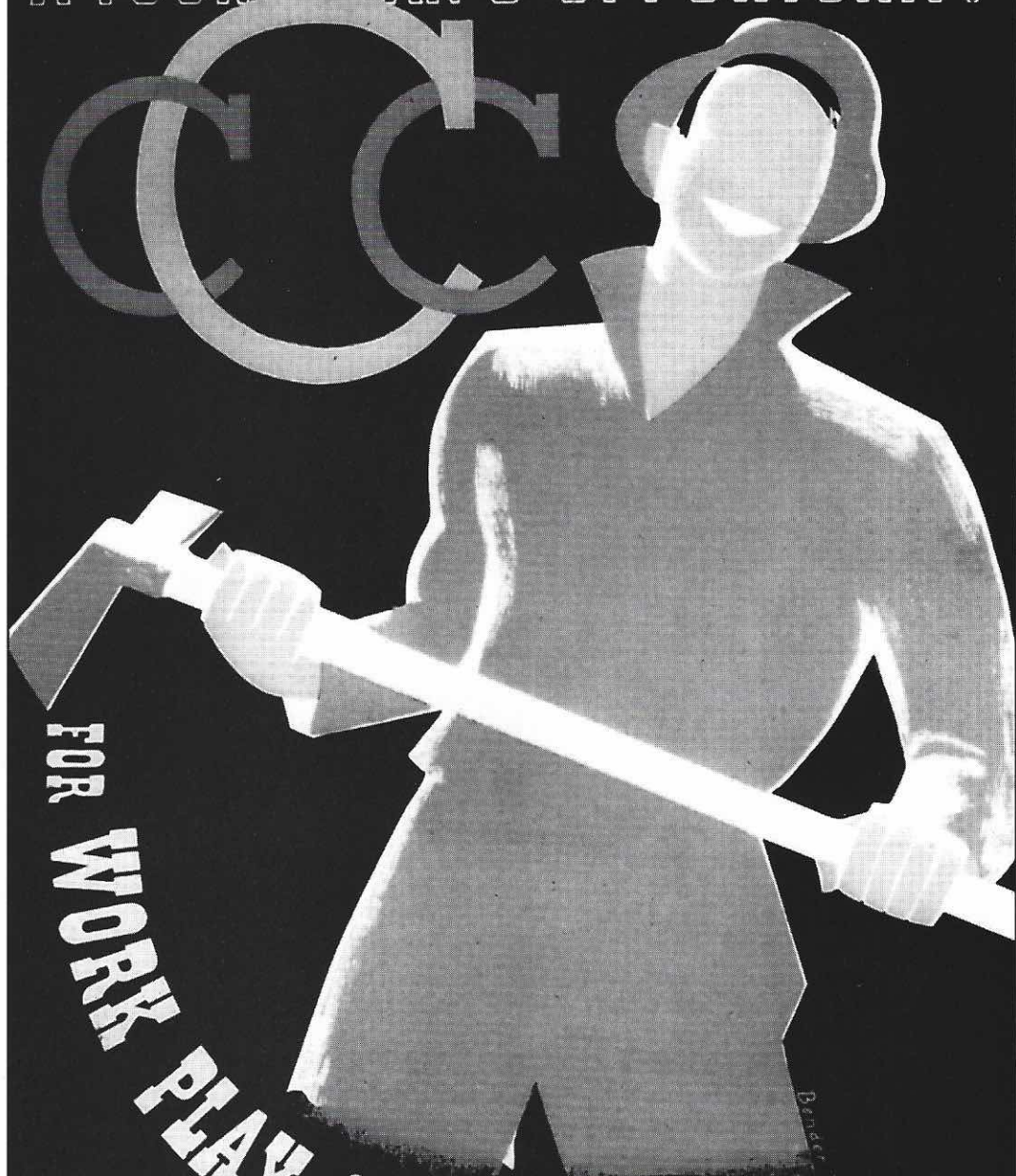


A YOUNG MAN'S OPPORTUNITY



FOR WORK PLAY STUDY & HEALTH



APPLICATIONS TAKEN BY
ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION
ILLINOIS SELECTING AGENCY

Civilian Conservation Corps CCC

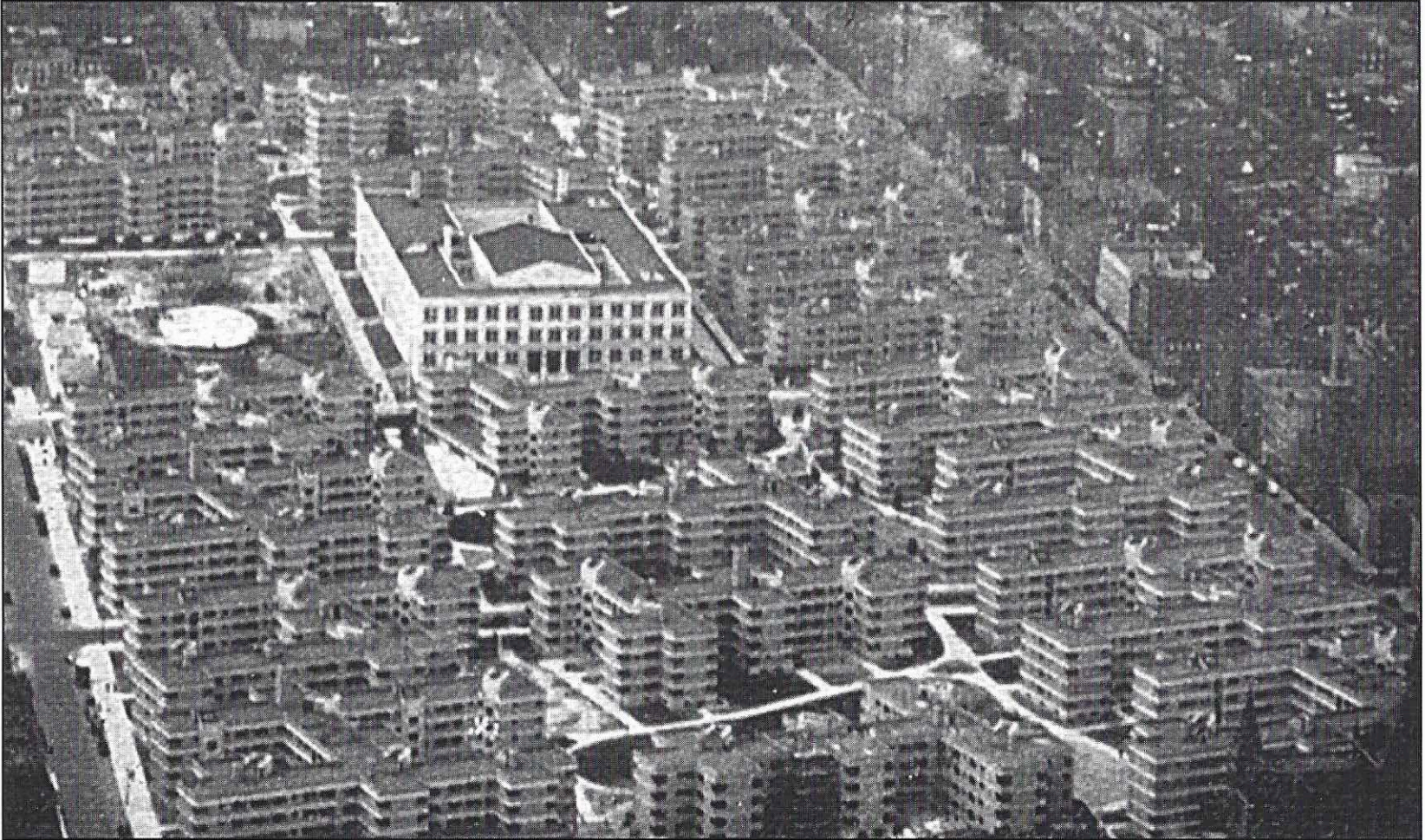
Caption Placard 4.4F

A recruitment poster created by Albert Bender to promote the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The post highlights the opportunities for “Work, Play, Study & Health” that the CCC offered to young men. The style of the poster, with its celebration of workers and portrayal of the positive attributes of work, is reminiscent of Soviet propaganda posters from the same period.

