

# Reclamation Bureau Plans Boulder Lake Development

## Area Destined to Become Important Recreation Center of Area

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (UP) —Boulder lake is destined to become one of the most important recreation centers of the southwest, and the bureau of reclamation is making plans to develop it, the bureau's annual report to President Roosevelt said today.

"Its important place in this respect exceeds that of the other 68 reservoirs controlled by the bureau because of its great size and location," the report continued.

"Completion of the dam provided another example of the bureau's contribution to types of conservation other than reclamation. The great reservoir, 115 miles long, was set aside immediately as a bird refuge. It is being stocked with game fish.

"In its first few months of existence it attracted many thousands of tourists. Hundreds found pleasure in bathing in and boating on its clear, cold waters."

The dam is a major sightseeing attraction, according to the bureau report. Visitors for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935, totaled 328,429, compared to 191,788 for the previous year. A monthly peak of 39,884 occurred in February and a week-end record of 9,296 on November 9 and 10, 1934.

Boulder dam was described as the greatest undertaking of the bureau. The last bucket of concrete was poured May 29, 1935.

"On that date this great Colorado river barrier already had stored enough water to supply for a year the irrigation needs of the Yuma federal reclamation

project and the Palo Verde and Imperial valley developments in California," the report explained.

"The fine agricultural area in Imperial valley experienced its most severe drought in 1934. Damages approximating \$10,000,000 resulted when the Colorado virtually ran dry. When the gates were closed at Boulder dam in February, 1935, recurrence of this drought was made impossible, as was repetition of the floods that in the past have wrought havoc along the lower Colorado.

"During the spring a flood of 105,000 second-feet was recorded in the Colorado above the dam. Had this flood passed the dam, there would have been grave danger to Imperial valley. The protective levees were cracked as a result of the extended drought, and the considerable cost of repairing them was saved."

The acute drought of 1934 brought bold relief the benefits of irrigation, the report pointed out.

"In a year when all through the west farmers and ranchers who were dependent upon natural rainfall were suffering losses aggregating hundreds of millions of dollars, federal reclamation projects were green and flourishing. On these projects no crops were lost, no stock died.

"In fact these projects mitigated the effects of drought in surrounding areas, supplying feed for range stock and provisions for cities."