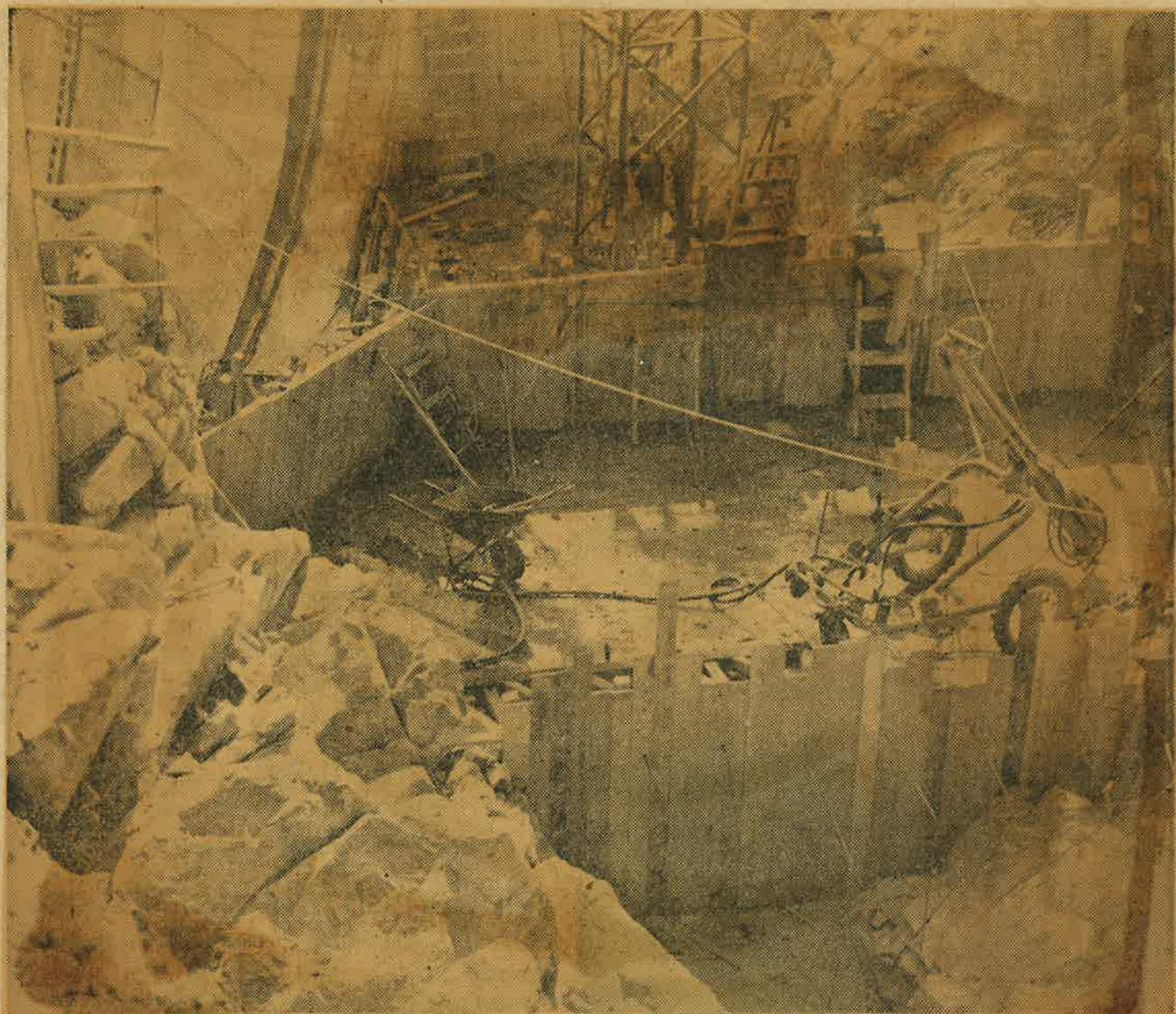


12-13-47



(Star-Free Press Photo)
DELAY — A rainstorm that flooded the damsite in Matilija canyon before the first blocks were poured. The forms had been constructed and pouring was nearly ready to begin when the flash flood jumped a coffer dam upstream and came pouring into the excavation, inundating the site.



POURING OF THRUST BLOCKS—Shown above is the pouring of thrust blocks on the left abutment after considerable excavation to remove clay seams found beneath rock. The operation delayed considerably the progress of the dam, but contractors were

(Star-Free Press Photo)

relieved at having found the soft material before any further blocks were poured. The picture above was taken from high on the left abutment looking downstream.

12-13-47

Construction of Matilija Dam Seen in Retrospective Photos

FIRST STORM WATERS HELD

Matilija dam needs only a few, but vital, finishing touches at this point to be completed and ready for the storage of water.

On the page surrounding this story are a few of the many Star-Free Press photos taken during the construction, recording the project from the very first clearing of the site to its stage of near-completion.

The excavation of the "hole" into which the first blocks of the dam were poured, was a long, drawn out operation; extended when it was discovered it would be necessary to go approximately 20 feet further down to reach bedrock than was anticipated.

Storm waters leaped the coffer dam and flooded the site, washing away forms after only a few of the first pours could be made.

But, despite hardships and drawbacks, the construction firm of Atkinson Kier Bressi and Bevanda, has brought the dam along to a point where only a few more steps are necessary before water can be stored.

(Star-Free Press Photo)

FIRST CUT — At right a bulldozer is shown making the first cut in the preliminary clearing of the damsite. After being cleared by machinery, the site underwent a hand-stripping.



(Star-Free Press Photo)

FIRST WATER BEHIND DAM—Last week's rainstorm, first of the year, began to build up a lake behind Matilija dam. While the dam has not as yet been approved for water storage, that water which collects below the sluice gate level already has spread into a sizeable reservoir. This picture was taken from the top of the dam near the south canyon wall looking up the canyon toward Lyon springs.

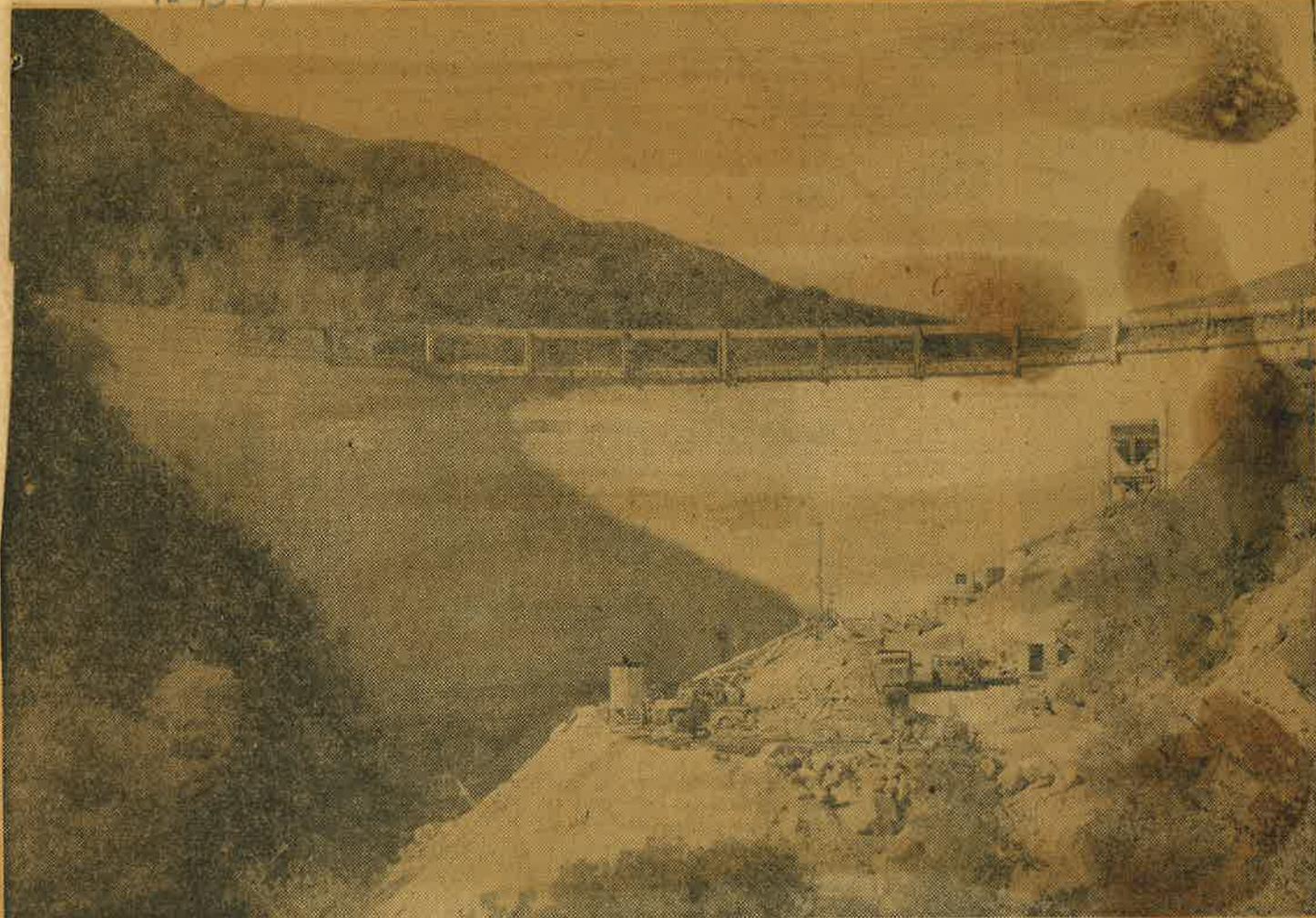


(Star-Free Press Photo)

STRIPPING — The walls of Matilija canyon are shown above being stripped of all soft material by men using jack hammers. The picture above was taken during the preparation of the site for construction of the dam proper.

