

Testimony A

Jimenez Testimony (oral history)

Empire Ranch Foundation Oral History (*excerpted from page 13*)

Mary Dojaquez Jimenez (MDJ) was interviewed on September 14, 2002, by Paul Chadwick (PC) and Diana Hadley (DH) at the Empire Ranch Headquarters, near Sonoita, AZ.

Mary Eloisa (Hortense) Dojaquez Jimenez was born on September 27, 1920 in Benson, Arizona. She died on February 24, 2005. She relates that her father, Miguel (Mike) Dojaquez, came to work as a cowboy on the Empire Ranch in 1926, from the Boquillas Cattle Company in the St. David/Benson area. Mary's husband Angel (Shorty) Jimenez was a cowboy and a foreman for Frank Brophy's Babocomari ranch for thirteen years. Mary and Angel had three daughters and two sons.

DH: Now, when you were on the Babocomari that was when, during the 1950's was that terrible drought. And I was just wondering if you had any recollections of...

MDJ: That was, ah, I was still living here in Sonoita. I was living in that little house down at the...they had this, what they called this experimental station.

DH/PC: Uh huh.

MDJ: The, the Larrimores. You know where they had registered their cattle and they would take care of them and my brother Henry would take care of the cattle and make sure every, calf, every animal that was born was registered. So that was the year that it was real dry. Then from then on then we moved on to Elgin.

DH: That would have been 1955, '56? Yeah that was the worst year....

MDJ: See because Mary Lou was born in 1942 and then Peggy '44 and Bertie '45, '46. And then this one came later (laughter) eight years later.

DH: In those really dry years at the Babocomari did they have...

MDJ: We had to haul, they had to haul water from a well that was called the Oil(?) well. All the way to the ranch and they would go up on the hill and fill up a great big tank of water, because there was no rain that year and it was dry. And we would get in the truck come out all the way to the west end into the ranch and there all the kids would get into a tub of water and take their baths. (laughter) That was done every three days.

PC: Whether you needed it or not.

MDJ: Right. But they had to haul water. Where the wells were dry. There was nothing else they could do. No rain and they thought that this was a bad summer, that one was worse.



DH: Worse.

MDJ: Oh yeah, because it was just brown land. Not even a tree was green. So a lot of people in Tucson think that this was a dry year and I said, "Oh, not according to me it isn't." (Laughter)

MDJ: When you see drought in the '50's and these place right here was brown and cattle were dying right and left from the ranches and they had to haul water for the cattle in order so they would have water.

DH: Right, it was everywhere. Um, about how many head would you say they were running at the Brophy's?

MDJ: I have no idea, it was a lot.

EJ: It was a lot because...

MDJ: It was a lot, I have pictures of it.

EJ: We used to brand, I remember when we used to brand...

DH: You helped brand?

EJ: Yeah, I remember that we would brand like anywhere from five to 300 head of calves every year. And then usually in the spring they always brought in a big group of Mexican steers out of Mexico and ran them in the summer and then chute them in the fall. But I have no idea how many.



Excerpt from Lazy B: Growing up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest by Sandra Day O'Connor and H.Allan Day. Random House, New York. 2002.

Sandra Day O'Conner was born in 1930 and grew up on the harsh yet beautiful land of the Lazy B Ranch located in southeastern Arizona. Sandra Day O'Conner became the first woman justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1981.

Chapter 13: Rain

As children we remember driving around the ranch with our father hour after hour, bumping slowly along over rocky terrain to check on a windmill or a water pipe or tank, to see if there was a salt block at a certain place, or if a cow with sore eyes was doing all right. We would watch the skies constantly, hoping for rain. Rain was our life's blood.

