Lowell Lawrence “L.L. Red” Males was born on October 5, 1906 in Doxey, Oklahoma Territory. He was the son of pioneer parents and grew up herding cattle on the family farm near Rankin. In 1924, Males was offered room, board and a job as the janitor of the First Bank of Strong City while attending high school. This began a distinguished career that saw Males become the President of the bank in 1929. When the Cheyenne bank failed in 1935, the First Bank of Strong City was moved to Cheyenne and renamed Security State Bank with Males at the helm.

After years of dust bowl soil erosion and the deadly Hammon flood of 1934, Males began the conservation movement in western Oklahoma, helping form the Upper Washita Conservation District (UWCD) in 1938. The bank purchased terracing equipment and encouraged farmers to use the equipment to build terraces on their land. In 1941, Males served as supervisor of the UWCD. After serving in the Armed Forces during World War II, he reclaimed his position and was elected Chairman of the UWCD in 1946. Under Males’ leadership and activism, Congress approved construction of the Sandstone Creek Project. In 1953, the world’s first upstream flood prevention project was completed, providing 68,770 acres of drainage control. Thousands of visitors from countries across the globe came to Roger Mills County to view the conservation efforts being completed.

Males served as President of the Oklahoma Bankers Association in 1951 as well as serving on the National Banker’s Association Board. In 1955, Males met with President Eisenhower to express the people’s appreciation, show aerial views of erosion that were now cured as well as those areas still needing flood prevention. In 1957, he became a charter member of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, a position he held until 1985 and he established the Oklahoma 4-H Hall of Fame. In 1958, Males began to travel the nation educating people about the Sandstone Project, a practice he continued until 1984. In 1959, one of Males’ greatest honors was being named the National Watershed Man of the Year.

In the 1960’s and 1970’s, Males began pushing for improved grassland agriculture and to encourage the state’s youth to take up the reins of conservation of which he continued to act in an advisory capacity. He was joyful at the completion of the first Roger Mills Soil Survey and was implemental in the Upper Washita

Conservation District Youth Range Camp. In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Males to the National Food and Fiber Commission and he served on the Advisory Board to the Secretary of Agriculture Soil and Water Committee. Males was also a distinguished honoree of the Western Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

On July 7, 1984 Governor George Nigh proclaimed “Red” Males Day across the state. Red and Lorena Males were honored in their home town of Cheyenne with the dedication of L.L. Males Avenue. At the time, Males was still serving on the Upper Washita Conservation District, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, pushing for continued conservation and President/CEO of Security State Bank.

In January 1990, Males retired as the President/CEO of Security State Bank and became Vice-Chairman of the Board after dedicating 66 years in banking. L.L. Males passed away March 30, 1990 at the age of 83.

THE OKLAHOMAN

NEWS

Soil Conservation's Birthday to Be Noted

Ferdie J. Deering

Published 12:00 a.m. CT June 24, 1984

Like religion, soil and water conservation does a lot of good where it is practiced, but not everybody has been converted and others seem to have "backslid" somewhat.

This year is the golden anniversary of the establishment of what is now the Soil Conservation Service and a nationwide drive to save water and stop soil from washing away. It ended the Dust Bowl era and helped to make this country a "grocery store for the world."

The anniversary will be celebrated in many places in many ways. It is appropriate that one of the first will be held at Cheyenne, county seat of Roger Mills County. With a population of almost 1,000, it also is the county's largest town.

This event will take place Saturday, July 7, designated officially as L.L. "Red" Males & Lorena G. Males Appreciation Day. Red is chairman and president of the Security State Bank in Cheyenne and a nationally known conservationist. Mrs. Males is a musician and a music teacher.

It will include street activities, music, a free barbecue and, of course, speeches. A few months ago I visited with Red Males, a longtime friend, in the board room of his modern bank to review the course of soil and water conservation in Oklahoma and to survey the future.

His bank has deposits of around $60 million, which is pretty good for a county with a population of about 7,000. Roger Mills County had twice that many people at statehood.

Oil development brought considerable cash to landowners in recent years, but conservation had brught stability to agriculture years before that. The Sandstone Creek project, first in the nation where conservation was applied to an entire watershed, put Roger Mills on the map.

Previously, the first upstream flood control dam had been built at Cloud Chief in Washita Country. These projects led to similar work along the entire Washita River.

Roger Mills County had been hard hit during Dust Bowl days. Crop yields were low, prices were down, pastures were poor and bottomlands flooded two or three times a year.

"A lot of the land was about to go to desert and the people were about ready to go to California a lot of them did," Males said. "We had dust storms and floods, then more dust and more floods. I can't draw a true picture of how bad it was."

Red Males is just about as native Oklahoman as you can find. Born at Doxey between Sayre and Elk City, he grew up at Rankin and Reydon. He was a banker at Strong City, northeast of Cheyenne, when the railroad went out. The bank was moved to Cheyenne. It had total deposits of about $125,000 then.

The bank owned terracing machines, which it loaned to farmers. It was the flood of 1934 that convinced folks much more than terracing was needed to save the country.

That part of the country needed rain badly, and one night in April it got 13 inches. Eleven lives were lost, houses and barns washed away, livestock drowned and crops ruined.

"We got very little benefit from that 13 inches of rain," Males said. "People realized that something had to be done.

"Washington officials had planned for the first upstream flood control project to be farther down on the Washita, but our people were ready to sign easements and we got started first."

As the project developed Males became a prominent spokesman and booster. He received requests from many other states to bring his maps, charts and slides and tell them about Sandstone Creek. He did, usually at his own expense.

The Soil Convervation Society of America will hold its 39th annual meeting in Oklahoma City July 29-Aug. 1, also celebrating the 50th anniversary of conservation.

Oklahoma conservationists ought to be ready for it, because among all of his civic activities, Red Males is best known as a conservation promoter. The "Males Day" at Cheyenne could turn into a "revival meeting" to save soil and water! BIOG: NAME:

Archive ID: 191451

THE OKLAHOMAN

NEWS

Pioneer in Flood Control Dies

Published 12:00 a.m. CT April 1, 1990

L.L. "Red" Males, a pioneer in flood control methods for Oklahoma, died Friday at the age of 83.

Males, who served in President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration for three years as a water and conservation adviser, was the founding designer of the world's first upstream flood control system in Roger Mills County.

Males was honored by Roger Mills County for his contributions to soil and water conservation with an L.L. "Red" Males Appreciation Day on July 7, 1984.

Males started as a janitor at Security State Bank in Cheyenne before rising to become its president.

In addition to his service to Johnson, Males also served on the state Water Resources Board under two governors, David Hall and David Boren.

He was appointed as a state ambassador to the 1965 World's Fair in New York.

Males was born in Doxey in Oklahoma Territory. BIOG: L.L. RED MALES, L.L. MALES, RED MALES NAME:

Archive ID: 421912

DECEMBER 1984

OKLAHOMA water news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

New OSU Research Station Seeks Cash Crop for Southeast

A problem as old as the family farm is how to select a crop that is suitable to the soil, tolerant of the caprices of Oklahoma weather, and popular in the marketplace at a price that allows a respectable profit. The problem is further knotted by the necessity of having not a single crop, but a succession of such crops to keep the farm families and laborers busy through most of the year.

These are precisely the tasks before OSU's Horticulture and Agricultural Economics researchers and USDA staff, according to Dr. Ron Johnson, associate director of Agricultural Research at OSU. OSU personnel along with USDA researchers, seek suitable crops and sources of irrigation water to turn southeastern Oklahoma into the green grocer for Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Dallas and provide produce to farmers markets, area supermarkets and food processors within trucking distance.

According to Johnson, the 273-acre complex in Atoka county will site research plots and buildings to house up to 18 staff members. As crews erect the structures, horticulturists prepare the soil for plantings next February or March.

Why southeastern Oklahoma? An economy in need of stimulation, combined with the sandy, loamy soil type well suited to the irrigation techniques necessary for high quality fruits and vegetables were prime factors in choosing the site, said Johnson. An abundance of available labor and ready access to truck routes leading to major markets also figured in the selection.

Crops that will be tested include early spring and late fall green vegetables such as cauliflower, green beans and broccoli; and traditional hot weather tomatoes, okra and sweet corn. Johnson said small fruits such as strawberries, raspberries and blueberries are also under scrutiny, and although the berries require large investments before a first harvest, the long term can be extremely profitable. Peaches, successful throughout Oklahoma, are also considered as a profitable crop for the southeastern counties.

"Ideally, income-producing crops would be under some aspect of cultivation the year around to give farm workers the consistent income required to keep them in place for times of peak labor," Johnson pointed out. Planners see full-time employment as attracting workers to the area as well as stemming the out-migration.

Still ahead for the developers of the project is locating reliable sources of irrigation water. The southern band of counties could be watered by wells in the Antlers Sandstone, but floodwater retention structures such as those developed by the Soil Conservation Service may be explored as water sources elsewhere in the region. If the area does indeed bloom and prosper under the green thumbs of OSU and USDA researchers and local farmers,

Continued on page 2

Males' Water Board Colleagues Honor His Retirement Dec. 11

The Board room murmurred with the usual hum of nine men attending to the state's water business. Little set the day apart from some three hundred other second-Tuesday-of-the-month meetings of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Over the 27 years since the Board's founding, a mottled army of water problems had marched before it, but only one man of the nine had witnessed the entire procession.

