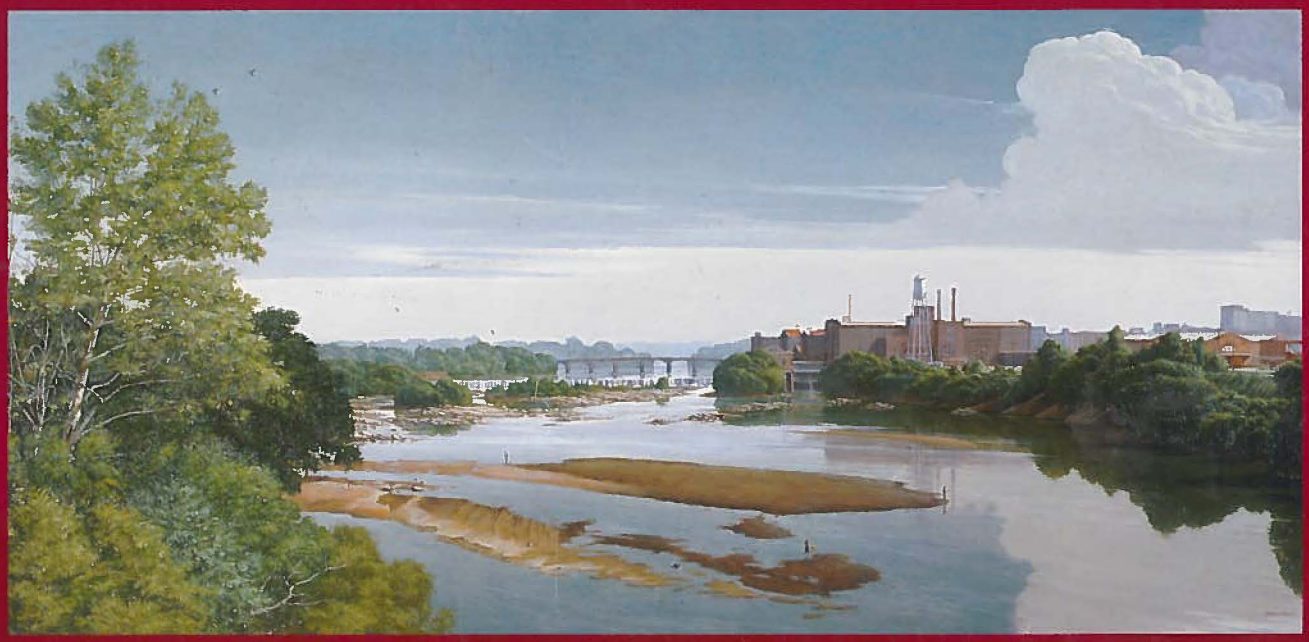
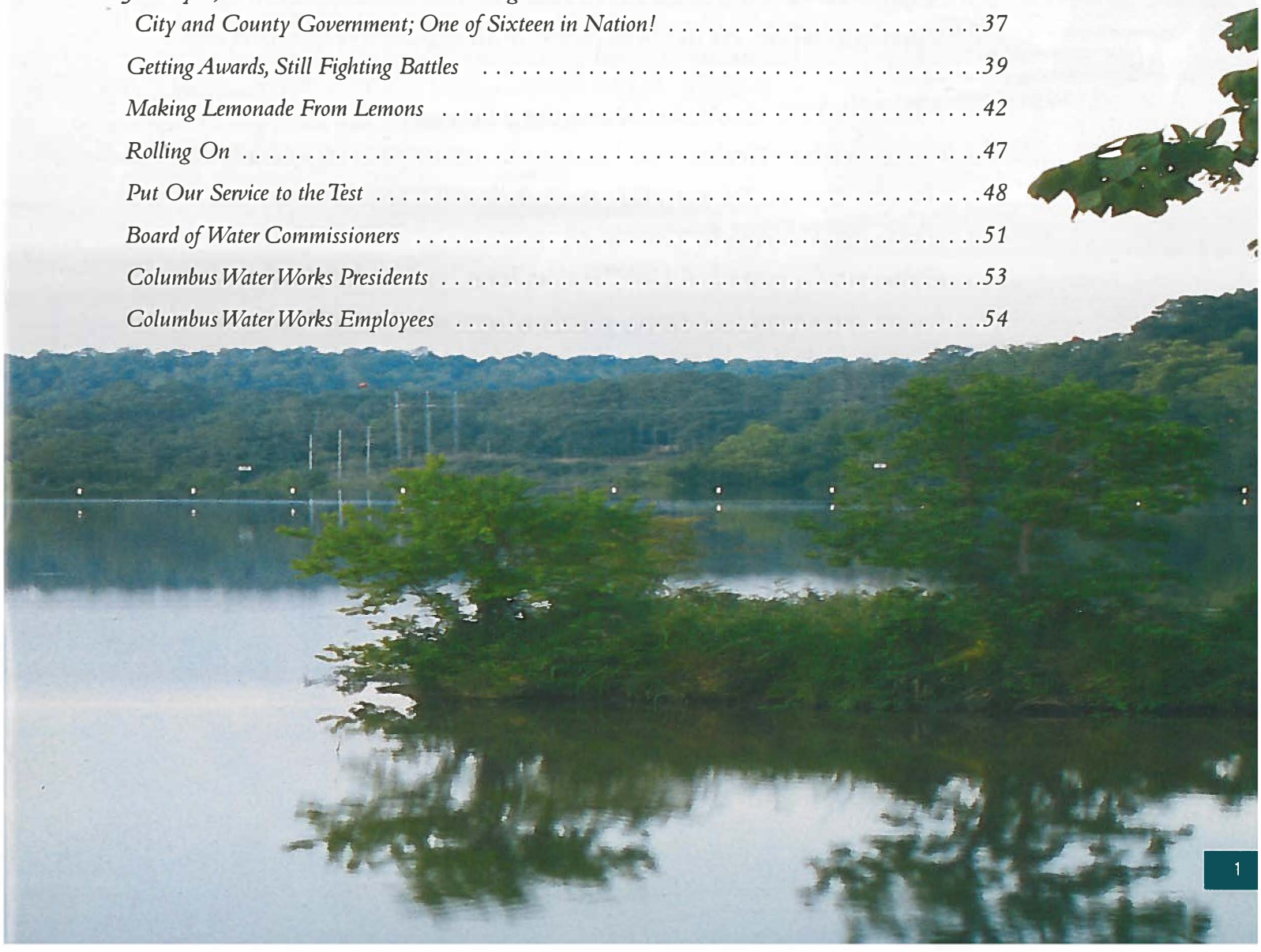
A River Runs Through It:

A 100-Year History of the Columbus Water Works



Serving the
Chattahoochee River Valley
Based in Columbus, Georgia
1902-2002

Contents



"There are stories all around you here, open up your ears and eyes. There are antebellum remnants near that point to days gone by... and as long as the Chattahoochee runs, and as long as the sun shines down, the living's fine in this home of mine, the place called Rivertown."

Columbus Water Works wishes to acknowledge the following individuals, who assisted greatly in preparing this historic document:
Billy Turner, Bob Tant, Jim Patterson, Beth Bickerstaff, Becky Butts, Terri Morris and writer Mandy Ochoa Williams.

A special thank you to Allen Levi for allowing us to use the lyrics on his "Rivertown" album. He welcomes visitors to his website: www.allenlevi.com.

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How does a city come to be referred to by a native son as "Rivertown"? In the case of Columbus, Georgia, singer-songwriter Allen Levi recognized the vital importance of the Chattahoochee River to his hometown for beauty, recreation, transportation, and industry. But, perhaps its most important use is as a source of safe drinking and household water for a large, thriving community.

While Levi wrote the songs of his "Rivertown" album about the city, their lyrics apply equally to the history of the Columbus Water Works – now 100 years rich. For the history of this public utility in many ways reflects the town's history.

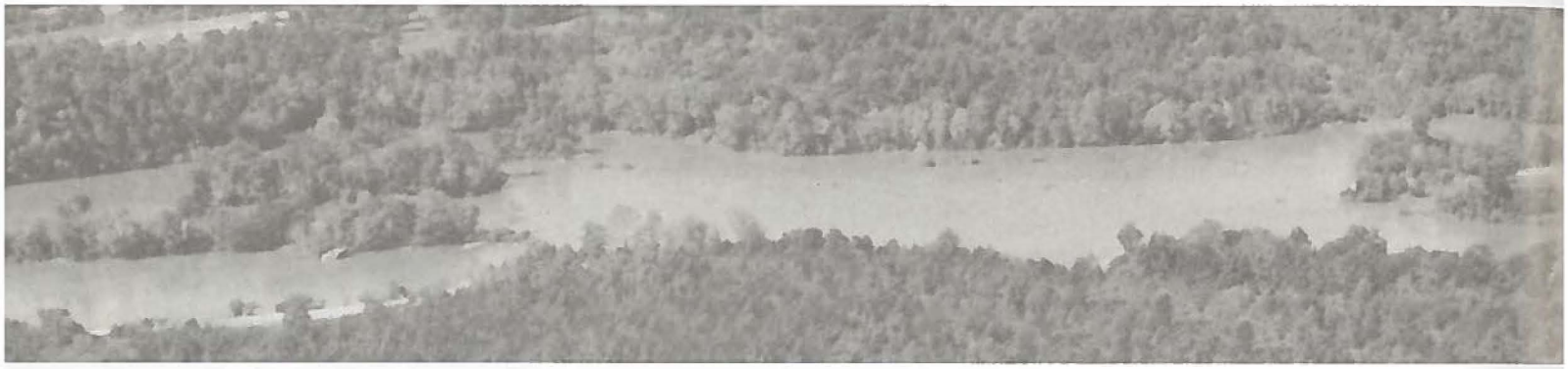
Columbus has been described as a "charming city ... located on the east bank of the Chattahoochee River. Most of the city, particularly the older portion, is located on the river's flood plain, but above the normal river flood level. To the east, the ground rises sharply from 100 to 200 feet to gently rolling terrain. Just south of the city is the Fort Benning Military Reservation, a permanent Army Post." Thus wrote the late George R. Lowe Jr., a longtime general manager of the Columbus Water Works in a 1953 publication.

Many of the same issues that have faced the leaders of our community through the years concerned the historical figures of the Columbus Water Works. In many cases, the leaders were the same, familiar names that drove industry, banking, the arts, education, and agriculture.

So let's open our ears and eyes, to paraphrase Allen Levi, and learn a little about how Columbus Water Works has helped shape the last 100 years of our river town's story.

General Manager George R. Lowe, Jr. showing section of wooden pipe, which was excavated in December 1938 from the intersection of 2nd Avenue and 12th Street.

"The river runs 300 miles; there's a fall line half way down, and it's there you'll find this home of mine, in a place called Rivertown ..."



Chattahoochee River in the vicinity of the present day crossing of the J.R. Allen Parkway.

Before there was Columbus Water Works, there was water here. In fact, scientists tell us the water cycle has been going on since the first clouds formed and the first rains fell, transferring water again and again from the surface of the land and water to the sky and back. ("The Water Sourcebook," a series of classroom activities produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Tennessee Valley Authority Environmental Education Section, the Georgia Water Wise Council, Sci-trek, and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service College of Agriculture.)

The Chattahoochee River valley, which has been inhabited by people since prehistoric times, was home to a few hundred permanent settlers by around 1819, mostly because it was situated at a good, briskly flowing body of water that had served Native Americans long before their arrival.

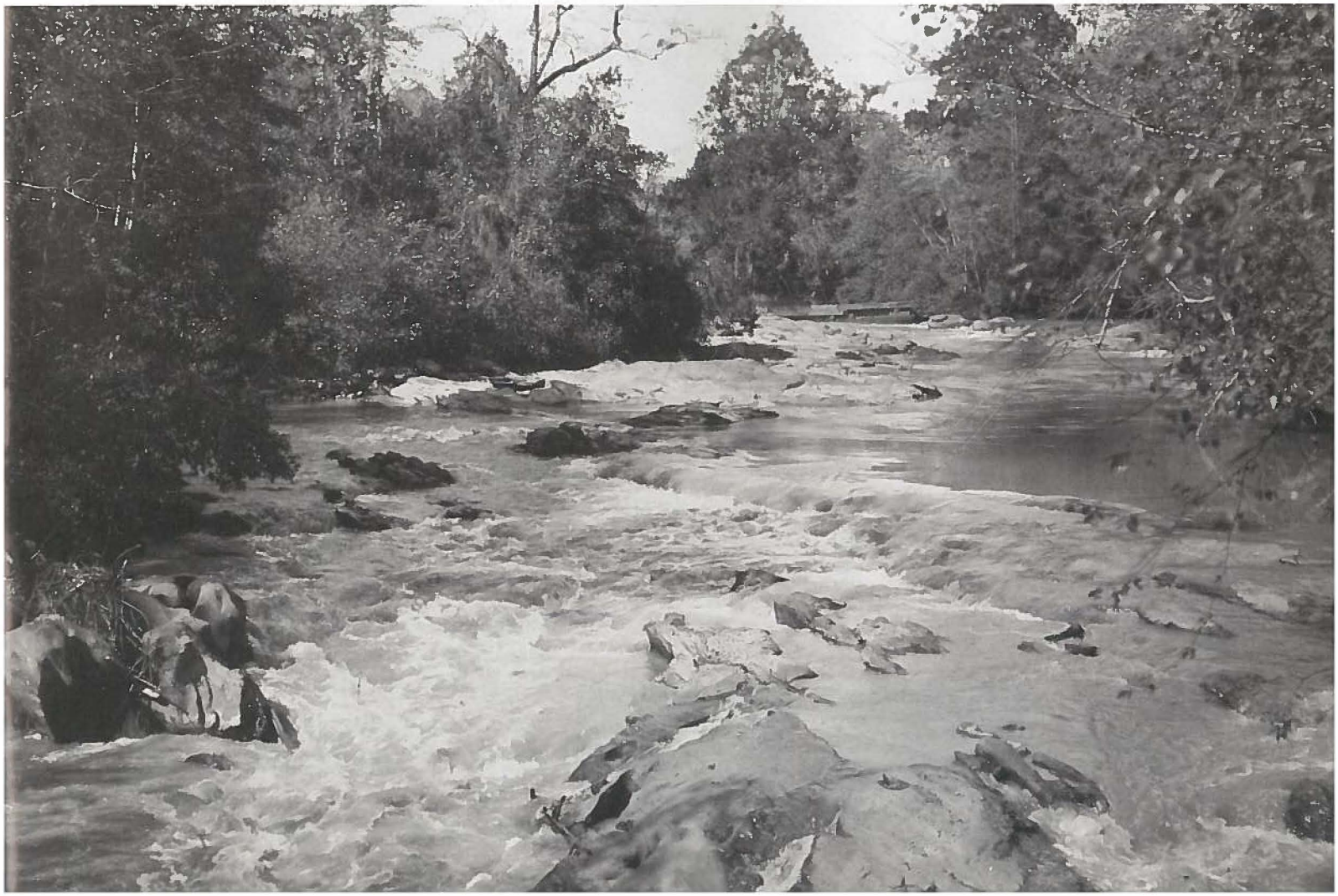
"Besides serving as a boating thoroughfare, the Chattahoochee beckoned swimmers to enjoy its coolness on a midsummer's day. Part recreation site, part food source, part transportation artery, part trail marker, part spirit, the Chattahoochee was more important to Native Americans than modern man can ever appreciate." ("Flowing Through Time: A History of the Lower Chattahoochee River," by Lynn Willoughby, The University of Alabama Press, 1999.)

Chattahoochee River Photo taken along a section of river now submerged under Lake Oliver.

Water, "which all Southeastern Indians regarded with superstitious awe, was especially important to the Creeks. Not only did they bathe ritually in water every morning, but they also associated many strange creatures and spirits – 'masters of the waters' – with the creeks, lakes, rivers, and sinkholes of the area," wrote local historian and retired journalist Billy Winn. ("The Old Beloved Path: Daily Life Among the Indians of the Chattahoochee River Valley", copyright 1992 by The Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Eufaula, Alabama, and The Columbus Museum, Columbus, Georgia.)

Georgia lawmakers encouraged settlement of the former Indian lands between the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers by holding a land lottery. Georgia residents drew lots for free homesteads in the Creeks' former homeland. Naturally, land along the rivers was most prized, and that at the head of the Chattahoochee was so valuable it was not included in the giveaway.

According to a Muscogee Indian language dictionary, the word "chate" means red, and "huchee" means river, according to Albert Pike, "Comparative Dictionary of Hitchiti, Alibama, Koasati, Choctaw, Yuchi, Natchez, and Shawnee," (Smithsonian Institution, no date.) This information came from local historians John S. Lupold and Frank T. Schnell in a 1991 publication for Uptown Columbus.



An Enquirer newspaper article August 9, 1828, described Columbus' streets: "The streets running parallel with the river are 9 in number, and are all 132 feet wide, except Broad, which is 164 feet wide. The cross streets are 13 in number, and are 99 feet wide. From the width of the streets, an elegant and airy appearance is given to the town. There is a wide expanse left between the river and the town for a promenade, which, after it shall have been properly prepared, will form one of the handsomest and most romantic walks in the state. All along the banks of the river opposite the town, fine, pure water gushes out, which affords not only a great convenience, but a great luxury to citizens."

Leonard Spring historic marker on Country Club Road, site of Columbus' first water supply.

Although water was used before and since the town's formal inception in 1828, the first official source of water was Leonard Spring (also called Garrard Spring), located close to what are now Country Club Apartments in Columbus (on Country Club Road, east of Cherokee Avenue.)

At the time, the spring was about three miles from Columbus. From this spring, a series of pine log pipes of three to four inches in diameter carried water to Broad Street, by way of Randolph Street, which is now 12th Street. At several intersections, riser pipes with faucets were installed, and people would come with pitchers and buckets, paying five cents per vessel, or the then-existing rate of $25 per thousand gallons undelivered. Those were the days when the weekly bath was a real luxury, and it's likely one tub of water sufficed for the whole family.

A historic marker placed at Leonard Spring in 1989 reads: *"In 1839, the citizens first called for the development of a waterworks system. On this site is located the original source of water for drinking and general household use for Columbus. Beginning in 1844, Leonard Spring, with a discharge of 200,000 gallons a day,*

Pine Log Pipe and Section

Columbus first piped water system was constructed of pine logs hollowed out to about four inches in diameter using red-hot ferrules to burn out the openings. One end of the log was sharpened to fit into the next and caulked to hold in the water.

provided water to the City through a series of wooden pipes. Water was piped to Broad Street by way of Randolph Street, now known as 12th Street. In the 1880's city water was obtained from Lee County, Alabama. The present water plant on River Road was built in 1916. Since 1844, an ample supply of water has been one of Columbus' greatest assets and a vital fuel for its growth."

Before that, the city relied on a water system that amounted to nothing more than cisterns (open underground artificial reservoirs or tanks for storing water, especially rain water) in the streets. Rain was caught and diverted in them, and pumps raised the water to desired levels. But, with the growth of the city, fires became widespread, and before long, the cisterns and pumps did not provide enough volume or pressure to keep the fires under control.

Horse-drawn fire wagon. Columbus suffered a devastating fire in 1912. Fighting the fire was severely hampered by an inadequate water supply.

On March 15, 1842, the "Big Fire of 1842" broke out on Broad Street. It originated in a frame building on the west side of the street, occupied by Rufus and Choate as a grocery/dry goods store. As there was no fire department, stores were blown up to keep the fire from spreading, but it didn't help. There was a total loss of $100,000—a considerable amount in those days. The "Columbus Hook and Ladder Company," the first organized fire department with a fire engine was formed in 1843. (This came from a history by Etta Blanchard Worsley, "Columbus on the Chattahoochee," published in 1951 by Columbus Office Supply.)

