

May 15, 2012

To: OWRB/S.B. 288 Hearing

From: Kelly Hurt, Arbuckle Simpson Landowners Group

Subject: Implementation of SB288

As a current land owner, former board member and officer of CPASA, immediate past president of the Ada Water Resources Board and current representative of the Arbuckle Simpson Landowners Group, I have seen a lot of unusual twists and turns in the battle over the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer. Perhaps the most interesting one is how it seems that many of the players have switched viewpoints on the subject just as the implementation of S.B. 288 becomes imminent. Initially, the landowners were arguing against additional study of the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer and the reduction of the Maximum Annual Yield. In those early days, CPASA and the City of Ada were on the other side of the argument saying that a study was needed to determine how much water could be safely withdrawn. There was a sense of urgency to protect the environment, springs and streams.

Today, I find myself in a world where affected landowners have embraced the study, accept its findings and are demanding immediate implementation while CPASA and the City of Ada now seem a little hesitant to abide by the study and reductions that they fought so hard for. It seems that it all boils down to the age old situation of "Do as I say, not as I do." For the past 9 years, area landowners have been asked to wait for a comprehensive study of the aquifer while a moratorium restricted their ability to market their water and new permits were put on hold. Thus, the landowners' opportunity to permit water resources, build a pipeline to a new market and provide water to customers was denied for almost a decade.

Meanwhile, the City of Ada (Ada) continued unfettered. According to an article written by immediate past Ada Mayor Dick Scalf and published in the Ada Evening News,

*"For almost one hundred years, Ada has enjoyed almost **free** water. Essentially the only cost has been transporting the water from Byrd's Mill Spring, located about 12 miles south of Ada, to water customers. That water flows by gravity via two pipelines from the spring site to the storage and pumping facilities at the south edge of Ada. Quality is so good that chlorination is the only treatment required before distribution to customers."*

In summary, Ada sells water that flows through a pipeline to citizens and customers who are not located over the aquifer. In fact, Ada has made quite a nice business out of this "free" water by selling it at a current rate of \$2.70/1000 gallons to city residents, rural water districts and even taking over one rural water district. For the sake of discussion, if we conservatively assume a net profit of \$1/1000 gallons on this "free" water for the past nine years, then the City of Ada has netted approximately \$18,000,000 by selling water through a pipeline to customers outside of the aquifer during the moratorium. This is exactly what other landowners wanted to do.

Kelly Hurt Exh. 1

To counter that point, CPASA and the City of Ada have claimed that allowing other landowners to sell water to additional outside communities would affect the flow of springs and streams. If we think about that a little more closely, we would realize that the only landowner that has done that is the City of Ada. Landowners downstream of Byrd's Mill Spring sued the City of Ada for drastically reducing the flows of Byrd's Mill Spring and Byrd's Mill Creek. To offset that effect, the City of Ada routinely pumps ground water from the aquifer to ensure that an appropriate flow continues down Byrd's Mill Creek. Thus, arguments that other landowners should not be allowed to impact the flow of springs and streams seems a little hypocritical. Lastly, SB 288 conveniently will not require the City of Ada to stop using wells that affect the flow of Byrd's Mill Spring and Byrd's Mill Creek but will require other landowners who drill new wells to locate them in areas that do not affect the flow of springs and streams.

One would think that with all of this "free" water producing millions of dollars of profit that the City of Ada would have reinvested money into stewarding its water resources and improving infrastructure such as its two pipelines from Byrd's Mill Spring (one was built in 1928 and the "new" one was built in 1972). Sadly, according to immediate past Ada Mayor Dick Scalf's column written 24 months ago in the May 30, 2010 edition of the Ada Evening News,

"Ada has some immediate water issues, not related to additional water rights, that must be addressed soon with funding sources. One of Ada's two water lines from Byrd's Mill Spring was constructed in 1929, has numerous major leaks and needs replacing at a cost of \$15 - \$20 million. Stopping leaks is like finding new water."

Despite having an immediate need to fix its numerous, major leaks that are thought to waste nearly 1,000,000 gallons/day on some days, they remain unchecked. In fact, the loss of 600,000 gallons per day was reported as long ago as 1994 in the FHC, Inc report on Ada's Water Distribution System (as quoted from the 1999 Merco Report included in Appendix A). However, why would anyone want to fix a leak if the water flowing through it was "free" anyway? Just let it leak, take some more and keep piling the cash up. Unfortunately, this leaky distribution system requires Ada to withdraw additional water from the aquifer through its wells during drought times that would otherwise flow down Blue River. Assuming that the leak was constant from 1994 until now, the City of Ada has leaked almost 4 billion gallons of Arbuckle Simpson water from its antiquated distribution system. At current pricing, this equates to \$10,500,000 of water. Photographs from a recent study show just how far Ada has allowed its water infrastructure to deteriorate (see Holloway, Updike and Bellen Interim Report Attached in Appendix B). It leaves a person to question where all the money from water sales went, especially in light of the fact that the City of Ada also charges one of the highest sales taxes in Oklahoma.

Landowners understand that the OWRB didn't write S.B. 288, the City of Ada did. According to an article published in the Ada Evening News,

"Sid Bearden said he hopes wording in a bill introduced in the Legislature will help prevent the loss of vital water from the aquifer. "We're not challenging the mining rights of the landowners," Bearden said. "We realize they have the same rights to sell their water as people have to sell oil and we respect that right. But we also want to prevent our aquifer from being

emptied. "There's got to be a middle ground where we don't violate the rights of landowners but we still don't lose the water in our aquifer."