That man, L.L. "Red" Males of Cheyenne, had watched Oklahoma's water history woven here. Outside this room,

Continued on page 2

Board Chairman Gerald E. Borelli, center, holds the Resolution of Appreciation presented to L.L. "Red" Males on his retirement. Looking on are Males' fellow board members, from left, Bill Secrest, Ralph G. McPherson, Earl Walker, Gary W. Smith, Ernest R. Tucker and Robert S. Kerr, Jr.

Males' Retirement, continued from page 1

he had rolled up his sleeves and challenged western Oklahoma's dragons of drought and flood.

This day was different. An era would end here in the hush of this room as Red Males, the only member of the original Board, would close out a term distinguished with almost every award in the field of soil and water conservation. It would mark a career honored by five Oklahoma governors, a run of presidents and leaders from all over the world.

The career of the ruddy-cheeked, sandy-haired dragon-fighter began some fifty years ago as he watched the wind lash his western Oklahoma country. As he watched the droughts suck away the water, then the floods devour the topsoil, he resolved to throw his energy into saving the land. As a banker, it made good sense to him to muster the resources of the bank behind preserving the livelihood of western Oklahoma's farmers. The bank bought terracing equipment and encouraged farmers to terrace their land.

Males recalls, "the worst floods in our history came in the Dust Bowl years, followed by more dusters because almost all the rain that fell ran off."

L.L. "Red" Males

The vengeful dragon of flood marched over the land with a record-setting 11-inch rain in April of 1934, drowning 17 people near Hammon and laying a pall of brown water over homes, livestock, bridges, roads and crops. So it was, some nine times a year from the twenties through the mid-forties, when Sandstone Creek—normally a sluggish, meandering stream—dashed their crops and drowned their dreams in a roil of floodwaters.

Males was convinced that retention of rainfall and runoff in the upper watersheds was the most feasible manner in which to protect those downstream. When Congress passed the Flood Control Act of 1944, the Washita River was one of 11 selected for watershed improvement. Males and other members of the Upper Washita Soil Conservation District set out to sell the program to their neighbors and obtain easements from landowners for the construction and maintenance of the 24 dams and reservoirs which soon would speckle the watershed.

Bulldozers of the Soil Conservation Service roared over the land and the tractors of local farmers hummed as they applied the land treatment measures. By 1953, the dragon was in abeyance. The Sandstone Creek Project was finished, the first of its kind in the world. The community was so proud of it they put up a sign at the edge of town proclaiming the fact.

Males' leadership in the Sandstone Creek Project was only one effort in a life devoted to conservation; a single example of hundreds which would make his neighbors, fellow conservationists and colleagues in the banking industry proud to know him. Appreciation for the durable dragon-fighter spilled over last July 7, declared "Red Males Day" by the governor and celebrated by hundreds who came to Cheyenne to pay tribute. Cheyenne and Roger Mills County turned out, more came from the state capital, still more from all corners of Oklahoma.

His friends rejoiced with him in every way they knew—from the reception at the bank and a Main-Street parade until the last guitar note sighed over a darkened street dance. And still the day wasn't long enough to say all the thanks they wanted to.

But other days would come, and still his colleagues would seek special ways to celebrate a life of stewardship of soil and water resources. On December 11, the day was set apart from more than three hundred other such meeting days. Men long retired from the Board came back to wish him well. Gerald Borelli, chairman of the Oklahoma Wate Resources Board, presented Males a Resolution of Appreciation on behalf of his Board colleagues and staff.

Among other tributes, the Resolution read, "whereas, Oklahoma's citizens and the Board's members have come to know and respect Red Males as a champion of truth, a tireless advocate of fairness and a man of perception, wit and warmth. Now, therefore, let it be resolved that his fellow members of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, past and present, do hereby respectfully and sincerely commend L.L. "Red" Males for the invaluable service he has rendered to the People of the State of Oklahoma in protecting, conserving and developing the natural resources of this State."

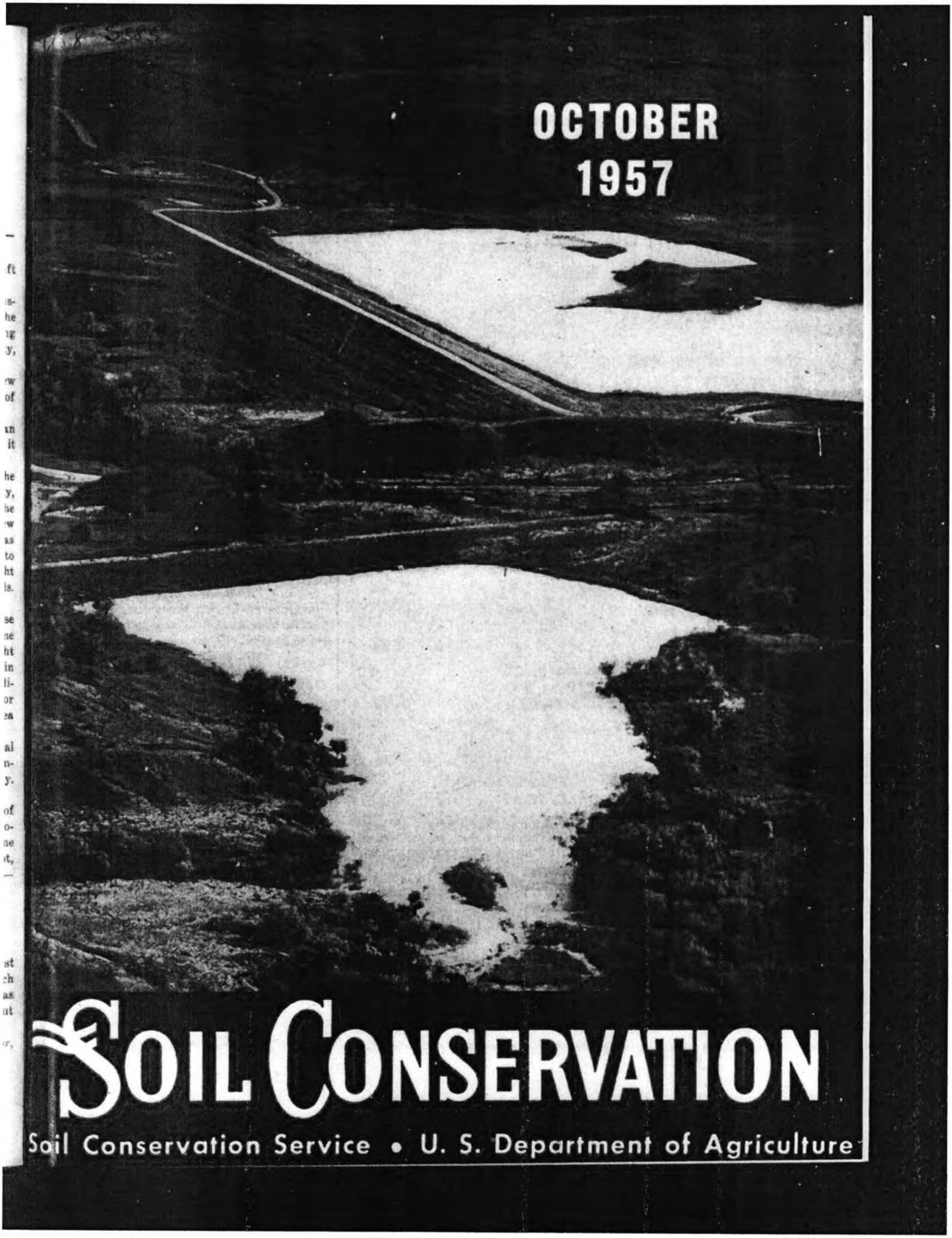
Indeed, an era ended in that room on December 11 as they bade the senior member farewell.

But you never really say goodbye to a dragon-fighter. When they retire, they don't. And back home in Cheyenne, things won't change much. Males will go to Security State Bank every day, and he will walk over those hills he loves, and he will continue to keep the dragons at bay.

New OSU Research Station, continued from page 1

their success may attract the attention of federal backers for a reservoir to supply irrigation water.

Still another part of the long-range plan is that of educating the farmers in the use of new technology in th cultivation of new crops. According to Johnson, this task will be undertaken by county, area and state specialists who will work with individual farmers on their small spreads, as well as with groups of farmers in solving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SOIL CONSERVATION

EZRA TAFT BENSON
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

DONALD A. WILLIAMS
ADMINISTRATOR, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

★ THIS MONTH ★

TOM DALE, Editor

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MULTIFLORA ROSE.—A satisfied district cooperator recently wrote the SCS office at Danbury, Conn., as follows:

"About 10 years ago you made a survey of my farm. Among the recommendations you made was one that I convert a long, narrow field into a pasture. The Still River formed a natural boundary on one side and the opposite side, almost half a mile long, was bounded by Town Road. Along that side you recommended planting multiflora roses and various government agencies furnished me 1,000 or more small plants.

