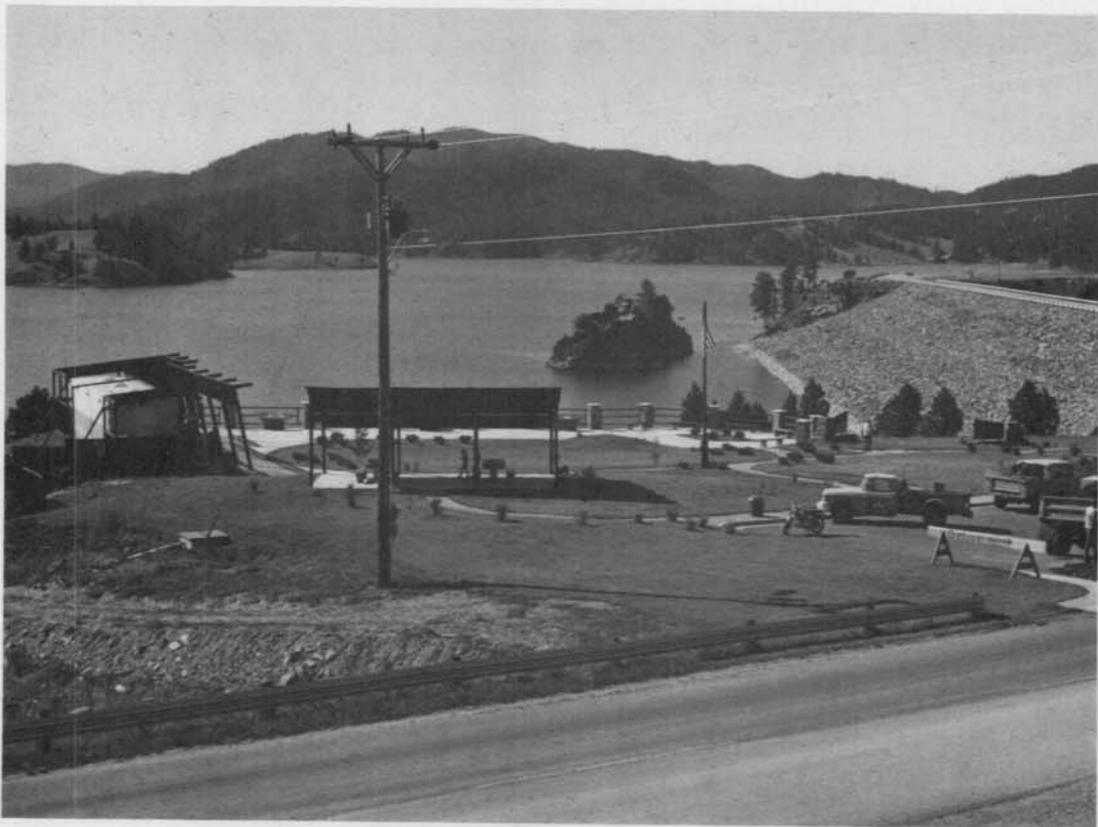


United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

IRRIGATION OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

BULLETIN NO. 68

April, May, June 1969



In This Issue:

An Improved Appearance Program

The Irrigation Operation and Maintenance bulletin is published quarterly, for the benefit of irrigation project people. Its principal purpose is to serve as a medium of exchanging operation and maintenance information. It is hoped that the material herein, prepared specifically for this bulletin by the Office of Chief Engineer, will show that significant accomplishments have been made resulting from the implementation of the Improved Appearance Criteria in design, construction, and operation and maintenance programs,

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Division of Irrigation Operations
Office of Chief Engineer
Denver, Colorado



COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

This shows the National Forest Service visitation center near the right abutment of Pactola Dam and Reservoir constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation in the Black Hills of South Dakota.
Photo CP-494-64050

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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DIVISION OF IRRIGATION OPERATIONS
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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
AN IMPROVED APPEARANCE PROGRAM	
Introduction	1
Accomplishments	1
Headquarters and Storage Areas	1
Construction Scars	7
Vista Houses, Shelters, and Picnic Facilities	11
Helpful Assistance	11
Guidelines	20
Buildings	20
Road Structures	20
Utility Structures	24
Hydraulic Structures	24
Power Structures	24
Fish Structures	26
Informational Structures	26
Water-oriented Structures	26
Landscaping	26
Construction Areas	27
Paint	28

AN IMPROVED APPEARANCE PROGRAM

Introduction

The one aim in the improvement of a project's appearance should be the preservation of the natural beauty of the community and locale in which the works are situated so as to enhance the enjoyment thereof by the public.

