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Out of Action Since December 17 We Ease Back Into the Saddle

By Jack A. Simpson

After experiencing some shortness of breath, on December 17, 2010, I checked into the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center (hospital) for what my cardiologist called a "routine" angioplasty procedure. We had concluded all the non-invasive tests. He said that the most he expected to happen was the installation of a stint or two. Right!

January reservations were made for me in Sacramento to attend the annual California Contract Cities Association's Legislative Orientation. And, I had every intention of being in Monterey for the 2011 meeting of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in February. It turned out that



Retired City Manager **Jack A. Simpson** of Trackdown Management .

those and a number of local meetings were not to be for me. It is amazing that health issue we take for granted, can interrupt and have a significant impact on our lives. Let's say that at this point, I am a believer in being healthy.

Out of Action Since December 17 Encouragement to Follow A Healthy Path

After being held in the hospital over the weekend, one of Memorial's excellent heart surgeons performed by-pass surgery. Then it was one thing after another. A great deal of fluid was extracted from my chest cavity through a very big needle, and then they discovered that I had a staph infection. It was then that I got a "re-do" open heart surgery.

So twice I was opened to the world, and then they discovered I had contracted pneumonia and through a culture that I had a pulmonary fungus. Oh joy! I have been on antibiotics and an antifungal through I.V.s for several weeks. The pulmonary problems have not allow me to properly rehab from the cardiac surgery. So, now I am finally home and the way back slowly begins.

In the meantime, many things have happened in cities throughout California. Of course, those events I had planned to attend went on successfully without me. However, through my medical challenge I have found that this city manager vocation we all practice has by-and-large attracted solid hardworking big-hearted people.

While in the hospital I had many well-wishing visitors and telephone contacts. Unfortunately, I was not smart enough to take comprehensive notes or I just forgot. There must be an excuse in there somewhere between the pain, the boredom and my stupidity, I simply know that I will miss someone, and for that I am sorry.

Old-friend and colleague **Frank G. Tripepi**, the President & CEO of *Willdan Financial Services*, was one of the first visitor, and he brought his talented son-in-law **Ryder Smith**.



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Long-time Lakewood City Manager **Howard Chambers** and **Alma Varela** and **Theresa Gutierrez** of his staff lifted my spirits with a visit. I learned that Howard, who had announced his retirement, has changed his mind and will continue as the Lakewood City Manager for the next 18 months or so.

A complete surprise and quite unexpected visit was from City Manager **Rita Geldert** of Vista in San Diego County. She and her husband Dale are among the nicest folks in California government. Dale is a retired Fire Administrator and Rita is a former President of the California City Management Foundation.

Two former Hercules City Managers **Mike Sakamoto** and **Nelson Oliva** came the furthest to see us in the hospital. The two are former Bellflower colleagues and flew down from the Bay Area and rented a car to get them to Long Beach Memorial from LAX.



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Following the initial by-pass surgery, all of Jack's daughters gathered around him in the cardiac care unit at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. (L to R): Jacki "Cookie" Beebe; Casey Simpson; Kellee Hearther; Samantha Simpson; and Robyn Brown.

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Other former [Bellflower](#) colleagues who stopped by included: current City Manager **Mike Egan**; City Clerk **Debra Bauchop** and her husband Dave, who is a retired Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff; and Rolling Hills Estates City Manager **Doug Prichard**. Doug is a long-distance swimmer and is an outstanding example to all the rest of us to stay in shape; eat right and exercise. Nobody wants to experience open-heart surgery: believe me!

"The way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not." -- [Mark Twain](#)



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Out of Action Since December 17 Encouragement to Follow A Healthy Path

Our primary purpose from the inception of this city manager newsletter has been to provide a vehicle to tie the folks in the craft together. City Management is different from "management in general." The juggling of competing interests while developing spending programs that serve the general public appropriately, while reporting to a group of elected officials is not brain surgery, but it is not easy. Only those in the field truly understand the distinguishing characteristics and unique challenges of city management.

Following my "re-do" open heart surgery, I was still in the I.C.U. unit with one-to-one nursing, a place that usually bars all visitors, when Norwalk City Manager **Ernie Garcia** came strolling in. Though arriving separately, close on his heels was **Ken Bayless**, a retired Chief with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and currently the General Manager of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District. I was hurting but extremely pleased to see old friends. When folks give of their time and travel to the hospital to visit, it is heartwarming and humbling. And, it raises the spirits and provides encouragement, whether at the time it seems too or not.

