"Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its great interest, and see whether we also may in our day and generation perform something worthy to be remembered." (Daniel Webster, quoted by Congressman Byron G. Rogers of Colorado in the House floor debate on the Fryingpan-Arkansas project.)

IT WAS A GREAT DAY for Colorado water users when the Fryingpan-Arkansas project bill passed its House floor test with flying colors. Southeastern Coloradans can almost taste the clear, sparkling waters of the Fryingpan River. Western Coloradans are pleased with the prospect of early construction of Ruedi Reservoir, the big 100,000 acre footer to be constructed near Basalt for replacement. All Colorado is rejoicing and well it should, for this was the greatest display of bipartisan solidarity on water project legislation in Colorado history. Capitol Hill may never have witnessed a water project blitz quite like the Fryingpan campaign. The Fry-Ark involved only two of the 437 congressional districts. It involved no major voting block, such as the Navajo Indians who were a big factor in passage of New Mexico's Navajo-San Juan-Chama bill.
Fry-Ark authorization is a great personal victory for Felix L. Sparks, Colorado Water Conservation Board director, "who used every method from friendly persuasion to tough talk and headcracking to iron out differences between the Eastern and Western Slope" (Pueblo Chieftain). It's a great victory for Congressman J. Edgar Chenoweth, who has taken some hard political knocks on past Fry-Ark failures and for Congressman Wayne Aspinall, who quarterbacked the Fry-Ark campaign brilliantly through its final stages. It was a great victory for Charles Boustead, executive director of the Southeastern Water Conservancy District. Behind these frontliners was a solid, bipartisan Colorado water team, at least 50 strong, that worked long and hard for Fry-Ark authorization.

Three factors seem to stand out in hindsight analysis of the Fryingpan victory. Fry-Ark's first big hurdle was negotiation of interslope agreement on project operating principles. These were long, difficult negotiations in which Sparks, Boustead, Charles Beise, SEWCD attorney, and William Nelson, associate editor of the Grand Junction Sentinel, played leading roles. The basic operating principles which were finally worked out protected the interests of all users of Colorado River water.

Negotiation of the California amendments was Fry-Ark's next big hurdle. Southern California vigorously sought to place a limit on the amount of water that Colorado could export out of the Colorado River basin. Colorado could not agree to this. A constitutional amendment would be required and unity within the state would be destroyed. Compromises were worked out which gave California some
amendments to the Fry-Ark bill which Colorado could tolerate. One provided that no water could be diverted from the Colorado River by Fryingpanners for use in another state. Another amendment reiterated the need for water quality studies in the Colorado River Basin. These amendments effectively removed California opposition.

Rep. Hosmer of California: "The people of Colorado have made every effort to live and let live with their neighbors on the river. In drafting this bill, they have worked closely not only with the water interests of California, but with the interests of the other places concerned in order to attempt to place in the bill provisions which would be fair to everybody." (Fryingpan debate, June 12).

Resolution of the transmission line problem was Fry-Ark's final big hurdle. Last year's all-out, bitter struggle between public power advocates and investor owned utilities had the Fry-Ark and all western reclamation on the congressional ropes, fighting for survival. Fryingpan prospects looked bleak when the Upper Colorado River Commission bogged down on the Colorado River storage project transmission line problem. Colorado Water Conservation Board's acting director, Leonard Kuiper, stepped into this upper basin void and provided the leadership needed to work out compromises. These compromises put aside politics and personalities and dealt with engineering facts. This saved the Fryingpan. It also saved untold millions of dollars in energy transmission costs. Over half of these saved dollars will be available for building participating irrigation projects on Colorado's Western Slope.
These three critical problems had to be solved before the Fry-Ark authorization bill could be submitted to a final, decisive test on the House floor. Then there was the problem of John Saylor. Rep. Saylor of Pennsylvania is probably the loudest and most influential aginner that western reclamation has ever seen. Most of all, Saylor is against public power. He let New Mexico's Navajo-San Juan-Chama authorization bill (no power) slip by with only token resistance. It was feared that Saylor might go all-out against the power-loaded Fryingpan bill.

Two things took the sting out of Saylor's House floor punch. Southeastern Colorado's effective letter writing campaign to personal friends in the East put 300 letters on Saylor's desk from his own constituents, urging him to vote for the Fryingpan bill. Saylor's problem was compounded when he couldn't drum up opposition support from eastern coal interests who had backed him vigorously on other anti-public power crusades, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. Robert T. Persons, president of the Public Service Company of Colorado, is generally credited with keeping the eastern coal interests and eastern utilities off Fry-Ark's congressional back during the crucial House floor debate and vote. Utilization of Person's persuasiveness and influence was made possible by previous settlement of the storage project transmission line problem.
Many lessons can be learned from the classic Fryingpan effort. There can no longer be any doubt that if a state like Colorado is to get a major water project authorized it must go all out in providing organization, dedication, persistence and above all, unity among the water users of Colorado. Furthermore, Fry-Ark experiences show that it takes a long time to develop water by the federal reclamation route. It's been 30 years since the Bureau of Reclamation first studied the Fryingpan diversion plan. It's taken ten years to get the project through Congress. Before construction can start, the Fry-Ark bill will have to pass the Senate and repayment contracts will have to be signed with the water users. Senate passage seems assured. But repayment contracts are usually difficult to negotiate. Major construction won't get underway until fiscal year 1966. Construction is not likely to be completed until 1980. Coloradans looking for future reclamation project authorizations can't afford to rest very long on their Fryingpan laurels.

