

## Biography of Glenn Alvin Brown

3212 Whitney Lane, Burbank, CA 91504  
Phone – Fax 818 845-9026 email: gabrown@prodigy.net  
California Professional Geologist No 4  
Certified Engineering Geologist No 3

Born in Los Angeles, CA February 6, 1924

### Career Highlights:

Served in U.S. Navy April 1943 to May 1946

BA degree in Geology, UCLA 1951

CA Dept Water Resources 1952-1962

U.S. Agency for International Development (Somalia) 1962

Hood & Schmidt/Geotechnical Consultants 1962-1966

President of AEG 1966

President of Glenn A. Brown & Assoc. 1966-1975

State Board of Geologists 1968-1972

LeRoy Crandall/Law Companies Group 1975-1987

Sr. Vice President, Law Environmental 1987-1993

Independent Consultant, since 1993

Foreign consulting in: Argentina, Guatemala, India, Mauritius,

Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Somalia, Spain, Turkey

Member, MWD Board of Directors, since 2003

\* This biography was compiled by the AEG Southern California Section Committee on Biographies and Memorials, and makes use of the format devised by the Section for its compilation of historic "pioneer" Engineering Geologists, both living and deceased. (The living geologists provide input to their biography.) Included here are licensed California Engineering Geologists who were in practice for 25 or more years at the time (2007) of the 50th Anniversary of the Association. This Biography series is an on-going effort.

## MILITARY SERVICE

In April 1943, Glenn enlisted in the Navy V5 Program for Pre-Flight Schools. At the time, there was a long waiting list for entry, and he was redeployed to the V12 Program at Central Missouri State Teachers College in Warrensburg, Missouri. There he received his first year in college, courtesy of Uncle Sam. From there, he was sent to William Jewel College in Liberty, Missouri, for Pre-Flight School. During his training, the program bogged down. The participants were given two choices: Go back to college for a year and become a Deck Officer, or go into the Combat Air Crew Program. Being young and very interested in airplanes, he opted for the Combat Air Crew Program. He attended numerous schools, including Ordnance, Radar, Gunnery, and Operational Training, and was given his Wings. He was assigned to Patrol Bombing Squadron VPB204 in Coco Solo, Panama, and was discharged from Active Duty in May 1946.

## PROFESSIONAL CAREER

### California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

In 1952, Glenn attended Graduate School at UCLA for one year, but his G.I. Bill began running low, when he noticed a job opening flyer for the California Division (Department since 1956) of Water Resources. He applied and was accepted as a Junior Engineering Geologist in Sacramento. Elmer (Marley) Marliave (later a Founder of AEG) was the Supervising Engineering Geologist. Glenn's immediate boss was to become his long-time friend, Robert Bean (future fourth President of AEG).

After a few months of indoctrination on evaluation of dam sites and tunnel alignments, Glenn was assigned to make systematic evaluations of desert groundwater basins of California. These extended from Mexico to the Oregon border. The study included compilation of prior geologic reports, obtaining well logs, gathering field information on wells and springs, plus obtaining water samples for chemical analyses. Reconnaissance-level geologic maps delineating features of groundwater basins were prepared. The fieldwork started in spring 1952 in El Centro and ended in Surprise Valley in the summer of 1956. The results of the Colorado River Basin Region portion of the study area were published by DWR (1954).

In the summer of 1956, Glenn was transferred to the DWR Design and Construction Branch. This assignment included geologic mapping of the two Tehachapi Mountains Tunnel alignments, the San Bernardino Tunnel, and an unbuilt alignment through the central San Gabriel Mountains, from Valyermo to the San Gabriel River near Cogswell Dam.

It was on this San Gabriel alignment that he earned his "raggedy assed geologist" degree. Glenn and fellow geologist Dale Roberts found that it was easier to slide down some steep slopes on the seat of their pants. The Project Engineer took great pleasure in pointing out the condition of their field clothes.

## State Water Rights Board

In October 1958, Glenn was placed on loan to the State Water Rights Board, to assist in the preparation of the famous "Report of Referee" for the case City of Los Angeles vs. City of San Fernando, et al. Glenn's duties consisted of gathering information to compile the geologic map and cross sections of the San Fernando Valley. He authored chapters and appendices of the report on Geology, Water Quality, Specific Yield, Changes in Storage, and Determination of Subsurface Underflow from the Basin. At the completion of his part of the report in February 1961, Glenn returned to the DWR Southern District. He replaced Robert G. Thomas (future AEG Honorary Member), who had resigned to join Tom Stetson at Stetson Engineers. Glenn supervised 18 personnel in various groundwater investigations, including underflow studies at Castaic and Cedar Springs Dam sites.

## U.S. Agency for International Development (AID)

Early in 1962, DWR received a request for technical assistance from the U.S. Department of State, AID. Glenn was loaned to AID as a groundwater consultant for assignment in Mogadiscio, Somalia, in the desert of East Africa. His job was to determine the potential for developing a new water supply for the capitol city, which he did.

## Hood & Schmidt/Geotechnical Consultants

In December 1962, Glenn left the nurturing grounds of DWR and joined the small engineering geology firm of Hood & Schmidt (geologists Russell Hood and William Schmidt). This was a time when the use of engineering geologists in residential and commercial developments was rapidly growing. Hood & Schmidt reformatted in 1964 to become Geotechnical Consultants, with the addition of geologist Joe Gonzalez and geotechnical engineer Klaus John (who later became a professor at the University of Bochum, Germany). Glenn's interesting jobs included water well siting in Baja California, a groundwater investigation for the U.S. Air Force in Turkey, and evaluation of mining waste disposal in karst terrain in Puerto Rico.