It was great to see so many visitors over the two and a half months of hospitalization. Yes! I hurt and was tired and discouraged, but always grateful to those who stopped by.



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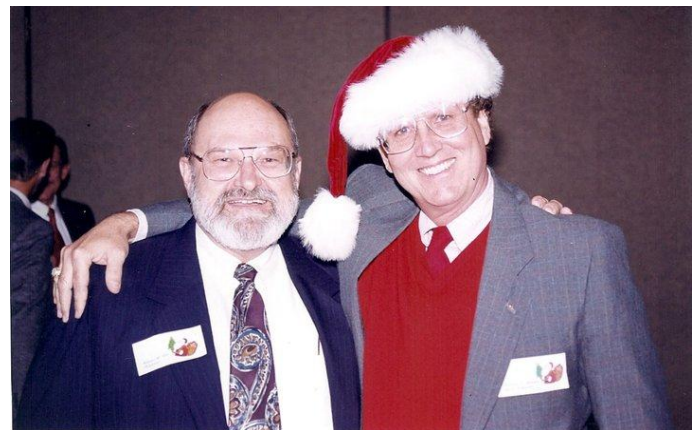
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See if you can identify this place.



Former Paramount City Manager **Bill Holt**, who also served as the California JPIA Executive Director, with veteran Lakewood City Manager **Howard Chambers** at a 2010 Christmas gathering. Bill continues to practice as a "code enforcement" attorney for cities, and Howard has decided to put off retirement for at least another eighteen months.



Out of Action Since December 17 Encouragement to Follow A Healthy Path

My family and I are making a very public "Thank you" to each and every one of you who visited, called or sent us an encouraging note or card. We have previously mentioned some of the visits, but there were many more, and I am honored that people would take time from their personal lives to drop by to encourage and try to raise our spirits.

Calls from veteran City Manager **Paul Philips**, CDS Executive **Richard Fierro** and long-time Cerritos Aquatic Club swim coach **Mark Johnson** are appreciated. Each in his own way helped with our resolve to get well.

Los Angeles County Supervisor **Don Knabe** sent over some flowers and a cheery balloon. His Deputy **Erin Stibal** called, sent cards and visited us in the hospital.

We are exceedingly grateful for the visits, calls, flowers and cards from a wide variety of folks. The good people at *In-N-Out Burger* sent some beautiful flowers. Susan and I had a wonderful hospital visit with **Sam and Sharon Olivito**. At the risk of missing someone, we want to acknowledge our many well-wishers: former City Manager **John Jameson**; former City Administrator and *Wolf & Company* Executive **Wesley Wolf**; Bellflower Parks & Recreation Director **Rich Pierce**; retired Huntington Park City Manager **Gregory Korduner**; retired LASD Commander **John Hammargren**; former City Administrator, who also had recent heart surgery, **Ray Harris**; **Bill Pagett** of *Willdan* and many of the Los Angeles County office staff; the Lakewood staff sent some amazing flowers.

Our neighbors Harold, Dorothy, Wayne & Kevin; and neighbors **Paul & Dawn Lukacs**; **Nay Liebenau**, **Katie Williams** and **Emily Goldsmith**, who are all friends of our daughter Casey; **Maria Elena Castiglione** and her family, who are long-time friends through daughter Samantha's soccer playing days, all sent cheer and wishes.

Of course the family gathered, and it was an incredible happening to experience all of my daughters in one place at the same time: **Kellee Hearther**, who flew in from Corpus Christi, Texas; **Jacki "Cookie" Beebe**, who drove from Anthem, Arizona; **Robyn "Chip" Brown**, who is a FedEx executive who resides in Bellflower; **Samantha Simpson** of Cerritos and **Casey Simpson**, who came all the way from Nashville. Getting the girls together at one place at the same time is a rare occurrence. 8-year old grandson Tyler used some stealth to get to the waiting room for me to see him, and he did it.

My wonderful Broken Arrow, Oklahoma in-laws **Kenny & Annie Woodruff** sent multiple cards and a promise of some "homemade" tortillas. Susan's Mom is a wizard in the kitchen. Her tortillas are marvelous. Also from Broken Arrow, we got cheering up messages from Susan's sister Tammy and her husband Scott, and brother Richard Rodriguez.

