

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
 Lowman, James F.

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)

Senior Vice President/Central Arizona Division

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. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/ D	Price	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock						6835	I	401(k) Plan
Common Stock						92	I	Custodian for children
Common Stock						4331	D	

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

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	3. Transaction Date	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date A/Exercise Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	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
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$15	7/15/96	A	15,000	A (1) 7/14/06	Common Stock	15,000	15,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:
 (1) The option vests in three annual installments of 6,000 shares in 1997, 4,500 shares in 1998, and 4,500 shares in 1999, beginning on July 15, 1997.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 James F. Lowman by Faye J. Ringler, Attorney in fact
 DATE
 2/5/97