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– February 24, 1966

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Agua Fria River - Flooding 1951

Walnut Grove Dam - 1970's?

Cave Creek Dam Outlet Looking North – Open - December, 1979

CAP at Cave Creek Wash Looking North- Open - December, 1979

Buckeye No. 1 View from Plane – 1980

White Tanks #4 – Small Pit Looking North - 1980

Maricopa - Flooded by Santa Rosa Wash – October 4, 1983

McMicken Dam Vegetation – January 1, 1987

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Salt River in Tempe Area - Flooding - 1891



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-- February 24, 1966

Granddaddy of Local Floods

By I. H. Parkman

Monday, Feb. 21-22, 1891, is the days all old timers of Phoenix and Buckeye will remember as the "Big 91 Flood" that was the "granddaddy" of all floods down the Salt and Gila Rivers. I did not arrive until two years after the flood, but it was so soon after it happened that it was still fresh in everybody's minds and besides I had a brother-in-law Joe Brown that was right in the midst of it.

He was working at the time for a Mr. Irvine who lived in a two story house in Southeast Phoenix and he said water got between two and three feet deep in the two story brick home and I had other friends in the Wilson district that was flooded by water. The best and most complete record of the flood I have ever seen was got up by James Barney several years before he died, that he had gleaned out of the Phoenix papers of those days, a copy of his report I have in my files.

While the crest of the flood never reached Phoenix until February 21 yet the river had started to rise several days before and on the 18th it had washed out the Maricopa railroad bridge at Tempe, the only bridge across the river at that time. On the morning of the 19th water had risen 16 feet at the Arizona canal dam. On the 20th it had gotten up to Jackson street and ran west to Cortez (Third street) where higher ground deflected it southward. Adobe houses fell as fast as the flood could get to them and soak their walls for a short time. It was estimated that the river at one place was eight miles wide. This being a Buckeye paper we are more interested in what happened in the Buckeye district and the following is the report of the Buckeye Blade that was being printed at that time in Buckeye. It ran for about two years before it folded up and left.

THE FLOOD

The Gila Combined with the Salt and Agua Fria Make Terrific River

No time in the history of this County has the Salt and Gila rivers ever been as high as those of recent date, and the County is very fortunate from the fact that there is such a small damage to property and few loss of lives, if any. It is true the Maricopa and Phoenix railroad company are heavy losers, and considerable damage occurred to Phoenix and eastern addition. The loss to the former could not have been prevented but the later is a victim of tinhorn speculation and downright carelessness, by the parties controlling the Maricopa and Grand canals. Phoenix has time and again been warned by the defective headgates in the above canal, but as experience generally teaches a sad lesson, it is to be hoped that the country east of it will be immediately protected.

The head of the Buckeye canal was severely damaged. The headgate and cribbing were washed away and the canal filled to the depth of about seven feet for about half a mile from the head. About two and a half miles from the head the canal broke, which allowed the debris and sand to wash out, leaving the canal clean and at about its natural grade excepting the first half mile. The main

current is sweeping through where the headgate formerly stood.

Mr. Toothaker's station at the Buckeye crossing, four miles below the head of the canal was completely washed away. The family saved all their household effects and are now living as comfortable as circumstances will permit in a couple of tents just across the canal.

On the South Extension, the ranches nearest the river were partially overflowed, which was more of a benefit than damage.

Mr. A. Aikins house and corral on the bank of the river south of town went off in the swim.

The ranches of Messrs, J. A. Weider and Ed Tovrea, four miles southwest of town were inundated. The water rising around the houses to the depth of five feet. Although built of lumber, fortunately the water failed to move them an inch.

The ranch of Mr. W. H. Weinscott is completely ruined. The best land about 80 acres was very low and close to the river, was nearly all cut off into the river.

Mr. G. A. Roberts and family were placed in a very critical position for several hours. A low strip of land runs around on the north side of their ranch, and as the river rose this swag formed a slough which at its highest stage was half a mile wide. Before the water had raised up to the house the slough on the north was running like a millrace, and they discovered after it was too late, that they were imprisoned on an island which would not stand more than a raise of 12 inches higher to cover it. The family were compelled to vacate their house, as a portion of it was adobe, and move up on higher ground, where in the open air and rain they experienced a most miserable night. The neighbors recognizing the perilous position of those on the island, hurriedly constructed a raft for the purpose of rescuing them. It was about 9 o'clock p.m., when Messrs. J. C. Barnes, W. D. Shaker and Irvine Barnes, put out from shore on the raft to cross the slough which was accomplished without much trouble. Mrs. Roberts and her daughters, Misses Lillie and Callie, were first taken aboard, but the raft would not bear the weight and they were obliged to return and wait until the raft was taken ashore and enlarged. In the second attempt the two boys, Oscar and John, were taken on the raft. But as it began to reach deep water it began to sink, and not until the water was up to their knees did all, excepting J. C. Barnes desert the raft and wade back to the island. The raft relieved of its load, came to the surface, drifted a short distance and coming in contact with a mesquite tree it turned up on its side and sunk. Mr. Barnes quietly climbed the tree and after a few minutes rest plunged into the water and soon joined the others on the island, which was reduced to about an acre. Charles Parker came to Buckeye about 11 o'clock for assistance and said a boat was necessary in order to reach the island. So all hands went to work in dead earnest to build a boat, Judge L. O. Wiley acting as designer, contractor, and carpenter with A. J. Aikens and Mr. Elder as assistants.

