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Joseph Friedkin

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Joseph Friedkin

INTERVIEWER:

PROJECT: Speech

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BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water
Commission.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Speech given to the El Paso County Historical Society
on the activities and accomplishments of the Commission.

45 minutes (1 7/8) 21 pages.

Friedkin To Address Historical Society

It took 241 separate agreements involving territory totaling 31,000 acres to stabilize the boundary between Mexico and the United States, according to Commissioner Joseph F. Friedkin, U.S. member of the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Friedkin will speak at the quarterly meeting of the El Paso County Historical Society at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Templin Hall at Radford School.

With slides to illustrate his talk, Friedkin will review problems and accomplishments in dealing with the 1,800 mile boundary between the two nations, and its errant rivers, the Rio Grande and Colorado.

Settlement of the Chamizal dispute cost the United States \$42 million but Friedkin

points out that his original estimate was \$44 million, which the Congress appropriated. He was able to return \$2 million to the government.

The committee, with Chris P. Fox as chairman, named the following officers and directors:

Conrey Bryson, president; Mrs. W. W. Schuessler, first vice president; Dr. Joseph Leach, second vice president; Frank Smith, third vice president; Mrs. William A. Burgett, recording secretary; Mrs. Paul Heisig, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Carl Rosenbaum, treasurer; Fred Bailey, curator; Mrs. W. W. Schuessler, historian; Leon Metz, parliamentarian; James J. Crook, immediate past president; Dr. Eugene O. Porter, editor of *Password*, and S. H. Newman, editor of *El Conquistador*.

Conrey Bryson Elected President Of EP County Historical Society

Conrey Bryson was elected 1974 president of the El Paso County Historical Society during the society's meeting Thursday night at Radford School for Girls.

Ambassador Joseph F. Friedkin, Commissioner of the joint U.S.-Mexico International Boundary and Water Commission, gave a slide-illustrated talk on the contributions to the history of the Southwest made by the commission.

Friedkin played a large part in the solution of the Chamizal border issue that had remained unsettled for more than 100 years.

The entire slate of the remaining

nominees for office were accepted by acclamation by the members.

The officers include, Mrs. W. W. Scheussler, first vice president; Dr. Joseph Leach, second vice president; Frank Smith, third vice president; Mrs. William A. Burgett, recording secretary; Mrs. Paul Heisig, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Carl Rosenbaum, treasurer; Fred Bailey, curator; Mrs. W. W. Schuessler, historian; and Leon Metz, parliamentarian.

Directors for the County Historical Society are William I. Latham, Mrs. L. A. Velarde, Mrs. H. Campton Jones, James Peak, Dr. James R. Morgan, Maj. Richard K. McMaster and Comdt. Millard G. McKinney.

X: I'd like to call upon Conrey Bryson at this time to introduce our speaker.

B: Thank you, Jim. Our speaker tonight is so well known that I'm tempted to use the technique of a man who was called upon to introduce William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Bryan said this was his favorite of all the introductions that were ever given to him. He was speaking up in upstate New York and an old Dutchman, who was the party chairman up there, was called upon to make the introduction of Mr. Bryan. What he said was, "I was supposed to introduce Mr. William Jennings Bryan, who will speak to you. I have done so, he will do so." (Laughter)

I couldn't get by without giving our distinguished speaker tonight a little bit better introduction than that. He is particularly well known to this organization because very proudly we admitted him to our Hall of Honor last year.

I have been acquainted, indirectly, at least, with Mr. Friedkin almost ever since I came to El Paso. When I came here as something of a ham actor back in 1929, I had the privilege of acting under the direction of his fine father a couple of times, who was a great actor and a great director. We remember Joe when he was playing basketball for the Texas College of Mines. He's a local boy.

