



1938-1947

The fourth decade of the

Kansas City District

World Events

1938

- Flood Control Act approves “the general comprehensive plan for flood control in the Missouri River basin” with reservoirs to be selected by the Chief of Engineers. The plan for dams integrates a program of local urban protection works.
- The Kanopolis project is the only one initiated under this unusual “blanket authority” clause.
- Congress authorizes the Secretary of War to provide additional storage capacity at flood control dams for domestic water supplies.
- Fort Peck Dam and several other projects authorized by Congress.
- The Kansas City District estimates total costs of river improvements from Sioux City to the Mississippi River at \$164 million. The district estimates that river projects completed to date have saved \$25.4 million in maintenance costs to the builders and operators of bridges, railroads, highways, power plants and other entities with a vested interest in keeping the river’s channel from sifting. Estimates show an additional \$50 million in value from land secured by “pegging down” the river’s channel, plus \$10 million in land created by river control. Benefits come to 52 percent of project cost.

1939

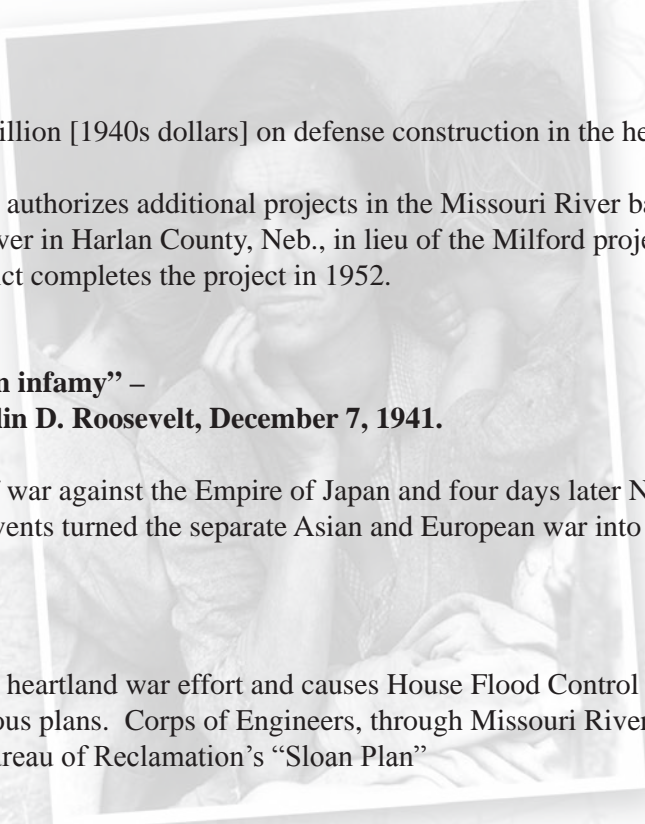
- Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors recommends a nine-foot by 300-foot navigation channel on the Missouri River from Sioux City to the mouth.
- Germany invaded Poland and war in Europe followed. The United Kingdom and France declared war. During the winter of 1939/1940 there was little indication of hostilities since neither side was willing to engage the other directly.

1940

- Work begins on the Kanopolis dam. It is suspended in 1942 because of the war emergency.
- Selective Service Act is passed by Congress.
- Sioux City and New Orleans Barge Lines’ first tow leaves Sioux City for Memphis port.
- COE uses launches built at Gasconade boatyard to sound channel.
- Nation’s industry tools up for full-scale war production with new facilities in the heartland region.
- Kansas City District begins design and construction supervision of the North American bomber plant and airfield in Fairfax district at Kansas City, Kan., and the Lake City and Weldon Spring ordnance works in Missouri.
- Kansas City District builds airfields and support facilities at Fort Leavenworth and at Fort Riley.

1941

- Flood Control Act of 1941 includes plans for a lake on the Republican River in Harlan County, Neb.
- Kansas City District begins design and construction of Jayhawk and Kansas ordnance facilities.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt officially assigns Corps of Engineers to military construction role.
- Kansas City District military construction program accelerates with the district made responsible for work throughout the states of Missouri and Kansas. The district opens St. Louis area office.

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- Kansas City District expends more than \$900 million [1940s dollars] on defense construction in the heartland during WWII era.
 - Flood Control Act revises earlier legislation and authorizes additional projects in the Missouri River basin. The revised plan includes a dam on the Republican River in Harlan County, Neb., in lieu of the Milford project, which was opposed by local interests. Kansas City District completes the project in 1952.
 - Attack on Pearl Harbor.

**“A date which will live in infamy” –
President Franklin D. Roosevelt, December 7, 1941.**

- The attack spurred the U.S. into a declaration of war against the Empire of Japan and four days later Nazi Germany declared war on the United States. The chain of events turned the separate Asian and European war into a single global one.

1943

- Flooding in lower Missouri River basin disrupts heartland war effort and causes House Flood Control Committee to request the Corps of Engineers to review previous plans. Corps of Engineers, through Missouri River Division, submits “Pick Plan,” which is merged with the Bureau of Reclamation’s “Sloan Plan”

1944

- Pick-Sloan is enacted into law as part of the Flood Control Act. It provides for construction of 316 separate project units, with 112 dams having a total storage of 107 million acre-feet of water, 2.6 million kilowatts of hydroelectric generating capacity, and hundreds of miles of levees and other flood protection structures.
- Flood Control Act contains a precedent setting statement declaring policy of Congress to recognize rights and interests of the states in water resource development, and requires consultation and coordination with affected states.

1945

- Congress authorizes, in the Rivers and Harbors Act, a nine-foot navigation channel on the Missouri River downstream from Sioux City, Iowa.
- Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee is established to administer integrated planning and coordination in accord with 1944 Flood Control Act.
- The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 15, 1945 Japan announced its surrender to the Allied Powers, signing the Instrument of Surrender on September 2, officially ending World War II.

1946

- Corps of Engineers breaks ground on Pick-Sloan authorized flood-wall project in Kansas City.
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act provides for consultations to prevent loss or damage to fish and wildlife at any federal or non-federal agency project operating under federal permit when the project is authorized to impound, divert or control waters.
- Water Pollution Control Act authorizes the Surgeon General to assist in and encourage studies and plans, and creation of uniform state laws to control pollution.
- Work resumes on Kanopolis Lake project. Corps officials meet with residents of the proposed Tuttle Creek dam project to discuss their objections to the dam.

1947

- Floods intensified demands for protection, but conflict between urban and rural interests delayed planning, financing, and implementation of authorized projects.
- Liberty Bend cut-off completed by Kansas City District.
- Kansas City District’s mission was reduced to civil works only.