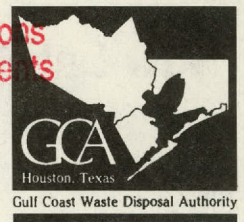


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# Comments

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority

October 1991

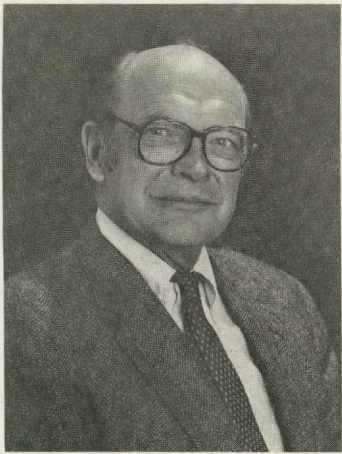
## Bradley, Fisher and Matthews Continue As Directors Reappointed To GCA Board



Gail G. Bradley

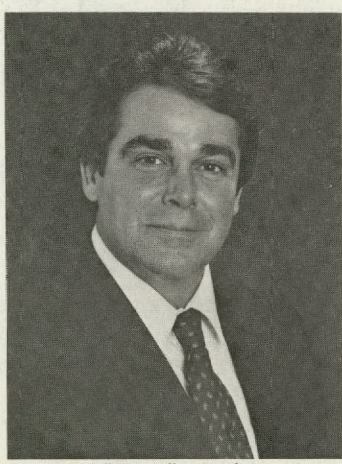
Gail G. Bradley, Dr. Frank M. Fisher, Jr., and James A. "Ossie" Matthews, Jr. have each been reappointed for another two-year term on the Board of Directors for Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority. Fisher, the senior of the three, has served on the GCA board since 1979.

In his letter of appointment to Fisher, Harris County Judge Jon Lindsay acknowledged his appreciation for the director's continuing service to the community. "Your willingness to serve in this capacity means a great deal to Commissioners Court and the people of Harris County." A biological researcher by profession, Fisher has worked on such projects as biological responses to pesticides in the Bay Area, and the development of a more complete understanding of the State's wetlands.



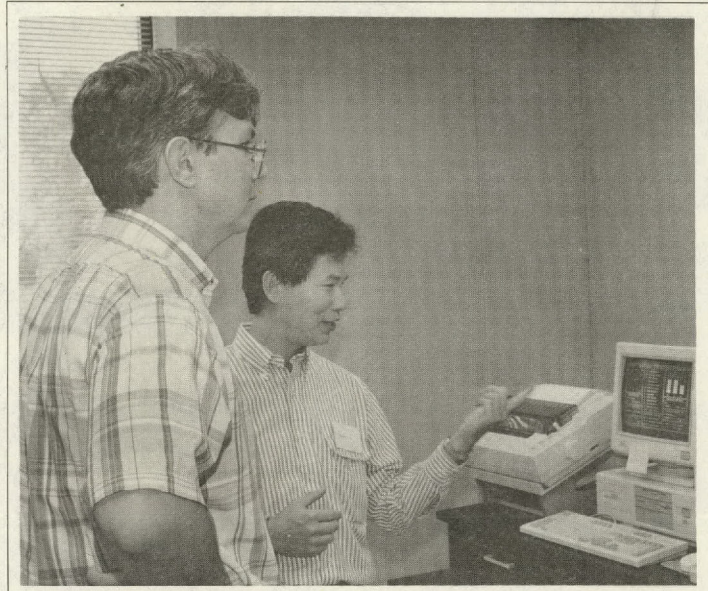
Dr. Frank M. Fisher

Matthews, a resident of Texas City, will be beginning his third term on the GCA Board. "The Commissioners Court and I are pleased that you are willing to continue your tenure on the Board," wrote Galveston County Commissioners Court Judge Ray Holbrook. "We appreciate very much the fine job you have done." Matthews is self employed in Galveston County.



James A. "Ossie" Matthews, Jr.

continued on page 2



GCA staffer Henry Chiu (r) explains the use of new equipment to open house guest Jim Dement of Union Carbide.

### Open House Opens Lab To Guests/Customers

More than 100 GCA customers and other guests recently toured the Authority's new Central Lab at Bayport. It was "work as usual" throughout the facility as representatives from companies such as Dixie Chemical, Union Carbide and Lyondell were introduced to the Lab's vast array of equipment capable of providing more precise testing and faster reporting than before.

According to Central Lab Manager Jack Wahlstrom, the \$1.45 million complex currently conducts conventional testing in areas such as oxygen demand, nutrients and total suspended solids, as well as routine and low level analysis for heavy metals. Organic analysis is also being done to some degree, as is hazardous waste testing.

