Program For Dedication of Tom Steed Reservoir
Saturday, August 23, 1975
11:00 a.m.

Color Guard - Altus Air Force Base

National Anthem - Snyder High School Band

Master of Ceremonies - State Senator Herschal Crow

Invocation by Rev. Paul Caskey, First United Methodist Church, Frederick

Welcome by State Senator Gilmer Capps

Orville Saunders, chairman of Mt. Park Conservancy District Board to introduce guests on platform.

Orville Saunders to introduce James A. Bradley, Regional Director of the Southwest Region.

Orville Saunders to introduce Gilbert Stamm, commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation.

MC Senator Herschal Crow to introduce Congressman Tom Steed; with speech by Congressman Steed.

Presentation to Congressman Steed by Great Plains Country to be made by J. R. Willis, Miss Vicki Gant, Great Plains Country Queen and Bob Hinton, president, Great Plains Country.

Unveiling of marker at site by Congressman Steed.

Benediction by Rev. J. Dan Bates, First Baptist Church of Snyder.

Meal to be served.

Music Provided by Snyder High School Band
John Weaver - Director
REMARKS PREPARED FOR PRESENTATION
BY GILBERT G. STAMM, COMMISSIONER OF
RECLAMATION, AT THE DEDICATION OF
MOUNTAIN PARK DAM
AUGUST 23, 1975

Glad you still recognize Cliff Best Man
Chairman

It is good to be back in Oklahoma again,
good people who have nurtured and
visiting with your supporters of Mountain Park Project
for many years.

As we celebrate the completion of Mountain

Park Dam, your enthusiasm is very much in evidence.

It is typical of the spirit that has welded a
partnership between the Bureau and the citizens of
Southwest Oklahoma, a relationship which I know

Regional Director Jim Bradley treasures highly, as do I.

Our program, as I hope you know, is to serve the people.

Each Reclamation project is unique in that it each

presents some unusual problems. The Mountain Park Project

is no exception. At one time we were concerned that

a Reclamation "first" was about to take place...we
thought this might be the first project to be started with the Project Construction engineer behind bars.

To refresh your memory, on December 12, 1972, R. W. "Rip" Radcliffe was opening bids for the construction of Mountain Park Dam. He had already opened four bids when he was handed a restraining order from a Federal Judge forbidding the opening of any bids. The order resulted from a motion filed with the court. Since four bids had been opened, Rip decided it would be unfair to the bidders not to open all of them, and besides, he had already violated the order before he received it. The judge didn't agree with Rip and threatened to put him in jail for contempt of court. Fortunately for Rip... and the project... the Judge had second thoughts and dropped the charges. And Rip was deprived of the experience of viewing the world from the inside looking out.

Once that calamity was averted, construction
got underway and continued to the point we have reached today.

In one sense, this is a new project because it has just become a reality, but in another sense it is almost as old as the Bureau of Reclamation. The potential for development of the water resources of Otter Creek was recognized as early as 1903 when the Mountain Park dam site was mapped by the then one-year-old Reclamation Service.

Following many years and many more surveys by a variety of agencies, the Bureau of Reclamation initiated detailed investigations of the project in 1959. Nine years later the Project was authorized by the Congress. The cities of Altus, Snyder, and Frederick voted overwhelming approval of a repayment contract in 1970. Six months ago we had to ask those three communities to accept additional financial obligations as a result of the inflationary
price spiral which has so drastically increased the costs of construction. And once again, the citizens of Southwestern Oklahoma responded with an impressive vote of confidence in this project. You have convinced us that you recognize the importance of water to your way of life, that you understand that without water there can be no life.

Today we are celebrating the fact that the dam and reservoir are completed.

We have opened bids on the Bretch Diversion Dam and Canal and expect to award a construction contract next month; the entire project should be completed in Fiscal Year 1977.

Runoff from recent heavy rains has given the reservoir an almost instant pool and has given you an indication of the flood control benefits you may anticipate in the future. Already boaters and water skiers are sampling the recreational possibilities
of Tom Steed Reservoir... that's the first time I've used those words... Tom Steed Reservoir... they're new and they're official... In testimony to the high regard in which your Congressman is held by his colleagues, the bill, officially naming this reservoir in his honor, passed both the House and the Senate in a single afternoon. 

Over the years the benefits from this project will grow continuously. Flood control benefits, in terms of flood damage reduction, are estimated at $225,000 a year... (in today's dollars), recreational opportunities will be provided for hundreds of thousands of visitors annually; enough water will be made available to meet the municipal and industrial needs of 50,000 people.

To get a better appreciation of the long-range benefits of Reclamation facilities, we need look no further than to the neighboring W. C. Austin Project. Built in the late 1940's, at what then must have seemed
the staggering cost of more than twelve million dollars, the project has become the backbone of the economy in southwestern Oklahoma. It has over the years provided one and one-half million dollars in flood damages, worth of flood control benefits. Cumulative crop values on land irrigated by the project now total nearly one hundred and thirty-seven million dollars, more than 10 times the cost of the entire project.

It is true that water resource developments usually do not come easily...they take the time and the efforts of many devoted individuals and organizations...they are well worth that time and effort. The benefits they provide meet the needs of people today...tomorrow...and far into the future.

We in the Bureau of Reclamation are proud to have been associated in the development of water resources in Oklahoma in the past with men like Orville Saunders, Tom Steed, and Carl Albert.
other distinguished guests on this platform and
in the audience, and others like Senator Bellmon
who are unable to be here today. (SHADID)

We are looking forward to a continuing close
relationship with the people of Oklahoma in the
future and pledge to do all we can, in cooperation
with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, to bring
about an orderly development of the State's water
resources for the greatest benefit of Oklahoma and
the Nation.

Again let me say it’s a privilege
for me to attend this ceremony.