Participation Gains

During the first year of support of the Foundation by the Southern California Water Utilities Association, Inc., there were eighty-three southern California water utilities—both public & private—who financially supported the operation of the Foundation. The following participants in 67-68 were not previously acknowledged in Cross Talk and we take this opportunity to welcome them to the growing ranks.

Laguna Beach County Water District
County of Los Angeles
City of Brea
City of Huntington Beach
City of Del Mar
Poway Municipal Water District
County of Orange

The new fiscal year is just beginning and to date most of these 83 utilities have remitted their annual contribution to the Secretary of the SCWUA, Inc or the Director of the Foundation. In addition the following four utilities have joined this growing list of concerned water purveyors; and, we also extend a welcome to these new participants:

City of La Verne
City and County of Honolulu
Vista Irrigation District
City of Camarillo

Many of these participants are actively utilizing the information and assistance available through the Foundation.

Status of the Laboratory

As reported in the last issue of Cross Talk water is now flowing in the Lab; but, since we do not yet have the sump for recirculation we are confining our activities to the smaller sizes of devices in order not to waste water. However, we are currently making marked progress with the much needed electrical switchgear. Most all of this material has now been donated and is currently in the process of being integrated into a dead-front control panel. When all of the components have been acquired we will publish a full list of the donors in Cross Talk. Also, the SCWUA, Inc. committee is working on the few remaining fittings that are needed to adapt the manifold to all pipe sizes for evaluation purposes.

Laboratory Visitors

On June 24th the Board of Directors of the SCWUA, Inc. inspected the Laboratory and were briefed by the Director on the current status of development of the Laboratory as well as on the devices recently offered or under evaluation.

On July 3rd Alfred W. Jorgensen of Engineering Science, Inc. brought two Brazilian engineers from the Rio de Janeiro Water Department—Roberto Vargas & Nilo Shinzato to the Laboratory for a discussion of the design, evaluation, application and field testing of backflow prevention devices. After an inspection of the Lab they were given a tour of the USC campus.

On July 9th members of the Board of Directors and management of the Torrance Water Department inspected the Laboratory and discussed the work of the Lab as well as the installation and periodic testing of backflow prevention devices in the field.

Status of Devices

At the present time there is one new reduced-pressure principle device undergoing Laboratory evaluation. A second device commented on in the last issue of Cross Talk and proposed by a newcomer to the field has been withdrawn by the manufacturer. Also, there are three devices undergoing the six-month evaluation at the present time as well as eleven devices that are undergoing the three-year evaluation. The date of the latest approval list is December 1967. Anyone wishing the current approval list may secure one by writing or telephoning the Director (746-2032).
The Director Speaks

At the invitation of the Long Beach Chapter of the National Association of Naval Technical Supervisors Prof. E. K. Springer presented an illustration talk on 30 April 68 on Cross-Connections. He traced the development of the Foundation to the present Laboratory relocation activity and also showed a number of slides illustrating problem types of backflow prevention device installations. He also discussed the recent US Navy Facilities document (cited in the last issue of Cross Talk) and illustrated why the Foundation had established the provisional approval as an interim status of these devices. The lively discussion that followed the talk indicated considerable interest in the cross-connection control program. After all, everybody enjoys good water.

Also, on 9 May 68 Prof. Springer extended an eastern trip to Albany, N.Y. in order that he could present information and answer questions about the work of the Foundation to the New York State Dept. of Health. Members of two divisions of the Dept. met with him for the better part of the day to learn of the work of the Foundation and how a backflow prevention program can be implemented in the State of New York. Meetings such as these are encouraged because it is through open, frank and animated discussions that the full impact of a vigorous cross-connection control program may be fruitful in the protection of potable water—whether it be in a major city, a large industrial complex or a hamlet. The day has passed when we may take water for granted—we must actively work to protect it.

The Manual

The Third Edition of the Manual for Cross-Connection Control Recommended Practice has now been exhausted. The Fourth Edition is now in preparation and will be ready at the USC Bookstore in a few weeks. There will be major changes in the specifications and test procedures set forth in the new 4th Ed. These changes have come about after the lengthy discussions over the last several months between representatives of manufacturers, testers, water utilities, the L.A. County Dept. of Health and the Foundation. It is expected that the new specifications will be clearer and provide a better guide to both the manufacturer, the user and the utility based upon the several years of experience that is now on the record.