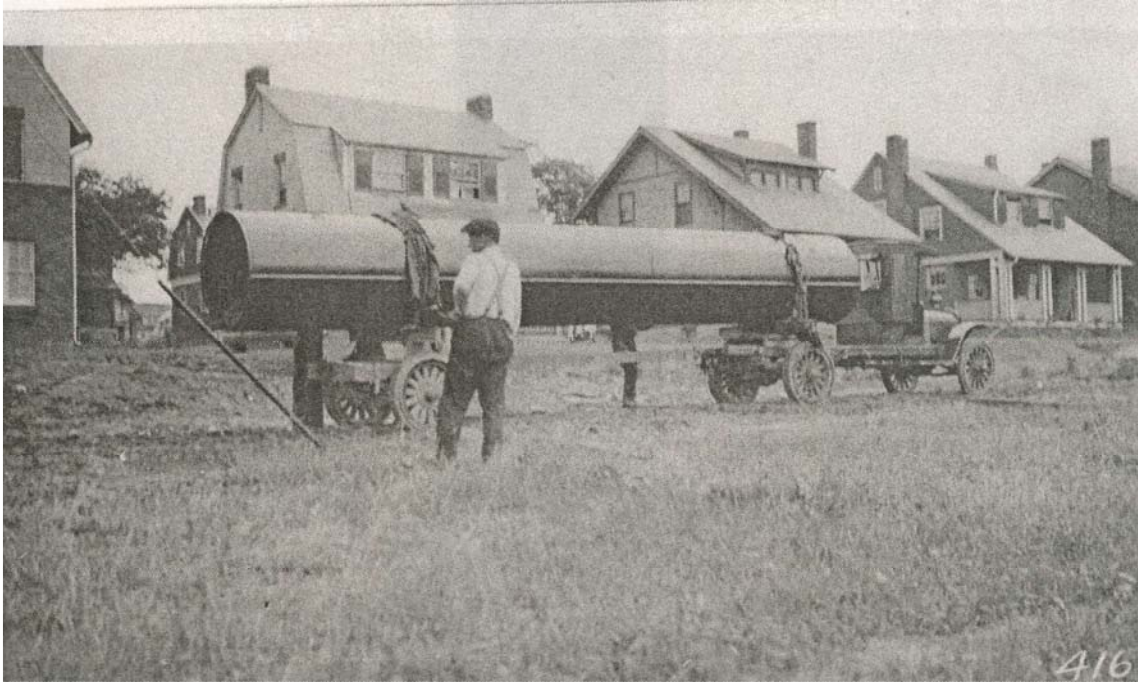
# Original Forcemain Installation



# Original Forcemain Installation

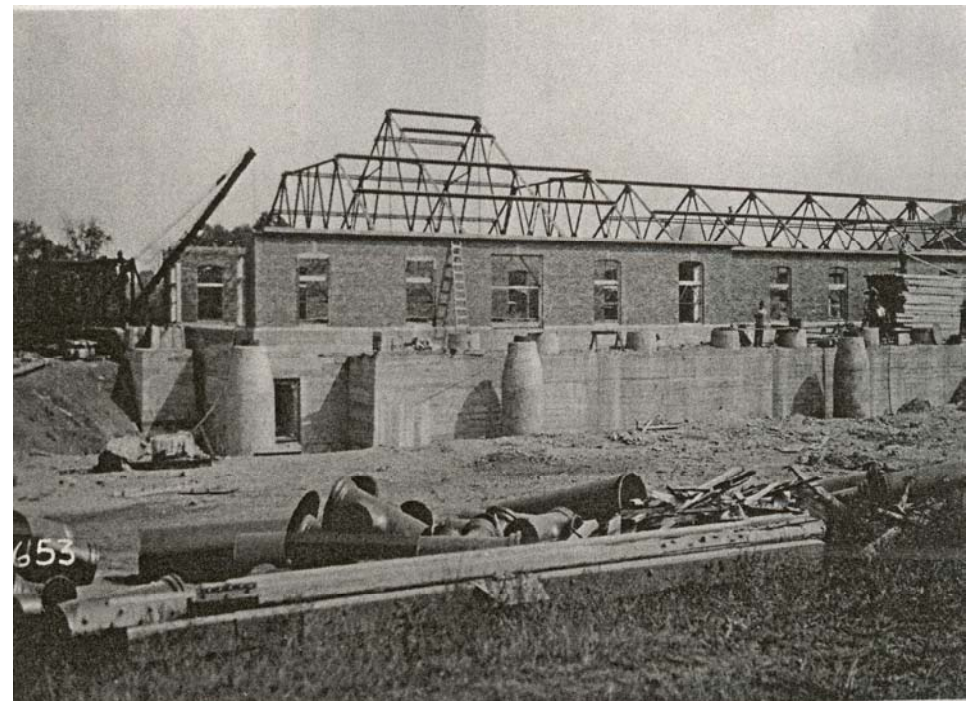