We understand that some of the inconsistencies and unfairness of the bill are beyond your control to amend. However, we don't understand comments by some of the board members during the February meeting that they wanted to, "Make sure the municipalities and districts had time to react," and that, "We don't want to harm the municipalities and districts." Our objective is to point out that the board members are being misled if they think that one of the primary advocates of S.B. 288 didn't know what was coming and didn't have the time and money to prepare for it. An insightful and predictive 2003 article written by immediate past Ada Mayor Dick Scalf in the Ada Evening News states,"

"An educated guess would put that limit in the range of 0.2 feet/ac-ft or one-tenth of present limits. One result of the lower limits is that major export of water out of the area would be impractical. Another result would be that communities and rural water districts that depend on ground water would see their water rights greatly reduced, necessitating additional water rights and/or water resources."

In addition, we think it is grossly unfair for the board to concern itself with the welfare of one landowner (City of Ada) and ignore the others.

In conclusion, we support the draft implementation order proposed by OWRB staff. We think that they did their best to find the "middle" ground. However, we reject the notion that the OWRB should go outside of its mandate and propose a *de facto* implementation/phase-in period of 5 years by waiting to issue permanent permits. Based on past history, the City of Ada will not take action until it is forced to do so. I personally approached Ada's City Council in 2011 and made them aware that landowners with over 25,000 acres of land over the recharge area of Byrd's Mill Spring were ready to make a deal. I was told to work with the Ada's appointed representative, Craig Shew. In our last meeting, Craig's parting words to me were that the City wasn't going to do anything until the implementation was finalized.

As you well know, increases in water rates are typically met with great opposition by customers. In many cases, a reaction is seen at the ballot box when this happens. I believe that the leaders of Ada are either unable or unwilling to move forward because of this. While Chairman of the Ada Water Resources Board, I gained approval from the City Council of Ada to conduct a Town Hall process where we identified issues, sought public feedback and then developed a water resources and infrastructure plan. I became completely disheartened when I presented the culmination of this work to the City Council only to have them table the document and not allow any discussion or action on it. I knew then that the City of Ada lacked the leadership and foresight to take proactive measures to secure its water future. If the board decides to allow a 5 year *de facto* implementation period, they are simply an enabler in a codependent relationship drawing out the inevitable.

Conversely, if the board chooses not stray beyond its mandate and simply implements the bill, then the City of Ada will be given the political cover and regulatory directive it needs to move forward and take the steps that it needs to provide a safe, dependable, albeit, less **profitable** water source for its citizens and customers. Along the way, they can either work with us to secure water rights over the Byrd's Mill

Spring recharge area or we can market them to someone else. Either way, we all get on with our lives and business, something that S.B. 288 has precluded for almost a decade already. This bill has taken 90 percent of the landowners' rights, we implore you not take 100 percent of our opportunity by allowing one landowner, the City of Ada, to continue to sell, profit and waste through leakage a disproportionate share for another 5 years.

In summary, the OWRB should not allow Ada an implementation period or special considerations for additional time to comply with S.B. 288 based on the following:

1. It's Ada's bill, they asked for it, now it is time to give it to them,
2. Ada has had the time, foresight and money to take steps to mitigate the impacts of S.B. 288 but has failed to do so,
3. Ada continues to violate the spirit of their own bill by exporting water out of basin for profit, affecting the flow of springs and streams and by wasting water with a distribution system that has been leaking at least 500,000 gallons per day for at least 18 years. The utilization of water wells during low flow or drought conditions means that Ada is removing water from the aquifer that would normally support the flow of Blue River and wasting it through an antiquated pipeline. The OWRB should not allow Ada to continue this course of action as it affects environmental flows and downstream users.
4. Ada does not need to drill new wells or build a treatment plant to comply with S.B. 288, they just need to purchase "paper" rights to cover their usage,
5. Ada has enough water rights to cover their citizens currently if they merely fixed their leaks and stopped trying to run a water supply business,
6. Ada has been offered a water lease (Appendix C) on the acreage overlying the Byrd's Mill Spring recharge area that would both protect the flow of Byrd's Mill Spring and provide them with the ground water rights they need. In addition, this lease offer has a financial implementation period built in. Private landowners have offered Ada a reasonable solution that negates the need for the OWRB to take unwarranted actions such as phase-in periods or other special considerations.
7. It is time to give Ada the mandate needed to push city leaders to take proactive steps to provide a reliable water source for their citizens.

Appendix A

MUNICIPAL and INDUSTRIAL WATER SUPPLY STUDY

for

CITY OF ADA, OKLAHOMA

CITY COUNCIL

WILLIAM GRAY, MAYOR

SID BEARDEN

AMELDA McCORTNEY

GUY McELROY

BOB FENNELL

DAVID HATHCOAT, P.E., CITY MANAGER

DAVID HENDRICKS, P.E., CITY ENGINEER

ALVIN FILES, ATTORNEY

Prepared by

MERCO Consultants
516 West California
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73012

significant water quality issues. The City of Ada considers the naturally occurring mineral springs (in the Arbuckle Simpson aquifer) to possess salient healing properties; this belief was influential to the Chickasaw Nation consenting to relocate in the 1800's. Fundamental Native American sovereignty issues will influence any water development projects. Indian water rights claims could significantly affect existing state water law.

