

THE INVISIBLE RIVER

THE STILL RIVER VALLEY
THROUGH HISTORY











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ORIGINS

GEOGRAPHY

Course of the Still River

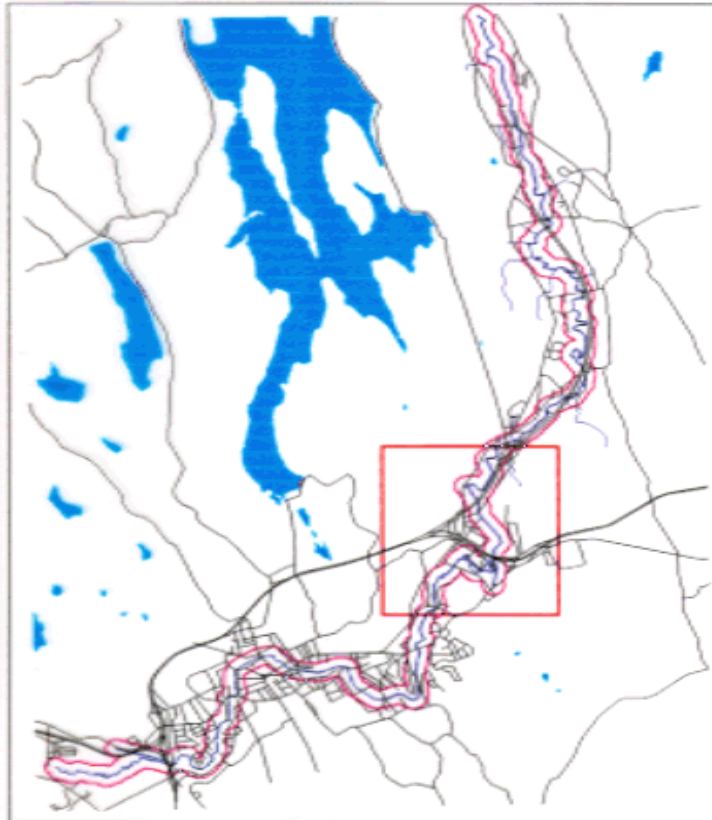
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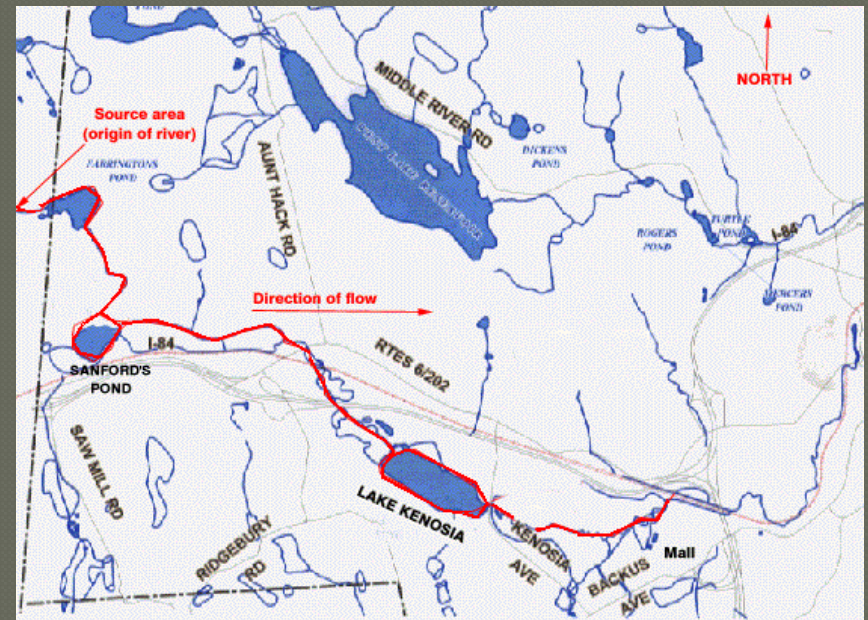
DATE: Fri Nov 5 09:35:25 1993

TITLE: Lakes shown on Danbury Quad - Abridged

LOCATION: Still river in Danbury area



SCALE: 1 : 90000



Segment 1: Source area for The Still River. The river's path is denoted by the red line.

East-North flowing



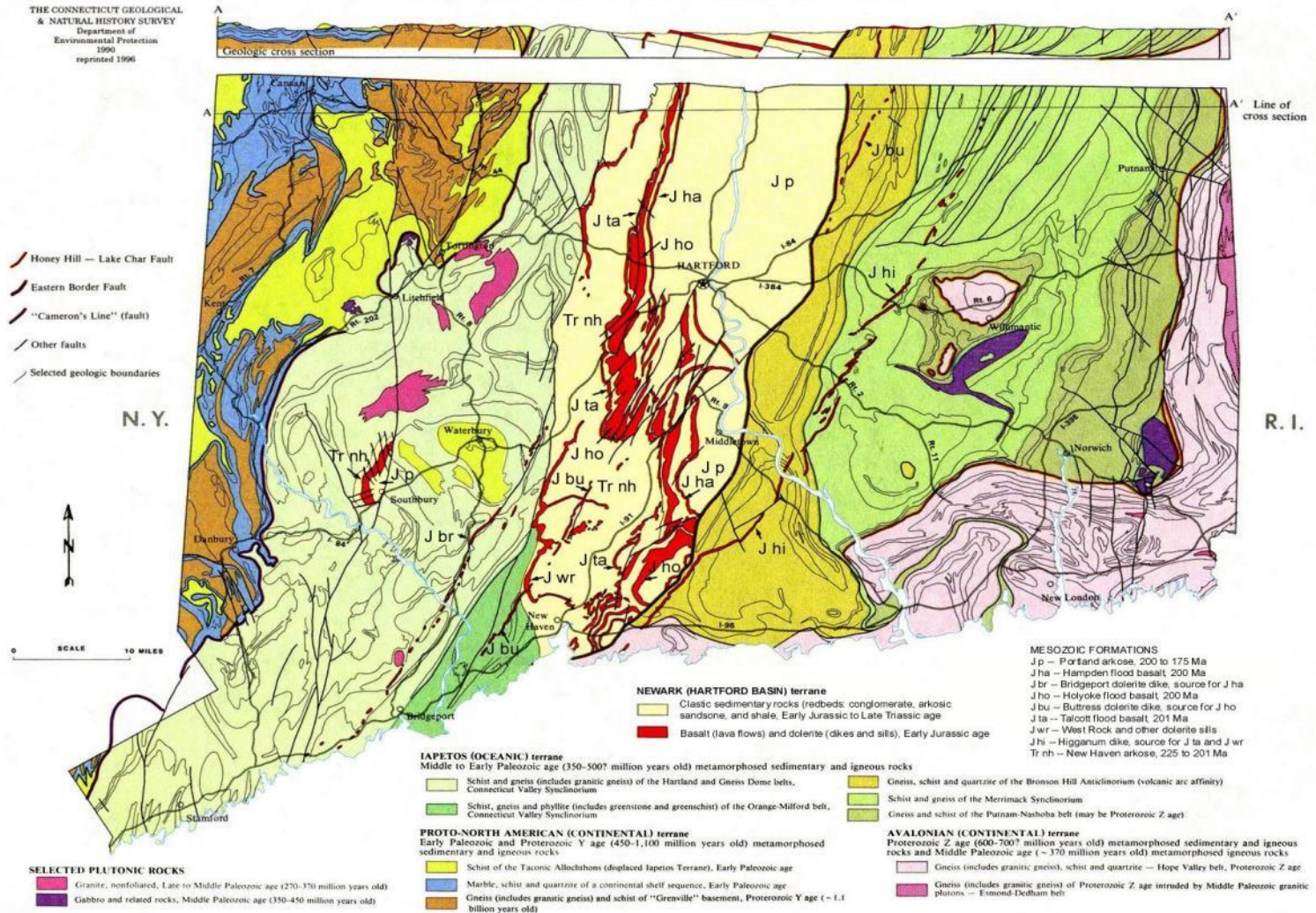
**Still River at the point where it changes direction in
Commerce Park.**

**A = Flowing East-West
B = Flowing South-North
C = Junction of Limekiln Brook**

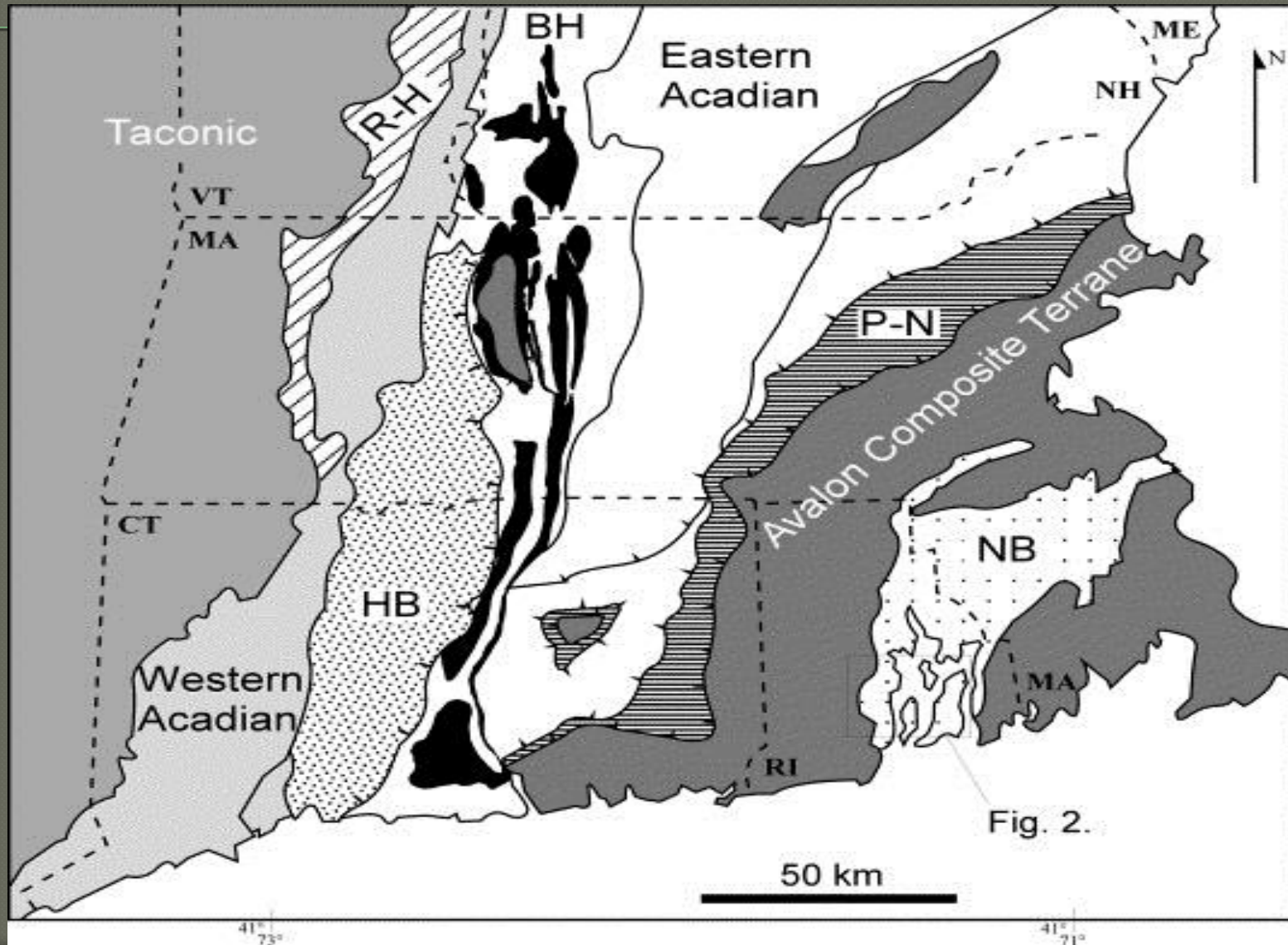
THE MARBLE VALLEY

GENERALIZED BEDROCK GEOLOGIC MAP OF CONNECTICUT

THE CONNECTICUT GEOLOGICAL
& NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
Department of
Environmental Protection
1990
reprinted 1996



