"Continuing and increasing demands for more water than is available throughout the year make it imperative that the administration of Colorado's limited, meager water resources be made effective and efficient. The piecemeal legislation of nearly seventy-five years has created a mechanical monstrosity which even the ingenuity of competent state officials can no longer use to protect water users in the exercise of their lawful rights." (From proposal for a platform of a Colorado Water Congress, June, 1958.)

**OGALLALA, INC.** of Denver, headed by V. A. (Bud) Vaseen, is attempting to file a claim with the state engineer to ground water underlying a 1,715 square mile area in eastern Colorado (watersheds of East and West Bijou Creeks and Comanche, Wolf, Kiowa, Lost and Box Elder Creeks. State engineer J. E. Whitten, on advice from the attorney general, has refused to accept the filing in its present form since "the applicants do not meet the conditions of the law". **Colorado Ground Water Commission** plans to hire three experts to look into the matter. This development brings to mind a significant statement made nearly two years ago to the Colorado Water Conservation Board by Felix L. Sparks, CWCB director.

Sparks: "As a matter of interest on the ground water problem, I recently learned that there are some very ambitious plans to develop the ground water of the South Platte Valley. These are commercial type enterprises which will involve..."
a great amount of pumping and the exportation of water in one area—the Bijou area—which in the past has been designated as a critical ground water area. It becomes increasingly apparent that the State of Colorado must move rapidly in order to get some semblance of order to the ground water situation. If this Bijou development takes place there will be nothing but a series of lawsuits in that valley. The ground water table has been lowered considerably in that area during the past 20 years. We can no longer fool around with the ground water problem.” (9-22-61)

Colorado water users generally agree that "we can't fool around" much longer with either the ground water problem or the surface water problem. Everyone knows that time is running out on recodification of Colorado's water laws. But nobody seems to be doing much about it. Colorado legislature appropriated $7,500 for work next fiscal year on Colorado water law recodification. This is about a tenth of what is needed. At the same time, Colorado legislature appropriated $100,000 for a study of local government.

William R. Kelly of Greeley, dean of Eastern Slope water lawyers and formerly counsel for Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, mentions the Colorado ground water problem in a recent letter to your newsletter editor. Mr. Kelly refers to a Denver Post article quoted in the March, 1963 newsletter which contains this statement, "The law presumes that underground water is tributary to a surface stream".

Mr. Kelly states, "I think it is an incorrect statement when it includes the words 'surface stream'...There has been too much loose talk about the law of Colorado presuming that underground water is tributary to a surface stream. There is no authority to that."
Mr. Kelly appeared at a meeting of the Colorado Senate Water Committee several months ago and presented a memorandum entitled "Colorado Ground Water". Kelly's memo should be of interest to Colorado water lawyers and engineers.

DROUGHT, dread word of Colorado and the West, has renewed water user interest in the relationship between solar activity (sun spots) and drought cycles. Top authority on the subject, Dr. Walter Orr Roberts of Boulder, made these comments to a Rocky Mountain News writer.

Roberts: "There has been a lot of speculation that decreased solar activity signals the start of a dry season, but we are unable to say this is true. Frankly, we do not understand the factors which create a drouth, but we can say that we are not getting the clash of cold Canadian air and the moisture-laden warm air from the Gulf of Mexico. We can add that the patterns of drouth show up in historical records with reasonable consistency for the area east of the mountains and on to the plains." (5-7-63)

COLORADO CITIES AND TOWNS: Westminster has relaxed lawn watering restrictions, following temporary leasing of rights to water stored in Standley Lake. . . Thornton is attempting to conserve water and increase income by temporarily raising rates 40 percent for use above 8,000 gallons per tap per month and 67% for use above 50,000 gallons. . . Golden does not anticipate water rationing this summer. . . Arvada home rule charter will provide that the city may trade water rights, form consolidated water districts and establish rates and rules for water service.
Englewood has imposed lawn watering restrictions and has hired part-time inspectors to watch for water wasting.

Lakewood (Consolidated Mutual Water Co.) has asked for public help in stopping fire hydrant freeloading. So has Denver Water Board.

Denver Water Board has received a comprehensive report from out-of-state engineering consultants which recommends expenditures of $152 million over the next 17 years for a capital improvement program (mostly new treated water facilities). This is in addition to the Board's current $115 million expansion program financed by two voter-approved bond issues. Required: Either another water bond vote, or an immediate and substantial increase in water rates, or both.

Denver Water Board has approved contracts providing limited water service (eventually full service) to North Washington Water District and Roxborough Water District.

Denver metropolitan area suburban officials gave these answers to a Denver Post reporter who inquired about water rationing possibilities: Aurora, no immediate problem, "but if this dry weather continues, it's very possible we may have to impose some restrictions". Littleton, no danger of immediate water rationing, but continued drought could cause trouble. Thornton, "if we don't get some runoff, there's a good possibility we'll have to impose watering restriction". Commerce City, Adams City, Dupont (South Adams County Water District), "in good shape right now". Brighton, no increase in its normal
summer rationing program. . . Boulder, "not in a critical position now" but concerned about fall and winter supply if drought is prolonged. . . Perl-Mack (Baker Water District), watering restrictions not anticipated. . . Arvada and Golden, no restrictions anticipated.

