



# IWA PIPELINE



SUMMER 1992

1992 THE ISLAND WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

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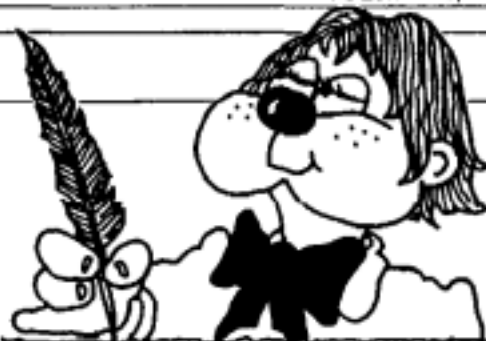
## Well, fine!

It seems that lately we've been spending more time on what we throw away than on what we keep.

Just when we thought our waste water met all the regulations what happens? The Department of Environmental Regulations changes the regulations...and levies a fine of \$2600 to boot!

So now in addition to removing the hydrogen sulfide we're adding oxygen to make our waste water even more palatable to the sea life in the gulf. Total cost: \$5000 for the building permit, \$160,000 for construction of a new facility for chlorinating the brine water and \$2600 for the fine.

All of this has awakened Ozzie's poetry muse so you'll have to put up with the following.



### Ozzie's Poetry Corner

For our neighbors we've gotten  
The smell of eggs rotten  
Out of our waste water line.

Now oxygen, too,  
is part of the stew  
to avoid a DER fine.

But what of the fishes,  
Just what are their wishes,  
Perhaps a dry white wine?

## Classified —

### Vacant Properties

#### Captiva Lot For Sale

100 ft. frontage on Captiva Dr., 200 ft. deep.  
Best offer over 325K. Write IWA, Box 509,  
Sanibel, FL 33957.

No, IWA's "Pipeline" is not starting a classified section. Ozzie thought it might be a good device to let folks know that the old Captiva pump station and storage tank, built in the mid-1960's, are gone. Our new tank, near the north end of Captiva, holds eight times as much water, and its pump is much more powerful.



But seriously, folks, the old location is beautiful without the tank and pump station, and it is available. It's at 16795 Captiva Drive, on the east side of the road (but does not go to Roosevelt Channel), one-half mile north of Blind Pass.

Sale of the property can be made contingent on buildability (variance is required) and any other reasonable conditions. Let us know if you're interested.

## President's Commentary

Thomas A. Sharp



Can you imagine working for the same wage scale over the last 14 years? IWA's situation is worse than that — we've had two cuts in pay since 1978!

We survived all these years by staying on top of the most efficient technology as it developed. We built the first computer controlled Reverse Osmosis (R.O.) Plant in 1980. A few years later we installed new high-tech R.O. membranes to take advantage of power savings. Always we've lived with the search for efficient operation.

But there are limits. We found within the last year or so that we could not balance our budget without either borrowing money or letting needed maintenance and improvements slide.

So we borrowed to balance our last budget. The practice of letting the so-called infrastructure decline is becoming familiar, but we do not consider it acceptable here.

Unlike the national government, we cannot live indefinitely on credit. To investigate our future needs we set up a Rate Review Committee made up of IWA water users. Its members started with the idea that IWA's assets were going to be protected by this rate structure, and they based their recommendations on this principle.

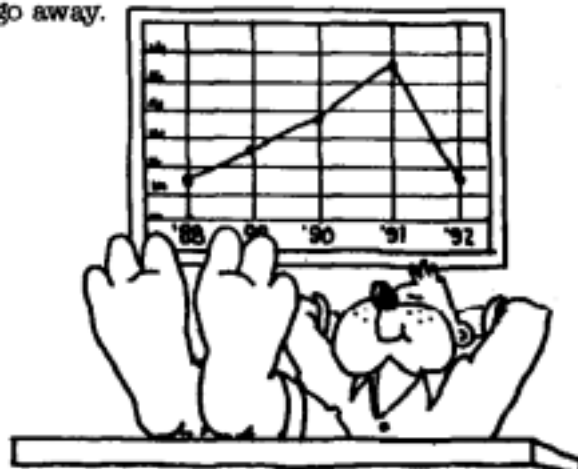
Now we want to bring the members of our Association into the process. To such end we have set up two workshop meetings to explore IWA's fiscal position. We invite all interested parties to attend. Both workshops will be held in the Sanibel Community Association auditorium at 2173 Periwinkle Way. The times are:

Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m.  
Monday, June 15 at 10 a.m.

## Easy does it

If all our winters were as easy as this last one we wouldn't be earning our money. The islands consumed water at the lowest levels we've seen since 1988 thanks, we assume, to a shaky economy, some damp weather and the conservation efforts of islanders.

We don't know which of the three factors contributed most but we do know which of the three factors we'd like to see go away.



