

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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# Operation Tanks Down



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# Operation Tanks Down...

The forces at DeCoursey once again prove that you can't beat old-fashioned resourcefulness

**T**HE complete dieselization of the Dixie Line's motive power in the latter part of 1956 made "museum pieces" out of the two water tanks at DeCoursey, Ky.; however, they continued to be a part of the landscape until the enlargement and modernization of DeCoursey Yard, now well under way, made their removal imperative.

This was easier said than done; the usual method of removal involves the erecting of scaffolding which is time-consuming and expense-producing. Master Mechanic E. O. Rollings had the happy thought of utilizing the commodity which was responsible for the tanks being erected in the first place—i.e., the water with which they were filled—for their destruction.

Accordingly, after the wooden top had

been burned off the larger of the two tanks—capacity 500,000 gallons—a boat—named the "S. S. Wilcoxon," after its owner—was hoisted by crane and floated inside the tank.

This boat was manned by a welder and a welder helper and the water level lowered some four feet below the top of the tank. When a four-foot section was cut away all around the tank (almost to water level) and removed in sections with the aid of the crane, then the water level was lowered another four feet and so on until the boat was no longer

needed. Somewhat the same method was used in removing the smaller tank, which had a capacity of 200,000 gallons, its height of 53 feet contrasting with that of 55 feet for the bigger tank.

The "water-borne attack" on the tanks got under way April 28 and was completed May 31, with five carloads of scrap steel ( $\frac{3}{8}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick) representing what "once was."

The work of removal was done under the general supervision of Paul Hadden, resident construction engineer, and George Steinfeld, B. & B. foreman.

*Right: Boat-borne, Welder Helper J. D. Fortney (left) and Welder C. M. Hammond cooperate to remove a sizable section of the large tank. Below, left: Ground forces, with Crane Operator S. T. Sturgill at the controls, assist in the dismantling of the small tank. Larger tank is at right. Below, right: B. & B. Helper J. L. Pennington (with hose) cleans out bottom of small tank, to permit further cutting operations, with aid of Helper Fortney.*

