



W.K. "Kelly" Summers
1930 – 2003

New Mexico has lost one of its preeminent groundwater scientists. Kelly Summers profoundly influenced water management in the Middle Rio Grande Valley as well as the lives of his many colleagues and friends. In 1966, Kelly moved to the Southwest to work for the New Mexico Bureau of Mines in Socorro as research hydrologist. From 1972 until 1986, Kelly studied groundwater systems throughout the state as a consultant, increasingly incorporating land use and climatological data into his investigations. In 1986, Kelly was hired by the City of Albuquerque to re-evaluate the City's groundwater supply. It was during his six years with the City that Kelly's relentless insistence on good science and visionary water resources planning led the Middle Rio Grande Valley to better understand the hydrologic reality of the aquifer system. That understanding has become the basis for contemporary water management dialogues and decisions. He will be missed.