

# Water Law Review

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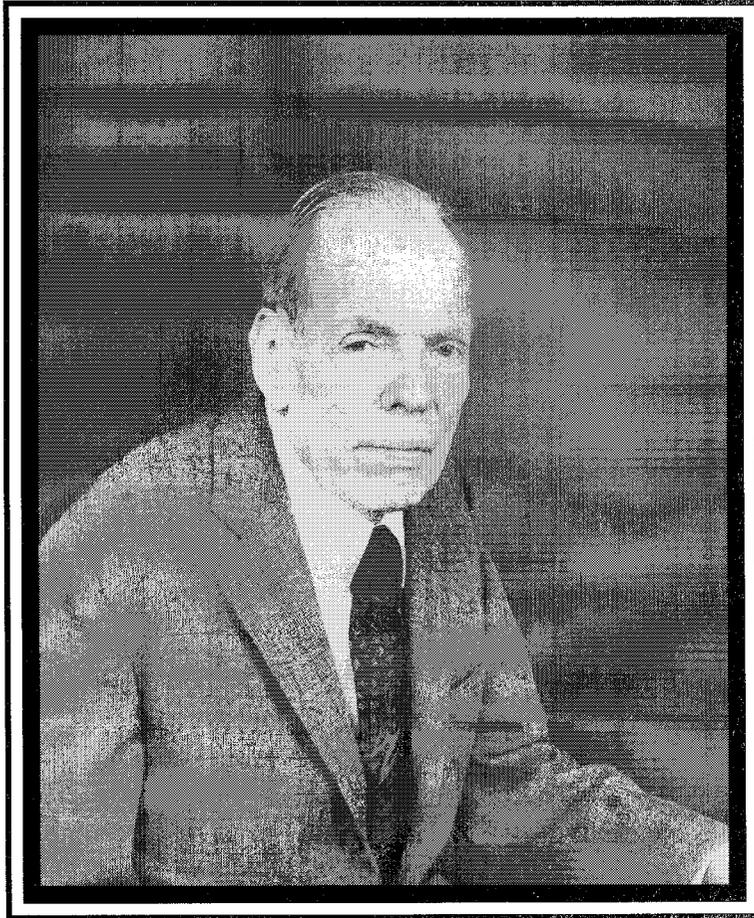
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**GLENN SAUNDERS**  
1904-1990

## IN TRIBUTE

The *Water Law Review* respectfully dedicates its Fall 1998 issue to Glenn Saunders, a legend among Colorado water lawyers. Born in Des Moines, Iowa in 1904, his family soon moved to Denver where he attended high school and college. He first entered the water business in the summer of 1918 when, at age 14, he watched the float gauges at a Denver Union Water Company pump station. He graduated from the University of Denver in 1926, and received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1929.

Mr. Saunders worked for the Denver Board of Water Commissioners from 1929 to 1969. He became Denver Water's general counsel in 1931, and was placed in charge of all water rights development in 1937. During this period he played key roles in the development of Denver's transmountain water from the Blue, Fraser, and Williams Fork basins. His first major water rights case was *Denver v. Sheriff*, in which the Colorado Supreme Court first addressed issues relating to transmountain diversions for municipal use.

Mr. Saunders also played a key role in the passage of the 1952 McCarran Amendment, which granted states the right to join the federal government as a defendant in state court basin wide river adjudications. He was chief counsel on 49 Colorado Supreme Court water rights decisions in addition to numerous federal cases. This included the 1955 Blue River Decree, which defined various water rights to the Blue River with respect to Denver's construction of Dillon Reservoir and the Roberts Tunnel, and remains under federal jurisdiction.

In 1969, Mr. Saunders left the Water Board to form the firm of Saunders Snyder Ross & Dickson, where he continued to represent Denver's water interests until his death in 1990.

In honor of Mr. Saunders valuable contributions to the field of water law, the *Review* has reprinted his autobiographical history of the Denver Water Department in this issue.

