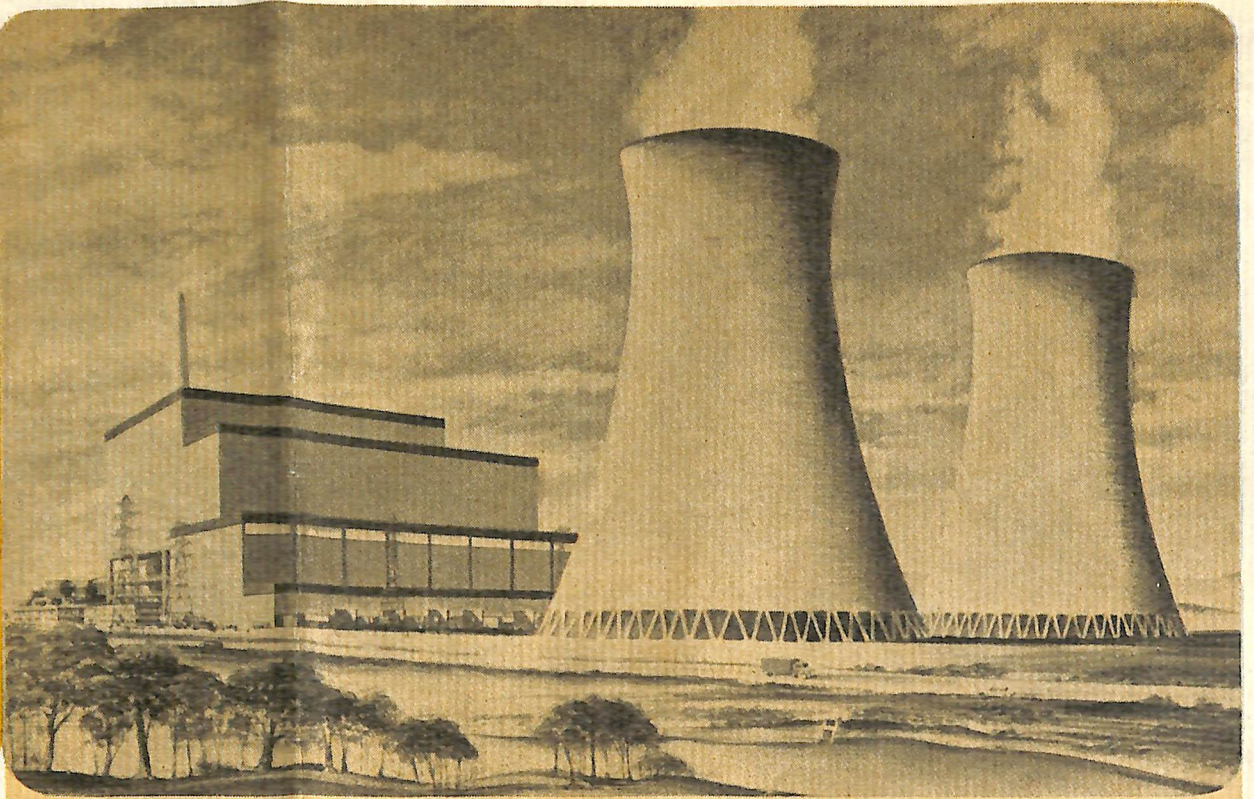




GOLDEN JUBILEE PHOTO FEATURE
S.E.C. NEWS MARCH 1969

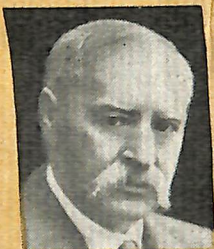
OUR HISTORY IN THE MAKING



DR. H. HERMAN



SIR HARRY LAWSON



SIR THOMAS LYLE



SIR ARCHIBALD MCKINSTRY

This year the S.E.C. is celebrating 50 years of service to the people of Victoria — a Golden Jubilee to be proud of.

Early in the century many leading men proposed that our brown coal resources should be exploited to make Victoria independent of imported fuel. Their efforts led to the appointment of the Brown Coal Advisory Committee in March, 1917.

Chairman of the committee was Dr. H. Herman, State Director of Geological Survey, who was to serve the S.E.C. for 20 years as Engineer-in-Charge, Briquetting and Research. Regarded as one of the fathers of the S.E.C., he was accompanied on the committee by:

- Mr. H. R. Harper, City Electrical Engineer, Melbourne City Council, who became the Commission's first Chief Engineer.

- Mr. F. W. Clements, electricity supply pioneer and head of the Melbourne Electric Supply Co., who became Chairman of the Commission in 1931.

- Mr. William Stone, Chief Electrical Engineer, Victorian Railways.

The speedy report of the Brown Coal Advisory Committee prompted the Premier, Sir Harry Lawson, to announce a State electricity scheme in his policy speech in June, 1918.

The Electricity Commissioners' Bill was drafted by Sir Arthur Robinson, Solicitor-General, who became our first Minister. The Bill was passed the following December, received Royal Assent in January, 1919.

The organisation was a going concern when the Electricity Commissioners held their first meeting on March 7, 1919. By November they had ready a scheme for brown coal winning and electricity generation in the Latrobe Valley.

Chairman of the Electricity Commissioners was an outstanding scientist, Sir Thomas Lyle. He came to Australia from Ireland in 1889 when appointed at 29 to the Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Melbourne which he held for 26 years.

The Hon. George Swinburne, another Commissioner, remembered now in the Institute of Technology he founded, was an Englishman whose administrative ability and wide business experience were great assets.

