

LAKE POWELL
Jewel of the Colorado



*An iridescent jewel
Aglow
Upon a new-born lake.*

LAKE POWELL

Jewel of the Colorado

Past these towering monuments, past these mounded billows of orange sandstone, past these oak-set glens, past these fern-decked alcoves, past these mural curves, we glide hour after hour, stopping now and then as our attention is arrested by some new wonder.

—JOHN WESLEY POWELL
Colorado River explorer, 1869

Administered as a national recreation area by the National Park Service,
so as to provide the American public maximum access and enjoyment.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
STEWART L. UDALL, *Secretary*

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
FLOYD E. DOMINY, *Commissioner*



*Dear God, did you cast down
Two hundred miles of canyon
And mark: "For poets only"?
Multitudes hunger
For a lake in the sun.*

—GORDON MICHELLE, 1952

FOREWORD Once in a blue moon we come upon almost unbelievable beauty. Such was my reaction at my first sight of Lake Powell and its setting of incomparable grandeur. Lake Powell holds working water, but it also is a new and major national recreation area. The blue waters and the sculptured shore hold something for all—the fun and excitement of fishing, boating, and water sports, or healing solitude in the midst of natural beauty.

President and Mrs. Johnson have challenged us with an exciting new concept of conservation: Creation of new beauty to amplify the beauty which is our heritage as well as creation of more places for outdoor recreation. In this magnificent lake we have made such accomplishments. Welcome to Lake Powell.

—STEWART L. UDALL, *Secretary*
U.S. Department of the Interior

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High on the western slopes of the Continental Divide—in Rocky Mountain National Park—Willow Creek, headwaters of the Colorado River, begins its 1,400-mile journey to the sea.



THE RIVER

The mighty Colorado River is as essential to a great seven-State area in the West as the Great Lakes are to the industrial heartland of America. Without it, much of that Western land as we know it today would be desolate and unsettled—a barren waste unfit for habitation.

The Colorado is an ancient river. Its bedrock granite dates back to the Archean Age—oldest in known geological time.

The river springs to life high on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains' Continental Divide in northern Colorado—then begins its 1,400-mile journey to the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean. Its tributaries extend into seven Western States. It drains one-twelfth the area of the continental United States.

Through the eons, as the great plateaus of Utah rose from the sea, this great land carver gouged the mesa rocks to gorge and chasm along its path. It dug great canyons, their rims towering thousands of feet above the river's bed.

Fifteen thousand years ago, the Colorado coursed through a land generously blessed with rainfall and green with vegetation. Eleven thousand years ago, a great cycle of aridity began. This reached its height 4,000 years before Christ. Ancient Indian civilization died for lack of understanding how to use the river's water to alleviate great drought. In that age, the West became as we see it today.

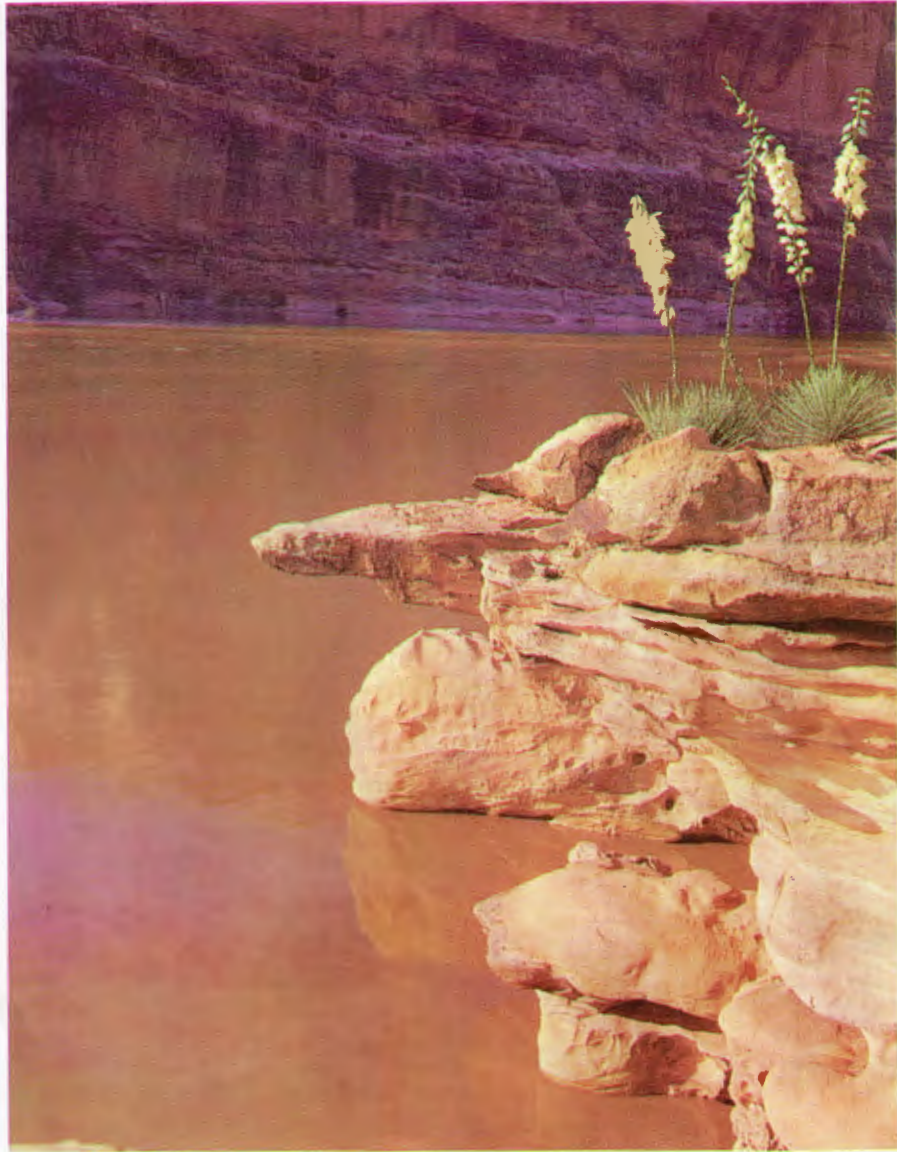
Not long after Columbus discovered the New World, Spanish conquistadors discovered the lower Colorado. They gave the silt-laden river its name—Colorado—Spanish for red.

