

Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

Section 6, Pages 151 - 180

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

Callnumber: Glenn D. Stockwell Coll. #81

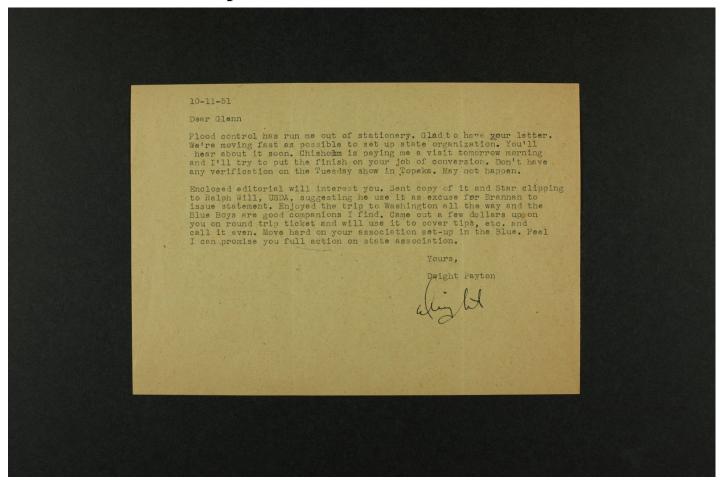
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ARTHUR HAWTHORNE CARHART
2591 EUDORA STREET
DENVER, COLORADO
10/12/51

Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, Leonardville, Kan.

Dear Mr. Stockwell:

As I read your letter of the 10th regarding the Tuttle Creek dam fight, I mentally stood up and cheered. I'm keenly appreciative of your taking the time to write so informatively as you did.

For the record, I'm a full-time freelance writer. Some four years ago such writings as I had done on conservation subjects led to my being associated with Bill Voigt of the Izaak Walton League in battling attempts of a small segment of western stockmen taking over millions of acres within the national forests and other public lands for the exclusive use of grazing. In many places overgrazing of vital high-country watersheds is going on even under federal permits and above all there is need for protection of these water catching and delivering basins. The majority of our livestock operators are fully aware of the whole situation, and were not in sympathy with the scheme a few leaders proposed for securing title to these lands. That scheme failed, completely. It was through that association that I got more deeply into the conservation writing.

An article in Atlantic Monthly lead to my writing WATER-OR YOUR LIFE, published by Lippincott. And that brought me into a battling mood over a lot of the proposals and schemes of the Army Engineers and Reclamation. They're screw-ball, unsound, fantastic in many instances. I have no tie-up with any organization of any kind. What I have done in trying to pound out realization on the part of the public of the plans of these agencies has been first my own, individual revolt at the wrong-end-to approach to water resources, the vast spending which could do more in applications in watershed management, and of course, having something to write about that I felt should be written up, and as a part of securing a living. I probably could get more checks from editors in another field, but I'm interested in this one.

You probably know that just such a scheme as you face now is being rammed at communities in the South Platte Valley near fort Morgan, Colorado. A "flood control" dam that will drown some of the richest bottom land in that section. People around Aspen, Colorado, are fighting Reclamation's plan to tunnel the Continental Divide and take water from their streams to run power plants and supply some more water over in the Arkansas irrigated sections. Residents below the Grandy Dam which is part of the Big Thompson project are bitter, and they feel helpless, as that project takes their water away and puts it through the 13 mile tunnel to the South Platte drainage east of the Divide. Conservation organizations across the nation are fighting Reclamation's proposal to place dams in the Dinosaur National Monument, destroy that



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scenic reservation when there are alternative sites outside of the park unit which will store more water, produce more power with a saving of \$60 million. And I could go on to name a dozen at least other places where those who see clearly the absurdities in these big dam jobs, are doing their best to stand up to the steam-roller methods of the burocrats in forcing through their big-and-costly dam jobs.

So you are not alone fighting one such project. I don't see why there isn't a "Horse-Sense-About-Dams League" formed, so all these could combine their forces, and if they did, they could throw weight and sanity into the picture which might reasonablly offset the power of the big-dam lobbies.

You write of the Little Sioux soil conservation project in Iowa. I was born and reared in that section; fished the Little Sioux as a kid. It ran reasonably clear then. But it had to go the whole route before the rehabilitation started. I haven't seen that project but would like to do so.

Now with regard to your own battle: With the material already received, I have sent a query to one of the national magazines with the biggest circulation, suggesting that I write the story of your fight against the Tuttle Creek dam, and the same alternative you are putting forward in watershed management as the basic approach. I haven't had time to hear back as yet. If they don't rise to the proposition, I'll try another leading magazine. I would try Nation's Business, but their "consultant" in the conservation field is David D. Guy, manager of the natural resources department in fact, and I am of the opinion that other articles I have proposed to the editors have been blocked by his attitude. Since Guy put out a "Natural Resources Notes" butletin in July this year, with a key paragraph stating that if the Tuttle Creek reservoir had been built, its 2,600,000 acre feet of storage would have retarded flow sufficient to reduce the flood at Kansas City 20%, there is no need of trying to get an assignment out of Nation's Business. Have you seen that bulletin Guy put out? He was all-out for the Army idea.

At any rate, if I get some good magazine to tell me to go ahead and write the story of your battle, (and it is a dandy), I'll probably be writing again to check up points and get additional information. Nothing would bolster what you've done like a good article in national circulation. I hope I can do it.

Meanwhile I'm going to show your letter to Joe Penfold, who is the western representative of the Izaak Walton League. He's sitting in with the people on the project near Fort Morgan, the Aspen group, and others. There might be some way to at least coordinate the efforts of these groups to some extent and add weight to all.

More power to you. I hope I can lend a hand by finding a national magazine that will tell me to write the story. And again thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,





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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT BUREAU OF THE BUDGET WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, President Blue Valley Study Association Randolph, Kansas

My dear Mr. Stockwell:

The President has referred to this office for reply your telegram dated August 29, 1951, relative to recent activities of the Corps of Engineers in the vicinity of the site of the proposed Tuttle Creek Dam. You request immediate cessation of activity by this agency in this highly controversial area until Congress can decide the issue by consideration of H. R. 4386, a bill making appropriations for civil functions administered by the Department of the Army for the fiscal year 1952.

