

STATE OF COLORADO

IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. 4

MONTROSE

FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
P. O. BOX 18

SUBJECT:

November 25, 1960

Annual Report

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

Dear Mr. Whitten:

I herewith submit my annual report:--

For several reasons, some of which I can readily point out, the irrigation season of 1960 is somewhat unusual and different from any season I can recall. In some ways the 1960 season was different from others to the point of being in a way unique. It was a year in which we had considerable trouble, one in which we had an adequate amount of water supply for the season for the most part, and yet by July 15th, the Public Domain and Forest lands were parched deserts at all altitudes. We had a few fires, and fire danger for quite some time. We had two spotted areas which received light rains on Grand Mesa during a seventy-day period, starting in early July and ending in mid-September. No doubt there were other local showers in the area of Division 4, but I was not privileged to enjoy them.

We had the chronic water shortages in water district 28, but no particular individual problems.

Water District 40 had a lot of problems. First of all in early spring, Commissioner Robinson of Cedaredge had a coronary heart and brain thrombosis simultaneously. I am happy to report at this time that he is much improved, and that next year he should be able to do the greater part of his field work. I have taken him on two trips to high altitudes with his Doctor's consent and blessing, and except for making him pretty tired the trips did not appear to harm him. For 60 days this summer I had to perform his field work as well as my own. The majority of his deputies went all out to help him, and are to be commended for their efforts, in successfully keeping down controversies and general problems.

In view of the above, I moved my house trailer up on Grand Mesa at a point from which it would be convenient to serve both water districts 40 and 42, and spent as much time as was possible assisting Mr. Robinson's deputies on Grand Mesa, and Mr. Saunders, Commissioner of District 42.

We inspected the Battlement and Granby Reservoirs with Deputy Commissioner Frank Peterson. Repairs on the Big Battlement Dam appear to be serving as they should and we recommend full storage again. Granby #7 should in the near future be considered for rehabilitation.

We observed no dangerous leakage from this structure, but it is deteriorating in appearance rather rapidly at present. The crest and slopes and valve pedestal show old age and neglect.

Granby #12 appears excellent in all respects. Granby #11 was being rebuilt

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IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
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SUBJECT:

at the time of our trip. Granby #1 ^{needs some repairs} ~~should be rehabilitated.~~

For a number years sufficient work was performed in the Ward and Kiser, ^{and Young} ~~Gottenwood~~ Creek areas that all of the dangerous structures were for the most part rebuilt as fast as necessity required. This summer however with a somewhat closer scrutiny than we have been using, we learned that a goodly number of reservoirs are beginning to need repairs on the outlet works, specifically valves, stems, lift mechanisms, and pedestals. The Kiser Reservoir Dam had a small slide on the downstream slope on the left of the outlet pipe. The material at this site is not only very sandy but is also highly permeable. Altho the structure was rebuilt in 1959, and to all appearances an excellent job was done, further work is now necessary to protect the rebuilt dam from possible failure. The owner's attempt at repairs without engineering advice is insufficient to protect the structure. (A)

Altogether we checked approximately 20 reservoirs in this area.

The ~~#####~~ Surface Creek/^{area} was next reviewed and some 14 or 15 reservoir dams inspected in the company of Deputy Bertram. This is the area in which the pipeline, jointly owned by Cedar Mesa and the Town of Cedaredge receives its water supply. A most unsatisfactory situation developed which took a great deal of time and patience, in regard to the water measurement of this line. We believe at present that the meter being used is working as it should; however the Parshall flume installation agreed on after our order is writing was issued has not yet been installed. The point of diversion was changed with out a court order in one instance, and in two or three other diversions they are not even mentioned in the decree. We have asked for a copy of the Pipeline decree which we have not received.

The Eureka No. 1 and No. 2 of this latter group of reservoir dams were found to need minor repairs.