Anaheim's **Brad McKinney** and family sent a nice card. Brad is a former executive with *Willdan* and then eCivis. Brad's wife Janay is an extraordinary soccer player/coach. Past-President of the City Manager Department of the League of California Cities, Santa Clarita City Manager **Ken Pulskamp** thoughtfully sent along best wishes.



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Out of Action Since December 17 Encouragement to Follow A Healthy Path

Retiring Lakewood Mayor **Joe Esquivel** and Pat sent a very thoughtful card. Joe and Pat are Boston Red Sox fans, and they love to get to the Angel/Sox games in Anaheim. La Mirada City Manager **Tom Robinson** sent his wishes, as did Assistant to the City Manager **Anne Haraksin**.



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Most certainly we have forgotten to appropriately acknowledge someone, and for that we apologize. However, our purpose here is also to promote healthy habits. As the twins Janet & Judy used to sing to children's programs, "Eat good food, get your rest, and exercise." That advise is not to be taken lightly. Good diet and regular exercise can save you from the surgeon's scalpel. I certainly wish I had heeded the warnings and kept at my exercise program.

My brother Jerry and his wife Gale have been great through the whole experience. They have been there visiting and encouraging all along the way. Jerry retired a few years back from a position with the City of Cerritos. He continues to follow a good diet and regularly rides his bicycle long-distances, like Long Beach City Manager **Pat West** and new Pico Rivera City Manager **Ron Bates**.

My last hospital visitor was **Jim Barisic**. Jim and I started as interns together in Paramount in 1965. He went on to a successful career as a developer. It was good seeing him.



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Frank Tripepi brought some sandwiches by last Friday for lunch. It was good having a visitor at home. The city manager community is full of great people. City Managers are busy people; duh! Working for a City Council of individuals who usually feel "they" are the boss individually (when in reality "collectively" they are the boss), while at the same time managing and directing a staff to provide public services, and developing and monitoring the revenues and expenditures of the agency's spending program requires professional juggling ability, patience and perseverance. It is important that you add a good exercise and diet program to the juggling act. Stay healthy and out of the hospital!

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Average annual precipitation in inches

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Yuma, Arizona | 2.65 |
| 2. Las Vegas, Nevada | 4.19 |
| 3. Bishop, California | 5.61 |
| 4. Bakersfield, California | 5.72 |
| 5. Phoenix, Arizona | 7.11 |
| 6. Alamosa, Colorado | 7.13 |

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Though we distributed 24-newsletter issues in calendar year 2010, our year ending medical emergency has stalled/slowed 2011 production. We appreciate the many expressions of confidence in our ability to bounce back. We urge our readers to visit the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown Sponsor websites.



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Picking Up the Pieces: Santa Monica Planning Director **Eileen Fogarty**, who came to the city in 2006, is stepping away from her post in May to take a national level consulting opportunity. The Santa Monica City Manager is **Rod Gould**. **Jose E. Pulido** is the City Manager in Temple City. Noting the foreclosed and empty houses become an economic blight issue, Assistant City Manager **Brian Haworth**, who doubles as the Temple City Economic Development Director is looking at code enforcement as an economic development tool. **Cliff Graves** is the Interim City Manager in Carson following the resignation of **Jerry Groomes**, who served in the City Manager post for some 12-years. Jerry has been appointed by San Diego Mayor **Jerry Sanders** to be the next President of the Southeast Economic Development Corp. in San Diego, a position Jerry held in the early 1990s prior to joining the Carson staff. California State University, Dominguez Hills has named a new scholarship in honor of Jerry; the **Jerry Groomes** Endowed Scholarship for Excellence in Public Administration. One blogger in Oakland wants to take experience and qualifications out of consideration and make the position of Chief of Police totally political as an elected position. Scotts Valley is recruiting for a Community Development Director/Deputy City Manager as Interim Director **Susan Westman** leaves

