

~~SECRET~~
DOPE SHEET.

SUBJECT. "KARIBA" BIRTH OF A 2000 sq. MILE LAKE.

DATE. 6/12/58.

CAMERAMAN. DUNCAN ABRAHAM.

ALSO COVERED BY;- B.B.C.

LOCATION. KARIBA, RHODESIAN FEDERATION.

S T O R Y.

About 2½ years after the contract was placed for the building of the great wall at Kariba to tame the Zambezi River and make it work for man, the time arrived for the stopping of this great river by blocking the cavities in the wall through which the river has been allowed to pass until all was ready.

The Natives said the Zambezi will never be stopped, not even the white man with all his skill and magic can ever hope to stop the great Zambezi, the floods will soon wash away all his endeavours and on the 5th March of this year these prophecies nearly came true when the greatest flood in living memory came sweeping down the Zambezi and hurled its violence against the workings of the dam wall submerging everything even some of the offices built on the river banks. Desperately the contractors worked and finally won the day against this great onslaught. Since then the massive wall has grown and grown in advance of schedule until the time has now arrived for the great day when the word HALT will be given to Africa's 4th biggest river. In accordance with an international agreement with the Portuguese East African authorities the Zambezi would not be blocked until the flow rose to 17,500 cubic feet per second, this was expected to take place towards the end of November, but the Zambezi would not oblige and working crews and press representatives to witness the event stood by for eight days patiently waiting for the rise in the water level. Finally on the 2nd December the Zambezi fell into line with requirements and the Chairman of the Power Board Mr. Duncan Anderson gave the signal "BLOCK" and the big fleet of heavy vehicles swung into action each carrying a load of 25 tons of stone and rubble, they drove onto a narrow platform at the base of the dam wall and tipped their cargo into the river at the spot where the two remaining cavities allowed the passage of the river through the wall. The work went on night and day with a 25 ton load being emptied every few minutes. First big stones, then smaller stones and finally earth and sand. As the blockage became completed the Zambezi stopped in its course except for a trickle of seepage and the waters began to rise at the rate of about 6 inches an hour up the wall and spread out across the Kariba Gorge and up-stream the river widened and the great Kariba Lake was born which will finally extend over an area of 2,000 square miles and form the largest man made lake in the world outside Russia. (It is reported that Russia has a lake of 2,500 sq. miles.)

It so happened that in the midst of the blocking operation the holy day of St. Barbara arrived. St. Barbara is the patron saint of builders and as the builders of the Kariba Dam are Italians and good Catholics the day is rigidly kept as a holiday and on this particular St. Barbara's day there was special significance as the round church built at Kariba was to be opened and consecrated by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salisbury. The day had a dual significance therefore, namely one of thanksgiving for the successful stopping of the Zambezi and the opening of the church.

The shots cover the workings at the dam and especially the plugging of the gap. General views of the dam and surrounding country, the rise of the water up-stream and the drying of the Zambezi below the dam, also the church ceremony is covered.

S h o t s.

ROLL No. 1.

Roll No. 1 should more-or-less explain ~~xxxxx~~ itself, detailed notes were not kept. It covers some general views of the dam wall with medium close ups of the heavy vehicles tipping their loads of rock and earth into the river where the gaps are in the wall to fill the openings and stop the Zambezi.

There is a pan shot from the highest point at Kariba over looking the surrounding country and showing some of the houses and buildings at Kariba at the end of the pan the Zambezi river may be seen far below passing through the hills. There is a view of the outlet side of the wall showing water flowing before blocking.

ROLL No. 2.

Scenes at the blocking of the dam wall where heavy vehicles each carrying their 25 tons of stone are backed to the edge of the ledge at the base of the dam wall to off load their cargo into the water, a bulldozer pushes over what remains on the ledge. It is terribly hot work with temperatures well over 100 degrees, (it has been known to be 132 degrees.) but the stream of vehicles keep coming at only a few minutes intervals. There is an angle shot of the filling up operation taken from a shoot well above the scene. It will be seen in various shots taken at different times how the level of the water is rising. There is a final shot against the sun looking up stream of the Zambezi taken from the shoot conveyer, or sand conveyer.

ROLL No. 3.

A 2,000 square mile lake is born, view of lake forming above the Kariba Dam wall with the wall in background. The river is forming into a lake.

Angle shot of the great wall on the dam or up-stream side. The pan commences on the construction work in progress in building the series of ~~xxxxx~~ intake vents where the water will be taken from above the wall to the turbines below the earth's surface. Note how small the men appear against the massive construction of the wall, which has not yet reached its full height of 420 feet.

Diver going down at dusk to examine if the filling operations are successful.