"I frankly had very little confidence that these plants would form a barrier for my Angus cattle. However, the project has been a complete success and I thought you would like to know it."

Editors are invited to reprint material originating in this magazine.

FRONT COVER.—Floodwater-detention dams in the Sandstone Creek Watershed, Okla., after heavy spring rains of 1957. The creek stayed within its banks, though nearby streams were flooding.

—Photo by Robert B. Branstead

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through after a heavy rain. Now a road, which is officially closed but maintained by the county for the farmers, runs over the dam. The county receives its greatest benefit in the protection of the gravel road immediately below the dam. Running south out of Sylvan Grove, the road is a connecting link to U. S. Highway No. 40.

As the Soil Conservation Service technicians did the necessary survey work and staked out the structure, the farmers started getting estimates from contractors and on materials. Also, they worked out arrangements with the county commissioners.

The heavy equipment was moved on the site December 3. Farmers showed up and began to install the 90 feet of 24-inch runoff pipe. Coming in 6-foot sections, the concrete pipe was made watertight with rubber gaskets and rubber cement at the joints. A concrete cradle was poured to serve as a base and keep the 24-inch runoff pipe in alignment. Twenty-two feet of corrugated metal pipe extends the outlet at the lower end.

Soil Conservation Service Engineer, Denneler, worked side by side with the farmers installing the pipe and riser. The group made themselves useful in many other ways to keep down the cost. Because of the good cooperation of all, the project was completed December 28, in less than 1 month's time.

This group of farmers had observed the benefits of floodwater-retarding structures, especially on the Lost Creek pilot watershed in the northern part of Lincoln County. They decided they needed such a dam. They didn't want to wait for it. So they pooled their resources and set out to see what aid they could get. Thanks to ACP, SCS, the county government, and others they got their dam less than 5 months after the time they first agreed to build it. They have named it "Highland Dam."

Farmers and SCS technicians laying 24-inch concrete pipe for principal spillway of Highland Dam.

DISTRICT PROFILE

L. L. MALES of OKLAHOMA

FEW groups in Oklahoma, Kansas, or Texas think these days of starting a watershed project without asking L. L. (Red) Males to have a hand.

Males is the Cheyenne, Okla. bank president and farmer whose story of the Sandstone Creek Watershed in the Washita River flood-prevention project has claimed the fascinated attention of audiences the Nation over.

Obviously, no one in Oklahoma is better qualified to talk on the subject. Males has lived all his life in the district in which he has been a soil conservation district supervisor for the past 18 years.

As a citizen he has watched the effect of soil and water conservation on the life of his community. As a banker he has noted its effect on business. As the operator of a 3,000-acre farm and ranch he has practiced conservation in all of its ramifications.

As a neighbor he has seen the benefits conservation has given to men he has known since boyhood. He has seen the changes the watershed program has made in once powder-dry Sandstone Creek, and he reports the contrast between this sparkling, flowing stream with that of the still-parched beds of nearby untreated creeks.

For a glimpse of Males in true proportion you should go back to the boyhood he spent on a sandhill farm in Reydon community in what is now a part of the Upper Washita Soil Conservation District. This area has been one of the most hazardous in Oklahoma's agriculture.

Wind and water erosion both are a constant threat to the land. Rainfall is erratic. The inherent fertility of the soil is low.

Males got into banking by the side door, you might say. He got a job as janitor of the Strong City Bank to help pay his way in high school. Now, he is president of this same bank —the Security State Bank of Cheyenne.

Before the soil- and water-conservation movement came into being, and the Upper Washita Soil Conservation District was formed, Males was fostering the conservation idea by furnishing farm levels and terracing equipment to farmers who wished to do their own conservation work.

He already had been a force in getting citizens interested in the big Washita Valley move toward flood prevention. And when the Soil Conservation Service was established and the Upper Washita District was organized, Red Males was ready to give both a push.

He is secretary of the Washita Valley Flood Control Council after having served repeated terms as the council's chairman. He has served several times as chairman of his soil conservation district and now is vice chairman.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson recognized his ability by naming him, in 1954, a member of the 18-man Advisory Committee on Soil and Water Conservation. More recently Governor Gary appointed Males to a 6-year term on Oklahoma's new Water Resources Board.

Males has given his color-slide lecture on upstream flood prevention and Sandstone Creek nearly 100 times. He has driven many thousands of miles on such assignments, usually paying his own expenses and nearly always, if the meeting is in Oklahoma, driving back to Cheyenne during wee hours of the night.

He has given his lecture before cabinet members and congressional committees, before national meetings of the Farm Bureau Federation, Friends of the Land, National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and countless other groups.

Frequently Mrs. Males, whom he calls "a soil conservation widow", or their older son, Jim, is called upon to operate Males' slide projector. Sometimes it is a volunteer from the audience. Recently it was a visiting missionary from India, Forest Conser, of Bombay State, who had called on Males to learn of upstream flood prevention techniques.

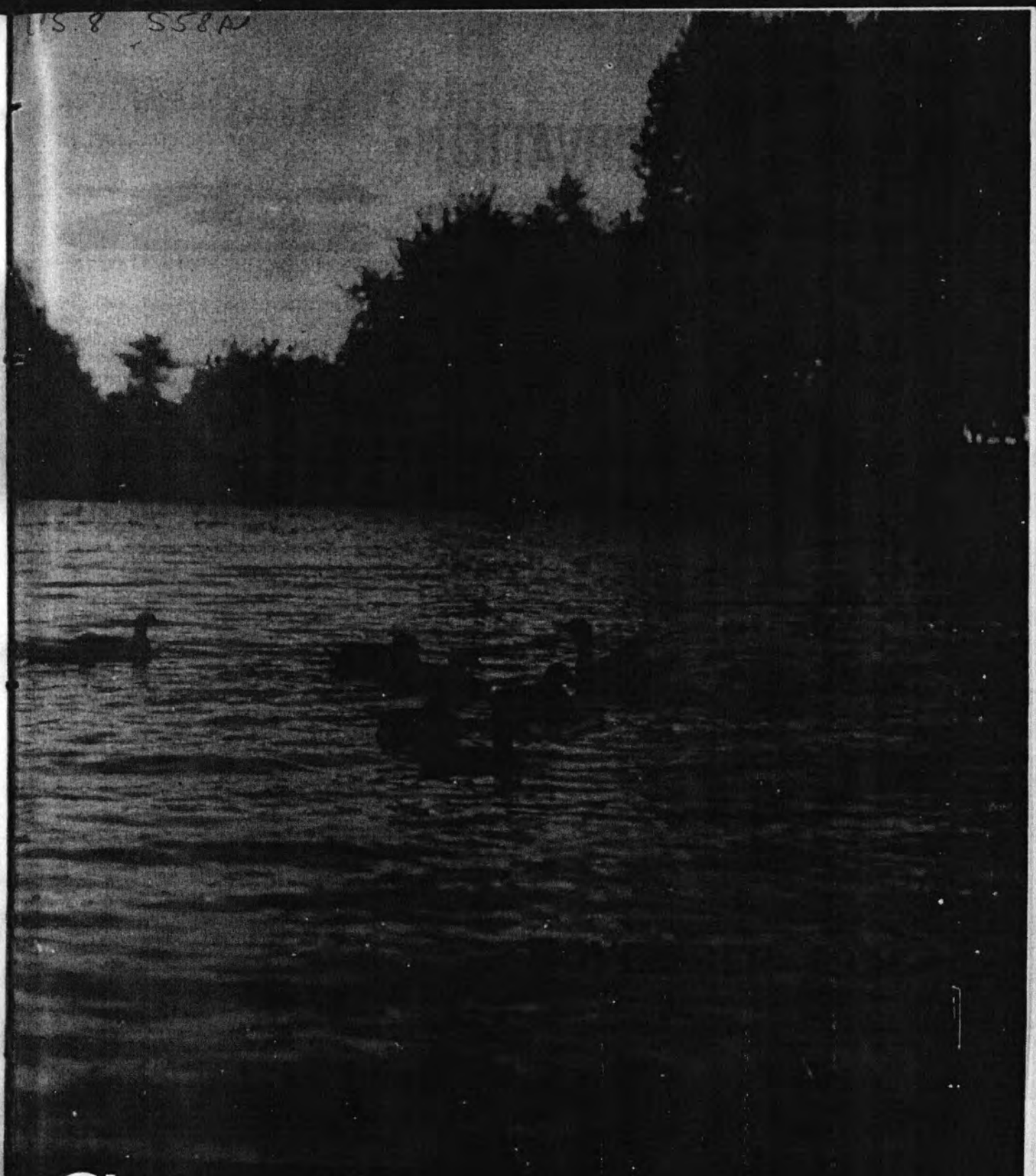
L. L. (Red) Males

Males starts his lectures by explaining: "I am just a country banker. I'm not an expert in any way in soil and water conservation. . . ." And after that simple introduction his audience becomes transfixed as the tale of achievement in one small watershed unfolds.

