

EXHIBITS:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Arkansas National Guard
Southwestern Power Administration
Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Heber Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
Greers Ferry Chamber of Commerce
Clinton Chamber of Commerce
GAR-BRO Manufacturing Company
U.S. Postal Service
Greers Ferry Lake/Little Red River Association
Heber Springs Fire Department

Save Greers Ferry Lake
Rotary Club of Cleburne County
University of Arkansas Division of
Agriculture-Cleburne County Extension
Cleburne County 4-H Clubs
Arkansas State University-Heber Springs
South Fork Nature Center
Clinton Rotary
Clinton Advertising & Promotion Commission
Keep Arkansas Beautiful
Artist Ellen Hobgood
Author Karen Murphy

EVENT SPONSORS:

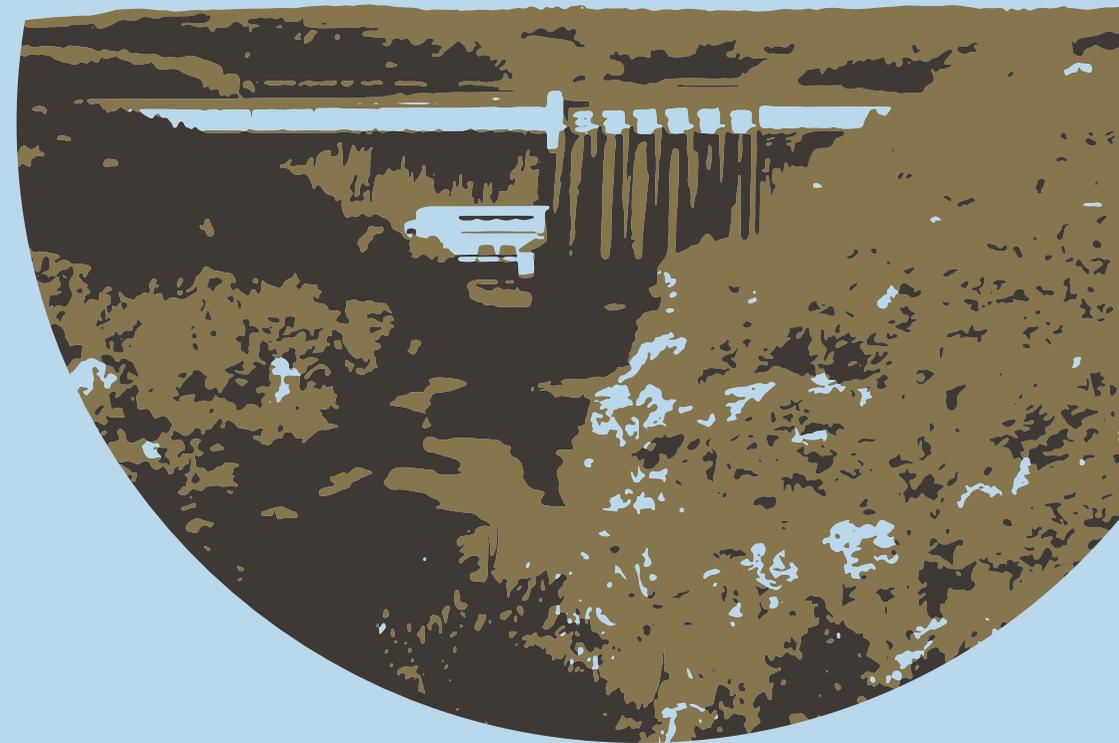
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Heber Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods
Arkansas National Guard
Southwestern Energy
Grayson & Grayson, P.A., Attorneys & Counselors at Law
RE/MAX Advantage Realtors, Heber Springs
Heber Springs Advertising & Promotion Commission
Wisdom Pointe

