

AFFIDAVIT

The State of New Mexico

County of Otero

Lusy Gerwood of Otero, New Mexico  
(name) (county) (state)

MAKE OATH AND SAY THAT:

*See Attachment*

STATE OF New Mexico

COUNTY OF Otero

*[Redacted Signature]*

(Signature of person making the statement)

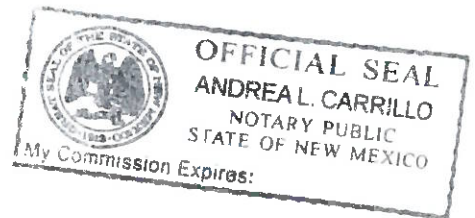
SUBSCRIBED TO AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME,

on the 2nd day of October, 2020

Signature *[Redacted]*

Notary Public

My Commission expires: 01/25/2024



**My name is Lucy Benavidez Garwood. I am writing the memories of living in Tularosa in the years after the bomb. I am 89 years old with a good memory. Before daybreak on July 16, 1945 while the family was still asleep, we were awakened by slight movement of the earth and the dishes in the cupboard rattling. Everyone assumed it was a slight earth quake.**

**1945 after the bomb people in Tularosa lived very simply, eating food they raised in their gardens, as well as wild spinach, asparagus, and other wild leaf vegetables. Pinto beans was their most important food being that it was easily stored. Most people drank raw cow or goat milk. The milk was used to make butter and cheese. The source of meat came from mostly farm animals, they raised, such as chickens, pigs, goats, sheep, and cows. Some wild animals were also a source of meat, like rabbits, birds, and deer.**

**Most of the people had city water which came from the mountains and stored in tanks, outside the village. Almost every home had a cistern to catch the rain water, that came off the roof when it rained. Because the city water was so hard people used the rain water for, drinking, shampooing the hair, making coffee, tea, or whatever drinks they made. Some of people who lived outside of the village had no city water, so they had cisterns alongside the irrigation ditch so when the water came they would fill the cistern for all of their daily needs. One of those families was my grandparents Miguel and Evarista Baca and their neighbors the Gutierrez family. We, the residents of the village would not know unground wells until many years later.**

**Cancer has devested our family for five generations, starting with my grandmother, Evarista Baca dying of breast cancer in 1948, three years after the Bomb. Her daughter Juanita died of bone cancer in 1994. Of Juanita's ten children, seven have battled cancer. 7 of her 10 children suffered some form of cancer. I, Lucy have had skin cancer and recently diagnosed with a kidney tumor, which may be cancer. My Sister Adela Vigil suffered lung cancer and died of brain cancer. Her son Robert Vigil died of lung cancer. My sister Rosalia suffered thyroid cancer as, my sister Julia Ottaviano also suffered thyroid cancer and my sister Cristina had a cancerous kidney removed. My sister Celia Shepard suffered breast Cancer My sister Josephine suffered Uterus cancer at a young age, and lately lost an incredibly young granddaughter with cancer. Being we are a large family I may not be aware of more, as they are scattered over many places.**

**I had 6 children and 3 have suffered cancer. My oldest daughter had an ovarian tumor being cancer and had uterus cancer in her earlier life. She was diagnosed with a blood cancer just before she died. My second daughter had breast cancer. My fourth daughter suffered breast cancer and her daughter suffered skin cancer.**

Consent form for New Mexico Downwinders

I consent to sharing my story with the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, with my full understanding and permission for them to use my story and identity in their advocacy efforts, which may include (but are not limited to) research, news stories, articles, etc.

Print Name Lucy Garwood

Sign Name 

Date 10-2-2020

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Date 10-2-2020