Having had some contact with Agate Reservoir from the time it was merely a gleam in the eye of the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's Secretary-Manager, Harold Sexton, on through the planning, authorization, funding, and construction stages, I am especially delighted to participate in its dedication.

When I was making frequent visits to Medford negotiating repayment contracts with the Talent, Medford, and Rogue River Valley Irrigation Districts about 10 years ago, Harold Sexton never missed an opportunity to work in a side meeting to talk about a dam on Dry Creek and seek to generate enthusiasm and support for it. The success of his efforts and those of the whole community are self evident here today. After completion of a feasibility report, as you all know, comes authorization and funding by the Congress. Great credit must go to the Oregon members of the Congress for accomplishing both steps with your solid backing.
Agate Reservoir has a unique chapter in its history. During authorization hearings, a question arose regarding right-of-way availability and estimated costs. To resolve this issue the irrigation district officials took 18-month options on the needed right-of-way lands, anticipating that federally appropriated funds would be available to take up the options within that period.

Because of delays in obtaining the first appropriated funds for construction, it became obvious that some special efforts were needed if the options were to be exercised in time. Again, with strong support of the Oregon Congressional Delegation and cooperation of the Appropriations Committees, the job was accomplished.

Now the structure is complete and ready to serve its intended purposes, to produce the benefits for which it was authorized, benefits which will run not only to the water users of the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District but also to the community, the State, and the Nation.

Irrigation in this valley is not new. The
earliest water filing was made in 1851 for water from a tributary to Bear Creek, and the first land was actually irrigated in 1852—114 years ago, but the end is not yet.

While completion of Agate Dam and Reservoir marks full control and utilization of the water and land resources in this portion of the basin and represents the end of one phase of Rogue River Basin water development, the overall job has barely begun. Remaining to be completed are works on the main stem of the Rogue and on its many tributaries such as Jump-off Joe Creek, Illinois River, Applegate River, and Elk Creek. Eventually those areas also will enjoy the benefits which have already come to the Talent, Medford, and Rogue River Valley districts. The entire river basin will share in the economic boom which follows Reclamation projects just as surely as the day follows the night.

You will reap an enhanced harvest of prosperity through your organizational efforts and hard work. The people of the other areas I have mentioned are working toward the same end.
They need your support and assistance in gaining their objectives. Continue to work toward the ultimate goal of full development of your water resources to bring forth the potential of this rich land.

Agate Reservoir is small as storage reservoirs go—particularly when compared to some of the other, better known Reclamation dams and reservoirs here in the Northwest, such as Grand Coulee Reservoir on the Columbia River in Washington, Palisades Reservoir on the Snake River in eastern Idaho, or the scenic Owyhee Reservoir in eastern Oregon. Its worth, however, should not be measured by its physical dimensions; rather it must be measured in terms of the multiple and significant benefits this reservoir creates for you and the Nation through planned conservation and use of the water resources.

Agate Reservoir is primarily an irrigation storage facility. The 4,782 acre-feet of water that can be stored will provide a supplemental water supply to over 5,000 acres of irrigated lands.
in your beautiful valley. Over 1,800 additional acres will be brought under irrigation. The farmers among you here today understand the real importance of this supplemental water supply, as well as the economic benefits of the new irrigation development.

The availability of a competent water supply at the time it is needed can be the difference between a bumper crop and a mediocre harvest—or even a crop failure. This new water supply will also offer the irrigators the opportunity to diversify their present agricultural production, which is now generally directed toward orchards and dairy farming. [The acreage of lands devoted to irrigated pasture and hay can be expanded to support more and larger dairy and beef herds.]

Agate Reservoir will afford the water users of the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District much more complete control of their water supply. With the new more precise regulation provided by this reservoir, being so close to the irrigated lands, requests for water can be met more quickly and with a minimum of water loss.
Of the total cost of the Agate facilities—some $2 million—nonreimbursable allocations are small—$29,000 to fish and wildlife facilities and $24,500 to recreation. The balance of $1,962,500 is allocated to irrigation and is reimbursable. The irrigators will pay about one-half of this total, with the balance to be met from power revenues from the Green Springs Powerplant, which is a facility of the overall Rogue River Basin Project.

