



# OKLAHOMA

## water news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA  
WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Gerald E. Borelli, Chairman

Earl Walker • L.L. Males • Bill Secrest, Jr. • Ralph G. McPherson • Gary W. Smith • Ernest R. Tucker • Robert S. Kerr, Jr. • R.G. Johnson

## Water, Sewer Financing Hopes Lie in SQ 581 August 28

"Nothing survives without water," said Gov. George Nigh when he added his support to that of the Oklahoma Legislature endorsing State Question 581 to come before the voters August 28. If approved, this measure would change the Oklahoma Constitution, allowing the state to offer low-interest loans to cities, towns, and rural water districts for constructing and improving water and sewer systems.

"No further legislative appropriations will be required as the state already has the money set aside for this purpose," said James R. Barnett, executive director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, which is given the responsibility to manage the program. Local and state taxes won't change as a result of this much needed financial assistance program. The state's liability is limited to the Statewide Water Development Revolving Fund which was established by a \$25 million legislative appropriation in 1982. The Revolving Fund will be used as collateral on bonds sold by the Board.

Often, the Board is the only source of financing available to small communities which have been unable to afford or qualify for conventional forms of financing. High interest rates and the inability of small communities to sell bonds have hindered water development and growth. Federal financing sources for water and sewer projects have become increasingly scarce or eliminated in recent years with the sharp cutbacks in such government programs as Farmers Home Administration, Economic Development Administration and Environmental Protection Agency. For example, FmHA at this time has grant requests totaling eight times the amount of funds available.

In addition to the loan program, OWRB already has in place a successful emergency grant program which has assisted some 31 communities statewide with \$1,739,080 in emergency relief. Grant funds for the program are generated from interest accumulated by investment of the Revolving Fund. New grant funds accrue regularly and would continue to be used only for emergency situations.

Emergency conditions range from repairing tornado ravaged water tanks and supply systems to drilling new

water wells after the collapse of existing wells.

A qualified city, town or rural water/sewer district that needs to construct, expand or improve its water or sewer facilities could finance the project at an affordable interest rate through the OWRB program allowed by the Constitutional Amendment.



As a community grows, so must its water and sewer facilities. Approval of State Question 581 on August 28 would allow the OWRB to fully implement the loan portion of the Financial Assistance Program.

A YES vote would put reliable supplies of good quality water and adequate sewer facilities within the reach of thousands of Oklahomans who are presently deprived of such services, and it would do so with money already appropriated and specifically reserved for the purposes.

State Question 581 will be worded in approximately this manner on the primary election ballot :

"Shall a constitutional amendment adding a new Section 39 to Article X of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma which would authorize a water resource and sewage treatment program and provide for the use of the Statewide Water Development Revolving Fund and the Water Resources Fund for financing the program through furnishing of financial assistance to municipalities, political subdivisions and certain other public entities of the state, and which would limit any state liability to monies reserved in the Statewide Water Development Revolving Fund for such purposes be approved by the people?"

# Cheyenne Honors Longtime OWRB M

It was clearly a love affair between a western Oklahoma community and a family. The whole town of Cheyenne turned out, and more came from the surrounding little towns and Roger Mills County, from the state capital, from all across Oklahoma and other states. They all came for a single reason — to express their love and admiration for L.L. "Red" and Lorena Males.

They paid tribute in every way they knew — in warm hugs and long handshakes, in vases spilling over with red roses, in a special "day" brimful of honors, in speeches, songs and readings; in gifts purchased and handmade, and in new street signs running the length of town proclaiming "L.L. 'Red' Males Avenue."

Gov. Nigh declared July 7 "Red Males Day" throughout the state. Lt. Gov. Spencer Bernard came as an emissary, along with Sen. Tim Leonard, Rep. Rollin Reimer and Rep. Bill Widener. Soil and water conservationists, friends from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, fellow bankers, Lorena's fellow musicians and students in music, piano and speech; and armies of Males' admirers came to Cheyenne.

Their fans pressed on them plaques, scrapbooks, trophies and countless mementos recognizing the Maleses' 50 years of service to the community. Males' employees at Security State Bank had commissioned a handmade patchwork quilt for the occasion, the squares embroidered with their names and the center stitched with a likeness of the bronze sculpture in the bank courtyard.

Males Appreciation Day began at nine with a reception in the bank, where visitors and friends dropped by for punch and cookies and a souvenir wooden nickel. Across town, a softball tournament was underway. At eleven, the Maleses cut the red streamer that officially named the street "L.L. 'Red' Males Avenue," and the parade began.

It was 104 degrees. A sea of straw hats shaded faces along the parade route and little gymnasts made quick spins of their cartwheels as they balanced on the blistering pavement. Cub scouts marched with flags; antique vehicles chugged; huge farm behemoths rolled on silent tread; riders passed on prancing horses; carriages, buggies and covered wagons creaked and jingled; a bright float bloomed with "Our Little Miss" winners, and a brigade of youngsters on training wheels and motorcross bikes whizzed by.

After the parade, the festivities moved to the fairgrounds where 1000 pounds of barbecued beef, brown beans and slaw were served to 750 people. Then, a "This is Your Life" program recounted Red and Lorena's lives, and Lorena took her favorite seat on the piano bench to play and sing with the kids.

