



# IWA PIPELINE



WINTER 1994

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## PROJECT UPDATE



Progress on our capital improvement program continues on several fronts.

Pipe laying jobs on Causeway Road, Albatross Road and along San-Cap Road between Gulf Pines and Gulf Ridge are now nearly complete. All that remains is some restoration work and final connection of services.

In a cooperative, cost sharing effort with the Greater Pine Island Water Association, the interconnect pipeline between the two utilities was successfully repaired in mid-October. This line, which was the only source of water to our Islands until 1973, has been out-of-service for several years and had a large leak. After Hurricane Andrew a couple of years ago, all utilities, including IWA, began to look for back-up water supplies in the event of another similar disaster. Earlier this year, we located the leak and began permitting activities to repair the line. We are now proceeding to the next step of

installing the necessary facilities on both ends to make the line useable once again.

Construction of our new office/repair complex at the RO Plant site continues at a good pace. The walls are up, roofing is being installed, and we're working on interior items like wiring and air conditioning. There's still a lot to be done, like drywall, stucco and painting, but we're on schedule to complete the facilities by our Annual Meeting in April. We're thinking about throwing a combined building dedication/30th Anniversary/Annual Meeting bash, with all the free water you can drink for attendees. We'll keep you informed as details unfold.

## DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

On October 4, IWA Board President, Warren Deuber, appeared before Sanibel City Council to request that the City withdraw from the Lee County Regional Water Supply Authority. As stated in previous issues of this newsletter, IWA believes that our members will not receive any real benefits from the additional fees/taxes that are proposed to support this Authority.

City Council considered our views in depth, but in the end did not agree with us and chose to remain in the Authority. However, they did request that IWA nominate someone to serve as a member of the Authority, as one of the City's two representatives. The IWA Board nominated Warren Deuber, who was subsequently approved by City Council. Warren will be keeping us informed about the ongoing activities of the Authority and we'll let you know via future newsletters.

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## IT'S ELECTION TIME

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Bet you thought you'd heard the last of elections for a while. But we're not talking about political elections here ... rather elections to the IWA Board of Directors. This year, two of our long-time Board members, Warren Deuber and Ernie Hoen, will be leaving the Board, having served the maximum time allowed by our Bylaws. So we're looking for interested island residents to replace Warren and Ernie on the Board.

Candidates must be year-round residents of either Sanibel or Captiva. They must be IWA members. Directors are uncompensated and serve for two year terms (three terms maximum). They are elected by the membership at the annual meeting in April. The Board meets once per month, on Tuesday morning.

If you are interested in serving as a Director on our Board, please send a resume to P.O. Box 509, Sanibel, FL, 33957. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Cindy Whaley at 472-1502.



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## MEET RUSTY ISLER

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Rusty Isler is IWA's Information Services Supervisor and is a Certified Purchasing Manager. He has a degree in Business Administration from Louisiana State University and joined IWA in 1980. Rusty wears several hats for us -- he keeps all our computer systems working smoothly and bails us out when a problem develops. He also is in charge of all purchasing and accounting functions, making sure we get the best possible prices on what we buy and keeping our books straight.

Rusty feels like he has salt water in his blood and has worked around the sea all his life. He has had an Ocean Operator's license for almost 20 years and has worked on commercial fishing boats, head boats, dive boats and oil rigs.

Rusty and his wife Donna, who is a letter carrier for the USPS, have two children, Sherry, 12 and Stacey, 6. They live on Fort Myers Beach, where Rusty enjoys his varied hobbies of diving, welding and traveling (he claims to have thousands of miles on his thumb from hitchhiking throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe back in his younger days).

We think Rusty borders on being a "computer nerd." He even has a computer network at home (with Sherry and Donna). But we're not complaining, because we make good use of all that free (to us) experience at IWA!

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## FREE!!

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No, not free water ... free mailing labels. Enclosed is a fresh supply of self-addressed mailing labels to ease the pain of paying your water bills next year. Many of our members have told us how convenient it is to use these labels, and the post office even says they help speed delivery of your payments to us.