This office has been advised by the Office of the Chief of Engineers that activities by personnel of the Corps of Engineers at and in the vicinity of the Tuttle Creek Dam site have been limited to preliminary surveys and investigations only in areas where rights of entry have been acquired. No funds are available with which to initiate construction of the project. Such funds can be provided only as the result of congressional action including the project in an annual appropriation act. Congressional action on the fiscal year 1952 appropriation has not yet been completed.

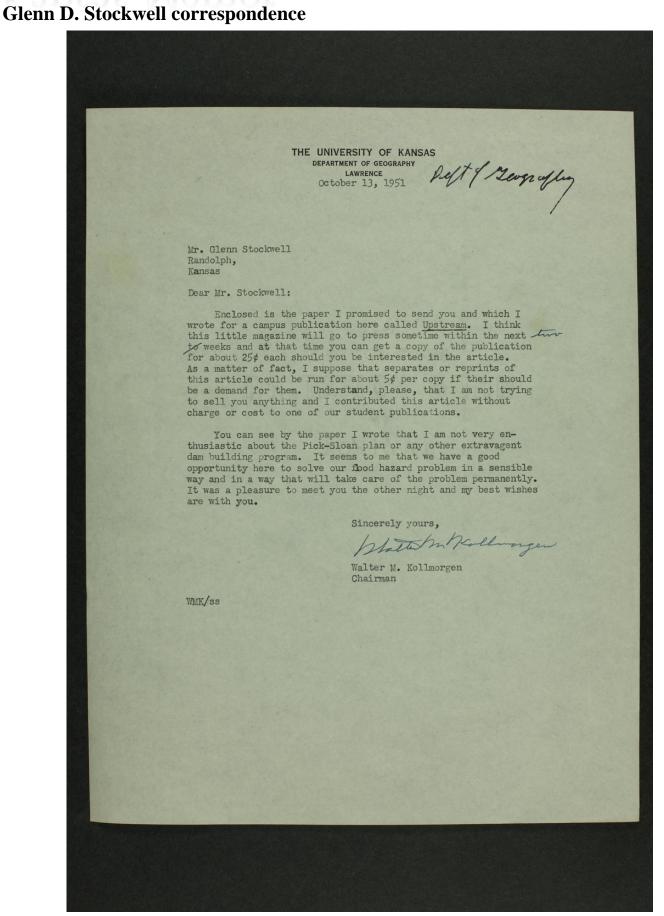
You may be assured that the President and the Executive Offices appreciate the interest of your organization in the equitable solution of the Kansas River flood problem. Your courtesy in advising the President of your views is appreciated.

OCT 1 2 1951

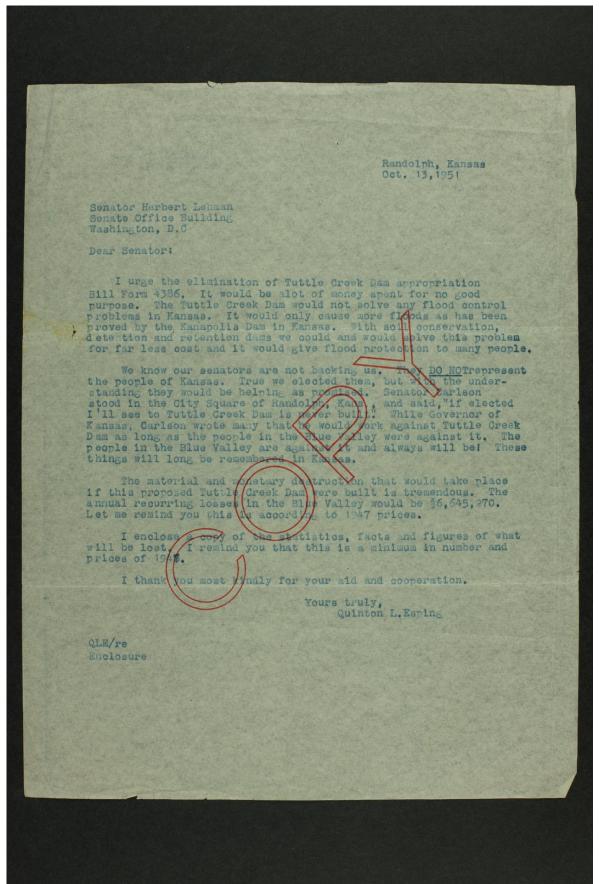
James W. Clark Office of the Director















If You Don't Save the Soil You Won't Need to Save the Cities and Industries

BLUE VALLEY STUDY ASSOCIATION

Devoted to the Conservation of Soil, Water and Human Resources of the Blue River Valley and the Furtherance of a Co-ordinated Comprehensive Flood Control Program

President: Glenn D. Stockwell Sr.
Randolph
Vice President: R. G. Thompson, Irving
Treasurer: Walter Bell, Randolph
Secretary: F. W. Pfuetze, Randolph

Randolph, Kansas

Oct. 15, 1951

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Ray Bergsten, Randolph
Byron Guise, Marysville
N. Harwood, Manhattan
J. A. Hawkinson, Bigelow
W. F. Turner, Waterville
V. E. Hawkinson, Randolph
R. B. Schwartz, Blue Rapids

Mr. Ed Lohmeyer Hanover, Kansas

Dear Sir:

A lot has been said and written about soil conservation and watershed programs, but very little has been accomplished toward the final goal of having a complete watershed conservation program on our major rivers. The recent flood has focused public attention on the need for the conservation of our land, with a program that will also develop into a means of controlling the run-off water.