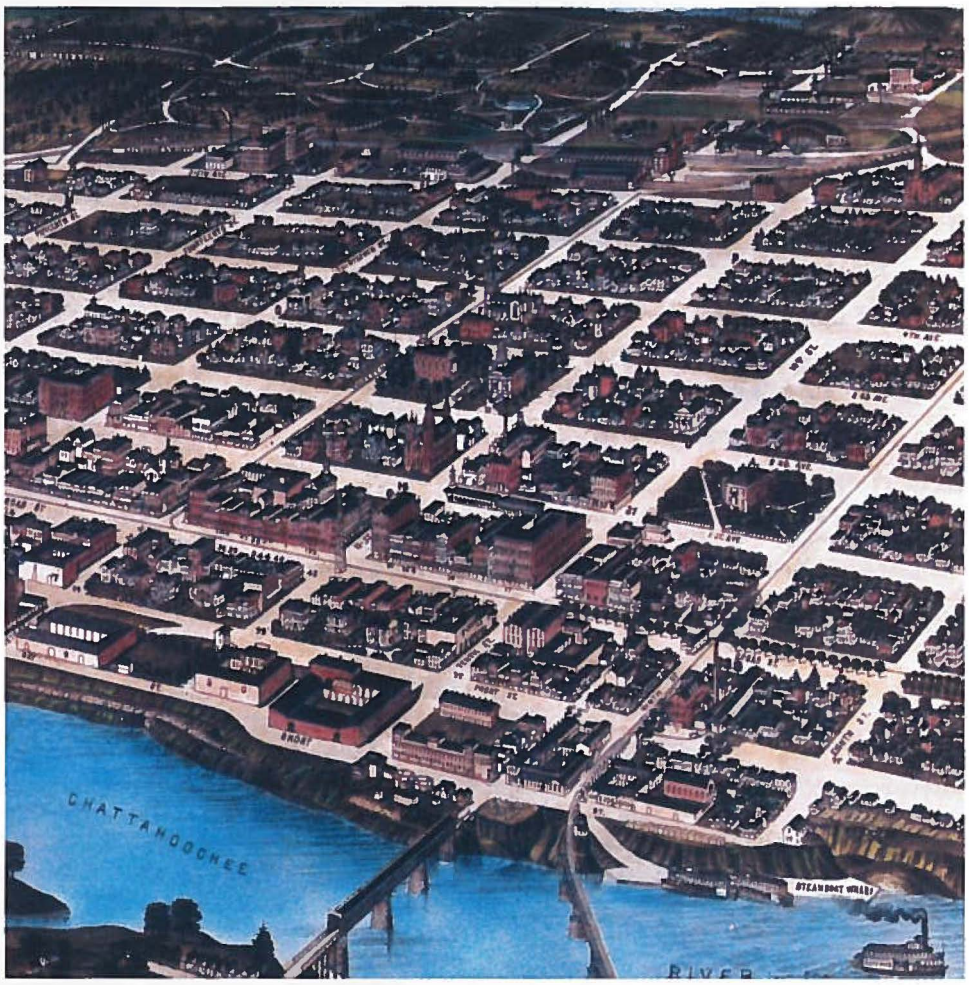
During the 1840s, John Howard and Josephus Echols, who owned the Georgia side of the river, sued Stephen Ingersoll, the owner of the Alabama bank "for an illegal entry upon their land covered with water and fishing thereon." Ingersoll's fishing must have been on a large scale, since the Georgia court awarded Howard and Echols $600. (From Lupold and Schnell's 1991 history for Uptown Columbus.)

In 1861, former slave "Blind Tom", Thomas Green Bethune, gave his first concert tour in New York. When Tom and his family passed into the hands of Gen. James N. Bethune, the young boy taught himself to play the piano by listening to Bethune's daughters. He could play complex classical pieces at an early age, and after performing around the Columbus area, began touring nationally and internationally, even playing for royalty. Bethune became his manager/guardian. "Blind Tom" was honored in December 1976 with a plaque in his memory on the Chattahoochee Promenade.

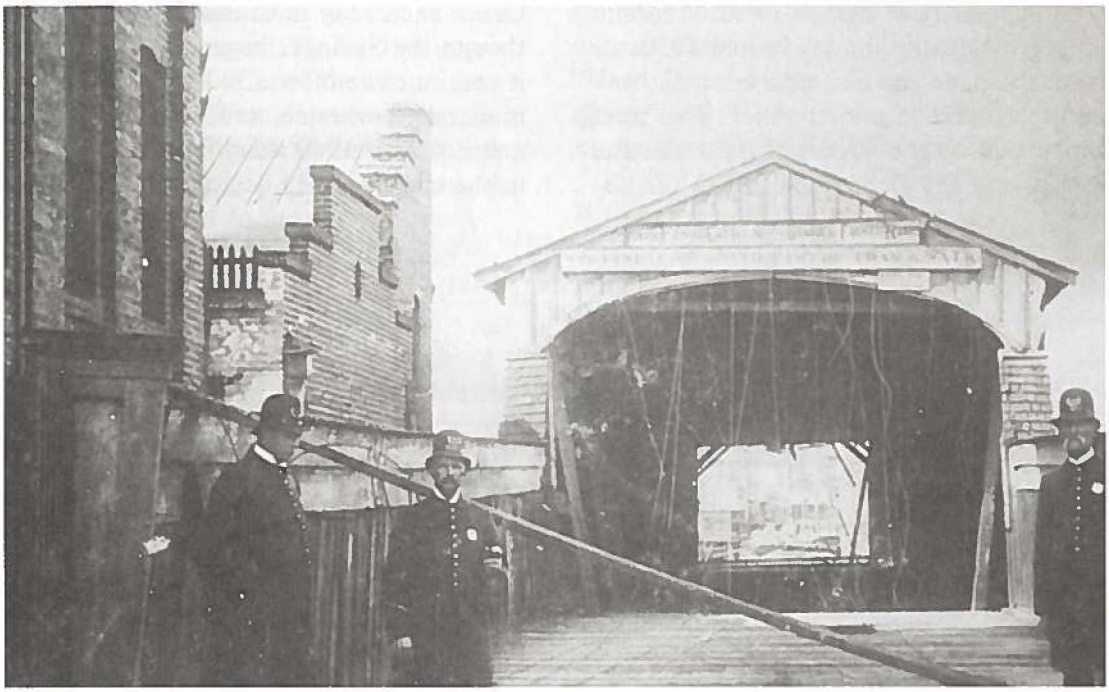
The City signed a contract in 1844 with Col. John H. Watson to bring water into the city by means of aqueducts, for 40 years, "but not to the prevention of similar works by city authorities or other persons." ("A History of Columbus" by John H. Martin, published in 1874, by Gilbert Printing Company, Columbus, Georgia.) Fortunately, or unfortunately, this system was never built.

The need for water grew with the city, which was narrowly defined at first. The first suburbs at the edges of town were Wynnton, Wildwood, Linwood, Beallwood, and Rose Hill. The mansion Dinglewood, built on 30 acres, had a water-works system for the house and a private gas-works—rare in those antebellum days!

The "system" of getting water apparently was not working well for many people, at least according to a November 8, 1852, editorial in the "Columbus Times": "We do not know of a community that is so poorly supplied with this first necessity for health, comfort, and cleanliness (water) as Columbus. There are many families in the city which have no regular and certain sources from which to derive their daily supplies of this precious element, and whose servants are actually obliged, at every turn of the water-bucket, to go forth on a foraging expedition in search of it. The water works are



Drawing of downtown Columbus from 1886.



Fourteenth Street Covered Bridge over the Chattahoochee River. A water supply main from Alabama entered Columbus adjacent to the bridge.

as good as used up. No attention is paid to the pipes furnishing the supply, and it is only occasionally that some half a dozen hydrants in very low localities run. Those in more elevated positions are as dry as the miraculous rock before Moses touched it with his rod."

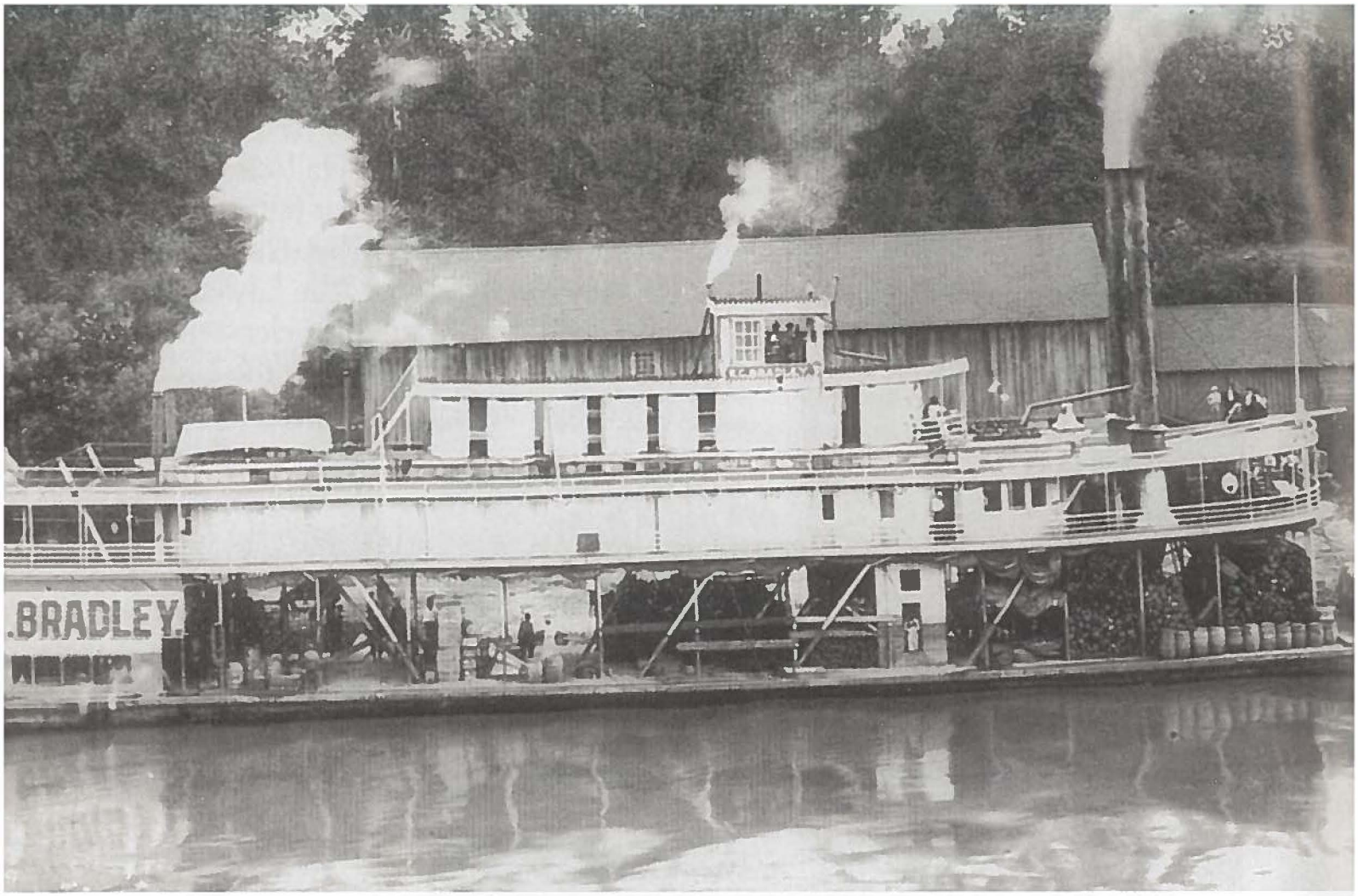
In 1860, Columbus Council submitted a vote to the people, on the question of subscribing no more than $150,000 for the introduction of water into the city. The vote was 187 nays to 38 yeas.

Georgia withdrew from the Union on January 19, 1861, and the last battle of the Civil War was fought on April 16, 1865, at the Fourteenth Street covered bridge.

One of the most famous companies during the Civil War was the Nelson Rangers, organized by Capt. Thomas M. Nelson, son of Major Thomas M. Nelson, Virginia-born gentleman of Columbus. The roster included the names of many young men as privates who wished to be cavalrymen, and afterwards rose to great prominence in American business affairs. (Worsley)

Among Columbus enlisted men who rose to leadership were: Samuel Spencer (president of the Southern Railway System); E.A. Banks (Columbus physician); Robert E. Carter (druggist); Charles G. Flournoy (merchant at Chipley, Ga.); John F. Flournoy (president of the Columbus Street Railroad Company); Louis F. Garrard (one of the foremost attorneys in Columbus and Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives); Thomas W. Grimes (Congressman from Georgia); G. Gunby Jordan (member of the Railroad Commission and president of the Eagle and Phenix Mills of Columbus).

Columbus had suffered its share of ravages along with the rest of the South, but by 1875, had rebuilt cotton mills, refinanced banks, flour mills, and foundries, opened new businesses, and was coming to terms with paying wages for former slave labor.



W.C. Bradley Sternwheeler on the Chattahoochee River.

The automobile made its debut in Columbus in 1904, when one of the "daring Camp twins, Leon A., noisily clipped down First Avenue, stirring up dust, to the astonishment of bystanders, who rapidly gathered to view the spectacle". (Ben House, "Machines of the Devil: Columbus' First Auto Dealers Used Impressive Gimmicks to Make Sales," The 75th Anniversary edition of The Columbus Ledger, May 28, 1961.)

During the early 1880s, steamboats were common in Columbus, not only for long-distance trade, but also for short pleasure cruises.

In 1882, the city entered a contract with a private corporation known as the Columbus Water Supply Company. The company piped in water from Holland's Creek in southern Lee County, Alabama. "Within a decade, both the quantity and quality of water were suspect," according to a December 3, 1989, retrospective article in the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer.

The company's contract was to supply the city of Columbus with pure and wholesome water for 30 years, but after several years the company breached its contract by failing to supply the quality of water promised.

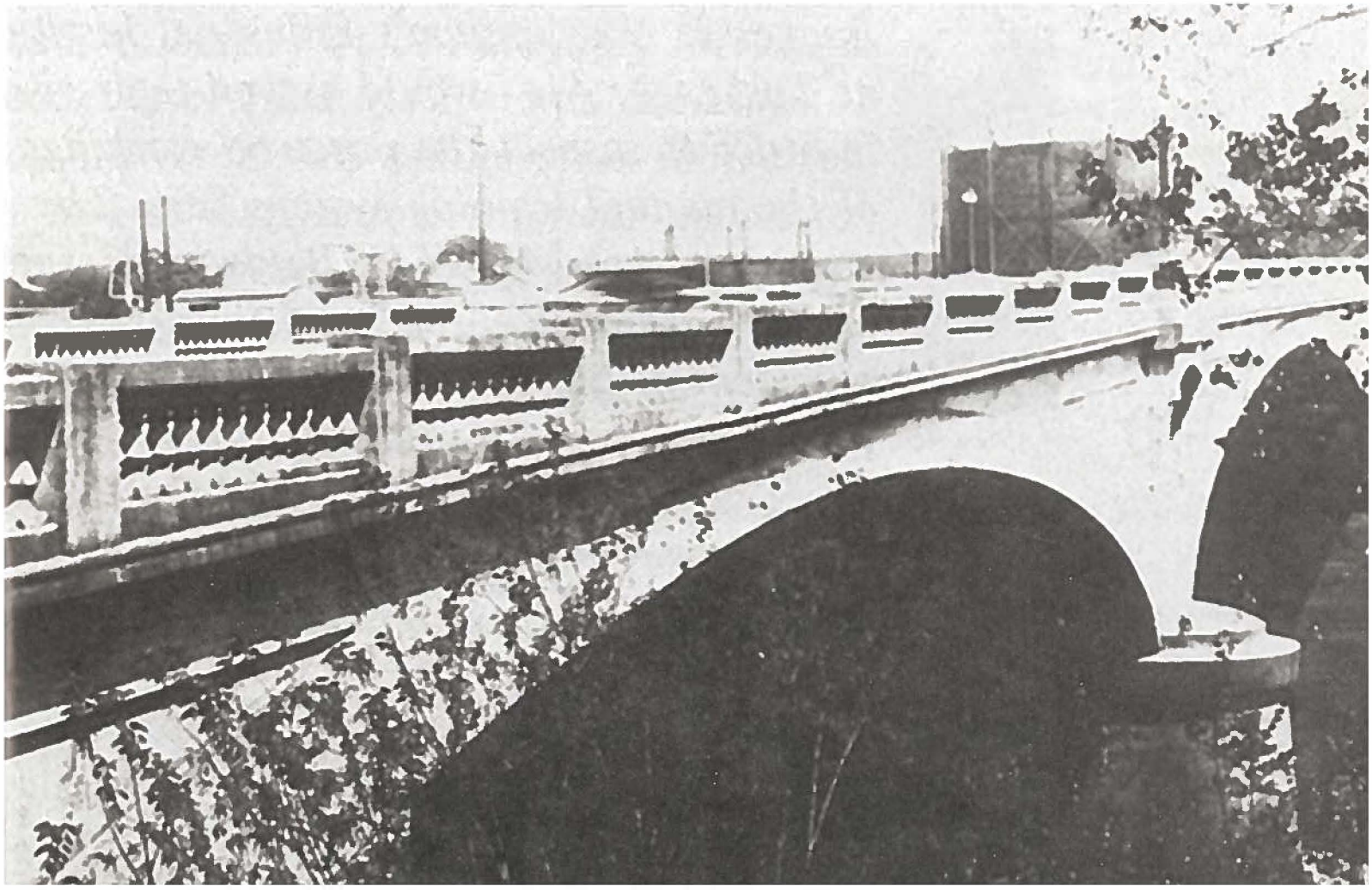
By 1903, the Columbus Water Supply Company was bankrupt, but bondholders of the company filed a suit in U.S. District Court seeking to prevent the city of Columbus from building its own water system. The case made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which finally decided in the city's favor in 1910.

It is interesting to note that while the case wound its way through the court system, over seven years, the water system was operated by a receiver, W.S. Greene, under the direction of the court.

It is also ironic that one of the attorneys for the bondholder who brought the suit was Frank U. Garrard. His grandson, Gardiner Garrard, later served as chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Lucius H. Chappell had been elected mayor in 1897, an office he held for 12 years, longer than any previous mayor. He retired in 1907, but was drafted by citizens to serve again from 1911 to 1913. According to Worsley's history, "during Chappell's tenure, assisted by an able board of aldermen, the first real program of street curbing, paving and parking was done; a full-paid fire department was established; and the movement was inaugurated to build the municipal water works plant. The first reinforced concrete bridge was built across the Chattahoochee; a public library building was erected; along with a city jail, a municipal building, fire stations, and public schools. He has rightly been called the 'Father of Modern Columbus'."

The new reinforced concrete arch bridge at Dillingham Street was completed and open to traffic in 1912.



"Who are these men in dark suits and derbies? Who are these ones riding high on the bale? Where were they going, and what was their mission? . . . Many quite simple, some rather famous, all of them somehow essentially the same. Some we'll remember forever and ever; others, we don't know their names."

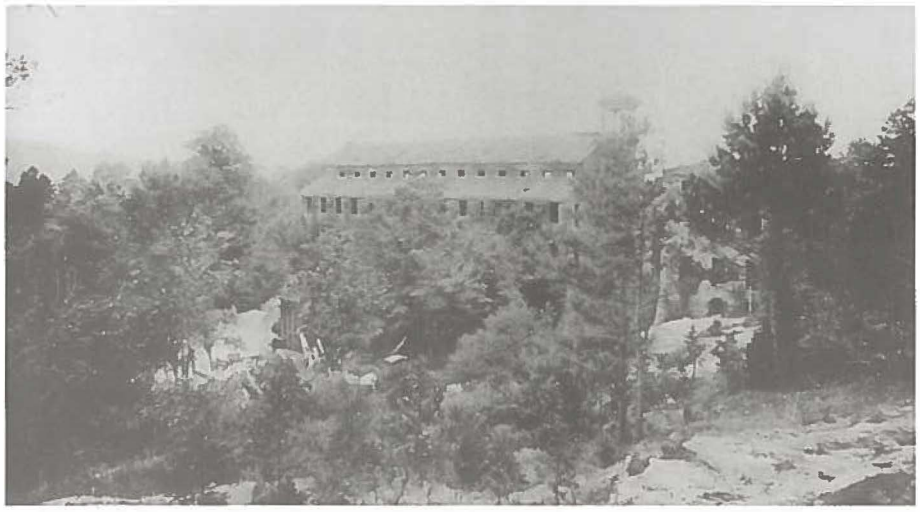
Working with the Georgia General Assembly, Columbus leaders got a bill passed in the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor on December 3, 1902, creating a water commission to manage and control a water system owned by the city of Columbus. The first members of the Board of Water Commissioners were: T.E. Golden, chairman; Mayor L.H. Chappell, John C. Cook, E.F. Roberts, and G.A. Pearce. T.T. Miller was attorney for the board.

