

PREFACE

With this meeting, we are celebrating the 30th Annual New Mexico Water Conference--a megatrend of sorts. In recognition of the contribution of water research over the past 30 years, we decided that instead of taking a look back, we would look ahead--to the "Megatrends in Water Resources."

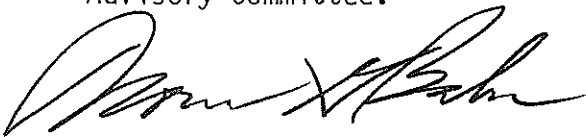
Perhaps the most intriguing speaker on this year's program was Joseph Coates, a futurist from Washington D.C., who took us "back" to 1985 from his 2033 perspective. His scenario included the dissolution of state boundaries, an earthquake restructuring the Ogallala aquifer, and Disney tours of restored cotton farms.

Interior's Robert N. Broadbent and California's Harvey Banks both addressed trends in water development and planning. In the legal segment, attorney Joe Little addressed the trend of Indian water users using arbitration and negotiation to settle disputes. Federal attorney Jerry Sherk told the group that the federal government will continue to encourage the resolution of water conflicts through compacts.

Pat O'Meara entertained those at the Water Conference banquet with his usual Irish humor. On a serious note, he admonished states to find other sources of funding outside the federal government, such as a self-imposed water tax. New Mexico State University's ShoJazz also entertained the crowd, including as special guests, those who had attended the first water conference in 1956.

The second day's program began with Norbert Dee, representing the Environmental Protection Agency, talking about ground water protection. Then, Ronald North, of the University of Georgia, gave his assessment of the nation's environmental sensitivity. Chemistry researcher Dennis Darnall spoke to the group about the value of basic research in making research a success. The conference closed with a two-hour panel discussion and question and answer session by water resources experts.

The success of this year's conference, like those before it, is due to the support and advice of the individuals on the Water Conference Advisory Committee.



Thomas G. Bahr
Director

Funds for the proceedings publication were provided by registration fees, the U.S. Department of the Interior and by state appropriations to the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute.