



VIEW



War Is A Racket ?

by Larry Naron



Gen. Smedley Butler

What Pinko, Commie, Socialist Fag would say that ?

Would you believe he was arguably the most highly decorated Marine ever ?

General Smedley Butler received two **Congressional Medal of Honor Awards** in his distinguished career. He tried to give one of them back saying that it was undeserved, but the powers that be told him *to shut up and accept it.*

In 1935 General Butler wrote his now famous book, *War Is A Racket*. Apparently, after years of leading Americas brave soldiers into battle, *The War Racket Continued Page 10...*

Why Ventura is The Broke Capital of the World ?

Who's Money is It Anyway ?

The City of Ventura lost \$10 Million Dollars 1 1/2 years ago (*well before the recent economic crash*), through their ambitious high-risk investment plan; having placed precious taxpayer dollars with Bear Stearns (BS) private assets, which went belly up in the JP Morgan fiasco. This reduced Ventura's *get-rich-quick-scheme to pie-in-the-sky*. Most cities invest their cash assets in highly safe Treasury instruments and other government-backed securities.

VIEW Detailed Financial Analysis Go To: www.ojaiandventuraview.com/OVvtaArt/TheRoseVol.1Issue1WebStealthkatGraphics.pdf

WRIGHT LIBRARY ~ SWITCH N' BAIT

R. ELLIS SMITH



But I Swear I'm Telling the Truth...



Your newest Mayor Mr. Bill Fulton was instrumental in the closing of Wright Library in East Ventura. He used the bad economy and lower property taxes as the main excuse. As you can see from the chart (page 20), which was garnered from the Ventura County Assessor's Office, the property tax income for the City of Ventura was only about 2.9 percent lower than in the previous year, and was *Wright Library Continues Page 20...*

Co-Dependence

by Roslyn Hammer

That's the stupidest thing I ever heard," roared my father in his usual bombastic manner.

He was pacing around the living room after reading an article in the newspaper about being an "enabler."

"That's right, Chubby, you are an "enabler," my mother said in her sweet southern drawl.

"You're crazy. You were crazy when I first met you and you're still crazy. Only a crazy person would think it's my fault because you drank."

"You have to come to a meeting with me," my mother told him.

"I'll go to your meeting. I'd love to go to your meeting. I have a few things I want to say."

The meeting began with the routine readings and announcements. When sharing came around my father listened but not quietly. He squirmed in his chair, made faces at the group, and cursed under his breath.

"This is my husband and he's here just to listen. He really belongs at the other meeting." Everyone understood except my father.

"I know I drank and I'm responsible, but by husband sure helped all the way down the line," a woman shared.

"Did he hold your mouth open?" my father asked. The woman ignored him.

"It was the same thing at my house," a big burly man offered.

"What she'd do? Beat you up?" My father chuckled.

"See what I have to deal with? How will I ever stay sober?" My mother inquired of the group.

"Aw, you people are all talking horseshit. I went to work everyday. I didn't bring the whiskey into the house. I didn't drink the whiskey. You're all full of shit," he said as he stormed out the door.

He walked the mile home leaving the car for my mother. He arrived home carrying a small brown bag.

"Where's mom?" my sister asked.

"I left her with her screwball friends talking about what everybody did to them to make them drink."

"What's in the bag?"

"It's a bottle of whiskey and I'm going to drink the whole thing."

"You're going to get drunk."

"You're damn right I'm gonna get drunk. And when your mother comes home I'm gonna blame her."

Roslyn Hammer wrote for the Ojai Valley VOICE during the 1990s. She has a background in stand-up comedy and comedy writing.

www.YouTube.com/OVvtaView



Send your Letters editor@ojaiandventuraview.com multiple publication submissions discouraged

VENTURA! MORE TAXES...

R. ELLIS SMITH
So. Cal Edison SCAM...
...in Cahoots



Damn, another Tax um' Scam. Once again the Gang in the Ivory Tower (Ventura City Council et al) has decided to sneak around behind our backs to place another tax increase on our depleting wallets and purses.

It is past time for the city franchise to the Edison Company to be re-newed. The franchise the Gang in the Ivory Tower gives to the different utility companies allows them to place their equipment on or through city-owned property. Since the electrical companies franchise ran out in 2008, the Gang in the Ivory Tower has been haggling with them to decide the best way to stick it to the consumers once again.

They finally settled on the following scam, which was sent to me by the assistant city attorney of Ventura.

FISCAL IMPACTS
There is no fiscal impact associated with the City Council declaring its intent to approve a new Edison Franchise and setting

of a public hearing date as recommended in this item. If Council adopts the recommended franchise following the public hearing, franchise revenue received from Edison will be adjusted as follows:
A07-00201

PUBLIC GETS IT
a. The franchise fee will immediately increase from 0 % to 1 %, changing our annual revenue from approximately \$600,000 per year to \$800,000 per year.

AND GETS IT DEEPER
b. This 1 % fee will be retroactive to February 27, 2008, the date by which the former fee had expired, and amounts to a one-time payment of approximately \$250,000.

WITH CPUC BLESSINGS ?
c. Following approval by the CPUC [California Public Utilities Commission] of an 1 % additional franchise fee, annual revenue to the City will increase from approximately \$800,000 per year to \$1.6 million per year.

City Staff proposes that fifty percent (50%) of the surcharge be dedicated for streetlights and under grounding of lights, with the remaining 50% to go to the General Fund.

Prepared by
M. Rebeca Mendoza
Assistant City Attorney
Electric Scam Continued Page 19...

Is the Ventura City Council Waiting... for Helen Yunker to Die ?

"The State of Helen Yunker Address"
- Helen Yunker

Following is a full account of my comments to the City Council on Monday, Feb. 1, when I was rudely and abruptly prevented from finishing my presentation. It is completed herewith.
City Council Meeting Feb. 1, 2010

Now that we have been privileged to hear Mayor Bill Fulton's "State of the City" address, it is now my privilege to present the "State of Helen Yunker" address. On Feb. 3, it will be 12 years since the massive landslide on city-owned Lot #7, which endangered both my home and safety. It began the most difficult, unhappy, and distressful era of my life, which resulted from the city's refusal to address

its problem at the outset, mainly because the city feared that any attempt to repair its property would acknowledge its responsibility to stabilize the lot and save my home.



Helen Yunker's 12 year Slippery Slope

The Saga of the Slipping Slope
In 2005, after seven years of neglect and evidential abandonment, the city sold *State of Helen Yunker Continues Page 21...*

the Ojai and Ventura Real
VIEW

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WRIGHT LIBRARY SCAM

Continued from Page 2...

actually the second highest year since 1999. So once again Mr. Fulton has proven that he is a champion of the Spin and has no regard for the average citizen.

1. The Economy was used as the excuse to close Wright, yet the City of Ventura's property tax revenue is the highest on record for the past two years. It was easy for all of us to believe this excuse because we are all aware of the struggling economy and the loss of jobs. Yet the property taxes in Ventura have held strong and the Library is funded from your property taxes. (Please note that the revenue is double what it was in 1999-2000 - SOURCE: Ventura County Assessors Office) The library is NOT part of the budget for the City of Ventura, so the city's financial woes have nothing to do with the library.

- Rellis Smith, rellis39@sbcglobal.net

Property Tax Revenue by Year From The Ventura County Assessor

2008/2009	2009/2010		
1,056,372,000 (01)	Fillmore	964,604,988	-8.69%
1,204,613,362 (02)	Ojai	1,193,246,166	-0.94%
16,158,716,867 (03)	Oxnard	15,176,505,240	-6.08%
1,672,119,360 (04)	Santa Paula	1,592,389,388	-4.77%
12,510,335,672 (05)	Ventura	12,143,656,978	-2.93%
1,609,601,616 (06)	Port Hueneme	1,482,798,864	-7.88%
10,663,881,753 (07)	Camarillo	10,512,448,571	-1.42%
23,439,572,551 (08)	Thousand Oaks	23,487,956,595	-0.21%
15,508,418,762 (09)	Simi Valley	14,865,252,276	-4.15%
4,920,838,019 (10)	Moorpark	4,847,373,832	-1.49%

http://assessor.countyofventura.org/generallyspeaking/localroll.asp

What's Wright?

From: Maili Halme Brocke <maili-brocke@mac.com>
Sent: Sat, Feb. 6, 2010 12:46:14 PM
Subject: Your Letters will help us Reopen Wright Library!



Dear Library Supporters, Wright Library was wrongfully closed and we are working passionately to reopen it. Your support and letter writing is having a huge impact towards our movement to reopen. The facts and justice are on our side and the Grand Jury investigations are underway. Please continue to write to our City Council, the Library Commission and the Board of Supervisors. (you can write one letter and cc all of them or write to them individually.)

