"Underground water is our last frontier in the field of water development and management. This presents the Colorado Legislature with the opportunity to make one of its greatest contributions toward the welfare of the state of Colorado." (State Senator Frank L. (Ted) Gill, Hillrose- January 19, 1966)

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**COLORADO WATER CONGRESS NEWSLETTER**

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO WATER CONGRESS

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**SOIL GROUP HEARS DOMINY BLAST CRITICS**

"THE NATURAL RESOURCES with which our nation is so richly endowed, are for our use and must be used, if our nation is to realize its full potential for the betterment of man. Wherever possible, they must be utilized in such a manner that multiple benefits may be realized." This challenge was issued to conservationist critics by Floyd E. Dominy, commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, speaking before the twenty-first annual convention of the Colorado Association of Soil Conservation Districts, meeting in Denver on January 5. Dominy's challenge was directed toward national interests who are opposing Bridge and Marble Canyon Dams which are proposed to be a part of the Central Arizona Project. Critics have objected to these projects on the basis that the impoundments would flood Grand Canyon National Monument and other scenic portions of the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

"The ill-advised critics must make water conservation their business and to do this they must be informed. The subconscious attitude of the public seems to be that we must build more dams, provide more flood control,
more water for industrial, domestic and irrigation purposes, more pollution abatement, provide more wet lands for duck hunters, more reservoir fishing and recreation, and **at the same time leave our rivers and streams in their natural state** for the benefit of stream fisherman and the aesthetic enjoyment of generations yet unborn," Dominy said.

WAYNE N. ASPINALL, chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, speaking before the annual banquet of the group held at the Brown Palace on January 5, said "the urgent needs for increased water supplies for many uses will continue to require that we put every drop of water to its highest beneficial use, and it is essential that our water development projects aim toward prevention of disastrous, damaging floods. Small water-shed projects can help prevent the repetition of floods and at the same time provide some of the other greatly needed benefits."

RESOLUTIONS adopted at the convention included among others:

- That the Association go on record as supporting the budget requests for the operation of Colorado State University, its extension service and experimental station and the budget request of the State Department of Agriculture.

- Requesting the Governor and the State Legislature to include soil conservation district boards of supervisors and boards of appeals in the general appropriation for compensation insurance.

- That the Association support legislation for the control of water pollution and that such legislation include a provision that the proposed pollution control commission include a member of the State Agricultural Commission.

- That the Association diligently oppose relinquishment of authority of the Upper Colorado River Commission to the Secretary of the Interior.
The Association re-elected Quincy Cornelius of Hooper as President as well as the other officers and the Board of Directors to serve during the coming year.

MORE WATER FOR THE COLORADO

"The report recently submitted by Tipton and Kalmbach, Denver Consulting Engineers, on a study of the water supplies of the Colorado River conclusively proves what California has been contending for a long time --- there is not enough water in the river." This statement was made by Lowell O. Weeks, general manager and chief engineer for the Coachella Valley County Water District, in an interview in Coachella, California on December 27. Weeks said, "the only answer to the problem is to import more water into the basin." On this point, Weeks urged that all of the seven states of the basin present a united front.

As one solution to the problem, Weeks suggested that the states in the Colorado and Columbia River Basins form a partnership, using the excess power generated at Bonneville Dam to pump surplus waters of the Columbia River into the Colorado. Weeks pointed out that the average annual flow of the Columbia amounts to about 160 million acre-feet and that the sacrifice of 10 million acre-feet would do no harm, if authorizing legislation included "protection of area of origin" clauses. "On the contrary, the amount of money that the Colorado Basin would have to pay for this power, would divert large sums of money into the Columbia Basin for local economy development," Weeks said.

Regarding the proposed Central Arizona Project, Weeks said that
there is no question that Central Arizona is desperate for water and is entitled to its share from the Colorado River under the provisions of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Arizona vs California. "The project must be built," Weeks contended, "but authorizing legislation should contain provisions for studies on imports; and on this point the Colorado Basin states must stand together."

CONSERVANCY DISTRICT FORMED

THE CENTRAL COLORADO WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT has cleared all legal obstacles and is now a going concern. The district includes land under the Henrylyn Irrigation District, Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company, Burlington Reservoir Land and Ditch Company, and the Fulton Irrigation District, all on the east side of the South Platte River, and lands on the west side of the river under the Brantner Ditch. Incorporated towns in the district include Keenesburg, Hudson and Fort Lupton. Officers of the organization which were appointed by the court include: C. H. Starks of Keenesburg, president; Mel Sarchet of Fort Lupton, vice president; Rollo Shaklee of Keenesburg, secretary; and R. V. Rouse of Hudson, treasurer. The board of directors appointed David Miller of Greeley as attorney and Mills Bunger of Denver as consulting engineer.

