



Iron County Water Stewards

Recognizing Clemont Adams

Clemont Adams left his hometown of Cedar City to join the Army Air Force during World War II. After his return he took his young family to Logan, Utah, where he would earn his first bachelor's degree. When he realized the field he had chosen would not support his family in Cedar City, he came back, earned another bachelor's degree, and became a school teacher, principal, and the Cedar City Engineer and Water Commissioner.

After a long life of experience in education and city water matters, he was asked to compile a brief history of the water in Iron County to contribute to a book for the "Utah Centennial County History Series." He quickly came to believe that the large volume of information available should be compiled into its own book, and thus began his labor of love on the tome "A History of Water in Iron County."

Janet Seegmiller, a retired Southern Utah University Special Collections Librarian who wrote "A History of Iron County: Community Above Self" for the county history series, said when she was writing the book she was new to the county, and she reached out to Adams and asked him to compile the water section.

She remembers him as someone who understood water in the valley and was concerned. He knew it was not an infinite resource. Although the technologies we have today were not available to him, he kept detailed records. Adams once told Seegmiller that we were mining (or overdrawing) the aquifer, and the "mine's going to run out," she said.

"He knew we would reach a crisis at some point, and we have," she said.

"He was a good, good man, a great school teacher, and a meticulous record keeper in terms of water," she added.

Although Adams was retired from his teaching and city positions at the time Harold Shirley, then Cedar City mayor, began serving on the State Water Board, Adams was very helpful to him. Shirley said Adams had an "institutional memory."

"He remembered everything," Shirley said. "Whenever we had a question we didn't have to look it up, we just had to call Clemont. He was a real valuable source for Cedar City."

Shirley said Adams' was an excellent school teacher and principal, and most people remember him for that role, but he cared about water and his work for the city was important, especially the water plan he created.

Adams passed away on June 19, 2012, at the age of 90. Now, when local officials, engineers, or anyone else wants to read Cedar City's water reports throughout the years, analyze well data, or learn about the history of water development in any of Iron County's communities, the book is a go-to resource.

On page 11 of the book, Adams said he hopes readers will be able to understand Iron County's water situation, study the facts, "get past any emotion and apply themselves to sufficiently rigorous study to participate in the making of informed water-related decisions in the Iron County Community."

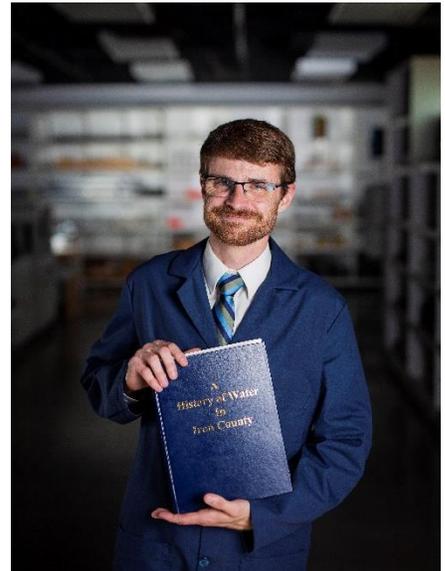
Between 1950 and 1988 Adams was an elementary school teacher for 17 years and the principal of South Elementary for 21 years. From 1952 to 1962, he put his first bachelor's degree to use, serving as the City Engineer, and he was the Cedar City Water Commissioner most years between 1953 and 1980.

The Water Commissioner position involved maintaining precise records of the city's water and designing sluice gates and sand traps to make sure water was running smoothly. He also owned and worked a 120-acre farm with his sons, making him familiar with all facets of water use in the valley.

Seegmiller said his water records are in the SUU Special Collections in the Gerald R. Sherratt Library. She said Adams' son Hal was a big help to him in writing the book, and Adams credits many of his other family members as well with making it possible.

The writing and publication of "A History of Water in Iron County" was an act of service to the community in character with Adams' actions throughout his life. In addition to service on many important educational boards and committees, he served on the Utah Water Users Board of Directors and was involved with groups on the county and city levels from the Weed Control Board and the Planning Board to the Shade Tree Commission and the Municipal Library Board.

It is important to look to the past in planning for the future, and Adams' book has been helpful for the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District. The District's Board is continually moving forward with water conservation and import projects to secure the valley's water future.



"Water will remain a key factor in determining the future of Iron County," Adams said in the book.

The purpose of the Iron County Water Stewards program is to recognize community members for contributing to the effort to optimize every drop of water in Iron County. The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District (CICWCD) is actively engaged in education, conservation, reuse and import projects to meet the growing demands on local water supply.

For every effort you make to conserve, we consider you a water steward, too. To Get to Know Your H2O, visit <https://cicwcd.org/>.

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