"The big story to come out of the rampaging flood in the South Platte River which created extensive damage in Denver on June 16, is that the U. S. Corps of Engineers, in a published report, had analyzed the possibility and extent of such a flood with amazing accuracy. It is a certainty that a deluge of this kind can occur again, maybe next year or maybe 100 years from now. In any event, planners and investors should take heed." (Editor)

—COLORADO WATER CONGRESS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8, No. 7
July 1, 1965

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO WATER CONGRESS

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STORM CLOUDS BOIL OVER THE COLORADO

"UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN STATES face a crisis in taking a position on the proposed Lower Colorado River Basin Project now before Congress because the Upper Basin is confronted with a serious threat to its water resources." This warning was issued on June 3 by Felix L. Sparks, director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, regarding the effects of the proposed Central Arizona Project and other features of the Lower Colorado River Basin water plan.

Spark's statement was made in relation to a letter from Chairman Wayne N. Aspinall of the House Interior Committee which was written to the seven Governors of the Colorado River Basin States asking them for their estimates on the water in the Colorado River. Specifically, Aspinall asked the Governors for their estimates on the amount of water available in the Colorado River for the Central Arizona Project, which plans to divert 1.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water annually into water-thirsty Central Arizona. The plan also guarantees an annual minimum supply of 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado River water to California.
Colorado estimates indicate that probably there is insufficient uncommitted water for the Arizona Project. Arizona, on the other hand, estimates that there will be enough water for the project until the year 2025. Senator Carl Heyden (D-Ariz) has expressed concern over Aspinall's skepticism about the Arizona figures, and his office has hinted "we may have to play this thing real rough." Aspinall is concerned about what effect the Central Arizona Project will have on the many participating projects authorized in the Upper Colorado River Storage Project Act.

Sparks said that taking into account the Mexican Treaty obligation from the Colorado River, Nevada's use of the water, guarantees to California and lower basin water losses, "it is a certainty that there will not be sufficient water remaining for diversion to the Central Arizona Project."

"Where, then, will the water come from for that project? The answer is quite obvious -- from the upper basin's allocation as provided by the Colorado River Compact. The sum and substance of the arrangement is that Arizona is proposing that a guarantee be made to California and that the Central Arizona Project be built based on the use of upper basin water," Sparks said.

Sparks warned that the use of upper basin water must be replaced by importation of water from some other source, and "unanswered are the questions at what point in the future will the outside importation occur and from where will it occur?" Sparks concluded by warning "we are, therefore, faced with a major crisis. If we oppose the Central Arizona
Project we can logically expect that our many remaining reclamation projects in the Upper Colorado will likewise be opposed by Arizona and it is conceivable that a stalemate will develop."

Governor John A. Love, of Colorado, in his answer to Congressman Aspinall stated "because the Central Arizona Project is of such major importance to the State of Arizona as well as to Colorado and the other states of the Colorado River Basin, we have engaged the services of an internationally known firm of consulting engineers to prepare for us an independent report which will cover, among other things, the questions which you have raised. Our contract with that firm calls for a completed report not later than August 1, 1965."

Richard T. Eckles, coordinator of the Department of Natural Resources announced that the firm employed for this study is Tipton and Kalmbach of Denver, and that the Engineering Committee of the Upper Colorado River Commission, meeting in Denver on June 3, agreed to pick up the tab.

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THE U.S. BUREAU OF THE BUDGET in its report on the Lower Colorado River Storage Project which includes the Central Arizona Project, yielded to conservationist pressure by deleting Bridge Canyon Dam which would have created an impoundment flooding a portion of Grand Canyon National Park. The Budget Bureau report did not, however, forever eliminate Bridge Canyon as it recommended that "the dam should be deferred for later consideration." Deletion of the Bridge Canyon Unit was a disappointment to lower basin states, as power from this project was to be used
to provide the revenues necessary to obtain water imports from outside the Colorado Basin, possibly from the Columbia River Basin.