In 1869, John Wesley Powell was the first man to navigate 1,000 miles of the Colorado River and live to tell the tale.

Later, it became "Big Red" to the settlers—a wild, unbridled river that was both blessing and curse. It gave them that breath of Western life—water—but its disastrous floods ravaged and destroyed. And its annual low-flow cycle discouraged attempts to fit the river into a plan of permanent economic development.

Not until the 20th century did man begin to tame the outlaw river—to store its precious water and regulate its flow.



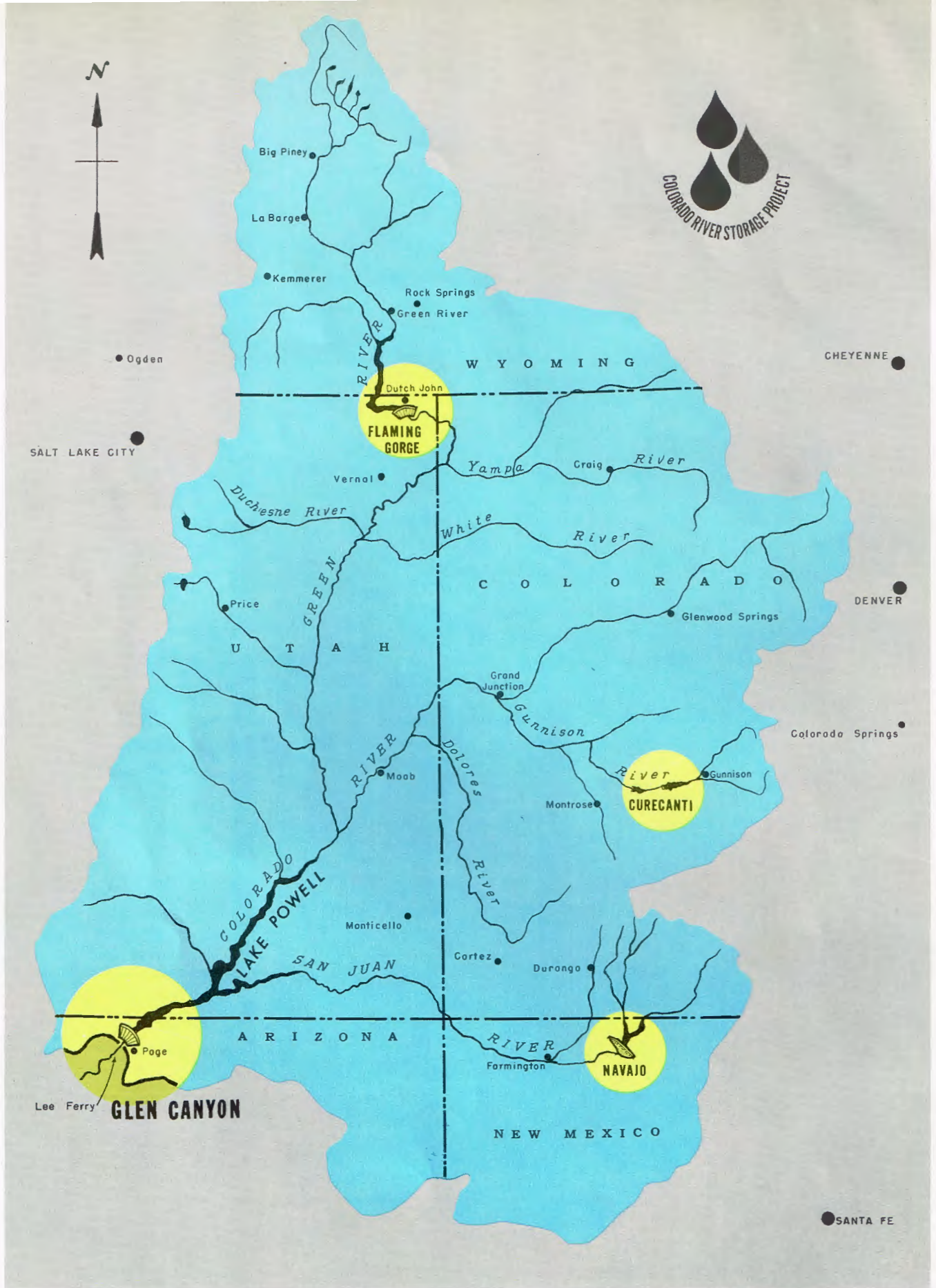


*I was brick-red, mud-laden:
Big Red, the River Colorado;
Trickle or flood at Nature's whim
Since time began.*

*To the sea my waters wasted
While the lands cried out for moisture.
Now man controls me
Stores me, regulates my flow.*

*The wild red outlaw river
Tamed.
Now flowing clean and blue
Unmanned.*





The four-State Colorado River Storage Project—a comprehensive river-basin development.



THE PLAN

In the early part of this century in the arid West, a water-resources planning engineer would pick a likely spot on a river for a dam. He would consider all possible benefits—as far as his scope of vision extended. Then the dam would be built. There were, of course, direct benefits—but they were governed by the limited technology and vision of the day.

By the 1920's, most of the "easy" ones—the simple projects—had been built. Realization grew that the taming of the Colorado must begin—that its waters must be made subject to the need and will of man.

And so a new era for the West began. First fruit was famed Hoover Dam—the first major river plug in the world, and still the highest dam in this hemisphere. Behind it is Lake Mead—one of the biggest manmade lakes in the world.

A classic example of this new vision is the Colorado River Storage Project. The bold and sweeping planning for it was not concerned with one dam in one place—it was concerned with the upper half of an entire river basin encompassing four Western States. Not only was it concerned with the main river—the Colorado—and its lower basin, but its many tributaries as well.

The use plan for the water was not cast in the singular—it was labeled multipurpose: irrigation, municipal and industrial, power generation, flood control, fish and wildlife—plus outdoor recreation for all the Nation's people.

There are four main water-storage and river-regulating units: Flaming Gorge, Curecanti, Navajo, and Glen Canyon. And 11 smaller participating projects are integrated to support the broad and comprehensive plan.

Some idea of the scope of this giant project may be had from two facts: When completed—and it is nearly complete—the system will store 35 million acre-feet of water and be able to generate 1.3 million kilowatts of electric power.

