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See water - others side
Hoover Dam

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Letters to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

"Lucky Kingman becomes the 'Water-Mart' for Wal-Mart"

Mohave County Supervisors whole-heartedly approve an agreement to supply water to the food distribution center that the GIANT WAL-MART "demands" to satiate the F.D.C.'s thirst. This huge giant will smother 880,000 square feet of ground. It will be supplied by the water system that the county built to serve the Griffith Energy power plant and other customers. Which other customers? Commercial or residential? Where does the water come from? If from the same general area and there are privately owned wells in that area, is there not a possibility that said wells will be siphoned off by Wally Wal-Mart's demands? How can existing wells be protected from such form of "thievery"? Wally will pay a one-time fee of \$284,000 to connect the system. I assume the County will be responsible for maintenance and any cost exceeding the \$284,000. Does that include Kingman having to purchase all the required equipment to transfer water to Golden Valley and lay the pipelines? The county must supply 300 gallons per minute during construction and up to 200 gallons per minute when the facility begins operation. What happens when, not if, the county fails to "perform" the minimum? The figures also represent the maximum that Wally can use. What happens, if Wally's thirst exceeds the quota - what

day a week use. Please tell me, is the 200-300 gallons per minute a maximum for a 24-hour day? If not, is it restricted to an 8 hour a day, 5 day week? The answer will make a gigantic difference in the allowable total consumption.

Sometime in the past, I read an article that stated Kingman had a 150-year supply of water, which is a figure plucked from the brain of a developer, in all probability. It is now stated that Kingman must have a 100-year supply of water assured before development can accelerate. There is no proof that there is a 100 year supply, nor is there any feasible way to determine the amount of water accessible. Even assuming there is, there is no way to determine the rate of consumption for the next 100 years. Even if the "speculators" decide there is ample water, what happens in eighty years, or less, when suddenly it is proven the wells will be dry in, just a wild guess, 20 years? Who does what - and to whom?

Developers are confident they can prove sufficient water supply, adequate for supplying 62,000 homes just in the two developments, not including a possible myriad more residents built by others, plus any commercial and civic buildings. Developers, not unlike unscrupulous corporate officials, defense attorneys, politicians, (not statesmen), etc., can afford to buy any kind of an opinion or "statement" (not proof positive) to support any endeavor they seek to gain - financially or

for at least 100 years for "wear and tear" from Mother Nature and humanity. Then strengthening or building structures to withstand an even greater strain or disaster. However, funds would seldom, if ever, be allocated by Congress. He has appeared before many house committees regarding the same. Upon retirement he became Executive Director of National Water Resources with an office in the National Press Building. Therefore, I have good reason to believe the problems that he has expressed about floods, hurricanes, etc., all catastrophes that "God's fury hath wrought." Oh yes, he was President Protem of the International Rivers and Harbors Commission, with representatives from Europe and the Orient. He has predicted many times that water will become scarce in many areas, despite conservation measures, due the huge population increase and the demands of commerce. He also, as with oil, predicted that as the accessibility of water becomes more difficult, the recovery of same will make the price unaffordable to many. Col. Bronn questions the ability of a "hired" expert to prove the amount of underground water that is available. It is a highly complicated challenge and would require very expensive exploration, and even then there would not be an infallible conclusion, including the structure of the "substratum" (my word), earth movement, etc. - just the oppo-

"marring" of the earth's surface affects greatly the ability of the earth to absorb moisture. As to making a feeble attempt to determine how long the supply of water will last, ensuring a timeless supply for future generations, is impossible. What demands will be made by population increase and the expansion of commerce? No wild speculation, please!

I consider it appropriate that I review another small part of my brother's career to add authenticity to my statements. Colonel Carl H. Bronn began his career after University of Utah graduation, with honors, as a U.S. Geological Surveyor in the state of Wyoming. He then went to work for the State of Utah, surveying WELLS in the state, and became Assistant State Engineer while still in his twenties. He was in the U.S. Calvary Reserve and called to active duty prior to the war and became Base Engineer for the Santa Ana Air Base in California. Thence on to include that which I have previously mentioned. I will close with one more "toot" for my brother. He was the Official Dignitary Greeter at the dedication of Lake Powell Dam and enjoyed the company of Lady Bird Johnson, President Lyndon B. Johnson's wife.