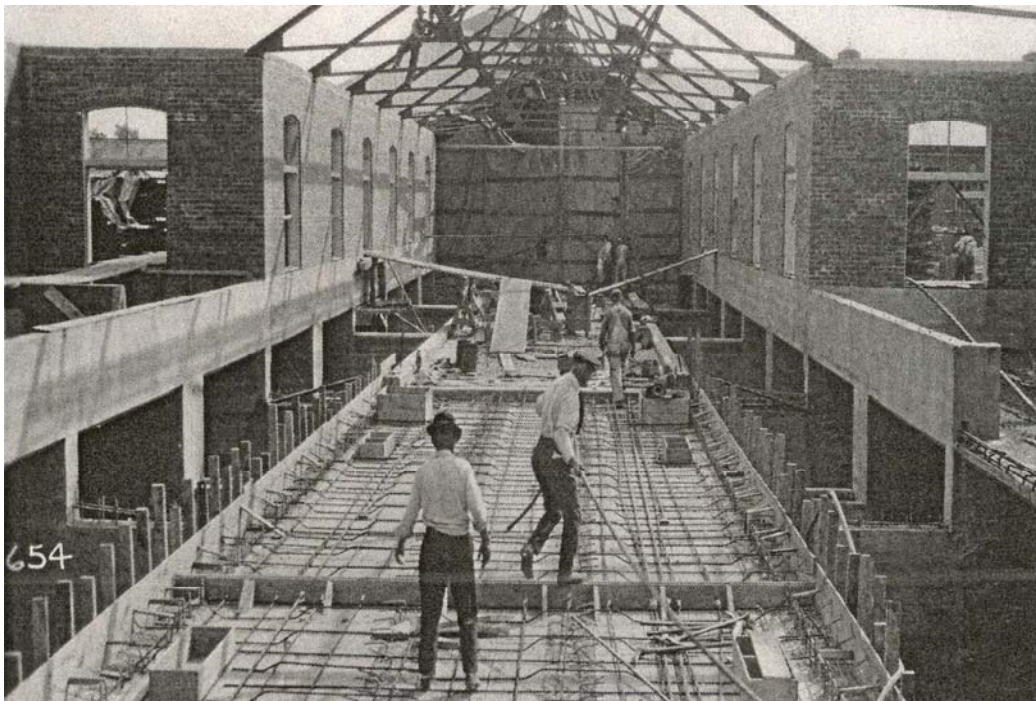
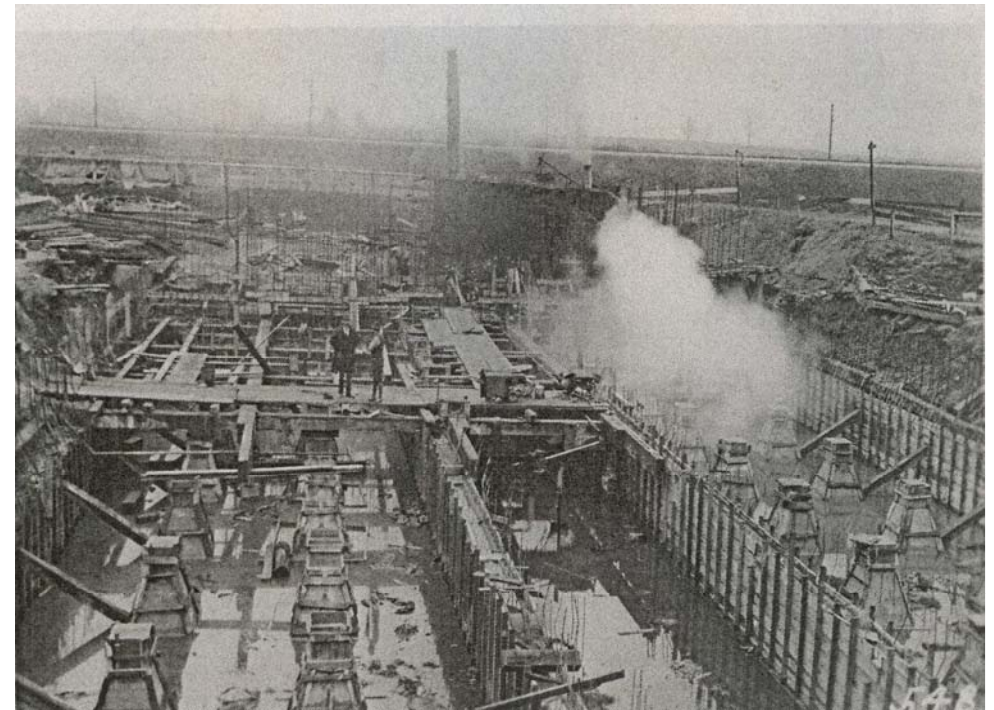
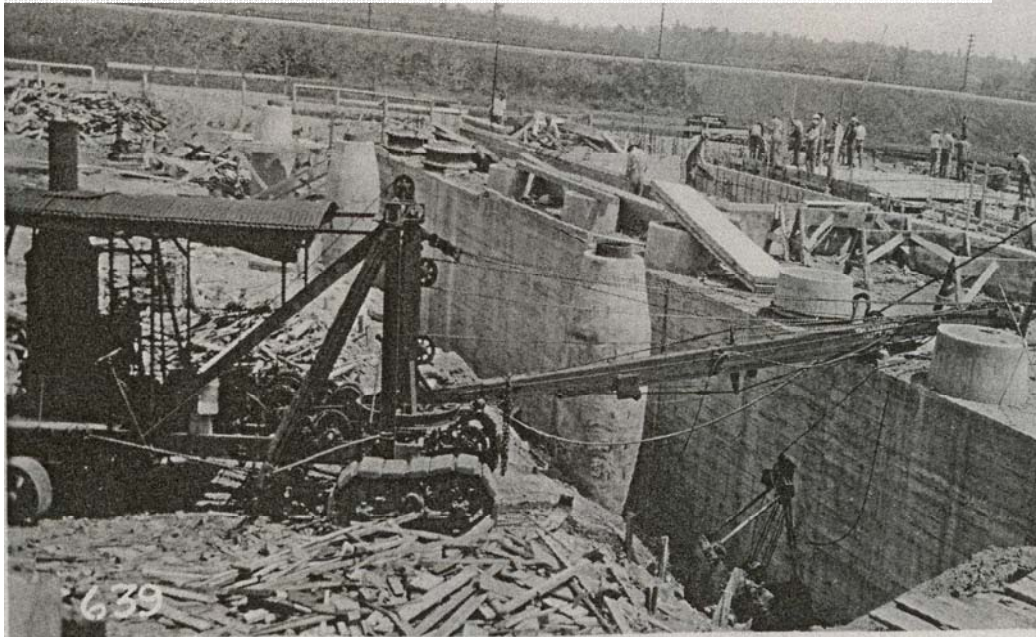


