

Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

Section 15, Pages 421 - 450

Glenn Dale Stockwell Sr. (1901-1964) was a life-long resident of the Blue River Valley. He lived in the vicinity of Randolph and Leonardville, near the area flooded by Tuttle Creek Dam. In 1951, Glenn Stockwell became president of the Blue Valley Study Association and began coordinating opposition to the Dam. After heavy rains caused major floods in Kansas in 1951, advocates of Tuttle Creek pushed for its immediate funding and construction while opponents also intensified their efforts. The earliest item is a 1944 letter from the Corps of Engineers outlining the history and current status of the Tuttle Creek project. Other early items relate to the activities of the Blue Valley Study Association under the leadership of J. A. Hawkinson. The bulk of this correspondence, however, dates from the time Stockwell became president of the group in July 1951. Quite varied, it includes letters from conservationists, industry supporters, Kansas politicians, U.S. Congressional leaders, and the Eisenhower administration, among others; letters of advice from Stockwell; and carbon copies of letters sent by his co-workers.

Date: 1944-1957

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Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

E. K. GAYLORD
PRESIDENT, PUBLISHER

THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHING COMPANY
The DAILY OKLAHOMAN-OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

May 17, 1952

Glenn Stockwell,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Glenn:

Your letter of the 14th just received.

From where I sit, and with this perspective, one of the great dangers in the situation is that some of our own partisans will permit themselves to be confused by a lot of irrelevant issues and become involved in arguments and fine-spun, long-drawn-out schemes which are beside the main point. We have got to keep our eyes on the ball all the time. That ball is:

"Watershed flood control is more efficient, cheaper and better in every way than downstream reservoirs."

Let all other considerations be subordinate. Keep the discussion on this track--the main track--and we can win.

I gather from your statement to the committee that they are (purposely or inadvertently) getting you off on a lot of side-tracks, to argue relatively immaterial points to the main controversy, such as the share of benefit districts in financing flood control projects, etc. In my opinion the more we keep away from this type of argument, the better off we shall be.

I do think, however, that you are keeping a clear head on the main point. Ten of us met at Miami, Okla the other day, including Dwight Payton and Irving Hill of Lawrence. Dwight paid you a very high compliment, saying you have the most intelligent idea of the problem of anybody in Kansas.

I don't know whether you saw my Country Gent article or the speech I have made in various places, including Carnegie and Guthrie, Okla. So I enclose copies. If you already have them you might pass them on to somebody else.

More power to your arm. Keep fighting. The right is unquestionably on our side and some day the politicians who take the other side will be confounded.

Sincerely yours,

Peto
Elmer T. Peterson

Lincoln Evening Journal Nebraska State Journal

FOUNDED IN 1867

Awarded Pulitzer Prize
"for the most disinterested and meritorious public
service by any American newspaper during 1948"

PUBLISHERS
FRED S. SEACREST
JOE W. SEACREST

EDITOR
RAYMOND A. MCCONNELL, JR.

LINCOLN 1, NEBRASKA

May 20, 1952

Glenn D. Stockwell Sr.
Randolph, Kansas

Dear Glenn:

Thank you for your letter of May 14. I am happy to hear that you and Dwight Payton were able to appear before the Civil Works Sub-committee on May 9.

I was very much encouraged by the sympathetic hearing the Jones committee gave us and with the points the committee members themselves brought out.

Like you, I feel that upstream work will receive more attention in any new policy that may be formulated, and that more stress will be placed on local participation in planning.

Cordially yours,
Raymond A. McConnell Jr.
Raymond A. McConnell Jr.

RAM/c
enc.

B-4

Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Manhattan, Kansas

May 20, 1952

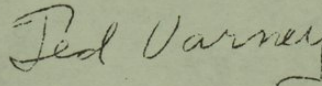
On April 9, 1952, the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce adopted a flood control policy which was mailed to you shortly thereafter. The following statements will more completely interpret and amplify this policy.

- (a) By a basin-wide program of soil conservation is meant the use of proper soil practices, installation of terraces, gully plugs, drop dams, infiltration basins, and small regulating reservoirs to secure maximum practicable regulation and storage of the available water supply.
- (b) By a co-ordinated plan, it is meant that a program shall be designed that gives proper recognition to all affected interests in proportions to their economic importance. It is intended that the bureau of reclamation be considered as one of the co-ordinating agencies along with Army Engineers and U.S.D.A.
- (c) By the maximum practicable use of small water retarding structures is meant that such structures shall be used wherever economically justifiable. In each case, it should be definitely established that the benefits, in dry periods as well as in wet periods, should be in excess of the costs. Attention should be given to minimizing losses due to lack of water in dry periods as well as excessive soil losses in wet periods.
- (d) It should logically follow that with the installation of the above mentioned program, the amount of storage capacity required on the main stream will be substantially reduced.

Note: It is not intended that this policy interfere with the installation of such local protection works as the individual communities may desire.

Since that time, we have had many favorable comments concerning this policy.

Sincerely yours,



Ted Varney, President
MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

May 22, 1952.

Senator Andrew Schoeppel,
Att. Joseph Skubitz,
Senate Office Bldg,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Joe:

It was a good thing that I called home to a few of the newspapers and gave them the story straight. Even then most people believe that I was hollering for a Tuttle Creek dam. I have talked with several editors and not one of them had read the Senator's stand on Glen Elder.

Joe, I believe that the only solution to the Kansas situation will be a joint coordinated survey. I would prefer some kind of an independent survey but I believe that is impossible to achieve. I am trying to line up the State on the joint coordination survey idea. I am trying to impress on the people that they will have to give some kind of indication that they will go along with the results and let the chips fall where they may. I appeared before a group of the Blue Valley people last night. When I told them that they would have to agree to such a proposition some of them hit the ceiling. The calmer heads realized that what I said was true because Congress would never spend any money for a joint survey unless such an agreement was reached.

I accepted this job last summer with the understanding that they would follow through and take the results of a joint coordinated survey so I am in position to crack the whip if necessary. It would be a great help in getting the people of the State to agree to present a united front to the President's Review Commission if the Senate would not include the Tuttle Creek item in the bill. I am afraid that the fight will break out anew if it has to be decided in conference. Omission by the Senate Committee would be an indication that the Senate was waiting until the State made up its mind. I believe that the Public Works Committee would go along with the idea of a joint coordinated survey for the Kansas basin if the people of Kansas would get behind the idea. Until we get a change in the authorization the fight will always flare up out here. A joint survey similar to the Salt Fork-Wahoo in Nebraska would reconcile the divergent viewpoints. Just putting the Agricultural Plan on Top of Tuttle Creek will not solve the question. There is absolutely no correlation between the two plans.