## Annual meeting report

In case you missed it (almost everybody does) here's an update.

Robert Wigley is our newest member of the Board of Directors. He replaces Jim Hermes who has served the maximum 6 years. Bob and his wife, Jean, have lived on the island for seven years. He has had a long and distinguished career in the water distribution industry.

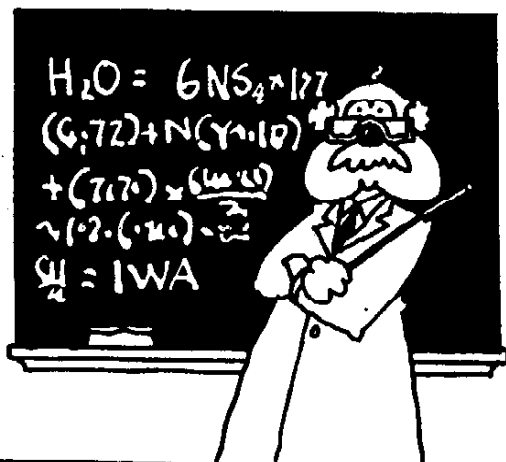
Jim Hermes was honored for his 6½ years as a board member and his service as IWA's treasurer with the presentation of a clock plaque.

The proposed new water rates were presented, and with the exception of a misunderstanding about how they affected rates for condominium owners, there was no objection. The new rates have also been presented to the Lee County Board of Commissioners for approval.

The new water rates reflect the new requirements by the Southwest Florida

Water Management District that water companies adopt rate schedules which encourage conservation.

Under the new rates the typical household which uses 5000 gallons or less will pay about 20% more than previously. Heavy users will pay more with a 100% increase for members using 55,000 gallons or more in a month.



## Variety Quiz

These three unrelated questions will test your general knowledge. (Check your answers on back page.)

- The energy which drives the registers in our water meters comes from:
  - Long-life Ni-Cad batteries.
  - A pressure drop within the water meter.
  - A clockwork mechanism wound by the meter reader.
- Two of these three communities are now building Reverse Osmosis plants like ours. Which one is not?
  - Pine Island
  - Marco Island
  - Fort Myers
- The Florida Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services routinely requires a system like IWA's to have a certain number of water samples tested for fecal bacteria each month. How many samples are taken and tested on Sanibel and Captiva?
 

A. 3	C. 17
B. 8	D. 24

## New money source

A while back we reported our plans to get low interest rates on capital programs financing by issuing tax exempt municipal bonds through the Lee County Regional Water Supply Authority.



Turns out that there's a better way, but it takes a little longer. Uncle Sam (IRS) allows each of the 50 states to designate worthy projects for tax exempt status. Securities called "Private Activity Bonds" can be issued to finance these projects. They're almost tax exempt and they bear an interest rate close to municipal bonds.

The one hitch is that we must wait for an annual state allocation at the beginning of 1993. But this season has been easy on us as far as water demand goes, and we think we can live with the slight delay.

## Getting a job from our uncle

The time is fast approaching when IWA must begin the water testing program mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The testing is scheduled to begin in July. The program's purpose is to identify possible lead or copper hazards in residential drinking water, particularly in homes built before the time in 1986 when lead free solder was first required in our area for joining copper pipes.

For purposes of the test IWA needed to find 60 cooperative homeowners whose houses were built between January 1, 1983 and July 1, 1986 to participate in the program. Production Supervisor Pete Wilson is the honcho for this program.

Pete identified the island homes built during this period and sent out 300 letters to owners asking their help.

So far the response has been good and Pete is sure we'll meet Uncle Sam's mandate.

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## Answers to Variety Quiz

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1. The energy which drives the registers in our meters is:  
B. Water pressure provides the sole motive power to drive the meter.
2. The community which is not building an R.O. plant like ours is:  
C. Fort Myers is building a "membrane softening" plant. The other two are in

various stages of building IWA-style R.O. plants.

3. How many fecal bacteria samples are taken and tested on Sanibel and Captiva?  
C. 17 samples, two samples from our wells and fifteen from our distribution system.



**Meet  
Mike Miller**

Wanna know where practically anything is? Ask Mike Miller. Mike knows where all the pipes are buried, he knows where all the parts are stored and on his best days he knows where his golf ball has ended up and where he can find a snook or two.

Mike Miller is IWA's Distribution Coordinator. He keeps IWA's warehouse stocked with parts, coordinates the location of IWA distribution lines with other utility companies working on the islands, deals with customers and suppliers and holds down first base on the IWA softball team.

Mike lives in San Carlos Park with his wife, Joy. When he has some time off from IWA, the softball league, the golf course or the fishing spots you'll find him working around the yard.

He says he likes IWA because of the people he gets to work with. A lot of people at IWA like to work with Mike Miller. He's known as the guy who likes to help out whenever he can.

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