the position in April. Though City Manager **Steve Ando** has no immediate plans to retire, the position is important for City Manager succession planning. Former Milpitas City Manager **Jim Connolly** passed away at the end of February. He worked his way up in the organization through the Planning Department and became the Economic Development Director until 1979 when City Manager **John Maltbie** appointed him Deputy City Manager. He became City Manager in 1986 and served until he retired in 1993. In an effort to economize, Ceres, where **Art de Werk**, the Chief of Police, is the Interim City Manager, a reorganization will have four major department heads reporting to Deputy City Manager **Sheila Cumberland**. As the plan was announced, **Glenn Gebhardt**, one of the department heads, resigned his position for a similar post in Lathrop. **Ron Bates**, 64, is the new Pico Rivera City Manager. He has been serving as the South Gate City Manager. Atascadero City Manager **Wade McKinney** confirmed that Assistant City Manager **Jim Lewis** is spearheading an effort to involve local restaurants in a "Dine Atascadero" strategy to help the city's culinary establishments. The announcement came as the Carlton Restaurant and Bar closed its doors. Indio City Council members have delegated the responsibility to approve grant funding to community groups and outside agencies to City Manager **Dan Martinez**. They approved a funding criteria to be followed. Solvang City Manager **Brad Vidro** delivered a State of the City address to Chamber of Commerce sponsored program late last month. Brad identified "water" as the issue of the city's centennial year. Brawley City Manager **Gary Burroughs** has received a year employment agreement extension without any pay or benefits changes. Gary has been the Brawley City Manager since June, 2008. Tustin City Manager **David C. Biggs** has been terminated on a 3-2 vote. David has been Tustin's City Manager since October, succeeding the retiring veteran City Manager **William Huston**, who was Tustin City Manager for some 29-years. **David Biggs** previously served as Redondo Beach Assistant City Manager. **Jill Ingram** is the new Assistant City Manager in Seal Beach where she has served as Assistant to the City Manager. Interim City Manager **Pat Importuna** has announced his resignation making Jill the new Interim City Manager. Pat is a former Cypress City Manager. Former Seal Beach City Manager **David Carmany** has moved on to the Manhattan Beach City Manager post.

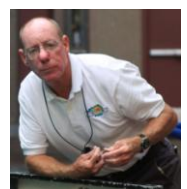
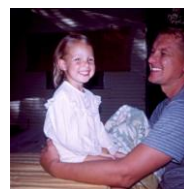


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Picking Up More Pieces: Former Livingston Finance Director and Assistant City Manager **Vickie Lewis** has been appointed Interim City Manager following former City Manager **Richard Warne's** resignation. Richard decided to leave his position following an August 31 recall election provoked by utility rate increases. San Juan Capistrano Deputy City Manager **Steve Apple** has announced his retirement after 27-years of public sector work. Steve came to the city four-years ago from the City of Solana Beach. -time Costa Mesa City Manager **Allan Roeder** has retired and the Costa Mesa City Council appears to be looking to reorganize and down-size the city staff to address revenue shortfalls. Hercules Chief of Police **Fred Deltorchio** has been appointed Interim City Manager. The Chief is a lawyer and graduated from California State University, Hayward. Commander **Bill Goswick** will serve as acting Chief while the Chief serves as Interim City Manager during the recruitment period to replace former City Manager **Nelson Oliva**, who has been out of office for an extended time on medical leave. Westminster City Manager **Donald Lamm**, 57, submitted his resignation effective at the end of last year. Don succeeded veteran City Manager **Ray Silver**, who retired. Westminster Chief of Police **Mitch Waller** also serves as the Interim City Manager. A former Vice President of Administrative Services at Barstow Community College and Riverside Community College, **Curt Mitchell** has been selected to be the new Barstow City Manager behind the retirement of veteran City Manager **Richard Rowe**. According to reports, Curt has been a resident of Barstow since he was eight-years old. Last month former Henderson, Nevada City Manager **Mary Kay Peck** received a \$1.3 million settlement in the matter of her 2009 dismissal. An independent arbitrator made the ruling after reviewing the City Manager's employment agreement and the procedure used by the City Council. Arroyo Grande's new City Hall is located at 300 East Branch Street. **Steven Adams**, who is a former Assistant City Manager in Westlake Village, has been the Arroyo Grande City Manager since September, 2000. Bob Murray & Associates is conducting the recruitment effort to find a replacement for Mountain View City Manager **Kevin Duggan** when he retires in April. Mountain View hopes to have a new city manager by June or July. Dana Point City Manager **Doug Chotkevys** has been addressing the issue of emergency shelter for homeless people. It is reported in a 2009 police



