

# NUGGETS OF BOULDER COLORADO

By Elton Garrett

## 1929 VIEWPOINT

And speaking of "early day" developments of the Hoover dam project prior to start of actual work—it is interesting sometimes to look back several years and see the viewpoint of a former day.

What was the viewpoint of southern Nevada on the New Years Day of January 1, 1930, relative to the dam project? There was no Boulder City at that time—there was, in fact, no appropriation under which the dam project could go ahead.

A headline in the January 1, 1930 edition of the Review-Journal read: "Early Boulder Dam Start Seen As '30 Dawns; Wilbur Sets Stage to Begin Great Program; Attorney-General's Decision Clears Atmosphere and Arizona's Acceptance of Call for Further Conferences Indicate Agreement and Early Start of Dam is Near." The story, in part:

"After a long period of uncertainty, during which the project was several times on the brink of

being involved in divers difficulties from which the way out was rather difficult to see, the closing weeks of 1929 saw the Boulder dam project suddenly lifted bodily from its state of coma into a commanding position of pre-eminence again

"So on the dawn of the new year, present indications are that shortly after February first congress will be in a position to make its initial appropriation toward construction. This means immediate start of the railroad to the dam site, the highway between Las Vegas and Black canyon, and organization of the construction forces which will carry on the great project.

"For Arizona, obdurate in the face of repeated proposals for a renewal of conference with California and Nevada to iron out the difficulties attending the project, finally capitulated to the later call of Secretary Wilbur and agreed to meet again at Phoenix, preferably on January 6, although the date may be changed to the 13th

to accommodate the Nevada Colorado River delegation which, according to Governor Balzar, has another and more important date.

"It is generally believed that Secretary Wilbur would not have urged this meeting if he were not fairly well assured that concessions necessary for an agreement would be made, and it is not that Arizona would have accepted the call were she not also convinced progress could be made.

"The legal phases of the situation have been completely cleared up by Attorney-General Mitchell; the exact price to be expected for power has been determined; it has been definitely found that there is plenty of market for that power; the decks have been entirely cleared for action, a definite basis has been laid for negotiations, and there are few questions left to surmise.

"Those in close touch with the situation anticipate an early agreement between the states, and the signing of the long sought com-

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initials on the bar

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saplings. I bet I look funny  
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compact before the deadline of February first set by Secretary Wilbur.

"In the event no agreement is reached, the Secretary has announced his intention of going ahead immediately with actual construction of the dam on the six-state compact basis, leaving Arizona to do as she pleases about filing the threatened suit."