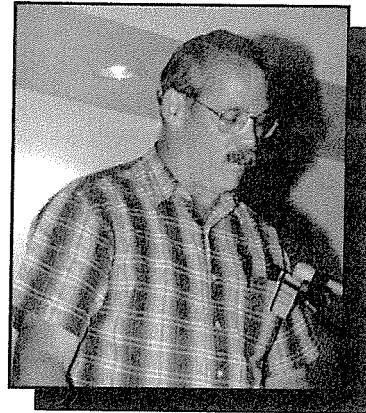
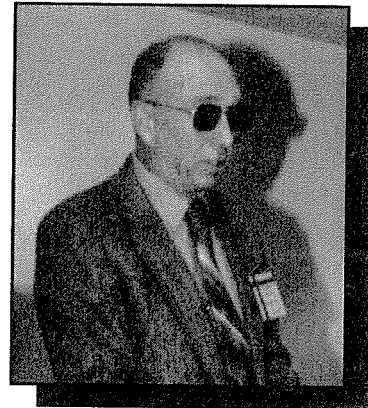


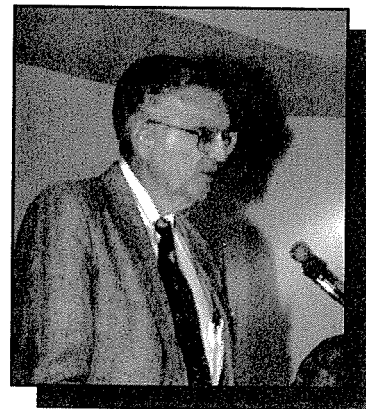
*Ron Harris moved to Tucumcari in 1980 and in 1982 became a city police officer. He was first elected to the City Commission in 1992 and is serving his second two-year term as Mayor Pro Tem. Since the early 1990s, Ron has managed an automobile dealership.*



*Nathan Tharp has served as mayor for the city of Texico for the past six years and was a council member for six years. He is a life long resident of the Texico area. Nathan has been instrumental in numerous projects for the City including a new Senior Citizen and Community Center, Highway Project 108 and a fire substation. Currently, one of his main interests is in insuring long-term water availability for the Texico area.*



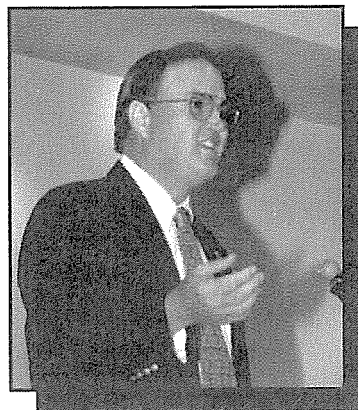
*Don Davis and his wife have been owners of Valley Furniture in Portales for 40 years. Don was elected mayor of Portales in March 1994 and has invested 17 years in the economic development of Portales.*



*Larry Wallin has lived in Quay County all his life and now resides in Logan. He has served on the Village of Logan Council for two terms and currently is the Administrator for Logan, a post he has held for four years. Larry has served on numerous committees and area task forces in the Quay County area. He also holds a general contractor's license and a broker's license for real estate.*



*Glenn Briscoe began his elected service in 1979 both as a member and president of the Tucumcari Area Vocational School Board of Directors and Tucumcari Public School Board. He became actively interested in policy making for water and natural resources as a two-term state representative in the NM House of Representatives, where he served on the Appropriations, Agriculture and Water, and Energy and Minerals committees. In 1989 he became chair of the joint Senate and House Interim Committee on Natural Resources. Now in his second term as Quay County Commissioner, Glenn was active in forming the Ute Water Commission.*



## **GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND WATER: PANEL OF POLICY MAKERS**

**Mayor Pro Tem Ron Harris**  
City of Tucumcari  
Box 1188  
Tucumcari, NM 88401

This morning I would like to give you a brief history of the water uses in the our area and outline some strategies of future water use. Northeastern New Mexico has both surface and groundwater supplies. Surface supplies come from the Pecos River, Canadian River, Dry Cimarron River and Tramperos Creek. All surface water irrigated areas in the region require storage facilities to regulate irregular stream flows to irrigation demand. Surface water used for irrigation is diverted from the previously mentioned creek and rivers.

