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EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of the *Water Law Review* tells a story. With a dynamic cast of characters and a timeline spanning over a century, one is able to catch a glimpse of the history and development of water law in the West. Beginning with a tribute to Delphus Emory Carpenter, Mr. Tyler provides insight into the life of the man, without whom this issue could not exist. Delph Carpenter was instrumental in the creation of several interstate compacts to which Colorado is a party.

The first three articles, the Rio Grande Compact, by Mr. Paddock, the Arkansas River Compact, by Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Robbins, and the La Plata River Compact, by Mr. Knox, trace the history of the creation of each compact. In addition to Delph Carpenter, several other historical characters come to life, including M.C. Hinderlider, Ralph Meeker, R.J. Tipton, and others. One can imagine those who were involved in the creation of the compacts meeting in places like Bishop's Lodge in New Mexico, where the Colorado River Compact was negotiated, to work out the details of each of these important documents. The three articles bring to life the struggle between the states, as well as the personal accounts of those involved in the compact negotiations. Although this issue only covers three of the compacts to which Colorado is a party, future issues of the *Review* will address the remaining compacts.

The next two articles, although appearing dissimilar, continue the story. In order for the West's water law system to continue to operate successfully, justices throughout the region must understand the past as well as the present. In *State Water Politics Versus and Independent Judiciary: The Colorado and Idaho Experiences*, Justice Gregory J. Hobbs, Jr. takes the reader through an account of how the past is able to repeat itself, and yet, how we can learn from those experiences. Next, Ms. Harrison provides an insightful history of water law in Nevada, the driest state in the nation. Ms. Harrison's article delves into the personal history of Francis G. Newlands, giving the reader new insight into the formation of the Reclamation Act of 1902 (sometimes referred to as the "Newlands Act"), the act providing the fundamental basis for reclamation in the West.

The next three articles bring the reader to the present, where we are now working to reconcile over one hundred years of common and statutory law with modern issues such as endangered species. After decades of building dams, Mr. Whitworth's article discusses the possibility of removing a controversial dam in Oregon, which has nearly destroyed an Oregon fishery. Mr. Bromley provides an overview of changing political and moral views in the West, and the role this change has played in modern water politics. Finally, Mr. Tarlock summarizes the recent World Commission on Dams, which describes how the West's, the United States', and the World's views on water and water management are changing.

After reading this issue one realizes the vastness of western water law. These articles provide only a portion of the issues, politics, and people who have made, and continue to make, water law what it is today.

Rebekah King
Editor-in-Chief