

The Henry C. Ulen File...

...historical anecdotes, incidents, and attributes of Henry C. Ulen, founder of Ulen Country Club and the Town of Ulen. presented by The Henry C. Ulen Foundation.



Mr. Ulen and the Marathon Dam

Far from offices in Lebanon, IN and the banks of the small creek meandering through Ulen Country Club's golf course, Henry C. Ulen's company managed the building of extremely large water and sewer construction projects in Europe, South America, Canada, and the United States. Perhaps one of his most famous projects, completed in 1929, is the Marathon Dam in Marathon, Greece.

Between 1920 and 1928, an estimated 1.3 million refugees were returning to Greece from previous wars, and the population of Athens would end up doubling, straining the water supply. All major water supply projects for Athens were reevaluated, and a subsequent report described the Marathon Dam as "the optimal solution" and the "last recourse" for Athens to improve its water supplies.

On December 22, 1924, Ulen & Co. signed a contract with the Greek government and the Bank of Athens to handle all aspects of constructing the dam. This included the dam, reservoir, a 13 mile conveyance pipe, and a water treatment plant. The project's cost exceeded the funds of the National Bank of Greece and was funded with a \$10 million loan from Ulen & Co. which had considerably more financial backing to complete the project. A Ulen-controlled consortium with the Bank of Athens and the Greek Government was formed.

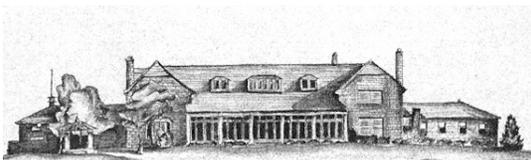
The foundation stone the dam was laid in October 1926. With 30 Americans and 5000 Greek workers, construction continued on the dam and water network three years, and in 1929 the reservoir began to fill. Ulen & Co. was noted for the quality housing and social services provided for the project's

According to records published by Ulen & Co. in 1930, the Marathon Dam is the gravity arch type, 154 feet thick at the base, 15 feet at the crest, 174 feet high above stream bed, and 935 feet long measured along the center line at the crest. The structure contains 235,000 cubic yards of concrete and masonry for which 40,000 tons of Portland cement and 10,000 tons of Puzzulan cement were used. The reservoir formed by the dam impounded over 11 billion gallons of water. The dam's face and visible structure were also covered in the same Pentelikon marble that was used to construct the Parthenon.

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workers. Work on the dam and water network was completed in May 1931. A year after the dam's completion, the 8 mile Boyati Tunnel was transferring 130 gallons per second of water to Athens. The dam would serve as the primary water supply for Athens until 1959, when water was also pumped from another lake.

The Marathon Dam was seen as a major symbol of modernization in Greece while signifying a connection to its past. Today, the internet makes it possible to virtually visit Mr. Ulen's project via the web site TripAdvisor, which presents many pictures of the dam and surrounding area. In addition, a You Tube video, DJI Phantom Vision 2+, Marathon Dam, Marathon, Greece, gives an interesting fly-over



The Henry C. Ulen Foundation

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