# Forcemain Installation in 1919

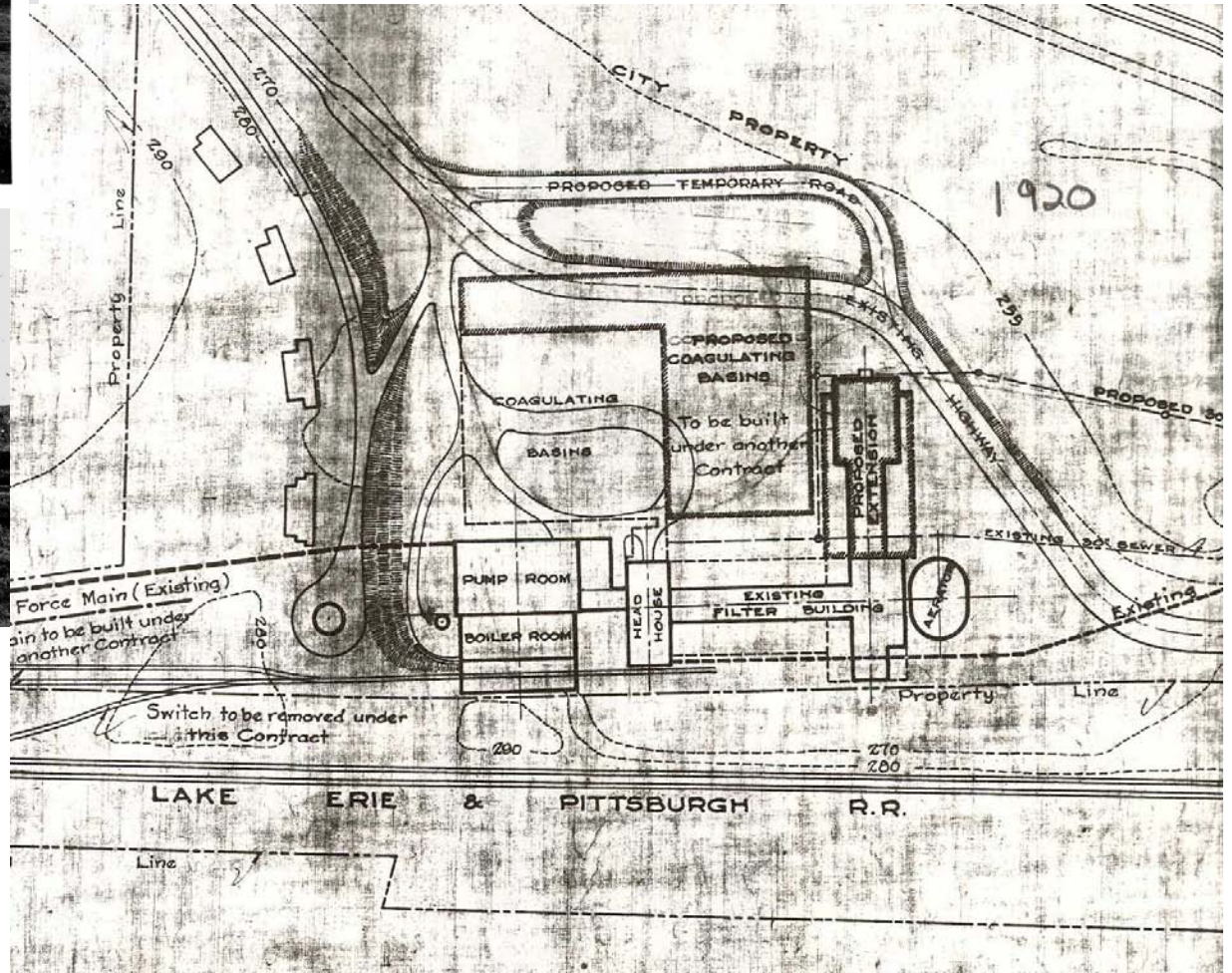




# 1919 Filter Building Extension



# 1920



# Dr. Wendell Richard Ladue (1894-1985)

- 1894 - Born in Mt. Pleasant, Ohio
- 1912 – Worked for two years as a laborer for a steel company in Wheeling ,WV.
- WWI – With the U.S. Navy Bureau of Construction and Repair
- 1918 – Obtained a B.S. in Civil Engineering from University of Southern California.