The third Commissioner, Sir Archibald McKinstry, was another Irishman, well qualified in engineering and science. After four months as a Commissioner he was succeeded by Sir Robert Gibson, a Scot, who became chairman of the Commonwealth Bank Board in 1926.



MR. H. R. HARPER



SIR ARTHUR ROBINSON



THE HON. GEORGE SWINBURNE



SIR ROBERT GIBSON

From bushland to power complex

They're building again at Yallourn — a 700 megawatt power station with Australia's first giant cooling towers (top of page) to be completed in 1973.

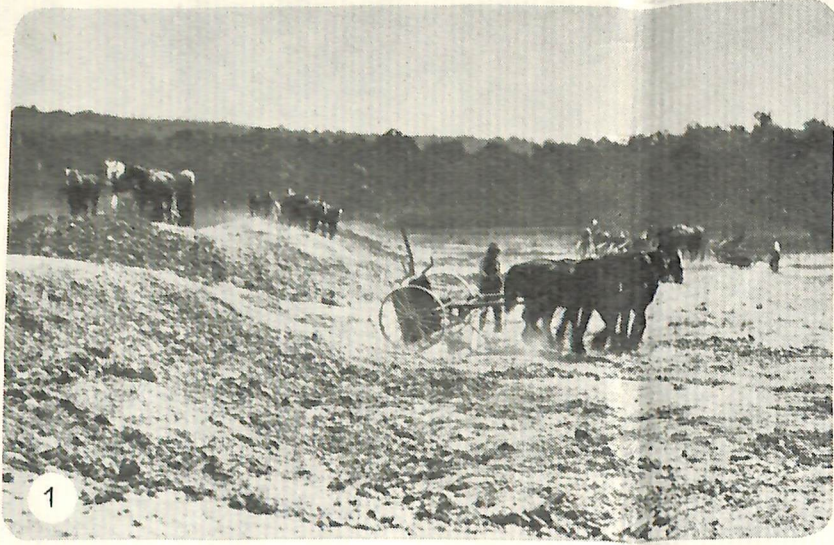
Right: The first construction in the Latrobe Valley complex began in virgin bushland and the ceremony of turning the first sod in February, 1921, was attended by, from left, Mr. C. H. Kernot, then Resident Construction Engineer; Mr. A. H. Merrin, later Secretary for Mines; Sir Thomas Lyle; Mr. R. Liddelow, the first staff officer appointed by the Electricity Commissioners — as Secretary in 1919 and Manager in 1931; the Hon. George Swinburne; Sir John Monash; Sir Robert Gibson.

Mr. Liddelow had a leading role in every phase of the Commission's work from the beginning until he retired in 1951.

