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Lively, W.I.

Paradise-Verde Irrigation District

A Description and History of the Project, Together With the State Examiner's Report From March 11, 1918 to Jan. 1, 1920.

Mountain and desert, valley and hill,
Forest and canyon and rock;
Tangled and mixed in a shapeless heap,
Like the wreck of an earthquake shock;
Shimmering sand and scorching heat,
Thirst of earth and thirst of sky;
Silence, that speaks to the listening ear,
Distance, that leaps to meet the eye;
Stars, that lean through the spotless night,
Moonlight, shrouding the ghostly wild;
People call it the Great Southwest,
And Nature calls it her Child.

The desert has a character of its own, unique and original, and it has an influence on the mind and heart as distinct and individual as its character. There is nothing else that remotely resembles the desert. It stands alone, solitary from the rest of the universe, strong in its individuality, bold in its indifference to precedent. No foot can stray into its silent depths without being arrested; no heart can resist the spell of its fascination. The novice may tremble at its unresponsive silences, or shudder at its grim tragedies, but sooner or later he comes under the compelling sway of its mesmerism.

Then, if the novice be the one man in ten, with his heart fixed on other lands and his mind immersed in other interests, he will throw off the spell and return to the old commonplaces and content himself with occasional pilgrimages to the shrine of the unknown god; if he be one of the other nine, he will renounce the old scenes and environments and, with his eyes fixed on the vast distances, he will wander into the heart of the desert, to become a part of it, never to be content away from it; to follow its winding trails and pitch his tent and build his camp fires in its secret places among its towering crags or its sandy wastes, beneath its stately forests or in the vast open of its arid plains, where the dust devils tread their tireless dance, and the pungent tang of the sage is in the air; to listen to its silences and to become acquainted with its far-reaching distances; to thrill to the implacable sternness of its grandeur, and to bend to the touch of its soothing peace; to live in the desert and to die in the desert, and drift peacefully back into the silence and mystery from which the desert first emerged.

The desert we will always have with us. Much of the vast area of the Great Southwest will always remain as it is, entrenched behind its impregnable barriers of rocks and sandy wastes, successfully repelling the invasion of civilization, except where it reluctantly yields sustenance to countless herds of range stock or opens its bosom to give up its wealth of precious metals.

Scattered here and there through this region, however, are fertile valleys where water is diverted from the streams, or the periodical floods stored in reservoirs, and in these favored places the desert is turned into farms which rival or surpass the most productive areas of the world.

Among these desert cases, none is more fertile or beautiful than the Salt River Valley of Arizona. At present there are approximately 250,000 acres under cultivation in this valley lying around and in the vicinity of the City of Phoenix.

Adjacent on the north of this cultivated area, lie Paradise and Deer Valleys. These valleys, comprising about 95,000 acres of arable land, compose the Paradise Verde Irrigation District. The District lies just north of the Salt River Project with the Arizona Canal as its southern boundary,

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New River as its western, and extending to the Salt River Indian Reservation on the east, while the main canal survey of the Project forms the northern boundary.

This canal survey enters the irrigable land of the Project at its junction with the Salt River Indian Reservation near the Southwestern corner of Township 3 North, Range 5 East, G. & S. R. B. & M. It extends in a northwesterly direction, skirting the McDowell Mountains, and intersects New River near the northeast corner of Township 4 North, Range 1 East, G. & S. R. B. & M.

Besides the 95,000 acres of irrigable land comprising the District, the physical boundaries of the project include 30,000 acres of high and non-irrigable land. In this area is the Phoenix Mountains and the historic Camelback Mountain. These not only add to the picturesque scenery of the region, but by sheltering the adjacent land and regulating the temperature, help to make portions of the project the finest citrus land in the Southwest.

Cave Creek crosses the project a little west of the center in a southwesterly direction. Skunk Creek, a little farther west, crosses parallel to Cave Creek, and New River, on the western boundary, holds the same course, converging toward Skunk Creek, which it receives at the Southwestern corner of the District.

