

In This Edition

Your Alumni Association has a new President. The person who started writing about retirees. See what happens when you do a good job. Back in my Meter Reading days, I remember the old saying, “no good deed goes unpunished.” In this issue, she writes about Walter and Judy Scott. They were also published in our newly expanded (but black and white) hard copy [Retiree Times](#) and, as always, on our [website](#). For now you can just read below (and see the color picture).

By the way, if you are reading about Walter and Judy for the first time and didn't receive your copy of the *Retiree Times*, it's possible Sempra doesn't have your snail-mail address. The *Retiree Times* is mailed to every one of our 2,400 retirees who has kept their e-mail address updated with the [Retiree Service Center](#).

This edition, like all the others, will also be posted on our website – www.sdgealumniassoc.org. We are always interested in your ideas about the Alumni Association, so [let us have it](#). Please read on.

On a sad note, in our last edition, we shared a picture and a story of Martha Clark at our Christmas Party celebrating her 100th birthday with us. About a week later, Martha passed away on December 19, 2013. It's almost as if she held on just long enough to see us all one last time.

Speaking of the deceased, our [SDG&E Alumni Association Facebook page](#) isn't always about deceased. So please contribute your comments to it. You can do it!



Martha Clark on her 100th birthday at the Holiday Luncheon

Speaking of contributing, you have more opportunities in a series of articles we are publishing about our new and old headquarters buildings. Read below and share your stories, too. And then, there were the wildfires. Where were you?

And finally we'll end on an exciting report on visitors to our website. I guarantee it will be nearly as exciting as John Adamik's budget presentations to management.



Alumni Interviews

If you have ideas for people we should interview or would like to see us ask other questions, please email Sammantha McDonald (SM) at samm@samm-mcdonald.com or President@sdgealumniassoc.org.

2001/2000 and 2007 Alumni Walter Scott (WS) and Judy Scott (JS)

Editor's note: The entire interview is presented here. The full interviews are always published and archived on our website [Retiree Times page](#). We had to cut short the interview in the last *Retiree Times*, even with our new 4-page format, because there just wasn't room.

Walter joined SDG&E in 1969 and worked primarily in the Customer Service Division with brief assignments in Public Affairs and Governmental Relations. He retired in 2001 with 31 years of service. Judy began her career with SDG&E in 1974, working also in the Customer Service Division, retiring also in 2000 with 26 years of service as an Account Executive for residential and commercial services. Judy returned to the company in 2004 and retired again in 2007. Walter and Judy were married in 1980. Their daughters, Penney Newell and Delinda Persons are employees of SDG&E.

(SM): What have you done since you retired?

(WS): I have served on the Board of Directors for Family Health Centers of San Diego for the last 26 years. Judy and I love to travel in our motorhome and we have been to nearly every state in the U.S. and have crossed Canada.

(JS): When not traveling, I volunteer at my church, Calvary Chapel. I like to work in the yard and have been attempting to learn to use tools for woodworking.

(SM): Tell us about the time you spend with each other, your kids and grandkids

(JS): We spend most of our time together. We love to be with our 3 daughters and their families, but now they are the ones who are busy all the time. We have 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandkids

(SM): What do you consider to be the best thing about being retired?

(WS): Traveling, not being in rush hour traffic and shopping at times others than the weekends.

(JS): The best thing is doing what I want, when I want to do it. I love being able to sip tea and watch the Today Show until I feel like getting out of bed. It's also great to hop in the RV and take off any time we want to.

(SM): What's your Retirement Philosophy?

(JS): I never thought about a retirement philosophy, but I'd say retirement isn't stopping work, it's changing the work you do. Having time to do the "my important things" in life is a blessing.

(SM): What is your fondest memory about working at SDG&E?

(WS): Working with employees in all areas of the company.

(JS): My fondest memory about working at SDGE has to be the people; including both employees and the customers I worked with. The relationships became very strong over time. Whether it was solving a customer's problem, communicating a difficult company communication, or working on the Employees Who Care annual fundraising event, it always came down to the great people who surrounded me. I would not trade anything for the memories I cherish from my years at SDGE.

