


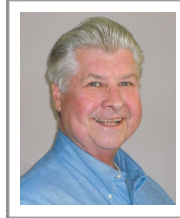
From the President's Pen 

By Edward J. Schlotman

While you are reading this in January I am writing it in the first part of December, just after the horrific events so close to home in San Bernardino. It is not the type of message I usually write.

We salute the valiant police officers and sheriffs' deputies who literally went into harms way not knowing what they faced but going anyway. We offer our thoughts and prayers for the victims and their families. All of us hope this never happens again, but realistically, we do not know what the ultimate outcome may be.

How do we reject these evil killers who use murder and fear to impose their beliefs? We reject them by being life-affirming, not death. We embrace our fellow human beings not kill them. We look for the best in people not the worst. Why? Because we are Americans! These killers and their ilk cannot change what we all know from childhood and is certainly truer today: We are the land of the free and the home of the brave. God bless America. 



## POWER

By Thomas J. McCarthy

California Is Leading Way on Climate Change  
*(Opinion, PG&E Corp. Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President Tony Earley)*

While France has relied primarily on nuclear power to phase out fossil fuel plants, California made its gains through a more diverse and more practical mix, adding ever larger amounts of electricity from wind, solar and other renewable sources to nuclear and hydropower – a template others can emulate. "So while some may greet the Paris talks with skepticism, California's political and business leaders arrived with the clear conviction that climate change is not only real, but demands action," writes PG&E Corp. Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President Tony Earley in an opinion piece. [Sacramento Bee \(CA\), Dec. 8](#)

### U.S. Holiday Lights Burn More Electricity Than A Developing World Country Does In A Year

A headline for a chart caught our eye this week: "US Holiday Lights Use More Electricity than El Salvador Does In a Year." "According to the chart, America burns 6.63 billion kilowatt-hours to shine its end-of-year holiday lights. By comparison, annual kilowatt-hours in the developing world are paltry," National Public Radio reports.

[National Public Radio, Dec. 22](#)



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THE KID FROM MONO MILLS: *Augie's Century*, by August Hess.
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## Water and Power Associates, Inc.

is a non profit, independent, private organization incorporated in 1971 to inform and educate its members, public officials and the general public on critical water and energy issues affecting the citizens of Los Angeles, of Southern California and of the State of California.





Fred Fletcher-



Linda Gewe-



**Geraldine Katz-Ph.D.-**  
*Professor of the Practice of Policy and Engineering; USC*  
*(See a review of her book, Terminal Island™ in the October 2015 issue of the W&PA NL)*



**Juan Lozano**  
*Animal Control, Officer, Huntington Park*



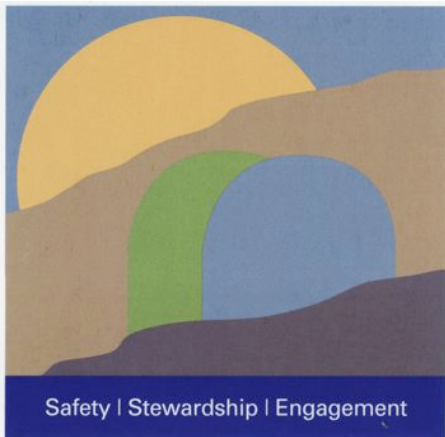
**Paul Shockley**  
*ABB HVDC Consultant*

*Welcome*

## W&P Associates San Onofre Walking Tour

The San Onofre nuclear plant is permanently shut down and Southern California Edison (SCE) is working to insure continued safe storage of the plant's used nuclear fuel. Until the fuel is moved to a permanent storage facility, SCE stores the radioactive waste in robust, steel canisters housed in a concrete structure.

This proven technology is called dry cast storage and it's been safely in the U.S. for more than three decades, subject to review and licensing by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.