Production Capacity

The combined production capacity of both transmission lines from Byrds Mill Spring is approximately 12 mgd. Two raw water ground storage reservoirs have a capacity of 2 and 5 million gallons. Flow coming from the spring, in excess of demand requirements and ground storage capacity, is discharged into Boggy Creek near Ada's water treatment plant.

Distribution

The water distribution system consists of more than 94 miles of waterlines ranging in size from 2 to 24 inches in diameter. Distribution costs reported in 1996 to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) were approximately \$1.10 per 1000 gallons.

In addition to its municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply demand, Ada serves Pontotoc County Rural Water Districts Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9. RWD6 taps into the main waterline from Byrds Mill Spring and is not considered part of the finished water distribution system. (Map 1 : Water Users Entities)

A 1994 report by FHC, Inc., shows Ada's 1993 average production rate was 4.91 mgd. The annual average daily consumption as metered at each individual user was 4.25 mgd. This indicates a daily water production loss of almost 16% from the transmission lines or at the meters.

Recreation & Tourism Facilities

Ada has seven parks, 27 tennis courts, one country club, two public swimming pools, and three golf courses. Three Oklahoma Recreation and Tourism Facilities near Ada include U.S. Senator Robert S. Kerr's Log Cabin Birthplace and Kallihoma Recreation Area. Byrds Mill Springs is a local attraction.

Lake Konawa just north of Ada in southern Seminole County (owned and operated by Oklahoma Natural Gas and Electric) is the nearest lake recreation area.

Pontotoc County may be considered undeveloped in terms of major impoundments. Most existing water-oriented recreation resources are located to the north and south of Ada. (Map 2: National Register of Historic Places--Selected Cities)

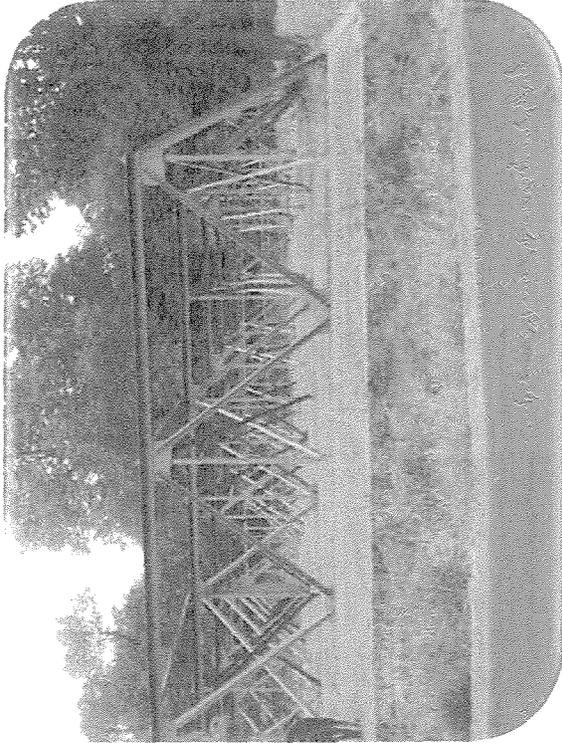
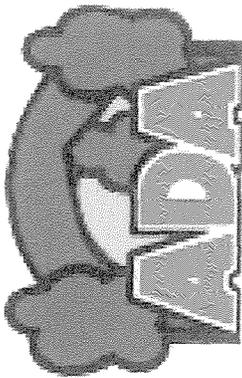
Additional Information: Appendix 7

Appendix B

Interim Report

Water Supply, Transmission and Treatment Plant Improvements

For the City of Ada
Ada, Oklahoma



Presented by:



Holloway, Updike and Bellen, Inc.

