



A LOOK AT HISTORY

Construction of the Alva B. Adams Tunnel, a feature of the C-BT Project, began in 1940. The tunnel drops 109 feet in elevation over its 13.1 mile length and is 3,800 feet below the Continental Divide at its deepest point. The tunnel transfers water from the Colorado River drainage to Colorado's Front Range. Construction was suspended in 1943 for nearly a year due to WWII, but was completed on March 31, 1944. When the tunnel was holed through, NBC Radio broadcast the event live throughout the United States.

SOURCE: Bureau of Reclamation.



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Increasing demand for municipal water supplies along the Front Range, symbolized here by the growth of subdivisions on former farmlands, was one of the issues which prompted the creation of the IBCC process.

Courtesy of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District.



A LOOK AT HISTORY

Boy irrigating alfalfa, date unknown.

Courtesy of City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection. SOURCE: Bureau of Reclamation.

ROBERT T. SAKATA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6-122

the risk associated with new inventive approaches and change.

I am a Colorado native, born and raised in Brighton Colorado on a family farm started by my father Bob Sakata. Currently, my parents, Joanna and Bob, and I are one of the largest fresh market sweet corn growers in Colorado. We also grow broccoli, cabbage, dry bulb onions, pinto beans, field corn, wheat, and barley. My father taught me the importance of investing in good land with good water and to care for those resources like family. With that upbringing, my interest has always been in science, and I worked for AmGen before going back to the farm. I served on the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission for 15 years, was a member of the Metro Basin Roundtable since its inception, and serve on the board of directors for several of the mutual ditch companies that my family farm receives irrigation water from.

Brighton, CO is where I was born and raised and now find myself growing old! Being just north of the Denver metropolitan area I have seen lots of changes but I couldn't ask for a better place to live. Once strictly a farming community, we still have a Cabbage Avenue, which has grown to include many different industries. We maintain that small community feel...but it's great that we are only minutes away from all of the big city activities that the Denver metropolitan area has to offer.

It was such an honor to serve the citizens of Colorado on the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission for 15 years. In the semi-arid climate that we live in I think most people are keenly aware of water quantity issues but often as a headwaters state we take for granted water quality. In the past there has been a distinct division between water quantity and quality but as the resource becomes more limited the linkage between the two will mandate cooperative management discussions in order to meet both needs.

The Colorado Water Plan along with the Statewide Water Supply Initiative have highlighted the demands that will be placed on our water resources and my hope is simply that we don't end having water wars... like the song says, can't we just all get along? There will have to be a lot of creative minds that develop some unique partnerships to share this limited resource. To grow high quality, nutritious fresh vegetables we need good soil, a good climate and a reliable supply of high quality irrigation water - it's as simple as that - no water-no food.

To be a farmer requires a person to have a lot of faith and belief that what you are doing is going to all work out. When you prepare the soil in the spring, plant the seed, irrigate and nurture it through the summer you are hoping that after months of dedication, you will finally be able to harvest your crop. No different than that, Coloradoans need to step up and know that planning for tomorrow is more important than what we may desire for today. I truly believe that locally grown fresh nutritious vegetables are an important piece of the overall well being of our society. When I went off to college the last thing I wanted to be was a farmer because watching how hard my parents worked when I grew up I knew that there had to be an easier way to earn a living. My goal was to get into molecular cellular research and to find the cure for cancer...little did I realize then that as a vegetable farmer I was already providing the cure...and now as a farmer I feel I am doing more than I ever could in oncology research. I am committed to ensure that I can continue to play an important role in being a part of creating my hope for the future... as a farmer.

JACKIE BROWN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6-151

listening, learning and collaborating. When the Colorado Compact was negotiated, it was done wisely, in a manner that allowed slower growing basins to develop in their own time. I hope to see SB 1177 continue, which supports collaboration.

I grew up in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. I am a self-proclaimed lifelong learner who has studied at Boston University, the University of Colorado and Colorado State University. I have a diverse career background spanning project and business management, natural resources, and of course, water in the west. I am currently the Natural Resource Policy Advisor to Tri-State Generation and Transmission. I live in the mountains with a fantastic husband, a four-year old son, and a stubborn black lab puppy who all remind me constantly of the important things in life – not cleanliness.

I became addicted to water at a young age – constantly drenched in fluid or frozen water. My interest in policy came about in 1999 on a trip through the Grand Canyon. As a water rat once said, "there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats" (*Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame). Living in Steamboat Springs in 2008, I began attending Basin Roundtable Meetings and the rest is history. It gives me great pleasure to work with people and the resource that sustains us.