

Fargo Man Plans Hill and Lakes

FARGO (AP) — North Dakota's largest city doesn't have a hill. Ed Clapp is going to build one — providing it doesn't sink. Fargo, elevation 900 feet, is also without a lake. Clapp is going to fix that.

This east-central North Dakota city of 60,000 is located in the fertile Red River Valley.

The terrain around here is mostly table-top flat, and the winds don't have an identity

problem. An arrow-straight horizon stretches unbroken for miles. A yodel trying to echo wouldn't have a chance.

Clapp, 58, a retired Army officer and director of a local bank, is a Fargo native. "I've lived all over the world," he says.

"I figure this is a good town for children to grow up in, but it would be a lot pleasanter to live on a lake and be near a

recreation area like a ski hill would provide."

So Clapp, an artillery officer in World War II and the Korean War, plans to take the clay soil from his land at Fargo's south edge and build a 100-foot-high hill from it.

The holes left by the departing dirt will form three interconnecting lakes ranging in size from 12½ to 15½ acres, he says.

But there's a problem connected with hill-making in Fargo.

"There's quite a bit of moisture in the Red River soil," says Clapp. "Engineers are afraid that when we put a big pile of heavy clay on top of it, the ground beneath will act like jelly and pop up someplace else."

"So we're going to put up a 40-foot test hill.