Muskogee – Broken Arrow

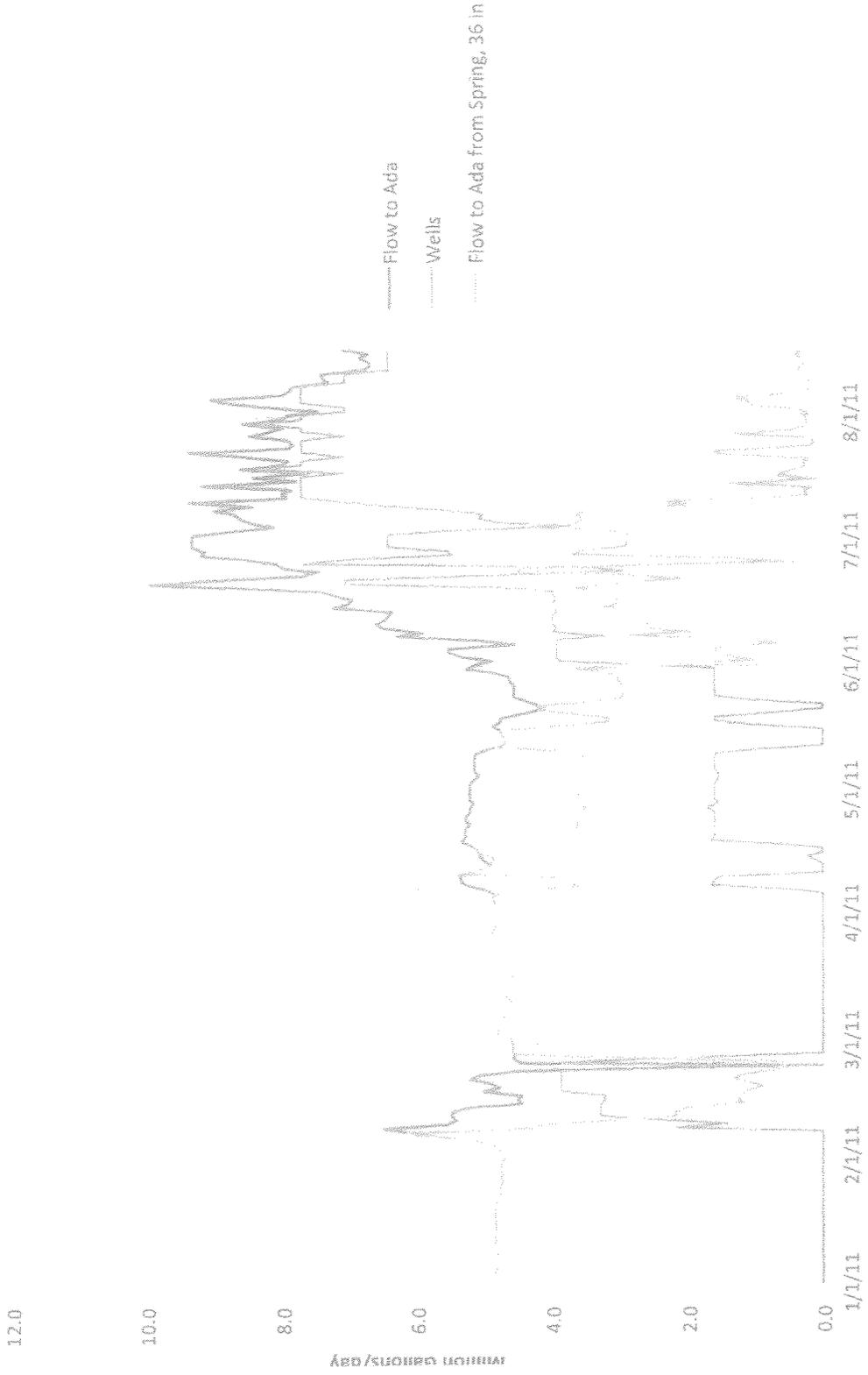
1928 Raw Water Line Flow Test

Conducted March 15, 2012

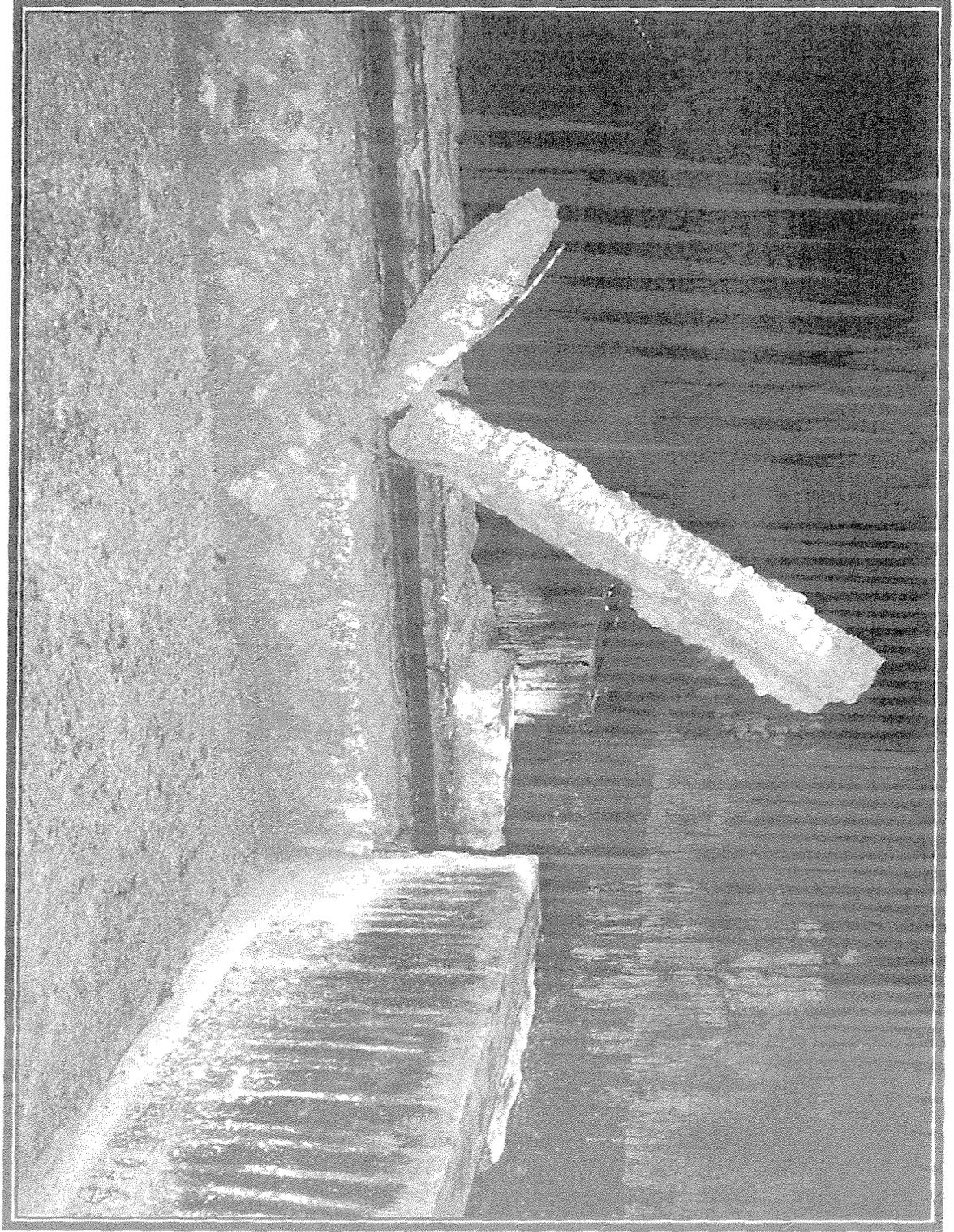
- Flow at New Spring 2940 gpm (4.23 mgd)
- Flow at Plant 2500 gpm (3.60 mgd)
- Difference 440 gpm (0.63 mgd)
- Estimated Usage Along Line 100 gpm (0.14 mgd)
- Estimated Leakage 340 gpm (0.49 mgd)
- Allowable Leakage (If New Line)
(10 gpd/in dia./mile/day) 2 gpm (.003 mgd)