I thought that I would let you know what I am trying to do out here and any suggestions that the Senator or you might give we would be appreciated. I wish to thank the Senator and you for the courtesies that you extended to me while I was in Washington. I would appreciate getting better acquainted with you when we had more time something besides dam fight to talk about.

Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

Statement of Lucile Johnson
Blue Valley Basin Survey Commission
Manhattan, Kansas, June 4, 1952

Gentlemen:

I am Lucile Johnson, teacher in the public schools of Manhattan, Kansas. My parental home is near Randolph, Kansas on the Blue River. I am well acquainted with flood problems, controversies, and suggested solutions.

Since we are people of the land we are closer to an understanding of how rain and streams act in relation to land. We therefore see matters from a different point of view than people of the cities. Experience has convinced us that overall watershed treatment is absolutely essential in a flood control plan. But I can easily see how a person in a down stream city, seeing waters come upon them, would feel that a big dam would be the only solution.

What greatly concerns us is the fact that certain groups are putting forth tremendous pressure for the construction of Tuttle Creek Dam. For years we have been aware of these special interests that have been trying somehow to get this dam in. We are also aware of how they jumped to their opportunities after the disastrous floods of last July. In their hurry to press their advantage they made misstatements, planned big dam propaganda meetings, and by their very eagerness created boomerangs for themselves. We are aware, and you are, too, no doubt, of how they had to "forget" or re-interpret some of their former statements, when facts became known to the general public.

It is unfortunate that people in downstream cities are still being lulled into a false sense of security through such statements as, "Build Tuttle Creek Dam and our worries are over" and "Tuttle Creek is key to flood control". They do not realize that with 80 - 100 million dollars sewed up in that one dam, there would not likely be money forthcoming for a real flood prevention program in the Kaw Valley.

I want to tell you briefly of the effect this dam would have on the people in and out of the Blue Valley. There would, of course, be the economic loss to every member of the 55, 000 acre area that would be condemned, and a crippling economic loss to surrounding urban areas. If you could see the type of farms, farming equipment, modern homes, (electrified for 30 years), you could better understand the loss. The farms are geared to high modern production. The rich valley land, under favorable weather conditions, can average 100 bushels of corn to the acre. This corn is winter fed to the cattle which graze on adjoining hills during the summer. The integration of pasture and bottom land is true of all valley farms.

These farmers are good farmers, progressive farmers, working highly mechanized farms which have been in the family a long time. Flooding the valley would displace them. Six hundred farmers trying to acquire any kind of land, much less the kind of farms they would have to leave, is next to impossible. They would have to do something else. Society can ill afford to lose such trained agriculturalists, but that is what would happen.

But one of the biggest losses resulting from the building of the reservoir would be the destruction of several communities. That loss would be above price. Such old established communities, homesteaded long before the Civil War, built up by forward-looking, deeply religious and ambitious people, have a far reaching effect on state and nation. Here is not a shifting population. Through sweat, discouragement, drought and flood, Blue Valley farmers have fought to make dreams come true. They are fighting now to get a sound flood prevention policy. That is what stability does for a community; such a stability it has taken years to build. It is that stability, that love of the land and love for freedom, that initiative, that joy of daring to do things, that deep sense of belonging that would be crushed along with the disappearance of the community.

Let me give you a picture of my home community. To this area came the first Swedes in Kansas in 1855. They established a church, which is still the community center. Several churches grew from this one.

The people are hard-working, honest and well educated. They have a strong

Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

sense of community obligation. They believe in a workable democracy. I can truly say that there isn't a family in that church that hasn't contacted its various governing agencies in some way. (Other communities do the same) They belong to farm, educational and civic associations. At present I am sure there are few other communities so thoroughly educated on various types of flood control. All belong to watershed associations, and the majority of farms are on the way to being remodeled on soil conservation lines. Some are putting in their own detention dams.

These families have contributed sons and daughters who have gone into all fields of activity, in and out of the valley. If you will pardon a personal reference, I'd like to use my father's family as an illustration. Statistics show six farmers, one college president, two FBI men, one county commissioner, one director of highways, one medical missionary, one occupational therapist, two parish church workers, one minister, one minister's wife, two teachers, and one superintendent of schools. Of the forty-two adults, twenty-eight have completed college, seven others have had some college. Across the river from my home is a homestead whose family includes, besides several farmers (5), two engineers, two doctors, two ministers, two college professors, someone in movie production, Lt. Col. in the Army, financial secretary of a state university, a chemist and a top geologist. Similar statistics could be produced for many other families.

This is sample enough to show you what kind of communities are being destroyed by the big dam. Even if it would be operated "dry", the present construction plans have not been changed, so this whole area would be condemned and the communities lost.

The people in the area to be inundated have been accused many times of being selfish in wanting to preserve their land, their homes, and their communities. I am wondering if this is not an unfair accusation. Do these upstream people have a moral obligation to give up their way of life to protect industrial interests and the city residents who have invaded the flood plain and created a bottleneck on the main rivers? I think not. Farming communities along river and creek bottoms experience losses year after year and do not ask for flood relief. It is not spectacular until the cities suffer losses, and then the upstream residents are accused of being self-centered.

The people of the Blue Valley are considering the problem of flood prevention a personal and a community responsibility as well as a national one. That is why they have been advocating a comprehensive watershed program which lays strong emphasis on the value of upstreamwork where the greatest flood losses are occurring, and where a program of flood prevention should begin. It is only with consideration of such work that planning for main stream control can be done intelligently. Why spend money now on a huge "mouth of the river" structure that may prove unnecessary. Is it fair to the people in the Blue Valley and the lower Kaw Basin, to develop an outdated plan, when the sounder idea of beginning with watershed treatment is fast materializing?

We are hoping that a coordinated, impartial survey can be made, with specialists daring to speak out, rather than the piecemeal planning that seems to be characteristic of the flood control work up to this time.

I am a history teacher. I know, and so do you, that our own history is full of the rise and development of new trends. Our freedoms have produced this, and that is what has made our country great. A new trend is starting, now, the sensible, practical plan of stopping floods before they begin. Unfortunately, new, progressive ideas have a hard time getting started, because people in general resist change, and because some few, who gain from old policies, resist also.

We appreciate the responsibilities and difficulties this commission faces. We have faith that you will study the problem, impartially, and start our country on the road to the wisest land and water plan. We invite you to visit the Blue Valley before you leave this area.



211 HANISCH, Gottfried
AGJames:ts

American Consulate General,
Munich, Germany,
June 9, 1952.