He is in a very sensitive position, which I think some of us don't realize. If there is any position in our government which demands an exacting combination of diplomat and engineer, the position of Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission is that kind of a position. He must have both of these skills in high degree. Tonight, I hope that after we have heard from Commissioner Friedkin, we will have a better

idea than perhaps some of us have now as to the importance of this position of Commissioner of the American division of the International Boundary and Water Commission. It has done a fantastic work in keeping our border peaceful and orderly, and enabling us to settle problems in a peaceful way, which are settled in other parts of the world by warfare. This is a high degree of diplomatic skill to which these men on each side of the International Boundary and Water Commission deserve our acclaim.

It is my very great pleasure to introduce Commissioner Joseph F. Friedkin.
(Applause from the audience.)

F: Thank you, Conrey, for that very, very kind introduction.

President Jim, General Heathcoat, officers and members of the El Paso County Historical Society, guests:

I do have many good friends among you. I prize as my highest award being named to your Hall of Honor last year, and I do appreciate this opportunity to appear before you again at this time.

General Heathcoat kindly asked that I discuss this evening the contributions to the history of the southwest by the International Boundary and Water Commission /of the/ United States and México. You know, that's kind of like asking me to talk about my family, and to bring out my family album. And I'm, to be sure, very pleased to do so. And I'd like to introduce my assistant at this time, Jim Fonte. Jim, would you please stand.
(Applause)

Certainly most striking in an overview of the history of the boundary between the United States and México are the sharply contrasting pictures of the boundary as it was in 1848 when it was first established, and the

boundary today, in 1973, just a hundred and twenty-five years later. As you know, the boundary was first established in 1848 as a result of a war which left deep scars, harsh feelings, and strained relations drawn from suspicion and lack of trust. The lands along the boundary then were very sparsely settled and must have, to many of our early pioneers, appeared as barren wastelands. Indeed many in the United States Congress, at the time of the hearings of the Gadsden Purchase, said they would never be worth anything. Today, as we know it in 1973, the boundary between the United States and México is, I believe, characterized by the line that does not separate but rather connects two rapidly growing, great countries. It connects millions of people in the adjoining border cities and towns, working together, trading together, being together in social and cultural functions with increasing understanding and with increasing trust. The growth and changes along this frontier for the betterment of both countries is truly a dramatic history. What I'd like to talk about is some of the parts the International Boundary and Water Commission has played in this dramatic history.

We begin, of course, with the establishment of the boundary. This is a map of the United States and the boundaries established by the treaties of 1848 and 1853. It begins at a point just off the mouth of the Río Grande, extends for 1200 miles up the Río Grande to the southern boundary of New Mexico, heads westerly to the Colorado River, twenty miles up the Colorado River, and _____ westerly along the division line between what was then Upper California and Lower California to the Pacific Ocean. The 1848 and 1853 treaties provided that in order to designate the boundary line with due precision upon authoritative maps and upon the ground, place landmarks which shall show the limits of both republics, the two governments shall each

appoint a commissioner and a surveyor who will proceed to jointly run the whole course of the boundary from the point south of San Diego to the mouth of the Río Grande, 2,000 miles. The treaties provided that the line, as established, shall be religiously respected by the two governments.

For this survey the United States appointed as its first commissioner Colonel John B. Weller, and for México the first commissioner was General Pedro García Conde. The joint survey began in 1849 and was completed in 1857, eight years later. It was, in itself, an accomplishment of great significance to both nations. It was an adventure in the best frontier tradition. It overcame not only the physical problems of the mountains and the desert heat, and security against Indians which required military escorts; but also within the United States group there were problems of lack of financing, if you please, by the United States federal government and by dissention within the United States group. But the high note of the record was that with all their problems, the American and the Mexican officials who made up the joint boundary commission got along very well, setting the example of understanding and dedication to working together. The early surveys will be very dramatically portrayed in the new Chamizal National Memorial by the National Park Service, by your Frank Smith.

