

## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

### Section 11, Pages 301 - 330

These folders contain correspondence subject files with Governor Arn, the thirty-second governor of Kansas, serving from January 8, 1951 to January 10, 1955. Subjects in this box include floods, federal assistance, domestic emergency assistance and situation report, and Fort Hays State College. Starting on July 13, 1951, one of the most costly floods in Kansas' history swept down the Kansas River valley into the Missouri River basin. The Kansas River valley had flooded before but not with this magnitude and damage. During the period of July 9-13, some areas in the Kansas River basin received 18.5 inches of rain. The eastern half of the basin averaged 8 inches.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1951-1955 : Arn)

Date: September 1951-January 1955

Callnumber: Governor's Office, Governor Edward Arn, Correspondence Files, Subject Files Box 57

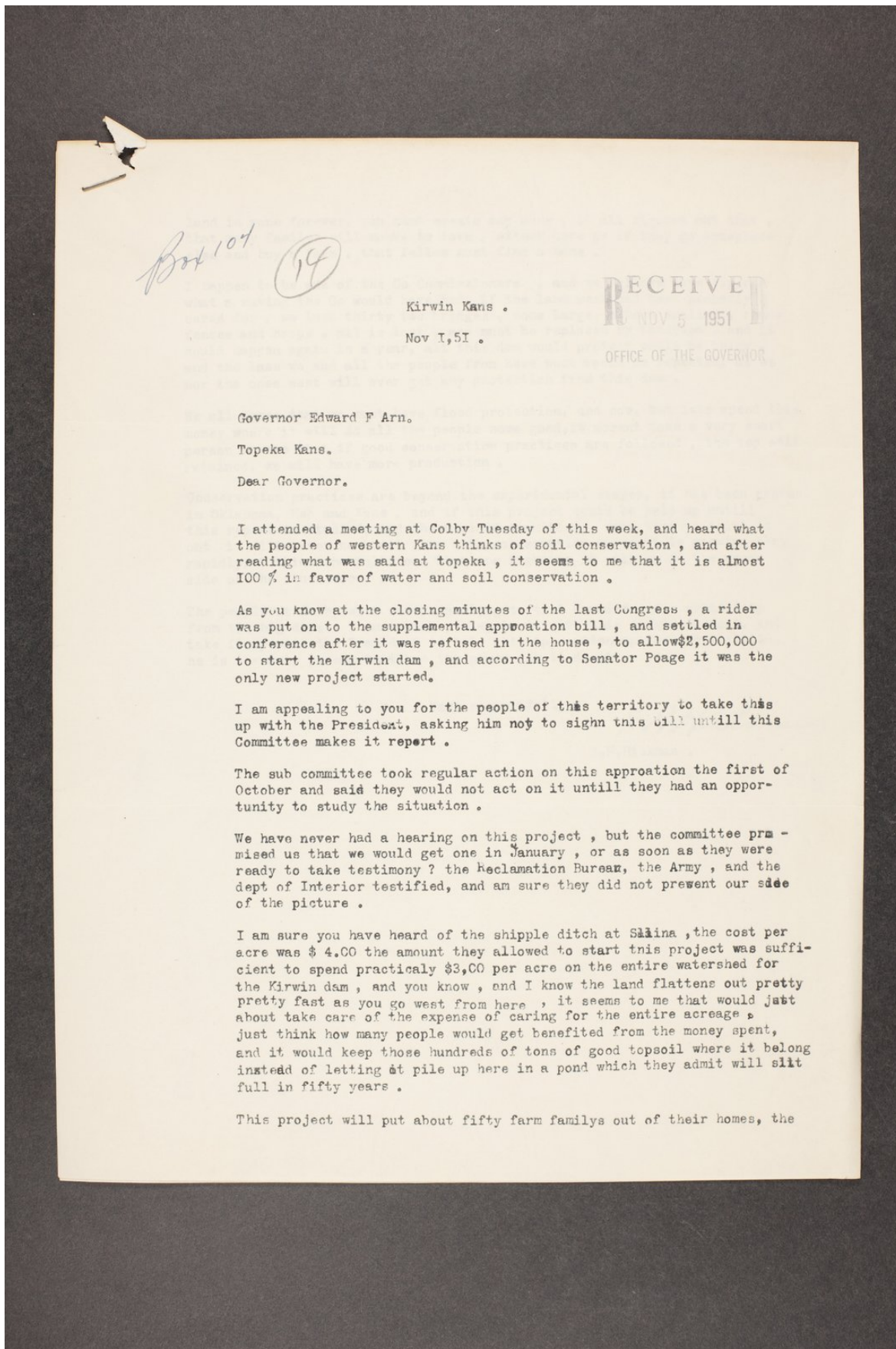
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## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57





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land is gone forever, you cant create any more , it all figures out that , that many familys will moove to town , either here or if they go someplace else and buy a farm , that fellow must find a home .

