"For the first time in history the flood control space in John Martin Reservoir in southeastern Colorado contains water in storage. The Army Corps of Engineers closed the flood gates on July 13 and ordered them to remain closed until further notice. It is hoped that at least 10,000 acre-feet of this water will be retained for recreational use. After the ravages of the flood, the lower Arkansas area is entitled to this benefit." (R. T. Eckles, Director, Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources)

C. N. Feast
Newsletter Editor

EASTERN COLORADO SUFFERS GREATEST DISASTER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1965, began like every day in early June, but before the day was over Colorado was suffering its worst disaster. Warm air saturated with moisture had been sweeping into eastern Colorado from the Gulf of Mexico to clash with a vast flow of cold air which had spilled into the state from the northeast. By Sunday night, June 13, showers and thunderstorms had brought welcome moisture to Colorado's drouth-stricken eastern plains. Upslope winds from the east had pushed this warm air into the geographical pocket formed by the Palmer Lake Divide and the Front Range, and there, clashing with the sweeping cold air located over the region, a once-in-a-century storm brewed and let loose on the afternoon of the 16th.

A series of thunderstorms created tornadic winds and cloudbursts over eastern Colorado from the Nebraska border to the New Mexico-Oklahoma line. When the storm subsided the resulting floods had created damages estimated at $600 million and had taken an estimated 20 lives.
- Record peak flows were reported in practically all of the major drainages and their tributaries: Plum Creek into the South Platte above Denver - 45,000 c.f.s.; Cherry Creek above Denver - 58,000 c.f.s.; Bijou Creek east of Denver estimated by experts at 400,000 c.f.s.; Purgatoire through Trinidad - 50,000 c.f.s.; Willow Creek through Lamar - 18,000 c.f.s.; Clay Creek near Lamar - 35,000 c.f.s.

- Further disaster was prevented by the Cherry Creek Flood Control Dam above Denver and the John Martin Dam on the Arkansas at Hasty. Cherry Creek Reservoir contained the flood which prevented greater damage to the city of Denver during the floods. John Martin Reservoir stored approximately 300,000 acre-feet of water which materially reduced the damages in Lamar and Holly, Colorado.

- President Johnson declared the flood-stricken eastern Colorado as a major disaster area. The designation embraced 27 counties; Adams, Arapahoe, Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Fremont, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Larimer, Los Animas, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Otero, Phillips, Prowers, Pueblo, Sedgwick, Teller, Washington, Weld and Yuma. The President's proclamation makes federal funds available to repair flood-ravaged public facilities including roads, sewer and water systems, hospitals, firehouses and other facilities.

- After a personal inspection of the flood-stricken areas Governor John Love called a mass conference of state and federal officials to work toward a "Colorado plan" for flood control to prevent future disasters. Love stated that a "statewide plan is necessary to make sure that such a thing will not happen again."

- A congressional on the spot study of flood control needs on the South Platte and Arkansas Rivers was scheduled in Denver on July 9. Making the survey was a five-man subcommittee of the House Public Works Committee. On their arrival in Denver, they were met by officials of the Army Corps of Engineers who explained the geography and hydrography of the two river systems, pointed trouble spots and described proposed control projects. The subcommittee toured the flood-stricken areas.

- Flood assistance was rendered by civilian defense officials in the 27 flooded Colorado counties. The American Red Cross rendered assistance and the disaster operations chief stated that no limits have been placed on Red Cross flood relief funds for Colorado. Assistance was rendered by the Salvation Army and other agencies as well as by thousands of individuals.
- Governor Love created the office of Colorado Natural Disaster Coordinator and appointed Major General Joe C. Moffitt, Colorado adjutant general, to be the director. Love said the purpose of the organization will be to coordinate and channel requests for federal flood assistance under the Federal Disaster Act, Public Law 875.

- The devastation created by the South Platte River flood from Denver down the river started a concerted movement toward congressional action to prevent similar floods in the future. This movement may result in revival in the current session of Congress of plans for the early construction of the Chatfield Dam above Denver. This project, planned by the Corps of Engineers twenty years ago, was authorized by Congress but was abandoned in 1954 because of local hostility.

- The South Platte flood also stepped up demands for the construction of Two Forks Reservoir on the South Platte above Waterton and the Narrows Reservoir on the South Platte above Fort Morgan. Pressure is being brought to bear for early consideration of flood control on the major tributaries of the Platte such as the Bijou, the Kiowa and others, such plans to include necessary channelization of the main stem of the South Platte below the proposed Chatfield Dam.

