E-Newsletter

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

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**99... 100! Celebrating New Collections**

The Water Resources Archive is celebrating the arrival of its 99th and 100th collections!

The Archive's 99th collection, the [Papers of Loretta Lohman](#), is the first collection in the repository to document the work of a woman in water. Dr. Lohman's lifetime of research on Western water issues focused on the economic effects of water reuse, salinity, federal reclamation projects, and energy use.

Collection number 100 documents the [North Poudre Irrigation Company (NPIC)](#), one of the largest irrigation companies in northern Colorado. Among NPIC's 73 boxes, 10 ledgers, and approximately 1,000 maps, plans and aerial photos reside details of the company's 1901 origins and its development of nearly two dozen storage reservoirs and 200 miles of ditches.

After Archives staff organize and inventory the collections, they will be accessible to the public. About NPIC's donation, general manager Scott Hummer said, "We appreciate the Archive's professionalism and help with this process and project."

The [Water Resources Archive](#), which opened in 2001 to collect, preserve, and promote the unique documents that capture Colorado's water history, has grown substantially over the last 14 years.

Its collections are now so extensive they would extend over a half mile if all the boxes were placed end to end!

**Special Feature: Carpenter Addition**

The Water Resources Archive has recently received a very special item: Delph Carpenter's desk. Known as the "Father of Interstate River Compacts," Delph Carpenter (1877-1951) changed the course of western water law from this desk. His idea for states to negotiate river-sharing agreements resulted in the 1922 Colorado River Compact, followed by several others which still govern water allocations today.

Carpenter used this oak desk in his Greeley home office for decades, piling up numerous letters, telegrams, reports, and legal briefs as he pursued his bold ideas. Along with the desk, the Carpenter family generously donated more of their ancestor's documents to add to the existing Carpenter Papers. Within the new accession are drafts showing the evolution of the South Platte Compact and correspondence advocating for a six-state Colorado River Compact, omitting Arizona. We are organizing the materials now and hope to digitize them soon.

**Archive in Action: The Great Divide**

On August 6, Havey Productions premiered the newest film on water in Colorado. *The Great Divide* covers the history of water in Colorado and includes a plethora of archival photographs -- many from the Water Resources Archive.

The film is now on tour across the state with showings from Sterling to Grand Junction. To find a free screening near you, check the Havey Productions website.

A companion book by the same title features Jim Havey's photographs, archival photographs, and a fuller version of the filmscript, written by Stephen Grace. Find copies at your local library, a nearby bookstore, or your favorite online bookseller. Whether via film or print, learn about Colorado water and get high on *The Great Divide*!

**Archive Update: Western Water Symposium and Barbeque**

Wrangling with our predecessors. Wrestling with water regulations. Reviewing the path that got us here. And trying to figure out where to go. More than 100 people learned about such looming legacies at the Western Water Symposium and Barbeque, held July 27 at CSU's Morgan Library to benefit the Water Resources Archive.

Susan Schulten, University of Denver history professor, began the day by discussing the evolution of maps of the arid U.S. West. Schulten's historical
review demonstrated that western development was molded by mapmakers, and the legacy of that development remains today. Next, Patty Limerick, University of Colorado history professor, spoke about making peace with the water leaders and entrepreneurs who created our water systems but, in many cases, also left less-than-honorable legacies. Limerick focused on examples from Denver Water, arguing that history is full of such complex characters and dismissing them as simply being "of their time" does a disservice to them and us.

After lunch, Ara Azhderian, water policy administrator at the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority, discussed how government regulation, primarily for protection of the environment and endangered species, complicates agricultural practices and affects the water supply in California. He suggested there could be solutions in local, "small ball" projects those large enough to have meaning but small enough to achieve.

Following this, the day's emcee, Colorado Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs, led an extended panel discussion with the speakers. The symposium concluded with Justice Hobbs giving a brief historical review of the Colorado River and then having a lively conversation with Colorado Water Institute Director Reagan Waskom about the draft Colorado Water Plan and the future of water in the state.

Discussions continued during the reception and evening barbecue. Tours of the Water Resources Archive gave guests an opportunity to view unique documents at the heart of the learning and debate. Throughout the day, excellent speakers with engaging presentations sparked both new ways of combining old ideas and brand new thoughts.

Virtual Visit: Remembering the 2013 Floods

September marked the second anniversary of the floods that ravaged Colorado's Front Range. As part of remembering the event, the Archive has made materials in our Northern Colorado Flood Oral History Collection available online. The collection primarily includes oral history interviews and newspaper issues documenting the 2013 floods and their aftermath.

The oral histories were created through collaboration of the Water Resources Archive and CSU's Public Lands History Center (PLHC), funded by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The three entities recognized the value of capturing first-hand accounts of the 2013 floods. With funding from the CWCB, principal investigator Dr. Ruth Alexander, project coordinator Naomi Gerakios Mucci, and a team of researchers focused the project on people who managed emergency resources and directed recovery efforts.

From June to August 2014, the team interviewed climate scientists, water and stormwater managers, municipal and county administrators, dam engineers, emergency managers, search and recovery personnel, disaster relief personnel, and park managers still dealing with the flood's aftermath. Now you can go online and hear what Colorado State Climatologist Nolan Doesken and Mayor of Jamestown Tara Schoedinger, among others, had to say about their experiences.

Looking Forward: Water Tables 2016

Save the date for Water Tables 2016! The annual reception and dinner to benefit the Water Resources Archive will take place on Thursday, January 28, 2016. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center in conjunction with the Colorado Water Congress annual convention. Stay tuned for the theme and list of table hosts. We hope to see you in January!