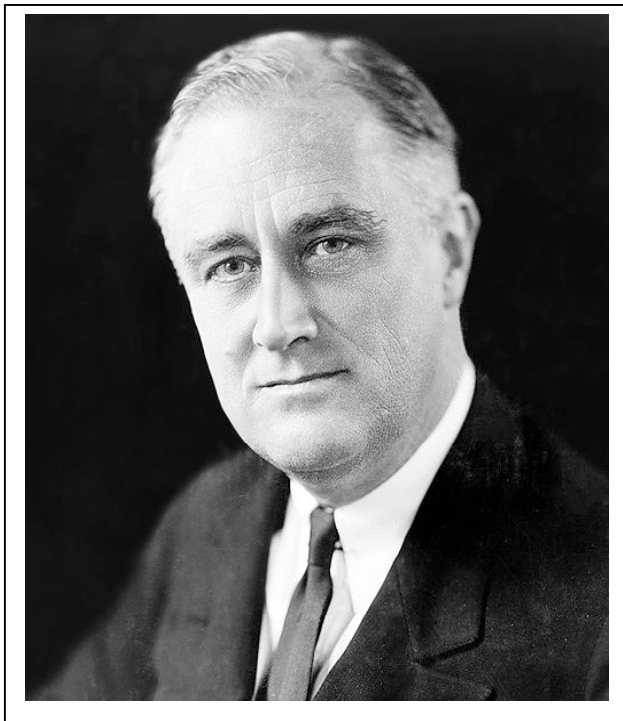


**Taos County SWCD History Project**  
March 4, 2011



*“The life of the nation is the production  
of its food.”*

President Woodrow Wilson  
December 1913



*“The history of every Nation is eventually  
written in the way in which it cares for its  
soil.”*

President Franklin Roosevelt  
March 1936

## People and Meetings



During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Taos County was known as the “granary of the west.” Owner of machine threshes for a percentage of crop (about 10%) or cash. Covers Questa and small surrounding area. Similar arrangements at other villages throughout the county, though complaints have been heard that sometimes, because holdings are small and crops meagre, owners of machines find it does not pay to go out at all.

1940 - Irving Rusinow, ARC 41663



G B Gallegos, Cerro, (Mardequeo Martinez seated to left.) at meeting of soil conservationist possibly to discuss repair of Cerro acequia madre - last 1.5 miles of the ditch through three pieces of private property, one tract of state land, installing drops, concrete sidings and turnouts, at cost of \$15k funded by SCS. (*It Happened in Taos*)

Rusinow, ARC 41665



Mardequo Martinez, first chairman of Board of Supervisors of Taos Soil Water Conservation District Board established, @Nov. 1941 by the Taos Project. This photo shows Mardequo speaking while Truman Peebles, an officials of the national Soil Conservation Service, listens. An unidentified woman takes the minutes..

1940 - Irving Rusinow ARC 41666



J.T. Reid, Chairman of the Taos Project which formed the Taos Soil Water Conservation District to combat soil erosion and benefit fully from Department of Agriculture aid. The experimental project sought to plan for Taos County's future through community education. Reid also wrote the book about the project, called "It Happened in Taos," which was published by University of New Mexico Press in 1946.

1940 - Irving Rusinow ARC 41741



Maintaining records for each acequia in Taos County has always been an important job. Accurate accounting helped settle disputes and make sure everyone got the water they deserved. Here, the foreman of the Talpa Ditch Commission writes in the acequia book, probably recording the amount of water the parcientes got that day in 1940

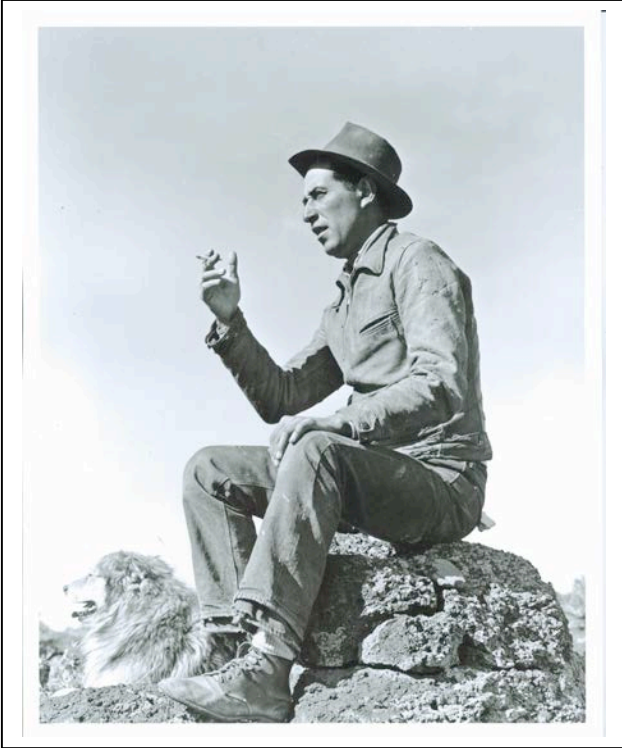
1940 - Irving Rusinow ARC 41778.