- Congressman Wayne Aspinall, (D-Colo), chairman of the House Interior Committee, stated in a televised news release that if the Colorado people wanted flood control dams and if they would express their desires to Congress, in all probability these projects would be authorized and appropriated.

- Senator Gordon Allott, (R-Colo), stated in Denver that he believes prospects are good for a special appropriation in Congress to get planning and early construction work started on a revised Chatfield Dam. Allott said that Major General George H. Walker, Missouri River Basin engineer of the Army Corps of Engineers, told him the Corps will need approximately $350,000 to expedite a feasibility restudy and a detailed planning report. He said Walker advised him that with these funds, the Corps can proceed immediately with the studies. The money to be sought would be an appropriation for the current fiscal year.

- On June 30 a conference between Representative Byron G. Rogers, (D-Colo), Representative Roy McVicker, (D-Colo), and Major General George H. Walker, Missouri River division engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, resulted in the preparation of three amendments to the House Public Works Appropriation Bill, HR 9220, which will be prepared for introduction before the Senate Appropriations
Committee or on the floor of the Senate when the Bill comes up for consideration. One amendment would provide $75,000 to expedite a feasibility study on the Chatfield Dam; another would furnish the engineers an extra $50,000 to complete a comprehensive study of necessary flood control along the entire South Platte Valley; and a third amendment would provide $500,000 for a start of actual construction of the Chatfield Project. McVickers stated he thought the $500,000 for Chatfield would be justified since Congress authorized the project in 1950.

- Felix L. Sparks, director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, on request of Governor Love conducted an emergency meeting of federal, state and local agencies in Denver on July 2. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate effort directed toward controlling the flood dangers in the South Platte and Arkansas River Basins. Working with Sparks in the drive for a unified approach to the problem was Richard T. Eckles, state director of Natural Resources.

- The essence of the program as outlined in the meeting was immediate appropriation of special funds for feasibility and planning studies on the Chatfield Dam; reauthorization and construction of the Narrows Dam; early authorization and construction of the Two Forks Dam; long range studies and planning for flood control on tributaries to the South Platte and the Arkansas; immediate construction of the Trinidad Project on the Purgatoire River near Trinidad; and greater emphasis on the building of small watershed projects through the efforts of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and local conservation agencies.

- The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation would be a participating agency in the construction of the Trinidad Project, the Two Forks Project and the Narrows Project for the purpose of storage of water for municipal and agricultural uses.

- Mayor Currigan called upon all members of Colorado's Congressional delegation to unite behind efforts to obtain adequate flood control measures for Denver. "Such dams," Currigan said, "will not only control floods but will bring with them benefits of inestimable value, including water for our municipal industrial needs, new sources of power and electricity; and needed recreational facilities for a growing metropolitan area."

- Benjamin F. Stapleton, Jr., of Denver, chairman of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, pledged all-out efforts of this agency in planning and implementation of a program to protect Colorado's residents from floods.
The Pueblo Regional Planning Commission has made a 2-pronged move in a program to cope with the menace of flood on the Fountain River. The Commission recommended: (1) the Pueblo City Council adopt an ordinance which will prohibit further construction or land fill in the river bed; and (2) instructed the commission staff to contact such agencies as Pueblo Conservancy District, Southeastern Water Conservancy District, the City, the County, and the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, and ask each to designate a member to serve on the steering committee. The purpose of the steering committee will be to investigate steps Pueblo can take to avoid future floods.

President Johnson has asked Congress for an additional $20 million for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for emergency measures in the next fiscal year.

BIG ED CALLS FOR LAWSUIT ON COLORADO RIVER WATER

FORMER GOVERNOR AND U.S. SENATOR Ed C. Johnson in a lengthy letter to Governor John Love, under date of June 24, 1965, asked for authorization permitting the Upper Colorado River Commission to bring suit against Interior Secretary Stewart Udall. The purpose of the suit would be to compel Udall not to encroach upon the Commission's right to allocate Colorado River Water between the Upper and Lower Basins.

Johnson warned that the state of Arizona is attempting to obtain title to Upper Basin water through the enactment of the Central Arizona Project. "Whatever additional Upper Basin water is made available to Central Arizona will be at the expense of both Western and Eastern Slope water users in Colorado," Johnson said.

"The Upper Colorado River Commission does and must, control delivery of water at Lees Ferry, or ours is a lost cause. We cannot in good faith turn our water over (to the Secretary of the Interior) to juggle as he pleases. That is straight from the shoulder horse sense.

"The Secretary of the Interior has delivered Upper Basin Water to the Lower Basin, without any regard whatever to the requirements of the Colorado River Compact, the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact or the Boulder Canyon Project Act."
"Secretary Udall has long been identified with the partisan politics of the Lower Basin. He is sharp experienced, resourceful, adroit and shrewd, and his interest in Colorado River water begins and ends at Lees Ferry.

