

HISTORY
of
BUCKEYE CANAL



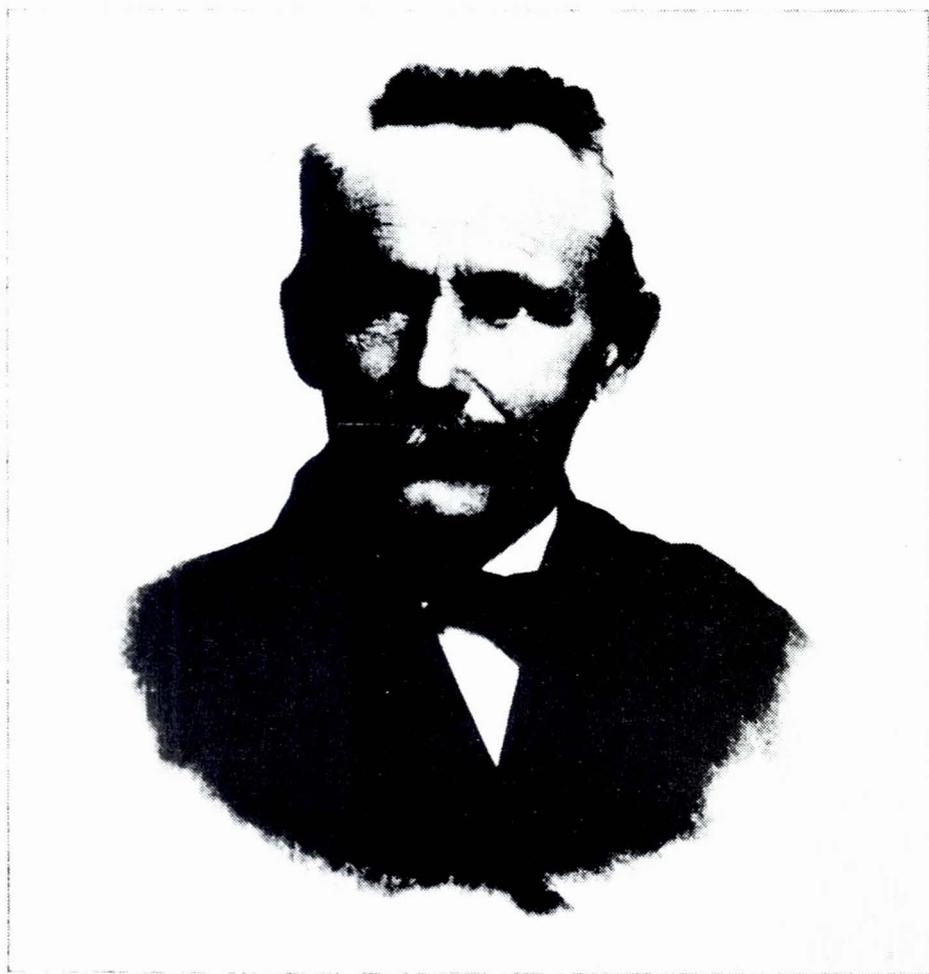
by
I. H. PARKMAN

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THIS BOOK IS PRESENTED TO

BY THE BUCKEYE IRRIGATION
COMPANY IN COMMEMORATION
OF ITS ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF
SERVICE TO ITS STOCKHOLDERS,
MARCH 4, 1907 - MARCH 4, 1987.

History added on since 1957.
Written by: Wilbur W. Weigold,
Nan Weigold and assisted by
Eleanor Grandy.



M. M. JACKSON

LOCATOR
and
FOUNDER
of BUCKEYE CANAL

FOREWORD...

That the story of the Buckeye Canal might be kept for all to read and know, I have compiled this short history from records on file in the Court House at Phoenix, from records unearthed in the vaults of the Buckeye Irrigation Company and from personal memories and recollections and talks with the old timers of the Valley. Among the records found, was a 60 page foolscap paper written in long hand, of the Buckeye Canal. It was written in the 90's for Bucky O'Neil, when he was on the deal to buy the Canal, and covered every transaction in connection with the Canal in minute detail up to that time. Other records of importance were found among the old papers unearthed in the Canal Company vaults and are now on display in the Buckeye Historical and Archaeological Museum. In the history of the Buckeye Valley is interwoven the story of the lives, struggles and sacrifices of those heroic characters who located and built the Buckeye Canal and started the reclamation of 20,000 acres of Arizona Desert. Although hindered and deterred by the mighty flood of 1891 that destroyed the head works of the canal and filled it with sand and debris for miles, only to be followed by the 11 year drought of 1894 to 1905, when the river was practically dry a good part of the year and again from the floods of 1905 up into the early 20's when many of the farmers along the river bank stood and saw acre after acre of their land fall into the swirling muddy waters, to be carried away and be eventually deposited in the Gulf of California. But they stood firm and built a vision of the future, when they and their chil-

dren, each one, could sit down under his own "vine and fig tree" and enjoy the fruits of their labors.

To the Jacksons, the Spains, the Collins, the Beloats, the Clantons, the Charltons, the Harers, the Hazeltons, the Phippneys, the Burches, the Evans, the Roberts, the Parkers, the Conleys and the many more that first settled the Valley and stood firm through drought and flood, good times and bad, to give to us today our beautiful Valley with its miles of paved roads and concreted ditches and numerous fields of green alfalfa, waving grain and snowy white cotton, we pay tribute today for their untiring energy and devotion to a vision for which they untiringly labored to see come true.

I. H. PARKMAN

Jan. 1, 1957.



To all the Old Timers and Pioneers who by their courage, strength and perserverance, labored untiringly to reclaim that portion of the Arizona desert known today as the Buckeye Valley and to make it "Bloom as the Rose" for all future generations to enjoy, I most humbly dedicate this book.

I. H. PARKMAN

January 1, 1957



Buckeye Canal And Land Co. Office

This is the Phoenix office of the Buckeye Canal and Land Co. about 1905. The building was located in the Valley Bank Block, bounded by Center, Wall, Washington and Jefferson Streets (where Patriots Park stands today). The two men on the porch are unidentified.

The Buckeye canal was laid out in 1885 by G. L. Spain and M. M. Jackson to supply water to agricultural land in western Maricopa County. Jackson built the canal by hand and with the help of a horse-drawn digging implement called a slipscraper. He named the canal after his home state of Ohio.

The canal began below the junction of the Salt, Gila and Agua Fria rivers and flowed west to the Hassayampa, zigzagging along the way to maintain elevation and to avoid numerous mesquite thickets near the river. The first water was turned into the canal in 1887.

The next year, Spain and Jackson sold their company to Buckey O'Neill and William Barnes, who began to promote land development as well as water sales in the area. That was just a year or two before the wettest decade

in Arizona history. In 1890 after heavy rains, the Walnut Dam broke on the Hassayampa; in 1891 the Salt River flooded Phoenix, running eight miles wide below its confluence with the Verde. The men spent all their time and money repairing storm damage.

As if that weren't enough, Buckeye went off to fight in the Spanish American War with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders and was killed in Cuba in 1898. His widow sold the company to a California firm.

After that, the canal company had a series of owners, who renamed it the Buckeye Canal and Land Co., but didn't do much else. In 1907, the local farmers in the Buckeye Valley, fed up with bad management and sporadic water delivery, bought the company, pledging one acre of land for each share of stock. They renamed it the Buckeye Irrigation Company, the name still used today. *Photo courtesy Arizona Historical Society, Phoenix, research by Burnice Armstrong. © Arizona Capitol Times. From Arizona Capitol Times, issue of 5-5-87.*

1887 - 1987
IN COMMEMORATION
Of The
100TH ANNIVERSARY
Of
IRRIGATION
— BUCKEYE VALLEY —

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, in the year 1887, development work began on the irrigation system which was to supply the necessary water to develop the arid land known as the present Buckeye Valley. This enterprise turned the desolate acreage into a prosperous and highly productive valley. It all started with a vision shared by Malin M. Jackson, Joshua L. Spain, and Henry Mitchell, three Ohio natives of a wonderful opportunity to utilize an abundance of water. They discovered this water flowing 23 miles west of the junction of the Agua Fria River and the Salt River, situated in the central part of Maricopa County. The system was first operated as a corporation serving as a common carrier from the date of construction until 1907 when negotiations were completed whereby the Valley land owners purchased the irrigation works outright, and it is still operating successfully under the same cooperative, non-profit organization today.

For many years all of the water for irrigation of the approximately 20,000 acres of developed land was supplied from the regular

flow of the Gila River, which drains more than half of the State, and is the largest stream in the State except for the Colorado River. However, due to the many dams and up-stream users, irrigation wells had to be drilled to supply adequate water needed for all the land. At the present, some of the water supply is being purchased as effluent from the City of Phoenix and others; thus, effluent, stream flow and pumps together provide the water to meet all the demand.

The booklet is in commemoration of the 100th thriving and successful year of agriculture and industry in our right Buckeye Valley. We want to give homage especially to Malin M. Jackson, Joshua L. Spain, and Henry Mitchell for their foresight, determination and courage in developing the Valley irrigation system later known as "The Buckeye Irrigation Company." We also want to recognize our forefathers who pioneered in the development of the Valley and through their perseverance, founded the present Valley towns and communities that are good friendly places to enjoy life.

HISTORY

Of

BUCKEYE CANAL

By

I. H. PARKMAN

CHAPTER 1

The following history of the Buckeye Canal is written from a long personal knowledge and from talking with old timers that were here from the beginning and from old records that have lately come in my possession and are now on file with the historical paper of the Buckeye and West Gila Valley Old Settlers Union:

On a spring day in 1885 three men hooked a team of horses to a wagon and loading in beds, cooking utensils and a supply of food left Phoenix and headed west. These men were Malin M. Jackson, Joshua L. Spain and Henry Mitchell. Following the old Yuma freight road to the Agua Fria River 18 miles until they reached the Gila River. They looked over the land adjacent to that stream seeking some place that would be easy to develop an irrigation system. Returning to Phoenix a little later, they made a second trip down and investigated some land on the south side of the Gila. But not being satisfied with the outlook there, they returned to the north side to a point near and just west of where the Agua Fria flows into the Gila River and there made location of a dam site and canal heading. Not having brought pencil or paper with them and fearful that some one might beat them to the location they proceeded to post a notice anyway, by taking an ax and hewing a smooth flat place on a willow tree and with charcoal wrote their location notice that would serve for the time being. Hurrying back to Phoenix, they prepared a notice and building themselves a tri-

angle, returned to the place and posted a legal notice May 28, 1885.

Taking their triangle, they proceeded to run a level over the first three miles to see if they could get the water out on the land. Henry Mitchell operated the machine, the other men helping.

For the benefit of those who do not know, a triangle is made out of one by four lumber in the form of a letter A with the cross bar near the bottom. The two legs are generally 16 to 20 feet apart at the bottom. From the apex of the A a cord with a weight called a plumb bob attached was suspended. By placing the feet of a triangle on stakes driven down in a pond of water so the top of the stakes were at the exact water level, the string and plumb bob would hang at the exact center on the cross bar of the triangle. This was marked on the cross bar and now by raising one leg an inch at a time the plumb bob swing was marked on the cross bar at each rise. Then the operation was reversed and the other side marked, thus giving the operator a complete scale to determine the rise or fall of the land at each set. As the machine had to be set each 20 feet and the proper calculations made at each set, it will readily be seen what a slow tedious operation it was to run the three miles. But they satisfied themselves that their project was feasible, and returned to Phoenix and filed their notice of location in the recorder's office June 30, 1885.

The notice of location stated that —“the head of said ditch commencing in an old slough immediately under the high bank on the north side of the Gila River and then westward about

one fourth of a mile and then turns northward, leaving the river bank and running north-westerly passing Taboo Point on the Gila River."

The purpose of the canal or ditch was said to be "for agricultural, milling or mechanical enterprises." Twelve thousand inches of water was located and claimed by the locators and a right of way over the public domain forty feet wide to the Hassayampa creek on which to build their canal.

It was named the "Buckeye Canal" by Mr. Jackson in honor of his native state, Ohio, "the Buckeye State."

In September, 1885, M. E. Clanton and others organized the Buckeye Canal Company and had the new Company's articles of organization recorded with the territorial's secretary, on Sept. 25, 1885.

The new company paid the original locators \$300.00 for their interest. The work of building the canal was taken up and Mr. T. N. Clanton was awarded the contract of the first five miles.

An engineer by the name of Berry was employed to make the survey. E. H. (Pompey) Spain acted as head linesman on the survey.

On July 24, 1886 the Buckeye Canal Company filed notice of location of 38,000 inches more water to be added to the 12,000 originally claimed by the first locators, making a total of 50,000 inches. This location was recorded at Phoenix, the county seat Oct. 8, 1886.

The original canal survey extended from the dam at the Agua Fria River to the lower end of Arlington near the present Gillespie Dam and was completed to the Hassayampa in the latter part of 1886. The water was to be carried across the Hassayampa river by means of a sand dam built across the river four or five feet high. The water ran in above the dam until the dam was full, and then it ran out on the other side. This means of carrying the water across the river was maintained for many years although the dam was washed out every time a little flush of water came down the Hassayampa.

On Oct. 28, 1888, the Buckeye Canal Company entered into a contract with William (Bucky) O'Neil to sell and transfer to him all their right and title

to the 50,000 inches of water that they had filed an appropriation on with the exception of 6,000 inches that they had already appropriated and was represented by 75 shares of stock which had been previously issued.

These 75 shares of stock to have first and prior rights in the canal up to the amount of 6,000 inches.

On Oct. 13, 1888, William O'Neil had formed a company to be known as the Buckeye Irrigation Company, and on the 31st day of October, he transferred his lately acquired title to the Buckeye Canal Co. to the newly formed company.

They took up the work of extending the canal from the Hassayampa to the lower end of the present Arlington Valley.

On this same date, October 13, the company entered into a contract with O'Neil to construct a good substantial dam at the head of the canal across the Gila River sufficient to divert at least 6,000 inches of water therefrom into the canal at all times for the benefit of the 75 share holders in the old Buckeye Canal Co., and to deliver to them free the 6,000 inches of water for a period of 21 years and thereafter at a price not to exceed \$1.00 per inch per year. The said company further agreed to keep the water in the canal at least 20 days out of every month except for the years 1889 and 1890 when they might turn all the water out to enlarge and extend the canal. Their contract was signed and recorded on Oct. 26, 1888.

On the 10th day of December 1888, the Buckeye Irrigation Company executed a mortgage to the Union Trust Co. of New York and on the 31st day of January, 1889 a supplement mortgage was added calling for the issuance of \$301,000 in bonds to be issued by the Irrigation Co. to the Trust Co. presumably to be used in extending and enlarging the canal and building a substantial dam.

On March 1, the Buckeye Canal Co. made an official transfer for all canal property to the Buckeye Irrigation Co. as they had fulfilled all the requirements they had entered into in a former contract with the Irrigation Company.

On June 28, 1888 the law firm of Baker and Campbell of Phoenix rendered

the following opinion as to the title of the Buckeye Canal Co., to 50,000 inches of water in the Gila River.

Phoenix, June 28, 1888

Mr. William O'Neil
Prescott, Arizona Territory

Dear Sir:

Upon examination we find Malie Jackson and J. L. Spain on the 28th day of May 1885 legally appropriated 12,000 inches of water of the Gila River and thereafter on the 30th day of September 1885 duly transferred all their rights in said location to the Buckeye Canal Company.

Upon the 28th day of July, 1886, the Buckeye Canal Co. legally appropriated 38,000 inches of water made by valid and legal location. No one can successfully by litigation prevent the Buckeye Canal Co. from using 50,000 inches of water appropriated when it has constructed a canal capable of carrying it all.

Respectfully,
Baker and Campbell

The following opinion was prepared and presented by E. T. Edwards, an attorney of Phoenix.

Phoenix, Arizona
March 8, 1889

This is to certify that I have this day examined the foregoing abstract of title and the opinion of Messrs. Baker and Campbell attached thereto and I concur in their opinion. And I further testify that in my opinion the foregoing mortgage to the Union Trust Co. of New York by the Buckeye Irrigation Co. is a first lien on the property of the Buckeye Canal Co. and 50,000 inches of water, etc., subject to the prior rights of the old Buckeye stockholders to 6,000 inches of water as stated in said abstract.

Very respectfully,
E. T. Edwards, Att. at Law

On Jan. 9, 1889 Maj. Edward H. Wilton reported to William O'Neil, secretary of the Buckeye Irrigation Co., "that in pursuance of instruction of Dec. 22, 1888, he had made a survey of the Buckeye Canal with a view of enlarging it to a capacity of 50,000 inches to irrigate 100,000 acres of land. He reported that a canal to carry 50,-

000 inches of water would have to be 50 feet on the bottom; six feet deep and a grade of 1.58 feet per mile, (about 22 inches) with a bank slope of 1 to 1. That the capacity of the present head gate was about 9000 inches with a dam raise of the water in the river of 2.3 ft." He goes on to make recommendation about a dam on top the present one and in regards to a new dam a quarter of a mile up stream and as to width the availability of rock, etc., and winds up by saying: "the location of the head of the canal is the best in the valleys of the Salt and Gila rivers as it catches all the water from the Salt and Verde and Gila Rivers, and also of the Agua Fria and Cave Creek; in fact, it catches the drainage of northern and northeastern Arizona, northwestern and western New Mexico and northeastern Sonora (Mexico). A vast territory larger than all the New England States".