Decommissioning  
**San Onofre**  
Nuclear Generating Station

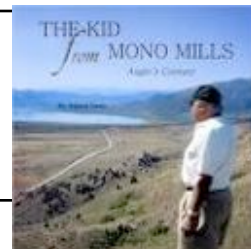
**Making SONGS  
Decommissioning a  
Model for the Industry.**



Jerri & Thomas McCarthy, Robert Yoshimura, Ken Kalenik, Dorothy Fuller, Tour Guide John Ramsdell, Richard West, John Schumann, Melinda Rho. ( Not shown, David Oliphant.)



**THE KID FROM MONO MILLS: *Augie's Century***,  
 BY August Hess. San Bernardino: Privately published 2014.  
 146 pp. Map, Illustrations. Paper, \$19.95. The book is  
 available for purchase on Amazon.com.



Born on October 25, 1914, August Ernest "Augie" Hess" has enjoyed a century of experience in Mono Basin as well as the world beyond it. His father, Gottlieb Hess, came from Switzerland; his mother was a Paiute. Augie grew up in the Mono Basin region and, as a teenager, worked as a cowboy and as a mucker in the construction of the Mono Tunnel Extension. He served in the Army Air Corps in World War II, married, and raised his children where he had grown up. For decades he operated a Chevron station in Lee Vining. Augie has maintained a very active life, taking up golf in his eighties, joining and being active in the Masons and other organizations, and traveling in the United States and visiting other countries. His interest in local history prompted him to speak to groups and to compile research notes on which this autobiography, with the help of Mono County Historical Society President David Carle, is based.

Augie's childhood would be the envy of many urban kids today (if they could tear themselves away from Playstation and video games). The Eastern Sierra offered opportunity for hunting, fishing, boating, and helping out when needed. Augie and his siblings all learned to play musical instruments and to play indoor games during the long cold winters. Lee Vining began as a small village that lacked the amenities for a full high school, so Augie earned his high school diploma in Seattle, living with an uncle there. He also attended Pasadena City College before World War II.

Among Augie's friends were the children and grandchildren of pioneer settlers whose descendants, like some of Augie's, continue to live in Mono County. Despite its early isolation, Lee Vining is very much connected to the outside world through U.S. 395, radio, television, cell phones, and the Internet—a far cry from Augie's childhood when the only telephone was at Ruby Cunningham's Tioga Lodge. Augie

doesn't have to be nostalgic about the "old days," since his story is one of continuous activity. Great-grandchildren carry on the August name.

Other than service to the local community such as in helping organize the Lee Vining volunteer fire department and American Legion post, Augie doesn't discuss politics in his autobiography. He matter-of-factly describes his job mucking out tunnel debris in construction of the Mono Tunnel without any comment or opinion about the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's diversion of the creeks feeding into Mono Lake. His only mention of the Mono Lake Committee is a reference to the old building where the Mono Lake Committee operates the visitor center. What he does tell the reader is that though he grew up in a rural, fairly isolated community, he enjoyed skiing, playing baseball and organizing local teams, and enjoying the warmth of a closely knit family. Augie tells about attending Paiute events and Native celebrations such as the Indian Traditional Walk (a 52-mile trek taking five days, in which he began participating in 1991 at age 77), clearly proud of his Paiute heritage but saying nothing regarding prejudice against Indians. This is an upbeat story; he is proud of his Paiute grandmother's basketry skills.

Augie's book is lavishly illustrated with dozens of photographs, many of them in color. More than just an autobiography, the book celebrates the life of a hardworking, active person who can say, "In the 1920s and 1940s, we got the radio and by the 1950s we had the TV. Can you imagine, sending a man to the moon? I am looking forward to the future to see what other inventions will be available to us" (p. 139).

Abraham Hoffman teaches history at Los Angeles Valley College.







## Nations Approve Landmark Climate Accord in Paris

Representatives of 195 nations Saturday night reached a landmark accord that will, for the first time, commit nearly every country to lowering planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions to help stave off the most drastic effects of climate change, the New York Times reports. The accord requires action in some form from every country, rich or poor. The Wall Street Journal reports that the deal calls for wealthy economies, such as the United States and the European Union, to shoulder more of the burden, including a pledge to channel at least \$100 billion a year to poor countries to help them respond to climate change. "The deal also requires action for the first time from developing nations, including large emitters such as China and India, to find ways to lower the trajectory of their emissions growth, even as they attempt to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty," the Wall Street Journal reports.