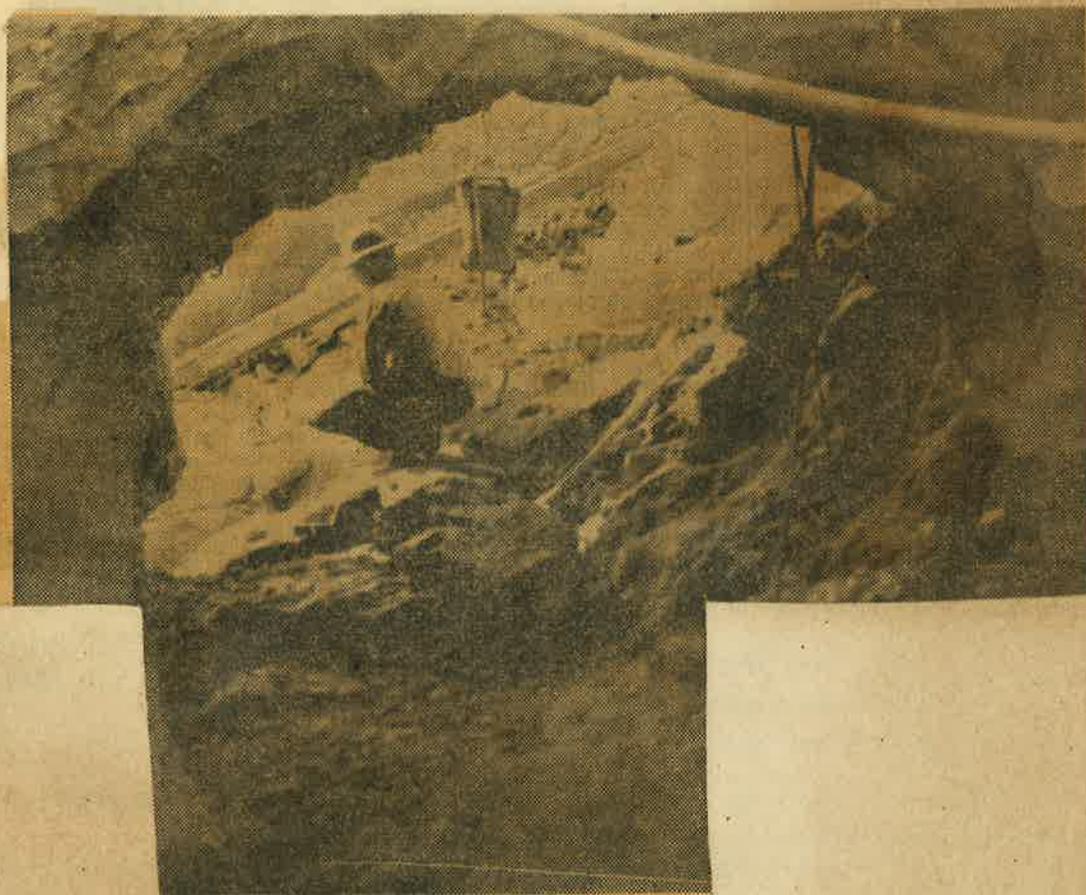
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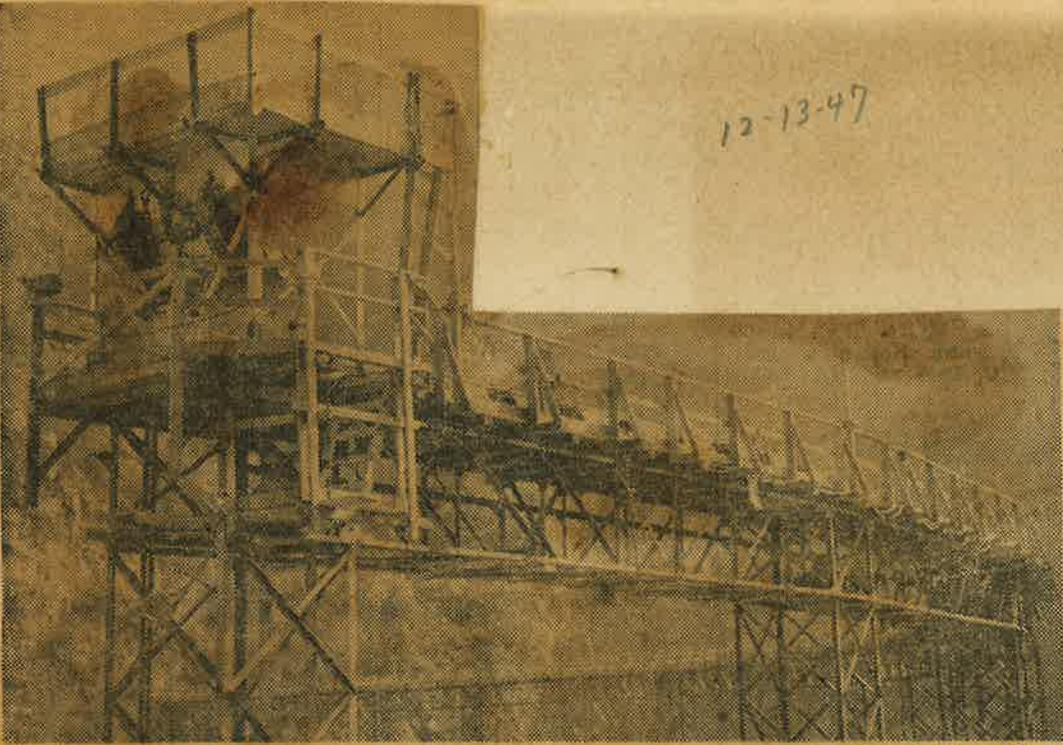
(Star-Free Press Photo)
MATHLIJA DAM — The picture above, taken this week, shows Matilija dam in a state of near completion. The picture shows an upstream view of the structure which now needs only finishing touches.

(Star-Free Press Photo)
BEAR HOLE — At right is the notorious bear hole that caused considerable extra work on the dam. A seam of soft material was found beneath blocks on the left abutment and excavation was necessary to clean out the clay and replace it with concrete.



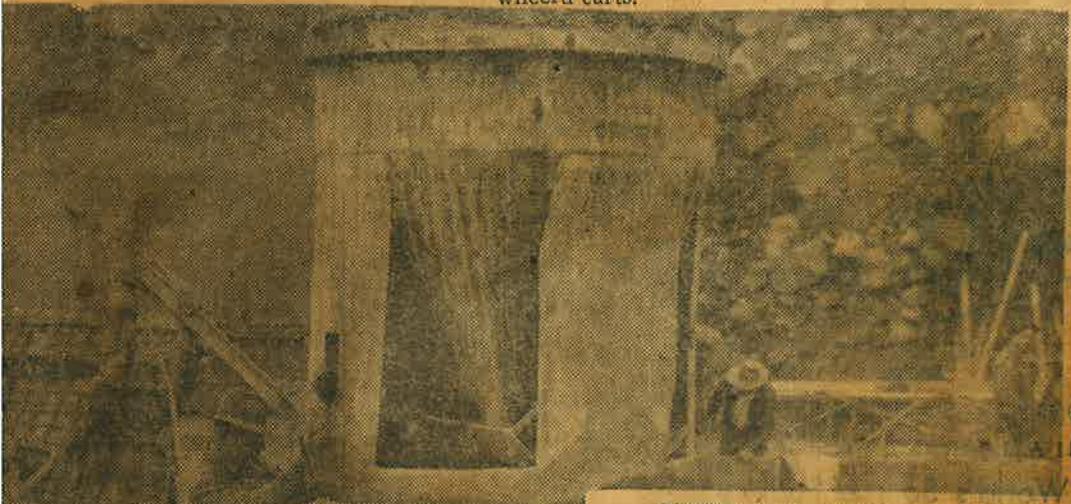
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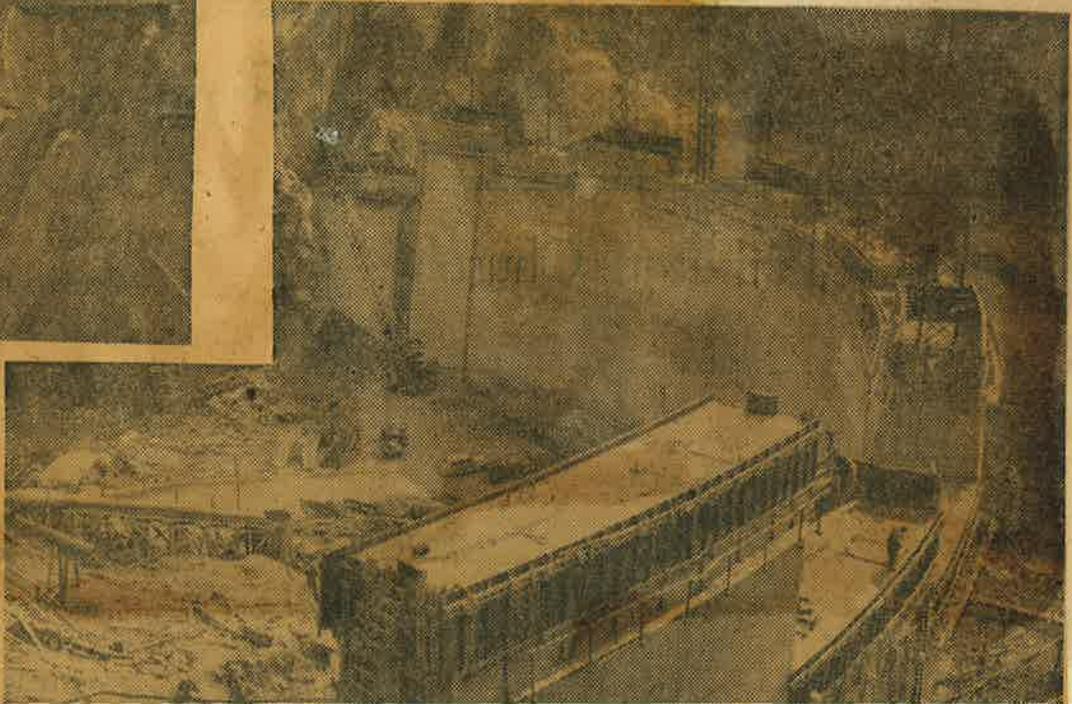
(Star-Free Press Photo)

TRESTLE POURING OPERATION—Above is the trestle built atop the dam by Atkinson Kier Bressi and Bevanda construction company crews to make the final pours on the upper blocks. Concrete was dropped into the bunker at left and man-powered to the pouring location in two-wheeled carts.