He submitted an estimate of enlarging the canal to the Hassayampa, a distance of 23.84 miles, building the dam, enlarging head gates, etc. at \$107,040.00.

The Major goes on and says, "I claim that the land under the Buckeye Canal is far ahead of the Salt River Valley. West of the Hassayampa water is near the surface and at Mullins Well only 4 ft. from the surface. In section 17, 21, 27 or 26, Township 1 north, Range 5 west, I have a fall for water power of 40 ft.

"I look at this place as far ahead of the section around Phoenix, as a fruit country, the soil is better, the altitude as good or better, no winters, and scarcely any frost, during the last two winters. This country would have been settled up long ago but for the Gila River washing out all the canals in 1883 and 1884 on account of their bad location and bad construction."

After saying all these nice things about the country, he went on to say that a canal 48 miles long could be constructed for \$225,907.00 and it would cover 29,120 acres east of the Hassayampa and west 34,580 acres west of surveyed land and 48,000 acres of unsurveyed land making a total of 111,700 acres.

In December 1888 and January 1889, William Barnes, president of the Buckeye Irrigation Co. and Charles N.

Fowler, president of the Equitable Mortgage Co., of Kansas City entered into a verbal discussion in regards to providing the necessary money to finance the enlargement of the canal and a new and more substantial dam. The matter was brought before the Board of Directors of the mortgage company in Kansas City and a very lengthy letter was dispatched to Mr. Barnes on Jan. 23, 1889. Some of the highlights of the letter follow. (It seems that irrigation bonds were something new at that time and the Irrigation Co. deal with the Union Trust Co. of New York had been called off, hence this new attempt to get money to finance the canal enlargement.) Extracts from the letter follow: "Hon. William Barnes: We have certainly considered the Buckeye ditch matter and while we appreciate the intrinsic merit of the Bonds, we feel as though we should also recognize the fact that Bonds of their character are quite unusual and that it may be difficult to find purchasers for them. We, of course, must look upon them from the standpoint of sellers and compare them with other securities of equal or not very different merit, but about which the public is quite well informed." They go on to say, "6 per cent bonds are now being purchased from fruit lands at from 80 to 90."

They then proposed to advance \$30,000 upon its note each month at 6% interest until sufficient had been advanced to complete the work up to \$240,000 when at such time the Irrigation Co. should turn over to them the whole issue of \$300,000 in bonds and \$120,000 in stock as collateral for the loan.

They also reserved the right to investigate at any time, during the progress of the work, to determine if all the money advanced was going into the construction and necessary repairs.

Mr. Barnes in his answer to the Mortgage Co.'s letter stated, "That he had hoped for better terms but the credit of your company would be of advantage to us in addition to the loan of the money. The speedy commencement of the work is also an urgent necessity with us. I, therefore, as president of the Buckeye Irrigation Co. accept your proposal, subject to the approval of our board of directors."

Shortly after this exchange of letters, Mr. Barnes whose headquarters were in New York and Mr. H. P. Churchill of Kansas City, as a representative of the Mortgage Co. made a trip to Arizona and Mr. Churchill made an elaborate report to his company on his findings in regard to the canal and country on March 3, 1889.

Some extracts from his report follow: "Arizona courts recognize the first appropriation in a river of all the water appropriated up to extent of his appropriation; an inch of water in Arizona is considered enough to irrigate two acres of land—after land has been irrigated a few years an inch will irrigate three or four acres; to the ability of the Buckeye Irrigation Co., to continuously and perpetually supply the amount of water its appropriation entitles it to. I enclose a map showing its water shed of about 30,000 square miles. The annual rain fall around Salt River Valley is 7.5 inches while in the vicinity of Prescott it is 15.18 inches.

The extent of the area drained—and the known annual rainfall—assures beyond doubt of a permanent supply of water far in excess of the appropriation.

The strategic location of the Buckeye Dam at a point just below the junction of the Salt and Gila rivers and the Agua Fria enables the Buckeye Company to command the water of the entire water-shed.

"As the Salt and Gila Rivers are the largest rivers in Arizona and as the Buckeye is the only canal that commands their united volume, it is in my opinion and must remain the most valuable canal property in Arizona."

"I was amused at the wonderful products of the valley, alfalfa produces 5 and 6 crops a year, everything nearly, which the temperate zones and tropics produce are produced here—and it is confidently predicted that at no distant day this valley will take a higher rank in its fruit products than California."

Mr. Churchill then goes into a lengthy array of figures of what in income yearly from the proposed canal system would be from the sale of water and water rights. He winds up his report by recommending the

loan as a good investment.

After some more correspondence between Mr. Barnes and the Mortgage Co. offices, a contract was drawn up by the Mortgage Co. with about the same proposal that was made at first, only the sum to be advanced each month to be \$24,000 instead of the \$30,000 and to remain in the Mortgage Co.'s possession, and draw 3% interest until expended and the Irrigation Co. was to set aside in a sinking fund one half of all monies received from the sale of water and stock to pay off the mortgage bonds when they became due.

On April 9, 1889, A. W. Chamberlin, general solicitor for Equitable Mortgage Co. reported to Charles N. Fowler, president of the Mortgage Co. that the Irrigation Co.'s affairs were all in good shape and carried out legally in every respect. But he had unearthed another problem that might be a detriment to the loan.

The United States Congress passed an Act on October 2, 1888 to become effective June 30, 1889 where: "All lands which hereafter may be designated or selected by United States surveys for sites for reservoir, ditches or canals for irrigation purposes and all lands made susceptible of irrigation by such reservoirs or ditches or canals are from this time henceforth reserved from sale as the property of the United States, and shall not be subject after the passage of the act, to entry settlement or occupation until further provided by law. Provided that the President may at any time in his discretion by proclamation open any portion or all the lands reserved by this provision to settlement under the homestead laws." Mr. Chamberlin further writes that as this would without question apply to the Buckeye District, the homesteads or entry men could not gain title to their land, or file on more so he states with these facts staring one in the face it would be hardly wise to invest directly or indirectly in the Buckeye Canal."

Mr. Churchill who had done most of the dickering about the loan with Mr. Barnes, left the United States for a short time just at the time Mr. Chamberlin made his report and upon his return again took up the matter with Mr. Barnes as he did not agree

with Mr. Chafberlin's interpretation of the law. The result was that he suggested to Mr. Barnes that the Mortgage Co. supply sufficient money to put in the dam and improve and enlarge the already going canal and that by that time the law would be clarified or repealed by Congress and that they could then go ahead and finish the work. Several nationally known law firms were consulted; among them Hobbs and Gifford of New York, they said, "They did not think the Act of Congress has the effect to prevent the location of water rights and the building of reservoirs, ditches and dams for the purpose of irrigation by private enterprises."

In September and October, 1889, Donald W. Campbell, consulting engineer and George W. Hobbs as lawyer for the Equitable Mortgage Co., made a visit to Arizona and the Buckeye country and spent considerable time looking over the situation and lay of the country. On Nov. 2, 1889 Mr. Campbell made a lengthy and comprehensive report to the company finding. "the cost of construction is a low rate per acre—and the enterprise is a remarkably good one."

A table of estimated receipts and expenditures was attached, showing that there was more land covered by the canal than could be cared for by the water appropriated. He listed 132,960 acres as the total of all lands under the canal.

His estimate of constructing 41 miles of main canal and 20 miles of laterals was \$232,660.

Dam	\$53,163
Levee	12,235
Headgates & others	38,100
Bridges	10,000
Engineering	12,000
Office & Travel	14,642
Int. on lyr. bonds	37,200
Total cost	\$456,000

He estimated the first year's income at \$257,500, mostly from the sale of not less than 20,000 acres of water rights at \$12.50 per acre or \$250,000 from sale of 10,000 acres of water at 75c or \$7,500. From these totals he deducted an estimated expense of \$76,500 leaving a total of \$180,800 to be placed in a sinking fund to pay off the bonds for constructing the project when they became due. He figured that the total

project could be paid in five years. In Feb., 1890 a verbal agreement was entered into between the representative of the Mortgage Co. and William Barnes and W.m. O'Neil for the Buckeye Irrigation Co. in which the Mortgage Co. would organize a new company with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, and that they would turn over to Barnes and O'Neil \$400,000 of this stock and retain the other \$600,000. And the Mortgage Co. agreed to furnish the new company a sum not exceeding \$600,000 for the construction and completion of the canal system as outlined by Engineer Donald W. Campbell and to buy the new bonds at 80% par value at 7% interest.

On May 9, 1890, Mr. Campbell made another report to the Mortgage Co., and said that his assistant had completed another survey to the 61st mile.

From the record as far as we are able to learn the new survey took the canal in a big circle crossing the Hassayampa River, taking most of what we now know as the Centennial wash District and coming out on the top of the hill at Gillespie Dam where the records show it was 138 ft. above the river bed and about 48 ft. above a dam proposed by Gov. Wolfley at this place. There it was to cross the river in a seven foot siphon 3600 ft. long and cover 53,000 acres on the east and south side of the river. Mr. Campbell's estimate for this construction was \$415,716 and it would bring 123,000 acres under irrigation.

On Feb. 1, 1890 Walnut Grove Dam on the Hassayampa broke and released a torrent of water stored behind it, that came rushing down the otherwise dry creek bed of the Hassayampa. It reached the Buckeye Canal at 9:30 A. M. on the morning of February 22. As the channel of the creek was at that time quite small, of much more than a big splash, the water spread out over the flats on each side of the channel so where Highway 80 now crosses, it was at least a mile wide running better than waist deep thru the house on the old Evans homestead. After the flood was gone the former little channel had cut out to a creek of considerable width, something near its present size. So maintaining the sand dam across the creek bed, to carry the canal water from the east side to the

west side, and on down into the Arlington country, developed into quite an undertaking as it washed out every time a rain of any size at all fell in the hills or on the desert above there. According to an old timer who lived here before the flood, two men and teams could put the dam across the channel in a day. In 1895 the author helped to put it back after a washout and it took sixteen men and teams from sunup to dark to do the job, so it was at least 8 times as big as it was before the flood.

Then came the big flood of 1891 which is talked about, not only by Buckeye Old Timers, but by Phoenixians as well, who told of it getting up to Jefferson Street at the vicinity of the intersection of Fifth Street. Buckeye old timers say it was up almost to the present Buckeye town.

After a winter of unprecedented snowfall in the Salt River Water shed, there came a warm rain on the snow about Feb. 18 and 19 and the 21st the flood had developed, reaching up into Phoenix as we have above stated. A few hours later it was flooding the Buckeye Valley, coming from the river in what was known as Toothaker Slough, where the Ralph Cooper ranch is now, it broke the South Extension canal and followed the Alkali Swail down, clear across the valley, getting almost into Buckeye, flooding all the country around where the Buckeye disposal plant now stands and for a time what is now Liberty and the ranches south and west from there were on an island, as there was a running river on both sides of them.

The dam and gates at the head of the canal were washed out and all the low flat country on the north side of the canal under water, for several miles down.

After the flood was gone the Buckeye Canal was in a sorry mess. The Canal was washed out or filled up with drift or sand for the first five or six miles.

With this condition staring the new settlers in the face and no chance of getting water in time for crops, that year, many of the farmers moved out. Some to return to their homesteads later and some never. It was at this junction that T. N. (better known as Newt) Clanton came into the picture.

While the Buckeye Irrigation Co. had talked big things that would cost a half million or so dollars, when this emergency arrived they were not prepared to do anything about it. It was then Mr. Clanton got busy and circulated around among the remaining farmers with a petition setting forth how much they would contribute, by work or money to put the canal back in shape, and repair the dam and headgates, so they could again get water on their lands. It was slow work for the few farmers left in the valley and it was months before the canal and dam were again in shape and water flowing in the ditch.

On Jan. 16, 1893, a Mr. S. A. Davidson filed notice of a dam and canal location on the south side of the Gila river just south across the river from the Buckeye Canal and head works. The canal to begin in a point of rocks jutting out into the river bed and to be 66 feet wide. He filed notice on 50,000 inches of water or so much thereof as was necessary to irrigate all land covered by a canal extending 85 miles down the river on the south side and covering land that was planned to be covered by the Buckeye Canal by water carried across the river at a flume at what is now the Gillespie Dam.

The location notice was witnessed by F. P. Trott, a well known engineer (Arizona), C. J. Dyer and Jose Uriel-nay. As far as we have been able to determine nothing was ever done about constructing the proposed canal.

The 1891 flood seemed to have put a crimp in the Equitable Co.'s plan to organize a million dollar canal company and build a 65 mile canal to irrigate a total of 133,000 acres of land, for we find that on March 11, 1893, Wm. O'Neil and Wm. Barnes bought two sections of land in the lower end of the Buckeye Valley for \$6400.00 that had come into the Mortgage Co.'s possession. The sale was made by Sheriff J. K. Murphy at the order of the judge of the District Court of the third Judicial District of the Territory of Arizona, to partly satisfy a judgment for \$179,981.67. The judgment was obtained by Barnes and O'Neil against the Equitable Mortgage Co. in said court on February 11, 1893.

The next two or three years things settled down and the water flowed

uninterrupted except for the dam washing out now and then and the canal breaking from rains on the desert north of the canal and the White Tank mountains. In the summer of 1896, it started to rain in July and rained every few days for the next two months, breaking the canal faster than the company could fix it. Pioneer George Day told us of a break in the canal (near what is known now as the Day corner, 2 miles west of Buckeye), from one rain that was over 100 feet wide. A day or so later before the hole was fixed another rain came and broke another hole 75 feet wide, 150 feet west of the first hole and it is still open. And yet, some people say, "It Never Rains in Arizona."

The farmers were depended upon by the canal company to fix all breaks for which labor, they were issued time checks payable in water only. That is, they could be used only in paying for water. Wages were \$1.50 per day for men, he to board himself, and \$1.00 for team as all work was done by team and scraper.

Time checks issued by the Company for labor at \$1.50 per day as they were sold for as low as 50c and 75c on the dollar by some people who had no land, and so, no need for water, and by others who had accumulated more than they wanted for the year and needed the cash for living expenses. On account of so much rain the desert was green as a wheat field, with the cattle up to their bellies in desert grasses and weeds.

The farmers were most dependent on the cattlemen for the sale of their crops and so, for their living. With all their free feed on the desert it was almost out of the question for the farmers to dispose of crops to the cattlemen, and when they did, at such a low figure that it was ridiculous.

One such instance was the sale of 60 acres of sorghum 2 miles west of Buckeye to Oscar Roberts for \$100.00,—in ordinary years it would have brought from 8 to 10 hundred dollars. This will give some idea of why the farmers needed the money so badly.

As canal service had not been of the best for some years past, a bunch of the farmers got together and appointed three of their members, M. E. Clanton, J. F. Wilcox and M. M. Jack-

son to negotiate a lease with the Buckeye Canal Co., (who were again operating the canal) for a term of two years. The agreement was signed on the 10th day of February, 1897 by T. N. Clanton, President and J. L. Alexander, Secretary for the Canal Co., and the three above named gentlemen, for the farmers. The agreement set forth that the Canal Co. was to furnish the farmers \$2000.00 with which they were to build a flume across the Hassayampa that would carry 1,000 inches of water and to build five other flumes under the canal where the large washes from the mountains crossed the canal. They also agreed to furnish all materials, nails, lumber, etc. to fix and maintain the headgates at the head of the canal, and to furnish the provision to board the men and the hay and grain to feed the horses while working on the dam and headgates during the year 1897. The agreement was to run until Jan. 1899 when the farmers were to turn the canal back to the company without any debts incurred during the time of the lease and with all new improvements paid for.

On Oct. 5, 1899, the O'Neil interests in the Buckeye Canal system was sold to W. Moultrie of Fresno, Calif., by Wm. O'Neil's widow. William (Bucky) O'Neil had been killed in the Spanish American War at San Juan Hill, Cuba, July 1, 1898. And so the bulk of his property, among which was canal property, had gone to his widow, Pauline. J. H. Braley of Los Angeles had negotiated the deal and it was closed for the sum of \$6400.00. On June 5, 1900, J. H. Braley again acting for W. Moultrie sold to J. Ernest Walker and J. Curtiss Wasson the Buckeye Canal and 3000 acres of land under it, for the sum of \$30,000.

The day before, June 4, 1900, they, with W. W. Messinger had signed articles of Incorporation for a new canal company to be known as the Buckeye Canal and Land Co. with main office at Phoenix and on the 10th day of August they filed their incorporation papers with C. H. Akers, secretary of state.

On September 27, 1900 they were issued a sheriff's deed against the Buckeye Canal Co. on a judgment obtained by W. Moultrie on the 24th day

of February 1900 for the sum of \$11,292.23 and assigned by him, to the new company and so passed into oblivion the old Buckeye Canal Co.

During 1901, an effort was made by the farmers under the People's ditch or the South Extension to get the Canal Co. to take over and operate their ditch. Originally the canal company had built the South Extension to where it intersected the Salt and Gila Base line and the farmers from there on had built and maintained their own ditch. But having no company or system of operation, things were not very satisfactory—the upper ranchers getting most or all the water and those on the lower end little or none. This resulted in several of the farmers building expensive ditches known as "burrow" ditches from the main canal. They were in places built across the alkali flat that lay between the canal and the land they desired to irrigate and were eight and ten feet high, on top of a dirt dyke that was forever breaking from dry weather cracks or gopher holes. But even this was more preferable than trying to get water through the South Extension.