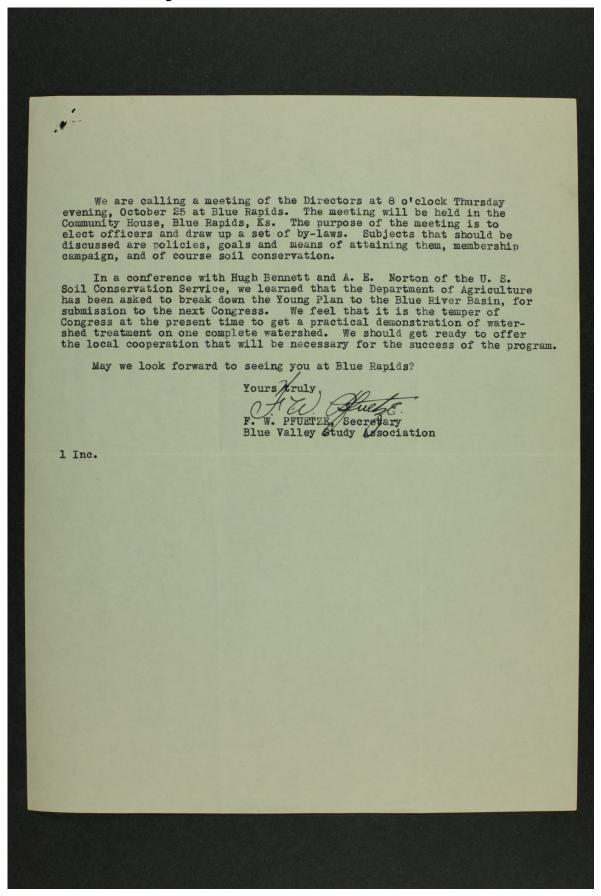
We have organized a non-profit association with the intent of encouraging the development and conservation of land and water resources. Literally, as well as symbolically, watershed development should begin and remain a grass-roots proposition. All conservation is husbandry-the husbandry of natural resources. And husbandry, like good house-keeping, like cleanliness, like respect for property, law and values in general, is a matter of informed personal attention.

Conservation can be taught—it cannot be enforced. To be taught successfully, its methods and aims should be based on facts, not on fancy or emotion. Only factual results can be demonstrated. The reason why conservation is for the citizen and not for governments, rests in this one controlling circumstance—the need is everywhere and ever-present.

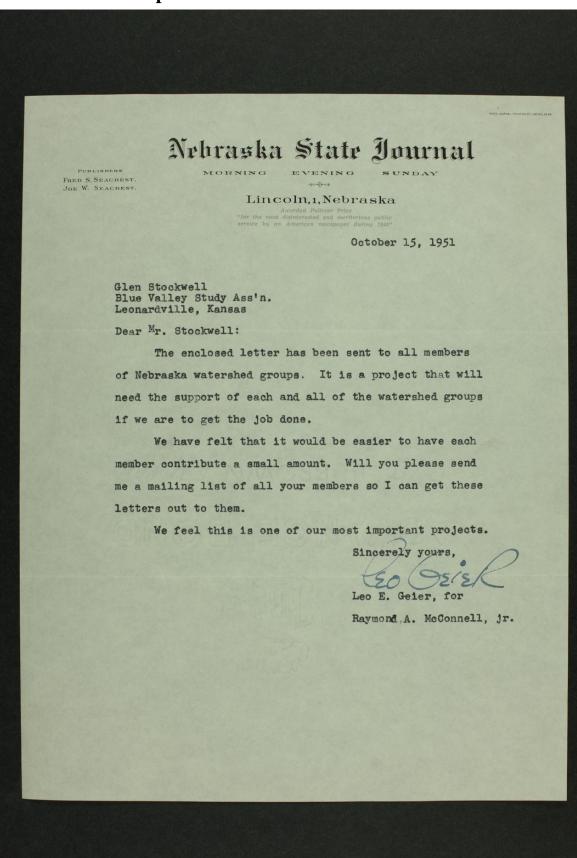
In recent years we have turned more and more to government agencies to organize and control our lives. Must we wait until the government sets the pattern for the control of natural resources? Water runs downhill, and by this fact makes the watershed a natural unit for conservation.

We are asking a group of people, who we believe are vitally interested in soil conservation and watershed engineering, to serve as the Directors of the newly organized Blue Rivers Watershed Association of Kansas. Some of this group have been personally contacted. Others were selected from names suggested by your County Soil Conservation Service. We have placed your name on this list of tentative directors with the hopes that you will serve and help in the work of organizing the Association.