## Glenn A. Brown & Associates

Glenn formed his firm in 1966, and provided consulting service in Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology. His many clients included: Groundwater studies for Beaumont Irrigation District; Central and West Basin Water Replenishment District; Mojave Public Utilities District; Big Bear City Community Services District; the volcanic Island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean; Seawater intrusion studies for Caltrans for the 101 Freeway at Santa Barbara; at Bolsa Gap for Signal Oil Company; and at Cuenca del

Jucar, Spain. For the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, he investigated irrigation and drainage problems in Viedma, Argentina, and Huacho, Peru. He was a team leader for the United Nations for a groundwater supply project in the western desert of India.

#### LeRoy Crandall & Associates/Law Companies Group

Glenn A. Brown & Associates merged with LeRoy Crandall & Associates in 1975, and became the geological department of the combined firms. These then became the Law Companies Group in 1982. Glenn supervised the geological staff, which included Don McCann, Merv Johnson, Richard Bose, Alice Campbell, Kathy Foley, Gary Guacci, Robin Kim, Steve McArdle, Joan Oberholser, Monte Ray, and Richard Shatz. Some of the geologic studies included: An evaluation of ten desert basins for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), for the purpose of determining the feasibility to pump water into the basins for storage, and then pump it out later. They also monitored groundwater networks for Southern California Edison Company at Daggett and Redondo Beach, California, and at South Point, Nevada. They investigated the recovery of seepage losses from the All-American Canal in Imperial County. They performed Class I and Class II studies at sanitary landfills for Los Angeles County, CalMat Company, City of Industry, the IT Corporation, and BKK Corporation. The geological department also provided geologic and seismic reports for high-rise construction and for critical facilities such as schools and hospitals.

Concern over the environment in the 1980s and early 1990s caused the formation of environmental sections in existing larger companies. Glenn became Sr. Vice President of Law Environmental in September 1987 with administrative duties for four West Coast offices. The varied activities included water resource evaluations, permitting of solid waste landfills, environmental audits, regulatory compliance, and hazardous waste remediation. One job for attorneys representing the Stringfellow Acid Pits Superfund Site, involved working with AEG past-Presidents Allen Hatheway and Richard Proctor (see 1992 Publication).

#### Independent Consultant

Glenn retired from Law Companies Group in 1993 after being offered a "Golden Parachute." He then continued to receive phone calls asking specifically for him to consult. Some of his clients included Newhall County Water District, Las Virgines Water District, CalMat Company, Riverside Highland Water Company, L.A. County Sanitation District, and Pepperdine University in Malibu.

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

In 1957, the California Association of Engineering Geologists was formed by a forward-thinking group in Sacramento. Glenn soon joined through the encouragement of Bob Bean. By the following year, membership expanded to such an extent in southern California that the Second Annual Meeting was held in Santa Monica, with Robert Thomas as Chairman.

When Glenn was AEG President in 1966, a strong need for Registration of Geologists developed. It was soon evident that we geologists were babes in the woods when it came to politics. Glenn appointed Wilferd Peak as a committee of one to interface with other geologists, such as State Geologist Ian Campbell, Assistant State Geologist Wes Brewer, and with others with political know-how to provide AEG guidance. Wes Brewer became State Geologist on the retirement of Ian Campbell, and was of special help. To recognize his effort, he was later unanimously selected by the Board of Registration for Geologists to be Registered Geologist No. 1.

On August 1, 1968, Governor Ronald Reagan signed into law Assembly Bill 600, which established the State Board of Geologists. Governor Reagan appointed Glenn to fill the Engineering Geologist position on the Board. After the expiration of his appointed term, Glenn was a member of the Professional Affairs Committee, later renamed the Technical Assistance Committee, for more than 20 years. During 1995, Frank Kresse, George Brogan and Glenn Brown were placed on a subcommittee to prepare the first examination for Hydrogeologists Certification.

#### CAEG and AEG positions held

- 1958 Vice Chairman, Los Angeles Section
- 1962 Editor, California Association of Engineering Geologists Newsletter  
(Name changed to Association of Engineering Geologists in 1962)
- 1963 Chairman, Los Angeles Section
- 1965 Vice President AEG
- 1966 President AEG

Appointed to the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) in December 2001, representing the City of Burbank. (MWD is the world's largest water supplier, to 18 million people.)

Appointed by Superior Court to be the Neutral Member of the San Gabriel Watermaster 3-man team in July 2002.

Glenn received The Groundwater Resources Association Lifetime Achievement Award in September 2006, in recognition of "Outstanding Contribution to the Service and understanding of Groundwater Resources."

## PUBLICATIONS

- Brown, G.A. (contributor), 1954, DWR Water Quality Investigations Report No. 4.
- Brown, G.A. (contributor), 1962, Report of Referee, City of Los Angeles v City of San Fernando.
- Brown, G.A., 1975, Groundwater Geology of the San Fernando Valley, Bulletin 196: California Division of Mines and Geology, p. 31-51.
- Brown, G.A., and Proctor, R.J. (Editors), 1981, Professional Practice Guidelines: (First edition) AEG Special Publication, 9 chapters.
- Hatheway, A.W., and Brown, G.A., 1992, Stringfellow Acid Pits: First legally constituted Hazardous waste disposal site: in Engineering Geology Practice in Southern California, B.W. Pipkin and R.J. Proctor (Editors): AEG Special Publication No. 4, Star Pub. Co., p. 81-117.
- Bean, R.T., and Brown, G.A., 1992, Groundwater and its management in southern California: in Engineering Geology Practice in Southern California, B.W. Pipkin and R.J. Proctor (Editors): AEG Special Publication No. 4, Star Pub. Co., p. 385-409.