count that Dana Point had between 50 and 170 homeless. Former Congressman **Steve Horn**, 79, who is a former President of California State University, Long Beach passed about last month reportedly from complications of Alzheimer's Disease. The State required cities to adopt emergency shelter policies in 2008. Retired City Manager **Joe Tanner** was recently spotted on the beach in Kauai, Hawaii. Sounds like better duty than grappling with budget deficits and union demands. Salinas City Manager **Artie Fields** is implementing a staff reorganization as an element to closing a budget gap, aiming for "long-term" savings and improved efficiency. A large retirement celebration is planned at the Mountain View Senior Center for Thursday, March 31 for veteran Mountain View City Manager **Kevin Duggan**. After nearly two decades as San Ramon City Manager, **Herb Moniz** will retire in March. Cities throughout the State prepare to resist the State's threatened dismantling of Community Redevelopment Agencies, the most successful economic development tool in California's history. As in many other cities, Hayward City Manager **Fran David** has been weighing options. As City Managers throughout the country, Willows City Manager **Steve Holsinger** grapples with budget-cutting proposals, including lay-offs and compensation reductions. Palo Alto Assistant City Manager **Pam Antil**, in the March, 2011 issue of P.M. Magazine, recommends reading **Michael Eisner's** book *Working Together: Why Great Partnerships Succeed*. The San Francisco Chronicle reported last Saturday (February 26, 2011) that Oakland City Attorney **John Russo**, who is a past-President of the League of California Cities, is among the three finalists for the Alameda City Manager position. According to The Bay Citizen John's competition is former Alameda Assistant City Attorney **David Brandt**, and highly-respected Millbrae City Manager **Marcia Raines**. Alameda Interim City Manager **Ann Marie Gallant** has been placed on administrative leave until her contract expires March 31. With the retirement of "long-time" friend and colleague **Curt Pederson**, Los Angeles County Supervisor **Don Knabe** has appointed **Rich Velasquez** to be Chief Deputy. Roseville City Manager **Ray Kerridge** appointed Sacramento Police Department Captain **Daniel Han**, 42, to be the new Roseville Chief of Police. Banning City Manager **Andy Takata** served as a water polo referee at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.





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Urban Futures, Inc. (UFI) is a full service municipal consulting firm serving California cities, counties, redevelopment agencies, school districts and special districts since 1972. During the past 39-years, Urban Futures has expanded its base of expertise with highly skilled and experienced professionals improving the company consulting practice and capabilities to include strategic planning, financial analysis, management consulting, and special study services. Urban Futures, Inc. is the largest solely owned municipal financial advisory and redevelopment consulting firm in California with offices in the cities of Orange and Walnut Creek. The firm offers an impressive full range of financial and redevelopment services, including:

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Marshall Linn is the founder of Urban Futures, Inc. Marshall's expertise is in municipal finance, redevelopment, and planning. Mr. Linn has served as financial advisor on more than 525 tax exempt and taxable transactions for some 150 government jurisdictions. Marshall

is a **USC** Alumnus, and has served as guest lecturer at the University of Southern California.

Urban Futures, Inc. Management Team



Michael P. Busch, President of Urban Futures, joined the firm in 2007 following a successful career in municipal government. Mike has extensive experience in Strategic Planning, Municipal Finance, Economic Development, and Community Redevelopment.



Urban Futures, Inc. has four Managing Principals with a wide variety of successful government management experience. **Doug Anderson** has been with the firm since 1985. He specializes in tax increment and revenue financings. He has been a Trainer at several California Redevelopment Association educational programs. Doug is a San Diego State University graduate.



Jon Isom is the Managing Principal who provides school bond advisory. He has worked exclusively with school districts and community college districts. Jon graduated from Brigham Young University.



Managing Principal **Jon Huffman** specializes in redevelopment, land use policy and environmental planning and design. He has extensive experience in the development and implementation of community outreach and facilitation strategies, and, project impact negotiations. Jon has a Masters from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



Former City Manager **William "Bill" Kelly** focuses on management advisory services and economic development. Bill joined Urban Futures Inc. in 2007 following his retirement after 14-years as the Arcadia City Manager. Bill is an Adjunct Professor in the MPA program at **USC** and serves on the Academic Advisory Board for the Graduate School of Policy, Planning and Development.

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