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WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 132
August 2006

An organization of retirees of the Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, whose purpose is to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It will soon be time for the 13th WRD Retirees Reunion. Our reunions are a great place to visit with long-time friends and colleagues. If you have not yet registered for the reunion, please complete the Reunion Registration form on page 4 of this Newsletter and mail it to USGS Retirees, 8505 Research Way, Middleton, WI 53562. The Wisconsin organizing committee has arranged wonderful meals, a hospitality room, interesting tours, plus a meet and greet Brat Fest. A list of early registrants is shown in this Newsletter so you know some of the folks you can visit. Also, an optional tour of the Leopold Shack and Farm, described in detail on page 6, has been arranged for Thursday morning, September 21. If you are interested in this tour, please follow the instructions provided on page 6.

I am pleased to report that 96% of the members who voted concerning the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship voted in favor of the program -- overwhelming support. Therefore, Vice President Bill Emmett and immediate past President Jim Blakey have been working hard so we have been able to award the very first of our annual scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. Bill and Jim established selection criteria, formed a selection committee, and selected the winning candidate. The winning candidate and the process for selection are described on page 18. This program will demonstrate that WRD Retirees supports and appreciates the Hydrologic Technicians in WRD!

We distribute about 1,700 copies of each edition of the Newsletter. The Newsletter is critical in "**keeping members in touch with each other and their former agency**" -- the mission of WRD Retirees. A copy of the Newsletter is sent to every WRD Retiree, plus a copy is sent to more than 200 WRD offices throughout the country. Beginning with the May 2006 edition, the distribution of the Newsletter to USGS offices was accomplished by electronic mail. Emailing these 200 plus copies saved WRD Retirees funds that would have been used for printing and mailing. Beginning with the November edition of the Newsletter, each retiree will be able to have their individual copy of the Newsletter sent to them by electronic mail, if they so choose. If you choose the option of receiving your copy of the Newsletter via electronic mail, the procedure you need to use is explained in detail on page 13 of this edition. This will save WRD Retirees funds for printing and mailing. If you take no action, you will continue to receive your Newsletter by U.S. Mail.

We are working on a WRD Retirees web page that we plan to have operational in a few months. The web page will contain a great deal of interesting information about our organization. Any member with access to a computer connected to the Internet will be able to access the web page at any time. We understand that doesn't include all members, but it does include a large number of retirees. Details regarding the web page will be provided in the November Newsletter.

Joyce and I hope all WRD Retirees are enjoying your summer -- we are! We had a wonderful river cruise in France with Tom and Jeannie Yorke and spent a week at the Outer Banks of North Carolina with some of the family. We hope to see you in Madison in September at our Reunion!

THIRTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2006
Madison, Wisconsin
September 21-24, 2006

The 13th WRD Retirees Reunion will take place in Madison, Wisconsin, a city that continually earns national acclaim for being one of the best places to live, work, and play. Plan now to come and meet fellow retirees and friends in the city built on an isthmus between Lakes Mendota and Monona. Madison is renowned for its beautiful four-season scenery and limitless outdoor recreational opportunities. The State Capitol is located less than one block from our hotel. Madison is the location of the University of Wisconsin, and home to numerous parks, plazas, markets, cafes, and art facilities. Among points of interest are the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Overture Center for the Arts, State Historical Society Museum, Chazen Museum of Art, Geology Museum, Farmer's Market on the Capitol Square, Henry Vilas Zoo, UW Arboretum, as well as Olbrich and Allen Centennial Gardens. Madison is served by the Dane County Regional Airport. The airport is located about 10 minutes (by free shuttle) from the Concourse Hotel. Information about the Reunion, Hotel, Madison, and WI, are shown on the Science Center (District) web page at <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/reunion/index.htm>. An up-to-date list of reunion attendees is also available at this site.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Our 2006 WRD Retiree Reunion will be headquartered at the Downtown Madison Concourse Hotel, with registration beginning on Thursday, September 21st and checkout on Sunday, September 24th. The hotel has reserved a block of 100 rooms, at a daily rate of \$109 plus tax, single or double occupancy. Individual arrangements can be made with the hotel for those people staying later. The organizing committee strongly recommends that those planning on attending the reunion make their hotel and Reunion reservations soon. The hotel reservation cut off date is August 24th. Any individual reservations received after August 24th will be accepted on a space and rate available basis. Reservations can be made by calling the Concourse at telephone (800) 356-8293 or (608) 257-6000. Identify yourself as a member of the WRD Retirees Reunion or by confirmation number WRD 0921 and request the group rate. Check in time is 3:00 PM; checkout is at 11:00 AM. Late arrivals, after 6:00 PM, should guarantee their lodgings with a deposit or credit card. For those arriving by automobile, parking is free in the underground parking structure. In addition to the free shuttle and parking, hotel amenities include an indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, and fitness center. The Concourse is located within walking distance of numerous restaurants and shopping opportunities. The hotel has a website at www.concoursehotel.com on which much more information can be obtained concerning the hotel and the Madison area. Early reservation is encouraged in order to assure rooms at the Concourse. Note also that the Reunion registration fee increases to \$40 per person after August 24th.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

The **hospitality room** will be in room 638 which will be open daily for socialization.

Thursday, September 21

Check in at Concourse Hotel after 3:00 PM. A registration desk will be set up and attendees will be given a registration packet listing agenda items for the reunion, the hospitality rooms, etc. The packet will also include tickets for the Brat Fest, Friday's buffet lunch, the Saturday evening gala dinner, tour tickets for your chosen tour, and other information. Plan to attend the special Brat Fest tonight. It is scheduled from 6:00 until 10:00 PM at the University of Wisconsin Memorial Union. A shuttle bus will be running between the hotel and the Brat Fest. Our facilities include a large indoor ballroom with an adjoining balcony overlooking Lake Mendota, Madison's largest lake. There should be ample elbowroom to meet and greet our fellow retirees. A full meal will be served, including BBQ chicken as well as the brats. The drinks will include draft beer from a nearby microbrewery, assorted sodas, and milk.

Friday, September 22

Registration continued. Morning business meeting—coffee, tea, and rolls will be provided. There will be a soup and salad luncheon buffet at noon at the Concourse Hotel. The afternoon is free for golf, shopping, or touring. Dinner is on your own. There are no formal plans for Friday night. A list of nearby restaurants will be included in your registration packets.

Saturday, September 23

Tours and sightseeing. See description below. The gala dinner will be at the Concourse Hotel starting at 7:00 PM.

TOURS AND SIGHTSEEING

Madison and the surrounding area offer literally hundreds of opportunities for visiting historic sites, points of interest, and things to see and do. A list of sites of interest as well as maps will be included in your registration packet for your review and enjoyment.

The Wisconsin Retirees Reunion Committee has arranged three Saturday tours that are described below. (**NOTE:** The House on the Rock tour, previously offered has been canceled due to lack of interest. Those few people who signed up for this tour will be given their second choice of tours, with appropriate fee revisions made.) Committee members will be available to provide help and information to attendees regarding these and other tours/visits in which they may be interested. Brief descriptions of the three tours follow:

Wisconsin River Tour

Busses will depart from the Concourse Hotel at 8:00 AM to view the influence of glaciers on the landscape and the Wisconsin River north of Madison. We will cross the Wisconsin River at Sauk City and follow the River valley north to Devils Lake, a remnant of the glacial Wisconsin River. At Devils Lake State Park, we will stop for a brief talk about the lake (River) and the Baraboo Quartzite Range. The busses will then proceed through Baraboo to the International Crane Foundation (ICF) for a guided tour of the Foundation and the worldwide crane species. The ICF works worldwide to conserve cranes and the wetlands and grassland ecosystems on which they depend. After the Crane Foundation tour, the group will continue on to the Ho Chunk Indian Casino for a buffet lunch. After lunch, we will return to the Wisconsin River at the "Dells" for a 2-hour boat tour through the scenic and deeply eroded channel cut through the Cambrian Sandstone. The bus will return to the hotel about 4:30 PM. Estimated time of tour is 8 1/2 hours.

Frank Lloyd Wright Tour

The bus will depart from the Concourse Hotel at 8:30 AM to view some of Frank Lloyd Wright's work. We will visit the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center and the Unitarian Meeting House to learn about two major architectural projects designed by this foremost 20th Century architect. We will then travel through Wisconsin farming communities from glaciated landscapes into the unglaciated area in Southwest Wisconsin to Wright's Taliesin near Spring Green. Taliesin is Wright's one-time home and site of his architectural school. After a guided tour, you will have the opportunity to visit the extensive gift shop for early Christmas shopping. A box lunch will be provided. The bus will return to the hotel about 3:30 PM. Estimated time of the tour is 7 hours.

Madison City Tour

You will have an opportunity to visit Madison's famous Farmers Market on the Square on your own (opens at 6 AM). There will be numerous food stands if you would like to pick up a light breakfast. Your bus will depart at 9 AM from the Concourse Hotel for guided tours of the State Capitol and then the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. After the Monona Terrace tour, we will stop for lunch on your own. After lunch we'll have a guided bus tour of the extensive University of Wisconsin campus, viewing historic and modern buildings, monuments, and sports centers. The bus will return to the hotel about 3 PM. Estimated time of tour is 6 hours.

REGISTRATION FOR WRD RETIREES REUNION

Registration forms containing descriptions and costs of meals and tour selections are included in this Newsletter and on the Wisconsin Science Center web site. Come and join us for 3-days of fun and renewing friendships. We are looking forward to your visit and will be available to help with any of your needs, questions, or concerns. For questions contact: Dale Cotter at dgcott@att.net, phone 608-848-2946; Marv Sherrill at sherrill@chorus.net; or Warren Gebert at wagebert@usgs.gov.

Lastly, if you are interested or willing to help out at the Reunion, The Wisconsin organizing committee is looking for a few good volunteers. Just express your willingness on the back of the registration form, or send us a note or email message.

