







# State Plans Discussed By Committee

Gazette 10-25-41

A new \$160,000 high school building, erected shortly before the Wappello dam was built in southern Missouri to harness the St. Francis river, found itself in the reservoir area one morning with its rooms subject to overflow.

To avoid just such results of haphazard planning is one objective of the National Resources Planning Board, Regional Counselor Earl O. Mills of Dallas said here yesterday. Mr. Mills was attending a meeting of the Southwest Mississippi Drainage Committee of the board at the Albert Pike hotel.

"A long-term program, mapped in advance, could have prevented erection of a beautiful new school in what was destined to be an important reservoir in our flood control system," Mr. Mills explained.

## Variety of Subjects.

Yesterday's technical conference was devoted to a continued study of stream pollution, recreation, flood control, power development, land uses and social and economic problems in the basins of the White, Black, St. Francis and Neosho-Grand rivers in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. It was the committee's fourth session.

No conclusions were reached. The conferees, Mr. Mills said, were endeavoring to determine development of the area 20 years hence. Recommendations made by the regional group will be passed on to the national board at Washington for final action.

## Recreation Important.

Recreation, in the opinion of Mr. Mills, will be one of the more important problems to solve. Notes presented on this and other subjects will be compiled and published, he said.

Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas were represented. Arkansas delegates included James J. Harrison of Little Rock, chairman, and L. A. Henry, engineer-director of the state Planning Board; Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, and Charles S. Christian, Arkansas Flood Control Commission engineer.

# Norfolk Dam Absorbs Labor In County

Special to the Gazette. 11-2-41

Mountain Home, Oct. 31.—Practically all Baxter county labor has been absorbed in the construction of the Norfolk dam, and John Bramlett, manager of the state Employment Service at the dam, announced that he will start hiring men from other counties. Although 660 men are employed on the job, there was a slight shortage this week.

"Concrete workers and construction truck drivers are almost always in demand," Mr. Bramlett said. "We will not need any carpenters within 30 or 60 days, but there will be a demand for steel workers, experienced in the type of steel employment Service at the dam, in the near future."

Since the dam received a priority rating of A-3, there have been no more delays due to inability to get material. The job is moving on schedule.

Excavation has been completed for 1,168 feet, approximately 190 feet wide, and in the deepest place approximately 100 feet high. Glancing this immense pit, one is overcome by the gigantic proportions of the project, and the amount of concrete that will have to be poured to complete it.

Gravel is being moved to the work area by the Missouri Pacific railroad at the rate of 30 cars a day from the big gravel pit at Heron switch on White river. The first concrete was poured October 10, and workmen since have poured approximately 5,050 yards. The pour has been in monoliths or sections 19, 20, 21 and 23. The entire dam foundation, consisting of 24 monoliths or sections, has been excavated to within five feet or less of grade. Approximately 567,000 cubic yards of earth and rock have been removed.

## River's Rise Causes \$15,000 Loss.

The only recent interruption on the job occurred last week, when 8.42 inches of rain fell at the dam. The Northfork river rose 10 feet

and played havoc with the work for a few hours. Every man on the job was pressed into service to prevent flood damage. Bernard ("Woody") Williams, project manager, got out and drove a truck and worked with the men. The loss was approximately \$15,000, including lost time.

Splendid recreation facilities are available for the men who work on the project. The contractors' recreation hall is equipped with pool and billiard equipment and a fine bowling alley. A bowling tournament is now in progress. Bowling appears to be the principal recreation.

During the last few days the staff of the United States engineers, under the direction of Capt. E. G. Herb, has increased, and now numbers 109 men. The 18 houses in the government village in Mountain Home, all modern, are filled. Plans call for the construction of 11 new houses soon.

Preliminary work on the Bull Shoals project, on White river, 12 miles west of Mountain Home, has started. A new core warehouse and office will be completed soon. Contracts for foundation drilling are expected to be let Wednesday and surveys covering layout work to be done in connection with the foundation explorations was started this week.