It produced the grass and vegetation the cattle had to have to survive. In the arid Southwest, rain was the essential element – the most treasured event – prayed for, hoped for, anticipated, savored, treasured, celebrated, and enjoyed – every drop. In summer when the big cumulus clouds would begin to form around noon on the days there was moisture moving in from the Gulf of Mexico, we would watch those clouds. When they produced rain it was often in the late afternoon. The clouds would grow dark, almost black. There would then be a strong wind – blowing dust, leaves, small bits of everything lying around. Then a sudden stillness – the earth silent and waiting for the momentous event. Then the crack of lighting touching something on earth with all of the electric fury of the universe. Seconds later the incredible sounds of the thunder, the sound produced by the lightning bolt rolling through the clouds above. And then – wonder of wonders – the first few big wet drops of rain forming muddy places on the dusty windshield. Then more and more until we would just stop the pickup truck and sit inside it, unable to see even the closest objects outside because the rain would come in waves, sheets, torrents. Joy. Wonder. Incredible gift from above. Our salvation. Rain.

...Then we would watch with wonder the changed world about us...Everything stirring and excited from the rain, and no one more excited than my father. We were saved again – saved from the ever present threat of drought, of starving cattle, of anxious creditors. We would survive a while longer.



Excerpted from Beloved Land: An Oral History of Mexican Americans in Southern Arizona. Collected and edited by Patricia Preciado Martin. University of Arizona Press: Tucson. 2004.

Ramona Benítez Franco was born in 1902 on her parents' ranch in the Rincon Mountains (near Tucson).

My brother Angel was the oldest, and he was the one who helped my father the most with the ranch. After he married Bernardita, the First World War began, and Bernardita said, "Ay! They are going to take my Angelito!" My father said, "No, don't worry, they won't take him." He was not in favor of them fleeing to Mexico to escape the war, but they decided to go to Mexicali, Mexico, anyway. At that time there was also a great flu epidemic that almost no one survived. Here in this area everyone had to wear masks. My brother Angel got sick in Mexico, and when they let my mother know, she went immediately to Mexicali. Because of the epidemic, no one was allowed to cross the border, but my mother crossed anyway on a board plank. That's a mother's love for you! Well, my brother did die after all and my father had such a struggle to bring his body home, as well as his wife and two children, Adalberto and Matilde. He had to pay a lot of money so that they could cross the border. They had to seal my brother's body in three caskets so that the sickness would not contaminate anyone. My mother had to cross back into the United States illegally again because at that time they were not allowing anyone to cross the border in either direction.

Not long after that, my father broke his shoulder and some ribs when a horse fell on him. My brother Juan was still very young, and my father could no longer manage the ranch alone. He had also gotten into a lot of debt when Angel died in Mexico. He had to pay for two funerals – one in Mexico and one here. It just so happened that there was a bad drought just about that time, and my father had to send his cattle to another ranch for pasture. He was never able to get them back, and so he was final forced to sell the ranch.

My father bought a house in Tucson on South Eighth Avenue that belonged to the Ruiz family. It is the house I am still living in. It was built in 1902 and is as old as I am. My father then opened a grocery store on the corner of the house, and he made a very good living at it for a while because he sold things very cheaply.



Drought Testimony/Drought Impact Student Response Page

Name _____

*Answer the following questions using information from your testimony.
Use details from the reading to support your answers.*

1. Whose testimony is this?
1. Where did this person live?
1. Do you think that the person had a problem with money because of not enough water? Give one example from the testimony to support your answer.
1. Do you think the land or animals in the testimony were affected because of a lack of water? Give one example to from the testimony support your answer.
1. Do you think the person's life was changed because of drought? Give one example from the testimony to support your answer.
1. Was water important to this person? How do you know?
1. What does this story tell us about living in a drought?



Drought Testimony/Drought Impact Student Response Page

Testimony A

Answer the following questions using information from your testimony.
Use details from the reading to support your answers.

1. Whose testimony is this? **Mary Dojoquez Jimenez**
1. Where did this person live? **Babocomari Ranch or Sonoita/Elgin**
1. Do you think that the person had a problem with money because of not enough water?
Give one example from the testimony to support your answer.

Yes, they spent money on gas to haul water.

1. Do you think the land or animals in the testimony were affected because of a lack of water? Give one example to from the testimony support your answer.

Yes, she said everything was brown and cattle were dying left and right.

1. Do you think the person's life was changed because of drought? Give one example from the testimony to support your answer.