**REGISTRATION FORM
2006 WRD RETIREES REUNION, MADISON, WISCONSIN
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2006**

NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

REGISTRATION FEE

Number attending _____ @ \$30.00 per person \$ _____
(\$40.00 per person after Aug. 24, 2006; refunds available prior to this date)

THURSDAY, SEP 21 BRAT FEST, MEET & GREET (Brat and/or Chicken, Vegetables, Chips, Cookie, Beer, milk, or Soft Drink)

Number attending _____ @ \$16.00 per person \$ _____

FRIDAY, SEP 22 SOUP AND SALAD BUFFET (choice of two soups, pasta salad, bread sticks, salad bar, dessert bar)

Number attending _____ @ \$16.00 per person \$ _____

GOLF

Number planning to play Friday afternoon _____

SATURDAY NIGHT GALA BANQUET, SEP 23 (Entrees include salad, vegetables, dessert, rolls with butter, coffee & tea)

PRIME BEEF served with garlic mashed potatoes

Number attending _____ @ \$41.00 per person \$ _____

WISCONSIN WALLEYE served with wild rice

Number attending _____ @ \$35.00 per person \$ _____

VEGETARIAN ENTRÉE (chef's choice)

Number attending _____ @ \$35.00 per person \$ _____

TOUR SELECTIONS: Selections will be honored to the extent possible. Pay for first choice but indicate a second choice.

WISCONSIN RIVER TOUR (Includes transportation, entrance fees, and casino lunch)

Number attending _____ @ \$45.00 per person \$ _____

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TOUR (Includes transportation, entrance fees, and box lunch)

Number attending _____ @ \$41.00 per person \$ _____

MADISON AREA TOUR (Includes transportation, entrance fees, and tour guide)

Number attending _____ @ \$18.00 per person \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Registration, Brat Fest, Lunch, Dinner, and Tour) \$ _____

Mail this form, with your check payable to "2006 RETIREES REUNION" to:

**USGS RETIREES
8505 RESEARCH WAY
MIDDLETON, WI 53562**

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: Dale Cotter at dgcott@att.net, phone 608-848-2946; Marv Sherrill at sherrill@chorus.net; or Warren Gebert at wagebert@usgs.gov.

REMINDERS: All meals and events include gratuities. Don't forget to reserve hotel rooms early at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, telephone 1-800-356-8293 or 608-257-6000. Mention "WRD RETIREES REUNION" or "WRD 0921" when reserving.

REUNION ATTENDEES

ANDERSON, Bev
ANDERSON, Bud
ANTILLA, Joyce
ANTILLA, Peter
APPEL, Alice
APPEL, Dave
BARR, Lynn
BARR, Peggy
BEALL, Bob
BECKER, Larry
BECKER, Virgene
BENNETT, Jim
BENNETT, Merilee
BERKSTRESSER, Bev
BERKSTRESSER, Chuck
BIESECKER, Jim
BIESECKER, Joyce
BLAKEY, Jim
BLAKEY, Paula
BONING, Bill
BONING, Shirley
BROWN, Richmond
BUCHANAN, Marie
BUCHANAN, Tom
CLICK, Dave
CLICK, Laurel
COLLIER, Chuck
COLLIER, Pat
CONDES, Al
CONDES, Mary
COTTER, Dale
COTTER, Gerri
CRAGWELL, Joseph
DANIELSON, Nina
DANIELSON, Terry
DINGMAN, Bob
DINGMAN, Virginia
DOSCH, Rudy
EMMETT, Bill
EVETT, Dutch
EVETT, Lennie
FIDLER, Kathy
FLINT, Russell
FLIPPEN, Mary
GANNON, Bill
GANNON, Eleanor
GEORGE, John
GEORGE, Lee
GUTENTAG, Anna Belle
GUTENTAG, Ed

HACKETT, Milt
HACKETT, Pam
HARR, Al
HERB, Bill
HERB, Marian
HINDALL, Sandy
HINDALL, Steve
HOLT, Lee
HOLT, Pat
JOBSON, Barbara
JOBSON, Harvey
JOHNSON, Ivan
JONES, Digger
JONES, Suzy
KILPATRICK, Fritz
KILPATRICK, June
KNUTILLA, Bob
KNUTILLA, Shirlee
KOCH, Neil
LAIRD, Les
LAIRD, Thelma
LANGFORD, Hal
LANGFORD, Jean
MANDAVILLE, Thelma
MANN, Bill
MANN, Helene
MARTENS, Larry
MARTENS, Rita
MCCARTNEY, David
MCCARTNEY, Kathryn
MCNELLIS, Fran
MCNELLIS, Jesse
MOORE, John
MOORE, Unetta
MORGAN, Charles
MORGAN, Pauline
NASSAR, Salwa
NORMAN, Cynthia
OLCOTT, Perry
PICKERING, Ranard
RITTER, John
RITTER, Judy
ROHNE, Harriet
ROHNE, Paul
ROLLO, Anita
ROLLO, Jim
SAUER, Stan
SAUER, Virginia
SCHOEN, Bob
SCHOEN, Jean

SHERRILL, Marv
SHERRILL, Rosann
SHOPE, Bill
SHOPE, Jani
SINGER, John
SINGER, Micki
SWISSHELM, Dick
SWISSHELM, Sheri
TEASDALE, Dee
TEASDALE, Warren
THOMPSON, Judy
THOMPSON, Terry
TROTТА, Beth
TROTТА, Lee
WALLER, Roger
WALLER, Ruth
WARK, John
WARK, Marcella
WELBORN, Clarence
YOUNG, Loren
YOUNG, Renee

Reminder: Pre-Reunion Tour - Leopold Shack and Farm

The May 2006 WRD Retirees Newsletter 131 announced an optional tour for Thursday morning, September 21, to visit the Aldo Leopold Shack and Farm near Baraboo, Wisconsin. The tour will last about 2 hours and includes the history and philosophy of Aldo Leopold, a visit to the Shack, and a walk through restored prairie and woods. The Shack and Farm is the 'birthplace' of the essays in Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, a classic in the conservation literature. For participants on the tour, the Aldo Leopold Foundation recommends a contribution of \$15/person for non-members and offers a membership special that includes the tour, membership, and a copy of the new photo-illustrated *A Sand County Almanac* for \$35.

For WRD Retirees wanting to arrive on Wednesday to participate in the Thursday tour, the Reunion Hotel, the Madison Concourse, does not have rooms available for Wednesday night, September 20. A convention on Monday through Thursday morning has created a shortage in downtown hotel rooms, but most of the chain motels in the area have rooms available.

Participants will leave the Concourse Hotel at 9:00 AM for a 1-hour drive to Baraboo, enjoy a 2-hour tour, and return to the Madison Concourse Hotel in early afternoon. The Shack and surrounding land are undeveloped; there is no drinking water, no bathroom facility, no telephone, and parking is very limited. Transportation will be by car pool and each car can decide on an enroute rest stop and/or lunch stop on the return to Madison. A tour guide accompanies each group of 20; to provide the Foundation with a head count, please reserve a place with notification to Bill Emmett (w.emmett@att.net or 303-795-7510) by September 8. Participants may pay individually on the day of the tour.

This group of Wisconsin Retirees will be your hosts during the Madison Reunion.



Back row: Marv Sherrill, Duane Conger, Steve Field, Gerry Dreher, Fred Dreher, Phil Kammerer, and Lee Holt
Front row: Roger Waller, Rachel Lansing, Bob Devaul, Warren Gebert, Dale Cotter, Bill Drescher, and Al Harr

NEWS OF RETIREES

Bud Anderson says, “**Bev** had a quadruple heart by-pass on March 20th. She is still recovering from the surgery but is doing fine. We plan to go to New York on June 23rd to sing with our church choir in Carnegie Hall, quite an honor.”

John Bader reports, “In July, **Diane** and I returned from a very enjoyable concert tour to China with the Sacramento Choral Society. Five concerts were presented during the tour. Four were in concert halls in major cities and were given to full-capacity audiences. One was given on the Great Wall before a very large audience of tourists and sightseers. The trip began with a 12-hour flight from San Francisco to Beijing for the 187-member group of singers and guests. The first concert was given in Tianjin, a 2-hour bus trip from Beijing. For this concert, the SCS was joined by the Peiyang Chorus of Tianjing University. It was interesting to note that the audience stood for the Star Spangled Banner as well as for their anthem. With the exception of the trip to Tianjin, we were in Beijing 4 days and took tours to Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City (the former Imperial Palace for the 24 Emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties), a Cloisonne factory, a pearl-processing factory, a silk factory, and the Temple of Heaven, the largest temple and altar complex in China. One of the excursions was to the Great Wall of China at Ju Yong Pass. While there, we presented an open-air concert to the enjoyment of many tourists and people working there. Several members of the group climbed and walked as much of that part of the wall as time permitted. Our third concert was in Beijing at the Forbidden City Concert Hall. The following day we flew to Xi’an, the ancient capitol of China. For me, the most notable part of the visit to Xi’an was the tour of the pits containing the Terra-cotta Warriors. We also performed our fourth concert in Xi’an. Then from Xi’an we flew to Jinan, the sister city of Sacramento. Our last concert was performed in Jinan. Following that, we had a 7-hour bus trip back to Beijing, followed by a 10-hour 45-minute flight back to San Francisco.”

Jim and **Joyce Biesecker** report, “We had a wonderful trip to France with **Tom** and **Jeannie Yorke**. We spent 3 days in Paris, a river cruise on a beautiful 43-passenger river ship for 7 days down the Soane and Rhone Rivers, and 2 days in Nice. There was plenty of wonderful food, wine, and scenery and lots of very nice Frenchmen.”

Bill Broadhurst says “hello” to everyone.

Bob Bubeck writes, “I’ve been away on a coastal oceanographic cruise with one of the Florida marine chemistry consortiums that have an ONR grant to study micro-marine plants and animals re pharmaceutical research. Basically, we are all technicians “at heart.”