Enhancement and protection of the natural beauty of areas surrounding our projects have always been an integral part of the Bureau of Reclamation activities. However, inception of the Federal Government's "Improved Appearance Program" has added new interest and encouragement for those who were not impressed with the need and importance of stressing this phase of the reclamation program. Consideration of aesthetics as well as functional use of project facilities now is made as a matter of routine, rather than through special effort.

In addition, a general cleanup, fixup, paintup campaign is in progress on many previously constructed projects. Much of this is being done as routine maintenance with but little if any additional cost. To report what is being done and suggestions that may be of use to others in their efforts to improve appearances of their facilities is the purpose of this issue of the bulletin.

Accomplishments

Headquarters and Storage Areas

Weed control, landscaping, and general cleanup of storage yards and service areas alone has greatly enhanced the appearance of many of our project facilities. Buildings, including residences as well as offices, are being repaired and painted with emphasis on pleasing appearance and blending with surroundings. As a bonus on one project, 19 tons of unsightly scrap iron and old batteries were removed and sold from a storage yard.

Many unsightly buildings left from construction activities have been removed or remodeled and painted. Photograph 1 is a view of a building that was used as a generator building at Hungry Horse Government Camp during preconstruction, and Photograph 2 shows the same much improved area, after the generator building had been torn down and the area leveled. The original warehouse along a railroad siding at Black Canyon Reservoir, Photograph 3, seldom was used to receive shipments after construction in the area was completed and was in need of major repairs. It had become a catch-all, and was also an eyesore. With a new warehouse near the dam and powerplant, the railroad warehouse was declared surplus and advertised for sale. When no bids were received, the irrigation district removed it for salvage materials. The improved appearance

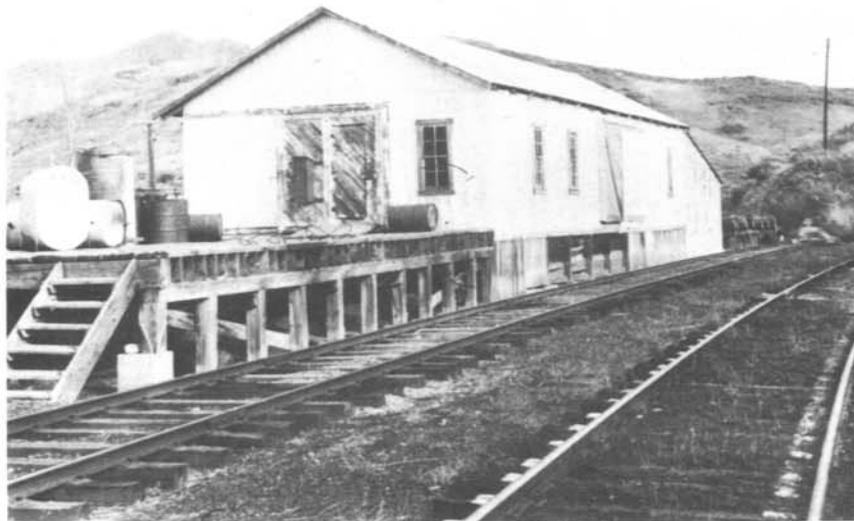


Photograph 1 - P447-D-64048



Photograph 2 - P447-D-64049

of the area after removal of the warehouse is shown in Photograph 4.



Photograph 3 - P3-D-64038



Photograph 4 - P3-D-64039



Photograph 5 - P17-D-64040



Photograph 6 - P17-D-64041

Damtender and ditchrider residences and headquarter areas in particular have been repaired, repainted, and otherwise improved. Photographs 5 and 6 show the same area before and after the foundation of a house at Minidoka Dam had been removed and the area made ready for grass seeding.



Photograph 7 - CP469-D-64064



Photograph 8 - CP469-D-64065

In addition to the adjacent yards and storage areas, Photographs 7 and 8 show the same area much improved, after an old fence was taken down and a new chain link fence erected on the street side entrance to the Bureau warehouse and laboratory facilities at Huron, South Dakota.

Modern sheet metal buildings have been found economical for replacement of old wooden structures and these can be easily blended with natural features in the area. Inexpensive landscaping is possible because of the low profile of these metal structures.

