Editor;

Regarding article on front page of Sentinel Oct 26, 1962 titled Ruedi Dam will not hold water! It is quite true that sink holes may suddenly appear in Gypsum formation but this Gyp hill is quite a distance upstream from the proposed dam that is to be built below the mouth of the canyon in the Red Sandstone formation.

This Gyp which is north of the Frying Pan river evidently does penetrate to the south under the river or the river and the Colo. Midland R.R. would have gone underground many long years ago. Also if it does not extend to the west under the sandstone it should not affect the dam as far as leakage is concerned. Gyp hill will extend into the north west part of the reservoir but there is little chance of enough of it being dissolved at any time to effect one hundred thousand acre feet of water.

This site has been surveyed three different times to my knowledge, the first time being some time before or soon after the Midland R.R. ceased operations in mid summer of 1918. Another site was surveyed a short distance above Norrie at the same time. Core drilling has also been done so that the Reclamation Bureau must have a pretty thorough knowledge of the area formation or they wouldn't have given their OK to go ahead with the project. However if further drilling should prove the site not feasible, perhaps the dam could be built above Norrie where there is a wider large bowl that would hold a considerable body of water but how many acre feet, I have no idea.

There is desperate need of this water for the development of Western Colorado as even at the present time there is not enough water in the Colorado River during dry months to furnish daily needs below DeBeque canyon.

The Western Slope is jam packed with Natural Resources. Beginning at the top there is solid granite, which came up from the bottom, then a pure grade of Blue Limestone and next down the valley a splendid red sandstone from which many of the pioneer buildings were erected, then Basalt Rock and also Marble. All are used for building material and other uses. A very good grade of plaster was made from the Gyp Hill at Ruedi and shipped by rail from 1908 on for several years.

Then there is Iron Ore presently being quarried in the Aspen district and plenty of Silver left untouched in the Lime formation. Vanadium, Uranium, Zinc, Timber, Agriculture and tremendous quantities of Coal and Oil Shale as well as oil producing Gas wells and the processing of Gilsonite all of which require water before they are ready for market. YOU NAME IT, WE HAVE IT.

When Oil Companies start processing Oil Shale, perhaps in the not too distant future, there will be a tremendous increase in population which will require ever increasing amounts of WATER and since Operation Reservoir has the green light let us hope that it will GO GO GO! along with immediate reactivation of the Oil Shale experimental Plant at Anvil Points below Rifle.

There are two splendid pictures of the Ruedi area on page two of The Daily Sentinel dated March 19, 1959. Top pic. is looking down stream to where Rocky Fork creek enters the Frying Pan from the left just beyond the bend at the foot of old snow slide areas in the back ground. The Ruedi Dam is planned at a point up stream from there toward camera) Bottom picture is from mouth of canyon looking up stream with Ruedi in back ground beyond and to left of timber. Gyp Hill is first small to left of Ruedi and the leaky Pond Creek is away off from left center of picture entirely out of view.

The Reservoir would extend from a short distance down stream from view in bottom pic. up past Ruedi to about Meredith a distance of approximately four miles. Highway would be routed from several miles down the canyon to the north or left side of reservoir going upstream.

The Dam as planned will be 270 feet high with length of crest 1,050 feet with active reservoir capacity of 100,000 acre feet.

If you would publish those two pictures again with this information, I'm sure many hundreds of visitors to this area would get a clear picture of the entire project.

Sincerely yours, Geo. W. McFaren