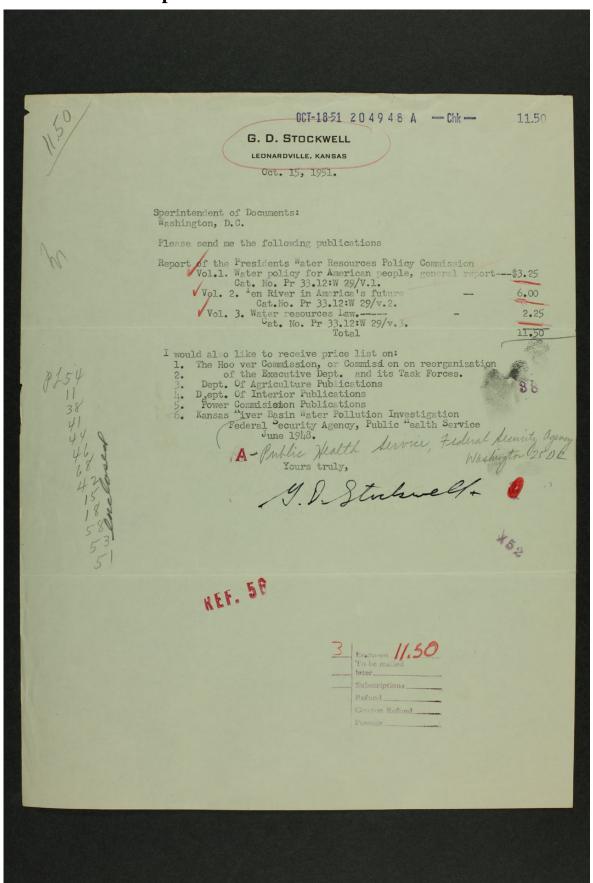




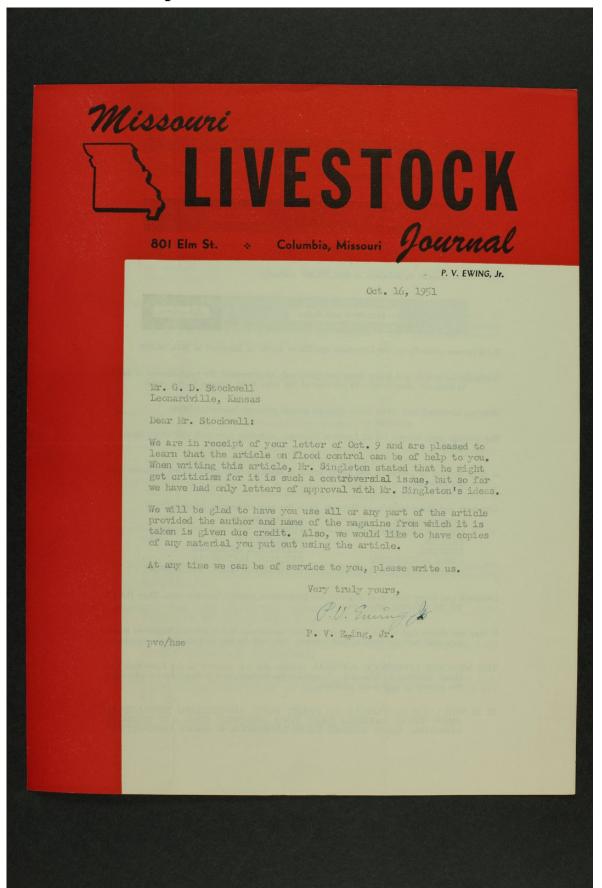




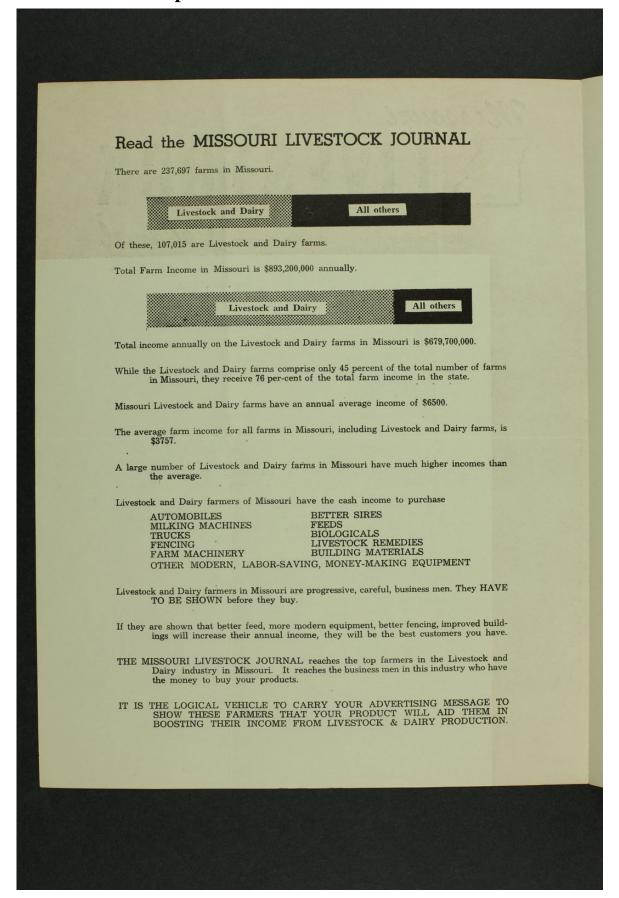












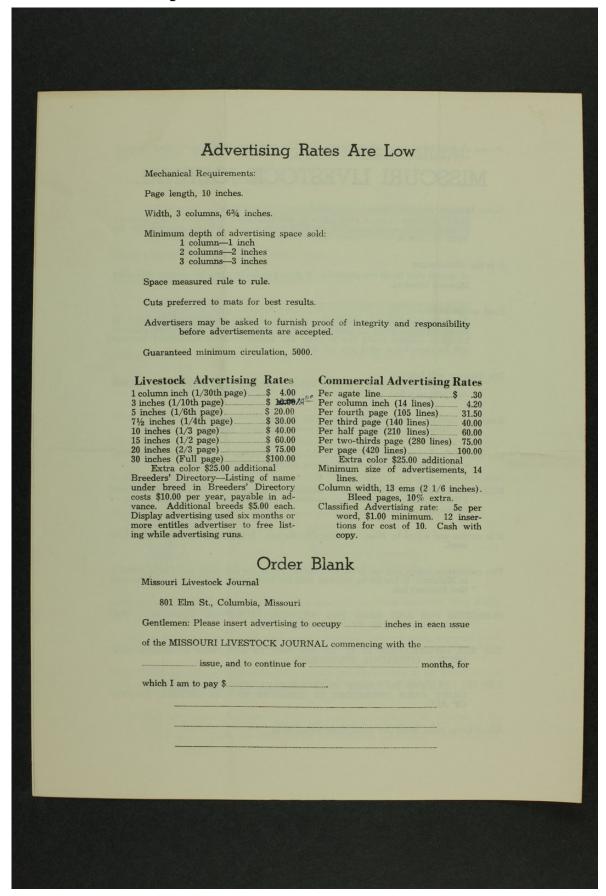


Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

We are working for you now—keeping Missouri Livestock first—Your advertising message will yield MORE RETURNS carried in the MISSOURI LIVESTOCK JOURNAL Better Breeding Stock is always in demand-More than 90 percent of Missouri bred breeding stock is sold to your Missouri breeder neighbors. Concentrate your advertising where it brings most results. waste circulation. It is the official organ of several state breed organizations. It gives you the best possible contact with other Missouri breeders. Send us the facts-Are you consigning to a sale? Do you have surplus breeding stock for sale? Is your own sale coming up soon? The more than 5,000 readers of the Missouri Livestock Journal would like to know the answers. Your advertising message will let them know what you are doing. Our fieldmen will help— Experienced fieldmen are at your service. They'll be glad to stop in and see you. Just drop us a line. Keep your herd or flock before the breeders all the time. Let Missouri Livestock Journal Sell your products or Services. The United States Department of Agriculture reveals that Missouri is now in the top bracket so far as total Livestock and Dairy production is concerned. MISSOURI LIVESTOCK JOURNAL is dedicated to keeping the Missouri livestockmen FIRST IN Livestock and Dairy production—both in dollar quantity and quality of its animals and products. It is written and edited by Missourians for Missourians. It is produced and printed in Mis-This publication brings you the latest information about the Livestock and Dairy industry in Missouri. It has on its editorial staff the best experts in Livestock and Dairying that Missouri has. SUBSCRIBE FOR AND READ THE MISSOURI LIVESTOCK JOURNAL. YOU WILL LIKE IT AND IT WILL HELP YOU. USE THE INFORMATION IN IT TO AID YOU IN BUILDING A BIGGER AND BETTER LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISE. USE ITS COLUMNS TO CARRY YOUR MESSAGE TO OTHER LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY FARM OPERATORS IN MISSOURI TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF ALL. Subscription price, \$1.00 per year—three years, \$2.00

