

Return to Don

July 23, 1957.

MEMORANDUM TO WAYNE D. CRIDDLE BY Donald G. Norseth

RE: SAN PITCH DISTRIBUTION

MAYFIELD IRRIGATION COMPANY, GUNNISON IRRIGATION COMPANY,
AND THE TWIN LAKES RESERVOIR COMPANY.

Mayfield

A field examination of the Birch Creek drainage area of Twelve Mile Creek was made July 19, 1957, in company with the following: Croft Christensen, President of Mayfield Irrigation Company, Clive Christensen, Vice President of the Twin Lakes Irrigation Company, William C. Christiansen, Water Master of the Twin Lakes Reservoir Company, Lyman Larson, representing Old Field Irrigation Company, Melvin Hansen, Twin Lake Reservoir Company, Farrel Anderson, President of the Gunnison Irrigation Company, Wayne Naye, Water Master of the Gunnison Irrigation Company, and Eugene Jensen, Board Member of the Gunnison Irrigation Company.

The Birch Creek area involved five reservoirs owned by the various irrigation companies that divert out of Twelve Mile Creek. During the field examination the following reservoirs were visited and the conditions of the dams, the feeder canals and outlets were studied.

The Town Reservoir, owned by Mayfield Irrigation Company, has an estimated capacity of 100 acre-feet and is located on the natural channel of Birch Creek. It is an earth dam with a rather steep down stream slope and leaks badly. The water from this reservoir is released into Birch Creek and travels therein to its confluence with Twelve Mile Creek and travels therein until it is diverted just East of the Town of Mayfield.

The Bear Hole Reservoir owned by the Mayfield Reservoir Company is dry at the present time and the inlet channel cannot be maintained on the steep slope. The Mayfield Irrigation Company, to successfully store their decreed water, are going to file a Change Application in this office to raise the dam level on Town Reservoir and store the additional 150 acre-feet decreed to them at the Bear Hole Reservoir.

Feeder Reservoir: (New Field Company) The Feeder Reservoir owned by the Twin Lakes Reservoir Company has an estimated capacity of 15 acre-feet and leaks very badly. The water is released from this reservoir and travels in East Birch Creek to the Twin Lakes Reservoir;

7/23/57

Memo W.D.C. Page 2.

on the way the seepage from the Dry Hole Reservoir joins this channel and the water is carried through the Twin Lakes Reservoir down East Birch Creek to Twelve Mile Creek.

In the opinion of the writer, the channel from Twin Lakes Reservoir to Twelve Mile Creek is a result of the construction of Twin Lakes Reservoir and formerly the natural channel flowed into Birch Creek above its confluence with Twelve Mile Creek and not in a separate channel as it now does.

Dry Hole Reservoir: Is owned by the Twin Lakes Reservoir Company and had a very small amount of water in it on the date of the field examination however, there was evidence that an attempt had been made to fill this reservoir both from Birch Creek and from the seepage below Feeder Reservoir. It would appear that the seeps, both the upper and lower, located Southeast of Dry Hole Reservoir are a result of the filling of said reservoir.

Twin Lakes Reservoir: Is owned by the Twin Lakes Reservoir Company with a estimated capacity of 175 acre-feet, was full with water running over the spillway and was receiving water flowing from the seeps below Feeder Reservoir and from the upper and lower seeps resulting from the water being in Dry Hole Reservoir. It has an earthen dam which leaks badly.

The problem between the Gunnison Irrigation Company and the Twin Lakes Reservoir Company revolves around the seepage below all reservoirs and whether or not Twin Lakes Reservoir Company has the right to store water after April 1st of each year. If Twin Lakes Reservoir Company has decreed rights for the storage limited to the capacity of each reservoir, it would appear that they have no call on the seepage originating below the reservoir and that at no time would they be allowed to use this water. As to the period of use, the decree grants them until July 1st of each year to store water and if the rights with earlier priority on Twelve Mile Creek have been satisfied then they should be allowed to store water until July 1st of each year. In a dry year if the earlier rights were not satisfied, then they should not be allowed to store water past April 1st of each year.

Conditions: It is recommended that the present system be continued as it has been in the past for the remainder of this year and a recommendation made by this office for a new system starting next year.

DCN/ab