

100 YEARS AGO ANOTHER WATER PROJECT DEDICATION WAS HELD

Tomorrow's dedication of the mighty \$32,000,000 Tri-Dam Project will not be the first held in the Mother Lode to herald a gigantic water project.

Present in spirit will be those engineers and workers of the bygone days of 100 years ago who planned and worked on another huge water project in the exact same area—the old flume line of the Columbia and Stanislaus Water Co.

The faint relics of the line were destroyed when Donnell's Dam was built, but the story of the project will live on, as will some of the nails, brackets, and portions of the old flume which have been saved for future generations.

The flume and ditch line once ran from Donnell's Flat to Columbia. Ground was broken near Columbia March 19, 1855, for the 60-mile-long water project. It was first intended that the system was to bring water to the fabulous mines at Columbia from Five Mile Creek, east of that community.

MORE WATER

The promoters found insufficient water was provided by this creek and it was then determined to bring water from the South Fork of the Stanislaus River from a point near Lyons Dam.

When the South Fork water proved insufficient also to feed the thousands of rockers and long-toms on the claims about Columbia, Springfield, Gold Hill, Shaver's Flat, and Tuttlestown, the sponsors of the ditch system vowed to take the water of the North Fork to the mines.

This was accomplished Nov. 29, 1858 when the first North Fork water reached Columbia.

CELEBRATION

It was the occasion of the greatest celebration ever seen in the southern mines. Old newspaper accounts tell of a crowd of more than 40,000 persons crowded into the City of Columbia to hail the arrival of the water.

Total cost of the project was \$1,319,475.

It was a great day for the miners. They had proved, by a tremendous co-operative effort, they could move water from one watershed to another, that the project could be built largely by payment of scrip which the workers could redeem for water at their claims at a cost of \$4 per day.

They had proved it was possible to hang a flume eight feet square on the sides of granite mountains for long distances.

More than 3,000 men worked on the project. Water was taken from an 80-foot waterfall at the head of Donnell's Flat, flumed to a point near Bumblebee, run through a 3,210-foot tunnel to a point near Spring Gap on the South Fork, then run down the South Fork to an earth-filled log dam at Lyons's Ranch (Lyons Dam).

ELATION SHORT

The elation of the miners, however, was short-lived.

Only a few months later, in 1859, the firm of Donnell & Parsons of Columbia, and A. E. Davis of San Francisco, foreclosed on the water system for mortgages granted during the construction. Donnell and Parsons had manufactured most of the lumber for the flumes and ditches at their mill at Donnell's Flat. They held obligations against the company for \$60,000.

Davis had purchased many of the smaller mortgages for which the company was obligated for but a few cents on the dollar.

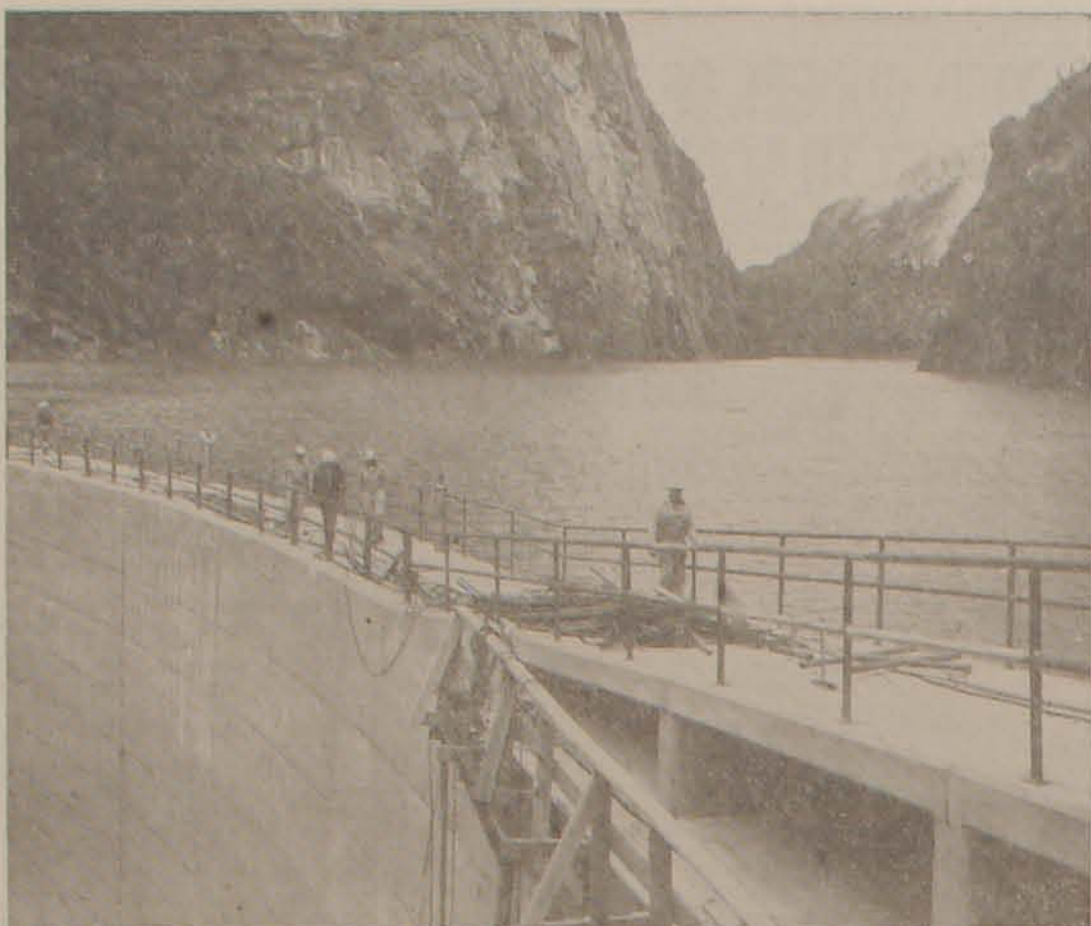
By 1860 it was determined the company could no longer survive in such debt and it was sold to the Tuolumne Water Co. for \$150,000. The Donnell's Flume remained in operation until 1890, a period of 31 years.