Males' voice is soft and seldom raised. His manner is one of patience, and he shows a willingness to hear the other side of an argument. Only when someone questions the value of watershed conservation and development, or expresses doubt that a community has the resources to do the work, is his voice apt to assume a dominant pitch and the hand close, to drive home a point in support of his favorite argument.

Red Males keeps saying he must turn some of the "missionary" work in upstream flood prevention over to other folks. It is taking too much of his time. Yet, you know as he says it, this will be a tough thing for him to do. Watersheds and soil conservation have become too much a part of his life.

—TARLETON A. JENKINS



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OUR SOIL • OUR STRENGTH

THE FIRST PATENT.—It was 166 years ago that the first U. S. patent was granted to Samuel Hopkins for "a new apparatus and process" in making potash from wood. It was signed by George Washington.

In 1790 in Vermont, where Hopkins developed his furnace process, the forests were being cut and burned to get them out of the way so the settlers could raise food for their families. Trees were looked upon as obstacles to a family's chances of making a living, and as cover for Indians and other potential enemies.

As standing timber, the trees had little value except those that could be used on the homesteads for cabins, barns, and fences. As potash, they had cash value, not only because soap-makers and wool-processors needed potash and would pay for it but also because it was relatively light in weight and the buyers usually would pay the cost of shipping. As a source of cash revenue, the trees converted to potash were a handy aid to many farm families and vital to the progress of the young nation.

Editors are invited to reprint material originating in this magazine.

FRONT COVER—Wild ducks on a Wisconsin pond. Sound soil and water conservation practices help wildlife.

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A Small Watershed Demonstration

By LOUIS B. EARLE

THE first small watershed demonstration in south central Kansas was held near Rose Hill, Kans., on May 9, 1956 on the farm of Paul Foley, a tractor dealer in Wichita. Foley furnished more than $125,000 worth of dirt moving equipment for the demonstration and treated all the guests to a beef barbeque in the evening.

Soil Conservation Service technicians of Wichita and El Dorado assisted Foley in planning and directing the demonstration. They had previously helped develop a complete conservation plan for the farm with Foley and had laid out the practices for the demonstration.

The main purpose of the event was to show the land treatment practices many Kansas farmers may carry out on their land, and the benefits of these practices, as farmers participate and cooperate in small watershed programs.

Over 300 persons coming from a 21-county area around Wichita attended. Attending were farmers, city and county commissioners, county agents, members of the steering committees of seven small watersheds in Kansas, members of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees, SCS technicians, business and professional men, and many farm power contractors.

On Foley's farm a pond had been built prior to the demonstration. The construction of the dam and its similarity to flood detention dams was explained. Stakes, with ribbons of two different colors attached, showed the level of the pond when full and the level of water if the structure had been designed for flood detention purposes.

Benefits of a farm pond were reviewed. For example, the group was told that farm ponds offer a good source of stock water, provide excellent fishing if properly stocked and cared for, and may often provide a good source of irrigation water. Recreation, too, was mentioned.

Land clearing was observed during the day. A hedgerow containing stumps of many dead trees was removed. This old hedge had served its purpose, but was now preventing installation in an efficient manner of waterways and terraces.

Terrace construction was also demonstrated and it was pointed out that terraces serve two principal functions. They reduce erosion by slowing down runoff water, and they hold the water on the land where it falls for more complete absorption into the soil.

Realizing an income in the form of fence posts, fruit, or berries from trees planted in

A pond on the Paul Foley farm that also serves as a flood detention structure.

Note.—The author is work unit conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Wichita, Kans.

Constructing a broad base terrace as a part of the small watershed demonstration near Rose Hill, Kans.

shelterbelts was discussed. Increased wildlife growth in tree planted areas also was brought out. The group watched a tree planting machine owned by the Sedgwick County Soil Conservation District. It was pointed out that the machine is available on loan to any farmer in the district.

Native pasture renovation and contour furrowing was shown. Contour farming, vegetated waterways, concrete outlet structures, earthen erosion control dams, and land clearing were also shown.

Methods of deeper seedbed preparation were demonstrated for the group. Subsoiling with both integrally mounted and pull-type subsoilers was shown. A heavy offset disk was then used on the soil to illustrate one method of mulch farming.

A seedbed up to 18 inches deep was prepared with a heavy disk plow. It was explained that this implement was being used to break up the hardpan in the soil for improved water infiltration and to mix the topsoil and the subsoil.

In the evening, after the beef barbeque, a discussion was held on how the different soil and water conservation practices demonstrated during the day tied into the small watershed program. L. L. Males, Cheyenne, Okla., banker, landowner, and secretary of the Washita Valley Council, was the principal speaker. His talk dealt with the small watershed program that has been completed on the Sandstone Creek near Elk City, Okla.

He stated, "Even the largest dams are useless in flood prevention if you don't treat the land above them."

Males showed the group a picture of a farm pond, in an untreated watershed, that only had several small pools of water in it. He pointed out that the pond lacked water, not because there'd been no rain in the watershed above the pond, but because it had silted in.

He said if the land in the watershed had been treated, the pond would still be serving to hold back runoff water, helping to prevent floods. "This same thing will happen to large dams if the land in the watersheds above them is not treated," Males emphasized.

Among the treatments that he said should have been used, were cover cropping, terracing, deeper tillage, and subsoiling. "None of these practices are new to us," he stated. "The SCS has been trying to get us to do them on our land for over 20 years."

"Farmers who don't install land treatment practices on their land are wearing out their machinery, their families, themselves, and their communities by farming in a way that permits erosion to run rampant. Such farming leads to floods. When farmers in a trade area lose

crops from floods, they cut down their spending and everyone suffers as a result." He added that at the present time, only one nickel of our present Federal dollar spent for flood prevention goes for small watershed work.

He concluded by saying that 20 or so years ago, they didn't know how to prevent floods. "But today, we know we can do something about flooding. Are we going to let such floods as we've all experienced go on year after year?" he asked his listeners.

Did the land treatment demonstration and Males' talk have an effect on those in attendance? This comment, made to Males by one of the guests, sums up the day's proceedings pretty well—"I felt that a small watershed program was what we need in our part of the country; now I'm doubly sure it's what we need."

That there was interest in small watershed programs in the Wichita and surrounding area was evidenced by the fact that members of the Wichita press, radio and TV stations, and state and regional agricultural and construction magazines were in attendance to report the day's happenings.

Cooperation in Cimarron County

By ARCHIE P. WELCH

COOPERATION among agricultural agencies in Cimarron County, at the west end of the Oklahoma Panhandle, has been real since the soil conservation district was organized there in 1949.

Up to that time the several agricultural agencies were plugging along at their own respective jobs. Several years of good crops and favorable prices had just passed, and the agricultural agencies each had their separate offices and separate programs. The district was organized by a few farsighted farmers and ranchers who could remember the Dust Bowl of the thirties, and wanted to do something to prevent another. The board of supervisors realized that the work of the different agencies needed to be coordinated and directed toward the same goal: more conservation on the land and better service to farmers.

A directive from the Secretary of Agriculture to combine all United States Department of Agriculture agencies under one roof where possible was the "shot in the arm" needed to start the agencies working closer together.

The Soil Conservation Service and the Production and Marketing Administration moved into the same office building, along with the soil conservation district office. They found, through this close association, that they had many problems in common as well as a common objective.

The county agricultural agent and Farmers Home Administration were in the county courthouse, just across the hall from each other, and only two blocks from the PMA and SCS offices.

When the SCS took over the responsibilities of the field work on permanent-type practices from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees (formerly the PMA committees) it seemed like the natural thing to do in Cimarron County.