Jobs Programs

The New Deal provided economic relief to America’s approximately 12 million unemployed workers by establishing various job programs, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Civil Works Administration, and the Works Progress Administration. Over their lifetimes, these jobs programs employed over 13 million people—primarily white men—and spent over \$15 billion in federal funds. A vast majority of work-relief jobs involved construction: workers built or renovated over 125,000 public buildings—such as gyms, hospitals, libraries, offices, prisons, and schools—650,000 miles of roads, 120,000 bridges, 8,100 parks, 2,000 swimming pools, and 800 airports. Workers also built sidewalks, golf courses, tennis courts, wells, lakes and ponds, bird sanctuaries, wilderness trails, and irrigation (water) canals and ditches. Other workers—particularly women—produced over 300 million pieces of clothing for those in need, as well as millions of mattresses, rugs, brooms, and blankets. Jobs programs also employed thousands of childcare workers, doctors, nurses, and teachers for public assistance projects. Other, more unusual work projects included archeological digs at Native American sites and the creation of Jewish dictionaries by unemployed rabbis.

Government-created jobs programs existed in some form until the 1970s. However, during the 1980s and 1990s, jobs programs were all but eliminated as conservative politicians pushed for a reduction in government-sponsored relief programs. In the 1990s, most federal jobs programs were refashioned into small, “workfare” programs, in which welfare recipients worked at low-paying, low-skill jobs in return for benefits.



Public Works Administration PWA (Housing)

Caption Placard 4.4H

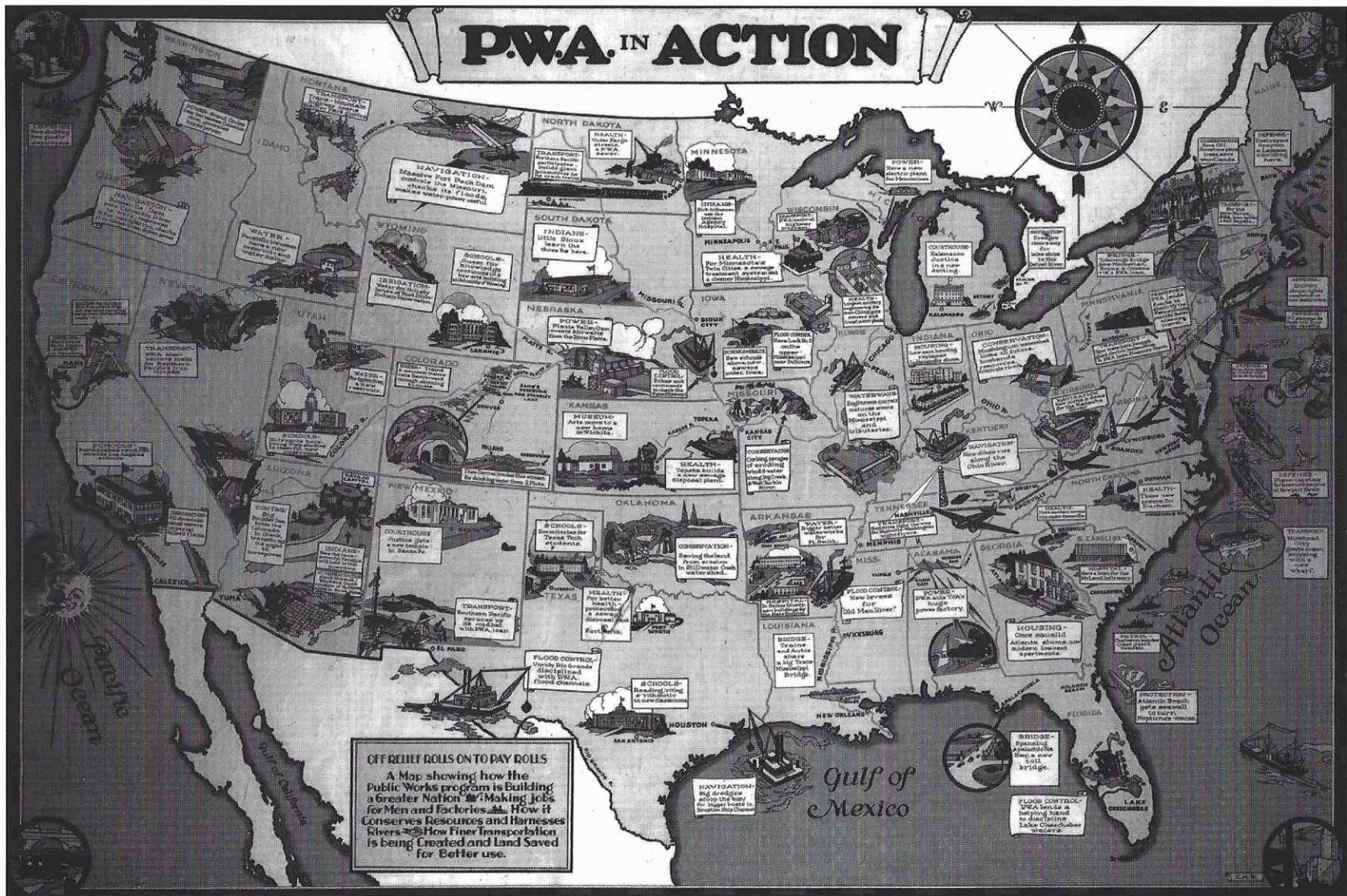
This is a public housing development called Williamsburg Houses in Brooklyn, New York. Built in the mid to late 1930s, this development replaced dilapidated housing and provided homes for 1,622 low-income families.

