CASE 2708: Application of the OCC to permit HERSCHEL L. COPELAN to appear regarding plugging of STATE OF NEW MEXICO WELL NO. 1.

Marked Hand Come Hands

286

de de la conservata

de la con

Memo

M. L. ARMSTRONG
SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

M. L. ARMSTRONG
SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

SUPERVISOR AND
OIL A GAS INSPECTOR

MILL ARMSTRONG

MILL

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 871

SANTA FE. NEW MEXICO

January 11, 1963

Mr. M. L. Armstrong Supervisor District No. II Oil Conservation Commission Drawer DD Artesis, New Mexico

> Re: Herschel L. Copelan, M.D., Well Plugging, Chaves County, New Mexico

Dear Mose:

I have your note stating that the bonding company had hired C. O. Fulton to plug the Copelan wells. Please advise me when the plugging is completed.

I am tentatively placing this case in a suspense file for February 1, 1963. If the plugging is not completed by that date, we probably should take further action against the bonding company.

Very truly yours,

JAMES M. DURRETT, Jr., Attorney

JED/esr

Memo

Grom

M. L. ARMSTRONG

Dear Mile Occupation oil a GAS INSPECTOR

Dear Mile (March Mile Will)

JOHN OR Capathande winds

The fonding to the factor

The fonding to the factor

The fonding to the factor

The Continue with the factor

The Cont

Truck from themenic

Tycio dage msa

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION P. O. BOX 871 SANTA FE. NEW MEXICO

January 7, 1963

Mr. M. L. Armstrong District Supervisor Oil Conservation Commission Drawer DD Artesia, New Mexico

> Re: Herschel L. Copelan. M.D., Well Plugging - Chaves County, New Mexico

Dear Mose:

Order No. R-2379, issued in Case No. 2708, required the Herschel L. Copelan wells to be plugged on or before January 1, 1963. On December 10, 1962, I received a letter from M. J. Hally, Assistant Superintendent, Claim Department, American Employers' Insurance Company, Boston, Massachusetts, stating that they had received a copy of my letter to them and a copy of the order requiring the wells to be plugged. They stated they were giving the matter their attention. As of this date, we have received no further information concerning these wells.

Will you please check your records and advise me as to whether or not these wells have been plugged.

Very truly yours,

JAMES M. DURRETT, Jr., Attorney

JMD/esr

AMERICAN EMPLOYERS' INSURANCE COMPANY

SAMUEL APPLETON BULLDING

110 Milk Street, Boston 7, Massachusetts

-EG

Oil Conservation Commission Post Office Box 871 Santa Fe, New Mexico FRANK J. CAREY MAN

December 4, 1962

Gentlemen:

CASE NUMBER 2708 ORDER NUMBER R2379

We have received copy of your letter dated November 29, and copy of order of the commission of November 28, 1962 requiring plugging of certain wells set forth therein.

We note the original letter was directed to our Artesia New Mexico Claim Department. This is having our attention.

Very truly yours,

M. J. Hally
Assistant Superintendent
Claim Department

HBP: bmp

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION P. O. BOX 871 SANTA FE. NEW MEXICO

November 29, 1962

Mr. Doyle Cole Artesia Claims Department American Employers' Insurance Company P. O. Box 437 Artesia, New Mexico

> case No. 2708 Order No. R-2379

Dear Mr. Cole:

I am enclosing herewith a certified copy of the above order entered by the Commission on Movember 28, 1962, requiring plugging of the State of New Mexico Well No. 1 and the Pan American State Well No. 1, both located in Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Chaves County, New Mexico.

I also am, by copy of this letter, forwarding a certified true copy of the above order to each of the parties designated below.

Please note the alternative method of plugging authorised by the Commission in Paragraph 2 of the order.

Also, please contact Mr. M. L. Armstrong, District Supervisor, District II, Oil Conservation Commission, Artesia, New Mexico, of the exact time and date plugging

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 871

SANTA FE. NEW MEXICO

~2-

November 29, 1962

Mr. Doyle Cole Artesia Claims Department American Employers' Insurance Company Artesia, New Mexico

operations on each well are to commence in order that he may witness the same.