*New York Times*, Dec. 13

## California Is Leading Way on Climate Change

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*Sacramento Bee (CA)*, Dec. 8

## Nevada OKs New Rates for Rooftop Solar



The Nevada Public Utilities Commission is moving forward with a new rate structure for customers with rooftop solar panels. The commission voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt the plan, which would reduce the amount NV Energy pays customers for excess energy their solar panels produce and change the flat service rate for customers with solar panels. The changes would phase in over five years, starting Jan. 1.

*Associated Press (Reno Gazette-Journal (NV))*, Dec. 22

## Largest U.S. Car-to-Grid Demonstration Ready to Roll



When airmen at Los Angeles Air Force Base are done using one of the installation's 42 sedans, pickup trucks or cargo vans, they now have to remember to plug them in. "The first federal facility to replace its entire general-purpose vehicle fleet with electric vehicles, the base in El Segundo, Calif., will break new ground next month when it comes online as the nation's largest vehicle-to-grid demonstration," Environment & Energy Publishing reports.

*Environment & Energy Publishing*, Nov. 16



## Utility 'Death Spiral' Will Accelerate Quickly Over Next 5 Years, NRG Chief Says

While the use of the utility "death spiral" argument has slowed in recent months, NRG Energy President and CEO David Crane on Nov. 13 said that although U.S. utilities are fighting to keep a monopoly status, grid defection is inevitable, SNL reports. "They just finished their big conference ... and the message I heard that came out of the conference is that everyone wants to do regulated, everyone wants to hide behind fortress monopoly walls," Crane said during a talk at Columbia University in New York City, referring to the recently concluded EEI Financial Conference in Florida. "The thing is, if you actually empower people to provide their own electricity, that's beyond the scope not only of the utility, because it's on the other side of the meter, but it's actually out of the scope of the state regulator as well."

*SNL*, Nov. 16

## Two Utility CEOs on Importance of Electric Vehicles, Potential Impact on Reaching Climate Goals

(Opinion, Tony Earley and Jim Piro)

Electric utilities focus every day on ensuring an efficient, sustainable, reliable and affordable energy supply. We encourage Americans to think about using that same energy to power a greater portion of our transportation. This is especially important in light of our country's climate goals. "Electric-powered transportation can make a tremendous difference. Recently, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) noted in a new report, 'Environmental Assessment of a Full Electric Transportation Portfolio,' that the widespread adoption of electric transportation could significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and lead to improved air quality," write Tony Earley, chairman, chief executive officer and president of PG&E Corp., and Jim Piro, president and chief executive officer of Portland General Electric, in an opinion piece.

*Energy Central*, Nov. 17

## Solar rebates can allow some homeowners a net free ride on power grid

By ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER EDITORIAL Dec. 14, 2015

State mandates and tax incentives are pushing tens of thousands of homeowners, in Orange County and the rest of the state, to install rooftop solar panels. That brings up an issue called Net Energy Metering. As explained by Go Solar California, NEM is “a special billing arrangement that provides credit to customers with solar PV [photovoltaic] systems for the full retail value of the electricity their system generates.”

That is, if a home’s solar panels generate more power than is used, the extra power is transferred to the overall electricity grid. The meter actually runs backward, and the customer’s account is credited.

But there’s an obvious limitation: When the sun sets, the panels stop generating. Current battery technology doesn’t store enough electricity to get through the night. That means such houses still have to depend on the state electricity grid, which transmits electrons generated by other sources,

such as coal, natural gas, hydro (dams) and nuclear.

The problem with the NEM program is that, under current regulations, solar rooftop users “net” more money in rebates than their bill for using the grid. The difference, made up by owners of nonsolar homes, soon could amount to \$360 a year per household, according to a study by the Edison Foundation.

The problem then becomes that more-affluent customers, who can afford the \$625,000 median price of an Orange County home, tend to be those getting the NEM subsidy, paid for by those less well-off, mainly renters.

