

## **The Origins of the Carrollton Dam**

On January 22, 1912, the City of Dallas opened bids to build a dam on the Elm Fork branch of the Trinity River. Two days later, the contract was awarded to M.S. Hasie of Dallas, Texas. Hasie was a former clerk-turned-bridge-contractor, whose name was used in a 1909 Popular Mechanics Ad for a company called "International Correspondence Schools."

"M.S. Hasie, of Dallas, Texas, was a clerk earning a small salary," the ad said. "He wanted to better himself and took the I.C.S. way of doing it. He is now a bridge contractor doing a business of \$200,000 a year....If you want to secure promotion make the same start these men did...."

The project would become the Carrollton Dam, which sits on the border of Carrollton and the City of Coppell. The Coppell Historical Society cites flooding along the east side of town as a primary cause for the dam, but it also appears to have been motivated by a desire to provide a reliable source of water for the City of Dallas during drought seasons.

According to the Municipal Journal And Engineer Journal published in November of 1912, the project was completed in October and cost approximately \$30,000. The Journal says that the main wall of the dam was 150 feet long and 20 feet wide and would impound 400,000,000 gallons of water.

Dallas municipal archives reveal that in 1915 Hasie sued Dallas for failing to pay him \$800 of the agreed upon \$27,000. The City countered that Hasie had not completed the project and left the City to finish the work. Despite being in violation of the contract, the courts ruled in favor of Hasie.

It seems those I.C.S. courses really did pay off.