My dear Mr. Cole:

I have received your letter of May 21, 1952, concerning the immigration visa case of Mr. Gottfried HANISCH.

I find that Mr. Hanisch is registered on the waiting list of intending immigrants under the German quota as of August 3, 1951, and we are now processing his visa case. We have asked Mr. Hanisch to submit to this office certain personal documents as required under Section 7(c) of the Immigration Act of 1924, as amended, together with an affidavit of support from his sponsor in the United States, guaranteeing that he would not become a public charge if admitted to the United States.

When we receive an adequate affidavit of support and when the processing of Mr. Hanisch's case has been completed, we will invite him to come to this office to make his formal application and to give the interviewing officer an opportunity to make a final decision as to his eligibility to receive an immigration visa. I am unable at this time to estimate the exact date on which a visa may be issued to Mr. Hanisch, but you may be assured that we will give prompt and careful consideration to his visa application.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Thayer
American Consul General

The Honorable
Albert M. Cole,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

A true copy of the
signed Original

Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

June 10, 1952.

Mr. Charles D. Curran, Staff Director
House Committee on Public Works,
Washington, D. C.

Copies to:

Dwight Payton, Overbrook, Kans.
Glenn Stockwell, Leonardville, Kan.
Dave Vandivier, Chickasha, Okla.
Sen. Andrew P. Schoeppel
Sen. Mike Monroney
Paul Jameson, Garrison, Kans.

Dear Mr. Curran:

I have submitted your letter on the Blue Valley flood control engineering to one of the most competent engineers in this area. I cannot give his name because of the complex and unfortunate situation in which we find high officials of SCS trying, in effect, to discredit their own operations by saying that watershed measures, featuring small detention reservoirs, will not prevent major floods. This engineer has analyzed the figures given in the survey you sent me, and here are some of his comments:

"I am rather surprised at the small degree of control used in the Blue River Plan. Your letter...indicates storage volumes of 2 1/2-5 inches of runoff and only a little over one-quarter of the area above these dams. This means the runoff at the mouth of the Blue would still be 75 percent. In the Washita area (the effort is) to get the greatest possible area above dams. This amounts to 72% for Sandstone and almost exactly 50% for the 2,000,000 acres planned to date... Washita detention reservoirs are built above bottomland areas. In so doing we have an uncontrolled area below these reservoirs, and if you should go far enough downstream and if we should have a large enough storm we will have some flooding.... Why are some of our own people so anxious to point out this weakness--they certainly don't point out their own (personal) weak points upon meeting every stranger."

Comment: Of course the alleged weakness is predicated upon a system in which only partial protection (as seems to be indicated in your Blue River study) is afforded by the detention-dam system. Such weakness, obviously, would be cured if the tributaries entering the larger channel below the last SCS structure were likewise treated, so that the entire river watershed were equipped. Assuming this complete protection, we come to the very obvious conclusion that if you can impound 4 or 5 inches of runoff on each of the detention dam watersheds of the river system, you would secure a total impoundment which is much larger than is ever claimed for the big downstream dams like Tuttle Creek. As I have pointed out in articles and speeches, a typical small detention reservoir on Mill Creek, Oklahoma, is positively engineered to impound exactly four times as much runoff from its watershed as the gigantic Denison Dam, draining the Red-Washita watershed could impound in its flood pool, in proportion to watershed area. This condition is further weighted in favor of the small-dam system by the fact that the big reservoirs are almost invariably kept at high level for power and recreation and other storage, and the flood pool is correspondingly lessened, whereas the flood pool of the small detention dam is structurally certain to impound its complete allotment of runoff. This has proved to be all-important, in three notable instances within 9 years, on the Grand River of Oklahoma, whose Pensacola dam has overflowed three times in nine years because the flood pool was kept at a high stage.

Going more deeply into the experience of the Washita program we find that the small detention dams have, in fact, taken care of cloudbursts up to 13 inches falling within 24 hours, by reason of the fact that the impoundment



2 --Curran

function has been amazingly supplemented by the other SCS measures, including terracing, regrassing, contour furrowing, etc. Taking the average experience or composite of the five treated subwatersheds in the 1949-50-51 cloudburst periods, we find that the small detention dams have taken up 4 to 5 inches, but that the surface absorption amounts roughly to from 4 to 8 inches, and the gradual drawdown takes care of the rest, so that creeks run only bank-full.

As a champion of the watershed control method, I am therefore in the position of the once-blind Bartimeus, who listened patiently to the engineering and theoretical calculations of the anti-watershed experts around him, and then ~~answered~~ answered their assertions about the impossibility of his being cured of blindness by saying: "All I know about is that whereas I was blind, now I see!"

The anti-watershed experts and theoretical engineers can argue until they are black in the face that the Washita flood control plan won't work, and the SCS appeasers can chime in with them, fouling their own nest, but the fact still remains that it does work. And thus far no facts have been adduced to prove that soil and water and vegetation behave any differently in the Blue Valley than in the Washita Valley. I lived 24 years in Kansas and am thoroughly acquainted with the soil and topography of the badly flooded areas of last July, and I know from my own experience as a farmer and observer that the program will work in Blue Valley as it has worked (where it has been permitted) in the Washita Valley.

The hydraulic engineer from whom I received the foregoing opinion (in quotes) also makes these observations, regarding the argument about the melted-snow situation in the upper Missouri Valley, mentioned in your letter:

"I was much interested in the article in Life Magazine for April 28, 1952. I wanted to know if it were possible for the Washita detention reservoirs to hold this superflood....The area of the three states mentioned...comes to 187,212 square miles. The article states: 'Ten million acre-feet of water drained out of the vast complex of rivers.'...How much water is this per square mile? It comes to only 53.1 acre feet for each square mile....The payoff comes when you remember that one inch of runoff from a square mile is 53.3 acre feet....The detention reservoirs could have held their share, in the Blue River their capacity is 2 1/2-5 times this volume."

The melted-snow argument is the poorest one yet. The detention dams can hold snow-water exactly like they hold rainwater. As a plus factor, going into the surface-absorption field, we find, even in this latitude where snow is not so abundant, that terracing holds vast quantities of snow and resultant water until large absorption has taken place. If the rest of the statement is as poorly founded as that section devoted to snow-water, the judicial observer would be tempted to throw it out altogether, just on suspicion if nothing else.