The flume later burned for several miles along the canyon and became just a memory and occasional pieces of wrought iron

which attested to the prowess of engineers and workmen of the day. Almost as a monument to the engineers of the bygone days the Donnell's Dam is constructed at the base of Dome Rock around which the original flume was built.

A group of Tri-Dam project engineers visited the old site before construction began. They gathered square nails used a century ago in building the old flume. They recovered wedges, wrought iron brackets for holding the flume to the sheer canyon walls, one-inch by 16-inch iron pegs used to brace the flume, and portions of the flume and timbers.

The relics were given to local museums to better tell future generations how Gold Rush miners, without powder or modern day tools, had brought water to their mines against almost insurmountable odds.



NEW RESERVOIR—This is the 425-acre reservoir behind Donnell's Dam, first in the chain of three on the middle fork of the Stanislaus River. This water storage facility at the 7,000-foot elevation already helped prevent early high water run-off late this spring. The three-mile-long reservoir will store 64,500 acre feet of water. It is the smallest of the three reservoirs.

Before Start of Dams, Other Work Needed

Actual construction of the dams and powerhouses on the middle fork of the Stanislaus River was just part of the task facing the contractor combine which won the Tri-Dam contract.

Preliminary work necessary before project construction itself could be started including what ordinarily would be counted as major construction in many communities.

A complete aggregate plant was built at the 7000-foot-level site of Donnell's Dam. Stone was quarried, trucked to the plant and converted into gravel, sand and cement. This was then trucked over the \$800,000 specially built road connecting Beardsley and Donnell's sites.

A central machine shop was established to handle machinery and automotive repairs as well as to serve as assembly center for the mass of equipment which was brought in to be assembled.

A labor camp with dining area and recreation facilities was constructed, serving thousands of meals a day during the peak of construction. In addition, a trailer camp was set up at another location for workers who brought their families with them.

Before construction could begin, power had to be brought into the several sites. This was done by the PG&E, which set up a 60,000-volt transmission line from its Spring Gap powerhouse to the dam site.

OLD ENGINEER VISUALIZED DAM, STARTED SURVEY BACK IN 1924

By LOLITA LORANG, Record Correspondent

OAKDALE, June 14—More than 30 years ago Russell E. Hartley, engineer for the Oakdale Irrigation District, realized that this district would some day need additional water storage.

The vast \$32,000,000 Tri-Dam Project is the culmination of his dreams, plans and surveys which commenced as early as 1924.

Learning about the Beardsley site through W. H. Newell who was with the predecessors of the Pickering Lumber Corporation, Hartley took a look at it and then asked the OI board to let him make a survey. The board appropriated \$500. That was in 1924.