No. of Households Served by 0.49 mgd = 1600

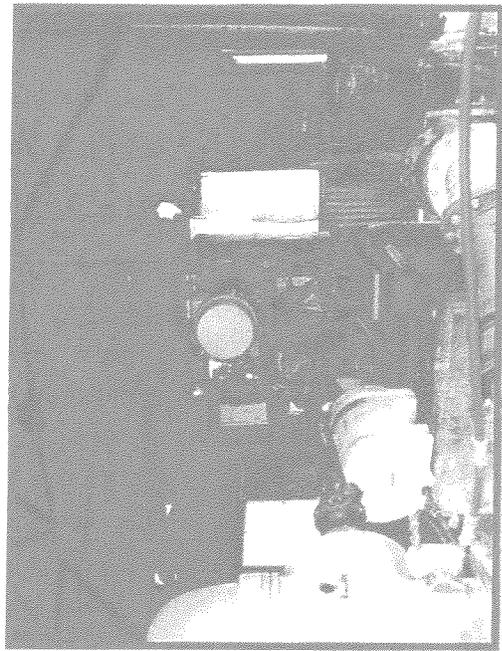
2011 Ada Water Supply - Daily Flow Flow to Ada



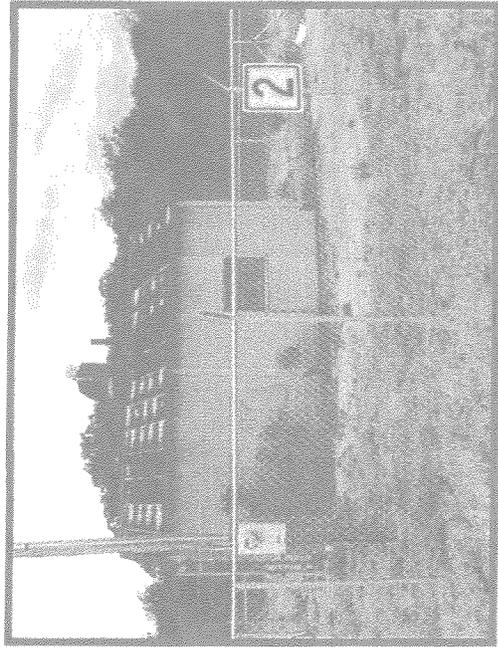
Byrd's Mill Spring – Roof Beam



Water Supply Wells



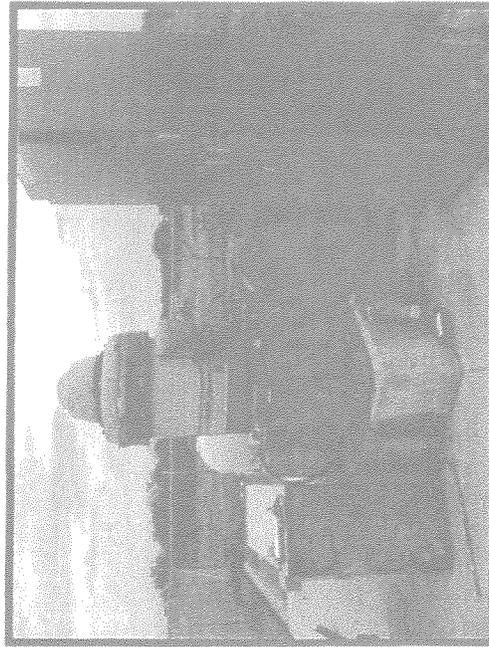
Well No. 1



Well No. 2



Well No. 1



Well No. 3

Appendix C

April 23, 2012

Dick Scalf

City of Ada, OK

231 Townsend Street

Ada, OK 74820

Dear Mr. Scalf,

The Arbuckle Simpson Landowners Group (ASLG) wishes to inform the Ada City Council that groundwater associated with approximately 25,000 acres of the Byrd's Mill Recharge Area is now being offered for lease under the following terms:

1st Year – \$0.25/1000 gallons

2nd Year - \$0.50/1000 gallons

3rd Year - \$0.75/1000 gallons

4th Year - \$1.00/1000 gallons

Subsequent Years – the rate of the 4th year will serve as the base rate of the lease with a cumulative, annual inflation rate applied to subsequent years. The annual inflation rate will be equal to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Based on these rates and assuming a lease for 10,000 acres with the cost spread over 10,000 water taps, the average increase per tap per month would equal:

1st Year – \$1.36/month

2nd Year – \$2.72/month

3rd Year – \$4.08/month

4th Year – \$5.44/month

These rate increases reflect the cost to lease enough groundwater to cover potential permit shortfalls. It is hard to imagine a more affordable alternative for the city's water users.

