Water and Power Associates, Inc. Newsletter

Year 40, Volume 3 - July 2011

President's Notes

By Ed Schlotman

Just back from six weeks in Texas (my wife forced me :-)) so don't have too much to report. I do know we can count ourselves lucky we are not experiencing the severe water restrictions in effect in parts of the Hill Country of Texas. We were in Kerrville, which is about an hour north of San Antonio on interstate 10, visiting with relatives and such. When we arrived at the end of May **water restrictions** were Phase Two, hand watering anytime and sprinklers 2 days a week with limited hours before ten a.m. and after 8 p.m. Around the first of June Phase Three was imposed. Phase Three limits watering with sprinklers to the mornings and cut an hour from each of the two allowed days. A bit longer handheld watering is also allowed mornings and evenings. I think the theory for this is an expectation people will not stand outside for two or three hours to water. The City seems to give you something but maybe not really. It will be interesting, and I suspect a bit sad, to see the effects in October when we return.

We in California are fortunate indeed to have an abundance of water this year despite predictions to the contrary. These cycles do remind us that fresh water is a limited resource while everybody seems to want or need more, whether due to population increases or agricultural and commercial demands.

The only other item I will mention was experienced on our drive back. Generally we stop for the night somewhere in New Mexico. However, this time we just kept going to get away from the huge amount of smoke caused by the wildfires. We stayed the night in Wilcox, Arizona! ❖

Contents

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.

First Wind's Milford II Project Sending Power to Southern California

First Wind said it has launched operations of its 102-MW Milford Wind Corridor Phase II project in Utah, the Associated Press reported. Under power purchase agreements with the Southern California Public Power Authority, electricity from Milford II, comprised of 68 GE 1.5-MW wind turbines, is being sold to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Glendale Water and Power and a joint Southern California agency to which both utilities belong, Southern California Public Radio reported. Combined with the Milford I project, which was finished in 2009, the project will have an output of 306 MW.

BrighterEnergy.org quoted LADWP General Manager Ronald O. Nichols as saying: "The Milford II Wind Power Project is an example of LADWP working smarter while boosting the amount of renewable energy provided to customers and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. With the completion of this project we ensure the delivery of 102 megawatts of wind power at a set price for the next 20 years."

Associated Press via the Greenfield (Ind.) Daily Reporter, Boston (Mass.) Globe, Brighter Energy.org, Energy Business Review, KPCC 89.3 Southern California Public Radio (Pasadena, Calif.), UPI, May 10.

Submitted by Thomas J. McCarthy

A TRIBUTE to CATHERINE MULHOLLAND

By Abraham Hoffman, Ph.D., with Leon Furgatch, & Christine Mulholland

Catherine Rose Mulholland was born on April 8, 1923, at the Hollywood Methodist Hospital. Her father, William Perry Mulholland, was one of seven children born to William Mulholland and his wife Lillie. Perry and his wife, Addie Haas, had three children, Catherine, Richard and Patricia. Catherine grew up in Northridge in the west San Fernando Valley and attended a number of local schools. She graduated from Canoga Park High School in 1940.

Catherine became aware early that her grandfather William was an important figure in Los Angeles history, though one who was a controversial person. She knew him mainly as a man who said little and would sit smoking a pipe or cigar for long periods of time. Yet affection between grandfather and granddaughter can be seen in an early photograph. [When Catherine grew older she became aware of] (Catherine was 5 and remembered the event) the failure of the St. Francis Dam in 1928, a tragedy that left a permanent mark on her grandfather, the chief engineer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, who died in 1935. When Catherine was attending junior high school, a campaign was undertaken to construct a memorial fountain in honor of William's contributions to the city. School children were solicited for pennies to contribute to the campaign, and Catherine recalled that the teasing could be quite nasty as pennies were precious during the Great Depression. Schoolmates complained about being asked to contribute to "her" memorial.

After high school Catherine attended the University of California at Berkeley where she majored in English and earned a Bachelor's degree. She moved to New York and earned a Master's degree in English. She also enjoyed the Greenwich Village life style and continued a lifelong interest in jazz and other music. Catherine became politically active while at Columbia working to end racial discrimination in student housing. After obtaining her degree she returned to Berkeley in 1947 to study for a doctorate in English, but this effort was permanently interrupted in 1949 when she married Gerard Hurley, an English professor. The Hurleys had three children, Jim, Willie, and Katie, but were divorced in 1976. However, she did take some graduate history courses and studied under Herbert E. Bolton, a renowned history professor.