In direct ways, this powerhouse of western economic development will beneficially affect every person in most of the West. In indirect ways, it will be of benefit to every person in the United States.

And it will be no burden on the American taxpayer. More than 90 percent of construction costs for the entire project will be paid for by water and power sales—and be returned to the United States Treasury.

As the great reservoirs fill with the surplus of highwater years, users of Colorado River water will be freed from disruptive cycles of drought. The reservoirs will hold sufficient water for 4 years of committed needs—regardless of inflow.

When the system is complete, damaging floods—large or small—will be impossible. Big Red, the outlaw river, will finally be tamed.

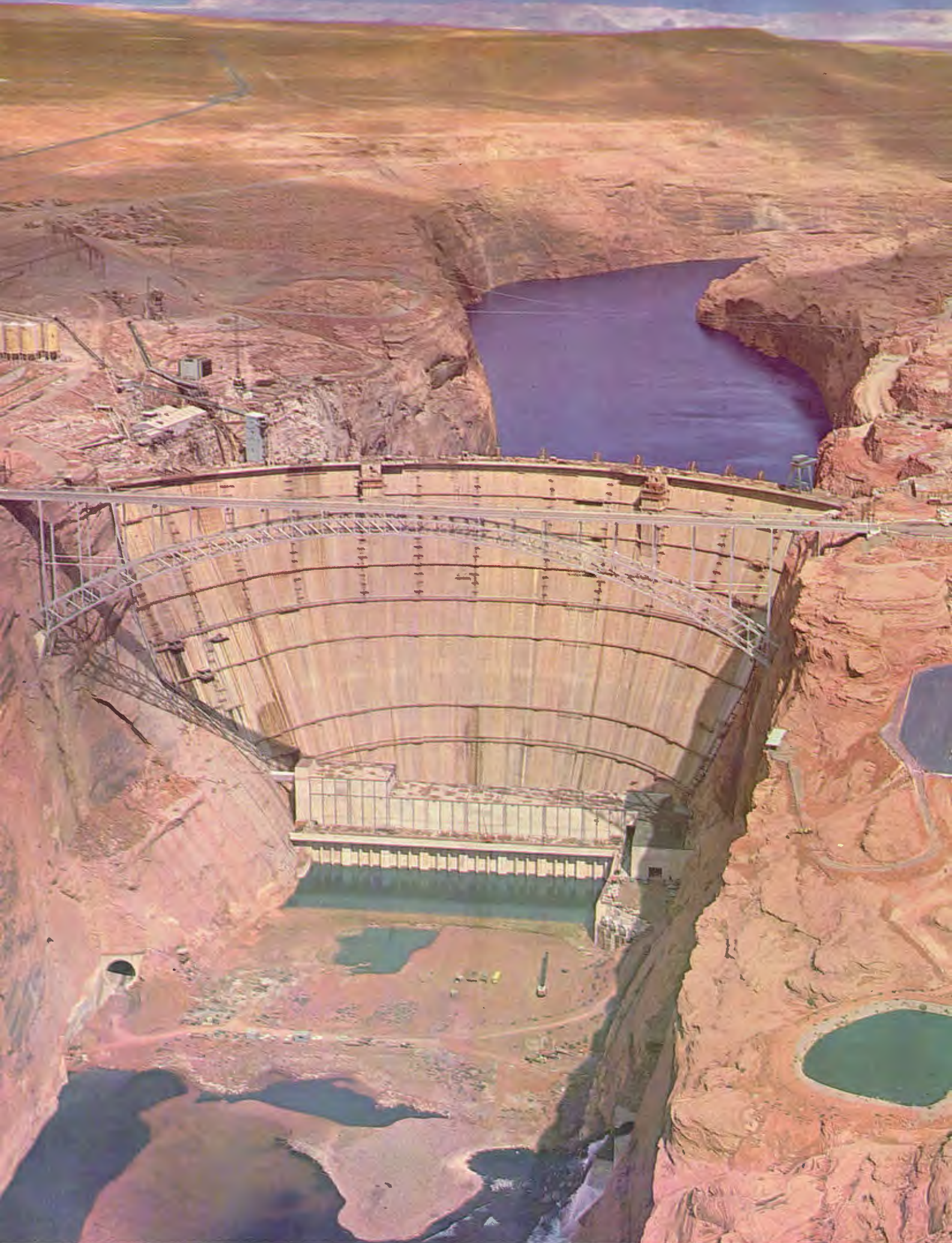
Water flowing in the Colorado will be blue and clean, and stay that way. Each reservoir has the designed-in capacity to hold many hundreds of years' silt accumulation, without affecting efficiency of operation.

When the Colorado River Storage Project is fully integrated with present plans for the lower basin of the river, the long-cherished dream of full development and use will have come true.



GLEN CANYON DAM RISING
Man and Nature in Peaceful Harmony.

GLEN CANYON DAM—*Complete and Storing Blue Water.*



THE DAM

Man has flung down a giant barrier directly in the path of the turbulent Colorado in Arizona. It has tamed the wild river—made it a servant to man's will.

Big Red has lost meaning as a name for the Colorado. The colossus called Glen Canyon is now storing and releasing blue water.

Glen Canyon Dam rises over 500 feet from the canyon floor. Its graceful bulk holds 5 million cubic yards of concrete. In the powerhouse at its toe, 475-ton generators spin quietly as they pour energy by the billions of watts into cross-country transmission lines. Behind it, 186-mile-long Lake Powell is filling.

In 1964, Glen Canyon Dam was winner in the national competition for the Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award. This annual award is given by the American Society of Civil Engineers to—

“that engineering project that demonstrated the greatest engineering skills and represents the greatest contribution to . . . mankind.”

Built of rock and cement and sweat and skill, Glen Canyon Dam stands as a monument to the talent of its builders—and to reaffirmation of the pioneering spirit that is America.