1. The Economy was used as the excuse to close Wright, yet the City of Ventura's property tax revenue is the highest on record for the past two years. It was easy for all of us to believe this excuse because we are all aware of the struggling economy and the loss of jobs. Yet the property taxes in Ventura have held strong and the Library is funded from your property taxes. (Please note that the revenue is double what it was in 1999-2000.) (source, Ventura County Assessors office) The library is NOT part of the budget for the City of Ventura, so the city's financial woes have nothing to do with the library.

PROPERTY TAX REVENUE BY YEAR FROM THE VENTURA COUNTY ASSESSOR

2. The \$577,000 of "the unanticipated \$650,000 structural shortfall" that the library director referred to as a reason for closing Wright came from Moorpark's withdrawal from the county system. It had nothing to do Ventura's property tax revenue. The county auditor left Moorpark's money in

the budget. The Library Director didn't catch the error and accidentally spent the money. (Budget Mitigation Documents, VCL Commission, 8-21-2008)

3. Wright was never short. The only "shortage" to Ventura's service area (which includes Saticoy, Avenue, Foster and Wright Libraries) came when Mr. Fulton suggested it was unfair that Ventura received \$280,000 of the \$600,000 in the county Library General Fund. Part of that money went to run Foster and part of it to Saticoy. The \$280,000 was never part of Wright's operating budget. AFTER WRIGHT CLOSED on November 30, 2010 the Library Director put \$175,000 of that money back into Ventura's service area. Which means the total shortfall for the area is only \$105,000. Certainly not a significant enough number to justify closing a library. The General Fund money should be equally divided among all the libraries.

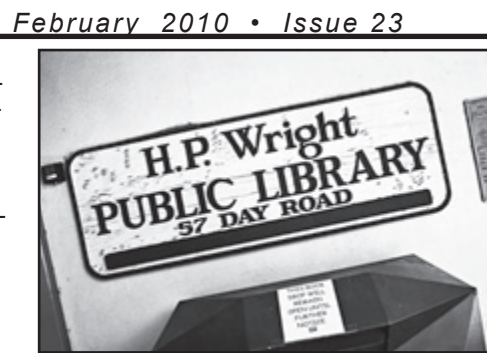
4. The Library Director stated on Mon. Jan. 25, 2010 Camarillo receives almost a million dollars of unincorporated money. We have noted that many of the other libraries in the county are receiving additional funds from the General Fund, unincorporated revenue and the reserve, and they are operating over the baseline hours specified in the MOU [Memorandum of Understanding]. To be fair the money should be divided equally among all of the 14 libraries. None of us should get more than another.

5. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a legal document between the city and the county to contract, in this case, library services. Adopted in 1997 it was created to protect library service and hours during hard financial times. The MOU states that Wright Library will be open 40 hours a week. The county is currently in violation of this contract. The county must reduce the administrative overhead to ensure all libraries run by the county receive the hours guaranteed to them in the MOU. In the past this was done by eliminating some of the County

Library administrative positions and by cutting overhead costs. Instead our director has hired additional administrative positions and also has purchased expensive unnecessary data bases (Morning Star data base is \$24,000. Of the people who use Morning Star the majority of information is available for free on their web site.)

6. Alternating Hours - The Ventura Library Advisory Commission and the community chose alternating between Wright and Foster instead of the closure of Wright. The City Council members that voted for closure insisted the community was unhappy with alternating hours in the past, but the community is far more unhappy about closure than alternating hours. If the City Council members are justifying their vote for closure with the desire to make the community happy then we must let them know [how we] truly unhappy we are about the closure! The closure arrangement is far more detrimental to the community than alternating hours.

7. "One size fits all" does not work with libraries in Ventura County. Some people prefer larger libraries and drive to Camarillo or Oxnard. Some prefer small neighborhood libraries and enjoy the comfort and accessibility of Wright or Ojai.



8. The Library Director would like to use your property tax dollars to buy a book mobile (\$250,000 plus staff) and kiosks (approx \$100,000.) \$750 was already paid to a consultant to pick out new paint colors for Foster. And I know \$750 is a small sum, but if you think of the kids at Poinsettia who gave their quarters and dimes and piggy banks to save Wright for a donation of \$800 and it was just wasted on a consultant instead of keeping the library doors open, then the sum is significant. (City of Ventura Library Advisory Commission meeting, Jan. 15, 2010)

9. The County Library Director asked the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library to pay \$23,000 to put a parcel tax on the ballot and asked them to pay \$75,000 for a study for a new library on the east end. It would be wonderful to have a new library and we can all dream about our ideals in library

"They have assumed they are dealing with an ignorant community. Show them we are ignorant no longer and hold them accountable for their actions."



www.YouTube.com/OVVtaView

More Americans have died in psychiatric hands than in all the wars since 1776.

