



# IWA PIPELINE



SUMMER 1993

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## It can't happen here?

Since the outbreak of "waterworks flu" hit Milwaukee in early April we've been asked "can it happen here?"

We're happy to say that the answer is about as close to "NO" as you can get. Here are some of the reasons it couldn't happen here.

- Milwaukee's epidemic was caused by a tiny parasite called cryptosporidium. It was apparently introduced into Lake Michigan possibly in a run-off from a farm or slaughterhouse. The parasite remains dormant in water so it had to wait until it found its way into the intake pipes for Milwaukee's water works and thence into human beings where it created all kinds of digestive misery. In contrast, IWA's water is drawn from aquifers hundreds of feet below the surface — very protected compared to an open lake.
- All of IWA's water passes through filters with openings much smaller than the Milwaukee culprit. (We can do this here because our well water is so very clean to begin with.) Scientists say that while cryptosporidium is not readily killed by chlorine treatment it is removed by such filtration.
- Further, more than 90% of our water passes through reverse osmosis membranes. Showing a parasite through these membranes would be much harder than passing a camel through a needle's eye.

Of course, there are other varmints in the bushes other than cryptosporidium. That's why IWA's water undergoes 17 tests per month on the feed water and at various points in the distribution system. These tests, conducted by our county's Public Health Unit, have always shown IWA water to be well within the safety zone.

Should a test ever indicate a problem, public advisories would be published in the local news media.

So drink up folks and enjoy the islands' most precious commodity — safe, sweet drinking water.



## Not so simple pressures

IWA has a new and better way to monitor water pressure.

Ho hum, you say? Well, we think it's pretty slick.

We used to measure the pressure in our system only at the plant. And, since the plant was a long way from some of the folks at the end of the line, we kept that pressure high so those folks could have a little sting in their shower.

The problem was that we had to keep the pressure high all the time, even when everybody wasn't taking showers or washing dishes.

Now comes the good part in the form of a new microprocessor that can tell exactly what the pressure is at the farthest ends of our lines and regulate our pumps so that we can lower the average pressure at the plant and save about \$14,000 a year in the bargain.

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## Derleth and Gardner join IWA's board

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At the annual meeting in April Mr. Lee Derleth and Mr. Timothy Gardner were elected to serve on the IWA Board of Directors. Let us introduce you:

Mr. Derleth was appointed in February to fill the unexpired term of Board Secretary Abbot Byfield. Mr. Derleth is a Managing Partner in Business Development Services on Sanibel, a market research company specializing in water and wastewater pollution control technologies. He is also Treasurer of the Sanibel Flower Company.

A native of Rochester, New York, Mr. Derleth received an MBA in 1956 from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He also received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Brown University in 1951. Before moving to Sanibel in 1983, Mr. Derleth held executive positions in Zurn Industries, Sybron Corporation, Permutit Company and the Henry Balfour & Company.

Mr. Derleth is also President and Treasurer of the Shorewood Condominium Association and a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Condominium Associations of Sanibel Island (CAST). He also holds business memberships in several water and wastewater associations such as the American Water Works Association and Wastewater Environment Federation.

Mr. Gardner was born and raised in Glendale, Ohio and received degrees in Agriculture and Chemistry from the University of Kentucky. He served in the U.S. Army Veterinary Medical Corps at Boston Army Base and went to work for 20 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. as a Manager of Agricultural Pesticides (he was the Product Manager who took DDT and many other hard pesticides off the market in the 1970's and 1980's)!

Mr. Gardner and his wife, Carol, moved to Sanibel in 1988. He is very active in Island organizations and has a love of nature and wildlife and a great concern for the environment. He is an active member and volunteer for the SCCF who walks the beaches and drives the SCCF Jeep to monitor Loggerhead Sea Turtle nests from May through September; and is on the SCCF Research Committee doing Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Small Mammal Survey Studies. He has also not missed a

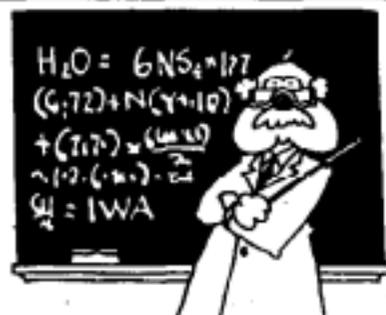
beach or Island "clean-up day" since moving here. Mr. Gardner is a volunteer for the International Osprey Foundation and monitors eighteen osprey nests at the Blind Pass end of the Island and is a VERT (Volunteer Emergency Rescue and Transport) at CROW. He served on the Water Rate Board at the Island Water Association and is also on the Wildlife Committee for the City of Sanibel. He is a Board Member of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and a volunteer at Ding Darling, and is a longtime member of COTI. In addition, he has worked diligently to save Silver Key and Clam Bayou from development.

