

4A September 26, 1976 Sunday Gazette-Mail



Memorial Plaque to Flood Victims Unveiled at Dam Dedication
Mrs. Marie Gordon (Left) and Watershed Chairman Woody Snodgrass View Plaque

Flood Control Dam Dedicated To Those Who Lost Their Lives

The first Elk Two-Mile flood control dam was dedicated Saturday, 15 years after the flood that claimed 12 lives along the creek and a total of 22 lives in the Charleston area.

The 60-foot earth dam is located on Westfall Hollow, a tributary of Elk Two-Mile, approximately four miles from W.Va. 14.

During dedication ceremonies at Valley Grove Elementary School, Woody W. Snodgrass, chairman of the Suburban Watershed Assn., unveiled a plaque which contains the names of the flood victims. The

plaque will be mounted on a rock in the schoolyard.

After reading each name, Snodgrass pointed out the plaque was paid for by citizens of the community as a memorial to the flood victims. "We have worked since 1961 to hasten this day," he said.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT was Mrs. Marie Gordon, whose daughter and grand daughter were drowned in the flood. Her daughter's father-in-law and mother-in-law were also drowned.

Mrs. Gordon, who lives in Huntington,

commented that "I'm glad the dam has been built. It took a long time, but this flood could happen again, and I'd hate for anybody to go through that."

The keynote speaker was Duway E.S. Kuhn, who was Kanawha County sheriff at the time of the flood and president of the Kanawha County Commission when the first dirt for construction of the dam was turned in 1961.

Kuhn said he vividly recalls coming to Elk Two-Mile after the flood and he described the damage as "unbelievable."

The dam cost \$478,000, of which the Soil

Conservation Service paid 57 per cent for engineering and construction. The remainder of the bill was footed by the Kanawha County Commission and the State Department of Highways for land acquisition, rights-of-way, etc.

A UNIQUE side feature of the project, according to Jack Whiting, executive director of the county's Regional Development Authority, is rural fire protection. A six-inch line will be run from the dam to Valley Grove School, and eventually will be extended to homes downstream.

Dupe Shreve of the Soil Conservation Service said the dam is dedicated "to the 22 who lost their lives, but more importantly, we who are here are dedicated to doing what we can to prevent a recurrence."

The Kanawha County Commission was represented by member Kelly Castleberry.

A second dam is under construction on Martin Hollow, and according to Whiting and Shreve should be completed next summer. It will be slightly smaller than the completed dam, which is 181 feet across and impounds a permanent pool of 1.9 acres and a maximum pool of 8.2 acres.

The county and SCS officials said a third dam on Hunter Hollow will go to contract next year.

Three other potential dam sites are being looked at, they added, but no decision has been made on whether they will be built. These projects would mean taking more homes and doing more road relocation than the first three.

'Indian Summer' Concert Scheduled in Coonskin

An Indian Summer family concert will be held at Coonskin Park from Noon until 7:30 p.m. next Sunday. Sponsored by the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission and the American Federation of Musicians, Local 136, the concert will feature bluegrass and contemporary rock music.

The concert site will be next to J.W.

Harvey Lake. The boat house and pedal boats will be available for public use. The Blues Mountain Band will play from noon to 1:30 p.m., the Godfather from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Sensational S. Varnes from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Zella from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. George Daugherty, the "earl of Elkhorn" will be master of ceremonies and play the banjo.

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