Ladue in his Mid 20's



Married Tina Bachman in 1920



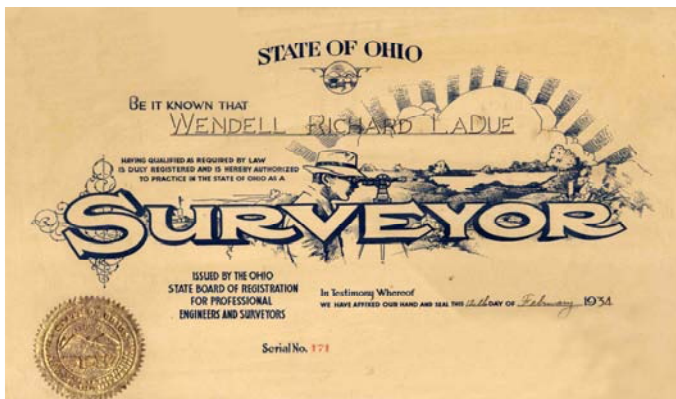
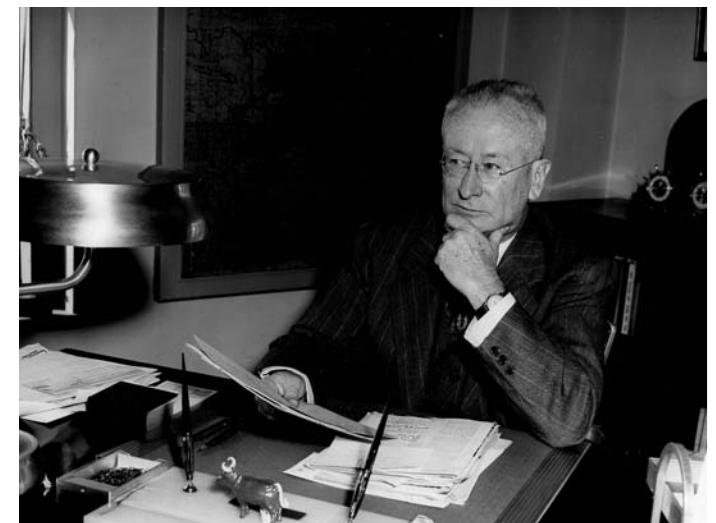
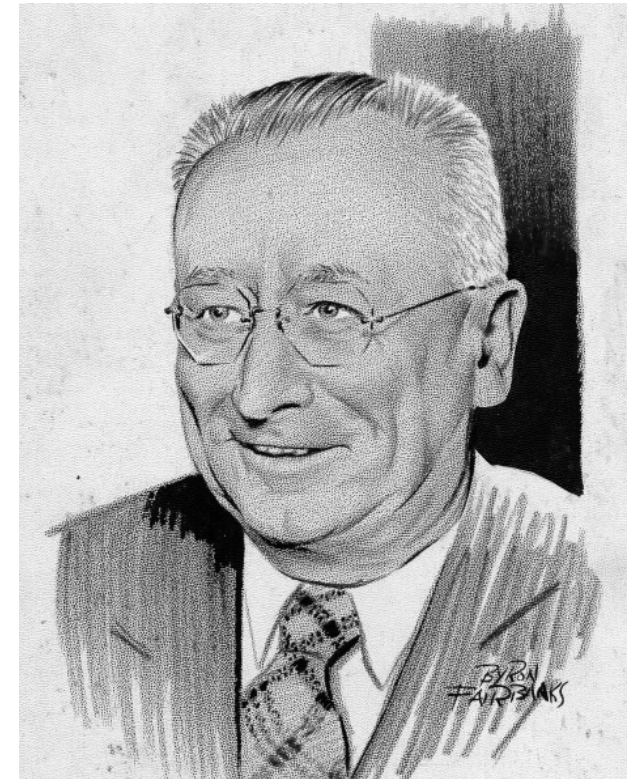
Ladue @ USC

# Ladue (cont.)

- 1919 – At 25, LaDue starts working for Akron Water Department as a draftsman, serving successively as Assistant Engineer, Engineer, Superintendent and Chief Engineer
- 1933 – At 42, Became Superintendent of the Water Department. (Water Supply Division Manager?)
- 1942 – Became in charge of the Sewer Department (Public Utilities Department Manager)
- 1950 – AWWA Representative of President Truman's Water Advisory Committee
- 1963 – At 79, Retired from City of Akron after 44 years of service
- 1963 – Worked as a consultant for Hale & Kulgren
- 1965 – Ladue teaches @ University of Akron Institute of Civic Education