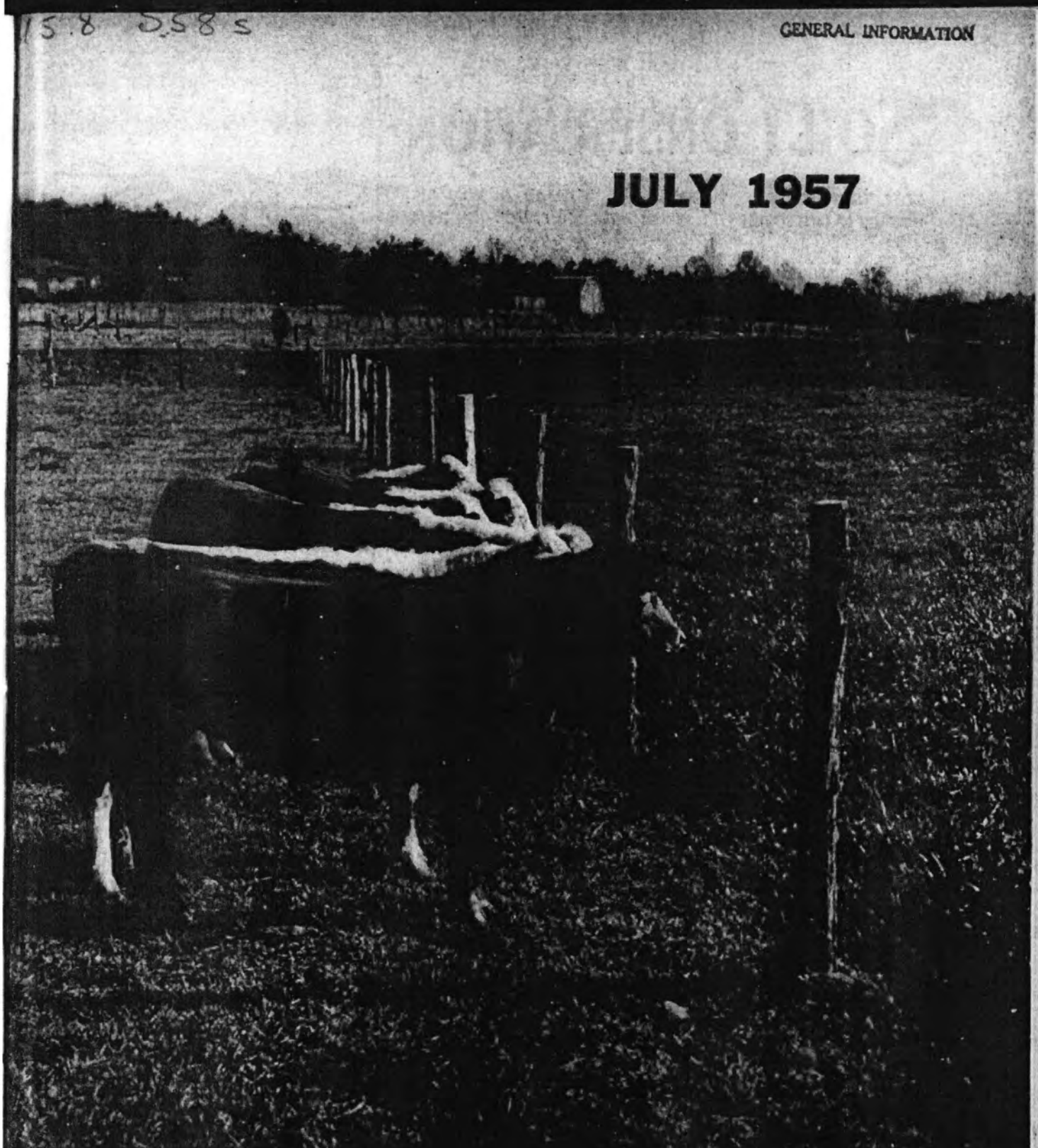
The ASC county committee and office manager began holding their monthly meetings on the same days as the district supervisors, and the two organizations usually ended up with a joint meeting. The vocational agriculture teacher, county agent, and county supervisor for the FHA were always invited to attend these regular meetings.

At the time for development of the county ACP Handbook, all agencies, and their respective advisory committees, are invited to sit in, and all are usually represented.

The district supervisors develop an annual plan of conservation activities. This includes: meetings that the county agent will conduct with the help of others; tours, arranged for by SCS technicians and assisted by boys of

Note.—The author is work unit conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Boise City, Okla.

JULY 1957



SOIL CONSERVATION

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SOIL CONSERVATION

EZRA TAFT BENSON
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

DONALD A. WILLIAMS
ADMINISTRATOR, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

★ THIS MONTH ★

TOM DALE
Editor

SOIL CONSERVATION is published by direction of the Secretary of Agriculture as administrative information required for proper transaction of the public business. The printing of this publication has been approved by the Bureau of the Budget, July 18, 1955. SOIL CONSERVATION supplies information for workers of the Department of Agriculture and others engaged in soil conservation.

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OUR SOIL ★ OUR STRENGTH

WATERSHED CONSERVATION is not something apart, or something to take the place of soil conservation district programs. Actually, it is, in effect, the regular program of the districts, supplemented by the addition of flood prevention and other measures in small tributaries and by wider participation by whole communities. It is soil conservation district programs expanded to meet some of the community-type land and water problems which the districts or other local interests do not have the facilities to handle, by themselves.

—D. A. Williams, Administrator Soil Conservation Service.

MORE AND CHEAPER FOOD FROM THE SAME ACRES.—Today, farmers are producing 40 percent more on virtually the same amount of land they farmed before World War II.

Corn yields are up 55 percent—wheat, about 35 percent—cotton, 65 percent—potatoes, over 100 percent. Each cow is giving 30 percent more milk and each hen is laying 45 percent more eggs.

Wages paid for an average hour of manufacturing labor will now buy about 32 percent more food than an hour's wages would buy in 1939.

—Louis H. Wilson, National Plant Food Institute.

FRONT COVER.—These yearlings may not know about the fertilizing and reseeding of that pasture across the fence, but they know that the grass is lusher and greener.

—Photo by Leon J. Sisk

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The Washita Story

An Unruly River is Being Tamed and the Land in Its Watershed Conserved Mainly Because a Group of Citizens Persistently Fought, for 30 Years, to Bring About Concerted Federal, State and Local Cooperation in Solving the Problems.

By TARLETON JENKINS and HARRY M. CHAMBERS

IF a vision can be workworn and dream-patched, the one that is turning into reality on Oklahoma's Washita River merits that description.

This particular vision, you see, is a relatively old one. Some of the people who first conceived it have moved away and some have passed away. Those who are still around find it hard to realize that the events now taking place along the mud-choked stream that meanders 200-odd miles across southwest Oklahoma are the achievements they worked for so long.

Otto Wray, Red Males, Lloyd Church, George Wingo, John Cassady, Jess DeWeese, and many others — the ones who first put their heads together to give promise to their hopes — now watch the fulfillment of their dreams with a nod of satisfaction.

In those early years progress seemed discouragingly slow. Often it was delayed by the clash of interests in high places, or by the emergence of new principles in watershed treatment that had to be weighed and tested, and by an upheaval that tossed into oblivion many other well-laid plans—World War II.

The Washita job, more recently, has been setting a fast pace. It has attracted visitors by the thousands from far-off corners. Its story has commanded the attention of audiences across the Nation. It has been told with millions of words in magazines, books, and newspapers.

Residents in other watersheds, eager for results, observe the rate of progress in the Washita and are surprised. Why, they wonder, does this one program move so swiftly while some of the others are so slow?

For the true answer you must turn back a lot of years, to the early 1930's and even before. You would go back to the time when the groups of citizens were gathering in offices, stores, and schoolhouses, to ask over and over "What can we do?"

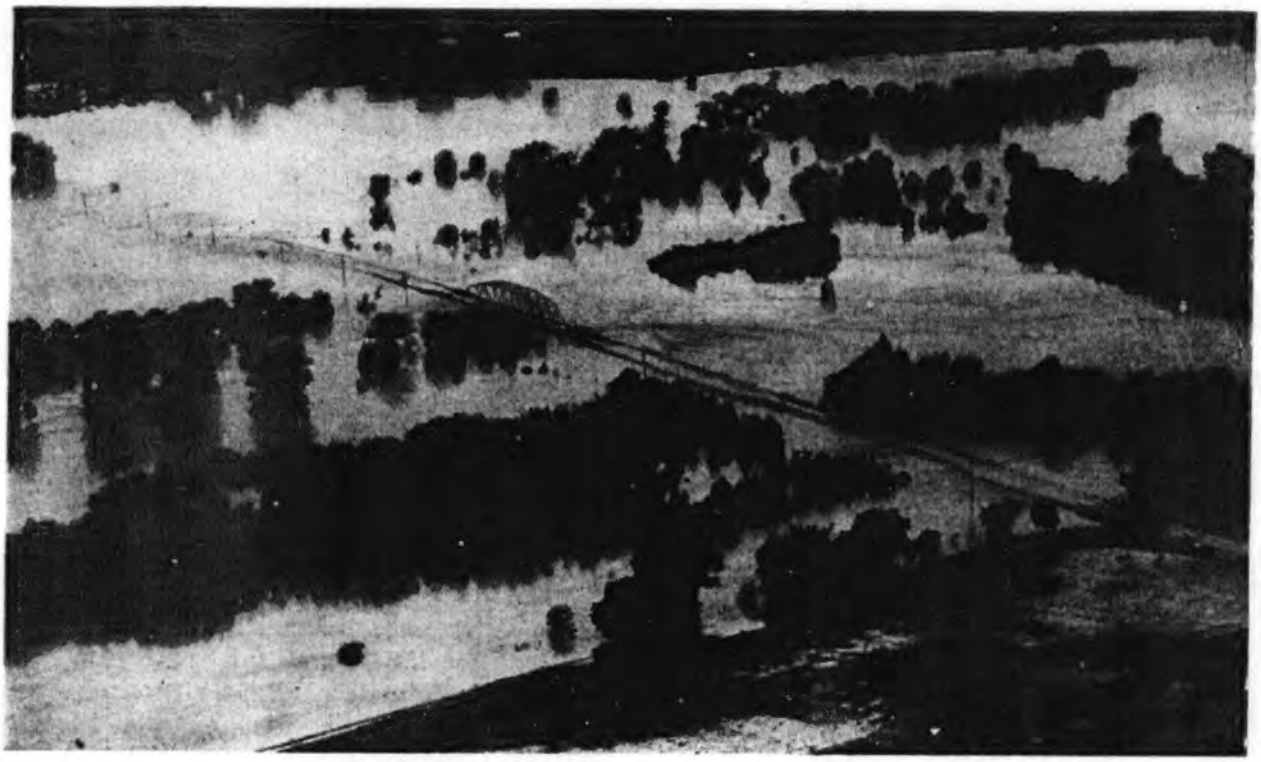
You would need to stand with them during times of flood, watching the angry waters as they reached across creek bottoms, across roadways and bridges, tearing at railroads, wrecking homes and barns, wrenching out fences, gouging out soil by the thousands of tons, ruining crops, and sweeping livestock to destruction.

