

SEPTEMBER 2004



President's Corner

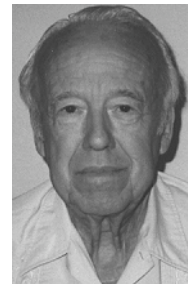
James F. Wickser

It took a long time, but in spite of much misinformation in the printed media, the LADWP Water System finally got an 11% rate increases effective June 20th.

The lesson learned from this process is that several members of the City Council will be listening more closely to the newly formed Neighborhood Councils.

From this lesson, Water & Power Associates has an opportunity to further our purposes for which this corporation was formed. For our members who live in the City of Los Angeles and within the boundary of a Neighborhood council, the Department could benefit by having a W&P Associate member attend a NC meeting when an issue affecting the Department is on their agenda. The Department staff will provide fact sheets for our use at these meetings. Please help the Department when you can.

In another matter, *Mr. Kenneth O. Cartwright*, who has done a tremendous amount of work for the Associates, including the monitoring and reporting on electric and power issues, has submitted his resignation from the Board of Directors.



We will greatly miss his presence and his contributions to the Water and Power Associates for so many years.

Thank you, Ken, and best wishes.



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M·E·M·B·E·R·S·H·I·P



Vince Foley,
*Membership
Chair*

Each year we invite our general membership to attend the February Board meetings; now we are inviting you to become a bit more involved: The creation of a DWP Museum and Learning Center is a major and exciting endeavor, proposed by your Board. We *know* that in your years at the Department you each acquired many *extraordinary* experiences/ documents / artifacts / photographs / memories and anecdotes. We ask you to **be among the first** to share them with others for this project.

Contact me at vinmar@altrionet.com or 626.445-7376;
or contact the Historic Committee chairman, Dave Oliphant at 818.363-

OUR · RECENT · ESTEEMED · GUESTS · & · SPEAKERS



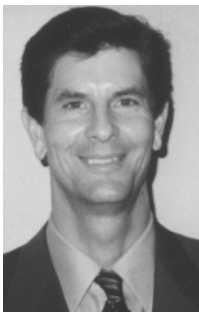
Dorothy Greene,
*Former L.A. DWP
Commissioner*



Thomas C. Hokinson,
*Assistant General Manager
Corporate Services
L.A. DWP*



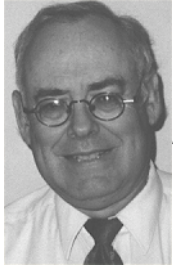
Raphael J. Sonenshein, Ph.D.,
*Political Science Professor
Cal State Fullerton.
Former Chairman
L.A. Appointed Charter Commission.*



David R. Pettijohn, P.E.,
*Manager Water Resources
Development & Policy
L.A. DWP*



Hynda Rudd,
*HLR Associates
Hynda L. Rudd Consulting Services.
Archives Records Management
Historical Research*



by Abraham Hoffman

HAZARDOUS METROPOLIS: *Flooding and Urban Ecology in Los Angeles*, by Jared Orsi. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004. 277 pp. Maps, Photographs, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Cloth, \$39.95. Order from University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720. (800) 822-6657; www.ucpress.edu.

Tragedy marred Christmas Day 2003 in San Bernardino, when mud slides followed the disastrous fires of late October and came down the mountains, killing more than a dozen people. The incident reminds us that southern California residents largely lack an institutional memory for the region where they live. Almost invariably and inevitably, rainstorms will follow major wildfires, and mud, rock, and flood will descend from hillsides denuded of vegetation into and onto homes and streets of foothill communities. It's a hard lesson, and newcomers to southern California who buy homes on the flood plains or in the hills always seem to learn it the hard way.

Writers such as Mike Davis in his book *Ecology of Fear* have commented on the blissful ignorance in which southern Californians live. Fire, flood, earthquakes, and drought are our "four seasons." Where Davis wrote a jeremiad, Jared Orsi provides a carefully crafted and well-researched history in *Hazardous Metropolis*. His focus is on the ecology of Los Angeles County, the connections between rainfall and flooding, and how county government tried to prevent flood damage as the region's population grew. Orsi deals mainly with the rainstorms of 1914, 1934, and 1938 and how they affected flood control efforts. There is much to ponder here on ecology, politics, and the important distinction between the authority of technical engineering expertise and the input of concerned citizens on how their environment would be shaped by concrete channels.

