E-Newsletter: January 2014

Preserving the Source
An e-newsletter from the Water Resources Archive at Colorado State University

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Water Tables 2014

Water Tables 2014 is fast approaching! The annual fundraising dinner for the Water Resources Archive will be held Thursday, January 30th during the Colorado Water Congress annual convention in Denver. David Schorr from the Tel Aviv University Faculty of Law will present in relation to his book The Colorado Doctrine: Water Rights, Corporations, and Distributive Justice on the American Frontier.

The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with a joint Water Tables/Water Congress reception on the stunning twelfth floor of the Denver Hyatt Tech Center. This joint reception provides the perfect opportunity to network with hundreds of Colorado water professionals while taking in displays of interesting items important in Colorado water history.

Dinner in the Hyatt's ballroom will follow the reception at 6:30. Dr. Schorr will then present on his topic for the evening: "Colorado's Appropriation Doctrine: Forged as a Tool to Spread Water Rights Among the Citizens?" Over dessert -- served after the talk -- guests will have the opportunity to discuss and debate the origins of Colorado water law. It promises to be an interesting evening!

More details are on the Archive's website. Seats are still available but are going quickly. Register online now! (Note that registration for the convention and Water Tables are both through the CWC website, but require two separate transactions.)

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Archive Update: New Finding Aid and Collections

We continue to improve access to Colorado's historical water materials. This fall, Archive staff finished organizing the
Records of the Colorado Office of the Attorney General. This collection contains documents compiled by the State of Colorado during the precedent-setting trial United States v. Colorado, also known as the national forest instream flow claims case (tried 1990-1993). The collection contains pleadings, stipulations, discovery files, and exhibits. Material types include official filings, depositions, field notes, photographs, and videotapes. Some materials are digitized and available to patrons through the Attorney General Records link in CSU's digital repository.

The Archive also acquired two new collections this fall. The Papers of Robert A. Young came in November 2013, shortly after his passing. Young, professor of resource economics at Colorado State University, published extensively about economics and the future of water use in Colorado and the world. His collection consists primarily of books, reports, and articles Young authored over the course of his forty-year career, as well as correspondence, notes, lectures, and presentations. The second collection, the Papers of Hamlet J. "Chips" Barry III, arrived in December (see photo). Barry, a lawyer and the manager of Denver Water from 1991 to 2010, was heavily involved in water development and conservation programs in Colorado. The collection contains speeches, publications, appointment books, and correspondence from Barry's career in Alaska, Micronesia, and Colorado, as well as unique personal items such as a mounted "flannel mouth suckerfish."

Looking Forward: Travels and Project

Archivist Patty Rettig will be at the annual convention of the Colorado Water Congress, January 29-31. She will be giving a one-hour workshop on Wednesday the 29th, focusing on Colorado water history and the Archive. If you miss that, stop by the Archive's booth to say hello!

Beginning spring semester, the Archive will be partnering with another CSU entity, the Public Lands History Center, on a new project funded by the Colorado Water Conservation Board. In the aftermath of the devastating September floods, historians and archivists immediately realized the unique learning opportunity presented by the disaster. In order not to lose crucial flood-related information and memories, we will be conducting at least 30 oral history interviews with survivors, first responders, and those involved in recovery. The interviews will be digitally recorded, transcribed, and posted to the Archive's website. We will also issue a report that synthesizes the major findings of the interviews and helps us all understand what happened and thus prepare for future disasters.

Virtual Visit: Trial Transcripts

Are you interested in how court battles over water rights between two states unfold? Perhaps you are particularly interested in the Arkansas River or the case Kansas v. Colorado? If so, you are in for a treat! When Special Master Arthur Littleworth donated his papers concerning the case, nearly half of the Kansas v. Colorado trial transcripts came to the Archive on floppy disks (remember those?), so we could easily put them online. The transcripts come from the second half of the trial (1995-2005) and cover the testimony of expert witnesses, the settling of legal terms and definitions, and, occasionally, a joke or personal anecdote. These transcripts can be found through the Littleworth Papers link in CSU's digital repository anywhere you have internet access!