I happen to be one of the Co Commissioners , and we fellows have figured what a saving the Co would have had, if the land west had been properly cared for , we lost thirty two bridges , some large, others smaller , roads fences and crops , all is lost , and must be replaced by taxation , and it could happen again in a year, all this dam would protect would be below , and the less we and all the people from here west would be repeated, as we nor the ones west will ever get any protection from this dam .

We all agree that we must have flood protection, and now, but lets spend this money where it will do all the people some good, it dosent take a very smart person to see that if good conservation practices are followed , the top soll retained, we will have more production .

Conservation practices are beyond the experimental stages, it has been proven in Oklahoma, Neb and Kans , and if this project could be held up untill this report is studied, and the various committees have time to think it out it will never be built , as this conservation movement is growing very rapidly, I think the Politions that are fighting it will be on the wrong side of the fence soon .

The people at Colby were sure appealing to that Committee for protection from the big dams , I am asking you again to give this consideration , and take it up with the President to hold this approation up for investigatén, he is the only person that has the power now to do it .

Very respectfully .

I, H, Hickman .



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

November 7, 1951

Mr. Glee S. Smith, Attorney  
Wildgen and Smith Law Firm  
First National Bank Building  
Larned, Kansas

My Dear Sir:

This is in reply to your recent request for information concerning funds available for the relief of flood victims.

I regret to inform you that as of this time there are no funds available for the purposes which you set out in your letter, as I understand it. The only funds available for flood rehabilitation through this office, at the present, are those available to various political sub-divisions of the State, such as cities, counties, townships and school districts. Even in such cases, the funds are made available only for temporary repair and restoration of facilities.

I suggest, however, that in the cases of farmers who suffered terrific losses, that they contact the local BMA or Farmers Home Administration Office for such assistance as they may be able to afford. Congress failed to make provisions for any other forms of relief to victims suffering such terrible losses in the recent devastating floods.

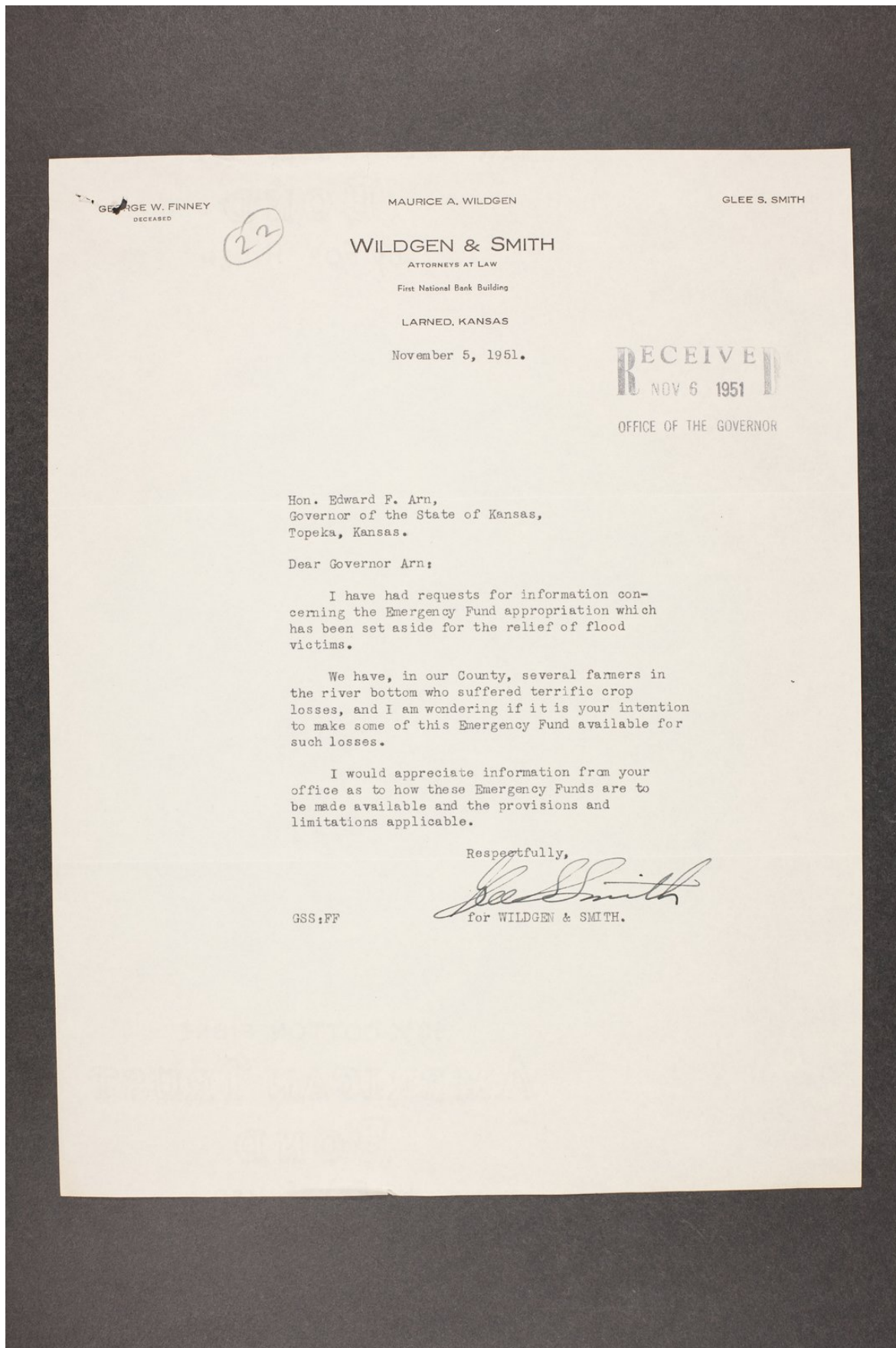
Hoping to be of service to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