Initially the boosters of southern California saw the region as a paradise in its climate and opportunities. They viewed major storms as exceptional events that unfortunately did a great deal of damage and took human lives. Following on the 1914 storm, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors created a team of civil engineers to recommend flood control measures. One of the engineers was the flamboyant and controversial James W. Reagan, who headed the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for a dozen years. Reagan became embroiled in political arguments over whether to build numerous small check dams or major dams in the San Gabriel Mountains, and concrete channels to replace meandering river beds. Orsi provides the most comprehensive account I have read of the scandal involving the construction of what would have been the world's largest dam at the confluence of the forks of the San Gabriel River in the late 1920s. Reagan's career paralleled William Mulholland's in some interesting ways. Loved or hated, politically influential, both men were done in by dams -- Mulholland in the tragedy of the St. Francis Dam failure, Reagan by the farce of San Gabriel Dam.

Voters soon tired of the political squabbling and the failure of politicians and engineers to agree on a unified flood control plan, and they showed their dissatisfaction by turning down a series of bond issues. After the 1934 flood did its damage, the Army Corps of Engineers took on the problem, and for the next quarter century federal money poured into concrete channels, drainage basins, and other flood control projects. Orsi notes that the 1934 rainstorm was not all that severe and that damage to property was due to homes being built on the flood plains, a harsh lesson applicable today to

BOOK REVIEW

(continued from page 3)

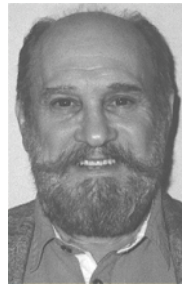
people who naively buy homes in fire-prone and flood plain areas. The reign of the technical experts was eventually challenged when estimates of “100-year” or “50-year” floods in construction projects were not proved inaccurate so much as the projects were found inadequate. In effect, “expert” construction failed to perform to the level of the estimates.

Since the 1970s and increasingly since the 1990s, people have campaigned to retake control of their environment. There have been small victories in redefining the Los Angeles River, the San Gabriel River, and Rio Hondo as something more than concrete outlets to the sea. Orsi ends his book on the cautiously hopeful note that the 21st century may pay more attention to “urban ecology” and that southern California may recapture a lost quality of our public space through building parks and scenic walkways by the channels. Most important, flood control planners need to think more creatively and to recognize there is a disorder in nature that technical expertise cannot control. Orsi argues, “Only by recognizing rivers as embedded in larger human and environmental landscapes and by incorporating many voices into the policy-making process will flood controllers be able to manage the variability of patterned disorder in the urban ecosystem.” (p. 183)

Along with Blake Gumprecht’s *The Los Angeles River* (1999), *Hazardous Metropolis* is an important book that should be required reading for anyone who has ever wondered why our rivers are corseted in concrete or why, after almost a century of effort, the technical experts and politicians have yet to get it right. ❁



W&PA • HISTORIC • COMMITTEE



David J. Oliphant, *Chairman,*
W&PA Historic Committee

The Committee is working closely with LADWP Public Affairs Graphic Manager, Anh-Thu Pham, to make the creation of a Water and Power Museum/Learning Center a reality. We recently secured space at the Crenshaw/Baldwin Hills Commercial building to collect artifacts and documents and to capture video & audio memories of retirees, current and former employees, and others with historic knowledge of their roles and contributions to the Department.

We encourage anyone with a document, a memory, an article or anecdote to contact either, Dave Oliphant at olinlpr@aol.com or Vince Foley at 626.445-7376, or Thu Pham at 213.367-1340; fax: 213.367-1434.

Don’t miss this opportunity to become a part of City history! ❁

WATER • EDUCATION • FOUNDATION



The information below and application on page 8 were provided by Ed ‘Jerry’ Gladbach.