Bob Burchett reports, “I have had a change of heart, literally. I went into the ICU of Seton Hospital August 14

for a Swan Test as my heart failure was growing worse. I had been on the heart transplant list for 51 weeks at the time. On July 17, I was offered a new heart and was transplanted July 17. The heart is 42 years old so I do not know if I am 67 or 42 now. I do know that my heart is functioning at the 42 or below level as my heart ejection fraction is at the max of 65 percent. It is great to have oxygenated blood running around in my body! The first few days after transplant was a little rough as it took a while for the new heart to warm up to my body. I am improving each day. I was released from ICU on July 26 to a private room and released from Seton on July 31. **Libby** and I went for a swim. I actually went for a float, in our pool, on August 2. No skinny dipping but I could as I have lost 28 pounds of fluid build up since I was placed in the private room at Seton. On August 24, I had my first of 36 Cardio Rehab sessions. My legs are sore. **Libby** has held up through all of this like a champ. We both had great big smiles on our faces coming home from Seton. It was especially great to be coming home with my best friend. **Libby** and I will have to miss the WRD Reunion but hope to be there in 2 years.

“We want to say thanks to each of you for the emails, cards, and flowers. Each one meant a lot to us. We especially want to say thanks for all the prayers and well wishes sent our way. We needed every one of them. I understand that we even had whole churches, almost coast-to-coast praying for us. That is very touching and we are most gratified and thankful. I could not have done this by myself.”

Update from Bob—“Hello Friends and Neighbors--I started Cardio Rehab today, August 4. I exercised for half hour or so and came home and took a 2-hour nap. Both were good for me. Some of you have expressed interest in coming to see me and we would now very much like to see you. The Transplant Cardiologist placed the visit restrictions for me because of my weakened condition. I am now stronger but still have some restrictions. They include: 1. Phone calls before you come. 2. Short visits--half hour or less. 3. You must wash your hands in our bathroom when you arrive. My immune system is gone. 4. I must wash my hands after you leave. 5. No handshakes or hugs for Bob. 6. **Libby** can receive all the hugs you wish to give out. We would very much like to see you!”

Jim Criner reports, “**Lida** and I are retired in Deer, AR and enjoy the community. Starting last year I began having breathing problems. Although I had not smoked a cigarette since 1985, I did smoke an occasional cigar. In February 2006, I did not see the Pearly Gates or the fires below, but one of the two was very close because I couldn’t breathe. **Lida** got me to the hospital just in time and after that I spent 10 days in intensive care. The problem was analyzed as emphysema. So, folks, this is what happens if you continue to smoke. Hospital bills

NEWS OF RETIREES

over \$10,000 are not uncommon! I hope this note significantly lowers cigarette sales!”

Helen Davidson reports, “**Liz Deavers** had a fainting spell recently and had to return to the hospital. She is doing better but still doesn’t feel like having company yet. She says “hello” to everyone.”

Ernie Denison says, “I read with interest the activities of WRD Retirees. I am touched by fond memories of activities related to many and saddened when I read about those that have passed away. It is hard to believe it has been more than 22 years since I joined the group of retirees. Age is taking over our activities. **Ola** was released from the hospital after recovering from pneumonia in time to celebrate her 80th birthday on June 3rd. There were 22 of us who enjoyed a day at the lake and an evening at a local steak house to help her celebrate. We are looking forward to our 59th wedding anniversary in a few months. I thank those responsible for writing, editing, and mailing the quarterly WRD Retirees Newsletter.”

John Elder writes, “Many events and life changes have taken place for my wife **Elizabeth** and me since my retirement from the Wisconsin District in 2003. Immediately following retirement, much of my time was devoted to training for the Wisconsin Ironman Triathlon, which I completed in September, 2003. Elizabeth followed me in retirement in 2004 and we sold our Madison home in the spring of 2005. Soon afterward, we headed west to Corvallis, Oregon – our planned retirement location since 1999, when we purchased a lot there. With luck, our transition will be complete by the end of 2006, when we hope to move in to the new “environmentally-friendly” home that we designed for the lot.

“While we are delighted with our new city and state, we miss many friends and favorite places in Madison and Wisconsin. What a great location for the WRD Retirees reunion! We look forward to returning to Madison for the reunion and the chance to see many of you there.”

James Elkins writes, “**Annie** and I are doing fine. We enjoy the WRD Newsletter. I am on oxygen liquid so I don’t get around much. Keep up the good work.”

Bill Emmett continues volunteer work with the USGS and his favorite non-profit organizations. He wishes fellow retirees a great summer and hopes to see many of them in Madison.

Bob Faye says, “In the last Newsletter under “**Bob Faye** writes,” the note indicated that I incorporated my consulting business in 1993. In 1993, I was learning to be a ground-water specialist and barely had time to complete a thought let alone start a business. I incorporated in 2003.”

Butch Grossman was featured in a half-page article and picture in “The Philadelphia Inquirer,” the leading newspaper in the Quaker City. It was duly noted that he spent most of his career with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Shirley Hamamoto says, “Hi to all the folks I worked with over the years at WRD. My husband, Stan, has been called to be the minister of a small rural church in the panhandle of Oklahoma. Quite a change for a big town girl!! We love it here in Hooker, OK—a major change from Albuquerque. It is so peaceful and the people are very loving. The best to all of you.”

Ivan Johnson received an award on March 21 at the “Managing Aquifers” Conference in Denver for his outstanding contributions to the science and technology of managed aquifer recharge. At the award presentation Peter Barkmann of the Colorado Geological Survey provided a summary of Ivan’s many career highlights beginning with his 1940 graduation from Nebraska’s University of Omaha, his service in the U.S. Navy, 31 years with the U.S. Geological Survey, and 27 years working world-wide as a ground water consultant.

Henry Ku writes, “**Laureen** and I would like to say hello to our friends and old colleagues. The last 2 years we visited the Rhine and Danube Rivers in Europe and parts of Japan and China. Recently, I went fishing at 1000 Islands, NY with Bruno Nemichos, a recent retiree. We also made visits to Cleveland, Ohio to see our son Raymond and his wife Melissa and two grandchildren. Our visits to Cleveland may increase in the near future since Raymond is running for State Representative of Ohio in the 98th District. So, grandchildren sitting is in the cards. Cheers!”

Philip LaMoreaux says, “I enjoyed the May 2006 newsletter. It had the names of 18 former close associates and the story of George Ferguson’s 100th birthday. **Hackett, Cragwall, and Ferguson** were all close friends and associates. Most interesting was the comment sent in by **Bud Pierce**. I cannot believe he is 95! He and I wrote a report together while working in Alabama. Other close friends include **Joe Upson, Bob Schneider, Bruce Foxworthy, Edith Chase**, among others. Oh, yes, I as familiar with “Ode to a Stegosaur.”

“**Bunnie** and I have just returned from a trip to Romania and a meeting of IAH on karst and climate. It was outstanding and the field trip following even more so. I am still Editor-in-Chief of the international journal of *Environmental Geology* and Chairman of the Environmental Geoscience Advisory Committee of AGI, which keeps me busy enough and up on current affairs. Bunnie and I are looking forward to being in Wisconsin in September.”

NEWS OF RETIREES

Hal and Jean Langford celebrated their Diamond Anniversary, 60 years, on June 29. They were married in Houston, TX, in 1946 on the day Hal was commissioned as Ensign, U.S. Navy at Rice University. Hal began his 37 year career with USGS following graduation from the University of Nebraska. He served in Nebraska, Utah, Washington, D.C., and Reston, VA, during his career. He was Chief, OWDC and Associate Chief Hydrologist during his 37 years with WRD. They are the proud parents of 4 children, grandparents of 7 and great-grandparents of 2 -- all of whom live in the Virginia-Maryland area. Hal and Jean celebrated their anniversary in May with a trip to California. The vacation included a cruise of San Francisco Bay and tours of much of California south of San Francisco, including the Pacific coast and eastern California from the Mexican border to Yosemite National Park. Hal is currently helping WRD Retirees as an active member of the Blue Ribbon panel addressing the question, "does WRD Retirees need to change in order to continue to attract new members" and the committee designing the WRD Retirees web page. Congratulations, Hal and Jean!

Jerry Lindholm reports, "The Boise, Idaho Retirees group met for breakfast on May 9 with 22 in attendance. We welcomed new retirees **Richard Helton, Barbara Pinkerton, and Frank Youngkin** to the group. Adding new retirees makes one realize how rapidly time flies when you're retired and having fun. Our 2-hour breakfast is indicative of what a fine group of people worked for the good old WRD.

"Other attendees were: **Gene and Glenda Blessing, Beverly Cordes, Linda Channel, Lois Douglas, Bob and Leona Harper, Bill and Jean Harenberg, Mike and Jeannie Jones, Karen Kenyon, Jerry and Muffy Lindholm, Bob and Mary Luscombe, Glen Sisco, Dick Whitehead, and Ed Young.**"

Doris Molloy writes, "**Luna Leopold's** bio was most interesting. He had dinner with us one evening when he visited the Columbus, Ohio, office. My granddaughter holds a MS degree in Hydrology from the U. of A. I will try to find Aldo Leopold's "*A Sand Country Almanac*" to give her. She is an avid conservationist. I enjoy the newsletter, but as with many others, I know fewer and fewer names which crop up."

Dee Molenaar reports, "After last year's battle with heart and virus problems, I'm back to normal and again join **Colleen**, my supportive wife of 52 years, in hiking with the grandkids and rooting for them in their school and sports activities. In last summer's annual Washington Senior Track and Field Games, I managed to win two gold medals—but only because I was the only entry in the 85-89 age bracket. But in 2006, I was inducted into the Tacoma-Pierce County Sports Hall of Fame.

"In May 2006, in Denver, I joined four other survivors of the ill-fated 1953 American attempt on K2 in the Himalayas. Held at the Altitude Research Center of the University of Colorado, the occasion was to honor expedition leader Dr. Charles Houston for his many-decades contributions to the research and knowledge of high-altitude physiology and medicine. "I also enjoyed a visit with Dr. Mark Meier and wife Barbara at Mark's INSTAAR office at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Former Director of the USGS's glaciology program in Tacoma, Mark has a beautiful display of his imaginative, semi-abstract oils and acrylics of mountain and glacier subjects.

"Most of my retirement since 1983 has been devoted to preparing artwork and maps for various climbers' guidebooks and autobiographies, along with the layreader-oriented educational poster, "The Hood Canal Watershed: Where Humans and Nature Coexist.