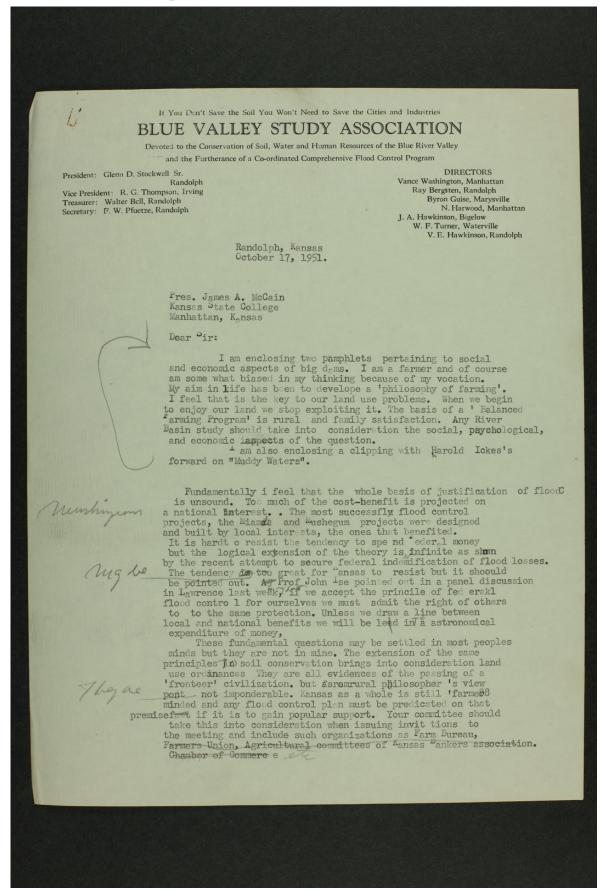




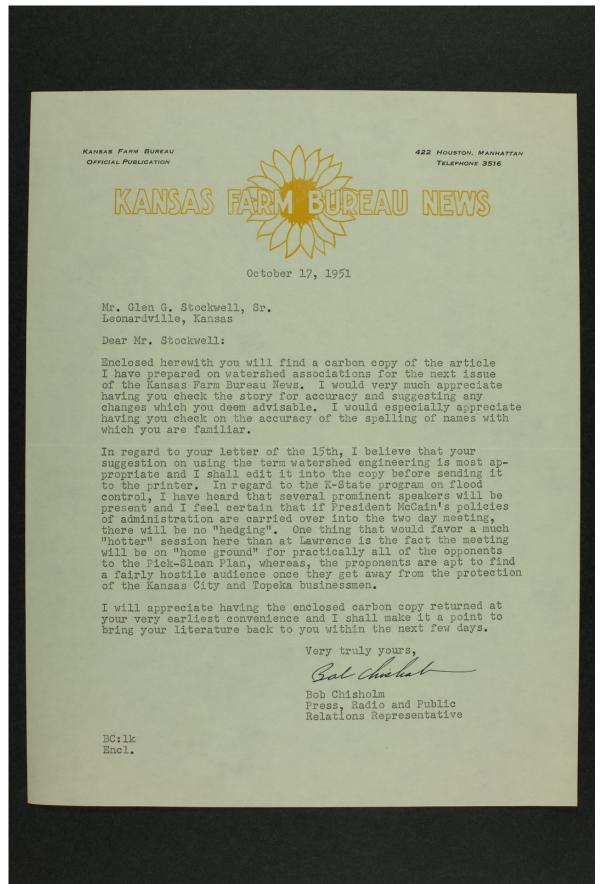
















JOE S. BROWN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
WASHINGTON, KANSAS

1406 G STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Washington, KANSAS

October 18, 1951

Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, Sr.

Randolph, Kansas

Dear Glenn:

Congratulations. It appears from the reports in the papers that we have obtained everything we asked for as a result of our trip to Washington D. C. This should quell those dissident voices who scoffed at our trip.

The reports in the papers are the more particularly gratifying because they also carry the suggestion of affirmative program in the appointment of a commission for a comprehensive survey emboding all factors raised by the last July flood pattern. This commission, if carried through, is to our advantage, reserving the question as to the composition of the commission. If the commission is loaded top heavy with men predisposed to one of the flood control programs, we will have an extremely hard time overcoming their predisposition. However that may be, it is a bridge that we cannot cross until that bridge is constructed.

I would appreciate your telling me, when your time permits, of the results of your conversation with Mr. Oberhelman. The more I reflect upon it, the more I believe that the appointment of a study commission to report to Congress their findings, the more I am convinced that this lends weight to my suggestion that some of the Foundations be contacted. Roger Babson is an individual that I think should be interested in a program and project of this nature.

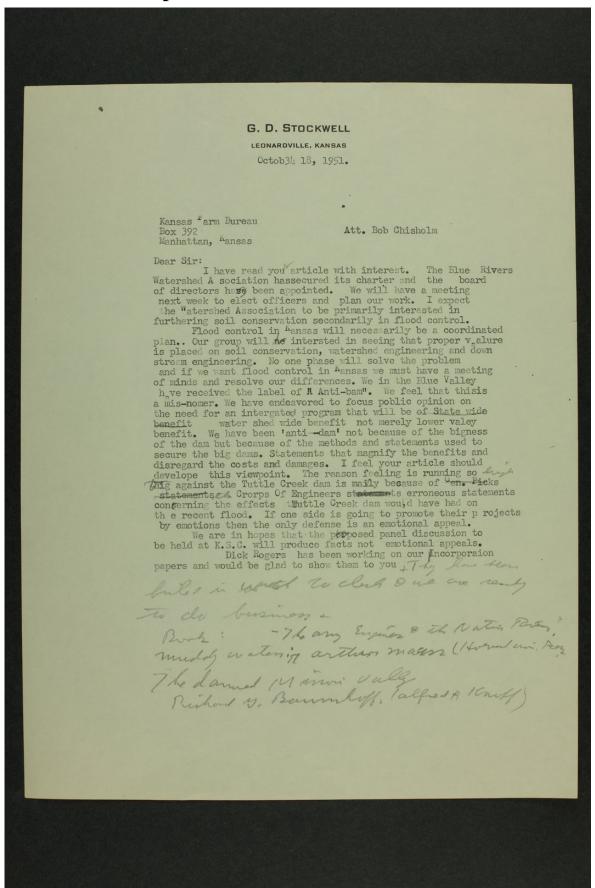
If you recall, I believe that there is a transposition of addresses of Ed Lohmeyer and Fritz Mueller. Their proper addresses are:

