

**RONALD M. KNAUS PAPERS**

Mss. 4037

Inventory

Compiled by  
Nick Skaggs

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2021

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	2 linear ft., 3 volumes, 5 rolled plan sets
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1914-1986
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1976-1983
<b>Languages</b>	English.
<b>Summary</b>	Professor at the Nuclear Science Center of Louisiana State University. Papers pertain chiefly to Ronald M. Knaus's involvement in the University Lakes Restoration Project and include correspondence, reports, proposals, grant documentation, project plans, newspaper clippings, photographic prints, maps, and other records.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	None.
<b>Reproduction Note</b>	May be reproduced.
<b>Copyright</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Related Collections</b>	None.
<b>Citation</b>	Ronald M. Knaus Papers, Mss. 4037, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	47:1-3, OS:K

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Ronald M. Knaus was a professor at the Nuclear Science Center of Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was involved in the Lakes Restoration Project (also called the University Lakes Restoration Project), a partially grant funded, joint effort of the Baton Rouge City-Parish Government, LSU, and Southern University to dredge the City Park Lake and the University Lakes complex, with the purpose of addressing eutrophication, fishkills, and other deterioration affecting the lakes. Project planning and activities began in 1977, with the Institute for Environmental Studies at LSU preparing an environmental impact statement and a Section 314 grant, which was submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.). Dredging began in November 1981, ending in May 1983. The Lakes Restoration Committee (also called the University Lakes Restoration Committee, of which Knaus served as chair) was formed to plan and guide the project, and the University Lakes Restoration Commission was formed after the project's completion to assist in monitoring lake waters and make recommendations on public access and recreational activities of the lakes.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Papers include chiefly materials related to Ronald M. Knaus's involvement in the Lakes Restoration Project, including his work as chair of the Lakes Restoration Committee. Of interest are Knaus's four binders of project records, which include correspondence, notes, memos, reports, and a variety of other records documenting the early phases and activities of the project. There are also preprint mock-ups and bound printed volumes of project quarterly reports and the project application and environmental assessment. Other materials include project proposal and grant documentation, records of the University Lakes Restoration Commission, rolled and flat plans and plan sets, maps, newspaper clippings, field books, and some photographic prints.

The remainder of the materials are reading and subject files, primarily typescripts and photocopies of land conveyances and property documents pertaining to lands around the lakes, materials from the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS), and materials pertaining to the E.P.A.'s "Clean Lakes" grant program.

**LIST OF SERIES**

**Series I. Lakes Restoration Project Records, 1922-1986, undated**

**Series II. Reading and Subject Files, 1914-1983**

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I. Lakes Restoration Project Records, 1922-1986, undated**

Series includes Ronald M. Knaus's four binders of project records (1976-1981). Original order of the binders has been maintained, with them being arranged loosely in reverse chronological order. Binders contain correspondence, notes, memos, reports, studies, plans, meeting agendas and minutes, some newspaper clippings, drafts, and a variety of other records documenting early phases and activities of the project. Many of the records in these binders were used to compile the Lake Restoration Committee's quarterly reports for the project.

Materials of interest in binder 1 (1976-1977) include contact information for members of the Lakes Restoration Committee (folder 1 of 4); copies of the agreement between the Baton Rouge City-Parish Government and the Institute for Environmental Studies at LSU for the latter to prepare and submit a formal grant application to the United States E.P.A. for a Lakes Restitution Initiation Grant (folder 2 of 4); and a petition signed by LSU students, faculty, and staff urging University Administration to take an immediate and active role in dealing with the outbreak of botulism in Campus Lake (folder 4 of 4).

Materials of interest in binder 2 (1977-1978) include an aerial photograph of the lakes (EBR74-L2-60) and newspaper clippings regarding project funds and the E.P.A. grant (folder 1 of 3); a letter (March 13, 1978) from Professor Jay V. Huner of Southern University and the Lakes Restoration Committee regarding pollution in Lake Kernan (folder 2 of 3); and a transcript (October 13, 1977) of a public hearing regarding the project (folder 3 of 3).

Materials of interest in binder 3 (1978-1979) include an unbound copy of the First Quarterly Report of the University Lakes Restoration Committee (folder 1 of 5); a water quality monitoring report (August 30, 1979, folder 2 of 5); a work plan of the project (folder 3 of 5); a document regarding the proposed water quality monitoring program for the project (folder 4 of 5); and a report titled "Determination of Heavy Metal Content in University Lake Sediment" (folder 5 of 5).

Materials of interest in binder 4 (1979-1981) include proposed bathymetry drawings (January 29, 1980) of University Lake and City Park Lake (folder 1 of 3); letters from Baton Rouge citizens to Mayor W. W. [Woodrow Wilson "Woody"] Dumas regarding the project (folder 2 of 3); and a letter (October 22, 1979) from W. W. Dumas to Dr. Alvin C. Harper regarding bidding for the dredging (folder 3 of 3).