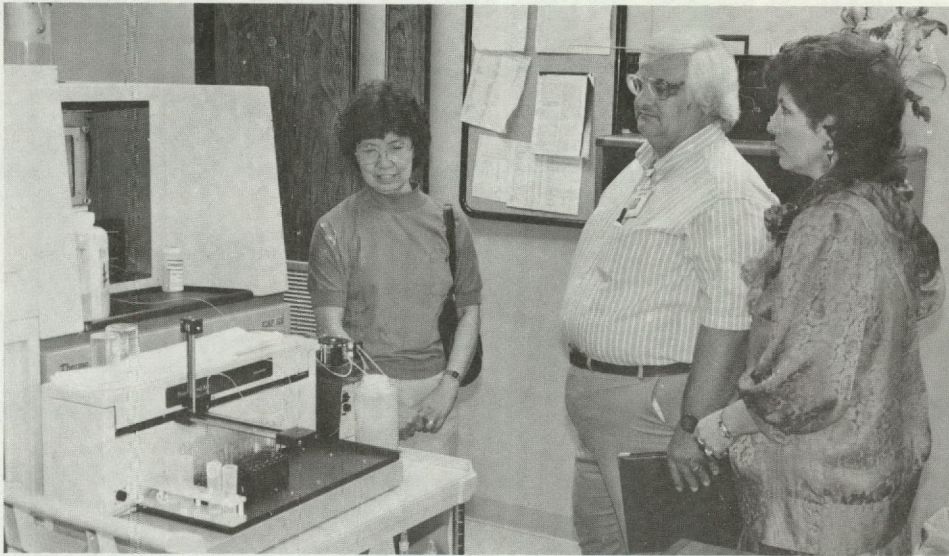
"Everyone touring the lab seemed genuinely impressed with what we have here," said Wahlstrom. "Continued safe and effective treatment depends upon GCA's ability to reliably determine waste material components. With dependable information, practical remedies can be employed to more efficiently treat substances which may be harmful to the environment," he said.

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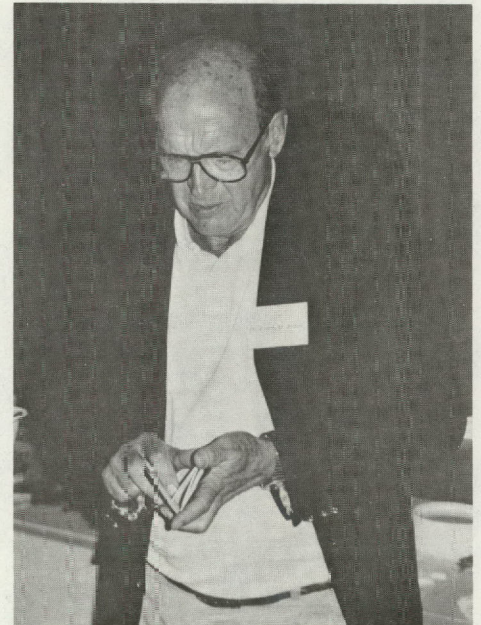
## New Lab Toured By GCA Guests...continued from page 1

GCA General Manager Dick Brown emphasized the new lab's importance, saying, "The GCA Central Laboratory staff is highly trained in the use of its state-of-the-art equipment. Combining these upper-level skills and equipment, with our quality assurance and control program that is second to none, has provided the industry with dramatically improved analytical capabilities that set new standards for dependability."

A portion of the 10,000 square foot facility is available for future expansion. The Central Lab currently employs 19 chemists and technicians.



Lyondell reps Carie Go (l) and Greg E. Keng are given a tour of the new central lab by GCA's Barbara Erwin during the recent open house (above). Director Frank Fisher (photo on right) was on hand to greet guests. Accompanying photos on page 3.



## 40 Acre/ Award Winning WWTP Approaches Second Decade

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of general reviews of GCA operations.

In early 1974 a valve was opened and wastewater from Union Carbide Corporation began flowing into a new treatment facility in Texas City. And though originally built to service only Carbide, it wasn't long before other area waste producers began using the services of GCA's 40 Acre wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

Today 40 Acre provides joint treatment for the waste streams from Union Carbide, Sterling Chemicals, Inc., Monsanto Chemical Company, and miscellaneous sources from the GCA's Campbell Bayou facility, as well as, uncontaminated rainwater run-off from the Motco site.

"The 40 Acre facility (its name has nothing whatsoever to do with its size) is a simple, extremely effective operation," said manager Laverne Pedersen. "In fact, we have been honored for several years in a row as a recipient of the Gold Award presented by the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) for facilities which had no National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit violations during the calendar year." The last permit violation at the facility occurred in 1984 during the massive Christmas freeze, and that was deemed an

"act of God," and therefore no fault of the operation or staff.

