

Norris Rises As Fulfillment Of TVA Miracle

Tennessee Wastes Turned to Thriving Sector Over Night.

Editor's note: Following is the second in a series of dispatches on the Tennessee Valley program, detailing the building of Norris, model city and architects' dream.

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Norris, Tenn., Feb. 13 (U.P.).—This is a city which reflects tangibly the ideals behind President Roosevelt's Tennessee River development program.

It has no counterpart for beauty and sheer livability. Not even the wealthy suburbs on the gold coasts of New York and Chicago can offer the advantages which the humblest householder of Norris takes as a matter of course.

Two months ago Norris was a rugged plateau between the Buffalo Creek and the Clinch River Valley. It contained a few mountaineers' shacks, some cut-over timber—and many trainloads of limestone boulders.

Today Norris is a scientifically planned city of winding streets and parkways. The shacks have given way to homes which bring smiles to architect and housewife alike. The boulders are being pulverized and strewn on the ground as fertilizer.

500 Houses Planned.

About 500 houses will be built. Some 200 already are in process of construction. Most of the workers on the Norris dam are housed in substantially built dormitories.

When the dam is completed some 2½ years hence, the dormitories will be converted into the furniture factories, the spinning mills and the china plants which are intended to make the villagers self-supporting.

About 15,000 pounds of maple tree seeds are being set out in CCC and CWA workers are putting in flag-stone walks, curving roads and lawns. A community center for church, movie and town hall use is nearly completed. A modern cafeteria is operated by college women.

Life, of course, centers around Norris dam, named like the city, in honor of Senator George W. Norris, the Nebraskan, whose dream of an integrated modern life along the Tennessee River a decade ago finally is coming true.

The cofferdam has been finished. The main dam soon will rise to the height of a 20-story building between two mountain peaks on each side of the valley. It will form a lake of 83 square miles in the valleys of the Clinch and Powell Rivers. Shore line of the lake will be nearly 900 miles long. The shore line of Lake Michigan is little more than 1,000 miles.

Work at the dam continues 22 hours a day. The other 2 hours are used for servicing electric shovels, drills and trucks. The highlanders labor in four shifts of a little more than 5 hours each. They use their spare time in developing their farms.

Supplies Lacking.

The TVA experienced great difficulty in obtaining the carloads of nails and the trainloads of lumber necessary to build the cofferdam and the houses in Norris. Depression-ridden mills and factories simply didn't have supplies enough in stock.

Material now is arriving in quantities, however, so that Earle S. Draper, director of land planning and housing for the TVA, hopes to have the city of Norris virtually completed within another six months.

Work is proceeding rapidly on the homes, which are his special pride.

Tomorrow: A home in Norris, which rents for \$20 a month, includes a farm, and provides some luxuries which even President Roosevelt does without.