(SM): What do you do now that you couldn't do when you were working?

(WS): Travel for extended periods.

(JS): Travel--when we want, for as long as we want, as far away from San Diego as we want to travel. We have seen so many fabulous places and met great people along the way. Also, get up when I want to--no alarm clocks!

(SM): Is it true that it is harder to get on your schedule now that you've retired?

(WS): No, I find that setting schedules works best.

(JS): I don't know about a schedule, but I will say I am busier now than I ever have been. The difference is, I create the busy schedule and can stop when I need to. I often wonder how I ever had time to work, but I finally realized I just didn't have the time to do what I do now when I was still working.





Walter and Judy on the Wharf in Seattle Washington

Associate Alumnus Dave Guebert (DG)

Although not retired from SD&E as yet, Dave Guebert provides an interesting story with his service in the military along with his career with SDG&E. If you have ideas for people we should interview or would like to see us ask other questions, please email Sammantha McDonald at samm@samm-mcdonald.com.

David Guebert was raised in the St. Louis area. He attended college at the University of Nebraska and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in engineering. Following college, he joined the US Navy and flew various carrier based combat aircraft during the Vietnam War. After his discharge from the Navy, Dave went to work for General Dynamics Convair in the engineering department and then moved over to Cubic Corp. as a design engineer on airborne training systems. Dave was hired by SDG&E in June 1978 as a mechanical engineer in the Management Services department. During his years at SDG&E, he has worked in Customer Programs, Distribution Engineering, Facilities, Land Management, and Customer Services. He is currently the manager of Federal Accounts for SDG&E.

Dave also worked for Sempra Energy Solutions for two years implementing energy efficiency projects on military bases throughout the United States.

(SM) Besides working at SDG&E, what else do you do?

(DG) I devoted over 20+ years of weekend time to the Naval Reserves and retired as a Captain. I am the Chair of the San Diego Armed Services YMCA and also the Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee for the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). I am also a Fire Lookout for the San Bernardino Forest Association and volunteer time with the Escondido Humane Society assisting with dog behavior training.

(SM) Dave, I've heard that you've had an interesting military career. Can we talk some more about that?)

(DG) I was deployed to numerous locations throughout the world supporting the Navy on various exercises. I was the Commanding Officer of VAW-88; an E-2C Hawkeye Reserve squadron based at MCAS Miramar providing support to carrier battle groups and drug interdiction efforts.

(SM) What awards or recognition have you received?

(DG) I was awarded the Department of Energy Lou Harris Award for energy excellence, the SAME Regional VP Award for engineering excellence, Meritorious Service Medal, selection to the Society of Fellows for SAME. I also received the Vietnam Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation and the National Defense Service Medal.

(SM) Many of your colleagues have retired from SDG&E. What keeps you motivated to continue your career?

(DG) I enjoy working with the military customers and supporting them in the achievement of their energy goals.

(SM) What's the best thing about working for SDG&E?

(DG) SDG&E offers a challenging environment to learn and work on state of the art projects with outstanding colleagues. I have enjoyed my career at SDG&E and the best part has been the relationships I have developed with fellow employees.

(SM) When you retire, what do you want to do?

(DG) When I retire, I plan to devote more time to my Fire Lookout activities and working with dogs at the Escondido Humane Society. I haven't set a retirement date as yet, but maybe in the next couple of years.

(SM) What is your life philosophy?

(DG) Listen and learn from others.



Dave Guebert (can't get shot down with a suit on)

Headquarters Buildings – Old and New

By Sammantha McDonald

Editor's note: Many of you may have heard that Sempra Energy is building a new corporate headquarters in the East Village, near PetCo Park. This is the first in a series of articles about that move, starting with some history of the current headquarters at 101 Ash Street.

101 Ash Street, on the corner of First Avenue and Ash Street in downtown San Diego, is the current location of Sempra Energy's headquarters. But before it was Sempra's HQ, it was known as the Electric Building, or EB, the headquarters of SDG&E.