Although psychiatric facilities no longer make public the numbers of people who die in their care, one can easily extrapolate the current tally.

Those figures present a grim and shocking scenario—more patients dead than Americans killed in battle in the two Gulf Wars, the Vietnam War, World Wars I & II, the Civil War, the Revolutionary War, and all wars in between.

This is the outrageous outcome of an abusive and deadly mental health care system.

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) is an international voice for the people abused within the mental health system. If you, a loved one or friend has been forced into a psychiatric facility, to undergo "community mental health treatment," committed involuntarily or harmed by psychiatric treatment, contact CCHR. We will take action.

REPORT PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE. IT'S A CRIME.

Contact: Citizens Commission on Human Rights International
www.cchrventura.org • P.O. box 449, Camarillo, CA 93011
805-371-1576

All inquiries and communication will be handled in strictest confidence.



GENERAL PUBLIC WARNING: Psychiatry is hazardous to your mental health.

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service for the future, but we can't deprive the children now while we plan for the future.

10. The second floor of Foster is capable of carrying a live or dead load or 85 pounds per square foot (psf). It is structurally sound for offices (70 psf), but unsafe and below code for public assembly (110 psf) or library stack room (125 psf). So there is an issue with moving Wright's collection to Foster. And the expense to renovate/reinforce would be very costly. "Any area of the existing building which are intended to be structurally modified will be required to meet current code standards."

11. The Closing of Wright Library removes library service from thousands of school children, the elderly and disabled. Please write -- Show your displeasure to the closure; Encourage the reopening of Wright; Question our elected officials, why they are not fighting for the children and residents of Ventura by seeing that the MOU is upheld; Ask them why property taxes aren't being used appropriately. --KEEP THE PRESSURE ON. They have assumed they are dealing with an ignorant community. Show them we are ignorant no longer and hold them accountable for their actions.

- Library Director Jackie Griffin jackie.griffin@ventura.org
- VENTURA CITY COUNCIL council@ci.ventura.ca.us
- Mayor Bill Fulton, bfulton@ci.ventura.ca.us (Chairman, County Library Commission)
- Deputy Mayor Mike Tracy, mtracy@ci.ventura.ca.us
- Jim Monahan, jmonahan@ci.ventura.ca.us (voted to keep Wright Open)
- Carl Morehouse, cmorehouse@ci.ventura.ca.us
- Christy Weir, cweir@ci.ventura.ca.us
- Brian Brennan, bbrennan@ci.ventura.ca.us
- Neal Andrews, nandrews@ci.ventura.ca.us (voted to keep Wright Open)

- VENTURA COUNTY SUPERVISORS (The Board of Supervisors can overturn the decision to close Wright.)
- County Supervisor Steve Bennett, steve.bennett@ventura.org
- Steve Bennett's assistant for Library concerns, Cindy Cantle cindy.cantle@ventura.org
- County Supervisor Kathy Long, Chairwoman Library Commission kathy.long@ventura.org
- County Supervisor Linda Parks, Vice Chair, Linda.Parks@ventura.org
- County Supervisor Peter Foy supervisor.foy@ventura.org
- County Supervisor John Zaragoza supervisor.zaragoza@ventura.org

VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION (This group, including Mayor Bill Fulton, all voted to take the \$280,000 away from Ventura. They also voted to take \$191,000 away from Thousand Oaks. The Thousand Oaks decision was overturned and Thousand Oaks received their money. The decision for Ventura's service area can also be overturned. We are looking for equality and a fair division of discretion-

- ary funds between all the libraries.)
- Bill Fulton, Chairman, (email above)
- Kathy Long, Supervisor, (email above)
- Sylvia Munoz Schnopp, Mayor Pro Tem, sylviaschnopp@yahoo.com
- Jamey Brooks, Councilmember, City of Fillmore jbrooks@ci.fillmore.ca.us
- Kevin Kildee, Vice Mayor, City of Camarillo, kkildee@ci.camarillo.ca.us
- Carol Smith, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Ojai, smith@ci.ojai.ca.us
- Michelle Foster, City of Simi Valley, mfoster@simivalley.org

CITY STAFF WHO HAVE INPUT IN LIBRARY MATTERS

(These three city employees, along with the city council members who voted for closure, want to take Wright's 1.2 million in property tax revenue to revitalize downtown and create a "cultural center" there. They want Foster open 7 days a week to bring foot traffic for "cultural tourism" purposes. Wright's Library money should be used to serve the community that lives near and uses Wright. The money should not be used as a tourist attraction. They were also in favor of replacing Wright with a Children's Library at the mall.)