The Buckeye Canal and Land Co. did not make much of a hit with the Buckeye farmers so in 1902 they began trying to sell out their interest and contacted a Denver man, James R. Thorpe who sent an engineer, J. C. Ulrich to look over and appraise the property. So on Jan. 15, 1902 he made a report back to Mr. Thorpe on what he had found and his recommendations that existed at that time.

The canal is diverted from the North Bank of the Gila River at a point about 20 miles Southwest of the city of Phoenix (and is designed to water the land lying between the Canal and the river, and between this point of diversion and the Hassayampa, a stream from the north entering the Gila at a point about 45 miles southwest of Phoenix.

This canal consists of a main line and one branch or lateral which is diverted toward the south at a point about 5 miles between the Main Headgate and the river and is designed to irrigate lands near the river, which are separated from the main tract by a depression. I did not examine this branch and will therefore confine my

description to the main line.

Between the point of diversion (the dam) and the south branch above referred to, the bottom width of the channel varies between 12 and 16 feet and the depth of the water when running full is about 5 feet. Between the dam and the waste gate, a distance of about three miles, the channel consists of a cut or excavation from 6 to 12 feet deep. The waste gate is designed as an outlet through which surplus water may be returned to the river when there is more in the Canal than is required by the consumers below. From the south branch to the end of the canal proper, which is at the Hassayampa, a distance of about 20 miles from 12 feet to about 4.

Most of the canal is reasonably well constructed and in fair condition with the exception of a distance of perhaps a mile where the channel is constructed on embankments above the general level of the ground. These banks or fills should be strengthened by giving them a greater width. The entire channel from beginning to end is encumbered with weeds and brush which seriously reduces its carrying capacity. This should be cleared off and kept clean in the interest of effective service.

The only important structures on the ditch aside from the headgate and dam are the waste gate already referred to, and the small flume across the Hassayampa near the lower end of the works. Both of these are new structures and should serve for many years without much expense for repairs. They appeared to be well designed and executed. The waste gate cost \$650 and the flume \$1300.

The headgate is old and in very bad condition. Its replacement by a new structure is now under consideration and should be executed with no more delay than is necessary, because the existing structure is too weak to withstand the strain that may be brought against it at any time by high water when the Gila is in flood. There should also be a waste gate located at or near the headgate for the purpose of discharging surplus water during moderate rises in the river and to assist in the disposition of sand which may otherwise enter and clog the channel of the water-way.

The dam which is about 1800 feet long consists essentially of a ridge of loose rock piled across the channel of the river diagonally from the headgate to the opposite side. It is at present in fair condition, having been recently improved by the expenditure of \$5000 or \$6000. It can, however, be made stronger and safer by the deposition of an additional quantity of rock so placed as to increase its width without adding to its height. I would recommend that this work be done, and the expenditure required would amount to \$4000 or \$5000. The rock for this purpose is obtained from the granite hill on the south side of the river and about a half mile up stream from the dam site. Heretofore it has been hauled in wagons and dumped by hand upon the dam. This is rather an expensive method, laborious at all times, and impossible during periods of floods. This work could be done more economically and with greater expedition if a suspended cable were created from the quarry to and across the damsite. The stone could be conveyed from the quarry to the damsite in metal receptacles suspended from this cable and dumped upon the dam at any desired point. Under this plan the work could be executed during periods of high water when under the old regime it would be impossible to proceed with it.

A plant of this character would approximate to an insurance of the efficiency of the dam. I would recommend that this arrangement be investigated and if determined to be practicable that it be adopted. The most vulnerable feature of the enterprise, because of the treacherous character of the Gila River, is the dam; it must be made reasonably safe or the enterprise will be of doubtful value.

THE LANDS UNDER THE SYSTEM

As nearly as I could determine from the maps of the company and the statements of the people living in that vicinity, there are about 16,000 acres of land between the headgate and the Hassayampa that can be watered by this canal. Of this area probably about 12,000 acres are good tillable land for which water will be actually required. This area when all cultivated will result in a demand for about 6,000 inches of water, which practically determines

the scope of this enterprise.

This area, in the main smooth desert land, not quite so phenomenally regular in surfaces as that in the vicinity of Phoenix, but nevertheless essentially level. It can, with but little expense be put into such condition as to insure the very best results from irrigation. Most of it is a rich sandy loam, unsurpassed in fertility and capable of producing alfalfa in quantities not exceeded anywhere else in the region. All other crops common to the Salt River Valley can be produced, but alfalfa appears to be the most profitable and is therefore the favorite crop.

This is a comparatively new region and therefore the improvements are as yet neither so extensive nor so elaborate as in the older settlements, but there is an evident air of thrift and energy which proves that the settlers have full confidence in the ultimate outcome of the enterprise. Probably one-third of the tillable area is as yet unimproved, but is practically all in the hands of private owners and likely to be developed at an early date, and will then add to the revenues of the canal through its demand for water.

Water under this system is delivered under what is known as the inch measurement upon the basis of one-half of an inch to an acre of land. From an examination of the books of the company, I have concluded that about 3500 inches were actually applied to land during the year 1901, and there appeared reason to justify the conclusion that 4,000 inches would be called for during the year 1902. The delivery for last year indicated an area of about 7,000 acres under cultivation, and it is expected that not less than 8,000 acres will be farmed this year. The price which the company receives for this water is \$3.00 per inch; consequently the gross income for last year was about \$10,500 and it is expected, with reason, that it will reach \$12,000 this year.

Some of the water consumers own shares of stock in the company and others have "water rights"; both are entitled to the use of the water; a share of stock conveying a right to the use of the same volume that is guaranteed by the water right. The volume so conveyed is in both cases

20 inches, which is the amount generally used on 40 acres of land. The shareholders and owners of the water right fare alike so far as the cost of the water is concerned, each paying at the rate of \$3.00 per inch per annum for its carriage, the Company acting in the capacity of a common carrier of water to shareowners and water right holders.

Persons holding neither water rights nor shares of stock are not entitled to the use of the water even though willing to pay the carriage charges. All the water rights and all the shares of stock (400 in number of each) are now disposed of and in the hands of individuals.

The essential difference between a water right and a share of stock is this: a water right gives the owner the right to the use of water upon the payment to the company of \$3 per inch per annum for its carriage, but does not give him a right to vote upon questions concerning the operation of the canal; he has no voice in the management or operation in the plant, no ownership in the canal itself, nor does he participate in the distribution of dividends if any are realized. The owner of a share of stock has no right by virtue of this share alone the use of water from the canal; but he has a voice in the management in proportion to the amount of his stock. He also receives his pro-rata of the dividends if any are earned. The company, as such, no longer has any water rights for sale nor does it own any land, therefore its only source of dividends is in the excess of income from water carriage charges. Over the cost of maintenance; up to the present date no dividends have been realized. On the contrary, an indebtedness of \$13,000 has been accumulated, which represents the excess of the cost of operation and maintenance over the gross income. Two factors have contributed to this result; first, prior to its reorganization, which took place about two years ago, its affairs had been conducted in a desultory manner, because of lack of funds, there being prior to that date only a few farmers operating under the system. Under this regime, the works were permitted to run down and the channel to fill with mud and brush. Having a weak and ineffective dam, the latter partially failed about

a year ago with the cleaning out of the canal and general improvement of other parts of the plant resulted in the accumulation of the indebtedness referred to.

There appears to be good reason to justify the belief that the income from the operation of 1902 will be sufficient to defray the expenses of operation and maintenance, but no dividends may be expected before the end of the year 1903.

It has been the universal experience of those personally conducting farming operations in the Salt River Valley that wherever the water supply is sufficient and continuous, success results from such operations when skillfully conducted; but the water supply from either the Salt or Gila Rivers is usually deficient throughout much of the year, much of that passing through the dry season, sinking in the deep sands of the river channel and thus becoming unavailable for irrigation.

This canal, however, has been fortunate in the selection for its head-works of a point where, because of the comparative proximity of bed rock to the surface, there is a constant flow of water even when the channel, a few miles above or below, is perfectly dry. As a result of this condition, this Canal has a continuous supply of water when all other ditches in this region are dry. I do not give this as a fact of my own personal knowledge, but I know from personal observation, that this canal was running full and wasting at least one-third of its capacity back into the river at the time of my visit, and that no other canal in this valley was enjoying similar conditions at this time. I therefore have every reason to believe that its supply of water is superior to that of any other enterprise in this region.

The area of land that can be watered is limited, but its quality is equal to that of the very best in the arid region. The proximity of the great Salt River Valley of which Phoenix is the center, which suffers annually for lack of water insures that the superior advantages of a sufficient and certain water supply will be known and appreciated and guarantees a rapid settlement and development by a class of settlers who are accustomed to the practice of irrigation as it is here con-

ducted. This practically eliminates one of the most common elements of weakness involved in the average irrigation enterprises; that of being compelled to carry the enterprise many years without income pending the settlement of the country by immigrants from distant regions.

The isolation of its location, 35 miles from the nearest railroad, will be by some considered a decided disadvantage. This will be particularly true with reference to those settlers who are looking for locations upon small sites for permanent homes. It will therefore, be limited to its acquisition of settlers to those who intended to engage in alfalfa and cattle raising. For this purpose, it appears to be especially adapted, and there appears to be every reason to predict marked success for those embarking in these enterprises.

From the standpoint of the investor who undertakes the development of the enterprise for the dividends which may result from its operation, the limited scope of its operation may be considered a serious drawback. Even though the percentage of dividends which my estimates here indicate are fully realized, the aggregate value of the profits is too small to attract the majority of non-resident capitalists.

The element of uncertainty connected with the maintenance of a dam in so treacherous a stream as the Gila is another disadvantage, and while I believe that this dam can be accomplished with reasonable certainty and at reasonable expense the possibility to damage to this structure by floods is a liability which it may be well not to lose sight of (if you think seriously of becoming interested in the proposition.)

I am not an enthusiast in the subject of irrigation investments, and I make it a principle never to strongly advise anyone to embark in such enterprises. I would not however, by any means, feel justified in advising you not to take up this proposition, because I feel satisfied from the information I have gathered, that if its affairs are skillfully and honestly conducted it will return a good profit from the investment of the capital which I have herein referred to as the most of the enterprise. I will mention in this connec-

tion that this is a conclusion which I have been able to reach in connection with but few of the enterprises upon which I have reported during recent years.

In consideration the estimates of cost which I herein submit, it must be understood that they are not the result of actual measurements nor the consideration of actually completed plans, but they are simply based upon a comparison with the cost of similar works that I have personally designed and executed elsewhere. To have made up estimates based upon actual survey and designs would have required a month of time devoted to the work whereas I only put in two days (three days out from Phoenix) upon the examination of this plant. All that I can say for these figures is that I have endeavored in their compilation to be very liberal in my estimates of the expenditures required and have attempted to be decidedly conservative in my deductions for revenue to be expected. I therefore feel justified in believing that under a skillful and efficient management dividends substantially as I have indicated, may be anticipated, and that they may be realized within the periods which I have designated. In the event, however, that you should purchase this property and it should develop that my figures may not be borne out by the facts, you would still have a certain redress that would protect you from loss in the operation of the plant. This redress will be found in your contracts with water consumers which prescribe that you may increase the price from water delivery up to a limit of \$5 if this course becomes necessary; by increasing the price from \$3 to \$4 per inch, it appears to me that you could safely count upon a profit even though your dam should be partly destroyed every year.—(Signed J. C. Ulrich.)

In 1899 the people on the lower end of the canal in what is now known as Arlington, got together and organized a new canal company and named it the Arlington Canal, with its head south of the town of Buckeye in the Gila River. The canal was built by the farmers and homesteaders of that region during the winter of 1899 and spring and early summer of 1900. When it was completed it covered and

irrigated all land west of the Hassayampa that was formerly irrigated by the Buckeye Canal Co., except what is now known as the Tovrea Ranch, but then as the Christian Ranch.

After Ulrich, consulting engineer, for the James R. Thorpe interests of Denver, made his report, Mr. Thorpe entered into and completed negotiations for the purchase of the canal which was consummated in March, 1902.

Steps were at once taken to move the office from Phoenix to Buckeye and were set up on a ranch one and one-half miles west of Buckeye with Herman Apgar as secretary. A new system of bookkeeping was set up, as the books under the old company were poorly kept.

The capital stock of 400 shares at a par value of \$250.00 was recognized and so were entered on the new books.

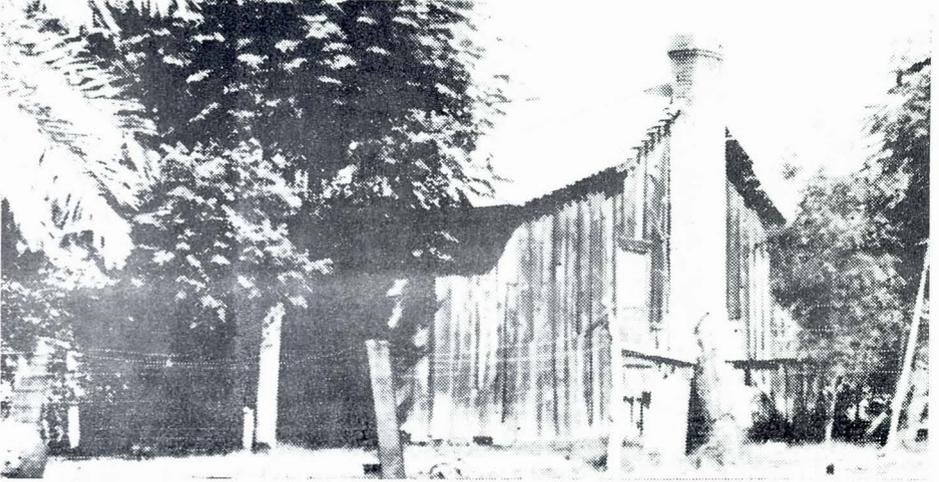
During the year 1902 G. H. Christian, owner of the land now known as the Tovrea Ranch entered into a contract with the Thorpe interests to construct an overhead flume across the Hassayampa to get a better water supply to his ranch. This was done at a cost of \$1500.00. The flume was made out of 2x12 lumber and was 3 feet wide and 2 feet deep, and carried across the river on 9 piers made out of 6x6 timbers.

In June of that year a tramway one and one quarter mile long was built at the dam to better get rock out on the dam where needed. Heretofore it had to be handled by wagon and team. During the summer and up to Dec. 15, 1902 a crew of men of from 20 to 50 were kept on the job at all times. The result was a dam of from 40 to 60 feet wide, with an average width of 50 feet, instead of the old one of 10 or 12 feet wide.

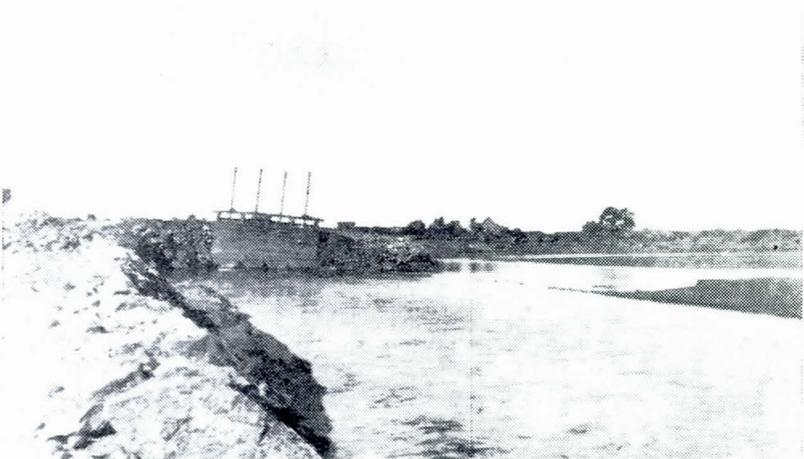
During the summer of 1902, there were eleven floods of sufficient volume to flow over the new dam but none of them caused any trouble. Five of them came from the Agua Fria and five from the Gila and one from the Salt River.

During this year the Wessex Co. of Denver constructed a telephone line through the valley stringing 40 miles of line and installing 75 telephones.

In the latter part of this year a start



The old Spain home built in 1886
This part still in use 1956



Buckeye Canal Headgate 1907

was made to install measuring weirs in all service laterals and ditches. Heretofore the Zanjero had carried a measuring stick with him and had to stop and set it in the ditch any time he desired to measure water.

Water rates were \$3.00 per inch per annum up to April 1, 1903, but at that time they were raised to \$4.00 to cover the increased costs of improvements and operations. They had gone \$1600 in the red during 1902.

The only thing of importance to happen during the year 1903, outside of the raise in the price of water and incident thereto, was a bunch of angry farmers, incensed about said raise, organized the White Tanks Canal Co. Their purpose was to parallel the Buckeye Canal on the north side from the dam to the Hassayampa, to supply their own land with water and eventually put the Buckeye Canal out of business. The incorporators were John R. Norton, Nels Benson, T. N. Clanton, H. W. Davis and F. G. Millage.

In July of this year the largest flood since 1891 came down the river and washed out the northwest end of the dam but was rebuilt and water again running inside of three days.

On May 1, 1903, the canal company purchased the telephone line from the Wessez Co. for \$1200.00 and took over the operation of same. During 1904 the line was extended through the Arlington country to Gila Bend, and from the Buckeye dam to Bill Moore's, Coldwater, on the Agua Fria. There were over 100 phones in use at this time.