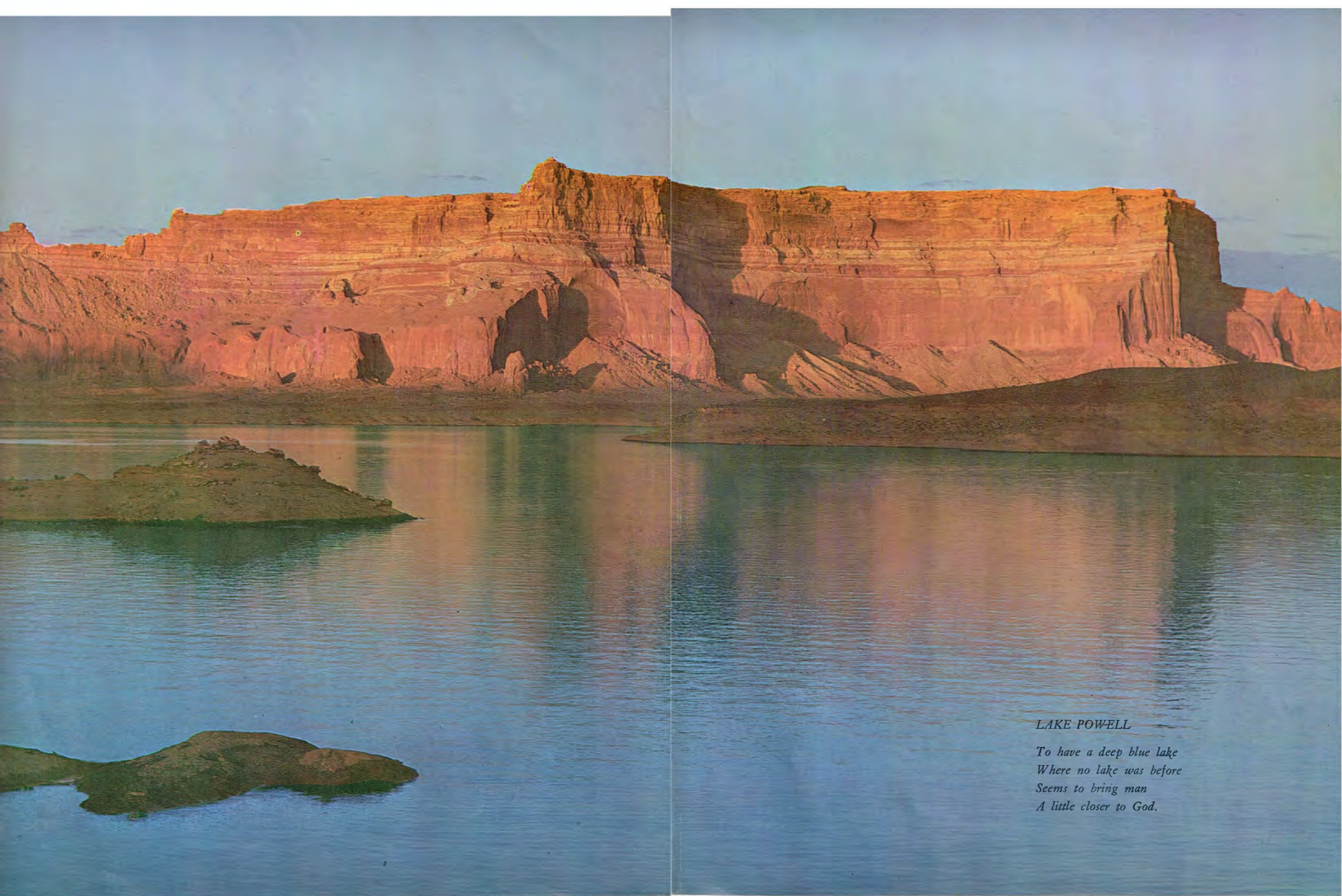
The manmade rock of the dam has become as one with the living rock of the canyon.

It will endure as long as time endures.



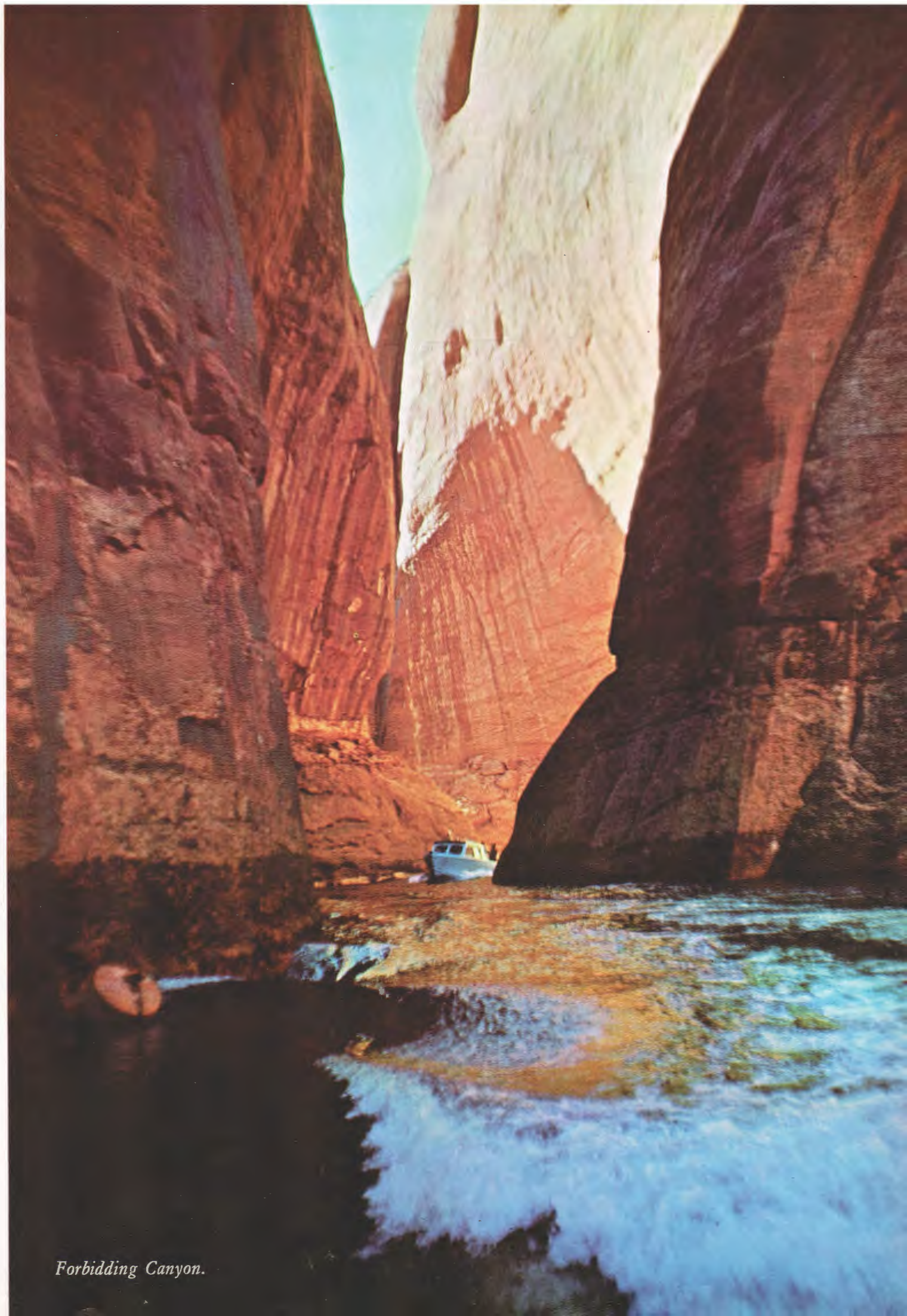
Along Lake Powell's shores.