Ed Lohmeyer - Greenleaf, Kansas; Fritz H. Mueller - Hanover, Kansas.

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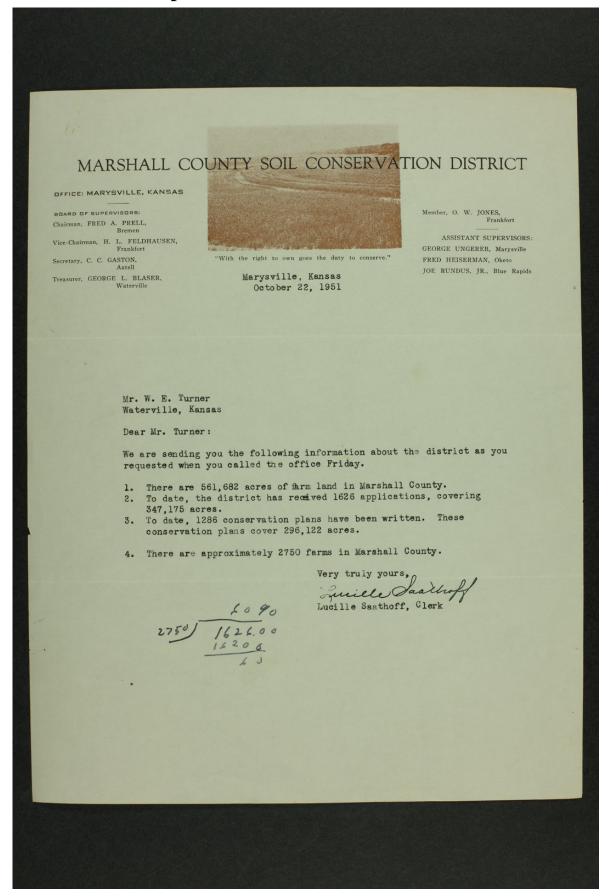




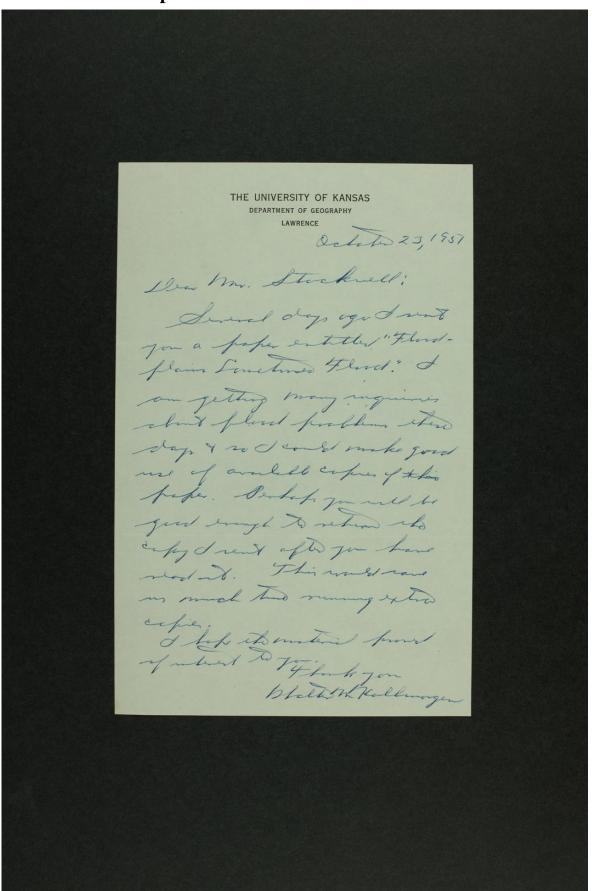


	Kansas State College Manhattan, Kansas
President's Office	October 20, 1951
	Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell Randolph Kansas
	Dear Mr. Stockwell: Thank you so much for your letter of October 18 and its enclosures. I shall read the two pamphlets with keen interest. I am returning the clipping containing Harold Ickes forward to the book, Muddy Waters: The Army Engineers and the Nation's Rivers. I am immediately ordering a copy of this book.
	I enjoyed my visit with you very much. Sincerely yours, James A. McCain President
	Enclosure g











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Reading, Kansas, Oct. 23, 1951

AGRICULTURE FLOOD CONTROL HEARINGS SET

The Agriculture Committee flood control hearings are now scheduled to be held at Colby on October 30 and at Topeka on October 31.

Bring your facts and figures and fit them into the argument that a good flood control plan must be worked out on a watershed basis with the people participating in the planning.

Remember that while good arguments are important, congressmen will count the weight of support by the numbers of those who attend the hearing. GET OUT A CROWD!

KANSAS WATERSHEDS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Dwight Payton, chairman of the committee for the organization of the Kansas Watersheds Association, has selected a small working committee to undertake the foundation work. The following are included: Raymond Wegner, Mrs. J.C. McKin ey, William Avery, Glen Stockwell, J.T. Heinen, Harry Coffman, and Edith Monfort.