Taking a crew of four men, including George Macomber and Roy McMath, Hartley travelled by horseback from the old Cold Springs and spent a week making surveys of the area. Hartley always believed that sooner or later a large reservoir would be built there.

FIRST FILING
The survey was followed by filings on the site which were kept alive through the years.

In the meantime, Hartley studied various sites, including Columbia and Tulloch. Water studies of these indicated they were good reservoir sites but were lacking in sufficient power possibilities to support their estimated cost.

Actual pushing of the project began in 1937, and in 1938 the district attempted to get a Public Works Administration grant but was unsuccessful. World War II followed and efforts were at a standstill until 1946.

The following year the South



HIS DREAM—Russell Hartley, Oakdale Irrigation District engineer, is the man who visualized the need for Stanislaus River water storage and made initial surveys in 1924.

San Joaquin Irrigation District became interested and signed an agreement for joint development in January 1948.

In order to have adequate water for both districts, the project had to be enlarged. Power earnings for financing the project were needed and resulted in bringing Donnell's into the picture.

From then on, it was a matter of completing plans and jumping hurdles until construction got underway.

A native of Malden, Ill., Hartley joined the Oakdale district in 1921, taking over the engineer position vacated by Burton Smith. Prior to coming here, he was with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for eight years, working as an assistant engineer on the Newlands Project.

Officer Becomes Matador on Job

LEBANON, Ky. (AP)—Patrolman James Violette became an amateur matador in the Lebanon business section.

When an escaped bull lunged towards him, Violette sidestepped neatly and the animal shot through the locked, plate glass door of an appliance store.

Afraid the animal would burst through the show windows near the main entrance, Violette ran around to the front of the store. There he beat on windows, jumped up and down, and made faces at the bull.

The poor animal had enough. He turned tail, fled out the rear door and was herded into a waiting truck.

Lodge Leaders Are Installed

SONORA, June 14—In the first such ceremonies to be held locally, district deputies of Odd Fellow and Rebekah lodges in Tuolumne County were installed at formal ceremonies Saturday night.

Previously, district deputies took office automatically upon appointment. However, in the Saturday night ceremonies, Joseph Kahl and Mrs. Ruby East Foch, past district officers, formally turned over their posts.

Installed were Sylvester Bonavia as district deputy grand master, a member of Sonora Lodge No. 10, and Mrs. Rita Muzzi as district deputy president. She is a member of Sierra Rebekah Lodge of Sonora.

Seated to assist them the coming term were Mrs. Theresa Townsend of Big Oak Rebekah Lodge and Ed Martinelli of Tuolumne Lodge No. 21, marshals; Chester Rodgers of Pine Tree Lodge and Mrs. Ethel Pickersil of Zenith Rebekah Lodge, chaplains; and Mrs. Ed Martinelli of Gold Nugget Rebekah Lodge, musician.

Following the ceremonies refreshments were served by Kahl.

Jail Keepers Are Censored in Escape

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP)—Municipal Judge James A. McWhorter dismissed escape charges against two jail prisoners, then censured jail officials.

Inmate Woodrow Zirkle had strolled out an open door, and inmate Harry Ellison had walked off a car-washing job. Judge McWhorter said trustees should have closer supervision.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoffman of Bethel Island were honored on the occasion of their 20th wedding anniversary Sunday night in the El Nido Rancho. Guests were Maj. and Mrs. Bob Byran and son, Charles, of Oxnard; Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Platt of San Lorenzo, Mrs. Max F. Rutherford and Mrs. Gertrude Katalla of Berkeley, Mrs. Bernice Smith and daughter, Carol Jean, of San Jose, and Mr. and Mrs. Roman Weber of San Francisco.



HIGH DAM IS SPILLING—This is a photograph of the completed Donnell's Dam, with water pouring from the spillway at the right. The concrete arch type dam is 10 feet thick at its crest, 290 feet above the stream bed, and 41 feet thick at its base. Water from the reservoir is carried through a seven-mile tunnel, to drop 1,200 feet to the powerhouse several miles downstream.

Lode Graduates Party Guests

LONG BARN, June 14—Commencement exercises for 10 graduates of the Long Barn Elementary School were followed by a party given by the parents of the graduates.

Mrs. Roy Miller, trustee, presented diplomas to Sharon Randle, Bonnie Warren, Marlene Flemmer, Louise Hildreth, Carol Westmoreland, Morris Grass, James Spruill, Larry Jones, Vernon Miller and James Delaine.

The program included an invocation and student addresses by Miss Flemmer and Jones. Music was played by the Mark Twain Band directed by Bruce Paxton.