I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that the master minds of the big-dam cult have now resorted to the "old army game" of dividing the opposition, and are trying desperately to create confusion and dissension among the advocates of watershed flood control. Unfortunately they are receiving aid and comfort from high officials in the USDA who ought to be on our side, but who use the appeasement tactics which have proved to be as fatal to any cause. One device is the "dry-dam" theory, which, according to the information I have accumulated, would be virtually as bad in the prairie plowlands (as distinguished from heavily wooded or mountainous areas, including Muskogum) as are the wet dams, because of the tremendous evil of siltation, which will choke out all vegetation, not only in the permanently flooded but the temporarily flooded areas, and create backwater sedimentation that will wreck the upstream valleys.

Sincerely yours,

Elmer T. Peterson



Men in United Action
for a Mighty Kansas



KANSAS STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEZZANINE FLOOR, HOTEL KANSAN • PHONE 3-4197

Topeka, Kansas
June 13, 1952

Mr. Robert Schermerhorn, Junction City, Chairman
✓ Mr. Glen Stockwell, Randolph
Mr. William Avery, Wakefield
Mr. J. O. Jones, Lawrence
Mr. Stanley Spencer, Arkansas City

This will confirm your appointment to the steering committee on proposed watershed legislation for Kansas, as authorized by the joint meeting held in Topeka on June 10th.

In order to get an early start on the job ahead, Chairman Schermerhorn has called the first meeting of this committee for:

Monday, June 23
Hotel Kansan, Topeka
Commencing at 9:30 a.m.

Will you kindly fill out and return the enclosed reply card at your earliest opportunity. In the event that you have a conflict on this date, may we hear from you by return mail since with a small committee it is important that all members be present if at all possible.

Sincerely yours,

C. C. KILKER, Manager

CCK:ft
Encl.

Call
Guerrant 75 F 40
or - 28 4 41.



Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

E. K. GAYLORD
PRESIDENT, PUBLISHER

THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHING COMPANY
THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN-OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

June 16, 1952.

Copies to:

Glenn Stockwell, President
Blue Valley Association,
Leonardville, Kansas.

Dwight Payton, Overbrook, Kansas.
Edward Beecher, Kirkwood, Mo.
Dave Vandivier, Chickasha, Okla.
Irving Hill, Lawrence, Kans.

Dear Glenn:

I was very glad to get your letter of June 12, especially since it bore the news that you had not agreed to a dry dam for Tuttle Creek.

Though I haven't been in Washington lately, I have received reactions brought back, or read between the lines, by talking with Dave Vandivier and hearing from each of you.

Putting two and two together, I am now convinced that the Army Engineers are now engaged in a desperate last ditch effort to defeat watershed flood control. They are trying every possible means, including that of getting the appeasers to prepare phony, allegedly expensive and quarter-way "surveys" of Blue Valley. These surveys are utterly at variance with actual experience on the Washita program, but they are put out by the USDA appeasers to try to kill their own child, but do it so smoothly that most people won't suspect who does it.

Vandivier has recently returned from contacts with the very top men in Washington. He is satisfied that progress is being made. I am sure that Sen. Monroney is doing some excellent work. However I read between the lines that the big shots, including Truman himself, are trying the old razzle-dazzle and by a lot of gobbledegook and bafflegab they appear to be promising concessions but actually undermining the watershed program. Vandivier doesn't say this. I am stacking up circumstantial evidence against many years of what I have experienced.

I gather that these bafflegabbers have pulled the wool over Sen. Schoeppel's eyes, even though I know he helped on the Washita program. He is entirely too eager to make a "compromise" on Blue Valley that will actually kill the watershed program while appearing to help it. The Army Engineers have been in this lobbying game a long time and they know how to pull the right wires at the right time.

There are still a lot of Trojan horses in the deal, and never was there a time when so much vigilance was required to avoid falling into traps that will continue the undisputed rule of the AEC and kill off the SCS program (unfortunately and tragically with the help of USDA men.) I know of no way to checkmate the USDA-SCS appeasers except to smoke them out and call their hands at every opportunity. I can't give a technical engineering survey of the Blue Valley but I am dead sure there's something rotten about those exaggerated figures indicated by the USDA crowd. The fact that they only provided for a one-fourth of a program and the fact that their spokesmen use that phony "snow-water" story from the northern states is pretty good indication that their hearts are on the wrong side.

When are you coming
down here? I looked for
you last week.--ETP

Sincerely yours,

Pet
Elmer T. Peterson



ALBERT M. COLE
1st DIST., KANSAS

RALPH A. PATTERSON
SECRETARY

COMMITTEE:
BANKING AND CURRENCY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

June 18, 1952

Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell

Re: Gottfried Hanisch

Randolph, Kansas

Dear Glenn:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the report I received from the American Consul General in Munich concerning a visa for Mr. Hanisch. I presume you have heard from Mr. Hanisch concerning his need for an affidavit of support. As you know, the sooner these documents are received by the Consul, the sooner a decision can be made.

I am glad I was able to be helpful in this matter.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Albert M. Cole, M.C.

AMC/pd

Enclosure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

506 Rudge Building
Lincoln 8, Nebraska
June 18, 1952

Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, Sr.
Randolph
Kansas

Dear Mr. Stockwell:

This will acknowledge for Mr. Young your letter of June 12.

Mr. Young will be out of the office until about June 30.
I am sure you may expect a reply shortly after his return.

For your information, there is enclosed a copy of a statement made by Mr. Young to the Missouri Basin Survey Commission at Sioux City, Iowa, and a statement made to U. S. Department of Agriculture workers at Manhattan on June 5.

Very truly yours,

Louise Erdmann
Louise Erdmann
Secretary to
Gladwin E. Young

Enclosures 2





E. K. GAYLORD
PRESIDENT, PUBLISHER

THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHING COMPANY
THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN-OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
June 20, 1952

Mrs. Glenn Stockwell,
Leonardville, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Stockwell:

Just a few minutes ago Dwight Payton phoned me that you were inviting me to attend a dinner next Monday, June 23, including expenses paid.

I appreciate this more than I can tell, but I've got just too many irons in the fire, and can't get away, much as I would like to do so.

I know the famous dinners that you folks have, in that part of the country, and I would get a special kick out of it because that happens to be my birthday. But duty calls.

This is confidential to you and Glenn: One reason I am so busy is that I have an order to write a book on the New Elements of Flood Control, by a New York publisher, and I have to put on all possible steam to get it hammered out--and it's tough work these hot days.

In this book I am putting the more complete round-up of the subject which I cannot possibly give, even in an hour-long speech. I have accumulated a lot of material in the past 40 years, and I know I will forget a lot of it, but will try to include all the major points. I will try to keep the book down to 50,000 or 60,000 words. It will include all or pertinent excerpts from the various magazine articles I have written. Incidentally the Readers Digest story ought to be out about Monday or before. I am told my story will be in the July issue.