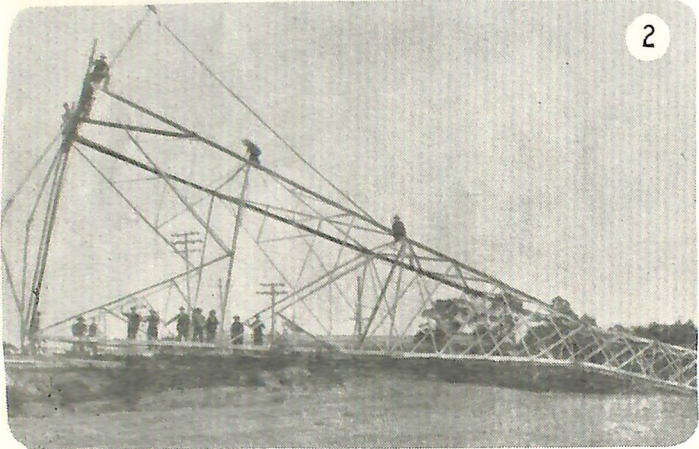




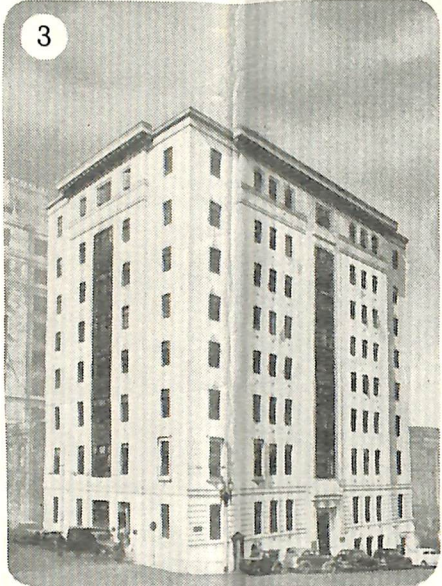
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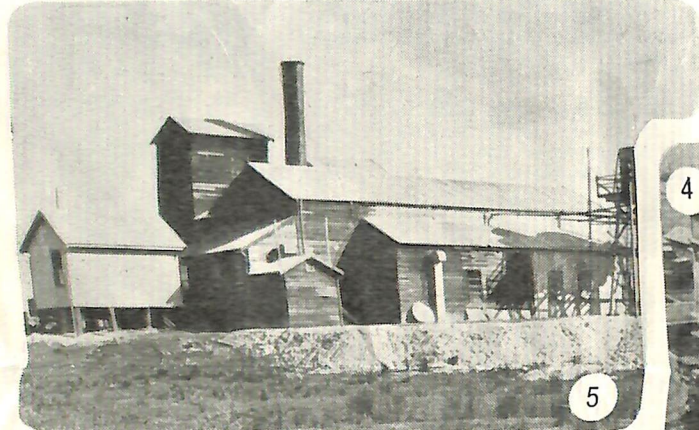
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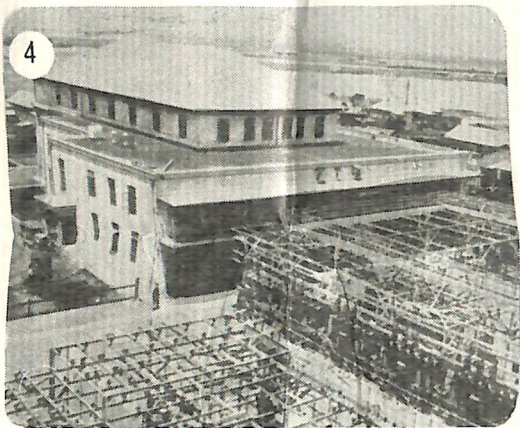
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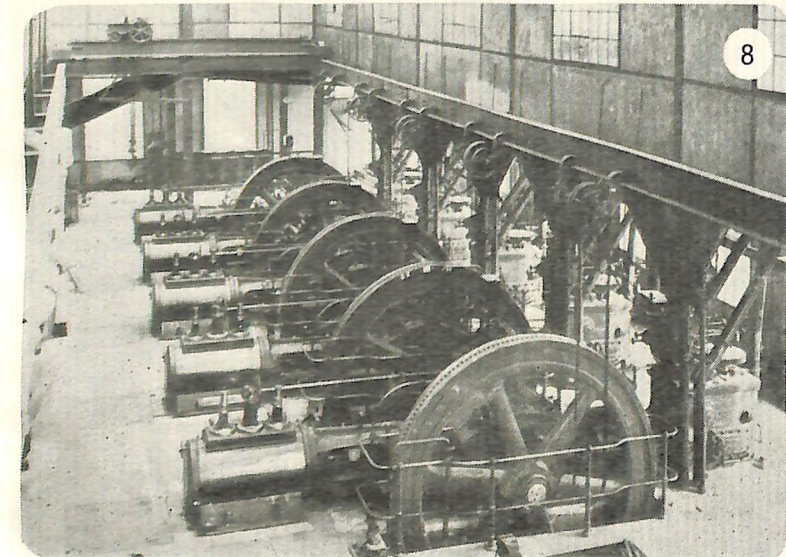
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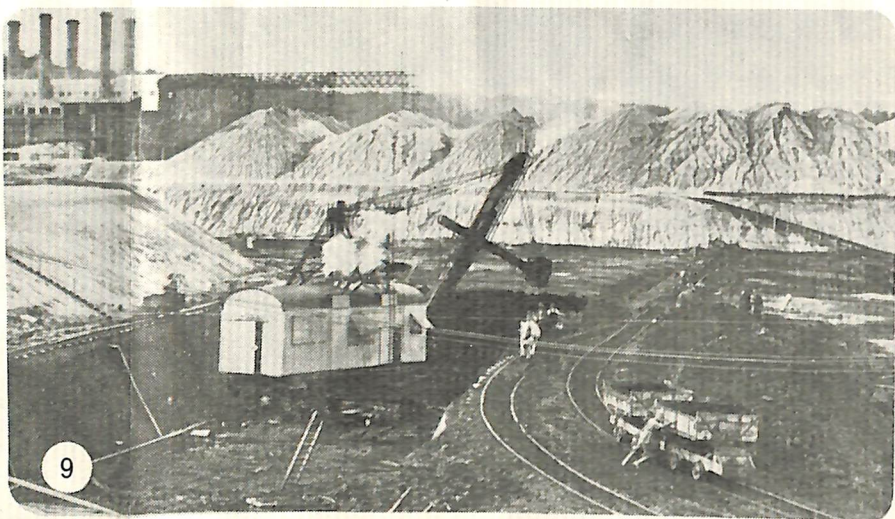
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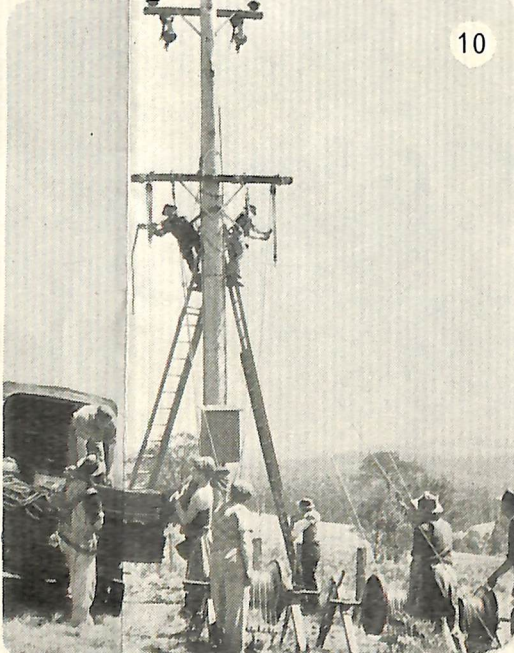
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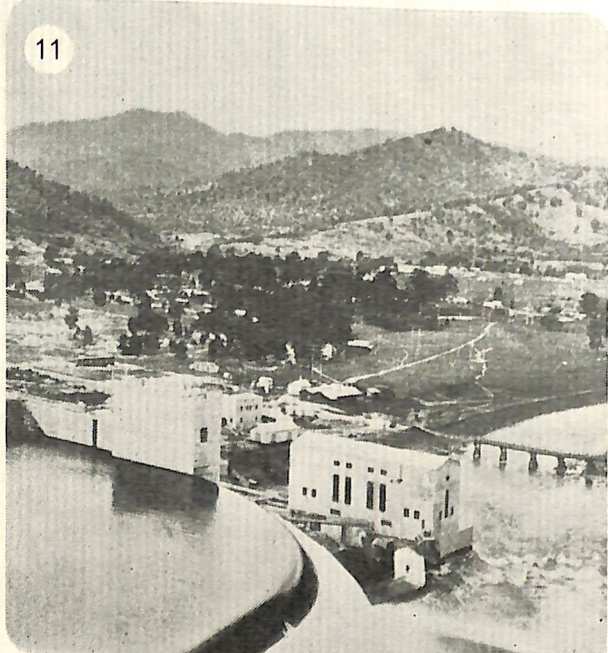
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The Chairmen who have guided t