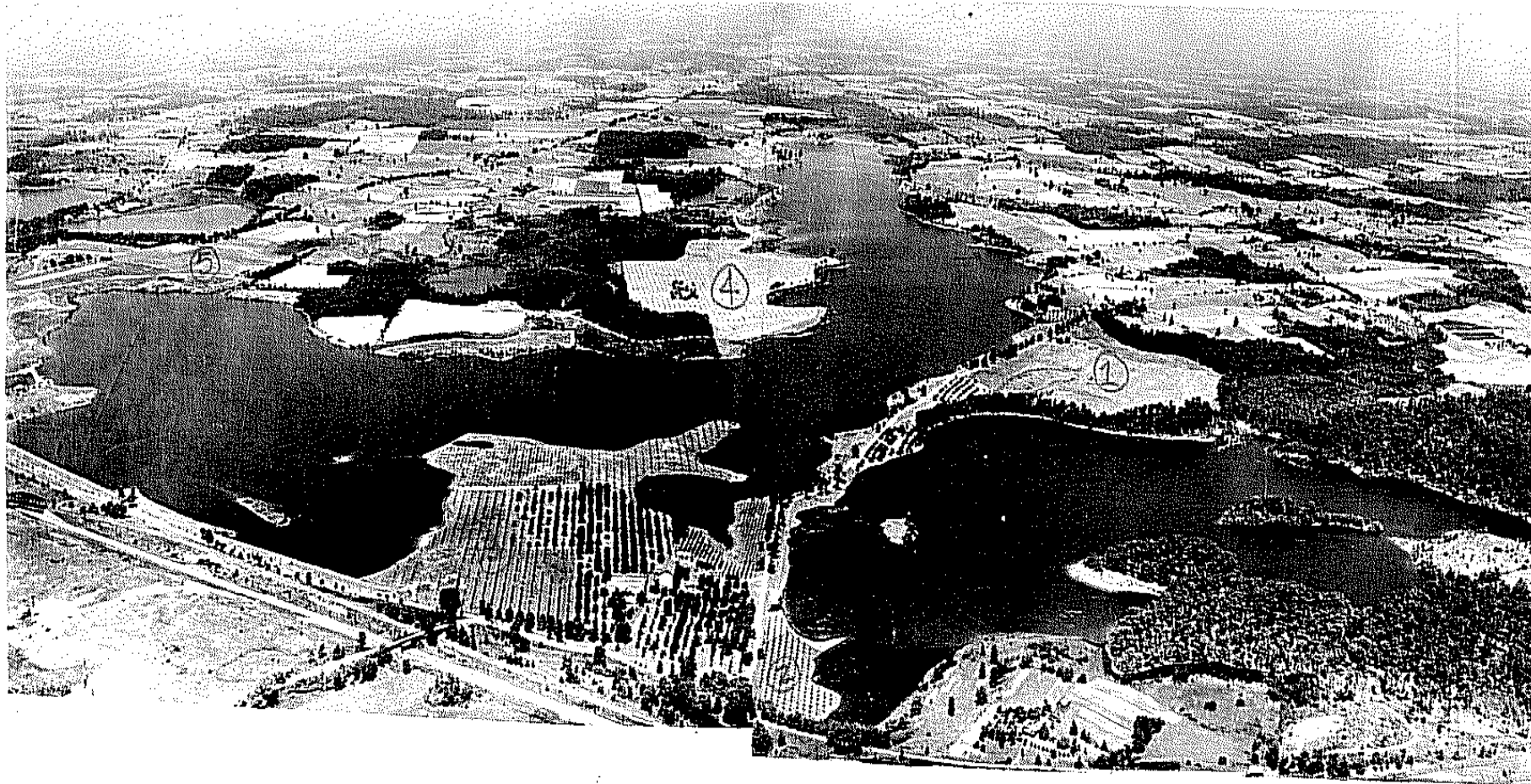
Registered Professional Engineer and Professional Surveyor in the State of Ohio

Holds honorary Doctorate of Engineering Degree from the University of Akron





# 1935 Lake Rockwell



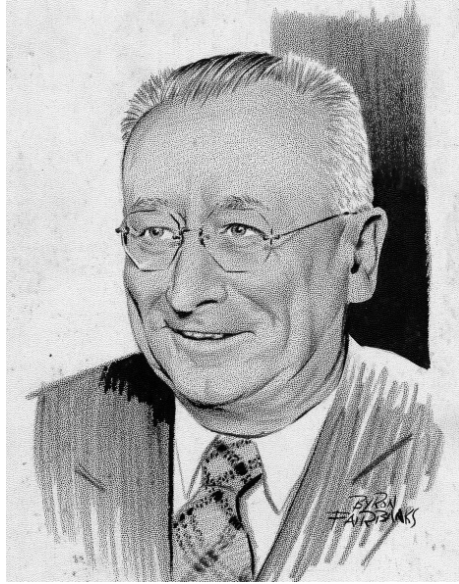
## LAKE ROCKWELL

### LAKE ROCKWELL BEFORE REFORESTATION

- ① Vineyard
- ② Cherries
- ③ New Orchard (old Orchard to Right)
- ④ " "
- ⑤ Pine Nursery

(Taken from "Plink") 1935  
SPRON, OH.