Photographs 9 and 10, illustrate appearance improvement made by rehabilitating the pumphouse at Drainage Pumping Plant "C" on the Klamath Project. The upper photograph shows an unsightly structure badly in need of maintenance. The lower photograph shows the pump- ing plant with its appearance and aesthetics of the area greatly improved.



Photograph 9 - P12-D-64044



Photograph 10 - P12-D-64045

Construction Scars

Construction scars have been removed around many structures and reservoirs have been cleared of tree trunks with pleasing results. Photographs 11 and 12 are of an area before and after the work was done.



Photograph 11 - CP33-D-64036



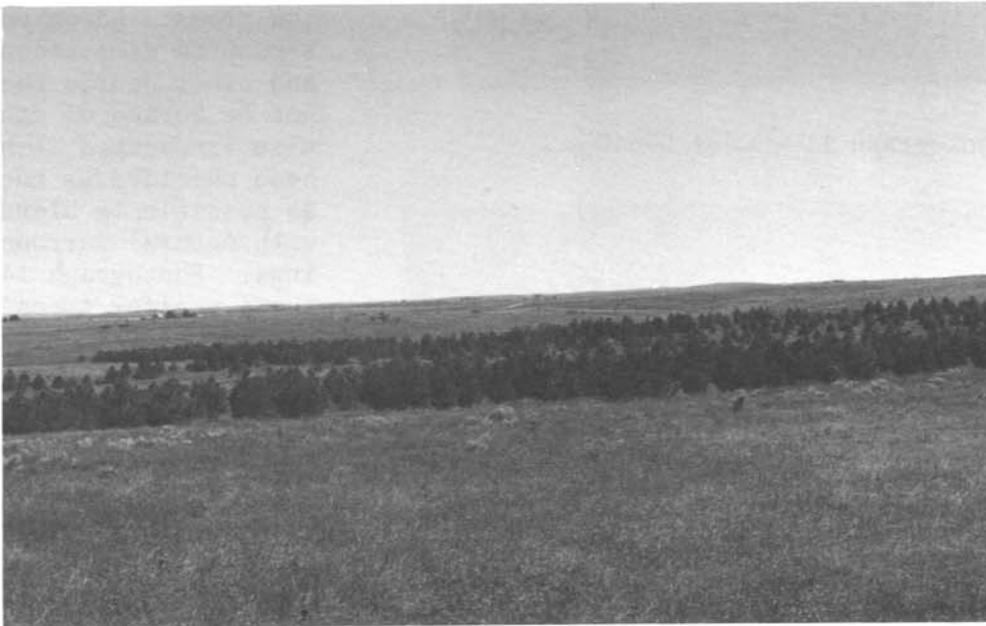
Photograph 12 - CP33-D-64037

On one large canal a spoil pile, Photograph 13, will be sold and removed for aesthetic improvement. Removal of the spoil pile will greatly improve the appearance of the canal bank and adjacent area.

Borrow areas have been filled and landscaped with plantings of grass and trees, the placement of native rock, and the draining of low areas. Where construction excavation and other debris cannot be buried or otherwise landscaped it has been shielded as much as possible to blend with natural surroundings. Photograph 14, shows conifer trees planted on the north side of Angostura Reservoir, in South Dakota. Planting and maintenance is by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department which administers the lands for recreation and wildlife. Photograph 15, shows how alfalfa and grass have restored and enhanced the beauty of the unlined auxiliary spillway for the James Diversion Dam, and will minimize water erosion and provide wildlife habitat.



Photograph 13 - CP454-D-64067



Photograph 14 - P454-D-64066

Seeding and sodding with native grasses, shrubs, etc., in some areas, can be an inexpensive and easily accomplished manner of quickly improving appearance.

Photograph 16 looking upstream on the Contra Costa Canal, at Tracy, California, illustrates a typical cooperative landscaping program. On adjacent property, owners were granted permission to plant and maintain