- Elena Brokaw, ebrokaw@ci.ventura.ca.us Director Community Services, Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee
- Peter Brown, Community Services Manager, pbrown@ci.ventura.ca.us (City Staff liason for Ventura City Library Advisory Commission)
- City Manager, Rick Cole rcole@ci.ventura.ca.us

- Maili Halme Brocke, Ventura

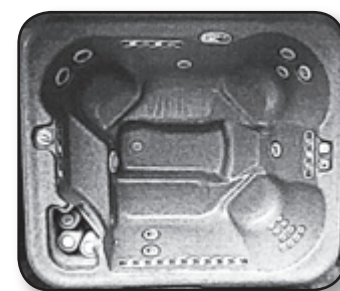
Govt. Library Theft

SUBJECT: Why the County and City Stole Wright
FROM: whalderman@earthlink.net
To: katarcat@aol.com
CC: mailibrocke@gmail.com; debgiles2@yahoo.com; the stringer family@yahoo.com; schlelderdecopan@hotmail.com; camille.harris@hotmail.com; eandl157@sbcglobal.net; morris@jetlink.net; raymond9@roadrunner.com; lesliepurcell@gmail.com; lindberged@msn.com

The city has a library account-- with a balance of, I believe, approx. \$500,000. Neal Andrews suggested the city use this to keep Wright open (assuming this supplemental funding was even necessary considering our further exploration of the MOU-- no additional money from the city was even necessary to keep Wright open). But 5 members of the City Council want to save that money for other new libraries, including at the mall. They wanted to close Wright, and had every intention of achieving that goal. They can not carry out their ROI Library/Destination Library model while Wright is still in existence.

To many it seems the city and county are working together, to manipulate and use people's passion for Wright to fund raise for their

Spas from Sold Properties



7 x 6 - Seats 4-5 \$2,475.00



8 x 8 - Seats 6-8 \$2,775.00

Two Brand Name Spas From Sold Properties - both have solid foam insulation, over 30 jets, colored lights, therapy seats, covers, steps, silent heating-filtering, Delivery, Base prep, other Assistance Available

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"The State of Helen Yunker Address"

Continued from Page 2...



Helen Yunker overlooking beautiful downtown Ventura.

the lot as "surplus property."

Another four years passed with the buyer in complete default of the sales contract. To avoid repossession by the city, the buyer, in 2009, petitioned the city for an extension to allow him time to resell the lot to a third party, which he did. An escrow closed on Dec. 31, 2009. This allowed him to recoup costs from his failed project and to remove him from all future liability. He subsequently relocated to Colorado. And who was the biggest winner of all? The City, who also enjoyed removal from all future liability and the necessity of reclaiming and rehabilitating its lot. And what did I get? The glorious opportunity of dealing with yet another buyer and the possibility of another failure.

Over the years, Councilmember Carl Morehouse has metaphorically used his cache of coins to clarify a point. I have no coins but herewith is my metaphor -- 12 months x 12 years equals 144 months; 144 is a gross.

And what is a gross? It is the number of my futilely spent hours and 12 precious years stolen from my life, not to forget extensive irrecoverable financial damages and loss of robust health.

(At this point of my presentation, Mayor Fulton, failing to give me the courtesy of a "wrap-it-up" warning customarily given to speakers, exploded into



ultimate goal which never even included Wright.

The County is legally required to provide 40 hours of operation at Wright with no extra money necessary from the city. The City is letting them off the hook because it feeds into their ultimate plans for Destination Libraries which funnel customers to commercial locations (and metered parking). They wanted Wright "off the table."

- Wendy Halderman, Ventura

a tirade of abuse and shouting, preventing me from completing my short closing remarks which were as follows:)

I know that this council truly believes that it has done a great job in trying to end this tragic twelve-year debacle. But it has definitely not ended for me until the stabilization of the slope is a reality. I leave you with this thought "I forgive you and the last five councils for the unspeakable wrong to which I was unfairly and needlessly subjected. I sincerely thank you for your kind and respectful patience in listening."

Respectfully Submitted, - Helen Yunker

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Ojai Unified School District's Solution to the Ojai Skatepark