# Ladue's Watershed Programs



1930's City of Akron Timber Operation



1930's City of Akron Cattle Operation



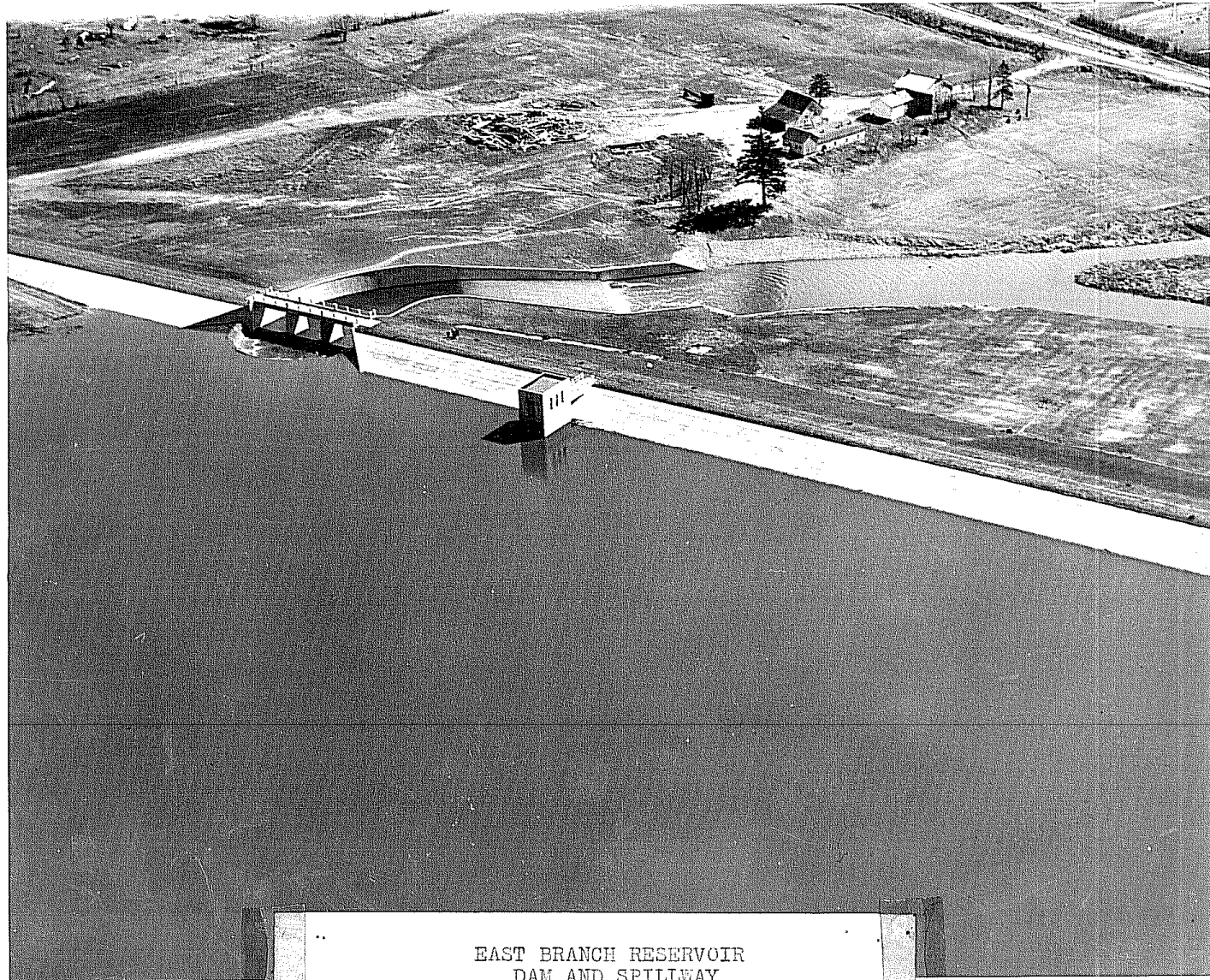


# Mogadore Reservoir (1936)

MOGADORE RESERVOIR  
MAIN DAM - LOOKING DOWN STREAM

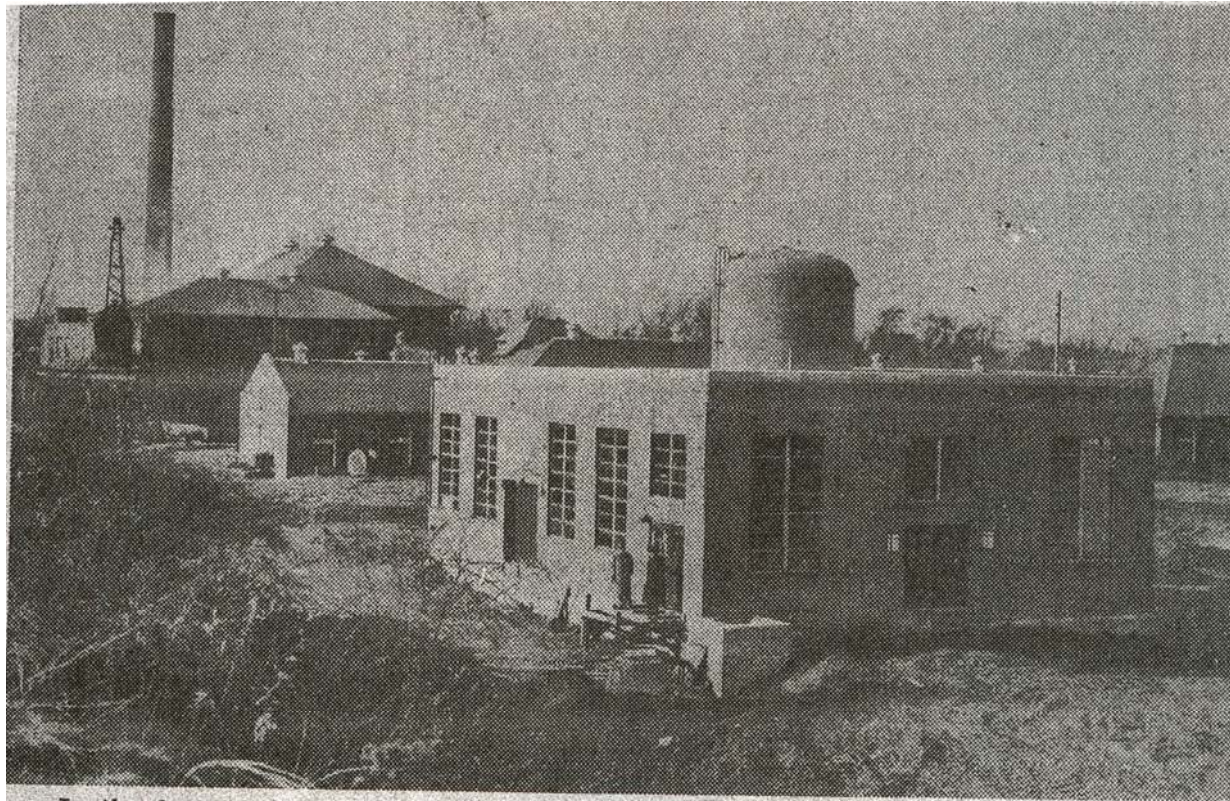


# East Branch Reservoir (1938)



EAST BRANCH RESERVOIR  