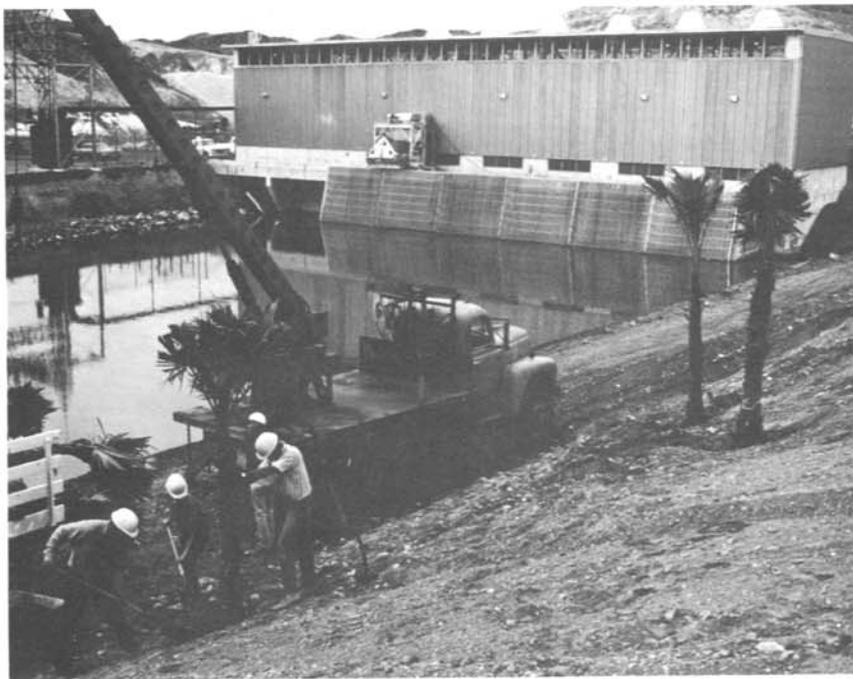


Photograph 15 - CP660-D-64053



Photograph 16 - CP285-D-64054

shrubs on the canal embankment. Photograph 17 shows workman landscaping channel banks between the Colorado River and Senator Wash Pumping-Generating Plant and Photographs 18 and 19, show evergreen tree plantings along the driveway entrance to the Watertown Substation and Watertown Power System Operations Office area at Watertown, South Dakota. One region has used the practice of sodding and seeding extensively to restore retired farmland, borrow areas, waste disposal areas, and to cover downstream slopes of dams and the slopes of embankments.



Photograph 17 - CP57-D-64062



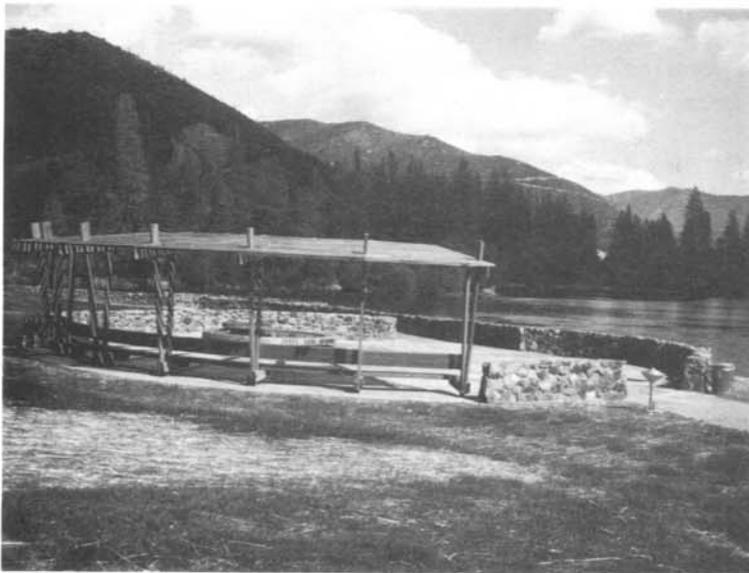
Photograph 18 - CP466-D-64063



Photograph 19 - CP466-D-64051

Vista Houses, Shelters, and Recreation Facilities

Shelter and picnic facilities can be provided at natural vista points, Photograph 20 is a view of the Judge Carr Memorial Terrace, at Whiskeytown Dam, Central Valley Project, Sacramento, California. An original wooden pit-toilet used by tourists and

