

Flood Control Plan To Aid Southern California Water Problems

BY ROBERT FAIRBANKS
United Press International
Sacramento, Calif. — (UPI) — While man ventures into space, he still has vast challenges on earth. Work will begin this summer on one of the most useful attempts at molding the earth's surface to meet man's need: the building of a manmade river 750 miles long.

This is the engineer's answer to the fact that 70 per cent of California's water supply is in the north of America's longest (and soon most populous) state, while 80 per cent of the need is in the south.

Northern California must battle surging floods and

southern California is beset by encroaching desert. The remedy will be the \$12 billion California Water Plan, a project rivaling the Panama Canal in magnitude.

First step, to come shortly, will be the building of Oroville dam, a wall of rock and earth across the Feather river.

Although Oroville will be the tallest dam in the United States, (735 feet above river bottom), it is not a spectacularly huge project as dams go. For instance, Hoover dam between Arizona and Nevada and Grand Coulee dam in Washington each store more water and generate more power than will the new California project.

What makes Oroville remarkable is the destination of its water. Unlike any dam in the nation, Oroville will send its flow into a man-made river more than half the length of the lower Mississippi from St. Louis to the Gulf of Mexico.

These two units, the river and Oroville dam, are key projects in the California Water plan which was originated at a conference of water specialists called in 1945 by California's then governor, Earl Warren.

After noting that the state had been tinkering with its natural water supply on a regional and piecemeal basis, Warren said it was time for a statewide program.

The specialists began at

once to collect statistics, make studies and hold more conferences. The studying and statistic-collecting continued for five years without producing a statewide water plan. Instead, there was a mass of conflicting suggestions, including one from a kibitzer who wanted to pump northern water into huge plastic sausages that could be floated south along the coast each spring to Los Angeles.

Among the many men who wondered if California would ever devise an overall project was state water engineer A. D. Edmonston. Described by friends as a "forceful, stubborn old cuss," Edmonston had listened to all suggestions

and measured them against his 40 years of experience with state and local water projects. In 1951, when it appeared that the conflict might never end, Edmonston made his choice and presented it to the legislature.

Carried by Aqueduct

Known as the Feather river project it called for storing northern water behind a big dam on the Feather at Oroville and building a huge aqueduct to carry the flow south. This, with later additions, became the California Water Plan.

Edmonston retired in 1955. When leaving, he said that he regretted going before his project was complete. He died within a year.

Oroville will lie where Edmonston put it: in the Sierra Nevada foothills, 1,200 feet up from sea level in the old gold country. It will be 8 miles south of Horsethief canyon, 12 miles west of Last Chance creek, 5 miles north of Lannigan's gulch and about 125 miles northeast of San Francisco.

The dam's storage capacity will be 3.5 million acre feet, or enough to cover the state of Connecticut to a depth of one foot.

From Oroville, the dam's water will follow its natural course for 60 miles to a junction with the Sacramento river on the floor of California's rich Central valley.

From its confluence with

the Sacramento, the water will continue on a natural course (with the Sacramento) for another 50 miles to the edge of San Francisco bay. But instead of entering the bay, to be wasted in the Pacific ocean, the water will be diverted into a stupendous aqueduct.

Broad Stream

Engineers envision the aqueduct as a broad, placid river, starting near the bay and running south for 250 miles through the lower end of the Central valley. Varying between 15 and 30 feet in depth, the river will have a maximum width of 130 feet and will run between banks of earth or concrete.

At the valley's south end, huge pumps — perhaps atomic powered — will lift the stream 2,000 feet over the Tehachapi

mountains and drop it into another aqueduct terminating nearly 200 miles still further south in reservoirs near Los Angeles.

Engineers have not yet designed the Tehachapi pump station, but they know that its capacity must be 700,000 horsepower, to lift nearly nine million tons of water daily over the mountains.

After Edmonston's death, engineers began designing additions to his original plan. These included lengthy branches from the main aqueduct that will bring water to the cities north and south of San Francisco and to an area of California's south central coast.

Working with federal officials and the approval of congress, the state also integrated the government's San Luis

project into the California Water plan. This will provide still more water for the aqueduct system.

By 1972, when Oroville dam is completed, Feather river water will be flowing from millions of faucets in the bustling cities of southern California.

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NEAR PROPOSED DAM—Above is a section of the Feather river near the proposed Oroville dam, the first step in the \$12 billion California Water Plan. Work is expected to start on the project this summer. (UPI)

Stanford Youth Waits Verdict

Berlin — (UPI) — Stanford University student Robert E. Mann will learn Saturday the verdict of a Communist court which heard charges he tried to help an East German escape from behind the Iron Curtain.

A prosecutor urged Wednesday at the conclusion of Mann's one-day trial that the 19-year-old Sepulveda, Calif., youth be given a prison term of 2½ years at hard labor.