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Clinton Foundation
Golf Cars of Arkansas
Boy Scouts of America
City of Heber Springs
City of North Little Rock
Arkansas State University-Heber Springs
Arkansas Highway & Transportation
Department
Arkansas State Police
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism
Cleburne County Sheriff's Office
Cleburne County Office of Emergency Services
5 Star Brass
Heber Springs Police Department
Heber Springs Fire Department
George Poole
Ron Gillespie
Franklin & Tracy Fall
Luke & Michelle Mobley
Ted Hall
Stephen Choate
Cleburne County Master Gardeners
Cleburne County 4-H Clubs
Pro Landscapes of Heber Springs
Cleburne County Fair Board
Lyon College
First United Methodist Church of Heber Springs
Heber Springs Baptist Church
White County Fair Association
All the volunteers that made this event possible

GREERS FERRY DAM 50TH ANNIVERSARY DEDICATION CELEBRATION CEREMONY

October 3, 2013



JFK OVERLOOK • HEBER SPRINGS, ARKANSAS • *11:30 a.m.*

The Project

At the foot of beautiful Round Mountain and in the shadow of Sugar Loaf stands Greers Ferry Dam. Behind that structure glistens one of the foremost recreational areas in the United States, Greers Ferry Lake.

Greers Ferry Dam and Lake were authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1938, and hydroelectric power generation was authorized in 1954. Construction began in 1957; the project was ready for flood control in 1962; it was dedicated in 1963; and power generation began in 1964. The project cost more than \$46.5 million.

The dam is on the Little Red River about three miles northeast of Heber Springs. A concrete structure 1,704 feet long and 243 feet high, the dam forms a reservoir nearly 50 miles long and contains a powerhouse with two hydroelectric generators of 48,000-kilowatt capacity each.

The lake covers 31,500 acres at conservation pool, has a 273-mile shoreline, and is the second largest lake wholly located within Arkansas. Flood control storage equals a depth of 15 inches of water spread over the 1,100-square-mile area which drains into the lake.

Greers Ferry is recognized as one of the cleanest and most beautiful lakes in the United States. It hosted more than seven million visitors in 2012, most coming to sightsee, swim, fish, ski or boat in the crystal-clear waters of the lake.

Since it was completed, the Greers Ferry Project has regulated more than 80 floods on the Little Red River. Accumulated flood losses prevented are estimated at over \$50 million. Through 2012, the project has produced more than 9.2 million megawatt hours of electricity, which was marketed for more than \$64 million.

The Corps operates 15 parks around Greers Ferry with nine commercial marina concessions. The project currently has a total of 994 developed campsites.

The William Carl Garner Visitor Center opened in June 1983. Located near the dam on Highway 25 North, the center tells the story of the Little Red River country through exhibits, photographs, multi-image audiovisual presentations and live demonstrations. All center activities are free, and the facility is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through the summer, with a reduced schedule during the winter months.

The project was selected as the Corps of Engineers Project of the Year in 1978. Four nature trails – Sugar Loaf Mountain, Buckeye (for the disabled), Mossy Bluff and Josh Park Memorial Trail – are included in the National Trail System. The Greers Ferry Lake and Little Red River Cleanup program, started in 1970, has won 16 Keep America Beautiful awards, six Take Pride in America awards (including the Hall of Fame Award) and was the model for the Great Arkansas Cleanup and National Public Lands Day. Using the Greers Ferry Cleanup as a model, the Federal Lands Cleanup Act (PL 104-333) was changed by Public Law 99-402 to the Carl Garner Federal Land Cleanup Day in 1996. This law requires all federal agencies managing federal lands to organize and conduct annual volunteer cleanups on the first Saturday after Labor Day.