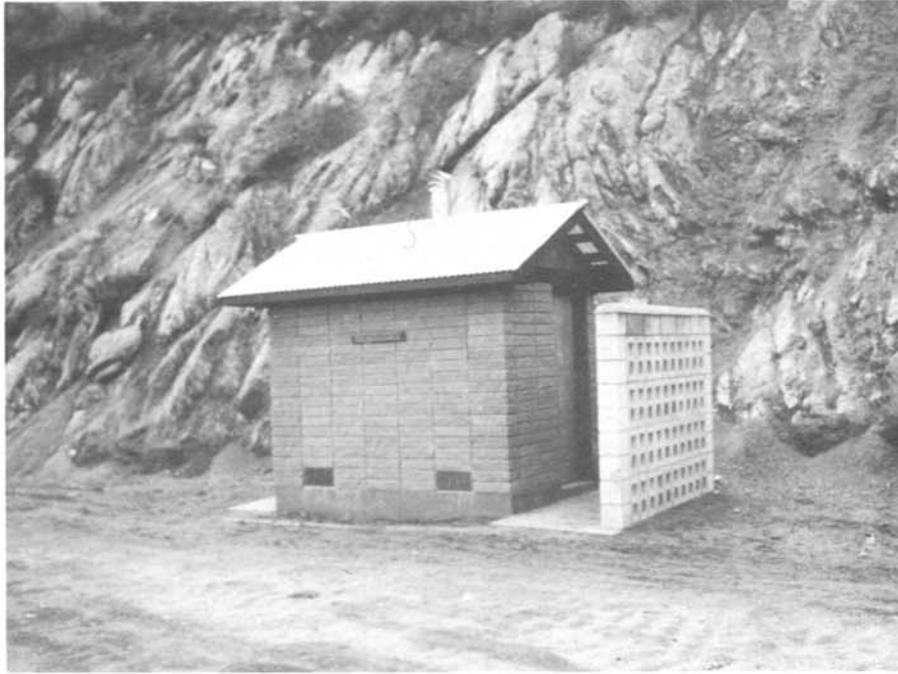


Photograph 20 - CP285-D-64052

fishermen in the vicinity of a dam, had deteriorated beyond economical and logical repair, and was replaced by the more durable and attractive facility shown in Photograph 21.

Helpful Assistance

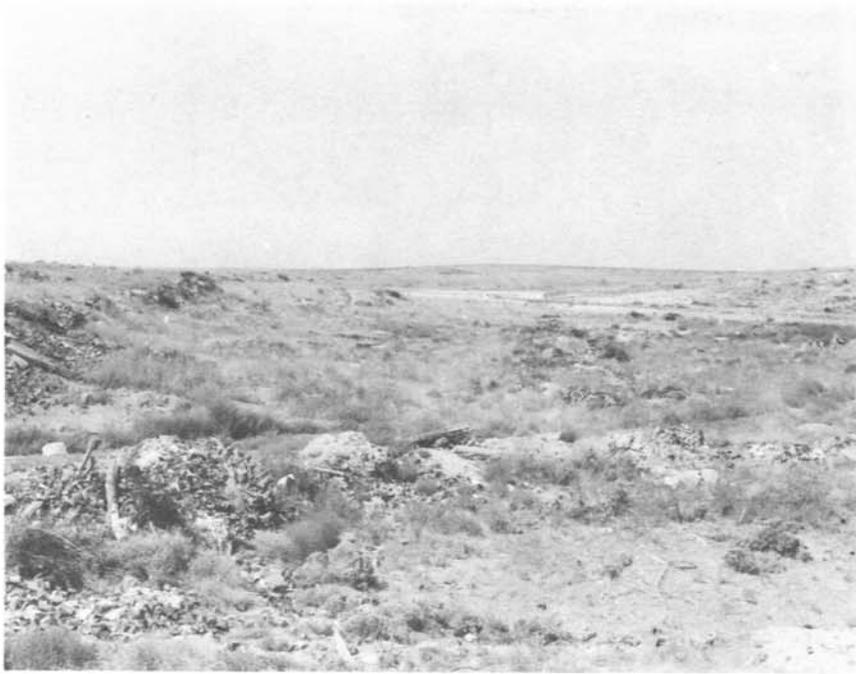
In some areas the assignment of Job Corps personnel to improved appearance work has been possible and has been a most worthwhile and constructive way of employing these people, where practical travel distances from their



Photograph 21 - P4-102-923

camps permit. As an example, an embankment had gradually deteriorated since the days it was a CCC Camp. This was a natural for a nearby Job Corps Camp to develop as a recreation area and certainly an outstanding beautification program. Reclamation officials recommended the piping of a lateral through the area and steepening the slope of the shoreline with the National Park Service being responsible for the overall and detail plans for the area. Brush was cleaned away from the shoreline, slope of shoreline steepened and sanded, and a new concrete boat ramp constructed. This now will be one of the most improved and outstanding developments in this area.