On Aug. 1, 1940 came the largest flood down the river since the '91 flood. The Gila, Salt and Agua Fria rivers all came down together at near the same time and the three, combined made the big river. And it didn't last just a few days but continued with fluctuations up and down until about the middle of September. Superintendent James Day was on the job at all times with men and teams and when the river would drop a day or so, would plug up the biggest holes with big trees anchored to dead men by inch cables and so would get water back in the canal for a few days until a new freshet would come down and tear it out again, so it would have to be done all over again. When the

floods were over it was found that the break in the dam was 660 ft. long and from 2 to 20 ft. deep. The dam was immediately rebuilt about 50 ft. wide and water turned permanently into the canal on September 18. Work on the dam was continued until December 1 when it was again declared to be in A-1 condition.

Three times during the floods the canal was entirely obliterated from the dam to the old headgates by sand and had to be removed by team and slip scraper. The canal company spent about \$5,500 on the dam during this flood.

Later in the fall, five suits for damage against the Canal Company were brought by ranchers alleging neglect in repairing the dam, and between 40 and 50 more threatened, totaling \$40,000.00 altogether.

On New Year's Eve 1905, it started to rain again and in a few days the Gila was in flood and remained in that condition until the middle of May. Again the dam was in danger but withstood the flood until January 10 when it went out and water was out of the canal until June 14. But owing to the extensive and frequent local rains the crops did not suffer too much.

During this rainy period the Hassayampa also got on a rampage and washed out the new overhead flume, five of the nine bents having to be rebuilt.

On April 7, 1905, the creditors of the Canal Company made petition to the court for the appointment of a receiver for the Canal Co.; and the court appointed Mr. Frank P. Trott, a well known civil engineer of Phoenix, who also was court water commissioner for the Salt River Valley canal system.

During the height of the flood the Gila shifted its main channel to the north side of the river bed and cut away about 700 feet of the canal beginning at a point one half mile west of the canal headgates. This was rebuilt farther back from the river at a cost of \$8,087.00. The damage suffered by the South Extension was repaired for about \$120.00. Repairs on dam from this flood amounted to \$4,000.00.

Buckeye was not the only canal company to suffer from this long

drawn out flood. Salt River canals reported a damage of over \$100,000.00. Railroad bridges were washed out time and again and many farmers along the rivers involved suffered losses from a few acres to as much as practically their entire farm, and all the way from Safford to Yuma. It was this flood from the Gila joining with the Colorado flood that broke over into the Imperial Valley with such devastating results, and in which the best engineers of the nation and all the resources of the Southern Pacific railroad were called upon before it was stopped.

On June 6, 1905, the first of the damage suits against the Canal Co. was brought to trial in Justice Court, and a verdict rendered to the plaintiff. An appeal was made at once to the District Court. On November 27 a test case of Clanton vs. Buckeye Canal Company was tried in the District Court, and a verdict was rendered the defendant Canal Company.

On September 20 of the year 1905, the District Court raised the rate of water from the \$4.00 the farmers were so incensed about to \$4.50 per inch as it was found by the receiver that with all the unforeseen damage done by the floods that the canal could not be operated for less. This was like rubbing a sore spot for the farmers, but they could do nothing about it, as it was a court order, except push harder for the construction of the White Tank Canal. The following are a few of the larger items of expense listed for the year 1905 up to November 1st: New canal \$15,194.72; canal repairs, \$3,648.58; dam repairs, \$5,411.81; canal breaks, \$517.85; new headgate, \$850.50; South Extension, \$368.21; Hassayampa Flume, \$385.31. The new headgate was built mostly from railroad timbers from washed out bridges, salvaged during the big spring flood. Engineers had estimated the gate would cost at least \$5,000.00, but by using these timbers the cost was cut to \$850.00.

During the year 1906, more floods came and along near the close of the year, one flood cut into the canal back of the headgate on the upper side and part ran down the canal and part back through the headgate into the river. The management of the Canal Company fearing a larger rise in the

river and so much water would go down the canal that it would tear it to pieces below, proceeded to put a dirt dam across the canal about 200 yards below the headgates and so stopped all water from going into the canal.

A few of the wise cool, level headed farmers began to realize something would have to be done shortly if they were going to survive as a community as the Wessex Water Company was not giving satisfactory service in operating the canal and that the building of the White Tank Canal was going to be a long drawn out affair even after the canal was built, the farmers' troubles were only beginning, as each and every ditch from the canal would have to cross the canal and an easement across the right of way. With the Wessex Water Company going to court with the farmers' every move, it could be seen it was going to be a long drawn out affair. So a few of the farmers decided the best thing to do was to try and secure an option to buy the Buckeye Canal from the Wessex Water Company. So in the fall and winter of 1906, Mr. Thorpe, president of the Water Company was contacted and he talked very favorably. The committee that had made the negotiations was composed of N. Benson, J. S. Day, G. C. Simons, Fred Walls, W. R. Beloit, C. M. Zander and C. H. Odell.

CHAPTER II

The Beginning of The Buckeye Irrigation Company

On February 28, 1907 articles of agreement were drawn up and presented to a mass meeting of the Valley farmers called at the Buckeye School House March 2, 1907. The articles of agreement were read and discussed and voted upon by an acreage vote with the result that more than two thirds of the acreage was in favor of ratifying the agreement. Then they proceeded to select a name of the company and C. M. Zander presented the name of Buckeye Irrigation Company, which was adopted. Articles of Incorporation previously prepared by lawyers Lewis of Phoenix were read and adopted and the following farmers were named as directors of the new company (the number of seven having

been decided upon): Geo. Day, P. H. Benson, P. E. Moore, Geo. Drew, H. A. Hammels, Chas. Barkley and L. H. Thayer.

The agreement adopted at this meeting, was to the effect that a physical appraisal of the canal system be made by two engineers, with a third in case of disagreement. Mr. Ulrich of Denver was Mr. Thorpe's engineer and Ad Farish of Phoenix was selected by the newly formed company. They in turn selected a Mr. Parker of Los Angeles as the third man. Work of measuring and cross-sectioning the canal was begun at once by Messrs. Ulrich and Farish and Zanjero I. H. Parkman as head chairman. This committee of engineers fixed the physical valuation of the canal system at \$97,900.00 and after some more mass meetings and more dickering back and forth a sale price was at last agreed upon at \$92,900.00.

The new company was organized along different lines from all its predecessors, in that it made the acre the basis of stock. Each acre of irrigable land would represent one share of stock up to 16,000 shares, at a par value of \$10 per share. It was a purely co-operative affair and only land owners could own stock. Each share when issued became perpetually appurtenant to that particular acre of land and could not be sold or transferred without the sale of the land. In purchasing the canal the new company assumed a bonded indebtedness of \$86,500.00 from the Wessex Company payable \$8,000.00 per year.

On March 4 at another called meeting, the first board of officers for the new company was elected as follows: H. A. Hammels, President; George Drew, Vice President; George P. Brown, Secretary; and P. E. Moore, Treasurer. At this meeting 5089 acres were signed up for stock in the Company. On May 8, 1907 at a called stockholders meeting it was voted to take over and operate the South Extension of the canal for its full length. Previous to this time, the Company had only operated it as far as the Base Line Road and the farmers getting water through it, the rest of the way. On May 24, 1907 a committee that had been appointed to draw up a code of by-laws, made its report to the stock-

holders at another called meeting. After considerable discussion and amending they were adopted and constituted the by-laws of the company, with a few changes and additions, operate under at the present time.

On May 28, the Board of Directors met and employed Tom Levy as superintendent at a salary of \$125.00 per month. He thereby became the first superintendent of the new Company.

On June 4, George P. Brown was employed as secretary at a salary of \$75.00 per month. He had been acting secretary ever since the canal company had been organized, and at this time the office of treasurer was joined to that of the secretary, so he assumed the responsibility of both offices. Also at this meeting the salary of the Zanjero I. H. Parkman was fixed at \$100.00 per month, he to furnish his own transportation.

On June 24, 1907 Mr. Levy, the superintendent died and Henry Wilkey was hired at a salary of \$150.00 to fill his place as superintendent.

After the farmers got hold of the canal, they began to find out what the old companies had been up against in trying to operate the system on water at \$2.00 an inch, and so the board of directors ordered an assessment of \$2.50 per inch for the six month period beginning October 1, 1907.

On September 23, the board of directors met in special session and at that meeting the usual procedure of selling water by the inch was changed and from that time on it was sold by the acre. One half inch being allowed per acre.

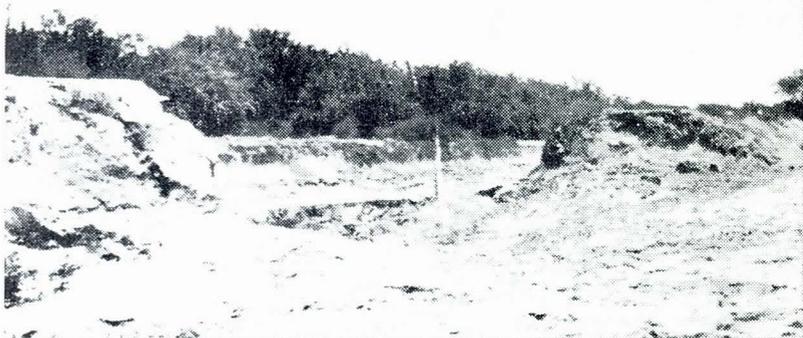
The price of water was then fixed at \$1.25 per acre for each six months period.

In February, 1908, a large crew of men were put to work on the canal cleaning and enlarging it for its full length. The work was supervised by P. E. Moore.

In March this same year, negotiations were started between the Buckeye Irrigation Company and the White Tank Canal Company with the object in view of the Buckeye system taking over the White Tank Company. By the middle of April an agreement had been reached wherein anyone holding stock



Break In Canal 1907



CANAL BREAK 70 Ft. Wide — July 1907



Repairing break in canal July 1907

in the White Tank Canal could transfer to the Buckeye Company and receive an equal amount of stock in the latter company.

When the original canal had been built the contractor did not follow the original survey across the Hassayampa Valley but cut straight across the valley and so saved a mile or so of canal. At a regular meeting of the board of directors on February 2, 1909, it was decided to build the canal where it should have been in the first place. So, H. M. Lewis was secured to make a new survey and work was begun shortly thereafter. Instead of crossing the Hassayampa with an overhead flume, an underground flume was put in, and so solved the trouble of floods down the river.

By the beginning of 1909, the farmers had so improved their water system that the price of water was fixed at \$1.00 per acre for the period from April 1 to October 1 for stockholders and at \$1.50 for non-stockholders.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders held in February 8, 1910 among other things it was decided to hire a Zanjero for the upper division of the canal and leave the superintendent free to oversee the whole system better. Heretofore, he had to look after the distribution of the water on the upper river and superintend the system at the same time.

During the period of years following the big floods of 1905, the river had swung over and along the north bank and each succeeding flood threatened the canal and ranches along its course. While it was not the canal's concern particularly, about the threatened ranches, yet it was much concerned about it cutting into the canal again as it did in 1905. So various engineers were consulted and different plans put into execution to try and stop it cutting any further north. This condition existed for several years and much money was spent on the work, so much that at different times it was necessary to levy special assessments in the capital stock to pay for the work.

During these first years, stealing water was a common practice among many of the farmers, and at almost every directors meeting some one would be up before the board for breaking locks, gates, etc., and taking

water that did not belong to them. In many instances some of the better known farmers were implicated. The usual fine was the loss of an hour run of water and a cash fine to cover any damage done to company property.

During these formative years many stockholders meetings were held, some times two or three a month, and much verbal steam expended. Some of the meetings were bitter and fiery, and lasted from morning to late at night and in a case or two lasted for two days. But out of it finally came a system that the makers are proud of.

Back as early as 1910, some of the farmers began talking about pumping plants. There was an over abundance of water during the winter and spring but at times in the summer when water was needed most, it got too short to grow successful crops.

At a meeting of the directors on June 17, 1911 the question came up of building an office building, as heretofore the secretary had been furnishing his own office, generally in his home or place of business.

On March 7, 1911 it was decided to buy lot 5 in block 9 in Buckeye for \$100.00 and Mr. T. N. Clanton, owner, gave the company Lot 7 in the same block.

Work was started shortly thereafter with the result that their present office building came into existence. At this meeting it was found that water should be sold to stockholders for 75c per acre and non-stockholders for \$1.25. Quite a reduction from the \$2.50 they started at, when they took over the canal.

On April 2, 1912 at the regular meeting of the directors a committee was appointed to select a site for a home for the lower Zanjero not to cost more than \$700.00.

On May 2 the committee reported that it had selected 80 acres lying mostly on the north side of the canal in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. two miles west, of J. H. Harbinson. Later this site was not thought desirable and on July 2 a new site of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres was secured from George Day and the present house erected with some improvements added later. The estimated cost was \$500.00.

The upper Zanjero house was built

in the summer 1910 on a ten acre tract purchased from John Bonner, about one-fourth mile east of the South Extension diversion gate.

As there were a little more than 4000 acres of land under the canal for which there was no water stock and most of which the owners of same were desirous of obtaining stock so many plans were from time to time advanced but none adopted as desirable or feasible. But at the annual meeting on June 13, 1913, George Brown introduced a resolution in regard to it, that was adopted. The resolution provided among other things that the holders of 4,000 acres organize another and separate company and bond their lands or a sufficient amount to install sufficient pumps to develop 2000 inches of water, and that they pay for three-fourths of the expense of enlarging the canal to carry this extra amount of water. The Irrigation Company would supervise distribution of the water at the price they charged their regular stockholders. And after the new company had operated long enough to demonstrate that they were going to make a success of the venture then the Irrigation Company would take over and issue them stock in their company in lieu of the stock in the new company.

The Brown resolution, like so many before it, was indefinitely postponed by the action of the stockholders at a meeting on February 10.

In march of this year the first automobile came into use by the Irrigation Company when the superintendent, Guy Vernon, purchased one for his use, in place of a horse and buggy, for his work on the canal. The canal board allowed him \$175.00 per year for its upkeep.

During the summer of 1913, Harry Hancock, engineer, was employed by the company to measure the water of several small ditches coming out of the Salt River west of Phoenix and to keep a record of the amount being run and date of same, as it seemed that some of the ditches were getting more than their share of water. This evidence was used later in a law suit determining the amount of water each ditch or canal was entitled to under prior appropriation.

On May 25, 1914 a resolution was

adopted at a special stockholder's meeting, adopting a lateral system for both irrigation and waste ditches that had been presented to the company directed by Engineer Hancock some time before. In this resolution the board was instructed to float a \$35,000.00 bond issue, and with same to refund the present bond indebtedness of \$19,000.00 and use the rest for the construction of the lateral systems as far as it would go and to assess capital stock from time to time to complete the work as needed.

In September, 1914, the State Fair Commissioner of the Agriculture Division attended the regular directors monthly meeting, pleading for a special exhibit from the Buckeye Valley, with the result that the board appropriated \$100.00 for the collection of the exhibit and appointed I. H. Parkman to look after it. This procedure was kept up for the next three years, and resulted in quite an advertisement for Buckeye Valley.

As the Gila River was still threatening cutting into the canal west of the head gates for some 3 or 4 miles, the directors entered into a contract on May 6, 1915, with the River Currents Control Company of San Francisco, to install three of its patented Dean's Channel Changes and River Bank Protectors at strategic points along the section of the river bank, at a total cost of \$654.00. As they were not the success that was claimed for them no more were installed.

At the regular meeting of the canal board in March, 1916, the matter of developing water from the Agua Fria was taken up and discussed at some length, with the result that a committee was appointed to go into the matter more fully and report at a later meeting. On March 27 after looking over the Agua Fria situation the board ordered the superintendent to put a dam in the Agua Fria and open up a channel into the canal, and divert water into the canal, as the Gila was on a rampage and the dam was out so that no water could be diverted into the canal from that stream. He was ordered to keep up this arrangement as long as the Agua Fria supplied water for as much as one-fourth time. When it dropped lower than that he was to rebuild the dam and take the

water again from the Gila.

At the annual stockholders meeting on June 15, 1917, a bond issue of \$55,000.00 was authorized by the stockholders, as the \$30,000.00 bond issue ordered in 1914 had never been funded. This bond issue was to do the work contemplated by the former un-issued bonds, to-wit: Headwork improvement, \$21,400.00; canal enlargement \$11,600.00; service laterals \$10,000.00; water laterals \$7,000.00; river bank protection \$5,000.00; total of \$55,000.00.

The bonds were to run 15 years and start to coming due in 5 years at \$5,000.00 per year until all were paid. The Phoenix Savings Bank and Trust Company later bought these bonds at par, and they were to bear interest at 6%.

In May, 1917, a movement was set on foot by the directors to complete the White Tank Canal down to now the upper spill way of the Canal and utilize it instead of the present canal and so get back farther from the river as every rise in the river was a constant threat to its breaking into the canal. The White Tank had been partially completed down as far as they contemplated using it. And Engineer Hancock estimated it could be completed and put in operation for \$20,000.00.

During this month it was also ordered by the directors that a Monighan Dragline Excavator be purchased at a price of \$9,850.00, and that it be placed to work on the upper end of the canal cleaning and enlarging it as soon as it arrived.