"And, congratulations to **George Ferguson.**"

Judy Moore reports, "It was with great pleasure that I learned last spring of a new award being named in honor of **L. Grady Moore**. The Federal Government Service Awards Luncheon on May 11th was set as the award date. I was delighted to be a guest of the Federal Executive Association and Federal Women's Program luncheon where I presented the L. Grady Moore Leadership Award – Supervisory Position to two outstanding Federal employees in the Capital District. The criteria set for this award very aptly captured the essence of Grady's personality and contributions to the USGS and FEA/FWP programs. It was an especially happy event as one of the awards went to **Ward Freeman** who had worked so closely as Grady's Assistant for a number of years! See photo on page 12."

Jack Rawson writes, "We went to our 55th high school reunion. We had not been to any previous high school reunions but after the 50th they finally found me. We have only a couple of weeks out of the year that we can get away since we are tied up with our grandsons with all sorts of sports. We try to go one vacation a year. Last year we went on our second western Caribbean Cruise. We haven't decided where we will go this year, but we are thinking about the Grand Canyon or Ft. Davis or Guadalupe Mountains or Hawaii."

Paul Rohne says, "**Harriett** and I went to her 50th high school reunion. The only thing wrong with it was that there were a lot of old people there. Other than that, life is calm and as the weather stays calm, FEMA won't be looking for me."

Paul Rettman reports, "I'm fighting health problems most of the time. An article I wrote and submitted to the "Tombstone Epitaph" (Tombstone, AZ) was accepted for

NEWS OF RETIREES

publication. It was titled "Beyond Grave Markers." There were four parts, the Editor cut the 4th part due to space limitations. The 4th part was about "**Herb**" **Mendieta** (see Newsletter 131, p. 21) – he did not know exactly where his father was buried and asked me to be on the lookout for it while I worked the King Ranch in the summer of 1982."

Paul has been writing articles and collecting data from old tombstones. He writes for the REMINISCE, a magazine that brings back the good times, and The Tombstone Epitaph. He sent an article and a picture of his mother and her classmates at a Methodist church Bible class. The picture was taken in about 1919. The REMINISCE awarded Paul first prize for the month, a 1957 red Chevrolet convertible, a model. Paul did have a 1957 Chevrolet convertible but it was green.

Stan Sauer writes, "**Virginia** and I recently returned from a trip to Tennessee and Chicago. We went to Tennessee for an Eagle Scout Ceremony for one grandson and to Chicago for the graduation ceremony from college and the Army Commissioning for another grandson. We enjoyed our trip very much."

Bill Schaefer reports, "First of all, my appreciation and commendation to all who make possible the Directory and Newsletter—great job folks."

"I recently made use of the 2003 Retirees Directory and took notice of the cover picture. It shows a river in flood and a concrete gage house with its top projecting just about 2 feet or so above the water surface. The caption inside identifies it as the Mississippi River, 18 miles above Cairo, IL, January 26, 1937, and then "wading section upstream 50 miles." I would like to point out that there is (was) a wading section for the Mississippi but that it is some 600 miles-whatever-upstream at Federal Dam, MN, at the outlet of Lake Itasca, the river's source. During the summer of 1933, at a northern Minnesota surveying camp, then required for all CE's at UofM, my class made a wading measurement at that location. Don Ericson, Grand Rapids, probably knows the location. Little did I realize 4 years later when I accepted a Junior Hydraulic Engineer appointment with the USGS in Fort Smith, AR, that I would be doing more of the same—even a spring flood measurement in excess of 1.2 million cfs of the Mississippi at Memphis, TN, requiring use of 300 pound sounding weight. **Hugh Hudson**, how about Vicksburg?"

Lloyd Wagner says, "I have been retired 37 years. I graduated from the Ranger school in Wanakena, NY, 50 years ago. Time sure flies by."

CT Welborn reports, "The Texas WRD Retirees met in May for a luncheon meeting at the Nutty Brown Restaurant about 7 miles west of the "Y" in Oak Hill. There were 20 people at the luncheon, the highest number since the Christmas parties of '92 and '94. Those

present were: **Bob** and **Libby Burchett**, **Bud** and **Beverly Anderson**, **CT** and **Dixie Welborn**, **Stan** and **Virginia Sauer**, **Frank** and **Cindy Wells**, **Jack** and **Velma Rawson**, **Paul** and **Harriett Rhone**, **Paul** and **Emma Rettman**, **Sam Flugrath**, **Willard Gibbons**, **Helen Davidson**, and **Tish Reeves**. **Bob** opened the meeting by wishing everyone a good afternoon and commented that the meeting should be held at the Nutty Brown more often because of the large attendance. We decided to meet twice a year and the next meeting will most likely be in October. **Bob** is still waiting for that phone call. It's been over 40 weeks. We have him in our thoughts and prayers. A June meeting was also held but the attendance was nothing like that of last month. Attendees included **Bob** and **Libby Burchett**, **CT Welborn**, **Bud Anderson**, **Tish Reeves**, and **Helen Davidson**. This week is number 47 for **Bob** and he is still waiting for that phone call. The good news is that **Bob** celebrated a birthday on the 25th and **Libby** bought him a Smoker. **Bob** says he will have everyone out for a barbeque and ribs one of these days. He's looking forward to cooking some good stuff."

"**Dixie** and I returned on June 5th from our 12-day land and sea cruise of Alaska. We flew non-stop from Houston to Anchorage and from Anchorage went by train and bus to the Denali National Park. There was an 8-hour bus ride through the park. Most of it is above the timberline, which is about 2800 feet. There the permafrost is so near the ground surface that large trees cannot take hold. There are bushes, primarily soapberry bushes. The guide said that a grizzly can eat 200,000 soapberries a day. Since there are no salmon streams in Denali, the bears are not as large as the ones that live down below. These bears in Denali average 600#, where the bears that live near the salmon streams will weigh 1600#. We saw 10 grizzly bears. We also saw a lynx which was rare. The guide said that out of about 1000 trips he has made in the park, he has only seen a lynx on three occasions. We also saw caribou, moose, Dall sheep (a mountain sheep with big horns), golden and bald eagles, and the state bird, the willow ptarmigan. There were a lot of ground squirrels and rabbits, food for the eagles, and lynxes. Most of Denali is in the Arctic Tundra and in the summer months the area will be covered in wild flowers, bringing beautiful color to the eye, but when we were there, there were patches of snow still on the ground. Mount McKinley was visible which is a rare because of cloud cover. It is said to be visible about 20% of the time during the summer months. Mount McKinley, also called Denali, the "high one" is 20320 feet above sea level. The mountain is still growing at the rate of 1 inch in 25 years. The park was so interesting that I want to go back. From Denali, we took a 9 ½ hour train ride down to Whittier on the coast where we boarded the Coral Princess for their sea cruise. We went to Glacier Bay which was the biggest event on the cruise. We spent a day cruising the bay and watching the glaciers calve. They come down with a thunderous roar. That was

NEWS OF RETIREES

the most interesting thing on the cruise, beside Denali National Park. The rest of the cruise, we went to Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan. We went to these places on our last Alaskan cruise. The cruise ended up in Vancouver, Canada. It was a great trip and we are ready to go again."

CT Welborn also reports, "The Texas retirees had a small group attend their July meeting -- but a lively one. Those present for good food and fellowship were Bud Anderson, Tish Reeves, Helen Davidson, and Clarence and Dixie Welborn. Dixie, CT and CT's daughter, Frances, drove to Silver City, NM for the Stockman family reunion -- Dixie is related to the Stockman family. There were about 40 people there and the big event was the auction. Each person brought an item or items to be auctioned off. CT took a picture of an old log barn and two trees twisted together at the side of the barn. He made an 8x10 and framed it. The picture brought \$65.00 at the auction. In all, the auction collected \$1660.00. The big item was a western painting by a Stockman artist who passed away since the last annual reunion. This painting brought \$315.00. The proceeds from the auction help pay for the food for the reunion. We eat well. Silver City is about 750 miles from Austin and Frances drove most of the way. They went down I -10 in Texas for some 500 miles at 80mph. It is legal. It took some time for CT to get used to his daughter's driving. It was a relief to have her driving so CT and Dixie arrived in Silver City rested and relaxed." CT also sent this humor that many of us can relate to:

My Body the Car

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull, but that's not the worst of it. My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close. My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather. My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently. But, here's the worst of it -- Almost every time I sneeze, cough, or sputter.....either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!

Frank Wells says, "We have been doing a lot of traveling but it's been to the wrong places. We have been going to Medical Complex and the Georgetown Cancer Treatment Center. I found out that I have developed colon cancer. I have been taking both chemo and radiation treatments and will have surgery after completion of the treatments.

"We did make a trip to the Antique Groves Emporium in Independence, TX. It's a huge garden complex where

antique roses are grown and sold in the Emporium. I highly recommend seeing the place."

Frank, you have our thoughts and prayers.

Roger White writes, "I am VERY proud to be able to state that I was a Hydrologic Technician for 38 years. I still wear my USGS shirts (although I have had "retired" added below the logo) with pride. Nothing against the Hydrologists of the Survey, but I do agree with the statement "technicians are the backbone of the Survey." I was fortunate (and lucky) enough to move up through the Technician ranks and eventually hold the position of Virginia Data Chief before my retirement in 2005. I have had the privilege of directly dealing with a few of the graduates from the schools mentioned and wholeheartedly support the efforts of the schools. I believe the scholarship is a GREAT idea.

Ruth Yeager-Thornberg says, "Hello." The scholarship fund is a great idea. I wish it were available when I started with WRD, but I still had a great career working in WRD. Hope all are well and keep up the good work with the newsletters."

Renee and Loren Young report, "Like most of the country, we've been sweltering with the heat this summer. First time in our 48 years in the San Francisco Bay Area that for a couple nights it didn't cool off enough for comfortable sleeping! We spent an enjoyable week at our timeshare on Maui in May accompanied by our daughter and son-in-law celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary--it was a little windy, but temperature-wise very pleasant. Still on the subject of temperature, we highly recommend seeing Al Gore's film on global warming, "An Inconvenient Truth." Whatever one believes is causing global warming, his presentation of facts leaves no doubt that it is occurring and makes a strong case that it's due to man's activities! Referring to **Elizabeth Smith's** article in the May Newsletter, it's been a few years (55+-) but I do remember a few suppers with you and **Earl**. Our local luncheons continue to be popular with up to 20+ people in attendance. Come join us if you're in the area."