The book will also include considerable material that I have not used in articles or speeches. One chapter deals with the Hydrologic Cycle--which is the high-brow term for a very common phenomenon, of course. This term has to be brought down out of the clouds into practical every-day language. In one sense it is the most important factor in our lives, and in the whole program of flood control, yet the so-called flood control experts (those who know nothing but big dams) apparently know little if anything about it.

Best wishes for the success of your objective in your meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Elmer T. Peterson

This shouldn't be a postscript because it is very important. Will you or Glenn send me the latest round-up of your Blue Valley situation, with regard to the value of crops that would be destroyed, the towns, churches, schools, etc. I have the circular of about 8 or 10 years ago but would like to get the up-to-date data, for this book.



Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

June 23, 1952

Elmer T. Peterson, Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Dwight Payton, President, Overbrook, Kansas
Glenn Stockwell, Sr., Randolph, Kansas
Edward Beecher, 419 East Argonne Drive, Kirkwood Missouri
Dave Vandivler, Chickasha, Oklahoma

Elmer's letter of June 16 to Glenn in regard to watershed opposition, there's much public distrust in relation to Pork Barrel expenditures of tax money. There are a good many organizations in the country fighting government extravagance. We suggest there be passed on to them the idea that Congress should safeguard the tax payers in regard to expenditures for public works by passing the legislation, and then allowing one year to elapse during which there should be an independent economic and expert study made. If they approve the project, then the appropriation could be made to put it into effect. This system has been used to great advantage on nearly all of the legislation in Switzerland for a great many years.

The finances of the United States Government could stand a lapse of one year in shoveling out money. We're just passing this suggestion along and have not figured out the way to disseminate it to the best advantage to Congressmen, Senators and economy groups. The idea is that if we can get the enemy busy defending himself, he won't have so much time to devote to mussing up watersheds.

Kansas Watershed, Inc., may name a study group to consider a drought water use. Stockmen, farmers, SCS, weathermen and sprinkler irrigation experts should be able to give us some figures in regard to possible crop increase, the profit element, the extent and frequency of summer and period droughts, give an idea of the water needed and what it would cost to store this water.

This would be in addition to a farm pond supply. There may be a possible dual use of such storage for both flood and drought periods if the pools were emptied by sprinkling in the summer or drained by early spring, the pools would again be available for spring rains. We
That would be obliged for any study that you have made of this question or any authorities or suggestions you may mention.

Irving Hill,
President

*for 40 years
between
super floods*



E. K. GAYLORD
PRESIDENT, PUBLISHER

THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHING COMPANY
THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN-OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
June 24, 1952

Mrs. Glenn Stockwell,
Leonardville, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Stockwell:

Thanks for the birthday greeting. Also thanks for the material about the Tuttle Creek area, etc.

It occurred to me this morning that you might care to see the chapter I have written for my book--the one dealing particularly with your community.

I enclose a carbon copy. If you care to use it--say by having it printed in a local paper or a Manhattan paper, you are at liberty to do so, with just one provision. That is that no reference is made to its use as a chapter in a book.

Books are always an uncertain quantity until they actually appear, and so I don't want to announce, prematurely, that I am writing a book. It may never "come off."

I will change a few words so that the book references are eliminated.

In any case I would appreciate having the copy returned to me after you are through with it.

Also if you find any inaccuracies, will you please ^{make them, and also} send me the corrections?

I am curious to know what happened at your Monday meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Elmer T. Peterson
Elmer T. Peterson

*Of course you may cut this article down if you like.
Do what you think best with this but keep
his secret, please -
Do try to get hearings. I haven't had
the heart to read them but Graham says
Graham was given quite harsh treatment.*

Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

Reprinted from
"Who's Who in Engineering,"--6th Edition--1948

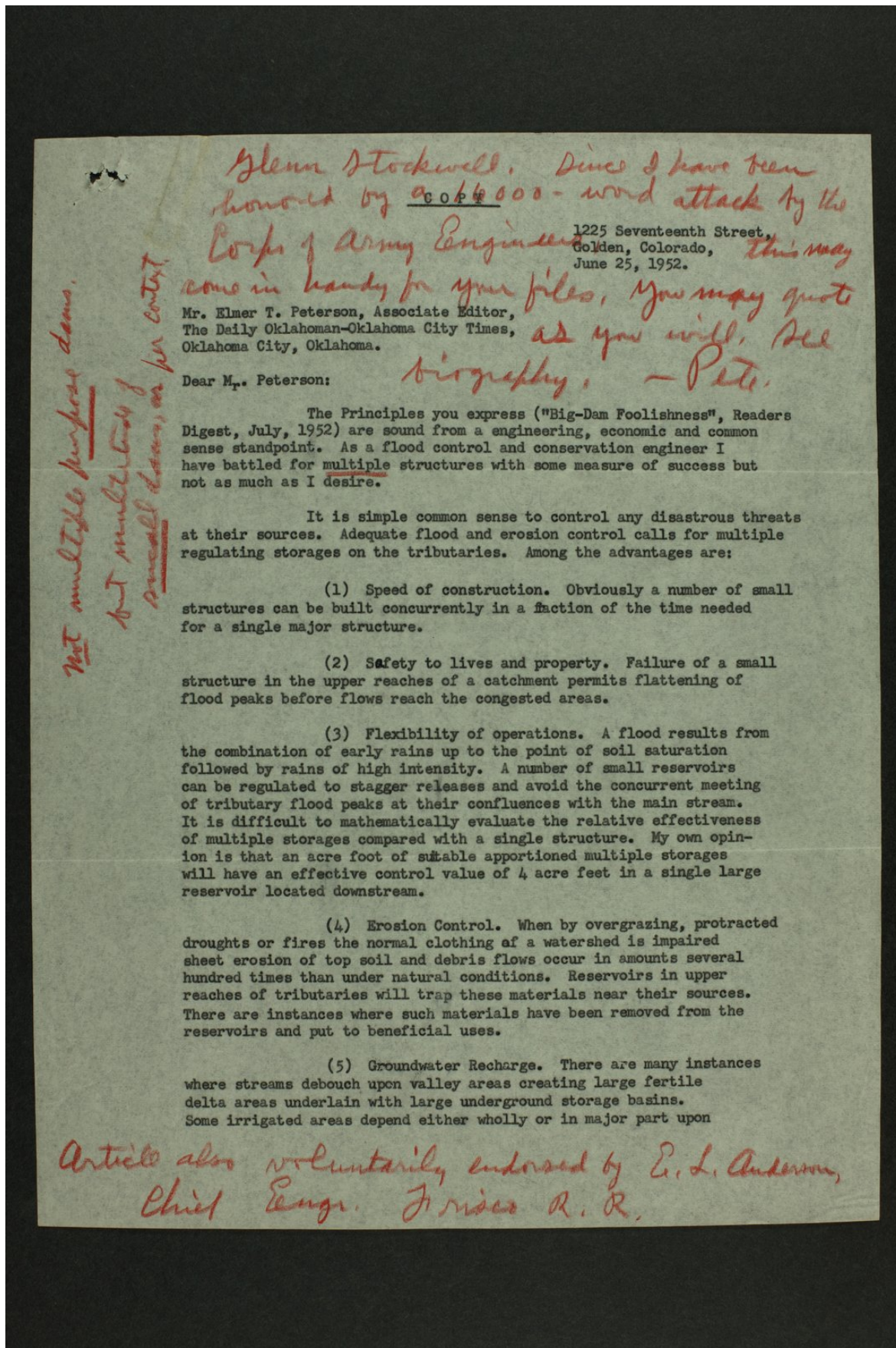
EATON, Courtlandt.
Engineer with Consltg. Div. or Chief of Engineers Office, ~~Manager~~ of U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colo.; Res. 1225 17th St., Golden, Colo.