The Program

- ★ **WELCOME BY MASTER OF CEREMONIES** Mayor Jackie McPherson, City of Heber Springs
- ★ **PRESENTATION OF COLORS** Arkansas Army National Guard
- ★ **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Braylon Mitchell, University of Arkansas Razorbacks
- ★ **NATIONAL ANTHEM** 106th Army Band, Arkansas Army National Guard
- ★ **INVOCATION** Rev. Tommy Toombs, First United Methodist Church of Heber Springs
- ★ **RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS** Mayor Jackie McPherson
- ★ **REMARKS BY BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS W. KULA**, Commander of Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ★ **REMARKS BY ARKANSAS GOVERNOR MIKE BEEBE**
- ★ **REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON**, Founder, Clinton Foundation; 42nd President of the United States
- ★ **CLOSING REMARKS** Cecil Alexander, Former Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives



REMARKS BY GOVERNOR
MIKE BEEBE



REMARKS BY PRESIDENT
BILL CLINTON

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT

JOHN F. KENNEDY

DEDICATION OF GREERS FERRY DAM

Heber Springs, Arkansas

OCTOBER
3 1963



In Memoriam

It was 50 years ago today, October 3, 1963, that President John F. Kennedy stood in this very spot before 10,000 Arkansans and dedicated the Greers Ferry Dam and Lake. In his last public appearance before his ill-fated trip to Dallas, the President gave an impassioned speech about the importance of this effort by the state of Arkansas and the Army Corps of Engineers and the impact it would have.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

Senator McClellan, Governor Faubus, Chairman Mills, Senator Fulbright, Chairman Harris, Congressman Trimble, Congressman Gathings, members of the military, ladies and gentlemen:

I appreciate this opportunity to come here and join you in dedicating this great resource of our country, as well as this district, as well as this state, and I am particularly glad to come here with my colleagues, former colleagues in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. I suppose, pound for pound, the Arkansas delegation in the Congress of the United States wields more influence than any other delegation of any of the other 49 states. That could be either good or bad for the country, but in this case it happens to be good, and I don't know whether the people of Arkansas who may feel that Washington is far away and not every face may be friendly, I don't know whether they realize that your delegation holds within its hands, in a very real sense, not only a good many important measures which affect this state, but measures which also affect this country.

The seniority system of the Congress provides, if a district elects a congressman or senator long enough, and they stay in the same party long enough, that they will become the democratic chairman of their committee in the House and Senate. This has, on occasion, in all frankness, produced very dubious results, but it has also, on many other occasions, produced rather extraordinary results. Here in this state, the legislation which was recently passed through the United States Senate which gave us some hope – some hope – of preventing a nuclear war with the Soviet Union – and this state I realize, as you do, is as much a front line with the Titan missile bases which you have so close to you as any part of the world, that legislation was handled with great distinction by your senator, Senator Bill Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; and the investigation which is now undergoing in the Congress of the United States into crime or corruption is handled by your senior senator, John McClellan; and legislation dealing with mental health and mental retardation and the building of medical schools and scholarships for those who cannot afford to go to become doctors is handled by your Congressman Oren Harris, chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee; and the Rules Committee, through which all bills must go before they go to the floor of the House of Representatives must go through the very fine and distinguished hands of Congressman Trimble; and agriculture legislation, before we can make a determination of what programs will support this state and other states, must be decided in part by your Congressman Gathings.

So those are some of the reasons why I am here today. But the most significant reason is, of course, because of your distinguished Congressman who is chairman of the most influential committee, the Ways and Means Committee of the House, which just 10 days ago passed through by an overwhelming vote a tax reform and reduction bill which I think can do much for this state and other states in maintaining its steadily expanding economy. It said in the *New York Times* this morning that if Congressman Mills suggested it, that the President would be glad to come down here and dedicate this dam and sing “Down By The Old Mill Stream” or any other request that was made, and I would be delighted.

It is a fact that in the last three years, legislation dealing with tax reform, legislation dealing with the most far-reaching reform of our tariffs, which permit us to trade abroad – and there is no state in the Union which depends more on foreign trade for its prosperity than this state – I think it is important that you in Arkansas realize that the decision that you make in electing your congressmen and senators has an influence not only on the lives of the people of this state, but also on the lives of the people of the entire country, and I think this state can take the greatest pride and satisfaction in the way it has met this great responsibility in the people it sent to deal with the nation's business.

