

## McKownville: News And Comment

By FRED B. ABELE

This writer was reminded in response to the recent mention of the McKown's Grove swimming pool that it closed in 1971 as the result of mud and debris washed down from upstream construction then in progress. Through the courtesy of Linda Fisher, owner and operator of the facility for quite a few years, several interesting snapshots were made available from which copies will be made.

History had repeated itself many times as construction without stream protection has taken place in the Krumkill basin. During the early 1950s, silt and brackish water were washed down into the McKownville Reservoir during Thruway construction, nearly putting the reservoir out of business and necessitating dredging the reservoir at taxpayer expense.

Currently the same reservoir is being ruined by the construction of the Crossgates Mall which has obliterated the watershed as it existed, and with utter disregard is permitting untold quantities of silt to wash down the stream with no apparent attempt at stream protection. Crossgates has dumped on McKownville from the very beginning and now they are doing it literally. The blowing sand from their manmade desert fouls the air and the silt fouls the reservoir.

Although no longer in service as a domestic water supply, the

reservoir is still classified as one and EnCon and the town should take every action possible to protect it. EnCon, which gave all those permits for construction, has apparently washed its hands of further responsibility. I think they need some prodding.

It should be noted here that during construction of the Northway extension and the Washington Ave. Extension, effective stream protection was achieved through stream protective devices included in the contract by the State of New York which prepared the plans for those projects.

extract from Altamont Enterprise, 8 August 1985, p10

### Neighbors Speak Out

Some residents in the McKown Grove area have provided a bit more background on their view on the Wolanin project for their neighborhood.

Jack Sroka and Preston Crans spoke up during the zoning hearings. Crans has been in McKownville for 34 years and Sroka, who moved into a home on Westlyn Place a year ago, was raised in the area.

"McKown Grove was the biggest thing we had in Guilderland for a long time," said Crans. The recreational area provided a large swimming pool, a dance floor, and a community room. He explained that when Stuyvesant Plaza was built, the stormwater runoff from all the macadam in the parking lot often flooded the McKown Grove pool area.

Eventually, Crans believes, the pool and the surrounding area closed because insurance was no longer available. That was about 20 years ago.

<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn86011850/1983-07-28/ed-1/seq-4/>

<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn86011850/1985-08-08/ed-1/seq-10/>