

Sept. 17, 1965

A TRIBUTE TO F. W. GREER

Have any of you residents of Imperial Valley heard the name of F.W. Greer? Do you see any monuments to him? Do you know of any buildings or schools named after him? Have you seen any plaques honoring his name? His name even has an unfamiliar ring to the oldtimers who lived at the same time as F.W. Greer.

This Newsletter is a ~~delayed~~ tribute to the only man who fought for the building of the Boulder Dam and the All-American Canal and who also fought for the 160 acres limitation of the U.S. Reclamation Law to be enforced here so that the benefits of the Dam and the Canal would be enjoyed by the little people.

It is highly doubtful that without the publicity work of F.W. Greer, that the Boulder Dam and the All-American Canal would have been built. Yet he is not honored in Imperial Valley. The power structure of this Valley consisting of the big ranches do not want the ideas of F.W. Greer to be known to the people. With the big ranches controlling the Imperial Irrigation District and PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS, there is never any mention of F.W. Greer.

The power structure of Imperial County has done to the memory of F.W. Greer what the ruling group of Communist Russia does to a leader whom it has deposed--it tries to remove everything to make the people forget that the person ever existed. F.W. Greer had a hard time trying to make a living in the last 15 years of his life because his ideas were not popular with the big ranchers.

F.W. Greer was an experienced publicity man and worked from 1918 to 1930 to get the Boulder Dam and the All-American Canal authorized by Congress. Whom did he have to beat? It was the Los Angeles Times owners, the CHANDLERS, who owned 800,000 acres of land as one piece in Mexicali Valley in Mexico just across the border from Imperial Valley. This is equal to a ranch 20 miles by 70 miles.

No native Mexican had a small ranch in Mexicali Valley. There were only large ranches owned by American, British, and Japanese monopolists. They had a lot of money and influence. With the Chandler interests leading them, the Los Angeles Times put out constant editorials and distorted news to convince the people of the United States that the Boulder Dam and the All-American Canal should not be built.

Here is the reason. The irrigation water since 1902 had been flowing from a ditch going from the Colorado River to the riverbed of the Alamo River. The Alamo River then runs for 60 miles in Mexico and then turns North and enters the United States. So the ranches of the monopolists in Mexico had first chance at the water. When there was a shortage of water particularly in the wintertime since 75% of the Colorado River flow is in the 3 summer months, the big ranches in Mexico would get the water first and the crops of the little ranches in Imperial Valley on the U.S. side would wither because of the lack of water. The little U.S. ranchers were going broke because of this and the Imperial Irrigation District would not permit any more land to be put into cultivation.

If the All-American Canal was built, it would tap the Colorado about 30 miles North of the site tapped by the Alamo River. This would mean that the little ranchers of the U.S. would get the water first and the big ranches of the monopolists in Mexico would get it last.

The distorted news stories of the Los Angeles Times went over the wires of the Associated Press to all newspapers in the United States. S. Senators and Congressmen read these stories in the newspapers and would not vote in favor of the projects. The Los Angeles Times said "IT IS SOCIALISM" AND THIS IS LIKE CALLING SOMEONE A "COMMUNIST" TODAY. The Boulder Dam was supposed to have generators worked by water power to make electricity. So the Los Angeles Times got the big utilities like Pacific Gas & Electric Co., the Southern California Edison Co., the San Diego Gas & Electric Co., and the Arizona Public Service Co. to put out propaganda against the Boulder Dam and the All-American Canal. They also supplied money for the powerful lobby in Washington, D.C. to fight the projects. THE L.A. TIMES CALLED THE PROJECTS "BOLSHEVISM".

Even Herbert Hoover who was connected with big corporations, was against it particularly because of the electricity at the Dam. He finally changed when he saw that the project was going to pass. It is a serious mistake to put the name of Hoover to this Dam. HE NEVER FOUGHT FOR IT. President Calvin Coolidge actually signed the bill after Congress passed it. It was just a coincidence that the building of the Boulder Dam started during the Hoover Administration.

F.W. Greer personally knew William Randolph Hearst and he got Mr. Hearst to put out articles telling how the big ranches of the monopolists in Mexicali Valley, Mexico were hogging the Colorado River water. The Hearst newspaper chain all over the U.S. told the truth. F.W. Greer convinced the nationwide Scripps-Howard newspaper chain to do the same. The L.A. Times propaganda campaign was broken. It is interesting to note that final passage of the Swing-Johnson bill was obtained only because New York Congressmen allied with Tammany Hall voted for it.

President Theodore Roosevelt of New York was responsible for starting the U.S. Reclam. Law of 1902. N.Y. Congressmen made possible the enactment of the Swing-Johnson Bill for the Dam and Canal. Dr. Yellen, a former New Yorker, is paying this tribute to F.W. Greer and is fighting to get enforcement of the 160 acres limitation desired by Mr. Greer.

By contrast, it is necessary to show what others did or did not do. Take former Judge Elmer Heald. He makes speeches against enforcement. But is Judge Heald an expert in this matter? He does not seem to know that the Imperial Irrigation District is swindling the little people out of \$14 millions yearly for the benefit of the big ranches. He does not seem to know that John Bowman swindles the little people out of \$8 millions yearly in property taxes by fake assessments on farmland of the big ranchers. He does not seem to know that the Grand Jury was stacked with big ranchers when he was a Judge. Are you going to trust Elmer Heald when by his silence on these serious matters, he appears either ignorant or intimidated by the big ranch interests?

Look at Harry (The Huckster) Horton. A lawyer does not try his case in the newspapers. He does his legal work in Court. Yet Old Harry acts like a publicity man--he hucksters non-enforcement in the newspapers. When he tried to sell non-enforcement in the U.S. Supreme Court in the IVANHOE WATER DISTRICT CASE, THERE WAS AN UNANIMOUS DECISION AGAINST HARRY THE HUCKSTER. Harry's law firm gets about \$75,000 yearly from the Imperial Irrigation District. Old Harry dances vigorously to the \$75,000 tune played by his friends the big ranchers.

Look at Phil Swing who is dead now. A school up in Brawley was named for him. Yes, Phil Swing fought for the Boulder Dam and the All-American Canal. BUT FOR WHOM? NOT FOR THE LITTLE PEOPLE LIKE F.W. GREER DID!!!

Look at M.J. Dowd who is dead now. He fought for the Dam and Canal BUT FOR WHOM? NOT FOR THE LITTLE PEOPLE LIKE F.W. GREER DID!!! Dowd was on the I.I.D. payroll all his life helping the big ranches. He helped set up the \$14 millions electricity swindle benefitting the big ranches.

F.W. Greer remained true to his principles of the Dam and Canal for the benefit of ALL THE PEOPLE. He could have been on the payroll of the I.I.D. for life. HE GAVE UP THIS MONEY. GIVE TRIBUTE TO HIM!!!!!!