HYDRAULIC LABORATORY REPORT NO. 181

CONSTRUCTION OF TYPE A CRANES
STREAM-GAGING EQUIPMENT
DENVER HYDRAULIC LABORATORY

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1. The type A crane, as shown in figure 1, is used for stream-flow measurements on bridges where current meter weights between 30 and 75 pounds are necessary. This crane is mounted on three wheels designed to hold the current meter and weight in a balanced position while moving between stations (figure 1A). For stream measurement the crane is tilted to lean against the bridge rail so the boom extends the current meter and weight clear of the bridge (figure 1B). To facilitate transportation by truck or car, the crane may be folded into a compact unit. First, the current meter, weight, reel, and protractor are removed, then the folding proceeds as shown on figure 2. A further description of this crane and its use is given on pages 203-204 of "Stream-gaging procedure - Geological Survey Water-supply Paper 888," a manual describing methods and practices of the Geological Survey.

2. This crane was designed by the U. S. Engineer office at Cincinnati, Ohio, and the U. S. Geological Survey at Columbus, Ohio. They are used principally by the Geological Survey and prior to the war, the needs of the Bureau of Reclamation were furnished by the Geological Survey. However, when three cranes were requisitioned for Central Valley Project, about January 1, 1945, the Geological Survey was unable to furnish them. Instead, they furnished a set of blueprints to permit the cranes to be built in the shop of the hydraulic laboratory of the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver.
3. Since May, 1942, current meters belonging to the Bureau of Reclamation have been repaired in the hydraulic laboratory as described in Hydraulic Report No. 185. Through this work the personnel have become familiar with other stream-gaging equipment including the type A crane. Therefore, they were in a good position to build the cranes. Materials for five were ordered, three for the Central Valley Project and two for stock, the latter in keeping with the policy of the laboratory to maintain a reserve of equipment to expedite deliveries to the field.

4. Due to wartime conditions, a period of several months was required to obtain materials. During this delay a crane borrowed from the Denver office of the Geological Survey was studied with the object of making improvements. A set of jigs was made which would permit speedy construction of the five cranes ordered and any others needed in the future. Through this preliminary preparation, the cranes were built without incident once the material arrived, and the three ordered by the Central Valley Project shipped to their destination.

5. New drawings were prepared, figures 3, 4, and 5, because a number of minor changes were made to improve the design. The purpose of these changes was to simplify construction, permit the crane to fold into a more compact bundle, and to make it work better. The revisions included:

   a. Reduce several members from 3/16-inch to 1/8-inch angles, when a load on the crane borrowed from the Geological Survey indicated that the latter were sufficient.

   b. The main strut, mark 1 of figure 3, originally consisted of two separate members bolted together, to permit folding of the crane. The necessity of two members was eliminated by changing the connector, mark 29, from an L to a T-shape.

   c. This revision to the connector, mark 29, also permitted the strut mark 4, to fold closer to the main strut.

   d. To further facilitate folding, the tension member, mark 10 and 11, was reversed, and the bar, mark 11, was bent at 8-1/2 degrees as shown.
e. The center wheel, mark 48, on the struts, mark 2, did not fold properly, and at the same time the wheel at the end of the boom prevented the bar, mark 8, from dropping into place when folded. Notches in the angle, mark 3, and plate, mark 20, corrected both conditions.

f. The size of the plate, mark 22, was reduced by using a flat-headed, insulated connection as shown in detail A.

g. Action of the spreader, mark 42, was considerably improved by cutting a 30-degree bevel on the spreader ends, and bushing the hole with a brass sleeve (see detail in figure 5).

h. The use of the crane in the field was hampered by a tendency of the connection at the crown to open when the crane was being moved. This condition was alleviated by changing the direction of the slot in mark 2, modifying the slot in mark 25 and providing the clamp mark 30.
A. Crane and current meter assembly.

B. Crane leaning against bridge rail.

THE TYPE A CRANE
A. Current meter, weight, reel, and protractor removed, and crane partially folded.

B. Crane folded, wheels removed. Crane ready for transportation.

TYPE A CRANE FOLDED FOR TRANSPORTATION OR STORAGE
Note: use reel nuts Mk 140 on reel studs placed in these holes.

SECTION C-C

DETAIL A

DETIAL OF SHEAVE INSULATION

This detail was designed by the U.S. Engineer Office, Columbus, Ohio, as part of a U.S. Geological Survey, Columbus, Ohio, project. It is shown on drawings of Geological Survey, No. 8-1-91, dated 3-7-69.

DETIAL OF SHEAVE INSULATION

This detail was designed for the Hydraulic Laboratory of the U.S. Engineer Office, Columbus, Ohio.