This 165 acre WWTP provides both Intermediate and Secondary treatment of waterborne wastes through a series of individual processes, each performing specific actions on the combined waste streams of the plant's customers. "The amount of raw waste we receive for treatment each day is equivalent to that generated by a typical city with a population of 800,000," said Pedersen. The load is staggering, but well within the facility's capabilities he says.

The treatment system used at 40 Acre is a modification of the activated sludge system. "Microorganisms, in the presence of dissolved organic material and oxygen, convert the organics to carbon dioxide, water and more microorganisms," Pedersen explained. "The microorganisms are allowed to settle from the liquid and are then removed from the system to ultimate disposal.

"We are really proud of the work being done at this facility," said Pedersen. "It's the norm for us to maintain a 90 to 95 percent organics removal rate, and that's an excellent level for any facility!"

## Directors Reappointed...continued from page 1

Like Matthews, Bradley was first appointed to the Board in 1987, having served nearly 20 years as a City Commissioner in Texas City. In 1981 Bradley retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone having logged 41 years service with that company and Illinois Bell as a Network Technician.

"I am pleased to see Directors Fisher, Matthews and Bradley returning to the Board of the GCA," said GM Dick Brown. "Their continued input and expertise are an asset to our organization. The staff and I look forward to working with all of them for another two productive years."

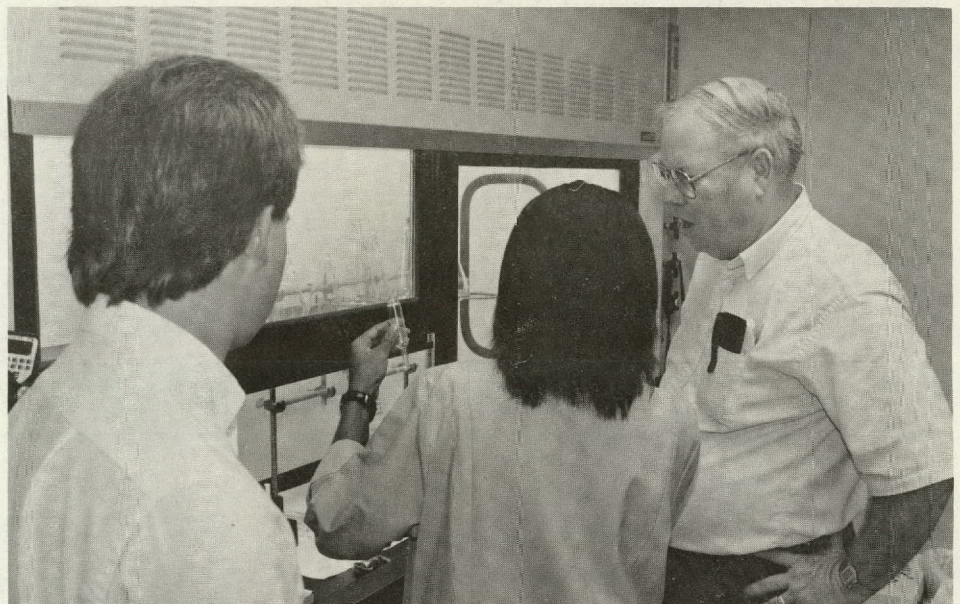
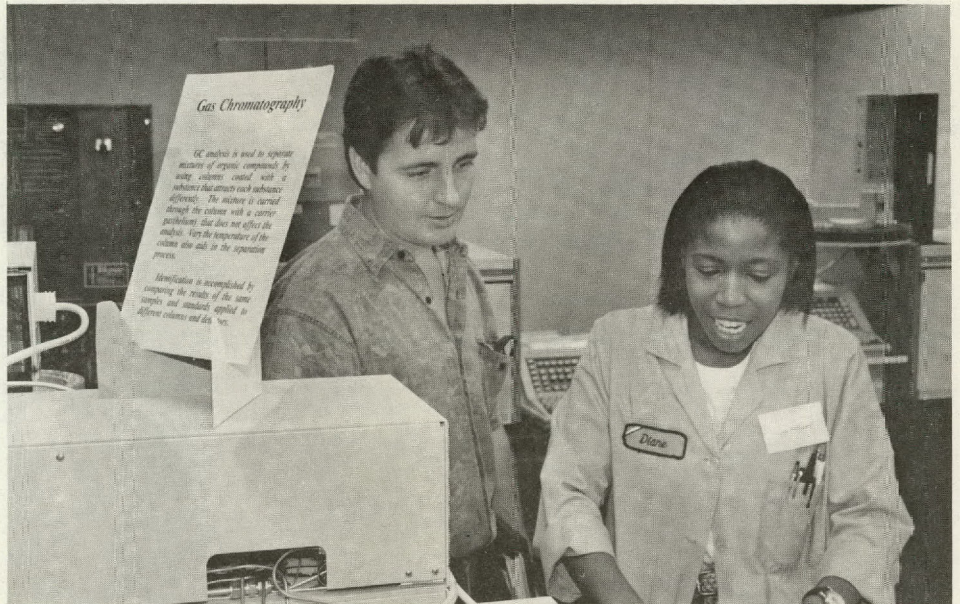
Terms of office for the reappointed directors will expire August 31, 1993.