Yes, she had to spend time hauling water and had to be driven somewhere so she could bathe.

1. Was water important to this person? How do you know?

She remembered this time after all of these years.

1. What does this story tell us about living in a drought? **Answers will vary.**

Testimony B

Answer the following questions using information from your testimony.
Use details from the reading to support your answers.

1. Whose testimony is this? **Sandra Day O'Connor**
2. Where did this person live? **Southeastern Arizona**
3. Do you think that the person had a problem with money because of not enough water?
Give one example from the testimony to support your answer.

Yes, her family wanted to be saved from anxious creditors.

4. Do you think the land or animals in the testimony were affected because of a lack of water? Give one example to from the testimony support your answer.

Yes, she didn't want the cows to starve.



5. Do you think the person's life was changed because of drought? Give one example from the testimony to support your answer.

Yes, she really wanted the rain to come. She was very anxious.

6. Was water important to this person? How do you know?

Yes, she said 'rain was our life's blood.'

7. What does this story tell us about living in a drought? **Answers will vary.**

Testimony C

Answer the following questions using information from your testimony.

Use details from the reading to support your answers.

1. Whose testimony is this? **Ramona Benitez Franco**

2. Where did this person live? **Her parents' ranch in the Rincon Mountains**

3. Do you think that the person had a problem with money because of not enough water? Give one example from the testimony to support your answer.

Yes, because they had to sell the ranch because of drought.

4. Do you think the land or animals in the testimony were affected because of a lack of water? Give one example to from the testimony support your answer.

Yes, the cows didn't have enough to eat at her family's ranch.

5. Do you think the person's life was changed because of drought? Give one example from the testimony to support your answer.

Yes, they had to move from the ranch to Tucson.

6. Was water important to this person? How do you know?

Yes, it affected where she lived for the rest of her life.

7. What does this story tell us about living in a drought? **Answers will vary.**



Water Use in the Past

Name _____

The year is 1890. Your family lives on a ranch in southeastern Arizona. You are a family of seven people: two adults and five children (ages 15, 11, 7, 5, 2). You live in an adobe house with three rooms.

You get your water from a well located near the horse corral that is 150 feet (45m) from your house. Your dad recently dug a pit for an outhouse. Your family has a garden that provides most of the family's vegetables. The animals on the ranch are watered from a different well.

Problem 1: How much water do you think your family of eight would consume in one day?

Show your work in the charts

Daily drinking water	Amount needed
Dad – 200 lbs.	
Mom – 150 lbs	
15 year old girl – 105 lbs	
11 year old boy – 90 lbs	
7 year old boy – 55 lbs	
5 year old girl – 40 lbs	
2 year old boy – 30 lbs	
Total daily drinking water	

Problem 2:

Amount of Water Used for Common Household Tasks in 1890	
Task	Gallons
Toilet (outhouse)	0
Wash basin	1
Washing dishes by hand	2
Drinking water	2 quarts per 50 pounds of body weight
Washing clothes by hand	5
Watering the garden	10 – 20
Bathtub	30

Daily Water Use in 1890	Gallons
Drinking	
Washing dishes	
	Total

You have noticed that the well is unable to meet your family's water needs during long periods of hot and dry weather. If these conditions continue, you will have to decrease your water consumption. Write a paragraph about how you would decide how to decrease your water use and explain how much water you would save with your plan. Extra credit: The well for the animals is very low. How will you meet your animals' water needs?



Water Use in the Past Answer Key

The year is 1890. Your family lives on a ranch in southeastern Arizona. You are a family of seven people: two adults and five children (ages 15, 11, 7, 5, 2). You live in an adobe house with three rooms.

You get your water from a well located near the horse corral that is 150 feet (45m) from your house. Your dad recently dug a pit for an outhouse. Your family has a garden that provides most of the family's vegetables. The animals on the ranch are watered from a different well.

Problem 1: How much water do you think your family of eight would consume in one day?