Hydraulic Engr. born Providence, R. I., Sept. 7, 1881; S. A. Judson and D. W. (Woodman) Eaton; edn. McGill Univ., Montreal, Canada. B. Sc. 1908; m. R.H.M. Davies, Portland, Ore.. Consrnt. Supt. Calgary Power Co., Calgary, Can; Res. Engr. Crane Falls Power & Irrig. Co., Boise, Idaho.; Res. Engr. Skagit Power Co., Marblemount, Wash.; Constrn. Supt. Water Supply, Pan-Pacific Internat. Expn., San Francisco, Calif.; Res. Engr. Lindsay, Strathmore Irrig. Dist., Lindsay, Calif. Res. Engr. Terra Bella Irrig. Dist., Terra Bella, Calif.; Res. Engr. Merced Irrig. Dist., Merced, Calif.; Irrig. Engineer State of California; Reports to Bond Certification, comm. and Supervision of Dams; Chief Engr. Los Angeles Flood Control Dist., Los Angeles, Calif.; Constrn. of Dams, Devel. of Water Supplies and Irrig. Systems; Consltg. Engr. Palestine Irrig. Devel. Various papers on Engineering subjects in American Society of Civil Engineers, West Construction News, Engineers News Record and other publications. Member American Society of Civil Engineers; Club: Commonwealth of San Francisco. Non-partisan. Prot. In 1950 resigned from U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to enter private practice.

Following is from a letter from an outstanding engineer of Denver:

"Although Mr. Eaton is not of retiring age he requested retirement (from U. S. B. R.)--wants to travel and do consulting work....Walker Young, past Chief Engineer, Reclamation Bureau, under whom Mr. Eaton served, is now president of the Thompson Pipe and Steel Company in Denver. He states that Mr. Eaton is a man of experience and recommends him highly. He states that he is of high caliber."

Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence



-2-

such underground reservoirs for their irrigation needs. Nature in the process of forming those deltas dropped the coarser gravels in the upper catchment areas above the deltas. The natural replenishments of the underground reservoirs occurs in those areas. Many basins are being depleted at an alarming rate. If some of our best irrigated lands are to continue in production we can best recharge those basins by following the pattern that nature has set up. A program of small flood control reservoirs in the upper tributaries facilitates a recharge program. By retardation and regulation of flood flows the discharges can be lowered to the point permitting those flows to accommodate the percolation rates in the tributary streams. Frequently a flood control reservoir operated for the purposes of flood control and conservation will in a single season store and release $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 times its nominal storage capacity.

I commend you for your support of sound methods of soil conservation. From a flood control, debris control and water conservation standpoint it is sound, economic and sensible.

Sincerely,

Courtlandt Eason
Mem. Am. Soc. C. E.

Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

June 26, 1952

Honorable Clarence Cannon
Civil Functions Sub-Committee
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cannon:

It has come to the Board of Supervisors' attention that your committee is considering appropriations for the Tuttle Creek Dam; please bring this letter to the attention of the Civil Functions Sub-Committee.

At a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Brown County Soil Conservation District last night, the Board unanimously authorized me to write your sub-committee regarding our views on the Tuttle Creek Dam.

The Board is convinced that no action should be taken on Tuttle Creek dam until the Missouri Basin Survey Commission has submitted its report. In other words, let's hold up on the dam until the Missouri River Survey Commission has submitted the facts it has been able to gather in its study, which is lasting several months and is costing a sizeable amount of money; otherwise, why have the commission make this study?

In view of the success of the upstream flood control projects that have been completed, the Board feels that more emphasis should be placed on this type of corrective measure, which has many advantages over the big dam method of control. In the first place, it will not necessitate the moving of 600 farm families and the cutting out of production 72 thousand acres of our best bottomland, thereby losing annually more than 6 million dollars worth of agricultural products. The large dams have been proven to cause sedimentation far above the dam, which, in turn causes floods up stream where they never occurred before. The value of big dams in flood control is questioned by many authorities on the subject.

It has been proven in Oklahoma that the upstream method of control is very successful, namely, in the Washita River Valley. There, where upstream measures have been put completely into effect, cloud bursts as large as 15 inches have been controlled without damage to anyone. Before treatment, such areas were extremely subject to flood damage. As one Manhattan teacher, whose home is in the Washita watershed said, "We used to have floods there, but we don't have them any more." In addition to the proven effectiveness and value to both the farm lands on which the water falls, as well as down stream areas, upstream



flood control measures cost approximately one-third as much as the big dams for the same amount of drainage area controlled. Besides, upstream control keeps the topsoil in place to go on producing for America year after year. In these times of high Government and defense costs, this is an important item.

In conclusion, the Board feels that in view of the questioned feasibility of Tuttle Creek Dam at this time, funds should not be appropriated for this project, at least until the Missouri River Survey Commission has submitted its report.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Yours very truly,

C. W. Bebermeyer
C. W. Bebermeyer, Secretary
Board of Supervisors

E. K. GAYLORD
PRESIDENT, PUBLISHER

THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHING COMPANY
THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN-OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
June 27, 1952.

Mrs. Glenn Stockwell,
Leonardville, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Stockwell:

I can't thank each one personally, especially since I don't know the respective addresses, but wish you would somehow convey to all of them my sincere gratitude for the kind and thoughtful expression on my birthday.