Catherine's interest in putting her English major to work can be seen in "A Wedding in the Valley," a play she wrote shortly after her marriage. The play concerned a farm family in the San Fernando Valley and it won an honorable mention in a contest. With two of her children grown and gone, Catherine and her daughter returned to the San Fernando Valley. There she wrote numerous plays and stories, and also books based on family history: *Calabasas Girls: An Intimate History, 1885-1912* (1976), *Owensmouth Baby* (1987), and *Calabasas Lives: Pioneers of a Western Outpost* (2009). But it would be the examination of her grandfather's life that would become her magnum opus.

Throughout her life Catherine was concerned about the misinformation over William Mulholland's role in bringing water from the Owens River to the city by way of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. While resentment from Owens Valley residents was understandable, myths and distortions had garbled recollections, and the entire topic of the Owens Valley-Los Angeles water controversy was mired in too much incompetent and inadequate research. Catherine spent ten years, roughly 1990-2000, doing the hard work of replacing misstatement with fact, making two trips to Ireland to discover family background, and utilizing primary sources that had long been neglected and overlooked. In 2000 her book, *William Mulholland and the Rise of Los Angeles* was published by the University of California Press.

(Continued on page 3)

In Memoriam (Continued from page 2)

Documentary filmmakers usually disappointed Catherine and led to her reluctance to be interviewed about William Mulholland. She despised the many errors in the episode on her grandfather in the PBS miniseries *Cadillac Desert*, based on Reisner's book.

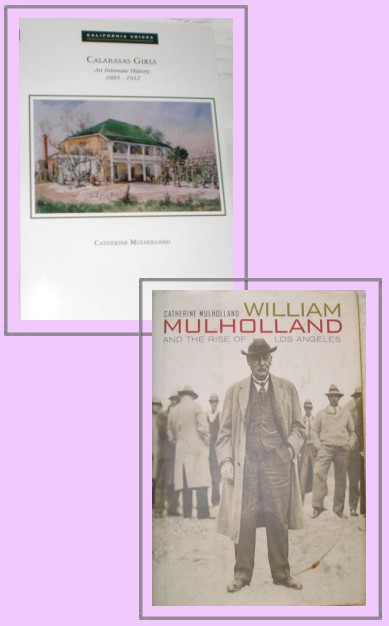
Similarly, she also thought the motion picture *Chinatown* a cruel joke. This is the 1974 fictional movie that people have been led to believe is a true story about her grandfather's life. In a letter to New Yorker Magazine, dated April 18, 2001, she remarked: "*Subsequent political enemies, muckraking journalists and pop historians have merged these complicated series of historic events into a grand conspiratorial theory of robber barons and sinister plots that came to flower into the film 'Chinatown'.*" She summed it up this way: "***Good movie, lousy history***."

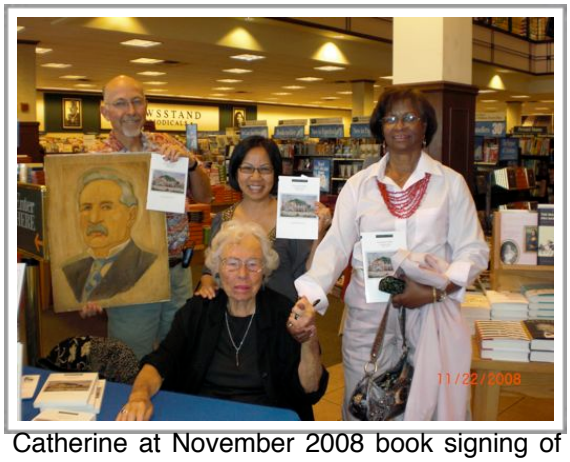
She would say to friends that the irony is that many progressives in the news media and film industry support these beliefs when the opposite was true. "*He was a straight-shooter with progressive views throughout his life, and never used his position to enrich himself or others, and the record is there for those who will take the time to look.*" Her views can be seen in the Los Angeles History Project's episode on William Mulholland on PBS, on a History Channel program that dealt with the failure of the St. Francis Dam, and in an in-house video done by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

In her last years, Catherine remained active in water issues with like-minded friends in the Los Angeles Water and Power Associates, Inc. (WAPA), an independent group concerned with Los Angeles water and power matters and similar issues pertaining to California and the West. She served two years as vice president of the organization. There were plenty of opportunities for Catherine to show her salty sense of humor, something that her nephew Tom and niece Christine, were apparently used to. ❖

Catherine Rose Mulholland

1923 ~ 2011

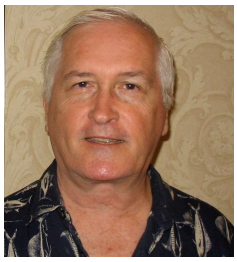




Catherine at November 2008 book signing of *Calabasas Girls* with WAPA friends and a woodcut painting of her grandfather.