Show your work in the charts

Daily drinking water	Amount needed
Dad – 200 lbs.	8 quarts-2 gal
Mom – 150 lbs	6 quarts-1.5 gal
15 year old girl – 105 lbs	4 quarts-1 gal
11 year old boy – 90 lbs	4 quarts-1 gal
7 year old boy – 55 lbs	2 quarts-.5 gal
5 year old girl – 40 lbs	2 quarts- .5 gal
2 year old boy – 30 lbs	1 quart -.25 gal
Total daily drinking water	6.75 gallons

Problem 2:

You have noticed that the well is unable to meet your family's water needs during long periods of hot and dry weather. If these conditions continue, you will have to decrease your water consumption. Write a paragraph about how you would decide how to decrease your water use and explain how much water you would save with your plan. Extra credit: The well for the animals is very low. How will you meet your animals' water needs?

Amount of Water Used for Common Household Tasks in 1890	
Task	Gallons
Toilet (outhouse)	0
Wash basin	1
Washing dishes by hand	2
Drinking water	2 quarts per 50 pounds of body weight
Washing clothes by hand	5
Watering the garden	10 – 20
Bathtub	30

Daily Water Use in 1890	Gallons
Drinking water for family	6.75
Washing dishes	2
Wash basin	1
Watering garden	15
Total gallon per day	24.75



Water Use in the Present

Name _____

Think about your family and its water use. Typically, a person uses about 50 to 100 gallons of water every day. Use this chart to complete the following tasks:

Task 1: List the ways your family normally uses water to calculate your family's daily water usage.

Task 2: Your town is beginning to experience a water shortage because of continuous hot and dry weather. Your water department has requested that each household voluntarily reduce water consumption by 20 percent. Identify five changes you can make in your water use habits.

Task 3: A month has passed, and the hot and dry weather continues. The water department asks again that each household decrease water usage another 20 percent. List an additional five changes you can make to save water.

Water Consumed by Common Uses – Present Day	Gallons
Brushing teeth (with water running)	2
Drinking water	2 quarts for every 50 lbs of body weight
Flushing toilet (per flush)	5-7
Dishwasher	10
Shaving (water running)	20
Leaky faucet (per day)	25
Washing dishes by hand (water running)	30
Bath	35
Ten-minute shower	25-50
Washing machine	60
Watering lawn	75
Washing car (hose running)	180

Normal water use (Task 1)	Gallons	Changes (Task 2)	Gallons Saved	More reductions (Task 3)	Gallons Saved
Total		Total		Total	
Reduce by 20%		Reduce by 20%			



Water Use in the Present **Answer Key**

Think about your family and its water use. Typically, a person uses about 50 to 100 gallons of water every day. Use this chart to complete the following tasks:

Task 1: List the ways your family normally uses water to calculate your family's daily water usage.

Task 2: Your town is beginning to experience a water shortage because of continuous hot and dry weather. Your water department has requested that each household voluntarily reduce water consumption by 20 percent. Identify five changes you can make in your water use habits.

Task 3: A month has passed, and the hot and dry weather continues. The water department asks again that each household decrease water usage another 20 percent. List an additional five changes you can make to save water.

Answers may vary but this is an example:

Water Consumed by Common Uses – Present Day	Gallons
Brushing teeth (with water running)	2
Drinking water	2 quarts for every 50 lbs of body weight
Flushing toilet (per flush)	5-7
Dishwasher	10
Shaving (water running)	20
Leaky faucet (per day)	25
Washing dishes by hand (water running)	30
Bath	35
Ten-minute shower	25-50
Washing machine	60
Watering lawn	75
Washing car (hose running)	180

Normal water use (Task 1)	Gallons	Changes (Task 2)	Gallons Saved	More reductions (Task 3)	Gallons Saved
Brush teeth	02	Don't run faucet	01		01
Drinking water	60	Don't waste	55		55
Flushing toilet	70	Replace toilet	50		50
Dishwasher	10	Dishwasher	10		10
10 min shower	30	Faster shower	25		25
Washing machine	60	Washing machine	60		60
Water lawn	75	Do less often	50	Eliminate	0
Total	307	Total	251	Total	200
Reduce by 20%	247	Reduce by 20%	200		

