

Beach Scene At Del Mar Showing Frolicking of Youngsters



Pictures here
are of Rancho
Santa Fe
Children

LAKE HODGES

FLETCHER SAYS HODGES DAM IN SAFE CONDITION; CHARGES POLITICAL MOVE

Condemning Hydraulic Engineer H. N. Savage for making what he terms a sensational report regarding the condition of the Lake Hodges dam, and taking issue with the statement that the dam is unsafe, Col. Ed Fletcher, one of the builders of the dam, and president of the San Dieguito Water company, yesterday issued a statement denying Savage's criticism that the dam is in dangerous condition, and declaring, among other things, that the structure is stable and built to resist any pressure that may be brought upon it.

Fletcher's statement follows:

"The statement of H. N. Savage that Lake Hodges dam is unsafe is ridiculous.

"Savage has a personal prejudice against all multiple arch dams, as evidenced by his statements in San Diego papers several years ago:

"The plans of Lake Hodges dam were first approved by our engineer, then approved by the chief engineer of the Santa Fe railroad and, finally approved by the state engineer of California, as well as all state authorities.

"Lake Hodges dam was built under personal supervision of the state engineer, W. S. McClure, and a bronze tablet accepting the dam in the name of the state of California can be seen at the dam today.

"The multiple arch type of dam is a new principle with higher factors of safety.

"Savage has never built a multiple arch dam. He pins his faith to gravity arch principle. The St. Francis dam was a gravity arch.

"Savage built Otay dam, a gravity arch, at a cost of \$1,000,000; Barrett dam, a gravity arch, at a cost

of \$1,750,000. We built Lake Hodges dam at a cost of less than \$400,000. It has stood the test.

"The greatest discharge of water, officially measured, in San Diego county passed Lake Hodges dam two years ago; more than 80,000 second feet, or one-third the flood discharge of the Colorado river.

"If Savage and the city of San Diego wants to throw away \$150,000 and reinforce the buttresses this can be done, but it is wholly unnecessary.

"Rudolph W. Van Norden of San Francisco, considered the greatest authority in the country on multiple arch dams, stated in writing, after a personal inspection that Lake Hodges dam is not in a dangerous condition, is stable and cannot be questioned.

"It is unfortunate, but most engineers of the old school who have had their life experience in gravity dams are naturally suspicious of any new principle. The multiple arch type is beyond the experimental stage.

"More than 20 of these dams have been built on the Pacific coast the last ten years, three of them higher by 20 to 40 feet than the Lake Hodges dam.

"It is unfortunate for San Diego county that Savage, representing the city, should make this sensational statement. It does untold injury to thousands of innocent people, casts a cloud on the entire country from Del Mar to Oceanside and does no good.

"If he sincerely believes the buttresses need reinforcing it was a simple matter to get an appropriation in the matter of repairs and do the work without pulling off this sensational and damaging stunt."

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