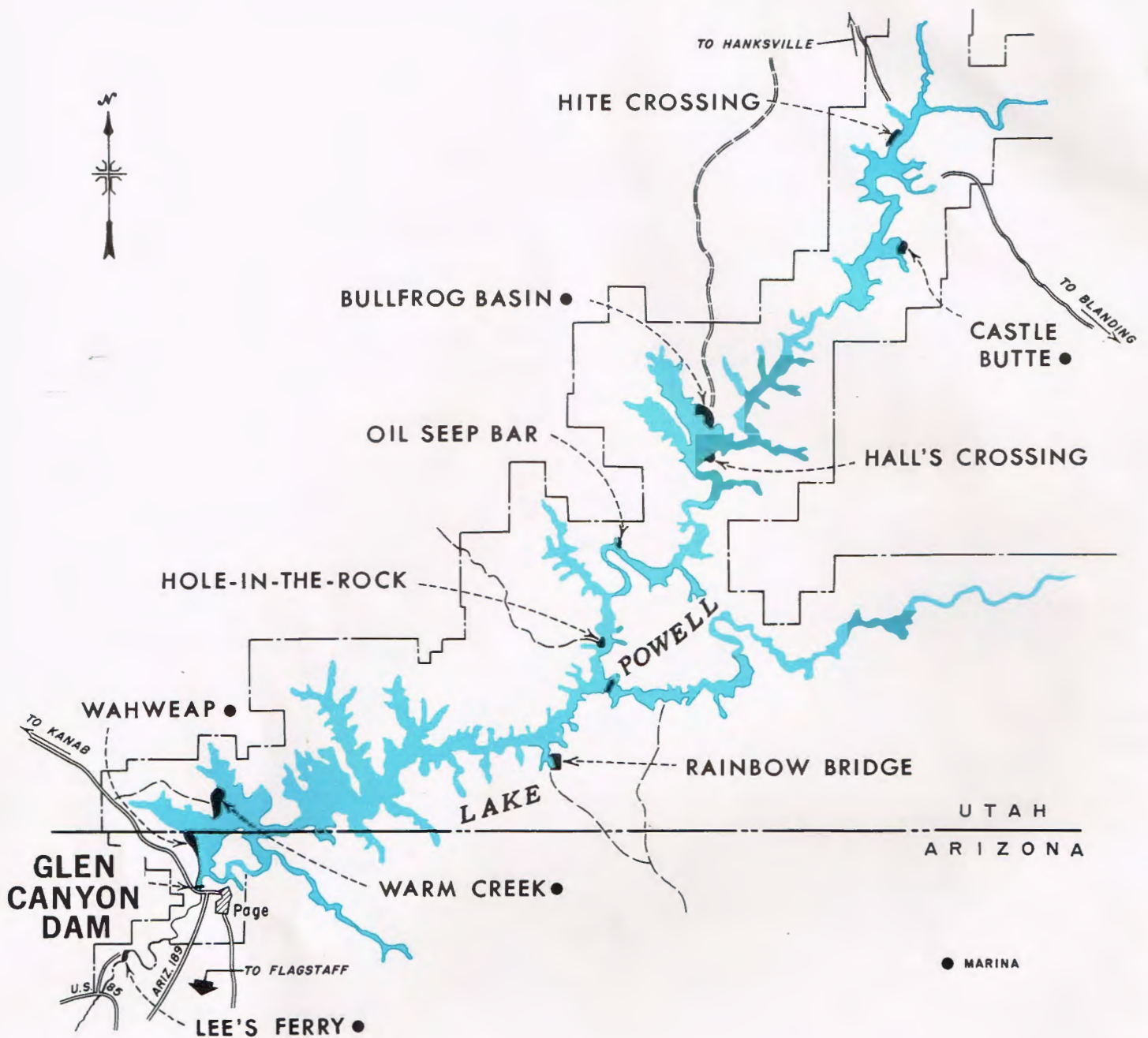


LAKE POWELL

*To have a deep blue lake
Where no lake was before
Seems to bring man
A little closer to God.*



Forbidding Canyon.



GLEN CANYON RECREATION SITES

Like a string of pearls along Lake Powell's shores will be 10 modern recreation areas. Their names read as on a page from some colorful history of the Old West: Wahweap, Lee's Ferry, Warm Creek, Rainbow Bridge, Hole-in-the-Rock, Oil Seep Bar, Hall's Crossing, Bullfrog Basin, Castle Butte, and Hite Crossing.

THE LAKE

*A personal report from the
Commissioner of the Bureau
of Reclamation*



Sired by the muddy Colorado in magnificent canyon country, a great blue lake has been born in the West.

It is called Lake Powell. When full, it will be 186 miles long. Its shoreline will total 1,860 miles. It formed behind Glen Canyon Dam, which is at the town of Page, Ariz. The lake begins in the northern part of that State. Most of it is in Utah.

Lake Powell holds working water—water for many purposes. And one of those purposes is to provide the people of this country with the finest scenic and recreational area in the Nation.