This beautiful lake, in its scenic setting, will, without question, be a popular recreation area. Its convenience to local population centers, of course, makes it a natural for heavy recreational use, especially in spring and early summer.

In accordance with our long-standing policy, the recreational administration at Agate Reservoir has been transferred to an agency which we know to be highly competent and able—the Jackson County Court. The County Court already successfully operates other federally built reservoirs like Howard Prairie. Boating, hiking, picnicking, fishing, and uniquely, rock hunting will be major drawing cards for thousands of visitors in the years ahead.
of visitors in the years ahead.

I recall that in the early planning for the construction of Howard Prairie, the estimate of 20,000 visitor-days use annually was considered quite liberal. In 1965, the actual visitor-days logged at Howard Prairie was 331,000, more than fifteen times the original estimate. Some 30,000 enthusiastic sportsmen were on hand for the opening day of the fishing season.

Recreational use of Reclamation project areas has grown tremendously in recent years. In the early days of Federal reclamation development, recreation was an incidental by-product or bonus which was not officially recognized as a project benefit. Today, Reclamation projects provide some 210 recreation areas under organized management and nearly 1-1/2 million acres of water surface for water-associated recreation. Recreation is now a major function in project formulation. In cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies, we are constantly working towards even greater opportunities for leisure enjoyment and wholesome recreation for all America.
The prime contractor for the construction of Agate Dam—Sandkay Construction Company, Inc—and the other contractors for reservoir clearing, equipment, fencing and the like, deserve a great deal of credit for the way in which they accomplished their jobs. The dam was completed almost a year ahead of schedule, which, of course, allowed storage operations to begin much earlier than planned.

Today, as we dedicate Agate Dam, we should be sure that full credit and recognition are given to the prime movers bringing about the project—that is, the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District. The District Board of Directors, its attorney, Van Dyke, its Secretary-Manager, Harold Sexton, worked hard and long in behalf of the project.

But as mentioned earlier Agate Dam would never have been built if it had not been for the untiring efforts of the Oregon Congressional delegation in getting the project authorized and funds appropriated for its construction. We also give full credit to the other Federal, State, and local agencies and groups which cooperated in planning this development.
Everyone worked hard and long, but I know that we all agree that the prize was well worth the price.

Agate Dam and Reservoir is now dedicated to the well-being of the peoples of the Rogue River Basin, the State of Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and our Nation.

May it prove its worth many times over.

X X X X
Construction of the Talent Division, Rogue River Basin Project, was authorized by the Act of August 20, 1954 (68 Stat 752), based upon the feasibility report of the Secretary of the Interior (H.R. 450, 83rd Congress). The principal works built under that authorization were designed to import waters from the Upper Klamath River watershed into Bear Creek in the Rogue River watershed for irrigation, hydro-electric power, and other purposes. This multiple purpose water resource development is now in operation.

The Talent Division furnishes water for irrigation of over 30,000 acres of land in three irrigation districts; Talent, Medford, and Rogue River Valley. It involves storage and release of water rising high on the Cascade Divide, and flowing down Bear Creek to the Rogue River. En route, the water passes through Green Springs Powerplant and is directed to the lands to irrigate the orchards, croplands, hay and pasture. Most of this area receives less than 20 inches of precipitation annually and the irrigation water is essential to any commercial cropping.

The essentially completed Agate Dam and Reservoir is another step in the conservation of the water supply and irrigation development in this area. Water from Antelope Creek will be diverted into Agate Reservoir on Dry Creek (which is well named as it is dry much of the year). There it will be stored until it is needed to supplement the water supply to some 5,000 acres of land in the Rogue River Valley.
Irrigation District and to furnish a full water supply to 1800 acres of dry lands interspersed with the presently irrigated areas.

This additional feature of the Talent Division was authorized by the Act of October 1, 1962, on the basis of the Secretary's report to the Congress (H.R. 39, 87th Congress). Construction of the dam and appurtenant works was started in F.Y. 1965 and is now essentially complete, at a cost of less than $2,000,000.

Completion of Agate Dam and Reservoir marks also the completion of all presently authorized and contemplated facilities of the Talent Division. The Division is now fully operational and is already a significant factor in the economic rebirth of this valley, through full-scale development of water resources.