For More Information:

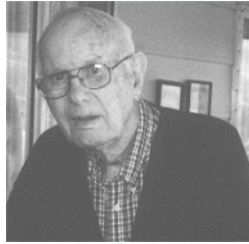
Contact: Jeanine Jones at California Department of Water Resources, 916. 651-0752, or jeanine@water.ca.gov or Tony Willardson at WSWC. 801-561-5300 twillards@wswc.state.ut.us for more information about the agenda.

Contact Jean Nordmann at the **Water Education Foundation** for information about hotel arrangements or registration. 916. 444-6240, jnordmann@watereducation.org.

(see page 8 for application)

INSTITUTIONAL MEMORIES

Historic Committee Interview of Jim Reinhard



(We have been receiving information and contributions of materials for a future DWP history and learning center. The Department is making space available to store, catalog and preserve this institutional history. We are also commencing interviews to save oral history.)

In June, Jim Reinhard, 92-year old retiree from the Department, presented us with a piece of the original copper cable from the first Boulder Transmission Line to be included in a future DWP history museum display. He also donated a number of old DWP directories, useful for knowing the Department divisions and personnel of earlier times. Dave Oliphant and Dorothy Fuller interviewed Jim in his Malibu home to learn more of his history with the Department.

Jim started with DWP in 1936 and retired in 1972. As a boy he picked fruit on San Fernando Road at 10 cents a box. Before working for the Department, he was employed as the first County life guard on Santa Monica beach. Employed in the Power System, Jim worked on stringing cable for the original Boulder Transmission line. There were seven camps in the construction. Jim worked at two of them - Silverlake Camp, 10 miles north of Baker and Cosy Hill, north of San Bernardino.

The cable was made in ten segments twisted lengthwise, with graphite between each segment to provide flexibility. Cable was strung 1500 feet between poles. The cable was rolled out from trucks as it was strung and from the Dam connection to its terminus in Los Angeles, it never touched the ground. The workers lived in tents while stringing the lines. Each tent would house seven or eight men. Sometimes as many as three or four from some crews could not take the heat and rough life and went back to the city.

When DWP acquired the Los Angeles Gas and Electric company electric facilities, the two systems had different cycle systems - L.A. 50 cycles and L.A.G. and E. 60 cycles. The DWP decided that 60 cycles was preferable and converted their system. Jim was in charge of, and responsible for, that conversion. They used a motor generator set that could convert the cycles to go either way. It was installed at Receiving Station 'C'. Going one way there would be 50 cycles generated and 60 cycles receiving. After it was finished, two machines were used as condensers at a generating plant.

In the 1930's, when DWP agreed to buy power from Boulder, they also agreed to use all the electricity generated. That would be 300 - 400 kW at a time when the Department peak use was only 150 kW. But, had they not bought that additional electricity, the aircraft industry in World War II would not have been able to operate the aluminum plant that made all the aluminum used in U.S. airplanes during the war. *So the DWP, by agreeing to buy that extra electricity, helped to win the war.*

Jim worked ten years as a field engineer at the testing laboratory. Electricians and their bosses belonged to a separate contract organization and all their engineering work had to be approved by DWP testing. For example, they bought high voltage switches for 34 Kv lines that had to be insulated. There were three phases coming in and three phases going out, i.e. six insulated units, each having a current transformer that passed current into a relay. Jim turned one down as incorrect and the boss of the company across the street disagreed with him. He insisted that they have a primary test conducted then and there and sure enough, Jim proved to be right. If there were construction changes in the field, the test lab would approve it where he was assigned.

Reinhard was appointed superintendent of the new *General Office Building* on Hope Street (now the *John Ferraro Building*) when it opened in 1965. They moved 1500 people out of seven buildings into the new building to house the staff. In 1956, he was President of the Water and Power Employees Association and for three years he was a member of the Board of the Water and Power Employees Retirement Plan. Jim's Retirement Memory Book contained letters from the Commissioners and the General Manager which show how highly esteemed he was by Department management.

Jim also taught electrical engineering at U.S.C.





By LeVal Lund

BURNING · WATER · ISSUES



Henry Martinez Appointed Acting DWP GM

Enrique “Henry” Martinez has been appointed the Acting DWP General Manager effective July 20. Martinez is assuming the duties of General Manager David Wiggs, who has been on extended medical leave of absence since last February.

