June 24, 1969

Mr. Bill Nelson
Daily Sentinel
634 Main Street
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Dear Bill:

Here is some information on Ruedi Reservoir:

Reservoir spill occurred at 5:35 o'clock in the afternoon, Saturday, June 21.

They continue to spill with approximately 1.5 feet over crest of spillway. The plan is to lower water level below crest by Friday, June 27 and maintain this elevation.

Yours truly,

Don Smith
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
REGION 7
DENVER, COLORADO

Cassai
233-3611, Ext. 3088
June 24, 1969

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S RUEDI RESERVOIR FILLS FOR FIRST TIME

Ruedi Reservoir, one of the most attractive man-made lakes in Colorado, filled for the first time Monday (June 23) to a capacity of 101,000 acre-feet.

Created by the Bureau of Reclamation as a key Western Slope feature of the transmountain Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, the reservoir actually was allowed to spill a few hours down a concrete spillway into the Fryingpan River.

The spillway is on the right abutment of Ruedi Dam, an earthfill structure rising 285 feet above the Fryingpan -- 14 miles east of Basalt and 40 miles southeast of Glenwood Springs.

At capacity the reservoir -- set in a red earth bowl against a background of light green aspen and darker pines, fir and spruce -- covers 1,000 surface acres providing a 12-mile shoreline.

Construction of Ruedi Dam, 1,050 feet long at the crest, got under way in 1964 and initial storage was started last spring. Storage of 47,000 acre-feet was achieved in December 1968.
The reservoir will provide replacement storage on the Western Slope for water to be diverted from the upper Fryingpan drainage through the Continental Divide via the 5.4 mile Divide Tunnel to Turquoise Lake west of Leadville, thence to the Arkansas River.

The tunnel, recently holed through, soon will be lined with concrete and is expected to divert the spring runoff of 1971.

James M. Ingles, Director of the Bureau of Reclamation's Region 7 in Denver, said the spill Monday (June 23) was allowed to flow at about 100 cubic feet per second by regulating the outlet works.

Those at the scene with Ingles included Harold H. Christy of Pueblo, an early supporter of the Fry-Ark, past president of the National Reclamation Association and a member of the board of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District; Project Manager James L. Ogilvie of Pueblo; Construction Engineer Howard E. McInnis of Salida, and James Folkestad of Glenwood Springs, Supervisor of the White River National Forest.

Ruedi, pronounced ("rue-dye"), is named for John Ruedi, a Swiss bachelor who homesteaded the area about 1897. The community of Ruedi served as a water-tank stop and depot for the old Colorado Midland Railroad which spanned the Continental Divide between Leadville, Aspen and Glenwood Springs.

In addition to ranching John Ruedi turned the swampy part of his acreage into fish ponds from which he sold trout to railroad diningcar chefs. A two-story fishermen's lodge later was built nearby. The Fryingpan is a top trout fishery.
Recreation facilities at Ruedi were constructed and are managed by the Forest Service, which takes great pride in the layout. Included are three campgrounds that will accommodate a total of 58 family units, a 500 by 72-foot concrete ramp that will permit three simultaneous boat launchings, boat docks and a parking lot that will accommodate 150 car-trailer units.

More camping and other recreation facilities will be developed at a later date.

The three existing campgrounds, incidentally, are named "Little Maud," "Molly B" and "Little Mattie," perhaps for a miner's girlfriend, wife or one of the many gold-silver mines in the area.