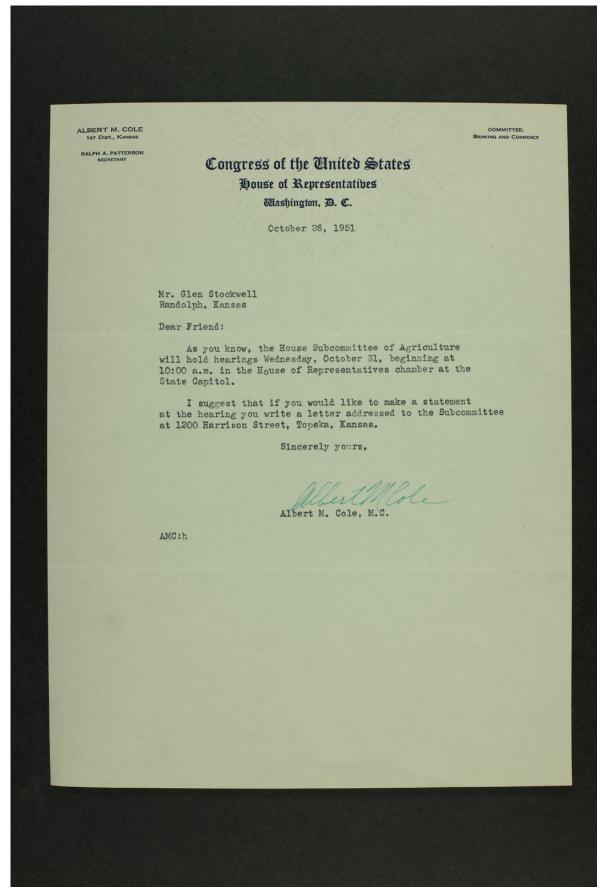
The following advisors were set up at the recent meeting of The Kansas Soil Conservation and Flood Control Association: Dr. Harold R. Myers, R.V. Smrha, C.Y. Thomas, M.F. Cosgrove, and H.S. Hinrichs.

All members of the press who have ex ressed their interest in response to recent correspondence are invited to participate.

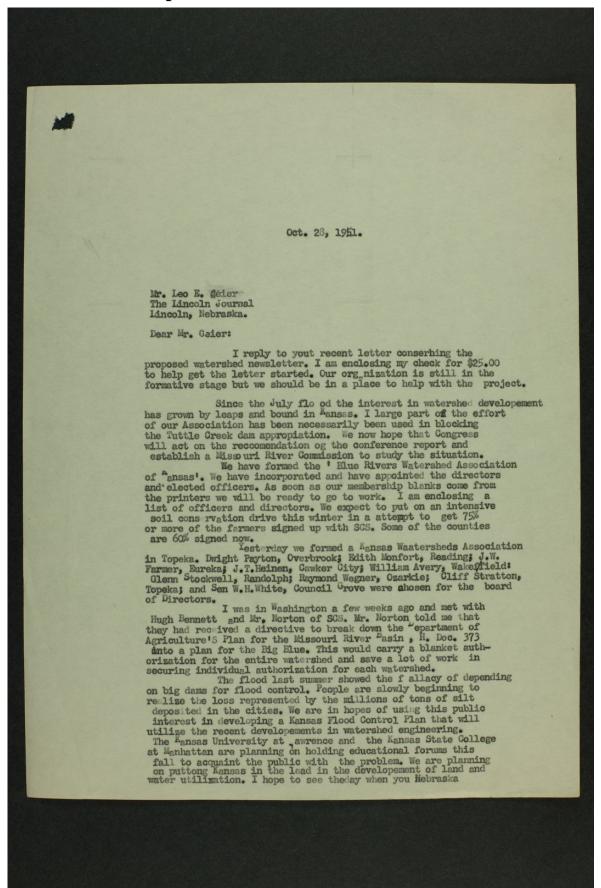
This group will meet at the Hotel Jayhawk at 12:00 noon on October 26th. The work of this committee will be referred to the entire committee for its consideration at a later date.

Edith Monfort, Sec.