The Beaver Creek area was next visited and eight reservoirs and their dams were inspected. Plans for those needing repairs ~~we~~ ^{are told} are approved and the work will proceed as fast as is possible. ^{understand}

We plan on submitting detailed ^{part} reports from our notes to the Construction Engineer later in the Winter on all of the dams visited by us.

Each time we encountered complaints that people were not receiving their water, either storage or flow, we found defective or unlevel measuring devices to be the ~~chief~~ ^{main} reason for the trouble. We also encountered problems when there were not gage rods, capacity tables, or Parshall measuring flumes. We have tried to assist in correcting this as much as possible and expect next year to go a little smoother.

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page three

SUBJECT:

We were unable for lack of time to visit the Leroux Creek Reservoir Dams, but plan on doing this next year, or the season of 1961. We hope that Mr. Brooks can arrange his schedule to be with us.

Overland, Bruce Park, and Beaver Dam Reservoir Dams were visited with Mr. Brooks and his reports will cover these projects. We enjoyed these trips. A preliminary final report is furnished me by Commissioner Robinson, and is made a part of our statistical report.

Final report was made by Commissioner Glendening for District 41. Surprisingly, to people not connected with our department, a great deal of water was available for his users in District 41 during the 1960 season, more than there was in 1959. Due to the way the runoff occurred, a lesser amount was used than in 1959. There were no special problems in this district. The Water Commissioner has asked that an inspection be made of the Buckhorn Reservoir dams, ~~when~~ ^{when} feasible.

We had a number of problems arise in Water District 42. Due to the appeals made to your office, the hearings held and the rulings made by your office, we doubt that any point is served by repeating all this in this report. It appears to us that the users on Kanah Creek are beginning to decide that it is easier to follow the law than to fight it.

On Big Creek near Collbran, the Botham Reservoir measuring device below the outlet was found to be out of level, badly enough, that it seriously affected the entire administration of the creek. The Board of Directors of the Reservoir Company leveled it to proper standards, and built additional approaches with a 30° angle. It appears to us that they did a better than average job in resetting this flume. A subsequent check with level, rod, and meter shows the flume rating as it should and the flow line on the surface is as nearly stream line now as I have ever seen it in a Parshall Flume. Previously measuring conditions were very poor on this flume.

We inspected the Big Creek Reservoirs, of which there are five in number. There is one noticeable difference in the reservoirs on the North side of Grand Mesa in that there are fewer in number on the North side, and much larger in individual size. We also inspected most of the Cottonwood, Bull, Mesa and Coon Creek reservoir dams. We visited 20 of the reservoirs on these watersheds.

Altogether we inspected ^{dams} 37 of about 57 in District 42 on the Grand Mesa Watersheds. We will do our best to visit the other 20 in the 1961 season. It appeared to us, of all the watersheds seen in District 42, that the Bull Creek Reservoir Dams were in the best shape, and the Cottonwood Dams were the poorest.

Mr. Saunders, Commissioner, had a new Deputy this year, who did an excellent job on the Pinon Mesa area which has a forty-five day water season, after which the man was placed on the Mesa and Coon Creek Reservoir area. Again he did a very good job.

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FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
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SUBJECT:

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newcomer

We had an interesting situation develop on lower Coon Creek amongst the flow users. A ~~newcomer~~ land owner started interfering with the flow of one of the major tributaries of the lower part of the Coon Creek watershed, diverting the water at that point (all of it) into a neighbor's ditch, which had a junior decree, and a ditch in which he had absolutely no interest. He then filed a suit against the water officials, asking for an injunction restraining us from administering the flow of the creek on the grounds that it was not a creek, and that the senior decrees downstream had no call on it. He further alleged that in our trespassing on him to administer the water, ~~and~~ *and* that the running of it downstream to the senior decree caused him heavy damage. The Attorney General's Office made him make the senior decree claimants party to the suit. We took pictures of him building a dam across the creek for which he very obligingly posed. We further filed charges of molesting a ditch bank and cutting the same. We were never able to get the District Attorney to bring this case to court, and not too long afterward he resigned and went to California.

