May 1, 1960

Topeka Capital-Journal

'Wakefield, Milford Next Towns Doomed'

"In the two communities some 600 people will be directly affected by the construction of the so-called Milford Dam and reservoir."

July 13, 1962

Construction of the Dam begins at river mile 8.3 on the Republican River. The dam project used 170-ton giant dozers to clear the land.

August 1, 1962

Groundbreaking Ceremony is held at Milford Dam site.

January 16, 1967

Impoundment of the lake begins.

July 13, 1967

The reservoir reaches the target multipurpose pool elevation of 1,144.4 MSL (mean sea level).

July 4, 1980

The 7th Annual Sundown Salute is held at Milford Lake.

1963

The Manz family farm, south of Alida, is moved piece by piece after their land is acquired for the Milford Dam project.

1965

Barry Street in Old Milford is razed in preparation for Milford Dam.

June 1969

At a completely filled Milford Lake, sightseers are able to visit the Dam control tower.

1978

Summer fun at Thunderbird marina on Milford Lake.

July 13, 1993

U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) requests **federal disaster aid** for the state of Kansas—as many as 55 of Kansas's 105 counties have suffered due to flooding.

July 13, 1993

Milford Lake levels are 5.05 ft from **maximum capacity**. Officials begin a 24-hour watch. Extensive damage to lake recreation property continues, but until water levels on the Kansas, Missouri and Mississippi Rivers decrease, water at Milford will not be released.

July 12, 1993

Water at Milford Lake reaches 1,170.51 MSL (mean sea level), about **26 feet higher than usual**. The reservoir's maximum capacity is 1,176.2 ft. If the reservoir fills, excess water will flow into a spillway to be channeled back into the Republican River.

July 15, 1993

Between 5,000 and 6,000 **sandbags** are distributed to residents, and Hwy 15 floods.

July 16, 1993

Although officials assure residents that the town of Junction City is in no danger of flooding, a new **emergency siren** is installed and tested on Grant Avenue.

Officials at the water treatment plant begin to prepare sandbags to keep city water and sewer systems intact.

As water continues to rise, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to release **5,000 cubic feet of water per second** through Milford Dam by 3 p.m. as an extra buffer against the possibility of more rain.

July 20, 1993

Water **sweeps away** a swath of land 100 yards long and 20 yards wide on the north bank of the outlet channel, swallowing half of the outlet parking lot. Erosion to the south side cuts out a similar chunk.

Engineers attempt to direct water away from eroded areas by dropping large **boulders** from helicopters.

Geary County Sheriff Bill Deppish signs a resolution declaring Geary County in a state of emergency.

Water flows through the Milford spillway on its way to the Republican River.

July 19, 1993

9:50 a.m. — Water begins to flow into the Milford Lake spillway for the first time since the Dam's creation.

11:35a.m. — Residents in the 300-1100 blocks of Grant Avenue are evacuated as flood waters rise. Flooding is expected to begin at the Junction of the Republican and the Smoky Hill Rivers near Grant Avenue. As many as 3,500 people are threatened by flooding along Grant Avenue.

11:59 a.m. — The outflow of Milford Dam is increased to 22,500 cubic feet per second, an outflow that far exceeds the normal rate of release. Officials hope to control flooding and prevent the flood from flowing at that level into the spillway.

1 p.m. — 4,000 cots and blankets are made available at the emergency shelter at the JCHS gymnasium.

Throughout the day, 300 volunteers help fill and place sandbags at Gibson's Discount Center parking lot.

August 12, 2017

In commemoration of the **50th anniversary** of Milford Reservoir filling to capacity, local, state, and federal officials gather for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to rededicate the Milford Lake Dam.

January 6, 2018

Geary County Historical Society hosts the Smithsonian exhibit *WaterWays* and shares local water stories to kick off the year of the 25th anniversary of the 1993 flood.