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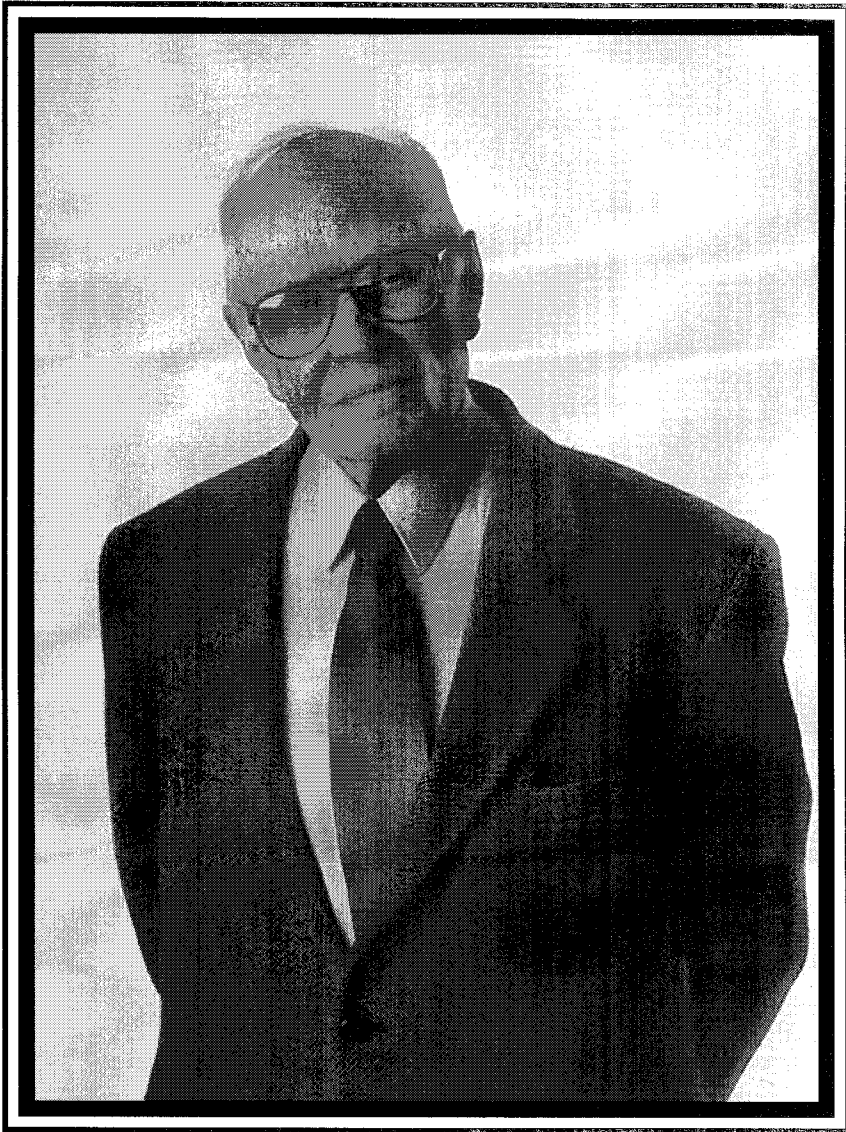


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JOHN A. CARVER, JR.

IN TRIBUTE

PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN A. CARVER, JR.

CHIP CUTLER[†]

It is with great honor, and indeed privilege, that the *Water Law Review* pays tribute to John A. Carver, Jr., Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Denver College of Law. Professor Carver has played an integral role in preparing more than one generation of Colorado's lawyers for practice in the water and natural resource fields. Most will undoubtedly acknowledge that he strongly embraces the pure prior appropriation system in his introductory water law class. One leaves Professor Carver's class with a deep appreciation for the origins of, and reasons for, this unique means of administering this precious and limited resource. Lest any of us forget, "the doctrine of 'first in time, first in right,' is supposed to have teeth, it has bite," and therein lies the prior appropriation system's strength and beauty. To properly understand the prior appropriation doctrine is, for Professor Carver's student, to study historical efforts to apply the West's limited water resources to multiple beneficial uses. One quickly appreciates that the same basic principles and challenges exist today in the administration of Colorado's water.

John A. Carver, Jr. was born in Preston, Idaho in 1918. He grew up in the 1920's learning the value and use of water while working on his grandfather's farm. His grandfather imbued the young John Carver at an early age with the worth of water, but it was his father's love of the law and public service, which helped focus John Carver's career. John Carver's father served the State of Idaho as United States Attorney for twenty years, and later as a trial court judge. At ten years of age, the young John Carver helped his father pull cases in the library and assisted with trial preparation. Later John Carver's father ran for the United States Senate. John Carver served an integral part in this campaign, traveling with his father throughout Idaho—no small feat in those days to get the word out. This early affinity with the law and politics instilled in John Carver what would become a lifelong love for politics and government work.

John Carver, Jr. went to Washington, D.C., for the first time, in 1936 as a messenger for a United States senate committee. He received a civil service appointment in 1940, and served the United States in the Office of the Secretary of War from 1941 through 1943. John Carver served in the Army from 1943 through 1946, and returned to the Office of the Secretary of War in 1947. After graduating from Georgetown University in 1947 with an L.L.B., John Carver returned to Boise, Idaho, where he opened a law practice. From 1947 to 1956, this practiced concentrated primarily in timber and mining law. In addition, John Carver served Idaho as an Assistant Attorney General from 1948 to 1950.

The lure of Washington, D.C. and government work eventually won out. In 1956 John Carver returned to Washington, D.C., serving

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as Senator Frank Church's Administrative Assistant. It was during Senator Church's 1956 campaign that John Carver was once again baptized in the conflicted world of western water. While serving Senator Church, John Carver met John F. Kennedy, and his brother Robert F. Kennedy. In 1960, John Carver was asked to serve as John F. Kennedy's Michigan campaign coordinator. His role was to find middle ground between that state's two Democratic parties, which he did, although he humbly acknowledges his success in this effort. The Kennedy administration handsomely rewarded John Carver with an appointment in 1961 as Assistant Interior Secretary for Public Land Management, and promoted him in 1964 to Under Secretary of the Interior. By 1966, John Carver was a Federal Power Commissioner, and he served that agency until 1972, when he joined, at the behest of Dean Robert Yegge, the faculty at the University of Denver College of Law.

Professor Carver taught water and natural resource law at D.U. on a full time basis through 1988, at which time he officially retired. Not one to quit, Professor Carver has continued, for over a decade into retirement, to teach water law on a volunteer basis each spring. With the greatest respect and admiration, the *Water Law Review* pays tribute to this great teacher, politician, and public servant. Thank you, Professor Carver for all you have shared.