Mrs. Ruth Denny,
Maxwell Farm,
Sonoma, California.

Dear Mrs. Denny:

Thanks for your kind letter of July 6, 1961, and for the gift of the book entitled "Land, Wood & Water" by Senator Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma. This book I am reading with deep interest. The credit given to your illustrious father is well merited. I look upon him as one of our most outstanding citizens for his brave and untiring pioneering on reclamation matters. He was mainly responsible for the very first reclamation project on the Roosevelt Dam in Arizona, and my interest is doubled by the fact that the next project was the Owens River Valley Reclamation project of 1903; a project that was well under way when it was destroyed in favor of the Los Angeles water project, wherein the farmers were cheated very badly and the Los Angeles speculators reaped fortunes into the millions with the use of that water in San Fernando Valley, near Los Angeles. In the great war in 1927 between the Owens Valley farmers and the great City of L.A. I got into the middle of it with my newspaper THE GRIDIRON and was able to help the farmers get better payment for their water rights. I was on Bob Shuler's (radio preacher) radio for 20 weeks in 1927 revealing the truth about this tragedy, and the BIG PINE CITIZEN (Owens Valley newspaper) said editorially: "ANDRAE NORDSKOG IS ONE OF THE GREATEST CHAMPIONS FOR JUSTICE THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA HAVE EVER HAD ON THEIR SIDE." I then went to Washington, D. C. and got the unusual permission to investigate the files of the United State Reclamation Service, going through some 4,000 secret letters and telegrams from the year 1903, when the Owens Valley project was started, wherein it was revealed that a terrible conspiracy existed between J. B. Lippincott, Reclamation Engineer for California and certain bankers and newspaper publishers who made many millions of dollars out of the stolen waters transported from the Owens Valley down to San Fernando Valley. In 1931 I made this part of the records of the California Legislature and also in 1933; and I have written a 540-page manuscript exposing the whole deal, but to date, unpublished——too hot to handle. And so, you see, that the Owens Valley project being next in line after the Roosevelt in Arizona, makes me feel a very close kinship to your wonderful father. The STORY OF ANYO by Chalfant, editor of the Owens Valley paper, said in the 2nd volume that without the findings of Mr. Nordskog in the secret files of the Interior Department, the valley people could not have proven their charges against the Los Angeles speculators had they been forced into court to prove their case.

With thanks to you for your kindness, I am Sincerely Yours,
Andrae Nordskog, PH. D. and President of the Southwest Water League.

THE SOUTHWEST WATER LEAGUE

(On call of the Mayor and City Council of Lynwood, California, 110 official representatives of 40 cities in Southern California met in the Lynwood City Hall on October 18th, 1930, and organized the SOUTHWEST WATER LEAGUE for the purpose of studying the water needs and water resources of the great southwest, and since which time meetings have been held in many of these cities for the benefit of the public.)

Andrae B. Nordskog
President

Mail all communications to:

1361 Laveta Terrace,
Los Angeles, 26,
California.

July 14, 1961.

Honorable Robert S. Kerr,
Senator from Oklahoma,
Re: Land, Wood & Water.
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Senator Kerr:

To the Grand Soul that you are, please accept my appreciation for your life-long efforts to conserve our Land, Wood and Water.

You speak so highly of the work done by the late GEORGE HEBARD MAXWELL, truly a very great patriot who gave his very life for the cause of conservation of soil and water. In your book entitled "Land, Wood & Water" you are so generous in giving praise to those who assisted in this work, that my appreciation runs very high for your spirit of recognition of their worthy efforts.

Recently Mrs. Ruth (Maxwell) Denny of Sonoma, California, the daughter of George H. Maxwell, sent a friend of hers to engage my interest in furthering the MAXWELL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION; and when she learned of my years of efforts in the cause of Conservation, she made me a gift of your book—Land, Wood and Water—with a letter, saying in part: "Dear Mr. Nordskog: In appreciation of all of your endeavors for championing Conservation, the Maxwell Memorial Foundation is sending you a gift of the book—Land, Wood and Water by Senator Robert S. Kerr." I have read it with deep interest and consider it a masterpiece as literature and true history.

1. George Maxwell pioneered with "Teddy" Roosevelt in the creation of the first reclamation project, the Roosevelt Dam in Arizona in 1903.