American Legion Essay awards were presented by Mrs. Elbert Miller to Jones, first place; Misses Warren and Randle, tied for second; and Miss Flemmer, third.

Max Hagemeyer, co-ordinator of Tuolumne County schools, gave an address entitled "Our Young Citizens."

The school's Parent-Teacher Association unit presented gifts to the graduates and the teachers at the school.

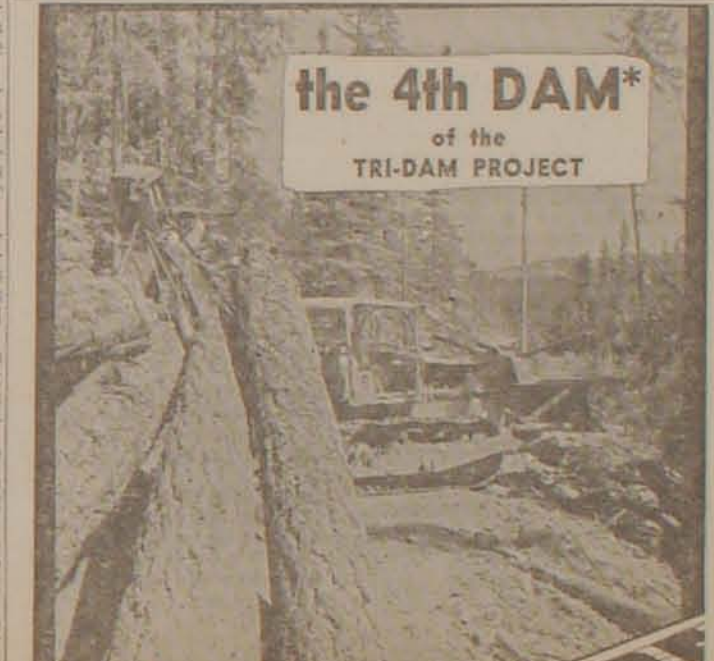
The graduates followed the ceremony with a "ditch day" which included a trip to Phoenix Lake and a visit to the sheriff's office. The school year was closed with a picnic for all students given Friday by the PTA unit.

Burl Allen of Antioch was honored at a going-away party last week, prior to his induction into the Army. The party was given by his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cole, operators of the Bethel Inn. About 50 relatives and friends attended.

Suspended Sentence

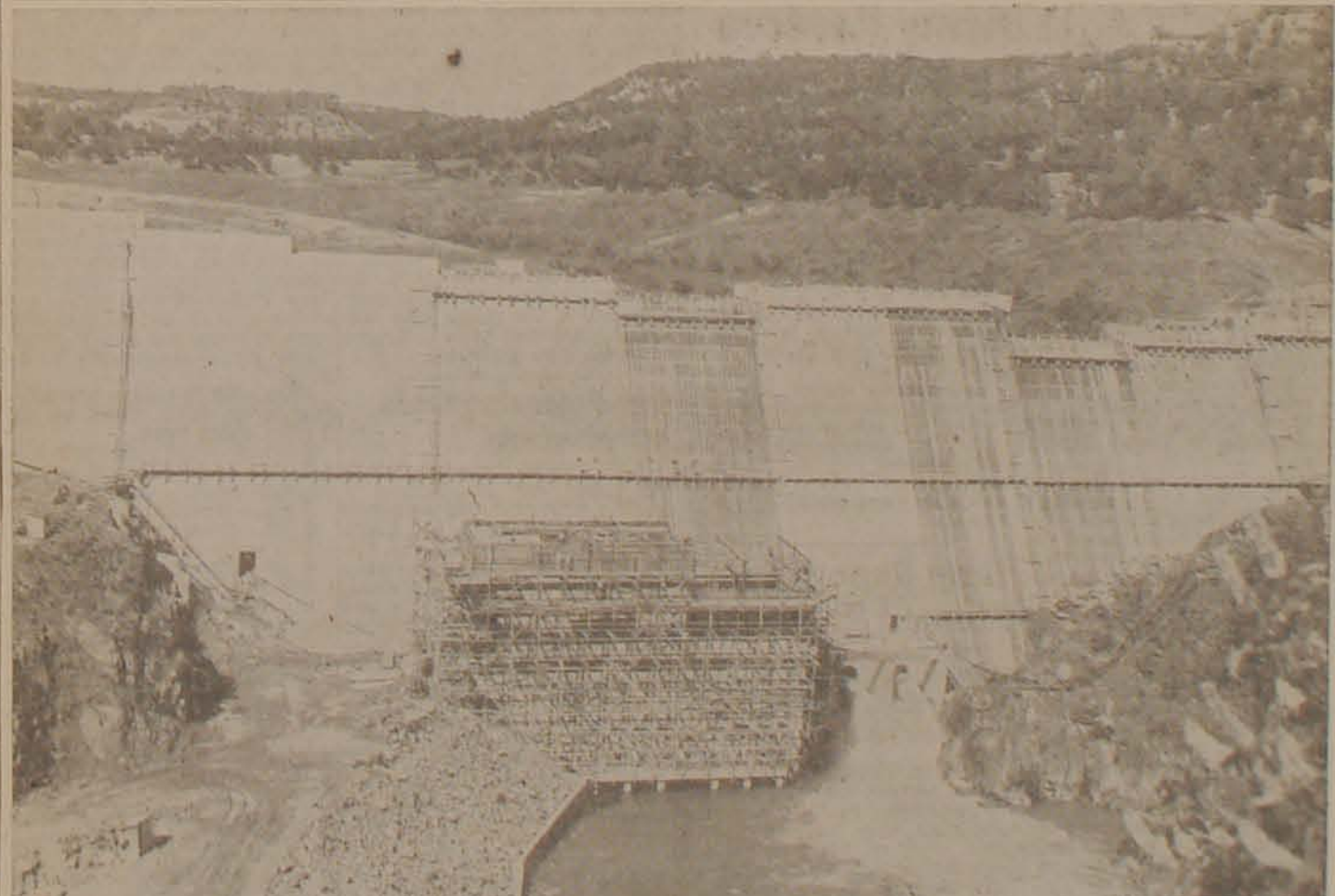
WEST POINT, June 14—Larry C. Towne, 44, Rail Road Flat, last week was placed on probation for a year and given a 30-day suspended sentence on charges of

