

# BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE COLORADO, ITS CONQUEST

(IN FIVE PARTS)

3/14/32

This brief outline of the Colorado river's history, with relation to its control, was started Saturday, through courtesy of the bureau of reclamation, and is continued here today:

1908—Another break of river threatened to flood Imperial Valley, Okerson Levee built.

1909—Laguna dam built, Yuma project.

1911-12—The Klob brothers descended the Colorado river by boat from Green river, Wyoming, to Needles, Arizona.

1914—Congress allotted \$50,000 for the study of the Colorado river basin. Imperial Valley Irrigation district organized.

1915—Entire flow of the Colorado river at heading of the Imperial valley diverted for irrigation purposes.

1918—A. J. Wiley, engineer, studied Colorado river basin for plan for flood control, according to an agreement between the United States and California, also for conservation of water supply and for irrigation.

1918-19—Homer Hamlin, engineer and geologist from Los Angeles, made examination of the Colorado river below the Virgin river, to locate a suitable damsite for a large reservoir.

1919—"League of Southwest" formed, consisting of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New

Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, to further irrigation development throughout the southwest. Preliminary report made to secretary of the Interior, concerning the proposed Boulder canyon reservoir and damsite on the Colorado river in Nevada and Arizona.

1920—F. E. Weymouth appointed reclamation service chief engineer. Engineers estimated that 785,000 acres could be brought under cultivation by suitable storage facilities on the Colorado river. Survey made from head of Virgin river to Yuma by Homer Hamlin and Edward Wheeler, found Boulder canyon and Black canyon feasible for dams. United States geologic survey completed covering upper end of the Boulder canyon site.

1920-21—Road built to Boulder canyon; diamond drill established; both damsites investigated with diamond drills under direction of Walker R. Young. Studies made of Colorado river water supply, irrigation storage, flood detention storage, silt storage, power development and estimates of cost for reservoirs. Contract between government and Arizona whereby each would provide \$15,000 for surveys and investigations made in January to determine feasibility of a dam on the Colorado river. Active investigating begun in April. "League of the Southwest" held meeting in August and resolved

that the use and benefits of the Colorado river should be settled by a compact between the seven states represented. In May board of engineer, A. J. Wiley, James Munn, J. L. Savage and Walker R. Young met at Boulder Canyon to make tentative designs and cost estimates of the Boulder Canyon dam.

1921—Geological examinations of Boulder canyon and Black canyon made by F. L. Ransome. Senator Key Pittman introduced bill in the senate for the utilization and disposal of the Colorado river waters for irrigation and power uses. Governors of the seven states of the Colorado river basin met to agree on use of the Colorado river. Compact between the seven states approved by congress. Gaging station established at Lee's Ferry.

1922—Diamond drilling to test foundation conditions. Colorado river commission organized, with representatives from the seven states with Herbert Hoover as representative of the United States. Commission made compact providing for equitable apportionment of the use of the water of the Colorado river basin.

1923—Field surveys and diamond drilling investigations completed indicating Black canyon was the more favorable damsite.

(Continued tomorrow)