Chet Zenone commented, "If it wasn't for our Hydrologic Technicians collecting the "basic data," our "professional" scientists (hydrologists, engineers, research hydrologists, research chemists, and other RGEG-types) would have no basis/foundation on which to base their investigations."

Local Meetings and Gatherings

Albany, NY Retirees: The USGS Albany Retirees group is a 'going' group that loves to meet and eat! During the late fall, winter, and spring we gather monthly at a local restaurant where they know us well! Summer months, however, find us visiting homes and camps of the retirees. This photo was taken last year at a picnic held at the camp of Sal and Annette Schiavo.



Front Row: Florence Archer, Judy Ritter, Shirley Darmer, Jean and Frank Dalton.
Back Row: Sal and Annette Schiavo, Ken Darmer, Lloyd Wagner, Roger Archer, John Ritter. Behind the camera, Judy Moore



Presentation of L. Grady Moore Leadership Award to Ward Freeman by Judy Grady

WRD Retirees Newsletter available to members by email
It is only an option; it will be your choice to receive
your copy by either email or U.S. mail

By Jim Biesecker

The mission of WRD Retirees is “**to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency.**” The Newsletter is one of the most important tools we have to accomplish this mission. Four times a year every WRD Retiree receives their individual copy of the Newsletter. The “News of Retirees” is the most popular part of the Newsletter and helps keep us all in touch.

Printing and mailing the Newsletter is the major expense of WRD Retirees. It is money well spent! However, we can reduce our costs by delivering copies of the Newsletter by email. We print about 1,700 copies of each Newsletter. The majority of the copies are sent to our members and about 200 copies are sent to WRD offices throughout the United States. Starting with the May 2006 edition of the Newsletter, the USGS-WRD copies were distributed via email. This saved WRD Retirees the printing and mailing costs for those 200 copies.

Starting with the November 2006 edition of the Newsletter, you can choose to receive your individual copy of the Newsletter via email. If you want to continue to receive your Newsletter via U.S. mail, we will continue to deliver your copy accordingly. The choice of how you receive your Newsletter is yours. If you choose to have your copy sent by email, WRD Retirees will save some funds. To receive your copy by email, simply send your name and email address to Mike Gaydos, WRD retiree, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at his email address, **tigerlsu2@cox.net**, stating that you wish to have your Newsletter emailed to you. Mike and the WRD Retiree officers will make sure you get your Newsletter delivered via email. Alternately, if you would like to continue to receive your Newsletter by U.S. mail, you will continue to do so. All members who do not notify Mike will continue to have their copy of the Newsletter sent by U.S. mail.

By September 2006, WRD Retirees plans to have a web page operational. It will contain a great deal of information about WRD Retirees and will be available to all members who have a computer and access to the Internet. We understand that does not include all members, but it does include a large number of members. All editions of the Newsletter from May 2006 will be available on the WRD Retiree web page. Additional information about the web page will appear in the November 2006 edition of the Newsletter.

We hope this optional way to have your WRD Retirees Newsletter delivered will prove valuable and advantageous to some members. If you want your Newsletter delivered via email, please let Mike know. Thanks! And, thanks to Mike Gaydos for stepping forward to accept this responsibility.

DIVISION NEWS

Note to WRD Retirees: Recent retirees automatically become members of WRD Retirees. If you know any of these folks who recently joined our ranks, reach out and welcome them aboard. Please invite them to your Local Meetings!

Recent Retirements

Northeastern Region

Catherine L. Hill, Regional Hydrologist, 3104 Fox Den Lane, Oakton, Virginia 22124, 08/03/06
Thomas B. Reed, Hydrologist, 5841 Morrowfield Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217, 04/30/06
Michael J. Smigaj, Hydrologic Technician, 7910 Oakdale Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21234, 05/30/06

Southeastern Region

Russell G. Barker, Hydrologic Technician, 66 Ormond Avenue, Arden, North Carolina 28704, 06/30/06
James M. Bettendorff, Hydrologist, 225 Sedgefield Place, Athens, Georgia 30606, 06/03/06

Central Region

Alexandra Anderson, Secretary, 6855 W. Dartmouth, Denver, Colorado 80227, 05/03/06
Raye Ritchey Arnold, Program Analyst, 13125 W. Crestline Drive, Littleton, Colorado 80127, 07/31/06
Alan W. Burns, Hydrologist, 2636 S. Kline Circle, Lakewood, Colorado 80227, 06/02/06
Carole A. Connolly, Accounting Technician, 10500 W. Center Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado 80226, 08/01/06
Robert M. McBreen, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 885, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, 06/30/06
Marjorie A. Penrod, Budget Technician, 1172 Pleasantview Drive, Pueblo, Colorado 81006, 08/02/06
Ellen L. Samuels, IT Specialist, 735 Euclid Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81004, 04/30/06

Western Region

Gary C. Gortsema, Hydrologic Technician, 2769 Vegas Valley Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89121, 07/07/06
Stephen W. Hager, Oceanographer, 5181 Sidus Lane, Florence, Oregon 97439, 05/01/06
Frank G. Laguna, Hydrologic Technician, 6000 S. Herpa Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85706, 06/30/06
Ivalou Odell, Hydrologist, P.O. Box 2094, Boise, Idaho 83701, 06/02/06
William B. Scott, Supervisory Hydrologist, 8621 Copper Falls Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89129, 05/03/06
Wilma Lynn Spradling, Administrative Officer, 8734 S. Pebble Crest Way, W. Jordan, Utah 84088, 05/03/06
Glenna A. Wilson, Facility Operations Specialist, 11832 Fiddler Drive, Boise, Idaho 83713, 06/30/06

Headquarters

Arlen W. Harbaugh, Hydrologist, 11205 Hunting Horn Lane, Reston, Virginia 20191, 05/02/06
Martha I. Marques, International Program Spec, 1801 Post Oak Trail, Reston, Virginia 20191, 07/31/06
Robert R. Reynolds, Jr., Social Scientist, 1016 Grant Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170, 06/30/06

Dallas Peck Dedication

On Friday, July 28, 2006, at 2:00 PM, a ceremony was held dedicating the newly-renovated National Center Auditorium in memory of Dallas L. Peck, the 11th Director of the USGS. Dallas passed away on August 21, 2005. Dallas spent his entire professional career of more than 50 years with the USGS, beginning in 1951 when he started as a geologic field assistant. He served as USGS Director from 1981 to 1993. Although Dallas formally retired in 1995, he continued his association with the USGS as a very productive emeritus scientist until his death.

Among Dallas Peck's many notable attributes was the enthusiasm he brought to engaging employees and others in discussion of the important work of the USGS. The National Center Auditorium is a place intended to encourage and enable such engagement – an eminently appropriate venue to dedicate to his memory.

Employees and guests were invited to join the USGS Executive Leadership Team and members of Dallas' family in the USGS National Center Auditorium for this dedication ceremony.

DIVISION NEWS

“WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH”

News of the WRD National Research Program Matt Larsen, Chief Scientist for Hydrology

Here are two short summaries of current WRD research. For more information about the NRP on line, see <http://water.usgs.gov/nrp/>, or email Matt at mclarsen@usgs.gov. Thank you Linda Friedman for writing these summaries.

Climate Models: Understanding global shifts in water availability

In an article published in the journal, *Nature*, USGS scientists examined water-availability projections of climate models. Water availability is directly related to climate. However, there is no simple relationship between future temperatures and future water resources that would cover all regions of the world. Some regions may experience increases in precipitation and runoff while other regions may experience decreases. In the USGS study, the scientists compared simulations from an ensemble of 12 global climate models with a century of streamflow measurements from 165 locations around the world. They determined that the model ensemble is useful for simulating regional historical long-term trends in streamflow around the world. The model ensemble was then used to predict the complex pattern of streamflow change that can be anticipated in the twenty-first century. Results from the models predict 10 to 40 percent increases in runoff in eastern equatorial Africa, the La Plata basin and high latitude North America and Eurasia by the year 2050. They also predict 10 to 30 percent decreases in runoff in southern Africa, southern Europe, the Middle East and mid-latitude western North America by the year 2050.

Reference: Milly, P.C.D., Dunne, K.A., and Vecchia, A.V., 2005, Global pattern of trends in streamflow and water availability in a changing climate: *Nature*, v. 438, no. 7066, p. 347-350. For additional information on the project, see Continental Water, Climate and Earth-System Dynamics, <http://water.usgs.gov/nrp/proj.bib/milly.html>, or contact Chris Milly, cmilly@usgs.gov

Volcanic Gas Hazards: Mammoth Mountain, Calif. and Cameroon

Erupting volcanoes emit vast amounts of gases, particularly carbon dioxide and sulfur compounds that are toxic to humans. Dormant volcanoes can also release potentially toxic gases; such non-eruptive gas has been responsible for nearly 2000 deaths world-wide in the past decade or so. USGS personnel have investigated this type of gas hazard throughout the world for many years. Mammoth Mountain, in eastern California, is dormant but lies in a region characterized by frequent and occasionally catastrophic volcanic activity. Reports of trees dying and dizziness in confined spaces (including at a large ski resort leasing slopes from the U.S. Forest Service) led to investigations by USGS. They found that diffuse seepage of odorless carbon dioxide up through the soil zone was suffocating the tree roots and producing lethal concentrations in poorly ventilated structures and showed that the area affected by gas flow through the soil is much larger than the present-day area of tree kill. Continued monitoring is critical since carbon dioxide gas is heavier than air and thus potentially dangerous to people in depressions, and poorly ventilated enclosures, such as cabins. Another situation of carbon dioxide release occurred in the 1980's in Cameroon. More than 1500 people were killed when dissolved carbon dioxide that had accumulated in high concentrations at the bottom of two lakes was suddenly released into the atmosphere. USGS scientists were asked to help with the investigation of the Cameroon lakes and have been involved in efforts to avoid another catastrophe through controlled degassing of the lakes.