This early survey in the 1850s was very well recorded and reported upon. Detailed etchings and engravings were made of many of the scenes along the boundary in the 1850s, bearing in mind that photographs were not then possible. Slide presentation follows. This slide is a water color painting that was made in the 1850s, showing the headquarters of the Boundary Commission in El Paso at that time. This slide shows the first monument on the Pacific Coast. This was right on the bluff which overlooks the Pacific Ocean

with the Coronado Mountains in the background. This was an etching made in the 1850s by the artist who was with the surveying party. This is an etching made by the artist showing the location of Monument Number 1 on the boundary, just below Cristo Rey. This was a scene taken in the 1850s from a point just about where the El Paso smelter is today. Of course, there was nothing here, the river is shown by this white line, the brush line that was cleared for the monument is shown here, and Monument Number 1 is placed here. The flag on the mountain shows the extension of the line.

This /next one/ is an engraving that was made by the artist with the survey party, showing a scene at Brownsville, Texas, in about 1854, 1855. It shows the Río Grande at Brownsville, the navigation on the river, and the surveyors' campsite.

In 1882, to remedy problems relating to location of the land boundary, they United States and México concluded an agreement calling for repair of boundary monuments and remarking of this boundary. For this mission the new commission was established and was headed by Lieutenant Colonel J.W. Barlow for the United States and Jacobo Blanco for México. Their work started in 1892 and was completed in 1895, repairing and reestablishing 258 monuments on the land boundary, extending from El Paso west to the point on the Pacific Coast south of San Diego. And this is a photograph taken almost from the exact same spot of the encampment for the placement and the repair of Monument Number 1 on the land boundary just above El Paso. The monument is located right in this area, just the other side of the Río Grande. The site of this again is taken--this was about 1890--at the location of the smelter, looking directly across, with Mount Cristo Rey on the right. /This was/ the encampment of the survey party at the time. Interestingly enough, too, this is the site of Monument Number 1, just above El Paso. These are the railroad

bridges that cross the river just above the smelter. This photo was taken in 1911. The inscription at the bottom is, "This is the site of the revolutionary camp on the Río Grande in front of the International Boundary Line." This is the site of Madero's headquarters in 1911, just before he took the city of Juárez in the Revolution of 1911.

Let me give you a picture taken from the same point today--the railroad bridges, the stack, the mountains, and here's our Boundary Marker Number 1 with the park which you helped develop. And here is the monument to Madero, erected by México, the boundary line being along this line today. So that's a bit of the history of Monument Number 1.

By the 1880s there were sufficient developments along the boundary rivers that there were questions and disputes as to the location of the boundary when the river changed its course. To resolve the question, the two governments, by the Treaty of 1889, established the International Boundary Commission. As then set up, and as it is essentially today, the Commission consists of two sections--one United States and one Mexican--each composed of a commissioner, consulting engineer, a secretary, and supporting staff. The 1889 treaty entrusted the Commission with the exclusive jurisdiction over all differences or questions arising on the frontier where the Río Grande and the Colorado River form the boundary, questions arising from alterations or changes in the course of the rivers. And the first commissioners of the permanent commission, appointed in 1893, were Colonel Anson Mills for the United States, and José María Canaliso for México.

Beginning in the early 1900s and continuing through 1969 the two governments, through the commission, resolved pursuant to treaties--particularly the Treaty of 1905 and the Chamizal Treaty--over 200 cases of boundary

questions and disputes, including the Chamizal Case. And they were resolved to the satisfaction of the two governments and most of the peoples of the two nations. There were a total of over 30,600 acres involved. Due to the vagaries of the river and the changing courses, there were transferred from the United States side to the Mexican side about 12,000 acres, and from the Mexican side to the United States side about 18,000 acres. Indeed, the Chamizal settlement here in El Paso and Juárez was the most difficult and is well known to most of you. It was suggested that I review the principle points.

The Chamizal dispute involved an area of approximately 630 acres, which, at the time of the 1852 survey, was on the south side of the river; but due to movements in the 1860s, was transferred to the north side of the river. This is a slide of a map showing the location of the river, beginning in 1827. This is when all of the territory was in Mexican /hands/. This is the location of the river in 1827. This was Ponce de Leon's ranch house.