Opening in 1968, the building was designed by Richard W. Wheeler. It is 19 stories, with 2 underground levels for executive and director parking. The old EB not only housed SDG&E's corporate and support employees, but had a full-demonstration kitchen in an auditorium that gave cooking classes to our customers. It also had a bill payment office with an auto-teller that allowed customers to drive-in to the A Level and "send" their payments via a pneumatic tube up to the first floor. And, all gas and electric bill payment processing was done on site in our Cash Control department.



SDG&E shareholders meetings were held each April in the Auditorium and a full-service cafeteria was located on the third floor, providing breakfast, lunch and snacks to hardworking employees. A cup of coffee back then cost 10 cents. That cafeteria was also the place where many singing birthday telegrams were sent to employees from their family and friends.

Who remembers *Lite Lines*, the newsletter included with the bill? And what about those recipes that were prepared by Mary Means?

What's your favorite memory of the EB? Mine was riding to the 19th floor with our President, Joe Sinnott. Mr. Sinnott used his executive key to go straight to 19. He told everyone to leave the elevator or ride to 19. Everyone got off the elevator, but I had never been to the 19th floor and decided to stay. Mr. Sinnott did not say a word to me on our ride to 19 except to tell me to stay on the elevator when we arrived. He used his key to send me straight down to the first floor. Fortunately, he never asked my name

Send us your favorite memory and we'll post it on our Facebook page and/or in a future edition of *Retiree Times*. You can email it to samm@samm-mcdonald.com or mail it to me: Sammantha McDonald, SDG&E Alumni Association - Community Relations, Sempra Energy, 101 Ash St HQ10B, San Diego CA 92101-3017.

UPDATE: Here are the responses we've been sent so far:

Jerry Tate: Remember well both the old and new electric buildings. I was a tour guide for employees and the public when the new building first opened. I also remember the concern when the building was attacked by moths that just loved the 88 flood lights lighting the vertical fins that made up the building. Everyone was baffled as to what to do but before we could arrive at a solution the Starlings came in and rescued us.

I too had an interesting experience with Mr. Sinnott. I had slipped across the street to get a haircut. As the barber was in the process of cutting my hair, Mr. Sinnott came in, no place to hide. He looked at me and said "I won't tell anyone if you won't", big sigh of relief.

I was also a tour guide for the San Onofre No. 1 when it went on line. Lots of fond memories and lots of great folks.

Ron Williams (son of Bob Williams): Key to the front door. 101 Ash Street. Bob Williams was presented with this key for his dedication and work as SDG&E's building engineer during the design and construction of the electric building at 101 Ash Street. Bob retired in 1973 and passed away in 1981. His son Ron is also an SDG&E retiree and serves on the Alumni Association board.

Sid Gilligan: Quick to come to mind were the marvelous roast beef at the cafeteria, and a handwritten "attaboy" note from Tom Page after he attended one of the noontime seminars we did in the auditorium.

Ralph Richardson: My favorite memory of the EB was serving as one of the tour guides of the newly constructed building in April of 1968. Several employees were selected and the building was opened on Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm for employees, their families, shareholders and general public to observe. It was a state of the art building and had 8 of the fastest elevators in town at that time.

Each guide would take approximately 15 guests and all groups were shown the 19th floor, portions of the 18th, selected other floors / offices along with the cafeteria and garage A level parking and auto-teller.

These tours took place during the first month the new building was opened.

Everything was so fresh and it was an honor to show the new headquarters to our customers, shareholders, dignitaries, community leaders and employee family members etc.

If my memory serves me correctly approximately 25 to 27 thousand guests were given a tour of our New Electric Building at First and Ash during this open house period. This was a big deal for SDG&E, the City and community 46 years ago. Our new building was located across the street from Marvin K Brown Cadillac dealership before they moved to Mission Valley.

Another shaking event and bit of information and memory took place about 3 weeks before our occupancy permit was issued by the City of San Diego. During the final touches and before the building was opened for official business an earthquake hit our general area about 85 miles east of San Diego and a drapery worker was on an 8 foot ladder hanging drapes in the executive offices on the 19th floor when the quake hit. The worker immediately climbed off the ladder, scurried down the stairway from the 19th floor to the lobby, ran out of the building, found a phone, totally out of breath called his boss and quit his job.