Very truly yours,

JAMES M. DURRETT, Jr., Special Assistant Attorney General

JMD/esr Enclosure

18355 Malden Street Borthridge, California

> Joseph B. Copelan, Esq. Abeles and Copelan Attorneys at Law 9107 Wilshire Boulevard Beverly Hills, California

Mr. Frank Kirby-Smith P. O. Box 1739 113 Kansas Street El Paso, Texas

American Employers' Insurance Company 110 Milk Street Boston, Massachusetts

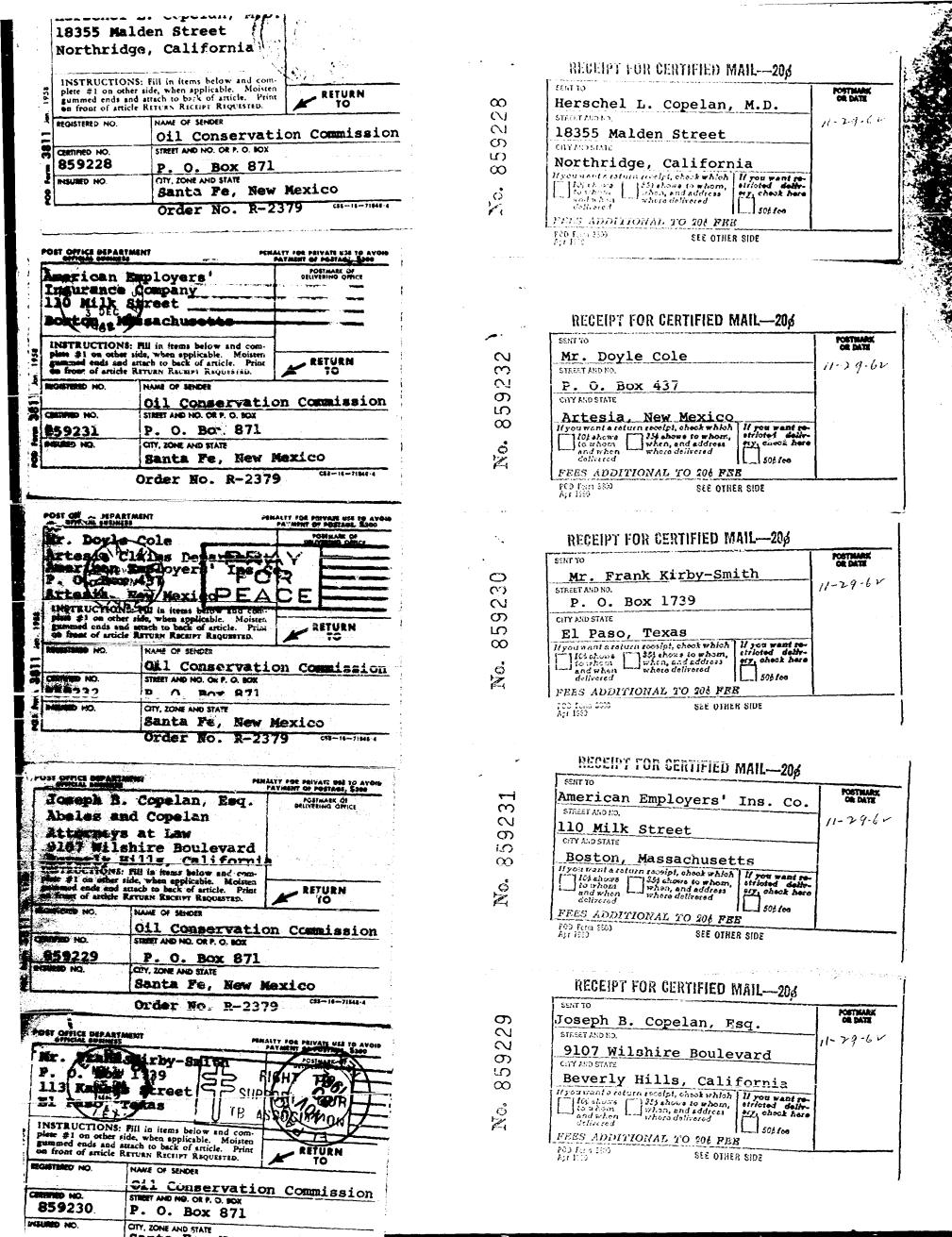
Mr. M. L. Armstrong District Supervisor, District II Oil Conservation Commission Drawer DD Artesia, New Mexico

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION P. O. BOX 871 SANTA FE. NEW MEXICO

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF ORDER NO. R-2379 ENTERED IN CASE NO. 2708 ON NOVEMBER 28, 1962.

