# Celebration Planned For Lost Cedar Lake

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CEDAR LAKE Residents here are hoping for rain but not on Saturday.

That's when they'll celebrate the return of the lake they lost nearly three years ago. A geological accident drained the privately owned, 75-acre lake overnight and threatened the existence of the 30-year-old central Oklahoma resort community.

The lake's bottom cracked in November 1986, possibly because of crumbling gypsum and sandstone below the reservoir. Since then, the approximately 600 property owners of the community in southwestern Canadian County have spent about $600,000 having the dam rebuilt. Now, the spring-fed lake is slowly refilling.

Saturday's celebration will begin at 11 a.m. and will be highlighted by a 2 p.m. rededication of the dam. There will be a concert by native Oklahoma country singer Wanda Jackson and a parade across the new dam.

"It isn't often a community this size has a chance to reorganize, get together ... have an agreement to fix a dam and have such an occasion to celebrate," said Jim Brakebill, president of the Western Sportsman's Club, which operates the lake.

Brakebill, an Oklahoma City service station operator, said most stockholders are cheerfully paying their portion of the lake's repair bill, and "everything is "go' right now."

Dr. Raymond Cook, a Hinton chiropractor, said what seemed a nightmare for him and other lake homeowners a few years ago is over.

"It's just like someone had a terminal condition and had a miraculous healing," he said.

Resident Glenn Schaapveld stood near the near dam with his wife, Faye, and recalled watching the lake suddenly lose its water in 1986.

"It went down at midnight, and you couldn't hear yourself talk because of the roar the tremendous roar of the water," he said.

"Everywhere, all you could see was water, and all of it going out."

But now, he said, it's coming back.

"We're just tickled to death." BIOG: NAME:

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