(Star-Free Press Photo)

POURING — A big bucket of concrete is shown being poured to the forms during the early stages of pouring on the dam.



(Star-Free Press Photo)

MAKES SHAPE — It wasn't long before the dam began to take shape. Shown at right is the Matilija dam as the blocks began to reach considerable height and the structure began to look like a dam.

12-11-47

PROGRESS REPORTED ON MATILILJA CORE DRILLINGS

12-11-47

Core drillings, to determine on what kind of base Matilija dam is resting, have been started at Matilija under Consultant Thomas Bailey's supervision as ordered by the board, County Surveyor Robert Ryan told the supervisors of the Ventura county flood control district yesterday afternoon.

They also authorized the making of a topographic survey in the Matilija dam area by County Waste Survey Engineer Richard Jamison to determine where an automatic gauger should be installed. It was reported that \$205,068 has been expended on the dam under extra work orders.

So far, two core drilling holes have been started, one being down to about 40 feet and one to 20 feet, Ryan said. John Hallock, projects manager for Donald Warren, dam engineer, said four shifts are at work on the core drillings: such operations should be completed by Christmas. Most work at the dam should be cleared up by that time, he said, and he reported that the dye test, to investigate seepage, could be started anytime.

Contractors have been ordered to begin grouting and should be ready to grout blocks in about 10 days, Hallock said.

To expedite the matter of obtaining much-needed valves, supervisors once again requested Ryan to telegraph companies who are handling the parts and urge immediate delivery of the valves.

Matilija Progress Scored

THE grouting operation on Matilija dam, now in its 13th day, reportedly has been ineffectual to the extent that there is no semblance of a grout curtain beneath the structure and water is pouring from most of the core holes dug, Dr. Thomas L. Bailey told flood control district supervisors today.

In a brief but wallop-packed report to the board, the county's geological consultant said that in his opinion the grouting is going far too slowly and as yet there is no evidence that a concrete curtain is being formed beneath the dam to prevent water from seeping through.

BAILEY REPORTS

Dr. Bailey's report was augmented by a personal appearance of both Bailey and Randall Cremer, engineer and member of the zone one advisory board. Cremer said "Rome is burning," as he explained to the supervisors that he is "very concerned" over the situation that has developed at Matilija dam.

"Grouting is going entirely too slow," Cremer said. "I am very concerned. So far there are just a few holes and no evidence that a grout curtain is being formed. The grout should flow from hole to hole through seams in the sandstone," Cremer explained, "but instead of grout, water is flowing from most of the holes.

NEED MORE MACHINES

"Instead of two machines now being used to drill and grout," Cremer continued, "there should be 15. The cost is running up too fast. Rome is burning; something should be done. I'm worried."

The report by Bailey and the personal appearances of him and Cremer apparently caused the supervisors to delay action on a suggestion by John Hallock, project manager for the Donald R. Warren company, that a temporary permit be sought from the state to impound water. Hallock said he had talked with the state engineer's office yesterday and learned that such temporary permits were available. He said the reason for the rush to gain permission to store water was that a six-inch rain storm is predicted between now and Jan. 6, the first rains to begin on about Dec. 21. A major storm is expected New Year's eve, he said.

Supervisor Sanford Butts moved that the application be made, but the move was not seconded and the board decided to wait until this afternoon—until further study—to vote on the motion.

Supervisor Robert Lefevre asked "why all the delay" in coring and grouting. Hallock explained that drillers of necessary skill to take cores and operate semi-technical equipment were scarce. He said that the sub-contractor, Frank Howard, is having difficulty obtaining drillers to do the work.

ORDERS SPEED UP

The board ordered Hallock to exert all possible pressure to expedite the coring and grouting; even to the extent of combing the Ventura oil fields for drillers who might be able to lend the zone one project a hand in a pinch.

Hallock took exception to Bailey's report where it stated that there was no grout curtain beneath the dam. "I don't see how he can tell whether or not there is a grout curtain there. He can't see into the bowels of the earth any farther than I can," Hallock said. He went on to explain that the sandstone formation in the Matilija canyon was "tight" and that grout was being forced into the core holes with even greater pressure than was usually necessary.

Bailey answered Hallock by saying that cores show only flakes of grout in the sandstone seams in the canyon floor. He added that the flowing water was evidence that there was no grout curtain.

Hallock countered with the explanation that he thought the water was coming from springs and not from the lake which is beginning to form behind the dam. "The water is warm and it is sulphur. I'll bet that a dye test would show that the water is not coming under the dam, but is coming from springs," Hallock said.

The board didn't wait for Hallock's answer to cool off until it had passed a motion calling for immediate dye testing of the water above the dam to see if it is flowing beneath the structure and coming out the core holes.

12-17-47

Supervisors Meet
With Warren Aides

Supervisors, with their legal consultant S. V. Pritchard being present, met with Carl Nelson, Donald R. Warren's partner, and Walter Fourt, the Warren company attorney, to go over again the problem of naming a consulting board and the duties the consultants should have, for Warren still is the engineer for Casitas dam.

The meeting was set for today after a lengthy session yesterday afternoon and today's session practically was a rehash of yesterday's meeting, with the same questions being discussed and re-discussed. The Warren representatives, who wouldn't outright "object" to consultants previously chosen to serve on the board, nevertheless would not give assent.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The meeting was set for today, after a lengthy session was held yesterday afternoon, so that the supervisors could confer with the Warren aides about the new naming of a consultant board. The meeting resulted in a rehash of yesterday's session and wound up without getting anywhere. It was continued until this afternoon, when some action might be taken on naming a consulting board.

Throughout the session, the Warren representatives wouldn't outright "object" to consultants previously chosen to serve on the board, but Fourt did have plenty to say about one man. The Warren representatives kept pounding on the subject that "men of national reputation and status" should be hired as consultants. They particularly wanted to see that a design engineer, a man specifically noted for design work, should be included on the board.

DISCUSS DUTIES

Also, the Warren aides took plenty of time to discuss what should be the duties of the consulting board, how it should work with the engineer and the like. They also kept promising full cooperation with the consultants.

Pritchard several times suggested that supervisors go ahead and name a consulting board in the presence of the Warren aide and to set out specific questions for the consultants to answer, but supervisors were hesitant and every time there was a lull Fourt or Nelson went back to discussing the need for men of national reputation and the need of a design engineer.

That the engineer's approval is regular engineering practice was substantiated by Ralph Proctor, compaction dam authority previously selected by the supervisors to serve on the consulting board. In a letter presented to the supervisors yesterday, a letter asking written confirmation of the duties to be performed by the consultants, (See DAM page 2)

Dam Consultants Studied By Board

(Continued from Page 1)

Proctor asked that written consent be given by any engineers now under contract for design and supervision of construction on Casitas dam for the consultants to serve.

The matter of Warren's assent apparently had been discussed before—in executive session

CONKLING HIT

Upshot of the whole matter may be that Hydrology Consultant Howard Conkling, named with Proctor and G. B. Louderback of San Francisco to serve on the board, will be asked to withdraw from the board.

Fourt, who slapped at the county's geological consultant, Dr. Thomas Bailey, and at Randall Cremer, zone one advisory board member, during yesterday afternoon's flood control district meeting, also had a few things to say that indicated that the Warren company would not look favorably on the hiring of Conkling as a Casitas dam consultant. He declared that Conkling, who recently completed a water survey report for the Santa Clara valley water conservation district, had been employed by a political entity contrary to the flood control district's interests in zone II.

Fourt also asserted that Conkling had, by not informing the supervisors that he had been so employed—even if they knew it, failed to live up to the engineers' code. Robert Ryan, who serves as engineer and manager for zone II, said Conkling had finished his report and that the work had been concerned with only zone II area and not zone I, in which Casitas site is situated. Fourt said: "You can't serve two masters and be loyal to both." He repeated the same phrase he earlier had used in reference to Bailey.

PROCTOR DEFENDED

There was a lot of talk about whether Warren had been in-

formed whom the supervisors had chosen to serve on the consulting board. Clerk James Pool nipped any bickering on that by reporting that Warren gets two photostatic copies of all minutes of the board (and thus would have read in the minutes about the board's appointment). The Fourt said the Proctor had indicated to the Warren company that he didn't believe he was on the consulting board.

Lester Price pointed out that Samuel Morris, to whom the supervisors went for advice on selecting a consultant board and who is the boss of Proctor, had said that Proctor would serve. Price also told Fourt, who suggested that persons of "national status, standing and reputation" be hired to serve as consultants, that the supervisors had gone to Morris for guidance and that there had been nothing mysterious about his recommendations nor the way the board had arrived at a decision in naming the consultants. He told Fourt Proctor was considered the outstanding authority on compaction dams and that Conkling had been one of two hydrologists suggested.

Supervisors also considered Proctor's list of questions the consulting board wanted settled before it began work. These were mulled over by the board, with final action expected to be taken today after a discussion with Warren.

Proctor asked if a new estimate of the safe yield for Casitas dam should be made. Supervisors were agreed this should be done. They also signified that there would be cooperation in furnishing the consultants facilities for further exploration, digging of tunnels, deep trenches and the like.

