



Economics 207

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Readings, Ec. 207, Winter, 1983

1. Catalogue of Problems, etc.

M. Gaffney, Diseconomies inherent in Western Water Laws

2. Orthodox tools of micro and financial analysis

James & Lee, Chaps. 1-6

3. a. Water Law

Trelease vs. Gaffney, reply and rejoinder
M.G., Comparison of Market Pricing and other means of
allocating water
1978 Report, Calif. Gov's Commission on Water Rights Law Reform
Sotirios Angelides, Water Banking
G. Pringle, "A License to Waste"
James & Lee, Ch. 7
Chas. Phelps, RAND Corp. Report on Water Rights
Weatherford, Malcolm & Andrews, California Groundwater
Management, NAT. RES. J., Oct. '82
Hirshleifer, Milliman, De Haven, Water Supply, Ch. IX
Bain, Caves, Margolis, Northern California's Water Industry,
pp. 59-76
David Shapiro, "Calif. Water Law and its Economic Effects on
Southern Cal", in Gerald Sirkin (ed.), Lexeconics: the Interaction of
Law and Economics, 1981
Roy Huffman, Ch. 4
Report of President's Water Policy Commission, 1951, Vol. 3
Water Resources Law

b. User Organizations

M.G., Economic Aspects of Water Resources Policy
Rebecca Morales et al., The Metro Water Dist of S. Cal.
Albert Henley, Land Value Taxation by Cal. Irrigation Districts
Hans Doe, "Water Pricing" (2 pp., dittoed)
Bain, et al., pp. 76-124
Vincent Ostrom, Water and Politics
Mary E. Whitney, Fortune Favors the Brave (of local interest,
a history of Hemet and its I.D.)
Life of George Chaffee by J. A. Alexander
Merrill Goodall, Cal. Water
(legalistic and rather dry, a useful source on voting rules and their
economic effects.) Review by M.F. Shuman on reserve.
Wm. Kahrl, Water and Power (re Owens Valley)
B.F. Rhodes, The Thirsty Land (re Modesto I.D. history)
Huffman, Ch.6
George Thomas, Development of Institutions under Irrigation
Frank Adams, Irrigation Districts in Cal., Bull. 21, Cal.
Div. of Irrigation & Engineering, 1929. (Details, details.)

C. McWilliams, Southern California: Island on the Land
pp. 154-56 on George Chaffee and his irrigation colonies at Etiwanda
and Ontario. (Only 3 pages, but can you stop?)

Also Ch. X, "Water, Water, Water!" Surveys the standard
legends, and more. Colorful!

c. Land distribution, concentration, and speculation

H. George, Our Land and Land Policy

Roy Robbins, Our Landed Heritage

M.G., Is Montana a Colony?

Paul Gates, The Homestead Act in an Incongruous Land System

Adon Poli, Non-resident landlords of Imperial Valley

Role of Giant Corporations. Hearings before the Subcommittee
on Monopoly of the Select Committee on Small Business, U.S. Senate,
92d Cong., 1st & 2d Sessions, Part 3: "Corporate Secrecy: Agribusiness",
plus Appendices 3A and 3B. Statements and submissions by Walter Gold-
schmidt, Philip Raup, Jim Hightower, Richard Kirkendall, especially.
George Ballis, various tracts from Fresno-based National Land
for People

Augustus Meyers, History of the Great American Fortunes

Don Villarejo,

Carey McWilliams, Factories in the Field. (The non-fictional
counterpart to Steinbeck, Grapes of Wrath.)

R. Fellmeth, Politics of Land (The Nader strike force report
on California. Unabridged two volumes are on reserve.)

Philip Le Veen, Reclamation Policy at a Crossroads

Thorstein Veblen, Absentee Ownership, pp. 129-41, "The Inde-
pendent Farmer". This is a minor masterpiece

David Weeks and Charles West, The Problem of Securing Closer
Relationship between Agricultural Development and Irrigation Con-
struction. COPIES ON RESERVE. In spite of its ponderous title and
gray writing, this is a classic on its topic. And its topic is one of
the most portentous in economics, when you see its allegorical meaning.

MORE TO FOLLOW.

Richard Hofstadter, The Age of Reform, Ch.1, "The Agrarian
Myth and Commercial Realities." You have to discount for the cheap
shots levelled by a careerist-revisionist, but otherwise entertaining
and insightful. Veblen said it first, but at least gets credit.

Huffman, Irrigation Dev. & Public Water Policy, Chaps. 3,5

M.G., "Land Speculation", pp. 63-67

L.C. Gray, "Land Speculation," article in Encyc. of Social
Sciences. Oldie but goodie, but not much on water.

Benj. Hibbard, History of the Public Land Policies, 2 chaps.
on land speculation, esp. Ch. 12.