At intervals along shores of astonishing beauty will be 10 recreation centers developed by the National Park Service. Their names have a tang of the Old West: Wahweap, Lee's Ferry, Warm Creek, Rainbow Bridge, Hole-in-the-Rock, Oil Seep Bar, Hall's Crossing, Bullfrog Basin, Castle Butte, and Hite Crossing.

Five of these will have marinas, four will have airstrips, seven will have complete lodging accommodations, all will have boat docks, supplies, camping sites, and picnic grounds. Work is underway on over half of these sites. Wahweap—nearest to Glen Canyon Dam—is virtually complete.

All you need is a boat—or there are excursion boats for hire if you prefer. Where you go and what you do in this water wonderland is for your personal choice. You are rich with opportunity before you begin.

I'd like to invite you to visit Lake Powell and especially to see that natural marvel—Rainbow Bridge. Before Lake Powell, Rainbow Bridge National Monument could be visited only by the rugged few who "packed" in. Now all of you can see it—easily. Your boat will moor to floating docks at the entrance to Rainbow Bridge Canyon. Then you take a walk on a trail along the canyon's side. You'll find the bridge undamaged by Lake Powell's waters—for even when the lake is at maximum elevation its waters can never reach the ledge upon which the bridge rests. And you can marvel at its arched and graceful beauty in the peace and quiet of its natural setting.

How can I describe the sculpture and colors along Lake Powell's shores? Every time I go back, I search again for a new set of words. And they always seem inadequate.

Over cons of time, wind and rain have carved the sandstone into shapes to please ten thousand eyes. The graceful, the dramatic, the grand, the fantastic. Evolution into convolution and involution. Sharp edges, round edges, blunt edges, soaring edges. Spires, cliffs, and castles in the sky.

Colors like a symphony of Nature's music. Bright orange, brick red, ocher, pink, deep brown, vivid purple, granite black, mustard yellow—and a soft, pale green so delicate no artist could ever capture it with paint.

If I sound partisan toward Lake Powell, you are correct. I am proud of this aquatic wonder and want to share it with you.

Do you like to fish? Lake Powell has been stocked with millions of trout and bass. They'll be good fighting size this summer and good eating, too.

Feel like exploring? Hundreds of side canyons—where few ever trod before the lake formed—are yours. They have names like Cathedral and Twilight—the list is long and many are still nameless.

Fun sports? Yes. This is sun country. Water skiing, swimming, scuba diving—all in clean, blue water that looks like deep blue sky.

And if you feel lazy and just want to soak up sun and beauty, this is your place. Don't hike—amble. Lie in the sun. Putter along the shore. You'll never run out of places and space.

If you're tired in mind and soul, in need of restful serenity, I don't know a better place. If you want to be alone, you can be alone. You just can't crowd Lake Powell's 1,860 miles of shoreline—equal in length to our Pacific shoreline from Tia Juana, Mexico, to the Olympic shores of Washington State.

For that grand old American custom of seeing America first, where could be better? The air is dry and bracing, the sun is warm, and there's a prizewinning scene round every bend.

And best of all for some, a campfire with old friends on Powell's shores at dusk. After pan-fried trout, which never taste the same in restaurants.

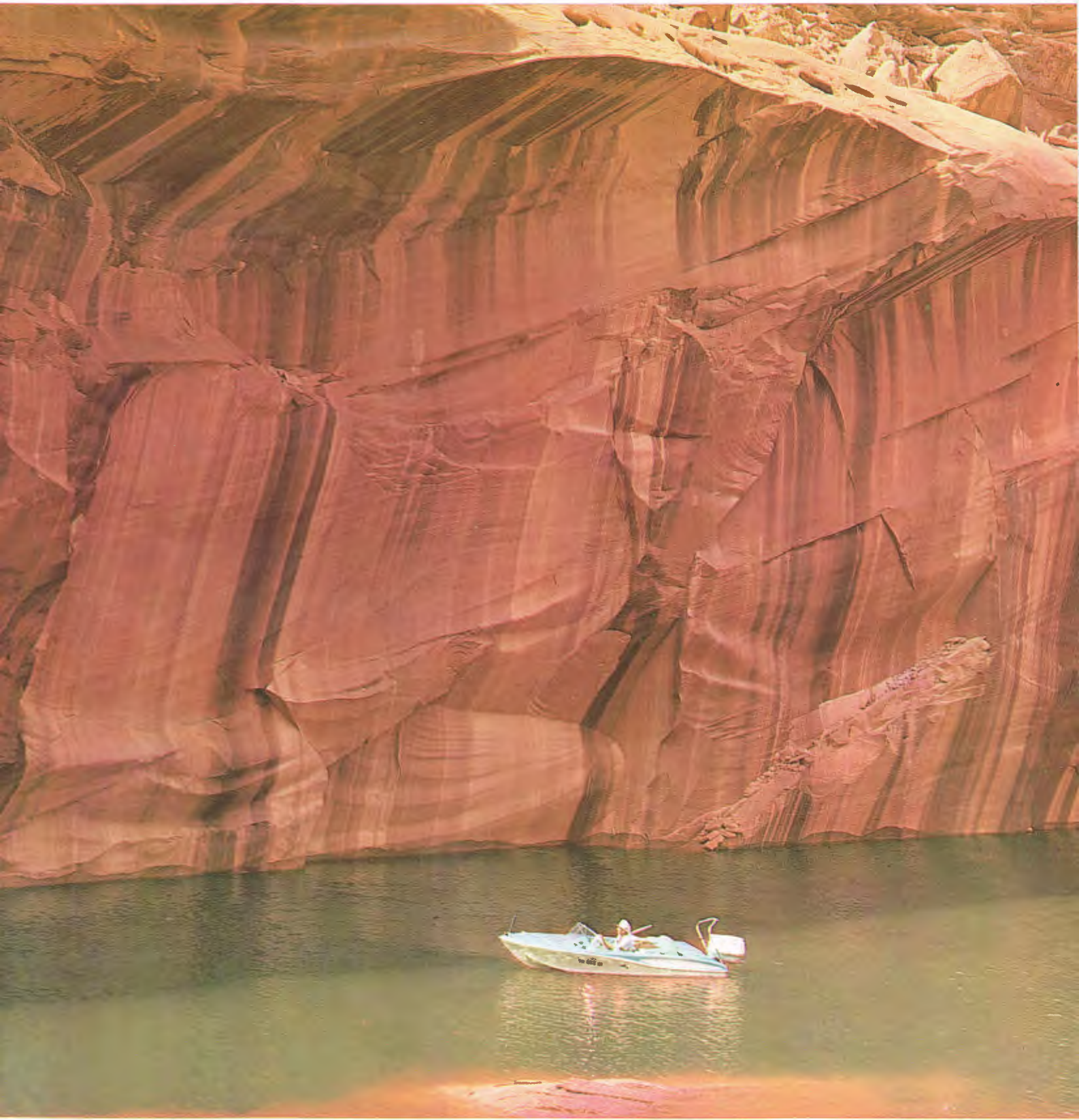
You have a front-row seat in an amphitheater of infinity. The bright blue sky deepens slowly to a velvet purple and the stars are brilliant—glittering in that vast immensity above. Orange sandstone cliffs fade to dusky red—then to blackest black. The fire burns low—reflected in the placid lake. There is peace. And a oneness with the world and God.

