

H. C. Schmidt Sends Early Dam Picture

Henry C. Schmidt, state controller, has sent a picture of the proposed "Boulder Canyon Dam" to Archie Grant, as a reminder that the present so-called Boulder Dam (which is not in Boulder Canyon at all) was the result of much planning and publicity for many years before the present dam was crystallized as an engineering project.

As early as 1909, Mr. Schmidt, with his associates, began planning to finance and build a dam in Boulder Canyon. An application to the interior department for a permit to construct the dam was approved in the year 1913 after Mr. Schmidt and associates had spent many thousands of dollars in engineering work in Boulder Canyon, subject to the proviso that the surveys be tied in to existing land surveys.

This additional surveying was done in May, 1914, and the final application approved by the secretary of the interior.

In the meantime, Mr. Schmidt and his associates had interested French capitalists in the enterprise and were making preparations to begin actual construction when, in July, 1914, the first World War started, putting an end to all hopes of European capital.

Mr. Schmidt kept his permit alive until along in the early 1920's, when it became apparent that the dam would be built by the federal government, not in Boulder Canyon, but in Black Canyon, some 20 miles below Boulder Canyon.

The picture is of interest as part of the record of activities many years ago, which finally resulted in the great dam in Black Canyon. It has a surprising resemblance to the present dam, although not so high.