LEGACY OF PANGAEA



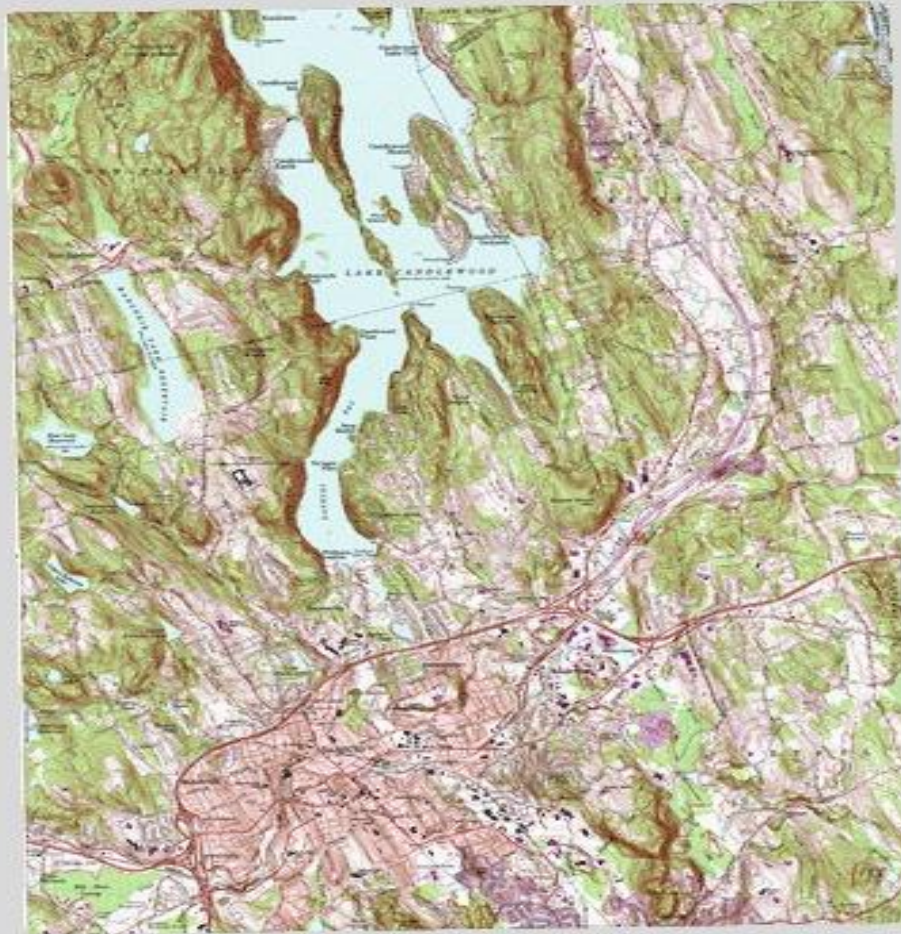
Limekiln



Limestone plain – southwest Danbury



Topography-a wide floodplain







PHASE ONE: HARMONY

NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENCE

- *“Traveling south on Route 7 through present-day New Milford and Brookfield, one crosses the homeland of the Weantinock people, known in colonial documents as the New Milford Indians. Here numerous wigwam clusters with small garden plots were dispersed over ten square miles. The paths between these settlements linked people belonging to the same clans and were used to travel to communal corn fields, attend elders’ councils and clan ceremonies, and visit sacred sites. Along the way, Weantinock people passed traditional fishing places and the dwellings of their respected sachems.*
-
- R. Handsman, “The Weantinock Homeland Was Not a ‘Desert,’” *Artifacts*, Spring 1990.

Housatonic watershed v. Weantinock deeds

Weinstein and Heme

Interpretation of Weantinock Deeds

57

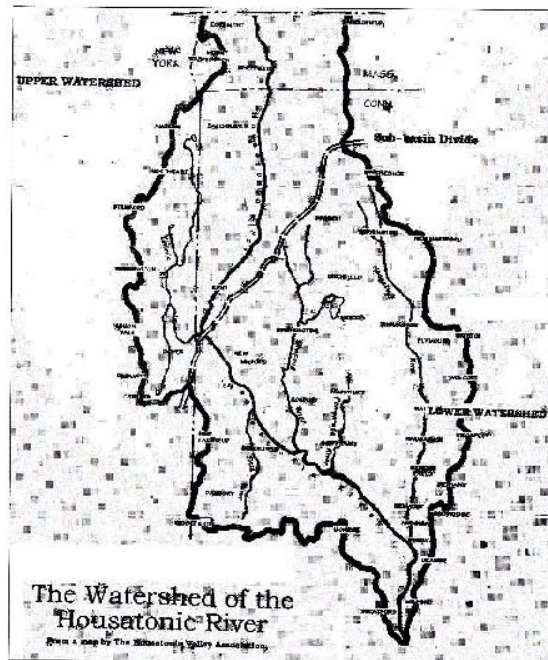


Figure 4. The Housatonic River Drainage.

56

Northeast Anthropology

Vol. 70, 2005

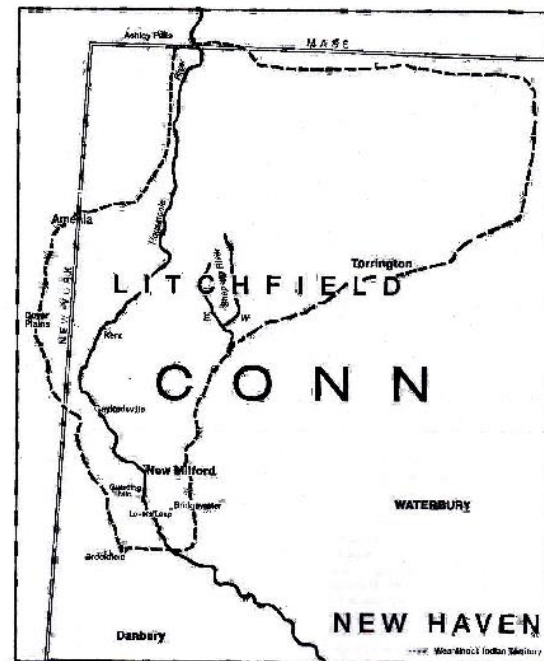
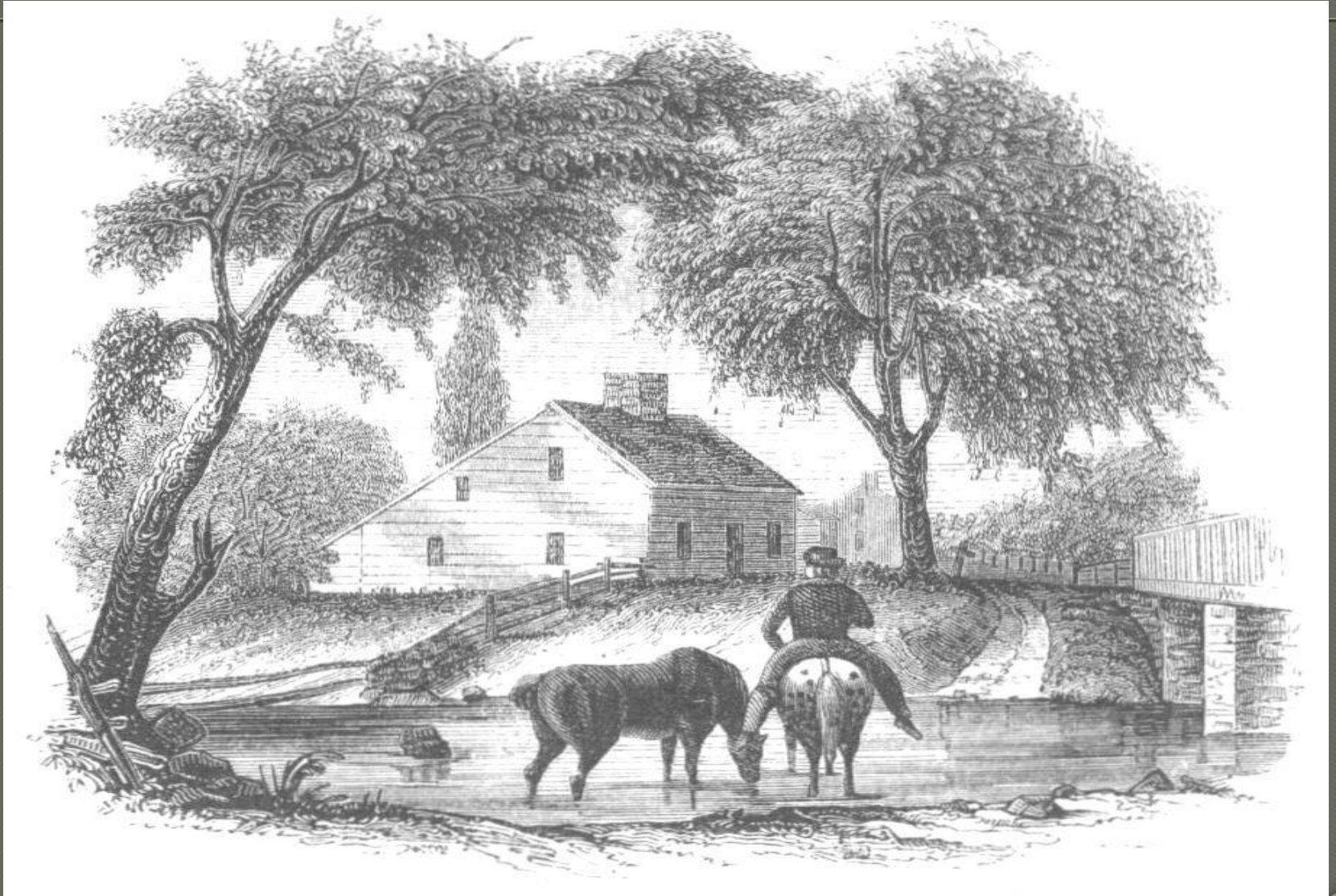


Figure 3. Weantinock Indian Territory c. 1700, based on deed research.

POSSIBLE NATIVE AMERICAN- INSPIRED PLACE NAMES

- ◉ Scuppo
- ◉ Pocono
- ◉ Joe's Hill
- ◉ Betty's Corner
- ◉ Indian House Rock (Beaver Brook)
- ◉ Arrowhead Point
- ◉ Fish Weir Bridge

BENJAMIN KNAPP HOUSE, corner Main and White Streets



ARTIFICER'S CAMP, REVOLUTIONARY WAR?