Fryingpan authorization clears the way for authorization of other Colorado reclamation projects. Coming up: Authorization of Savery-Pot Hook, Bostwick Park, Fruitland Mesa, and Animas-La Plata projects, probably in that order. If the political climate is right, several of these project authorizations might pass in the next Congress. Biggest is Animas-La Plata project, to be built in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico at a cost of $102 million. Many more Western Slope irrigation projects are lining up for future attempts at congressional authorization.
The Narrows project is likely to be Colorado's next big bipartisan congressional effort of the Fryingpan class. Narrows was authorized once, then was stymied by local disagreement over location of the dam site. Major changes now contemplated would probably require reauthorization of the project by Congress.

M.J. Greer: "The further we proceed the more complicated the (South Platte development) problem seems to be. But the further we go the more enthusiastic we become over the new opportunities for benefiting this valley. As the years go by, there will be more water each year if we are diligent in our efforts to save water and successfully plan and provide facilities for controlling future supplies." (Talk to Beaver Creek Valley water users, June 4, 1962. Greer is area development engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation's regional office in Denver.)

WATER PEOPLE: Harold H. Christy of Pueblo has been given expanded responsibilities at Colorado Fuel and Iron Corp. In addition to being superintendent of CF&I's power and water department, Christy will be responsible for management of the surface use of CF&I's land in the West. Christy has been Colorado's National Reclamation Association director since 1952. He is a member of the National Resources Committee of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and a member of the advisory board of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress. . . Charles H. Boustead of Pueblo, Colorado's "Mr. Fryingpan", received a big cake with 30 flaming candles, following the Fryingpan victory. The cake was a gift from Colorado's congressional delegation. The 30 candles represented the years of work devoted to the Fryingpan project.
Rep. Wayne Aspinall, a Denver U graduate, has received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Alaska. Interior Secretary Udall recently credited Aspinall with "getting the reclamation program back on the track". The administration has been criticized because there have been no reclamation project authorizations. Aspinall, characteristically, moved cautiously and "called the shots just right" . . . There seems to be no relationship between how a Colorado water man looks and the results he gets:

Raphael J. Moses, Alamosa attorney: "I enjoyed the (Denver Post) story about Clifford Stone and Dan Hunter. They were great men and Colorado is indebted to them.

"Uncle Dan looked more like a rube than any wise politician I ever met, and his oratory could charm the birds right out of the trees.

"What has happened? Don't we have giants like them any more, or am I getting old, romantic and nostalgic?" (6-24-62)

Pueblo Chieftain: "Larry Sparks generally is regarded by all of the Fryingpanners as the man who put the show on the road, but he is a dud as a fashion plate. He turned up in Washington with a crumpled nylon bilious orange shirt which would rate about .0000 per cent in a style show. And when he's not wearing that horrendous shirt, he is wearing a sweat shirt and a pair of pants that sag down so far over his hips that a Fryingpanner warned him one day that his pants were about to fall down." (6-14-62)

WATER MEETINGS: Colorado Water Conservation Board will meet July 6th in Gunnison (10 a.m., Webster Hall). Many water people will stay over and attend the July 7 ground breaking ceremonies for Blue Mesa Dam, key feature of the Curecanti Unit of the Colorado River
Storage Project. About 5,000 spectators are expected . . . Colorado Water Congress executive committee will meet in Gunnison on July 5th (2 p.m., 144 North Main) . . . A celebration dinner to commemorate the passage and signing of the Fryingpan-Arkansas bill has been tentatively set for July 28, in Pueblo. Guest list will include national, state and local dignitaries. President Kennedy has been invited to attend.

COLORADO CITIES AND TOWNS: Aurora and Colorado Springs have purchased the remaining one-third interest in the Homestake (John P. Elliott) water rights for $1,371,550. The two cities expect to start soon on joint construction of the first stage of the $40 million Homestake transmountain diversion project . . . Westminster votes July 17, on a $2.5 million water bond issue. Westminster has hired a consultant to study the quality, taste and odor of its present water supply . . . Pueblo Water Board is embarking on a technical information program that has a $26,000 first year cost . . . Cortez will be the location of a Bureau of Reclamation field office for handling transmission line construction.