Supervisors decided that the consultants should report on the present design for the dam but not prepare a new one. They decided "to think about" having the consultants prepare a new cost estimate. They wanted details of the conduits from Matilija to Casitas to be studied but didn't want the consultants, at this time, to prepare new plans and specifications.

HERE'S COMPLETE TEXT OF BAILEY REPORT TO BOARD

A report on core drilling now in progress on Matillija dam was submitted to the Ventura county flood control district supervisors by Dr. Thomas L. Bailey yesterday, the report setting off numerous verbal appraisals of personalities connected with the dam and its progress.

Dr. Bailey's report follows:

Progress Report on Core Drilling Matillija Dam December 15, 1947

Core drilling began at noon, December 4. In the 9 working days in which core drilling has been under way, 5 holes have been started and none completed. The deepest hole, No. 1 (Block F) reached 41 feet where it was suspended to measure flow pressure of the approximately 3 gallons a minute stream that came out of this hole. Coring is now under way in No. 5 at a depth of 33 feet, (last core depth, noon December 15).

A total of 5 partial holes have been drilled to an aggregate depth of 130½ feet of which 58 feet were cores of concrete (from the apron) and 71½ feet were cored in the rock floor. Excluding the concrete with 100% recovery, the average recovery in these holes is only 24 percent.

The principal difficulty is the plugging of the bits in soft shale or shaly fault gouge which caused the temporary abandonment of three holes, in Blocks G, H and J at depths of 24, 18 and 14½ feet respectively.

Most of the cores consist of loose angular fragments or core segments from ¼ inch to 4 inches long. Grout films or seams show up on not over one percent of the numerous fracture planes. The soft crushed sandstone washes out, apparently leaving good sized cavities that will have to be filled up with cement. According to the drillers, a stream of cuttings from core hole No. 4, in Block J (near foot of left abutment) came out through an open grout hole about 5 feet away, indicating the existence of open spaces beneath the apron large enough for ⅛ inch cuttings to pass. In core hole No. 3, in Block H, one of the drillers reported that after drilling 4 feet through the apron (total depth 18 feet) and repeatedly plugging his bit, he blew out a large volume of loose sand and water with the air hose and then filled the hole with quick-setting cement extending a foot or two above the bottom of the apron. The next morning the hole was re-cored and 1 foot core of cement was recovered in the lower foot of the apron.

Below that was a cavity because no trace of cement could be found.

The progress of core drilling to date has been unsatisfactory. Only two shifts on a single rig have been coring; the other rig has been drilling grout holes because no additional experienced drillers can be found, according to Frank Howard, the sub-contractor. At least four core rigs should be ope-

urgent that the grouting be speeded up because a 6 inch rain is predicted later this month.

Although ten or more grout and core holes are flowing streams of sulphur water that pours out at the rate of ¼ to 4 gallons or so a minute, no definite indications of reservoir leakage could be observed. As a check, I recommend that a dye test be made this week to determine if appreciable leakage exists. This test should last about 24 hours in order to be conclusive.

Mr. Spielman, inspector for the State, visited the dam on December 15 and asked for a thinner grout than had been used, so as to try to penetrate and fill up more fracture planes. He also asked that drainage holes be drilled from the downstream end of the apron upstream under the apron so as to intersect the water-producing fracture planes and give the apron better drainage. He seemed somewhat worried about the large number of grout and core holes that are flowing warm to cool sulphur water along the junction of the apron and the dam.

No semblance of a grout curtain exists at present between Blocks E and K and it is probable that at least ten times as much grout as has already been placed must be injected beneath these blocks in order to form a curtain. In my opinion the dam will not be really safe until a grout curtain is completed.

Fourt Voices Opinions For Warren Firm

"The Donald R. Warren company doesn't want to engage in answers or controversies." It will however, make recommendations "on what should be done and how."

These and some staccato-like verbal slaps aimed at Dr. Thomas Bailey, the county's geological consultant, and Randall Cremer, engineer and zone one advisory board, were the only "expressions" the Donald R. Warren company, as represented by Attorney Walter Fourt, had to make about Dr. Bailey's report to the Ventura county flood control district supervisors yesterday on the progress of the grouting and coring program on Matilija dam.

Protesting the slowness of the program, Dr. Bailey said the dam can not be really safe until a grout curtain is completed.

FOURT VOICES OPINION

Fourt, meeting with the supervisors yesterday afternoon, said he understood the board had requested an expression from the Warren company in reference to Dr. Bailey's report. "I don't believe there's anything in our contract that requires us to engage in any controversy whatsoever with any consultant of the board. A man never lived who could be true to two masters at the same time," he declared.

Fourt apparently was harpooning because Dr. Bailey, before being hired as a county consultant, had done a dam report for private parties.

When Supervisor Robert Lefever told Fourt that the board hadn't asked for an expression to start a controversy but was worried that Dr. Bailey's report, covered by the press, would start a flood of thoughts that the dam isn't safe, Fourt replied that the Warren company couldn't be responsible for "irresponsible jibberings." He also indicated it was up to the supervisors "to attempt to reestablish confidence in the whole matter."

He said confidence never was going to be restored if the Matilija dam matter drags on week in and week out. Then Fourt took another poke at Dr. Bailey, implying that the geologist had depended on gossip and heresay from operators and drillers in making his report on the effectiveness of grouting on Matilija dam.

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1947

ZONE ONE MAY GET SOME KICKBACK OF DAM FUNDS

It looks as though zone one may get a few shekles back out of the money voted in extra work orders on Matilija dam.

The Donald R. Warren company yesterday submitted its weekly report to the flood control district supervisors showing that more than \$60,000 remains in funds al-

lowed for work over and above that included in the original contract and that the projects are fast coming to a close with money still unspent.

The report showed a total of \$213,548 has been spent on extra-work orders, \$8,480 of it spent last week. The original total amount approved on extra work orders was \$274,407. Extra work orders were granted for digging of a tunnel, cleaning out a seam of soft material and cementing in the right abutment, and for construction of a fish ladder.

VALVE PROBLEM

Next Fourt took on Cremer, who backed up Dr. Bailey at the morning board meeting. Fourt said he didn't want to do an injustice to Cremer but he showed concern that someone would take newcomer Cremer's word as final. He declared he didn't know whether Cremer was qualified; and personally, Fourt doubted Cremer's qualifications.

Dr. Bailey, according to Lefever, had told the supervisors that "Cremer knew a lot more about grouting than he did." That, said Lefever, had caused him to wonder just how much Dr. Bailey did know.

County Surveyor Robert Ryan told the board of renewed efforts to try and get Matilija dam valves here. Some have been promised by next week, but promises have been made before and not kept. Some can't be expected here before Dec. 30.

That brought up the question of what to do about water behind the dam in case heavy rain comes before the valves are installed. It was indicated the water could be diverted downstream, but Lefever feared that barrow, piled below the dam, might be carried downstream in the release of water. He was told that a temporary line could be laid to carry the water to the north fork.

Warren Forces In Win

HYDROLOGIST Harold Conkling was removed from the Casitas dam consulting board, a question mark was left after the name of Ralph Proctor, and only Engineer-Geologist G. B. Louderback definitely was retained when supervisors of the Ventura county flood control district wound up a day and a half consultation with representatives of the Donald R. Warren company. The next huddle on the new naming of a consulting board will be on Monday.

The change in the consulting board membership was brought about because the American Society of Engineers code provides that the engineer on a job—and Warren still is engineer—must have knowledge of or consent to the consulting board chosen. Too, Proctor, whose appointment also is somewhat in doubt, asked, for the original consulting board named, that written consent be given by the engineer on the Casitas job for the consultants to serve.

WARREN SCORES WIN

The promise by the supervisors of a change in personnel of the Casitas dam consulting board was a victory for the Warren forces who, represented by Attorney Walter Fourt, would neither agree or disagree to the board, to quote their own words. They did, however, have plenty to say about Conkling, which amounted to objections, and also questioned Proctor's overall knowledge of actually building an earthfill dam. Only on the matter of temporarily storing water in Matilija dam did the Warren company lose out.

REMOVE CONKLING

Supervisors removed Conkling for the board after Fourt complained that "no man could serve two masters and be loyal to both." He pointed out that Conkling had recently completed a survey for

(See CONKLING page 2)

Question Mark For Proctor:

Conkling Removed From Casitas Board

(Continued from page 1)

the Santa Clara valley conservation district and said that employment had been for a political entity contrary to the flood control district's interest. He said this work had been competitive, since Warren previously had made a Zone II report.

S. V. Pritchard, legal consultant called in by the county, suggested at one time, if the Warren forces would promise cooperation with the original consulting board, that the supervisors go ahead and draw up a resolution to rehire the original consultants. He reminded the supervisors they wanted an independent board.

Supervisors not only bowed to the Warren company on the matter of Conkling but asked that Carl Nelson, Warren's partner, submit the names of three men from whom the supervisors will select a consulting board hydrologist to replace Conkling.

DECISION MONDAY

Nelson's selections are expected to be before the board Monday morning, when in all probability the choosing of a new board will be completed. At that time, Proctor's status definitely will be decided upon, too.

The Warren representatives, who kept harping about the need for men of "national reputation and status" on the board felt Proctor might not be fully qualified. To definitely answer this issue, supervisors decided to call Samuel B. Morris, head of the Metropolitan water district and who originally made the recommendations of men from whom the first board was named, and ask him several specific questions.

This call was put through last night by Flood District Chairman Russell Cook, who definitely had sided with the Warren forces on the Conkling issue and who had forthrightly promised other supervisors that Nelson would be present at yesterday's meeting to discuss the consulting board problem.

