



OKLAHOMA

water news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA
WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Gerald E. Borelli, Chairman

Earl Walker • L.L. Males • John B. Jarboe • James H. Norick • R.G. Johnson • Ralph G. McPherson • Gary W. Smith • Ernest R. Tucker

Water Policymaker to Headline December 1 Conference Agenda

Dr. Garrey E. Carruthers, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Land and Water Resources, has accepted Gov. Nigh's invitation to be the featured speaker at the Governor's Second Annual Water Conference in Oklahoma City on December 1.

Carruthers' luncheon address, "National Water Policy — a New Partnership," the Governor's mid-morning keynote speech and the timely agenda are expected to draw 1,200 or more of the state's key water people to the Lincoln Plaza Inn for the day-long meeting.

Robert J. LaFortune, President of the Arkansas Basin Development Association and former mayor of Tulsa, will serve as conference chairman.

James R. Barnett, executive director of OWRB, coordinating agency for the conference, said the Governor's Office, the Board and the 33 conference sponsors have succeeded in planning a seminar which emphasizes in-

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Dr. Garrey E. Carruthers



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY GLOVER

Press Secretary John Reid presents a proclamation from the Governor declaring October 19 "Dr. Lloyd E. Church Day in Oklahoma."

Dr. Lloyd E. Church Honored in Ceremony at State Library

They came from all over to honor Oklahoma's humble, soft-spoken water giant, Dr. Lloyd E. Church. The home folks in Wilburton sent a telegram to again thank him for his years of service in soil and water conservation and to say they were proud of him.

Gov. George Nigh declared October 19 "Dr. Lloyd E. Church Day" and John Reid, press secretary to the Governor, presented a proclamation commending his generous donation of historical records and private papers to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Marietta Malzer, head archivist, received the collection — 14 boxes of photographs, personal letters and papers, awards, maps, reports and other memorabilia — on behalf of the State Library as more than 75 of his friends and colleagues looked on proudly.

The smiling Dr. Church, his eyes shining with pleasure in sharing the occasion with so many friends, said, "I am so grateful and so surprised."

Born in a sod house near Carmen in 1896, he recalled, "Those early days, the hard times on the Cherokee Strip

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novative ideas and fresh approaches in solving the state's water problems.

"We've recruited the best heads in the business to lead panels in tackling problems concerning Water for Agriculture, Water for Commerce and Industry, Rural Water and Municipal Water Supplies," Barnett said. "It's a real feather in our cap to have Dr. Carruthers here. His experience at both state and federal levels gives him exceptional insight in state problems and federal water policy."

Prior to his appointment to the Department of the Interior, Carruthers served as a Professor of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business at New Mexico State University. He holds a BS degree in Agriculture and a MS degree in Agricultural Economics from New Mexico State and a PhD in Economics from Iowa State University. He has served as special assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, a White House Fellow and acting director of the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute.

Carruthers is the author of more than 30 publications about economic modeling, multi-use of natural resources, land and water resource economics, evaluation of governmental programs and rural development.

Sharing the luncheon program with Dr. Carruthers will be Speaker of the House Dan Draper and President Pro Tem of the Senate Marvin York, who will discuss prospects for meaningful water legislation during the upcoming session.

James H. Norick, former Oklahoma City mayor and member of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, will act as honorary host for the conference.

In morning concurrent sessions conducted by conference co-chairman, Patty Eaton, Tulsa Commissioner of Waterworks and Sewerage, will moderate the section on Public Water Supply. Dr. Tom Hurst, Vice-President of Environmental Affairs, Kerr-McGee Corporation, will moderate the session on Water for Commerce and Industry. Gerald E. Borelli, OWRB Chairman, will serve as moderator for the Water for Agriculture session.

Concurrent afternoon panels will be moderated by Jack D. Craig, State Commissioner of Agriculture, on Water for Agriculture; Julius Kubier, President of Associated Industries of Oklahoma, on Water for Commerce and Industry; R.K. Johnson, Executive Secretary of the National Rural Water Association, on Rural Water; and Rex Helms, Mayor of Idabel, on Municipal Water.

"Gov. Nigh wants the most important work of this conference to be the development of a list of water issues which citizens and water officials consider most critical for action in the upcoming legislative session," said Barnett. "We've invited all members of the Legislature to participate in the conference, and we hope to have a strong representation."

More information on the conference and registration forms are available by writing the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, P.O. Box 53585, Oklahoma City, 73152 or by calling (405) 271-2555.

Dr. Church, continued from page 1

perhaps caused me to be the way I am. Up there, we had a lot of land, but we had no wood or water. It was so difficult to make a living. It was really and truly a terrible life, but we didn't know we were poor."