During the summer of 1917, a priority suit was instituted in Superior Court with Judge Stanford presiding to determine Buckeye's rights to water in the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria Rivers. It was later known as the Benson-Allison Decree and established the rights of each individual piece of land to water and the date of such right. Many of the old timers of the Valley were called to the stand to testify as to the date certain pieces of land were put into cultivation from which their rights to water were based. The decree was issued November 14, 1917.

In the winter of 1917 a bunk house was built at the dam 24x36 feet, with concrete floor at a total cost of \$400; it was later used for a dining room

and kitchen and now for a dwelling.

As some of the lower lands of the valley were just becoming water logged from irrigation on the higher grounds a movement was started at the annual meeting on January 18, 1918 to develop some system of drainage for same. Later an engineer was appointed to do a general survey of the water logged sections made.

On January 21 at an adjourned stockholders meeting the matter of buying new stock was taken up and ordered.

When the company was formed the articles called for 16,000 shares at a par value of \$10.00. At the meeting the articles were amended to read 20,000 shares and the price to be fixed by the board of directors for the new stock. At an adjourned stockholders meeting on April 19, 1918 the board reported that they had agreed on the following prices for the 4000 shares of new stock:

The 1918-19	\$20.00 per Share
1920	22.00 per Share
1921	24.00 per Share
1922	26.00 per Share
1923	28.00 per Share
1924	30.00 per Share

and the price thereafter to be fixed by action of the stockholders at their annual meetings. Payments to be made of 5% on date of purchase and 5% on each April 1 and October 1 thereafter. This set up was almost unanimously carried by a stock vote of the farmers.

At the annual Stockholders Meeting in 1919, February 10, the matter of drainage was again taken up and after a lot of discussion and the introduction of a resolution or two that failed to pass, the following resolution was offered by John Norton and unanimously carried: "Whereas the best interests of the water users and land owners under the Buckeye Canal rests in the immediate drainage of wet lands and the development of more water by pumping and

"Whereas it is evident that the most speedy and practical way of accomplishing these ends is through the organization of a drainage district;

"Therefore, be it resolved that the stockholders of the Buckeye Irrigation Co. endorse and support the organiza-

tion of the drainage district, the boundaries of which shall conform to the boundaries by the company's articles of incorporation which designates the lands to be served by the company's canal, but which district shall exclude all platted town sites; and the company pay whatever costs there be incurred in organizing said drainage district and

"Be It Further Resolved, that a committee of five be appointed by the president to supervise and direct the organization of said drainage district."

C. M. Zander, C. N. Towner, Wm. Walton, N. A. Sanders and John R. Norton were appointed on the committee.

No other thing of any great importance happened during the year 1919, but at the annual meeting of 1920 on January 12, a resolution was introduced wherein it proposed to bond the district for the sum of \$300,000 for the purpose of first: take up the present outstanding bonds of the company in the amount of \$55,000; second, to construct permanent headwater sluiceways, river bank protection and any other safeguards that was thought desirable; third, to complete the rock and wire dam already started.

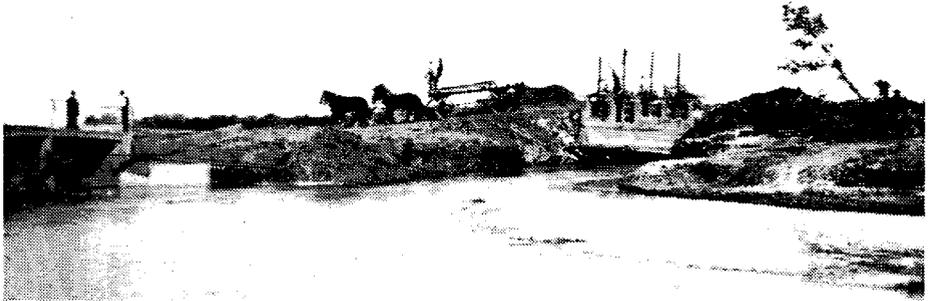
Ever since the inception of the Buckeye Canal the dam had been the bane of every company to operate the canal. Built on a bed of quick sand for its entire length, the first brush and rock dam 8 or 10 feet wide washed out every time a heavy dew fell on any of its water shed. So every ownership investigated the possibility of a permanent dam. It was thought that by building the dam 40 to 60 feet wide of rock with the highest elevation at the edge up stream and tapering off to nothing down stream would solve the problem, but they soon found out that the quick sand could swallow up their rocks faster than they could replace them. Of course it was far better than the old narrow brush and rock dam but washed out just the same at every protracted freshet. Much money was spent and some of the best engineers had studied the situation, but so far nothing permanent had been devised.

One engineer referred them to a dam on a river in India, similar to the

Gila, that was proving quite a success and it was voted to try it out here. It was known as the "Sausage Dam." Made of rock and heavy net fencing wire six feet wide. Two widths of this, 50 feet long, was laid on the sand side by side and wired together; on the wire was laid as many rock as desired, when the wire was lapped over the rocks and wired together the same as the under-side was fixed, and then the sides and the open end of the sausage was wired together, making a big sausage 50 feet long, laying up and down stream. Then another one was made along side of the first one and so on for the length of the dam. As soon as the second one was finished another one was made on top of the two, lapping half way over the other and so binding them together so on until the desired height was reached. That was the sort of dam referred to in the \$300,000.00 bond resolution and looked like it would be an end to their worries. But with all of their experience they still did not know the Gila River. It was found later that the water would undermine the lower end of the "sausage" and they would gradually sink. But there is no question that in the course of time the sand would become full, from the constant repairs and a firm foundation finally be set up. But that time never came as some fool (?) decided what is the use of trying to raise the water and force it into the canal; why not go up the river and lead it in, and do away with a costly dam. This was done and the dam troubles were over. But we are getting ahead of our story.

On February 16, 1920 at an adjourned stockholders meeting the \$300,000 bond issue was voted and authorized for the purposes above stated, and also at this meeting it was voted to increase the amount of the bonded indebtedness limitation for the company from \$100,000 to \$500,000, therefore paving the way for the \$300,000 bond issue.

On February 24, 1920 the directors at a special meeting voted to employ Charles Kirby Fox, a nationally known Los Angeles engineer, as designing engineer on terms quoted by him to the board, to-wit: That he be paid \$10,000.00 for his services; \$5,000.00



Buckeye Canal Head 1916



Remains of dam. Supt. Wainscot and Engineer Fox 1920

when the preliminary plans were turned in and \$5,000 when the final plans are submitted. At an adjourned meeting of the board May 11, 1920, Charles Kirby Fox was instructed to prepare plans for dam "Type C", weir, eight feet in height, 2800 feet in length, with concrete breast and toe walls and down stream apron enmeshed in wire netting at a cost of from \$125.00 to \$150.00 per linear foot. He was also instructed to prepare plans for a concrete intake and spillways to cost approximately \$60,000.00 and for levees and river bank protection, \$40,000.00.

In June, 1920, Mr. W. H. Sanders of Los Angeles was employed by the board to act as consultant engineer to work with Mr. Fox on plans and construction of the proposed new dam. Nothing else of importance happened during the year 1920, although there were frequent meetings at which time, plans for the new dam were discussed. This held good through 1921 until late in the year. Just routine matters of conducting the water system came up; together with frequent meetings with the engineers and plans, and more plans, for the new dam.

At the annual meeting January 9, 1922 it developed that the company had been going in the red for some time and the stockholders authorized the directors to borrow \$30,000.00 on the company note or notes to care for the indebtedness, to-wit: \$13,862.00 on new dam; \$6,138.00 operating expenses and the balance to be used to operate on up to April, 1922.

At the board meeting on February 7 the loan committee reported that the \$30,000 the stockholders had instructed the board to borrow could be secured through the Imperial Live-stock and Mortgage Company of Los Angeles, an agent for the War Finance Corporation; provided that each Buckeye Stockholders furnish a financial statement of his net worth. The offer was accepted and the stockholders instructed to prepare the financial statement. Later on in the year the loan was refused.

On April 4, a delegation of land owners on the north side and adjacent to the Buckeye Canal appeared before the Canal Board and presented a petition asking permission to organize

an irrigation and drainage district to help finance the new dam, to pay for the enlargement of the canal, and to install pumps to provide water for the land in question, where there was not enough water in the river to provide sufficient water for all lands in the Buckeye area and the proposed new company. It was set forth in the petition that by enlarging the canal sufficiently and pumping the water out of the canal and taking it north that as much as 10,000 acres could be covered and reclaimed. The petition was signed by G. C. Reubel, M. W. Pace, Fred Walls, T. J. Roberts and George Drew.

At a stockholders meeting on May 10, 1922, the company by-laws were amended changing the annual meeting from the second Monday in January to the third Monday.

On February 21, 1923 at a joint meeting of the canal directors and the directors of the Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District, Mr. Harry L. Hancock was employed to lay out plans for the drainage system and to supervise construction on a 5% basis. A resolution was passed also at this meeting calling for open drainage instead of tile in the first five units running north and south of the drainage district, and George Brown for the Wessex Company was given permission to construct a drain on Wessex land in the lower end of the valley to be reimbursed from drainage funds when they became available.

At a special called meeting on June 20, 1923 of the stockholders it was revealed that former plans to finance the drainage plans had fallen through and it seemed there was no prospect of immediate relief to the water logged lands, so a resolution was introduced directing the board to directors to borrow \$75,000.00 on the company note and construct the most necessary units as outlined by Engineer Hancock.

Mr. Schmalhausen who was present, representing the Jennings Construction and Engineering Company of El Paso, proposed to take the contract and to accept the company's note in payment, subject to the approval of the company's lawyers.

In July, 1923, Mr. G. A. Puntney of Phoenix presented an option contract to the board of directors for their

approval, giving him the right to buy all drainage water developed by the district up to, but not exceeding 50,000 acre feet per year, and to pay to the district the rate of 50 cents per foot. The option to be in full force and effect up to and including November 1, 1923. He agreed to pick up the water at or near the mouth of the different discharge drainage ditches. The board approved the option but it was never carried out.

On July 12 the Jennings Construction Company asked that the Irrigation Company amend their articles of incorporation so that they could have power to construct drainage project. So at a called meeting of the stockholders on August 18 the following was added to articles of Incorporation, "To construct, operate and maintain ditches, conduits, pipe lines, tile drains and other drainage works for draining any or all of the lands receiving water or entitled water from the irrigation works of the corporation,

"Provided, however, that no further expenditures shall be made, or indebtedness created for the purpose of drainage works construction when and in the event Eighty Thousand Dollars shall have been so expended for such purpose."

In July, 1924, some of the Gillespie land owners brought suit against the Buckeye and Arlington Canals to determine if said companies were using water that belonged to them, they putting a claim on all drainage water from these respective districts. The two companies joined in the defense in the suit; Buckeye to bear 75% and Arlington 25% of the costs.

The firm of Hayes, Laney, Stanford and Allee was retained to defend the suit.

On November 6, 1924, there appeared this most interesting item in the minutes of the directors meeting of that date, viz: "On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the superintendent was instructed to eliminate the purchase of eggs at the present high price." (Was that yesterday?)

At the annual stockholders' meeting of January 19, 1925, it was ordered by the stockholders that all water logged land assessments be canceled upon the request of the land

owner. Over the past 10 years the assessments had accumulated to the amount of \$29,739.31. When the land was dewatered the stockholder could renew his right to water and go on from there.

On April 19, 1918 a price of \$20.00 per share was fixed on 4000 shares of new stock issued by the canal company. Each year thereafter the price was to increase \$2.00 per share until it had reached \$30.00. At this annual meeting it was revealed that only 327 1/2 shares had been sold since issued. Seeing the stock was not going to sell at these prices the stockholders ordered that all future sales be fixed at \$10.00 per share, the same as the old and original 16,000 shares had been sold.

During the spring of 1925, F. A. Reid and S. C. Miller and the Gillespie Water Co. both made propositions to the Irrigation Company to de-water the valley for the use of the water, by pumps or otherwise. But as neither offered anything concrete at the time, no action was taken.

On April 7, the bids for \$200,000.00 bonds of the drainage district were opened at the irrigation office and it was found that the First Securities Company of Los Angeles was the highest of the three bidders at \$93.03 and the irrigation board recommended that the drainage board accept the bid.

On Sept. 8, 1925 bids were opened for a new head gate and waste way and Henry Galbraith having submitted the lowest bid, it was awarded to him.

On October 6, 1925 S. C. Miller again came before the board and offered them a new proposition for de-watering the water-logged lands of the valley, and after considerable discussion the Miller-Reid agreement was accepted. It required that the Irrigation Co. secure pump easements on 90% of the lands of the valley. But as the company was unable to secure required amount of easements, Mr. Miller again appeared before the board on Aug. 8 and offered to amend the agreement cutting the easements down to 75%. This was agreed to, and another try was made.

In the year 1927 at the annual meeting it was voted that from then on any farmer desiring a lateral to his ranch

would have to build it himself but the company would build all gates and structures in it so the water could be conserved and used beneficially. Where a private ditch was already built the farmers were to enlarge, and put it in shape before the company would take it over as a lateral. This resulted in a mad scramble to get ditches built, or enlarged so that the company would take them over. Result, many new laterals, for the company to maintain, coming into use during the year.

All records, no matter how dry, now and then have some humor scattered through them at different times, so on July 5, 1927 at a regular board meeting appeared an item that at this distance strikes us as a little humorous. At that time it was probably serious enough. Maybe it was the heat, or else the board had not fully recovered from the day before, the 4th of July.

It was moved and seconded that the secretary's salary be cut in half, and was carried by a 4 to 3 vote. It was then moved that the directors' per diem be cut from \$5.00 to \$3.00 and carried by a 5 to 2 vote. Later in the meeting a motion was made to rescind the motion to cut the directors' per diem and carried by a 4 to 3 vote. Then that not seeming just right a vote was taken on rescinding the cut in the secretary's salary and carried by a 4 to 3 vote. So they were back where they started from; the only employee getting anything out of the deal was a raise in the Zanjero's salary to \$200.00 per month. They were operating with only one Zanjero at this time. The superintendent looking after the upper end of the canal.

At the August 3 meeting of the directors a contract was entered into by the board and the Ruth Dredger Mfg. Co. for the purchase of a Ruth Dredger at the total price of \$11,750 f.o.b. Huntington Park, California.

On October 18, the dredger having arrived and set up on the Zander Ranch for the excavation of a waste lateral, the board visited at and inspected the machine and its work and decided that the type of crawlers on which it was mounted was not suitable for this country and the work it would have to do. So Mr. T. A. Burch, the representative for the dredger company of-

ferred to get and install another type of crawler for the additional amount of \$3,200.00.

On November 17, the board again visited the dredger with the new crawlers installed and after inspecting the one mile of work done, decided to purchase the machine at the agreed price of \$14,950.00.

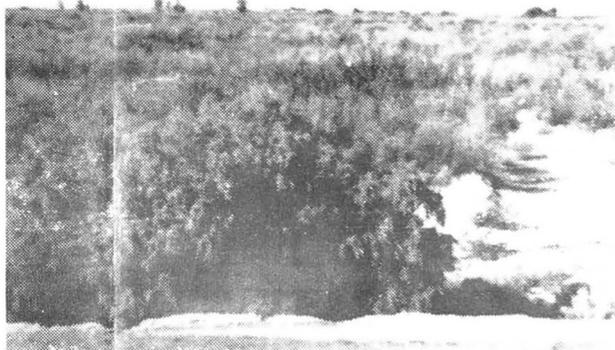
At the annual meeting on January 16, 1928, among other things to come up, Mr. Wm. Walton made a protest against the newly formed Roosevelt Canal Co. pumping water from the Buckeye Canal drainage district in Salt River Valley and asked that his protest be entered on the minutes of this meeting. This was the opening gun of the law suit against all water users on the Salt and Gila Rivers clear to the New Mexico line. All summer long at every meeting some phase of the proposed water suit was discussed.

On October 22, the Arlington Co. was invited to join in the suit on an 80-20 basis of expense. The Arlington Co. to accept the latter figure, which they agreed to. Attorney Floyd Stahl had been retained as their attorney to represent them in the suit.

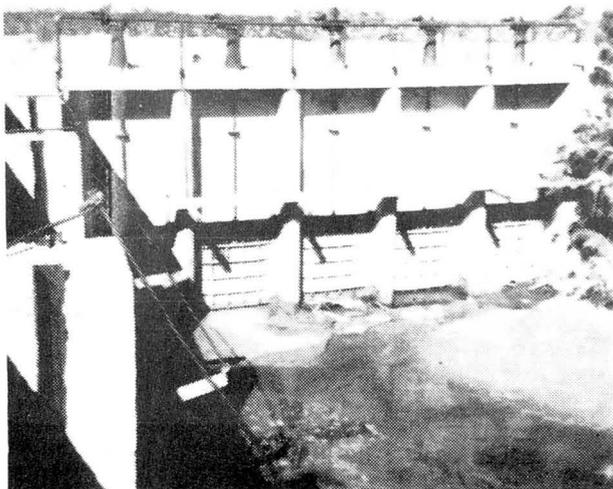
All during the year 1928, there had been considerable discussion about putting down wells to increase the flow of water, and at one time the board, by official action, advised the Drainage District board to put down at least ten wells and later at another meeting increased it to twenty.

