

Montopolis Bridge Is Opened For Traffic After Ceremony

Motor traffic began moving over the new Montopolis bridge at Austin's eastern outskirts Saturday immediately following a Central Texas ceremony formally dedicating the beautiful \$253,000 structure which spans the Colorado river.

High state, county and city dignitaries, other Austin citizens and those of cities and towns east of Austin which the new bridge links to the Capital city participated in the half-hour dedication rites.

The huge span of smooth concrete and shining steel is the last highwater bridge whose construction will be necessary on the Colorado below Marshall Ford dam, State Highway Engr. Julian Montgomery told those assembled at the ceremony. Flood control dams on the river above Austin will obviate further construction of high-water bridges.

Reply to More Bridges

Montgomery met the hope expressed by City Councilman Oswald Wolf that the highway department will "give us another bridge or two" and that of W. R. Nabours of the Chamber of Commerce highway committee for a

low-water bridge and dam with the declaration that he too would like to see such structures here, but pointed out that their location would lie within the city limits of Austin and the highway department can not construct them.

"I'd like to see the city build them, however," Montgomery said.

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\$18,000 Bonds Burned

Immediately following the speaking program, County Judge George S. Mathews and the four Travis county commissioners burned the remaining \$18,000 in bonds on the old Montopolis bridge structure which the June 15, 1935, floods destroyed. The bonds matured Thursday and were paid off by the county and state.

Two young girls from Precinct 1 and Precinct 4, snipped the orange-and-white ribbons to end the ceremony and formally open the structure to traffic. They were Louise Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Davis, Precinct 1, and Juanita Fae Bailey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bailey, Precinct 4.

State Highway Commr. John Wood modestly pointed out that major portion of the credit for

construction of the bridge should go to the late Cong. James P. Buchanan for procuring an allocation of federal emergency funds which made the structure possible, and that a share of the praise should go to the Travis county commissioners' court for obtaining the right of way leading to the bridge.

"If Judge Mathews and the commissioners will give us the right of way for the new Lockhart road, and I understand they are now acquiring it, we'll build it as

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BRIDGE OPENED AT MONTOPOLIS

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soon as possible," Commr. Wood promised.

Official thanks for the new structure were expressed on the part of the Chamber of Commerce by A. T. Knies, president; A. B. Spires, Mr. Nabours and Ralph C. Goeth; for the city of Austin by Councillman Oswald Wolf and for the county government by Judge Matthews.

More Speeches

The invocation was by the Rev. George Green.

Others who made short addresses or who were introduced were: Acting City Mgr. James Garrison, Fred Bennett, resident engineer, and D. E. H. Manigault, division engineer of the highway department; Herbert Eldridge, bridge engineer, County Engr. "Kit" Carson, Sen. Houghton Brownlee, former Sen. John W. Hornsby, Reps. Homer Thornberry and John Patterson, County Auditor James A. Belger, County Commrs. A. P. Chote, Warren S. Freund, John E. Shelton and John T. Parker, Mgr. Walter Long of the Chamber of Commerce, L. G. Phares, state highway patrol chief, and Dr. R. E. Cloud, whose father was county commissioner when the old Montopolis bridge was erected.