The river in 1852, at the time of the boundary survey and and the time the boundary was established, pursuant to the 1848 treaty, was in this location. In the 1860s the river shifted its course to the south to this location, which was its location until 1900 and essentially its location until the early 1960s. The area in dispute was the land between the 1852 river and the river in 1897, consisting of 630 acres. At the time of the 1852 treaty, this land was on the Mexican side; but with the river movement, this land became /part of the United States/. México filed claim to the land in 1895. The boundary commission was unable to reach an agreement. In 1910 the governments agreed by a treaty to submit the case to an arbitration commission and agreed that its decision would be final and conclusive upon both countries.

In 1911, hearings were held here in El Paso. And the key question, based upon the 1884 treaty, was whether the river moved by slow and gradual erosion,

in which case the land would belong to the United States, or "by any other change wrought by the force of the current," in which case the land would belong to México. The majority of the arbitration commission voted as the majority that about one-third of the land belonged to the United States and approximately two-thirds belonged to México. The United States did not accept the award on the grounds that it was outside the terms of arbitration treaties, and proposed new negotiations for a settlement. Since 1911, and particularly since the 1930s, several unsuccessful attempts were made to resolve the issue. But the problem did not go away; rather the problem which related not only to national pride of ownership of land, but also the validity of arbitrations as a means of settling disputes, became an increasingly sore issue between the two governments.

The problem again arose at the meeting in 1962 between President Kennedy and President López Mateos, and instructions were issued to again seek a solution. Our United States ambassador to México at the time was the Honorable Thomas C. Mann, who headed the United States negotiation team. Our instructions were /to look into/ the political problems of the acceptability of a solution by El Paso and by the state of Texas. Many of you will remember the meetings that Tom and I had with state and city officials, civic groups, land owners, and tenants. The question put to the various groups was, "As a practical matter, would a settlement as proposed be good for El Paso?" The great majority said that it would be.

As you know, the settlement was reached with México in the Chamizal Treaty of 1963. The basis of the settlement was to give effect to the 1911 arbitration award with about two-thirds of the disputed area, a net 437 acres, passing to México, but adjusted in location to minimize the adverse affects in El Paso. The work of implementing the treaty was carried out in the years 1963 to 1968.

México paid one-half the cost of the new channel and the bridges required for the settlement, and paid the total value of the improvements that passed to México. This slide shows the disputed Chamizal area and the southern part of El Paso. It's overlayed upon a recent aerial photograph of the city. The United States total cost, including the acquisition of lands required and the construction of new channel improvements in the El Paso area, amounted to 42 million dollars. This is a slide that shows the change that was made under the Chamizal Treaty. This slide is a view of El Paso on the left and Juárez on the right, and /it looks/ southwestward. This is the Santa Fe Bridge, the Stanton Street Bridge, and the Córdova crossing. You can still see traces of the old channel of the river. The new channel is in the location followed by the arrows. The lands that passed to México to make up the 437 acres were very small where there were very costly lands, where the displacement would have been severe. /They were/ spread out in this area where there were farm lands, however there was a Peyton's packing plant, you'll remember, in this area. This is the area of the Córdova Island, an enclave on the United States side of the river, which was under the sovereignty of México. Then there was an area south, that passed also to México on the other side of Córdova Island.

As a part of this settlement, the river was so aligned as to cut the Córdova Island in half, with the northerly half passing to the United States. And it's on this area that the Bowie High School has been completed, the Chamizal National Monument has /been/ completed, and the new port inspection facilities were completed. Of course, on the Chamizal National Memorial is where the festivities will be /held/, beginning Saturday, and /the/ formal opening will be on November 17, 1973.

In addition to the settlement of this dispute, there were other improvements

for El Paso. A big one was this land coming to the United States on the upper part of the Córdova Island. There was a new port facility, the new bridges, the relocation and improvement of the old Franklin Canal, to get it out of the middle of the town; the construction of the new river channel in concrete so it wouldn't wiggle anymore; and the construction underway now of the Border Highway from downtown El Paso to the Ysleta Bridge. This bridge together with the new freeway through El Paso did indeed form a base for the extraordinary growth and progress of this city in the 1960s.