Maj. P. D. Berrigan, executive officer for the Southwest Division, United States Engineers, with Maj. J. R. Crume Jr., of the Little Rock district, in company with Captain Herb, Norfolk area engineer, inspected the Norfolk project this week.

# Shores Lake Dam Progressing

Special to the Gazette. 11-2-41

Russellville, Nov. 1.—Construction of the Shores Lake Dam and Recreation Area has passed the half-way completion mark, it is announced by Forest Supervisor W. C. Branch of the Ozark National Forest.

Work in this area began in 1939 under the supervision of the United States Forest Service. Labor was supplied by enrollees from the Mulberry CCC camp, near the site of the development. It will be 664 feet long, 40 feet high, contain 40,000 tons of concrete, and will form an 82-acre lake. The spillway will extend for approximately three-quarters the length of the dam.

This development is located on Hurricane creek in Franklin county approximately seven miles from Lookout Point on White Rock. It is accessible from Mulberry over 17 miles of the Fern road, Potato Knob road, and Bliss Ridge road. From Mountainburg it is accessible over 17 miles of the Frog Bayou road and Cass-Bidville road.

On the shores of the lake a group organization camp, under construction for some time, is nearing completion. Plans for the camp consist of a main lodge equipped to accommodate 150 persons. There will be 15 squad huts around the lodge with a capacity of eight persons each. An infirmary, recreation hall, mess hall, officers' and staff quarters, cooks' and helpers' quarters, toilets and laundry building are under construction. A water system will be installed.

The camp will be open for public use and will serve various groups such as the Y. W. C. A., Y. M. C. A., underprivileged children's groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and similar organizations.

Other developments planned include picnic areas, tables and fireplaces, parking area, and a swimming beach. The lake will be stocked with fish.

# Water Valley Dam Hearing Wednesday

Special to the Gazette. 12-7-41

Pocahontas, Dec. 6.—A public hearing, originally scheduled for November 18, will be held here Wednesday afternoon on the proposed \$9,000,000 dual purpose Water Valley dam and reservoir on the Eleven Point river, seven miles west of Pocahontas.

The project, one of eight authorized in the White river basin of Arkansas and Missouri, has been approved by Congress as a flood control dam only, but if public sentiment favors it, provisions will be made for the future installation of

electric power generation equipment.

It affects Randolph county, Ark., and Oregon county, Mo.

Lt. Col. T. F. Kern, district army engineer, will be in charge. Several hundred persons are expected to attend including Congressman Wilbur D. Mills, members of the Arkansas Flood Control Committee, flood control leaders of Missouri, Missouri congressmen and utility executives of both states.

Preliminary surveys were made several years ago, and intensive exploration of the geological formations at the dam site was done by the engineers during the past summer. Core borings and open shaft diggings have been conducted on the center line of the proposed structure and in nearby areas to be affected by the dam. Desired data has been compiled, and all that remains before the plans and report can be completed is the reaction of affected interests to the proposed structure.

## Dual-Purpose Dam Seen.

The Water Valley dam, which is embraced in the Arkansas Valley Authority program, now before Congress, will be developed as a dual-purpose dam, it was indicated by Colonel Kern in a previous hearing held in Pocahontas. He explained that extensive field and office studies had indicated that an earth and rock fill dam was best suited for the Water Valley site. The studies have also shown that the site is suitable for a dual-purpose structure.

Detailed plans are being prepared so that construction can begin at once on appropriation of the funds by Congress.

The dam will be located 13 miles above the junction of the Eleven Point and Spring rivers and about 16 miles above the junction of the Spring and Black rivers. The dam would give protection to much of the rich Eleven Point valley but also would flood several thousand acres of the rich valley above the dam.

The reservoir area lies in northwestern Randolph county and south central Oregon county, Mo. Approximately 28,000 acres of Randolph county would be flooded and 2,000 acres of Missouri.