GOVERNOR

EFA:fk

## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57





## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

*floods*

November 7, 1951

Mr. Willis Erler  
1813 Savannah St.  
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Mr. Erler:

Thank you for your recent letter setting forth the losses you suffered in the recent disastrous floods which struck our state.

I would like to suggest that you contact the nearest office of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and present your problem to them. It may be that they can be of help to you in obtaining the funds that you need.

Happy to be of service to you, I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:fk

## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

RECEIVED  
NOV 3 1951  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

1813 Savannah Ave.  
St. Joseph, Mo.  
Nov 1, 1951

Dear Gov:

I am writing you concerning a matter of importance. I have a family consisting of wife and 4 girls (ages 1, 2, 3 and 7). We were the victims of the flood in Kansas City, Mo. Our address was 1616 Kansas Ave., Arrowhead. We lost all our possessions which consist of furniture, clothing, household goods and equipment which I had a shop in front of are building we lived in.

After the flood we brought our family to St. Joseph, Mo. where we formerly lived.

The Red Cross gave me a little equipment for outside work to help out with.



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(2)

Local people here have given  
us a little clothing and furniture  
to get started on. We have had  
tough luck on housing due  
to the children. Last week  
I went to the Red Cross for  
a little aid for winter clothing  
and a loan for my business.  
But they told me they dropped  
my case. We didn't find  
a place to live where I can have  
a little shop for repairing furniture  
and other repair work. I have  
to work on my own since coming  
to St. Joseph I got down with  
a hip.

What I would like to  
know is if I would be eligible  
for a small government loan.



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

(2)

For equipment totaling \$600  
of which I have a list also  
including a little furniture.

If I am qualified for  
the loan I hope would I see  
and how long would I have  
to wait since I'm desperate  
in need right away

Hoping to hear from you  
as soon as possible

Thanking You  
Walter Elder

## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

November 7, 1951

Mr. Walter T. Proctor  
14 North Garth Avenue  
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Mr. Proctor:

Thank you for your letter of November 5, 1951. We do not have available any pamphlets or literature which would assist you in writing your article on flood control.

I might suggest that you contact the authorities which are advocating either of the two respective plans and ask them to furnish such material as requested.

I would be most happy to discuss the flood control program with you if you should have occasion to be in the Capital city.

Yours truly,

G O V E R N O R

EFA:ig



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

RECEIVED  
NOV 6 1951

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

14 North Garth Ave.  
Columbia, Mo.  
Nov..5, 1951

Dear Sir:

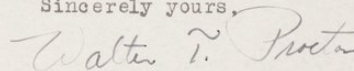
I am preparing to write an article about the flood situation around Kansas City...the Missouri Valley. And compare the Pick-Sloan Act and Missouri Valley Authority (MVA) to see which I think would be best for the area.

I plan to have the article published in the Columbia Missourian, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, and/or the Kansas City Star.

I would appreciate any information you have on the subject:

Pamphlets  
Personal ideas  
Quotes

Sincerely yours,



Walter T. Proctor  
Graduate Student,  
University of Missouri

## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

*Kansas State College*

Manhattan, Kansas

November 9, 1951

President's Office

RECEIVED  
NOV 13 1951

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR


Govenor Edward F. Arn  
State House  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Ed:

I am enclosing a summary of the flood situation from information assembled here. Most of the data is taken from county and state mobilization committee surveys of flood damage and rehabilitation needs completed July 25, and revised on September 5.

This information may be of some help to you.

