

Brighter Outlook For City Lake

The City Lake has enjoyed a 39 year history with little more being planned for it. In fact, it and Battle Park are the only "passive parks" in Rocky Mount. So, as for the future of the lake, little has been prescribed.

According to "Taking Stock of Rocky Mount," "no recommendations are made for changes to this pleasant asset of the city." The first long-range plan for recreation in Rocky Mount was made and financed in 1958. The services of Charles Graves Planning Company of Atlanta, Ga., were secured and many worthwhile needs were discovered. However, most of these needs were for more "active parks" rather than for City Lake. City Lake, therefore, was left in its originally intended state. And, just for the record,

Charles Graves Planning Company was the best in the business at the time.

The Jaycee's have done a lot of work on the outlay of City Lake. They also have worked on other parks in various capacities. To quote "Taking Stock of Rocky Mount" again, "In the event that the power plant is eventually demolished, the park should be extended to the banks of the Tar River." According to Mr. Peter Varney, at the City Manager's office, "the railroad on the back spur of the lake was taken up last summer for scrap." In regards to a message to the young people of Senior High, Mrs. Fairy Bandy closed by saying, "the lake belongs to them (the youth of Rocky Mount) and they ought to try to take care of it, as far as trash and rubbish goes."



Photo by B. Hutchisson



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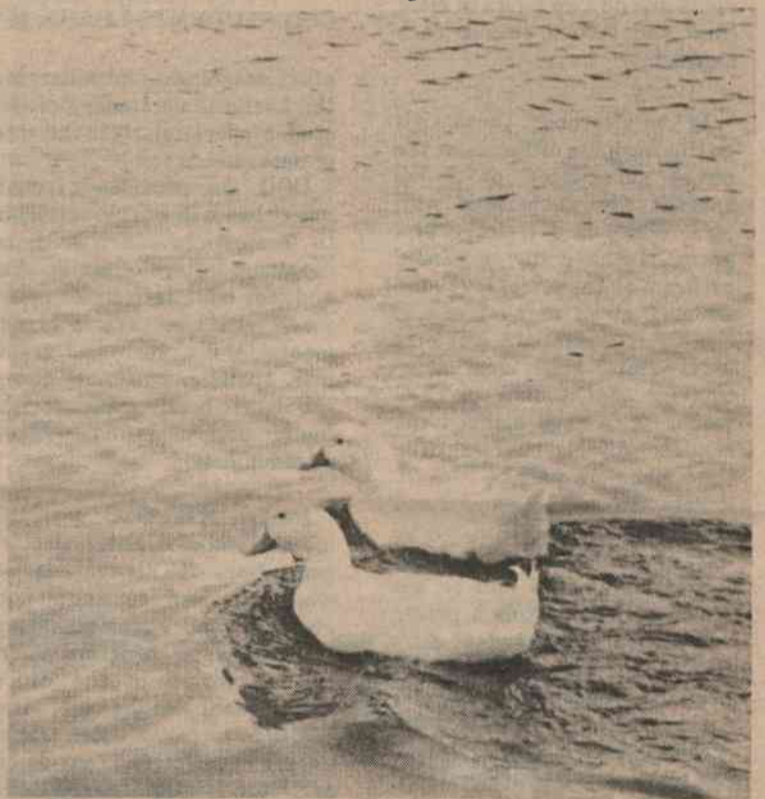


Photo by B. Hutchisson

Odd Things Pass

By ANGELA LLOYD

Besides being a place to fish, to feed the ducks, or to relax, the City Lake has been the site of interesting incidents. City Lake is the site of the annual July 4th celebration, which includes a fireworks display. It is also the site of various other events during the year.

Mrs. Fairy Bandy, who was head of the Recreation Department for 30 years, supervised the planting of the tree which is on an island in the middle of the lake. This tree is covered with lights at Christmas every year. The tree, a Slowgrower, could not be found in any nurseries in Rocky Mount, so it was obtained from a nursery in Goldsboro.

The tree, now 35 years old, was three feet tall when it was planted. The tree is now over 15 feet tall. Mrs. Bandy remembers telling the supervisor who planted the tree. "When I get to be an old lady, and that tree gets real big, be sure to tell them that Mrs. Bandy planted it."

The ducks at City Lake originally came from the ducks that parents gave to their children at Easter. The children would then bring the ducks to the lake when the ducks could no longer be kept. These residents of City Lake have been involved in strange incidents also. These ducks have been known to swallow fish hooks. One duck was accidentally

pierced with an arrow, and continued to live. Complaints were made concerning this duck, who was swimming around with an arrow in its breast. The duck, who finally had the arrow removed by a veterinarian, continued to thrive.

When City Lake freezes over, the ice should be at least six feet thick before anyone attempts to walk or skate on it. One boy decided to drive his car over the ice after the lake had frozen over. Arthur Nelson bet a friend that he could drive his car onto the ice without the ice breaking. When the car was driven onto the ice, the ice didn't break, so Arthur won the bet.

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