For additional information about the potential hazard at Mammoth Mountain, see <http://water.usgs.gov/nrp/proj.bib/mariner.html>, or contact: Bill Evans wcevans@usgs.gov.

IN MEMORIAM

David Bryan Anderson, age 88, died May 28, 2006, at the Hospice Care Unit at Citrus Memorial hospital in Inverness, FL. Dave battled Parkinson's disease, and in his later years, dementia. He was born May 11, 1918, in St. Louis Park, MN, and grew up on a farm near Osakis, MN. He obtained a BSCE from the University of Minnesota in 1940 and received a commission in the U.S. Army, where he served with the 61st Coast Artillery and later with the 184th anti-aircraft battalion in Iceland, England, France, Belgium, and Germany during World War II. Dave's USGS career began in St. Paul in 1946. He did streamgaging during his early years. In 1955, Dave transferred to Bridgeport, NE. In June 1957, Dave transferred to the Lincoln as Subdistrict Chief. He transferred to Menlo Park, CA, in August 1961 as the Subdistrict Chief. He transferred back to St. Paul in June 1963, and retired as Assistant District Chief in June 1973. Dave coauthored an Open File Report on floods of April-May 1969 in the Upper Midwestern United States. He received the Weather Service's Centennial Medallion in January 1971. Dave was preceded in death by his first wife, Marge, in 1989. Survivors include Norma, his wife of 17 years; son, David J. Anderson and wife Susan of Arden Hills, MN; daughter Meredith Houge and husband John of Galesville, WI; brothers, Alfred of St. Louis Park, MN and Richard of Shakopee, MN; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

David Eugene Bower passed away quietly at his home on May 26, 2006, at the age of 73, after a brief battle with cancer. Born in Akron, OH, in 1933, David graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1961 with a degree in Civil Engineering. After serving 2 years of active duty in the U.S. Navy, he began what was to become a 39-year career in hydrology with the U.S. Geological Survey. He married Margaret Elizabeth Hawkins of Rollin, MI, in 1963 and fathered three children. Throughout his career, his family resided in Wacousta, MI; Fairfax, VA; Louisville, KY; and Columbia, SC. After his retirement in 1998, David and his wife returned to Michigan to be close to family and friends settling near Grand Rapids. Always willing to lend a hand to those in need, his activities in retirement were largely philanthropic, and included driving church members to medical treatments, delivering donated canned goods and clothing, and assisting with Habitat for Humanity. He was an avid fan of the theater and symphony, loved international travel, and was a member of the United Methodist Men's Group. He was always a source of quiet strength in times of crisis. He is survived by his three children, Samuel David Bower, of Columbia, SC; Mary Elizabeth Bower Russa, of Grand Rapids, MI; and Margaret Sue Bower, of Baltimore, MD, and by his sister, June Johnson of Jackson, MI.

Kittie Collins, age 68, passed away July 20th at her home in Montrose, CO. Kitty was the wife of Dannie Collins who retired from WRD in 1994 after a 34-year career, including assignments in Lincoln, NE; Cheyenne, WY; Headquarters; and the HIF; and the last 20 years as Sub-District Chief in Grand Junction, CO. Kitty is survived by husband, Dannie; son, Marty of Los Altos, CA; two daughters, Cindy Loeffler of Austin, TX, and Debbie Barone of Round Rock, TX; and six grandchildren.

Bennie L. Day, 74, died April 27, 2006 at his home in Hastings, NE. Bennie was born September 17, 1931 to Jesse W. and Audrey W. (White) Day in Smith Center, KS. He grew up in Smith Center, KS and moved to the Hastings area in the early 1950's. On May 4, 1958, he married Patricia B. Kempf in Hastings. He worked for Hastings Typewriter and in 1962 they then moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he worked with U.S. Geological Survey as a Hydro Technician. In July 1971 he was reassigned to the District Office in Lawrence, Kansas. He retired in 1990 and they moved back to Hastings. He was a member of the First Christian Church and N.A.R.F.E. He was also on the counsel at Golden Friendship Center. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, of Hastings; one daughter, Chalsa Ann Hankins of Hastings; two sons, Larry A. Day of Englewood, CO and Gregory A. Day of Hastings; three grandchildren and six great grandchildren; and one sister, Irene Brunow of Fairbury, NE. He was preceded in death by 3 brothers.

Agnes Gervais (Gerry) Hadley, age 84, died on July 10, 2006. Gerry was the wife of Dick Hadley, a longtime member and 1984 retiree of the Water Resources Division. She was born in Marshall, MN, on February 16, 1922. Gerry passed away very suddenly. She and Dick were married 54 years ago, on October 11, 1952, in MN. Until the birth of their first child, Gerry had been employed by the Department of the Interior. For many years they lived on South Depew Street in Lakewood and had moved in to the Lakewood Meridian about a month ago. She is survived by two children, John (Bonnie) and Mary; two grandchildren, Craig and Nick; and a step granddaughter, Sheena Atkinson.

Boyd Joiner passed away on July 26, 2006 at age 90. Born in Nash County, NC, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Kathleen O'Neill, who was from Ireland. Boyd graduated with a BS in Chemical Engineering from North Carolina State University in 1939. His first job was with Firth Steling Steel in Pittsburgh, PA. During WW II, Boyd was trained at Spokane, WA and at Edgewood Arsenal in MD. He saw active duty in Europe. Following his discharge, he returned to North Carolina and began his career with WRD. He served in Raleigh, Salt Lake City, and Tampa during his USGS career. He is survived by a son, Richard, a brother, and three sisters.

IN MEMORIAM

Mildred L. Penny, age 83, died on May 29, 2006, at the Brandon Woods Retirement Community in Lawrence, KS. She was born April 30, 1923, in Worden, the daughter of Otto L. and Otilie L. Schaake Johannung. She was a lifelong resident of Lawrence. She graduated from Liberty Memorial High School and attended Lawrence Business College. Mildred worked as a computer assistant for 16 years at the U.S. Geological Survey until she retired. After retirement she always attended the Retirees luncheons. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Old Friends Club, National Association of Letter Carriers Auxiliary No. 177 and National Association of Retired Federal Employees No. 378. She married Roy E. Goff and he was presumed dead while serving in World War II on January 10, 1944. She married William H. Penny on December 26, 1948, in Kanwaka. He died January 18, 1992. Mildred is survived by three daughters, Cheryl L. Miles and husband Greg, Parkville, MO; Nancy J. Mauller and husband Darrell, Houston; and Beverly A. Dragastin and husband Mark, Virginia, NE; three brothers, Elmer R. Johannung, Harold L. Johannung, and Glenn A. Johannung, all of Lawrence; eight grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Hillary Alva Oden, Sr., age 72, of Stafford County, VA, died July 3, 2006 at his home. He was a graduate of Kansas University having received a bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering in 1956. In October 1956, he began his career with the U.S. Geological Survey, Casper, WY. From there he served tours of duty in Billings, MT; New Orleans, LA; Washington, D.C., where he served three tours; and Sunnyvale, CA. In 1984, he transferred from the USGS to the Bureau of Land Management and was the Wyoming State Director for 5 years before returning for one last tour of duty in Washington, D.C., where he served as Assistant Director, Energy and Minerals. He was a member of the Senior Executive Service, received various awards for outstanding performance, and was the recipient of the President's Distinguished Service Award. After retirement, while still living in Herndon, VA, Hillary worked part-time for a drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation center. After relocating to Fredericksburg, he volunteered at a non-profit organization, Stafford Emergency Relief Through Volunteer Effort Inc., packaging meal orders in the food pantry and picking up donated furniture and delivering it to S.E.R.V.E.'s Thrift Store. Hillary loved the outdoors and was an avid "digger" around the home. His passion was working with his wife Daisie to design "the last flower bed." He loved to travel and enjoyed trips to Mexico, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, as well as most of the well-known National Parks. His wealth of knowledge about this country was awesome, and he willingly shared it with family and friends. Several years ago, he and Daisie enjoyed a Caribbean Cruise with sister, Marjorie and her husband, Ken. In addition to gardening, he loved to read books and maps. In recent months, Hillary and Daisie enjoyed attending services at Falmouth Baptist Church. Hillary believed each person should try to leave their part of the world in better shape than they found it. One of his favorite quotes, "God's will, will not place you where God's grace will not follow." Hillary is survived by his wife, Daisie; three children, Hillary A. Oden, Jr., Hazel L. Tilman, and Gregory H. Oden; two step-children, Scott A. Werdebaugh and Kimberlee D. Tussing; 17 grandchildren and step-grandchildren, and one great-grandson; his sister, Marjorie Gilliland, and little brother, Jim.

Frank Newell Visher passed away on May 4, 2006 at the age of 83. He and his family resided in Wheat Ridge, CO, for 30 years. He was the son of John William Visher and Marguerite Ruth Miller of Evansville, IN. His education was in geology and civil engineering. Frank's work with the U.S. Geological Survey took him to the largest dam in the United States, as well as an erupting volcano, floods, and witnessing a tsunami strike land. He has mapped the unseen water streams and lakes under the ground in Hawaii, Florida, and the Rocky Mountain Region. He was a published authority in hydrology and represented the United States in international conferences. His passion was his family, opera, black and white photography, and foul weather sailing. He was the private secretary to his wife, Dorothy Jean Loer (deceased), as she presided over the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs. Frank is survived by four children, Thomas Loer, Richard Sargent, Marguerite Louise Pennington, and Patricia Haunani Marshall; thirteen grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. He is also survived by three brothers: John, Wilbur, and Glenn (Betty) and their children; and sister-in-law, Sharon Stinson and her children.

