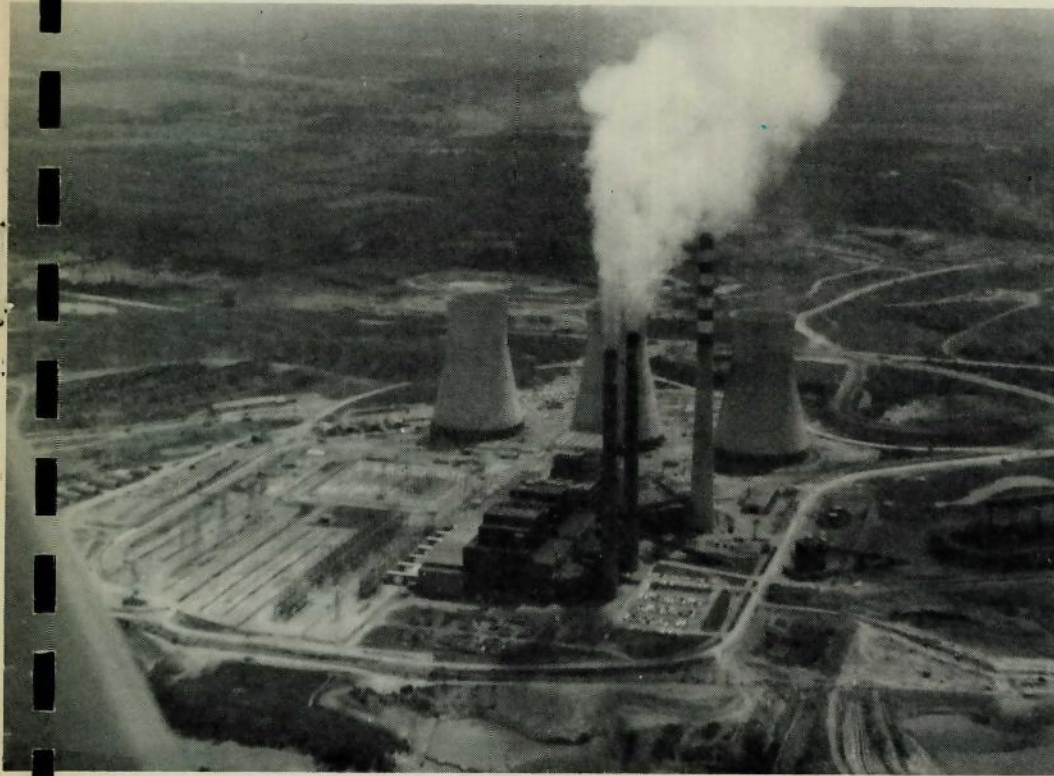


RURAL

Kentuckian

MAGAZINE



Electricity
And
Environment



Cave Run Lake
Under
Construction

January, 1973

STATE'S FIFTH LARGEST LAKE TO OPEN IN 1974

There's little to see now, only tons of mud and miles of bulldozer tracks, but in 1974 the waters of Kentucky's fifth largest lake will begin rising behind Cave Run Dam near Salt Lick, Kentucky. And residents of the Bath, Rowan, Menifee, Morgan and Elliott county area hope their local economy will begin rising right along with the waters of Cave Run Reservoir.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers, describing the project for newsmen during a recent tour, say the dam will be finished late next year. They hope to begin impounding the reservoir in January of 1974 so that the lake will be at least partially ready for fishermen and swimmers in the summer.

It's been a long time coming. Congress originally authorized the Licking River project almost 40 years ago, but construction did not begin until 1965. Bad weather, labor problems and federal fund shortages have forced the projected completion date to be moved back several times.

Spindletop Research, in a study of the project, estimates the lake could bring one million people per year into the area. The U.S. Forest Service, which will administer the lake area, estimates the facility could bring \$5 million annually into the five counties the lake will touch.

To lure visitors to the area, recreational facilities are being planned that will include a lodge, swimming pool, campgrounds, picnic areas, a 2000-foot beach, hiking trails, boat ramps and a marina.