After the boat was finished, a drive of six miles had to be made. It was daylight when the relief party arrived on the ground and the river had fallen several feet but the boat was launched and it floated like a cork, and in a short time all were landed.

At the head of Wolfey's dam the residence of Colonel Dennis Madigan was surrounded by water to the depth of several feet. The Colonel seemed to think it didn't amount to much and mechanically erected a booth for himself and wife in the boughs of a large mesquite tree, where with blankets and provisions they were prepared for the siege. The following day John Mullen discovered their temporary residence and riding to hailing distance asked if they didn't want to come out. "No," answered the colonel, "we are all right."

Taking everything into consideration the Buckeye country fared remarkably well, from the fact that the greatest flood ever seen in this country, has only covered a small portion of the lowest land.

Goodyear Flooding - August 30, 1951



Goodyear - August 30, 1951

*Goodyear Aug 30th
1951*

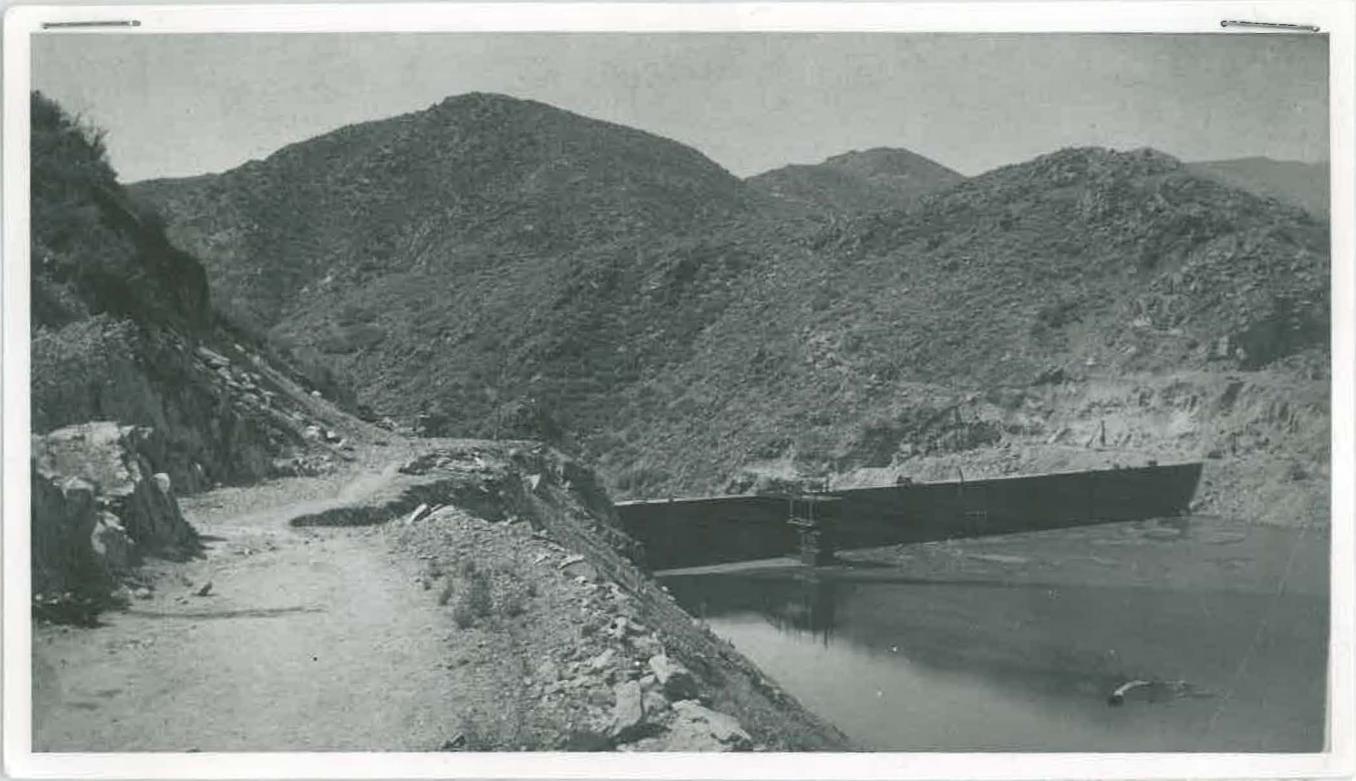
Agua Fria River - Flooding 1951

Agua Fria River - 1951

After the waters had passed through the agricultural area some of them found their way to the Agua Fria River and swelled it from a dry stream to a mile wide surging river some 40,000 cubic feet per second of water was passing under the Avondale Bridge when this picture was taken.



