

## **Monticello Dam Construction**

The dam is a constant-center arch concrete dam with a structural height of 304 feet, and a crest length of 1,023 feet. Exactly 325,890 cubic yards of concrete were placed in its construction. The total estimated cost, at the time of construction, was \$51,611,000. This was to be paid back by water sales in approximately fifty years. In July of 1952, Congress appropriated \$3,000,000 for use on the Solano Project in Fiscal Year 1953. On July 30, 1953, opening bids for Monticello Dam construction were taken at City Hall in Winters, California. On August 7, the joint contract for construction of Monticello Dam and the first stretch of the State Highway 128 relocation was awarded to Peter Kiewit Sons Company and Parish Brothers. On August 9, 1955, the contractor placed the first concrete in Monticello Dam. October and November saw the dam's outlet pipes placed.

In October 1955, a contract for the job of clearing the lower portion of Berryessa Valley in preparation for the reservoir was awarded, and work on this task commenced. The upper portions of the Berryessa Valley had to be cleared of trees and other debris, so that the debris could not cause damage to boats or the dam itself. The first five months of 1956 produced almost no progress on dam construction because of heavy rains. The flooding that ensued caused damage to the contractor's trestles and form yards.