The groundwater supplies come from the high plains aquifers: the Ogallala—the principal water bearing unit—the Entrada Aquifer, Pecos River Valley and the Capulin area, Dry Cimarron River Valley, and localized areas in Quay and Harding counties. Quay County uses surface and groundwater to meet its needs.

Water use is regulated by the Canadian River Compact, Pecos River Compact and the Tucumcari-Fort Sumner declared groundwater basins. Tucumcari is supplied by 14 wells located in three well fields—the Town Well Field, the West Well Field, and the Metropolitan Park Well Field, all located within the Tucumcari underground water basin. The system has seven storage tanks with a capacity of approximately 4 million gallons and produces an

average of 1.5 million gallons per day. There is an increasing mineral content in the Town Well Field that will require modification of the water supply treatment system.

To assure a long-term supply of adequate quality water from a replenishable supply, Tucumcari needs to diversify its source of supply to include surface water from Ute Reservoir. We have developed some strategies that can contribute to the success of this operation. The first strategy is cooperative planning, which is fundamental to the success of the regional planning effort in eastern New Mexico. Cooperative planning recognizes that the original water plan is incomplete and does not provide for an ongoing effort based on cooperation with federal, state, regional and local agencies. Cooperative planning is not intended to replace local water development, but it is meant to increase the awareness of the importance of future water resources planning and outline actions that can be taken by local governments.

Local water security plans will promote the development, implementation and management of 40-year water plans consistent with the regional plans of municipalities, counties and public utilities. Special districts—water issues and concerns rarely conform to boundaries established by political jurisdictions—can support the adequate funding and development of the programs and authorities within the districts. Special districts, with the required local support, should be strengthened and utilized.

The last of the strategies involves citizen participation. Citizen participation, awareness and support is essential for implementation of any action to address a strategy. Citizen involvement in water issues should be encouraged by local leaders.

We have some other water issues in Tucumcari. For example, Tucumcari has been discussing cleanup and remediation of Tucumcari Lake. Our city commission will be discussing the cleanup project at a later date.

Let me go back to the history of Tucumcari. The City of Tucumcari was the first local government in eastern New Mexico to reserve water from Ute Lake. In 1983, Tucumcari contracted with the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) for 3,400 acre-feet. This was on a five-year contract that was renewed in 1988 for an additional five years. In 1987, the Ute Water Commission was formed and involved county

commissions from Quay, Curry and Roosevelt counties. The smaller communities on the Ute Water Commission include Logan, San Jon, Grady, Melrose, Texico and Elida, and a cooperating member, Cannon Air Force Base.

In 1986, the City of Clovis reserved 15,000 acre-feet of Ute Lake water on behalf of the Ute Water Commission members. Thus, our established annual yield at this time is 3,400 acre-feet from the ISC, plus the reserved 15,000 acre-feet from Ute Lake.

Congress has appropriated \$300,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation to work on detailed engineering on Quay County portions of the Ute pipeline. Senator Jeff Bingaman initiated the appropriation amendment, and Senator Pete Domenici sponsored the Senate appropriation which was included in the Senate version. Congressman Bill Redmond supported the Senate version in the Conference Committee. On October 1, I obtained confirmation that the amendment has been included in the Conference Committee, is in both houses of Congress, and is now awaiting the signature of the President of the United States.

Quay County water interests include Tucumcari currently at 6,000 acre-feet, Quay County at 1,200 acre-feet, Logan at 300 acre-feet, and San Jon at 150 acre-feet. With the \$300,000 allocation, Tucumcari will be in a very unique position to work with Logan, San Jon and Quay County to move the Ute Lake project forward. Thank you.

**Mayor Nathan L. Tharp**  
**City of Texico**  
**Box 208**  
**Texico, NM 88135**

On Tuesday this week, Lee Tillman called me and asked me to be here today. I am going to brief you on Texico's water concerns.