Walnut Grove Dam - 1970's?



11782-8.

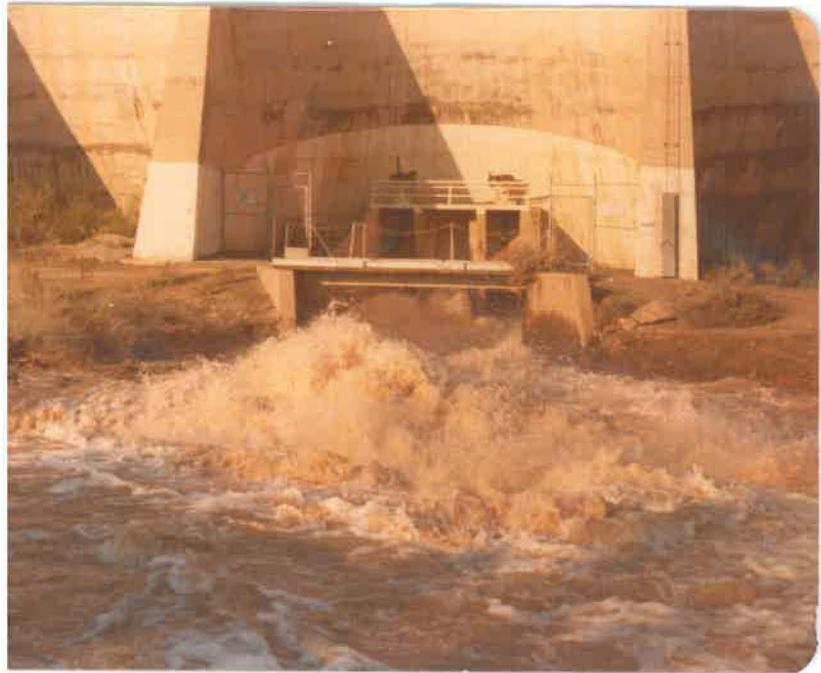
GROVE
WALNUT ~~CREEK~~ DAM - THIS SITE
ABOVE PROPOSED SITE AT BLUE CANYON
ON WASSAYMMA RIVER NORTH OF
CHICKEN BURB.

11782-6

GROVE
WALNUT ~~CREEK~~ DAM. THIS SITE
ABOVE PROPOSED SITE AT BLUE CANYON
ON WASSAYMMA RIVER - NO. OF
CHICKEN BURB.

Cave Creek Dam Outlet Looking North - Open - December, 1979

C-LINE #52584
35MM PRINTS



6
Cave Creek Dam Outlet -
L.S. - Open 28"
Looking North
Dec. 1979

7
Cave Creek Dam Outlet - Center -
No Gate Valve 500 cfs
R.S. - Closed Looking North
Dec. 1979

CAP at Cave Creek Wash Looking North- Open - December, 1979

C-LINE #52584
35MM PRINTS



35MM PRINTS
C-LINE #25284

3

C.A.P. at Cave Creek Wash -
Looking North
Dec. 1979

White Tanks #4 - ~~Small Pit~~ Looking North - 1980

C-LINE #52584
35MM PRINTS



39MM PRINTS
OFFLINE #52584

9

WhiteTANK #4
~~Buckeye #1~~

1980

WhiteTANK #3

Looking west/ANB

Buckeye No. 1 View from Plane - 1980

C-LINE #52584
35MM PRINTS



GENE PRINTS
C-LINE #5284

10

3
White Tanks #~~4~~ - Small Pit - Looking
~~North~~ West
1980

Maricopa - Flooded by Santa Rosa Wash - October 4, 1983

C-LINE #52584
35MM PRINTS



10/4/83

Manicopa flooded by Santa Rosa
wash.

McMicken Dam Vegetation - January 1, 1987

COLINE #52584
35MM PRINTS



CLINE #52584
35MM PRINTS



15

McMicken Dam
Vegetation
1/1/87 ppm cwm 202



14

McMicken Dam
Vegetation
1/1/87 ppm cwm 202

CRIME #52584
SERIALS



19

McMicken Dam
Vegetation
1/1/87 ppm cwm 202

18

McMicken Dam
Vegetation
1/1/87 ppm cwm 202

20

McMicken Dam
Vegetation
1/1/87 ppm cwm 202

Date

9

McMicken Dam

Vegetation

1/1/87 ppm cwm 202

37

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