It is understood that the City of Ada may desire to lease a different amount than cited in this scenario. As such, offers for other quantities are welcomed. The lease offered is a "Take or Pay" type and will require full payment regardless of whether the water is used or not. The duration of the lease is negotiable; however, ASLG prefers a longer term, such as 30 years. Options for lease extensions will also be entertained by ASLG. Although this offer is being presented to the City of Ada first, it will be presented to multiple municipalities, mining operations, oil and gas producers, rural water districts, water bottlers and investors seeking water holdings upon implementation of S.B. 288.

We encourage the City of Ada to see the wisdom in securing the recharge to Byrd's Mill Spring. In addition, the ASLG is also willing to consider negotiating an agreement to construct and operate a new pipeline that would extend from an Arbuckle Simpson well(s) just outside of the recharge area. This would allow the city to address both infrastructure and resource needs and avoid impacting the flow of Byrd's Mill Spring when using groundwater.

The ASLG wishes to be a good faith partner with the City of Ada. We all stand to gain more by working together than by continuing the past decade of legislative and legal battles. It is time to put aside personal and ideological disputes and find common ground that works for both the City of Ada and local landowners.

Sincerely,

Kelly Hurt, Ph.D.

Marketing Agent

Arbuckle Simpson Landowners Group

P.O. Box 299

Allen, OK 74825

(580) 421-7512

cc'd:

Matt Layton

Shane Sweeney

Greg McCourtney

Darrell Nemecek

Need for regional water management district

Background

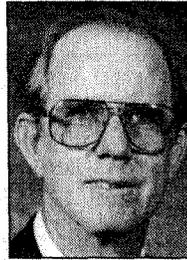
The Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer has sustained much of south-central Oklahoma as a source of drinking water and economic development for centuries. It is the current source of existence for individuals and communities in seven or more counties. However, that resource is being threatened by urban areas west of Oklahoma City who want to pump much of the water to those areas. There can be no economic development in south-central Oklahoma without protection of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer.

Legal Issues

Oklahoma water laws are inconsistent and have little relation to hydrologic reality. Surface water or water in streams belongs to the State and is allocated to adjacent landowners on a "first come, first served" basis for reasonable use. Ground water belongs to the surface owner, but the amount available for his use is determined by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. In the area of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer, both surface water and ground water come from the same source and competing water rights are claiming the same water.

Hydrologic Realities

Even without the external threats, protection, wise management, enhancement of



**Dick
Scalf**

*Guest
Columnist*

existing sources and development of new sources of water are critical for the future of south-central Oklahoma. Ada and several dependent rural water districts obtain water from Byrd's Mill Spring; however, during extremely dry periods and resulting low flows, supplemental water is obtained from water wells in the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer. The Blue River is the sole source of water for the City of Durant. Pennington Creek is the sole source of water for the City of Tishomingo. The springs and streams that are the centerpieces of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area and Turner Falls come from the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer. Sulphur, Davis, Wynnewood and Ardmore obtain water from Arbuckle Lake and much of that water comes from springs issuing from the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer. Sulphur, Davis, several independent rural water districts and hundreds of individual landowners obtain water from individual wells into the Arbuckle-

Simpson.

Every gallon pumped from the Aquifer reduces the cumulative flow of the springs and streams by an equal amount. It should be apparent that a limited amount of ground water can be pumped from the Aquifer on a sustained basis without adverse effects on surface water sources. It should also be apparent that increased demands on water supplies and the competing needs of surface water and ground water users in the region are inevitable and will require wise management of existing supplies and development of additional sources.

Current Status

Senate Bill 288 was passed by the Oklahoma State Legislature in May 2003 to protect the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer from overuse until a five-year hydrologic study is completed. The hydrologic study initiated in 2003 by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board with Federal and State funding seeks to determine aquifer boundaries, the amount of water stored, ground water flow patterns, recharge, discharge and pumping effects on springs and streams.

A legal challenge to the constitutionality of Senate Bill 288 has been initiated by the commercial water sellers. A district court judge is expected to rule on this challenge in the spring of 2004. Whatever the judgment in district court, it is

sure to be appealed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court where a judgment could take years.

Regardless of the outcome of current legal battles, the manner in which the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer is used is changed forever. The two acre-feet per acre ground water permits (five times the estimated recharge rate) are a thing of the past. Protection of the springs and streams of the area will surely be a part of the future management of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer. The practical result of this change in management will be a reduction in permit allocation to something well below the recharge rate. An educated guess would put that limit in the range of 0.2 feet per acre-foot or one-tenth of the present limits. One result of these lower limits is that major export of water out of the area would be impractical. Another result would be that communities and rural water districts that depend on ground water would see their water rights greatly reduced, necessitating additional water rights and/or water resources.

At least one piece of water planning legislation, Senate Bill 903, has been introduced to the 2004 Oklahoma legislative session. This Act would direct the update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan divide the state

into regional water planning districts, and provide guidance and financial assistance for local and regional water plans.

Goals of a Regional Water Management District:

Develop and implement a management program that will fairly and efficiently manage the competing uses of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer for future generations,

Create detailed regional long-term water plans that identify water sources for every community in the region for the next 20, 50 and 100 years,

Identify, evaluate and quantify existing sources and potential sources of water supply in south-central Oklahoma, and

Develop plans and funding mechanisms for increasing recharge to the Arbuckle-Simpson and developing new sources of water.