Martinez started his career as an entry level engineer at Southern California Edison (SCE) after receiving his electrical engineering degree at California State University Fullerton. He rose through the ranks to become Manager of SCE Hydro Electric Generation. He left SCE in 1992 to become head of the Hydro Generation Organization and later head of the Fossil Generation Organization of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). He left TVA in 1998 to join the DWP as the Director of DWP Generation until he was appointed Assistant General Manager Power Services in April 2000. Martinez is a registered professional engineer in California.

Frank Salas, former Acting General Manager, following his resignation is returning to his former position as Chief Administrative Officer. ❖

LA City Bond Vote to Comply With Clean Water Act

The Los Angeles City Council voted on July 22 to place on the November ballot a \$500 million bond issue to help the City comply with a tough storm water discharge permit process and reduce total maximum daily loads (TMBL). The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board required this action in the discharge permit they issued in December 2001. The City appealed this decision to the State Water Quality Control Board and eventually sued with limited success. The bond issue is unique in the method to address storm water permit compliance. The initiative requires two-thirds voter approval on November 2. ❖

Feasibility Study to Expand IPP

DWP Power System is making a feasibility study to add a third unit of 900mw at the Inter Mountain Power Plant (IPP). As originally proposed, IPP was to consist of four 750mw units; however, only two have been constructed. The two existing units have been upgraded to 900mw. With the addition of this unit the total capacity will be approximately the amount originally proposed. There is adequate water supply and transmission capacity for the addition of this unit. The project is subject to the approval of the DWP Commission and City Council. ❖

MORE · BURNING · WATER · ISSUES

Mayor's Plan may Jeopardize City's Water Rights

Mayor James K. Hahn plan to create a governmental conservancy over the DWP lands in the Owens Valley and the Mono Basin may impact on the City's water rights and the operation of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Presumably the proposal is to protect the 320,000 acres of City owed lands from development and to allow public use of these lands for recreation. DWP has never permitted private development on its lands and permits the public to use its lands for hunting and fishing and other uses so long as it doesn't impact on water quality.

A number of years ago DWP cooperated with environmental and governmental groups in creating the Congressionally authorized Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, similar to a conservancy, to manage the Mono Basin, under the direction of the United States Forest Service (USFS). The legislation incorporated language to protect the City's water rights. The USFS and others developed a master plan for the Mono Basin. Briefly the plan required water for implementation and after litigation and regulation by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) As the result the City lost the right to divert four of the seven streams that flow into saline Mono Lake until it reached a certain designated level. This amounted to a loss of 70,000 acre feet of water, enough for 350,000 people, and the loss of the hydroelectric generation at the Owens Gorge and other Aqueduct Power Plants.

In July, the Mayor visited the Owens Valley for two days with his staff to talk with the people, environmentalists, elected officials in Inyo and Mono Counties, Paiute and Shoshone Indian leaders and ranchers. President Dominick W. Rubalcava of the DWP Commission participated in the tour and was a strong supporter of protecting City's water and hydroelectric generation rights. The visit revealed wide disagreement as to how to protect the unspoiled valley from development. The Mayor was quoted as saying many times this was a "listening tour" and that he had no preferred plan and that the process will take "as long as it takes".

Another layer of government is probably not the way, since the DWP has protected the Owens Valley and Mono Basin from from unwanted activities and development for the past 100 years.

As of this time, Mayor Hahn has made no additional public comments on his plan. ❖

AOB SOLD TO LAUSD

LADWP has conditionally sold the Anthony Office Building (AOB) and property in Sun Valley to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for \$37 million. DWP employees and their functions have been relocated to the John Ferraro Building (JFB) (formerly GOB) in Civic Center. The Water Quality Laboratory has been relocated to a temporary location in Pasadena pending the construction of a new laboratory within the City of Los Angeles. The AOB has had a problem with mold within the walls of the building, which has resulted in litigation. Following resolution of the litigation, the transfer of the property is expected in February 2005. The LAUSD is expected to demolish the building and construct a new senior high school on the site. ❖