In an exhibit at MWD Headquarters in September 2005 Catherine accepted a plaque honoring the contributions of her grandfather in bringing water to Southern California.

Our Recent Distinguished GUESTS



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Water Resources Division.

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♦Roger D. Weisman
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♦Robert Yoshimura
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San Diego Gas & Electric

SDG&E is a regulated public utility that provides safe and reliable energy service to 3.5 million consumers through 1.4 million electric meters and more than 850,000 natural gas meters in San Diego and southern Orange counties.
The utility's area spans 4,100 square miles.
SDG&E is committed to creating ways to help our customers save energy and money every day.
SDG&E is a subsidiary of **Sempra Energy** (NYSE: SRE),
a Fortune 500 energy services holding company based in San Diego.
For More Information Contact April Bolduc, San Diego Gas & Electric 1-877-866-2066 www.sempra.com
(originally published by The Times on March 29, 2011)

San Diego, June 6, 2011 - **San Diego Gas & Electric** (SDG&E) released its **plan outlining the utility's vision** for the electric grid of the future. The plan provides a **roadmap** for how San Diego's **electricity grid** will develop over the next decade and empower SDG&E customers with the latest technology and service choices. "Our **Smart Grid Deployment Plan** details how we will allocate energy resources more efficiently and deploy new technology to give our customers a much greater level of control over their energy usage," said **James P. Avery**, senior vice president of power supply for SDG&E. "The plan offers a framework for discussion of our region's energy future."

Since late 2010, SDG&E has met with more than 25 stakeholder groups in the areas of environment, academia, business, customer advocacy and government to better understand their priorities and preferences related to the smart grid. This included the **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)**, **UC San Diego Office of Strategic Energy Initiatives**, **San Diego State University Center for Energy Studies**, **Smart City San Diego**, **CleanTECH San Diego**, **California Center for Sustainable Energy**, **San Diego Workforce Partnership**, **Information and Privacy Commissioner of the province of Ontario, Canada**, among others. Their input was reflected into the plan, and SDG&E encourages input from additional stakeholders as well.

"SDG&E has shown great leadership. It has engaged stakeholders to develop a plan that delivers what they want, including bill management tools, electric vehicles and the ability to use rooftop solar," said **Lauren Navarro**, director of state regulatory affairs for the EDF's Smart Grid Initiative. "While EDF has been helping SDG&E develop its plan, our goal is to guide all utilities on how they can deliver environmental and public health benefits to customers," added Navarro. "Our **framework will evaluate all of their plans thoroughly** and with equal rigor so that the best elements are adopted across the state and any weaknesses or gaps remedied."

In its plan, SDG&E emphasizes that the need for a smarter grid is being driven by customers. For example, a growing number of customers are installing rooftop solar-power systems on their homes, and San Diego has the highest number of installed residential systems of any city in California. The utility must be able to power the grid on cloudy or hazy days when solar power is unavailable or greatly diminished. The region is also home to the greatest number of plug-in electric vehicles in the country, and will have significant growth in the coming months and years. The grid must be able to accommodate the power needs of these new vehicles.

Many customers said they want access to their energy usage information online. **Smart meters** – the foundation of the smart grid – allow access to this data. They provide customers with greater choice, convenience and control in how they access and use the information. All SDG&E residential customers have smart meters, and all business customers will have smart meters by the end of 2011. "Customers are already buying the technologies that require a smart grid, so we can't wait to develop a grid that ensures we meet their needs," said Avery. SDG&E's plan outlines smart grid developments in nine key areas:

- customer empowerment,
- renewable growth,
- electric vehicle growth,
- reliability and safety,
- security,
- operational efficiency, research,
- development and demonstration,
- integrated and cross-cutting systems, and
- workforce development.

