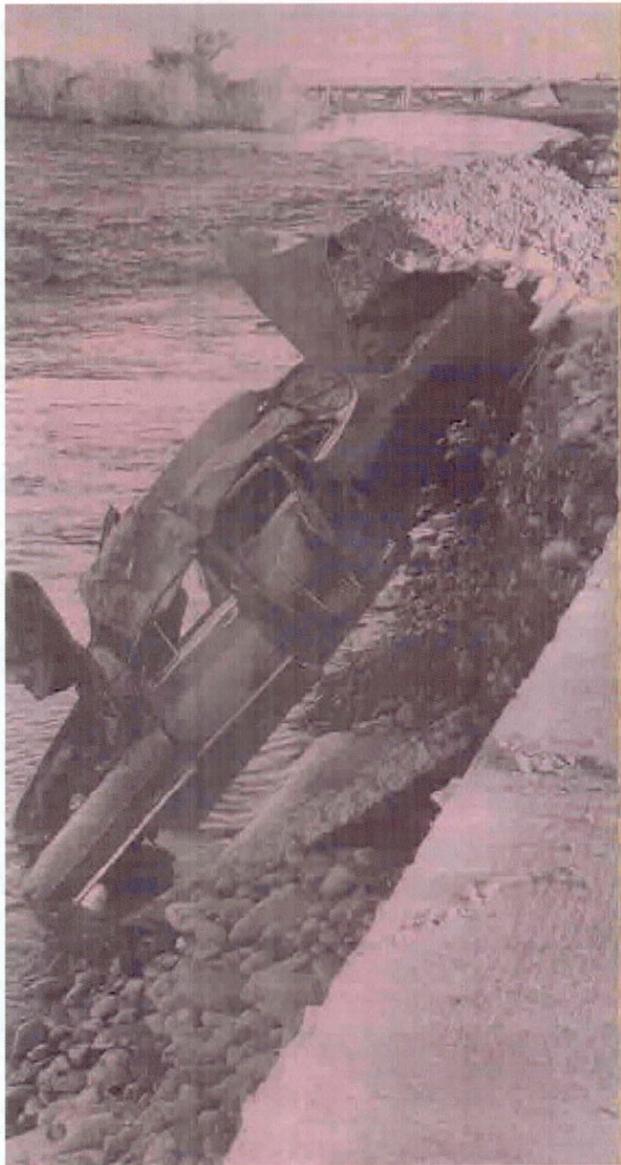


Arizona Flooding & Dam Brochure (Historic)

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service

(Year: About 1966)



Contrary to what many newcomers believe, it does flood in Arizona. And when it does, damages are high. Some damages are obvious while others are hidden. Damages to homes, highways, and spectacular gullying are readily apparent to all. But hidden and just as costly damages are sheet erosion, silting, crop loss, and the inconvenience caused by disruption of travel and services. In Maricopa County alone flood damages average \$7,000,000 per year. Prior to the construction of the Frye Creek-Stockton Wash project at Safford, average flood damages of \$285,000 had occurred annually for many years. Since its completion in 1965, the Safford Project has virtually eliminated flood damages and enabled valuable community developments, such as \$1.5 million improvements at Eastern Arizona Junior College.

Infrequent but enormously damaging floods are characteristic in Arizona. In fact, their infrequent occurrence contributes to their high cost. This is best illustrated by examining how land development has occurred in the state.

First, the farmer spends several hundred dollars per acre developing land on the floodplain. On this land he grows high value crops that are costly to produce and very susceptible to flood damage. When he develops the land, the need for flood protection is not apparent. Then the floods with even greater potential damage exist when a housing or commercial development is built in the path of a severe, but long forgotten flood. The developer either doesn't know or won't believe it when an oldtimer tries to tell him. And then again the flood strikes and he becomes a belated believer.

Something can and is being done. In 1954 the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act - Public Law 566 - was enacted by Congress to provide local organizations with federal assistance in watershed protection projects having 250,000 acres or less. The Soil Conservation Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, stands ready to assist, through Soil Conservation Districts and other county and state groups, with flood prevention and watershed protection problems.

The response to the program in Arizona has been enthusiastic. Local organizations have submitted 23 applications for assistance. However, more people need to learn about the possibilities for projects which will provide flood prevention, irrigation, municipal and industrial water supply, and recreation, fish and wildlife developments where water rights permit.

Since Public Law 566 was passed, the federal government has invested more than \$5,000,000 in planning and constructing watershed projects for local sponsors in Arizona. Groups such as soil conservation districts, flood control districts, city, county and state governments have contributed their share to the work, too. And you can help. Local people start watershed projects, and local people make them work. Only at the request of local people and when they are ready does the Soil Conservation Service begin work in an area on a small watershed project. When this takes place, watersheds become a "hallmark" of resource development and conservation - a place where all needs are considered. The development of Arizona's resources and protection of its people through small watershed projects offer new avenues to progress.