In February, 1929, Engineer Hancock employed I. H. Parkman and James Wainscott to gather evidence for the contemplated suit, by putting down holes, measuring wells, etc., in the south and west end of the Salt River Valley, up to Agua Fria as far as Peoria and up to the Gila as far as Sacaton as the Drainage District was having trouble disposing of their bonds at a reasonable figure, it was finally decided that the Irrigation company had better take over the installation of pumps, both for irrigation and drainage up to \$100,000.00.

Then, at such time that the drainage company could sell sufficient bonds at a reasonable figure, to repay the irrigation company the \$100,000.00, or such part of it as had actually been expended.



Gila River South of Head 1956



Canal Heading 1956

At the annual meeting of January 13, 1931, a resolution was passed putting the sale of water on an acre foot basis when the river flow fell below 6,000 inches, for a period of five days or more. The company had during the meantime installed eight pumps and the water was now ready for use; hence the change of sale and distribution. Water was fixed at the price of \$1.00 per acre foot.

During the year several plans were set up or suggested for operating the acre foot plan of selling water, and finally a system that was fair to all and workable was adopted.

During the years 1932 and 1933, the big depression was on, farm prices had dropped to nothing and the farmers in many instances could not pay for water to make crops, so, during these two years the main concern of the board of directors was to try to devise ways and means so all could have water and meet their payments, so the company would have money to operate on.

At the annual meeting of 1933, a plan was adopted authorizing the secretary to accept crop mortgages, in some cases, in lieu of cash, for the payment of water. A great many took advantage of this, with the result that a year or so later the company found they were in possession of a lot of worthless paper as the crops were insufficient to redeem the notes and mortgages, or the proceeds from the sale of crops were used for other purposes and not turned in on the mortgage. So it was ordered that all mortgages be cancelled and the indebtedness revert back to the books of the company as delinquent payments and be treated as such. A plan was adopted whereby the stockholder could pay a portion of the delinquent payments twice a year when he paid his current water bill. It was a continual struggle during this period for the company to keep its head above water, and it resulted in wage cuts to all employees. But during the year 1935, these wages and salaries were restored to their former level.

During this year the company purchased a drag-line machine to add to their equipment, and put down two more wells.

The next few years were without

any incident of any importance save the numerous meetings with government officials looking toward the still pending water suit. Some of these meetings made it necessary for one or more of the company officials to make trips to Washington, Denver, Los Angeles and other places to meet with the different officials.

On August 8, 1940, the canal board instructed the superintendent to proceed with putting down well No. 12 to be located near the James Carter home on the bank of the canal.

As the river bed was fast growing up with Tamarac Trees and Salt Cedar bush it became a worry to the board and others as to what would happen if a big river came down as it had done at times in the past. The board started a movement trying to interest the county and state officials in doing something about it, and later the Federal Government. They got a lot of talk and promises, but no action and the river today is still in the same condition.

The board at their June meeting 1940, authorized the purchase of a small Caterpillar Tractor, a machine they had long needed.

In 1942 a drainage well was put down one mile west and a half mile south of Palo Verde store and put into operation with the result that water levels in that district were lowered quite perceptibly as long as it ran continually.

In the year 1940, well No. 12 was put down near the Jimmy Carter Ranch and put into production.

Only routine matters came up for attention until June, 1941 when the board added to the canal equipment a small Caterpillar tractor, of which they had been in great need.

The Board had been trying out the policy of running "free water" during the periods when the river was in flood, and on August 5, 1941 they voted to run no pumps as long as the river furnished as much as 3,000 inches, but if the demand for more water became greater then they would charge the regular acre foot rate.

On June 2, 1942, a drainage well was ordered put down and equipped, one mile west and one-half mile of the Palo Verde Store on Lateral 23. As

this was one of the worst water-logged sections of the Valley, it would be a good chance to see what a drainage well would do when placed in a strategic place.

By this time the Ruth-Dredger that had been purchased back in '37 was getting pretty well worn out and the board began casting about for one to take its place. Hearing of a used one in Fallon, Nev. a committee was sent up to look it over and returned with a favorable report. Action was taken to close the deal. It was purchased for \$7,500.00 plus freight from the shipping point.

January 4, 1944, was an eventful day for the Buckeye Irrigation Co. when the water suit instituted in 1929 was brought to a successful conclusion, after 15 years of bickering. The settlement was in the form of a compromise, with the Carl Pleasant outfit on the Agua Fria paying to the Buckeye Co., \$15,000.00 cash and the Salt River Water Users agreeing to turn over to the Buckeye Canal above its head 1% of all stored water it ran each year, but never to exceed 1600 inches at any one time. The water to be run on demand of the Irrigation Co. both as to the time and amount. At the close of each year all unused water, if any, was to be canceled and to start over again.

The Roosevelt Irrigation District was to pay for pumping up to 8000 inches of water using Buckeye pumps, and if Buckeye did not use up the full amount, then in that case, what was left over to be added to next year's amount. While Congress had appropriated \$10,000.00 to the Indians to pay their share for the settlement of the suit, it was not yet available to the Buckeye as the Indian Tribal Council had to sign certain papers which they were as yet loathe to do. They were signed sometime later, October, 1947, and the money was made available to the Buckeye Company.

This money was paid to the Valley National Bank for notes held by them and the Company indebtedness lessened by that much.

On March 7, 1944, the board put all water on an acre foot basis, flood water and all, only at a reduced price. This brought some objections from certain farmers that needed the "mud

water" to build up their lands, but finally it was taken as a matter of course and no more is said about the matter.

During the next year or so, things moved along in a quiet and orderly manner. Two new wells were put down, one near old well No. 4 that had to be abandoned on account of a crooked casing caused from repeated cave-ins.

During the year 1947, a representative of Phelps-Dodge mining interests at Morenci approached the Buckeye Secretary, A. T. Jones and offered to buy the water Buckeye had coming to them from the Salt River Valley Water Users Association in their settlement of the water suit some years before. After some dickering back and forth the following schedule was worked out and incorporated in a four year contract. Phelps-Dodge to pay Buckeye \$25,000.00 upon signing the contract and \$25,000.00 on Feb. 15, 1948 and beginning January, 1948 to pay \$10.00 per acre foot for all water Buckeye had coming from the Water Users, and at the rate of \$15.00 per acre for 1949, and \$20.00 per acre for 1950 and 1951 when the contract would expire.

At a Stockholders meeting October 2, 1947, the set-up was explained to them and they voted to enter into the contract if their attorney found they could do so without jeopardizing their rights to the water. The lawyers recommending that it could be done safely, the deal was closed.

Immediately a well driller was put to work on new wells so that enough could be in production in the spring of 1948 to take care of the water they had contracted away. This well drilling and installing pumps has been going on ever since, so that today (Aug. 1949) the Company has 24 wells in production.

On December 6, 1947, the board met with Mr. A. J. McMillan and Mr. B. Withrow of Holtville, Concrete Pipe Company to discuss the costs and the feasibility of installing tile drains in this valley.

The Board sometime before had gone down to Imperial Valley and inspected some systems that had been put in and were working.

After the Board and the gentlemen

from Holtville Concrete Pipe Co. had made an inspection of the valley it was agreed that they would tile three different tracts, to-wit: 60 acres for Carl Towner, 20 acres for Long Bros. and 80 acres for Tom Thedford, provided that fair and suitable contracts could be arranged with the parties concerned.

At a meeting on January 6, 1948 this record appears in the secretary's book, as follows:

Motion made and seconded, (1) that \$40.00 per acre be charged landowners for such lands as are tiled and drained; (2) landowners to be given 5 years to pay the amount charged for the tile drainage starting 3 years from completion date of tile installation; (3) the rate of interest to be 5% per annum to start after 3 year period; (4) if tile drainage proves unsuccessful, no charge to be made landowner for installing said tile nor any expense connected thereto; (5) a 3-man board to determine when and if, lands are drained (explains how chosen); (6) if tile is successful charges made by the Buckeye Irrigation Co. against landowners subject to above terms and to be a lien against such property as are tiled and drained until charges are fully paid.

On January 16, 1948 a contract was entered into with the firm of Davis and Wardlow to tile the above mentioned lands. The price agreed upon was 51½ cents for 4 inch drain and 58 cents for 6 inch.

April 1, 1948 Roy C. Decker of the Soil Conservation Service, who had made a survey of the water-logged lands of the Valley, made a report that there were 6,300 acres already water-logged or on the verge of becoming so, and that 56,000 acre feet of water would have to be removed from this area annually to effectively drain the area and that it would cost, in a 30 to 40 year period from \$129.00 to \$176.00 per acre, according to the method used for drainage.

On April 6, 1948 at an adjourned meeting of Stockholders the following amendment was added to the company's by-laws: "In the event any board member is absent for three consecutive regular monthly meetings, the remaining members shall appoint another stockholder who is otherwise

qualified to serve for the balance of the unexpired term, and in the event any board member fails to attend as many as six regular monthly meetings during the year, such member shall not be eligible for re-election at the regular stockholders' meeting."

On October 5, 1948 C. M. Ainsworth, consulting engineer for the U. S. Borders Commission came before the canal board and reported as to the condition and necessity of cleaning the river channel in some way before a big flood came down it. The Army engineers were planning to make a survey of conditions from Granite Reef to Gillespie Dam, but advised the board to do anything possible they could do in the meantime.

On February 8, 1949, a new set-up of canal management was instituted by the Board. Mr. Archie Enloe having resigned from the Board of Directors was made general superintendent of the Canal Company at a salary of \$500.00 per month, and Carroll Parkman was retained as Company engineer at his regular salary.

At the October 5 meeting, the "Right To Work Bill" came up for discussion and it was ordered that the secretary be instructed to send \$200.00 to them as a donation to help in the passage of the said bill. It was also ordered after a full discussion that the Company send \$1600.00 to the Central Arizona Project Association to help in the fight against California for Arizona's just share of the Colorado River water. At this same meeting, C. M. Ainsworth was retained as engineer to look after Buckeye's interest in the river clearance problem and do whatever surveying that was necessary. On Nov. 3, the superintendent was ordered to purchase 4 more pumps, two to be delivered in January 1949 and two in March.

On December 11, Mr. Ainsworth reported that after a conference with the engineers representing the Water Users Association, it was his opinion they were not much concerned or doing much of anything about the river clearance problem.

At the Annual Stockholders meeting on January 17, 1949, the same Board of Directors was elected, with the exception of E. H. Johnson, who

was replaced by C. A. Elms. At the meeting of the newly constituted board, A. L. Lanford was retained as president and J. R. Beloat as Vice-President, with W. W. Weigold retained as secretary-treasurer.

On February 8, a new set-up was adopted by the Board on Canal management. A. W. Enloe was named superintendent at a salary of \$500.00 per month, and Carroll Parkman retained as engineer at the salary of \$350.00 per month. Upon Enloe's resignation as director, L. D. Hazen was appointed to fill the vacancy for Enloe's unexpired term. During the year, several pieces of much needed machinery were added to canal equipment, lessening hand labor and tending to lower the cost of maintenance. Among the machinery purchased was a skip-loader, an International Truck, three pick-up trucks, a D-7 Caterpillar, winch and Angle Dozer and Ditching Machine.

A continuation of the discussion of salt cedar eradication along the river was had from time to time with the Company Consulting Engineer C. M. Ainsworth and Federal and Army Representatives, but no definite plan or start on the work was undertaken. Superintendent Parkman did do considerable surveying of the river bed at the suggestion of the Army Engineers.

In September, 1948 a movement was launched for a big celebration when the company had paid off its last bond and would be debt free. The date was set for January 16, 1949 with L. D. Hazen, John Beloat and Othel Narramore in charge of arrangements. A full detail of the celebration will be found in a later chapter.

At the Annual Stockholders meeting this year, (1950), Messrs. Bob Long, Othel Narramore, A. L. Lanford, L. D. Hazen, C. A. Elms, John Beloat and Wallace Bales received the highest votes and were declared elected as directors. Lanford was elected again as president and Beloat as vice-president, with W. W. Weigold as secretary-treasurer.

During the year, the talk of the river bottom clearance went on, and on June 3rd Engineer Ainsworth stated at a meeting of the Board of Directors that the Army Engineers informed him that

even if the project is approved, it will take from 5 to 6 years to get an appropriation and do the work. The estimated cost was put at \$3,000,000.00 for the 77 miles of clearance 2000 ft. wide. As river water kept getting less and less, in the past few years, it was quite evident that more pumps would have to be installed to take care of the shortage and furnish the required amount of water needed. On October 18, the board authorized the drilling of 14 new wells, at strategic points throughout the Valley. On Dec. 12, the board, after inspection, bought a used well drilling rig for \$6000.

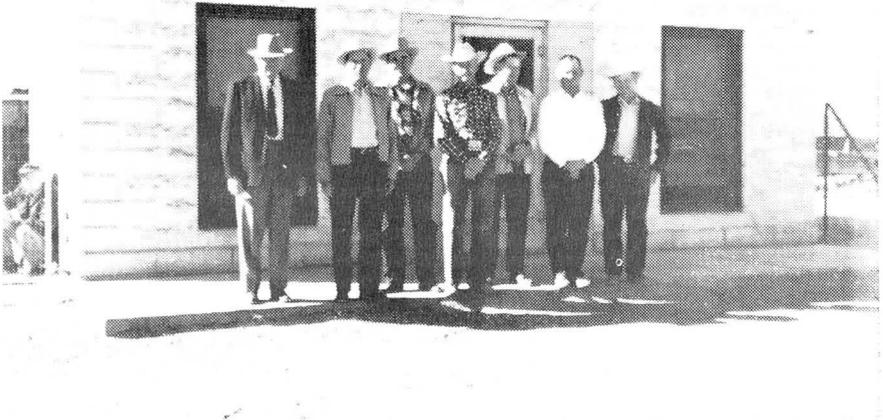
At the regular directors meeting on January 2, 1951, the matter of new wells being drilled on the Indian Reservation came up for discussion with representatives from Arlington present. A. T. Jones stated there were 20 wells drilled within 10 miles of the head of the Canal since the settlement of the old water suit and close enough to the rivers to perhaps dry them up entirely. It was decided to talk the matter over with their attorneys and take action if possible.

At the Annual Stockholders meeting on January 15, Messrs. Bob Long, C. A. Elms, P. G. Pfluger, Elmer Shepard, Othel Narramore and A. W. Enloe were elected as directors with W. W. Weigold retained as secretary-treasurer. L. D. Hazen was elected president and Bob Long as vice-president and Carroll Parkman retained as superintendent.

At the board meeting on January 23, the salaries of most of the employees of the Irrigation Company were given a slight raise in keeping with the times and cost of living.

At the board meeting on February 21, it was decided to appoint L. D. Hazen as temporary superintendent, while Carroll Parkman worked on the suit against the farmers that had installed wells in the St. Johns-Laveen District. His salary was fixed at \$500—he to furnish his own transportation. An Engineer Harding was retained to help in the Underground Water suit, if any was had.

At the December 4 meeting of the directors, L. D. Hazen proposed that the secretary take over the duties of general manager of the Company as



BOARD MEMBERS (Left to right): Othel Narramore, Lee Lanford, Bert Schweikart, Carl Arnold, Vern Beloat, Wallace Bales and Marshall Long, Jr.



Robert Stearman, Supt., Mary McCauley, W. W. Wigold, Mgr.

he wished to be relieved of the duties as of January 1, 1952. His resignation was accepted and Weigold appointed to the duties.

At the Annual Stockholders meeting held Jan. 21, 1952, Messrs. O. Narramore, Vernon Beloat, B. E. Schweikart, Carl Arnold, A. W. Enloe, P. G. Pfluger and Hazen were elected to constitute the board of directors for the coming year. Othel Narramore was named as president and Vernon Beloat as vice-president. W. W. Weigold was named as Secretary-manager and he was empowered to find someone for superintendent that could work with and under him and to employ someone for full time service in the office.

During the year 1952, short water was one of the major problems of worry and discussion of the Board, so they set aside \$25,000 early in the year to cement line laterals and try and save some seepage waste that they were losing. On January 26, 1953 discussion was had in regards to setting aside another \$25,000 for the same purpose. At this same meeting, A. T. Jones asked to be relieved of part of his duties as Court Water Commissioner, and it was arranged to let the watchman at the head, do the measuring of the water in the river, under the supervision of Jones, and that Jones' salary be reduced from \$80.00 to \$50.00 per month.

During the past year or so, Arlington Canal Co. and the Buckeye Co. had been having some trouble over Buckeye waste water. Arlington had been damming up the water into their canal. This made it necessary to back the water up several feet in the ditch and so tend to water-log the adjoining land and also cause the deep ditches to cave in more or less.

On February 3 representatives from Arlington appeared before the Buckeye Board and worked out a plan whereby they could use the water, by signing a contract agreeing to take all responsibility for damage and to build and maintain all needed structures.

In March, a new Gradall was purchased and put to work on the South Extension. Talk during the year was carried on from time to time in re-

gards to threatened suit against Phoenix and Salt River Water Users for holding water behind Horseshoe Dam for Phoenix, contending that Phoenix acted illegally in closing the gates before water was pouring over Gillespie Dam. Judge Tuller of Tucson was named to hear the case.

At the Annual election of 1954 the old board was unanimously elected by acclamation. Othel Narramore was again retained as president and B. E. Schweikart elected vice-president. W. W. Weigold was again appointed secretary-manager.

During the first of the year, the Carl Hegi home burned and his wife and one child lost their lives in the fire, so in April the Board ordered that \$100.00 be cut off of his water assessment as a neighborly good will gesture and to help him out in time of need.

