

Boulder Lake Level Starts Dropping Now

The anticipated drop in Boulder dam lake now that the heavy spring and summer run-off from the surrounding water shed is over, has gotten under way in earnest, according to figures released today by bureau of reclamation officials showing a recession of 1.2 feet from the maximum elevation of 928.45 reached on July 31.

Reclamation engineers today advanced the opinion that "the prospective run-off of the Colorado river for the rest of this year cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy, but, judging from the hydrographic data of previous years, it is expected that the inflow into the lake will be less than the amount sent down the river for most of the time during the remainder of the year."

The elevation of 928.45 feet above sea level reached by the reservoir on July 31, is probably the high mark for the year, they predicted.

During the month of July, the discharge of the river into the lake varied from 48,400 cubic feet per second on July 1, to 10,800 second feet on July 31, the Bright Angel checking station showed. The mean flow was 24,830 second feet with an 11,567 foot average outlet at the Black canyon control station.

The total run-off for the month of July was recorded as 1,526,776 acre feet at Bright Angel as compared to 711,200 acre feet discharged from the reservoir at Black canyon, a net gain of 815,576 acre feet for Boulder dam lake.

The level of the water surface raised from 910 to 928 feet above sea level during the month, and storage in the reservoir increased from 3,875,000 acre feet to 4,578,000 acre feet. During that period Boulder lake extended 84 miles upstream to a point 14 miles above Grand Wash.

Today's report from Bright Angel checking station shows the river to be running at the rate of 11,100 cubic feet per second or 100 second feet less than yesterday's figure. Water at the rate of 10,280 is being released thru number one diversion tunnel.

The surface of Boulder lake today is at elevation 927.9.