Public Housing

The New Deal addressed the need for affordable, quality housing in several ways. Under the Public Works Administration (PWA), workers demolished slums and built low-rent housing in their place. In its first few years alone, PWA workers completed 51 housing projects containing 21,700 dwellings in 36 communities. About half of the public housing projects were on former urban slum sites and were inhabited by an equal mix of African-American and white families. The new housing was a vast improvement over the filthy, run-down tenements (substandard apartments) in which the urban poor typically lived. The new public housing projects had a sufficient number of windows to provide light, adequate space, landscaped areas with trees and grass, and community rooms where tenants could gather to relax or socialize. For example, the Williamsburg Housing Project in Brooklyn, New York, contained 20 buildings, small lawns, and a community room painted with colorful murals. New Deal programs also helped renovate and build farm housing—80 percent of which was substandard, according to one report—and built camps for migrant (traveling) workers and other homeless jobseekers. The federal and state migrant camps were not luxurious by any means, but they were usually clean and provided decent food and shelter to those in need.

A federal agency devoted to community and housing development still existed in the 1990s. Some responsibilities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development included funding low-income housing projects and providing financial help to private home builders.

P.W.A. IN ACTION



OFF RELIEF ROLLS ON TO PAY ROLLS
A Map showing how the Public Works program is Building a Greater Nation by Making jobs for Men and factories. How it Conserves Resources and Harnesses Rivers and How Finer Transportation is being Created and Land Saved for Better use.