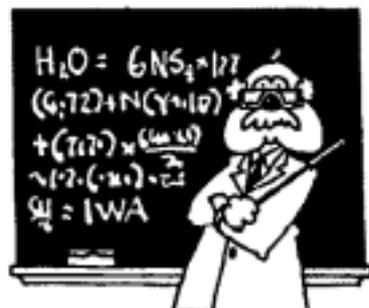
Did you know that there is an even easier way to pay your water bills? IWA offers an Automatic Bill Payment option. It's easy! You have at least two weeks to review your bill and report any problems to us. Then, on the "due date," the bank automatically deducts the amount from your bank account. You save checks, envelopes, stamps and a trip to the post office!

Stop by the office and pick up an application or just give us a call, and we'll mail you one. About 10% of our members are already taking advantage of this option.

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## QUIZ

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1. About how much average profit does IWA make each year?

A. \$0.00 B. \$100,000. C. \$1,000,000.

2. When a water meter fails, it always reads how?

A. High B. Low C. Either High or Low

3. IWA replaces water meters every how many years?

A. 5 B. 7 C. 10 D. Only when they fail.

4. What diameter are most of IWA's water wells?

A. 4" B. 10" C. 24" D. 36"

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## MAY WE HELP YOU?

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Have you recently received a high water bill? Do you need help tracking down the source of the problem?

Project Water Works, IWA's water conservation program, is just a telephone call away. By setting up an appointment for a free on-site visit, Dee Serage can help you figure out if your irrigation system is the problem.

Did someone increase in the number of times your system irrigates per week when you weren't looking? Or maybe you have a broken irrigation head or underground leak. Dee will turn on your system and monitor your water usage rate. Once the source of the problem is pinpointed, she will recommend ways to help you reduce future irrigation usage and avoid future shocking bills. Dee also has great insights into the proper ways to mow, mulch, fertilize and irrigate.

The new Sanibel Library recently found itself in just such a situation. By talking with everyone involved, Dee determined that there had been a malfunction in the valves of the new drip irrigation system. A broken sprinkler head also added to the problem. The irrigation schedule was reduced to one time per week, and now someone monitors the irrigation meter weekly to catch future problems before the bill arrives!

If you'd like our help with your high water bill, call Dee at Project Water Works at 472-1932.

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## IN YEARS PAST ...

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### 28 Years Ago (1966)

IWA's new water system was dedicated on December 15. The Mosquito Control District loaned their truck as a platform for the visiting dignitaries, Director E. G. Konrad mowed the grass, chairs and tables were borrowed from the American Legion, and the wives of the Directors served refreshments .... a real community "happening."

### 26 Years Ago (1968)

The Board of Directors approved the hiring of Preston Woodring as IWA's second employee, at the princely salary of \$400 per month. Mr. Woodring, known to everyone as Woody, served in various positions at IWA over the next 22 years, up to his retirement in 1990. Woody passed away at his home in Fort Myers on October 15, 1994. He will be missed by his many friends at IWA.

### 18 Years Ago (1976)

The IWA Christmas tree was decorated with "odds and ends" from the water plant. Decorations included pipe clamps and pressure gauges.

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## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

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1. A. \$0.00 IWA is a non-profit, member-owned corporation.
2. B. When a meter fails, it can only read low. Therefore, meter failures can not result in overbilling.
3. B. IWA replaces and/or rebuilds all water meters about every seven years.
4. C. Our newer wells are 10" diameter and around 750' deep.

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## DON'T FENCE ME IN

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Have you seen our fences? ... our well fences that is. We're nearing the end of our project to rehabilitate six old wells to feed the R.O. Plant. These wells are located along the bike path between our offices and Tarpon Bay Road.

In order to avoid anyone getting hurt on our equipment and to avoid potential vandalism, these wells must be fenced. We fenced the first one with a "designer green" chain link fence, surrounded by native plants from SCCF ... doing our best to make the wells as pleasant-looking as possible.

However, the best laid plans ... you know how that goes. Anyway, a number of people felt our efforts left something to be desired. Therefore, we tried a new, wooden model. Everyone seemed to agree that we had come closer to "The Look" with this version. We've now replaced the first model and duplicated the second for all other wells. Who says we don't listen?!!