James D. Wald, 62, Bismarck, passed away July 17, 2006. Jim was born November 23, 1943, in Bismarck, to Conrad and Dorothy Wald. After high school at St. Mary's High School, he attended Bismarck State College, graduating in 1963. On July 3, 1963, Jim married Donnita (Donnie) R. Little in Bismarck. Jim was employed by the U.S. Geological Survey as a hydrologic technician from 1963 to 2004, where he was involved in groundwater studies throughout the state of ND. Jim was a member of the Bismarck Elks Lodge and the North Dakota Geologic Society. He was an avid reader and a history enthusiast. He enjoyed spending weekends at Lake Tschida with friends and family. He is survived by his wife, Donnita Wald; one son, Eric and Benita Wald, Bismarck; two daughters, Paula and Toby Rivera, Nampa, ID, and Lisa and Rob Ansley, Bismarck. His grandchildren, Michael, Taylor, Camrin and Hannah Wald and Cole and Tara Rivera; and great-grandson Owen Wald. Jim was preceded in death by his brother David.

WRD Retirees Hydrologic Technician Scholarship

WRD Retirees presented a proposal in the May 2006 *WRD Retirees Newsletter* to establish a \$1500 Scholarship for Hydrologic Technicians. The scholarship is designed to show appreciation and recognition of the Hydrologic Technicians by WRD Retirees. Approval was subject to a mail-in vote of the membership. The voting showed overwhelming support for the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship with **96%** of the voting members in favor of the scholarship.

Selection Process:

WRD Retirees appointed the Immediate Past President, Jim Blakey, and Vice-President, Bill Emmett, to establish a procedure to identify and select candidates, with the goal to award the first scholarship for the academic year beginning in the fall of 2006. Blakey and Emmett, working with assistance from Jim Kircher, Director, Colorado Water Science Center (District Chief, Colorado); Deborah M. Lowe, Central Region Human Resources Officer; and Carole A. De Herrera, Central Region Human Resources Specialist, developed a plan. Students from all schools offering a 2-year program leading to an Associate Degree as a Hydrologic Technician are eligible. Candidates to be considered are second-year students who have demonstrated the ability to earn good grades, are good citizens, and have interest in employment with the USGS. The panel decided this would include all students who participated in a summer internship with the USGS between their academic years. Each student was asked to answer the following questions:

What College are you currently attending?

What are your career goals?

Why do you want to work for the USGS?

Where are you willing to accept employment (City and State), if offered a permanent position by USGS?

What has been your best experience during your internship with the USGS?

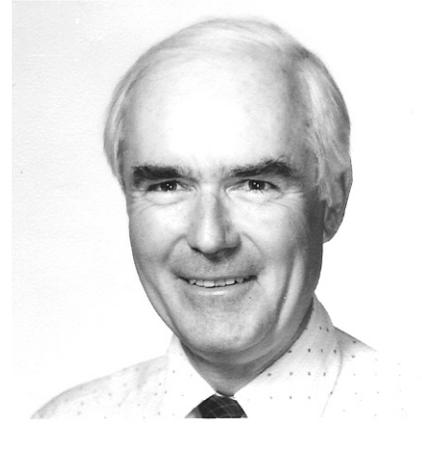
A selection panel, consisting of four WRD Retirees, both Hydrologists and Hydrologic Technicians, was selected to review the information gathered in order to judge the merits of each candidate, and to select a winner. The selection panel consisted of Jim Blakey, Bill Emmett, Warren Teasdale, and Bob Boulger. Jim Kircher, Deborah M. Lowe, and Carole A. De Herrera provided additional support. Equal consideration was given to four factors: students' statements, supervisors' evaluations, resumes, and transcripts.

2006 Selection:

Fifteen candidates were sent a letter soliciting interest in applying for the scholarship. Nine candidates replied affirmatively -- one candidate withdrew, having received another scholarship, and five candidates did not reply. Of those submitting applications, the selection panel selected **Jacob B. Dayley** of **GateWay Community College** in Phoenix, Arizona. Jacob had a 2006 summer internship with the California Water Science Center. WRD Retirees congratulate Jacob and wish all candidates the best of luck in their academic and career goals. Jacob has received his scholarship. An official ceremony will be held at GateWay College in the near future. WRD Retirees has notified the Regional Hydrologist, WR, and California Science Center Chief of the selection.

MEMORIAL
Frank W. Trainer
1921 – 2006

Frank W. Trainer of Albuquerque, New Mexico, succumbed to complications resulting from Parkinson's disease on May 30, 2006. Frank was born in Manchester, England, on December 2, 1921, to an American mother and an English father. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States upon induction into the U.S. Army during World War II. His Army service included that of a corpsman in a field hospital in Germany.



Frank received both bachelor and masters degrees in Geology from the University of Virginia and a PhD in geology from Harvard University in 1951. He began his career with the U.S. Geological Survey working with D.J. Cederstrom on the Alaska program. Frank's report on the Matanuska Valley served as his PhD thesis. This was followed by a joint study with Cederstrom and Roger Waller of the Geology and Ground-water Resources of the Anchorage area of Alaska. He moved from the Alaska program to upstate New York where he headed the study of the effect of the St. Lawrence Seaway project on the ground-water resources of northern St. Lawrence County. Following completion of his work in New York he resigned from the Survey in 1959 and joined the geology faculty at the University of Virginia. Although a well-organized and effective lecturer, the academic environment did not appeal to him and he returned to the Survey in 1962 with assignment to the research program at National Headquarters.

During his New York work, Frank had developed a strong interest in the hydrology of fractured rocks and his first research assignment was to a study of these rocks in New York, Virginia, and West Virginia. This was in the days before bore-hole TV cameras so he, in collaboration with J.E. Eddy, developed a periscope which he used to study the occurrence of fractures in wells open to the Lockport Dolomite in the Niagara Falls area. His interest in fractured rocks continued for the remainder of his career and into retirement. In fact, during the last several years of his life he was involved in analyzing data he had collected, much of it on his own time, in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

From 1963 to 1966 Frank was assigned as the WRD representative on the editorial staff engaged in the review and publication of the Annual Review series of Professional Papers. In 1966, he was selected as the WRD member of the Survey's building committee that was involved in planning space needs and utilization for the Reston Headquarters. Also in 1966, he was placed in charge of the Potomac River basin project, a comprehensive study to appraise the role of ground water in the proposed management plan for the basin. During his assignment to National Headquarters, he also decided to learn to read Russian and, in fact, two of his publications include translation of Russian reports on Karst of the USSR and ground-water discharge into the seas.

In 1972, Frank moved to Albuquerque to head the division's geothermal-hydrology project. The results of his work in New Mexico are documented in six of his publications. He moved from Albuquerque to Menlo Park, CA, in 1975 to serve as the coordinator of the Western Region's geothermal program. Following completion of his assignment in 1976, he was appointed Regional Research Hydrologist, a position he held until his retirement in 1981.

Frank was the author or co-author of 30 publications, including a textbook entitled *Introduction to Ground-Water Hydrology*. He was one of the most talented professionals in the WRD, as he demonstrated with the wide range of the assignments he successfully completed. His outstanding service and contributions to the Survey were recognized in 1982 when he received the Meritorious Service Award of the Department of the Interior. He was a quiet, unassuming individual who was a joy to work with. He was also a very talented watercolor painter and etcher. His wife Martha, two children, Joe and Mara, and three grandchildren survive him.

By: Ralph C. Heath

Honoring WRD Retirees who served in WW II or Korea

This series continues to be very popular with WRD retirees and other readers of the Newsletter. This edition contains accounts of the service of Ben Jones and Jerry Meyer. To those WRD Retirees who served in WW II or Korea and have not yet shared your experiences with us, please send us your stories for publication in a future Newsletter.

Friendly Fire by Ben Jones

As much as I hate to indulge in what our late colleague, Don Culbertson called "combat stories", Phil Emery's narrative prompts me to relate the following: In the spring of 1954, I finally got tired of trying to live on canned spaghetti and soda crackers. Even the good pay I was earning in the mines in Idaho didn't allow me to save enough for tuition, so I volunteered for the draft. After basic training at Fort Jackson, SC, I was interviewed about further training. I told them I had two years of Air Force ROTC and Engineering School--so they sent me to MP school. Who says the Army has no sense of humor? Historically, MPs were recruited from the most muscular and ugliest specimens in basic training camps. I qualified on both of those counts, but the Army was establishing a professional police corps. The new, sixteen-week program at Fort Gordon, GA, was like, "Green Berets meets Police Academy". Having survived training, I was posted to an MP Battalion in Fuerth, a suburb of Nuremberg, Germany. Capt. White, my new company commander, found out I was from his hometown, Asheville, NC. He made me his driver, and eventually had me promoted to corporal! Before he rotated out, he had me assigned to the Traffic Accident Section. In those days, before the final armistice was signed with Germany, German Police and MPs investigated any traffic accident involving GIs jointly. This was a "combat MP" outfit. During WWII, those were the guys that stood at intersections, directing the drivers of Patton's "Red Ball Express" to the front lines. The old-timers always said they were the only combatants routinely under fire from both sides! Our duty was more mundane — we were supposed to evacuate convoys of dependents to European ports if the Soviets came across the border. One of the old-timers I'll call "Sgt. McGuzzle." He had been through every rank from private to master sergeant -- several times. At the time I knew him he was a three-striper and was serving as desk sergeant on one fateful night that is etched in my memory.

The MP station was a classic remnant of the police stations pictured in cartoons. An elevated desk with two globular lamps overlooked the whole room. I had just brought in a GI involved in a traffic accident and I put him on a wooden bench in the MP station, across from the desk. Sgt. McGuzzle was just going off duty, and being the combat veteran that he was, he disdained the simple process of removing the clip from his .45 automatic. Instead, he was jacking the rounds through the chamber and onto his desk. The .45 went off, sending a round through the leg of another MP standing beside me. The bullet ricocheted off the floor, then the ceiling, and landed between the feet of my prisoner; who was heard to cry out in terror: "This is the roughest *@#%\$ place I have ever been, I'll never get out of here alive!" Although we were in Germany at the same time, no one in my squad was involved in foiling the mission described by Phil Emery; but I like to think that well-trained MPs like Sgt. McGuzzle are helping protect our troops throughout the world from the ravages of their baser instincts and the hazards of junk food!