These issues will be discussed at a public meeting of the Citizens for the Protection of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer (CPASA) at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23 at the Pontotoc Technology Center located south of Ada. The guest speaker will be Duane Smith, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. The public is invited and Bob's Bar B Q is providing free sandwiches from 6:15-7 p.m.

Ada's water supply options scrutinized

By Dick Scalf, Lowell Leach, and Bert Bledsoe

Guest writers

Decisions in the next few years concerning Ada's water supply may be the most expensive and long lasting in the history of this community. It is probably confusing to most people to learn that some communities outside the Ada area are willing to spend hundreds of millions of dollars for a water supply that Ada is considering spending hundreds of millions of dollars to replace. The citizens who will be paying for generations for these decisions need and deserve an explanation for this apparent disconnect and a thorough and balanced discussion of the issues affecting water supply options. To that end, this is the first in a series of planned articles to explore the various options and advantages and disadvantages of each.

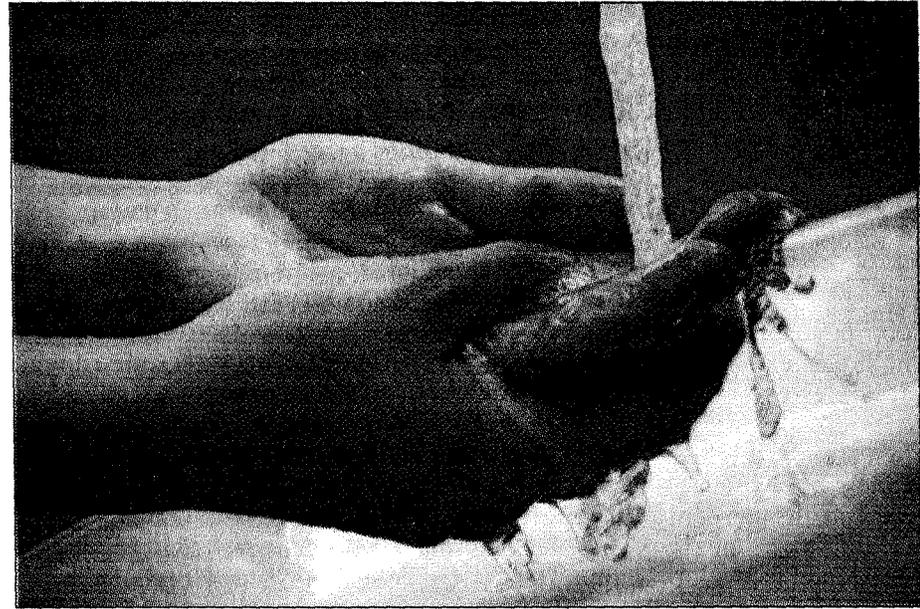
Water supplies are primarily about storage, treatment and distribution. Some people may live close enough to a major stream so that storage is not a problem, but most people get their water from a storage reservoir, either an aquifer or a lake. Almost one-half of the people in the United States get all or part of their drinking water from aquifers.

For almost one hundred years, Ada has enjoyed almost free water. Essentially the only cost has been transporting water from Byrd's Mill Spring, located about 12 miles south of Ada, to water customers. That water flows by gravity via two pipelines from the spring site to storage and pumping facilities at the south edge of Ada. Quality is so good that chlorination is the only treatment required before distribution.

miles located between Ada and Ardmore. Flow varies from less than five MGD (million gallons per day) to over 20 MGD and is directly dependent on rainfall patterns. In the 1950's, the City of Ada drilled water wells into the Arbuckle-Simpson to supplement the Spring's flow during unusually dry periods. Ground water rights obtained by Ada's buying land and/or water rights in succeeding years have reached about 10,000 acres. Under Oklahoma ground water law and past practices, this amount of water rights would ordinarily permit the City of Ada to pump about 20,000 acre-feet per year (2.0 acre-feet per acre per year or about 18 million gallons per day) or almost three times Ada's current usage.

A proposal in 2002 by several communities in Canadian County to pump as much as 70 MGD of water from the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer and transport it to central Oklahoma has prompted a major reexamination of Oklahoma water law and the ability of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer to provide for the water needs of south-central Oklahoma.

Every gallon pumped from the Aquifer reduces the cumulative flow of Blue River, Pennington Creek, Byrd's Mill Spring and almost 100 other springs and streams by an equal amount. It should be apparent that a limited amount of ground water can be pumped from the Aquifer on a sustained basis without adverse effects on springs and streams. Senate Bill 288 was passed by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 2003 to protect the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer from overuse until a five-year hydrologic study can determine the amount of water that can be pumped and still pro-



Decisions concerning Ada's water supply will be made in the next few years that will have far-reaching effects.

water permits (five times the estimated recharge rate) are likely to be greatly reduced so that 10,000 acres of water rights will no longer be adequate for the long-term needs of the City of Ada. The good news is that the flow of Byrd's Mill Spring will be protected.

In 1998, the Ada City Council established the Ada Water Resources Board (AWRB) to provide water resources advice to the City of Ada. In July 2004, AWRB submitted to the Ada City Manager and City Council a series of recommendations to assure the future water supply of Ada based on the new hydrologic and legal realities of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer.

There are three types of approaches that the City of Ada should consider:

Short Term – effective time frame of 1 to 2 years

Intermediate – effective time frame

implemented almost immediately and provide additional stability to our water supply. The number one priority for the City of Ada should be to protect the current water supply in terms of quantity and quality. That means protecting the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer from overuse and contamination, thereby protecting the flow of Byrd's Mill Spring.