1792 Samuel Blodgett Map of Connecticut



Map of Connecticut by Samuel Blodgett



No one is
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Philo Ruggles – Lanesville family





Brookfield Ironworks



Halfway Falls





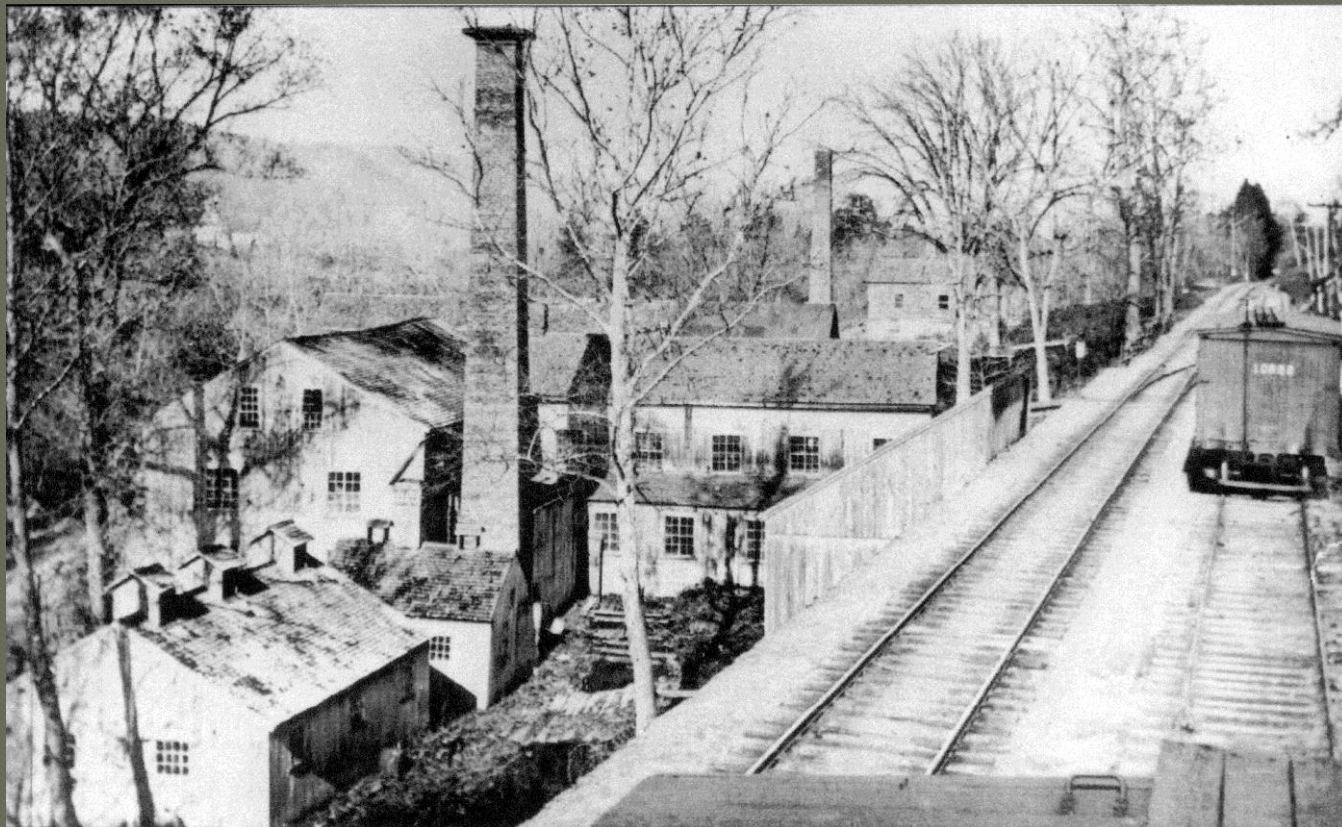
Existing Tuck Dam

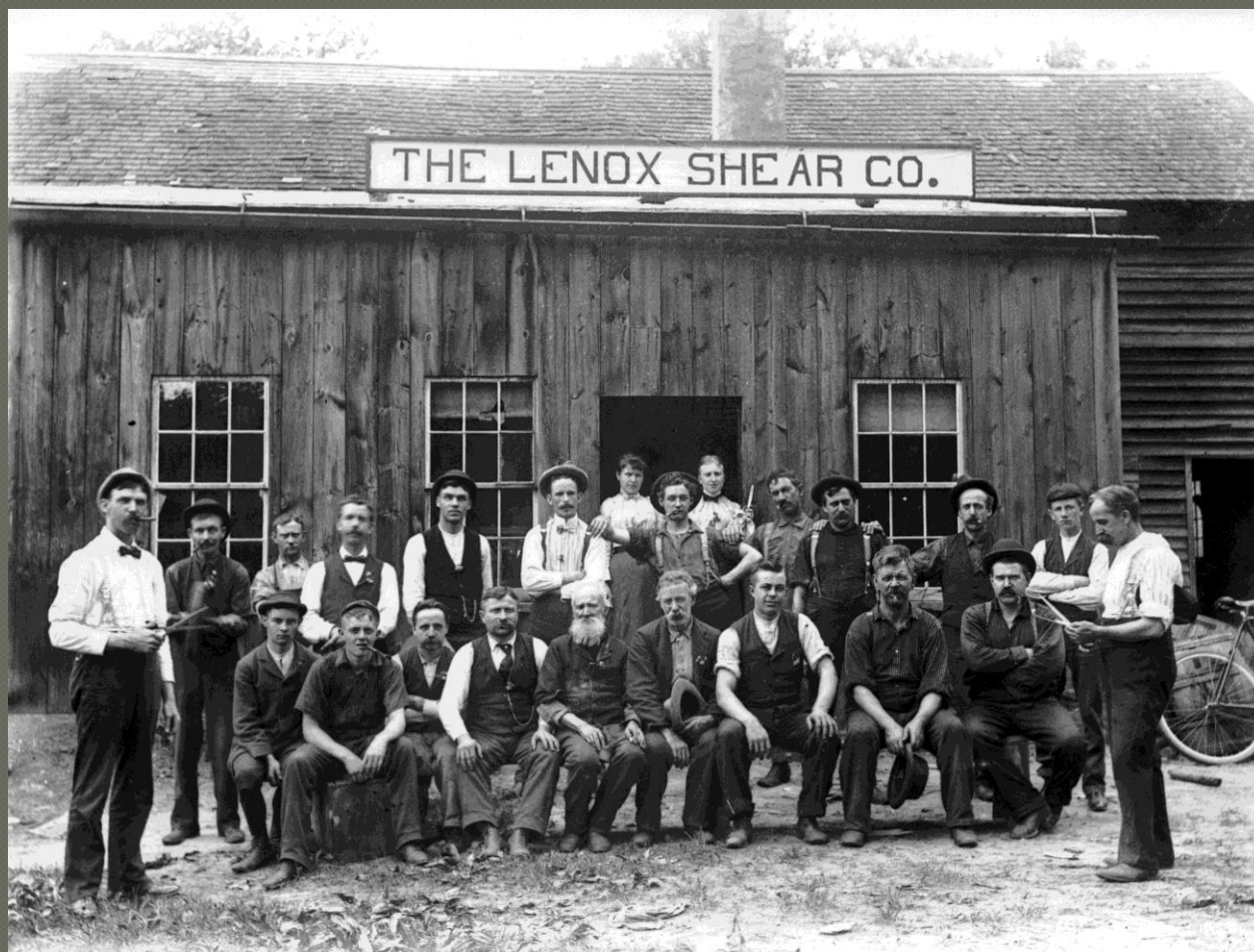




RAILROAD IMPACT









DANBURY CONN.

HALKERT'S POND



WHITE'S POND

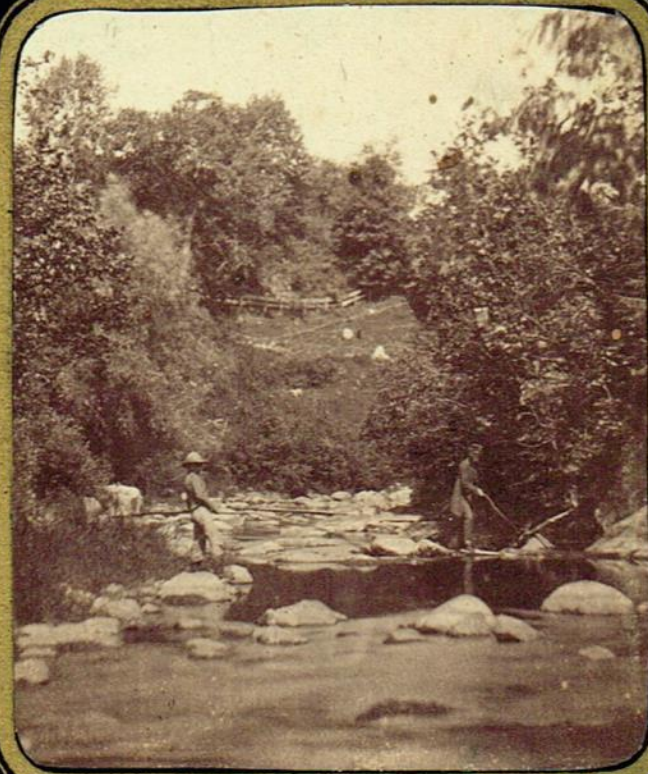
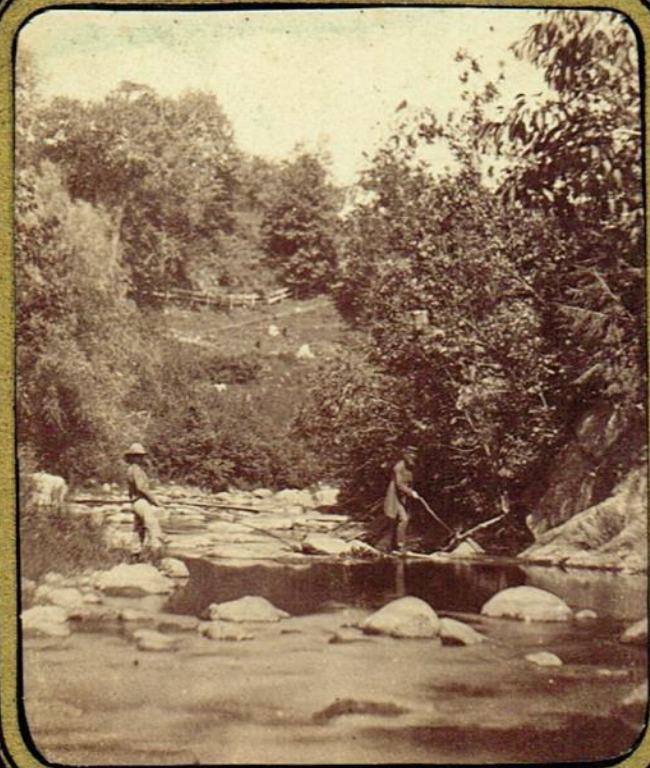


Oil Mill Pond



RECREATIONAL FISHING





GEO. H. WHITE

FISH SPECIES COMMONLY CAUGHT NEAR LAKE KENOSIA

H.B. Fanton, c. 1900

- ◉ Smallmouth bass
- ◉ Sunfish
- ◉ Perch
- ◉ Pickerel
- ◉ Pike
- ◉ Eel
- ◉ Bullheads

Fanton notes on animals

- ◉ Otter
- ◉ Mink
- ◉ Possum
- ◉ Weasel
- ◉ Skunk
- ◉ Muskrat
- ◉ Deer
- ◉ Duck
- ◉ Geese

Snipe
Red and Gray Fox
Rabbit
Woodchuck
Quail
Partridge
Raccoon
Copperheads

MILL PLAIN POND BECOMES LAKE KENOSIA



Gallagher's Hotel, Lake Kenosia
circa - 1900



Danbury, Conn., Summer Resort on Lake Kenosia.