The Water Board's first monthly meeting was January 28, 1903, and the minutes—hand-written at first!—through the years offer a rich history, not only of the water system's workings, but also of the development of Columbus. The first board members, and those who followed, showed courage, foresight, financial responsibility, and dedication in making decisions that had to be made—often against strong public objections—in order to bring the city a safe, plentiful water supply.

First administration office, on 1st Avenue in what is now the historic district. The engineer's desk in the back room on the right is on display in the Columbus Water Works museum.

The faithful Water Board devoted approximately its first decade to three basic problems, which included:

- Considering all reasonable sources of water. Citizens were invited to make recommendations, which were thoroughly investigated by the water board's chief engineer. He considered such sources as Barnes Creek, Blue Springs, Upatoi Creek, and Pine Mountain High Gravity System, but all were eliminated when it was decided none would sufficiently supply the city's future demands. Artesian wells were tried for eight years, with several well contractors. Artesian wells produce water without the need for pumping, due to pressure exerted by confining layers of soil. A New York firm's contract called for 5 million gallons of wholesome and potable water (suitable for drinking) per 24 hours. This company could not fulfill the contract, because the well water proved to be contaminated.



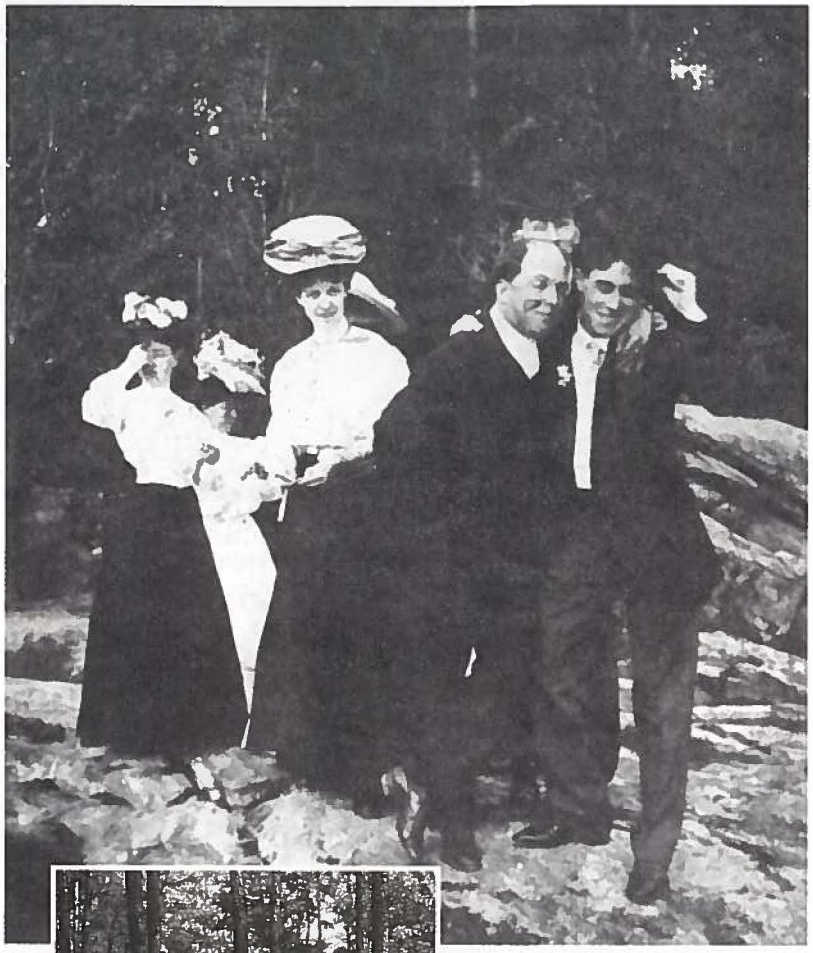
The Board of Water Commissioners purchased the old Clapp Factory and grounds for use as the location of Columbus Water Treatment Plant.

- Deciding on the Chattahoochee River as the logical source of supply based on quantity, for both present and future. The brave board resolved January 3, 1912, to use the Chattahoochee, and notified the Board of Aldermen of its choice. Although the decision seems obvious in hindsight, at the time it was bitterly and publicly disputed. A 1904 Columbus newspaper headline read, "People Will Never Accept River Water." The city held an election on October 18, 1913, to issue bonds amounting to $450,000 to build its own water system.
- Agreeing on the price of the part of the private company's holdings the city could use, and purchasing the necessary land at Factory or Clapp's Hill, and west of Clapp's Hill on the riverbank for the filter plant, reservoirs, and pumping station. During 1914, commissioners purchased from Columbus Water Supply Company the portion of its system within Georgia, for $325,000. The board bought the necessary lands from Columbus Power Company for $10,500.

At the time the North Highlands Dam was completed in 1902, the City Mills was running its own plant with 2,000 horsepower of electricity generated from its own dam, and the Eagle and Phenix Mills with its dam supplied its factory with 4,000 horsepower. The old Rock Island paper mill property on North Highlands, and other nearby properties, with their riparian rights, were secured by G. Gunby Jordan and his associates, Major John F. Hanson, H.M. Comer, and E. T. Comer in the first development of the Columbus Power Company. The Columbus Power Company became the property of the Stone and Webster Corporation, of Boston in 1902. The Gas Light Company of Columbus and the Columbus Railroad Company also came under the control of Stone and Webster. (Worsley)

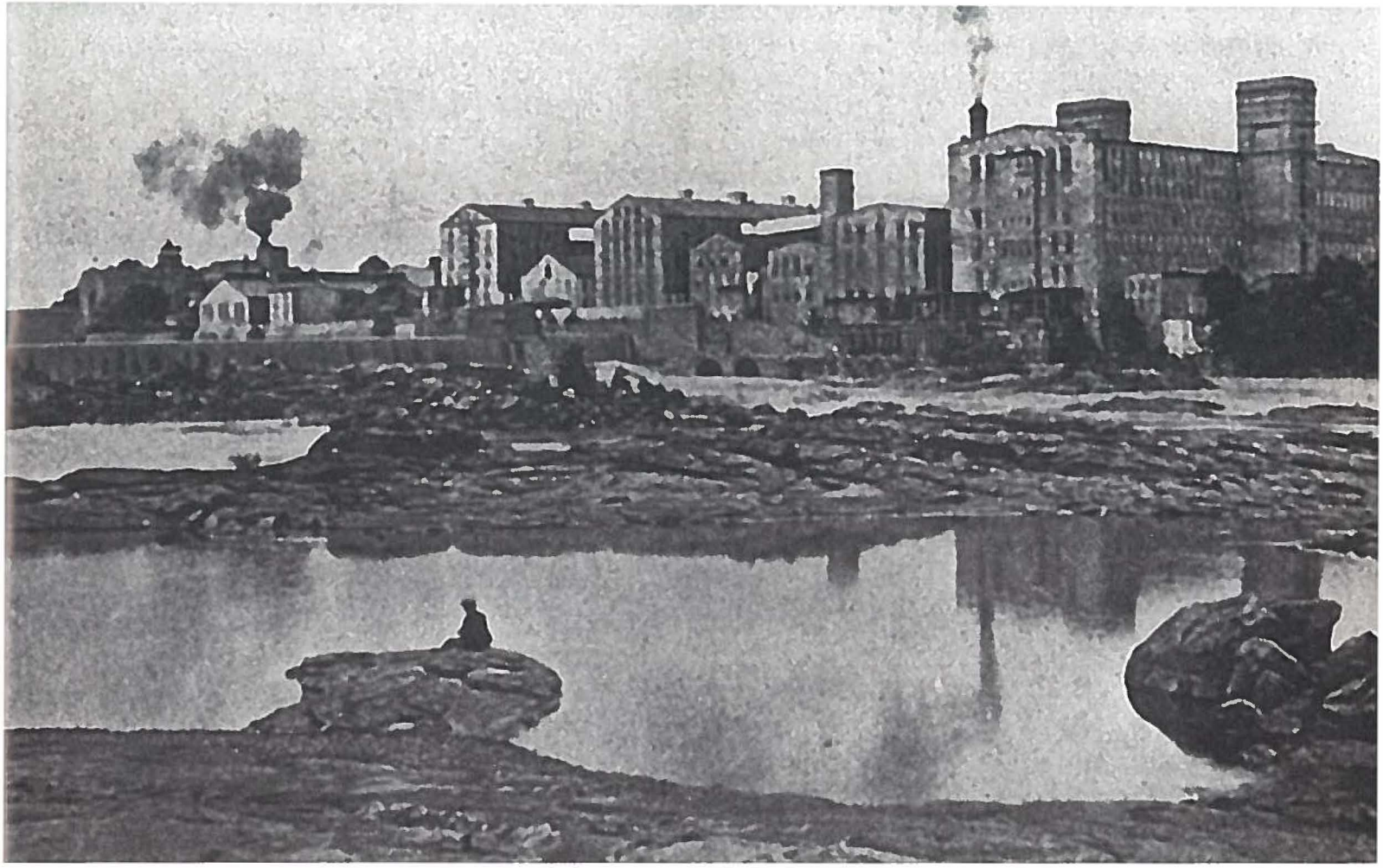
"Clapp's Factory, remembered by many now (1951) living, was once a favorite spot for picnickers in the gay nineties and later. The mere mention of this three-storied ghost factory on the river, abandoned so long ago, and finally burned down in 1908, brings back fond memories of the days when happy-hearted boys and girls climbed into the beautiful 'Lily of the Valley' band-wagon, drawn by four horses, and made what seemed like a long journey for a day's outing to the present site of the water works—on the edge of the Chattahoochee. There were buckets of lemonade and baskets of delicious lunch, which the chaperones spread under the trees, and what a wonderful day on the river, gathering heart leaves and wild violets, and scrambling over the rocks around Clapp's Factory! Happiest days of the writer's childhood!" (Worsley)

The area around the old factory on Clapp Hill was a popular picnic area for Columbusites.



Later, the grounds of the Water Treatment Plant were used by citizens of Columbus to enjoy summer outings among the trees.

During the 1920's the Old Clapp Home was sold to A. L. Leonard for $75 and his commitment to remove the house from the water plant grounds.



Eagle and Phenix Mill was one of several large water using textile mills making their home in Columbus, Georgia.

One reason the Chattahoochee proved to be a good source of water is the city's development as a textile mill town. Georgia rivers are markedly free from calcium and magnesium salts, which constitute "hardness," or soap-consuming power. Hard water is said to waste soap, and interfere with bleaching and dying fabrics. The local soft water was said to benefit the city's mills.

Recall that, "by 1868, the 10,000 spindles in the recently opened five-story Eagle and Phenix Mill were spinning, and a second mill stood on the old Howard Factory site. In 1869, the company built a new dam to more effectively divert water into its canal. At the edge of the canal, the mill's waterwheel turned a shaft that drove all the other wheels and pulleys in the mill on the site of the recently burned out Palace Mills," wrote Willoughby. "Upon its completion, the Eagle and Phenix became the South's largest textile plant, and Columbus' primary employer," she continued.

All the while, wars were fought, a Great Depression took place, the home of the U.S. Army Infantry—named Fort Benning—was located adjacent to Columbus, and many native sons became captains of industry. None of this, however, could happen without a dependable supply of water.

During the First World War, the women were urged to conserve food and to plant gardens from the war's beginning. A Conservation Kitchen was opened on 12th Street between Front and Broad. Mrs. Frank G. Lumpkin (Annie Leonard Garrard) was president of the project. In the kitchen, women were taught the best methods of canning and preserving vegetables and fruits. The goods were canned for consumers for a very small toll. (Worsley) Women also established the Women's Motor Corps, and sponsored Red Cross activities. A well-intentioned man accidentally painted "Conversation Kitchen" on the sign, but the women appreciated his volunteer efforts all the same. (Whitehead and Bogart)

One of the first acts of the Board after settlement of the lawsuit brought by bondholders of the bankrupt Columbus Water Supply Company was to hire a Superintendent. The Board employed Dudley Chipley on November 5, 1914. He served in that capacity for some three and a half years. In January 1915, the Board authorized the Superintendent to purchase a motorcycle for his use. This is the first record of a motor vehicle being owned by Columbus Water Works.

By 1916, the Water Works' original plant consisted of a pump station on the banks of the Chattahoochee River, with a pumping capacity of 5 million gallons per day, and a 20-million gallon raw water reservoir. There was also a filter plant with 6 filters with rated capacity of 6 million gallons per day, and a 2.5-million-gallon clear water reservoir, which supplied the city, by gravity, through a 24-inch cast iron main down Third Avenue.

The water was distributed via 60 miles of cast iron mains, with 550 public fire hydrants in service.

On October 2, 1917, a one-ton Republic truck was purchased for $1,225, and on January 7, 1919, the first Columbus Water Works automobile was authorized to replace the motorcycle.

1914 – 1915 Water Treatment Plant, now called North Columbus Water Resource Facility.

Water Treatment Plant Office and Laboratory; Dudley Chipley, Superintendent (1914-1918).

An interesting historical footnote concerns the introduction of chlorine into the water in 1919. The Board authorized the purchase of a chlorine gas machine for application of the gas as a disinfectant in February 1919, and chlorine gas has been used as the principal disinfectant ever since.

Charles F. Jordan who had served as secretary for the Board was appointed as Superintendent of Columbus Water Works on April 29, 1918, to replace Chipley, who had resigned. Mr. Jordan had been employed originally by the private Columbus Water Works Company. He was a lifelong resident of Columbus and was a member of a distinguished local family. Mr. Jordan would serve as superintendent until his death on January 4, 1928.

Jordan was succeeded as superintendent by Mr. Albert J. Smalshaf, who had been the Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Smalshaf, a graduate of Princeton University, had originally come to Columbus as a member of the Public Health Service stationed at Camp Benning.

In 1923, Columbus native Gertrude "Ma" Rainey—known as "Mother of the Blues"—made a series of recordings that exposed her to northern audiences. During her career she worked with jazz greats Fletcher Henderson, Dave Nelson, Thomas A. Dorsey, and Louis Armstrong. She returned to Columbus in 1935, and lived here until her death in 1939.

Meanwhile, the city—and its need for water—continued to grow. The drought of 1925 pointed to the need for more filter capacity, and two more filters with a capacity of 1 million gallons each were in use by the end of 1926.

Due to this same drought, Phenix City requested that Columbus Water Works provide drinking water to their city. The agreement had Columbus Water Works selling the water to the Alabama Water Company and they in turn supplied Phenix City. This arrangement lasted from August 1925 until the pipe was disconnected in May 1929 at the request of Phenix City.

In 1928, two more million-gallon per day filters were added, bringing the total filter capacity of the plant to 10 million gallons per day.

During the early 1930s, which represented the worst years of the Great Depression, the Water Board, like state, local, and federal officials, tried to stay "above water," rather than taking large strides forward. In 1935, the Chattahoochee Valley Chamber of Commerce was organized by James W. Woodruff Sr., a man who would continue to work for river development for many years. (Willoughby.)

"Drastic measures had to be taken, beginning in 1931. (City) salaries were cut, purchases of equipment were stopped, the recreation department was practically eliminated, and nearly all services were cut below normal standards," wrote Worsley. But, she continued, "the city-owned Water Works during this period helped to the limit in meeting debt payments, and postponed their needed improvements."

The Depression hit the textile industry hard—there were layoffs and pay cuts. "City Manager Morton wrote in 1930 that Columbus did not need any more textile mills until that entire industry could pay higher wages. 'I feel like a woman with fifteen children,' said Morton in discussing the city's mills. 'I love those I have, but I wouldn't give a thin dime for another." (Lupold.)

Despite the hard times, the Water Works got new equipment when necessary. An August 3, 1932 news article in the Columbus Enquirer-Sun reported that Columbus Water Works was using a 110 cubic feet per minute (CFM) air compressor pushing air through porous plates in the bottom of the sedimentation basins to fight a problem with taste and odor brought on by the rapid growth of algae in the river.

By the end of 1939, the city had laid nearly 35 miles of sewers and 20 miles of pavement. The Water Works had laid many miles of water mains.

In 1939, the board authorized its engineer to help Muscogee County authorities prepare plans for providing water throughout Beallwood, a densely populated residential section just north of Columbus. Dr. J. A. Thrash, County Commissioner of Public Health, and Bentley H. Chappell, county attorney, asked the water commissioners to help the County Commission build and install a water works distribution system to serve the area. They expected to borrow the necessary funds from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and needed help getting data and specifications to apply for the funds.

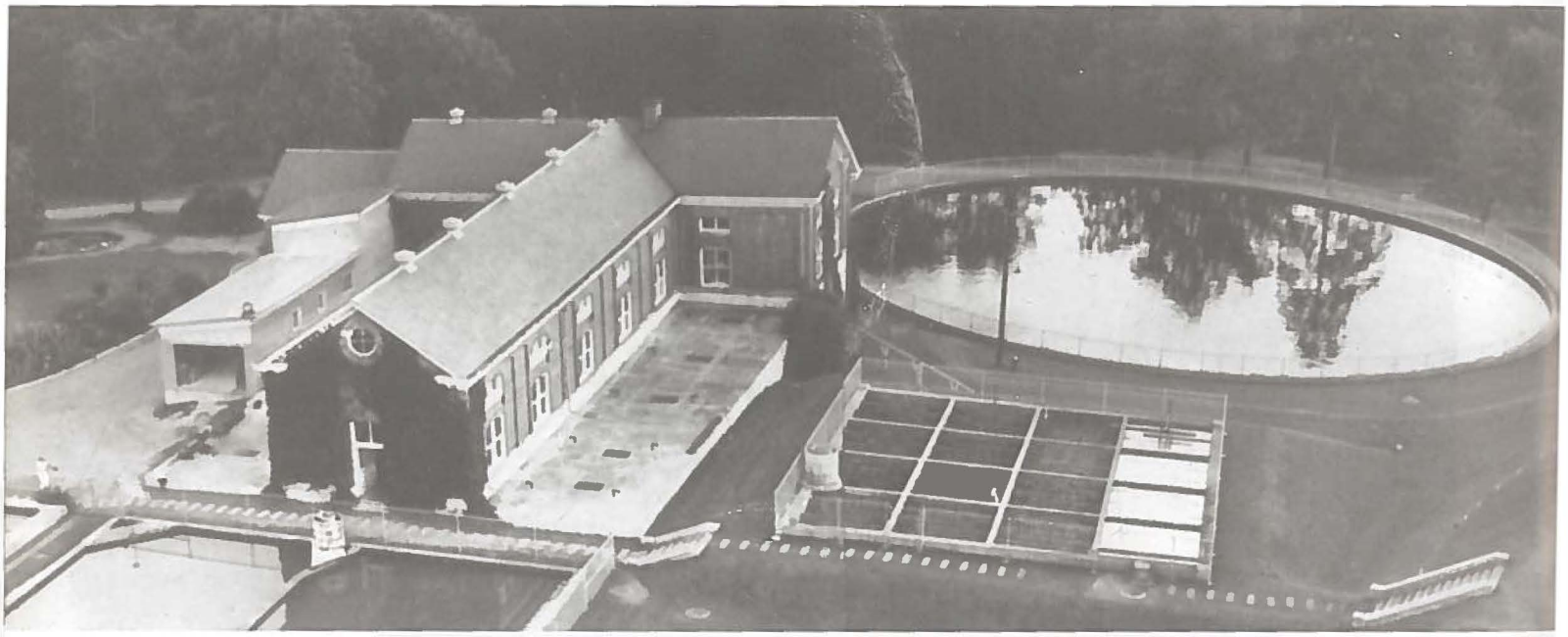
A. J. Smalshaf retired in December, 1940 after twenty-two years of service. Smalshaf was succeeded by George R. Lowe, who was appointed with the new title of General Manager on January 7, 1941.

Relocating 24-inch supply line on 3rd Avenue between 38th & 45th Streets in 1937.