At its first meeting in December the district adopted resolutions ordering negotiations with the Denver Water Board for the use of its facilities for the diversions of western slope water under filings owned by the district on streams supplying Dillon Reservoir. Another re-
solution directed that the district take such steps as are necessary to perfect its filings on Cherry Creek Reservoir. The district stressed its intention to cooperate with the Denver Water Board and other water agencies. As to the controversial Central Arizona Project, the district voted to support the project authorization bill conditioned upon a demand that all feasible projects on both the eastern slope and the western slope be concurrently authorized in the bill. A resolution was also adopted indicating its interest in the acquisition of conservation storage in the proposed Chatfield Dam Project.

STATE SENATOR PROPOSES NEW WATER LAW

FRANK L. (TED) GILL of Hillrose has announced that he will introduce and push for enactment a new water law designed to rectify the conflicts now existing between holders of well and surface water diversion rights, and at the same time get the highest efficiency possible from both the surface and underground available water supplies. The principle points of Gill's proposals are:

- Every appropriator of water shall use, in a diligent manner, such methods and equipment as ditches, dams, headgates, wasteways, pumps, wells, measuring devices and supplemental points of diversion where necessary to capture such appropriators full decrees before placing a call on junior appropriators.

- In no event shall any appropriator be entitled to divert more water than the total amount of his decreed water rights except at times when all other decreed water rights are satisfied and have released their call on the river. The state engineer shall administer this law and may promulgate rules and regulations not inconsistent with law to aid in its enforcement.

- The intent of this law is to protect the vested rights of all appropriators to the extent that conservation practices will increase the total supply of water available to all water users.
1965 IN REVIEW

THE YEAR 1965 saw the passage of significant state water laws; a disastrous flood occurred in June; and a controversy developed over the introduction of legislation authorizing the Colorado River Basin Project which includes the controversial Central Arizona Project.

State legislation passed included:

- House Bill 1066 which placed jurisdiction of tributary underground water under the State Engineer in accordance with the right of priority of appropriation.

- Senate Bill 367 which provides for the appropriation of designated ground water and the formation of designated ground water basins, with provisions for the creation of ground water management districts subject to local control.

- Senate Bill 22 which provides that allowances be made for evaporation from reservoirs and specifying that releases must be made from water in storage to compensate for such evaporation.

Other significant happenings in 1965:

- H.R. 4671 was introduced in the National Congress which would authorize the construction of the Central Arizona Project for the purpose of diverting 1.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water annually into Central Arizona. The bill precipitated much controversy between the seven states based on sectional issues arising from heavy water demands and recognized water shortages. Many meetings between the various interests have been held since. Reports are that unanimity is being realized, based upon an agreement for basin-wide support to a provision in the bill authorizing a feasibility study of a project to import needed water into the Colorado River. Colorado representatives are asking that the bill include provisions authorizing the Animas-La Plata, the Dolores, the West Divide and the Dallas Creek Projects for the purpose of putting Colorado's share of water to use according to the provisions of the Colorado River Compact.

- The Colony Development Corporation completed and placed in operation a pilot oil shale processing plant in Parachute Canyon above Grand Junction. The pilot plant will produce about 700 barrels of oil per day.

- On June 16 the Arkansas and South Platte Valleys suffered the
greatest flood damage in history resulting from torrential cloudbursts in the tributaries. The total damage was estimated at $600 million.

- The Colorado Water Conservation Board approved the Chatfield Dam flood control project on the South Platte above Denver.

- Congress appropriated in excess of $40 million for reclamation projects in Colorado for fiscal 1966-67.

- The Colorado Ground Water Commission set wheels in motion to designate the Kiowa-Bijou Basins as a "Designated Ground Water Basin" according to the provisions of S.B. 367.

- Congress authorized the creation of a 10,000 acre-foot minimum conservation pool in John Martin Reservoir for recreational purposes. Where the water to maintain this pool is to come from is yet in question.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

The construction schedule of three Western Slope tunnels as part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project has been set back until 1968. President Johnson has asked that fiscal 1967 domestic budgets be cut in the face of growing military needs. Senator Clinton Anderson (New Mexico) has revealed that similar cutbacks were being made in other programs throughout the nation.