Rosemary Asmus: When I applied for a job I had to drive downtown from Escondido and thinking I would fill out an application and leave, I took my 12 year old son with me. Well after the application and interview they wanted me to take some tests, so I gave David some money and said he could cross the street to have lunch and then come back. He took a tour of the electric building and went to the 19th floor. I guess the receptionist and secretaries there thought he was cute and showed him around. He told me all about it. I got the job but I never saw the 19th floor.

May Wildfires

by Sammantha McDonald with an article as reported by Cal Fire

With the breakout of the Bernardo fire on May 13 until all evacuation orders and road closures were lifted on May 18, San Diego County fought a total of eleven wildfires. At one point, 9 fires were burning simultaneously. This NBCSanDiego.com article provides a great (if fire reporting can be considered great) recap of the fires from Cal Fire officials:

Cocos Fire – San Marcos & Escondido

- 1,995 acres

- 89 percent contained as of 8 a.m. Monday, 5/19
- Expected to be contained by Thursday, May 22
- Damage: 39 homes damaged or destroyed per city officials
- Cause of fire: under investigation
- All evacuations lifted (including Coronado Hills) by 11 a.m. Sunday, 5/18
- All road closures lifted by 11 a.m. Sunday, 5/18
- San Marcos Emergency Operations Center deactivated as of 11:30 a.m. Sunday, 5/18
- City of San Marcos released updated repopulation plan and map Saturday night
- Arrests: 1 man who official believe was attempting to loot evacuated homes
- No injuries
- Evacuation shelters at Mission Hills High School and Escondido High School closed Saturday
- Cost to Date: \$5,781,753

Combat, Las Pulgas, Tomahawk Fires – Camp Pendleton - collectively the Basilone Complex:

- Combat Fire (formerly Talega Fire and also known as San Mateo Fire):
- 1,500 acres
- 97 percent contained as of Sunday night, 5/18
- All evacuations lifted

Las Pulgas Fire:

- 15,000 acres
- 75 percent contained as of Sunday night, 5/18
- All evacuations lifted

Tomahawk Fire:

- 5,400 acres
- 100 percent contained as of Sunday night, 5/18
- All evacuations lifted

Collectively, these three fires -- now known as the Basilone Complex -- burned nearly 22,000 acres, or 18 percent of the base, according to the latest assessment.

Poinsettia Fire – Carlsbad:

- 600 acres
- 100 percent contained as of 5 p.m. Saturday, 5/17
- 8 single family homes were destroyed or damaged, 3 other homes sustained minor damage, an 18-unit apartment building was destroyed, an 18-unit apartment building was damaged, 2 commercial buildings destroyed/substantially was damaged, 1 modular building was destroyed
- Cause of fire: under investigation
- All evacuations lifted as of Thursday evening, 5/15
- As of Friday morning, there were three points where Carlsbad Police Department was still controlling access to residents for safety reasons: Black Rail Poinsettia, Black Rail Sapphire and Poinsettia Brigantine
- Damage: \$22.5 million and counting
- The Carlsbad Police Department has established a Tip Hotline for the Poinsettia Fire. If you have any information regarding the origin of the fire or suspicious activity or persons who may be involved with the starting of the fires, please call (760) 602-7599 or email PoinsettiaFire@carlsbadca.gov
- The City of Carlsbad's Faraday Administration Center (1635 Faraday Ave.) will be open Monday at 7:30 a.m. to help fire victims who need assistance with housing and rebuilding

Highway Fire in Bonsall, Fallbrook area:

- 441 acres
- 100 percent contained as of 6 p.m. Saturday, 5/17
- No homes destroyed or damaged
- Cause of fire: under investigation
- Heavy fuels have not burned since Gopher Canyon Fire (1970)
- Damage: \$880,769

River Fire in Oceanside:

- 105 acres
- 100 percent contained as of Thursday, 5/15; contained to riverbed
- Arrests: one man accused of attempting to fuel the fire

Bernardo Fire:

