

Mountain In Dam Lake Is Now An Island

Horseshoe Mountain is now an island!

The phenomenon which has been going on under the very eyes of Boulder dam workers and regular visitors for the past several days, finally reached its climax this morning, when the sand bar connecting the big, black butte at the edge of Boulder lake a short distance from the boat landing at the foot of Hemingway wash, was topped by the rapidly rising waters of the lake, turning the once towering mountain into an island.

Ever since early in the week, when it became apparent that the days of the butte as a mountainous landmark were numbered, hundreds have been watching for the waters to climb high enough to wipe out the connecting land, and this happened when the lake reached the elevation of 883 feet above sea level, just twelve feet below the level of the lower gate in the intake towers.

The island is about four and a half miles north of the dam site, across from the log boom, and will be the third largest island in the lower part of the lake.

At high water mark, the island will be 1,000 feet long and 200 feet wide, but now is about a quarter of a mile across and a half mile long.

Reclamation bureau engineers discounted the possibility of the island ever being used for recreational purposes, pointing out that it will be over 100 feet above the level of the lake at all times, rising sheer out of the water, making it too steep to climb to the top.

In addition, it is inhabited by thousands of rattlesnakes which will naturally be driven to the flat mesa which forms the top of the island.

There will be twelve islands in the lower half of Boulder lake, reclamation bureau engineers stated. The number in the upper portion has not been estimated and no figures are available as yet.