Boulder's water treatment plant is featured in the current issue of Colorado Municipalities. . . Greeley storm drainage facility will be repaid out of revenue from drainage fees. . . Platteville has lawn watering restrictions. Siren blast at 7 p.m. stops watering. . . Colorado Springs has lawn watering restrictions. So has suburban Security Village. . . Pueblo imposed irrigation restrictions recently when the Arkansas River shrank to a trickle, "the lowest...since 1934, the year the river went dry". Pueblo Water Board may consider universal metering as a water conservation measure. Coming: Probably another Pueblo water bond vote next November to finance acquisition of additional water rights. . . Glenwood Springs is considering universal metering. . . Rifle went on an all-meter basis this month. . . Colorado Springs and Aurora are starting their Homestake transmountain water diversion project this month with award of bids for 5.3 miles of tunnel and 4 miles of access roads. . . Littleton will vote May 28 on proposed water rate increases estimated to average $2.50 per month per household.

Grand Junction officials have debunked rumors that water rationing is being contemplated. . . Montrose has been allocated
six megawatts of electric power from the Colorado River Storage Project, starting in 1967. **Montrose citizens** will vote during the next two years on whether to renew their contract with investor owned Western Colorado Power Co., buy federal power and set up their own distribution system and substations, or generate their own power. . . . **Artesia infectious hepatitis** outbreak is blamed on faulty plumbing at Artesia school which caused back siphoning into a major water line. . . . **Delta has purchased** the Dugger and Pitcairn reservoirs and water rights on the east Doughspoon watershed on Grand Mesa. Purchase price: $36,000. **Delta removed restriction** on water use last year, does not contemplate restrictions this year. . . . **Glenwood Springs council**, faced with reports that it is one of the biggest water wasters in the state, is considering suggestions that the public be educated on proper water use.

**Alamosa has set** summer water rates at $2.00 for 5,000 gallons and 10 cents per thousand over 5,000. **Alamosa will contract** soon for a 1,200 gpm well which will be financed by revenues from a one percent sales tax. **Alamosa imposed** lawn watering restrictions this month. . . . **Trinidad** has increased the severity of its water sprinkling restrictions. . . . **Florence** has ordered restrictions on lawn watering and vehicle washing. Violators will be fined. Lack of water is Florence's No. 1 problem. . . . **Rocky Ford** expects acute, but not critical, water supply problems this summer, with water rationing a possibility before fall. . . . **Ordway** will clean and
repair its city reservoirs this summer . . . Lamar has cleared plans for Clay Creek Dam with the state engineer and with the Arkansas River compact commission and expects to start construction by June 30. Colorado Game & Fish Commission is contributing $130,000 toward Clay Creek Dam costs. Reservoir will be used for both recreation and municipal water supply.

BARR LAKE, "sewage lagoon for the Denver area", has aroused clean-it-up-or-else talk among adversely affected interests. Adams County commissioners, Baker Water & Sanitation District and City of Westminster are cooperating in a two-pronged attack aimed at relieving a situation that is becoming intolerable. Citizens' legal action committee, headed by Charles Taylor (Brighton accountant), is studying the possibility of bringing an injunction against Denver and other upstream cities and sewage districts. Taylor recently told Adams County commissioners that his committee probably would take legal action against "violators" of Colorado's anti-pollution laws, unless conferences result in some relief. Another citizens' committee, headed by Dr. James Ransom of Brighton, is studying a long-range program to decrease pollution and the resulting stench in Barr Lake.

Westminster Journal. "We believe that this (Barr Lake) sludge can be treated with chemicals, and that if proper leadership is secured from the Adams County commissioners, the Brighton city manager and the Tri-County Health Dep't., action can be secured from the State Health Dep't and even from the governor's office.
"It is entirely possible to secure grants from the federal government in the treatment of this sewage accumulation area. Instead of complaining to one's neighbors, what is needed is concerted, organized action to secure funds to treat the sewage, digest it with beneficial bacteria and destroy its odors." (editorial 5-16-63)

Denver Post: "It really smells at Barr Lake. Anyone who has wondered what the Barr Lake noise is all about can get a lasting insight into the problem simply by standing downwind from the odorous pond any time day or night . . .

"There are those who say everything would be rosy at Barr Lake except for the current water shortage. These are dwellers in a fool's paradise, but even their outlooks are losing that paradisical aura in the face of the all-encompassing smell . . .