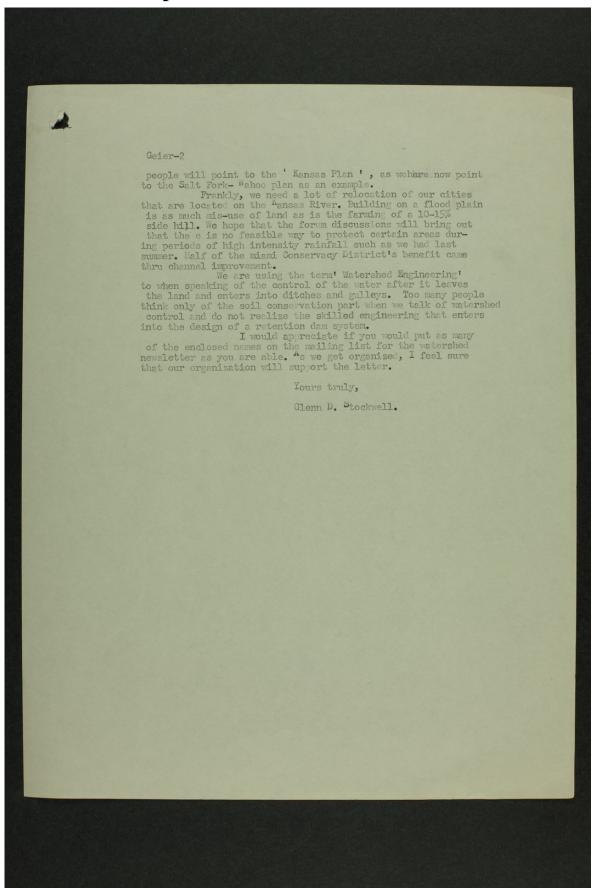




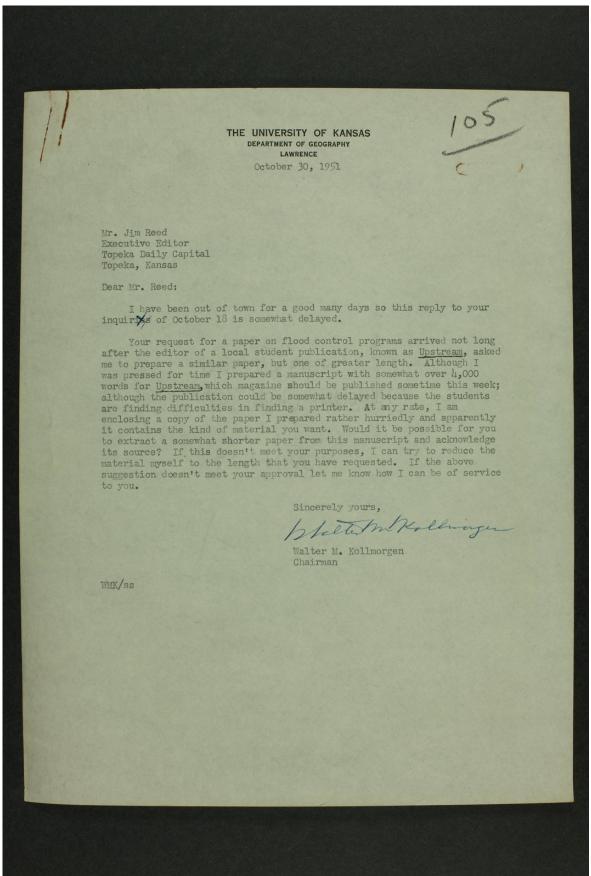














Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

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FLOODPLAINS SOMETIMES FLOOD

by Walter M. Kollmorgen

We should not be surprised if sinners sometimes sin and floodplains sometimes flood. Sinning and flooding seem to be well- established habits. Although much money has been spent on both, so far the results are not reassuring.

As a matter of fact, it is improper to pair these two expressions of nature and to imply that floods are in any sense unusual or antisocial. The civilizations -- and populations -- of China, Japan, Egypt, and much of India were made possible by stream deposits; it seems somewhat unkind, therefore, to picture a flooding river as a vicious beast that has escaped its cage. For that matter, what would happen to the agricultural reputation of Douglas County, or northeast Kansas, if we disdained to use our rich alluvial lands? The alluvial desposits along the Kaw River, 40 to 80 feet deep, were deposited by flood waters. Now that we have established farms, homes, and cities in this and other floodways, we seem to be surprised and outraged when flood waters cover a floodplain and bring additional deposits of alluvium. Widespread is the clamor that the flooding beasts be contained and put in their cages, and that the door be securely locked. At general public expense, of course. The propaganda barrage to which the people of Kansas are now being subjected has convinced many that flood control is a rather simple matter when public money is appropriated in "reasonable" amounts to carry out various plans. Unfortunately, a solution is not that simple.

A number of Sundays ago the great flood-control expert Drew



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Pearson lectured Kansas congressmen and citizens on their stubborness and political cussedness with regard to flood control. Why had not Congress approved flood control appropriations for all these years the TVA has provided us with an example of a perfect solution to the problem? Pearson, no doubt, has seen much of the TVA gospel literature which that government agency distributes with a generous hand. The TVA has in fact liberated the Tennessee Valley from flood hazards by the simple expedient of flooding the entire valley permanently behind a whole series of dams reaching from the mouth of the river to its headwaters in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Thousands of people were removed from the valley and their former home sites now lie permanently under water. This is a cure with a vengeance. It brings to mind the observation of an evected farmer from that valley who compared the TVA cure with his neighbor's cure for hog cholera. He promptly shot all diseased hogs and burned them.

The TVA experiment cost this nation about one billion dollars and is spite of all reports which enanate from that agency, the experiment is not paying off. Particularly embarrassing is the large amount of money allocated to navigation, which falls far short of what planners and politicians had prediced. The great transportation economies which were predicted, and which you and I paid for, simply have not been realized. If the excessive millions allocated to river navigation development would be added to TVA power costs, if interest were paid on the federal money used, and federal taxes were paid, the TVA myth of cheap power would soon explode.

A different kind of flood protection could have been brought to the Tennessee Valley at much less expense to the nation. Lands



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that flooded periodically could have been zoned against farmsteads, homes, and many types of permanent improvements. Higher ground in and adjacent to the valley is ample to hold all of these, and so no life would have been in jeopardy. At the same time, farmers could have farmed their land in perpetuity, commuting from the high ground to the low ground to carry on their field operations. After all, what right has a floodplain farmer to call on society to protect him from high water when he chooses to live next to a river, especially when that river has made his farm superior in productivity? As much as nearly 250 years ago the King of France recognized the fundamentals involved in situations of this kind in the settlements the French established along the Lower Mississippi River. He made it clear to these people "that the grantee would build levees at his own expense and that whatever property loss he suffered from floods was a servitude indicent to his grant."

Cities and towns on floodplains of course clamor for flood protection. City homes in floodplain areas, however, are frequently slummy affairs and they might as well be razed and replaced by better houses on higher ground. Society would show more consideration for the poor people in these slums by housing them better on safe ground than by building multi-million dollar dams so that some real estate interests are protected.

Perhaps some industrial developments are justified in floodplain areas and it would be entirely possible to protect them with local but restricted levees. Levees in floodplains, however, should be restricted so that flood water can spread widely at shallow depths. Extensive levees merely serve to concentrate excess water in parts of floodplains



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and in this way they may benefit some people at the expense of hurting others. If you doubt this, study the flood problem that has been intensified in the backwater areas above the mouths of the Arkansas River, the Red River, the Yazoo River, and others.

The above facts and observations dealing with the Tennessee

Valley and other floodplains haver pertinence for those of us who
are faced with the Kaw floodplain problem. We can have more or less
complete flood protection in this valley—for a time—if we develop
a series of stair—step lakes up and down the valley and flood the
whole floodplain after we have removed all the people and their im—
provements from the lowlands. This is the TVA method and the farmer's
method who "cured" cholera the complete way. We can have partial protection if only a limited number of dams are built. Note, however,
that the several dams now sponsored by the Army Engineers and advocates
of the Pick—Sloan plan as urgent would not have given us protection
this summer. No set of dams now in the blueprint stage would have
done that. Consequently these urgent dams are only a beginning of a
complex maze of water—control works now advocated by the dam builders.

The Kaw floodplain is not wide, as floodplains go. Nor is the Missouri floodplain. Why should many hundreds of the best farms we now have in the state be flooded behind dams so that other farmers can live within a stone's throw of either of these rivers? Many farmers in western Kansas farm land that lies 10, 20, and 30 miles distant from their homes and think nothing of it. Farmers now living in the lowlands along the Kaw and Missouri could be given help to relocate their farmsteads on higher terraces or adjacent uplands where they would always