

Cline Blasts Board

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this lake matter straightened out. You have one man around here that chairs a lot of committees."

He said he had been accused of speculating on land in the reservoir area and he traced the land acquisitions to his grandfather in 1876.

Cline said even though he had been criticized, "I've never brought the matter into the newspapers while they were in litigation. I didn't think it was a matter for the public then."

Cline has spent six years in courts battling over his land and gone twice to the State Supreme Court.

"Any old dog will fight in his backyard," Cline said speaking of his legal battles.

Even though he has been in court many times, Cline said one of his biggest mistakes was "not getting an injunction and stopping construction of the lake until the lands above the dam site were acquired."

Cline also mentioned engineer Tom Cox and a check he wrote Cox for consultation on a pier. He said that if he took the advice of Cox, his pier would cost \$2000. (See related story).

The dairyman said he had "nothing against anyone personally," but that "rules and regulations at the lake should be coming quickly."

Cline noted he was "the only person on the lake guaranteed access to the waters" thanks to the consent judgement. He spoke of the city-owned eight foot contour for flood control and pollution around the lake and said "no property owner at the lake has official access to the waters." He noted this aspect prevented him from developing the lots because "who will buy on the lake if they can't get to it?"

After the meeting, City Attorney Jack White said, "as far as the eight foot contour goes, the city is required by State law to have some land for flood and pollution control. It can be any amount but in Kings Mountain's case it happens to be eight feet."

White said, "we have been in court many times with Buford and I can't understand what he's fighting about. The business about moving the septic tank has taken a long time because The State Board of Health had to approve all plans. Other than that I think

we've been exceptionally generous with him."

One of Cline's statements was that certain people had perjured themselves when testifying at some of his court cases. He referred to recreational facility plans.

Jack White said at one time "recreation was not going to be permitted but later it was allowed. When the lake began being talked, the main function was for water quality. Recreation and other uses were secondary. Since

recreation is going to be allowed now, I don't see how the city could deny access to any property owner."

On one point, White and Cline agree. Both state the lake should be a source of pride and not a "hodgepodge", as White put it, of rotting piers and the like.

In ending his remarks, Cline said, "I still have land at the lake and I believe in the lake, but don't push me. I will fight for my rights and the rights of other taxpayers in the area."

Cox Defends His Collections

(From page 1A)

available to five lake property owners.

"Mrs. Charles Forney Jr. called and asked if I could come out and help him and four others with problems they were having. Along with Forney there was Jack Palmer, J.W. Schenck, Lamar Young and Ed Young.

"We set the date for Mar. 20 and they agreed on my fee of \$200 plus 25 cents mileage and out-of-pocket expenses. Each man was to pay me \$40, which they have done.

"Later I received a call from John Hawkins, another lake property owner who had a problem concerning the erection of a sea-wall. He thought he needed one and he wanted to consult me. He asked if I could come out on the 20th and I told him I would be busy all day. I did agree to come out the 19th, after 5 p.m. and help with his problem. He didn't need the sea-wall he was anticipating and after I spent a couple of hours with him, he thanked me and for my professional services I received \$75 which included mileage, etc.

"The next day I was working with the five men and was at the home of Lamar Young around noon when Buford Cline came up. He said he was having problems and asked if I could come to his home. I told Cline I was employed for the day but I would

come out when I was finished. I told him my fee was \$25 per hour and he told me to come on out.

"When I finished with the five men, I went to Cline's home and spent about an hour and a half with him. I finished and told him the bill was \$25 and he wrote me a check for my services. It had nothing to do with the city of Kings Mountain or the Lake Authority."

How does Cox get paid and what for?

"I will bill the City for the services I have performed such as gathering the recommendations, and reviewing the permits. I will bill them at my usual rate of \$25 per hour. I was employed to establish water quality management and regulations."

Cox said, "I'm also available to the city for half a day, all day or a week if they need me. So far however the only thing they've needed me for has been the meetings."

Concerning the collections he made, Cox said, "it would be asinine for anyone to think the Lake Authority or any body would retain me to be at the beck and call of 1500 property owners on the lake. I was consulted by the owners on a one-to-one basis and not as consulting engineer for the Lake Authority."

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