Public Works

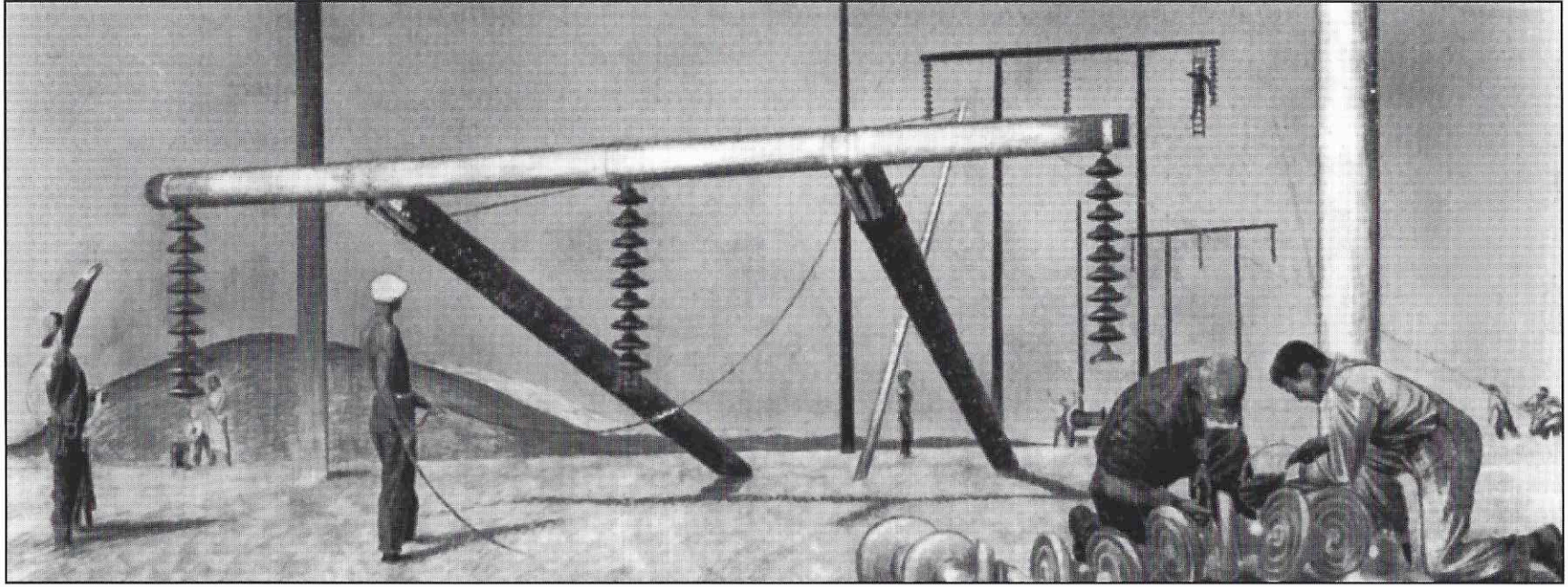
The New Deal promoted public works projects (government-funded construction projects) and created millions of construction-related jobs under the Public Works Administration (PWA). The PWA had a variety of goals: to provide jobs to unemployed Americans, to encourage industrial growth, and to improve the landscape by building impressive public monuments. The PWA ran its own construction projects, as well as provided building grants (financial gifts) and loans to state governments and private corporations. Over the life of the PWA, the agency spent about \$6 billion on hundreds of thousands of building projects. It generated almost five billion hours' worth of work for men around the country, most of whom were African American or white. Under the PWA, workers built bridges, canals, dams, parks, power plants, public buildings, roads, seaports, train stations, tunnels, and water systems. In Wisconsin, workers straightened out a curve in the Milwaukee River, and in Washington they built the largest structure ever constructed by humankind, the Grand Coulee Dam. By 1940 the PWA had built 70 percent of the nation's schools; 65 percent of its city halls and courtroom buildings; 65 percent of its sewage systems; 35 percent of its public health facilities, such as hospitals; and 10 percent of its transportation structures, such as bridges, roads, and subways.

The PWA was dissolved in the 1940s and never revived. However, in the 1990s, the federal government continued to provide funding for a wide range of public works projects, including funds for highways, dams, bridges, and public housing.

Public Works Administration PWA

Caption Placard 4.41

A painting dramatically portraying the wide variety of public works sponsored by the federal government through the Public Works Administration (PWA), including schools, hospitals, utilities, and transportation. For examples, a piece of heavy equipment is pictured next to the lake in Florida, and the caption reads, "Flood Control – P.W.A. lends a helping hand to discipline Lake Okeechobee waters."



Rural Electrification

The New Deal radically transformed southern rural families' lives under the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The TVA implemented a far-reaching set of plans to bring electrical power and economic recovery to impoverished farmers living in seven southern states along the 650-mile-long Tennessee River. The TVA built and improved waterways to prevent flooding, developed the use of fertilizer to stimulate crop growth, preserved natural resources such as timber and soil, planted trees, and taught farmers better planting methods. The TVA's most important contribution to rural life, however, was creating cheap, water-generated electrical power. When the TVA was created, 90 percent of farmers had no electrical power, because private power companies did not serve poor farmers in remote locations. Using local labor, the TVA built dams, power lines, and power plants to bring electricity to hundreds of thousands of rural homes. New Deal workers built similar power facilities in other parts of the country, such as the massive 726-foot-high, 1,244-foot-long Hoover Dam on the Arizona-Nevada border. Government-sponsored rural electrification brought comfort and economic growth to rural regions across the country. It also forced private utilities companies to lower their rates to compete with the government's cheap public power.

In the 1990s, the TVA continued to operate much as it did during the New Deal, remaining one of the nation's largest and cheapest suppliers of power. Dams completed during the New Deal also continued to supply power and water to regions that would be sparsely populated without them, such as desert communities in Arizona, Nevada, and southern California.

Tennessee Valley Authority TVA

Caption Placard 4.4K

A mural painted by David Stone Martin entitled "Electrification." The painting adorns the post office in Lenoir, Tennessee, which benefited from federal efforts to provide electricity to rural areas through the implementation of the Tennessee Valley Authority.