Series also includes preprint mock-ups of quarterly reports (numbered second through eighth) for the project compiled by the Lakes Restoration Committee and a preprint mock-up of the second edition of the application and environmental assessment for the project compiled by the Institute for Environmental Studies at LSU. In addition to these preprint mock-ups, there are also bound printed copies of the seventh and eighth quarterly reports and the first and second editions of the application and environmental assessment. These materials contain correspondence, studies, financial and budget documents, planning documents, data on water and algal monitoring, and other records documenting the period leading to the dredging of the lakes.

Additional materials in the series include: files pertaining to the project proposal and grant agreement and extension, which are mostly working copies of agreements and applications with some correspondence; progress reports of the project, including one on sediment characterization by R. P. Gambrell (August 3, 1977); a separate file of newspaper clippings documenting the project and the use of the lakes; three hydro survey field books (1977); a separate file of records of the University Lakes Restoration Commission, consisting mostly of meeting minutes, agendas, and correspondence; photographic prints (undated), mostly of unidentified people at the lakes; some financial materials; and other assorted project records, including a post dredging water quality monitoring program report conducted from September 1, 1982 to December 31, 1984 (stored in Assorted Project Records folder).

Oversize flat materials include:

**Folder 1:**

- Topographical map of site of City Park, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, by F. F. Pillet, city engineer, August 1924 (photocopy).
- “Former Swamp Is Made Beauty Spot in Lake Extension Project,” article segment from *Morning Advocate*, 1937 (negative photocopy).
- Louisiana, Baton Rouge quadrangle map, U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey, 1943 (reprint).
- Map showing the resurvey of the Svendson property and of the Rolston 25 acre tract being the rear portion of the Pauline Daigre tract located in SEC 68, T-7-S, RIW and SEC 44, T-7-S, RIE, in the city of Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, request by University Lake Corporation, October 30, 1962 (annotated).
- Louisiana, Baton Rouge west quadrangle, 7.5 minute series (topographic), U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey, 1971 (photorevised).
- City Park Lake culvert station and outflow station data; Lake Erie, Crest Lake, and University Lake outflow data, circa 1978-1979.
- “Bringing Life to City Park Lake,” article from *Gris Gris*, July 30, 1979.
- Aerial photograph of EBR74-L2-60, EBR74-L2-62, and EBR74-L2-64, undated (photocopy).
- Annotated and unannotated maps labeled as “Lakes Drainage,” undated.
- Baton Rouge interstate/highway decal map, undated.

**Folder 2:**

- W.P.A. point sources map set, circa 1930-1939 (photocopy).
- Zoning district map, City-Parish Planning Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, October 1976.
- Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Lake Restoration Project, drainage area map and proposed improvements, Brown & Butler, consulting engineers, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, September 1980.
- Annotated map of elevations and existing bottom contours for City Lake Park, circa 1980.
- Aerial photographs (printed on oversize plan paper) showing University Lake and City Park Lake after lake dredging operations, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, City of Baton Rouge & Parish of East Baton Rouge, Henry K. Schott, engineer, project no. 80-LR-0023, June 2, 1983.
- Unidentified plan sheet showing ground surface of areas around LSU and the lakes, undated.

-Map of freshwater wells surrounding Radioecology Field Laboratory (south of LSU Campus and University Oil Field), undated.

**Folder 3:**

- Layout of sanitary sewerage system, Sewerage Districts Nos. 6 and 6A, Section 4, Easton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, Frederick E. Smith, engineer, March 1950 (photocopy).
- Annotated tract map of Baton Rouge denoting low wooded swampland and agricultural land in and around Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, undated.

Oversize rolled items include:

**Rolled item 1:**

Topographical map of site of City Park, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, F. F. Pillet, city engineer, August 1924-1925.

**Rolled item 2:**

State of Louisiana Department of Highways, boring plans and core borings and test piles, Baton Rouge Interstate, state project 450-10-06, sheets 98-103, July 1960-December 1961.

**Rolled item 3:** Plans of proposed lakes restoration, City-Parish project no. 80-LR-0023, Department of Public Works, advance issue, circa 1977-1980.

**Rolled item 4:**

Plans of proposed lakes restoration, City-Parish project no. 80-LR-0023, E.P.A. project no. CS-805836-01, 1980-1981.

**Rolled item 5:**

City Park Lake and University Lake zoning map, undated.