In May the Board of Directors appropriated \$25,000 more for the lining of ditches. It seems that there has been a widespread demand for ditch lining since it once got under way, and much water saved thereby.

Also in May, Mr. Ott Dixon filed suit against the Canal Company for alleged damages to the extent of \$200,000. His cause for action was listed: 1. To have boundary lines between Dixon and Johnson and between Dixon and Baker moved west 400 ft. 2. The Company using ditches between the places. 3. The Company failed to deliver water to 70 acres of barley and set the damage at \$10,000. 4. Claims of insufficient water for past 4 years, because gates were not kept locked and water being stolen by other stockholders. 5. That Directors and Manager were illegally elected at last Stockholders meeting.

During the year an agreement was made with the U. S. Department of the Interior for use of one of the Company's wells on a test to determine whether it was feasible to de-mineralize water used for irrigation. Well No. 2 was placed at their disposal. The necessary machinery was installed and the tests started.

On January 17, 1955, the annual stockholders meeting was held and Narramore, Beloat, Pfluger, Schweikart, Lanford, Arnold and Bales were

elected directors and Narramore and Schweikart were elected president and vice-president, with Weigold retained as secretary-manager.

During the year, the company granted the County of Maricopa a right of way across their property at the head of canal for a road to provide a means of ingress and egress to a County Park opened up in the hills across the river to the south.

In February of this year, the Board of Directors revealed that water levels all over the district were lowering fast. No. 11 well was cited as an example. In 1952, static water level was 22.4 ft. and 1955 42.9 ft. This was given as a general trend over most of the district.

On Sunday, March 15, the upper Zanjero's house burned down and at the next meeting the board ordered a block house constructed at a cost of approximately \$3500.00. Insurance on the burned house of \$2000.00 was carried by the Company.

The Annual Stockholders meeting of 1956 named the following gentlemen to the Board of Directors, to-wit: Narramor, Beloat, Schweikart, Lanford, Arnold, Bales and Marshall Long. Jr. O. Naramore was again elected as president and B. E. Schweikart as vice-president with W. W. Weigold retained as Secretary-Manager.

At this meeting it was stressed by several stockholders that many of the pumps have had long hard service, and it would be the wise thing to check all pumps as to condition and to set up a replacement fund to be used when needed.

The Dixon vs. Irrigation Co. suit has been set for trial several times, but each time before the date came around for trial, it has been postponed to a later date and at this time has not yet been called for a hearing. Several meetings have been had by the interested parties trying to work out a compromise, but without success.

CHAPTER III

The following articles taken from the records of the Buckeye Irrigation Co. will refresh the memories of the old timers, of those men who were chosen, sometimes in torrid sessions, to represent them and direct the affairs of the company for the year in which

elected.

A seven man board of directors was ordered by the stockholders meeting that adopted the first by-laws, and by mutual consent, no record being adopted ordering it, it was agreed that they should be selected from men scattered up and down the valley, and not all from one locality. Generally two from each end of the valley and the rest in between. For many years there was a strong rivalry between Palo Verde and Liberty, as to who would control the board. Sometimes it swung one way, sometimes the other. The people of Palo Verde being on the lower end of the canal naturally got the rough end of the water distribution, whether intentional or not. Liberty being on the upper end drew from a full canal and a Zanjero could turn on a head of water one day and come back two days or more later and it would be just the same as he left it, as it was drawing from a full canal. But let the lower Zanjero try it and see how far he got. With the canal fluctuating from night and day raise and fall in the river, dropping in too many checks at once and diverse causes.

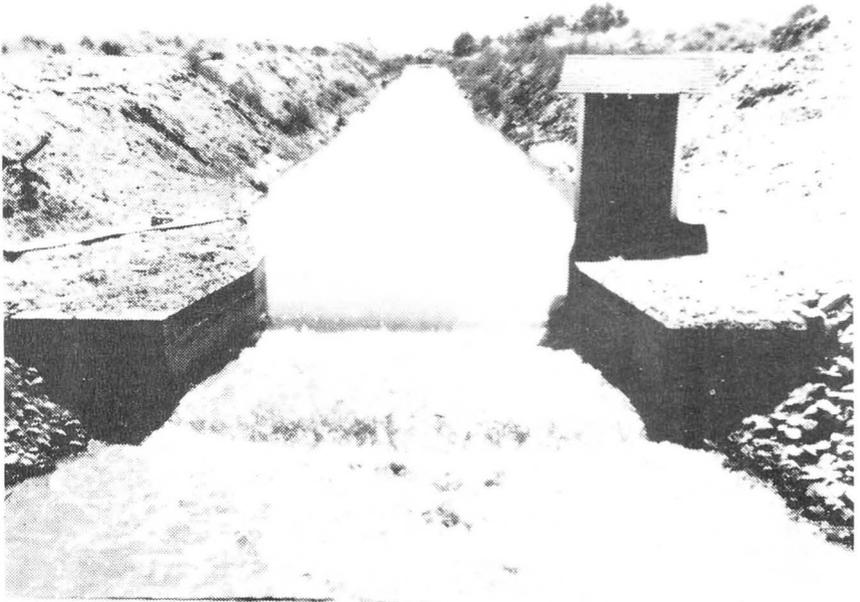
It is told of one of the Zanjeros who had worked on the upper end for sometime being transferred to the lower end, and after a week or so quit. Being asked why he quit said, "I don't have enough water down there to go around."

At another time when Palo Verde got in the saddle and put in a superintendent of their choosing, a conversation something like this took place between a Palo Verde director and a Liberty man. Said the man from Liberty, "Why did you fire the old superintendent?" Palo Verde director, "Because he was no good. He was unfair."

"Well, he might have been unfair to you, but he was a mighty good man to us."

But those days are gone and both ends today work in harmony and agreement.

The Buckeye Canal was first located by M. M. Jackson and J. L. Spain, by filing on an appropriation of 12,000 inches of water in the Gila River. The filing was recorded at Phoenix in the recorder's office May 28, 1885. On



Measuring Weir at Canal Head



Company Office

Sept. 25, 1885 M. E. Clanton and others organized the Buckeye Canal and paid the original locators \$300.00 for their location. On July 24, 1886 the company increased their appropriation by 38,000 inches making a total of 50,000 inches appropriated. On Oct. 31, 1888 Wm. (Bucky) O'Neil formed the first Buckeye Irrigation Co. and purchased the interests of the Buckeye Canal Co. and operated the canal until sold for debt to W. Moultrie of Fresno, Calif. for \$6,500.00. He only had it for 9 months and again sold it to Wasson and Walker who in June, 1900 had organized the Buckeye Canal and Land Co. to handle the deal. On Sept. 27 of that same year they took charge and started to operate. In March 1902, James R. Thorp of Denver bought out the Wasson and Walker interest and operated the canal under the name of Wessex Water Company.

But they, like all their predecessors, failed to make a go of it and it went into the hands of a receiver. All the company up until now had been operated with the hope of dividends for their stockholders, but none at any time had ever been declared.

On March 2, 1907, in the old one room Buckeye School there came into existence the present Buckeye Irrigation Co. (the second of that name). The name was suggested by C. M. Zander and at once adopted. A deal was made with Thorp's interest and the canal was bought at the price of \$92,900.00.

The gentlemen that carried on the negotiations with Thorp were N. Benson, J. S. Day, G. C. Simmons, Fred Walls, W. R. Beloit, C. M. Zander and C. H. Odell.

Articles of incorporation were drawn and the following men signed as incorporators: J. S. Day, Nels Benson and C. M. Zander. This company was organized along entirely different lines from any of its predecessors, and operated only for service to its stockholders with no view whatever of any dividends.

A seven member board of directors was decided upon and the following men elected on the first board: Geo. Day, P. H. Benson, P. E. Moore, Geo. Drew, H. A. Hamels, Chas. Barkley, and Dr. L. H. Thayer.

On March 4, the newly elected board

met and chose from their number the officers for the new company. H. A. Hamels, president; P. E. Moore, treasurer; Geo. Drew, vice-president, and Geo. P. Brown was named secretary. Later the office of the treasurer and secretary was combined into one office with Geo. Brown in charge.

Following are the names of every man that served on the Board of Directors, the year he was first elected, the number of years served and his present place of abode if he is still living as far as we know:

Henry Hamels was elected on the first board, and became the first president and died recently in Phoenix. He served all told eleven years.

Geo. Drew, 1907, served 12 years. He has been dead many years. First vice-president.

P. H. Benson, 1907, 3 years, dead. Chas. Barkley, 1907, 5 years, dead. Dr. L. H. Thayer, 1907, 5 years, dead. P. E. Moore, 1907, 3 years, dead, first treasurer. Geo. Day, 1907, 4 years, dead. W. A. Evans, 1908, 1 year, dead. W. R. Beloit, 1908, 5 years, dead. Geo. Cocke, 1909, 3 years, dead.

Wm. Walton, 1910, 14 years, dead. He was in point of service fourth man, but was dropped from the board and later re-elected oftener than any man ever serve. This happened six different times. It had been said about him "that he made trouble when he was on the board, and that when they left him off he made more trouble, so they put him back on again." He was a man of strong convictions and not afraid to express them and willing to go to any length if he thought he was in the right.

Geo. Brown, 1911, 10 years, died in 1948. Chas. Clanton, 1912, 1 year, dead.

N. Benson, 1912, 9 years, dead. The man who would take the opposite side any time to get a good argument. John Knight, 1913, 4 years, dead. Fred Walls, 1913, 4 years. Died some years ago in Prescott. A. C. McDonald, 1913, 1 year, lost track of him. R. H. Campbell, 1913, 2 years, dead.

J. H. Tracy, 1913, years, died in 1949. D. H. McDonald, 1915, 2 years. Lost trace of him. E. L. Narramore, 1916, 3 years. Died in 1918 flu epidemic. Dick Conley, 1917, 1 year. Lives in Phoenix. C. G. Clugston, 1917, 3 years.

Has been dead several years. W. D. Baxter, 1919, 6 years. Killed in an accident while president of Canal Co. P. A. Yarbo, 1920, 1 year. Unknown. Yarbo, 1920, 1 year. Unknown.

Pete VanLiere, 1920, served 24 years. He now lives in California somewhere around San Diego. He served every year from 1920 to 1944 when he sold his ranch and moved from the valley.

L. A. DeRosier, 1920, 5 years. Now operates a store west of Avondale. L. E. Shepard, 1921, 3 years. N. A. Sanders, 1921, 3 years. Died several years ago. Simon Miller, 1922, 6 years. Lives in California. A. C. Wood, 1924, 7 years. Dead. J. G. Schweikart, 1924, 3 years. Dead. J. R. Bloat, 1925, has served 11 years. A Liberty farmer. C. T. Baker, 1924, served 20 years, third longest time served. Ranching, Palo Verde. A. D. Bowers, 1925, 2 years. Dead. Mark Hindman, 1926, 3 years. Lives west of town. Robert Long, 1927. Bob is second high man in point of service, having served 23 years. Lives west of town. T. W. Bales, 1928, 2 years. Has been dead for several years. Hans Terkelson, 1929, served 3 years. Home in Denver, Colorado.

M. W. Pace, 1930, 6 years. Lives at Liberty. Mark Kellogg, 1930, 9 years before moving from the valley. Now lives in California. Arthur Beloit, 1934, 5 years. Lives in Phoenix. E. M. Shepard, 1935, served the company 9 years. Jack lives east of town.

A. L. Lanford, 1936, served 14 years and a member of the present board. Lives at Palo Verde. Ralph Cooper, 1943, on the board 7 years. Home near the head of the Buckeye District. Othel Narramore, 1940, has been and still is on the board 10 years. Ranches at Palo Verde. E. H. Johnson, 1944, 4 years. Ranches at Palo Verde, lives in Phoenix.

C. A. Elms, 1949, a new man, on one year. Home in west central part of district. L. D. Hazen, 1949, ten months, appointed to fill the unexpired term of Archie Enloes. Archie Enloes 1944 to 1949. 5 years 2 months. Lives in California.

This completes the list of men who

have served as directors from the organization of the present canal company until now, 1949. From the board of seven directors elected each year, one of their number was elected by them as president for the annual term. Following is the list of presidents, the year elected, and total years served:

H. A. Hamels, 1907, 4 years. Dr. L. H. Thayer, 1910, 2 years. Geo. P. Brown, 1913, 8 years. W. D. Baxter, 1921, 4 years. Pete Van Liere, 1925, 17 years. J. D. Miller, 1926, 2 years. A. L. Lanford, 1944, served 6 years.

At the same time a president was chosen, a vice-president was also elected. There were twice as many vice-presidents chosen as presidents, in the same period of time. Seven presidents and 16 vice-presidents. They all follow:

Geo. Drew, 7 years; W. A. Evans, 1 year; H. A. Hamels, 2 years; J. R. Gipson, 1 year; Geo. P. Brown, 1 year; W. D. Baxter, 1 year; N. A. Sanders, 3 years; L. A. DeRosier, 1 year; J. G. Schweikart, 2 years; Pete Van Liere, 1 year; Bob Long, 1 year; Wm. Walton, 3 years; Mark Kellogg, 8 years; A. L. Lanford, 4 years; J. R. Beloit, 6 years.

The different superintendents who have managed the affairs of the company since its organization, in the order of service follow: Tom Levy, 2 months, died on the job; Henry Wilkey, 2 years; E. J. Richardson, 5 years; Guy Vernon, 5 years. James Wainscott, 10 years; Luke Hardin, 2 years; I. H. Parkman, 1 year; Bob Mitchell, 6 months; M. L. Smith, 8 years 6 months; Walter Jones, 4 years; A. T. Jones, 1 year; Carroll Parkman, 4 years. 2 months; Archie Enloe, 10 months.

The names of the secretaries follow: Geo. Brown, 4 years; Walter Haugh, 7 years; S. G. Bridges, 6 months; C. A. Narramore, 16½ years; A. T. Jones, 13 years; Wilbur Weigold, served as assistant secretary for two years and has since served as secretary to date 1956. The officers of the company from 1949 to 1957 will be found in the last part of Chapter 3 as elected from year to year.

CHAPTER IV
BUCKEYE IRRIGATION CO.
CELEBRATES PAYING OFF
INDEBTEDNESS

Saturday, January 14, 1950, was a big day with the farmers of the Buckeye Irrigation Co. The day they had been looking for, for the last 43 years, celebrating the fact that they were free of debt, something few canal companies of comparable size can say.

It was decided by the board of directors some months ago, to put on some sort of celebration as befitting the occasion. A bag barbecue was the final decision, with all the stockholders past and present and their families to participate.

Jack and Pete Narramore were selected to cook the meat. And we will say here and now they did a mighty good job of it. A beef and a half, 600 lbs. was prepared for the feed. Johnny Dew, Carroll Parkman and Olin Webb cooked the beans. 100 lbs. of them, with the women of the Buckeye Grammar School Cafeteria, where the big event was held, preparing the cole slaw and supervising the serving of the meal.

It was estimated that about 350 people were fed. This was considerably lower than was anticipated by the committee as they had made preparations to feed about 600.

After dinner, Thornton Jones took over and put on a short program over a loud speaker system installed by the Auctioneer Herman Moore of Phoenix. Mr. Jones introduced some of the men who had helped organize the present Buckeye Irrigation Co. and had had a leading part in the conduct of its affairs. Among those introduced were

Henry Hamels, the first president, 1907; W. A. Evans, vice president, 1908; Judge Stanford, who was judge in the water suit known as the Benson-Allison degree, 1917; Attorney Floyd Stahl who handled the legal side of the recently concluded water suit begun in 1929, against the Roosevelt, Salt River Water Users and other canal companies. Also John L. Gust, Jr., son of the late John L. Gust who was the company's attorney for 40 years or more, and L. G. Galland who helped many farmers over a rough place with a timely loan, was present and also introduced.

Mr. Jones gave a brief review of the organization and first location of the Buckeye Canal down to the organization of the present company in March, 1907. He read the names and gave the years of service of every man that had served on the board from the organization in 1907 down to the present time, introducing any of the old members that were present. He also gave a list of all of the former presidents and the number of years each one served. He then reviewed the growth and work of the present company down to date, emphasizing the fact that the company was out of debt and now had a clear slate to start writing on. One of the present directors expressed himself as "now being out of debt we want to so manage the affairs of the company that from now on out, we pay our way as we go and not go in debt again."

The Buckeye High School Band furnished music for the occasion under the direction and leadership of their band master, John McConnell.

The committee of canal board members responsible for the big day and its complete success were Bob Long, Othel Narramore and Lloyd Hazen.

As a sequel to the "History of the Buckeye Canal" by I.H. Parkman, dated March 4, 1957 and in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of irrigation in the Buckeye Valley, the following is added:

Shortage of water supply for adequate irrigation became a major problem in the year 1947. The Company started a program of drilling greatly needed irrigation wells to supplement the available source of water which had been extremely reduced by dams up-stream. A lateral-lining program was also being pushed in the early '50s to help conserve water. Replacement wells were drilled where some of the old well casings had collapsed, etc. Others were repaired and adjustments made to improve the efficiency of the existing pumps to insure sufficient water for maximum production. The lateral lining work was scheduled on an annual basis as funds were available. The work had to be scheduled when laterals were not in service. At the present time 70 miles of laterals and other ditches have been lined for more efficient delivery and conservation of water. Thirty-one additional wells were added to the original thirteen, which makes a total of forty-four wells operating for irrigation purposes and eleven for drainage.