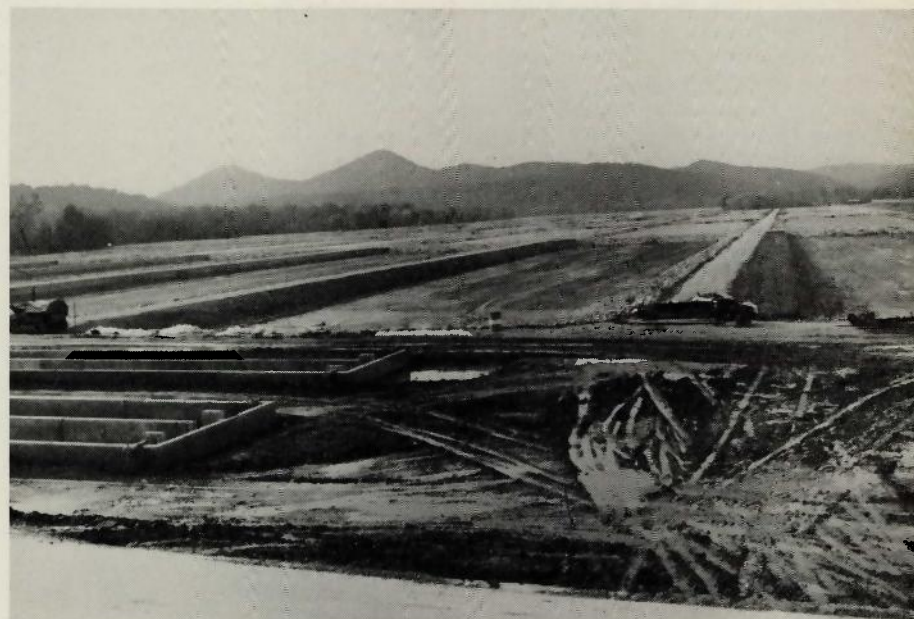
When filled, Cave Run will cover some 8270 acres, making it Kentucky's fifth largest lake, with an estimated shore line of about 200 miles. The final cost of the project will be about \$45 million.

FISH HATCHERY

Just below the dam, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife is putting the finishing touches on its \$2 million Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, a 300-acre facility which could become quite a tourist attraction itself. Built entirely with revenue from license fees and taxes on fishing equipment, the hatchery primarily will be used to produce four species of game fish:



D. B. Greenfield, assistant engineer with U. S. Corps of Engineers, points out details on a map of Cave Run Reservoir for newsmen. The lake, which will be Kentucky's fifth largest when completed, will be impounded behind Cave Run Dam, now under construction on the Licking River near Morehead. The corps recently sponsored a tour of the dam site and lake area for the news media. Facilities around the lake will include marinas, boat docks and ramps and camping areas. The lake area will be the only one in the nation administered by the U. S. Forest Service. (HENRY Craig Photo)



Stretching into the distance are some of the 82 brood ponds of the new Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, now under construction on the Licking River near Morehead. The hatchery, to be named in honor of former Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Minor Clark, will become fully operational with the completion of Cave Run Reservoir. Stretching over 300 acres, the facility will produce largemouth bass, wall-eye and muskie to be stocked in Kentucky's larger lakes. (Henry Craig Photo)

largemouth bass, stripped bass, wall-eye and muskie.

According to the department's fisheries division, the hatchery will produce about one million largemouth bass per year when fully operational. About 150,000 each of the other three species also will be produced each year. One of the largest and most modern warm-water hatcheries in the nation, the facility includes more than 100 acres of brood ponds and holding basins for forage fish.

ONE OF CLEANEST LAKES

According to Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Arnold Mitchell, Cave Run Reservoir should be one of Kentucky's cleanest lakes, offering high water quality and plenty of good fishing. Corps of Engineers officials say they expect no strip-mine siltation problem at the reservoir and that acid drainage into the lake will be minimal. There are few strip-mine operations near the lake, since most of the reservoir lies within Daniel Boone National Forest.

The U.S. Forest Service says it will make every effort to keep the lake area clean and to preserve its natural atmosphere. They're considering some

stringent camping and boating regulations to do just that. Under regulations now being considered, no camping would be allowed along the lake shore, except at designated camping areas. Private boat docks would not be permitted on the lake. To promote fishing, water skiing would be limited to certain areas of the lake and to certain periods of the day.

Another rule being considered might effectively eliminate house boating on Cave Run by prohibiting persons from living on boats at the lake. While the rules are strict, and may draw protests from recreationists, Forest Service officials feel they may be necessary to keep the lake clean and beautiful. They stress that the regulations are only under consideration and no final decision has yet been reached.

The Forest Service plans to build some of the facilities around the lake, but will let a contract for private construction and operation of the lodge-marina complex. Part of a planned Twin Peaks Recreation Area near the dam, the complex would include a 120-unit lodge, pool, restaurant and a 100-slip marina. Another private marina is planned upstream in Morgan County.

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