"Another pollution problem is graphically evident in the farm lands near Barr Lake and to the east. It's the irrigation season, and water is flowing through ditches everywhere. It has a generally good appearance—fairly clear, cool and clean. But then it hits the fall below a headgate, or any other obstruction that causes turbulence, and billows up into foamy white suds. This is detergent, a chemical that is poured through our home and industrial drains by the millions of gallons, and a pollutant that science has not yet been able to remove from water." (Cal Queal, Outdoor Empire column, 5-20-63)

NARROWS STEERING COMMITTEE has asked the Bureau of Reclamation to direct its future hydrology and economics studies specifically toward the Narrows site. Colorado Water Conservation Board has undertaken a survey to determine probable boundaries of a (Narrows) water conservancy district through expressions of willingness by ditch companies to contract for specified quantities of water. CWCB will also examine possibilities of expanding the service area to include lands that could be served by pumping from Narrows Reservoir. Narrows site selection discussion is not expected to come before CWCB until July . . . Two Forks Reservoir studies by Bureau of Reclamation (through Colorado Water Conservation Board
contributions) may be virtually stopped in fiscal 1964 due to CWCB budget cuts by Colorado legislature. Efforts are being made to obtain $25,000 in compensating contributions from interested cities and irrigation districts. Incidentally, Colorado Water Congress leaders helped materially in legislative committee hearing efforts to restore CWCB budget cuts. Cache la Poudre unit reconnaissance report has been reviewed by USBR brass who have suggested some changes in the economic and financial analyses prior to report release.

COLORADO WATER NEWSBITS: Colorado State University will host the fifth annual western resources conference Aug. 5-7. Conference will feature dedication of CSU's new Foothills Research Center, located west of Fort Collins near Horsetooth Reservoir.

Westminster Journal won Colorado U's community service award for leading a campaign for improved and expanded city water facilities.

Pueblo Chieftain recently ran a series of three articles by John O'Connor which discussed the authorization struggle for Purgatoire Dam and the effect of this project on Southern Colorado.

Grand Junction Sentinel is currently presenting condensed installments of the late Senator Robert S. Kerr's book, "Land, Wood And Water". Snow survey film production contract has been awarded to Colorado State U by U.S. Soil Conservation Service (16 mm. feature length, sound-color motion picture).

Southern Colorado leaders and Colorado's congressional delegation attended
a May 24 briefing in Pueblo on *Fryingpan-Arkansas project's* current status . . . Speaking of status, Pueblo Chieftain writer Jim Conner headlines his May 20 drouth story, "Green Grass Grows into Status Symbol as Water Shortage Makes it Precious."

**Water safety is a growing problem** in Colorado. Recent drownings: Carbondale infant in an irrigation canal, CSU coed in *Horsetooth Reservoir* motor boat driver in *Boyd Lake*, fisherman in *Gross Reservoir*, fisherman in *Bonny Reservoir*, swimmer in *Richards Lake*. National Water Safety Congress May 26-28 in Lincoln, Nebr., will discuss drownings and the need for boat control legislation now before U. S. Congress . . . Denver photographer (James W. Welgos) has been hobbying for nearly a decade trying to find an economical way to convert saline water into potable water. Now he says, "I have perfected a system capable of turning out 60,000 gallons of pure drinking water per $1 invested, exclusive of pumping costs." Welgos says his system can also be adapted to convert treated sewage . . . *Cloud seeding generators* have been operating this spring at Montrose, Sapinero, Whitewater, Loma and De Beque in western Colorado . . . *San Miguel River basin* business men are thinking about stocking their streams on their own, using local fund drive money to buy trout from a commercial hatchery. . . . Survey of effect of drouth on income and sales taxes has been requested by Gov. Love.
COLORADO WATER PEOPLE: Leslie J. Savage, promotion spark plug for Crawford Dam on the Western Slope, was verbally applauded by reclamation commissioner Floyd Dominy at the recent Crawford dedication ceremony. Savage was also editorially applauded by Grand Junction Sentinel as "a public spirited citizen who assumed leadership responsibilities in his community without making excuses and without boasting or bragging." . . . Silmon Smith, Grand Junction attorney and elder statesman on water matters in western Colorado, was editorially applauded by Grand Junction Sentinel recently as a man who "stays in the background when dams are dedicated" but who deserves recognition for his work in behalf of water development over many years . . . Roscoe Fleming, columnist for the Denver Post and Christian Science Monitor, has been awarded honorable mention in the 1962 Thomas L. Stokes contest for his "generous coverage of energy and other natural resources."

Water commissioner Bob Mariano of El Moro (Water District 19, Div. 2) was featured in a Pueblo Chieftain article (3-31-63) which described his water distribution job and its problems . . . Fred Kroeger, Durango business man and Southwestern Colorado Water Conservancy District board member, has replaced D. Lew Williams on CWCB. Quincy Cornelius of Hooper succeeds Judge Richard E. Conour of Del Norte on CWCB . . . Frank Milenski of Swink has been reappointed to CWCB membership . . . Clyde O. Martz, widely recognized scholar in water, mining and oil-gas law, will teach part-time at Denver U's law school while continuing private legal practice.