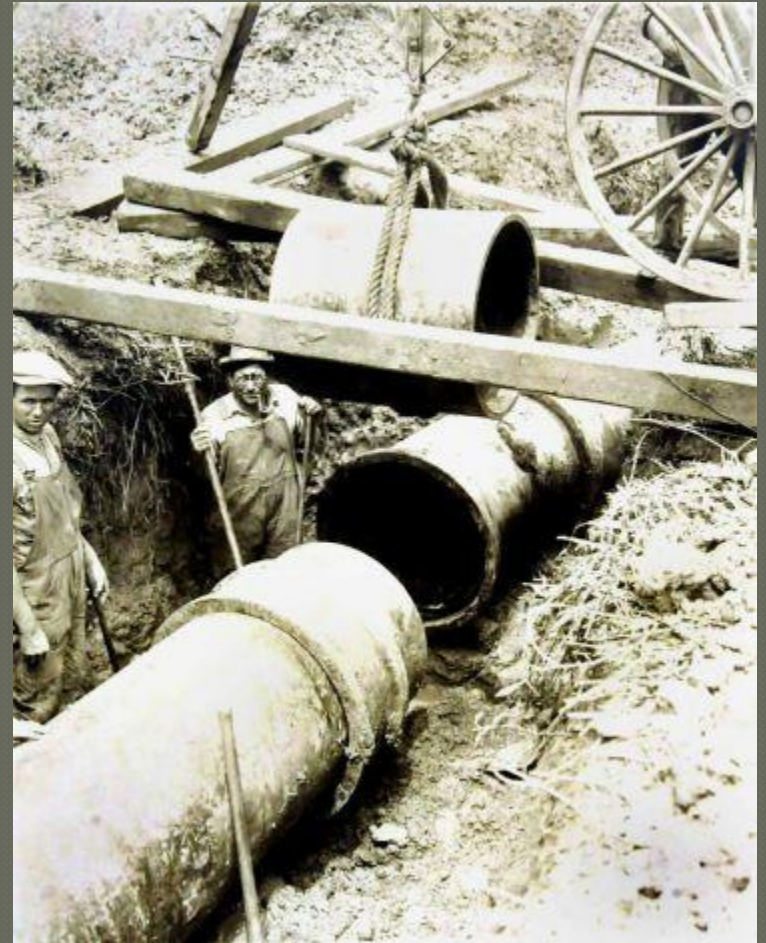


KENOSIA COUNTRY CLUB HOUSE



PHASE TWO: ABUSE

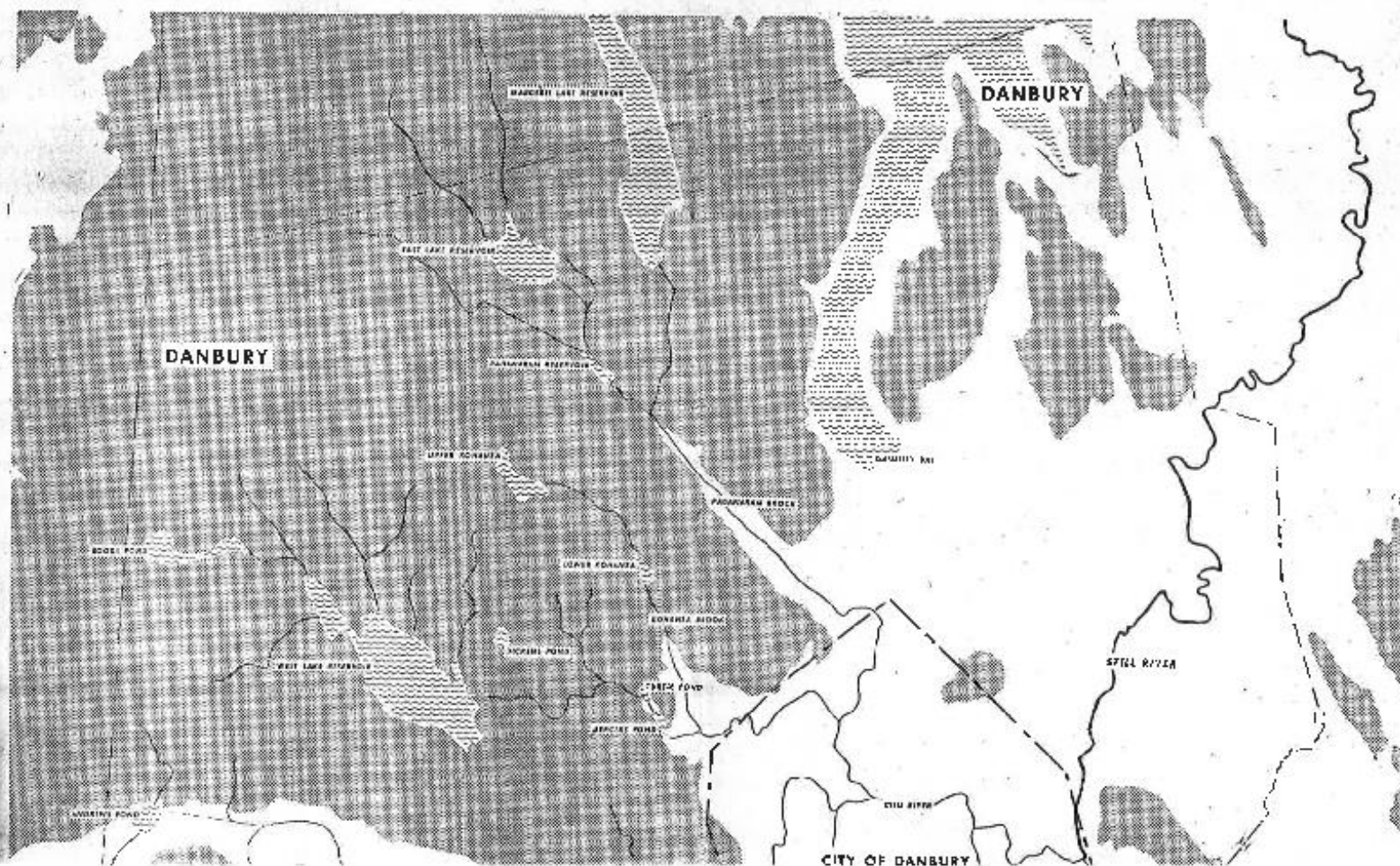
Building of Reservoir System



Kohanza Reservoir Dam break, 1869: four deaths



Geological Survey Map Showing Danbury Elevation



p. 1/4

INDUSTRIALIZATION OF HATTING



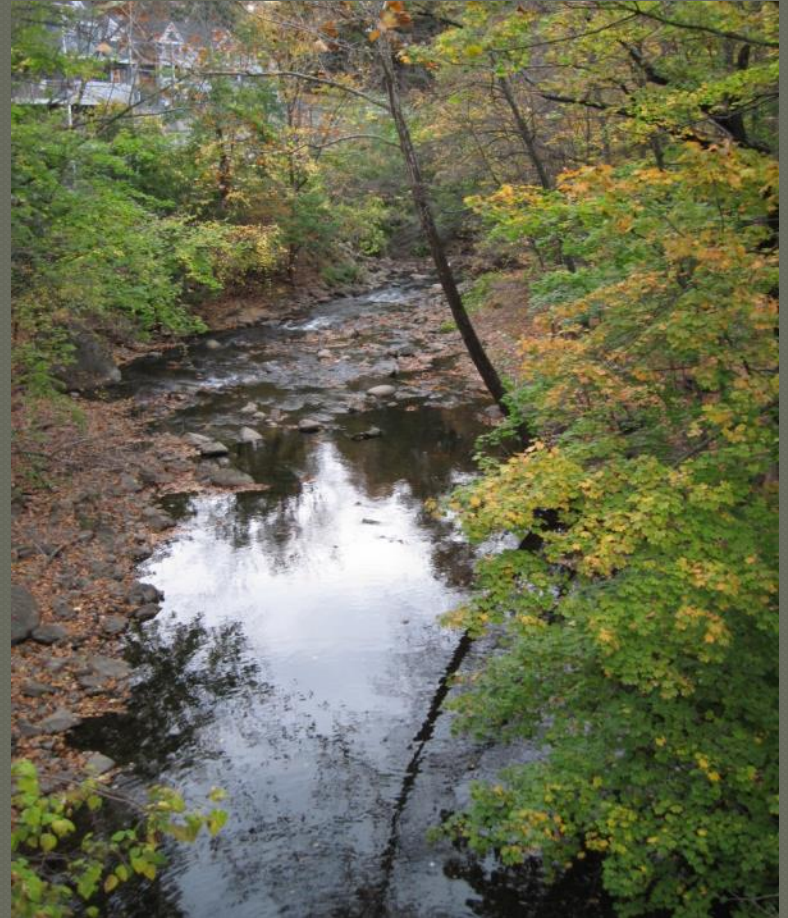
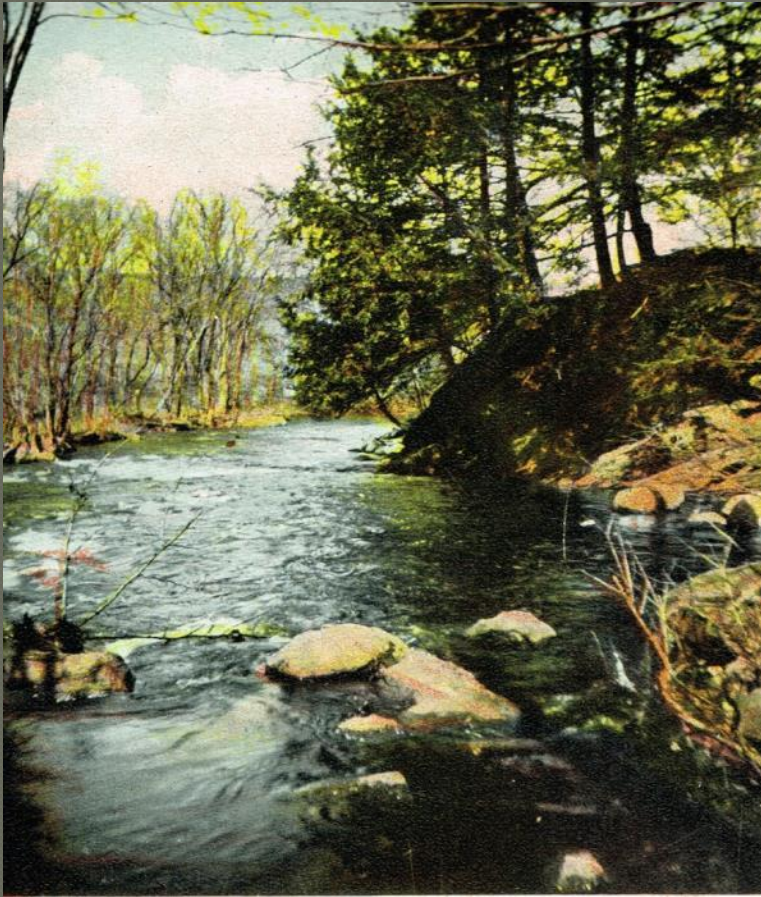
BEGINNINGS OF THE SEWER SYSTEM



TIMELINE OF THE SEWER SYSTEM

- 1880 – Sewers proposed by the Village Improvement Society
- 1885 – Borough meeting approves sewer system
- 1886 - first sewers built; State Board of Health estimates 7,500 people were sewerage “directly or indirectly into” the Still River. System outfall at White St. Bridge.
- 1891-92 – outfall sewer constructed near Cross Street.