As a young man in Clinton, he dedicated his efforts to healing and restoring the lands devastated by the Dust Bowl. He used his dental equipment on a grass drill he rigged to reseed eroded farmlands. A conservationist before there was a name for it and years ahead of any organized conservation movement, Dr. Church recognized the relationship between a healthy and prosperous society and the condition of cropland, forests, lakes and streams.

He traveled thousands of miles throughout the watersheds of western Oklahoma, preaching with missionary zeal the benefits of good soil, good water and good roads. He so fervently took up the banner of rural development that he was named Clinton's most useful citizen in 1936, received awards for unselfish service to the Chamber of Commerce and the Upper Washita Soil Conservation District, and was recognized for outstanding work on Cloud Creek, Sandstone Creek and the Washita River Valley.

In 1952, lured by the abundant resources and water in eastern Oklahoma, he moved to Wilburton, packing with him his enthusiasm for watershed protection. Dr. Church arrived in Wilburton just in time to inspire his friend, the late Robert S. Kerr, with visions which would bear fruit in the innovative Arkansas River navigation project.

He continued his canvass of the watersheds, all the while boosting the construction of small dams to rescue eastern Oklahoma lands from high waters, capture the flood waters and store them for times of drought.

Dr. Church was named chairman of the water study committee appointed by the 25th Legislature, and he was the first chairman of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board following its creation by the 26th Legislature in 1957. He served the Board honorably and

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STAFF PHOTO BY GARY GLOVER

OWRB friends employed during Dr. Church's tenure on the Board gathered at the reception in his honor. Left to right: Dannie Spiser, Pat Hestand, Forrest Nelson, Dr. Church, Joan Wilkerson, Paul Wilson.

with distinction for two decades as chairman, vice-chairman and member until ill health forced his retirement in 1977. In an unprecedented appearance, Gov. David Boren attended Dr. Church's final meeting with the Board to pay homage to the man whose gentle hand had so long guided the state's water destiny.

On October 19 — Dr. Lloyd E. Church Day in Oklahoma — on the occasion of his gift to the Department of Libraries, it was obvious to all who came that Dr. Church's long-standing love affair with soil and water still burns brightly.

Eighth in a Series of Nine

State Needs to Pull Together for Solutions to Water Problems

Ernest R. "Jack" Tucker is a community-minded individual, serving the "community" of Oklahoma through his membership on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and his home town of Idabel through participation in local arts.

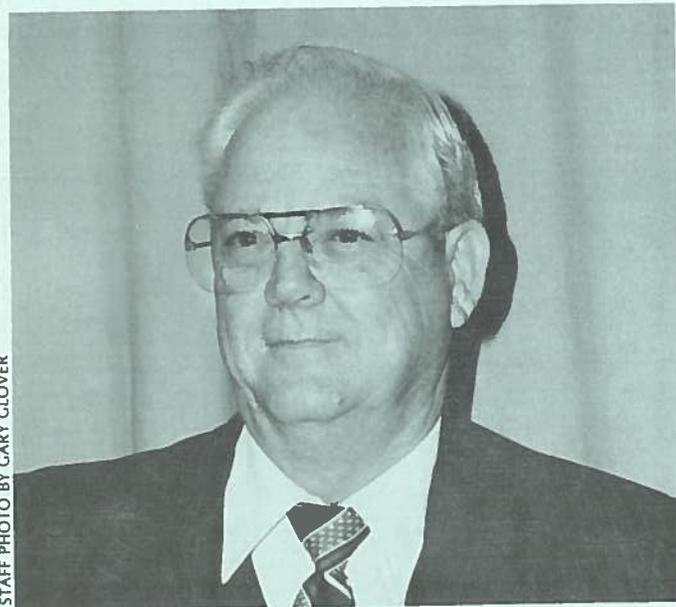
His leadership in water concerns would be puzzling to some, considering that he comes from water-rich southeastern Oklahoma.

"We're very fortunate in our part of the state in that we have almost an oversupply of water. In fact, our biggest problem is to control excess water in the form of floods," Tucker said.

The issue of curbing floodwaters created a water awareness in Tucker, and he was prepared to serve when Gov. Nigh appointed him to the OWRB in May 1980.

"Seeing dams being built for flood control made me realize that water is a thing of the future as far as Oklahoma is concerned. And with the ample supplies of water in our region, it seemed a good idea to be in on the ground floor in planning for its use," Tucker said.