A. L. PORTER, Jr., Secretary-Director

NOVEMBER 29, 1962



Deliver Of addressee	Additional charges will be serviced
Receive	REMIN (REGEIPT-
SIGNATURE OR	d the numbered article described on other side. NAME OF ADDRESSEE (must olways be filled in)
SIGNATURE OF A	DDRESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY
- COLVERED	ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED (only if requested in item #1)
	C58—16—71848-4 app.

	<u> </u>
*qqtessee	UCTIONS TO DELIVERING EMPLOYEE to Show address where delivered delivered itional charges required for these services)
	RETURN RECEIPT
Received +h	WEIGHT KECKIPI
THE PARTY OF THE P	e numbered article described on other side.
SIGNATURE OR NAME	OF ADDRESSEE (must olways) Alled in)
Nand	S hale
Z Sent	SSET'S AGENT, IF ANY
NOV 30 1962	ADDRESS WHERE DELIVEPED (only if requested in item #1)
	C55-16-71548-6 GPO

Deliver ONLY to	TO DELIVERING EMPLOYEE Show address where delivered es required for these services)
DATE:	URN RECEIPT
SIGNATURE OF NAME OF ADDRESSE	E (must always be filled in)
SIGNATURE OF ADDRESSEE'S AGEN	Ans C
	Janana -
DATE DELIVERED ADDIESS W	THERE DELIVERED (only if requested in item #1)
-3*	C35-16-71545-4 GPO

10 1 P

Additional charges required for these services) RETURN RECEIPT Received the numbered article described on other side. SIGNATURE OR NAME OF ADDRESSEE (must ofways be filled in) SIGNATURE OF ADDRESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY Required the services of Addressee's Agent, IF ANY	# I-INDIKU	TIONS TO DELIVE	
RETURN RECEIPT Received the numbered article described on other side. SIGNATURE OR NAME OF ADDRESSEE (must olways be filled in) SIGNATURE OF ADDRESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY RECEIVERS ADDRESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED (only if requested in itsm #1)	addressee	لــا delive	red
Received the numbered article described on other side. SIGNATURE OR NAME OF ADDRESSEE (must obvious be filled in) SIGNATURE OF ADDRESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY RECEIVERS ADDRESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED (only if requested in itsm #1)	(Additi	onal charges required for	these services)
SIGNATURE OR NAME OF ADDRESSEE (must always be filled in) SIGNATURE OF ADDRESSEE'S AGENT, IP ANY REPORT ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED (only if requested in item #1)			
SIGNATURE OF ADDRESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY By ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED (only if requested in item #1)	Received the	numbered article descri	bed on other side.
But ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED (only if requested in itsm #1)	SIGNATURE OR NAME C	F ADDRESSEE (must always be fill	ed in)
But ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED (only if requested in itsm #1)	Jus. 1	B. Capela	
12/3/2	SIGNATURE OF ADDRES	SEE'S AGENT, IF ANY	
12/3/2	Bu.	(2m)	
CSS-16-71548-3 GPO	TE DELIVERE	LODRESS WHERE DELIVERED (only	r if requested in item #1)
C55-16-71548-8 GPO	12/3/20		
	7		CSS-16-71548-8 GPO

rendra and art extremely and the second and are the second depth of the second and the second and are second as

Deliver ONLY addresse (Add	1 1 01	now address where Livered for these services)
Received t	RETURN RECEI he numbered article de	
SIGNATURE OR NAM	NE OF ADDRESSEE (must always b	e filled in)
Frank Kirk	y-Smith	
SIGNATURE OF ADD	RESSEE'S AGENT, IF AND	
DATE DELIVERED	ADMINES WHERE DELIVERED	(only if requested in item #1)
MOV 9	1 1000	

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION, ON ITS OWN MOTION, TO PERMIT HERSCHEL L. COPELAN AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO WELL NO. 1, LOCATED 1960 FRET FROM THE SOUTH LINE AND 660 FRET FROM THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 27. TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 27 HAST, NMPM, CHAVES COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AND THE PAN AMERICAN-STATE WELL NO. 1, LOCATED 330 FRET FROM THE MORTH LINE AND 1650 FRET FROM THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 27, SHOULD NOT BE PLUGGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A COMMISSION-APPROVED PLUGGING PROGRAM.

