

# Valley News

## Trinchera Irrigation Company refurbishes the Sangre de Cristo Canal

FT. GARLAND — The Trinchera Irrigation Company, which provides irrigation water to its shareholders in the Blanca - Fort Garland, area is refurbishing two sections of the concrete-lined Sangre de Cristo Canal, which diverts water from Sangre de Cristo Creek into the company-owned irrigation system.

The carrying capacity of the Sangre de Cristo Canal, which provides a large portion of the water to the company's shareholders during the spring and early summer, has slowly decreased due to ground movement since it was first lined with concrete in 1977.

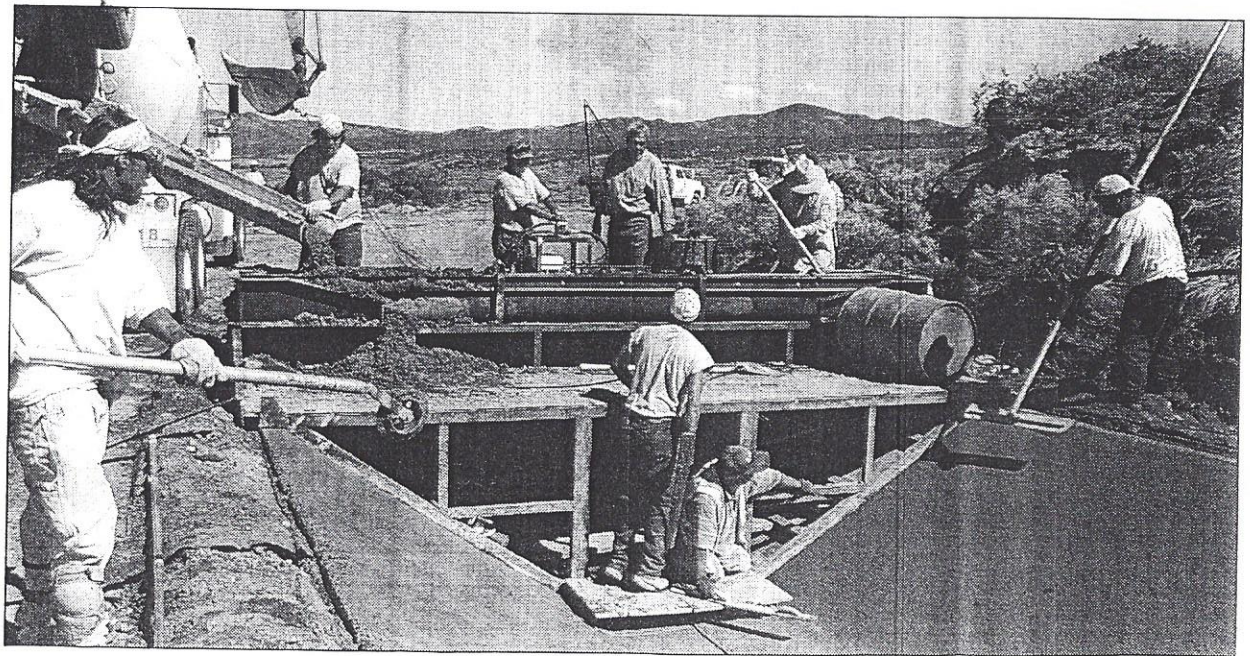
"We have been operating at about half the capacity that we should be for several years," irrigation company board chairman Tracy Kester explained. "The amount of decrease

wasn't noticeable year to year, but over time it is having a big impact on our ability to deliver water."

About 2,000 feet of canal will be re-built and re-lined. "The remainder of the three mile canal is still in pretty good shape," Kester continued.

The Trinchera Irrigation Company contracted with Can-Do Concrete of Greeley as the primary contractor. Can-Do is the only company in the region that has slip-form equipment large enough for a ditch of this size. Concrete and other supplies and materials were contracted locally. The project should be finished by the end of the month.

This project is a cooperative effort of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Rio Grande Interbasin Round Table and the Trinchera Irrigation Company.



Teamwork makes lining the Sangre de Cristo Canal go smoothly.