Tucker would like to help steer his region toward better utilization of its abundant water resources. Plagued



Ernest R. "Jack" Tucker

ACTIVE CONSERVATION STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES AND RESERVOIRS AS OF OCTOBER 22, 1981

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY
SOUTHEAST		
Atoka	123,475	100.0
Broken Bow	730,610	79.6
Pine Creek	77,700	100.0
Hugo	157,600	100.0
CENTRAL		
Thunderbird	80,230	75.7
Hefner	75,355	100.0
Overholser	15,551	100.0
Draper	84,853	84.9
SOUTH CENTRAL		
Arbuckle	62,571	100.0
Texoma	2,637,700	100.0
Waurika	144,723	71.3 ¹
SOUTHWEST		
Altus	11,494	8.7
Fort Cobb	65,163	83.1
Foss	132,760	54.5 ²
Tom Steed	67,273	76.0
EAST CENTRAL		
Eufaula	2,329,700	100.0
Tenkiller	585,660	93.3
Wister	27,100	100.0
NORTHEAST		
Eucha	54,800	68.8
Grand	1,304,565	87.5
Oologah	544,240	100.0
Hulah	17,687	56.2
Fort Gibson	355,100	97.3
Heyburn	4,383	66.4
Birch	17,650	91.9
Hudson	199,980	99.8
Spavinaw	24,900	83.0
NORTH CENTRAL		
Kaw	408,700	95.4
Keystone	594,960	96.6
NORTHWEST		
Canton	41,667	42.7
Optima	4,643	— ¹
Fort Supply	11,900	85.6
Great Salt Plains	31,400	100.0
STATE TOTALS	11,026,093	91.9³

1. In initial filling stage
2. Temporarily lowered for maintenance
3. Conservation storage for Lake Optima not included in state total

Data courtesy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Oklahoma City Water Resources Dept., City of Tulsa Water Superintendent's Office.

by inadequate treatment and distribution systems, many towns find themselves continually short of water in the midst of plenty.

Recognizing that cities often lack the proper financial base to make improvements, Tucker points toward loans available from the OWRB.

"Some of our water systems need upgrading, especially where distribution is concerned. I think the financial assistance program is the answer to a lot of that."

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Tucker's interest in managing water resources extends past the lush, forested, rolling hills of southeastern Oklahoma. He considers one of the most critical issues that the OWRB must deal with to be the chronic water shortages experienced in western Oklahoma.

"We need to work further in determining how much water will be available out there in times to come. I think our prime concern should be the state of the Ogallala aquifer and its future use," Tucker said.

The east-to-west water conveyance proposed in the Comprehensive Water Plan particularly interests him.

"I wouldn't want to see the eastern part of the state bankrupted of water, but as long as we're properly taken care of, I'm for it," Tucker said. "I would only want our future needs to be recognized along with those of the people in the western part of the state."

Concerning himself with the needs of others is characteristic of Tucker. He is former vice-president of the Idabel Chamber of Commerce. He faithfully attends Rotary Club meetings, serves as a deacon of the First Baptist Church and assists the choir director.

His interest in music overlaps with a theatrical side of his personality. He spent two terms in office as president of the McCurtain County Players, and appeared in such productions as "Music Man" and "Fiddler on the Roof." Acting and singing are hobbies he enjoys, but he sees a wider value derived from the arts as well.

"It's another way of drawing people in the community closer together," he said.

Whether in the board room at the OWRB or in the high school auditorium in Idabel, Tucker seems always to find a stage for his activities. And when the curtains close, Oklahoma is better off for it.

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Tar Creek Chosen for EPA "Superfund"

OWRB Water Quality Division chief and Tar Creek Task Force co-chairman Ron Jarman announced that the Environmental Protection Agency has designated the Tar Creek-Picher Mining District as the nation's waste site most critically in need of cleanup. The ranking qualifies the region for long-range cleanup assistance from EPA's "superfund", created last year by Congress specifically for the rehabilitation of abandoned waste sites.

The EPA appropriation will cover the capital costs of cleaning up the pollution from 435 abandoned lead and zinc mines that threaten area water supplies. Total cost is estimated to be \$20.6 million over 23 years.

OCTOBER CROP AND WEATHER SUMMARY

Cool weather prevailed throughout the state, and although the southern two-thirds began drying, muddy fields forced harvesting and fieldwork to a standstill.

Peanuts, cotton, sorghum and soybeans were damaged by heavy rains in southern areas, and many newly planted wheat fields were washed out. Topsoil and subsoil moisture were adequate.

Corn, cotton and soybeans were in good condition, but peanuts and cotton were only fair. Cool, wet weather slowed cotton development and has caused some spotting and molding in southwest areas. Late planted peanuts in south central areas were rated in poor condition.

The state's pastures and ranges were in good condition with surplus to adequate forage.

Oklahoma Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

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