Sir John Monash (1921-1931). Pre-eminent as a scholar, engineer and soldier. Pioneer in reinforced concrete construction. Commander, Australian Army Corps in France. First general knighted (1918) on the battlefield since 1743. General Manager, 1920. Chairman, January, 1921, under new constitution.



Mr. F. W. Clements (1931-1937). A Commissioner from 1926. Managing Director and Chief Engineer, Melbourne Electric Supply Co. from 1921 until it was acquired by S.E.C. in 1930. For 40 years engineer and administrator in electricity supply in Victoria and elsewhere in Australia.



Mr. G. G. ... (1949). Previous and Manager, ... Transferred to ... from the Melbourne Supply Co. after ... vice, including Resident Engineer long undertaki

“... a monument to every man v

1. The Yallourn open cut began in 1920 with the construction of a levee bank by horse-drawn scoops. Mechanical excavation started in February, 1921, when a steam shovel dug drains at the rate of 450 cubic yards a day—the largest modern dredger can move 1,460 cubic yards of overburden an hour.

2. Pioneering 132 kv transmission in the Southern Hemisphere, this is how the original towers from Yallourn to Melbourne were erected in 1922. With two legs hinged at the base, the complete structure was winched upright.

3. Lyle House, headquarters of the Commission from 1922 to 1967, is on the William Street site where one of Melbourne's founders, John Pascoe Fawkner, built his first dwelling in 1835. Lyle House, originally nine floors, was the first reinforced concrete office block in Melbourne and was completed in eight months. Two floors were added in 1936 and another in 1948.

4. Yarraville Terminal Station construction began in June, 1922. The metropolitan terminal of the first transmission line from Yallourn, it is still an important station in the Commission's network.

5. Yallourn temporary power station, which supplied electricity to the construction site from 1921, was also serving nearby Gippsland centres by 1923. Meanwhile, Newport "B" station, completed in 2½ years to 1923 with two 15 megawatt sets, was helping meet Melbourne's growing demand.

6. To meet the needs of the valley the Commission planned and built Yallourn in bushland beside the Latrobe River. From this early street and a town when "A" power station started 1924, Yallourn has grown to 1,000 population of 4,000.

7. Yallourn "A", the first briquetting station in the world outside Germany, was sited on the Latrobe River at the old weir of the six 12.5 megawatt sets began 1924, the fifth in 1925 and the last station closed down in 1968.

8. The first briquetting factory was sited in 1925 with output average month. The extended Yallourn in since 1959, the Morwell factory, produce 1¼ million tons a year.

9. Early coal winning in the Yallourn Valley was by 2½ cubic yard steam shovel 100 tons an hour into horse-drawn trucks for haulage to the power station. The largest brown coal deposit in the Valley has 10,000 million tons won economically by today's methods.

10. The Commission is now Australia's electricity supply authority and is busy erecting power poles from the ... long before safety hats were network now comprises 56,000 miles of lines and each working day, on average of lines are built; a pole goes in minutes.

destiny of the Commission



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Dr. W. D. Chapman (July, August, 1949). Engineer, botanist, geologist. Served in both world wars and became a brigadier. Commissioner 1944 and Deputy Chairman from May 11 to June 30, 1949. Chairman from July 1 until Mr. R. A. Hunt took over on September 1.



Mr. R. A. Hunt (1949-1956). Colourful career as engineer, administrator and soldier. Won D.S.O. as lieutenant in 1918. Helped to build Yallourn, as Assistant Construction Engineer and later as Resident Engineer. General Superintendent, Yallourn 1938-1949.



Dr. W. H. Connolly (from 1956). First Chairman to have risen from rank of junior engineer. Went to Yallourn in 1921 from university. Engineer and Manager, Electricity Supply Department, 12 years. Assistant General Manager from 1954. President of World Energy Conference 1962-1968. President, Victoria Institute of Colleges.

o has shared in its creation.

—Forecast by Sir John Monash, 1921

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11. The first of the State's hydro stations, the Rubicon-Royston system, was opened in 1926, followed by bigger sets in 1928 and 1929. This is the original 13.5 megawatt Sugarloaf station completed in 1929 on the dam built by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission for irrigating the Goulburn Valley.

12. Between 1930 and 1934 the S.E.C. acquired the Melbourne Electric Supply Co. with power stations at Richmond and Geelong, and the Electric Supply Co. of Victoria, with stations at Ballarat and Bendigo. Geelong's pioneer power station shown here started generating in 1901 and was retired in 1966.

13. In 1934, Victoria's Centenary year, heavy rains caused the Latrobe River to burst its banks and flood the Yallourn open cut. In 20 weeks pumps on pontoons emptied the cut of 5,000 million gallons of water, in places 200 ft. deep.

14. The first of the three major dams built for the Kiewa hydro-electric scheme was Junction Dam, seen here under construction in 1943. Work began on the scheme in 1938 after many years of investigation. Delayed by the war and substantially modified, it was brought to its present stage in 1960. Two of the three power stations are underground.