Talpa ditch commissioners solving problems with SCS representative Truman Peebles

1940 - Irving Rusinow ARC 41779

## Members of the Board



Blas Chavez with his dog. Blas ran sheep and taught school. He served on the board of the TSWCD from 1941 to \_\_\_\_ . He was one of first supervisors of the TSWCD created by the Taos County project. He is shown above in one of a series of photographs made in 1941 and 1942 by John Collier now archived in the Library of Congress American Memory collection of photographs commissioned by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in 1941.

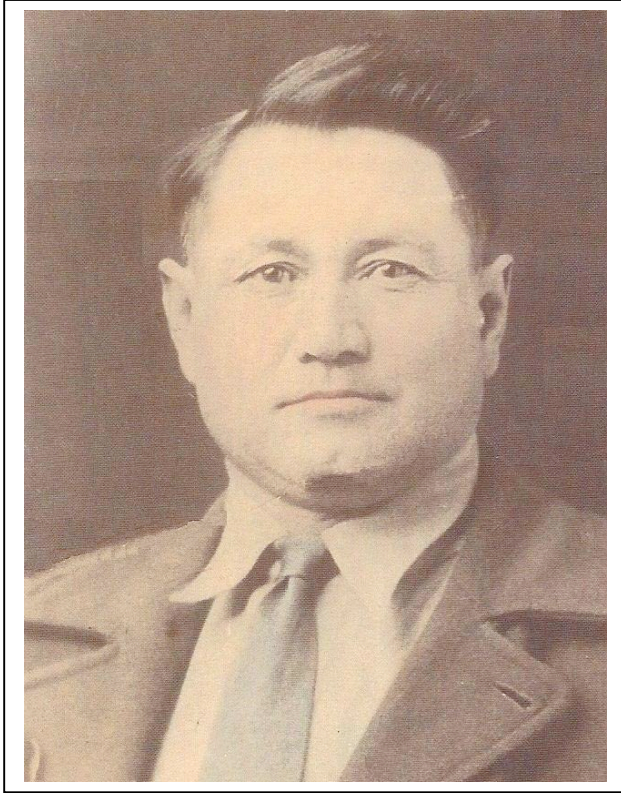


Marcelino Martinez, Questa. He was elected to the State Senate on the Republican ticket and served from 1941 to 1944.

Marcelino and G.B. Gallegos were instrumental in getting a grant to fund a community well for Cerro. Marcelino was on the board of the TSWCD from 1941 to 1975 (?).

Photographer ?

## Members of the Board



Gil Blas (GB) Gallegos

Always had SWCD sign on fence; He was educated, knew how to fight for water rights, any other legal matters, like paying too much in taxes. GB wrote to the Attorney General who accepted his argument and with “surplus payments, cleared up the delinquencies”. He was on the TSWCD board from \_\_\_ to \_\_\_.

Photographer ?



W P Cater

TSWC District Supervisor from 1948 to \_\_\_\_\_. started growing crested wheat grass (CWG) on 560 irrigated acres in Cerro in 1942 .“This was much more land than could be irrigated properly with water available; so in 1943 he reseeded a 20-acre patch to crested wheat grass; harvested seeds to increase his planting and made them available to other farmers and government agencies. With John Brennan?

## Places



Taking advantage of the frequent winds in Taos County, this couple threshes peas near Penasco by tossing the crop into the air to separate the peas from the vines. Apparently on this day, the winds weren't blowing much, so they can expect for the process to take much longer.

Photographer: Irving Rusinow, Dec.  
1940 ARC 41591



Horses and mules provided most of the transportation in Taos County during the 1940s, although a few people had cars and field trucks. Here, a man heads down a dirt road in Llano Quemado on his horse.

Photographer: Irving Rusinow, Dec.  
1940 ARC 41594

## The future?



Field in Arroyo Seco, looking west.

Rusinow ARC 41616



Same area today. Hasn't been irrigated.

Photographer: Andy Dennison,  
2011