Morris was to be asked if Proctor, his employe, would be qualified to serve on the consulting board in reference to all phases of earth dam construction, earth dam design, spillways and conduits. It was learned that Morris, who pointed out he already had recommended Proctor for the job, said that Proctor was "the" outstanding authority on compaction dams and could do a thorough job in the phases questioned as a member of the consulting board.

Cook was said to have reported tersely after the call that "Morris says Proctor is qualified," and that Nelson answered by saying,

"Well, we just wanted to be sure."

It would seem that Morris' stand would assure Proctor's retention on the board, and that Monday's meeting would find his being rehired, but in the light of recent happenings, the question mark won't be removed until supervisors again discuss the matter of the consulting board Monday.

LOUDERBACK STAYS

In the meantime, the one sure member of the consulting board, Louderback, was to come here to-

day from Berkeley to discuss with Flood Control District Chairman Russell Cook the work to be done by the consulting board on the Casitas dam project.

Supervisors, who frequently have shown no desire to follow recommendations made by consultants they have employed especially to work on the dam projects, did abide by Pritchard's and District Attorney M. Arthur Waite's suggestion not to ask the state for permission to temporarily store water in Matilija dam, as urged by Warren officials.

Pritchard told the board such a request would not be a good idea because the supervisors do not yet know the adequacy of the dam's foundation and because there has been criticism of the foundation. He said he felt the storing of water would relieve the contractor and engineer of obligations in case anything went wrong. Waite backed him up in this stand and said the county does not want to accept the project at this time.

WANT TUNNEL

The legal consultant thought plans should be made to by-pass water in event anticipated storms develop; he suggested the completion of a tunnel around the right abutment of Matilija dam as one way of handling the problem. Warren forces said such a plan would be costly and couldn't be put into effect before the rains. They said if the tunnel system was used the contact line couldn't be grouted and there could be no storage of water in the dam until spring.

Robert Lefever, who said he was interested in having the "wild propaganda of Cremer" stopped (Randall Cremer is the zone one advisory board member who has backed Consultant Dr. Thomas Bailey in his stand on the poor progress on the grouting program on Matilija) asked the Warren company to get the state approval for the temporary storing of water, instead of having the county do it. This the Warren forces first agreed to do, but later Fourt, after hearing Pritchard's stand, told the supervisors to "count us out in making an application, because there's no reason for us to be put on the spot, either."

The matter ended with John Hallock, Warren project manager, promising to submit a plan next week by which water temporarily can be by-passed from the dam in case of storm.

Warren 12-18-47 Forces In Win

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(See CONKLING page 2)

12-19-47 WEAKLING PERFORMANCE

OUR present four-man board of county supervisors, lacking the leadership of its late chairman, Percy Dennis, put on a strange performance this week.

It was a case of too much Donald R. Warren.

Warren, for a year and a half, was the fair-haired favorite of the board. First, he was made flood control consultant for all the zones. He prepared rapid and glib reports, and recommendations. He was appointed project engineer for Zone 1 and given a contract for all engineering on Matilija and Casitas dams.

The buddy-buddy spirit prevailed sweetly in 1945 and through 1946. Then came serious trouble on the half-finished Matilija dam early this year, a succession of disturbing disclosures, a staggering unanticipated cost, still mounting higher. Since last spring, it may safely be stated, a majority of the board—but not all members—lost confidence in Warren.

Later, and under the urging of the grand jury, the board retained S. V. Pritchard, Los Angeles attorney, as a consultant on ways and means to bring some order out of a ruinous situation.

With the Matilija dam at long last approaching completion, and with the need apparent to obtain expert opinion on plans for the other half of the project, Pritchard recently proposed the establishment of an independent board of consultants, made up of specialists of unquestioned ability and standing. It was the personnel of this board around which this week's tumult revolved.

Acting on thoroughly sound advice, the supervisors had invited G. B. Louderback, Harold Conkling, and Ralph Proctor to serve. Samuel B. Morse, business manager of the Los Angeles bureau of water and light, had pronounced them a combination completely qualified to pass upon geological, hydrological, and engineering problems of the project.

This did not meet with Warren's approval. He sent his attorney, Walter Fourt, to make his objections. Reckless charges of bad ethics were hurled against Conkling. Questions were raised as to Proctor's abilities and belittling statements made about his standing. Geological Consultant Thomas L. Bailey was accused of "irresponsible gibberish." Randall Cremer, member of the Zone 1 advisory committee and a member of the American Society of Engineers, was assailed on the ground of professional ability.

All this as part and parcel of Warren's own directly-expressed attitude previously when, in a letter to the board, he had attacked the standing of Charles P. Berkey, Columbia university geologist, and, on various occasions, the advice of County Engineer Robert Ryan.

The supervisors took most of this abuse lying down. They removed the name of Conkling as a consultant, without any sound reason, and held in abeyance the appointment of Proctor. Nor did they raise their voices in justified defense of the various men under attack. Neither did they act firmly on the counsel of Pritchard. It was a weakling performance, with Warren applying the lash.

On Monday, the whole matter will come up again. It seems to us that advisory committee members, grand jury members, representatives of the county engineers' club, taxpayers of Zone 1, and all other people who possess an earnest desire to correct the zone's chaotic affairs should be present.

In our opinion, the sooner Warren is removed from the picture the better for the area's water development.

* * *

Bring In Big Bill For Extra Work

12-22-47

BASING their extra claims contention on the grounds they believe Engineer Donald Warren was negligent, Contractors Atkinson Kier Bressi and Bevanda by use of a molding cast model of Matilija damsite attempted today at a meeting at the courthouse to show supervisors of the Ventura county flood control district why they should receive funds over and above their contract price for work on Matilija dam.

The contractors' presentation, which is expected to be taken under submission by the supervisors so that Legal Consultant S. V. Prichard and District Attorney M. Arthur Waite may make a study, had not finished by noon-time and was to be continued this afternoon. The presentation precluded, at least for the morning session, any further discussion on the matter of what experts will serve on the Casitas dam consulting board.

Declaring that they feel they are entitled to \$260,646 for extra work on Matilija dam, the contractors, represented by spokesmen Gardiner Johnson, attorney, said that "without heat or rancor" they took the position that Warren had been negligent and that since he was an employe of the flood control district this made the district responsible for the negligence and thus for the extra claims.

EXPLAIN NEGLIGENCE

The contractors say the negligence resulted from there being no sufficient exploratory work on the dam site, even before bidders and the state received plans and specifications, and that no reasonable or diligent steps were taken to learn the physical conditions at the dam site.

To strengthen their case, contractors showed that a letter was sent to Warren on April 9, 1947, from the Atkinson company. It expressed concern over the dam's foundation and the fact that bedrock had not yet been encountered.

Grouting Postpones Dye Test At Dam

Because grouting operations will be underway Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Matilija dam, taking of the dye test has had to be postponed.

The dye test, to determine whether seepage is coming from under Matilija dam or from springs, was to have been made this weekend as it was thought the contractors would not be grouting and would not need to be using the water supply at the dam.

Information received from dam officials by County Surveyor Robert Ryan and relayed to the supervisors of the county flood control district at their meeting yesterday afternoon showed that grouting operations will be underway those days. That means the contractors will need the water that is stored in a tank behind the dam. Ryan told the supervisors it would be all right to postpone the dye test since Dr. Thomas Bailey, consultant, had said it would cost too much to hold up the grouting work in progress to make the test. The test effectively can be made later.

12-22-47

The answer from Warren on the next day, a copy read at today's meeting showed, said that both Warren and his consultant, Dr. John Buwalda, were of the opinion that the foundation of the dam was developing more satisfactorily than had been anticipated and that it had been approved by the state people without reservation. The letter also pointed out that the adequacy of the structure was Warren's problem. It was after that, Johnson pointed out that the state shut down pouring activities on April 23 when faulty material was discovered in the foundation under N block.

December 23, 1947

NEGLIGENCE IS THE CHARGE

It has been said before, in private. Now it has been stated right out in public, and formally. Namely, that Engineer Donald R. Warren was negligent in designing the Matilija dam without doing sufficient exploratory work on the site beforehand.

The charge is made by the contracting firm that has built the dam; it is laid officially before the flood control supervisors.

The accusation is backed by a scale model and much other evidence. It is given big teeth by the presentation of a demand from the firm for \$260,646 to cover extra work said to have been performed to make good the engineer's oversights.

The \$260,646, when and if paid, will come, of course, out of the pocketbooks of the Zone 1 taxpayers, along with many other sums. Before it is paid, courthouse heads now seem agreed, there will be court action, and Warren will have the opportunity to present his side of the controversy.

This will possess intense interest, of course, for all involved. A melancholy interest for the aforesaid people of the zone.

What is of real importance to the people, however, is WATER. They want and urgently need a completed water system. And it is our firm opinion that they don't want Warren—regardless of what excuses or justifications he brings forth for the Matilija fiasco—in charge of building it.

* * *

Tuesday, December 23, 1947

PROCTOR WILL BE RETAINED AS CASITAS DAM CONSULTANT

In an effort to keep Ralph Proctor, compaction dam authority, on the Casitas dam consulting board, supervisors of the Ventura county flood control district late yesterday afternoon authorized with speed a resolution setting forth the duties of the consulting board.

The action came quickly after a day-long meeting with Matilija dam contractors on extra claims, but the matter of rounding out the board, now that Hydrologist Harold Conkling has been removed, was left over for today's business.

FULLY QUALIFIED

After their meeting last week, supervisors were reassured by Samuel Morris, manager of the Los Angeles power and water department and Proctor's boss, that Proctor was fully qualified to serve on the board in regard to all phases of knowing earth dam construction, design, spillways and conduits. This answer apparently satisfied the Donald R. Warren forces, who through their attorney, Walter J. Fourt, had kept campaigning at the meeting for "men of national reputation and status" to serve on the board.