A short distance east of Cave Creek a slight elevation divides Paradise Valley, lying to the east, from Deer Valley, which comprises the western part of the Project.

Paradise Valley slopes gently toward the center from Camel back and the Phoenix Mountains on the southwest, and from the McDowell Mountains, northeast, then drains to the southeast through Indian Wash into Salt River.

The soil is alluvial deposit of the highest quality. The Government soil experts have made tests and give it unqualified approval. It is free from alkali and is of exceptional depth and fertility. The underground water is pure and abundant, varying in depth from sixty to two hundred feet below the surface.

During a period extending over the past ten years the entire acreage of the project, with the exception of a few thousand acres of State land, has been filed on as homestead and desert entries. Over sixty per cent of these have been patented. There are now more than six hundred land owners, with average holdings of about one hundred sixty acres per capita. A large part of the land was entered and patented as homesteads, with a three years' residence, under conditions of great privation and sacrifice. These homesteaders are worthy a place in history with the pioneers of earlier days who led the grand march of civilization across the continent.

The first organization of the land owners of Paradise and Deer Valleys was effected on January 7, 1914, when the Paradise Verde Water Users' Association was formed and incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona. Under the direction of this Association, shares of stock, covering water rights, were sold to the land owners, engineering services were secured and a preliminary survey of the Project made. This survey, including maps, construction estimates and other data, was finished, and in August, 1917, a committee placed them before the Department of the Interior at Washington and asked permission to construct the Project.

The Department was favorably impressed with the showing of the survey data, and expressed itself as being in sympathy with the undertaking. In connection with the feasibility of the Project, however, the Department questioned whether the capacity of the Horseshoe Reservoir, on the Verde, would be sufficient to irrigate so large a tract of land. The Department engineers agreed that the flood waters of the Verde were sufficient to irrigate the land if additional storage capacity could be secured to conserve the heavy floods in extra wet years, and thus provide a water supply to tide over the extra dry years.

Under the direction of the Department, the Association made a preliminary survey of a dam and reservoir site situated a few miles below the town of Camp Verde, on the Verde River, and known as the Camp Verde Site.

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As the work of the Project progressed, it became evident to all connected with it that a stronger, more business-like organization was needed. In March, 1918, an election was held under the direction of the Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, Arizona, under the Irrigation Laws of the State of Arizona, Senate Bill No. 5, Second Special Session of the Second Legislature, Session Laws of Arizona, 1915, Chapter Eight.

The land owners voted unanimously to form the irrigation District. Three Directors were elected, and on March 11, 1918, they met, elected officers and effected the organization of the Paradise Verde Irrigation District.

Under the provisions of the law governing this organization, the affairs of the District are conducted subject to the supervision of the State and County. The expenses of the District are met by an annual special County tax, levied and collected by the County in connection with the regular taxes. The money is disbursed by District warrants, through the County Treasurer, who is ex-officio Treasurer of the District. The accounts are audited by the State Examiner. This makes a sound and business-like organization.

When the land owners of Paradise and Deer Valleys first organized in 1914, one of their first steps was to get in touch with the Department of the Interior at Washington. They were encouraged to go on with their project, and assured that the Department was in sympathy with them and would aid them in every way possible. Following the first introduction, the project has kept in close communication with Washington, and its development work up to the present time has been done under the advice and direction of the Department.

Immediately following the organization of the Irrigation District in March, 1918, a committee, consisting of the Consulting Engineer, the Attorney of the Interior at Washington, the Field Engineer and the President of the Board of Directors, was sent to Washington to lay before the Department the results of the enlarged plans for the Project, and to petition for the approval of the Department and the rights of construction.

The Department notified the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association of the impending conference, and gave them the opportunity of sending representatives in case they wished to enter objections to these rights being granted. The President and the Attorney of the Salt River Association were sent to represent the Association.