Agate Dam was built as a rolled earthfill structure rising about 77 feet above streambed. It is covered on both sides with a layer of rock and cobbles to prevent erosion. The reservoir will store 4,600 acre-feet of water, forming a lake a mile long and half a mile wide. Although the lake must be drawn down for irrigation purposes every year in late summer, a minimum pool will always be maintained to support fish life. Recreation facilities, including a boat-launching ramp will be provided, and the oak groves adjoining the lake will enhance its attractiveness for picnicking and other recreation. Adequate land has been acquired surrounding the reservoir to accommodate the anticipated recreation use.
The contractors for construction of Agate Dam are to be congratulated upon their ability and efficiency in completing their work nine months ahead of schedule, thereby gaining a year's use of the facilities. It is notable, also, that the dam has been built within the estimated cost.

Except for small allocations to recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement purposes, the entire cost of Agate Dam is allocated to irrigation water supply, and will be repaid to the United States from water and power revenues. The power revenues from Green Springs Powerplant are expected to be sufficient to pay that portion of the costs which are found to be in excess of the water users to repay.

Although this storage facility completes the works required for the Talent Division, there is much more to be done to conserve and utilize the resources of the Rogue River Basin. Dams have already been authorized for construction on the Rogue River and on two tributaries, Elk Creek and Applegate River. The Bureau of Reclamation is preparing plans to utilize the waters conserved at those reservoirs and at others which have not yet been authorized to expand the irrigation economy of the valley, to supply water for municipal and industrial purposes, and to provide for flood control, water quality control, fish and wildlife, and recreation.
So, Agate Dam, while completing one phase of water resource development, is in a broader sense only one feature of the larger basin plan which in the long run may be expected to greatly enhance the economic well-being of the entire area.
SUMMARY
AGATE DAM AND RESERVOIR, TALENT DIVISION
ROGUE RIVER BASIN PROJECT, OREGON

LOCATION: Irrigable lands are located within the boundaries of the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District, Jackson County, Oregon, in the central section of the Rogue River Basin.

AUTHORIZED: Public Law 87-727, 87th Congress, S. 1023; Approved October 1, 1962.

PLAN:

The irrigation works consist of the Agate Dam and Reservoir on Dry Creek, Antelope Creek diversion dam, a short diversion canal to the existing Hopkins Canal, and the Agate feeder canal for diverting Antelope Creek water from the Hopkins Canal for storage in Agate Reservoir. Water released from Agate Reservoir would be diverted from Dry Creek into the Hopkins Canal for delivery to the district lands using the existing distribution system. Total storage capacity in Agate Reservoir will be 4,600 acre-feet of which 100 acre-feet will be dead storage. Stored water will provide a supplemental irrigation water supply to 5,020 acres, and an adequate supply to 1,810 acres of new irrigable lands. To protect the existing fishery resource, a fish ladder will be constructed at the Antelope Creek diversion dam and a fish screen will be installed at the head of the diversion canal. Minimum basic recreational facilities will be provided.

PRESENTLY IRRIGATED LANDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Class</th>
<th>Irrigable Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,370</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>4P</td>
<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>5,020</td>
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NEW LANDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Class</th>
<th>Irrigable Acres</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>920</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>375</td>
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<tr>
<td>4P</td>
<td>335</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>1,810</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,830</td>
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</table>
Summary

WATER SUPPLY AND REQUIREMENTS

Source of water Antelope, Dry & Bear Creeks
Farm delivery requirement (acre-feet 2.48 per acre - weighted average)
Critical period of water supply 1924-35
Agate Reservoir (storage in acre-feet)
Active 4,500
Dead 100
Total 4,600

PROJECT COSTS

Construction Costs

Agate Dam, Reservoir, and waterways $1,962,500
Minimum basic recreation facilities 24,500
Fish facilities (Antelope Diversion Dam) 29,000

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS $2,016,000

COST ALLOCATION

Cost Allocated To:

Irrigation $1,962,500
Recreation 24,500
Fish and wildlife 29,000

Total $2,016,000

BENEFIT-COST RATIO

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<tr>
<th>Benefits - annual</th>
<th>Period of Analysis</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigation</td>
<td>$276,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>7,600</td>
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<td>Fish and wildlife</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flood control</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less benefits lost - reservoir area</td>
<td>-6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$278,000</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs - annual</th>
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<tr>
<td>$91,600</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratio</th>
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<tr>
<td>3.03</td>
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Summary