DAM AND SPILLWAY

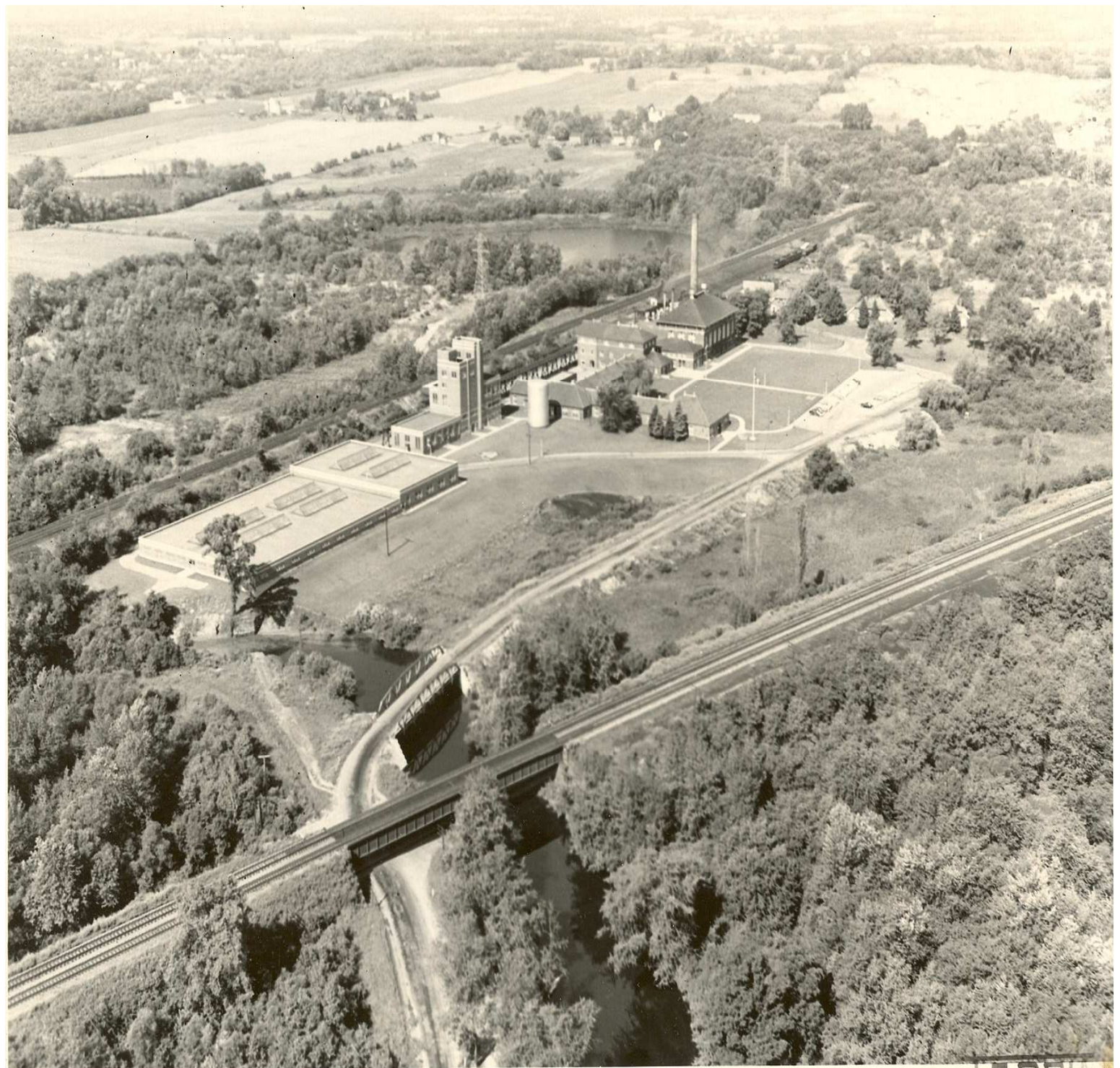
# Picture of Plant Low Lift Bldg



In the foreground, is the new pumping station which takes the water from the lake and into the filter system. The new pumps will make it possible to clean 25 filters at once instead of 10 as with the facilities in use for years. When the