Later the Plaintiff's attorney filed a new suit and some two or three days before trial asked for a hearing before the State Engineer. The net result of all the legal floundering was that a temporary injunction was issued by the Court against the Plaintiff, ordering him not only to cease and desist from interfering with the Water Commissioner, but to remove the dam from the creek that he had placed there. The latest word to come to us on this case is that it will be dismissed from the docket.

Our comment is that it took us about two years to settle a thing that our original field trip covered in about two hours. We feel that the defendant senior water user could have jumped in when we pointed out that it was his fight and not ours to do so, and that he could have shortened this thing by about 22 months. He felt that it was our duty to defend him, and that he should not have to spend money to defend himself, notwithstanding detailed explanations of our position in matters of this kind. The ~~final~~ *final* result has been that our department has received very favorable relations, so we may say that all is well that ends well. *not improve all public*

We have made some trips over the Collbran project and find it not only interesting, but impressive. We believe that the Reclamation men will learn some interesting and practical things about water measurement before the Collbran Project has been operated too long, after it becomes operable. At this time we do not anticipate any serious problem, as the water is measured from the stream by Parshall Flume. They plan on using meter gates ~~for~~ measuring water into the stream. It appears we may anticipate some lively sessions when the water users try to compare the gage readings. We further anticipate that we will probably have to hire an additional deputy or two. We recommend the water Commissioner be promoted to a water commissioner III, prior to the start of the Collbran Project if possible.

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IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
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SUBJECT:

Commissioner Koch installed 19 Parshall Flumes, and 8 new headgates in the Crested Butte area on East River and tributaries, in District 59. From what we have observed in the past few months, it appears that a Deputy should be used for the East River/area, to free Mr. Koch for work in other parts of his districts, and to aid in efficient administration from the standpoint of time and economy to the Department.

There were no problems to speak of in District 60 during 1960. We checked the spillway levels, crest elevation and reset the gage marks on the Gurley reservoir dam by ~~com~~ level, with the help of Commissioner ~~Saunders~~ Sullivan.

We accompanied Mr. Brooks in the inspection of the Cone, Gurley and Lillyland Reservoir Dams, in District 60.

In District 61 the Commissioner was very pleased to get his pay raise in July. We hope to take Mr. Brooks into the Buckeye Reservoir Dam in the 1961 Season.

Commissioner Koch had only routine work in District 62, during 1960. We were not called into this district during the season.

This office inspected a new reservoir dam belonging to Jerome Craig in District 63, in June of 1960. Commissioner Saunders also was with me, as was an Engineer from the Soil Conservation Service. The spillway at this site was shot out with dynamite, and overbroken about one foot on the average. We found the spillway sandbagged at the time, which we reported to your office. We are happy to say that we have learned that this has been rectified by placing of a 12 to 15 inch concrete wall or dam in the spillway in lieu of the sandbags. Other than this one trip we had no other special trip to make into this district during 1960, all other work being routine. With the addition of the additional ~~extra~~ storage this last reservoir provided Mr. Craig, he has not only improved his own water supply, but has substantially improved the late season flow of the entire West Creek.

We went into District 68 three of four times on routine matters. This coming year we plan on spending a little more time in this district, as there are some four or five small ditches coming into this district from other watersheds. It is necessary to watch the measuring devices on these diversions from time to time or unreasonable amounts of water are claimed by the various claimants. We have learned that diversions near or above timberline are of small value. In August when water is badly needed these extremely high altitude diversions simply do not produce much water.

We received a request from the Redlands Power and Irrigation Co. to turn down all junior decrees to them when they are short of water. The request was made in writing. This winter a study will be made and if a change in administration will benefit them it will be done. In any event they will be notified in writing. At this writing, we are of the opinion based on our studies of the matter that possibly little can be done for them due to the fact that they have such a junior priority. We hope, as the saying goes, to have the Kanah Creek situation out of your hair and in hand next season.