Still River near Cross Street



MacARTHUR BROTHERS PAPER MILL DAM





Beaver Brook "Paper Mill" Dam.

STILL RIVER BELOW PAPER MILL DAM



-
- 1893- “Alliance” of Beaver Brook mill owners and Brookfield farmers files lawsuit against city for polluting Still River
 - August, 1895:

City ordered to build a true sewage treatment plant

Danbury Evening News.

DANBURY, CONN., SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1935.

THE CITY BEATEN

Judge Wheeler Decides the
Sewer Suit Against
the City.

MORGAN GETS AN INJUNCTION

Hearing on August 16th—No Work
Taken to Repair Sewerage—
Sewage System Must Be Changed.

Judge George W. Wheeler of Bridgeport, this morning gave his decision in the case of Joseph H. Morgan against the City of Danbury. Morgan, it will be remembered, sued the city through his attorney, the late Frank H. Morgan, for damages for the river flowing up across the city. The "waste" of a collection house, "long" through the river and a sewer and through the city. Judge Wheeler decided that the city is liable for the damages. Judge Wheeler said that the city is liable for the damages. Judge Wheeler said that the city is liable for the damages.

The judge stated that the city is liable for the damages. Judge Wheeler said that the city is liable for the damages. Judge Wheeler said that the city is liable for the damages.

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SEWER LINE UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEAR CROSS STREET, c. 1895



SAME SPOT TODAY



Further lawsuits

- 1933 – Beaver Brook Taxpayers Association threatens lawsuit over ongoing pollution of the river. State Water Commission orders Danbury to install secondary treatment.
- 1947 – Brookfield residents sue 20 Danbury hat manufacturers and City for polluting the river. Suit settled.



ITEMS REPORTEDLY FOUND IN STILL RIVER: 1875-1936

- ◉ Rabbit claws
 - ◉ Tin cans
 - ◉ Barrels
 - ◉ Old boots
 - ◉ Dead animals
 - ◉ Decaying vegetables
 - ◉ Gas from gasworks
 - ◉ Sweepings from stores and factories
 - ◉ 600 lbs. a day of organics from hat shops
- Dyes
 - Bad batches of glue
 - Fur
 - Acids



STILL RIVER branch that flows from Oil Mill Pond is cluttered with abandoned tires and other refuse in area near the Lake Ave. railroad trestle. George Drensky of the News-Times staff URS one

of two tires shown in small area. Fifty-gallon drums, and other refuse also clutter river bed in spite of a city ordinance forbidding dumping in the river.

(The News-Times—Mannion)

Nov 27 1961

PHASE THREE: REVENGE

FLOODS OF AUGUST AND OCTOBER, 1955



1955 Flood



Four Deaths, National Guard Evacuations











When the hurricane subsided temporary steel supports were put in place under the sagging mill. The highway department removed the mill dam as a safety measure. With the river now flowing in its natural bed, all the land at the base of the mill revealed itself. The entire floor that had housed the gristmill's machinery would now be available for future growth. In addition another small spit of land showed itself and this would provide a footing for the future weaving studio John Hagmayer would design and build.



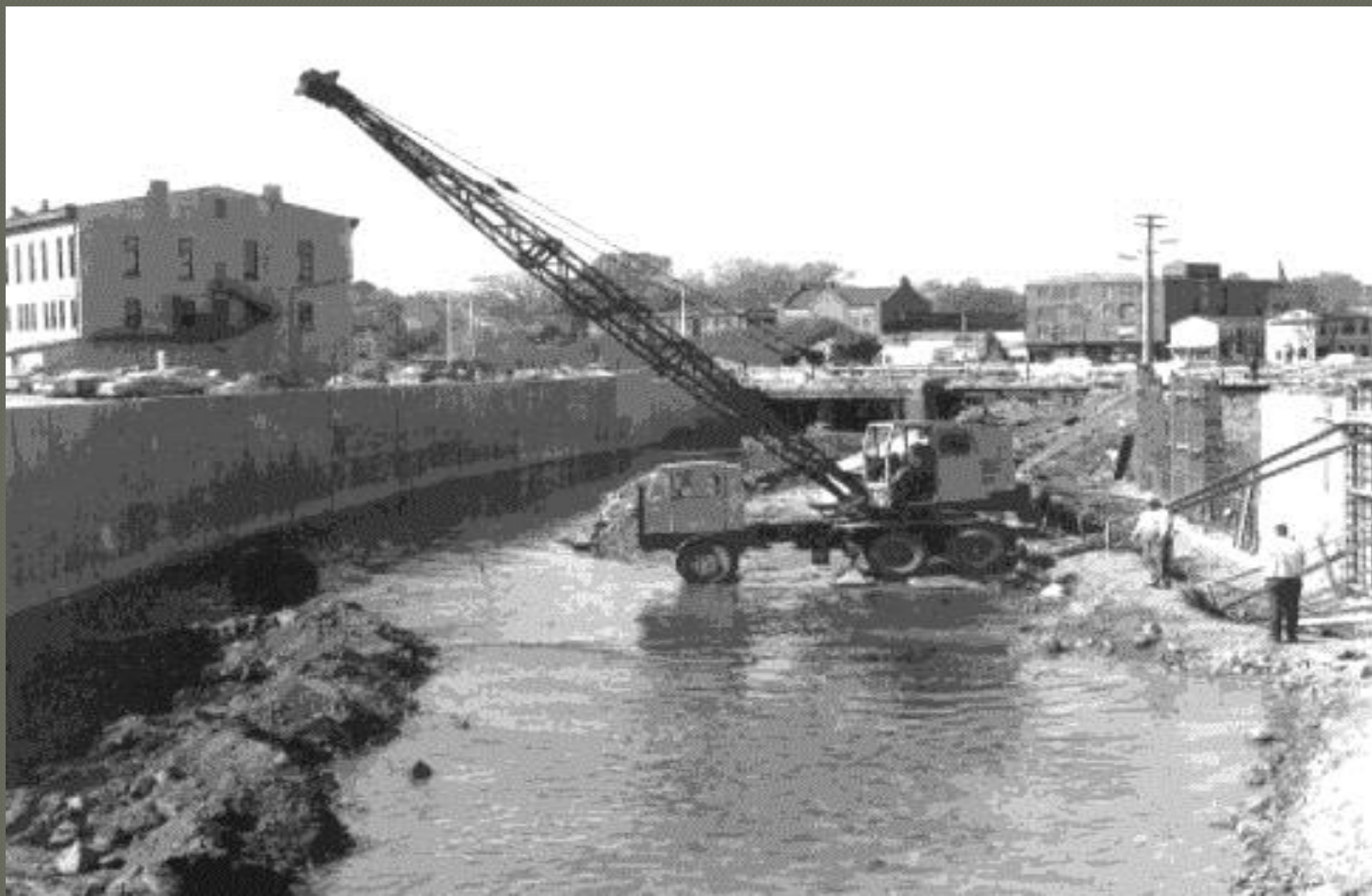
As is sometimes the way, disaster can be a blessing in disguise. The destruction that Hurricane Diane precipitated gave concrete proof this new project was a welcome and necessary one. The teachers and students of those two short summers, the new board of directors, the friends in the community and others, enthusiastically contributed time, money, energy and ideas to help the school continue. Heavy equipment restored the displaced stone foundations. Workmen repaired the damaged building while talented people helped build new display units, write publicity, create a brochure and ready the school for the next summer. Such generosity and dedication was all the encouragement to continue that Nancy needed. The dream of using the Mill's past and linking it to the present held firm.

The Weaving Studio:



Flood Control & Redevelopment





CHANNELIZATION





PHASE THREE: REVIVAL



Nancy DuBois. 1952

The idea that held particular interest was using the mill as a place to teach craftwork. The need for information and teaching facilities in this field was great. With some of these thoughts in mind, Nancy DuBois sought the best advice she could find. The State Department of Connecticut recommended she contact the Society of Connecticut Craftsmen. Through them she began to meet many Connecticut artists-craftsmen. Her research also extended to the colonial restoration at Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.

The idea of a craft school in the old mill grew. Also growing throughout the country was the need for a sense of personal accomplishment and achievement through work with one's hands.

Almost unnoticed the renaissance of hand crafts had begun.

Any school must be academically sound. As a new friend of artists and craftsmen, she knew it had to be artistically sound too. She also wanted it to be available for everyone, anywhere, who was interested in crafts.

Advice was plentiful about equipment, space, money and what kind of classes should be taught. But our complex society required more. Papers of incorporation had to be filed. By-laws, boards of directors, general policy and purpose had to be stated. Finally, in the summer of 1954, the first few classes for the first few students began. Brookfield Mills had become Brookfield Craft Center, Inc. The mill had begun to live again.





BROOKFIELD CRAFT CENTER



NANCY DuBOIS HAGMAYER
MEMORIAL BRIDGE



DRY
RD →



Big Windfall

New Milford Given Estate

By ARLENE VAPLE

NEW MILFORD—One of the largest and most valuable estates in western Connecticut has been willed to the town of New Milford, along with a \$1,000,000 trust fund to maintain it as a public park.

"Harrybrooke," the Lanesville Disk home of the late Frank A. Harter, a retired hand-die-cutting manufacturer, works, under terms of his will, be donated "for the benefit, health, recreation and pleasure of the residents of the town of New Milford."

If consists of 40 acres of maple forest, lawn and shrubbery, in an hamlet of streets flanked by small houses, surrounded by forest, the winding Elk River, along with a main road and other buildings.

Hospital, VNA Trusts

During his lifetime, the late Mr. Harter had also set up trusts totaling \$1,000,000 for the Hospital, VNA Trusts.

Records of the New Milford Hospital and for the New Milford Village Home Assn. By terms under the will, the VNA would receive additional funds so that the village home could be worth \$250,000.

Residing in the will benefit his half first son and his widow, their descendants, sisters of his late wife and two close friends, as well as a few longtime employees. The amounts were not available at this time.

The will and subsequent codicil have been filed with the judge of probate in New Milford for a hearing on their admission to probate Friday morning.

New York Bank Added

To provide for the perpetual care and maintenance of this real estate Mr. Harter's will would create the "Harrybrooke Park Trust," to be administered by the United States Trust Co. of New York. The trust would include all of the lands and buildings at "Harrybrooke," as well as the bulk of a million dollars to provide the reserve.

Continued on Page 11

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DANFURY NEWS-TIMES, THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1955

New Milford Is Willed 'Harrybrooke'



"HARRYBROOKE," the Lanesville Disk home of the late Frank A. Harter, has been given to New Milford for use as a public park. Part of estate house and street are shown in photo above. Road with house was shown below, along with a greenhouse in the background.

(Photo by Arlene Vaple)



\$1,000,000 In Trust For Maintenance

Continued from Page 1
available to maintain the park.

In addition to the land, the estate includes a 15-acre main dwelling, a superintendent's house, cottages, driveway, pigeon coop, greenhouse, swimming pool and bathhouse, and smaller buildings.

The Elk River winds its way through the property to provide many beautiful views. Including a waterfall, the main dwelling is situated on the hill, with the river flowing by its side.

Beautifully Landscaped

There is a wide of well-landscaped area with several types of trees. In addition to the main house, there is a greenhouse which is used for growing plants for the house, lawn and shrubs.

Plantings of trees and shrubs, many of them rare varieties, have provided excellent views throughout the area.

