

Sloans Ferry Bridge



The decade of the 1930's saw the Great Depression in the United States and many other countries. During the decade, large numbers of people lived in poverty, desperately in need of food, clothing and shelter. Yet the resources that could produce that food, clothing and shelter were sitting idle, producing nothing.

At the worst point in the Depression, one in four Americans were unemployed. Further, it wasn't until 1941 when WWII was underway, that the unemployment fell below 10%.

In response to the hard times, the government of the United States put together the Works Progress Administration. Millions of skilled and unskilled workers were hired. At its peak in 1938, it provided paid jobs for three million unemployed men (and some women).

The photo is of the grand opening of the Sloans Ferry Bridge where Highway 74 (Wilkerson Boulevard) crosses the Catawba River.

The Project (known as State Project 631) was completed in 1933. It's still in service today, also known as the "American Legion Bridge" - Which, as the placard says "Erected as a memorial to the men of the counties of Mecklenburg and Gaston County who served in the World War 1917 - 1918".

In closing regarding the photo, note the price of gas20¢ a gallon! And the old quote from Henry Ford comes to mind regarding "colors" for his vehicles. He was as saying "They can have any color they want....as long as it's Black".

Courtesy of Don Stephens
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