

STATE OF COLORADO
IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4
MONTROSE

FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
P. O. BOX 15

Nov. 30, 1959

SUBJECT:

ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. J. E. Whitten,
State Engineer.
Denver, Colo.

Dear Sir:

I herewith submit my annual report. The irrigation season of 1959 was somewhat unusual in that the expected drouth condition for August and September did not occur. We did, however, have a severe water shortage take place in July. It happened in such a time that there was no apparent crop damage. It did, however, cause some problems to arise, which in some instances could not be disolved immediately, as we shall state in the District paragraphs following. With the exception of July, water supply was adequate and even abundant and the growing season was unusually good. Crop yields appear excellent in quality and quantity. Livestock is reported excellent in weight for market.

Water District 28

Mr. Hicks averaged about ten days each month from May through September. We are therefore going to furnish him books and sheets for the 1960 season. Mr. Hicks is probably the commissioner with the most tenure of office in the State of Colorado. He was appointed Water Commissioner by Gov. Peabody in 1902. He actively managed a cattle and hay ranch until 1958. This the first ~~year~~ season since I have been Div. Engineer Mr. Hicks has worked this much. While he submitted no written report, we are able to give some or most of the statistics for his district.

Water District 40

Toward the end of the season, there was some repair or rehabilitation work done on several dams. The Vela Reservoir Dam has been brought up to its original height, we are informed. We were resent during installation of portions of the new outlet conduit. We are very happy to see

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the important
this done as in times past there was some question as to whether or not with inadequate freeboard, a poor spillway located in light sand, and a pipe which could carry about 40% of the diurnal peak flow, the structure would stand up or fail. As we understand it, there is some work to be done yet, however the important and major portions are done.

The Beaver Dam Reservoir Dam remains untested as it only filled to about 45 feet in depth. Expected leakage in the West abutment took place, with no apparent damage or trouble occurring. Storage will be held to a gage height of 75 or 80 feet next season with an inspection during the filling season when the water is approaching maximum storage point.

The Granby # 11 Reservoir Dam was breached and a new conduit laid. A large body of peat or muck was removed across the front or upstream section and replaced with sound earth. Due to the lateness of the season, work was suspended before completion. Water which would normally fill their reservoirs will be stored in Granby # 12.

The Kiser Reservoir Dam was rebuilt during the season, and is in good shape for storage next year.

The Big Battlement Reservoir Dam was repaired under very adverse conditions. Fortunately, frost was not one of them. Engineer Morrill and his assistant, Mr. Cannon, supervised the work. A core trench was excavated down into impervious material in the foundation and sloped and backfilled with oil-well bentonite and earth mixed together. We will fill with caution this next year. However we believe that no further trouble should develop at this point.

The above paragraph pretty well covers repair work on storage dams in Water District 40.

In regard to ditches and flow, we experienced little trouble except on two creeks. On Oak Creek two sets of water users have, it appears, more or less changed the course of either Oak Creek or of Doughspoon Creek. Both parties worked on the junction point with axes, shovels and rock work. Since the original channel is the creek, and the other an undecreed diversion

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and we were not present prior to the appropriation, we asked the parties to go to court and get a decree of some sort to settle the matter.

The other flow question was on Young's Creek and involved the question of getting natural flow past the reservoirs. (This same question and the same people go to bat every second or third year. We will presume that in 1961 or 1962 it will come up again, and that time we intend to jump with one foot instead of two into the middle of the situation.)

Water District 41

(In this District) there was a good supply of water except for a three-week period in July. From about the tenth of July to the thirty first, we had some shortage due to the Uncompahgre River falling off in flow. Late in July and during August, sufficient rain fell to alleviate any real ~~***~~ harm.

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association had a critical period for some ^{four} ~~two~~ weeks in ~~early~~ May, then on June 1st the supply to individuals ^{was raised} ~~was~~ to 100 percent, and reached a minimum of 60 percent on July 17. When the rains fell, they were general ^{the} and flow increased, ^{after which} and deliveries were increased to 95 percent ~~on~~ Aug. 6. ~~Later~~ Later, on Sept. 6 it was necessary to cut to 80 percent and finally on Sept. 17 ^{they raised} ~~was~~ were ~~cut~~ back to 100% of delivery.

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The Big and Little Buckhorn Reservoir Dams were inspected and it was found necessary to recommend that after 1960 repairs be made on the Big Buckhorn Dam. The Little Buckhorn is still in good shape. We presume that with a little prodding the plans will be sent to your office this winter.

Water District 42

Some work has been done on several reservoir dams, ~~at the request of Mr. Spannagle~~ in Water District 42, of which in some instances we were requested to inspect. We inspected The Thompson #2 Reservoir Dam Enlargement on Pinon Mesa, at the request of Mr. Spannagle from the Glenwood Soil Conservation Office. He had a copy of the plans with him. Measurements and inspection revealed the structure to have been built quite at variance with the approved plans. While we recommended testing the structure by storage, we can only say that while it may prove safe for storage, it was not built according to the approved plans.

The Town of Palisade has rebuilt their Cabin Reservoir Dam to approved plans and to date has given no trouble that we are aware of, and at present we do not anticipate further trouble.

The Vega Reservoir is approaching completion and the delivery works are progressing nicely and may possibly permit some water delivery to be made in 1960.

