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Historian Lauds WRCA's Resources
by Cindy Baker

As an historian with a cultural resources firm, I travel throughout California visiting repositories in search of historical information. Among my favorites is the Water Resources Center Archives. The library's collection of manuscripts, correspondence, maps, and photographs, often yields bits of information vital to writing a complete historical context.

Since I often concentrate on locating subsurface archaeological deposits, one of my objectives is to identify where artifactual material may exist. Old project engineering maps or photographs may depict buildings or other features unrelated to that specific project, yet significant in locating cultural resources. While working on the predictive archaeological model for the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard base closure, I viewed aerial photographs at WRCA that looked at the Point's tide movements. I carefully examined these photographs trying to find evidence of early Chinese shrimp fishing camps near the naval base as well as plotting changes to the shoreline as a result of cutting and filling.

From Gold Rush towns to exclusive gun clubs, WRCA's materials have helped me reconstruct the past. While writing the history of the Bolsa Chica Gun Club near Huntington Beach, I found maps, photographs, and a detailed report written by the civil engineer who examined their automatic floodgates. These materials from the early 1900s provided invaluable information in recreating historic land use and changes, locating potential archaeological features, and evaluating site integrity.

The Water Resources Center Archives' collection is expertly managed and readily available. The staff is thoroughly professional, yet friendly and helpful, something uncommon in many similar institutions. This

combination of a strong collection and capable staff makes research at WRCA one of the enjoyable aspects of my work.

Cindy Baker is an historian with PAR Environmental Services in Sacramento, California.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Oral History Published

On Friday, February 20, 1998 the Bancroft Regional History Office and the Water Resources Center Archives held a reception in honor of **Robert L. Wiegel**, Professor Emeritus on the occasion of the presentation of his oral history. The Bancroft Regional Oral History Office gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi for making this project possible. A copy of Professor Wiegel's oral history, *Coastal Engineering: Research, Consulting, and Teaching, 1946-1997*, is available for review at the Archives. To purchase a copy, please call the Regional Oral History Office at (510) 642-7395.



Left to right: Anne and Prof. Robert L. Wiegel, with their daughters, Carol and Diana.

Changes at the Archives

The Water Resources Center Archives (WRCA) staff have many changes in the works for 1998!

We have renamed the newsletter *WRCA News* and changed the layout. The newsletter will include some new features: a column highlighting donors or board members, book reviews, articles about our collections and current areas of research. We are interested in your comments, suggestions or ideas about these changes as we look for ways to expand the collection and improve our services. *WRCA News*, published three times a year, will be sent free of charge in print or email versions to those

(www.lib.berkeley.edu/WRCA/).

We are planning some minor remodeling to make room for a more prominent Information Desk. A more centrally located desk will improve services to faculty, students, and other users. We are also planning to install a Book Drop outside O'Brien Hall making it easier for our patrons to return books after hours and on weekends. Along with these physical improvements we will be upgrading some of our computer equipment to provide improved access to Internet resources and electronic databases. Visit the library and look for these exciting changes.

Beginning in January 1998 WRCA initiated changes in its Circulation Policies for all non-UC users. Prior to January, our policies were extremely liberal, allowing UC and non-UC patrons the same borrowing privileges: an unlimited number of items could be checked out for the semester, with up to five telephone renewals. The amount of material circulating to non-UC borrowers has risen dramatically, limiting items that are available to UC students and faculty. Some items lent to non-UC patrons were never returned resulting in replacement costs for the Archives, other items cannot be replaced resulting in a loss to the collection. In order to preserve the collection and provide improved services to our UC patrons and donors, WRCA has initiated the following new policies:

Graduates, Faculty, Staff, Donors

- Unlimited borrowing from circulating collection
- Circulation period - one semester
- Up to five telephone renewals

Undergraduates, *non UC students, *non UC patrons

- Limited to three items at one time
- Circulation period - two weeks, must renew in person
- *Circulation period - one month, must renew in person

Other Circulation Policies

- Journals and Newsletters circulate for one week and may not be renewed.
- Maps and videos circulate on a case-by-case basis.
- Locked Cage material does not circulate.
- Items may be recalled prior to the due date.
- Items at NRLF must be recalled, please allow two working days.

WRCA has also initiated some fee-based business services for all patrons.

The following services can save you time. If you have a book you would like to borrow or an article you would like copied, please contact us by phone, fax or email and we can send the document to you. There is an additional charge for rush service.

- Book loan (\$25.00)
- Photocopies up to 39 pages (\$14.00)
- \$.10 each additional page
- Faxed orders up to 15 pages (\$1.00 per page)
- Parking pass & \$5.00 value copy card (\$20.00)
- Dialog search (cost plus \$40.00 per hour)

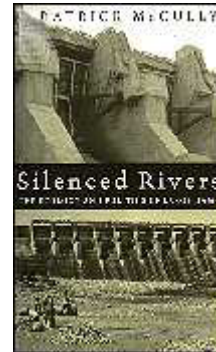
Please contact Linda Vida (510-642-2666), if you have questions about these new policies and services.