Sincerely,

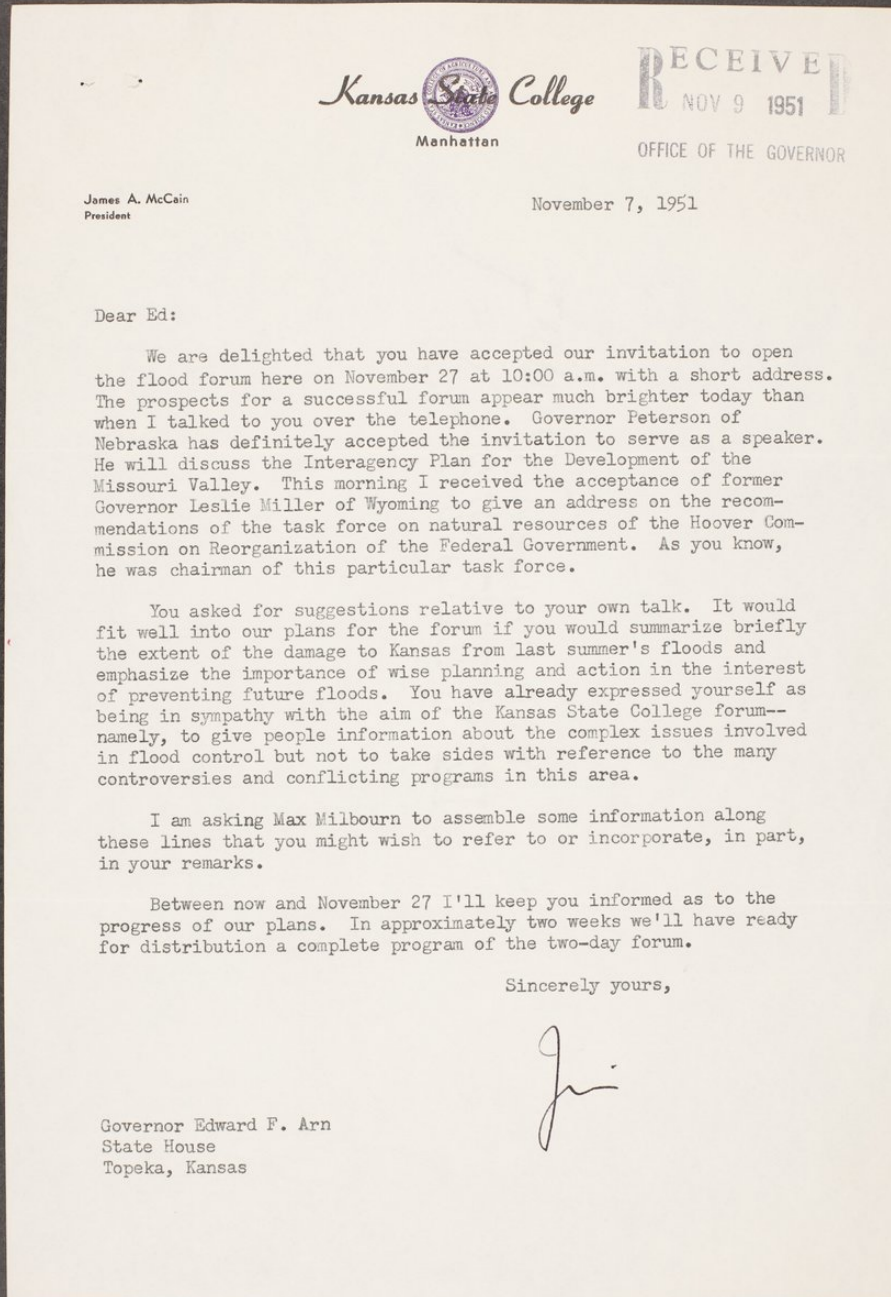


Max W. Milbourn  
Director of Public Service

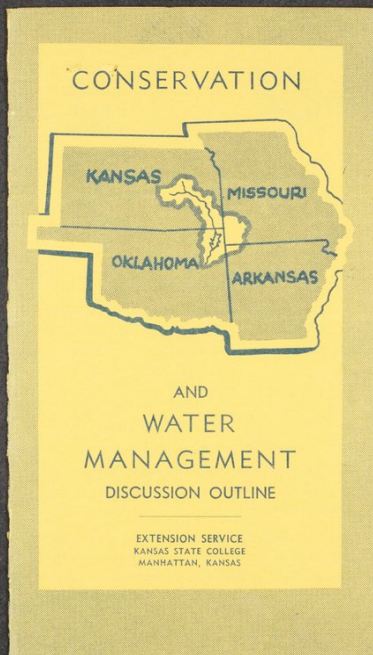
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Enclosure