Mr. Bradley, the First Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, presided at the hearing, and Mr. Davis, Chief Reclamation Engineer; Mr. Tallman, Chief Land Commissioner; Judge King, Chief Reclamation Attorney, and several others from the different departments, were present.

The conference lasted several days. The data submitted by the Paradise Verde Irrigation District was favorably received by the Department, and the feasibility of the project endorsed by the government Engineers. Assurance was given that if final surveys and estimates coincided with the preliminary reports, the approval of the Department would be placed on the Project, and rights to construct it granted, subject to certain concessions to be made to the Salt River Association, and to which the Paradise Verde had already agreed. These concessions were to be embodied in an agreement between the United States Government, the Salt River Association and the Paradise Verde Irrigation District.

Upon receiving from the Department of the Interior the agreement to be used as a basis for a contract between the United States, the Paradise Verde and the Salt River Association, for the joint construction of the Horseshoe Reservoir, and the division of the water between the two projects, the Paradise Verde announced to the Department its readiness to enter into such a contract.

On June 3rd, 1918, the Board of Governors of the Salt River Association voted to reject the agreement, and instructed their attorney to prepare a brief to that effect, giving reasons for their rejection, and reiterating their exclusive claim to the Horseshoe Reservoir site.

Upon receipt of this brief at Washington, the Department notified the Paradise Verde, giving them opportunity to reply to it. Through their attorney they prepared a counter brief and sent it to the Department. This brief was filed at Washington, pending the submitting by the District of its final survey data and estimates.

In the spring of 1919, the final surveys and estimates of the project were completed, and Homer Hamlin, of Los Angeles, was appointed by the Department of the Interior to investigate and report upon the results. His report as submitted was largely unfavorable to the Paradise Verde Project. Upon its receipt at Washington, in June, 1919, a committee from the Paradise Verde waited upon the Department and vigorously objected to the findings of the report. Secretary Lane was favorably impressed, and suspended decision upon the report, giving the Paradise Verde time in which to make changes in the plans of the project, and to correct some of the designs and estimates which the Department engineers considered faulty. One of the most important points brought out in this conference was that the Department considered that the Salt River Project has plenty of water and does not need the flood waters of the Verde, and that the water should be put on lands outside the present Salt River Project. This decision was virtually in accord with the findings of the Hamlin Report.

The Paradise Verde secured the services of A. L. Harris of Los Angeles, as Consulting Engineer, and began work on the new plans and estimates. These will be submitted to the Department not later than May first, 1920.

The Paradise Verde Project contemplates a comprehensive plan of flood conservation. This plan includes two storage reservoirs on the Verde River, one at the Horseshoe site, and one at the Camp Verde site. In addition to these, the flood waters of New River, Cave Creek and Skunk Creek will be stored and used as an auxiliary supply. This will not only put these flood waters to beneficial use, but will relieve the intolerable flood conditions which occur annually during the rainy seasons. These flood waters are a constant menace to the farmers of the Salt River Project. Thousands of dollars worth of crops are destroyed annually by the floods breaking through canals and inundating the farms. Besides these losses to the farmers, the County and State expend enormous sums each year for the repair of roads and bridges damaged or destroyed by the high water. The Paradise Verde Project plans to conserve these flood waters and not only prevent them from doing incalculable damage, but at the same time put them to work reclaiming thousands of acres of fertile land, and transforming it into productive farms.

The construction of the Paradise Verde District will mean the reclamation of from sixty to ninety-five thousand acres of desert land. It will add from twenty to thirty million dollars to the taxable property of the County and State. It will provide employment for thousands of men. It will provide homes for from one to two thousand families. It will add about twenty-five per cent to the farm products of the Salt River Valley. It will increase the shipping imports and exports to about the same extent. It will increase the general business of Phoenix, Glendale and other nearby towns, from twenty to thirty per cent. It will attract capital and investments by the millions of dollars. It will be to the future of Salt River Valley what the Roosevelt Reservoir has been to the past.

