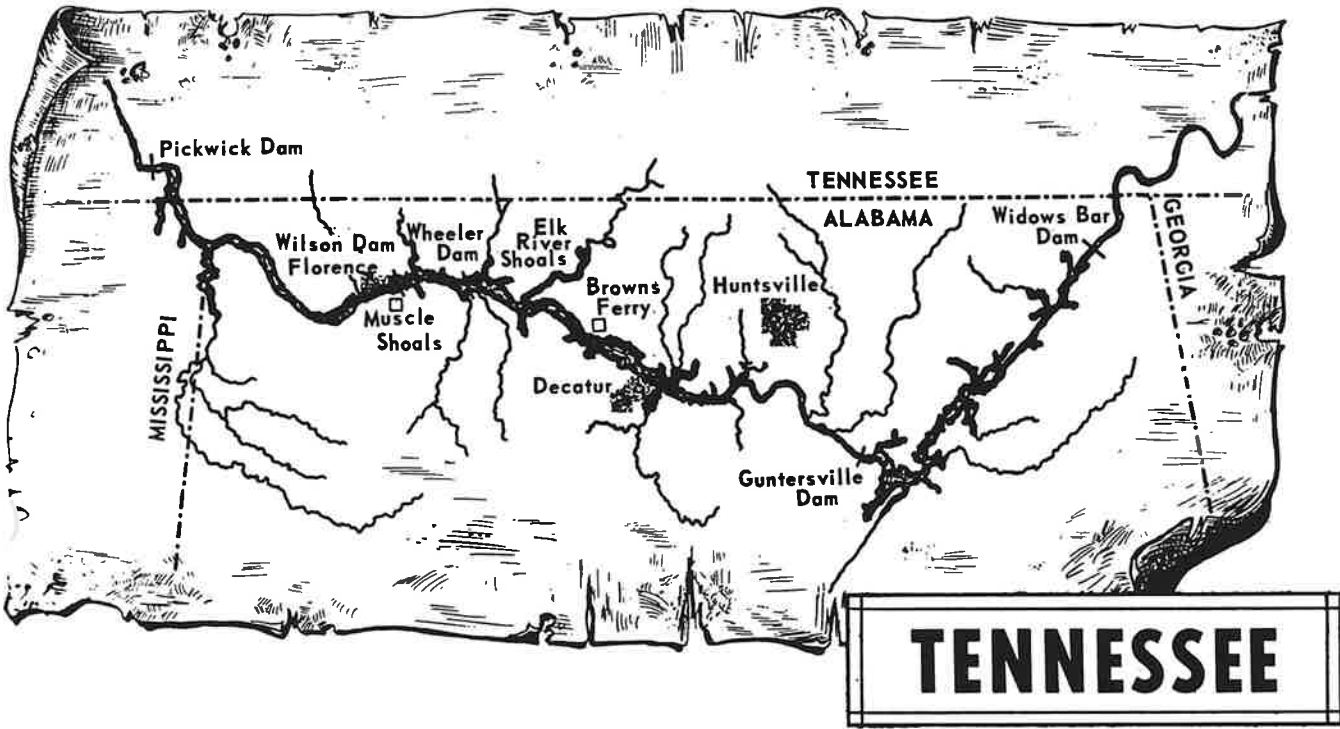


*Tennessee River traffic, ever busier for three decades, includes some of the world's most modern towboats and barges. Recreational visitors and property value have multiplied almost twenty times in twenty years. Because of TVA, the Tennessee River valley is more and more a rich, charming north Alabama paradise.*



**I**N America's great family of rivers, the Tennessee is unquestionably the gay sophisticate, the most grown-up of all the rivers. And her transformation has come in the shortest span of time.

48

Just thirty-five years ago the Tennessee was the awkward, sassy, downright ugly and poor kin of the family. Hardly more than a shallow, snag-infested creek in 1933, for more than two and a half centuries she had successfully resisted every effort to domesticate her and make her an acceptable member of the family. In summer and fall, swift currents and rocky shoals made navigation virtually impossible for boats, and a hair-raising adventure for rafts and canoes. When the rains came in winter and spring, the Tennessee was transformed overnight into a raging, monstrous killer, which swept aside and crushed all life in its path, inundating the flat countryside.