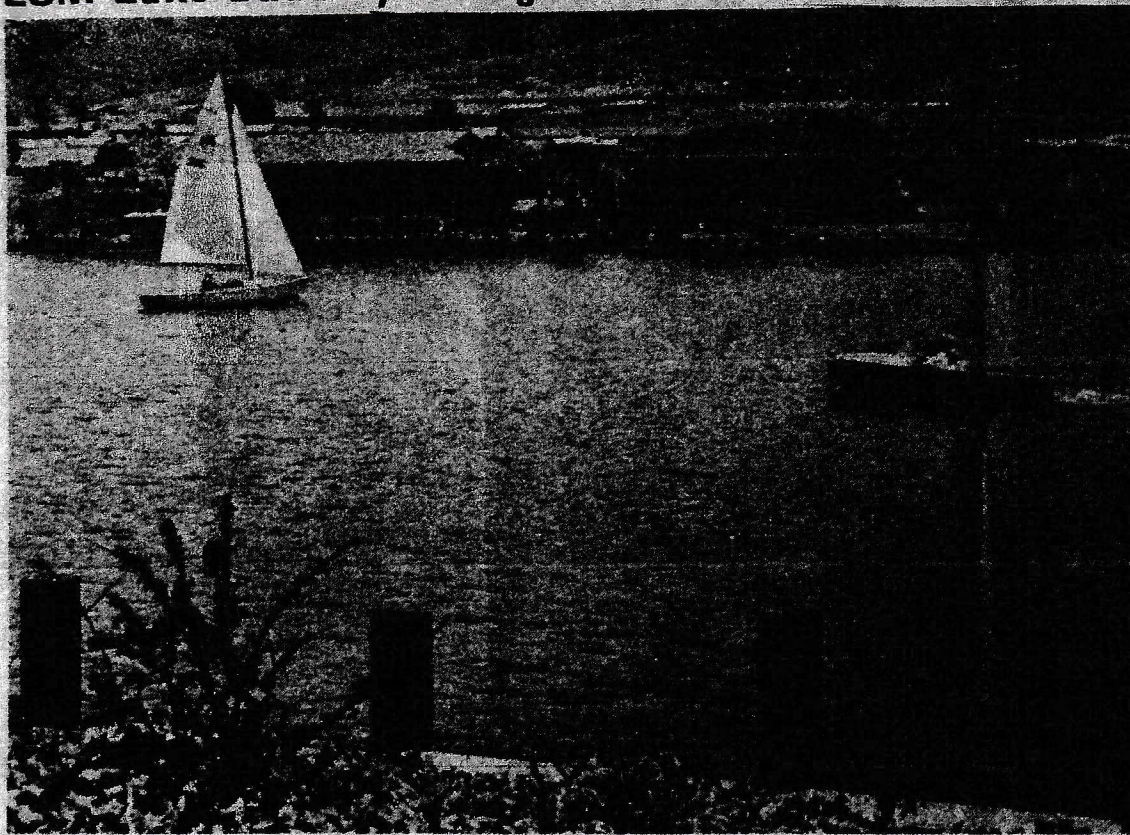


LSM Lake Built By George Clemson And John Wells



Have you ever wondered about the origins of the lovely 80-acre lake which gives the Lake San Marcos community its name?

It all started in 1946, when the original owner of much of the Lake property, George Clemson, and his son-in-law John Wells, began constructing a dam across San Marcos Creek. The privately funded dam was completed in 1951, and created a lake with surface of 40 acres.

The lake was expanded to its present contours 13 years later, as the initial phase of development of the Lake Community. The shoreline was reshaped and expanded, doubling the surface area of the lake. The natural soil

on the lake bottom is of an ideal type to prevent water loss through seepage, and so no methods of artificial sealing were required.

The primary water supply for the lake comes from rainfall and 29 square miles of land which drain into the lake. It is also fed by three springs. Once the ground has become saturated at the beginning of a rain season, one inch of rainfall will raise the level of the lake by one foot. Excess water can be drained from the lower levels of the lake by opening valves in the 65 foot high dam, or the extra water can flow over the top of the dam. Overflow from the lake reaches the ocean by way of the lagoon west of La Costa.

In 1963, the spring rains brought the new lake to within six feet of its capacity level. Additional water needed to fill it was purchased from the San Diego Water Authority, and fed into the lake bed from the Water Authority aqueduct which runs beneath the lake. Since that time, the water level has been maintained from natural sources, but in case of future need, the aqueduct can again be used as a resource.

Today's lake is one and a third miles long, with a depth ranging from eight feet at the base of the shoreline to 54 feet at the dam. Lake San Marcos is the largest privately owned lake in San Diego County.

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We are just finishing up the third earth fill dam on the San Marcos ranch. This is a good big one and will impound at least 100 acre feet of water. The final survey stakes have been driven on the big dam farther down the canyon and drilling will commence there sometime in February. John is taking a water pump down the canyon and will hydraulic all the dirt and loose rock away from the site between now and then. We have arranged with Hendershot to build the dam. He has lined up the rock and sand, gravel and cement mixer, scaffolding and form lumber plywood for the forms themselves. So it really begins to look as though the dam would go up next summer, and the proceeds from the real estate sales will provide the necessary money.

To Allan 1/16/1946

To Susan
1/30/51

We had a fine rain here yesterday and the day before, enough to carry the grain and pasture for two or three more weeks but nothing for the dam, it seems strange that the rains have all cut off just as the creek begins to run. It is very cold here this morning, having cleared up into a typical norther.

To Allan
1/17/51

The lack of rain is becoming most serious, like last year we are having frequent rains but they quit at about a quarter of an inch, this keeps the grain and pasture growing but provides no reserves so that we are walking a tight rope all of the time and there is absolutely no runoff.

There is some weather encouragement in Gene Bola's maps tonight, a low seems to be stuck just off the coast, it has been raining all day today and about an hour ago it began to pour. His prediction is for rain for the next two days; possibly get some water behind the dam if it comes true.

Hope you are still having fun with the Nash.

Love
Dad.

To Susan

2/24/1951