In the implementation of this project I'd like to give very due credit to the man who was our project engineer during a large part of this project. And that was Crawford Kerr. (Applause)

I've just mentioned that indeed this was a base for the extraordinary growth in this city in the '60s. You know, I was meeting with a group just two weeks ago--friends in Juárez, friends in El Paso. We were thinking of what we could do in the '70s. One of the thoughts was, "Well, it's about time for the United States to lay claim to the Chamizal; for the return of the Chamizal." And this was kicked around quite a bit. Tonight I noticed /that/ this idea occurred to Tom. And with a federal investigation, this would be a good place to start.

With the Chamizal settlement completed, our commission then turned to the remaining pending boundary location problems which had been deferred because of the Chamizal. There remained the Ojinaga tracts, located just upstream from the border towns of Presidio and Ojinaga, which had been in dispute for more than 60 years. There remained determination of the national sovereignty of more than 300 islands located in the Río Grande. There was a problem of some 482 acres of United States lands located on the Mexican side of the river in

the lower reaches of the Río Grande. Negotiations were entered into and agreements reached in the 1970 boundary treaty for the resolution of all remaining boundary problems. Of the 5,405 acres of land in question, 2,079 acres were assigned to the United States and 3,326 acres /were/ assigned to México. Transfers of lands will be made where necessary by relocation of the river to make the river the boundary throughout its length. This is a slide which shows the locations of the boundary settlements by this treaty. /The particular one is at/ Presidio and Ojinaga and the lower Río Grande valley upstream from Hidalgo and Mission. Scattered through the river are some 300 islands /whose sovereignty/ is now established. Also, and I think importantly, the treaty established long needed, fixed maritime boundaries in the Gulf of México and in the Pacific Ocean for a distance of twelve miles from the shore. I believe a most important part of the 1970 boundary treaty is that it contains provisions which will protect each country in the future from a loss of large tracts of lands to the other. These provisions will avoid in the future boundary disputes /such/ as the Chamizal and the Ojinaga tracts. And this to be sure becomes especially important with the increasing value of lands along the boundary. The United States Congress has appropriated 10 million dollars for the carrying out of the United States' part of the 1970 boundary treaty, and México has allotted funds for its half of the work. We are now making surveys preparatory to construction of works to implement this treaty, beginning next year.

We have been discussing the boundary part of the International Boundary and Water Commission--the history of securing and preserving the boundary itself. I should like now to discuss the history of the water part of the commission. I think that perhaps this is even more significant, in the contributions

made in this part of the commisssion's work. You know, we say in the West, where water is so important, one man will let another smoke his cigars, even let him drive his car, even if it's a Cadillac, even let him play around a little bit with his wife; but he damn sure better not mess around with his water! (Laughter) This sensitivity is with nations, too. It's a very delicate, it's a very sensitive subject.

In 1906, the United States and México entered into a treaty to resolve the problem of their respective rights to waters of the Río Grande in the El Paso-Juárez Valley -- that is, the Río Grande above Fort Quitman, which is located near the end of the valley. This treaty was based upon studies of the commission. It provided that after completion of Elephant Butte Dam, the United States would deliver to México 60,000 acre feet of water annually in the bed of the Río Grande at the heading of the Acequia Madre canal, just upstream from the city of Juárez.

This slide shows the channel of the Río Grande. El Paso is here, Juárez here. The waters are delivered to México in the bed of the river, just opposite the heading of the Mexican canal. This location is opposite the site of old Hart's Mill and Old Fort Bliss when it was on the bank of the river. The treaty of 1906 provided that in case of an extraordinary drought or a serious accident to the irrigation system in the United States, the amount of water delivered to the Mexican canal shall be diminished in the same proportion as the waters delivered to lands under irrigation in the system in the United States. The commission has administered this treaty now for more than fifty years, effecting peaceful sharing between the two countries of the waters of the Río Grande in the El Paso-Juárez Valley.