I know. I was there.

—FLOYD E. DOMINY

Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

*There are millions in cities
Who have never seen
Red sandstone soaring skyward
Like cathedral spires.*





Wahweap Recreation Area Marina.











*A sweet breeze
Across deep water
The campfire's glow
Day's end
Peace.*



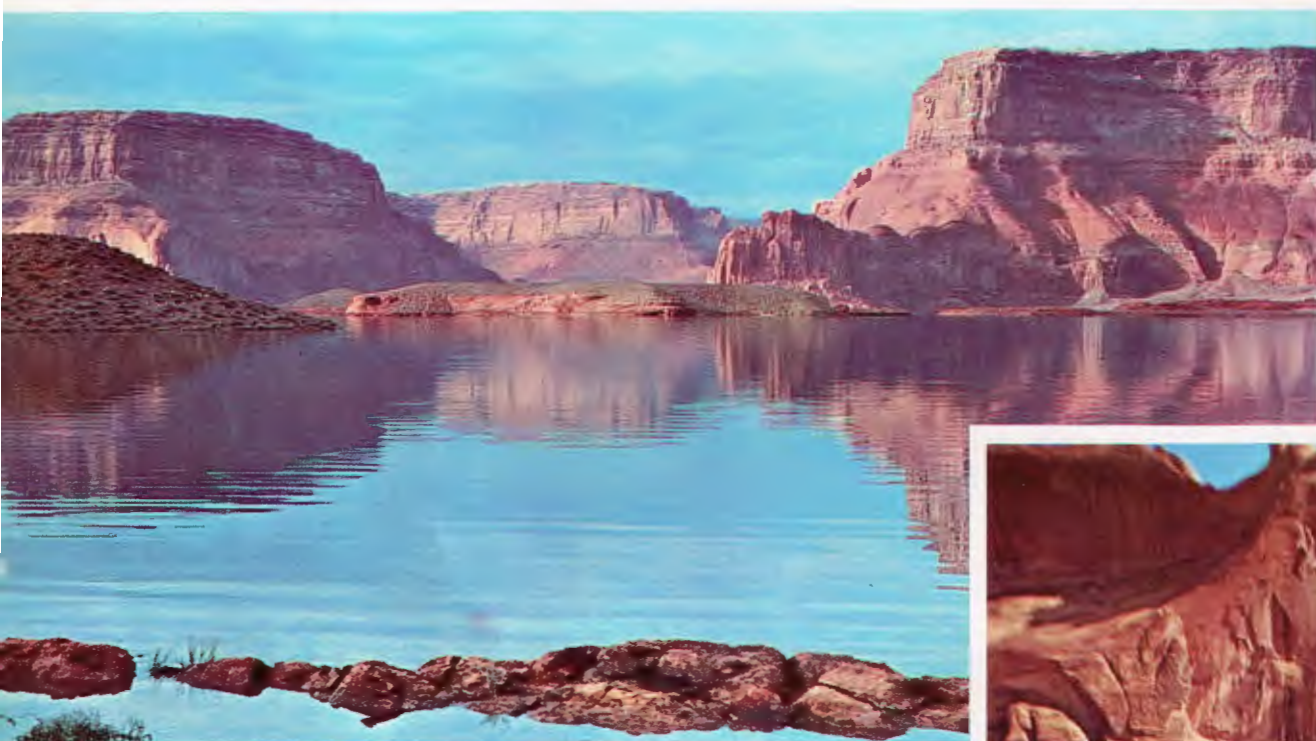


RAINBOW BRIDGE—a national monument. This beautiful natural marvel was once accessible only to the rugged few who “packed” in. Because of Lake Powell, there is now easy access by boat for the millions.

*I sing a song for common man
Desk-numbered and city-trapped;
Now free—now hearing clearly
Great chords of healing solitude.*



*There are canyons
By the hundreds
Waiting for you to explore.
Come.*



*Sculptured beauty
Shaped by nature.
To her
A million years
But the flick of a page
In the endless book of time.*



THE FUTURE

What do you do with a great river which is the lifeline for the arid half of a country?

First, you treasure, regulate, and husband what it holds. Then you plan the future for that water as carefully as King Midas counted his gold.

The tremendous basin of the Colorado River is divided into an Upper Basin and Lower Basin. The four-State Upper Basin contains the Colorado River Storage Project. The Lower Basin holds famed Hoover Dam and Lake Mead—serving California, Arizona, and Nevada. It also holds other significant water projects, but needs further development to utilize its allotted share of Colorado River water. This additional development is essential to its future.

Why does the Lower Basin need more water now? Because the population explosion in the Lower Basin States during the past 15 years has been phenomenal. The population has doubled and doubled again—and this growth rate is expected to continue.

This is why further water development is needed now. To supply the means to bring more water to more people. Not for convenience, but out of necessity.

Construction of these new water supply and delivery works will be expensive. But basic to Reclamation's policy—contrary to many other Federal programs—is payback to the United States Treasury for construction costs.

Sale of water alone cannot do it. But sale of power—generated by that water—is the traditional congressionally endorsed means of achieving balance.

And that is the “why” for consideration of Bridge Canyon Dam and construction of Marble Canyon Dam—as proposed to the Congress.

These dams are cash registers. They will ring up sales of electric power produced by Colorado River water.