The Coon Creek # 3 Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation has been completed. It was completed, however, just prior to the second snow storm, and I was not notified until afterward. With the exception of the walkway to the outlet valve control, the project appears to comply with the plans. We now recommend full storage.

Work is uncompleted on the Long Slough Reservoir Dam, but progressing.

We had one unusual problem on Lower Coon Creek. A man who owns no interest in a Junior ditch and uses no water from it, dammed off the creek a few feet above the shut and locked headgate

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and hand dug a ditch around the headgate, diverted the entire flow of the creek into the ditch. He did this in front of Deputy Commissioner Bieser, who did his very best to talk the party out of committing the act. The Commissioner filed a complaint with the help of the District Attorney. The Sheriff served the warrent. The man hired a rather competent attorney and was let on \$350. bail. To make a long story short, he still is. The res-
Resolution?
olution of the problem is not in sight at the present. A civil action on the part of the senior user who ~~was~~ was deprived of his water is the probable or eventual answer. About all we can say is our Criminal Procedure in such a case is not only very unsatisfactory, but very poor.

Water District 59

Due to Commissioner Koch taking X-ray treatments in Denver during the month of July, Commissioner Glendenning, (District 41) and myself worked out a method of substituting for Mr. Koch. We made quite a discovery, that is, one must regulate water by starting at the down-stream end of the section to be worked and move upstream, making such regulations as needed. Not following such procedure merely adds to Junior Appropriators' between the point where needed and where turned downstream. Mr. Koch has installed several new flumes and headgates on East River and Slate Creek, between Almont and Crested Butte.

Water District 60

Each year a few more persons ask for administration in this District. Commissioner Sullivan had a bad time with Maverick Draw this year. In August the stream simply dried up and was so short of water that it was not possible to help any decree out. We received one complaint and met the man complaining and went over the system with him in person. The man was satisfied when our survey was over, that he had almost no water because that was the way it really was. (The Commissioner took a dim view of having a young man about one half his age questioning his judgement. How ^{ever} everyone cooled off when it rained. That ended the trouble.)

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Discontinuing the two gages above and below the Gurley removed two bad problems for us. It has also cut down on a lot of local discontent. The lawsuit has bogged down and the chances are, it will be settled. (Once it became clear that the water officials were not interested in dividing water below the headgate and that the measuring devices installed under our advise work, a great deal of int^erest was lost.)

Water District 61

Only 427 acre feet of storage were acquired by the Buckeye Reservoir. This is approximately 20% of its storage capacity. Flow was not a great deal better. We recommended a Parshall Flume to solve the only measuring problem in this district this year. The flume, duly installed, is about three miles over in Utah in what we locally call the 'lap land'. This particular problem involved an appropriation in Utah, delivered via Paradox Creek in Colorado.

Water District 62

Due to a protest about Mr. Koch's administration of Pine Creek, we find that we have an entire priority list in the 1913 general Adjudication to revise. For some reason, not clear to us, the Court did not list the prioritys in ^{the} order reported by the Referee. Although the Court approved his findings and report and made them specifically part of the adjudication decree. It is quite possible that an appeal may be made with your office for a hearing before this is over. It is further possible a suit may result, although we believe we may be able to hold it off by presenting a more attractive alternative.

Water District 63

This is a very small district and is being well taken care of with a minimum of time. The Commissioner is doing the work in 50 to 55 days per annum. Once Parshall flumes were installed on West Creek, there were no serious problems.

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We enjoyed the work a major portion of this year, and feel we have made some improvements.
We hope to continue.

Very Truly Yours,

Frederick W. Paddock
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Annual Tabulation of
Water Commissioner Reports for
Irrigation Division No. 4
State of Colorado
Reservoir Report

Water District Number	No. of Reservoir Decrees in the Water District	No. of Reservoirs Administered	Amount of Storage on June 15, in Acre Feet	Amount of Storage delivered during the season in Acre Feet	Amount of holdover storage November 1, in Acre Feet
28	5	2	2,775	410	None
40	439	154	28,785	28,785	890
41	6	4	724	69,714	None
42	470	60	16,566	9,970	8,913
59	5	2	104,100	69,600	34,410
60	73	2	11,000	8,780	2,220
61	None	1	None	427	None
62	6	5	1,675	1,075	600
63	4	4	468	439	None
68	14	12	859	305	420
Total for Division No. 4	1,022	246	166,952	189,505	47,453

Annual Tabulation of
Water Commissioner Reports for
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Ditch Report

Water District Number	No. of Ditches in the Water District	No. of Ditches Administered	Amount of Water in Acre Feet delivered	Daily Amount of Water run in Second feet	No. of Days water was run	No. of Irrigated Acres in the Water District
28	8	11				
439	No report	of amount of water run			160	30,625
40	1,520	482	309,599	848	365	152,600
41	222	89	648,213	888	365	97,594
42	1,434	206	51,396 1,117,373	43 1,531	365	139,711
59	635	60	report incomplete at this date		245	39,204
60	454	24	52,300	122	214	41,386
61	59	14	4,490	6.15	365	5,934
62	332	42	Report incomplete at this date		365	21,037
63	114	21	2,044 5,288	2.80 7.24	365	992
68	380	138	95,790	239	200	25,943
Total for Division No. 4	5,597	1,086	2,266,493	3,687	365	555,646