BOOK REVIEW

By Kimra D. McAfee

Silenced Rivers: The Ecology and Politics of Large Dams. By Patrick McCully. Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Zed Books, 1996. 350 pp.

With construction underway on the most powerful hydrodam in the world, Patrick McCully's *Silenced Rivers* is especially timely. The 18,200 megawatt Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China is one of the large dams discussed in this comprehensive work on the impacts of large dams. McCully draws upon specific examples from around the world as he evaluates the environmental and human effects of large dams, and the political forces behind them. McCully's writing is clear and straightforward, whether describing hydrologic processes, the repercussions of resettlement, or the politics of dam-building. He brings together the research of industry officials and dam opponents, along with statements from politicians and people directly affected by large dams. He examines land and water management practices, forms of social organization, and technologies that can provide for human needs and promote healthy rivers. Although McCully is an activist against the building of large dams--he campaigned against Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River in India--he attempts to present all sides of the complicated issues. Yet, the book may not be palatable to dam advocates, given his attention to the ecological and human impacts of large dam-building, the underlying questions of technical safety, and



the "regularly exaggerated" benefits.

Since 1994, McCully has served as Campaigns Director at the International Rivers Network (IRN) in Berkeley, and was previously co-editor of *The Ecologist*. He provides valuable perspectives on the international dam-building industry and the politics and financing of large dams in developing nations, as well as the rising international anti-dam movement.

Silenced Rivers provides readers with knowledge, tools, and inspiration to continue the fight against large dams. The combination of general explanation, specific examples, and startling statistics makes it a compelling read from start to finish. The glossary at the beginning of the work makes it more accessible to those with little background in water resources.

To obtain a copy of *Silenced Rivers* contact [International Rivers Network](http://www.irn.org) <www.irn.org>, 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703, (510) 848-1155 or borrow it from the Water Resources Center Archives at UC Berkeley.

Kimra D. McAfee, Graduate Student, SFSU, Dept of Geography and Human Environmental Studies, is working on her Masters thesis, a post-project review of New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Joseph W. Johnson, 1908-

Professor Emeritus
B.S., M.S. Civil Engineering, 1934
University of California, Berkeley

When describing Professor Joe Johnson and his work, the sobriquets "legend" and "pioneer" are not hyperbole. Johnson's distinguished career as a teacher, researcher and consultant spans nearly fifty years, many of which are punctuated by firsts. Professor Johnson, co-founder of the Water Resources Center Archives, served as its first supervisor and hired its first Archivist, Jerry Giefer.

Morrrough P. O'Brien spearheaded the effort to create an archives on the Berkeley campus. He appointed Joe Johnson faculty project supervisor. "Without him, (the Archives) would not have happened," said Jerry Giefer. "Johnson's deep love of California history and archival materials and his knowledge of university politics was vital to the creation of this library." Giefer, recalling his early days at the Archives, credits Johnson

for helping him hang in there.

Johnson, an affable man who, according to Barney Vallerger, a former colleague and civil engineer, "always had a smile on his face," easily persuaded retired engineers and professors to donate their papers to the Archives. The Etcheverry papers, WRCA's first collection, was obtained through Johnson's efforts. "I was always on the lookout for collections. I would personally approach them (potential donors) and they would say 'yes'."

In a recent telephone interview, Professor Johnson stated that his greatest contribution to the Archives was that, "I was instrumental in seeing to it that the Archives always had a roof over its head and room to expand." The collection was originally warehoused in one room of Hesse Hall. "When the collection began busting at the seams," continued Johnson, "I asked the administration for space in the old Mechanic's Building." As the Archives grew, Professor Johnson again asked for additional space, this time in North Gate Hall. "Sometime later I learned that engineering was moving out of O'Brien Hall and I immediately went to Morrrough O'Brien and asked him to secure the space for the Archives."

Professor Johnson keeps in touch with what's happening at the Archives through the newsletter and correspondence with Professor Robert Wiegel and Linda Vida, librarian. After reading an issue of the newsletter which featured a book about arch dams, Johnson sent a report on the arch dams of Twain Harte and Tuolumne to Linda for the Archives' collection. Last year he wrote a congratulatory note when the Mono Lake Committee donated its papers to WRCA. Now retired and living in British Columbia, Professor Johnson promotes the Archives whenever the opportunity presents itself. "If anyone has anything I think the Archives should have, I encourage them to send it to Linda.



*Left to right: Rita Schmidt Sudman, Director of the Water Education Foundation, Frances Spivy-Weber, Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee, and Linda Vida, Librarian at the Water Resources Center Archives enjoy a relaxed moment at the premiere of the documentary, *The Battle for Mono Lake*. The event raised a total of \$7,000 for WRCA and the Mono Lake Committee. Rita moderated a panel discussion which followed the film.*

FREE PUBLICATIONS

The following duplicates were received at the Archives and are available free by sending e-mail to Kathy Dieden, or calling (510) 642-2666.

Free publications no longer available.