Thank you, Roger, to all the distinguished people on the platform & in the audience—

To name would take the entire 3 min allotted to me.

It's always good to meet again with our many friends in the Columbia Basin.

Although

In my present job, I am concerned with the problems and the progress of more than 150 reclamation projects throughout the western United States.
But I would be less than honest if I did not admit that the Columbia Basin Project holds a special spot in my mind and heart.

I began my Reclamation career in the Pacific Northwest Regional Office in 1946 and spent much time for a decade
OR MORE WORKING WITH MANY OF YOU WHO ARE HERE TODAY — AND MANY WHO ARE NOT TO HELP BRING THE PEOPLE AND THE WATER TO THIS DRY BUT FERTILE LAND.

THE FIRST PROJECT IRRIGATION WATER BECAME AVAILABLE IN ABOUT 1948. IT BLOCKS 1 AND 2 OF) WENT TO THE SOUTH DISTRICT, AND HAS WHICH WERE
SERVED BY PUMPING FROM THE RIVER BLOCKS 1 AND 2. A PUBLIC

NOTICE HAD BEEN ISSUED ANNOUNCING THAT

THE AVAILABILITY OF SOME 35 FARM UNITS TO QUALIFIED FARMERS, A

BECAUSE

DRAWING HAD BEEN HELD TO SELECT THE

LUCKY WINNERS.

FIRST PROJECT FARMERS.
About 2½ years later, in mid-1951, the first test water flowed into the main canal from Banks Lake toward the waiting farmland. There followed a slow but steady process of water coming to more and more land each year.
Much of my time was devoted to project development problems. These involved numerous meetings and negotiations with irrigation district officials and others. When I transferred to Washington, D.C., my duties continued...
TO KEEP ME IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT AND THE EFFECT OF CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING PERSONALITIES, AND CHANGING POLICIES. EVEN WITH ALL THESE CHANGES AND SOME DISAPPOINTMENTS, THE COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT HAS BECOME ONE OF THE SHOW PLACES OF THE IRRIGATED WEST. AS YOU WELL KNOW,
The Columbia Basin Project was planned to irrigate more than a million acres of land, but initial construction of some of the key structures like the Second Bacon Siphon and Tunnel permitted deliveries to little more than half that amount.
In the early sixties, the prospects for completion of the project were not very bright. In 1963, project appropriations reached an all-time low. That was the year the Columbia Basin Development League was born.
Without reciting all that has subsequently taken place and the names of numerous individuals who have worked so consistently and effectively since then, let me summarize by saying that the approach to development which has made possible this ceremony today has come about through the cooperative.
Efforts of the Development League, the Irrigation District Officials, the dedicated members of the State's Congressional Delegation, and the supportive efforts of the Governor and the State Legislature. All have played important roles. I congratulate you all.

Thank you.
REMARKS BY
COMMISSIONER STAMM
AT THE BACON SIPHON GROUNDBREAKING
OCTOBER 9, 1976

It's always good to meet again with my many friends in the
Columbia Basin.

As Commissioner of Reclamation I am concerned with the problems
and the progress of more than 150 Reclamation projects throughout
the Western United States, but I would be less than truthful if I
did not admit that the Columbia Basin Project holds a special spot
in my mind and in my heart.
I began my Reclamation career in the Boise Regional office in 1946 and spent about a decade working with many of you who are here today—and many who are not—to help bring the people and the water to this dry but fertile land.

I was assistant regional supervisor of operation and maintenance, in about 1948. It went when the first project irrigation water became available to the South District by pumping from the Columbia River to Blocks 1 & 2. A public notice had been issued announcing the availability of farm units to qualified veterans. Because of the strong demand for farms, a drawing had been held to select the first farmers on the project.
About two years later, in mid-1951, the first test water flowed into the main canal from Banks Lake toward the waiting farmland. There followed a slow but steady process of water coming to more and more land each year.

A great share of my time was devoted to helping get the first stage of the Columbia Basin Project underway. This involved numerous meetings and negotiations with irrigation district officials and others. When I was transferred to Washington, D.C., my duties continued to keep me in close touch with the Columbia Basin Project and the effect of changing times, changing personalities, and changing policies. Even with all these changes and
some disappointments, the Columbia Basin Project has become one of the showplaces of the irrigated West.

As you all know, the Columbia Basin Project was planned to irrigate deliver water to more than a million acres of land, but initial construction of some of the key structures allowed deliveries to only about half that amount.

In the early sixties, the prospects for completion of the project were not very bright. In 1963, appropriations for the Columbia Basin Project had dwindled to an all-time low. That was the year the Columbia Basin Development League was born.

Without reciting all that has subsequently taken place and the names of the individuals who have worked so tirelessly since then,
let me summarize by saying that the approach to development which has made possible today's ceremony has come about through diligent and cooperative efforts of the League, your local Irrigation District officials, the dedicated members of the State's Congressional delegation—and the superlative efforts of the Governor of Washington. All have played important roles.

I congratulate you all.