Intermediate approaches are those that would result in the development of a new source of water or increased storage in existing sources over the next twenty years. Regardless of other sources or potential sources, ground water pumping will be a critical part of Ada's water future for decades, and the City needs to have adequate water rights to ensure that future. As noted earlier, 10,000 acres of water rights will be inadequate for the

present study required to maintain. However, are suitable reserved for the lake is not better 50 years. Whatever decision, maximum system. Even consideration, to using lake. The Aquifer, the natural system provides.

Scalf is an engineer, a geologist and Bert Bledsoe is a geologist.

Adans turn to state Legislature for help

By TONY PIPPEN
Staff writer

ADA — While an Oklahoma City company continues to promote its plan to pipe water from the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer near Ada to communities northwest of Oklahoma City, Adans are looking to the state Legislature for help.

Today is Ada Day at the State Capitol and several community Leaders are there to promote Ada and its interests.

Among those on hand for the special day, are Sid Bearden and Dick Scalf, members of the Ada Water Resources Board.

"While at the Capitol, we will have lunch with Reps. Bob Plunk and Danny Hilliard and talk with them about the water situation," Bearden said. "We talked with both of them a couple of weeks ago and they were very supportive at the time."

Bearden and Scalf also have an appointment with members of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to discuss the status of financing for a proposed study of the aquifer.

"We have not talked with the people in Oklahoma City," Bearden said. "We want to see where we stand as far as the state laws are concerned before we start a dialogue with those people up there," he said.

Bearden said he hopes wording in a bill introduced in the Legislature will help prevent the loss of vital water from the aquifer.

"We're not challenging the mining rights of landowners. We realize they have the same rights to sell their water as people have to sell oil, and we respect that right. But we also want to prevent our aquifer from being emptied."

— Sid Bearden
Ada Water Resources Board

"We're not challenging the mining rights of landowners," Bearden said. "We realize they have the same rights to sell their water as people have to sell oil, and we respect that right. But we also want to prevent our aquifer from being emptied."

"There's got to be a middle ground where we don't violate the rights of landowners, but still don't loose the water in our aquifer."

► See "Water" 3

Father charged with molesting daughters

By JEREMY CANTRELL
Staff writer

ADA — A 39-year-old Ada man has been charged for sexually molesting his 13 and 12-year-old daughters, according to Ada Police officials.

The suspect has been charged with three counts of lewd molestation, two counts of rape in the first degree, rape by

Haines said, during interviews, the two victims gave a detailed report of the sexual molestation that had been occurring in their homes for several years.

Haines said the suspect denied any wrongdoing during interviews.

Haines also interviewed the two victims' 9-year-old sister, who is also a daughter of the

Even popcorn guru Orville Redenbacher was a member of the 4-H Club — an organization celebrating its 100th anniversary

this year, a century of teaching youngsters to "Learn by Doing."

When innovative farming techniques evolved a century ago, long-time farmers were slow to accept scientific strategies: terracing, crop rotation and other ways to improve production.

So, Corn Clubs and other organizations were formed, attracting school-age boys who accepted "new" technology as a way to increase crop yields. Eventually, canning and sewing clubs popped up around the nation. The two groups merged into what became known as the 4-H.

It's emblem — a green four-leaf clover with a white "H" on each leaf — is one of the most recognizable symbols in the United States. The four Hs are for head, heart, hands and health.

The 4-H can trace its roots to O.J. Kern, a Winnebago County, Ill., school superintendent, who — along with the University of Illinois — organized local agricultural clubs.

Perhaps the most important event in the organization's history occurred in 1914 when the Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service. The act also granted federal funds to Oklahoma and other states to organize boys' and girls' agricultural clubs, of which many adopted the 4-H emblem.

II, 4-H took on additional responsibilities."

— James Arnold
Extension director

U.S. Sen. Thomas P. Gore — a colorful character who was blind from birth and an ancestor of former Vice President Al Gore — played a huge role in the popularity of 4-H in the state.

He offered an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to the champion corn-growing boy in Oklahoma. Floyd Gayer of Ardmore won the trip after harvesting more than 95 bushels per acre while veteran farmers were only averaging 45.

"During World War II, 4-H took on additional responsibilities," said Arnold. "They were responsible for 77,000 head of dairy cattle, 246,000 swine, 40,000 tons of forage crops and 109,000 bushels of root crops. It was estimated that Texas 4-H'ers produced enough to keep 17,000 soldiers supplied with food and clothing."

At the beginning of the war, 4-H established seven national war goals. "Three goals were related to food production and four goals were aimed at helping young people learn more about citizenship and community service," Arnold said. "By 1945, 30 projects were associated with national award programs. New projects included arts, craft, junior leadership and community service."

Millions of students have

Optimism
Bentley became the first director of the organization in July 1914. Two years later, Oklahoma's

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Oklahoma National Guard given mobilizationalert

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — More than 800 soldiers of the 45th Infantry Brigade have been alerted of their possible mobilization this year, the Oklahoma Army National Guard said Monday.

If mobilized, the soldiers would be deployed for peace-keeping duties in the Sinai and

were ongoing prior to Sept. 11."

If the units are mobilized, it would be the largest call up of Oklahoma Army Guard forces since more than 2,500 soldiers were activated for Operation Desert Storm.

Guard officials said the warning order is used to alert sol-