In addition, SDG&E's plan will help achieve California's aggressive energy and environmental policy goals, including reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, using more renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency and demand response. ❖

Submitted By
Thomas J. McCarthy

BOOK REVIEW

By Abraham Hoffman, Ph.D.

MANAGING CALIFORNIA'S WATER: *From Conflict to Reconciliation*, by Ellen Hanak et al. San Francisco: Public Policy Institute of California, 2011. 482 pp. Figures, Tables, Boxes, References Maps, Charts, Index. Paper, $34.95. Order from Public Policy Institute of California, 500 Washington Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94111; (415) 291-4465; HYPERLINK "http://www.pppic.org" www.pppic.org.

Californians have long needed a coherent water policy, and this book, written by Ellen Hanak and seven co-authors, provides important keys to such a policy, assuming that the governor, state legislators, and other public officials will read the book and act on its recommendations. The book begins with a lengthy chapter on the history of the state's use of water, from Native times to the present day. Sections in this chapter include the Native Waterscape, the Spanish-Mexican Era, the Laissez-Faire Era, the Era of Local Organization, the Hydraulic Era, the Era of Conflict, and the Era of Reconciliation? (the question mark suggests this latest era is problematic).

The authors then proceed to assess how California water is managed — and mismanaged—today. Four chapters examine such factors and influences as water's availability, flood management, scientific and technical influences on decision making, and a summation of the current system's strengths and weaknesses. They also deal with climate change, water system deterioration, changing ecosystems, and progress in science and technology. All this is covered in Part I of the book.

Part II examines challenges for the future. Here the authors explore the problems faced in the management of the state's water systems. These are the problems that appear quite frequently in the news: declining fish populations, issues in sustaining freshwater diversity, Delta issues, environmental laws, and attempts to reconcile different (and differing) interests. Part III deals with proposals for reform: eliminating "combat science" where experts differ in accordance with the groups they represent; whether new laws are needed or unnecessary; promoting and achieving reforms; and the need to act now—as one chapter section warns us, "Waiting can be costly."

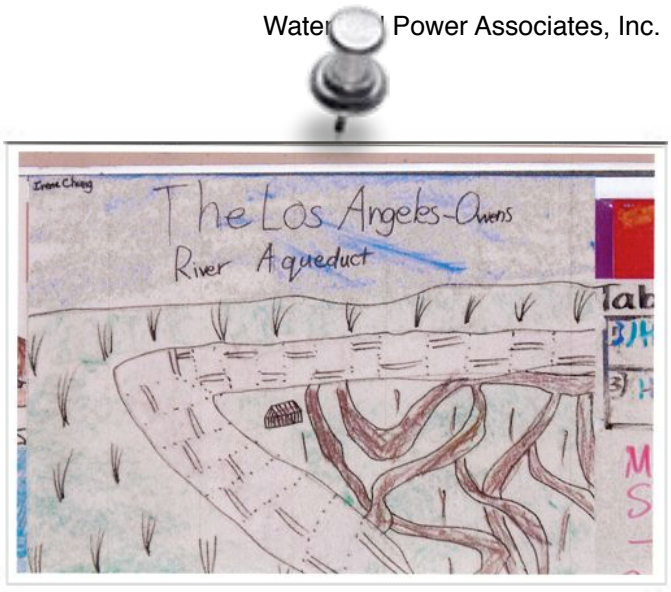
The authors support the text with an array of maps, charts, photographs (many in color, though rather small in size), sidebars, references, and index. This is not a book for casual reading, and the general reader will find it densely packed with information, acronyms (fortunately, the acronyms are indexed, but best to remember the first time an acronym is used). The authors come from the fields of law, agricultural and resource economics, natural resource management, environmental engineering, geology, ecology, and natural resource law. The absence of a historian from this list becomes apparent in the first chapter, where some factual errors appear (Fred Eaton was not the mayor of Los Angeles in 1902, the summary of "Los Angeles and the Conquest of Owens Valley" on p. 34 is oversimplified, the director of the Bureau of Reclamation in 1923 was Arthur Powell Davis, *not* Arthur Russell Davis). There's too much reliance on William Kahrl's book and neglect of other scholars.

Despite the lack of depth in the chapter on historical perspective, this is a major study of current water issues and recommendations for major policy changes. The authors offer an important agenda that is optimistic in the hope that lawmakers may rise to the necessity of doing something to reform a water system that is so often at odds with itself. ❖

Abraham Hoffman teaches history at Los Angeles Valley College.