The city of Texico is centered in an area with one of the highest irrigation rates in the states of Texas and New Mexico. Texico is right on the state line. Parmer County, Texas, to the east of us is the grain-producing capital of the world. Parmer County uses a lot of irrigation water, and in New Mexico we do the same.

Currently Texico has three producing wells. One of those wells has been contaminated with carbon tetrachloride and we are running that water through an air purifier. Our three wells were squeezed this summer and it took all three wells pumping full-time to produce enough water for our town. In the winter it is not that bad because not much irrigation is going on, but during irrigation season, we are just about out of water.

Texico has been interested in the Ute water project since its inception and we have not lost interest. We heard this morning from those concerned about getting salt out of their water. We do not have a surface water problem and we would be glad to worry about how to get salt out of the water if we just had the water! We have looked for water in several different areas in several different ways, and even at this point, the Ute water project looks to be the best way for us. From that standpoint, the City of Texico is urgently requesting that the Ute water project continue. We don't know how we are going to pay for it and we don't know how we will transport the water, but we do need the water. When you are desperate for water, you look in a lot of places and you spend a lot of nights that you used to waste sleeping worrying about where your water is going to come from. Thank you.

**Mayor Donald Davis**  
**City of Portales**  
**100 W. First Street**  
**Portales, NM 88130**

Like Texico and Clovis, Portales depends on underground water for our city and even outside the city. Portales furnishes water for the co-op water project that furnishes water for a perimeter of about 3-4 miles outside the city of Portales. Theoretically, Portales has enough acre-feet of water rights to furnish our needs well into the future. However, having water rights and having water are two totally different things.

We are developing our well fields and have noticed that the levels in our wells are diminishing year by year. Our wells produce less water each year than the year before. Our only current strategy is to increase the number of wells we have, and hopefully,

increase our storage capacity. We want many more wells that each produce less water than our current wells.

We also are very interested in having alternative sources of water such as from the Ute project. Portales is still a member of the Ute project but given our city's financial capacity, there is absolutely no way that we would be able to pay for our portion of that water based on cost estimates of that water. The only prospect we have of ever using that water will be with some kind of federal assistance. I have not seen much indication that will happen, at least in the near future.

Currently we are developing two wells per year, and it will take us about ten more years to fully develop our current plan. That is pretty much where we are at this time. Thank you.

**Larry Wallin**  
**Village of Logan**  
**P.O. Box 7**  
**Logan, NM 88426**

I had a nice long speech prepared for today, but Ron Harris just took about half my information so I'm going to just wing it. What I would like to talk a bit about this morning is the Village of Logan's water concerns and our water study. About five years ago, we came to realize that the village was growing and there was a need for a 40-year water plan. We hired Engineers, Inc. from Tucumcari, Don and Frank Curnutt, to conduct a water study for us. They have been studying our options and reviewing anything that might impact Logan.

Currently in Logan, we draw all our water from four major wells located within 1½ miles of Ute Lake. Our water level is stable, in fact increases by recharge, in my opinion, from the lake. When the lake level fluctuates, so does the water level in our wells. We have plenty of water but we still have some concerns. Also, we are located in an undeclared basin so we can drill anywhere.

We have reserved 400 acre-feet of water from Ute Reservoir. However, treating that water to go into our system is more expensive than pumping water from the underground aquifer. At this time, given that Engineers, Inc. is in the process of conducting our

study, we will continue to pump the aquifer knowing that we still have 400 acre-feet from Ute.

To give you a brief summary, in 1990 we had 613 active water meters in Logan. In 1996 we had 706, representing a growth rate of about 2.5 percent per year. But from 1996 to 1997, we jumped to 746 active water meters, an 8 percent growth rate in one year. We are growing and trying to meet our water demand. We hear rumors that water is going to be taken from our lake and sent to cities to the south. That concerns us because the lake at Logan has about a \$1 million impact on the village of Logan yearly.