ARKANSAS RIVER FEUD RENEWED

FOR FIFTEEN YEARS all has been quiet in the long expensive feud between Colorado and Kansas over the division of the waters in the Arkansas River. This truce came to an end at a meeting of the Arkansas Valley Compact Commission held in Denver on June 3 when the Commission reached a stalemate over the construction of a dam on Clay Creek near Lamar.

During the last week of May the state of Kansas had filed a suit in the U.S. Supreme Court against Colorado charging that the construction of a dam will result in a violation of the Arkansas River Compact between the two states. In the suit Kansas asked the U.S. Supreme Court to enjoin Colorado in constructing the project.

The Compact Commission meeting, which was held in the attempt to resolve the issue, wound up in a complete disagreement. Kansas representatives introduced a motion to the effect that the issue be brought to arbitration. Colorado refused to arbitrate unless Kansas agreed to dismissal of the lawsuit. Director Felix L. Sparks of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and one of Colorado's Arkansas Compact Commissioners declared "we are not willing to arbitrate with a gun pointed at us." The resolution died for lack of a unanimous vote with Colorado voting against Kansas.

The Commission adjourned without solving the issue which means that
The court action by Kansas will continue.

The dam, at a cost of $110,000 is being built by the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Commission to be used for fishing, boating and swimming. When completed, the dam will be less than 1,000 feet long and it will impound a maximum of 2898 acre-feet of water. It is provided with a 48 inch outlet. Kansas contends the outlet is inadequate and that the operation of the dam will reduce the flow of the Arkansas River at the state line below the amounts as provided in a 1951 agreement. Sparks contends that operation studies show the state line flow will not be adversely affected.

Following the Compact Commission meeting, Colorado Governor John Love and Kansas Governor William Avery pledged to conduct a "summit" meeting in a last ditch attempt to resolve the growing dispute out of court.

GOVERNORS OFFICE RUSHES IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW WATER LAWS

A BILL enacted by the 1965 Legislature which provides for the appropriation and administration of designated ground water and the establishment of ground water management districts is to be put into operation immediately, according to an announcement by Richard T. Eckles, Coordinator of Natural Resources. This action developed as a result of a meeting held in Denver on June 4 in Eckles' office. In attendance, were representatives of the engineering, ground water and hydrological departments of Colorado State University, Ralph Owens, acting state engineer, Felix L. Sparks, director of the Colorado Water Conservation
Board, George Colburn, senior water resources engineer of the State Engineer's office and Ground Water Commission, and John Cuykendall, chairman of the Ground Water Commission.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop ways and means to implement the provisions of Senate Bill 367 and to initiate studies necessary to establish boundaries of non-tributary water management districts as provided in the bill. The several proposed districts in the state were separated into data development assignments: The Bijou and Kiowa were assigned to Colorado State University; The San Luis Valley and the Ogallala High Plains were assigned to the Colorado Water Conservation Board; and the Colorado Ground Water Commission was assigned the job of compiling all the data collected. The Commission is to present this data to the areas in question to be used in the establishment of district boundaries.

Eckles said that such an organization will prevent duplication of effort, will save money and will hasten the formation of districts. He also stated that shortage of appropriations makes it impossible for the various state agencies to successfully do the work on an independent basis.

Previous information developed by the U.S. Geological Survey will be used and additional services by this agency will be provided on a 50-50 basis.

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CONTRARY TO REPORTS, Acting State Engineer Ralph Owens in an interview stated that he has not imposed a moratorium on the issuance of well
permits. Since the passage of Senate Bill 367, each application has been or will be studied to determine whether the use of the well would adversely affect the rights of other wells. Owens stated that since the passage of the law his office has received 175 applications of which 52 have been processed. "No applications have been rejected up to this time, although there may be some," Owens said.

STATE SENATOR RESIGNS LEGISLATIVE POST

SENATOR FRANK L. (TED) GILL (R-Hillrose) resigned as a member of the Legislative Council's Interim Water Committee after being relieved of the chairmanship, a post he has held during the last two years. Gill expressed disappointment over the appointment of Representative Forrest Burns (D-Lamar) as committee chairman. Gill contended that the committee has been victimized by politics and that Burns had opposed all the water laws passed by the 45th General Assembly.