Supervisors, who showed eagerness to retain Proctor, were told by District Attorney M. Arthur Waite he felt if the board did not act immediately in drawing up the work of the consulting board that Proctor would withdraw. Proctor had read articles from a local newspaper which made him feel that this integrity had been questioned, Waite said, explaining why the expert might decide to withdraw from the board.

NO DOUBTS

Waite told the supervisors he had assured Proctor that there was no doubt in the supervisors' minds about the expert's fitness.

Then supervisors put through a resolution which is an outline to the Casitas dam consultants of

what work is expected of them. The outline closely follows conditions submitted last week by Proctor for answer.

The consultants are to be required to make a report on the safety of Casitas dam, to study the geology of Casitas and do explorations if necessary, to view the design of the dam prepared by Warren and report the fact if a new design is needed, to comment on the estimate and prepare a new estimate, to study the details of the conduits from Matilija to Casitas. If new plans and specifications are needed, arrangements will be made later as to their preparation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fourt, who remained quiet during the day's proceedings, gave Warren company's recommendations on three men, any of whom might be chosen to serve as hydrologists on the consulting board to replace Conkling. The Warren company was asked to make recommendations after criticism of Conkling because he had done a survey for the Santa Clara conservation district, "a position entirely contrary to the flood control district's interest."

Recommended were Fred Mann of San Francisco, who served as a state consultant on the Matilija dam; Joe Justin of Philadelphia or Dr. W. P. Craig of Buffalo, who was Warren's consultant on the Matilija dam spring. The recommendations were taken under advisement.

Court Action Looms Over

Matilija Dam Claims

*** 12-23 ***
Cost 'Fussin' and 'Feudin'

Continues

Lawyer Puts Finger On Donald Warren

THAT court action looms if supervisors of the Ventura county flood control district fail to act favorably on the extra claims of Matilija Dam Contractors Atkinson Kier Bressi and Bevanda was well insinuated yesterday when supervisors met at the courthouse to hear the contractors present their reasons for asking for claims over and beyond their contract. Before the meeting wound up after a day-long session, the

contractors had accused the county's project engineer, Donald R. Warren, of negligence, had asked for payment of \$140,000—the last 10 percent of their contract—or a portion thereof and had sought a clarification on the grouting and core drilling program. The claims were to be taken under submission for S. V. Prichard, the county's legal consultant, and District Attorney M. Arthur Waite to study.

SEEK MORE FUNDS

Where last May the contractors asked for \$178,000 extra claims, they now seek \$260,646 and that amount will be raised if, as their attorney, Gardiner Johnson, put it, lack of planning—operations on a touch and go basis—continues. He pointed the finger directly at the Warren company for lack of an overall plan.

Verbally and by demonstration with a scale model of Matilija damsite and celluloid cross-section slides, the contractors, represented by Johnson, John Kier, projects manager, and Vince Bressi, one of the contractual parties, explained their stand on the claims. They held, in the informal discussion, that Warren had been negligent by not doing sufficient exploratory work on the damsite and because no adequate, reasonable and diligent steps were taken to learn the physical conditions at the damsite prior to submission of plans and specifications to bidders or to the state.

BLAME WARREN

The contractors said they had based their bid on Warren's plans and specifications and that in so doing they expected to excavate to approximately elevation 960 to find bedrock. As it worked out, however, they had to go down near the right abutment to elevation 935 and to 950 by the left abutment.

Kier told the supervisors that it was the contractors, themselves who brought in a well driller to take three core hole drillings when it became evident in October, 1946, at elevation 962 that bedrock wasn't going to be reached right away. The driller's report showed that the contractors would have to go below the 960 formation to reach bedrock, Kier said.

He also told the board that Howard Taylor, Warren's resident engineer, had been asked to make drill holes; he said the Warren aide had refused to do so. At a conference around Oct. 18, Warren was informed about the drill holes; Warren, Kier said, replied that he had five geological reports that showed the bottom elevation would be close to the streambed.

(See MATILIJA page 3)

NO INQUIRIES

Young Kier said it was in September, 1946, that quantities provided for in the contract were reached and that it was in October that the contractors realized that the excavation laid out was not going to be sufficient. He did not recall, however, ever making any inquiries of the Warren company as to what exploratory work had been done.

12-23-47

Matilija Court Action Seen

12-23-47

In the matter of contract payment, Johnson said \$140,000 is being withheld from the contractors even though substantially all the work expressly provided for in the contract has been completed. There's only work now on such items as grouting, core boring and the fish ladder, he declared. He said the contractors are being penalized in not getting the last part of their contract payment and that if exploratory work continues at the dam the fund, unless supervisors order otherwise, will remain tied up. He asked that at least a portion of the payment be made now.

GROUTING TALKED

The matter was taken under advisement until Prichard can make a written report.

Topic three on the contractors' discussion agenda was about the grouting program on the dam. The contractors said that by a Dec. 19 dated letter from the Warren company they had been told to put in 100 holes, 67 of them being grout holes, some being core holes and some drainage release. There is no indication where these holes should go; someone should work out an overall plan or the holes may result in a serious problem, the contractors said. They predicted that otherwise the money for the work would be dissipated uselessly.

Bressi, who reported the contractors were losing from \$200 to \$300 a day on the Matilija job, said the contractors want to get finished and get out. Any decision on the grouting question was deferred until today.

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1947

Bailey Gives Second Report

Here is the second detailed report by Consultant Dr. Thomas Bailey on the progress of core drilling at Matilija dam. It was presented yesterday afternoon to the board of supervisors of the county flood control district, with Dr. Bailey orally stating that there is no reason to believe there is any seepage of water from the reservoir at the present time.

He also showed the supervisors a map sketch showing where core holes have been taken at the dam. The report follows:

Progress Report on Core Drilling and Dye Tests, Matilija Dam

Since last week's report core hole 5-I was cored from an inclined depth of 33 feet, which it had reached on December 15, to its total depth of 40 feet. No core was recovered in the bottom 2 feet owing to plugging of the bit by shaly material (probably a shale bed, not a fault zone). From depths 33' to 38' a total of 4½ feet (90% recovery) of hard light gray sandstone was obtained. Most of the fractures were filled with hard grout up to 1/16" or somewhat

thicker. This 4½ feet of core is probably strong enough and tight enough to be satisfactory for the dam foundation. The grout has reached a depth of 38 feet in this hole (5-I). Also strong, hard, only slightly fractured sandstone containing a 2" shale layer, was cored from 15' to 20' making a total of 9½ or 10 feet of satisfactory core recovered. The remaining 18 feet of core consisted of badly fractured, locally crushed, only slightly grouted sandstone and minor shale of a type unsatisfactory for a dam foundation until much more grout is injected so as to build up its strength and make it impermeable. In my opinion the fractured sandstone in this hole should take much more grout than it now contains.

Core hole 6-E was drilled to a depth of 54 feet where it was abandoned in badly crushed, soft, white sandstone that could not be recovered. The average core recovery in this hole was 34%, obviously unsatisfactory. This hole is toward the southwest edge of the main crushed zone and although the sandstone is soft enough to crush with the fingers, several etched (by circulation water) core segments up to 2' long of consolidated but soft crushed white sandstone were recovered. These better pieces of this sandstone are held together by a network of very thin (1/32"-1/64") veinlets of the mineral calcite, possibly supplemented by a few very thin seams of grout. After the cores have dried better the grout can be identified with more certainty. A seam (apparently nearly horizontal) of good hard grout ¼" thick was observed about 1½" below the base of the concrete of the dam at depth 13'. Except for the tiny veinlets (up to 1/64" thick) mentioned above in the core segments of crushed sandstone between 13 and 24 feet and 30 to 36 feet, the only definite grout was as a network of fairly hard and satisfactory grout in 8 inches of harder badly fractured sandstone between 36 and 38 feet. Some of the grout seams or veins were up to 1/8" thick. However a recovery of only 15% in this same interval shows that insufficient grout is present. A little soft, powdery doubtful grout was noted between 38 and 42 feet. The presence of definite

grout as deep as 38 feet shows that the crushed sandstone does take some grout and that additional grouting below Block E might make a stronger foundation rock here.

There is no evidence that a continuous grout curtain is present beneath Blocks I and E as shown by the core holes described above. However these two holes show more grout than any of those described in my previous report and with considerable additional grouting it may be possible to obtain a grout curtain beneath these two blocks at least.

Although I have advised that the core holes should be grouted as soon as possible after being suspended or abandoned so as not to obtain too much seepage of water at the downstream edge of the dam, only drilling of grout and core holes and no injection of grout has been observed since the core drilling began on December 4 until December 19 when I visited the dam last. It was planned and then postponed at least three times during my daily visits to the dam between December 4 and 19.

Core drilling was suspended on December 17; according to Mr. Howard Taylor (this was done without previously advising me) in order to drill more grout holes. I agree that grouting should be continued as fast as possible at present. No core holes have been carried to the depth of 100 feet ordered by your board, owing to the plugging of the diamond bits by soft material that made further progress impracticable. Only the two grout or core hole rigs were on the job when I last visited the dam. More core holes will be needed to check the grout curtain, if any, after several weeks or months additional grouting has been completed.

The dye test has been postponed until December 28, when no work will be going on at the dam. One sack of dye was dropped on the morning of December 19, before the engineers suddenly remembered that workmen were washing concrete and working in the tunnel on the right abutment, both of which use more water in 24 hours than can be stored in the tank. Additional water would have to come from the reservoir. Hence dyed water would appear below the dam and thus invalidate the test. It would cost far too much to hold up any work in progress in order to make the dye test.

To Zone 1

My New Year wishes for you are: That the dyed wa doesn't percolate through, that the long-lamented val arrives in time, that Jupe Pluvius is good, that somebody fixes up conduits and begins making deliveries, that the consultant board lays down a sound plan for proceeding. In short, that your water project begins to go sane.

PA VENTURA.