Need I say more? No? Thank you for letting me "Spin the Water Wheel." Where will it stop? Nobody knows!

Bill Bronn

P.S. I am confidant I will

exceeds the quota what penalties? And will penalties be more severe as even more water is consumed? Incidentally, where are the Super Marts located in the 200-mile radius? There will be no minimum charge (we should be so lucky) and no added fees other than a consumption based bill. Such a deal! The board of Supervisors has the authority to adjust rates periodically. At the "whim of the Supervisors? Hah! If there is the slightest "whim-per" from Wally in reply, I am confident the Count(r)y boys will back off.

All this having been said, let's delve into this deal a bit further. We surely will dig much deeper into all wells and siphon water from innocent "bystander wells." An article in a local paper a few months ago mentioned that the average consumption of water (U.S.) is 60 gallons a day for each person. This surely includes all metered water where records are kept, which includes golf courses, swimming pools, man fed lakes, ponds, etc. It can only be assumed that the consumption of unmetered water would be a mere fraction of total consumption. Now, this consumption is based on twenty-four hour a day, 7

"power wise." Politicians, doctors, lawyers, medical experts, contractors, suppliers, etc. are not immune to receiving "payola" (bribery) for saying/doing whatever the "donor" suggests.

Water supplies must be replenished as consumption drains the wells. As I have been led to believe, Kingman sold its rights to the Colorado River. Therefore, apparently for some time, water availability is dependent upon the underground water supply - a supply built up over tens of thousands of years. I do not claim to have more than a laymen's knowledge of water supply and demand. However, my brother was a strong water conservationist and would coach me on conservation and admonish me for waste. He is a retired Colonel, U.S. Army Engineers. He has built bases in the U.S. and overseas. He was given many awards for service overseas and in the U.S. He at one point in time was stationed in Vicksburg, Mississippi and was in charge of the Mississippi from Vicksburg to the Gulf. The latest gulf disaster was no surprise to him. He always advocated checking the history of dams, levees, bridges, etc.

site for determining the contents of a man made reservoir, or even water behind a dam, where the entire area prior to being filled can be surveyed and capacity determined with a reasonable amount of certainty. Man's continuous

"dry up" before this land does. Bye, bye. However, thousands and thousands of wells in the mid-west and far west have dried up; due to too many wells drilled, or due the demand exceeding replenishment of water for existing wells.

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From the Pastor's Pen

Rev. Michael Bryant,
St. John's United Methodist Church

Most of us have watched countless races over the years. The Olympics are usually packed with close foot races. And although breaking a laser beam determines the winner these days, they used to stretch a tape across the finish line. And as the runners would lean into the tape, whoever broke the tape was declared the victor. Of course, car races, horse races, snowmobile races and other vehicles offer examples of folks "breaking the tape," so to

speak.

Additionally, many of us have actually participated in a race of some kind. Perhaps we have had the opportunity to lean into the tape, break it with joy, be declared the winner, and even remember the exhilaration we felt as we crossed the finish line.

Perhaps, there are reasons we have yet to experience "breaking the tape." Sometimes the busy-ness of life throws us off track. Sometimes selfish desires are an obstacle to breaking

the tape. Sometimes we just can't agree on what constitutes "the sign of success" for our life. Perhaps our life has so little direction, that we don't really care about breaking the tape. I suppose when it comes to 'breaking the tape,' it can become a rather personal event.

Finally, I believe it's time we all get ready to break the tape! With Easter Sunday coming in just a few weeks, God wants us to keep this world in proper perspective, and join Him

in our heavenly home. And in order for us to make it, I think we will always need to strive for the finish line! Perhaps 'breaking the tape' is not so "personal." Breaking the tape, I believe, is about pleasing God in our every day life. Breaking the tape is about making God's way of living our way of life.

I'll see you in church, the grocery store, working out at the gym, or around town. You can email Pastor Michael at www.stjohnsumc.com.