



PACIFIC INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT COMPANY

INVESTMENT

OUTLOOK

July 1993

BACK TO BUTLER CREEK

I never lived near a river. The closest I ever got I suppose was Butler Creek in the backwoods of Middletown, Ohio when I was a boy. But it was gentle and kind and its surprises came in the form of crawdads and salamanders and all sorts of fun things that little boys dream pleasant dreams of. There were no nightmares in Butler Creek. No levees, no sandbags, no shattered lives, no Presidents to commiserate. It was not the Mississippi. My summers were days filled with running to not from the water. There were fish to catch in that deep eddy underneath the exposed roots of what had to be the county's biggest and oldest oak tree. There were BB guns to shoot at my brother and any make believe bad guys lurking in the underbrush. Lots of turtles to find. An abandoned shack that quickly became a fort. Buckeyes to pick. I never lived near a river.

Now I live at the ocean. Friends joke that the next tsunami will sweep that house away like the Mississippi rolling through Des Moines, but I know better. It's 50 yards from the beach and as untouchable as the homes of all my neighbors seques-

tered behind the gates of Irvine Cove. My children surf, make sand castles, look for crabs, and do all the fun things that kids dream pleasant dreams of. There are trees to climb, parks to play in, bikes to ride and nice cars to drive. They've never lived near a river. Will they ever? I don't know. As a parent with 49 years of life experience it seems like the ideal would be for them to experience a few floods before they're 35 or 40 so that they'll know how nice a creek is during the second half of their life. That's hard though. First of all, you don't intentionally throw your kids into a raging torrent. Kicking them out of the house at 21 is one thing, but when they're hurting and you can help, it's oh so hard to say no, even when you realize that in the long run, a "no" is the better response. Secondly, even if you try, life or lives can't be engineered so smoothly. It's full of hard knocks and heartaches even for kids who live in Irvine Cove and no matter how many sandbags you have, you just can't build the levee high enough.

Bond managers have lived in their own privileged world for the past 12 years

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, or referred to in any other publication, without express written permission.
Copyright, Pacific Investment Management Company