15. As the Commission coped with wartime problems in 1944, it also had to face a devastating bushfire around Yallourn which set fire to the open cut and caused the only power rationing of the war. This lasted only a few days, thanks to the way the crisis was tackled.

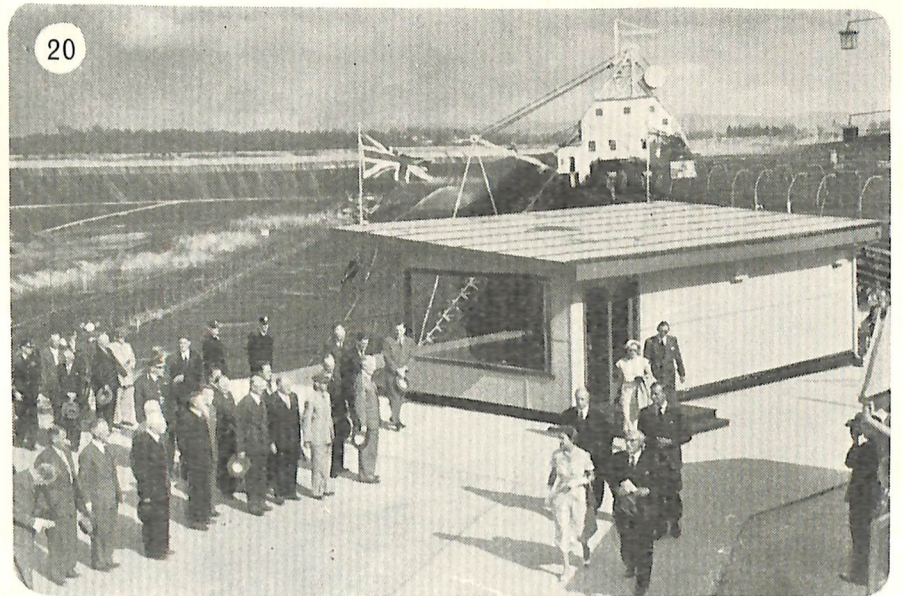
16. A bold venture by the S.E.C. to overcome shortages of timber and cement for vital construction projects in 1948 led to the purchase of the s.s. Uralba, a 600-ton wooden coastal vessel, and the chartering of smaller ships. When the situation eased in 1952, Uralba was laid up and later sold.

17. To meet plant shortages after World War II the S.E.C. ordered in 1951 "packaged" thermal power stations from the United States for speedy erection. They were completed by 1954 at North Geelong (30 megawatts), Ballarat (20 megawatts) and Red Cliffs (10 megawatts). Pictured at the official opening of Geelong "B" are the then Minister, Mr. John Galbally (left) and the Commission Chairman, Mr. R. A. Hunt.

18. Yallourn "C" at the Latrobe River end of the power station was the first extension after the war. Its two 50 megawatt sets were ordered in May, 1947, and the first unit went into service in the winter of 1954. It was completed in 1956.

19. Lake Eildon, with a capacity of 2.75 million acre-feet, is nearly nine times larger than the original reservoir. The old Sugarloaf power station is now inside the dam and the new station (at the foot on the left) went into service in 1954 with two Sugarloaf units. Two 60 megawatt generators were installed in 1956 and 1957.

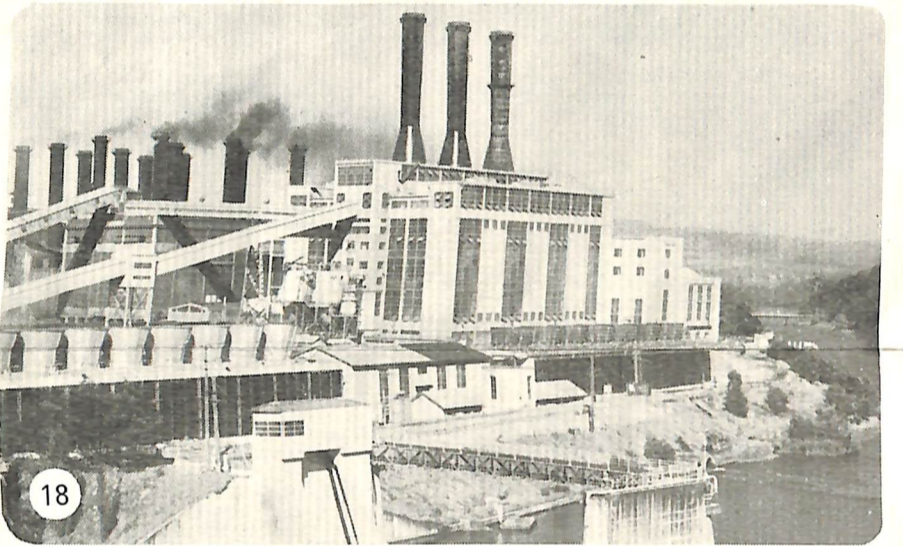
20. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Yallourn during their tour of Australia in 1954. Leaving the open cut viewing pavilion is the Queen with the then Chairman, Mr. R. A. Hunt, followed by the Duke with Brigadier J. Field, Yallourn General Superintendent.