2. The second such project was the Owens River Valley reclamation project in Inyo and Mono Counties in California in 1903. This project was secretly proposed by private interests who intended it to earn millions of dollars for them by the transportation of waters from Owens River Valley down to San Fernando Valley near Los Angeles. After being refused financial assistance by Wall Street bankers for an agricultural expansion in San Fernando Valley, the speculators designed to have the City of Los Angeles issue bonds to insure repayment of the Wall Street investment. The originators of the plan bribed the U. S. Reclamation Engineer, J. B. Lippincott who was in charge of the Owens Valley project, to cruelly and secretly abandon the plan and turn the waters over to the Los Angeles band of speculators. The main promoter of the scheming crowd was Fred Eaton, who had been mayor and also City Engineer of Los Angeles, and who, with the mis-use of the U. S. Reclamation badge loaned to him by Lippincott, scared the Owens Valley farmers with threats of condemnation in event they would not sell to the (supposedly U. S. Reclamation) but actually to the Los Angeles speculators, bankers, newspaper owners and their financial secret gang. By these cruel practices the farmers were cheated out of their homes and farms by hundreds.
3. The Los Angeles speculators were forced to annex some 100,000 and more acres of desert land in San Fernando Valley to the City of Los Angeles to overcome objections made by President Theodore Roosevelt who recognized their land-promotion scheme, and thus forced upon the un-informed voters a bond issue to pay for the aqueduct from Owens Valley down to San Fernando Valley, 300 miles south. This, at a time when the City did NOT need the Owens Valley waters, and with the use of which in San Fernando Valley made a profit of ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS and more for the profiteering crowd in Los Angeles. In spite of the many protests to the Government by the Owens Valley farmers, to the President, to the Secretary of the Interior, and to the Reclamation Director of this terrible, illegal raid on their water rights, the Los Angeles politicians were able to finish their steal—and the word—STEAL—is used advisedly.

4. After several dynamiting episodes on the Owens River, first fired by the Los Angeles water board, I went to Owens Valley to see for myself. I was then the publisher of the Los Angeles Gridiron newspaper and was on the radio thrice weekly telling the truth to the citizens of Los Angeles. So potent were my weekly messages and so appreciated by the people in the Owens River Valley, that the Editor of the BIG PINE CITIZEN newspaper said editorially that:

"ANDRAE NORDSKOG IS ONE OF THE GREATEST CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA HAVE EVER HAD ON THEIR SIDE."

5. Invited by civic clubs I gave lectures on the subject in all parts of Los Angeles, even though the political gang black-balled my newspaper and killed advertising by threatened withdrawal of patronage by their 10,000 water-board employees. My action helped the Owens Valley farmers get more reasonable payment for their lands and water rights, although done at a great sacrifice of my professional time and money which I could not afford to lose while supporting my wife and five children in school.

6. In March, 1928, I went to Washington, D. C. on my own meager funds, with $39 in my pocket at Washington on a one-way ticket. I had the most unusual privilege ever accorded an outsider and went through some 4,000 secret letters and telegrams from 1903 in the U. S. Reclamation and Geological Survey files; and THERE I obtained the entire sordid history of the ugly conspiracy against the Owens Valley farmers and the proposed Reclamation project, and also the robbing of the United States treasury of thousand sof dollars which should have been charged to the Los Angeles speculators who profitted by millions of dollars by thus robbing our Government.

7. In 1931 and 1933 I made part of this story available to the California Senate and Assembly, printed in booklet form under the Great Seal of California. Politians destroyed copies of it in our State Library, but I finally replaced them. When I testified before the Congressional Committee on Government Operations, Dec. 8, 1955, I included these reports in booklet form in my testimony, BUT, when the Committee Report was printed, this testimony was stricken from the report. BY WHOM—and for what REASON—YES, JUST WHY, Senator?

8. I have written this great story, with countless letters and secret! telegrams to let the "thieves tell their own story" in my manuscript in length about the same as your own book. Too hot to handled? We must put it to a test and see whether or not we
actually have a FREE PRESS in the United States. Carl Sandberg, the noted author, after fifty years of searching for facts about Abraham Lincoln, is still looking for scratches on papers on which Lincoln may have written something of interest to readers nowadays. And so—when it is known that ANDRAE NORDSKOG is the only living person who had the courage and ability to search the official records in Washington in an effort to reveal otherwise HIDDEN history of this, the most interesting story ever to come out of Washington, just WHAT will we do about it? Knowing that you have both the political prestige and the personal wealth to do much as you please, I take the liberty of asking for your consideration in helping me get my book into print for the good of our present and future generations.

Feather

9. With our greatest of all proposals, the Feather River project, to cost—how many billions of dollars—(their estimates change every month—$1,750,000,000.00 to 4 and 5 billions with interest) and with many demands on the Federal Government for aid with Reclamation funds, is it not time for my story to be published? It may be the means of saving many millions of dollars for the Government and the California taxpayers who have been terribly fooled with false propaganda prior to the election last fall at which the bonds were voted for the Feather River project. Now, after they have thus fooled the people, they propose to increase the cost of Colorado River water for our 93 cities in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in order to offset the high cost of the waters from the Feather River. Such deception and tom-foolery. There is need for a great awakening in order to head off more of such skull-duggery.

10. Do you desire to read my manuscript regarding the Owens Valley Reclamation project which was destroyed by official crookedness? Please let me know. This with a view of helping me to get it published by a reliable publisher?

With the greatest admiration from one who is in a position to know the value of your wonderful work, I am

Sincerely and Cooperatively Yours,

Andrae Nordskog, Ph. D., and President of The Southwest Water League.

Enclosure: Photo-reprint of Government Operations
Dec. 8, 1955. Please read also on opposite side of that reprint.