By the 1920s the growth of the cities and irrigated areas on both banks

of the river, in the Lower Río Grande Valley and in the El Paso-Juárez Valley, and the occurrence of damaging floods pointed to the need for joint flood control works by the two governments. Certainly one of the most outstanding contributions of the commission was the international project for the rectification of the Río Grande through the El Paso-Juárez Valley, agreed upon in /the/ 1933 convention between the United States and México. The need for improvement of the river through this valley was made abundantly apparent by the 1925 flood which caused serious damages to the city and to valley lands. Moreover there was the threat of major changes in the course of the river through the valley, and of major boundary problems. The convention provided for the straightening of the Río Grande through the El Paso-Juárez Valley, reducing the length of the river and length of the boundary from its meandering course of 155 miles to a straightened course of 88 miles.

You'll say, "Well, how did you work this?" This is an aerial photograph taken soon after the first part of the rectification project was completed. This is the area of the old Córdova Island, and this is the old meanders of the river. The river was straightened by cutting through the old meanders, as indicated by this straightened channel. And of particular significance, in the process of carrying out this project, the commission carefully aligned the new channel to cut across the old meanders in a way to effect a transfer of lands from the United States to México of 5,121 acres and a transfer of lands from México to the United States of exactly the same--5,121 acres. Indeed, this was one of the most peaceful boundary changes in history and for the benefit of the peoples on both sides of the river. This is a photograph of the completed project as it is today, and the benefits are indeed significant. It has provided a stable river boundary through the El Paso-Juárez valleys for now more

than 40 years. The straightened river channel with its flanking levies to contain its floods, have enabled the safe development of extensive residential subdivisions as well as farm lands along the river on both banks. The cost of this project, built in the 1930s, was approximately 5 million dollars, which was divided between the two governments. For the United States, the designer and maker of this project was United States Commissioner Lawrence M. Lawson, one of the first two honorees named to your hall of honor. Also in /on/ the construction of this project at the time was Crawford Kerr. And I had the good fortune of beginning work /with/ the commission during the construction of this project. The two governments, through the commission, jointly operate and maintain this project.

By the late 1920s there were large irrigation developments along both banks of the Río Grande downstream from the El Paso-Juárez Valley, and particularly in the Lower Río Grande Valley, in the delta of the Río Grande. There were large developments along the Colorado River in the United States and in México. With the uncontrolled rivers there were often water shortages in parts of the year, and devastating floods in other parts of the year. Moreover, with each country dipping out of the limited supply of the rivers to irrigate their lands, there was all the making for an inflammatory conflict over the use of waters of the boundary rivers. Recognizing this, the two governments entered into negotiations beginning in the late '20s. They reached agreement finally in the 1944 Water Treaty, to fix and delimit their respective rights to the waters of the Río Grande below Fort Quitman, and to the waters of the Colorado River. The treaty divided the waters between the two countries, taking into consideration the sources of the waters and the existing uses at the time of the treaty. The treaty importantly further provided for the joint

construction by the two governments of the dams and other works needed on the main channel to enable optimum utilization by each country of its allotted waters. It is of interest to note that the Treaty of 1848, which established the boundary, specifically prohibited the construction of any works that would form an obstruction to navigation. Not until 1944, nearly a hundred years later, was this prohibition removed. The 1944 treaty was truly classic between nations in that it provided not only for the division of waters but for the works to make them useful. The principal advisors to the State Department in the negotiations of the 1944 treaty were the Honorable L.M. Lawson and his council, Frank Clayton of El Paso.

By this treaty, administered by the International Boundary and Water Commission, the waters of the Río Grande below Fort Quitman and the waters of the Colorado River have been peacefully divided and used now for nearly 20 years. One of the biggest jobs of our commission is maintaining a running account of the ownership of U.S. waters and a running account of the ownership of Mexican waters. And you can be sure that every U.S. user is watching that account, and every Mexican user is watching that account. In our international reservoirs, which I will describe in a moment, we keep a running balance of the quantity of water owned by each country in that reservoir, based upon the credits of inflows to each country of its allotted waters according to treaty, and debits of the outflows from that reservoir requested by each country. Our international reservoirs are, in effect, international banks of waters with debits and credits, and running balances.