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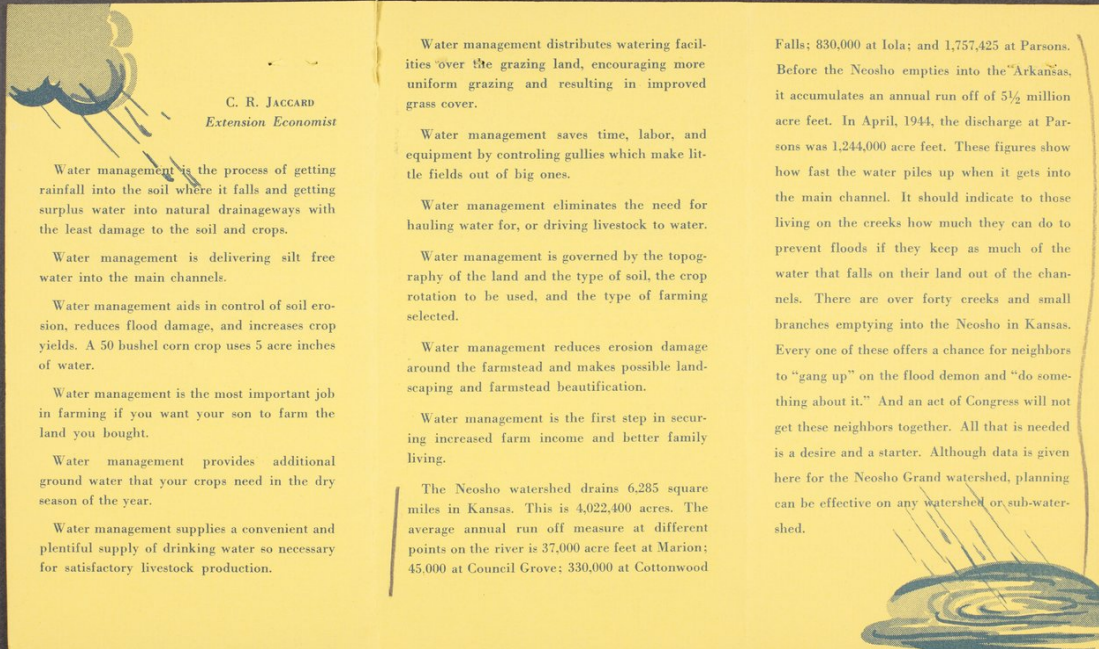


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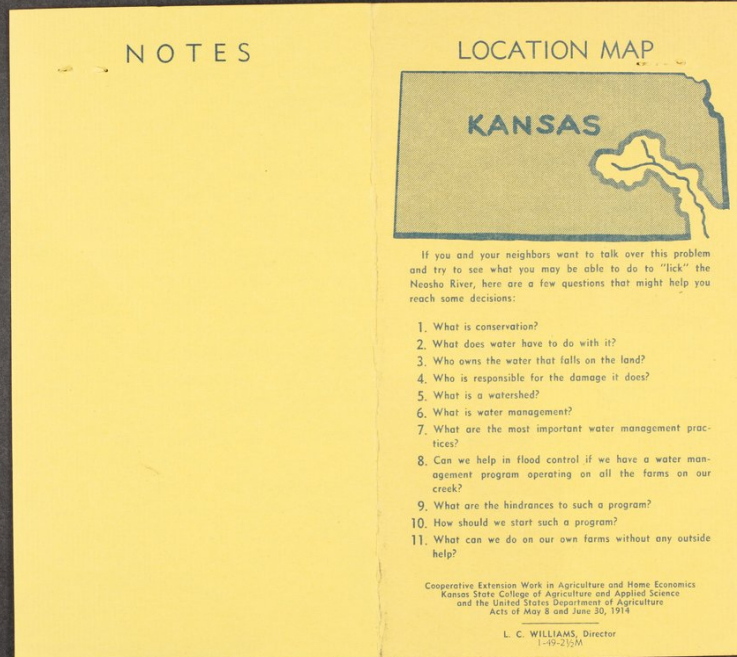




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## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57





## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

*Arn*

November 13, 1951

Mr. John Shackelton  
512 North Chestnut  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Shackelton:

Thank you for your recent letter setting forth your views on a possible solution to the problem of flood control for our state.

I appreciate your taking the time to inform me of your suggestions, and you may be assured they will receive the fullest consideration.

Thanking you for your interest in this matter,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

GOVERNOR

EFA:fk

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

11-11951  
(2)  
Sirs  
I am writing you in regard to enligating  
the middle part of Kansas by taking the Missouri  
river in south eastern Nebraska get a permit from  
the governor of Nebraska down through Kansas at  
great bend and across the state down into Oklahoma  
down into Texas, and into the gulf of Mexico. The farmers  
could irrigate a half <sup>mile</sup> more either side of the canal these  
dry years it would be worth thousands of dollars to the  
farmers, in that <sup>the state</sup> part of the canal ten feet  
deep and twenty feet wide the machinery could be  
floated in the canal to do the excavating and digging  
the canal. What do you think of the project.  
I would like to hear from you in regard to it  
of what you think of the project and  
oblig yours Truly  
John B. Shackelton  
512 South Chestnut  
Pittsburg - Kansas.