"Eastern Colorado water rights on the Colorado River are junior to the allocation of water in the Colorado River Compact. Should Secretary Udall's Southwest water plan be awarded, the two million acre-feet of Upper Basin water requested by him transmountain diversion in Colorado would, of necessity, have to be limited," Johnson said.

He also stated that waters obtained by Colorado users since the Compact was ratified have merely a junior right to it; and that "these junior rights must have protection in the authorization of the Central Arizona Project if and when enacted."

Senator Carl Hayden, (D-Ariz), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee in a letter to Reclamation Bureau Chief, Floyd Dominy, posed a threat to all major Upper River Basin Projects, including the Fryingpan-Arkansas and the Curecanti Project. Hayden in his letter inquired about the possibility of cutting fiscal 1966 requests for these projects. His letter was interpreted by Senator Gordon Allott, (R-Colo), as an attempt to pressure the $500 million Central Arizona Project "regardless" of the consequences.

Representative Wayne Aspinall, (D-Colo), chairman of the House Interior Committee commenting on Hayden's letter said he is friendly to Arizona but does want assurance that the future rights of the Upper Basin will not be abrogated. Aspinall assured that his committee will definitely hold hearings on the Central Arizona Project before this session of Congress adjourns.
Secretary Udall's answer to Johnson was brief. He issued a warning on the powerful position of Senator Carl Hayden, (D-Ariz), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee; and he suggested that the states of the Colorado River Basin settle their problems around the conference table rather than taking them to the Supreme Court. He pledged that he will support the Compact and protect Upper Basin interests, while at the same time, seeking to develop Colorado River resources to the fullest.

WATER BOARD AGREES TO WATER SHORTAGE

THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD, meeting in Gunnison on July 12, agreed with former Governor Ed C. Johnson that the state's water supply is threatened by the proposed Central Arizona Project. However, the group did not go along with Johnson's demand that Colorado take its grievances to the Supreme Court of the United States. Raphael J. Moses of Boulder, attorney for the Board, said that litigation as proposed by Johnson "is the poorest way to settle this dispute . . . it will not get us money for our projects . . . we must exert every reasonable effort to work out the solution which must be a guarantee of water into this arid basin from outside sources." This subject will be further pursued at a special meeting of the Board in early August.

In another action the Board resolved to urge Congress to appropriate $586,000 for studies on proposed flood projects in the state. The resolution called for $355,000 for the Corps of Engineers for South Platte studies and $181,000 for the Arkansas River; $20,000 for the U.S.
Soil Conservation Service for watersheds protection and flood prevention under the authority of Public Law 566; and $30,000 for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for companion studies on the Arkansas.

**FIRST COMMERCIAL OIL SHALE PLANT OPERATIONAL**

THE FIRST multimillion-dollar oil shale development project located in Parachute Creek Canyon in Garfield County was unveiled on June 24. The oil shale plant, built by the Colony Development Company was readied for the production of oil in early July. The project is yet on a non-commercial basis but it is paving the way for a larger installation producing about 50,000 barrels of oil daily within three years, Colony officials said. The pilot plant was constructed by the Bechtel Corporation of San Francisco and is operated for Colony by Stearns-Roger Corporation of Denver.

Colony Development is an agent for a joint enterprise including Standard Oil of Ohio, Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company and the Oil Shale Corporation of America. The pilot plant will produce about 700 barrels of oil a day.

**SENATOR DOMINICK BESIEGED BY OPPOSITION TO SWEETWATER PROJECT**

THE WASHINGTON BUREAU of the Pueblo Star-Journal and Chieftain reports that Senator Peter H. Dominick, (R-Colo), says he has been snowed under during the past month with opposition to the proposed construction of the Sweetwater Project north of Glenwood Springs. "I have received a lot of calls violently protesting this project, now before the Federal Power Commission," Dominick said. "People in the area sharply oppose
the construction of the project on the basis that it will jeopardize the wilderness concept of the Flat Top area," Dominick stated. Conservationists opposing the project claim that the two proposed reservoirs would be built to the south of the primitive area in what they claim will one day be included in the area.

PURGATOIRE DAM CONTRACTS OPEN FOR NEGOTIATION

NEGOTIATION OF REPAYMENT CONTRACTS for the Purgatoire River Dam Project began in the Trinidad area in July, according to an announcement by Max Torres, secretary of the Purgatoire Board. Torres said the negotiations will be made jointly by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Conservancy Board. Contracts will be negotiated with the various ditch companies to receive water from the project.