Also I think we might be getting back at the state of Texas. They won their lawsuit and we had to lower our lake. But we are getting back at them by putting salt in the water. I think New Mexico paid Texas \$400,000 but as you heard this morning, Texas is going to be constructing a \$9.6 million project in the Logan area. We'll take that trade.

We have another concern about the salt in the river going to Lake Meredith. When the village of Logan was developed, I don't think anyone realized the impact on the land around it. Of our 746 water meters, we have 600 meters at the lake. The people out there are on septic tanks located around the edge of the lake. Subdivisions are being built right up to the lake. If we intend to use this water for drinking water in the future, the Village of Logan will have to find \$4 million to pay for a septic system at the lake. I think it is just a matter of time before the area around the lake becomes saturated and leaching into the lake becomes a problem.

That's about all the good news I have. I would like to thank everyone for attending this water conference. I think the Ute Water Commission is doing a great job. We must conserve more water because a town without water will not grow—a town with water has endless possibilities. Thank you.

Commissioner Glenn Briscoe  
Quay County Commission  
4490 Quay Road 55  
Tucumcari, NM 88401

It's a pleasure to be here this morning. I enjoyed yesterday's proceedings and think the technical issues discussed were well presented. Today we have several

local people who are trying to apply the technical information we heard yesterday.

What strikes me today is that we are used to the headlines published on the Rio Grande, Pecos, Animas and Peñasco water problems, but the water issues that are important here are very different. We do not have over-appropriation of Ute Lake. We have the only unappropriated surface water in the entire state. It was well established yesterday during the conference that there is very little economic activity in this area that existed prior to the turn of the century, other than a few ranching interests. Those ranching interests can sustain themselves on the groundwater that exists.

I am a rancher and I do not have a well over 100 feet deep. The wells in this area generally produce 1-5 gallons per minute and that water is recharged based upon our rainfall. Our wells sustain themselves. Many of the small shallow wells of 100 years ago are now gone, but through the efforts of the conservation districts, we hope to recharge those wells and springs.

The problems in this region are somewhat different from elsewhere in the state because until the railroad came to Quay County around the turn of the century, this area was not developed due to the Comanche reign that was well felt in the early years. We think the quality of life in this area is as good as in the Rio Grande Corridor, maybe higher, given the absence of congestion and pollution. We are just a little slow in developing our industrial potential.

All of us on the panel today are members of the Ute Water Commission. Let me define it briefly and Lee Tillman will talk about regional planning later this morning. Ute Lake's annual yield is estimated to be 24,000 acre-feet. The local governments in the area have joined together, and with the cooperation of the Interstate Stream Commission, have agreed to purchase water at \$1.50 per acre-foot per year to keep in reserve. Members will be able to utilize that water sometime in the future up to 2006. Once the right is exercised, the water will be able to be used up to a 40-year period.

Quay County, which I represent, does not intend to become a water company. So why are we involved? Because we recognize that the municipal and industrial uses of water are going to require surface water in the future and that water will probably come out of

the lake. Because of the declining water tables in various areas, there will be insufficient water to meet the growth needs that we think exist. We are working with the Eastern Plains Council of Governments, which has been very useful to small communities and counties in this area, to provide regional water planning to help guide our future growth. Not that we want to be Albuquerque, but we want enough economic activity to sustain superior schools, to prevent all our retail dollars from going out of state to Amarillo or elsewhere, and to sustain a viable community.

The strategic planning that Quay County has done in the last year indicates an overwhelming desire on the part of the people in this area for economic development. There is an absence of a radical element that is anti-production biased, like you find in many other growing areas. We have the resources, we are ready to grow, and we see Ute Reservoir reservations that we have contracted for water to assure our water future. I think it is a good agreement. Is it going to happen tomorrow? No. It is a viable reservation that is there for future use, when we really need it and when we can come up with the money to do it.

The big news today is that the pipeline project is alive in this area. Federal money to import water to the Tucumcari municipal area is available. That is the good news for us and the people who work in economic development in this area should be thrilled. Thank you.