Is hydroelectric power obsolete? Can nuclear or coal-fired energy spin the generators more cheaply? These questions represent confused concepts. Hydropower is unique in that it is the only power system which can be started and stopped at the flick of a switch. It can supply power instantly on demand. This is “peaking” power—champing at the bit and ready for use at those times of day when the demand is heavy. Integration of Federal hydropower and steam-generation plants of others has been the practical solution for many years. It will continue to be.



It has been charged that "these new dams would 'flood out' the river's canyon in Grand Canyon National Park." Any such charge has no basis in truth. First, only one of these structures—Bridge Canyon Dam—will impinge in any way on Grand Canyon National Park. The other structure—Marble Canyon Dam—would be many miles beyond the upstream boundary of the park. Second, the lake formed by Bridge Canyon Dam would back only 13 miles along the Colorado where the river is the park boundary. At the boundary, the canyon is 2,100 feet deep. The lake water would add only 90 feet to the present river level. At 13 miles upstream along the boundary, the added water depth would be zero. The remaining 92 river-miles within Grand Canyon National Park would remain untouched.

A blue lake above Bridge Canyon Dam, deep within the inner gorge, would make this spectacular canyon easy of access by boat for millions. Easy of access for the millions of Americans who love to boat, fish, and swim, and water ski—or just laze in the sun—in God's country. For the millions of Americans who would see—for the first time—a new part of their heritage of natural beauty.

There is a natural order in our universe. God created both Man and Nature. And Man serves God. But Nature serves Man.

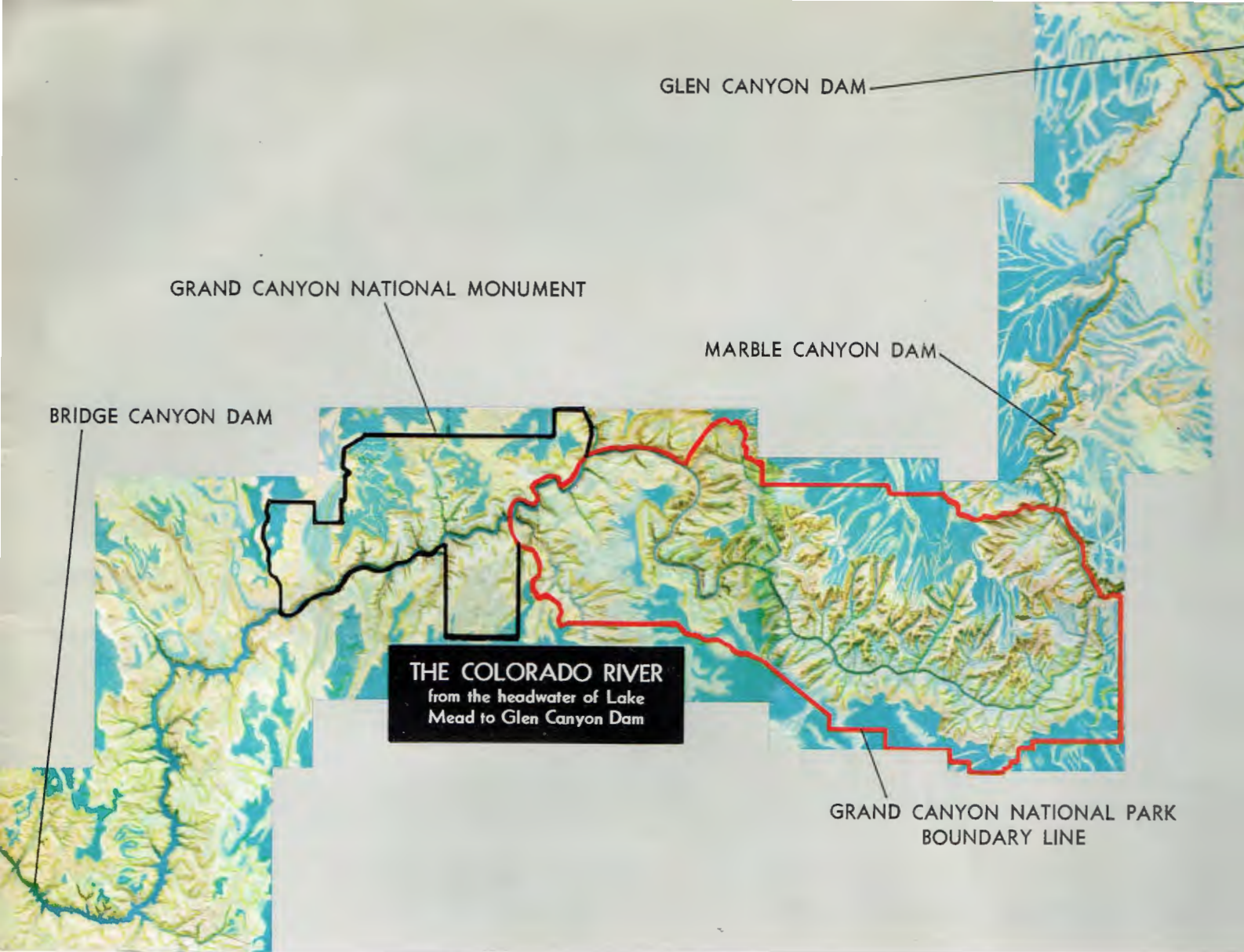
Man cannot improve upon Nature. But—as he has since before dawn of history—Man must continue to adapt Nature to his needs. Still, that process of adapting must preserve—in balance—the whole natural heritage that is his.

The Colorado River and its basin are a great and abundant treasure house of natural resources and natural wonders.

Let us husband the one wisely. Let us enjoy the other fully.

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NOTE FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS.—Both Floyd Dominy, nonprofessional, and Joseph Muench, professional, say this about photography at the lake:

Lake Powell gave the most exciting camera experience of a lifetime. The place is alive with color—with clear, dry air and a maximum of sunlight. There is great variety for your choice: sweeping panoramas of utmost grandeur, shifting moods of light and water, intimate detail of sculpted rock and reflection, striking and colorful settings for pictures of your family and friends.

Truly, Lake Powell is a photographer's paradise.



LAKE POWELL "TOTEM POLE"

Turn right to see one of the many perfect reflections on the lake.