The winding river makes the property almost an island. A large pond in the center has ducks and swans the year round.

Many spots have been developed for various purposes. The setting is similar to a 19th-century park in England. Annual and perennial flower gardens were laid out in early spring through fall.

One of the late Mr. Harter's prized horticultural areas is an underground, covered with a greenhouse house.

Worth The Name by Harter

Under terms of the will, the public management of Harrybrooke Park would be with a board of management of three permanent residents of New Milford, to be selected by the town.

The town would receive all benefits from it, with the exception of a few personal items, the interior and exterior equi-

Selectman Carlson Says Town Deeply Appreciative

NEW MILFORD—Miss Kathleen Russell V. Carlson, an being informed of the Estate gift, said:

"Although it is impossible to convey the town's thanks and appreciation for the most generous gift given to the town, I do hope to visit the Mr. Frank Harter's estate soon to see the estate that over a century of life has been devoted and used so much and

on the pleasure and enjoyment of New Milford people of all ages will be missing because of his kind and generous giving. "Frank Harter loved New Milford and the people and has made it possible for generations ahead in New Milford to enjoy and share as he did of this beautiful people."

"On behalf of all, I say to Frank Harter, our sincere thank you for what you and may you forever live in peace."

great "beautiful" buildings to go to the town people and family pictures.

The "Estate" of the property is 200,000 for the town, to be used for the town's personal property.

In Town 20 Years

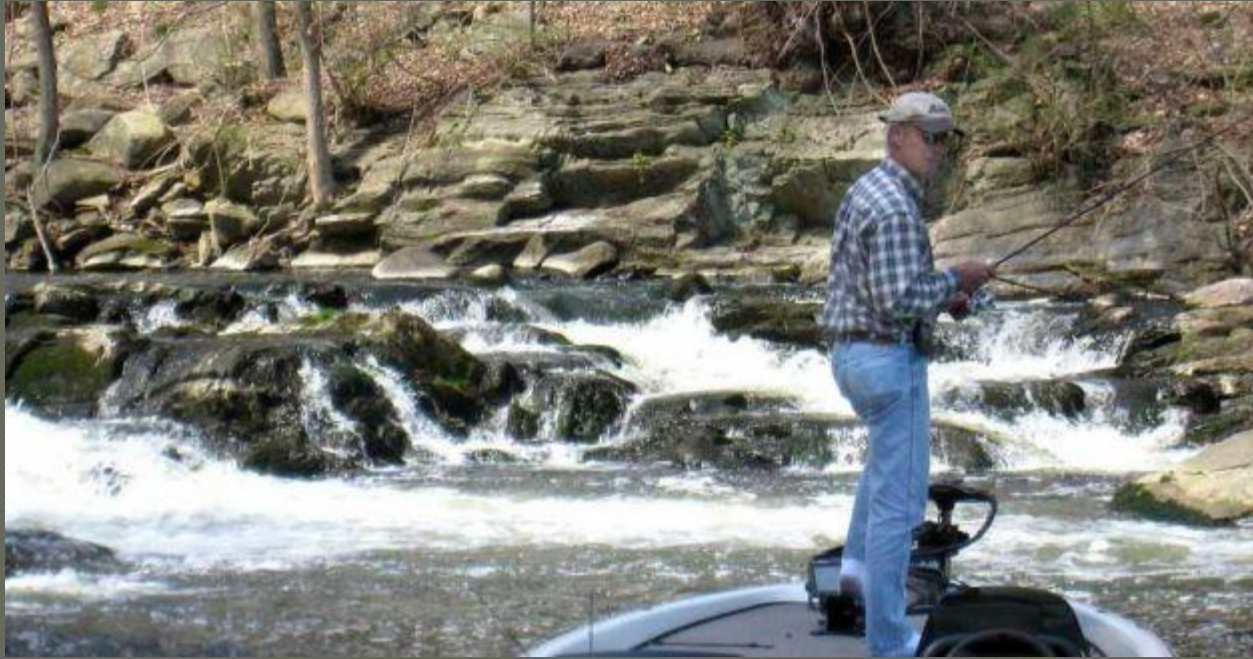
Mr. Carlson was born in the town of New Milford in 1935 and lived in New Milford for 20 years.

"He was a very good man," said Miss Russell. "He had his own business and his household help and lived all the things and things."

"The late Mrs. Russell and I were of New York City and arrived yesterday that Mr. Carlson had happened to be present and welcomed the new home to the town of New Milford."

The estate was built by the late Mr. Harter. He was married to the late Mrs. Harter. The estate was built in 1900. It was one of the best of the town's history. The estate was built in 1900. It was one of the best of the town's history.

An assembly of Mr. Harter's estate has been to be used for the town of New Milford and the town.







ARTHUR HARRIS HAS AN IDEA

Conservation Along the Still?



LEADERS in field of conservation in three towns discuss project to open up a new vacation and beauty area in Brookfield, Danbury and New Milford at Hearst Restaurant. Left to right clockwise: Arthur Harris, chairman of Danbury Conservation Commission; Mrs. Harry York, chairman, Brookfield Commission; Mrs. Mary Mack, chairman, New Milford Commission; Marvin Oakes, member Brookfield Commission; Lowell Rogers, editor, Brookfield Journal; Arthur Harris, chairman, Brookfield Commission; Prof. Donald W. Groff, Western Connecticut State College; William Laif, outdoor editor, Danbury News-Times; Mrs. Robert Kerr, member Brookfield Commission. — Journal Photo by Al Lijerios

To Beautify the Still Valley . . .

Dempsey's Aid Sought

Conservation officials of three municipalities, meeting yesterday in Brookfield, formed a special committee for the particular purpose of beautifying the Still River valley and making it a permanent area. At a first step, they decided to appeal to Gov. John Dempsey for help.

The idea was put forward by Arthur A. Harris, chairman of the Brookfield Conservation Commission, after a luncheon cable at the Hearst restaurant, with rapid approval from Marvin Oakes, chairman of the Danbury Conservation Commission, and Mrs. Harry Mack, chairman of the New Milford Conservation Commission.

Also agreeing to serve on the committee were three other members of the Brookfield Commission, Mrs. John Harpner, Mrs. Robert Kerr, and Marvin Oakes. Other conservationists may join the group later.

The committee, after a discussion led by Mr. Harris,

agreed to ask the Governor to put it in touch with a representative of the state to coordinate activities at the federal, state and local levels. A similar request for a large-scale reforestation will be sent to Sen. Abraham Ribicoff in Washington.

Mr. Harris pointed out to the luncheon party that two extra ordinary developments in the valley made it possible now to introduce beautification and recreational improvement in the valley. They were:

1. Construction of the Route 7 expressway through the three towns by the State Highway Department.

2. Clearing of the river flood by the Water Resources Commission.

Mr. Harris reported that their plan coincided with the goals outlined in the Governor's directions to state agencies in a thick volume called Comprehensive Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1963-1970.

The committee agreed that

with the clearing of the river and with the expressway right-of-way running beside it for over miles to Silvermine Road in Brookfield, and beyond that point on the river, even as it flows toward the Housatonic in New Milford, opportunities for landscaping could be created.

Other spots would bring for miles along footpaths, cycling, horseback riding, picnicking, skating, wildlife protection, and swimming pools "from underground water."

The group likewise said that immediate action is necessary before the Highway Department completes its engineering studies for the expressway.

The Still flows nine miles from Interstate Highway 94 in Danbury to the point in New Milford where it empties into the Housatonic River. The valley floor is a half mile wide at points.

Another member of the committee, Mrs. Harry Mack, said:

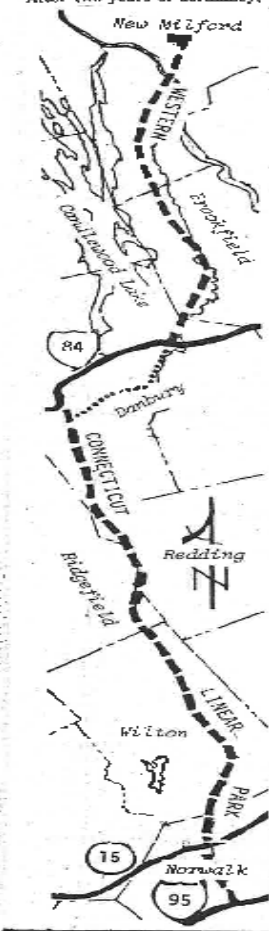
(Phone Talk to Paul Tuck)

Nov 30 1967

Linear park plan reviving

By Michele Derna
News-Times staff

Hibernation is over for Route 7's linear park plan.
After two years of dormancy, the \$3



million Norwalk-to-New Milford park project is shaking off the dust of neglect and ready to get moving.

Connecticut's bonding commission recently okayed release of \$5,000 to complete a routing and design study for the highway-straddling park.

Only the attorney general and finance and control commissioner must still sign a contract between Connecticut and its consultant, Fred Hesketh of Bloomfield.

Hesketh told The News-Times this week he will complete the study within 120 days of contract settlement. For \$27,000, Hesketh two years ago laid out the route and designed the location of hiking trails, bike paths and picnic areas.

Area communities and townspeople recommended various modifications, which Hesketh said he couldn't incorporate without more money. His request for \$5,000 to amend and complete the study took two years to reach the ears of the state bonding commission.

Once he has a contract, Hesketh said he will review all suggestions and criticisms, then recommend to Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which he feels should be incorporated in final plans and why the rest should be rejected. DEP, as project sponsor, makes the final decision.

Asked whether he expects he'll need 120 days to do this, Hesketh said, "I hope not."

Since Connecticut's environmental policy act requires an environmental analysis of the project, which affects about 50 acres of highway right of way and excess land, this will be the next step.

The job will be contracted out by DEP and is expected to take at least a year. Financing is covered in a \$1.25 million appropriation from several years ago. But park advocates must wrest the money from the state bonding commission.

Park facilities from Danbury through Brookfield could be developed right now, since the road is already opened. But construction south of Danbury isn't envisioned until 1981.

Under clean air laws, the highway can't actually be used until that date because of resultant pollution problems. By late 1981, air pollution experts say the new four-lane highway will relieve more pollution on existing Route 7 than it creates with traffic on the new road.

Though park construction is years away, advocates feel they must begin lobbying now to get funds in time. Half the project will be financed with U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation funds, but Connecticut must match all federal appropriations.

"The laws are there, the authorization for the money is there, EOT's help is there, but we have no cause for complacency," said Gert Kaufman, chairman of the Intertown Committee for the Western Connecticut Linear Park.

"Look how long it took us to get \$5,000. It's important to work with the local senator and representatives, and the transportation and environmental protection departments, to protect what we already have and be able to move ahead at a steady pace."

Mrs. Kaufman has learned the value of persistence in seven years of pressing for the plan. She will step down as chairman of the seven-town committee next week and is moving out of state.

What does she think the future holds for park plans, now 19 years old?

"I'm optimistic. The people of this area can have this park — if they work for it. There are a lot of chores still to be done and a lot of pushing ahead. We must make sure that if and when Route 7 is built, the park is part of it," she said, adding:

"The price is not that much, considering our projected population of 450,000 people in 1990 and the high price of land. This kind of multiple use (parks on highway right of ways) is a very prudent idea."

Mrs. Kaufman said she's sorry "I have to let go before it's finished. But I look forward to coming back — hopefully, to visit our new park."