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NOV 7 1951  
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## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

*flood*

November 27, 1951

Mr. N. W. Davis  
Phillipsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning your proposals on flood control. I deeply appreciate the time and thought you have given this matter, and you may be assured that your suggestions will be given the fullest consideration.

Incidentally, it appears that the indian you quote may have had a very good point, with which I am sure you agree.

Thanking you for your interest in this matter which is of such vital concern to all of us, I am

Sincerely yours,

GOVERNOR

EFA:fk

## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

21  
Coveror: Here is an item that I placed in my scrap book some years back. I do not know what paper it was taken from.

Two pictures which showed a dilapidated house, the other a field badly eroded were published in the Oklahoma-Stockman which offered prizes for essays suggested by these pictures. First prize went to a Cherokee's indian's entry, brief but to the point, which reads as follows.

Both pictures show the white man crazy. Make big teepees. Plow hill. Water wash. Wind blow soil. Grass all gone. Squaw gone, papoose, too. No chuckaway. No pig, no corn, no hay, no cow, no pony. Indian no plow land. Keep grass. Buffalo eat. Indian eat buffalo. Hide make tepee, moccasins too. Indian no make terrace. No build dam. No give a dam(N) All time eat. No hunt job. No hitchhike. No ask relief. No shoot pig. Great Spirit make grass. Indian no waste anything. Indian no work. White man much crazy.

RECEIVED  
NOV 26 1951

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*W. G. Davis*  
*Phillipsburg*



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

Phillipsburg, Kansas  
Nov. 23, 1951

Gov. Ed F. Arn  
State House,  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Governor: I saw by the papers that you are skeduled to be at a soil conservation and dam meeting at Manhattan the coming week.

I ask you to give consideration to the farmers standpoint. As you no doubt read in the papers a consist of the dams proposed by the Pick-Sloan plan engineers of something like thirty of the large dams. In this article it is stated that an aggreate of 500 square miles of the best river bottom would be covered with water and thereby lost to production and taxes. The capacity of the dams would hold a little less than 10,000,000 acrefeet of water. And to take the state of Kansas as a unit one inch of runoff water would make more than 4,000,000 acre feet of water. To sum up it would take less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches of runoff water to fill all of the proposed dams. In the article given it was stated there was an average of 13.12 inches rainfall above normal in the state. Now for the sake of argument let us suppose that all of the dams were empty at the time of these excessive rainfalls on a saturated soil. Allowing 3.12 inches of runoff water to fill the dams instead of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. What would these engineers do with the other ten inches of rainfall. Enough to fill the proposed dams four times. Do they think the hot air that is being dispensed will evaporate the floods? There is one good example of this plan in the Kanapolis dam that was built to protect Salina from floods and this year Salina had the worst flood in its history. To be sure there is a great argument by the government engineers that the dam held the Hays flood. But you must remember the Hays flood came from a source that these engineers had never considered in the flood control plan and from a comparative smal area and betwven Hays and the Kanapolis dam there was a good many miles forthe flood water to flatten out. Although it is tragic I do not have much sympathy with these towns that build down in the river bottoms where they know there is liable to be a flood. And when a flood comes they howl fo the government to make good the losses from their poor judgment. Take Kansas City for instance. We have all heard the indian legend of water "Five Squaw deep" at the meeting of the Missouri and the Kaw. and to build so many dams.(the industrial buildings and stock yards) to hold back the water in times of floods looks to me like sheer folly.

Now to come to our local area in Phillips County, there was a measure put through in the last days of this session of Congress appropriating more than \$2,000,000 to start after the Kirwin dam we had been promised there would be no action taken at this time.

This dam will cover 10,000 acres of the best land in Phillips county taking it out of production and off the tax rolls.