Under the 1944 treaty, Falcón Dam, the first major international storage dam, was jointly constructed on the Río Grande about 75 miles below Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. This is a view of Falcón Dam. And there

are monuments in the reservoir designating the line of jurisdiction between the United States and México. This dam was completed in 1953, and its purpose is to control floods and conserve waters for irrigation in the two countries in the Lower Río Grande Valley. This dam, built jointly by the two governments, through our commission, this 4.1 million acre foot reservoir, has already more than paid for itself in the control of floods and the savings of waters. Its cost, 45 million dollars, was shared by the two governments in proportion to the relative benefits to the two countries. We see the big benefits of Falcón Dam when we look at the citrus orchards in the Lower Río Grande Valley nourished by the waters stored in Falcón Reservoir, and similar lands are on the Mexican side that are developed and nourished by waters from Falcón Reservoir.

Also under the 1944 treaty, the International Amistad Dam was jointly constructed on the Río Grande about 12 miles upstream from the twin cities of Del Río, Texas and Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, to control floods and conserve waters for the two countries. This is a view of Amistad Dam. This dam and its 5.6 million acre foot international reservoir, completed only four years ago, now contains over 3.8 million acre feet of water. The lake extends upstream some 60 miles. In places it's more than two miles wide. The estimated cost of this dam is 72 million dollars. And that 72 million dollars is well paid for by the waters in that reservoir today, which would otherwise have wasted to the Gulf. This cost of 72 million dollars was shared by the two governments in proportion to the relative benefits of the two countries. It will be of interest to you to know that the 1944 treaty also provides for the public use of the water surface of the international lakes, that it be free and common to citizens of both countries. At the dedication of this dam on September 9, 1969, attended by President Nixon and by President Díaz Ordaz and

their first ladies, on this occasion President Nixon said, "This dam is an impressive achievement. It will contribute to the conservation and the regulation of water supplies, and will provide a fine recreational resource for both of our peoples. It is also an impressive diplomatic accomplishment, the result of complex and determined efforts which we have stretched over a period of many years."

The United States part of the planning of Amistad Dam and Reservoir project and its authorization by the United States Congress was under the leadership of United States Commissioner Leland H. Hewitt.

An interesting sidelight in the construction of Amistad Dam was the keen competition that developed between United States and Mexican operators in their efforts to do a faster and a better job on each side. The Mexicans won in one phase of the work, placing over 100,000 cubic yards of concrete in one month. They set a record for any project in México. And on that day whistles were blowing, flags were flying, and beer kegs were spouting. The Mexican workmen were each given by their contractor a red jacket with a tiger, and had 100,000 Cubic Yards written on it. I got one for being an innocent bystander. (Chuckles from the audience.) But this is the spirit, folks, that's reflected in our joint works with México: working together for a common good. This is reflected in this photograph that was taken by the contractors during the time of the constructin of Amistad Dam: Hands Across the Boundary. Indeed, this is the spirit.

Another interesting feature of the Amistad project is the significant archeological setting of the reservoir. As at the Hueco Tanks, there are also many remnants of Indian life in this area going back some 8,000 years. In the Seminole Canyon, about 50 miles from the Dam, there's a cave located of

overhanging rocks. In this cave of overhanging rocks there are many remnants of Indians living there for many years. And on the wall of that cave is a painting of a panther--this is known as Panther Cave--and this painting of the Indians is over a thousand years old.