In 1951 local rains continued for two weeks and water from the White Tanks area caused much flooding. At that time the natural desert washes from the White Tanks ran in a southwesterly direction, with an unusually large wash near the community of Palo Verde. A huge mass of water from the wash destroyed much of the lower section of the canal, causing flooding in many homes. The Palo Verde Road was washed away and a 10-to-15 foot gully resulted just below the canal. The flume under the Hassayampa River to the Tovrea property was washed out also.

A 25-year dry period on the Salt River watershed ended on January 4, 1966, when the "Big Flood" on the Salt River occurred. This was the first flood coming down the Gila River since December 31, 1941. Much damage was done to the main canal with the peak water flow at the head being 75,000 CFS (cubic feet per second) causing the lead-in channel to be destroyed. Repair work was begun immediately

which required extensive mending at the heading to restore water supply to normal.

Each big flood washes the dam and canal intake at the head, where the river is diverted, and the head has to be reconstructed as quickly as possible to get water back into the canal. When the 1966 flood subsided, the river flowed at the toe of a butte on the south side of the broad river bed. The intake was high and dry and was separated from the new channel by a stretch of "quick" sand. Two bulldozers were sent in to excavate a ditch diagonally across the sand. It was no easy task, and one bulldozer was used to pull the other out of the "quick" sand. However, it was eventually completed and all the water flowed into the canal heading again.

Each flood raised the water level in the irrigation and drainage wells. One well, a mile away, showed a recovery of four feet, and the level of one located at the River rose 32 feet.

Another big flood hit the Valley September 8, 1970, mostly from the local storm, and from the White Tanks area. It caused great damage to the upper half of the main canal and other points west. Many portions of the canal had to be constructed, as there were more than two dozen major breaks in the entire canal system. Since this time, flood control dikes have been installed by the Government in conjunction with protecting I-10 and the channeling of the runoff from the White Tanks Mountain area.

Since 1970, four additional major floods occurred. The first one happened on March 4, 1978. Some of the old timers thought it was the biggest flood ever to hit Central Arizona. Heavy rains caused massive floods from both the Gila and Salt Rivers. Records show 125,000 CFS at the peak at the Company head. Saltcedars, other debris and silt in the river bottom forced water into strange new patterns, and lands that escaped such flooding in recent years were covered. Roosevelt Lake filled up, and water

was released which caused even greater flood and disaster to farms, livestock, property and equipment near the River. During this flood, families along Belloat Road loaded up belongings, installed sand bags and moved livestock. Yet, many young pigs were lost in the swirling water. A large number of homes had three-to-four feet of water running through the doors and windows, and some had as much as eight feet of water surrounding them. Great damage was done to the north bank of the River and also to the South Extension just above Highway 85 and Perryville Roads. Some acreage was lost into the River and several dairies moved their herds to higher ground in order to continue operations.

The second flood of that year came December 18, which was larger than the one in March with the peak at the head being recorded at 150,000 CFS. The diversion channel was destroyed; the same ditches were damaged to an even greater degree. However, because of the new dike and a good river channel on the south side of the river, the head remained undamaged. Due to greater damage of latter floods, Federal Aid was applied for and received through the Buckeye Water Conservation & Drainage District.

The other flood mentioned came January 2, 1979. A peak of 140,000 CFS was recorded at the Company head, causing an even greater degree of damage. During this flood, extensive damage was created in the Palo Verde areas to most of the lands near the River. In some farms, boulders that were once a part of the river-bed before the Valley was put into cultivation, were uncovered.

On February 13, 1980, the following year, a similar flood took place when the Roosevelt Dam released considerable water which caused even more flooding along and near the River.

In 1951 Buckeye went under the original 1948 Water Code. Thirty years later, in 1980, a comprehensive Ground Water Code was passed by the State Legislature. The goal of the 1980 Ground Water Code was to balance the

water budget for the State and to avoid excess ground water overdraft, although some ground has always been in this status. After the floods and the recharge of effluent, the Buckeye Valley was again waterlogged and was not overdrafting ground water. The Buckeye Irrigation Company and its neighbors, the Arlington Canal Company and St. Johns Irrigation District, joined together to be removed from the unreasonable ground water conservation requirements. The Legislature, in response to Buckeye's call for relief, passed House Bill 2222. The bill exempted the three Districts while a comprehensive study of the hydrology and farming practices was completed. The study was completed in December of 1987, and the Arizona Department of Water Resources recommended the area be removed from active management and should be exempt from the ground water conservation regulations. The Legislature may rule on the Department's recommendation in 1988. [Special thanks for the many hours of lobbying the Legislature are due to Kyle Hindman and Robert Towner.]

Each year the Company books and records are audited by a Certified Public Accountant. Also, a committee appointed by the stockholders, according to the laws of the Company audit the receipts, expenditures and vouchers. Serving on this committee since 1953 is Dorothy Pfluger, and serving with her for several years is Wanda Narramore. Others who have served on this committee are S. L. Hardin, George Hegi and Eliza Narramore.

Mr. John S. "Jack" Schaper, a specialist in water laws and administration, has been the Company attorney and legal advisor since April, 1960. He has been a loyal defender of water rights and relative position of the Company in retrospect to other water users.

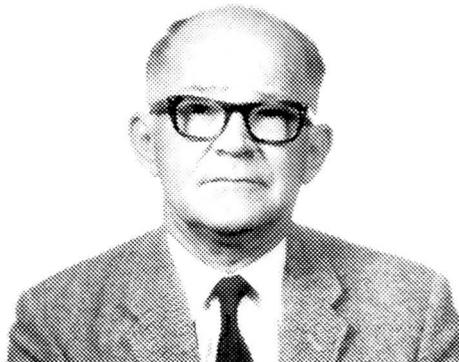
Mr. Eldon Towner, father of Robert Towner, was one of the Company Attorneys from 1954 to 1958. He gave valuable legal advice and assistance. Other attorneys serving the Company were Mr. Floyd Stahl, Mr. John Madson and Mr. John Gust.



1980 Flood - Highway 85 - South Extension Canal - Hog Farm.



Tail end of South of Wasteway & Benbow Road
looking East - Flood 1980



Leonard Halpenny

Mr. Leonard Halpenny continues to serve as Company Engineer and Consulting Hydrologist. He is a widely acclaimed and highly respected authority in his field, rendering a lot of beneficial services since 1958. Among the many books that he has written are *Waterlogging Within the Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District, Buckeye Valley* (March, 1984) and *Interrelations Between Groundwater and Surface Water Within the Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District, Maricopa County, Arizona.* (October, 1987)

In October, 1960 the Company started negotiating on purchasing the Stillman property at 205 Roosevelt Avenue, the present site of the Company office. The previous Company office was located at 203 South 4th Street. The 4th Street building was constructed by H.M. Watson, and it also housed the Buckeye Valley Bank. On January 16, 1961, the Stockholders made the final decision on the new office purchase and soon thereafter, Buckeye Irrigation Company moved into the former Massey-Ferguson Implement Company building. In the fall of 1981, the Company office was remodeled, making two attractive office rooms and a main conference room out of the original implement display room. All work was done by Company personnel including Jess Hooten and Dan Keck.

The Buckeye Irrigation Company has been served by many long-time employees. Among the retired is Lloyd Hamilton, who carried out his duties for 42 years, working basically on pump maintenance. J. D. Estes began employment in January, 1950 and served as a heavy equipment operator for 35 years. Gene Ray, Glen Narramore and Dan Keck are among the past Superintendents of the Company.

In the year of 1922 The Buckeye Water Conservation & Drainage District came into existence to promote proper irrigation drainage. Its boundaries are identical to The Buckeye Irrigation Company. The District operates as a Political Subdivision of the State of Arizona and

is a municipal corporation, with separate Board of Directors who are currently as follows: R. N. Narramore, who has served since the mid '70s, Kyle Hindman serving since November, 1983, and Wilbur Bushong serving since November, 1984, replacing O. L. Holly upon his death. Holly had served on the Board 23 years. Others who have served on the District Board are H. D. Couch, Othel Narramore, Leslie Narramore, A. L. Lanford and James P. Parker.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County was established in 1959 and is subsidized by the Federal government. Through approval of the County Board of Supervisors, the District started on a County-wide flood control program. This program affects all areas of Maricopa County including Wickenburg, Gilbert, Cave Creek, Buckeye, and Gila Bend.

The flood program attacks flood problems in many critical areas of Maricopa County, including the clearing and lining of channels and construction of dams, dikes, retarding basins and other structures. The program also proposes channelization of other waterways, such as the Salt, Gila, Agua Fria and New Rivers. This flood program has recently completed the channeling of the Gila River that is adjacent of the Buckeye Irrigation Company's south boundaries and also reinforced the river's north bank east of Highway 85 and Perryville Roads.

Effectuated communities have a continuing voice in plans for the flood control program, through an informal advisory group representing every community in the County. In addition, the District Advisory Board meets regularly to vote on the district's actions.

Boston Ionics of Boston, Massachusetts, in April of 1954 asked permission to use #2 irrigation well on the east end of the Valley for a test well in experimentation of desalting the water. The request was granted and the testing process lasted for one year. A much improved quality of water resulted. Due to the high cost of the electronic process, it was decided that

the expense was too great for irrigation purposes. In 1962 the Town of Buckeye approved and built their first desalination plant supplied by the same Company, and again in 1987 built a new desalination plant, which proved to be a great asset to the Town.

A new measuring weir was constructed in the canal intake head in 1953 according to specifications from the University of Arizona. Ed Stearman of Stearman Construction Company was the job engineer. Ed's son, Bob Stearman, was Superintendent of the Buckeye Irrigation Company in the 50's.

In 1965 the Company began bargaining for the purchase of the effluent water from the City of Phoenix and other cities. The following year, 1966, approval was given for 30,000 acre foot of water per year. Delivery was started in 1971, and this water has proved to be a boost to the water delivery in the Valley.

Arizona Public Service entered into a 25-year power contract with the Buckeye Water Conservation & Drainage District in 1953, after the government ruled Arizona Public Service not qualified to keep the block of power of government-owned Colorado River power. They sold the power to five municipalities, dividing it up according to the use of the five Districts (one being Buckeye), thus resulting in a much cheaper rate than the regular price of power. This contract was rewritten in 1987 under new terms.

In October of 1978, discussion began about the purchase of radios for Company use. It was proposed that 4 units and a base station be purchased from Motorola. A license for 10 units

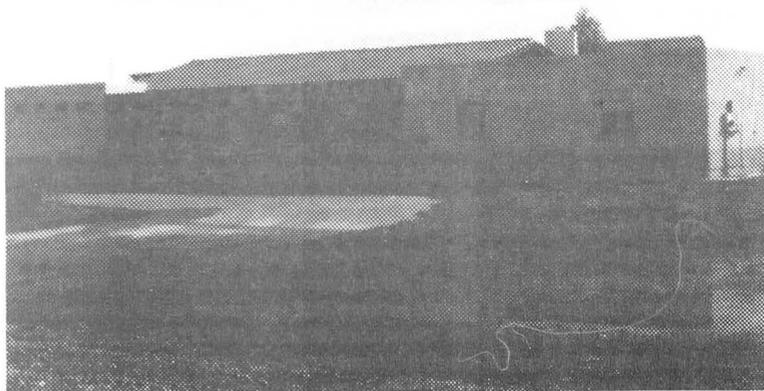
was agreed upon even if not all units were needed at the present time. These units were installed in 1980, and 2 new radios were purchased August 4, 1981, for two pickups. This communication system has proved to be most useful and time-savings, especially in water deliveries and maintenance.

Wilbur Wiegold retired in January, 1980, from the Secretary-Manager position after 34 years with the company. For most of those years he had the responsibility and management of the Company's entire operations, including controlling the volume of water from effluent, river flow and pump water to meet the peak demands of the farmers. During this time he was spokesman in many conferences and convention, while serving on the Maricopa Flood Control Board for 15 years. Wiegold was replaced by Charles "Chuck" Kupcik, a position he held for one and a half years. Travis Jones became Secretary-Manager in August, 1981, for a period of six years. The present Secretary-Manager is Gary Colvin.

The present Board of Directors is Don Naramore, President; William Hardison, Vice-President; Steve Bales, Twain Black, Robert Towner, Detmar Holly and Lonny Carmichael, members; Gary Colvin, Secretary-Manager; Ross Dixon, Superintendent; Eleanor Grandy, Office Manager; and Pat Simms, Zanjero Clerk. Elearnor Grandy retired in 1988 after 20 years of service and was replaced by Patti Newberry. Mention should be given to Murry Johnson who retired from the Company Board in January, 1987, after serving 24 years. Two Board members were elected February 1988, Stephen Grandy and William Perry.



Canal Heading 1978 Buckeye Flood



After 1978 Flood, Lueck House, Beloit Road



1979 Flood - Bruner Road.



1987 BOARD MEMBERS (Left to right): Wilbur Bushong, William Hardison, Kyle Hindman, Robert Towner, Lonny Carmichael Donald Narramore and Gary Colvin.



Eleanor Grandy
Wilbur Weigold, Nan Weigold

A seven-man Board of Directors is elected annually to represent stockholders in the management of the Company. The board has always taken a "hands on" position in leading the activities of the Company. A special thank you goes to the Buckeye Valley Farmers listed below who have spent untold hours contributing to the guidance and success of the Company.

J. R. Beloat served for 26 years (1925-1950). He also served as President. He retired from farming and cattle feeding and died several years ago.

R. K. Cooper served 7 years (1943-1949). He farmed in the East end of the Valley and he is also now deceased.

A. W. Enloe served 9 years (1944-1949)/(1951-1954). He has been retired many years and lives in Phoenix.

E. H. Johnson served 4 years (1944-1947). He operated acreage near the Hassayampa River, retired and has been deceased for many years.

Robert Long served 25 years (1927-1951), operated acreage adjacent West to the Town of Buckeye and has been deceased for many years.

Othel Narramore served as President 6 years and was on the Board 18 years (1940-1957). He presently livest in Palo Verde.

A. L. Lanford served 21 years (1936-1956) and was President for several years. He is now deceased.

C. A. Elms served 3 years (1949-1951). He farmed in Palo Verde and is now deceased.

Wallace Bales was first elected in 1950 and again for 7 years (1955-1961) a total of 8 years. He now lives at 720 Eason Avenue in Buckeye.

L. D. Hazen served on the Board 4 years (1949-1952). He is now deceased.

Elmer Shepard was elected in 1951 and served one year. He is retired and lives in Shepard Estates in Buckeye.

P. G. Pfluger served 5 years (1951-1955). He farmed in Liberty and is now deceased.

B. E. Schweikart served on the Board 23 years (1953-1975) and also served as President for several years. He is retired and lives in Ranch Sunora northeast of Buckeye.

Carl Arnold served 9 years (1952-1972). He is retired and lives in Ranch Sunora northeast of Buckeye.

Marshall Long, Jr. served 6 years (1952-1972). He is retired and lives at 701 Edison in Buckeye.

Richard Roberts served on the Board 2 years (1957-1958). He lives at his ranch home West of Palo Verde and still operates his farm.

Laurence Narramore served on the Board 22 years (1959-1980). He served as President for several years and is now retired.

O. L. Holly served on the Board 8 years (1959-1966). He was a farmer and Cotton Gin Manager from East Liberty and is now deceased.

William "Bill" Hardison has served on the Board for the past 24 years (1962, 1965-1987). He continues to be active; a farmer and dairyman. He lives in West Palo Verde.

Wayne King served 5 years (1962-1966). He is now retired and lives near Arlington.

M. A. Johnson retired after 24 years on the Board (1963-1986). He is still residing on his farm where he has operated a cattle feeding business.

Lyle King served on the Board for 6 years (1967-1972). He still farms near Gila Bend.

Dallas Holly served 13 years (1968-1980). He retired from farming and now lives in Scottsdale.

Tom Bales served 2 years (1971-1972) and is now residing in Tacna as manager of POCO-Dinero Ranch.

Norman Nichols served 4 years (1973-1976). He farmed Southwest of Liberty and is now deceased.

Twain Black has served 10 years (1973-1975 and again 1980-1988), and is currently on the Board. He farms 1½ miles SW of Buckeye.

Jewell Turner served 8 years (1976-1983) and is now retired from farming and lives in Prescott.

Ted Hazen served 4 years (1977-1980). He is a cattle feeder and farmer and lives on West Hazen Road near Palo Verde.

Steve Bales is currently serving and has served 12 years (1976-1988). He is a cattle feeder and a farmer in Liberty.

Don Narramore is presently the Board President, having served on the Board for the past 8 years (1980-1988). He farms and feeds cattle near Palo Verde.

Robert Towner has served for the past 7 years (1981-1988). He is a farmer east of town and a Real Estate Broker.

Detmar Holly, a third generation serving on the Board at the present time (1984-1988), is farming in the Liberty area.

Lonny Carmichael is now serving on the Board (1987-1988) replacing M. A. Johnson upon his retirement. He is farming in West Palo Verde area.

There are many, many people who have given generously of their time and talent in making this Company what it is today. Any omission of any of these contributors is not intentional.

May we continue to progress and strive toward even a BETTER IRRIGATION SYSTEM, BETTER COMMUNITY AND BETTER VALLEY.