You likely would talk to the residents of Fort Cobb, which was Wingo's home, and the townsfolk in Hammon farther upstream, where E. B. Savage lived.

The Fort Cobb flood in 1927 was one of the worst. It cost thousands of dollars in damage. Hammon, in 1934, took one of the river's cruel-

Main street of Fort Cobb, Okla., April, 1927.

Note:—The authors, both of The Soil Conservation Service, are respectively, information specialist, Fort Worth, Tex., and deputy state conservationist, Stillwater, Okla.



The Washita at flood stage, near Pauls Valley, Okla.

est blows. Seventeen people died one night in April when a cloudburst over Quartermaster Creek watershed brought a sudden head rise into the town.

Up and down the stream, and especially along its tributaries, it was the same. At Clinton, Chickasha, Anadarko, and Pauls Valley and areas in between there was the heartbreak of sudden loss in property, crops, livestock, and human lives.

Following the April 1927 flood at Fort Cobb, the engineers of the U. S. Army checked up on a site for a dam large enough to give protection to the town from the floodwaters of Pond (Cobb) Creek. The preliminary report was ready in 1930.

The dam, northwest of Fort Cobb, was to be 70 feet high and 3,800 feet long. It would receive the runoff from 190 square miles and cost $1,089,200. (A larger structure, for flood control, irrigation and water supply, has more recently been authorized for construction by the Bureau of Reclamation.)

Almost everyone in those years was thinking only of a system of big dams to corral the unpredictable river. Oklahoma's Division of Water Resources published a tailored plan for 29 large dams on the Washita.

However, plans calling for big dams and large areas for flood-control impoundments, did not meet with wholesale approval. Landowners whose bottomlands would be covered by impounded water were adamant in their objections. Some of these lands are of the State's best, with deep, rich topsoil.

The Washita River and its tributaries, as a matter of geologic fact, are somewhat out of character for streams in that area. Most streams have a wide streambed but a relatively narrow flood plain. The streambed of the Washita is narrow but the flood plains of it and its feeder streams are wide and highly productive; a fact that accounts, in part, for the high benefits gained from investment in flood prevention.

Geologists explain that the Washita Valley, thousands of years ago, must have been a huge lake backed up by Oklahoma's Arbuckle Mountains. The River finally cut through the mountains, leaving the broad, flat bottomlands to the west.

Actually, there is a larger total acreage of bottomlands on the tributaries of the Washita than on the main stream itself—approximately 265,000 acres of creek bottomlands to about 112,000 acres in the main Washita plain. The creeks flood oftener; some areas average 9 floods a year. The highest frequency of flooding on any part of the main stem averages just over twice a year.

By the midthirties the term "soil conservation" was being used more often in discussion of flood prevention on the Washita. Soon after the Hammon flood of 1934, a series of meetings were held on soil conservation, water conservation, and flood control at Clinton, Anadarko, Cheyenne, Chickasha, Pauls Valley, and other places.

An organization was formed, with the impressive title of "Washita Valley Soil Conservation and Flood Control Association." Judge Lawrence of Anadarko was elected president of the association; E. B. Savage was named vice president. Jess DeWeese of Custer City spearheaded the membership drive. All it took to become a member was to sign one's name to a petition requesting the Soil Conservation Service to use the entire Washita watershed as a demonstration area for soil and water conservation. Jess and his coworkers got more than 10,000 names on the petition and sent it to H. H. Bennett, then Chief of SCS.

This Association failed to get the entire watershed designated as a demonstration area; but several communities did get smaller demonstration areas or CCC Camps to work on soil conservation.

In the meantime, the Fort Cobb people were still working to get their flood-control dam. The

A typical gully in the upper Washita watershed.

Flood scour and silt deposit on a bottomland field near a tributary of the Washita.

Chamber of Commerce sent Wingo to Washington, D. C., in 1934, to ask for help on the Cobb Creek Dam proposal. He appealed to the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, then in session. The following resolution was the result: "The proposed dam and reservoir on Cobb Creek on Washita River in Oklahoma is hereby approved as economically sound and necessary for the protection of lives and property of the people of that vicinity."

In 1936, Congress passed the Omnibus Flood Control Bill. This put investigations of waterways for flood control in the hands of the War Department and "investigations of watersheds and measures for runoff and waterflow retardation . . . under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Department of Agriculture." It touched off excitement like a spring flood does along the Washita. And, obviously because of the earlier interest shown by the citizens, the Washita watershed was chosen for study.

In February 1938, a group of leaders met in Chickasha. They identified themselves as the Washita Valley Improvement Committee. A Cheyenne banker, L. L. Males, was chairman. They agreed that a tighter knit organization should be formed representing all interests in the watershed.

Two years later the Washita Valley Improvement Association came into being. Otto Wray of Fort Cobb was chosen president. Vice presidents were Dick Longmire of Pauls Valley, Wesley Phillips of Foss, and R. L. Wheeler of

Chickasha. Mrs. Lula K. Pratt of Cheyenne was named secretary-treasurer.

In September, 1940, Otto Wray led a group of association representatives to Great Falls, Mont., to meet with the director of the Bureau of Reclamation and other Federal officials. They learned that the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Agriculture, because of the Nation's preparedness program, had abandoned for the time all work on the Washita program.

A year later came the Pearl Harbor attack. The Soil Conservation Service hurried through the study it had been making under the authority of the Flood Control Act of 1936. Its report, dated September 17, 1943, was one of the first such reports completed and became the basis for later legislation.

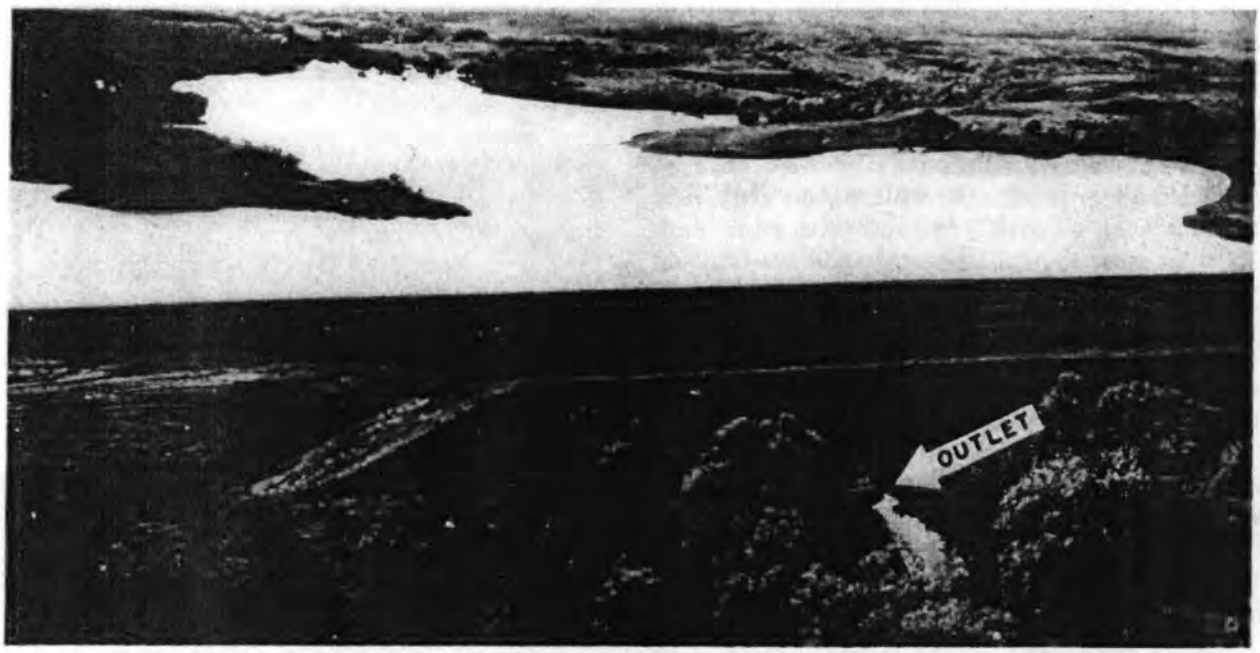
The Congress, in 1944, with the Nation seemingly on the way to victory, passed a Flood Control Act designating 11 watersheds in the United States for work in flood prevention. One of these was the Washita; and the job was in the hands of the Soil Conservation Service.

At this time the term, "upstream flood prevention", came into frequent use. It meant the use of soil- and water-conservation measures on a watershed's agricultural land to check part of the runoff and hold soil in place. Then, for the runoff that still might occur, there would be floodwater-retarding dams designed to release the flow at a rate in keeping with the stream channel's capacity.