In the same year peacetime ended with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor —1941 — a 3-million-gallon concrete clear water reservoir was built underground in Columbus, costing $100,000, increasing the plant's clear water storage capacity to 5.25 million gallons.

In 1942, the U.S. government, through the Federal Works Agency, granted $76,365 to the city of Columbus to help finance the construction of defense public works, estimated to cost $152,731, consisting of Water Works facilities.

Of that busy year, Worsley wrote: "Top-flight military officers having been assigned to the fort, the hard-driving army men set about the job of troop training. Coinciding with the tremendous expansion came the announcement of Fort Benning's determination to cooperate with Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama, to clean up vice conditions in the Fort Benning area, to protect the health and welfare of the troops."



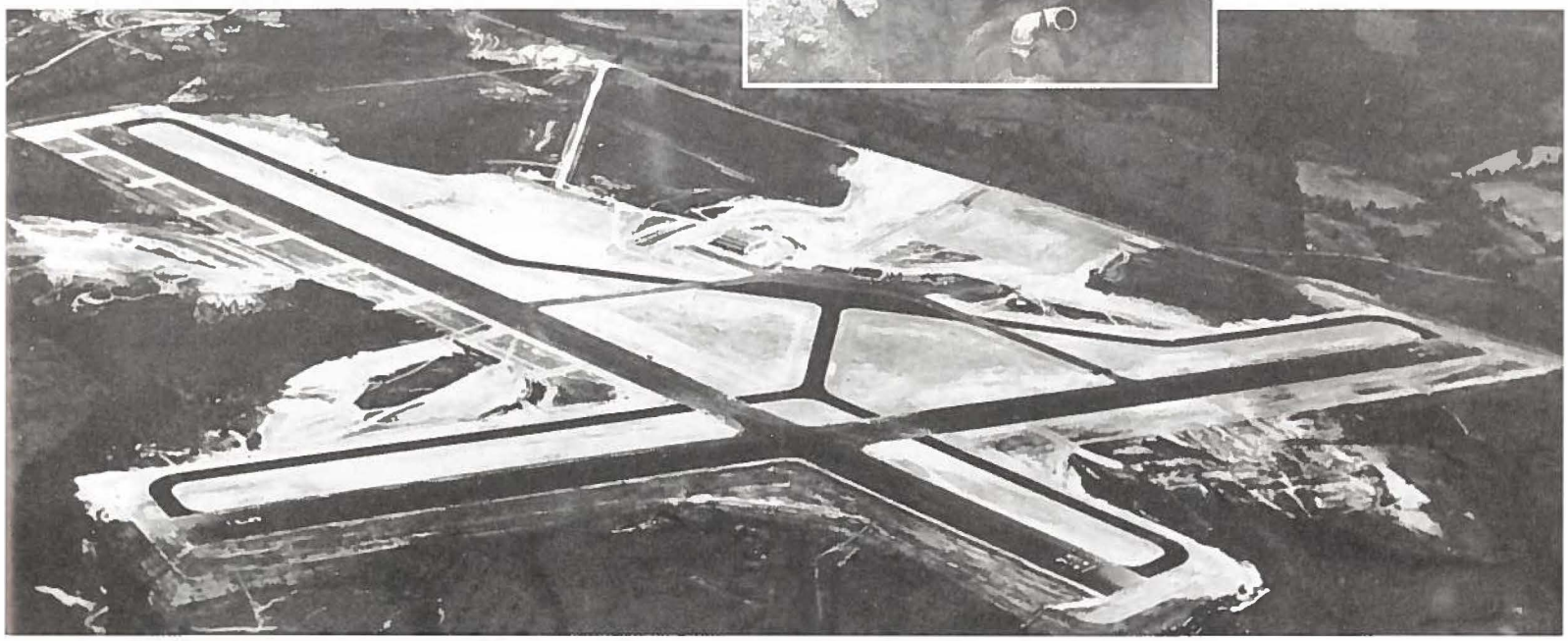
View of North Columbus Water Resource Facility water tank in 1939. Note that the finished water reservoir was open to the air. This reservoir, still in service today, was subsequently roofed over.

In 1940, the first novel of Columbus native Carson McCullers, "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter," achieved national acclaim. Her third novel, "A Member of the Wedding," firmly established her as an author of great merit. The book was made into a Broadway play, which won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for the best American play of the year. Columbus paid its first tribute to her in 1967, when the Springer Theatre Company presented scenes from four of her works.

For a time, Major General George S. Patton Jr. was stationed at Fort Benning as founder of the Second Armored Division. Patton, known as "Old Ironpants," would lead the Third Army across Europe. After leaving Fort Benning, Patton led the U.S. invasion of French Africa.

In 1943, in response to a letter from the Commissioner of Roads and Revenues stating "the early establishment of the much-needed Air Mail Service to the Columbus area and military personnel of Fort Benning," the board agreed to install water facilities at Muscogee County Airport. The cost was to be borne by the County.

Turning on a 12-inch valve supplying Newton Baker Village in 1941. This military housing development was taken into the Columbus Water Works system at the request of the Federal Government.



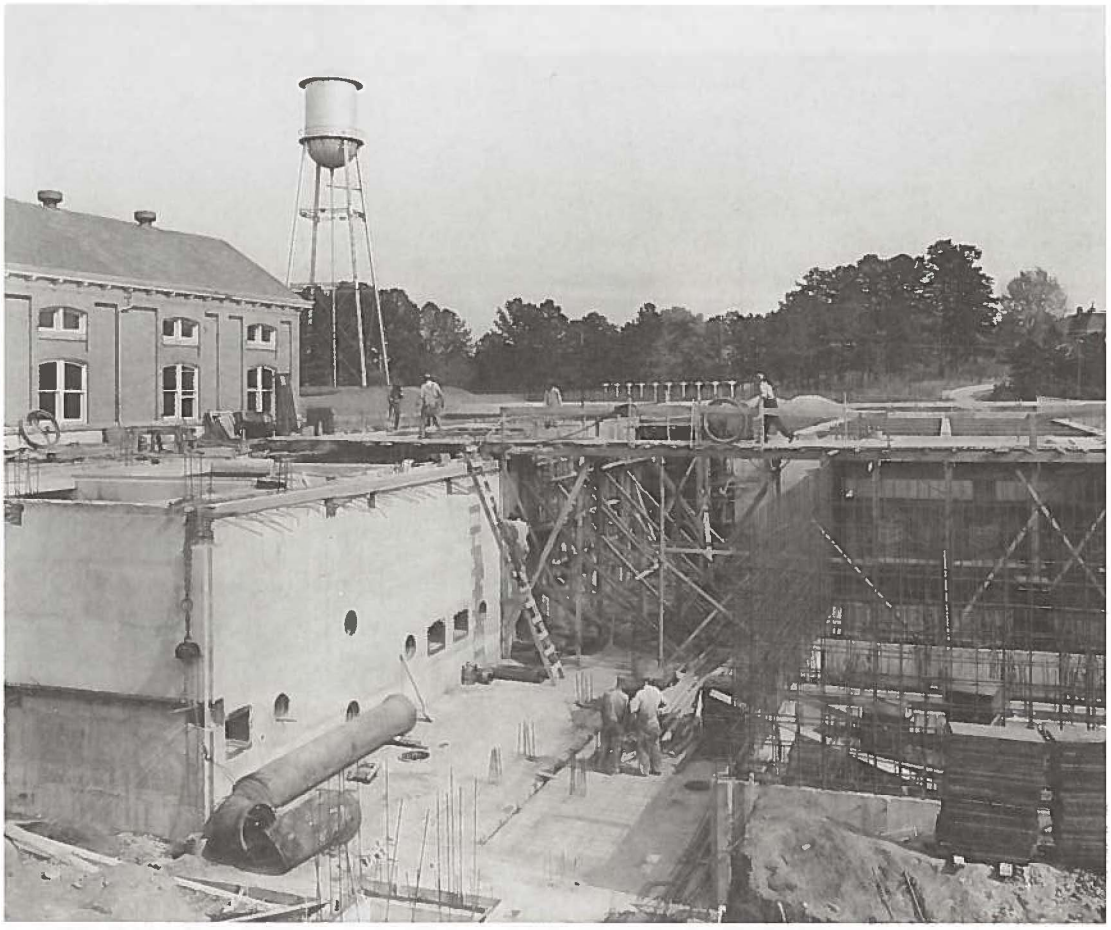
Muscogee County Airport in 1949

By early 1945, the American Infantry was nearing its goals in Berlin and Tokyo. "Time was running out with Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito, when President Roosevelt, tired and worn after his historic journey to Yalta to meet Stalin and Churchill, died suddenly at the "Little White House" at Warm Springs, only 40 miles from Columbus. Fort Benning officials and the Fort Benning band were present for these sad rites, on Georgia soil, for the commander-in-chief of the United States Army. (Worsley)

The war ended in 1945, after the Germans surrendered in May, and the first atomic bomb was dropped in Japan in August.

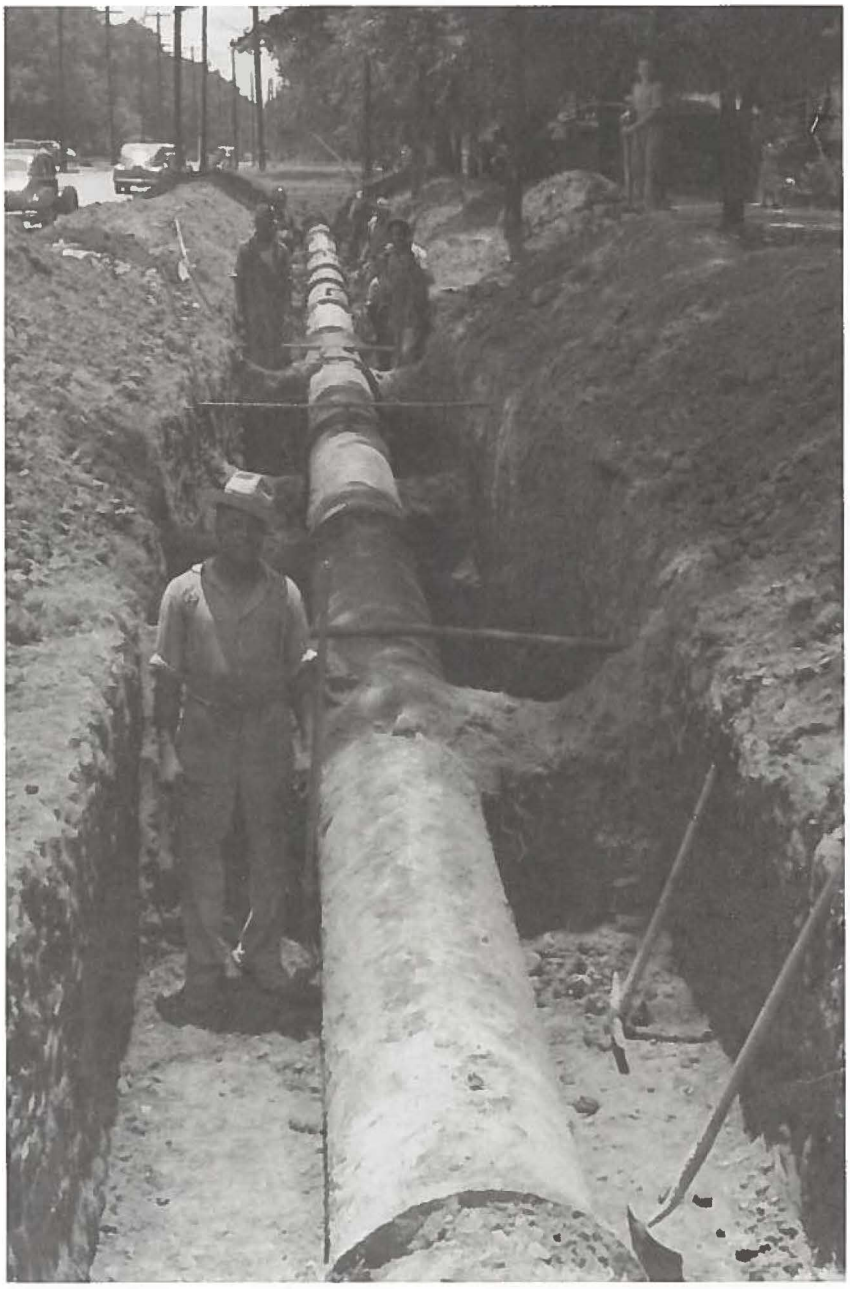
The war's effects in Columbus continued to be felt. The Water Board voted in 1948 to take over the water system serving Benning Hills and Columbus homes subdivisions, free of charge. Between 1941 and 1943, 122 new homes had been built in Benning Hills, made up entirely of commissioned Army officers and their families, according to a 1943 issue of The Columbus Magazine.

An article in that same edition, published by W.C. Woodall, describes changes in Columbus due to World War II: "Take water. It's always a good indication of population growth. Everybody drinks water. Some 20 miles of water main have been added to the Columbus system since 1940, and 2,500 new meters have gone on the lines. In 1940, the Water Works pumped out an average of 5.5 million gallons a day; in 1942, it was up by 2 million a day to 7.5 million."



Construction at the Columbus Water Treatment Plant in 1942-1943. Keeping up with a rapidly growing Columbus required many plant expansions through the years.

In October, 1953, one of the longest serving board members passed away. W. J. Wood had gone onto the Board in July 1919, serving until his death. Mr. Wood served as Chairman of the Board for 28 years.



Lowering a 20-inch cast iron pipe laid in 1915 on 3rd Avenue just North of 17th Street; it's one of the main feeders from the Filter Plant into the City and is still in use today.

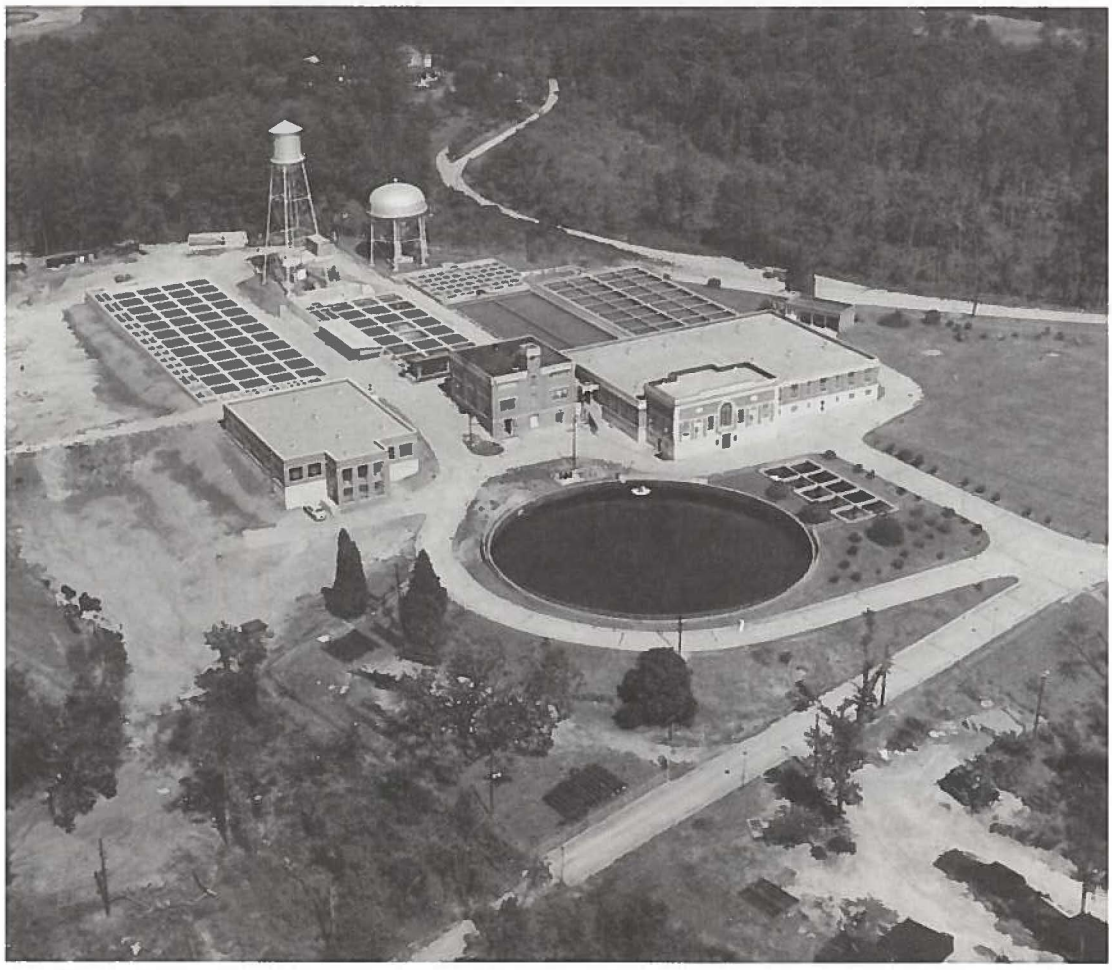
The Columbus Museum of Arts and Crafts was finally opened March 28, 1953, after a group of interested Columbusites had tried since 1941 to start a museum. Two wills made the museum possible, including a 1942 bequest of $85,000 honoring Mrs. Euphan Collier Stewart, a Columbus pioneer leader in the Columbus arts movement. In 1947, Columbus industrialist W. C. Bradley's will made available a site for the museum. The will specified the Bradley estate was to be used for "public education, library, recreational or park purposes." That year, Bradley's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. D. Abbott Turner, and the board of the Eagle and Phenix Mills donated the Bradley home and the surrounding nine acres to the Board of Education. (Whitehead and Bogart)

In 1954, a new 9 million-gallon filter plant with mixing chambers and a settling basin was put into operation. The total contract was for $647,863.06.

At the Water Board's September 1954 meeting, the chairman, Jack M. Passalaigue, commented how fortunate Columbus was that, due to the Water Works' $2.25 million expansion—finished in the summer of 1953—the water works didn't have to ask customers to curtail water use, compared to "the majority of communities in the Southeast." He reminded the board that, due to the extreme summer drought, the city's facilities were taxed almost to capacity, and he thought it wise to have the engineers survey the facilities.

As a sign of residential growth in the city, the chairman said 145 new services were installed in August, compared to 58 the previous August.

At the October meeting, aerial photographs revealed that "extreme dry weather had decreased the flow of the river to a lower elevation than at any time in the past 50 years, but the diversion dam built by the Water Works in 1951 between two islands just west of the river intake were still diverting enough water to provide five feet at the intake, and two feet above the top of the two intake pipes."



Aerial view of Columbus Water Treatment Plant in 1954. By this time, the old buildings had been demolished and new buildings housing filter and chemical application equipment had been constructed.

Board members were said to be reassured by the news, and grateful the Chattahoochee continued providing enough water.

Around the first of October, the Power Company was releasing from Goat Rock Dam at a rate of 330 million gallons per 24 hours, and was assuring this flow would continue another 60 days without rain.

In fact, due to record demand on Columbus Water Works during June, engineers made numerous recommendations to take steps to manage such demand.

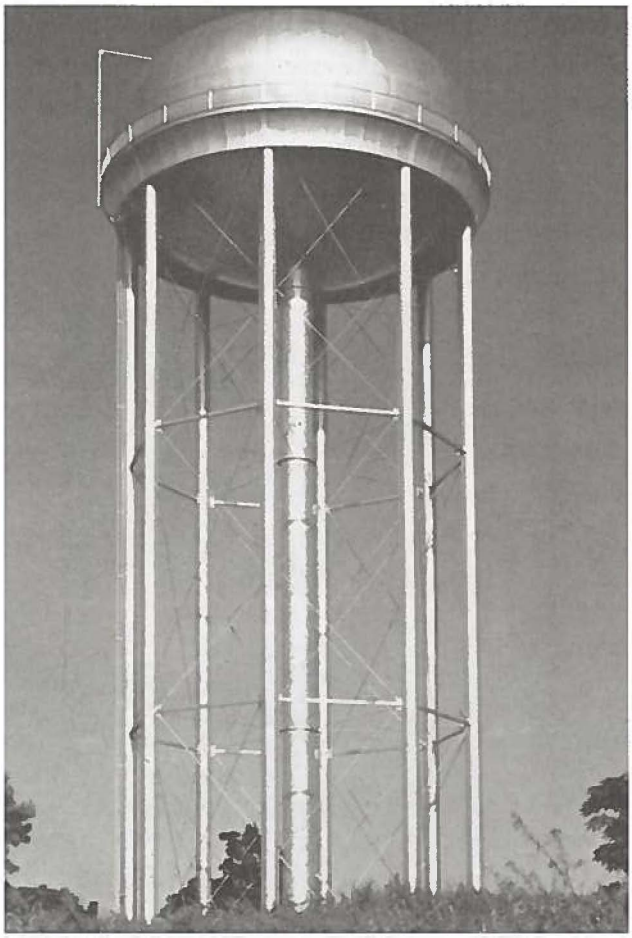
The board passed a resolution in September 1954 honoring Edward W. Swift Sr., upon his death. He had served as a member of the Water Board from October 23, 1913, to April 4, 1952.