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The Fourth American Society of Civil Engineer's Water Resources Engineering Conference will be held in Denver on May 15-21. The group's membership includes engineers active in water research and planning. The theme of the conference will be to study methods of preserving the nation's limited water supply to take care of expanding population, agriculture and industry. Attendance is expected to exceed 1,000 engineers coming from all parts of the United States.

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The High Mountain Waterline Company has announced that the construction of the firm's water treatment, transmission and storage system in northern Colorado will get underway in February. The project is estimated to cost $20 million to be paid for by bond issues, the first of which is for $6.5 million to be placed by F. S. Moseley and Co., of New York and Boston. It was announced by Phillip W. Ray, executive vice president of the firm, that approximately 44,000 acre-feet of water for the project will come from two sources: Diversions from the
upper waters of the Yampa River on the Western Slope and from perfected rights on the headwaters of the Boulder, Left Hand and St. Vrain Creeks on the Eastern Slope. Broomfield was the first city to approve signing a contract with the firm, calling for a payment of \(32\frac{1}{2}c\) per 1000 gallons for the water.

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A. Ralph Owens, acting state engineer, in a talk before the January meeting of the Colorado Association of Soil Conservation Districts outlined a new regulation concerning plans and specifications for the construction of livestock water tanks in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1941. The new regulations state: (1) A berm will not be required on stock-water dams having an upstream slope of 3 horizontal to 1 vertical or flatter; (2) Outlet pipes in stock-water dams will not be specifically required, except where, in the opinion of the State Engineer, there is possible interference with other stock-water dams or decreed irrigation rights; (3) The law pertaining to livestock water tanks does not apply to water "pits" and they should not be filed as stock-water tanks.

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Governor John Love has placed legislation for the control of air and water pollution on the docket of the 1966 legislative assembly. Love's call also included legislation permitting flood plain zoning by cities, towns, and regional planning agencies.

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A five-year experiment by University of Chicago scientists indicates that rain made by cloud-seeding for one farmer may deprive another one of moisture 50 miles downwind . . . In the same category is speculation that the supersonic transports of the future may have adverse effect on the weather. The Christian Science Monitor, departing from its customary cheerful tone, says the supersonic transports will fly at 65,000 to 70,000 feet and their exhausts will spew water vapor into the very dry slice of stratosphere. This will build up thin cirrus clouds, which in itself is no problem, but water vapor absorbs some of the sun's heat and the absorption could change the atmosphere's temperature structure. And that in turn could change the circulation of air. And even
small changes in air circulation could have long-range impact on the climate. (Salt Lake Tribune)

Floyd Dominy, Reclamation Bureau Chief, reports, however, that experiments in cloud-seeding conducted by the Bureau show that the outlook is "encouraging." The Bureau's weather modification program began in 1961 with a $100,000 appropriation increasing to an amount in excess of $2 million.

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The Colorado Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting in Denver on January 9, formally adopted a grass-root resolution opposing the construction of Bridge and Marble Canyon Dams on the Lower Colorado River which are proposed to be a phase of the Central Arizona Project.

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THROUGH THE WATER METER

The Colorado Department of Game, Fish and Parks has approved an action to hire the Public Relations Firm of Frye, Sills and Bridges, Inc., of Denver, to improve the Commission's image following the sting of recent state-wide criticism. The tab -- $3,200 . . . .

Governor John Love has asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to postpone releases of water from the flood pool at John Martin Reservoir in southeastern Colorado until March 1 . . . In a meeting with Governor Love, U.S. Senator Paul Fannin (Ariz) said "there must be a program of basin-wide unity not only for the development of the Central Arizona Project but for the development of water projects in the Upper Basin States, and that eventually additional water must be imported into the Colorado River Basin" . . . The Bureau of Reclamation awarded a
$1,070,039 contract to the Schmidt Construction of Aurora to build a new section of County Road 104 north of Ruedi Reservoir . . . Representative Wayne Aspinall (Colo) says he is optimistic about chances of resolving differences among the states and getting authorization of the Colorado River Basin Project in the 1966 session of Congress . . .