A THIRD GRADE HISTORY LESSON

By David J. Oliphant



At the invitation of Thu Pham, DWP Public Affairs Manager of Displays and Exhibits, on June 16th **I watched an impressive year-end presentation on the history of Los Angeles from a musical perspective by the third grade class of Balboa Magnet School**. The first part of the program also included a poetry festival by students demonstrating different poetry styles, including haiku, cinquain, limericks, alliteration, and catalog poems.

~ The main part of the program was the summary in discourse, song and dance, of **Los Angeles history** beginning with the **Yangna** and **Chumash Indians** (see page 7) and tracing historical events to the present day, with each song and dance tied to the relevant historical information. The students spoke of the Indian diet (acorns, cactus berries), their way of life, and their songs. They spoke of the mission period (just 50 years), sang solemn music for the missions and joyous songs and dances for the mission Indians and for the sailors that brought Spanish settlers to the region. They spoke of the successful rancheros whose cattle industry brought prosperity to the area. The students wore sombreros and colorful scarves as they danced. Then they spoke of the loss of the ranch land due to drought and over-extended rancheros having been forced to sell their land to American financiers who subdivided the land into small farms. They told how we have inherited street names like Figueroa and Sepulveda from the Spanish landowners; and from the later American landowners names like Lankershim, Van Nuys and Porter.

~ Among the highlights, in musical perspective **they told the story of bringing water to Los Angeles**, of **Fred Eaton** and **William Mulholland's** trip to the Owens Valley. The droughts had shown the desperate need for more water particularly as the population was rapidly growing. The students spoke of the building of the Los Angeles Owens Aqueduct, and noted in song that Eaton and Mulholland did not tell the Owens Valley residents that they were buying the water rights for Los Angeles, and they sang of the Owens Valley residents saying "*someone's stealing the water from the valley, L A is going to pay.*" But, they also told of **President Theodore Roosevelt's support for Los Angeles getting the water because water for Los Angeles provided "the greatest good for the greatest number."** And, they stated that Mulholland completed the building of the aqueduct ahead of schedule and under budget.

~ To the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad" the students sang "*I've Been Working on the Aqueduct*" with lines like " *Don't you hear the water falling…*" and with a chorus of "*Water won't you flow…water won't you flow… water won't you flow …etc.*"

~ *They* sang and spoke of the land sale boosters, land developers subdividing farm acreage into smalller lots to lure new residents from the east with the promise of cheap homes and providing cheaper and cheaper railroad fares (one day as low as $1) as an enticement to come to California. They spoke of the harbor dredging, the discovery of oil and again the tremendous population growth. And, appropriately, as they spoke of the development of the movie industry, they sang "Hooray for Hollywood."

~ The program conclusion was creative, too. The students spoke of Los Angeles' major drawbacks including water rationing, earthquakes, and forest fires. But after listing all the discouraging negatives they still ended singing Randy Newman's, "*I Love L A*." It was impressive to hear Los Angeles history highlighted in 40 minutes.

~ Of added interest was the lady (a teacher who substitutes at the school) who brought this presentation to DWP's attention. **Mrs. Margaret Winters**, has a personal history deeply involved with the growth of DWP and Los Angeles. Her father worked for DWP for 34 years, much of it in the Power System at Receiving Station D in Wilmington and then at a San Pedro distributing station near the Vincent Thomas Bridge. Her mother taught children of aqueduct workers in a one-room schoolhouse in Red Rock Canyon, including the children of **Murdo McIver**,

(Continued on page 6)

Balboa Third Grade Presentation

(Continued from page 5)

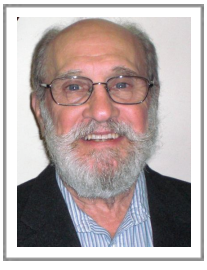
the grandfather of **Dennis Majors** (the MWD superintendent of construction of the Diamond Valley reservoir). Murdo MacIver was a DWP aqueduct patrolman who daily conducted an armed patrol of the LA/Owens Aqueduct, on horseback to prevent aqueduct damage.

In 2002, Dennis loaned the DWP his grandfather's rifle, scabbard, and saddle with the DWP logo and a fibreglass horse for the William Mulholland 100th anniversary display at the Glendale Galleria. Dennis' father, **Alvin Majors**, was the reservoir tender for DWP at Fairmont Reservoir.