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thereby raising the tax levies of the county and necessitating the moving of railroad and stopping across the river transportation for miles. It has been state that these dams will probably silt full in fifty years and as these gigantic floods come at about fifty year intervals what benefit will come from these great expenditures at the time of the next great flood period? There was a nice example of siltation at Osborne a few years back. There was a dam constructed at an expense of \$200,000, and the first hard rain silted it to within two feet of the overflow level. This morning I heard over the radio they broke the levees of the Po river in Italy to flood three cities to save a larger city. As you probably know the same thing happened above New Orleans when the broke the levees above the city to flood hundreds of miles of farms. This levee plan is another falsity that had been foisted on a trusting. At the time of the starting of putting this in practice, Engineer Eads who built the famous Eads bridge at St Louis said the only way to build river levees is to let the river build its own levees. For many miles the river bed of the Mississippi river is higher than the land out side of the levees and every session of Congress is asked to appropriate more money to raise the levees. Another thing is the great cry at the present time of the ruination of the river land. The same old cry as in time past but strange to say these ruined acres are back in production every time, with some of the soil from of the higher ground to reinforce the production. Do we not remember in our school books of the rise of the Nile river each year flooding the valley with water and silt. And you know it is one of the famous cotton production areas of the world. Now, Governor, I expect you are tired of my gripes as to the other fellows plans. so I will come up with one of my own, in comparison. Some years back we had a conservation meeting and one of these High Mogols under government pay advocated the larger dams. At the close of his discussion he asked if any one desired any information. I asked him that it was a fact a cubic yard of dirt would hold back as much water in a small dam as a large one. why was it the farmers were allowed 15¢ per yard for moving dirt and if a city wanted a larger dam they were allowed a cost of about \$2.00 per cubic yard for dirt placed in the dam. The H.C. stammered and hawed and then ruled that my question was out of order. This would be my plan to construct thousands of smaller dams on the rough land. There would be little condemnation expense. as many farmers would gladly give the land for the storage of water and would not even ask for said land to be taken off the tax rolls. Take this locality 15 mile north of the proposed Kirwin dam many farmers would be glad for a dam and these smaller dams up to 20 feet in height can be constructed far cheaper per cubic yard than dams up to 100 feet in height. Now in summation. Terrace the gentler slopes, sow the steeper land in grass, build thousand of small dams and leave the river channels open without any levees to hold the silt of overflow land on the bottoms. Remembering that water stored in dams does no good for irrigation on the land where the raid fell. Stop the water as near the source as possible.

Yours,

*N.W. Davis*

N.W. Davis



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

November 19, 1951

Mrs. Ada Howard  
1105 Miami Avenue  
Kansas City, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Howard:

Thank you very much for your poems concerning the floods and the problems it has left us all facing.

I realize that you must have spent many hours in composing your most thought-provoking portrayal of conditions. You may be assured that the suggestions you set forth will receive the fullest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

GOVERNOR

EF:Afk

## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

19  
7-13-51 "The Kansas City Flood" written 9-13-51  
By Lida Howard 1105 Miami Ave. "Armandale Flood victim", of Kansas City Kan.  
There are lines of joy and sorrow  
There are lines of love and hate  
Now hear one about flood waters  
and the victims in their fate  
Friends and neighbors soon were parted  
Families driven from their home  
and were forced to seek salvation  
or upon the streets to roam  
For the mighty old Missouri  
and the aggravated Kaw  
had in overpowering madness  
met in challenge for a draw  
2 Deep the grief and sad the story  
of that awful fated day  
angry rivers broke their boundaries  
and flood waters took their sway  
It was Friday and the thirteenth {13<sup>th</sup>}  
of July in fifty-one {51}  
When the sirens shrieked the warning  
and the people had to run  
Leave their homes and their belongings  
flee for life to higher ground  
and stampeded like herds of cattle  
baffled by the fearful sound.

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NOV 15 1951  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

2.

- 3 As flood-waters dashed in frenzy  
over swollen river banks  
causing dikes to break and crumble  
and to join destructions ranks.  
with their muddy waters churning  
in their force of many powers  
many homes and great industries  
to lay low within few hours  
As they stretched out over low-lands  
in the state of discontent  
to spread heart-ache and great ruin  
as their evil course they spent
- 4 No respect was shown to persons  
rich and poor alike to share  
in the hand that fate had dealt them  
and the dark time of despair  
Animals and pets and humans  
helpless in the surging strife  
Floundered in the swirling currents  
hopeless in their plight for life  
Children screaming, people shouting  
help God help, the frantic call  
Some of them adrift on roof-tops  
Oh the pity of it all.



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

3.

5. Then when waters had departed  
Silt and wreckage all-around  
Homes and industries mud-gutted  
Cars asunder on the ground  
Houses gone and houses shattered  
up-side down and warped askew  
Scare-crow trees with filth and flunder  
littered in the gruesome view  
Burst gas lines oozing danger  
as corruption filled the breath  
And the scene in every concept  
seemed to hover over death."

↳ So fate brought to our attention  
we must set a better stage  
to protect us from "Black Fridays"  
and "mad rivers," on the rage  
Dikes and levees must be stronger  
dams and river channels clean  
to prevent this great disaster  
from returning to the scene.  
For theres nothing left in mem'ries  
but despair that's drenched blood  
from the hearts of every victim  
in the Kansas City Flood."



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

"To our Government"  
Lida Howard, a 1951 flood victim.  
at present at 74 So 7th St H.E.N.