CASE No. 2708 Order No. R-2379

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 o'clock a.m. on Movember 20, 1962, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Elvis A. Utz, <u>Examiner</u> duly appointed by the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," in accordance with Rule 1214 of the Commission Rules and Regulations.

NOW. on this 2001 day of movember, 1962, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the evidence and the recommendations of the Examiner, Elvis A. Utz, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

- (1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That the State of New Mexico Well No. 1, located 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Chaves County, New Mexico, and the Pan American-State Well No. 1, located 330 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the West line of said Section 27 are owned and operated by Herschel L. Copelan.
- (3) That the two subject wells have been abandoned by the operator and have not been plugged in any manner.
- (4) That the subject wells are causing or will cause waste and should be plugged in a manner which will confine permanently

-2-CASE No. 2708 Order No. R-2379

all oil, gas. and water in the separate strata originally containing them.

- (5) That both of the subject wells should be plugged in accordance with the following minimum plugging requirements:
 - (1) Set 25 sacks of cement at total depth.
 - (2) Set 20 sacks of cement at 300 feet.
 - (3) Set 5 sacks of cement as a surface plug.
 - (4) Fill intervals between cament plugs with mud weighing not less than ten pounds per gallon.
 - (5) Set in the surface plug a regulation steel marker not less than 4 inches in diameter and extending at least 4 feet above mean ground level.
- (5) That, as an alternative, the operator should be allowed to plug the subject wells in accordance with the following minimum plugging requirements:
 - (1) Fill the hole with cement from total depth to the surface.
 - (2) Set in the surface cement a regulation steel marker not less than 4 inches in diameter and extending at least 4 feet above mean ground level.

IT IS THEREFORE CADEAGD:

- (1) That Herschel L. Copelan is hereby ordered to plug the State of New Mexico Well No. 1, located 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 27 East, MMPM, Chaves County, New Mexico, and the Pan American-State Well No. 1, located 330 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the West line of said Section 27, in accordance with the following minimum plugging requirements:
 - (1) Set 25 sacks of cement at total depth.
 - (2) Set 20 sacks of cement at 300 feet.
 - (3) Set 5 sacks of cement as a surface plug.
 - (4) Fill intervals between cement plugs with mud weighing not less than ten younds per gallon.

-3-CASE No. 2708 Order No. R-2379

- (5) Set in the surface plug a regulation steel marker not less than 4 inches in diameter and extending at least 4 feet above mean ground level.
- (2) That, as an alternative, Herschel L. Copelan is hereby authorized to plug the two subject wells in accordance with the following minimum plugging requirements:
 - (1) Fill the hole with cement from total depth to the surface.
 - (2) Set in the surface cement a regulation steel marker not less than 4 inches in diameter and extending at least 4 feet above mean ground level.
- (3) That the plugging of the two subject wells shall be completed on or before January 1, 1963, and that Herschel L. Copelan shall notify the District Supervisor, District II, Oil Conservation Commission, Artesia, New Maxico, of the exact time and date plugging operations on each well are to commence.
- (4) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DOME at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year herein-above designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

EDWIN L. MECHEM, Chairman

Exmalke

E. S. WALKER, Member

A. L. PORTER, Jr., Member & Secretary

OBT/

Care. 2708 Weard. 11-20-62 Rec. 11-20-62 1. Sesue order to plug the Doors; subject wells as follows; 2 & sx cout at total depth, 20 st i, at 300 ft, 5 st at surface with regulature marker with location ideleted to marken Heavy much between cont plugs. Clan rup location to condition found before drilling as new as proched. This a h

≰ Normalistanti (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900 Januari (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (1900) (190

e de la companya de l

 $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = (x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x$

en de la companya de A

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION Santa Fe, New Mexico November 20, 1962

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

The hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission, on its own motion, to permit Herschel L. Copelan and all interested parties to appear and show cause why the State of New Mexico Well No. 1, located 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 27 East, Chaves County, New Mexico, and the Pan American-State Well No. 1, located 330 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the West line of said Section 27, should not be plugged in accordance with a Commissionapproved plugging program.

