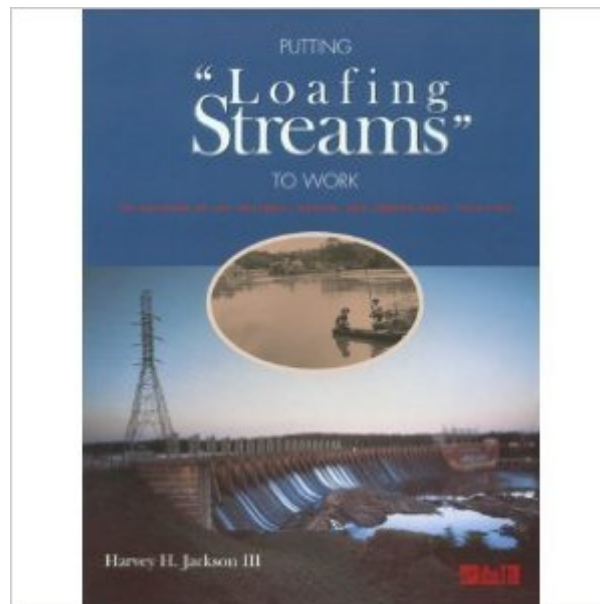


The book was found

# Putting "Loafing Streams" To Work: The Building Of Lay, Mitchell, Martin, And Jordan Dams, 1910-1929



## Synopsis

This is the story of the human effort that went into completing one of the most complex feats of engineering in Alabama history, the building of four major hydroelectric dams by the Alabama Power Company. Between 1910 and 1930 the Alabama Power Company built four major hydroelectric projects: Lay Dam (1914), Mitchell Dam (1923), and Jordan Dam (1929) on the Coosa River and Martin Dam (1926) on the Tallapoosa River. When the turbines began spinning and electricity began to flow from the power houses to farms, towns, and cities, Alabama moved from the 19th into the 20th century. Constructed in remote areas of the state, the dams were unique projects, yet they all had elements in common. The company had to build transportation networks to get men and material to the sites. Workers, skilled and unskilled, black and white, were recruited, brought in, housed, and fed. When wives and children joined the men, worker camps became towns, with schools, churches, medical clinics, and recreational facilities. These towns were at once a reflection of their culture--and a look into a future that electricity would make possible. Putting "Loafing Streams" to Work is the story of life in the towns and on the jobs. This story will help us better understand the impact of Alabama Power's early activities and how Alabamians responded to the forces of industrialization.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 230 pages

Publisher: Univ of Alabama Pr (Tx); 1st edition (June 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0817308792

ISBN-13: 978-0817308797

Product Dimensions: 11.1 x 8.6 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,485,245 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #420 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Mechanical > Hydraulics #32124 in Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

## Customer Reviews

I have lived in central AL all of my life and this book shed a lot of light onto the dams I have benefitted from all of these years. I grew up near Jordan Dam and now work near Thurlow and, I found this book to be very educational. Although it doesn't go into much detail about Thurlow it does

cover Jordan extensively. One problem I had with the book is how the author will jump around in time in some sections. It can sometimes be confusing. I had also hoped the book would go into more detail about the building of the dams, but this book is more of the humanitarian side of things such as living conditions, health, entertainment, etc. My dad worked over 30 years for the Alabama Power Company before he retired with them and one thing I really enjoyed about this book was how it covered the rise of the Power Co. and its struggles. I recommend this book for any Alabamian.

This superb anthology describes not only the hydrology of dams and rivers but uniquely and interestingly presents the people, culture and the period of the early 20th Century deep south. It also portrays, in an intimate manner, the formation of a great company, the Alabama Power Company. I recommend this book without qualification and do so quite often. AGK Southern Reader

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