

In-Again-Out-Again, Or, The Waters Of Lake Roland

This is the kind of weather when ice skaters, young and old, begin to think about the city's Lake Roland. But this year they can't do anything but think about it, because there isn't any water in the lake. It has been drained out in connection with construction of a boathouse at the lower end. Thereby hangs a story.

Back in the Spring and Summer of 1953, Lake Roland was drained for the first time in many years, in order to clean out accumulated debris. When the lake was all cleaned out, the water was allowed to accumulate again.

In the meantime, work had started on an ambitious project for a sewer line to serve the northern suburbs. Bids were called for and let late in the Winter of 1954, after the lake had been refilled, for laying that section of the sewer which would have to traverse Lake Roland. This involved assembling of a dredge and other complicated equipment on Lake Roland, and in due course, that is by the beginning of this year, this underwater engineering project had been completed.

The underwater engineering project having been completed, for a little while, the city then decided to empty all the water out of the lake again for the boathouse construction now in progress.

From the common-sense point of view, the time to lay a sewer line across a lake would be when the lake had no water in it. But governments do not always look at things from the common-sense point of view.