CASE 2708

BEFORE: Elvis A. Utz, Examiner.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

MR. UTZ: Case 2703.

MR. DURRETT: In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission, on its own motion, to permit Herschel L. Copelan and all interested parties to appear and show cause why the State of New Mexico Well No. 1, located 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 27 East, Chaves County, New Mexico, and the Pan American-State Well No. 1, located 330 feet from the



North line and 1650 feet from the West line of said Section 27, should not be plugged in accordance with a Commission-approved plugging program.

May the Examiner please, James Durrett on behalf of the Commission and its staff. I will have one witness, Mr. M. L. Armstrong.

MR. UTZ: Are there other appearances in this case? You may proceed.

(Witness sworn.)

M. L. ARMSTRONG

called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DURRETT:

- Q Will you please state your name and position for the record?
- M. L. Armstrong, Supervisor of District 2 for the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission.
- As a part of your official duties do you supervise the plugging of wells and prescribed well-plugging programs in your district?
 - Α I do.
 - Q Are you familiar with the two wells that are the subject



of this case?

- A Yes, sir.
- Q Now, refer to the official Commission file, if you need to do so, to refresh your memory, and will you please state whether or not these wells are located as described on this docket and as advertised in this cause?
 - A They are.
 - Q Are these wells located within your district?
 - A Yes, sir.

MR. DURRETT: At this time I would like to ask the Examiner to take administrative notice of the Affidavit of Publication which is on file in the Commission files showing that legal notice was given in the papers.

MR. UTZ: I'll take auministrative notice of same.

- Q (By Mr. Durrett) In your opinion are the two subject wells now causing waste or likely to cause waste in the immediate future if not properly plugged?
 - A That is right.
- Q Do you base this opinion upon the possible damage to the formations that have been penetrated by these two wells?
 - A Yes, sir.
- Q Do you have a recommended plugging program that you would like to present to the Examiner at this time?



A I would like to have 25 sack cement plug at the T.D.

MR. UTZ: This is for both wells?

Right, it will be the same on both wells. MR. UTZ: All right, sir.

A 25 sack plug at T.D., 20 sack plug around 300 with heavy mud between with a 5 sack plug at the top to hold the regulation marker. Shall I say clean up all pits?

Q If you would like to. Do you also have an alternative that you would like to recommend to the Examiner, Mr. Armstrong?

Â Well, if they'd rather fill these holes with cement just plumb full of cement, that will be okay.

- That will be the same for both wells?
- The same for both wells.
- Do you recommend to the Examiner that the Commission enter an order requiring these wells to be plugged immediately in accordance with your program as you have set out here?

A I do.

MR. DURRETT: May the Examiner please, that will conclude the direct examination of this witness.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. UTZ:

Mr. Armstrong, what is the total depth on these wells?



The State of New Mexico No. 1 T.D. is 1017, and on the Pan American-State No. 1, T.D. is 1015.

MR. DURRETT: May the Examiner please, I would like to ask the witness one more question.

MR. UTZ: You may proceed.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DURRETT:

I neglected to ask you on direct examination, so I Q would like to ask you at this time, do the official files of the Commission reflect that both of these wells are operated by Herschel L. Copelan as advertised in this case?

Α Yes.

MR. DURRETT: Thank you. I believe that will be all.

MR. UTZ: Any other questions of the witness? The witness may be excused.

(Witness excused.)

MR. UTZ: Anyone have a statement in this? The case will be taken under advisement.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO) SS COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)

I, ADA DEARNLEY, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached transcript of proceedings before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico, is a true and correct record to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have affixed my hand and notarial seal this 13th day of December, 1962.

Notary Public-Court Reporter

My commission expires: June 19, 1963.

New Mexico 011 Conserva