Deep-water boat

NEW YORK (AP) — The Discovery Seven Seas is an advanced deep-water drilling ship which can drill in water to a depth of 6,000 feet. The \$60-million ship, which is leased by Phillips Petroleum, uses an onboard computer to pinpoint and hold drilling sites.

Nov 7, 1982

League revives idea of park near Route 7

By Janet Higbie
News-Times staff

BROOKFIELD - The Still River meanders through the length of town, hardly noticed by motorists speeding along Route 7.

The Brookfield League of Women Voters wants to change all that. Members are proposing that the town adopt a scaled-down version of a now-defunct plan for a "linear park" that would have stretched along the highway corridor from Norwalk to the New Milford border.

The league's plan calls for the town to take over 215 acres which the state acquired in the early 1970s.

"We would like to see jogging trails, nature trails, and open space," said league president Deanne Sniffin. "The Still River is a very pretty, scenic area."

The plan was conceived in the late 1960s by Arthur Harris, former chairman of the Brookfield Conservation Commission.

Harris, joined by conservationists from Brookfield, Danbury and New Milford, succeeded in convincing then-Gov. John Dempsey, the Highway Department and the Department of Natural Resources that the idea could work.

The original plan was for 492 acres in Norwalk, Ridgefield, Hedding, Danbury and Brookfield; 454 acres of park and 38 acres of buffer strip. Open space next to the linear park combined with the park was to form a total of 1,037 acres.

The park was to be developed as part of the Route 7 reconstruction project.

In 1971, the cost of the highway was estimated at \$6,254,800, roughly half to be paid by the state and the rest by the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the Federal Bureau of Roads. The cost for the park represented about 2 percent of the total cost of Route 7 project.

But as the highway proposal ran into money problems and opposition from environmentalists, hopes for the linear park began to fade.

By 1978, the plan had been transferred to the Department of Public Works, dissolving the link between the park and the highway construction. Meanwhile, the estimated cost had risen to \$16 million.

Early this year, league members began meeting to talk about reviving the Brookfield section of the park plan. They completed their report this fall.

According to the report, the state owns 14 parcels along the highway in Brookfield.

The park could be developed gradually over several years, with largely volunteer help to lighten the financial burden, Mrs. Sniffin said.

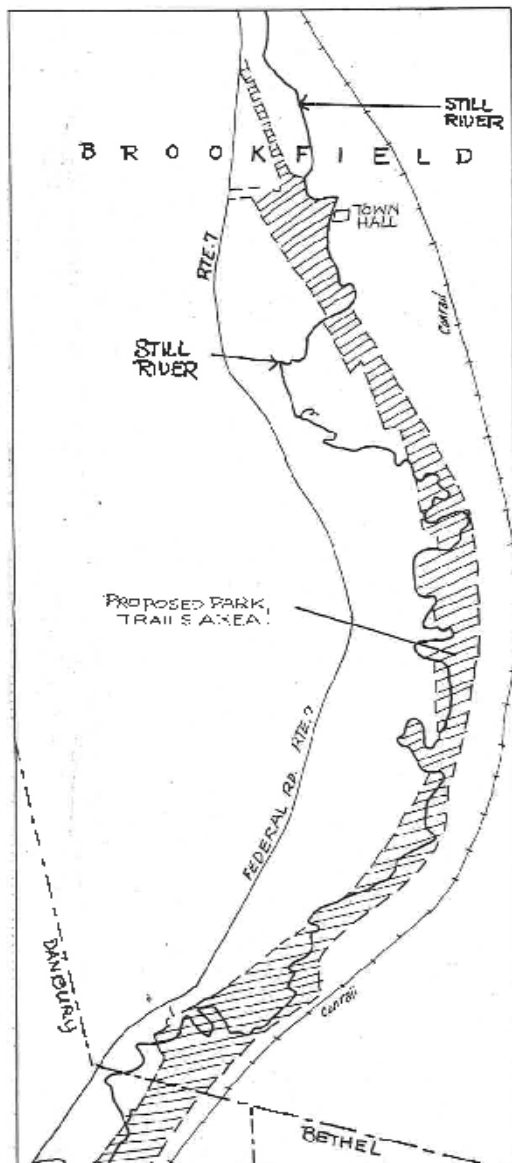
The logical starting point, she said, is where the park would join the new Town Hall property, in the geographical center of Brookfield.

As its first step, the league has begun meeting with town land use commissions to try to convince them to support the plan, Mrs. Sniffin said. The league is asking supporters to write to the Board of Selectmen so they can compile a thick folder of letters to show to state officials and legislators.

Mrs. Sniffin chooses her words carefully when asked about the likelihood of convincing state officials to support the project in an era of budget austerity.

She said the league is still unsure what the end of the Brookfield part of the project would be and how the costs would be shared between the state and town. So far, town officials have been enthusiastic, she said, and the league hopes state officials will be the same.

"I'm optimistic," she said. "I don't think we'll meet a negative response."



Shaded portion of map shows proposed park, trails



Division of Labor

Celeste Alves conserves energy on Labor Day, while the home of Antonio Candido, on 18 Locust Ave., Danbury, undergoes a paint job.

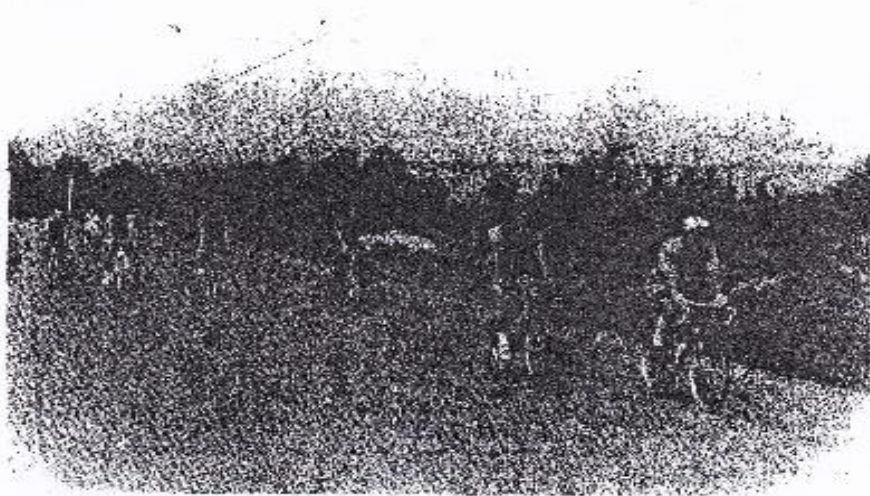
There is no mention of submitting applications for private land permits, Stampfer noted.

According to Commissioner Stampfer, there have been numerous inquiries about the validity of archery bows, starting during January, 1977.

The archery permit will be valid until the close of the season Oct. 31, he said. The regular small game hunting license, however, expires on Dec. 31, and a 1977 small game license will be required starting Jan. 1.

For 1977, Dept. wildlife biologist said that during the last few weeks he has received many telephone calls with inquiries that indicate hunters have received erroneous second-hand information about the state's deer program. He urged extreme caution on the part of all hunters in evaluating hearsay information.

Stamp said 1976 has devoted considerable time and effort in producing accurate and informative facts, brochures, which provides



Making tracks

A parade of 35 bikers heads southward from Brookfield on the new Route 7, pedaling for support of a 10-year-old linear park plan along the Danbury-Norwalk highway. Funds were not provided for the park, which would include bike and horse trails. The Sunday demonstration was organized by Brookfield conservationist Arthur Harris Sr.

Connecticut's Push for Clean Water

- 1965 – 100-member Clean Water Task Force, includes two Danbury members
- 1967 – State Clean Water Act – pollution orders
- 1972 – Federal Clean Water Act
- 1972 – Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act

CITIZEN ACTION

Pollution detective charges firms taint river

DANBURY — The Danbury Area Clean Streams Committee began flapping its wings yesterday in its drive to rid the Kill River of a clean stream.

The chairman of the group of concerned citizens, Joseph McCarthy of 2010, has vowed to go to court to force the state to carry out its duty to clean the Kill River, says McCarthy.

He also turned a report over to Mayor Gino J. Amato regarding oil pollution of the river from a drain pipe next to the Amphenol RF Division plant on Franklin Street.

A houseman for Amphenol said this morning the company would have no comment "until we receive a copy of the report."

McCarthy met last night with several students representing Western Connecticut State College's Environmental Action Committee to outline plans for an inspection tour of the river below Water Street to Franklin Street this Saturday, enlisting support from more than a dozen of the students in the effort.

McCarthy's warning he would bring a complaint of river pollution by the Kill River to the state.

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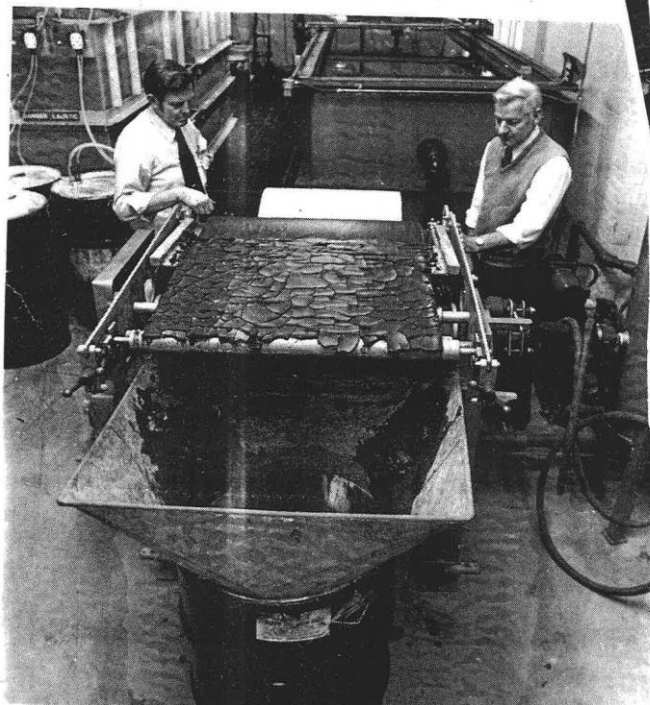
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Oil drain

Joseph P. McCarthy, chairman of the Danbury Area Clean Streams Committee, examines oil apparently coming from a drain pipe from the Amphenol Corp., Franklin Street, and running into the Kill River.



News-Times Photo by

Foreman Jerry Rickett, left, and maintenance supervisor Carl Faust look over sludge which, after settling in tank at rear, is dried and placed in

steel drums remaining in tank, is dried and piped the Still River.

treatment facility in a 17 x 75-foot addition which purifies the cyanides, acids and chromates involved in plating of connectors, switches and microwave components.

Prior to its installation, the company sent rinse water from the silver, nickel, copper and gold plating into the city sewage system untreated.

Now the rinse water is piped into holding tanks separated by chemical content. When water level reaches a certain point, a pump switches on, pushing the material into treatment tanks.

The cyanide is treated with a 17 per cent chlorine solution, the acid is neutralized with a 50 per cent caustic solution and the chromates are mixed with sulphuric acid.

All solutions are then pumped into a 10,000-gallon holding tank. A floccing agent is added which causes particles to drop to the bottom and purified water to rise.

The water, which general foreman Jerry Rickett says "is cleaner than what comes in to us," is piped out into the Still River. Monthly tests of river purity in Amphenol's area show "really high quality water," he said.

Sludge sticking to the holding tank is dropped into a sludge tank, then pumped onto a paper filter to absorb water. Now caked and dry, it drops off into huge drums.

Rickett estimates Amphenol fills about three or four of these drums weekly. "They're taken away by a refuse man," he explained, but said he didn't know which company took them or where they were dumped.

