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G. Emlen Hall, High and Dry: The Texas-New Mexico Struggle for the Pecos Reiver

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stress like some wineries use. Wastewater recycling helps. But technology is not enough to solve the crisis. Removing water subsidies could lead to decreased demand by reflecting the true cost of water. It could be priced so that waste hurts. But this too comes with a detriment: the urban poor would not be able to afford water.

Controlling and reducing the world population would help because fewer people would mean less demand. Some population projections actually estimate that the population increase of India and China will slow by the middle of this century. The surveys are hopeful, but a population decrease would likely not be enough to save the fate of the dwindling water supply.

The final strategy in dealing with the water crisis is to steal it from others. "The solution to the problems of water is ultimately political." Violence and war over water, which have been part of the history of humankind, may decide who gets access to water. "Water wars might be caused by human folly, but they might still be prevented by human inventiveness.... We are not without weapons in these wars we are waging against our own worst nature."

Water is very well written and easily readable. The combination of science, trivia and personal stories present an enjoyable but important look at the fate of the world's water resources.

Rachel M. Sobrero

G. EMLÉN HALL, HIGH AND DRY: THE TEXAS-NEW MEXICO STRUGGLE FOR THE PECOS RIVER, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, N.M. (2002); 304pp; \$39.95; ISBN 0-8263-2429-0, hardcover.

This book tells the story of the battle between Texas and New Mexico over the water provided by the Pecos River. The river begins in the Sangre de Cristo mountains, running through New Mexico then Texas before it joins the Rio Grande.

The story deals with the politics and personalities involved in the court case, *Texas v. New Mexico*. The book describes the original irrigators in the region, their attempts to harness the flows of the Pecos River, and the effect of the case on the people involved. It personalizes the people who rely on the river, as well as those involved in the courtroom fight over apportionment of the river's flows.

Chapter One, *Flying Court*, introduces and sets the context for the case, *Texas v. New Mexico*. The two states entered into a compact to apportion flows from the Pecos River in 1948. In 1974 Texas claimed that New Mexico had deprived Texas of 1,000,000 acre-feet of water since the date of the compact. The Supreme Court allowed the suit to proceed in 1976, appointing Judge Jean Breitenstein as Special Master.

Chapter Two, *The Tracys' Dream of Carlsbad*, discusses the Carlsbad Irrigation District, which is the New Mexico agency closest to the Texas state line with control over Pecos water use. The chapter discusses the

efforts of early settler Francis G. Tracy, and later his family, to harness and utilize the water in the Pecos River. The history puts a human face on the apportionment battle, and allows the reader to empathize with the people that a water decision impacts.

Chapter Three, *Royce J. Tipton Mismeasures the Pecos*, deals with one of the central figures in the 1948 compact between the states. Royce Tipton was a water engineer from Denver who first applied existing science (surface water hydrology) to the flows in the Pecos River. He used this scientific basis to hammer out the Pecos River Compact of 1948, and then spent the rest of his career trying to get the river to follow the formula and scientific standards he had created. The Pecos did not cooperate with the scientific formula, and this contributed to the conflict between the states.

Chapter Four, *Morgan Nelson's Pecos River World*, introduces the Nelson family and the Roswell artesian basin in New Mexico. The Nelsons rely on groundwater wells to irrigate their farmland, and have been a presence in the area since the 1910s. However, the groundwater intercepted by the wells in the basin would run into the Pecos River, but for the Nelson's and others interceptions. Once Texas and New Mexico began to litigate, the water used by Roswell farmers became an issue.

Chapter Five, *Leave it to Steve*, focuses on New Mexico State Engineer Steve Reynolds. Reynolds was the state engineer from 1955 until his death in 1990. An expert in water use and the water laws in New Mexico, he championed the state's cause in *Texas v. New Mexico*.

Chapter Six, *Jean Breitenstein Tackles the 1947 Condition*, discusses the approach Judge Breitenstein used in determining whether New Mexico had violated the 1948 compact. He repeatedly emphasized that it would be up to Texas to show that New Mexico had caused, through human activities, negative departures from the 1947 condition of the river's flow. Judge Breitenstein put the burden on Texas to show that any flow departures were caused by the activities of man; otherwise, New Mexico was not responsible.

Chapter Seven, *The Presumption of Charles J. Meyers*, introduces Judge Breitenstein's successor. Judge Breitenstein resigned his position as Special Master in 1984 and was replaced by Charles Meyers. Meyers almost immediately reversed Breitenstein's approach that the burden was on Texas in the case, and went with the presumption that New Mexico owed Texas water; the question was simply how much.

Chapter Eight, *New Mexico Stumbles*, discusses New Mexico's attempts beginning in 1990 to meet their obligations to Texas under a new water manual. The case settled for \$14 million in damages, paid to Texas by New Mexico, and required a new method of determining how much water needed to be delivered to the Texas state line.

Chapter Nine, *The Value of Water*, wraps up the book, discussing the impact that *Texas v. New Mexico* had on the people and communities that rely on the Pecos River.

John P. Wood