Early next year, the state Public Utilities Commission will attempt to determine how much the subsidies should be to promote more solar power. Dan Skpec told us state power companies aren’t affected by any change because they just administer the NEM program and don’t make or lose money; he’s vice president of regulatory affairs for

San Diego Gas & Electric, which operates in South Orange County.

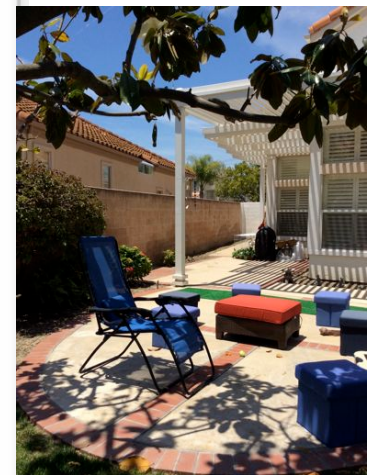
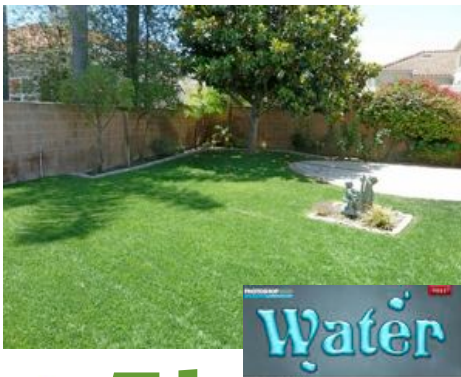
“The solar industry really benefits from this,” Mr. Skpec said, because the NEM program encourages installing solar panels. But his company, as well as Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison, “want to reduce the subsidy.” He said the companies are willing to compromise, but “for the solar companies, there’s no compromise.”

The bottom line is that solar homes are getting a partial free ride on the electricity grid that everybody pays for. This is part of the reason 1 million Californians live in what a Manhattan Institute study called “energy poverty,” meaning 10 percent or more of their incomes goes to household energy costs. Middle-class ratepayers also can get a jolt from their bills.

We urge the PUC to address this issue by balancing the costs of the electricity grid with state renewable-energy priorities.

*Congratulations*

to Associates Board member, Roberta S. Zinman who received an award from *the Santa Margarita Water District General Manager* for the conversion of her green lawn to a beautiful, drought tolerant back yard. Roberta credits her achievement to the decades she spent at L.A. DWP and and to her selection of Award winner designer, Rachel Lauren, pictured with her.



## Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, February 13, 2016

10:00 ~ 11:20 a.m. ~ LADWP A-Level

111 N. Hope St., Los Angeles

Remember to bring your photo I.D. for entry into the parking lot and the building.

*And bring a friend.*



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This large four-story Victorian-style school building stood on a hill overlooking downtown Los Angeles from 1882 until 1922. The exact location was at the intersection of Grand Avenue and 5th Street, where the Los Angeles Central Library stands today.

What was the name of the school?

- A) Los Angeles Academy
- B) Los Angeles Trade Tech
- C) State Normal School
- D) St. Vincent's College

Over the years this school evolved into one of the most recognized learning institutions in the nation:

- A) Cal Lutheran
- B) USC
- C) UCLA
- D) Loyola of Marymount

Answers at: [http://waterandpower.org/museum/Mystery\\_History.html](http://waterandpower.org/museum/Mystery_History.html)







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*Please Renew Your Membership Today*

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<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership	\$20.00* \$ _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Donor / Sponsor	\$ _____

- I wish to be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors.
- I wish to volunteer as guide or docent during special events.
- I wish to  give  loan artifacts, documents, photographs, or other materials for historic preservation.

.....  
 • Please complete and mail with your check payable to **Water and Power Associates, Inc.**, to: .....  
 • **W&PA Treasurer 1467 Crest Dr. Altadena, CA 91001** .....  
 • *\*Additional contributions are always welcomed and appreciated.* .....  
 •.....

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All Members Are Invited to Attend*

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Altadena, CA 91001