Las Animas has asked for federal help in building a saline water conversion demonstration plant. Interior Dep't has approved a study to determine feasibility of the plant. However, Las Animas' chances are diminished by the fact that a demonstration plant might conflict with federal objectives on Fryingpan project development. The Fry-Ark needs Las Animas' participation in the proposed Arkansas Valley municipal water system.
Kremmling paper mill status: Interior Dep't recently signed a contract providing for sale of water from Green Mountain Reservoir. But Crown Zellerbach Corp. has deferred plans for the Kremmling plant for economic reasons, will build a British Columbia plant instead. . . . Delta has instructed its city attorney to draft an ordinance which will require all rural water users on lines serving more than two residences or businesses to form water companies and install water meters . . . Mesa water rate increase dispute will be studied by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, with report due by June 30. PUC refused request by water users for a years' delay on the water rate increase. . . . Craig bids for construction of a water storage and sewage treatment plant were all higher than the funds provided for this purpose by a water bond issue. . . . Hotchkiss received up to five inches of flood water recently over a 4-block area when a 300-foot section of the Fire Mountain Canal was breeched. . . . Sapinero, facing inundation by Blue Mesa Reservoir, will have a quiet Fourth of July. Most of the hamlet's inhabitants and buildings have moved to higher land.

WATER LITIGATION: Unique conditional decree has been granted by Judge George V. Kempf. District court order provides that various Leroux Creek watershed petitioners can change their diversion points from headgates of 11 ditches and their enlargements to anyone or more of 12 ditches, and store the water in any of 38 reservoirs to the extent that such water is to be replaced by the
Paonia project. Judge Kempf noted that the Supreme Court does not favor alternate points of diversion and transfers of direct flow rights into reservoirs for storage, then stated, "However, the court must observe the fundamental right of every water user to change his point of diversion if the vested rights of other appropriators are not injured thereby."

"Pay it pronto, Dad. It's as inescapable as death and taxes."
The Jefferson County Sentinel offers this advice following a Colorado Supreme Court ruling against a Lakewood attorney who appealed a $1.51 assessment by Consolidated Mutual Water Co. for failure to pay a water bill on time. Supreme Court said Richard Helmick had not yet exhausted all legal remedies in county court . . . Arvada sewage backup suit for $17,836 damages is set for February, 1963, in Golden district court . . . Grand Junction sewage odor suit for $160,000 damages filed April 17, has not yet been set for trial . . . Georgetown dam failure judgment of $24,882 was awarded by Colorado Supreme Court against the state. This was one of several lawsuits filed by property owners.

Colorado Civil Service Commission has dismissed charges against Fred Paddock of Montrose, irrigation division engineer of division 4. Five complainants had sought Paddock's dismissal on grounds of incompetency and failure to maintain harmonious relations with the public. Basic cause of trouble was dispute over orders to install measuring devices. The Commission's unanimous opinion is a timely commentary on the practical problems created by Colorado's present
water administration laws and related water administration practices

Earl Pomeroy of the Denver Post reports an unusual notice of claim which appeared on a sign beside a broken water pipe in Durango:

"Notice is hereby given that the Public hereby claims, by the right of appropriation, the right to divert so much of the flow of this public stream as shall be needed to furnish water to stray dogs of Durango.

"The point of diversion shall be: Eight feet west of the southwest corner of the Hatfield's Inc. building. Beneficial use to which water shall be applied: Watering of dogs which, in turn, water lawns within the city of Durango."

Water District 40 final hearing on adjudication of water rights is set for June 28 at Delta. Over 120 statements of claim have been filed since the general adjudication opened in 1960. There have been two time extensions . . . Water District 43 adjudication proceedings have been continued to July 26 at Meeker. Testimony will probably be offered in support of proposed Flattops hydroelectric project of the Colorado River Water Conservancy District, a competitor for water supply with the proposed Sweetwater hydroelectric project sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Power Co. of Denver . . . Petition to create the Eagle Water Conservancy District will be argued July 16 in district court at Eagle . . . Assignment of rights to use of water for the Curecanti project has been accepted by the Bureau of Reclamation. Proposed contract with individual ranchers and farmers provides that Curecanti will be operated in such a way as to protect their junior rights for private upstream developments.
Gunnison River dispute over use of the river for fishing and boating appears settled. Stipulation agreed to by both sides and approved by district court at Gunnison implements the court's ruling last September that the Gunnison River between Almont and Cimarron is a navigable stream, that the owners of land along the stream own the land beneath the stream, that persons traveling the river in water craft may fish but have no right to disembark on private land except to move their craft across shallows, riffles or obstructions. There is speculation as to what precedent this case might set for similar resort owner-boat owner disputes in other parts of the state... Colorado Public Utilities Commission will hear Colorado Ute Electric Assn's application for certificate of convenience and necessity for a proposed $31 million coal-burning electric generating plant at Hayden. Public Service Co. of Colorado and Western Colorado Power Co. (Utah P&L subsidiary) are expected to intervene.