

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

December 8, 1949

The new Wisconsin Michigan Power Company hydro-electric generating facility at Way Dam officially started generating power on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The complex in Mansfield Township (Section 31 - T44N/R31W) began in June 1940 with construction of a dam to regulate the flow of the Michigamme River. In April 1941 the dam gates were closed beginning the formation of the artificial lake approximately 10 miles long by 3 miles wide containing approximately 5.2 billion cubic feet of water (390 billion gallons) covering 6,400 acres. Construction of the power plant located adjacent to the downstream side of the dam started in July 1948. The structure contains an induction type generator rated at 1,800 kilowatts driven by a 2,500 horsepower vertical water wheel capable of producing 10 million kilowatts hours of electrical energy annually. Electrical energy will be generated at 4,160 volts which will be raised by transformers to 69,000 volts for transmission through the grid. The turbine will operate at heads which will vary between a maximum of 38 feet and a minimum of 7 feet with changes in the headwater elevation behind the dam.