The Paradise Verde Project is fortunate in its proximity to Phoenix and the Salt River Project. At its nearest point it is within eight miles of Phoenix, and at its farthest point within twenty-five miles. It is within five miles of Glendale, while Scottsdale is just outside its boundary. This gives the inestimable advantage of nearby markets, as well as ready access to the social privileges of city, town and thriving rural communities. Schools, churches, libraries and places of amusement and recreation are within comparatively easy reach. These things, combined with ideal climate and the unlimited fertility of the soil, leave little to be desired in the location and environments of the Paradise Verde Project. It needs but the magic touch of the life-giving water to make it cast aside the gray mantle of the silent, age-old desert, and stand forth in new youth and beauty—the garden spot of the Great Southwest.

W. I. LIVELY, President

**EXAMINATION OF THE PARADISE VERDE IRRIGATION
DISTRICT BY THE STATE EXAMINER.
PHOENIX, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

W. I. LIVELY, President

R. M. LYLE, Secretary

Early in January, 1920, the President of the Paradise Verde Irrigation District requested the State Examiner to make an audit of the District books from the period of the organization of the District in 1918, until December 31st, 1919. It was not clear in the mind of the Examiner whether or not he had jurisdiction over the books and papers of the various irrigation districts of the State, but in searching the files of his office an opinion was found which the Attorney General of Arizona, Hon. Wiley E. Jones, had rendered to Mr. Charles W. Fairfield, former State Examiner. This clearly pointed out the Examiner's duty in the case. To quote from the Attorney General's opinion:

"I would state that I think it advisable for you to exercise authority in the premises and conduct the examination of the affairs of the various irrigation districts of the State. Such districts are of great importance, and the members who are taxed for the purpose mentioned in the chapter providing the organization of such districts are entitled as taxpayers for such purposes, to the same protection as is the taxpayer for county purposes.

Also such investigation and examination by you cannot result in harm to the irrigation taxpayers of the district. Whatever doubt should exist touching this matter I think it proper to resolve in favor of you having such power and authority as a step for the protection of those bearing the burden of the irrigation district."

In reply to the request of the President of the Paradise Verde Irrigation District, the examiner and his deputy called at the office of the District in Phoenix, on January 15th, 1920. They first procured from the clerk of the Board of Supervisors, and from the Treasurer of Maricopa County, a complete total of all taxes collected for the use of the district and all paid warrants and vouchers charged against such collections. With this data they were able to make an audit of the books and vouchers used in the District office, the result of which is as follows:

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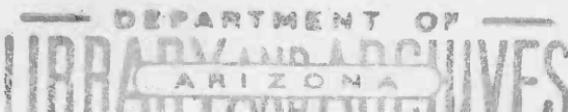
Taxes collected by Treasurer of Maricopa County to December 31, 1919:

September 30, 1918.....	\$ 209.10	
October 31, 1918	4,769.48	
November 30, 1918	2,847.49	
December 31, 1918	831.92	
January 31, 1919	1,403.30	
February 28, 1919	778.16	
March 31, 1919	1,314.46	
April 30, 1919	2,782.06	
May 31, 1919	3,424.94	
July 31, 1919	948.65	
August, 30, 1919	285.73	
September 30, 1919	1,157.86	
October 31, 1919	4,557.25	
November 29, 1919	3,466.21	
December 31, 1919	248.40	\$29,025.01

DISBURSEMENTS

Total warrants paid by County Treasurer, December 1, 1918, to December 31, 1919	\$26,411.83	
Interest on warrants not paid on first presentation but protested by County Treasurer for lack of funds	899.80	
Balance on hand with Treasurer on December 31, 1919	1,713.38	\$29,025.01

Which agrees with the books of the County Treasurer.



Herewith is a list of the outstanding warrants drawn against the County Treasurer by the District but not paid through lack of funds. These warrants are endorsed by the Treasurer, "Not paid for lack of funds", and draw interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum. These warrants, and the interest will be paid by future tax levies against the property lying in the Paradise Verde Irrigation District.