Trinity and Jerry Meyer

On July 16, 1945, as a U.S. Army Air Force maintenance mechanic, I found myself on duty on the flight line at Holloman Air Base, near the tiny town of Alamogordo, NM. That day seemed no different than the other hundreds of days spent servicing B-17s and B-19s. Sitting in my maintenance kiosk at 5:20 AM and dreaming of my lovely girlfriend, Libby (later to be my wife) back home, I was dumbfounded to witness the intense illumination of the world's first successful atomic bomb test. More than a flash, the black night sky flared to noontime brightness — like a million flashbulbs illuminating at once. And then, immediately, darkness again. Seven o'clock the next morning, the base newspaper carried an explanation of a fully loaded B-29 crashing in the San Andreas Mountains, just west of the base. No one on the base bought that explanation. Besides, the newspaper went to press well before the event. A second explanation of an explosion at an ammunition dump seemed quite insufficient and improbable.

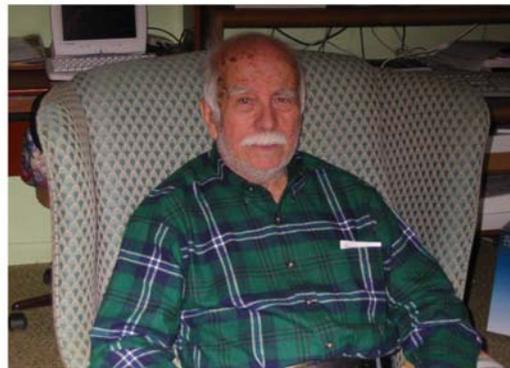
The test explosion, on a remote section of the nearby White Sands Missile Range, created a huge multi-colored cloud raising some 40,000 feet. The true cause of "Day of Trinity," as it was called, was not known until after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A second noteworthy event was a 2-day pass to Juarez, Mexico — a wild and woolly soldier's town at the time. Then again, that's another story.

MEMORIAL

H.B. (Herb) Mendieta

1920 - 2006

H. B. "Herb" Mendieta, age 86, passed away April 10, 2006. He was born to Castilian parents in Laredo, Texas, and raised on the family ranch in Bruni, a small Texas town east of Laredo. It is rumored that he was expelled from the first grade when he climbed down the fire escape. However, he managed to get back into school and graduated from the Hebbbronville High School and enrolled at Texas A&M before World War II.



Herb entered the Army in early 1942 and served with the 90th Ordinance Battalion, Medical Detachment in Hawaii for most of his army time. He was in Hawaii during the Battle of Midway. In 1946, he married Marjorie Cantrell and moved to Austin in 1951 and began his career with the USGS as a physical science aid, GS-4. His first position consisted of determining sediment concentrations and particle sizes analyses. Later he began doing chemical analyses on surface waters and working full time. Herb entered the University of Texas to work on a degree in chemistry. He received his BS in Chemistry in 1954. After graduating, Herb received a rating as a Professional Chemist GS-5 and continued working on the "bench" as well as writing reports. In 1959, Herb was promoted to GS-9 and was assigned to the preparation of a report on the chemical quality of the surface waters of the Brazos River Basin. The report was published as Water Supply Paper 1779K. In the early 60's, the Texas District began a long-term study to evaluate the water quality of Texas reservoirs with Herb as the first Project Chief. Reservoir surveys quickly revealed that the water quality of reservoirs in the western half of the state was impacted by salinity stratification and a change in reservoir operations was made by management agencies to deliver fresher water. In 1964, Herb organized educational film series for the Survey. To familiarize the public with work of the Survey, he lectured to the chemistry and applied science classes at a local high school. He was appointed Public Relations Officer to disseminate news releases from the Survey. In 1966, he was promoted to GS-11 and was Project Chief for an investigation of the quality- of- water of Big Mineral Arm, Lake Texoma, Texas. Herb attended numerous symposiums and seminars through the 60's. In 1968, he was promoted to GS-12 Supervisory Hydrologist. His bibliography consisted of 15 Water Supply Papers, Texas Water Development Board Reports, and WRD Bulletins. However, if we could ask him, Herb would say his biggest contribution to the WRD was his recruiting of women and minorities. Herb had a long and a very interesting career with the USGS, retiring in 1984 as a Supervising Hydrologist GS-12. He remained in Austin through out his USGS career.

Herb was an avid gardener and was a member of the Men's Garden Club and served as Regional President. He helped many of us get our vegetables and flowers planted and wrote a column on gardening for the Austin American Statesman representing the Men's Garden Club of America. He was a member Amigos De La Frontera; the American Chemical Society; the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; the American Association of Science; Historical Society; and the National and Texas WRD Retirees. Herb became president of the Texas WRD Retirees at its beginning in 1991 and continued to be president until illness and Alzheimer forced him to retire in 2002. He was then elected President Emeritus of the Texas group. Herb is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marjorie C. Mendieta; a son Hector Edward Mendieta; a daughter, Bernadine M. Eaton of Austin; two brothers, a sister, three granddaughters, and a great grandson.

By: C.T. Welborn

Humorous Stories about WRD field or office work

In the May 2005 edition, we introduced the series for humorous stories about WRD field or office work. We've all heard some hilarious stories during our careers. Please share them with others – send your story to Dotty Woods, Editor, at her home address or email them to her at woodsdotty@aol.com. Thanks from the Newsletter staff and all of your colleagues eager to hear your stories!

The Magnificent Pumping Machine

by Phil LaMoreaux

We should have known with the first light of day and the missing individual in the name of John Newton for our breakfast meeting with Vic Stringfield from Washington at Lucy's Cafe in Linden, Alabama, that something had gone astray. It was a Tuesday morning, beautiful day, blue sky, and white clouds. The sun had just come out and out of the east from Montgomery came our visitors from Washington, Mr. V. T. Stringfield and a couple of associates to see the magnificent pumping machine invented by the Alabama district office of the Water Resource Division Ground Water Branch U.S. Geological Survey.

The pumping machine was a figment of the imagination of two or three senior citizens of the local district office, mainly, George Swindle and Phil LaMoreaux. The machine had been built with surplus parts from the Air Corps obtained by George Swindle and consisted of a pump, tubing, drum, plus small pieces of equipment that used to be used to lift the flaps of an airplane.

The submersible pump was attached to a long flexible hose, wound around an old gasoline drum mounted on a trailer. The Rube Goldberg was mounted in the trailer and attached to the mechanical parts were a transformer, switches, bells, and a generator.

But, I am getting ahead of my story. Our first alert of the disaster of the day came with the absence of John Newton, project director, Marengo County study. He was supposed to meet the dignitaries from the Washington senior staff and from Tuscaloosa at Lucy's Cafe in Linden. The cafe was part of the old railroad station. The meeting time was 7:00 a.m. It came and went--7:30 a.m. came and went. And, 8:00 a.m. came and went--8:30 a.m. came and went and 9:00 a.m., and who should appear, but John Newton with a black patch over his left eye. And, here was his story.

Newton, a tank commander, had lost his eye in the conflict in Korea. The government had generously outfitted him with several eyes as standbys plus the one that was installed in its socket. The stand-by eyes included one that had red lines in it that could be worn when John was dissipated. Another was a decoy eye that he could keep Janet, his wife on one side and look at good-looking girls on the other, or so the story goes by John.

He reported that the first thing this morning when he got up, he naturally went to the wash basin to wash his face, brush his teeth, and shave. Unfortunately in washing his face, his false eye had dropped down into the sink and down into the trap below the sink. All attempts to recover the eye had failed. John dismantled the trap, still no eye. He then called for help from the sewage and water manager of Linden, who arrived and suggested that they arrange to have all John's neighbors flush their toilets at the same time, thereby moving the eye from the line beneath John's house into the sump across the highway. John remarked that he learned who his friends were at that moment. By this time it was almost 9:00 a.m. and John felt that further exploration was not warranted and he put on the black patch over his left eye.

On arriving at Lucy's Cafe, John went into a full explanation of the situation before Mr. Stringfield. After listening to John, Mr. Stringfield stated that he believed it must be a true story because John could not have made it up.

After the lost eye escapade of Newton, we traveled to Monroeville to investigate John Ivey's project. Now Ivey had on his project the newest invention from the Alabama office. Actually, this invention was used by the Alabama office and had obtained a glorious name for itself. It was known throughout the country.

At any rate, Mr. Stringfield and his associates from the Washington office traveled to Monroeville, the home of Harper Lee, author of "To Kill a Mockingbird" fame, the object being to inspect the newly developed pumping equipment by our staff. The machine had been built so that it could be backed up to a well, lower the pump, and in a few minutes be able to run a preliminary pumping test. After the pump was fabricated, many maiden flights with the equipment were made to insure it was functioning properly. Having Mr. Stringfield and his staff with us, after the fiasco with Newton, we arrived at the pumping site where John Ivey greeted us. A few minutes later, George Swindle in a USGS truck with the trailer and pump in tow arrived and backed up smartly to the observation well to be pumped. Then with great flourish, George Swindle and I asked everyone to approach the trailer where the equipment was installed and to watch carefully as the test proceeded. George turned the engine on, flipped the switch, lowered the pump into the well and then turned to the group to advise that he was ready to throw the switch for the pumping to begin.

George threw the switch and there was a singing hum that emitted from the switch box containing the controls for the pumping equipment. As the hum grew louder and the instruments in the box grew hotter, pretty soon smoke began to exude from the cracks of switch box. In the box was an old transformer, surplus equipment of the navy, and insulators, and switches had been installed. The humming increased as did the smoking, when all of a sudden with everybody leaning forward avidly looking at the instrument box, the damn thing exploded! Because the transistors were old and wrapped with paper and asphalt, everyone examining the experiment were properly tarred and feathered.

Again, I will have to compliment Mr. Stringfield for his only reaction was to say "Hummm, that's interesting."

TREASURER'S REPORT, SECOND QUARTER 2006

As we were finalizing the August 2006 Newsletter, I got a call from Celso Puente, Treasurer. Celso was in the hospital recovering from what he described as a "mild" heart attack. He told me that he was going to ask his wife to bring the data for the report to the hospital so he could finish the report. I discouraged that suggestion and told Celso to rest and recover. All indications are that he will be fine. WRD Retirees can rest assured that their Treasury is adequate and that the records are in fine shape. Those members who gave contributions during the quarter are thanked sincerely for their donations and they will be recognized in the November 2006 Newsletter. Jim Biesecker

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