Seated next to me, at the presentation, was a proud parent of one of the students, **Mrs. Jennifer Anne Kikudo**, whose husband **Shigekizu (Shig) Kikudo** has worked for the DWP for the past 13 years, currently in Collections.

Balboa Magnet School is a California Distinguished School. The teacher, **Mrs. Priscilla Mui,** is an example why a school becomes a distinguished school. She researched much of the historical information. She then had the children thoroughly prepared for a well-organized, entertaining presentation. Student announcers read the history discourse of each part, together with the names of the performers. Reminded by Mrs. Mui to take a deep breath before beginning to speak, to speak loudly, and to enunciate their words, the students spoke clearly and knew their material. Their pictures on the board behind them as they performed was added evidence that they knew their L A history, particularly its water development.

Importantly for us, these future voters demonstrated an understanding of the continuing need of Los Angeles for a reliable supply of water. ❖



David J. Oliphant

Batting first for the Yang-nas . . .

Yang-Na village.

There was a speech by California Governor Felip de Neve, [c. 1781] a blessing and prayers from the mission fathers -- all watched by the Yang-Na Indians. Thus did *El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula* (The Town of Our Lady the Queen of the Angeles of Porciuncula) come into existence.

Los Angeles was founded on the banks of the Los Angeles River, and the public is largely unaware that the first residents of the city to access this water were members of a small tribe of peaceful Indians and not the 44 Mexican pobladores that were settled here by Spain, on Sept. 4, 1781, as is popularly advertised. The Indians were identified as the Yang-na by Father Juan Crespi, the diarist for the Gaspar de Portola Expedition of 1769 that discovered the tribe.

In another article in this newsletter [page 5], David Oliphant draws attention to an elementary school musical presentation he witnessed where the Yang-nas are mentioned in the context of the city's history, and the LADWP Public Affairs Division representatives attended the event.

The tribe is now extinct, but it was located in an area that today encompasses Elysian Park, the Los Angeles Police Academy, and Chavez Ravine where the Los Angeles Dodgers play baseball.

To use a metaphor, you could say the Indians lay hidden in the brush just outside the right field fence of Dodger stadium where they witnessed the pobladores make camp across the Los Angeles River, near present-day Olvera Street, and draw water from the river.

The Yang-na village was just across the Los Angeles River from the Mexicans' settlement, and the Yang-nas watched with great curiosity as the newcomers first made camp and carried water from the river for cooking and washing. Although the Yang-na tribe is now extinct, proof that it existed is in the diary kept for the Gaspar de Portola Expedition of 1769 by Father Juan Crespi. Crespi was one of two priests who became famous for assisting Spain in establishing a series of Roman Catholic missions, presidios and pueblos throughout the length of what was then called Alta (upper) California. The other priest was Father Junipero Serra.

On Aug. 2, 1769, members of the expedition became the first white men to view the site of the future Los Angeles, and Crespi described the occasion: "After traveling about a league and a half through the pass between low hills, we entered a very spacious valley, well grown with cottonwoods and alders, among which ran a beautiful river from north-northwest, and then, doubling the point of a steep hill [Elysian Park], it went on afterward to the south.

"This plain where the river runs is very extensive. It has good land for planting all kinds of grain and seeds, and is the most suitable site of all we have seen for a mission, for it has all the requisites for a large settlement....

"As soon as we arrived, about eight heathen from a good village [Yang-na] came to visit us; they live in this delightful place among the trees on the river.... They presented us with some baskets of pinole made from seeds of sage and other grasses. Their chief brought some strings of beads made of shells, and they threw us three handfuls of them. Some of the old men were smoking pipes well made of baked clay, and they puffed at us three mouthfuls of smoke. We gave them a little tobacco and some glass beads and they went away pleased."

Today, not much more is known about the peaceful Yang-nas, except that they spoke in a Shoshone Indian dialect, lived in huts made from the surrounding brush, and their diet included pinon nuts. It's not such a big leap from pinon nuts and the Yang-nas to peanuts and baseball.

Had O'Malley known of this connection, he surely would have jumped at the chance to rename his team and the stadium in honor of the first Los Angeles residents. Visualize his portly body shaking with laughter at the thought of pitting his Los Angeles Yang-nas against their former bitter New York borough rivals, **the Yankees, in a World Series in Yang-na Stadium.**

***Leon Furgatch**, a freelance writer, has lived in Los Angeles since 1937.*