water in the lake is down the pumps go into operation.

# 1950's

Installation of  
East  
Chemical  
Bldg and  
installed new  
settling  
Basins #1  
and #2



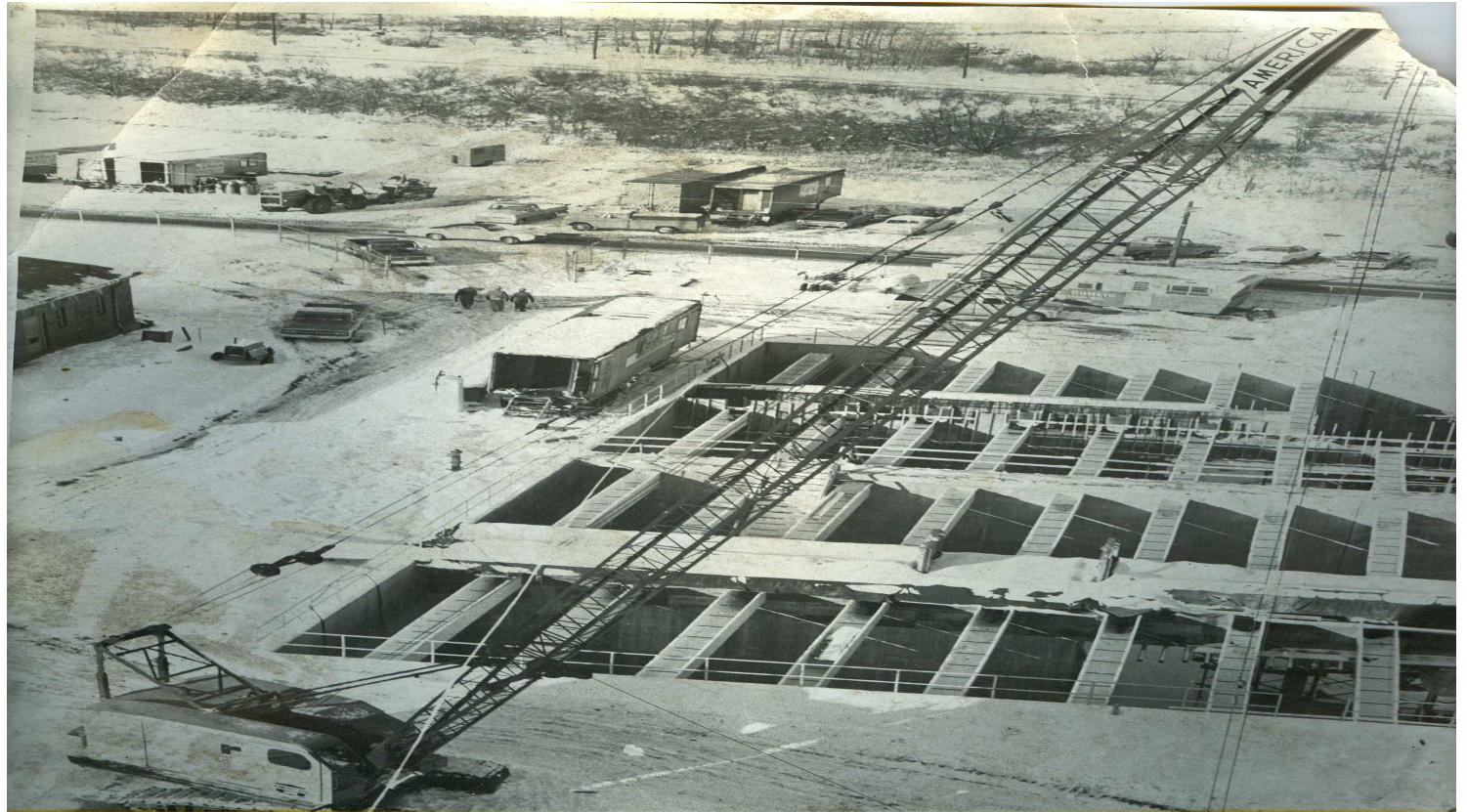
# Wendell R. LaDue Reservoir (1962)





# 1970

New High  
Service  
Pump  
Station and  
Settling  
Basins #3  
and #4



# 2008