ANNUAL OPERATION COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation</td>
<td>$9,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>1,875</td>
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<td>Fish and wildlife</td>
<td>680</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>$12,385</td>
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REPAYMENT

Obligation

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation (reimbursable)</td>
<td>$1,962,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation (nonreimbursable)</td>
<td>24,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish and wildlife (nonreimbursable)</td>
<td>29,000</td>
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Recommended Water Charge Associated with Agate Dam

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Per Acre</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New land (1,810 acres)</td>
<td>$25,450</td>
<td>$14.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental water (5,020 acres)</td>
<td>4,250</td>
<td>.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$29,700</td>
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</table>

Present District Costs

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Annual Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without Agate Dam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated operation, maintenance and replacements</td>
<td>$64,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing indebtedness</td>
<td>13,615</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$78,545</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental water - Agate Dam</td>
<td>4,250</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>$82,795</td>
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Prospective Costs - All Lands

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Per Acre</th>
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<tr>
<td>Existing District</td>
<td>$80,370</td>
<td>$16.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>6W, 160 acres</td>
<td>2,425</td>
<td>15.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>New land</td>
<td>25,450</td>
<td>14.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$108,245</td>
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Repayment Data

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total available for water charges</td>
<td>$108,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less operation, maintenance and replacement on irrigation facilities</td>
<td>74,760</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less payment on existing debts</td>
<td>13,615</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available for repayment of construction costs of Agate Dam</td>
<td>$19,870</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Summary

Repayment of reimbursable costs
By water users in 50 years $993,000
By water users - percent 50
Financial assistance $969,500
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

For Release MARCH 15, 1966

AGATE DAM IN OREGON COMPLETED NINE MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The Department of the Interior reported today that the Bureau of Reclamation's Agate Dam on Dry Creek about 11 miles northeast of Medford, Oregon, is essentially complete, nine months before the target date of December 5, 1966.

This accomplishment was realized under a self-accelerated program by the prime contractor, Sandkey Construction Company, Inc., of Ephrata, Washington. The Ausland Construction Company of Grants Pass, Oregon, was the contractor for a diversion dam on Antelope Creek, and a feeder canal to the Agate Reservoir, both of which were completed on schedule.

Agate Dam is the final major feature of the Talent Division of the Bureau of Reclamation's Rogue River Basin Project to be constructed. An earthfill, rock-faced structure, it rises 77 feet above the streambed and is 3,800 feet long.

Due to its early completion, the dam began impounding water in January, nearly a full year ahead of schedule. Capacity of the reservoir is 4,600 acre-feet. It will provide a supplemental water supply to 5,020 acres of presently irrigated lands and a full supply to 1,810 acres of new irrigable land in the Rogue Valley Irrigation District, which will operate and maintain the irrigation features of the dam and reservoir.

In addition to its irrigation use, Agate Reservoir is expected to become a popular recreation area, particularly for picnicking, boating, hiking, fishing, and water skiing. As a part of the project development, the Bureau of Reclamation has constructed a boat ramp 450 feet long on the west side of the lake adjacent to a designated recreation area, an access road and a water supply well. Jackson County, under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service, will administer the recreational aspects of the project.

To maintain and enhance the aesthetic values of the shoreline of the lake and the adjacent recreation areas, the borrow area used by the contractor during construction of Agate Dam was graded to conform with the surrounding terrain and seeded to grass. This cover of grass will soon obliterate the scars caused by the construction activities and improve the appearance of the site. Located in a rock enthusiasts' paradise, Agate Dam is well named. Agate, Jasper, and petrified wood abound in the vicinity.

x x x

P.N. 76687-66
AGATE DAM and RESERVOIR
Rogue River Basin Project, Oregon

Dedication
May 6, 1966

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

ROGUE RIVER VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

JACKSON COUNTY COURT
Agate Dam and Reservoir

Agate Dam and Reservoir are located on Dry Creek, about 11-1/2 miles northeast of Medford, Oregon. The dam is a rolled earth-fill structure, blanketed on both sides with rocks and cobbles. The maximum height of the dam above the original streambed is about 77 feet. The crest length of the dam, including the wind dike on the right abutment, is 3,800 feet.