A.M. Sakolski, The Great American Land Bubble.

Hoffsomer, H. (ed.), Social and Economic Significance of Land
Tenure in the Southwestern States, 1950.

Tax Delinquent Land in California. Cal. State Planning Board,
1938. Horror stories from the Great Depression. Can local governments
declare bankruptcy? Read on!

Teele, (Ray), Economics of Land Reclamation. Makes same points
as Weeks and West, but in a more negative spirit.

Wm. Warne, "Land Speculation". RECLAMATION ERA, Vol 33, 1947.

Edwin Wilson and Marion Clawson, Agricultural Land Ownership and Operation in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. U.S.D.A., Bur. of Ag. Econs., Berkeley Office, 1945. (This study, only mimeographed, plus the Goldschmidt book on Arvin and Dinuba, aroused a political reaction that soon forced the closing of the BAE and a reorganization of the U.S.D.A. to sweep out undesirable subversives, agitators, troublemakers and social misfits who supported acreage limitation. The lesson has not been lost on later researchers in related fields, especially those with U.S.D.A. funds.)

John D. Hicks, The Populist Revolt, Ch. 1, "The Frontier Background."

Ernest Osgood, The Day of the Cattleman, Ch. 7, Disaster and Transition.

Louise Pfeffer, The Closing of the Public Domain

J. Rupert Mason, Land Tenure and Land Reclamation in Cal., 1949. (Pamphlet available from Mrs. Mason, 1920 Lake St., San Fran.)

Margaret Cooper, "Land, Water and Settlement in Kern County Calif." M.A. thesis, U.C. Berkeley, 1952. (Margaret's chairman, Paul Taylor, was a famous slave-driver who made her work so hard that this is of higher quality than most Ph.D. dissertations. It traces the role of Kern County Land Co. (now Tenneco) in retarding development in Kern County.)

E. Treadwell, The Cattle King (story of Henry Miller, Miller and Lux, with incidental notice of their battle against Irrigation Districts.)

Ray Billington, "Origins of the Land Speculator as a Frontier Type", AG. HISTORY, Vol. 19, 1945

Robert De Roos, The Thirsty Land

Fred Shannon, The Farmer's Last Frontier

H.H. Dunham, Government Handout

This has to stop somewhere. This is a huge topic. Note in passing that two of the works cited above, both valuable, are Masters' Theses (B.F. Rhodes; and Margaret Cooper.) Writers of Masters' Theses, take note.

d. Social objectives

Walter Goldschmidt, Small Business and the Community. A Study in Central Valley of California on Effects of Scale of Farm Operations. Report of the Special Committee to Study Problems of American Small Business, U.S. Senate, 79th Congress, 2d Session, Senate Committee Print #13, Dec. 23, 1946. (This is the study comparing Arvin, surrounded by large operations, with Dinuba, in the Alta I.D., surrounded by small farms. Although pedestrian in style, this study clearly touched a nerve, evidenced by extreme efforts to suppress it; and successful efforts to abort further work along these lines.)

Reprinted in The Role of Giant Corporations, cited above p.2.

Paul Taylor,

Richard Hofstadter, Age of Reform, II, The Folklore of Populism.

Paul Johnstone, New Ideas vs. Old Ideals in Farm Life, 1940 Yearbook of Agriculture, Farmers in a Changing World

P. Schaefer, Social History of Agriculture

Walter Packard, Economic Implications of the Central Valley Project

Vernon L. Parrington, Introduction to Ole Rolvaag, Giants in the Earth.

Parrington also has a gigantic work on the history of social ideals in American literature, for those who want to dig deeply. Today we have "Little House on the Prairie" for those who do not read.

Hays, Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency

U.S.D.I. Bureau of Reclamation, Landownership Survey on Federal Reclamation Projects, 1946. pp. 61-98, Historical Background of Reclamation Law Acreage Limitation

Eric Goldman, Rendezvous with Destiny
(More, cont. at bottom)

4. Benefit/cost Analysis

A. C. Bunce, Economics of Soil Conservation, Chaps. 1-3

James & Lee, Ch. 8

"The Green Book"

Huffman, Ch. 12

Edith Stokey and Richard Zeckhauser, A Primer for Policy Analysis, Chap. 9

Bain, et al., Chaps 11, 15

Hirshleifer et al., Chaps. VI, VII

J. Krutilla, Multiple Purpose River Development

O. Eckstein

R. McKean

5. Dynamics and Risk

3,d Social Objectives (cont)

Frank Graham, Social Goals and Economic Institutions

Rainer Schikele, "Objectives of Land Policy", in John Timmons (ed), Land Problems and Policies. (Rainer's son Peter a.k.a. P.D.Q. Bach.)