1. Now we're victims of the worse flood  
that is known for many years  
and were forced to beg for mercy  
through heart-ache and bitter tears  
And we hope administrators  
will provide the good deed scout  
and give to us their attention  
while we're helpless down and out  
We pray Congress and the Senate  
will act now ere it's too late  
to restore our faith in mankind  
or to fill our hearts with hate
2. For they've helped out other Nations  
and they've gave help far and wide  
Now the helpless of our Nation  
need a share in the divide  
We had homes but they were taken  
by flood waters deep and black  
and nobody but a traitor  
would attempt to hold us back.  
From a re-ha-bil-i-tation  
With our Nation's good will speed  
to give help where help is needed  
and we need it now, indeed!



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

3 Now charity is sweet to give  
over lands and seas of foam  
but Good Books say that charity  
should always begin at home.  
So let your conscience be your guide  
in what-ever you may do  
toward giving to your countrymen  
for some day it may be you.  
As you never know when sickness  
or misfortune may intrude  
and you have to beg Salvation  
for your shelter and your food.

4 And its time we hold communion  
with the Higher power above  
for a better understanding  
of humanity and love  
We should form a closer kindred  
with a truer har-mo-nie. {Harmony  
for together God and manpower  
can prevail e-mer-gen-see, {Emergency  
And we hope that in the future  
as we kneel us down to pray  
we can thank God for the kindness  
in the Good old U.S.A.

I am a flood victim from 1105 Miami Ave Armourdale K. C. K.  
and an American, "a family of 5 still without a home."



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

20 November 1951

Mr. Charles M. Sugar  
Treasurer of Wyandotte County  
Kansas City 16, Kansas

My dear Sir:

Thanks very much for your letter of November 15, advising that the flood relief payroll office for Wyandotte County has been terminated.

I assure you your cooperation and that which we have received from other officials of Wyandotte County has been appreciated.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

G O V E R N O R

EFA-cr

## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57



CHAS. M. SUGAR  
TREASURER OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY  
KANSAS CITY 16, KANSAS

RECEIVED  
NOV 17 1951

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 15, 1951

Hon. Governor Edward F. Arn  
State House  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Ed:

This is to inform you that the Flood Relief Payroll Office for Wyandotte County, has terminated effective as of today.

I want to express my appreciation to you and your staff for your continued co-operation and consideration during this emergency program. Please accept my sincere thanks.

Yours truly,

CHARLES M. SUGAR

cc: Walter R. Gage  
Perl F. Fisher



## Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 57

PRESS COPIES -- FLOOD MEETING, MANHATTAN, NOV. 27, 1951

The 1951 flood loss to the farmers of Kansas was a disaster without precedent in Kansas, when 10 to 15-inch rains fell from July 9 to July 13 on the drainage areas of the Kaw, Marais des Cygnes and Arkansas Rivers already saturated by a previous 30 to 60-day rainfall.

Two and one-half million acres of cropland and 619,000 acres of non-cropland were inundated on 20,248 farms, more than 500,000 acres of rich bottom land were littered with silt, sand deposits, debris or otherwise damaged. One survey estimates that more than 10% of the rich bottom land flooded is permanently lost for crop uses.

236 farm homes were destroyed, 3,569 were badly damaged, and 14,000 other buildings were estimated to be destroyed or damaged. Home replacement and repair will cost at least 10 million dollars.

The total estimated loss to Kansas agriculture by reason of the 1951 flood will approximate 100 million dollars,---and the total loss of tangible property in Kansas has probably exceeded one billion dollars.

We have reliable evidence that if the storm center had moved 12 miles west, El Dorado, Augusta, Winfield and Arkansas City would have been ravished by flood waters as were Manhattan, North Topeka, Lawrence, and other cities in Kansas.

This rampage of nature, so wide-spread in its destruction, has focused the attention of all of us and our neighbors on corrective measures which will prevent a recurrence of the "Flood of '51".

To date, we have approached our common problem somewhat haphazardly. Individually, a few have tried to review all of the aspects of the problem, studying the various current proposals---Missouri Valley Authority, the Pick-Sloan and the soil conservation plans. And then, there are combinations of these plans. Some of our citizens have strong opinions about a particular plan. Most of the people feel they haven't enough information about any plan upon which to base a valid judgment.

Water is one of the natural resources of Kansas, and the only self-renewing resource we have. The challenge to the people of Kansas is to use every means we find appropriate to the conservation, development and utilization of our water that will meet the needs of agriculture, industry and public health.

Kansas State College, in response to requests from citizens of the state, has undertaken to disseminate information on this important subject in order to provide education on the various complex water management and flood control plans.

Full understanding of all our public issues is prerequisite to the future growth and development of our great state, and of democracy itself.