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## New Licencees

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Plant Operators Jon Gasaway and Robbie Smith have both received their "B" water treatment plant certification licenses.



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## More questions from the professor

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1-According to the AWWA, the average adult uses how much water per month in the home?

- A. 2,000 gallons      C. 4,000 gallons  
B. 3,000 gallons      D. 5,000 gallons

2-What were the first water pipes in the United States made from?

- A. Bored logs      C. Steel  
B. Cement

3-If both the 5 million gallon tanks at IWA's R.O. Plant were full of water, how many pounds of water would there be in the tanks?

- A. Over 10 million pounds  
B. Over 41 million pounds  
C. Over 83 million pounds  
D. None of the above

(See answers on back page)

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## Meet Shelly Storves

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Shelly A. Storves is a very busy person. She has worked for IWA for over three years, minus the nine-month leave she's just returned from. Last month she graduated from Widener University in Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science Degree in engineering. Prior to continuing her education, Shelly had held the title of "Engineering Aide" at IWA for two years. She's now serving as Staff Engineer and is taking a very active part in all IWA's technical projects.

Before she joined IWA, Shelly worked for E.I. DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware, for nine years dealing with process design of textile fibers such as Kevlar, Nomex and Tyvek. Her last assignment at DuPont was the design of radioactive waste cleanup for the U.S. Government at their Savannah River Plant.

Then she decided to get her 100-ton Master Ocean Operator's license so she could operate a 72' charter sailing vessel in the British Virgin Islands. She logged over 10,000 miles offshore sailing between Maine and Barbados.

What next? After working at IWA for two years she decided to go back to Widener and finish her degree with a scholarship from the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation.

And now she's looking forward to resettling on Sanibel, where, she says, she likes the idea of working for a small company in a community that she feels a part of.

Settling down but not slowing down. In her spare time Shelly enjoys scuba diving, painting, reading, gourmet cooking, poetry, gardening, catching (and releasing) big snook and, if things get really slow, she has her General Contractor's license.

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## The DER made me do it

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IWA has added a regulatory compliance fund to its long range budget. The fund came about as a result of IWA's experience over the past few years and some research into possible regulatory demands in the future.

In 1991 IWA spent over \$160,000 to meet new requirements of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation for our brine discharge; in '92 and '93 we spent nearly \$20,000 to modify our plant septic system to meet new City of Sanibel requirements; and we expect to spend another \$80,000 this year to modify our bulk storage of chemicals to meet safety requirements.

Looking to the future the total amount of moneys needed to accommodate new regulations may well amount to 4 to 5 million dollars with a worst case scenario setting the figure at \$12 million plus.

As an example, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has proposed new regulations limiting radon levels in potable water. If passed, the cost to IWA would be over \$1 million.

IWA may also have to change the way it disposes of the wastewater which carries away the salt removed from our drinking water. If regulations remain as written, IWA might have to install a deep well disposal system. The estimated cost is \$6 to \$8 million.

Several other similar rules are either proposed or newly interpreted by the government officials charged with such matters. And there are certain to be more. Pleasant dreams.



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## RIP

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It's official. The E.D. plant is no more. IWA has begun salvage operations on the equipment and will no longer consider the use of electro dialysis. E.D. is dead. Long live R.O.

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## Answers to quiz

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1-The correct answer is B, 3,000 gallons per month, approximately 100 gallons per day.

2-The correct answer is A, hollowed out wooden logs.

3-The correct answer is C, 83,400,000 pounds. One gallon of water weighs approximately 8.34 pounds.

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## We did it again!

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Passed our lead test that is. This was the second of these tests mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency. We passed again with flying colors, thanks in part to our new sulfide conversion process.

Not all water systems were so lucky. Nationwide, 819 systems failed the test, with some results over 30 times the allowable lead level.

EPA's testing program requires all water suppliers to keep an eye on lead levels in the future, so we will be back again to see many of you, with our little plastic bottles in hand.



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## We're proud (but humble)

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IWA, in conjunction with the SCCF's Native Plant Nursery, has received an Award of Excellence in the Florida Department of Natural Resources "Take Pride In Florida" celebration. The citation reads as follows:

"The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's Native Plant Nursery and Island Water Association, the local water company, teamed up to educate residents about water conservation and restoration of wildlife habitat on public and private lands adjacent to the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Island Water Association supplied staff with lists of high water users and new taps; a vehicle and financial support. The Native Plant Nursery's primary purpose is to educate the public about the values of landscaping using native vegetation, or xeriscaping. The partnership provides a better opportunity for the wildlife and humans of Sanibel and Captiva to peacefully coexist."

The award was accepted by Ruth Deuber, President of SCCF, and Warren Deuber, President of IWA, at the three day event held in Fort Lauderdale last month.

SCCF also won a second award in conjunction with Visitors TV. Kristic Seaman, Education Director for SCCF was responsible for submitting applications for the awards.

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