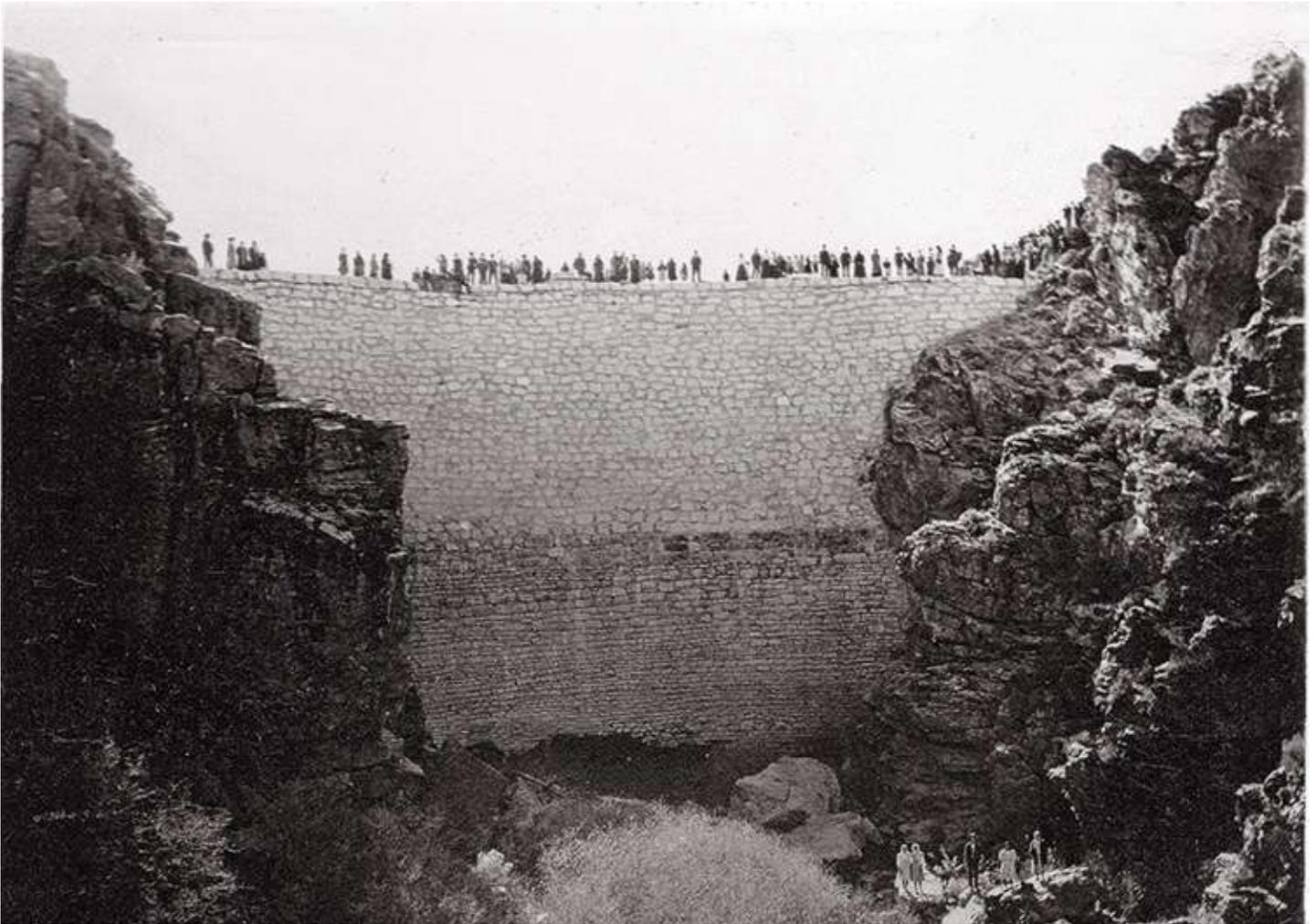


The Enterprise Reservoir(s)

Richard Kohler



Towns people atop recently completed Enterprise Dam 1910

After sixteen years of work which began in 1893, the Enterprise Dam was completed in 1909. Both the dam and the town were conceived by Orson Huntsman. Orson filed a homestead claim, under the Desert Land Act of 1877, on a 320 acre townsite in 1891 and named it Enterprise. Orson surveyed an eight mile long canal from the townsite to the dam on Shoal Creek. The Hebron settlers mostly opposed Orson's ideas.

Orson "preached reservoir" in all the surrounding towns between Parowan and the Muddy Valley, including Clover Valley and Panaca. Everyone was invited to investigate the proposed enterprise and assist in carrying it out, the benefits of which were to be shared equally by all who render assistance. A company was organized and stock (shares) were subscribed. It was named the *Hebron Reservoir and Irrigation Company*. An organizing committee consisted of Thomas Judd, Isaac C. Macfarlane, Orson W. Huntsman, Anthony W. Ivins, Zera P. Terry (Hebron), George M. Burgess (Pine Valley), and Alfred Syphus (Panaca). By September 1893 the company was organized with James Andrus as president and George Holt as secretary.

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Members of the Hebron Reservoir and Irrigation Company at work on their Dam 1909

In 1895, families began to move to the dry Enterprise townsite. Among the early arrivals were J. B. Morris, E. T. Adair, C. S. Fackrell, John Day, Emil Barlocker, A. P. Winsor, and William Hall.

Hebron's opposition to the Dam and the Enterprise townsite continued until November 17, 1902, when a strong earthquake damaged all the brick and rock buildings in Hebron quite badly. Hebron's townsfolk began to move to Enterprise and Hebron's water rights were sold to the Enterprise company.

The dam, the canal and the town were all built by the members of the *Hebron Reservoir and Irrigation Company*. Among the youngsters working on the dam was Anson Perry Winsor's son Luther M. Winsor, who was 25 years old when the dam was completed. Luther was the first student to graduate from the Utah Agricultural College in irrigation engineering.

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Enterprise townsfolk fishing at the Reservoir 1912

By 1922, irrigation engineer, Luther M. Winsor, had returned to his hometown to assist his community in the construction of the Upper Enterprise Dam (the original dam was referred to as the Lower Enterprise Dam) and later the Undercurrent Dam, built to prevent the waters of the Enterprise Canal from undermining the canal structure and increasing the volume of water delivered to the townsite. All three structures were built by the men, women and children of Enterprise.

After completing an irrigation assignment in the South American country of Chile, Luther returned to his home county to design the Shem Dam, a flood and sediment control structure located upstream from the Shivwits Reservation headquarters on the Santa Clara river where a copper smelter had been operated previously. Shem had been the name of the smelter site and town. Beginning in 1933, Winsor prepared drawings and specifications for the flood control dam which was built by Civilian Conservation Corps boys stationed in St. George. At its completion, it was called the Winsor Dam.

The Enterprise Reservoir(s)

Richard Kohler



Workmen Atop the Enterprise Reservoir 1909

These photographs document a truly amazing cooperative achievement. To understand better please read Orson Huntsman's *A Brief History of Shoal Creek, Hebron and Enterprise 1862 to 1922* published by Dixie College in 1929. (see link at bottom of page to a copy on the Washington County Historical Society website.)