

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

El Paso, Texas,  
July 10, 1970.

MINUTE NO. 237.

ELIMINATION OF NINETEEN BANCOS  
CUT BY THE RIO GRANDE BEFORE 1910  
IN THE PRESIDIO-OJINAGA VALLEY

The Commission met in the offices of the United States Section, at El Paso, Texas, at 10:00 a.m. on July 10, 1970, to consider the elimination of nineteen bancos that were cut by the Rio Grande before 1910 in the reach between Candelaria and Presidio, Texas (San Antonio del Bravo and Ojinaga, Chihuahua).

The Commission reviewed the "Joint Report on Field Work in the Presidio Valley" dated June 19, 1913, submitted by Consulting Engineers W. W. Follett and E. Zayas to the Commissioners of the International Boundary Commission, United States and Mexico. In that Report the Consulting Engineers stated: "Thirty tracts were found which appeared to be bancos. We agreed that 26 were bancos, one was probably a banco, one was not a banco, and two were doubtful." None of those tracts had more than 200 inhabitants.

The Commissioners studied the documentation regarding the four latter tracts existing in their respective archives and agreed that the tracts which the Consulting Engineers denominated "San Jose", "El Polvo" and "La Luz" are not bancos; that the tract denominated "Kleinmann" although a banco, forms a part of a larger tract whose national sovereignty has not been agreed; and that the other twenty-six tracts are bancos and satisfy all the requirements stipulated in the Convention of March 20, 1905 for elimination from the effects of Article II of the Convention of November 12, 1884.

Of those bancos, five were eliminated among the seven referred to in Minute No. 119 of the International Boundary Commission dated February 4, 1930, and another two by Minute No. 136 of the same Commission, dated May 22, 1931.

In consequence, there remain nineteen bancos to be eliminated, as follows:

No. 430 "El Muerto", cut from the United States in 1904. Area in 1910: 91.85 acres (37.17 hectares).

No. 431 "De Holland", cut from the United States in 1875. Area in 1910: 131.61 acres (53.26 hectares).

- No. 432 "Los Calleros", cut from the United States before 1875.  
Area in 1910: 19.18 acres (7.76 hectares).
- No. 433 "La Ruidosa", cut from the United States before 1875. Area  
in 1910: 36.57 acres (14.80 hectares).
- No. 434 "Barrancos de Guadalupe", cut from Mexico before 1872.  
Area in 1910: 237.12 acres (95.96 hectares).
- No. 435 "Davis", cut from Mexico in 1904. Area in 1910: 41.34  
acres (16.73 hectares).
- No. 436 "La Salineta", cut from Mexico in 1884. Area in 1910:  
75.14 acres (30.41 hectares).
- No. 437 "Loma del Pinto", cut from the United States in 1884. Area  
in 1910: 185.08 acres (74.90 hectares).
- No. 438 "De Rodríguez", cut from the United States in 1884. Area  
in 1910: 180.04 acres (72.86 hectares).
- No. 439 "De Julián", cut from the United States in 1884. Area in  
1910: 83.37 acres (33.74 hectares).
- No. 440 "Loma Alta", cut from the United States before 1875. Area  
in 1910: 38.94 acres (15.76 hectares).
- No. 441 "El Redondo", cut from the United States before 1872. Area  
in 1910: 30.44 acres (12.32 hectares).
- No. 442 "Las Auras", cut from the United States in 1860. Area in  
1910: 236.41 acres (95.67 hectares).
- No. 443 "Los Pelillos", cut from the United States in 1895. Area  
in 1910: 242.44 acres (98.11 hectares).
- No. 444 "Ramírez", cut from Mexico before 1870. Area in 1910: 96.25  
acres (38.95 hectares).
- No. 445 "Molinaris", cut from the United States in 1893. Area in  
1910: 137.27 acres (55.55 hectares).
- No. 446 "La Quemada", cut from the United States before 1870. Area  
in 1910: 75.34 acres (30.49 hectares).
- No. 447 "De Terrazas", cut from the United States before 1875.  
Area in 1910: 93.65 acres (37.90 hectares).
- No. 448 "El Atascadero", cut from the United States before 1870.  
Area in 1910: 121.77 acres (49.28 hectares).

The Commission considered that the area of these bancos has changed since 1910 to this date, since the Rio Grande has changed its position opposite them by erosion of one of its banks and the deposit of alluvium on the opposite bank; the Commission concluded that the Convention of March 20, 1905 refers to the area of the bancos when they are cut and, therefore, the maps of the nineteen bancos in reference are based on the topographic data obtained by Consulting Engineers Follett and Zayas in the topographic surveys made by them in 1910, the first that were made after those bancos were cut. The 1967 channel of the Rio Grande plotted on each of these maps shows the change by erosion that occurred in each case between 1910 and 1967.

The Commission reviewed the maps on a scale of 1:5,000, in English and in Spanish, of these nineteen bancos and, having found them to be correct, the two Commissioners signed the nineteen maps in English and the nineteen maps in Spanish that accompany this Minute and form a part thereof, and their originals.

The Commission then adopted the following resolution, subject to the approval of the two Governments:

The nineteen bancos above mentioned are hereby eliminated from the effects of Article II of the Convention of November 12, 1884; the dominion and jurisdiction over the fifteen bancos that remain on the right bank of the Rio Grande pass to Mexico; and the dominion and jurisdiction over the four bancos that remain on the left bank pass to the United States.

The meeting then adjourned.

(signed) J. F. Friedkin  
Commissioner of the United States

(signed) D. Herrera J.  
Commissioner of Mexico

(signed) Louis F. Blanchard  
Secretary of the United States  
Section

(signed) Fernando Rivas S.  
Secretary of the Mexican Section