

## **HISTORY OF THE LITTLE LAKE**

**The little lake was created in the early 1950's as a part of the Kerr Lake project. A separate dam was built in the Island Creek watershed to keep from flooding thousands of acres of prime bottomland and a then existing tungsten mine which was closed in the early 1960's. The USA Corps of Engineers and the land owners could not agree on the value of the land, so the Corps under condemnation proceedings acquired a right to flood part of it. They DID NOT buy the land, only the right to flood the lower part of it and create the little lake.**

**The Corps maintains the water level within a range of about six inches most of the time. They do this by pumping water into Kerr Lake using three high capacity water pumps which are computer**

**controlled. The lake is spring-fed and, typically, the lake will rise six inches over a week or so, and then will be pumped back to the normal 258' elevation during the night.**

**Each lot on the lake has three main zones based on mean sea level elevation. The first is the land above the flowage easement or the 290 foot mean sea level elevation. This is the area that your home must be built on. The second is the land between the 290 foot elevation and the normal water level of about 258 feet. This land is yours, you can clear or improve it in any way you wish, except you can't build a house here. The third zone is the land under water. Although some people joke about owning land under water, it is important to own it, because this is what gives you true lakefrontage. And if you don't own it, someone else does.**

**Each lot varies in the mix between these three zones. Some have very little land under water, some have over half the land under water. Some have about an acre of land above the flowage easement, others have several acres. It all depends on the lay of the land. This is shown on the plat below. Since houses must be built above the 290' flowage easement, the distance from your house to the water will vary with the steepness of each lot. It can be less than a hundred feet or several hundred feet depending on the lay of the land.**