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SUBJECT:

The Paonia Project may store some water next season, and we know that the Collbran Project will do so, while we are informed that the Fruitland project is now getting underway. So far as irrigation is concerned, all three are supplementary projects. They will lessen flood damage and improve late season water supplies. The Collbran Project is primarily a power project, to pay for the cost of supplementary irrigation water.

We are attaching herewith a statistical report, of which two commissioners' reports are late and subject to revision ~~possibly~~. One Commissioner did not work ~~sufficiently~~ enough days to justify the expense of a report.

Very truly yours,

Frederick W. Paddock
Frederick W. Paddock,
Irrigation Division Engineer.

*the usual summaries of the
attached are / W.C. Owen Repts. 1/11/11*

Investigation

1960

Annual Tabulation of
 Water Commissioner Reports for
 Irrigation Division No. 4
 State of Colorado
 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 Acres Irrigated in the Water District
28	139	No Report			160	30,065
40	1,520	1,482	321,298	656	365	352,600
41	222	217	611,875	1,100	365	77,574
42	1,134	205	924,255	1,710	365	139,711
59	635	60	392,000	800	265	39,304
60	1,644	24	17,070	96.1	265	11,306
61	57	14	7,874	16.1	265	5,934
62	302	14	217,070	143	265	21,657
63	114	23	5,560	11.4	265	902
68	300	134	51,140	204	200	25,043
Total for Division No. 4	5,977	1,675	1,681,160	5,117	365	355,614

Note: W.D. 42 - Acre feet of water used for power production 156,200, for Domestic 10,036
 W. D. 63 - Acre feet of water used for domestic only 2,000

1960
Annual Tabulation of
Water Commissioner Reports for
Irrigation Division No. 4
State of Colorado
Reservoir Report

Water District Number	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	2,775	2,775	None
40	154	36,175	36,110	2,865
41	6	91,000	91,000	None
42	60	14,292	14,292 *	None
59	2	167,000	91,000	16,000
60	2	10,600	9,800	800
61	None	2,484	2,484	None
62	5	None	None	None
63	5	1,155	1,155	None
68	14	120	120	None
Total for Division No. 4	1,002	865,901	247,036	18,865

* 11.65 less in transit

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FREDERICK W. PADDOCK
IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
P. O. BOX 18

SUBJECT:
Field Books and Sheets

January 13, 1961

Ellen H. Lannon,
Administrative Secretary,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Mrs. Lannon:--

This is a pretty slow answer to your letter of ~~DD~~Feb. 28, 1960, however until yesterday I had not received all of the books, which I shipped by express to your office care of Mr. Sittser as of yesterday.

Yesterday I received the last book which would change my report if such had turned out necessary. Due to the fact that some of the water commissioners over here are rather slow in getting in their reports to us, I have had to require that they submit duplicate reports to me. Since that requirement I have not had to alter my own annual report as the changes are minor enough to come within reasonable figures that we use in water measurements.

Probably it will be better if in the future when I submit my annual report that I deplete the statement that my figures are subject to change, and only make such change if we uncover a bad set of figures.

Very truly yours,

Frederick W. Paddock
Frederick W. Paddock.



December 28, 1960

Mr. F. W. Paddock, Division Engineer
Irrigation Division No. 4
P. O. Box 15
Montrose, Colorado

Dear Mr. Paddock:

We note that in the last paragraph of your Annual Report you state that the reports and tabulations of the reports of the Water Commissioners are subject to revision.

We are presently incorporating all the Annual Reports of the Division Engineers into our Annual Report to the Governor. For this reason, we would appreciate having your revisions, if any; or if the tabulations are correct as you submitted them at the meeting in November, please so advise us.

We would appreciate having this information as promptly as possible as we are holding up that part of our Annual Report until we hear from you.

Very truly,

Ellen H. Lannon
Administrative Secretary

/L

HAPPY NEW YEAR!