- 1,548 acres
- 100 percent contained
- 50 structures were threatened
- 3 injuries, per Cal Fire
- Evacuations lifted
- Official cause: backhoe working on construction project

Source: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/San-Diego-Fires-Sunday-Updates-Cocos-Fire-Combat-Fire-259719281.html#ixzz32HtW1jkR>

So, where were you during the fires? Did you get evacuated? Where did you go? What did you find when you came back home? Here's a couple we've already heard from:

Jim Teeter: The Poinsettia Fire started about 200 yards from my new house - closing escrow Friday, May 16 - which is about 2 blocks from my current house. And no, I didn't do it. The fire roared west so I never had any damage or danger. By noon, the wind shifted back, so the only effect I felt was the smoke and ash. Then around 4:00 all of a sudden the San Marcos fire started. My house is directly west of there. Amazingly, now both fires, one on each side of me, were blowing toward my house and I was in the poorly worded evacuation zone (I never got a call). When that huge plane dropped retardant on the San Marcos fire, it was killed and by evening there was no more smoke visible from that direction.

Sammantha McDonald: I live in Stonecrest Villages in the Murphy Canyon area, so I was never threatened by the fires. As a Disaster Response Volunteer at 2-1-1 San Diego, I knew the call was coming to report to help staff the call center. I got the email at 10:45 am on Wednesday, May 13 and was the first volunteer to arrive at 11:10 a.m. I spent the next five days at 2-1-1, giving evacuation, road closure and fire status information to interested callers. We trained well over 800 volunteers to take calls during that 5-day period and took 33,000 fire-related calls. Here is a photo of a few of the folks when we received word that all evacuation orders and road closures would be lifted at 11:00 am on Sunday, May 18:

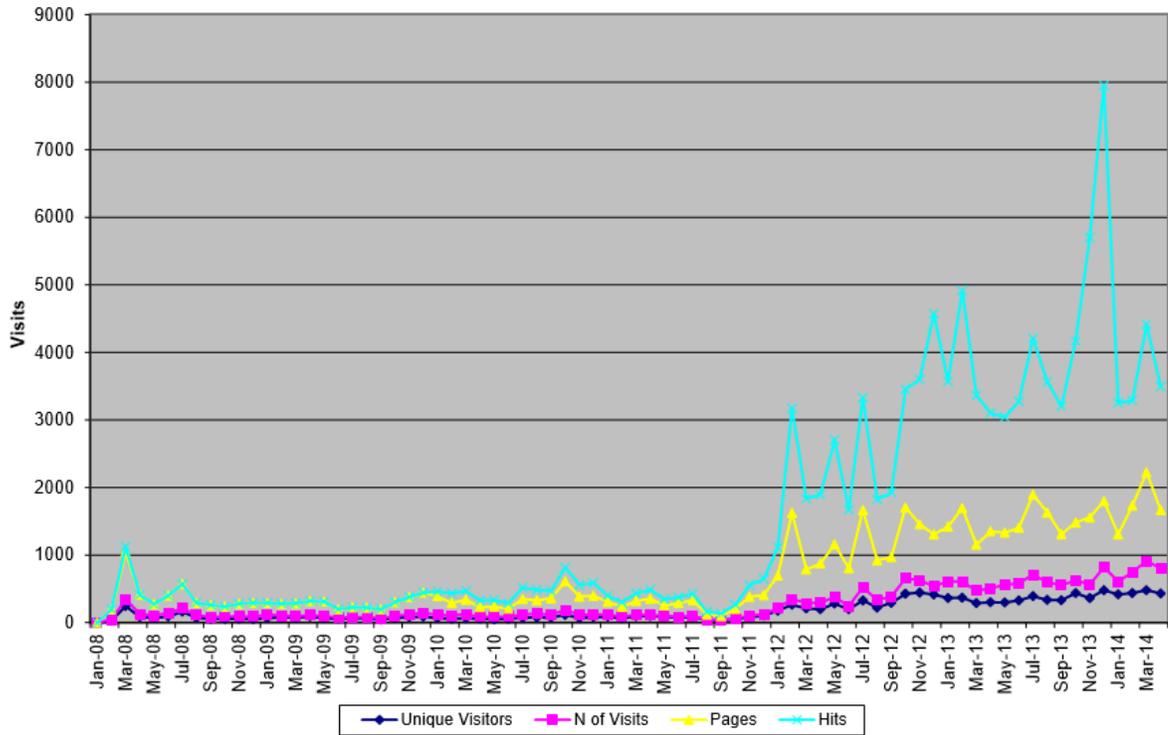


Send your experiences and photos if you have them to samm@samm-mcdonald.com and we'll publish them on Facebook and perhaps in our next issue of the *Retiree Times*.

SDG&E Alumni Website Visitors

How many people use the SDG&E Alumni Association website? I mean, aren't we all ... uh ... old? And old people don't use computers, do they? Well, either we're not old (I know I'm not) or we are a lot more Internet savvy than people give us credit. Believe it or not, we track those visitors. One of the ways we track is by recording and monitoring website statistics. In the chart below, you can see we have been tracking website "hits" since 2008. The first thing you'll probably notice is that the statistics have "exploded" since 2012 when we revamped the website. One might also notice the spikes every few months. And those spikes match up with a recurring event. What would you guess that to be?

SDG&E Alumni Association Website Visitors



(If you'd like to see a larger view of the chart, [click here.](#))

The spikes match up perfectly with the months we mailed an issue of the *Retiree Times*.

As we have added content to the Alumni Association website, the number of pages viewed (yellow) and number of “hits” (includes repeat visitors) has also increased dramatically.

But you can only count so much on statistics. As Mark Twain once said about people who use statistics to bolster weak arguments, “(there are) Lies, damned lies, and (then there are) statistics.” So please give us feedback so we know how to improve. What are we leaving out? What is wasting your time? Any suggestions will be appreciated.

Retiree Tips

We'll record these on the Alumni website as well.

Eagles Wings

As a follow-on to the alumni veterans list [AND In addition to the 2-1-1 organization], another resource that is available for seniors is [Eagles Wings](#). As stated by Irene Krepak, “The passing of a spouse is always a sad time. Before you were two, now you are one. How do you cope?”

Here in San Diego, there is help for the spouses of the military widowed, and it takes place at the [Veterans Museum and Memorial Center](#) in Balboa Park. Irene had an outstanding first-hand experience with them. Visit their website (link above) which is chock full of good information.

Feedback Requested

There are a number of areas about which we'd like your feedback.

1. Information about Retired and Deceased Retirees

Molly Putz still wants your help. We still have difficulty obtaining information about new retirees, but especially about deceased alumni. If you have any information, please contact Molly, er, Alice Myers at amollyputz@san.rr.com or VP@sdgealumniassoc.org.

2. Alumni Association Website/Facebook

The SDG&E Alumni Association website was created to share information, specifically helpful to SDG&E alumni. How can we improve the website in your eyes? In general, what are we missing on the website? Please send your comments to webmaster, [Jim Teeter](#).

Lora Clay started a [SDG&E Alumni Association Facebook page](#) in January-February 2012, originally to share pictures from the 2012 Holiday Luncheon. Send us [feedback on the Facebook page](#), or leave it on the Facebook page. Share your own photos, videos or stories.

3. General Information

What else do you suggest? In our publications (*Retiree Times* or eNewsletters) we have *added stories of interest about retired employees and what they are doing. Who could obtain such information or write about them?* We appreciate your feedback.

In Closing

We appreciate your feedback. We'll keep the format and issue dates flexible, no more than once per month. Send your feedback directly to

Webmaster@sdgealumniassoc.org or to [any director](#). We always appreciate your feedback. Thanks for your time and mailbox space.

The [SDG&E eNewsletter](#) is sent to all Alumni Association members for whom we have an e-mail address on a flexible schedule as needed, but no more than once per month. It is in addition to, and separate from, the [Retiree Times](#) newsletter, which is mailed in hard copy by Sempra Energy to the addresses on file with them (the Alumni Association is not allowed to share information with Sempra) about three times per year. Editor: [Jim Teeter](#)