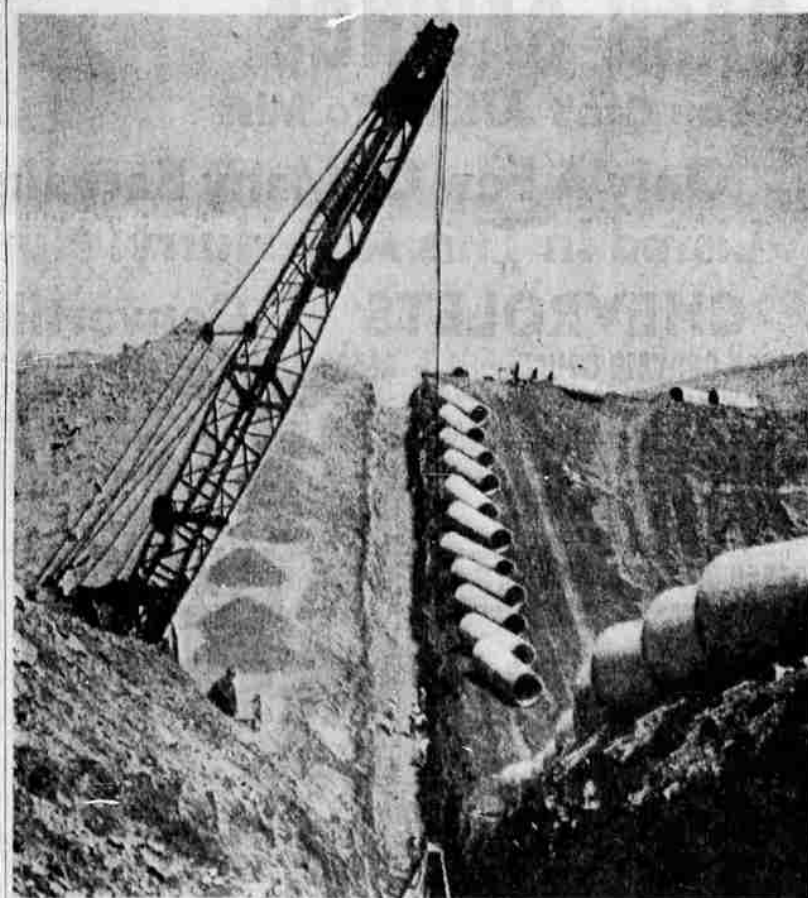
Observers believed Mann, arrested last January, probably would receive a one-year sentence and be released within several months. The East German government rarely holds convicted foreigners for very long and Mann has already been jailed for almost six months.

Reports reaching the West but not officially confirmed indicated a co-defendant in Mann's trial received a one-year suspended sentence. He was identified as Uwe Sturberg, 24-year-old East Berlin locksmith, accused of receiving a passport from Mann.

Western newsmen, U.S. Mission observers and Mann's father was barred from the courtroom.

West Berlin officials said they had no evidence to substantiate a statement in Washington by California Congressman Edgar W. Hiestand that the court already had found Mann guilty.

Mann came to Berlin last January on a visit from Stanford's overseas campus at Stuttgart, West Germany.



BRANCH OF AQUEDUCT—Work will begin this summer on the engineer's answer to the fact that 70 per cent of California's water supply is in the north of America's longest state, while 80 per cent of the need is in the south. The remedy will be the \$12 billion California Water Plan, a project rivaling the Panama Canal in magnitude. This picture shows construction of one of the branches of the main aqueduct system. (UPI)

Potted Plants Used To Enhance Homes

By DOROTHEA M. BROOKS
United Press International
New York — (UPI) — For the homeowner who is dismayed to find that acquisition of a house does not necessarily confer membership in the green thumb fraternity "portable gardening" may prove a lifesaver.

Sales of potted plants have climbed more than 100 per cent in the past 10 years of expanding home construction and one important reason is the adaptability of both foliage and flowering plants for indoor and outdoor decoration, according to the Clay Pot Manufacturers association, whose members make more than 150 million porous clay flower pots annually.

The clay flower pot producers emphasize that house plants can perform this double decorative duty and provide portable beauty the year round, if you care for them properly and use them wisely to enhance terraces, patios and outdoor landscapes, as well as to beautify interiors.

The mid-summer flower border, difficult for the best of gardeners, can have the professional touch with potted blooms from your local grower.

Outdoor Summer
Plants which spend their winters indoors — where, incidentally, they not only beautify, but help to alleviate "dry heat" punishment to humans and home furnishings alike — generally can spend the summer outdoors.

They can summer over right in their pots, if they are the porous red clay containers which permit proper exchange of air and moisture and permit the plant to breathe.

Sun-loving plants like cacti and geraniums and the shade-loving ones such as begonias, fuchsias, ferns, patience plants and foliage plants should be grouped together, with the latter placed where they will receive filtered shade, under a tree, or near a fence or wall.

Several clay potted geraniums can be planted in a large box, Victorian urn or terrace planter, as well as in

Nehru Undisturbed By Armed Activity

New Delhi — (UPI) — Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru said today there is "nothing serious" about the Communist Chinese encirclement of an Indian outpost in the disputed Ladakh area of Kashmir.

Nehru told newsmen on his arrival from a vacation in Kashmir that "some time or other" the Chinese will have to withdraw.

The Prime Minister called a meeting with his cabinet and defense chiefs to discuss the situation which informed sources described as "menacing."

Russians Believed Behind in Testing

London — (UPI) — British anti-nuclear leader Canon L. John Collins said Wednesday his conversations with Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev led him to believe Khrushchev feels Russia must conduct nuclear tests to catch up with the United States.

Collins met Khrushchev in Moscow Tuesday while attending the Communist-sponsored World Congress for Peace and Disarmament.

"His attitude was that the Americans were in front and therefore the Soviets must have their tests to correspond with the Americans," Collins said.

PERSISTENT COLLECTOR

Chrystal Lake, 1. — (UPI) — McHenry county state's attorney Richard Cross admitted to an angry county board of supervisors he spent \$3,180 trying to collect a \$117.07 personal property tax bill from Donald Sheldon, of Madison, Wis.

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