WARREN RAPS DONALD WARREN BLASTS BOARD DAM HANDLING OR HANDLING OF DAM PROJECT

(Continued from page 1)

WILL county flood control district supervisors act favorably or unfavorably on the report that is made by the Casitas dam consulting board? In other words, if the Donald R. Warren company - prepared plans and specifications are approved by the consultants will the supervisors accept the decision and therefore pay Warren his \$60,000-plus claims for the plans and specifications?

That apparently was what the Warren company was trying to ascertain in a lengthy meeting at the courthouse yesterday afternoon during which there was reference to the possibility of the Warren company going to court on the matter of claims and during which Warren, himself, long absent from board meetings, denounced the handling of the Matilija dam program and those who had been involved in it—except for himself.

FOUR COMPLAINS

The cauldron began to bubble when Walter J. Fourt, Warren's attorney, brought up the point that no decision had been given on payment of the claims for the Casitas dam plans and specifications even though supervisors had had two months to consider the matter. Pointing out that the Warren company, at the supervisors' request, had not gone to court nor pressed claims payment, Fourt repeatedly sought an answer on what assurance the Warren company could have as to the supervisors acting "favorably or unfavorably" on the report of the consultants.

The matter ended with Russell Cook indicating he would abide by the consulting board's report, with Lester Price saying he would be "governed" by the board's report and with Sanford Butts agreeing with Price. Robert Lefever firmly stated he wanted to see the report before he committed himself one way or the other; that, too, was the position taken by new member Richard Bard, who strongly indicated he would be independent in reaching a decision.

DON'T WANT SUIT

At one point, Lefever, who said the supervisors don't want a law suit and who also readily admitted that the Warren company had cooperated in holding off pressure on its claims, was about to make a motion to deny the claims until the consulting board report is in. He didn't however, actually put this to a motion.

Fourt said the Warren company had waited in excess of two months for an answer on whether the supervisors will pay the claims (the matter formally was presented before the supervisors on Oct. 10). This waiting

be patient and not start a law suit.

Fourt told the board he felt there had been ample delay, and, the light of recent occurrences, having the Matilija dam contractors accuse the Warren company of negligence, that the Warren company should not stand by longer. The company is ready, willing and anxious to take the matter into court right away; such action might be best because it would clear the decks, said.

FRONT DECISION

The attorney pointed out that he didn't want the Warren company to be in a position of being dropped off on its claims and still brought "in the fold to protect the county on another claim," claim of Contractors Atkinson or Bressi and Bevanda for money over and beyond their contract. The contractors' claim may be taken into court.

You can see the district has been charged with substantial claims by the contractors. We must view it, lose or win on that basis on what we have done or haven't done," Fourt declared.

The attorney was doubtful that Warren would have any effect on that would be taken soon by the consulting board. He also thought the Warren company might as well go to superior court if the board isn't willing to indicate assurance it would act favorably or unfavorably on the consultants' report.

Waite told Fourt the Casitas plans and specifications are before the consultants, that G. B. Louderback already has conducted one investigation and Ralph Proctor and Harold Kling, the other two members of the consulting board, will be ready to start work after the first of the year.

THE TALKS

Declaring that the supervisors are acting in good faith and feeling that they couldn't be expected to comment without first seeing the consultants' report, Waite explained why supervisors had decided to hire consultants.

Warren had said that the consulting board's purpose was to determine whether the project so that bonds would be voted; it wasn't hired to act on claims, he said.

Waite said that the supervisors received plans and specifications

Probation Asked On
Frank G. Founse of Talt and daughters, Mrs. A. L. Meln Long Beach, Mrs. Tom Phin Josepe, Mrs. David Hutchin of Oakland and Mrs. G. H. Sacher of Ventura. Funeral services will be conducted later by Oliver L. R. and Sons mortuary.

with Waite declaring they hadn't. That subject was dropped when Waite declared there was quibbling going on about something over which there was a difference of opinion.

WARREN PRESENT

Warren, long absent from the board meetings, gave a long address to the board about his feelings on the Matilija dam project when he personally challenged non-payment of his claims. He declared he never had felt so bad about anything in his life than he had about the Matilija dam project, which, he said, "stinks to high heaven."

Part of the trouble he blamed on politics, saying that the job had developed into a political wrangle and that he was unaccustomed to dealing with politics on a construction job. He also stated he saw little possibility of funds for the continuance of the Casitas project being voted.

Declaring that he liked all the supervisors, Warren contended, nevertheless, that he never had had cooperation with leaders within the Matilija dam project organization, that he hadn't had a chance to talk to consultants who had been called in on the job. He said he had sent supervisors copies of the code of ethics of the American Society of Engineers and that they had ignored. He claimed the consulting board is being brought down into a "sewing circle" classification.

MISREPRESENTATION

Warren, too, felt that S. V. Prichard, legal consultant hired by the board to study the Matilija dam problem, had misrepresented facts and has wrongfully said Warren was evasive; he also indicated he thought Prichard was serving as a "new county manager." Indirectly, Warren made a remark on another of the county's consultants, Dr. Thomas Bailey.

This was brought out when he declared he admired Walter Hoffman even if the latter didn't like the dam project. He said he had no malice to Hoffman but he didn't feel the county should "employ men who have been employed by the other side." (Dr. Bailey did a report on the Casitas dam site for Hoffman prior to the time he agreed to work with the county as a consultant.)

Warren also was outspoken in his criticism of the local newspaper. He said the paper had become worthless to the public, that it had not put out the truth about

Funeral Rites For
Venturan Conducted
Funeral services for Jefferson Davis Smith, 86, who died Sunday at a local hospital were conducted at 11 a.m. today from the chapel of the Mayr funeral home. Mr. Smith had lived in Ventura.

asserted. He also declared that things had been said to break the faith, that he would like to know if there is anything open to question, if there is anything he can do. "Our records are open; we have nothing to conceal. We can look any man in the face and tell him to go to hell. . . . We try in every case to do the job but we don't like to finish it if we don't have support."

The engineer also asserted that he was sorry he had had anything to do with the project, that he was sorry for the people of Ventura county, who need water, and that he was sick at heart.

Supervisors Follow Prichard:

Extra Funds for Matilija Dam Denied

12-24-47

Relying on the opinion of their legal consultant, S. V. Prichard, county flood control district supervisors yesterday afternoon turned down a recommendation from the Donald R. Warren company that extra funds be set up to care for diversion of flood waters from the dam if storms set in before the dam is completed.

The Warren company recommended that \$17,000 be set up under extra work orders to care for the diversion in lieu of obtaining a temporary permit to store water behind the dam now, a proposal that last week was turned down by the board. Prichard said the matter of diverting water was an obligation of the contractors, Atkinson Kier Bressi and Beveda, and was so specifically stated in their contract.

ORDER DENIED

Acting on his advice, supervisors authorized that the Warren company's recommendation for an extra work order to take care of diversion of flood water at the dam be denied and that the Warren company be instructed to inform the contractors their responsibility for diversion was provided for in a lump sum bid under plans and specifications. Supervisors repeated themselves in this action by also authorizing that the board's legal advisor write the contractors of this decision and of their responsibility. They decided, however, to let the dual order stand.

The Warren company also recommended that \$20,000 be set up under extra work orders to pay for further grouting on the dam. Supervisors, however, after being given an explanation on financing of the grout program, agreed to set up for the time being only \$5,000, enough to keep grouting activities going for the week and to allow, in the meantime, for legal consultants to study the extra funds request.

No action was taken on a third recommendation from the Warren company. The contractors this week asked to be paid the remaining portion of their contract fees—\$140,000—or a portion thereof. The Warren company, through co-

partner Carl Nelson, recommended that the payment be withheld until the contractors have completed their contract. He pointed out that there still is grouting, installation of outlet works and installation of electrical works to be competed.

EQUIPMENT HIT

Nelson said the contractors have not always demonstrated they have the best and most adequate equipment on the job. He said it was to the district's interest to withhold the money until it is seen whether the contractors' contract is adequately performed.

County Surveyor Robert Ryan reported that the cost to date on Matilija dam is \$2,128,612. He also presented telegrams which showed some valves for the dam should be here next week and that others should be here soon. Some already have arrived at the dam.

Following out a request of Zone One Manager Neil Stiver, supervisors requested the civil service commission to prepare examinations for the position of dam tender, a post to be needed and to be filled when Matilija dam is completed. They also authorized, at Stiver's suggestion, the district attorney's preparation of a memorandum extending the agreement for former owner Joseph A. Levy to continue leasing Matilija Hot Springs—on a month-to-month basis—until a study on the resort and what to do with it, now that the county has bought the property, can be completed by Stiver.

Supervisors learned that weather data bought from the Krick Weather service to give information that will assist with the handling of water at Matilija dam can not be relayed to the county over the sheriff's teletype. The justice department in Sacramento has informed Sheriff Howard Durley that the information can not be dispatched over the teletype because the Krick Weather service is a private enterprise operated for profit.

December 24, 1947

THIS TIME WE APPLAUD

THE county flood control board late yesterday regained its dignity and good sense. It affirmed the appointment of an independent consultant board of well qualified specialists which it had earlier selected on competent advice. The men are: Hydrologist Harold Conkling, Engineer Ralph Proctor, and Geologist G. B. Louderback.

The Star-Free Press goes on record as applauding this action. On last Thursday, the supervisors had allowed themselves to be bullied by an attorney for Project Engineer Donald R. Warren into agreeing to drop Conkling, possibly to eliminate Proctor also, and to name instead a panel of consultants from a list which Warren would propose. Blatherskiting charges of professional irresponsibility and bad ethics were allowed to go unanswered. We described that meeting as a craven and weakling performance.

Just how the change came about yesterday can only be conjectured, since it was reached behind closed doors. The addition of a fifth member may have contributed constructively to the result. Perhaps the board listened to sound advice from its legal consultant, S. V. Prichard. Possibly the pressure of public opinion made itself felt.