The first meeting of the new committee held in Denver on June 11 was fraught with controversy centering on the application of new laws designed to regulate drilling and use of wells in both closed and stream-tributary underground basins. Senator Wilkie Ham (D-Lamar) challenged the right of acting State Engineer Ralph Owens in holding up permits on some wells in Ham's district. At the meeting the committee voted to require progress reports on underground water administration to be presented at all future meetings by the State Engineer's office, the Colorado Ground Water Commission and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.
ITEMS IN BRIEF

GOVERNOR JOHN LOVE has announced the appointment of two new members to the State Game, Fish and Parks Commission. Appointed were Floyd L. Getz of Monte Vista, replacing Parker Sooter of Alamosa, and Leroy Robson of Holly, replacing Roy Eckles of Lamar. Governor Love reappointed Chris M. Furneaux of Walden and Orest Gerbaz of Aspen. All four men will serve terms expiring May 8, 1969.

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IT IS REPORTED that the conservation lobby, fresh from its victory over the Budget Bureau deletion of the Bridge Canyon Dam from the Lower Colorado River Storage Project, is now generating an offensive against the proposed Marble Canyon Dam which is the main feature of the Central Arizona Project. It is said that if the conservation groups are successful in knocking out Marble Canyon Dam, the Lower Colorado Storage Project would not be feasible.

Conservation groups have also launched a drive against the proposed Sweetwater Project in northwestern Colorado which is being planned by the Rocky Mountain Power Company. The groups contend that the Project would "encroach upon the Flat Tops Primitive Area and would destroy a large area along the South Fork of the White River."

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REP. WAYNE N. ASPINALL, chairman of the House Interior Committee, has asked Congress to approve the administration budget request of $48,865,000 for the Colorado River Storage Project and $10,030,000 for the Frypain-Arkansas Project for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Aspinall said, "I am sure that additional funds would provide a more efficient construction schedule."

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THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR has announced the award of a $17,556,167 Bureau of Reclamation contract for constructing three tunnels and three diversion dams on the Fryrain-Arkansas Project near Leadville. The contract was awarded to the four-company venture of Winston Brothers, Foley Brothers, Hurley and Frazier-Davis Construction Companies of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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QUINN & COMPANY, 818 17th Street, and Francis I. duPont & Co., 724 17th Street, Denver, will be the financial consultants for the city of Arvada in a program to refund $3.2 million in general obligation water bonds.

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LESLIE M. ALEXANDER, chairman of the engineering committee of the Colorado River Basin Consumers Power, Inc., has asked the Senate Appropriations Committee to support a proposal to cut the power rate on electricity produced by Upper Colorado River Storage Project power plants from the present 6 mills per kilowatt hour to 5.15 mills. Upper Colorado River representatives are opposing any reductions which would lengthen the repayment period. Rep. Wayne N. Aspinall (D-Colo) has pledged he would not agree to any lowering of the Upper Colorado power rate unless all of the states in the Upper Colorado River agreed to it. Senator Gordon Allott (R-Colo) has announced he will not agree to a cut in the rate unless an independent study is made by an organization that has no axe to grind either way.

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APPROVAL of a $700,000 bond issue for further development and expansion of the Colorado City Water System near Colorado Springs, has been voted by the directors of the Colorado City Water and Sanitation District. Kenneth Barrett, president of the district, said that the bond sale contract has been made with Boettcher & Company of Pueblo and Denver and J. B. Hanauer & Company of Beverly Hills, California.

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CITY COUNCIL of Colorado Springs has approved preliminary planning for a $7 million addition to its municipal power plant. The consulting engineering firm of Lutz, Daily and Brain of Kansas City, Missouri was retained to make preliminary studies and reports. Director Ray Nixon of the Colorado Springs Utility Department estimated that the project will take from four to five years to complete.

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THE COLORADO STATE Division of Commerce and Development held the first of a series of river basin-wide conferences in Pueblo on June 4. The first conference constituted a public hearing on studies and reports which will be combined into a regional development plan for the Arkansas Valley. Assisting and fostering the regional plan for economical development of the valley are the Pueblo Regional Planning Commission, Southwestern Water Conservancy District and the Arkansas Valley Economic Development Council.

