

## Director's Statement

The First Annual New Mexico Water Conference was held in 1956 and organized by Dr. Ralph Stucky, who over the years has attended most annual water conferences. We were honored to have him present at this, our 40th Annual Water Conference. We took a few moments during the conference to recognize Dr. Stucky's contributions to the water resources community, both regionally as well as nationally. Dr. Stucky served as the first director of the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute, appointed in 1964 and remained director until 1971. The citizens of New Mexico owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Stucky's lifetime devotion to securing New Mexico's water future.

For the past dozen years, we have moved the annual water conference around the state. We've been as far north as Taos and as far east as Clovis. It seemed fitting to bring the conference home to Las Cruces this year as we celebrated its 40th year. The 41st Annual Water Conference will be held in Farmington in the fall of 1996.

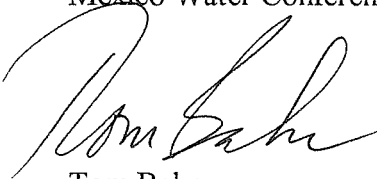
We had over 300 participants at this year's conference and about 80 of those folks enjoyed tours of Elephant Butte Irrigation District facilities on Wednesday afternoon. Our thanks to Gary Esslinger and Michael Riley of EBID for hosting the tours.

Governor Gary Johnson kicked off our meeting on Thursday saying that, "Water is the number one priority for the state." He was followed by a host of terrific speakers who provided the history and critical issues regarding the Lower Rio Grande. Two panel discussions, one comprising water managers, the other, water policy makers, proved very interesting and panelists' comments are contained in their entirety in these proceedings.

Our Thursday evening banquet was accompanied by the Quantum Jazz Quintet, a group of New Mexico State University students. Our very entertaining speaker for the evening was Professor Lowell Catlett, an NMSU professor and "techie" futurist, who gave a wonderfully animated commentary of the brave new technological world we face.

We were delighted to have the Las Cruces Public School middle schools participate in our first ever water conservation poster contest. We received 130 creative posters and presented four awards at the Thursday banquet. Posters were on display at the conference and enjoyed by all.

As always, the Water Conference Advisory Committee was very helpful in planning this conference. We look to their continued support and enthusiasm as we plan our 41st Annual New Mexico Water Conference.



Tom Bahr  
Director