Colorado City says it now has a dependable and adequate supply of water for a community of 25,000 persons . . . On the borders of Israel and the Arab states, tensions are growing and troops are maneuvering over that most precious of man's essentials -- water -- which both nations are diverting from streams that flow into the Sea of Galilee . . . The town of Aspen is facing serious water and sewage problems . . . The Bureau of Reclamation has announced that contracts for power generated at Glen Canyon Dam total 650,000 kilo-watts as of January 1, 1966 . . . Phoenix, Arizona took a pounding during heavy storms in late December . . . The first major transmountain diversion in Colorado was started September 1, 1890 to take water from the headwaters of the Laramie River and transport it to Chambers Lake located on the headwaters of the Cache la Poudre . . . A completely automatic irrigation system controlled from the farmhouse by radio signals has been developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture . . . The entire five-member Board of Directors of the Monte Vista Water Users Association has been re-elected for one-year terms. The stockholders approved a $2 increase in the annual assessment bringing the total to $13.50 per share . . . Walter U. Garstka, head of the new office of
Atmospheric Water Resources Research in the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, retired on December 30, 1965. Jefferson County Planning Commission has given conditional approval to a proposed site across from O'Fallon Park for a sewage treatment plant for the Kittredge Sanitation District. The city of Brighton has instructed City Manager Ron Hellbusch to begin a feasibility study into establishing additional water wells and building a water softening plant.

George Cranmer, former Denver Manager of public works, is continuing his vigorous program of opposition to the proposed Chatfield Dam. Cranmer is pushing for flood control at Two Forks and increasing the size of the South Platte channel through Denver to take care of Plum Creek. Harvey O. Banks, president of Leeds, Hill and Jewett Inc., consulting engineers, says that water will be an unsolved problem as long as the American people worry about who owns it. California's Colorado River Association and the Central Arizona Project Association have opened a joint information office in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Health, Education and Welfare Department officials have expressed that residue left by closed-down uranium mills in Colorado poses a radioactive pollution hazard in streams that can last for generations.

The Cochiti Indian Pueblo has signed an agreement with the Corps of Engineers giving the Corps an easement to the land needed for authority to build a $50 million dam on the lower Rio Grande near Cochiti, New Mexico. Boyles Brothers Construction Company of Salt Lake City, Utah submitted the low bid of $6.3 million to build the 5-mile Oso Tunnel.
and two diversion dams near Pagosa Springs which will be a part of the San Juan-Chama Project in southwestern Colorado. Felix L. Sparks, director of the Colorado Conservation Board, said that if Colorado should uncompromisingly oppose the Colorado River Basin Project (Central Arizona) such a position would in all probability jeopardize future federal water development projects for this state. Representative Wayne Aspinall (Colo), chairman of the House Interior Committee, said he had no plans to push the Administration's Wild River Bill. (Rocky Mountain News - January 16, 1966). Department of Interior has approved a uniform rate of $7 per acre-foot for diversions of water for municipal and industrial use from mainstem CRSP Reservoirs.

A supplement to the Newsletter reporting on State legislation and action of the Colorado Water Conservation Board regarding the Colorado River Basin Project (Central Arizona) will be submitted during mid-February.
COLORADO WATER CONGRESS
ANNUAL MEETING
CENTRAL CITY ROOM - BROWN PALACE HOTEL - DENVER
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1966

Program

10:00 A.M. - Opening Remarks
   J. R. Barkley, Chairman, Colorado Water Congress

10:15 A.M. - "Colorado's Position on the Proposed Lower
   Colorado River Basin Project Legislation"
   Speaker - Felix Sparks, Director
   Colorado Water Conservation Board

11:00 A.M. - Business Session
   Consideration of Resolutions

11:30 A.M. - "An Appraisal of Colorado's Water Program"
   Speaker - The Honorable John A. Love
   Governor of Colorado

12:15 P.M. - Luncheon - Brown Palace Ballroom
   "Can There Be Peace Along the Colorado?"
   Speaker - Lawrence Mehren, Phoenix, Chairman
   Central Arizona Project Association

2:00 P.M. - "Progress Report on the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project"
   Speaker - James L. Ogilvie, Project Manager

2:30 P.M. - "Water Pollution and the Water User"
   Speaker - William N. Gahr, Chief Engineer and
   Director of the Division of Engineering and
   Sanitation, Colorado Department of Public Health

3:00 P.M. - Business Session
   Report of Committee on Nominations
   Election of Officers and Executive Committee

Luncheon tickets will be available for $2.50 at
the registration desk outside the Central City Room
beginning at 9:00 A.M. Please purchase your luncheon
tickets as you arrive for the opening session so that
we can have an accurate count of attendance.

A joint breakfast of the Rules and Executive
committees will be held in the Georgetown Room of the
Brown Palace Hotel at 8:00 A.M. on February 10, to con­
sider resolutions for presentation to the annual meeting.