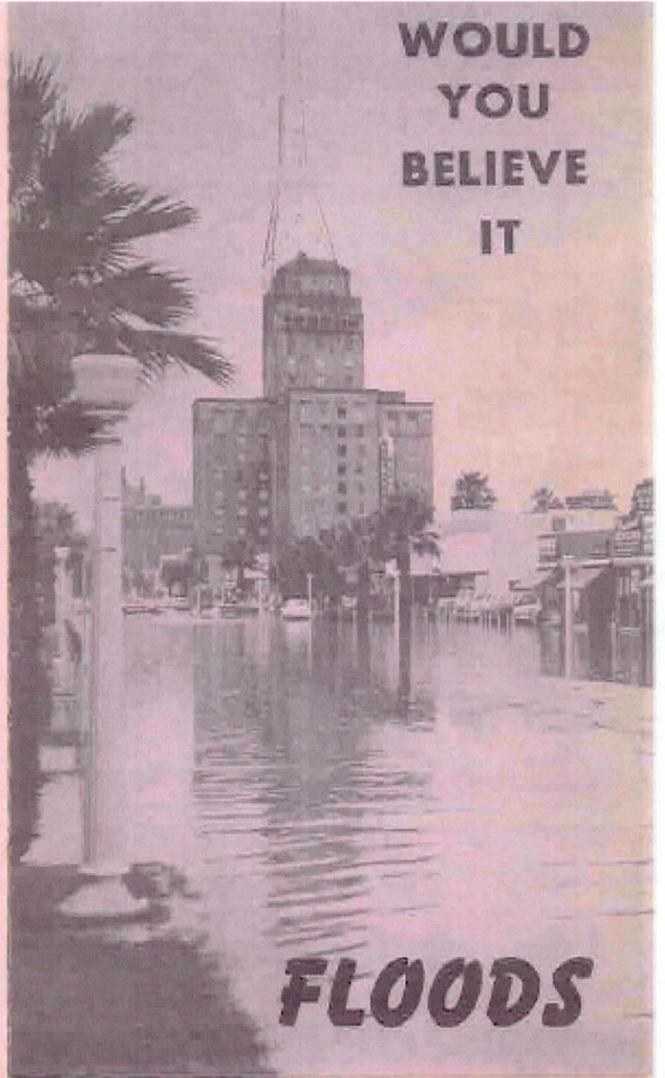


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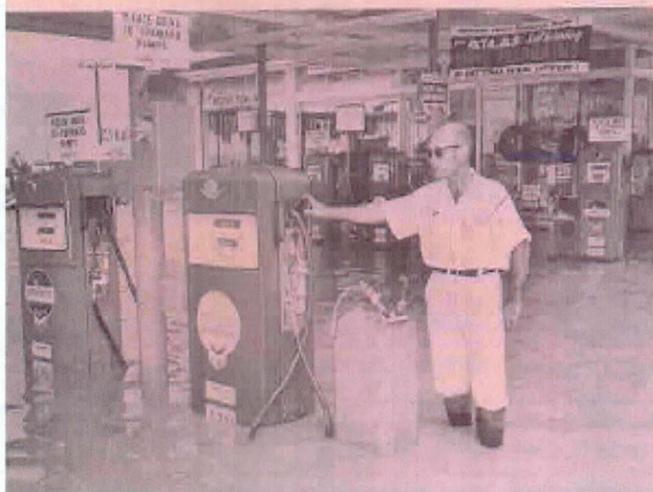
ARIZONA

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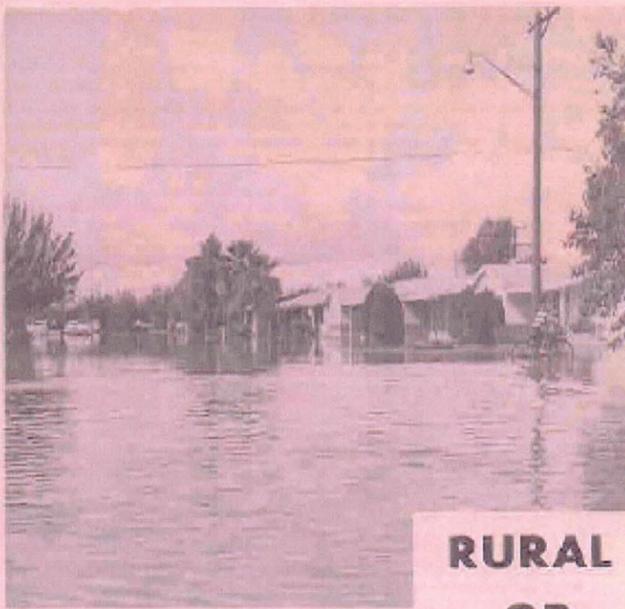
THESE PEOPLE
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THEY KNOW THE
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FLOODS ARE
NO RESPECTER OF AREAS



RURAL
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