The work of the commission is, to be sure, not without problems. One of the most serious was the problem of the salinity of the waters of the Colorado River delivered to México under the 1944 Water Treaty. Many of you have read of this problem in the papers. The treaty itself was not specific as to the quality of the waters to be delivered to México. The problem arose in 1962 when the salinity of the waters delivered by the United States to México nearly doubled to about 1500 parts per million, because of highly saline drainage inflows from an irrigation district in the United States in Arizona. The two governments, with their respective boundary commissioners serving as technical advisors, had sought a solution for over 12 years. The problem became a most serious political issue in both countries. It was one of the principal subjects of discussion between President Nixon and President Echeverría at their meeting in Washington on June 17, 1972. They agreed to find a definitive and permanent solution. Our President appointed Mr. Herbert Brownell, former attorney general under President Eisenhower, as his special representative to negotiate a solution of the problem. After more than 12 months of intensive study and negotiations he was able to reach an agreement with the foreign secretary of México, Licenciado Emilio Robasa, on recommendations to their respective presidents which were approved. My colleague, the Mexican Commissioner, David Herrera Jordán, and I served as technical advisors to our respective governments.

The agreement for a permanent solution signed on August 30, 1973, provides for the removal of the adverse effects of the drainage district's waters which

had caused the problem. The resulting quality of waters delivered to México will be similar to that of waters delivered to adjoining United States users. The only viable means for the United States to achieve this solution is to de-salt a large part of the drainage waters, and this is the measure to be taken. It is very costly--some 120 million dollars. But our only alternative was to submit the case to world court for arbitration, where the cost could have been much higher. This was a difficult solution, it is a difficult solution, for many of us in the United States. But I think we should look at it as did the editorial in the Wall Street Journal, just ten days ago. /It/ stated, "International incidents are emblazoned across the front pages, but examples of international cooperation often wind up on the back pages." So, with the Middle East in flames and the coup in Chile dominating the news from Latin America, it's most surprising that there has been little fanfare about the important U.S.-Mexican water agreement recently approved by President Nixon and President Echeverría.

I've tried to cover a lot of ground here tonight. And to be sure, the assignments of the commission are varied and wide, extending nearly 2,000 miles. We do have projects in problem areas extending from the mouth of the Río Grande to the Pacific, under the 1906 Treaty, the 1944 Treaty and the Boundary Treaty.

Let me summarize by repeating that the boundary between the United States and México, from its very hard beginning in 1848 as a result of war, has developed into one of the most outstanding examples in the world today of two peoples of different backgrounds, different temperments, living together side by side along a common boundary with growing respect, with understanding, and each with a proud drive for independence and freedom. Today the boundary between

the United States and México is particularly characterized by twelve pairs of twin cities like El Paso and Juárez, /as/ shown on this map. The cities and towns and communities today aggregate more than five million people. Along the banks of the boundary rivers, two and a half million acres of land are irrigated by the boundary waters. The total number of crossings for the boundary throughout its length by people in 1972 amounted to 306 million. Trade across the boundary in 1972 amounted to 3 1/2 billion dollars. Indeed, this is a very live, a very rapid-progressing frontier.

And yet, between the cities /and/ the agricultural lands, we still have vast areas of natural environment, of the rugged, beautiful frontier of the Southwest. We have the Santa Alina Canyon. This is at the mouth of Santa Alina Canyon, just upstream from the Big Bend National Park. This is a view of the Chisos Mountains in the Big Bend National Park area. And my favorite is along the western boundary--the typical desert scene, the typical desert sunset along our western boundary. We, United States and Mexican employees, and our constituents also take time out to work together to build small parks around international monuments, as we did just a year ago at Monument Number 1, for an historic ceremony. Many of you remember, many of you were there on this occasion when we dedicated the little park around Monument Number 1 with your part President, Leon Metz, at the podium.

Finally, and as I pause here for station identification...(Laughter) Most seriously, I should like to recall a meeting with the late Consul General Balles-teros, following his return here from a visit to Cuba. We were comparing notes, and he observed very simply, "There are no guns pointing across the 2,000-mile boundary between the United States and México." How important this is, and how grateful we can be in these very troubled times. And I like to believe that

our commission has had a part in history, in making this possible, and that it will continue to do so.

I thank you very much.

(Applause)