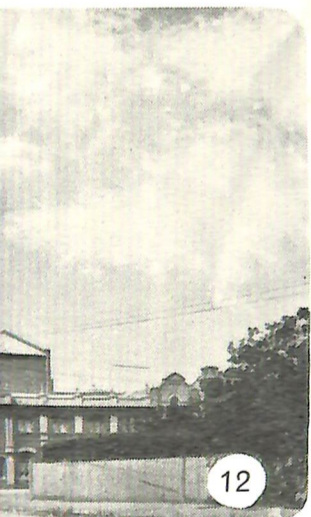
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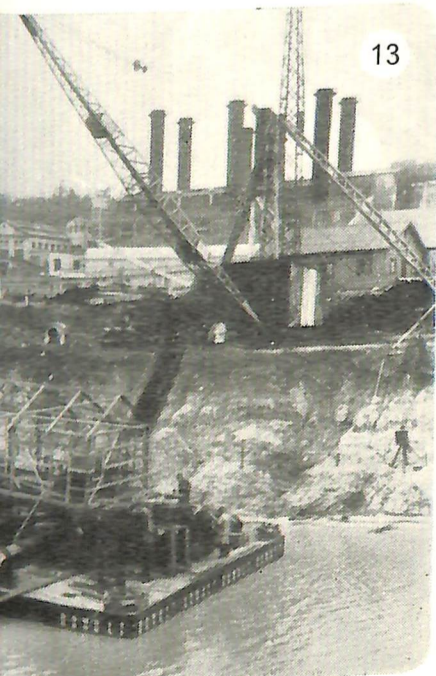
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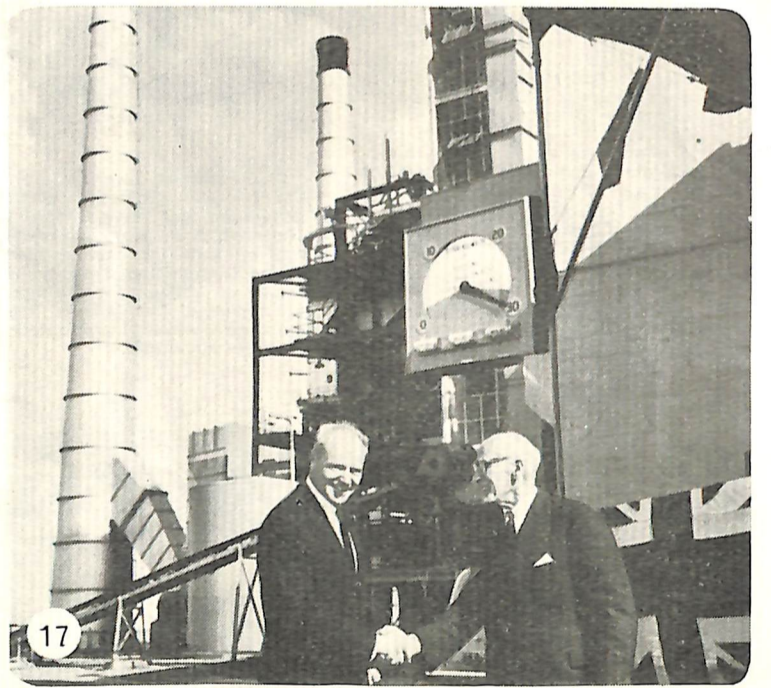
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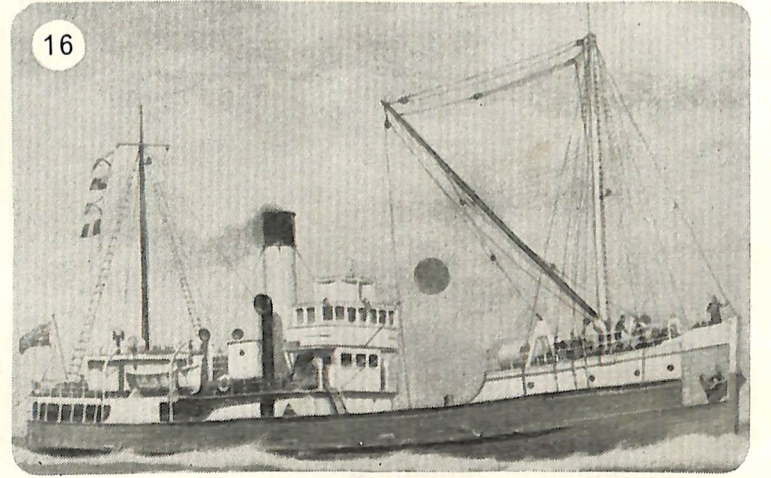
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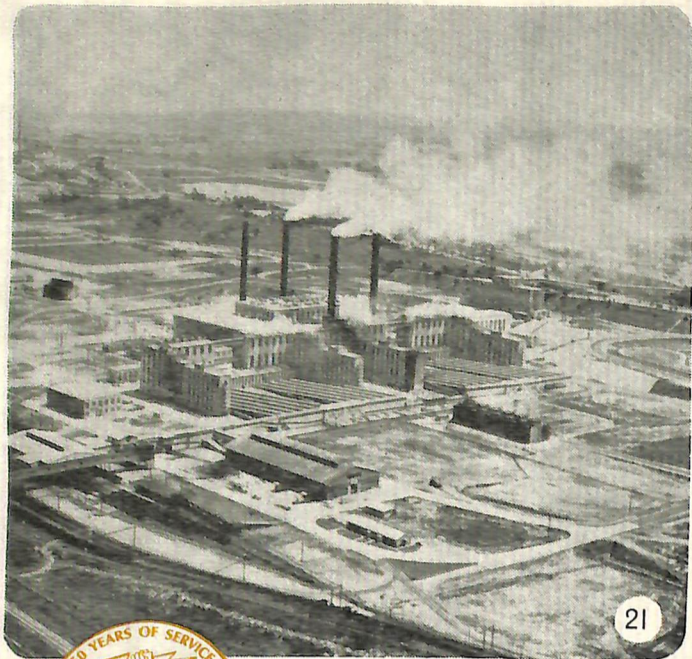
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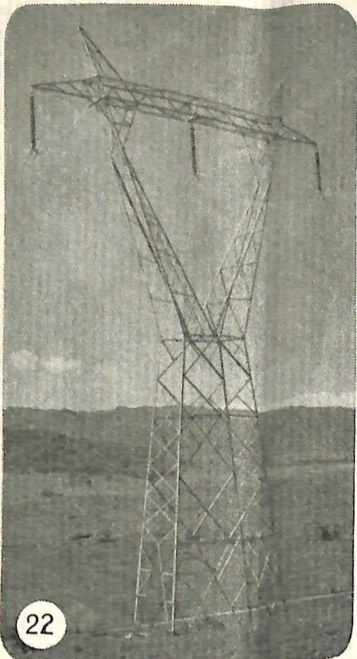
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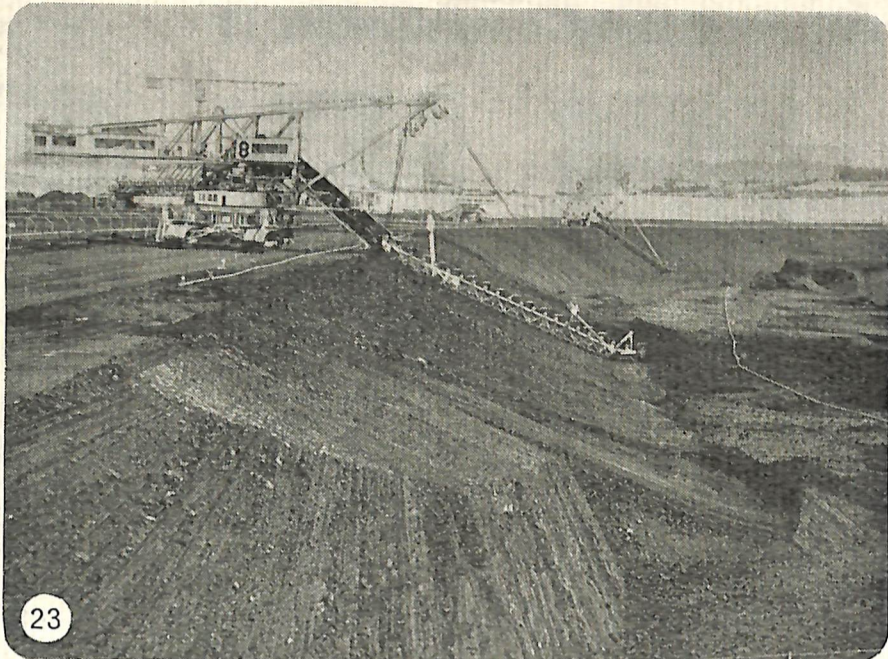
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GOLDEN JUBILEE PHOTO FEATURE