On many of our projects the interest of the employees living in the camps and administrative areas has contributed to the development of some very beautiful surrounding areas. Beautification Committees of many communities also have played an important part in assisting us in the planning and accomplishment of improved appearance programs where project facilities have become an integral part of the community area or that adjacent to or surrounding it. Photograph 22 shows trash and junk strewn on public land within boundaries of an irrigation district. Photograph 23 shows the same area after trash had been buried and area seeded to crested wheat grass. The appearance of the site of a trash dump on another project, Photograph 24, was improved considerably after it was cleaned and leveled as shown in Photograph 25. These same committees and others have installed new informational signs, planted shrubbery, installed flagstone paving in areas of constant use instead of concrete walks, and have undertaken rather extensive improvement of



Photograph 22 - P17-D-64042



Photograph 23 - P17-D-64043



Photograph 24 - P222-D-64046



Photograph 25 - P222-D-64047



Photograph 26 - CP57-D-64060

canal headwork and other similar sites for parks and recreation areas, as shown in Photographs 26, 27, 28, and 29.



Photograph 27 - CP57-D-64061

A particularly impressive accomplishment in many communities has been the replacement of open irrigation ditches or drains alongside streets and roads with pipe to reduce weeds, and to widen the streets to enhance these residential areas. Such an improvement is illustrated in views of an area to the west of the main entrance gate to a Bureau division headquarters. Photograph 30 is of the unsightly open drain between a chain link security fence and the road. Photograph 31 shows the improved appearance resulting from the elimination of the open drain. Beefwood trees will be planted adjacent to the



Photograph 28 - P699-D-64055



Photograph 29 - CP699-D-64056



Photograph 30 - CP214-D-64025



Photograph 31 - CP214-D-64023



Photograph 32 - P214-D-64022

directional and informational signs with more emphasis towards eye appeal and color are evident. Contacts can be made with historical societies, county recreation committees or groups, or even county administrative organizations for cooperation.

The Bureau of Reclamation has received many favorable comments from the general public on aesthetic improvements made as a direct result of the implementation of the Improved Appearance Program.

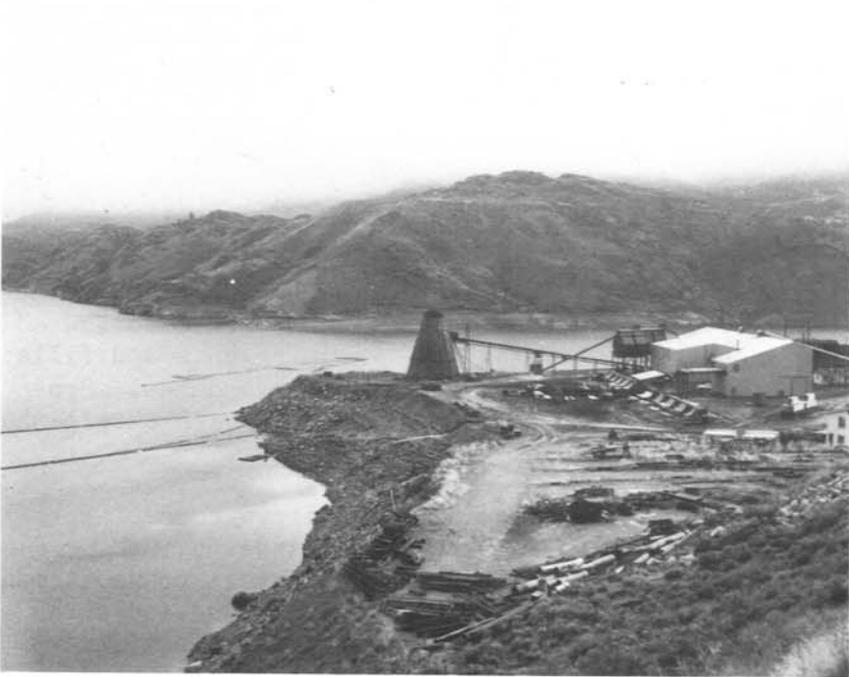
fence to further improve the appearance of the area. Photograph 32 shows another similar area with a few of some 600 one-year-old beefwood trees that had been planted. The trees serve both as a windbreak and a screen planting. Note the use of lath and chicken wire to protect the young trees from rabbits, and the shingles to provide wind protection.

Industry also has cooperated. One lumber company suspended use of their sawdust burner, Photographs 33 and 34, eliminating smoke and sawdust problems. The company now hauls the sawdust elsewhere by truck for disposal and tourists no longer must see a cloud of smoke in viewing Grand Coulee Dam.

Help from some states adjacent to highways is developing. Many states are very conscious of the need for beautification. Development of these viewpoints towards



Photograph 33 - P222-D-64029



Photograph 34 - P222-D-64030