First water system drive-through window was in Columbus in 1951!

Second administration building, on 13th Avenue in the 1950s.

Fluoridation Question Here to Stay

At its April 1955 meeting, the board read a letter from Dr. J.A. Thrash, County Commissioner of Public Health, enclosing a request from the Board of Health to fluoridate the water soon, to protect the children of the community against tooth decay. The board reiterated its position taken in 1954, not to fluoridate the water supply due to limited information on the process. This would not by a long shot be the last time the question of fluoridation would come before the Water Board before action was taken. Opponents of fluoridation over the years had labeled it as "poison, sinful, and communistic," according to a publication sponsored by the American Cast Iron Pipe Company. (Fort Benning's water supply was fluoridated in 1957.)



Cody Road Water Tank 1949 This tank now has a twin tank and carries the inscription of Columbus State University.

Also in 1955, the board approved a 2.3-million-gallon reservoir in Benning Hills at an estimated cost of $91,000; a 500,000-gallon elevated storage tank on the Moon Dairy Site at an estimated cost of $128,950; and a 1 million-gallon standpipe on Warm Springs Road, at an estimated cost of $43,000. Because 75 percent of the customers served by the tanks would be county residents, the board asked the County Commission to bear half the cost, which it agreed to do.

Adding Sewage to the Mix

Upon the request of the Commissioners of Roads and Revenues, the Water Board agreed at its June 7, 1955, meeting to collect sewage fees if the details could be worked out for all concerned, according to board minutes.

At a July 12, 1955, meeting to discuss the Water Works' proposed $2.7 million expansion, City Manager R.G. Hicklin expressed concern the expansion would increase the debt service, because this loan would reduce the Water Works' appropriation to the city too much.

The Water Board, however, proceeded with asking the City Commission to authorize and validate the sale of the proposed $2.7 million revenue certificate issue.

There was a called meeting December 23, 1955, to "familiarize the board with the city's plan to seek legislation in the next General Assembly giving the Board of Water Commissioners exclusive jurisdiction of the sewage system of the city, within and without corporate limits," minutes showed.

In light of the Georgia General Assembly approving the Water Board's taking over city sewage, the Water Commissioners resolved in April 1956 to direct its engineering firm to prepare plans for its proposed sewerage system outside city limits, at an estimated cost of $1.1 million. They also requested a report on the need for sewage disposal facilities, especially the effect on the Fort Gaines Reservoir, which is downstream from Columbus.

The Water Board resolved, at the city manager's request, to amend the request for $2.7 million in water revenue certificates to be a joint water and sewer issue.

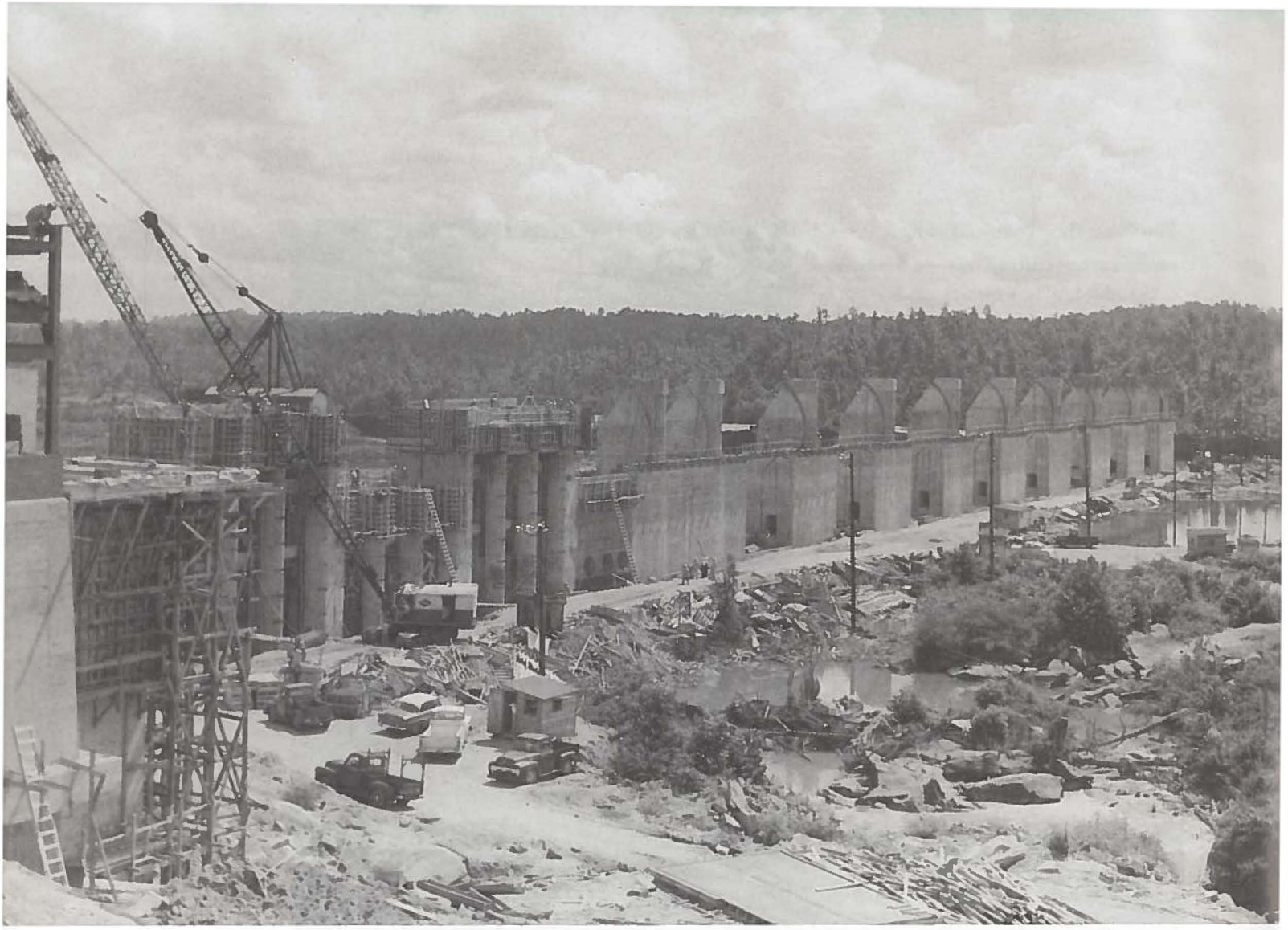
Meanwhile, in September 1956, the Water Board discussed moving the raw water pumping equipment due to the building of Lake Oliver Dam. This came after members learned the 1915 deed of the Columbus Power Company dated August 23, 1915, conveyed the raw water pumping station site on the river banks, right-of-way for pipe lines from the river plant to the Filter Plant, and the right-of-way for discharging waste from the filter plant was subject to certain conditions.

The deed spelled out that if the grantor builds a dam on the Chattahoochee River backing water over Columbus Water Works intake, the grantor would give the city land equal to the size of the pumping station site. The Water Works would pay to move the equipment to a new pump station site, estimated at $250,000.

A committee of Water Works officials met to try to persuade Georgia Power representatives they should pay at least half the cost of the moving expenses because the power company was causing the situation. According to the minutes, "Power Company officials declared having no funds for the project, and said they didn't feel obligated, even morally."

The Water Board agreed to have the law firm of Hatcher, Smith, and Stubbs send a letter to the Power Company stating legal action was a possibility.

Old Raw Water Pump Station on the Chattahoochee River prior to construction of Lake Oliver. This site today is under about 40 feet of water.



Construction of Oliver Dam, construction of the new water intake facility is shown at the left edge of the photo.

The Board also agreed to take its attorney's advice to ask the City Commission in a letter to object to the Georgia Power Company's plans to make the Water Works pay for its move when Oliver Dam was constructed.

In August 1957, the Board discussed a letter from the engineers showing it would cost $120,272 less to build a new pump station below Oliver Dam than above.

The Power Company agreed to reimburse the Columbus Water Works for the difference — if the Water Board would build the intake above the dam. The Board approved sending a letter asking Georgia Power Company to reimburse the amount.

The Board authorized an agreement dated November 5th with Georgia Power Company covering the Power Company's participation in relocating the Columbus Water Works Raw Water Pump Station, caused by the building of Oliver Dam.

As part of the agreement, the Water Board approved going ahead with building the necessary parts of the raw water pumping station in order that the schedule would coincide with the construction of Oliver Dam, and not create delays.

At a January 3, 1957, meeting the engineers gave a report, "The Effect of the Fort Gaines Reservoir Upon the City of Columbus," which recommended the purchase as soon as possible of approximately 50 acres south of Columbus on the east river bank that would be suitable for a future sewage treatment plant.

The chairman advised exercising an option to buy approximately 24.4 acres of the Lane Builders Inc. property part of land lot 33, 7th District, at $1,250 per acre. He further advised an additional 26 acres could be negotiated for and probably purchased from either the Woolfolk land south of the Lane property, or the Beech and Bonner land north of the Lane property.

The Board approved buying the Lane property at $1,250 per acre.

Then, on February 5, 1957, the Board approved buying 37.66 acres at $1,250 per acre from Broadmoor Development Company, on the east river bank, north of the Lane property, bringing land for a sewage treatment plant to 62.06 acres.

In May, the board voted to proceed with a contract for a 36-inch sanitary sewer from the river, running north across Bull Creek, Victory Drive, and Cusseta Road, to a point just south of Buena Vista Road and Bull Creek crossing. This was one of the main trunk lines in the $1.1 million sewer program, which would pick up a large quantity of sewage emptying into Bull Creek, just south of Buena Vista Road.

New Raw Water Pump Station under construction in 1958. Relocation of the station was necessitated by construction of Lake Oliver.

At its April 1, 1958, meeting, the board heard a letter from City Clerk Henry Brannon which enclosed an excerpt from the City Commission meeting March 18, 1958, reading, "Commissioner Berry moved that the Water Board be authorized to act as the official agency of the City of Columbus, Georgia, in the matter of securing a sewage disposal plant for the City. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson. All Commissioners voted yes."

The action stemmed from a March 17 meeting with the City Commission, the Board of Water Commissioners, W.H. Weir, director of Water Pollution Control of the Georgia Department of Public Health, and J.M. Roberts, Vice President of Robert and Company Associates, engineers.

Participants at the meeting decided the Water Board should immediately start negotiations with the federal government to try to get federal participation in bearing the cost of a sewage disposal plant based on the difference between the cost of primary sewage treatment and secondary sewage treatment.

The Water Board authorized asking attorney J. Robert Elliott to see if the Water Board could follow through.

The Water Board voted in January 1959 to end the policy of providing water lines free to developers of new subdivisions within the city. Developers would be required to pay for pipelines and other material, along with labor for installation. The Board agreed to provide free installation for three subdivisions in development: Averett Woods, Esquiline Heights, and the subdivision on River Road north of 45th Street, bounded on the north by Crockett Drive, on the east by 52nd Street, and on the south by the Central of Georgia Railroad.

16-inch pipe ready to be installed for development on Hilton Avenue.

On May 5, 1959, the Board gave management the authority to take bids on sanitary sewer projects, estimated at $250,000 to $300,000, representing the last of the sewer money from the water and sewer certificate sale. The sewers are located parallel to Bull Creek and Mill Branch in the Buena Vista Road area, servicing seven new subdivisions; a short section in the Gentian area; a considerable amount in the Clover Hills, Armour Road, Ogletree Woods Annex, and a trunk line from a point near the Muscogee Country Airport northward to Lynn Hills.

On September 30, 1959, Columbus College (now Columbus State University) held its opening session at the old Shannon Hosiery Mill on Warm Springs Road.

Elliott, the attorney, told the Board that at a March 25 meeting in Atlanta, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it would not be responsible for "any part of the construction and operating cost of the Columbus proposed sewage treatment plant" because Columbus needed the plant now, without waiting for the Corps to build the Fort Gaines Dam. Elliott told the board he thought it should pressure state and local departments to pressure the city government.

In July, the Board approved paying $87,578.76 for the installment of sanitary sewers for the Morningside, Allendale, and Morningview areas. The county was to pay for labor and equipment. This would permit 737 existing houses to be tied to sanitary sewers.

In September 1959, the board read a letter from Columbus Mayor B.F. Register, dated August 31, 1959. It read:

"Gentlemen, The City Commissioners unanimously voted that I write and appeal to your board to help us if possible in our present financial emergency. Knowing you already have in progress a study of the financial structure of the Water Works, we urge that you expedite this matter as rapidly as possible."

On January 5, 1960, the city received a letter from City Manager J.A. Willman requesting $53,674.50 to the city for sewer maintenance for the first 11 months of 1959. The board resolved the city should give the board credit for $25,846.33 paid to the city treasurer in August 1959, leaving a balance of $26,827.17, which would be paid when funds became available.

George R. Lowe died on December 10, 1959. He had served as General Manager for 18 years. J. Thomas King was elected to the position of General Manager to succeed Mr. Lowe on January 5, 1960.

As a sign it was always planning for the future, in early 1960, the Water Board authorized the general manager to study sanitary sewer conditions in Columbus, as well as necessary extensions outside the corporate limits, particularly:

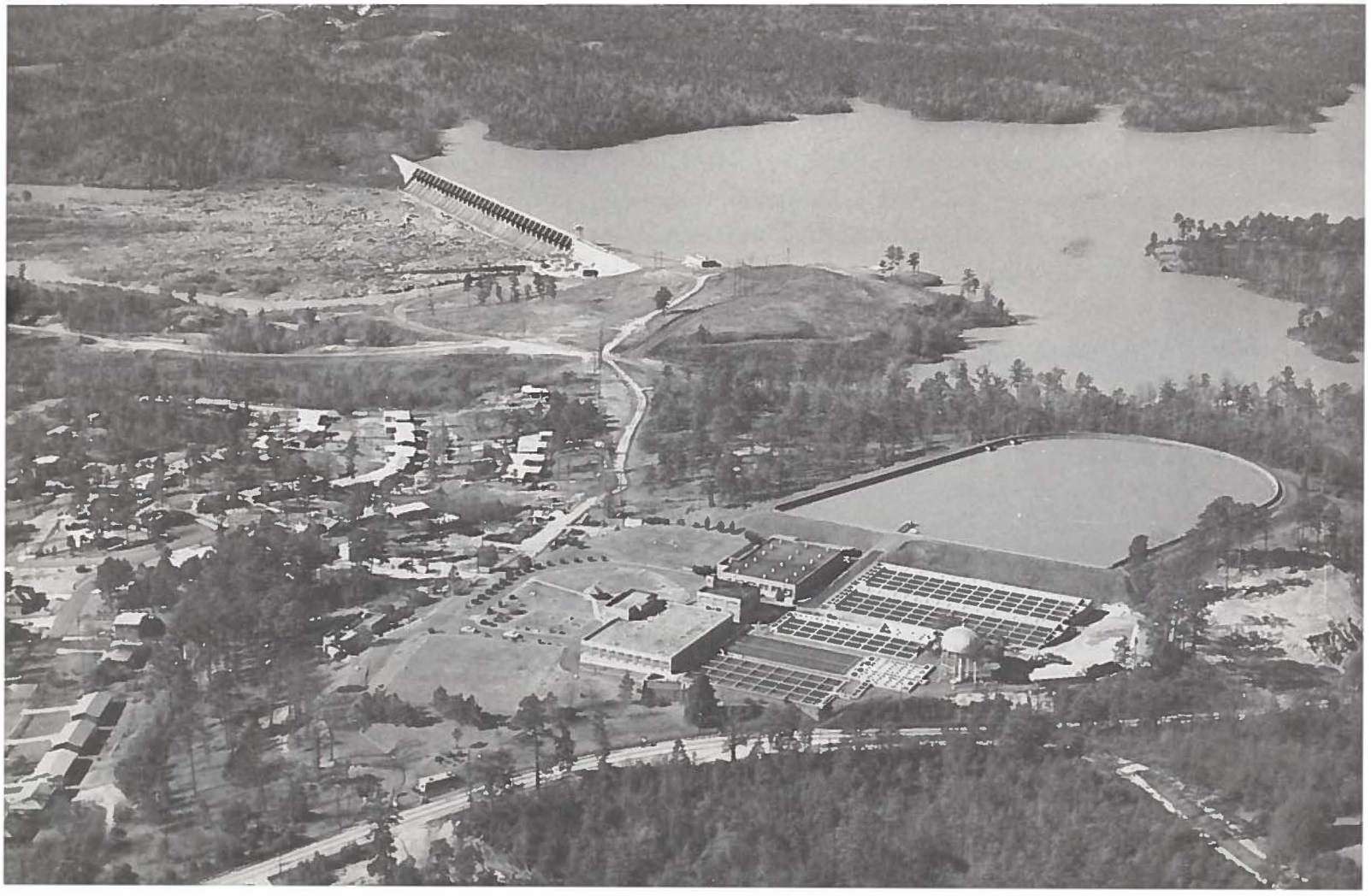
- To analyze the sewer program that was nearly complete under the 1956 revenue anticipation issue of $1.1 million.
- To outline needs for additional sanitary sewer extensions inside the corporate limits, as well as outside, and a program for construction.
- To consider ways of raising revenue for this program.
- To adopt policies on extensions, maintenance, and repairs, and subdivision standards.

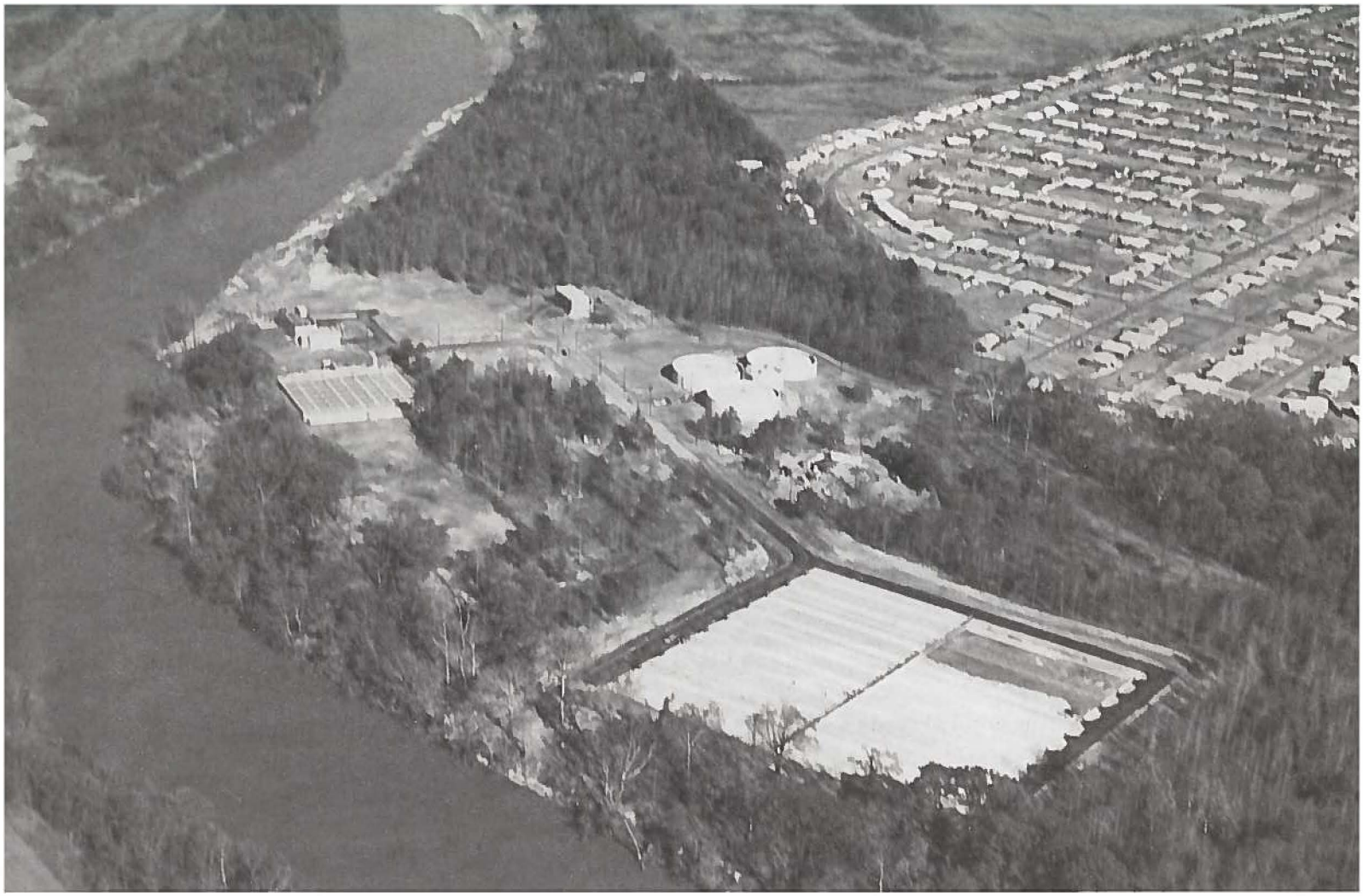
Also in February 1960, the Board agreed to set up a meeting about river development south of Columbus, after receiving letters from Dr. John H. Venable, director of the Department of Public Health, prompted by a letter from the chairman of the Stewart County River Improvement Committee.