Anyhow, the supervisors came to a sound conclusion, and that is well. Zone 1 desperately needs the best counsel obtainable on how to proceed with its vital water project. This consultant board ought to be able now to supply that guidance.

* * *

Supervisors Stick By Original Casitas Board Keep Original Casitas Board Guns,

Warren Objections Brushed Aside

IN a surprise finish, the county flood control board yesterday afternoon decided to stand by its own independent Casitas dam consultant board as first selected. In doing so, it brushed aside all the objections raised by Engineer Donald R. Warren and his attorney and officially cancelled the unofficial compromise agreed to by four members in last Thursday's special session.

That means, if things go ahead as now mapped out, that muchly-contested Hydrologist Harold Conkling, Ralph Pro-

ctor and G. B. Louderback will be the districts consultants to go over various phases of the Warren-planned Casitas dam project.

This, in substance, is how the "re-hiring" of the three men came about without any more formal action: supervisors after a day and a half of consultations last week with the Warren company on the matter of the consulting board membership re-checked the qualifications of Proctor, asked the Warren company to submit the names of three experts from whom a hydrologist could be chosen for the consulting board and told news reporters they could consider that Conkling had been removed from the board. They did not, however, take formal action through a resolution nor motion to cancel Conkling's appointment.

IRONED OUT

At their afternoon session yesterday, supervisors spent a lengthy time in executive session with their legal consultant, S. V. Prichard, and District Deputy M. Arthur Waite. It was then, questioning of the supervisors after the meeting showed, that the matter of the Casitas dam consulting board was ironed out.

Supervisors came to the conclusion in spite of the Warren company stand to retain Conkling, Proctor and Louderback and asked if they should draw up a resolution showing they were hiring the three. Prichard, one source said, told the supervisors this wouldn't be necessary, pointing out at that time that the board's minutes showed there never had been a formal action rescinding any appointment.

Supervisors

(Continued from page 1)

Monday in an effort to retain Proctor on the board. They set up a resolution outlining, as Proctor had requested a week ago, the questions the consultants are to study—such as what is the safe yield of Casitas, what is the geology of the area and the like.

FEAR WITHDRAWAL

The resolution was put through after Waite told the board he felt if the supervisors did not act immediately in drawing up the work of the consulting board that Proctor would withdraw. Proctor had read articles from a local newspaper which made him feel that his integrity had been questioned. Waite told the supervisors he had assured Proctor that there was no doubt in the supervisors' minds about the fitness of the expert.

The Warren forces, as requested by the supervisors, came through Monday afternoon with recommendations on three men whom they considered qualified to serve on the consulting board. These recommendations supposedly were made so that supervisors could select a replacement for Conkling. The recommendations, however, were merely taken under advisement by the supervisors. And, at the present time, the recommendations remain in an "under advisement" status. Every indication is that the matter will be dropped there.

Fourt had placed in recommendation for the Warren company the names of Fred Herrman of San Francisco, Joel Justin of Philadelphia and Dr. W. P. Craeger of Buffalo. Herrmann has been state consultant on Matilija dam, and Craeger was a Warren consultant on the same project.

PRICHARD ADVICE

Asked about this turn of events, Flood Control District Chairman Russell Cook said the supervisors in sticking to their original appointments acted on the advice given by Prichard in executive session and agreed to let their original motion on the hiring of the consultants stand. He said he was glad the board was appointed and he hoped the men would accept; if they will, the consultants should be ready to start work next week, Cook reported.

Waite said the supervisors are satisfied that the men they hired as consultants are fully qualified to serve and are outstanding experts in their fields. He said supervisors expect to take no further action on the board's membership but plan now to have the experts proceed with their investigation on the Casitas project. There is not going to be a reconsideration of the board personnel because supervisors feel they acted right the first time when they originally named Conkling, Proctor and Louderback to the board, Waite declared.

Warren forces in lengthy meetings had questioned whether the consultants named to the board were "men of national reputation and status." Through their attorney, Walter J. Fourt, they averred that Conkling in working on the board would be "serving two masters" since he previously had done a survey for the Santa Clara valley conservation district which, generally speaking, comprises the same area as zone two. Fourt said such employment had been for a political entity contrary to the flood control district's interest. He said this work had been competitive with Warren since the latter had made a zone two report.

QUESTION QUALIFICATIONS

The Warren forces last week also had questioned whether Proctor was qualified to serve on the consulting board in reference to all phases of earth dam construction, earth dam design, spillways and conduits. Definite reassurance that he was given the supervisors by Samuel Morris, Proctor's boss and manager of the power and water department of Los Angeles, to whom supervisors first had gone for advice on selecting consultants.

Supervisors then took action (See SUPERVISORS page 2)

Water Is Most Talked Of Subject

MATILIJA DAM RATED TOP STORY OF YEAR

(Following is a list of the top 10 stories of the year in Ventura county as selected by the editorial staff of The Star-Free Press.)

Water! One word was probably heard in Ventura county oftener during the past 12 months than any other. That word was water. Under ordinary circumstances, the top story of the year would have been the water supply situation.

But, because of complicated contingencies, Matilija dam and its entangled construction controversy stole into the news limelight as the story of the year. This, however, can be classified under the general heading of water problems.

TOP STORY

In a poll of Star-Free Press editorial workers, the Matilija project was chosen as top story, followed closely by water supply conditions and lack of rainfall.

Water use through the county increased tremendously. In Ventura, however, rationing cut use from 210,834,250 to 206,839,490 cubic feet. However, this still is 1,547,262,804 gallons.

Oxnard broke into the billion-gallon bracket with a yearly consumption of 1,060,041,500 gallons for 1947. Ventura reported 242 new users during the year while Oxnard had 250 new service connections for the same period.

In Santa Paula, 144 new service connections sent use of water into new highs, figures on exact use not as yet compiled.

WATER SEARCH

In nearly all sections of the county, deepening of wells, digging of new wells and desperate efforts to augment the water supply were commonplace activities.

An exhaustive study of the entire Santa Clara valley and Oxnard plain, reportedly revealed a great shortage of underground water and the immediate possibility of sea water invasion unless something is done to conserve more of the river runoff and convey it to strategic points.

Just a quick glance of the rainfall table for the various county centers will reveal the reason behind the sudden anxiety over water.

	1947	1946
Ventura	2.32	12.27
Oxnard	2.80	12.75
Fillmore	3.47	13.41
Santa Paula	3.16	13.11

Average Yearly Rainfall: 16.42. Now entering a drought period, the county has listed as its No. 1 problem for 1948: development of water conservation and storage facilities.

- 1—Matilija dam construction and controversy.
- 2—Water conditions: lack of rainfall, water supply studies.
- 3—Adoption of building code; county sets all time building record.
- 4—Death of Supervisor Percy W. Dennis; appointment of Richard Bard.
- 5—Oil: Discovery in Montalvo, depth record at Maxwell No. 1; Upper Ojai field re-discovered.
- 6—Commercial activity begins at Port Hueneme dock one; fishing fleets unload catches.
- 7—Fights to save crops: Mexican bean beetle checked, drybark studied. Mexican nationals leave, labor sought for citrus harvest.
- 8—California league opens, new park built.
- 9—Mrs. Pauline Jeidy chosen by Gen. MacArthur to teach in Japan.
- 10—Spontaneous participation in Friendship train food drive; congratulations from Drew Pearson.

SECOND 10 TOP STORIES

- County fair attracts record crowds.
- \$75,000 supply house fire on Ventura avenue.
- Point Mugu missile test center develops, seeks appropriations.
- Centralization of school districts sought.
- Coos Bay wreckage heaved up on beach by rough sea.
- Committee of 21 formed, goes into action.
- Ventura city council loses sales tax fight, Tetzlaff resigns.
- Mayor E. L. Gardner runs on write-in ticket.
- Five Points to Montalvo highway project.
- Bus drivers strike for higher wages; fares increased.
- Telephone strike.

Contractors Denied Final Dam Payment

ACTING on a written recommendation from S. V. Prichard, legal consultant, county flood control district supervisors yesterday afternoon turned down the request of Matilija dam contractors Atkinson Kier Bressi and Bevanda for final payment of their contract money.

The contractors previously had asked that \$140,000, or a portion thereof, being held back on the contract be paid now because of the extra time it has taken to finish the dam. Prichard said the extra time doesn't alter circumstances; he also indicated the time extension didn't relieve them of the hardships of their own contract.

REGRET EXTENSION

Via letter, contractors took exception to last week's order of the supervisors for the firm to handle diversion of flood waters at the dam in case of storms, estimated to cost \$17,000. The contractors said that until they receive expressed authority for diversion, plans and procedures for doing the work and until extra funds are set up they won't enter into extra work that will prolong the dam job.

At that point, Robert Lefever declared he regretted the contractors had ever been given any extension of time on the dam job.

NO DYE TEST

Supervisors were informed that the dye test has not yet been taken at the dam but that when it is made it will be done with navy raft boat dye. Supervisors authorized Dr. Thomas Bailey, consultant who will have charge of the test, to cooperate with Dr. Frank Gallison, county health officer, on the dye test in the interest of protecting public health.

Dr. Gallison said persons living below the dam wanted to be sure that the substance added to the water in making the dye test would not be detrimental. He was told no detrimental substance would be used and that he would be notified to that effect when time comes for the dye test to be made.

FUNDS JUSTIFIED

Supervisors, who had set up \$5,000 at their last meeting to pay for grouting for a week, set up an additional \$15,000 under extra work orders, as requested by the Donald R. Warren company, project engineers, to provide further funds for deep grouting. District Attorney M. Arthur Waite told the supervisors the extra funds for the work to provide the dam site with a grout curtain are justified.

County Surveyor Robert Ryan said expenditures to date on Matilija amount to \$2,128,612, with expenses for Casitas totaling \$107,555 and for conduits, \$21,129.