More than $2 million will be available for construction during the present and next fiscal years once the contracts are completed. It is estimated that the project will cost about $24 million and will require four years for construction.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

Chairman Wayne Aspinall (D-Colo), of the House Interior Committee has announced that the Wild Rivers Bill has been shelved for this year. "We don't have time for a hearing on the bill this year, so it will have to go over until the next session," Aspinall said.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced preliminary plans for the development and expansion of the Alamosa Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge, when expanded, will consist of 11,000 acres when the acquisition program is completed. The Refuge, now comprising about 5,000 acres, has many artesian wells and plenty of water. Wildlife experts predict that the area will eventually have a good population of ducks and will provide excellent public hunting.

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The National Resources Planning Act, a bill to establish river basin commissions has passed the House and the Senate and has gone through Conference. The bill also establishes a National Resources Council and encourages river basin commissions to coordinate comprehensive water resource development planning. It would also authorize a ten year - $50 million program of grants to the states to assist in participating in such planning. Conference included a ban on plans for transfer of water between major river basins. The House version of the bill specified in the event the Upper Colorado River Basin is involved, at least three of the four upper basin states must concur in any action designed to place the Upper Basin under an over-all Colorado River Basin Commission. Conference compromises are subject to final passage in the House and Senate.

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Denver Water Board has agreed to furnish Littleton with more than three times as much water in order to relieve the city's shortage resulting from wells being knocked out during the June 16 flood. R. B. McRae, chief engineer of the Board said that Denver will increase water delivery to Littleton from 1.5 million gallons a day to 5.5 million gallons a day.

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The executive committee of the Ground Water Commission has recommended its first general regulation relative to well drilling in the non-tributary ground water areas of the state. These recommendations which were submitted to the state engineer include:

Kiowa Creek, Bijou Creek, Prospect Valley, Badger Creek and Beaver Creek:

New lands - no applications to be approved.

Replacement or supplemental use to existing wells - applications to be approved.

High Plains (Ogalalla) and Baca County:

Applications for replacement or supplemental use within a reasonable distance of present wells will be approved. New well applications will be approved if spaced approximately one-half mile from other large production wells.

San Luis Valley and Big Sandy:

Sufficient data are not now available to make a determination.
George Colburn, senior water resources engineer for the Commission said that most of the above areas have requested ground water designation either by petition or by resolution, and that the Commission would meet at an early date to act upon these requests and initiate proceedings for ground water district formation.

**LEGISLATURE OKs $8.3 MILLION FLOOD AID**

The Colorado Legislature, meeting in special session called by Governor John Love beginning on July 16, passed an $8.3 million flood relief bill which will hike the state motor fuel tax by one cent for a 13 month period. The purpose of the tax is to provide the funds necessary for Colorado's share in re-building highways and bridges washed out by the June floods.

As originally proposed, the special session would have provided flood disaster relief for damages which occurred from June 14 through June 22. As adopted, however, the bill would cover damages occurring from June 14 through July 13 which makes Ouray County and City of Ouray eligible for relief of damages caused by the July 13 flood.

**NEW CONSERVANCY DISTRICT TO BE FORMED**

Dave Miller, Greeley attorney and former member of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, filed a petition in the District Court at Greeley seeking the formation of a new water conservancy district to be called the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District. The petition was filed late in the week of July 11. It is reported that the area of the district will extend principally along the south and east side of the South Platte River from Commerce City easterly to about Roggen.
THROUGH THE WATER METER

The Denver Water Board settled damage claims against Denver by Summit County as the result of construction of Dillon Dam and Reservoir by a $150,000 cash payment. Pending lawsuits will be dismissed . . . A "total service" contract to put Littleton in the Denver Water System is under study . . . Thornton City Council is considering issuing about $1.5 million in water improvement bonds to improve the City's water system . . . Colorado will continue plans for its defense of a lawsuit filed by Kansas to prevent completion of the Clay Creek Dam, near Lamar, which was washed out by the recent flood . . . Aurora City Council is considering the sale of $8 million in bonds to further finance the construction of the Homestake Water Diversion Project . . . United States Ambassador, to Turkey, Raymond A. Hare reports that the United States would contribute $40 million to build the Keban Dam Project on the Euphrates River, according to a report by Ankara radio . . . Denver's domestic water storage has reached an all time record of 400,000 acre-feet. This represents 75 percent of capacity.

YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR apologizes to Colorado City for reporting it as near Colorado Springs instead of 25 miles southwest of Pueblo. He became involved in ancient history. Thanks to Frank S. Hoag, Jr., publisher of the Pueblo Chieftain for this correction.