No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
28	\$ 50.00	67	\$ 13.36	103	\$ 50.00	140	\$ 50.00
30	50.00	68	47.40	104	70.80	141	50.00
32	2,000.00	69	37.50	105	41.56	143	58.51
34	50.00	70	25.00	106	7.05	144	50.00
35	50.00	71	208.33	107	6.25	145	12.50
36	25.00	72	208.33	109	15.00	146	6.25
37	25.00	73	25.00	110	12.50	147	2,500.00
38	50.00	74	200.00	111	18.30	148	25.00
39	208.33	75	66.10	112	5.90	149	30.00
40	208.33	76	50.00	113	10.00	150	50.00
41	500.00	77	28.70	114	12.50	332	76.05
42	100.00	78	6.15	115	6.25	338	918.60
43	185.18	79	15.35	116	17.75	350	100.00
44	88.88	80	32.80	117	25.00	353	10.00
45	12.00	81	35.00	118	50.00	370	92.40
46	12.00	82	16.40	119	50.00	395	500.00
47	100.00	83	74.00	120	5.00	396	208.33
48	208.33	84	6.25	121	200.00	397	100.00
49	208.33	85	7.90	122	12.50	398	180.55
51	107.50	86	9.38	123	12.50	399	208.33
52	100.00	87	6.25	124	81.20	400	81.39
53	120.37	88	33.12	125	6.25	54	19.76
89	7.50	126	7.05	55	25.00	90	7.50
127	12.50	56	25.00	91	6.25	128	7.43
57	25.00	92	12.71	129	30.00	58	81.73
93	78.00	130	110.00	59	100.00	95	96.20
132	21.60	60	75.00	96	21.25	133	37.50
61	45.00	97	36.25	134	38.25	62	50.00
98	52.80	135	25.83	63	50.00	99	7.50
136	50.00	64	50.00	100	13.75	137	50.60
65	49.08	101	200.00	138	50.00	66	46.25
102	2.50	139	25.00				

Total outstanding warrants\$13,285.58

To this amount will be added the interest when the warrants are called in for payment when the County Treasurer has funds with which to meet them.

In addition to the account carried with the County Treasurer, the District carries a bank account with the National Bank of Arizona at Phoenix. The moneys deposited in the bank were derived from two sources, viz.: Loans made through issuance of interest bearing warrants drawn against the County Treasurer; and the sale of surplus materials, maps and other articles.

The warrants issued for loans were checked with the monthly statements rendered by the bank, and the full proceeds from loans were deposited to the District's credit in the bank. The bank account was reconciled with the books of the District and they were found to be in perfect balance. The reconciliation is as follows:

Deposits during years 1918 and 1919:

Loans by interest bearing warrants.....	\$12,760.89
Sale of material, etc.	686.97

Total checks drawn against account11,079.10

Balance on deposit December 31, 1919, per bank statement\$ 2,368.76

Checks outstanding December 31, 1919:

Number		
144	\$.50
248		13.75
281		1.60
284		9.00
290		1.95
293		1.67
294		110.00
		<u>138.47</u>

Deducting the outstanding checks from the bank balance leaves \$ 2,230.29....
 Which exactly agrees with the District bank account.

SUMMARY

December 13, 1919, outstanding warrants		\$13,285.85
December 31, 1919, balance County Treasurer	\$1,713.38	
December 31, 1919 balance National Bank of Arizona	2,230.29	3,943.67

INDEBTEDNESS OF DISTRICT \$ 9,342.18

The President of the District gives his entire time to the management of its affairs, and, with the assistance of the Secretary, keeps the books, draws the warrants and checks against the County Treasurer's and the Bank's balances. All disbursements are made against claims similar in form to those used by the Board of Supervisors. The system of book-keeping is simple but complete for all purposes. All books are in balance and all paid warrants and checks agree with the claims drawn for same.

Respectfully submitted,

LLOYD B. CHRISTY,
 State Examiner.
 JOHN F. MEYERS,
 Deputy.