21. The Morwell undertaking was producing electricity in 1958 and briquettes the following year. The power station has a capacity of 170 megawatts and generates more than 1,200 million kilowatt-hours annually. The briquette factory produces over 1.2 million tons a year. Brown coal is supplied from Morwell open cut.

22. The first electricity from the Snowy scheme was transmitted to Victoria in 1959 — 10 years after the scheme was approved — by a 330 kV line to Dederang, the first in this State. Two 330 kV lines are now carrying Snowy power from Dederang to South Morang, near Melbourne. When the Snowy scheme is completed in the mid 1970's Victoria's entitlement will be about 1,100 megawatts annually. The Snowy lines enable power interchange with N.S.W.

23. Yallourn open cut now has an area of 1,672 acres at grass level and has provided more than 270 million tons of brown coal. After Yallourn "W" power station is completed in 1973, the open cut output will rise to nearly 19 million tons a year. Helping coal production is the largest bucket chain dredger in the world which started digging at Yallourn in 1960. It has a capacity of 1,750 tons of coal an hour, about three times that of the early dredgers, two of which are still on the job after about 40 years.

24. The last extension to Yallourn power station, "E", consisted of two 120 megawatt units installed in 1961 and 1962. It was the first to have only one boiler for each turbo-generator, compared with two or three a set in the older parts of the station. Each boiler is as high as a 15-storey building and has a 300 ft. chimney beside it (seen on the right of the picture).