One of the reasons the engineering phase of the program could begin without undue delay was the progress that had been made already in land treatment. Soil conservation districts blanketed the entire watershed. Cover cropping and contour cultivation, regrassing of denuded and rapidly eroding areas, use of vegetated waterways to carry runoff from terrace systems, and other conservation practices were already on much of the land. This part of the program was fundamental; not only to do its share in slowing and lessening runoff, but also to safeguard the engineering works by holding down sediment loads borne by runoff waters.

Today, there are 19 soil conservation districts in the Washita watershed. They have formed the Washita Valley Council of Soil Conservation Districts, which has taken over the work of the Washita Valley Improvement Association. The council is made up of one representative from the governing body of each of the 19 districts.

This council recommends to the Soil Conservation Service the priority of all creek watersheds for planning and construction. It also has the job of working with the State Soil Conservation Board in making use of a $50,000



A floodwater-retarding structure in the Washita watershed empties water from a 6-inch rain through a 24-inch outlet.

Seeding a grass waterway in the Washita watershed.

revolving fund, that the State Legislature provided in 1955, for the purchase of lands, easements, and rights-of-way in situations where local resources might be unequal to the need.

By early 1957, two-thirds of the farmers and ranchers in the Washita watershed were cooperating with soil conservation districts in moving toward a common goal: The use of every acre of agricultural land within its capabilities, and the treatment of each acre according to its needs. Four-fifths of the cooperating farmers and ranchers had developed basic conservation plans. Nearly half of all the soil- and water-conservation measures needed were on the land.

The first studies by the Soil Conservation Service of the Washita's potentialities were on very small segments of the watershed. This was because a small group of interested landowners, with about 5 or 6 thousand acres, could work effectively in doing all the things needed for the flood-prevention job. The first structures, in fact, were installed on a small drainage area. They were built on Cloud Creek, a tributary of Calvary Creek, and dedicated in June 1950.

However, experience soon proved that a more efficient job in both planning and installation could be done on creek-size watersheds; and, the job went ahead on that basis.

Interest was high over the entire watershed. This group or that wanted work to begin in its own area. Landowners generally were ready to sign easements giving the soil conservation districts authority, without cost, to place the needed structures on their lands.

In late 1950, soil conservation district leaders and SCS officials agreed that an example of a complete installation of upstream flood-prevention measures was needed. They wanted a working demonstration of the principles involved so that all landowners in the Washita and other watersheds could see for themselves just how land treatment and engineering structures work together. They were certain that a fully-treated watershed would show beyond a doubt that this kind of flood prevention would pay handsome dividends.

They chose Sandstone Creek watershed, with a 65,000-acre drainage, on the Washita's western reaches. There were several reasons for picking Sandstone. It had been averaging 9 floods a year with annual damages amounting to $60,000. A good part of the needed soil conservation treatment had been applied, insuring protection to a practical degree for the engineering structures. And, most important, the landowners and other local people were alert to the opportunity, informed as to the value of this kind of flood protection, and eager to cooperate with their soil conservation districts.

By 1952, the 24 floodwater-retarding dams and the 13 gully-control structures called for in the Sandstone Creek plan, had been installed. Well over half the drainage area had all the soil conservation treatment needed. The land

Native grass pasture on a formerly eroded and abandoned field near Clinton, Okla.

treatment and the floodwater structures repeatedly have saved the bottomlands from severe flooding.

The story of Sandstone Creek, especially since it has had a thorough testing of its flood prevention work, has become a popular one. And the man who no doubt tells the story most often is the Cheyenne banker, L. L. Males, one of the original flood prevention enthusiasts.

Males likes to dwell especially on the contrast between that creek and the others in nearby, untreated watersheds. Sandstone flows almost continuously these days with clear, sparkling water. The big reason, Males points out, is the soil-plant-water program that is at work on almost the entire 65,000 acres.

This banker has told the story, illustrated with colored slides, before many groups, including members of Congress and President Eisenhower.

In the 5-million acre Washita watershed are 64 creek-size watersheds, some of them larger and some smaller than Sandstone. The whole plan calls for 888 floodwater-retarding dams like the 24 in Sandstone. Of these, 155 have been built or are under contract. This is more than one-third of all the floodwater-retarding structures built in the entire 11 flood prevention projects authorized in 1944.

Land treatment scores as well. In the Washita project there are nearly 500,000 acres of contour farming, nearly 200,000 acres of crop-residue management, 227,000 acres of range seeding, and 20,000 miles of terracing. This is one-fourth of all the contour farming now being practiced in the 11 authorized watersheds, nearly one-fifth of the cover cropping, more than a fifth of all the crop-residue management, five-sixths of the range seeding, and more than a third of the terracing.

The land treatment part of the big program has made good progress in spite of the record drouth the region has been experiencing. Planning and design of structures, as well as easements from landowners, are well ahead of money available for construction.

In addition to the large reservoir at Fort Cobb, a second large structure has been authorized for construction by the Bureau of Reclamation at Foss, farther upstream. Its functions, like the Fort Cobb project, will be irrigation, water supply, and flood control.

Six other such reservoirs are listed, in an overall tentative plan for the Washita watershed, for further consideration if and when conditions justify.

But how did the rapid development of upsteam flood prevention on the Washita come about? Why could the Washita program get off to such a fast start while similar projects remained for years in the "tooling-up" stage? The answer goes back to the start of this story, to the efforts of the folks with a vision and a will to try for it. They were the folks like Wray, Wingo, Savage, Church, Males, Cassady, DeWeese and Longmire. They worked hard and long for this panorama that is unfolding in their watershed. They have a right to show a little pride.

SOIL USE AND IMPROVEMENT. By J. H. Stallings. 403 pp. Illustrated. 1957. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc. $5.95

THIS is an especially well-written book for use as a text in high school or a reference in soil conservation for vocational agriculture, general agricultural, or Veterans' training courses. Also, farmers and ranchers will find this book valuable.

It is well illustrated with pictures showing the effects of erosion and principles of corrective measures. At the end of each chapter, several good suggested exercises and questions are listed that will be valuable to the instructor and student.

The book is composed of three parts: Part I describes the historical phase of erosion, including the effect of erosion on nations during Biblical times, and the extent of erosion in the United States. Part II deals with the fundamental considerations in conservation, including how water and wind erode soils, soil surveys, land capability classes, and land judging. Part III contains 14 chapters relating to various conservation practices that will reduce erosion, as well as how to plan and establish a conservation plan for farms and ranches.

—B. D. BLAKELEY

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10-15-1984

Males Appreciation Day Honors Couple for Service

Dee Ann Ray

L. L. "Red" Males — "A business or bank can only prosper in proportion to the prosperity of the people who patronize them. I knew that for the people to do well in Roger Mills County, the land had to be saved and conservation was the means to use." In service to others, Red has found himself and his strength as a person. Because of him and other soil savers, the land is being conserved, but "the effort must not stop. It must go on and on, because each generation has to be convinced again." (Photo by Dee Ann Ray)

Lorena G. Savage Males at her beloved piano. "I owe a great debt to my parents. My father could have used all us children in the store as a work force, but when it came time to go to school, he saw to it that we got to go. My mother and other ladies of Hammon worked to see that we children had cultural opportunities and training in music and the arts. They allowed us to be ourselves and develop as individuals." (Photo by Dee Ann Ray)

— by Dee Ann Ray

Males Appreciation Day
honors couple for service

On Saturday, July 7, 1984, Roger Mills County observed Males Appreciation Day in honor of the contributions of L. L. and Lorena Males not only to that county but to Western Oklahoma. Married more than fifty years, the Maleses are an integral part of Roger Mills County's history.

L. L. "Red" Males was born at Rankin, which later became Reydon, Oklahoma. He is the son of G. W. and Bertie Males, who farmed all their lives in the Reydon area. Even as a boy, Red had a feel for the land and he could see the constant abuse of it, although conservation was an unknown term in those days.

As a 4-H member, Red participated in the projects of the club, but recalls nothing being mentioned about the need to save the land for future generations.

School days for the first eight grades were spent at "Skip-Out School," which was located across from present-day "Skip-Out Lake." In many ways it is ironic that a boy attending Skip-Out School grew up to help build a conservation program that developed Skip-Out Lake.

With no high school available in Reydon, L.

Lowell Lawrence (L. L.) Males is the little boy second from the right on the front row. The photo was made when he attended Skip-Out School, which was located across from what is now Skip Out Lake, near Rankin-Reydon. His parents were G. W. and Bertie Males. There was no High School in the area, so he went to Strong City on an Athletic Scholarship to complete his schooling.

L. accepted an athletic scholarship at Strong City High School, one of three such scholarships given to Reydon boys. In 1924, Red went to work for the First State Bank of Strong City, headed by D. N. Hunt. His first job was as janitor and then bookkeeper while he attended school during most of the day. Between his athletic commitments with the relays, basketball, baseball and the mile which he ran in a little over five minutes, and his job at the bank, Red was busy all the time.