I hope you will all keep up your courage and keep on fighting. The fact that you have stood off the big-dammers 14 years now is good evidence that you can stand them off until public opinion becomes so powerful that the politicians and bureaucrats won't dare to disregard it. I am sure the drift is strongly that way, and if you will just use every possible effort to hold the line for another year or so, I think by that time American public opinion will produce an impact that will be definitely felt.

My hat is off to you all for the magnificent and courageous fight you have made for your homes, your beautiful land and all that these things mean to you. I consider it a real saga of American life which deserves to be immortalized in some tangible way. I only wish I could do more.

Sincerely your friend,


Elmer T. Peterson



THE KIOWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized August 19, 1932

Mullinville, Kansas June 28, 1952

Mr. G. D. Stockwell,
Leonardville, Kansas

Dear Mr. Stockwell,

Your brother, H. O. Stockwell of Hutchinson, gave me your name as one being interested in collecting barbed-wire. I have become quite well acquainted with him, since I am a writer, and am getting the story of the meteorites of Kiowa County.

I started a collection of barbed wire several years ago and have a number of extra pieces which I will trade with other collectors - for anything I do not have. I now have 55 different varieties. There is one which I do not have - a flat galvanized bar with points cut on either side. I have one with the points on one side and the bar is twisted, so that they point in different directions.

I want this
and any others.

I do hope you will write and tell me about your collection, how you started, how many you have, if you have them mounted, and more especially - Will you trade any I don't have for something to add to yours?

I enclose a stamped envelope for reply. Also will you give me the names of other collectors. I showed my collection in Hutchinson at the big HOBBY SHOW in April and it proved to be quite interesting. Are you acquainted with Leo W. Morey of Clay Center?

Awaiting your reply with interest, I am

Very sincerely,

Mrs. Benj. O. Weaver
Secy.



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LEIGH DELAY, Secretary



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EUREKA, KANSAS

"Center Of The Magic Circle"

June 30, 1952

To the Honorable Members of the
House of Representatives:

Gentlemen:

When you consider the appropriation for the civil functions of the army engineers, we earnestly ask that you oppose any funds to start the Toronto dam, on the Verdigris River in Kansas.

The enclosed sheet shows that the engineers propose to spend an average of \$27,000 for each square mile, in the drainage area above four authorized reservoirs to catch part of the run-off water for flood control.

The Toronto reservoir can store only 3½ inches of run-off water. But it is located in the Flint Hill pasture area of Kansas, where retarding dams can control 5 to 10 inches of run off. The cost of a complete soil conservation and retarding dam system of flood control has been estimated at \$5,000 to \$15,000 per square mile. This newer plan for flood control will protect the large drainage area, as well as the downstream river bottoms.

Severe drought conditions now prevail in southeastern Kansas and Southern Missouri. Pastures are drying up, and the corn crop is badly hurt. Water for livestock is exhausted in some pastures, and is short in many. The streams are rapidly drying up.

These drought conditions again emphasize the need for a complete watershed program of water use and control, that will benefit the entire valleys, and provide water for the full length of the valleys.

For the Flood Control Committee,

LEIGH DELAY,
Secretary, Chamber of Commerce

Same for Senator



Tremendous Waste In Catching Run-Off Water

Approximately \$27,000 for every square mile above the reservoirs is now authorized by Congress to catch part of the run-off water, without any benefit to the drainage area, in parts of eleven counties in southeastern Kansas.

COST OF 4 DAMS IN VERDIGRIS RIVER VALLEY IN KANSAS

PROJECT—	Estimated Cost	Square Miles In Watershed	Cost For Each Square Mile In Watershed
(1)	(2)	(3)	
Completed in 1949 FALL RIVER	\$10,762,500	573	\$18,782
In Planning Stage TORONTO	15,550,000	750	20,733
NEODESHA	15,210,000	410	37,097
ELK CITY	22,240,000	635	35,023
TOTAL	\$63,762,500	2368	\$26,926

(1) The 4 reservoirs are Corps of Engineer flood control projects, all authorized in 1941.

(2) Costs are estimates made by the Corps of Engineers in December 1951.

(3) Drainage area data taken from a publication of the Corps of Engineers, "Work of Corps of Engineers in Kansas" published in July 1950.

If the 4 proposed reservoirs are built in the upper Verdigris Valley, at an average cost of \$27,000 per mile to catch run-off water, and if a sound soil conservation plan and flood control plan is carried out on the watershed at an additional cost of \$5,000 to \$15,000 per square mile, then the total cost will amount to \$30,000 to \$50,000 for each mile in the drainage area.

These reservoirs are located in the Flint Hills area where many sites are available for water storage, over the entire drainage area. A watershed program of small detention dams, etc., combined with a sound soil conservation program, can provide flood protection and water supplies for both the upland communities and main valleys.

Prepared June 2, 1952 by the
Flood Control Committee of the
Eureka Chamber of Commerce.



E. K. GAYLORD
PRESIDENT, PUBLISHER

THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHING COMPANY
THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN-OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
July 1, 1952

Mr. Glenn Stockwell,
Leonardville, Kansas.

Dear Glenn:
Phil Zimmerman sent me a clipping of Clif Stratton's article in the Topeka Capital, telling about the 10,000-word article of the Army Engineers, aimed at my article in Readers Digest.

I can't tell much about the AE version from the clipping, but if Clif has quoted their main points, apparently they have nothing to say except to quibble about minor details.

If you have seen the entire article, will you take up their points--at least the more important ones--and send me your reactions, with notations as to statistical matter which they question. For instance they say it isn't 55,000 acres at Little Creek. This is the figure your association has always used.

In the meantime I can give you some good news which may become very useful.