At that March 1 meeting, Water Board attorney J.R. Elliott told the state Health Department officials Columbus had been using the Chattahoochee River for more than 100 years to discharge sewage into, and the city did not build the dams that created an impoundment of the river south of Columbus.

"Health officials, while sympathetic, said the Water Board would have to initiate any approach to seek financial aid to construct a sewage treatment plant. They said they would contact Alabama health authorities to ask about the status of Alabama cities on the Chattahoochee River, and advise Elliott of their findings," the minutes recorded.

Aerial View of the North Columbus Water Resource Facility in 1964





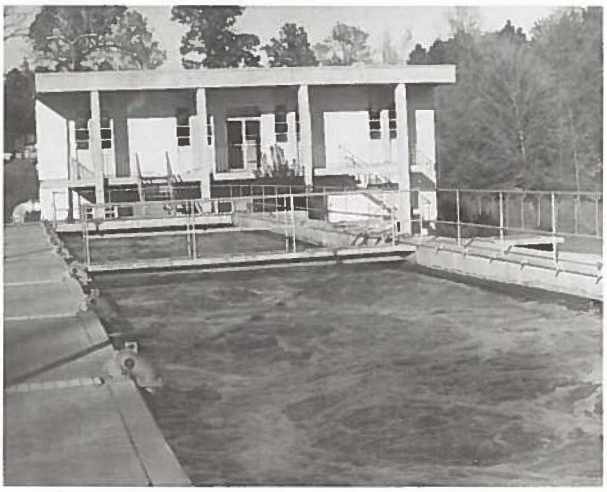
Aerial View of the South Columbus Water Resource Facility in 1964

At a request from developers and civic leaders, the Board decided to ask its engineers to come up with a plan for developing sanitary sewers in the north/northeast section of the city, north of the Water Works Filter Plant and the Roaring Branch drainage area. The men had asked the Board to cooperate with them regarding sanitary sewers in the Green Island Hills development.

Because of the State Highway Department and Muscogee County Public Works Department's plans to widen River Road, the Board approved a survey on the Water Works' ability to serve the expected growth in North Columbus.

A report on the survey of North Columbus along the River Road/Highway 103 area revealed water capacity was "on the border line" for this area, and that improvements should be made immediately, according to Board minutes. The Board voted May 7, 1961, to increase the North Columbus pumping station, and to increase the size of the distribution system.

In the 1960s, the City Commission approved a $5 million revenue bond issue for the construction of two sewage treatment plants. A year later, the bond had to be increased to more than $8 million, due to an increase in the estimated cost of construction. A 62-acre tract of land, located south of where Bull Creek empties into the Chattahoochee River, had already been purchased as one of the plant sites.



North Columbus Sewage Treatment Plant Built in 1965

The multi-million dollar sewage treatment plant in South Columbus was completed in mid-1964, and began treating approximately 80 percent of the city's sewage. The other 20 percent was to be handled by the second treatment plant in North Columbus.

After a lengthy discussion at its June 1960 meeting, the Board agreed a preliminary report on a sanitary sewer program should eliminate secondary sewage treatment, and include only primary treatment.

The Board adopted a resolution in December 1960, about stopping the pollution of streams in the vicinity of the city, and a project consisting of interceptor sewer and sewage treatment facilities. That Water Board resolved to apply to the U.S. Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a construction grant, under the Federal Water Pollution Act.

On February 7, 1961, the chairman told the Board of a letter about the City Commission meeting the day before, at which the Commission proposed an ordinance that would provide, after operating expenses and the sinking fund requirement have been met, the Water Board pay the city of Columbus, in lieu of taxes, 5 percent of gross water and sewer revenue.

The Board, in 1961, accepted an offer from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, for a grant, for up to $250,000, to help finance construction of sewage treatment facilities. The primary plant was built at the current site of the treatment facility near Oakland Park in South Columbus.

Even as early as the 1960s, the Water Works was recognized for technological advances. Lewis Edwin Hudson, superintendent of Columbus Water Works, won the 1961 Frederick J. MacMullin Award for leadership in adapting modern technology in his plant, and "other efforts which have resulted in the continuous production and distribution of a safe, adequate, and wholly acceptable water supply for the citizens of his community."

It was but a taste of the awards and recognition Columbus Water Works would receive –and continues receiving to this day.

The Board voted in late 1961 to purchase approximately 16 acres north of 45th Street, and west of Second Avenue, for the North Columbus Sewage Treatment Plant, for $800 per acre. This plant was constructed in 1965.

In what seems like foreshadowing of the Combined Sewer Overflow problem of the 1990s, in April 1962, the city manager alerted the Board of places where storm and sanitary sewers were combined.

This caused sewage to spill into an open drainage ditch adjacent to the Overlook area. The city manager brought out the need to separate the storm sewers and sanitary sewers to eliminate this condition, at a cost of about $26,000. The Water Board agreed to pay half the cost, with the city bearing the rest.

Water: Pure, Not Simple

The environment, and especially water pollution, occupied the minds of the Board—as it did much of the nation—throughout the 1960s.

Pollution, however, has been a problem ever since man first entered the valley. Just 20 years after settlement began, and the clearing of land for cotton had encouraged soil erosion, driving rain cut deep gulleys into the earth and carried loose dirt into the river. (Willoughby).

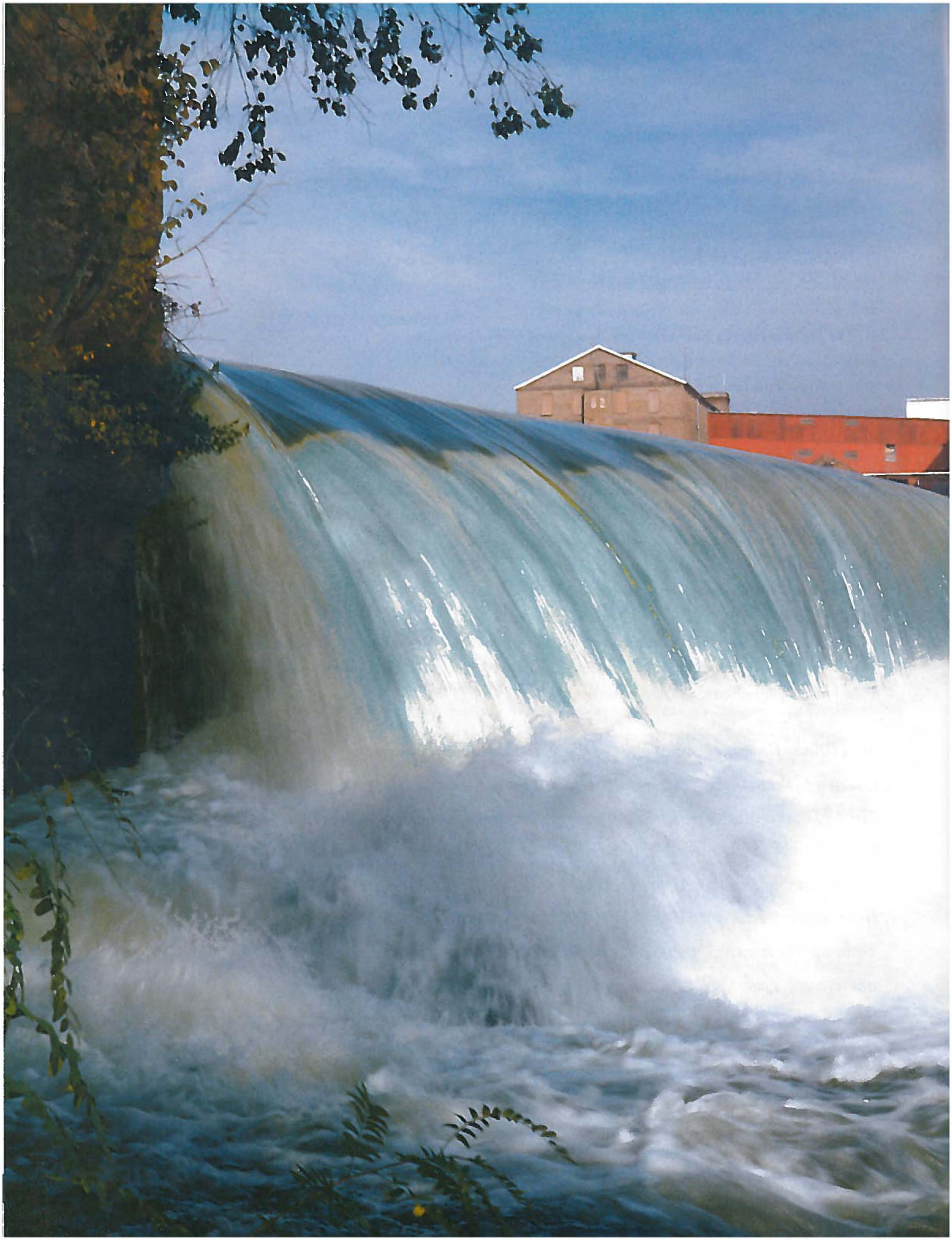
The Board received a letter dated January 14, 1966, from the executive secretary of the State Water Quality Board, stating "The bacteriological quality of the Chattahoochee River will continue to be seriously impaired, however, until all wastes discharged in the Columbus area are given secondary treatment, and chlorinated before discharge. Phenix City has provided secondary treatment, as has Fort Benning, and secondary treatment is being added to two of its other plants.

"The Federal Water Pollution Control Administration has made bacteriological studies on the Chattahoochee above and below Columbus, to develop a case for interstate pollution. Should they call an enforcement conference, their principal complaint will be that bacterial contamination from the Columbus area constitutes a public health hazard to navigation operations, and to water contact sports on the Walter F. George reservoir."

In August 1966, the Board heard these conclusions from a hearing in Atlanta held by the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration in July:

- The Chattahoochee between Atlanta and Fort Gaines is polluted due to wastes discharged from municipalities and industries, and the discharge of oxygen-deficient waters from impoundments, including hydro-electric and navigation operations;

In "Historic Resources at the Falls of the Chattahoochee," prepared in 1991 for Uptown Columbus, by John S. Lupold and Frank T. Schnell, it is written: "In 1916, this area experienced an historic event which probably polluted the Chattahoochee. A year earlier, Alabama passed a prohibition law which some Russell Countians ignored. The Alabama Attorney General's office, in August of 1916, dispatched a special attorney—Hugo Black, later a U.S. Supreme Court Justice—to 'clean up' the county. Despite pleas about the lack of legal warrants, Black asked for and received a court order to destroy $600,000 worth of alcohol in two large Girard warehouses ... The kegs and bottles were broken in Thompson's ravine to the south of these warehouses; rivulets of whiskey, beer and wine ran down the gully toward the river. According to local legend, some residents soaked their overalls in the stream and ran home, only to return with dry overalls, which they promptly soaked again." Most pollution does not come with such colorful lore, nor is it as enthusiastically tackled by the citizenry.



- For the most part, municipalities and industries have not done enough to control pollution of the Chattahoochee River;
- All municipalities and others discharging domestic wastes shall provide the minimum installation of secondary treatment with adequate disinfection of the effluent (treated wastewater flowing from a lagoon, tank, treatment process, or treatment plant) where indicated. Industries shall install comparable remedial facilities for industrial waste discharges.
- Secondary treatment converts dissolved and suspended pollutants into a form that can be removed, producing a relatively highly treated effluent. It usually uses biological treatment processes followed by settling tanks.
- All necessary remedial facilities shall be completed and in operation by July 1, 1971.

In November 1970 the Board accepted an offer of $682,800 under the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, needed for secondary treatment facilities for the South Columbus Sewage Treatment Plant. The Board estimated this would cover 30 percent of the cost of construction.

To comply with the Clean Water Act, Columbus would add a "secondary" treatment of its wastes. Pollutants that did not settle out of the holding pond were consumed by bacteria. Workers added chlorine before returning the water to the river.

January 1, 1971: Columbus Becomes Georgia's First Consolidated City and County Government; One of Sixteen in the Nation!

In April 1970, the Water Board learned of the City Commission's resolution resulting from a Water Board resolution that authorizes the Water Board to budget 6 per cent of the net receipts of the Columbus Water Works System as the share to be derived by the general government of the city from the Water Works System.

The Board was furnished in June 1971 a copy of City Ordinance 71-172, requiring the application of fluoride to the public water system of Columbus. The Board voted to comply when funds were available.

Signaling the continued importance of environmental concerns, the U.S. Congress mandated an end to the dumping of chemical and sewage wastes directly into the river in 1972 by the Clean Water Act. The bill set three national goals on water quality: first, "zero discharge" of pollutants into the nation's navigable waters by 1985; second, that the nation's waters be "fishable and swimmable" by July 1, 1983; and third, that no more "toxics" be allowed into the river. (Willoughby)

In 1972, the Water Works received a $500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for extending the water distribution system in northeast Columbus.

As a sign that efforts were paying off, in 1973, the Board and Water Works employees received congratulations from the clerk of council for receiving the County Commissioners of Georgia "Georgia Quacker" award for the most outstanding pollution control program in the state during the past year.

(Left) Low head dam at the Eagle and Phenix Mill. This impoundment of the Chattahoochee in Columbus provided motive power to the mill for over a hundred years.

Third administrative office on 13th Avenue December 20, 1976

Secondary sewage treatment was implemented in mid-1974. This level of wastewater treatment greatly reduced the level of pollutants being returned to the Chattahoochee River.

In May 1974, the Board learned the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources of Georgia had approved a grant to reimburse Columbus for adding fluoride to the water. The American Dental Association, representing 75,000 dentists at the time, had approved of fluoridating public water supplies in 1950.

The Board received copies at its December 1976 meeting of the Columbus/Muscogee County Facilities Plan, outlining Columbus' sewage collection and treatment system — its general operating condition, and its expected needs up to the year 2000. It called for a more comprehensive evaluation of the sanitary sewage collection system. The Board authorized management to apply for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant to help pay for the study.

Amid all the nitty-gritty work and long-range planning, the Board took time to open the Columbus Water Works' new administrative offices at 1501 13th Avenue for business December 20, 1976. According to the minutes, the Board toured the new facility and was "extremely pleased."

Effective January 5, 1976 the title of General Manager was changed to President.

The Board learned in May 1978 that the EPA had approved a grant of $88,012, leaving $22,003 for the Water Works to pay, for the evaluation of Columbus' combined sewer system to determine the quantity and quality of overflows, as well as the impact on water conditions in the Chattahoochee River.

Getting Awards, Still Fighting Battles

The South Columbus Water Pollution Plant was named the best in the state in 1980 among plants that treat 5 million gallons or more daily, by The Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association.

Thomas King passed away after a lengthy illness in May 1980. King had begun his water works career as a meter reader in 1940. Frank S. Williams was appointed acting President on May 15, 1980, and President on July 7, 1980.

South Columbus Water Resource Facility Entrance

In September 1982, the Board authorized the conversion of the North Columbus Sewage Treatment Plant into a pumping station. A study previously submitted to the Board had indicated this to be a more cost effective and efficient means of treating wastewater.

Making real headway against pollution requires the cooperation of those who use the river; a water works system cannot do it alone. In July 1983 the Board adopted an Industrial Pretreatment Program, which gave Columbus Water Works the means to regulate and control discharges into the sanitary sewer system. This program continued a long tradition of cooperation between Columbus Water Works and it's industrial customers.

In the late 1970s, residents of Ridgewood and Woodhaven, two rural subdivisions in the panhandle of the county, began complaining about their service from a private water company who supplied those communities. The issue was finally resolved in the late 1980s, with Columbus Water Works' purchase of the private system and extension of a new water main to the area.


South Columbus Water Resource Facility Office

In 1976, Jimmy Carter from Plains—70 miles southeast of Columbus—was elected president of the United States. The Georgia governor from 1971–1975 served one term in the White House. The seizure of American hostages in Iran proved his final undoing, after an attempted rescue ignominiously failed. But his presidency, and his colorful family, made Georgia famous. Plains remains a popular tourist spot.

Scene on the Chattahoochee River above North Highlands Dam. This impoundment and others provide excellent fishing for residents of the Columbus area.

In the summer of 1986, Columbus Water Works suffered a major failure of the main sewer interceptor along the Chattahoochee River. The bank, in which the sewer main had been installed, slid into the river at two locations. Movement along the bank created failures at several other locations. Working diligently, Columbus Water Works crews repaired several of the smaller breaks and installed temporary pumping stations to route sewer flows around the breaks.

Frank S. Williams died after a short illness in March, 1986. A.B. Culverhouse was appointed President March 10, 1987. He served until his retirement after 43 years of service to Columbus Water Works on January 31, 1989.

Billy G. Turner was appointed President of Columbus Water Works effective January 15, 1989. Turner had previously worked in the consulting engineering field and had been General Manager of the Spartanburg, South Carolina, water and sewer system.

In the summer of 1988, Columbus Water Works was approached by Harris County about supplying the county with drinking water. Harris County had been experiencing rapid residential growth and was having trouble meeting the demands on their water system. The Board of Water Commissioners took up the issue at the September Board Meeting and approved a contract

Maintaining a clean river is a top priority for Columbus Water Works.

providing for sale of water to Harris County. As it was an intergovernmental contract, City Council approval was also required. After receiving assurance that this sale would in no way negatively impact Columbus citizens, the council approved the sale.

The management got permission in 1989 to implement a computerized mapping project of the infrastructure of Columbus Water Works. This effort culminated in the consolidation of all water and sewer infrastructure onto computerized base maps and made obsolete the many paper maps that had been used.

Managers also got Board approval to rehabilitate the Service Center at 1420 54th Street, primarily installing a new lab, which was needed to monitor water quality in the Chattahoochee River.

In 1992, Columbus had its first "Riverkeeper," one of only 10 in the country at the time. The Riverkeeper was to monitor an 80-mile stretch of the river from West Point Lake to Fort Gaines, and to educate the public on the importance of the river.

Columbus Water Works has never incurred a drinking water violation in its history, dating to 1915. Performance, health, and water quality standards are enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources. So while many think the Chattahoochee River is heavily polluted by upstream development, water quality at Columbus is actually good.

Analytical Laboratory of Columbus Water Works located at the Service Center on 54th Street.

"River sounds, river sights, river moon must have been magical at night;

river dance, beneath the sky, it's a romance that has sadly passed us by..."