**Series II. Reading and Subject Files, 1914-1983**

Series includes supporting information kept by Knaus, including materials on the E.P.A.'s "Clean Lakes" grant program and regional workshops; typescripts and photocopies of land conveyances and property documents related to LSU and the lakes; materials from the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS); a photocopy of Pamela Marcotte Elliott's "Baton Rouge Lake Redevelopment...Fifth Year Terminal Project, Department of Landscape Architecture, Louisiana State University" (May 6, 1977); and copy of Darryl K. Long's "Notes, Calculation, & Techniques for Using City Park Lake as a Site for a Neutron Activation Analysis Tracer Study" (submitted to Dr. Ronald M. Knaus for Nuclear Science, 4991).

Oversize flat materials include:

**Folder 1:**

- Survey of the southern part of Scotland Plantation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, March 2, 1914 (photocopy).
- Map of City Park Lake extension constructed by Louisiana State University and Parish of East Baton Rouge with the aid of the Emergency Relief Administration, 1933 (negative photocopy).



**INDEX TERMS**

**Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.**

<b>Campus Lake (Baton Rouge, La.)</b>	<b>I</b>
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<b>Conveyances.</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Crest Lake (Baton Rouge, La.)</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Dredging--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Dumas, Woody, 1917-1993.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Erie, Lake (La.)</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Grant proposals.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Kernan, Lake (La.)</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>Knaus, Ronald M.</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>Lake restoration--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>Lakes--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>Letters (correspondence)</b>	<b>I-II</b>
<b>Minutes (administrative records)</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Parish of East Baton Rouge and the City of Baton Rouge (La.). University</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Lakes Restoration Committee.</b>	
<b>Quarterly reports.</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>University Lake (Baton Rouge, La.)</b>	<b>I-II</b>

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
			<b>Series I. Lakes Restoration Project Records, 1922-1986, undated</b>	
	47:2	1	1-4	Binder 1, 1976-1977
			5-7	Binder 2, 1977-1978
			8-12	Binder 3, 1978-1979
			13-15	Binder 4, 1979-1981
			16-18	Second Quarterly Report (preprint mock-up), January 1, 1980
			19	Third Quarterly Report (preprint mock-up), April 1, 1980
			20	Fourth Quarterly Report (preprint mock-up), July 1, 1980
			21	Fifth Quarterly Report (preprint mock-up), October 1, 1980
			22	Sixth Quarterly Report (preprint mock-up), January 1, 1981
			23-26	Seventh and Eighth Quarterly Reports (rough draft), July 1, 1981
			27-28	Seventh and Eighth Quarterly Reports (preprint mockup), July 1, 1981
			29-34	Application and Environmental Assessment (second edition; preprint mock-up), October 1977, February 1979
		2	1-3	Application and Environmental Assessment (second edition; preprint mock-up), October 1977, February 1979
			4	Application and Environmental Assessment (second edition annotated photocopy; incomplete), October 1977, February 1979
			5-6	Grant agreement and extension, 1979-1982
			7-9	Proposal, 1977-1979
			10	Progress reports, 1976-1977
			11	Newspaper clippings, 1937, 1977-1983
			12	Hydro survey field books (3 volumes), 1977, 1986
			13-14	University Lakes Restoration Commission records, 1981-1985
			15	Writings used in reports, 1977
			16	Financial, 1977-1982
			17-18	Assorted project records, 1964-1984, undated
			19	Photographic prints, undated
	OS:K	--	1	Oversize records and items, 1924-1943, 1962-1979, undated
		--	2	Oversize records and items, circa 1930-1939, 1976-1983, undated
		--	3	Oversize records and items, 1950, undated
	47:3	--	--	Rolled items 1-5, 1924-1925, 1960-1961, circa 1977-1981, undated

**Stack**

<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Contents (with dates)</u></b>
<b>Volumes (stored loose on shelf)</b>			
<b>47:1</b>	--	--	Volume 1: Seventh and Eighth Quarterly Reports (bound and printed), July 1, 1981
	--	--	Volume 2: Application and Environmental Assessment (first edition; bound and printed) October 1977
	--	--	Volume 3: Application and Environmental Assessment (second edition; bound and printed) October 1977, February 1979
<b>Series II. Reading and Subject Files, 1914-1983</b>			
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		22	Invitation for bids, 1958
		23-24	Land conveyances and property documents (typescripts and photocopies), 1914-1977
<b>OS:K</b>	--	1	Oversize property documents (photocopies), 1914, 1933
<b>47:2</b>	2	25	Lake Kernan, 1974-1978
		26	North American Lake Management Society (NALMS), 1983
		27	"Baton Rouge Lake Redevelopment..." by Pamela Marcotte Elliott (photocopy), May 6, 1977
		28	"Notes, Calculations, & Techniques for Using City Park Lake as a Site for a Neutron Activation Analysis Tracer Study" by Darryl K. Long, 1981