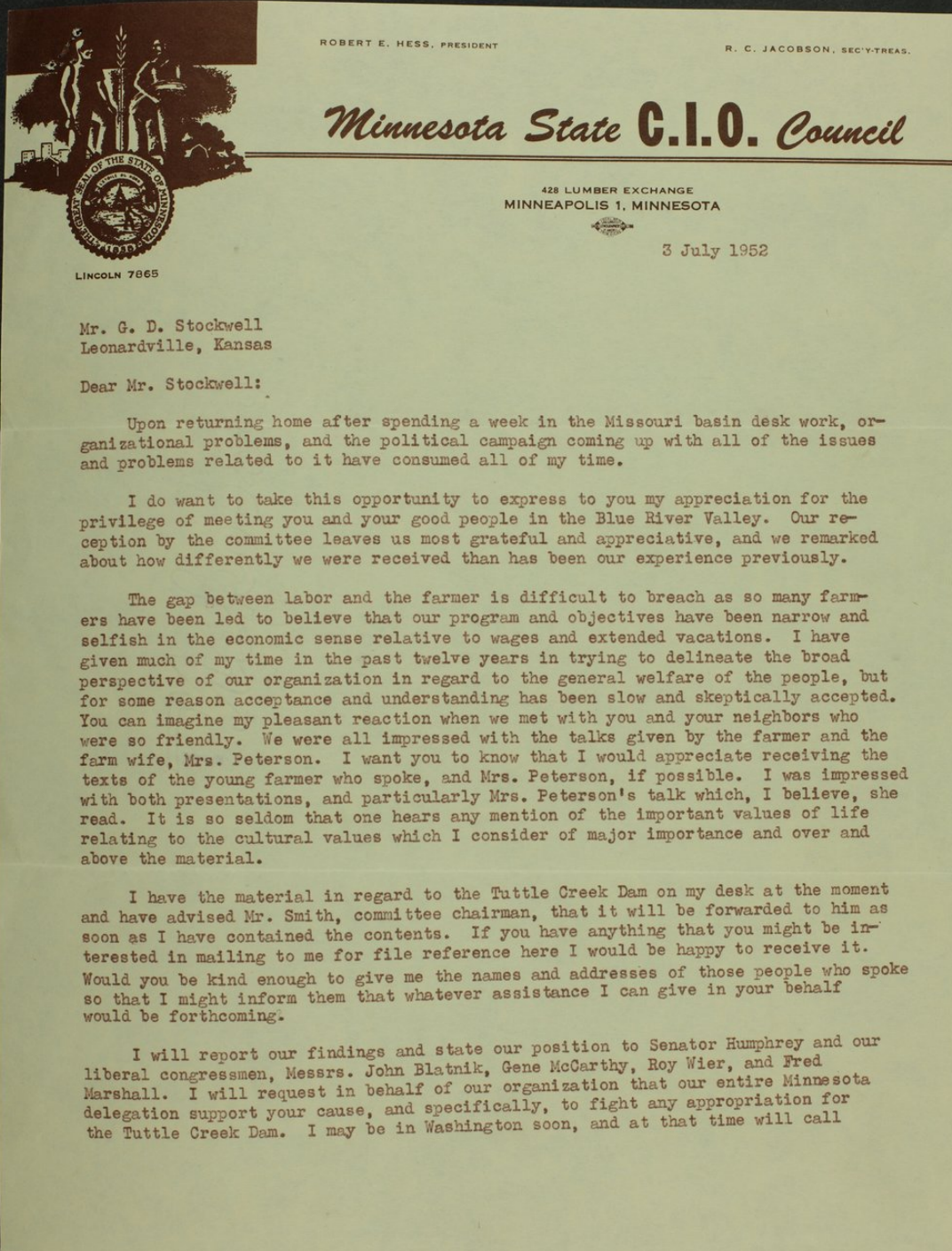
A few days ago I received a letter from one of the top hydraulic, dam, irrigation and power engineers in the country, whole-heartedly endorsing my Readers Digest article, and citing five main points which get into the technical phase, and he goes even farther than I do. For instance he declares that the small reservoir, used in large number, is about four times as effective as the large one, in proportion, even on the basis of equal impoundment. That is because the risk is distributed somewhat as in the case of life insurance. (That is my simile, not his, however.) There are other keen points which I hope to use. I am asking his permission and getting his complete background.

The payoff, so far as I can find from a preliminary exploration, is that he is consulting engineer for the Army Engineers. I am verifying this, too, before using anything on it. Will keep you advised and if it turns out as I believe it will, I will send you a copy of his letter.

I suppose Sen. Schoeppel is sore at me. He didn't answer my last letter in which I took him to task. However it still looks to me as if he was fixing to let you-all down. Am I mistaken?

Sincerely yours,

Elmer T. Peterson
Elmer T. Peterson





- 2 -

Mr. G. D. Stockwell

upon them in person. In addition to that I can assure you that our National CIO organization and its legislative representatives in Washington will do likewise, and I sincerely feel that the combined efforts will result in the preservation of the fine community and people of the Blue River valley.

Best wishes to you in behalf of our state organization and myself, personally. You did a grand job of presiding at the meeting, and again many thanks to the ladies for that fine and tasty chicken dinner.

Sincerely,

R. C. Jacobson
R. C. Jacobson, Sec.-Treas.
MINNESOTA STATE CIO COUNCIL

RCJ/mre



AMERICAN WATERSHED COUNCIL, INC.

203 TRANSPORTATION BUILDING

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

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UPPER MONONGAHELA VALLEY
ASSOCIATION, INC.

DAVID J. GUY

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

3 July 1952

TO: MEMBERS OF A.W.C., Inc.

The Federal Government is spending a billion and one-quarter dollars annually on water resources development. This greatly expanded Federal program has pushed Federal participation into many fields of water development affecting the smaller watersheds, without any clear legislative sanction. There is no guiding policy. The President in his order setting up the National Water Resources Policy Commission admitted that piecemeal approaches to the problem lead to confusion of the underlying issues.

Almost everyone who would be affected by a declaration of policy on water resources has been giving the subject some thought. But, what are the basic principles that one should think about?

I hope that the enclosure will help you answer this question.

Yours very truly,

David J. Guy
Executive Vice President

DJG:mb
enclosure



E. K. GAYLORD
PRESIDENT, PUBLISHER

THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHING COMPANY
THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN-OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

July 5, 1952.

Glenn Stockwell,
Leonardville, Kansas.

Dear Glenn:

The enclosed carbon copy of letter to Courtlandt Eaton is largely self-explanatory, but there are some corollaries.

From where I sit, this Elephant Butte situation could provide ammunition for watersheds associations that will blow the whole big-dam racket out of the water, for if the federal government can be sued for having built these dams there will probably be thousands of litigants and they will put a big crimp in the whole big-dam program. For instance you can tell the federal powers that be that if the people in the Blue River bottoms upstream are damaged by the presence of Tuttle Creek Dam, they will sue the government from hell to breakfast.

Mr. Eaton had written me a very fine letter, completely endorsing my RD article. I will send you a copy of that letter as soon as I can get to it, for it is a dandy. He has a remarkably fine record as a dam, hydraulic, power and irrigation engineer, and before 1950 was consulting engineer to the Chief of Engineers (Reclamation), Denver.

Have you sent me your comments on Cliff Stratton's article yet? I am waiting for your comments before writing a reply, since the bee is on you folks in the matter of statistics. I only took what you gave me.

Sincerely yours,

Elmer T. Peterson