I appreciate the welcome of the governor and his references to what we are attempting to do in the field of conservation. This is a great country that was given to us and a great land. It is our job, it seems to me, to make the most of it, to make sure that we in our time plant our forests, use our water, develop our power, provide recreation for our people, do in our time to the extent that we can what Franklin Roosevelt did in his time and before him, what Theodore Roosevelt did in his time – to use this great country which in the short space of 30 years ago had only 130 million people, to make sure that we take those steps now which will make it possible for those who come after us to have a better life.

This dam represents not merely the time of construction; it represents 30 years of effort. It was first authorized in part way back during the New Deal, and then it was talked about again afterwards, and then finally the money was appropriated in the mid-50s, and now the dam is built in 1963, and next spring will begin to get power. And the full impact of it will be felt by the sense of recreation and all the rest in five, 10, 15 or 20 years. It is a long view. It is a man's lifetime, and I would like to see us in this decade preparing as we must for all of the people who will come after us. I would like to see us do what we are doing here, do it in the Northwest, do it in the Midwest, do it in the East – set aside land for people so that as we get to become a more urban population, we will still have someplace where people can drive and see what their country looks like, and that is why this is so important. All of those who attack this as a “pork barrel” and all the rest should realize the effect these decisions have had on this state. No state is growing faster than the state of Arkansas.

If you realize what this state and other states like it went through in the 20 years from 1919 to 1939 – the Depression in the early 20s, the depression of 11 years ago, of the 30s, the stagnation on the farms and in the cities – and then realize how this state has boomed relative to the rest of the nation in the last five or 10 years, we realize a good deal of this was due to the wise decisions taken in the 30s when the framework was laid with great opposition to those who objected to what was being done in Washington, great opposition to the efforts which Franklin Roosevelt and the Congress made in those days and, yet when we look to 1945, to now, almost 20 years, we have had a gradual rising tide of prosperity throughout our entire country.

Those two records – that contrast between what we saw then between the wars and what it meant to this state, and others like it, and what we have seen since 1945 should make, it seems to me, a deep impression upon those who seek to end a partnership between the national government and this state and others which develop the resources of the state and improve the life of the people.

This state is one great country, and it seems to me incumbent North and South, East and West, that we make those decisions now which will provide for a gradually increasing tide of life for the people of this state over the next 20 and 25 years. And those who think it can be left to chance are wrong. It was left to chance for 20 years between the two wars, and as a result of the deliberate decisions made since then, it seems to me, this state is a fine product and example of what can be done by the people here, working together, working hard, and working with the support of intelligent national policies, and those people who say it is pork barrel, what is much more wasteful – a multi-purpose project which can be used by all of our people – which is more wasteful, to fail to tap the energies of that river, to let that water flood, to deny this chance for the development of recreation and power, or to use it and to use it wisely? Which is more wasteful – to let the land wash away, to let it lie arid or to use it and use it wisely and to make those investments which will make this a richer state and country in the years to come?

These projects produce wealth, they bring industry, they bring jobs, and the wealth they bring brings wealth to other sections of the United States. This state had about 200,000 cars in 1929. It has a million cars now. They weren't built in this state. They were built in Detroit. As this state's income rises, so does the income of Michigan. As the income of Michigan rises, so does the United States.

Therefore, I take pride in coming here today. I know that 10 years from now, if we come back again, flying as we did over the land, that we will see an even richer state, and I think you can take pride and satisfaction in what you have done.

I appreciate the fact that we have had this opportunity to join together in dedicating this project, in committing it to the service of the people of Arkansas and to the service of the people of the United States. This project, and others like it, I think, must be developed in this decade so that the United States will continue to be the most beautiful and best country in the world.

Thank You.

