

GLOBE HOLLOW RESERVOIR

Globe Hollow Reservoir is located at South Main Street, Manchester, Connecticut. It was constructed by Cheney Brothers. The approximate date of its construction is 1907.

Two brooks ran through the area which they dammed up because they needed water of a certain purity and quality to wash the silk. The whole meadow was originally a declivity, and children in the area used to slide down one slope and up the other during the winters. In addition, there was a small pond where the boys swam and fished regularly during the summer. This pond was located on the east side and comprised only a very small area of the present reservoir. In the wintertime the boys also had ice boats on the pond--"lots of fun!" Cheney's used to patrol the pond and make sure that the ice was safe.

Approximately 100 years ago there was enough water power in the brooks to run a mill. The Globe Knitting Mills were located about where the swimming pool is now.

On the northwest shore an ice house was built in the early 1900's by Cheney Brothers for the use of the town. The Seaman Ice Company then used the ice house for their storage. In 1916 the L. T. Wood Company bought the Seaman Ice Company and cut ice in Globe Hollow Reservoir until 1932.

It was a wooden building larger than a barn. During the winters they harvested the ice. The men cut it by hand with large saws about 4 feet long. Stakes are still visible in the water where they had the platform to haul the ice up into the ice house. This was accomplished by the use of a cable. The ice was stored in sawdust until they were ready to sell it. The ice was originally sold from horse-drawn wagons and later from ice trucks.

Shortly after L. T. Wood built their present plant on Bissell Street in 1932, the ice house was torn down. The youngsters in town had a wonderful time fishing from rafts constructed from lumber from the ice house.

The reservoir was part of the South Manchester Water Company. Cheney Brothers owned and controlled the water and sewer district until 1933 when they sold it to the town. In 1955 they sold the whole tract of land known as the Globe Hollow tract including the Reservoir and the Country Club area . The town purchased this area for its water supply and also for park and recreational use. The area can be developed to provide hiking, camping, and picnicking facilities, and in addition, golfing.

Before the reservoir was constructed, Cheney Brothers drew their water from the Taylor Reservoir, which is above Globe Hollow in the woods between Fern and Line Streets. The brook from Taylor Reservoir runs into Globe Hollow under Fern Street.

The capacity of the reservoir is approximately 170 million gallons. It is filtered by a rapid-sand filtration method. The filter plant is located on a knoll north of Cooper Hill Street and west of Pine Street. The water is chlorinated (8 lbs. in a 24-hour period) and soda ash is added to make it more alkaline; it is a little harder than most surface water supplies (40 parts per million hard).

Cheney Brothers still use this water for certain processes at their die house. The water goes directly to the mill by gravity. The water is pumped into our water system at the present time on an automatic basis by two 400-gallon-a-minute pumps which are located at the filter plant. At the present time approximately 150-200,000 gallons are being pumped in our water system in a 24-hour period.

References

Miss Marjorie Leidholdt
Mr. C. Elmore Watkins
Water Department, Town of Manchester

Mr. Leland T. Wood, Sr.
Mr. Fred E. Thrall

Bibliography

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