Making Lemonade from Lemons

If the romance Allen Levi sings of had passed us by, it's being revived. The "golden days" of Columbus are far from over. A perfect example is the Chattahoochee Riverwalk. The Riverwalk is a 16-mile stretch of paved park that extends from Lake Oliver to Fort Benning. There's even a portion on the Phenix City, Alabama, riverbank.

Home-folks and visitors can be seen there, day or night, riding bikes, walking, skating or skate-boarding, fishing, exercising pets, launching a boat, observing nature (especially bird-watching), or just passing the time hand-in-hand with a loved one.

Aerial View of Uptown Park Combined Sewer Overflow Facility located between Veterans Parkway and 2nd Avenue and 18th and 19th Streets.

View of Uptown Park Combined Sewer Overflow Facility. The plant provides park amenities and a walking trail for public use.

To think that what began as an ominous-sounding administrative order on March 30, 1990, could become such a delightful local asset almost seems like a fairy tale. But, it happened in Columbus, Georgia.

To dispense with the "bureaucrat-ese," the administrative order basically said the Environmental Protection Division of Georgia, and studies by the city, had documented that Columbus had one or more combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that result in discharging pollutants into the water. The Environmental Protection Division ordered the city to comply with strict provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act, and to document the procedures it uses to do so. To address this order, the City and the

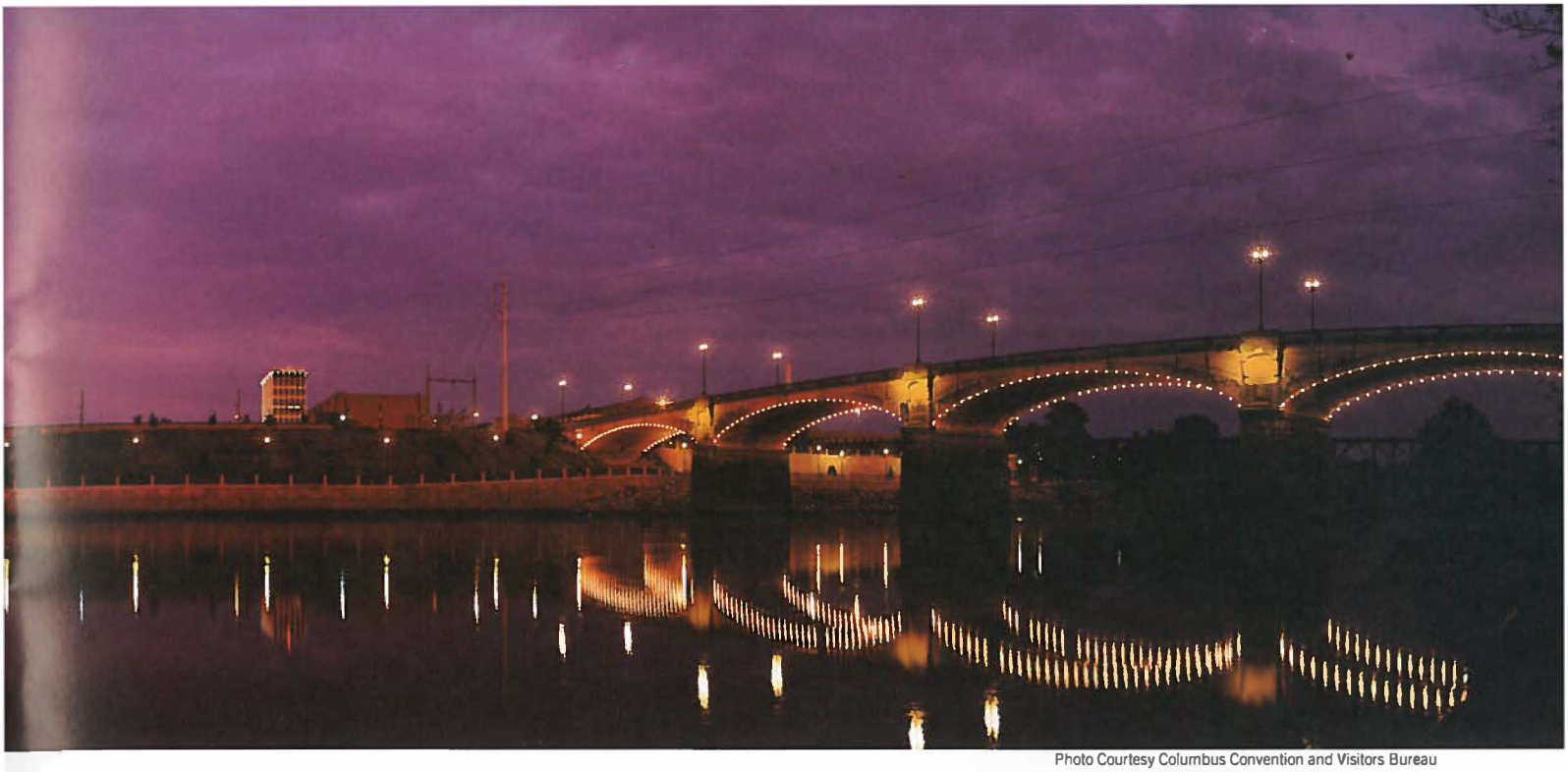


Photo Courtesy Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau

Gateway to the Riverwalk. A 16-mile stretch of paved park from Lake Oliver to Fort Benning.

Water Board agreed that Columbus Water Works would be the lead agency to address this problem.

In 1991, Water Works officials launched a master plan for water and sewer service focused on the massive CSO program. In 1995, the completed CSO program was the only one statewide to avoid fines by meeting the mandated deadline. The CSO program became one of the first in the nation, and a pilot for other utilities. Columbus officials worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in developing its plan, helping set EPA policy.

Aerial View of South Commons CSO located on Lumpkin Boulevard near the Coliseum and softball complex.

The South Commons CSO Facilities are actually located on two close but separate sites.

The plan consolidated 16 CSO points into two direct treatment facilities.

The project leveraged other investment and community improvements; the requirement for a large consolidation conduit allowed the development of the city's signature Riverwalk. Local voters approved a five-year one-cent sales tax. The additional funds raised through that tax have been used for a new civic center, other beautiful recreational facilities and nature reserves that enhance the quality of life, including the Uptown Park fronting Veterans Parkway and Second Avenue; and Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center on South Lumpkin Road.

Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, located at 3535 South Lumpkin Road.

Oxbow was created from an area once used in mining and for a landfill. Nature activities for recreation and education provide students and families an idea of the history of our region's environment, encouraging responsible stewardship of the streams and reservoirs. This program is operated in conjunction with Columbus State University.

Columbus Water Works has been widely recognized for steering the community to make these projects happen. Columbus Water Works took a problem and—like a paddlewheel of yesteryear's steamboats—harnessed the energy to thrust the whole community forward. The staff of Columbus Water Works introduced the concept of funding the large CSO program through sales tax revenues. The Board of Water Commissioners adopted in September 1992 a report titled, "Funding Options," which explored several options for funding the CSO program and recommended that a special local sales tax offered the best funding approach. With the adoption of this program, the history of Columbus and Columbus Water Works was changed.

At the Board's November 1994 meeting, then Mayor Frank Martin—himself generally regarded as a progressive leader—recognized Billy Turner for his "efforts, skills, and professionalism" in obtaining a $20 million grant for the Columbus Water Works Advanced Demonstration Project. (This project was funded by the U.S. EPA, and was peer reviewed by the Water Environment Research Foundation. Officials from throughout the United States, and several other countries, have visited the project to gain information and ideas.)

Martin also recognized the staff for its contribution and support in the day-to-day operation of the Water Works. In 1996, Turner was elected President of the Water Environment Federation, a 40,000-member international water quality organization.

But, the Board and management were not content to rest on their laurels over the Riverwalk and CSO accomplishments. There were customers to serve, neighbors to help, and a continuous struggle to improve, even when outside forces didn't mandate it.

The Water Treatment Plant was selected as the best-operated water plant in the state at the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association's conference in 1994.

Aerial view of the North Columbus Water Resource Facility in 1990's.

Aerial view of the South Columbus Water Resource Facility in 1990's. Construction in the background is for the new biosolids processing facility and an odor control facility.

Fourth administrative office, at 1421 Veterans Parkway. December 14, 1998

Also that year, the Water Board agreed to a request from Harold Reheis, director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, to participate in developing options for resolving inter-state water conflicts. This is an issue among Georgia, Alabama, and Florida that has continued to this day. Little did most people anticipate then that those discussions—termed "the water wars"—would "leak" well into the year 2002.

The Board learned in 1996 that the American Water Works Association selected Columbus Water Works to initiate a new program to encourage Quality Improvement throughout the water works industry in North America. Columbus was selected from among more than 40 systems under consideration.

The Wastewater Treatment Facility in 1996 received the Gold Award from the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies. The award demonstrated consistent compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

On June 8, 1998, the Water Works accepted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV Best Operated Large Surface Water Plant Award.

In January 1999, Columbus Water Works welcomed Talbot County as a water customer. By working in partnership with Talbot County, Columbus Water Works received a $500,000 grant to help fund the extension of a 16-inch water main through the panhandle to the Muscogee – Talbot County line. This water main later resulted in the location of a new power generating facility in Talbot County, a large customer for Columbus Water Works.

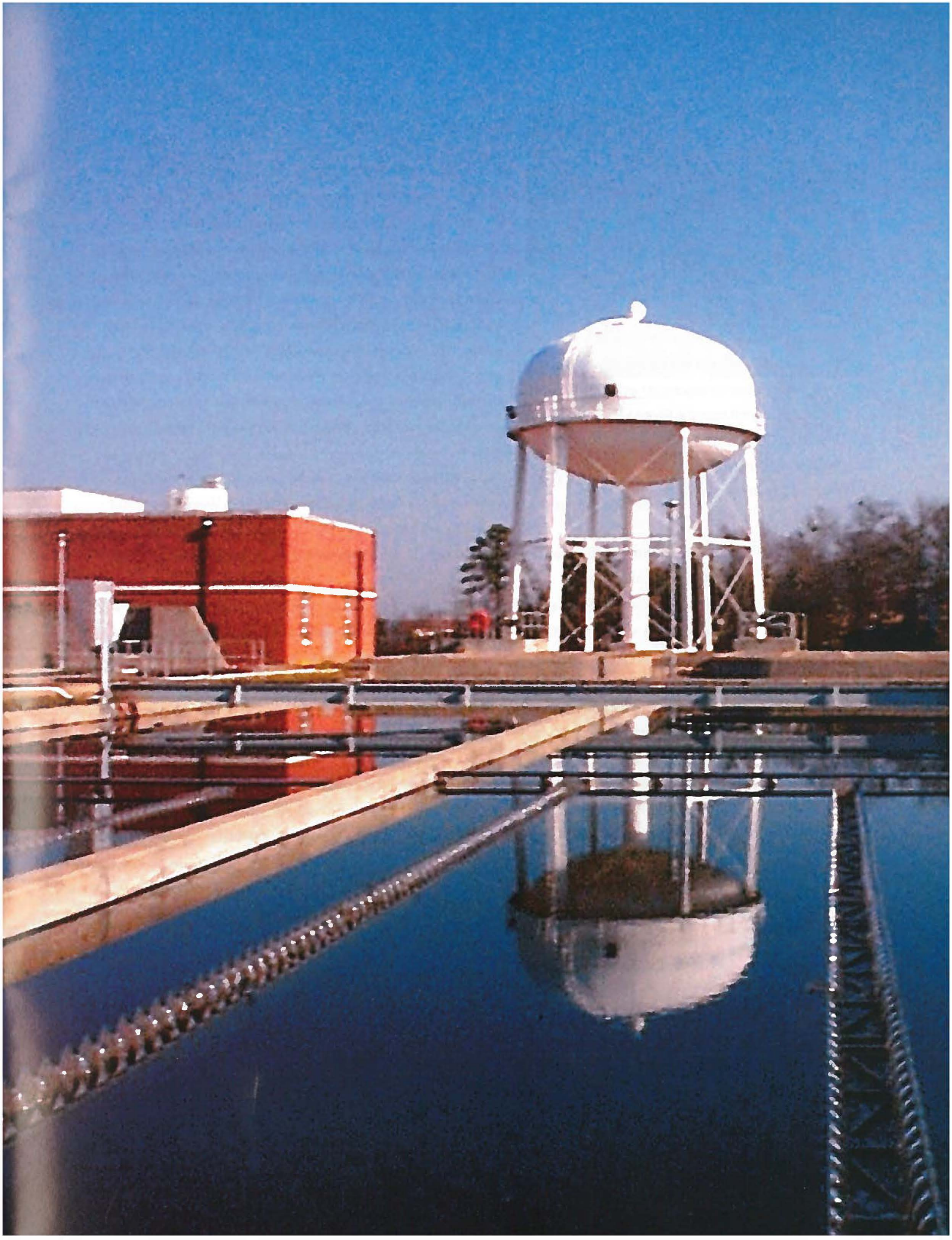
A new administrative and customer service building was dedicated December 14, 1998, at 1421 Veterans Parkway. In gratitude for and recognition of their dedicated service, the Water Works invited all previous board members who could be located to the ceremony.

Since 1996, the Water Works has won 75 state, regional, and national awards, in all areas of its operations, 19 of those in 2001.

Rolling On

Although Columbus Water Works and its management are established at the regional, national, and even international forefront in their field, challenges continue to come from outside. Water Works leaders must make thoughtful decisions and fight battles, just as their predecessors did 100 years ago.

View of tank at the water plant reflected in the sedimentation basin which was constructed with the original plant in 1915.



North Columbus Water Resource Facility. The white tank holds powdered carbon for treatment of tastes and odors. The wall and fountain along with the carbon feed system, interestingly enough, were paid for by a grant from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division funded by fines levied against the City of Atlanta for illegal wastewater discharges into the Chattahoochee River.

For example, in April 2002 Columbus Water Works, Columbus Consolidated Government, and Georgia Power reached an agreement settling a lawsuit over water usage and rights. The specific issue in the suit and its appeal was whether Columbus Water Works had the legal right to withdraw water from the Chattahoochee, or if Georgia Power Company, could in fact, compel Columbus Water Works to move its intake.

In 2001, Georgia Power sued the Water Works and city government, and the Water Works sued back. After legal sparring over the course of a year, both sides finally agreed to step back and revert to the condition, which had been in place for nearly 100 years.

Some of the provisions of the agreement to this dispute approved by Georgia Power executives, the Water Board, and Columbus Council in 2002:

Continuing a 1957 easement from Georgia Power allowing Columbus Water Works to withdraw water from Lake Oliver;

Once the average annual withdrawal of water exceeds 45 million gallons per day, Columbus Water Works will pay Georgia Power $5,110 a year for each additional 1 million gallons. (Today, Columbus' average withdrawal is 33 million gallons a day. It is unlikely CWW would reach 45 millions a day average before 2030.)

Although Phenix City is not currently buying water from Columbus, Columbus Water Works could provide up to 7 million gallons per day to Phenix City without counting against its own 45 million average limit.

In a Columbus Ledger-Enquirer story published April 24, 2002, Water Works president Billy Turner said the agreement "recognizes the value Georgia Power's Oliver Dam provides, but it doesn't settle the question of who owns and controls the water in the Chattahooochee River and its reservoirs."

Put Our Service to the Test!

The Water Works serves virtually the entire 200,000 population of Muscogee County through more than 65,000 water connections. The organization also serves, by contract, Harris County and Talbot County, Georgia, and anticipates adding regional customers in the future.

South Columbus Water Resource Facility Hay Crop

Columbus Water Works goes out of its way to communicate both ways with customers—asking and telling. The management takes customer satisfaction surveys, and responds to needs and concerns.

Bill inserts often contain information about coming events, changes in service or billing, and newsletters provide the results of surveys and/or water quality tests.

Photo of River Kids

There is also a close relationship with students, faculty, and staff at Richards Middle School, Columbus Water Works' Partner-in-Education, as well as with the River Kids, a program that involves elementary and middle schools in Columbus and Phenix City. Students get hands-on experience by taking water samples from area streams and rivers for testing.

One of the employees' favorite community projects is "Help the 'Hooch." One day each fall, tens of thousands of volunteers comb the banks of the Chattahoochee and other local streams, picking up trash. Some volunteers troll the river by boat, dredging up everything, including the proverbial "kitchen sink."

Columbus has traditionally had the largest such event in Georgia, and the amount of trash gathered shows even a day makes a difference.

The Water Works prides itself on performing all these varied services enthusiastically, in a fiscally responsible manner. A survey of comparable sized utilities throughout the Southeast shows Columbus has among the lowest water and sewer rates, as well as employees per 1,000 customers.

Local service has come a long way from pumping water out of cisterns in the streets, or piping it through hollowed-out pine logs. New technologies used for preventive maintenance include infrared scanning of electrical equipment, vibration analysis of rotating equipment, laser alignment, and oil analysis.

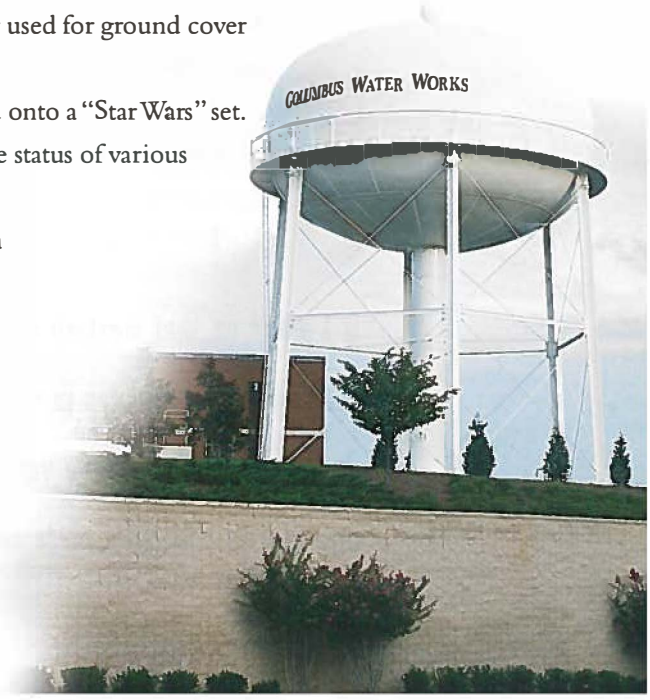
The disinfection process now produces significantly fewer harmful byproducts.

At the wastewater facility, biosolids (sludge intended for beneficial use) are pumped to fields and injected to provide nutrients for the growth of hay crops. The hay is sold, or used for ground cover and erosion control.

A visitor to a Water Works facility today might think he or she has stumbled onto a "Star Wars" set. There is a bank of computers, each beeping and flashing in bright colors the status of various levels, readings, and other data important to keep the Water Works working.

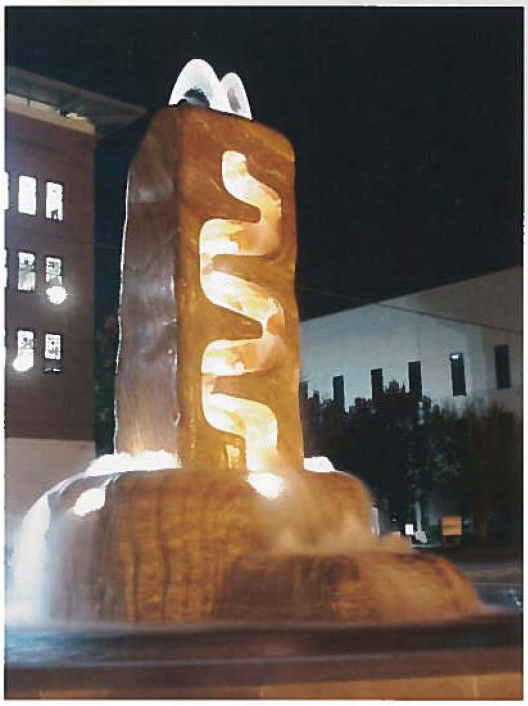
At the North treatment facility, a small museum of historic memorabilia housed in the same room with the computer bank creates a sort of time warp—yesterday's news juxtaposed with today's technology at work.

With all the focus on technology and efficiency, however, Water Works officials haven't forgotten the "heart and soul" of the community they serve. Water, the same water that has been around for millions of years, is vital to our industries, homes, and our very lives.