Dedecation of the open air round church at Kariba on St. Barbaras Day commencing with a procession up the hill to the church. The Bishop of Salosbury then walks round the church sprinkling it with holy water as part of the consenrating ceremony.

Inside the church the ceremony proceeds. It is a round church with the alter in the centre and half of the church is open to the air for it is far too hot at Kariba to be confined within walls.

The bells ringing, there are three bells in the tower.

ROLL No. 4. 140 feet.

The swimming bath at Kariba with the hotel in background. The swimming pool is the best place to keep cool on the exterior while the hotel can supply cooling for the interior.

Pan from hotel overlooking the vast flats below all of which will be under water in due course as the dam fills, the distant mountains are 35 miles away and this will be the width of the lake at this point. In the foreground may be seen the three flags flying, the Union Jack, the Federation Flag and the house flag of the hotel.

Distant telephoto shot from hotel showing the lake forming round an island which will soon be covered for ever. On the right are some of the residential houses of workers at Kariba.

A general view taken some distance up-stream on the Zambezi illustrating the transforming of a river to a lake, in the distance may be seen ~~the~~ portion of the dam wall. Most of the country seen in the picture except the tops of the hills will eventually be covered by water.

A view looking the opposite direction up-stream where again the river is spreading into a lake. Once it tops its present confined space and floods over its banks it will spread for miles.

Game wardens who had built a fine camp on a little hill overlooking the river now have to move out before the water cuts them off, they have demolished their buildings and taken away all valuables to higher ground, for all one sees in this picture will soon be under water for all time, with forrests of trees and picnic spots. Many Native tribes have had to be moved from the flooding area, and the Game Wardens are standing by to assist the escape of wild animals as they are cut off by water. Some of the scenes and views seen now will probably never meet the eyes of man again.

Here of a scene on the lower side of the wall where the Zambezi is dying, here the famous river has dried up leaving only a few pools. This dry river bed is a sight which has no doubt never met the gaze of man before for the river has followed this course between the mountains for untold millions of years and now for the first time in history have the secrets of the river bed been revealed.

NOTE. See press cuttings and phamplet on project .

Low Cross

Yes

C.O.I. Newsreel Desk.
8th December, 1958.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FILM UNIT.
5th December, 1958.

DOPE.

KARIBA - SEALING OF THE
DAM WALL.

Roll 1. - 200 ft. Plus X.

1. LS Dame site from observation point.
2. LS South bank showing Blondin platform. Camera pans to upstream side of dam wall showing blocking of openings.
3. MLS Blocking of openings as above.
4. LS. Dam wall from upstream. River flowing fairly strongly.
5. MLS Openings at bottom of wall as seen from upstream.
6. LS Opening. Camera pans to other opening.
7. MLS Half submerged pier of old road bridge. Camera pans up to new bridge.
8. LS Foot bridge half demolished.
9. MS Men demolishing footbridge.
10. CS Grab - camera pans with full grab as it deposits rockfill into back of Euclid.

Roll 2. - 200 ft. Plus X.

1. LS of Euclid dumpers moving to base of dam wall.
2. CS Euclid tipping rockfill. Camera pans with rockfill as it tips into river.
3. As above.
4. CS Bulldozer pushing rock into river.
5. LS Dam site from upstream.
6. LS Dam site from downstream.
- ~~7. LS Dam site from downstream.~~
7. CS Water stilled at opening, flow ceasing.
8. LS high angle dam site from north bank.

Roll 3. - 200 ft. Plus X.

1. CS Cement pouring into bucket.
2. CS of bucket as it moves away from camera into LS. near dam wall. This work continues while dam wall is being plugged.
3. Various shots of dam wall from downstream, showing river has ceased flowing. Bare river bed and pools in f.g.
4. , Procession of R.C. Archbishop of Salisbury and adherent walking towards new Church (on Santa Barbara Day).
5. LS of Church. Camera picks up procession as they move, towards Church.
6. MS Crowds near Church.
7. MS-MCS Church bells pealing.

Roll 4. - 160 ft. Plus X.

1. Two shots of Signor Leto, designer of the Santa Barbara of Kariba. (Leto won the competition for the best design.)
2. Camera pans up to Cross.
3. Reverse angle Leto as he points.
4. LS-MS Procession arriving.
5. LS-CS Procession. Roman Catholic Archbishop of Salisbury comes towards camera and steps in CS.
6. Various shots exterior Church. Archbishop blesses Church.
7. Various shots ~~in~~ interior Church. Dedication ceremony performed by Archbishop. Church being dedicated to Santa Barbara. Ceremony taking place on Santa Barbara Day.