# Open House Gallery

James Byrd of the Clear Lake City Water Authority listens intently as Diane Williams explains the system of Gas Chromatography at GCA's new central lab facility in Bayport. (top photo)

Guests from Dixie Chemical were among the many to tour the central lab recently. Being given a first-hand look at the state-of-the-art facilities were Mike Tomerlin (l) and John Brasington (r). This tour was conducted by GCA's Diane Williams. (middle photo)

Among the GCA Directors present at the open house was Gail Bradley (bottom left photo). From left to right, Genie Barnes of Taylor Lake Village spent a portion of her tour being entertained by John Wildenthal and Oscar Weir. (bottom right photo)



## GCA BRIEFS

### GCA Staffers Draw TWPCA Thanks

Four GCA staffers recently participated in the coordination of the 1991 Texas Water Pollution Control Association meeting held in Galveston. Julie Clifford, Nasser Oshkoochi, Jerry Nutting and Vance Kemler served on the local arrangements committee for the annual gathering. TWPCA's Alice T. Menga noted in a letter to GCA General Manager Dick Brown that the involvement of these four in planning the meeting contributed to its "great success." Says Ms. Menga, "The TWPCA depends upon volunteers such as these to accomplish our many goals. We appreciate their donation of time and talent."

### GAUA Meeting Sets Attendance Record

A record 143 members and 21 guests attended the recent meeting of the Gulf Area Utilities Association (GAUA). Hosts for the session were Gulf Coast Authority, Clear Lake Water Authority, City of Webster and Scheffer Engineering.

GAUA serves the waste treatment field with training, credit toward state licensing and updates on regulatory requirements.

### Brazilian Visitors Tour 40 Acre

A group of Brazilian engineers recently toured the 40 Acre WWTP at Texas City as part of an air monitoring study.



# BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At meetings held in July, August and September, the Board of Directors of Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority discussed and took action on the following:

## The Board:

- approved a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into Waste Disposal Agreements Under Certain Terms and Conditions for the Receipt and Treatment of Trucked-in Wastewater at the Bayport Facility.
- approved a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Non-Disclosure Agreement Between Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority and Eco Waste Technologies.
- awarded bid to Reddy Engineers & Construction in the amount of \$3,119,400 for the general construction contract for the installation of the first stage treatment replacement facilities at the Bayport Facility.
- approved a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into a Contract with Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company (Texpool) for the Investment of

## Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority Funds.

- approved a Resolution Adopting an Amended ICMA Retirement Corporation Money Purchase Plan and Trust Agreement.
- awarded bid to Trey Industries in the amount of \$161,000 for B-Plant aeration piping fabrication at the Bayport Facility.
- awarded bid to Trey Industries in the amount of \$57,920 for the installation of B-Plant aeration piping at the Bayport Facility.
- awarded bid to Bell Construction in the amount of \$213,607 for dike liner repairs at the 40-Acre Facility.
- awarded bid to Maxwell Construction Co. in the amount of \$57,345 for improvements to Control Building at the 40-Acre Facility.
- approved the appointment of KPMG Peat Marwick to perform the 1991 audit for GCWDA.

## GULF COAST COMMENTS

### Board of Directors

#### Harris County

Dr. Frank M. Fisher, Jr., Vice-Chairman — C  
Hon. John Wildenthal, Member — M  
Jerry Pennington, Member — G

#### Galveston County

James A. Matthews, Jr., Secretary — C  
Gail G. Bradley, Treasurer — M  
Vacant, Member — G

#### Chambers County

Mark Schultz, Chairman — C  
Richard Y. Ferguson, Member — M  
Oscar G. Weir, Member — G

C — County Commissioners' Court Appointee  
M — Mayor's Council Appointee  
G — Governor's Appointee

### Administration

Dick Brown  
General Manager  
Jerry R. Dunn  
Assistant General Manager  
Joe P. Teller  
Manager Special Projects  
Charles W. Ganze  
Manager Industrial Operations  
Luanne Goin  
Editor  
Charles Goode  
Managing Editor

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## Gulf Coast Comments

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