On December 8, 2002 the Board of Water Commissioners was presented with the water sculpture "DRAMA" in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of Columbus Water Works. The Sculpture marks the entrance to the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts.

A dedicatory marker placed at the water sculpture in 2002 reads: "At the beginning of the 20th century, the citizens of Columbus, concerned about the lack of an adequate water supply, petitioned the Georgia Legislature to create the Columbus Board of Water Commissioners. This board, formed on December 2, 1902 and operating through its service organization, the Columbus Water Works, has provided for the community's water needs in an admirable manner for the past 100 years. To commemorate this event, the board commissioned the world famous Austrian Water Sculptor, Hans Muhr, to create a fitting acknowledgement for the 100th anniversary of the services rendered by the employees and board members, thus adding to the Columbus "City of Fountains" image and recognizing the city's ongoing appreciation of art and culture. For this occasion, Professor Muhr created "DRAMA", a water sculpture which captures the beauty and power of the Chattahoochee River. This work of art is composed of three large Turkish marble stones which were quarried in Anatolia, a mountainous region of Turkey, and transported to Hans Muhr's studio in Vienna, Austria by ship and rail, where "DRAMA" was created. The water sculpture stands seventeen feet high and weighs twenty-five tons. The sculpture has thirty-three outlets of rushing water and is illuminated from nineteen points to capture the multiple facets of the stone and flowing water. The force of the water and sequencing of the light are modulated by computer so as to provide multitude of effects. The fountain was created by Professor Muhr using drilling machines and grinders, as well as the traditional hand tools like chisels and hammers. The water sculpture "DRAMA", emerges from the stone and combines with water, air and light to capture the beauty and majesty of Columbus' river environment."



Allen Levi's songs celebrate the intangible things that go into making Columbus Water Works and many others proud to call this river town "home."

"If I stand on that western shore, about the time the sun is sinking low, I can watch the shadows shifting on the steeples in the town, the way it did a hundred years ago ... There are sights in this city that I still have yet to see, but from the sights and the seasons that I've known, I am thankful for this little piece of ground, I am thankful for this place that I call home."

By act of the state legislature on December 3, 1902, the Board of Water Commissioners for the city-owned Columbus Water Works, was established. The previous five member boards, four appointed by City Council, plus the Mayor, have effectively promoted leadership and helped to develop one of the finest municipal water and wastewater systems in the United States.

In recognizing the events and achievements that have shaped Columbus Water Works we honor those Board members who actively contributed to its mission:

COMMISSIONERS	YEARS SERVED
John C. Cook	1903-1906
	1914-1918
	1920-1939
* Mayor L.H. Chappell	1903-1907
	1912-1913
* T.E. Golden	1903-1906
E.F. Roberts	1903-1905
George A. Pearce	1903-1906
* Mayor Rhodes Brown	1906-1911
F.B. Gordon	1908-1913
B.H. Hardaway	1907-1913
E.P. Owsley	1907-1908
Columbus Roberts	1907-1911
W.B. Slade	1909-1912
H.L. Williams	1912-1914
T.T. Miller	1912-1914
E.P. Dismukes	1913-1918
E.W. Swift	1913-1922
	1927-1952
E.J. Rankin	1913-1919
R.P. Spence	1915-1918
Judge D.L. Palmer	1918-1919
J.L. Couch	1920-1921
* W.J. Wood	1919-1953
W.H. Harvey	1918-1921
J.H. Dimon	1922-1935
John Illges	1923-1937
Toombs Howard	1923-1926
H.C. Smith	1932-1934
L.C. Wilson	1936-1938
F.E. Lummus	1938-1947
J.B. Knight	1939-1939
Paul McKinney	1939-1955
Edward Murrah	1939-1942
W.G. Bridges	1943-1943
Sterling Albrecht	1944-1946
Walter A. Richards	1947-1949
* Jack M. Passailaigue	1947-1969
Mayor Ralph A. Sayers	1950-1950
	1954-1954

Mayor B.F. Register 1951-1952
1957-1959
J.P. Calhoun 1952-1970
Mayor I. Lawerence Shields 1953-1953
D.A. Turner 1954-1961
Mayor C. Ed Berry 1955-1955
Mayor Robert T. Davis, Jr. 1956-1956
* Richard H. Bickerstaff 1962-1972
Mayor Steve Knight 1962-1963
* A. Illges 1958-1971
Mayor Harold E. Hughes 1964-1964
Mayor B.E. Johnson 1960-1961
1965-1968
Mayor J.R. Allen 1969-1973
C.H. White 1971-1973
H.E. Myers 1971-1974
Wm. H. Martin 1972-1975
Mayor Protem A.J. McClung 1973-1973
* John P. Illges, III 1973-1976
R.L. Anderson 1974-1977
Mayor Bob D. Hydrick 1973-1974
Jack B. Key, Jr. 1975-1978
Mayor Jack P. Mickle 1975-1978
* J.W. Feighner 1976-1982
* Gardiner W. Garrard 1977-1988
* Aldric M. Hayes 1978–1989
Henry W. Swift, Jr. 1979-1990
Mayor Harry C. Jackson 1979-1982
Mayor J.W. Feighner 1983-1986
* Hugh B. Landrum, Jr. 1983-1991
Mayor James E. Jernigan 1987-1990
* John P. Thayer, Sr. 1989-1996
* Greg Davis 1990-1998
* Thomas King, Jr. 1991-1998
Mayor Frank K. Martin 1991-1994
* Veola Hymes 1992-1999
Mayor Bobby Peters 1995-2002
Tommy Davis 1997-1998
* James Yancey 1998-Present
* Kathelen Spencer 1999-Present
Leon Siegel 1999-Present
Harry Vernon 2000-Present

* Chairman Board of Water Commissioners

In the hundred years since the creation of the Columbus Water Works, only eight men have assumed the role of managing the daily operations of the system. Initially called Superintendent, then General Manager and today, President, these men have taken on the difficult task of meeting the water and wastewater needs of the City of Columbus.

Dudley Chipley, Superintendent	1914-1918
Charles F. Jordan, Superintendent	1918-1928
A.J. Smalshaf, Superintendent	1928-1940
George R. Lowe, General Manager	1940-1959
J. Thomas King, General Manager/President	1960-1980
Frank S. Williams, President	1980-1986
A.B. Culverhouse, President	1987-1989
Billy G. Turner, President	1989-Present

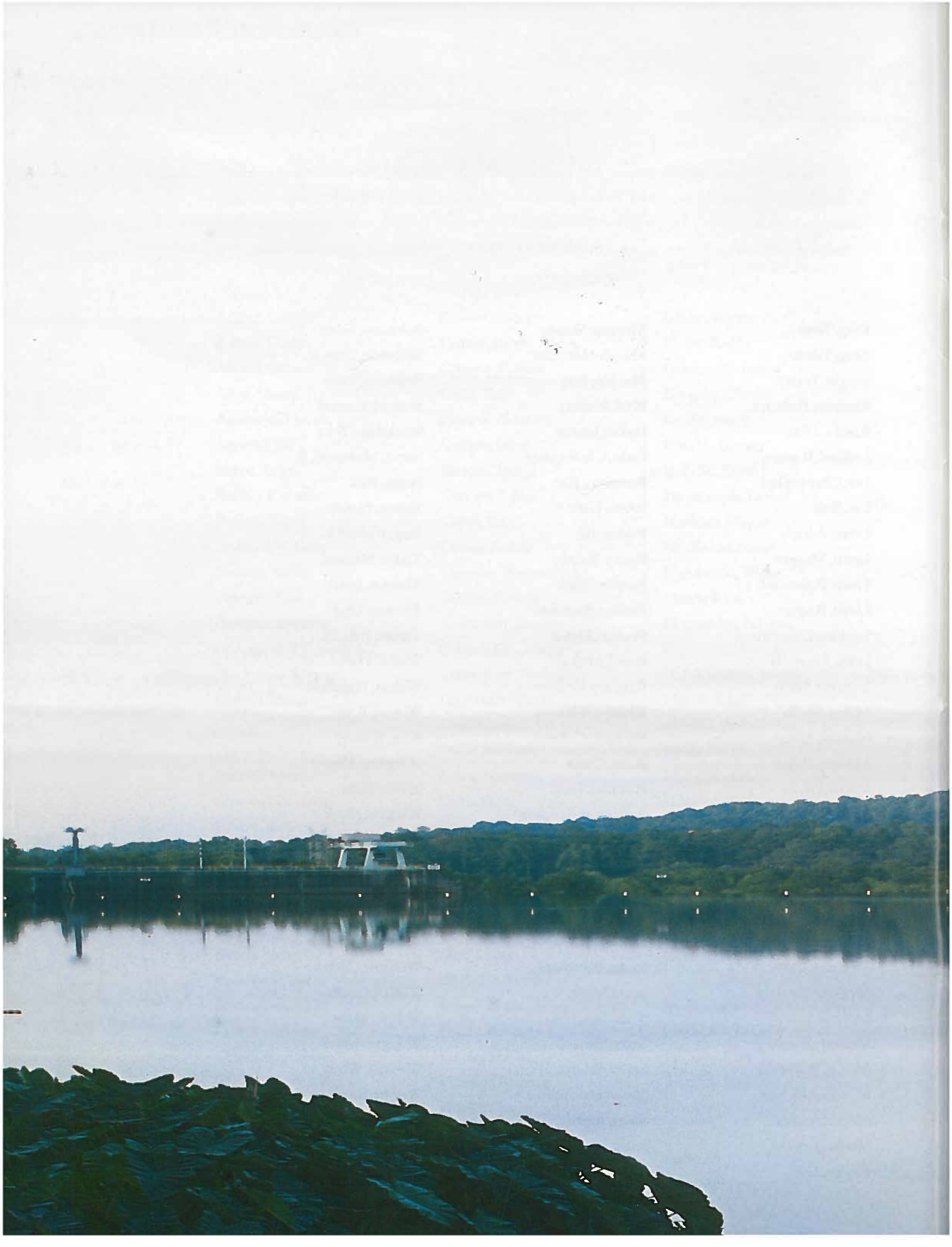
Current Water Works Employees

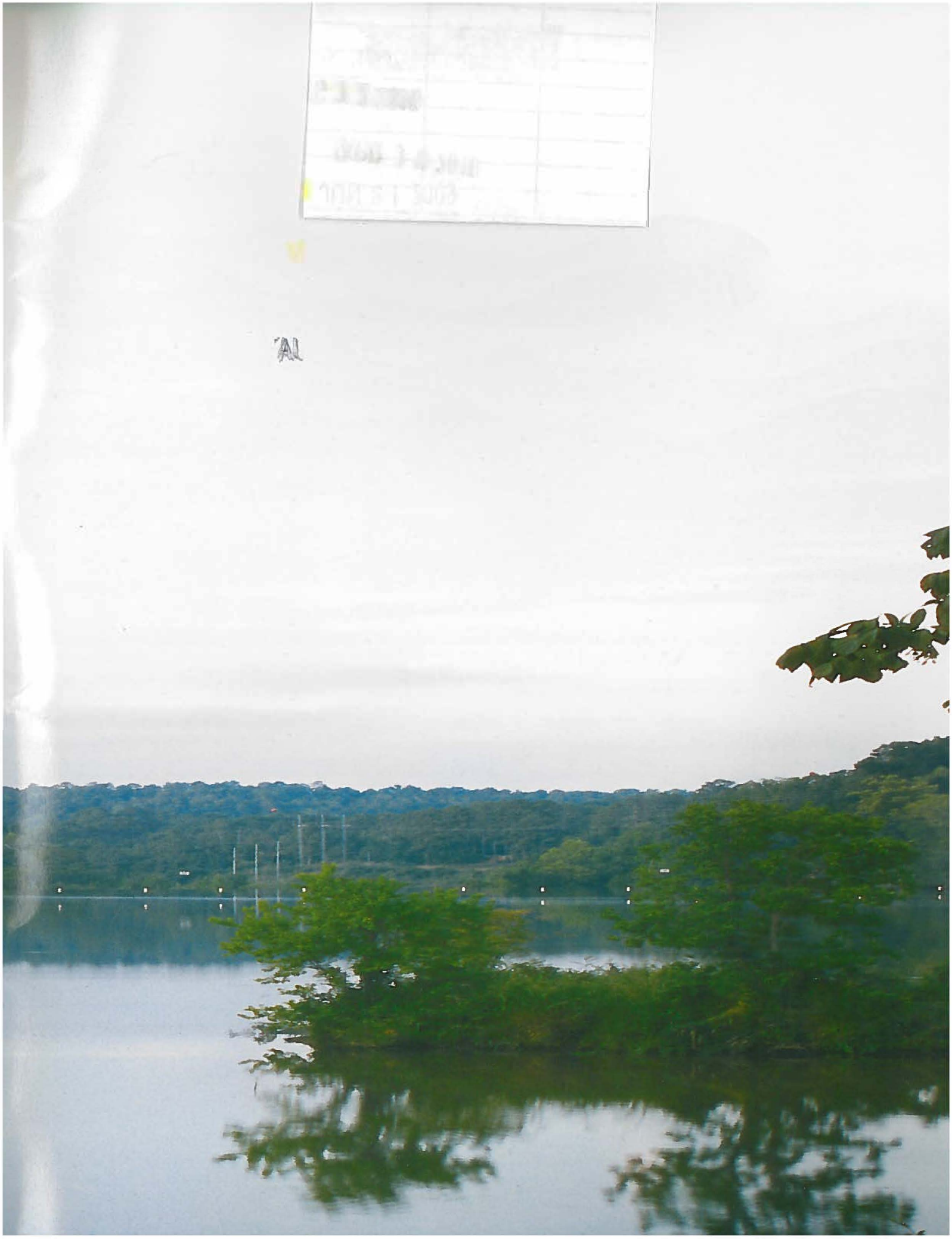
Dedicated employees of Columbus Water Works ensure that water and wastewater systems are running as planned and expanded as needed. It is through their hard work, attention to detail and concern for top quality customer service that Columbus Water Works remains one of the finest water and wastewater systems in the country. The following list includes current Water Works' employees.

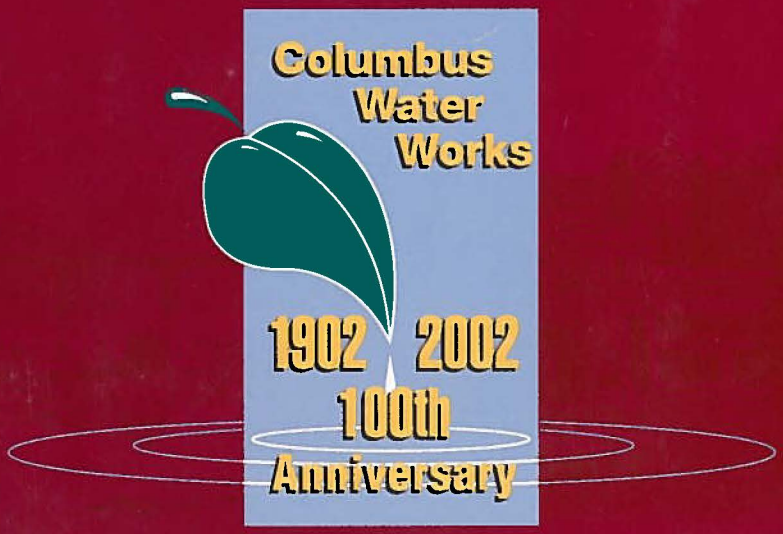
Adams, Bill
Adams, Joseph
Allen, Dennis
Allen, Shane
Anderson, David
Arnett, Cliff
Baker, Roger
Banker, Robin
Barnes, Stacey
Beddard, William
Bellamy, Stevie
Bennett, Tina
Bertram, Jennifer
Bickerstaff, Elizabeth A.
Blackshear, Wanice
Blake, Thomas
Blount, Emory
Brannon, Janie
Brooks, Alvin
Brooks, Lawrence
Brown, George
Brown, Terry
Bryant, Nathaniel
Bunkley, Leon, Jr.
Bunkley, Tyrone
Burch, Frank
Burchfield, Vic
Butts, Rebecca S.
Campbell, Lynn
Chambers, Eddie
Childres, Lavertis
Clark, Tommy Lee
Cobb, Billy, Jr.
Cole, Darrell
Collie, Virgil
Collier, Stacey
Collins, Larry
Conway, Patrick
Cook, Ray
Cooper, Anthony
Cooper, John
Cooper, Ted
Cornett, Chris
Cosby, Pat
Cossey, Kelvin
Creamer, Waymond, Jr.
Creech, Dianne
Culberson, Jimmy
Cummings, Jeremy
Cummings, Nicholas
DiQuattro, Cathy
Dale, Bennett
Davis, Michael
Davis, Norman
Davis, Steve
Davis, Wilbur
Dickerson, Keith
Dixon, Raymond
Dortch, Eric
Dubard, Michael
Duff, Lynn
Dunmire, Frank
Elliott, James
Faulk, Martha
Fix, Steve
Flantroy, Ronnie
Fluellen, Jason
Frazier, Emmanuel
Gartman, Samuel
Giddens, Sylvester
Gilder, Wayne
Grant, Pinkie
Greene, Richard
Gregory, Charles
Griffin, Scott
Hall, Jr., Gerald
Hall, Sr., Gerald
Hammonds, Lionel
Hardesty, Duane
Hardimon, Sonja
Henderson, Willie
Henry, Rick
Hernandez, Marcos
Hightower, Joseph
Hill, Danthea
Hill, Randall
Hilliard, Pamela
Hollis, Larry
Hollis, Ronald
Holsey, Sidney
Hopper, Gregory
Horn, Tom
Ingram, Anthony
Ivey, Grady
Jackson, Bernard
Jackson, Francina
Jackson, Marcus
Jay, Howard
Johnson, Clarence
Johnson, Jesse
Johnson, John
Johnson, Roderick
Jones, Charles
Kelly, Ed
Kent, William

King, Terry
King, Tilden
Knight, Torrey
Knutson, Roberta
Kusaba, Glen
Ledford, Ronnie
Lee, Christopher
Lee, Bob
Lewis, Adrian
Lewis, Maggie
Lewis, Raymond
Lloyd, Roger
Lockhard, Sherwood
Lowe, Louis, III
Luttrelle, James
Mabry, Sheila
Manuel, Albert
Marion, David
Marsh, Gwen
Marshall, James, Jr.
Martin, Vernon
Martinez, Jason
McCabe, Daniel
McChargue, Rickey
McCormick, Ralph
McCrary, Gene
McCray, Curtiss
McCray, Latoya
McElvey, Frank
McKay, Willie
Mendenhall, Ken
Moore, Angela
Moore, Johnny
Morris, Terri
Morrow, Shaun
Murphy, Herman
Murphy, Joey
Neal, Robert
Parker, Jimmy
Parks, Christopher
Patterson, Jim
Payne, Gary
Payton, Jill
Pearce, Rickey
Peoples, Tracy
Phillips, Brandon
Preston, Derek
Reed, Michael
Register, Robert
Rhodes, William
Richard, Colter
Riley, Curtis
Rimmer, Trent
Robinson, Savonne
Ross, Felonde
Ruff, Gwen
Russell, Milton
Russell, Todd
Sanders, Linda
Sanks, Blanchard
Scott, Mark
Seals, Victor
Sears, Samuel
Sewer, Warren
Shoemaker, Joshua
Short, Jeremy
Simmons, Anthony
Smith, Natalie
Solomon, Gene
Solomon, Tobe, Jr.
Stephens, James
Stewart, Tommy
Stockdaile, Burt
Street, Nathaniel, Jr.
Suggs, Rita
Sutton, Nancy
Tant, Robert L.
Taylor, Michael
Thomas, Louis
Thomas, Oral
Turner, Billy G.
Walker, David
Walton, Reginald
Weems, Tony
West, Tommy
Whipkey, Allister
Whitt, Wales
Wiggins, Mack
Williams, Alton
Williams, Arthur
Williams, Ed
Williams, Johnnie
Williams, Sammie
Williams, Zachary
Wills, Amanda
Wilson, James
Wilson, Melvin
Woodall, Whitt
Wright, Euron
Young, Andy

Emplyeee list as of October 19, 1002






Columbus
Water
Works
1902 2002
100th
Anniversary