25. When the first Hazelwood 200 megawatt generating unit went into service in the winter of 1964, it added

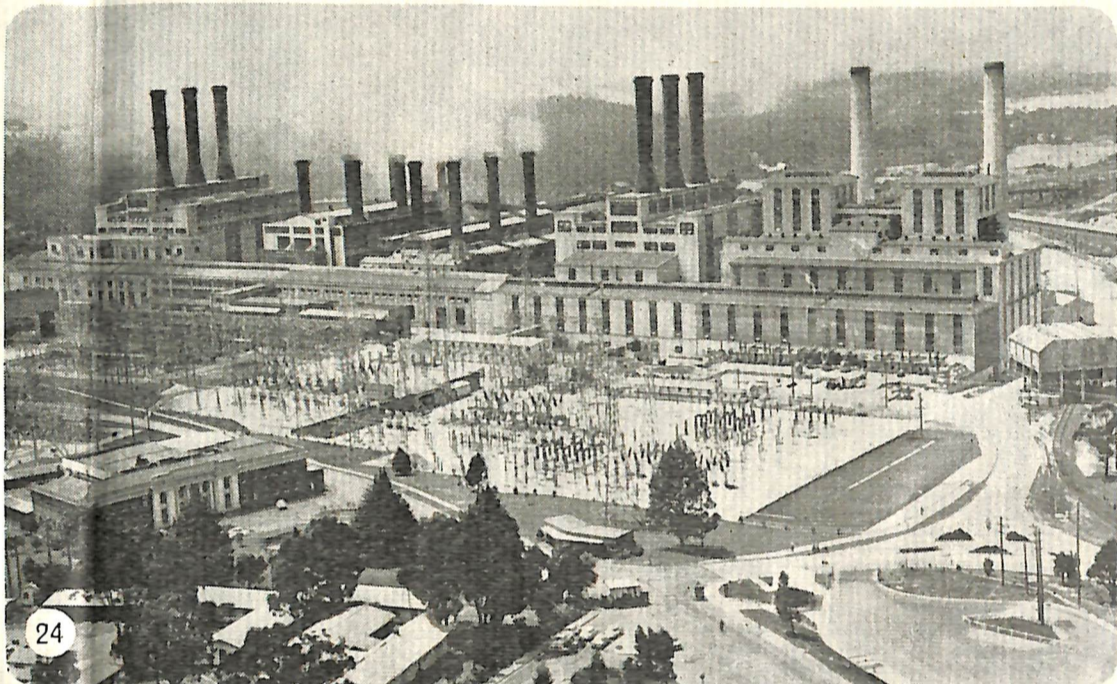
to the available capacity almost a third of Yallourn's total. When completed in 1971, Hazelwood, the Commission's largest project so far, will have eight 200 megawatt generating units. Coal is supplied by belt conveyors from Morwell open cut and cooling water is obtained from a two-square-mile artificial lake beside the power station.

26. A notable event in Victoria's electrical history was the connection of the millionth consumer in April 1964. He was a British migrant, Mr. Brian Hatley-Smith, of Rowville, who with his wife and two children were congratulated by the Manager, Eastern Metro Branch, Mr. Austin Crawford.

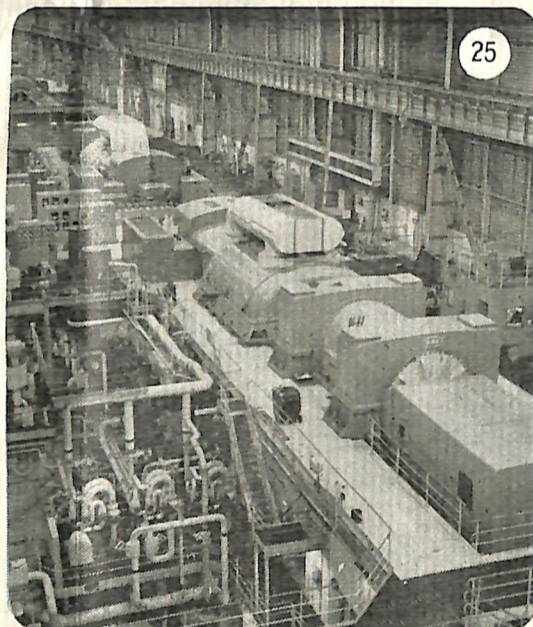
27. The major operation of moving staff into Monash House, the new Head Office in William Street opposite Lyle House, started late in 1966 and was completed in 1967. Monash House, a reinforced concrete building, has 23 floors and rises over 264 ft. above pavement level. It occupies part of land once owned by John Batman, Melbourne's founder.

28. Australia's first 500 kV transmission line went into service last year, but will operate at 220 kV until early in 1970. A second 500 kV line will go into service the following year. Both will feed the greatly increased production of the Latrobe Valley power stations into the State system. In addition to these lines, the S.E.C. has erected in the last 15 years three double-circuit 220 kV lines from the Valley to Melbourne.

29. Hazelwood Power Station, symbol of 50 years progress in electricity generation and service to Victoria. The sixth of its eight 200 megawatt sets will come into service this year, giving it twice the capacity of the whole of Yallourn and almost 50 times that of the Valley's first two machines which inaugurated the State system in 1924.



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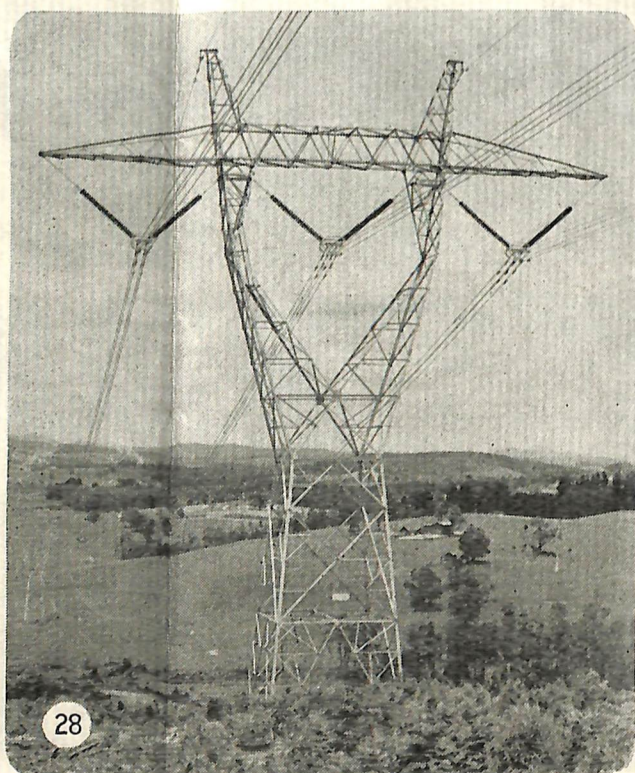
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