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HUGH A. SHAMBERGER, president of the National Reclamation Association, has moved to the University of Nevada, Reno, to become Associate Director of the Desert Research Institute and head of the Center for Water Resources Research.

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THE U.S. CORPS OF ARMY ENGINEERS has asked Congress for $74,000 to proceed with its investigation of flood control in the Arkansas River Valley from Great Bend, Kansas to the John Martin Dam in Colorado. The study will explore feasibility of single and multiple purpose reservoirs, channel improvements, levees and flood ways for flood control, irrigation, water supply and quality control, and recreation.

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THE LOWER SOUTH PLATTE Water Conservancy District has received its first application for supplemental irrigation water from the proposed Narrows Dam Project. It was filed by William E. Blair of Sterling who asked for water for farm holdings. Blair is a former director of the Northern Colorado Conservancy District.

THROUGH THE WATER METER

The Washington Bureau of the Pueblo Star-Journal reports that the National Park Service has been designated to manage the recreation program at the reservoirs created by the Currecanti project on the Gunnison River... A strike that delayed construction on the Homestake Water Diversion Project has been settled... The first phase of the $725,000 water expansion program in La Junta, Colorado has been completed. Additional improvements include three new wells, improved chlorination systems, two new pump stations and a new storage tank... City Council of Florence acted not to increase water rates and to continue to sell water at rates established several years ago... An average 15 per-cent increase in water rates for Denver customers became effective June 1... Most of the work included in the $29 million Denver Metropolitan Sewage Disposal Plant will be completed in 1965 and it is estimated that full-scale
sewage collection and treatment will begin in October 1966. The Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee has given initial approval for a cooperative atomic energy power demonstration project in Colorado. A $41 million high temperature reactor, proposed to be built by the Public Service Company of Colorado, is the principal feature of the project. The construction site has not been selected. Public Service Company would invest about $45 million additional in the plant. The nuclear power capacity of atomic plants in the United States is expected to quadruple in the next four years when production is estimated to approach 4,000,000 kilowatts. The Public Service Company of Colorado has given an architect and engineering contract to Stearns-Roger Corporation of Denver for the construction of a new $40 million electric generating plant at the Cherokee Station in Denver. Construction of two dams on Chaffee Gulch south of Montrose to control severe gully erosion was begun by the Bureau of Land Management on May 17. The Project will cost $76,000, of which the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Department will contribute $40,000. The Denver Water Board has ruled that "body-contact" sports will not be permitted at Denver's new Dillon Reservoir on the Blue River in Summit County. This ban is also imposed on other Denver water supply reservoirs used for recreational purposes. The directors of the Lower South Platte Conservancy District have instructed their attorneys to proceed with filing for a storage water appropriation decree for the Narrows Reservoir on the South Platte River near Fort Morgan. A conflict is developing over legislation calling for the creation of a permanent pool for recreation at John Martin Dam on the Arkansas River. It is reported that Senator
Gordon Allott (D-Colo) will not agree to a permanent pool until hearings are held on the proposal in the Arkansas Valley and until convincing evidence is presented showing that there is sufficient water to maintain the pool from non-farm sources . . . Congressman Frank E. Evans (D-Colo) has testified in favor of the 1966 budget request for $1.5 million for the Trinidad flood control and irrigation dam on the Purgatoire River . . .

The second Western Interstate Water Conference, bringing together legislators, water experts and public representatives from 11 states, including Colorado, will be held in Corvallis, Oregon on August 5 and 6 . . .

A water supply pipe leading to the engineering office of the St. Louis, Missouri Water Department broke and employees lined up and formed a bucket brigade to supply the department's water needs. Red faced employees continued the operation until repairs were completed.

PAST DEADLINE NEWS

It is reported that the recent great flood on the Arkansas River settled the dispute between Colorado and Kansas over the construction of a dam on Clay Creek near Lamar. The high waters washed out the dam and it is doubtful if it will be rebuilt.

PUBLICATIONS

LAKE POWELL, Jewel of the Colorado.

A publication of the U. S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.


This book presents in graphic words and in full color pictures the story of Lake Powell.