Agate Reservoir has a total capacity of 4,782 acre-feet at a normal water surface elevation of 1,510 feet. 4,672 acre-feet of the storage is for irrigation and 110 acre-feet of the storage is sediment detention and to sustain fish life. The spillway, located on the left abutment, has a capacity of 3,300 c.f.s. The outlet works, located on the left abutment, have a capacity of 78 c.f.s.

The plan of operation for the Agate facilities is to divert runoff from Antelope Creek into Dry Creek via two new, short canals and the existing Hopkins Canal. Antelope Creek diversions will now flow down Hopkins Canal and then through the Agate feeder canal into Agate Reservoir to supplement the natural runoff of Dry Creek. Reservoir releases will be made into Dry Creek and diverted into Hopkins Canal about one-half mile below the dam.

The water stored in Agate Reservoir will provide a supplemental irrigation water supply to 5,020 acres, and a water supply to 1,810 acres of new irrigable lands.

Agate Dam was completed nearly nine months ahead of schedule, and began impounding water in January 1966. The Rogue River Valley Irrigation District will operate and maintain the irrigation features of the dam and reservoir.

In addition to its irrigation use, Agate Reservoir is expected to become a popular recreation area, particularly for picnicking, boating, hiking, and fishing. As a part of the project development, the Bureau of Reclamation has constructed a boat ramp 525 feet long on the west side of the lake adjacent to a designated recreation area, an access road, and a water supply well. Jackson County, under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service, will administer the recreational aspects of the project. Located in a rock enthusiast's paradise, Agate Dam is well named, since agate, jasper, and petrified wood abound in the vicinity.
Dedication Program

2:30 p.m. - Concert at damsite - Crater High School Band, Central Point, Oregon - Mr. Scott Philips, Director

3:00 p.m. - National Anthem - Crater High School Band
   Flag Raising - Naval Reserve Surface Division 13-31(S), Medford, Oregon - Lt. Joseph Fliegel, Commanding

Invocation
   Rev. Dr. D. Kirkland West - First Presbyterian Church, Medford

Master of Ceremonies
   Hon. Glenn Jackson, Chairman, Oregon State Highway Commission

Welcome Address and Remarks
   Hon. Mark O. Hatfield, Governor of Oregon

Introduction of Distinguished Guests
   Hon. Otto Bohnert, President, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District

Remarks
   Hon. Robert B. Duncan, U. S. Representative from Oregon

Introduction of Dedicatory Speaker
   Hon. Harold T. Nelson, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation

Dedication Address
   Hon. Gilbert G. Stamm, Asst. Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation

***

Mr. Frank J. Van Dyke - General Chairman

***

Acknowledgements

Medford Chamber of Commerce         Pacific Power & Light Company
                                       Jackson County Court
United States Department of the Interior

Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior

Bureau of Reclamation

Floyd E. Dominy, Commissioner
Barney P. Bellport, Chief Engineer
Harold T. Nelson, Regional Director
Francis O'Connor, Project Construction Engineer

Rogue River Valley Irrigation District

Otto Bohnert, President
Leonard Freeman, Vice President
Gordon Kershaw, Director
Harold Sexton, Secretary-Manager
Frank J. Van Dyke, Attorney

Jackson County Court

Earl M. Miller, Judge
Donald E. Faber, Commissioner
Rodney Keating, Commissioner
Neil J. Ledward, Director, Parks & Recreation Commission

Contractors

Sandkay Construction Co., Inc. - Prime Contractors
Sprague's Inc.
George Bros. Equipment Sales & Rental and
Thomas J. Parker & Associates, Inc.
Ausland Construction Company
Concert Program

Agate Dam Dedication

2:30 P.M. May 6, 1966

CRATER HIGH SCHOOL HONOR BAND
Scott Philips, Director

Emblem of Unity ------------------ Richards
Malaguena ------------------------ Lecuona
Jamaican Rumba ------------------ Benjamin
The Foundation March ------------- Goldman
Highlights from "Gypsy" ---------- Styne
Fantasia on Lady of Spain --------- Evans
Marcha 3 De Febrero --------------- Roncal

God Bless America ---------------- Berlin

National Anthem