When he graduated from Strong City High in 1925, Red wouldn't accept the position of Valedictorian for his class because it meant he would have to make a speech. "I was shy and I didn't think I could do that, so I threw away the chance to be Valedictorian." There is another irony in that, because Red has since made thousands of speeches in favor of conservation efforts and in explaining the Sandstone Creek project. The difference is in Red's own words, "I believed I had something important to say about conservation and something to contribute. I overcame my shyness to do so. I had lots of help from Bob Wright and other Soil Conservation workers, but I knew I had to speak up."

Red and Lorena in 1953

In the late 20's, a new music teacher moved to Strong City. Her name was Lorena Savage. One of eight children born to E. B. and Mary Savage of Hammon, Lorena was a new graduate of Southwestern State College. As she tells the story, she questioned a friend about eligible men at Strong City after she knew she was going to teach there. She was told there were only two, one at the lumber yard and one at the bank. Before she moved to Strong City, Lee Wells at the lumber yard was spoken for by Nig Polk and that left Red Males at the bank. When she got settled at Strong City, Lorena met him and "things turned out good."

Lorena's mother held the distinction of being the first coed to enroll at Southwestern State College. When Mary Mabry married E. B. Savage, and began to raise a family which eventually consisted of eight boys and girls, the family push was always for education for the children. Lorena expresses a debt of gratitude to Hammon, and the environment it provided for children who had talent in the arts. "The ladies at Hammon then did everything possible to promote music and speech and all of the arts. They saw to it that we had good teachers and opportunities to compete. They told us to try to be ourselves. We were so fortunate. Do you know that Hammon once placed first in one act plays in the state? Josephine Smithey was the speech teacher then. We also had four talented girls from the Indian Missionary family. They were all named Kliewer and they were educated in Kansas and came back to teach music. Later, Grace Crump Boal taught music.

"Hammon is still promoting the growth of culture and the arts. They even have a wonderful new auditorium at their school for programs. I was just born at the right time to the right family in the very community where I should have been to give me every opportunity to develop my musical talents. It is only a little talent, but a lot of work has gone into developing it."

Lorena also found just the right husband too. "He has always wanted me to be myself, develop and grow, and that has made a difference, because we complement each other's lives but we also have our own fields of interest. We do share our common heritage of growing up in Roger Mills County. Often when we are talking, we discuss the three or four generations of families we have known through the bank and through my work in the schools," says Lorena. "We've covered the waterfront, since we represent Reydon, Strong City, Hammon, and Cheyenne in our background."

Red's first decision to do something about conservation occurred the day he along with everyone else in Roger Mills County was frightened by the wall of dirt which swept in from the north in the first dust storm to hit in the "dirty thirties." "We didn't know what it was. It was like a wall and it kept coming toward us. It was only the first, but we knew we had to stop it."

A candid shot on Appreciation Day

By that time, the Extension folks were talking conservation, and Red knew about equipment which was available to help in terracing, ditching, etc. The bank purchased several pieces of equipment to loan to area farms in 1934-35. But the equipment was heavy for horses, and most farmers didn't

have tractors in those days. However, a start was made with a Corsicana grader, some farm levels, and so forth.

E. B. Savage, Lorena's father, was also conscious of the need for conservation. He grew up in railroad camps where his father operated road-building equipment. E. B. saw what happened to the soil when it was not taken care of by the farmers. Later when his father opened the E. F. Savage & Son store in Hammon, E. B. continued his efforts, especially after the real conservation move was made in Roger Mills County, E. B. and Red were always friends and worked together on the early efforts, which Red continued after Mr. Savage died.

The honorees on Appreciation Day

Red became the head of the bank at Strong City in 1929. In 1935, the 1st State Bank of Cheyenne failed. Red moved the bank from Strong City to Cheyenne and named it the Security State. His staff then consisted of two plus himself.

Throughout his banking career, Red's philosophy has been that the bank could do well only if the people it served did well. The farmers of Roger Mills County depend on the land; therefore, the land must be protected. "That is why I have worked so hard on conservation. I believe it is the only hope we have for the future of the land and the people of Roger Mills County," says Red.

In the 30's, not only was Roger Mills County ravaged by the dust storms, and the loss of population, but the big flood of 1934 and subsequent infrequent hard rains did even more damage to the soil. "In 1934, Dr. Winters and other Washington officials came down to survey the damage on the Washita from the big flood. I went with them on the surveys and we talked. I became more and more convinced that we must promote conservation," related Red.

In 1942, Congress authorized the Upper Watershed Conservation programs, but the war prevented any work being done. In 1949, the Sandstone Creek Project started. In 1953, Sandstone was the first Flood Control Watershed program completed in the whole world. "It was all new. We pioneered and developed as we went along. There was little red tape--at least not like now and we just did what seemed to work. The Soil Conservation boys today have lots more training, but they don't have the zeal, the evangalistic attitudes of the first Soil Conservation men we had," muses Red.

Following the completion of Sandstone, Red and Bob Wright of the soil service, hit the road with a slide show explaining what they had done. "We would leave our work at 2 or 3 p.m. in the afternoon, and give programs in Tucumcari or places in Kansas or Texas. Bob would drive back while I slept after doing the program. We always went to work the next day. I'm not sure what we were worth, but we did lots of programs that way. I made my first speech at the State Convention, and then I went to Boston to the National Convention. Even the Ph.D's listened to me because we had done somethig new and inventive. I didn't have time to worry about being shy," laughs Red.

Thousands of visitors from countries all around the world came to Roger Mills County and Western Oklahoma to view the conservation efforts being completed. Tours and speeches explaining the project were held all the time by Red and the Soil Conservation people.

Red and Bob Wright went all over the United States working on conservation. For Red it was a labor of love, which still goes on. He was a volunteer and he worked hard because he believed in saving the land. He speaks with reverence of the early area soil conservationist such as Bob Wright, who literally gave his life to the program.

While Red was promoting conservation with Lorena's support, she was raising their two boys — Jim, who is now a physician in Oklahoma City, and Bill, who is an innkeeper in Sweden. "I did all the things that mothers are supposed to do–Cub Scout, band mothers, school programs, etc."

Lorena was also studying the piano and the organ. She still takes lessons on both instruments. "I go once a month to Oklahoma City to OCU for lessons with Dr. Burg on the organ. I go once a week to SWOSU for lessons on the piano with Mr. Breckinridge. I keep learning all the time. I also learn from my students, who after all are my best teachers. I never believed they could be when my good friend Lura Chalfant, who also taught piano, told me that. However, through the years, I find that I get so much from my students in the form of stimulation and elation at their progress."

Through her efforts, the Cheyenne School developed a program of choral music and students have placed well in state, county, and area meets. Piano students earn awards through the continuing efforts of Lorena Males, who believes in them and their talents. "I try to work with each student to develop his or her individual talents. I believe everyone has some talents born in them. Some have talents in being plumbers, and some in music, and some in other fields, but I try to encourage each child to be the best they can in whatever they choose to do in life," states Lorena.

A rather quiet, unassuming man, Red is accessible to his bank customers. He can be found at his desk in the front of the bank. Strangers to Roger Mills County are probably surprised to learn about the accomplishments of this tall, gentle-spoken man. But folks in Western Oklahoma know of the many honors given to Red. He was president of the Oklahoma Banker's Association in 1951; has served on all kinds of executive committees, National Agriculture Committee; the National Banker's Association Board; An Advisory Board to the Secretary of Agriculture on soil and water; the Food and Fiber Commission Board; and is senior member of

Bank meeting in the presence of Augusta Metcalf's "Prairie Fire"

the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, with 27 years of continuous service. He is also a distinguished honoree of the Western Oklahoma Hall of Fame. The honors are many, but Red has not been changed by them. He still works hard and believes that Conservation efforts are just as important now as they were when begun.

Lorena too has won many honors, not only as a teacher, but as a performer. She long ago lost count of the programs she has given and the number of students she has taught. She currently performs with a group composed of Mr. and Mrs. Rollin Reimer and their son David. Quality is the main driving force behind her efforts. Both of the Maleses use excellence of performance as their measure in life.

Both Red and Lorena seem to have been born into the right time for their talents. Saving the soil is needed, and Red was the man to do it because he believed in the work. Development of cultural activities is needed, and Lorena was born into the right climate to work with developing talent because she believes in people. Both of the Maleses are people-oriented and share a common delight in working to help people develop themselves. Their shared joy is in seeing people be all they can be, whether it is financially or as a person.

Red's concern for the future of conservation is profound. "Saving the soil is a job that will never be completed. We have learned that some of our early efforts were fruitless while others have worked well. We just can't stop, although we have come a long way."

Lorena as a young woman with her grandmother, Mother Conley

Lorena's concern for the young people of today is that they "are being robbed of their heritage of songs and poetry. The books just don't have the richness of songs and stories as they once did. Children don't sing songs like 'Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean' and 'I Dream of Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair' and 'Skip to My Lou.' The only place they hear such songs is in lessons because the piano books still have them," says Lorena.

The efforts of Lorena and L. L. Males can be summed up by saying their work is for the joy of it. They found themselves in doing for others and because of their efforts, the lives of many people have been and are still being enriched.

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