

LAKE CARNICO

Lake Carnico (representing a combination of the words Carlisle-Nicholas-County and chosen from a community sponsored name contest) will be a reality by the summer of 1964.

The 150 acre lake, located on 400 acres of land owned and operated by the Nicholas County Development Corporation- a non profit group, had its origin in 1961. The Nicholas County Fish and Game Club, working in cooperation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Kentucky, believed that a suitable site for a fishing lake could be had in Nicholas County. Officers of the Fish and Game Club interested other public spirited citizens in Carlisle and Nicholas County, and after many meetings with the Small Lakes Committee under the administration of Governor Bert T. Combs; the Fish and Wildlife Division; the State Highway Department; the Kentucky Department of Conservation, and the Kentucky Department of Parks, it became evident that a long sought, rural secondary road was economically feasible, and as a part thereof a 150 acre lake could be created, and simultaneously two small lakes of 21 acres and 5 acres respectively could likewise be realized.

While these discussions were being promoted, the non profit Development Corporation was organized, and they immediately began to acquire the land necessary, not only for this project, but also enough land for a 4-H Camp site which would serve a 27 County area. The Corporation acquired approximately 750 acres of land in 1961, and 330 acres of this was deeded as a gift to the University of Kentucky for the 4-H Camp site on which would be located the 21 acre lake and the 5 acre lake.

To carry out this project it became very obvious that it could not be realized without the help of everyone in Nicholas County, and working through the non profit Development Corporation, the aid of everyone was enlisted. \$85,000 was raised. \$55,000 was realized from the sale of lots to people who were interested in having summer cottages or year round homes on the big lake. The remaining \$30,000 was raised by the sale of stock in the non-profit corpor-

ation (tantamount to being a gift as it is non-dividend paying) and outright contributions. This was like buying a "pig in a poke" as the lots had to be bought sight unseen, at this point. Pot luck suppers and steak cook outs were held on the lake basin by all interested people in order to keep the spark glowing, and to see how the work was progressing. The Fish and Wildlife Division of the State of Kentucky donated \$10,000 to clear the lake basin area.

Every pretty Sunday in 1963 it was a thrill to see the many cars and people driving around over the lake project just to see what had been done from one week to the next.

The road project was completed, and the dams were formed as part thereof in the latter part of the year 1963; and Lake Carnico was born on January 1, 1964, as the water started to fill the lake basin area. The people who had put up money for lots in the beginning of the project were now ready for lot selection day.

In the meantime the Development Corporation has borrowed an additional twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000), and there are now three hundred forty additional surveyed lots surrounding the lake, with two hundred eighty-five of them being available for sale commencing April 15, 1964. Roadways have been built into the cottage site areas, and these roads will be finished with gravel by the time the lots are offered for sale. The 4-H Camp site is even further along, as they have already built a Caretaker's home; shelter house; and twenty-two cabins to be used by the 4-H campers, not later than 1965.

The Development Corporation is using the Services of Scruggs and Hammonds, Planning and Zoning Engineers, Lexington, Kentucky, in the long range development of the entire area. Further plans call for either a swimming beach area or swimming pool; boat dock facilities, since the lake area is open to the public for fishing; summer camping areas for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; ball diamonds for Little League and Babe Ruth League Teams; a community golf course; a corporation owned lodge and cottages, similar to the type found in our state park system. All of these

items will be forthcoming just as fast as the Development Corporation can arrange necessary financing for them.

Utilities such as water, gas, and sewage pose the next problem, and already the Development Corporation is working with at least one government agency towards the formation of a water district for the purpose of, not only supplying water to the 4-H and Lake Carnico Area, but also the surrounding citizens living in that portion of the county who earnestly desire water.

The outstanding accomplishment of this entire project to date in the minds of many people is the fact that it has served to bring the citizens of Carlisle and Nicholas County closer together than at any time in the history of the county as far as team work and joint effort is concerned. There is a new feeling existing that we are on the move, and there is no way to measure the hidden good that has been accomplished by the project. We believe it is sufficient to state that to our knowledge it is the only enterprise of its kind that has been attempted, not only in this county, but anywhere in the State of Kentucky. By this, we mean, the Development Corporation, which has been organized in such a way that no one person can realize any personal gain therefrom, and every possible asset obtained by the corporation must be spent in the further development of the project itself, and the proof of its non profit status is attested by the fact that it now occupies a tax exempt status by the United States Treasury Department.

It is a monumental contribution by a community endeavoring to go forward on its own, although the community shall never forget the aid and assistance given by state agencies in making the original dream possible.

The Carlisle Community Woman's Club promoted the sale of private lots for the Nicholas County Development Corporation, to secure the money to buy the land for the original lake site and surrounding area. Four of our members and their husbands purchased building lots on the site. Ten of our members and their husbands purchased stock in the Corporation.

The Club is happy to have participated in this community effort. This is a project we will view with pride for many years to come because of its permanence.