That section of this county to be flooded is the most highly developed section of the county in the cattle, hog, sheep and chicken industry. The best corn land of north-east Arkansas is located along the Eleven Point river.

The total storage capacity of the dam would be 1,725,000 acre feet, of which the top 521,000 acre feet would be reserved for flood control and the balance to be used for power generation.

## Opposition Dwindling.

Conversations with farmers of the area, some of whom are living on farms settled by their forefathers more than 125 years ago, indicate that there will be much less opposition to the project if it is a dual purpose structure than if only a flood control dam. Much of the opposition expressed has been of a sentimental nature.

Civic interests of Pocahontas and the county are heartily in favor of the structure, and the only opposition expected to develop is from persons living in the affected area and possibly from private utility interests.

# Water Valley Dam Hearing Set Wednesday

Democrat 12-7-41

Persons interested in and affected by the proposed construction of the Water Valley Dam and reservoir on the Eleven Points River, near Pocahontas, have been invited to attend a public hearing Wednesday at 10 a. m., in the Randolph County courthouse in Pocahontas.

Lt. Col. T. F. Kern, U. S. Engineer, Little Rock District, will conduct the hearing in connection with studies being made now for the dual purpose dam, which is a flood control measure, but may have power-generating equipment installed if approved by Congress.

Extensive field investigations and office studies for developing the site have been in progress for a long time. Colonel Kern said in the public hearing notice. The studies indicate the site is suitable for development for both flood control and power generation.

The Water Valley Dam is six miles west of Pocahontas, and about 13 miles above the confluence of the Eleven Point River with the Spring River. Present plans contemplate an earth embankment about 140 feet high and 2,250 feet long. The reser-

voir will have storage capacity of 520,000 acre feet for flood control and, if power facilities are authorized, additional storage capacity of 1,208,000 acre-feet for power production.

Studies indicate about 50,000,000 kilowatt hours of prime electric energy can be produced each year.

A similar hearing will be conducted Wednesday in Hot Springs by the Vicksburg, Miss., District Engineers, relative to the proposed construction of the Blakeley Mountain Dam.

# Second Diversion Of Northfork

Special to the Gazette. 1-30-42

Mountain Home, Jan. 29.—The second diversion of the Northfork river has been made at the Norfolk dam, and the stream is now flowing 264 feet wide over huge concrete monoliths on the north side of the dam axis. It is held in its present channel by a huge dike.

Excavation has started in the former stream bed on the south side of the river, where some 50,000 cubic yards will be taken from the foundation proper and 60,000 from the stilling basin foundation. It will require until September to excavate and pour these foundations which will include 11 conduits four by six feet through which the river will be diverted for the last time. Pouring will be continued on the north side of the river above water level, and above the excavation level on the south side.

Work on the project continues on schedule. Last week some 15,000 cubic feet of concrete was poured.

Foundation work on the Bull Shoals project on the White river, 12 miles west of Mountain Home, is progressing on schedule. Oscar Landers, who has the contract for the big trench said the job is about 60 per cent complete. The Pennsylvania Drilling Co., which has the contract for core drilling the foundation said his contract is about 65 per cent complete. Foundation and engineering work on the Table Rock project in Taney county, Mo., also is progressing on schedule.

## Would Rename Norfolk Dam For General MacArthur.

Gazette 2-27-42

Washington, Feb. 26 (AP).—The House received a proposal today that a huge dam under construction in the White river basin of Arkansas be named "Douglas MacArthur dam" in honor of the general commanding American-Filipino forces in the Philippine islands.

Representative Ellis (Dem., Ark.) introduced a bill (H.R. 6679) to change the name of the structure now called "Norfolk dam" in recognition of MacArthur's success "with a handful of men in holding off the full tide of an ocean of Japs."

MacArthur is a native of Little Rock, Ark. The congressman told the House that the dam would help to make more aluminum and other materials of war long after "those brave men of Luzon have completed their final victory."