

STONE CHURCH (AKA BOSTON NEEDS WATER)

by Joe O'Connor

Once upon a time
there was a small village
a small village called oakdale
it stretched out as farmlands and a modest town center in the nashua river valley
the mighty nashua river runs through the center of town
with fields of apples and corn stretching off into the distance
the protestant and catholic churches stand on the high ground
an idyllic sleepy town
40 miles to the east
and the old wooden stave pipes leaked
and narrowed by calcification as water coursed through
but Boston needs water
this small village will have to go
Boston needs water
the sprawl of the city of Boston continues to grow
Daming rivers will create a large resevoir
Many rivers to dam
Dam the merrimack?
no the prosperous mill town of lowell must be protected
Dam the charles?
what and drown Harvard?
no
Whatever
Remember needs
 Boston water
eyes turned out toward to wachusett region
the nashua winds through the valleys
the sleepy towns Sterling, West Boylston, Boylston and Oakdale
or the burgeoning town of clinton - to the mills water equals power
the dam would provide more jobs, more settlements
the most impacted town would be oakdale
Dam oakdale - a little town with nothing special
or is it
Damn oakdale - a sore spot in urban planning
back in oakdale
what is urban planning?
we are just a small village
we will be okay here
Meanwhile
Boston needs water

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where to build the dam
big mills in clinton
more power from faster water and dont forget
Boston needs water
build the dam and take some land
25% of land from sterling
33% from boylston and west
and oakdale?
just take it - ALL of it!
Remember needs
 Boston water
that was more than 100 years ago
Oakdale is gone save the old stone church
the streets and houses are gone
the fields where farming once was king
now flooded and gone deep underwater
a whole town gone but remember needs
 Boston water