intoxication and assault and battery. He was arrested last week, first on the intoxication charge and later his wife complained he had abused her. Towne pleaded guilty before Judge Everett Henry here.



We heartily congratulate the irrigation districts for their vision and enterprise in developing this great project. We built the storage dam on Chinaman Creek and relocated Pickering Lumber Corporation's Beardsley Flat Railroad Camp. It was a pleasure to work with you!

COVINGTON & WOLVERTON
GENERAL CONTRACTORS — SONORA, CALIF.



Approximately 250,000 barrels of Calaveras Cement were used in the Tulloch Dam and Power House, above

More Water for Irrigation Another Step Forward for the Valley

Some 150,000 acre feet will be added to this area's supply of available irrigation water each year through the facilities of Tulloch Dam and the other headwater improvements included in the Tri-Dam project.

We are proud to have supplied

the cement for this project which will contribute so much to the Valley's continued growth.

Congratulations to the Oakdale Irrigation District, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, the Arundel Corporation and the L. E. Dixon Company on a job well done!



Plant at San Andreas
Main Office: 315 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, DOUGLAS 2-4224
IN STOCKTON: 1521 West Oak, HOWARD 6-7994 IN MODESTO: 819B 15th St., LAMBERT 2-9031

The Tri-Dam Project Serving Central California

The great Tri-Dam Project will serve the residents of Central California with water for irrigation, power to turn the wheels of industry and will play a large role in control of floods. Congratulations to the Oakdale and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts on the Tri-Dam!

Morrison Tile Co. Serving Central California

Quality materials and dependable workmanship are the factors which were considered in choosing Morrison Tile Co. to do the ceramic tile for the Tri-Dam Project . . . the same factors to be considered by you in choosing your tile contractor. We are proud to have been a part of this great effort.

CERAMIC TILE — TRI-DAM PROJECT BY MORRISON TILE CO.

Quality Workmanship for Over a Quarter Century.

3301 E. MINER AVE. HO 3-2151

Congratulations!
TO THE
OAKDALE AND SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN
IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

TRI-DAM PROJECT

on the successful development of the
Your great project, which serves the four-fold purpose of Irrigation, Power, Flood Control and Recreation, is a perfect example of a working partnership between your irrigation districts and the Pacific Gas and Electric Co., for the betterment of all residents of the large area it encompasses. Private capital and initiative made the Tri-Dam Project possible!

HALES & SYMONS

LUMBER — BUILDING MATERIALS — LP — GAS

5. Washington St. SONORA, CALIF. Phone JE 2-7444