"Where he takes them isn't our business," Rickett said, adding, "Our operation is all approved."

Carl Faust, maintenance supervisor, said later, "We have about 22 barrels stored up because we couldn't find a

Continued on Page B-12

ay.
A few, like Amphenol RF on East Franklin Street, shrugged their shoulders resignedly and set to work. Amphenol RF, a division of Bunker-Ramo Corp., now has a \$150,000





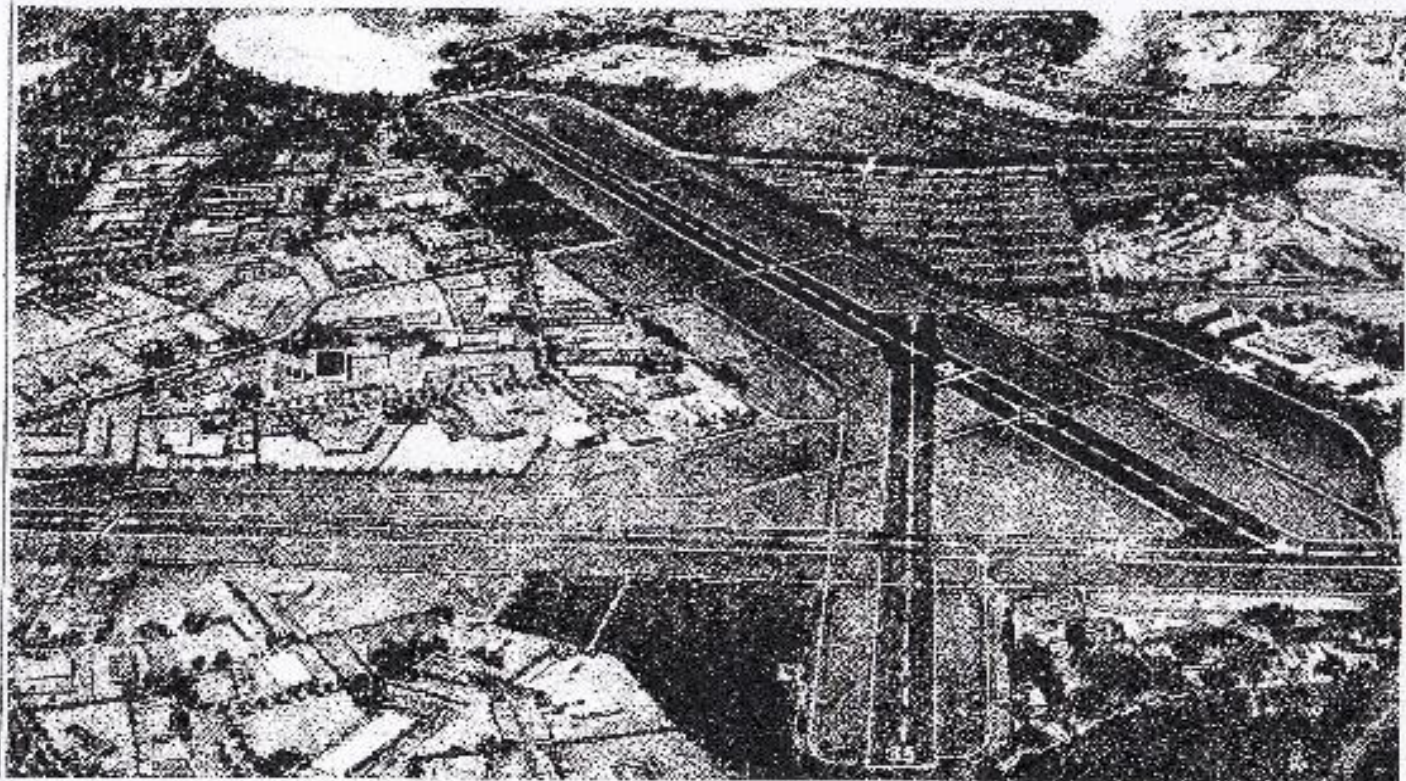
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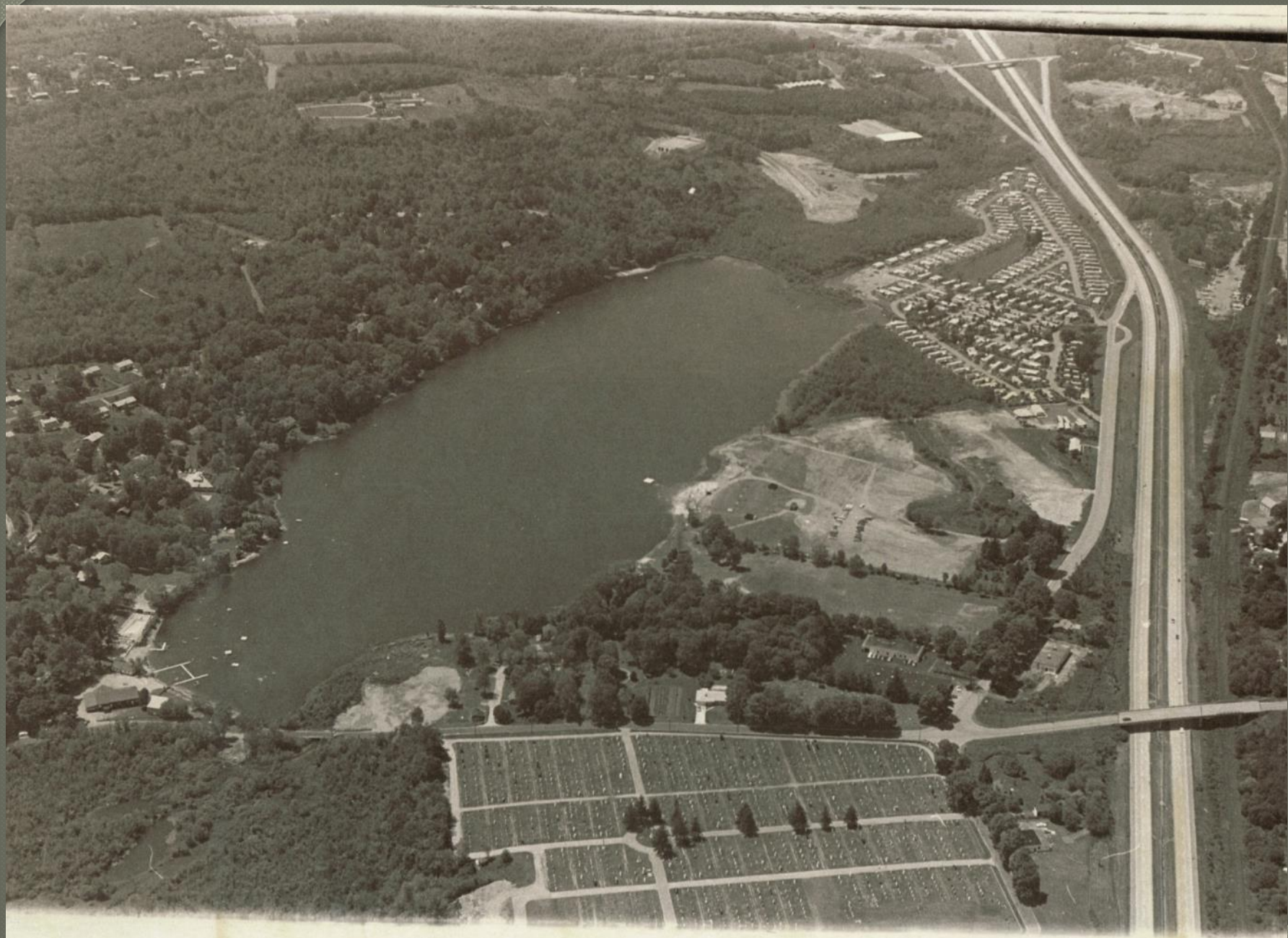
www.FlyinPhilsPhotos.com

FOCUS ON KENOSIA

- Late 1960s – City purchases current park
- 1969 – Airport Expansion plan
- Mid-1970s – City clears old cabins – former Camp Kenmere
- 1970s – early 1980s – major spills (vegetable oil, chemicals), concerns over construction of Hilton Hotel
- 1981 – Drought amelioration – wells and skimming used

Airport Expansion Plan - 1969





THE CITY FINDS AN AQUIFER

Mother Nature puts a premium on Kenosia tap

By Lynn Hayes
Kenosia Staff

DARTMOUTH — A continuing shortage of rain has put a premium on the city's plans to tap Lake Kenosia for drinking water, a project expected to be completed in January.

In October 1988, reservoir levels were at 88 percent of capacity. Since then, the average level has fallen to 83.2 percent. Last week, the levels dropped another half of a percent after ruing a rain a peccor the week before. The levels have continued to drop more in two months, already although the drop has been slowed by water control valves, now some urged by city officials.

City residents have used between 6½ and 1 million gallons a day since partial construction of the new water plant into effect in July. That's a saving of up to a million gallons a day, but several weeks ago Mayor James Dyer said that residents were not conserving enough water and warned that shortages could lead to more restrictions in the summer.

The Kenosia tap is expected to provide two million gallons a day, creating a surplus situation that may increase reservoir levels, depending on seasonal rainfall.

Mayor's aide Robert Steinberg said public water conservation measures, accepted with the water from the Lake Kenosia diversion project, means that Durbury can increase its supply during the winter and avoid a severe water shortage in the summer. Water will not be pumped from Lake Kenosia during June, July and August, the withdrawing season.

Durbury officials also are exploring the possibility of tapping a million gallons a day from Bad Pond Brook in New Britain. The plans

are still on the drawing board and the city has to work out arrangements with New Britain, which has given the city a cost reception.

The drought spread city officials to formulate an emergency plan to be put into effect if reservoir levels fall to 80 percent of capacity. Under the emergency plan, the mayor would ask industry to limit, rather than, ask neighboring towns and private water systems to provide water, set up "water stations" in public buildings, can install emergency pumps and pipes to transfer water from one tap into industrial wells.

City officials are reluctant to give specific details about how they plan to put these emergency measures into operation. Steinberg said the emergency plan is something "that you sleep in a hard pocket and only bring out when needed."

Steinberg said that because of the Kenosia diversion reservoir levels won't drop to 80 percent, the required water users to conserve can survive.

"I want to make it absolutely clear that people must continue to conserve water, because Durbury is in a drought situation and the Lake Kenosia diversion project is not a panacea to our water problem," he said.

Dr. Martin Melchior, an associate at Western Connecticut State College, said Durbury received 8½ inches of rain in 1987, but only 35.7 inches as compared to 12.2 inches.

The drought is not as severe as the one Durbury experienced in the mid-50s, when the city received 31.3 inches of rain in 1954, 31.8 inches in 1955, and 33.2 inches in 1956.



Mayor's aide Robert Steinberg

Water works
Dec 3 '89

Fernando Coelho of Durbury works on a portion of the Lake Kenosia diversion project, off Highway Road. City officials say the project will be finished in January, in time to replenish dropping city reservoirs.

EROSION-CONTROLLING PLANTINGS



LAKE PLACE CONDOS



OLD MILL CONDOS – OIL MILL ROAD, DANBURY



OTHER CONDOS BY THE STILL



STILL RIVER GREENWAY



THANKS TO:

- Laurie Weinstein, Western Connecticut State University
- Brian Stevens, Western Connecticut State University
- Diane Hassan, Danbury Museum
- Bob Brown, Brookfield Historical Society