

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

() Check box if no longer subject to Section 16.
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

() Form 3 Holdings Reported
 () Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Sheets, Thomas R.

5241 Spring Mountain Road
 Las Vegas, NV 89102
 USA

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Southwest Gas Corporation
 SWX

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
 ###-##-####

4. Statement for Month/Year
 December 1996

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 () Director () 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)
 Vice President/General Counsel

7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (Check Applicable Line)
 (X) Form filed by One Reporting Person
 () Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security | 2. Transaction Date | 3. Code | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year | 6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------|---|-----------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | Amount | A/D Price | | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 2138 | I | 401(k) Plan |
| Common Stock | | | | | 1423 | D | |

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date | 4. Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities | 8. Price of Derivative Security | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year | 10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------|--|-----|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | | Amount | A/D | | | | | | |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$15 | 7/15/96 | A | 10,000 | A | (1) 7/14/06 | Common Stock 10,000 | | 10,000 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:
 (1) The option vests in three annual installments of 4,000 shares in 1997, 3,000 shares in 1998, and 3,000 shares in 1999, beginning on July 15, 1997.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 Thomas R. Sheets by Faye J. Ringler, Attorney in fact
 DATE
 2/5/97