At six, the playday rodeo began outside, and every youngster rode who owned a horse. Some little fellows without mounts ran the barrel races on "broomstick" horses. The sun began to slip. As the country and western band tuned up for the street dance downtown at nine, the thermostat on the bank still lighted 94 degrees. But the folks continued to come — more than 300 of them two-

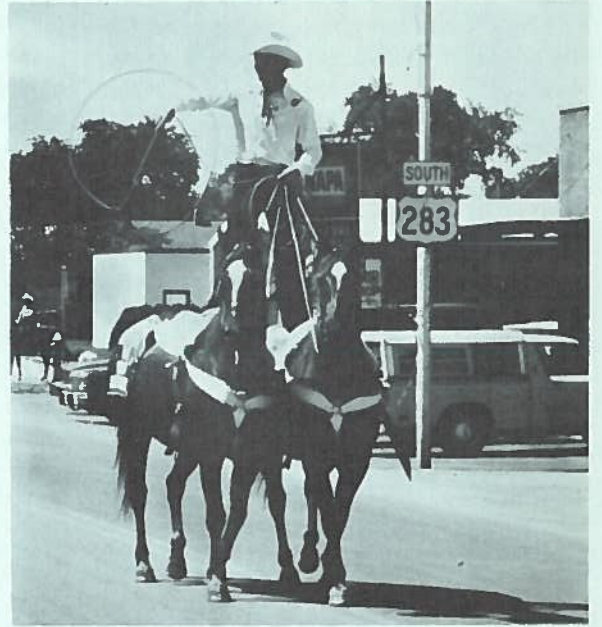
stepped to music strummed from a flatbed trailer parked on Broadway.

By twelve-thirty, the musicians clipped their fiddles and guitars into their cases and the dancers slipped away. Broadway in Cheyenne looked very much the way it looks every night at midnight. The day, however, had been unlike any other. Males Appreciation Day was clearly an occasion to be remembered.

The town had turned out to honor the pretty young music teacher who had set her hat for the boyish, red-haired banker so many years ago.



# Member L.L. "Red" Males and Wife Lorena





### Prior Rights Hearings Set in 11 Counties

Duane Smith, OWRB Ground Water Division chief, announced that work sessions and public hearings have been scheduled through August 9 in 11 counties for applicants and claimants for prior rights to beneficial use of ground water.

He pointed out that any person who used ground water under the requirements of the existing laws prior to July 1, 1973 (the effective date of the present Oklahoma Ground Water Law) is given the opportunity to establish a prior right. Exempt from the permitting requirements are those who use the water solely for domestic purposes, watering livestock under normal grazing capacity of the land, or watering domestic gardens and orchards less than three acres.

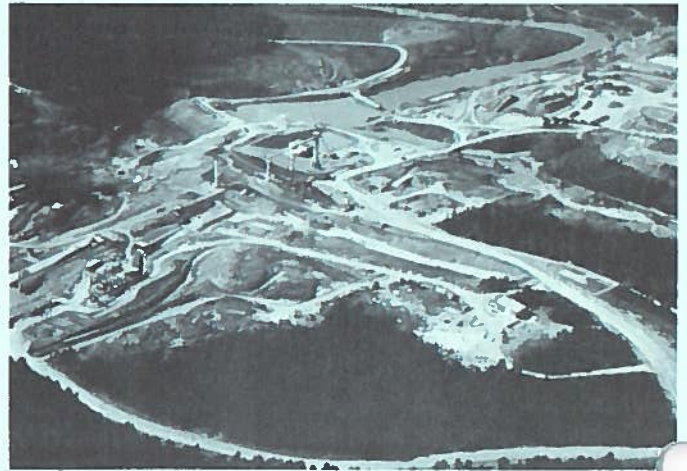
OWRB staff members will be available in the following locations to assist prior rights applicants and conduct hearings: Woods County, Alva City Council Chambers, July 24, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Alfalfa County, Library Community Room, Cherokee, July 25, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Grant County, City Hall Reading Room, Medford, July 26, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon; Kay County, Commissioners (Court) Room, Newkirk, July 26, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.; Eastern Tillman County, Light and Power Office Conference Room, Frederick, August 6, 1 to 5 p.m.; Comanche County, OWRB Branch Office, Lawton, August 7, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Cotton County, City Hall Council Chambers, Walters, August 8, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon; Stephens County, City Hall Municipal Court Room, Duncan, August 8, 1:30

to 5 p.m.; Jefferson County, City Hall Court Room, Waurika, August 9, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon; Love County, Marietta Public Works Authority Conference Room, August 9, 2 to 5 p.m.

### Board Names Lawton Branch Manager

James R. Barnett, OWRB executive director, announced that David O. Dillon Jr., has accepted the position of manager of the Board's Lawton Branch Office, effective June 25.

Dillon, who has a bachelor's degree in biology and environmental science from East Central State University in Ada, was previously employed by the Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control in Oklahoma City and the Robert S. Kerr EPA Water Quality Lab in Ada.



This photo updates construction on McGee Creek Reservoir, a Bureau of Reclamation project in Atoka County which will produce an annual yield of 71,800 acre-feet of municipal and industrial water when it is completed in 1985. The earthfill dam, shown in the photo from upper left to lower right, will be 2300 feet long and 115 feet high.

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