

National Officers:

James E. Biesecker, President
William W. Emmett, Vice President
Charles W. Boning, Secretary
Celso Puente, Treasurer
Richard A. Engberg, Archivist

Regional Directors:

William G. Shope, Northeast
C.R. "Russ" Wagner, Southeast
Sandra Duncan, Central
Charles O. Morgan, Western

Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Dorothy M. Woods
NR: David E. Click
SR: Vivian Olcott
CR: Russell K. Livingston
WR: Loren E. Young

Address:

WRD Retirees
P.O. Box 280
Herndon, VA 20172-0280
Phone (703) 648-5641
Fax (703) 648-5002
Email wrdretirees@usgs.gov

WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 136
August 2007

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Drought conditions continue to worsen in Northern Virginia and throughout much of the nation. Joyce and I are keeping the vegetable garden and shrubbery alive by frequent watering. The USGS web page, www.USGS.gov, has a wonderful account of current hydrologic conditions. To access this information simply click on "water" in the first line of the text, and then click on Drought in the NWISWeb Water data box on the left hand side of the page for an update on current streamflow conditions. Also, click on Ground Water and then on one of the dots that indicate observations wells and get the latest data on GW levels. WRD does a terrific job of keeping water managers and the public informed about current hydrologic conditions. I'm sure this is the kind of system George Whetstone envisioned when he created the "Current Conditions" group.

The WRD Retirees Hydrologic Scholarship program continues to operate very well. Last year's winner, Jacob B. Dayley of GateWay Community College in Phoenix, Arizona, has graduated and accepted a full-time position with WRD as a Hydrologic Technician in the Carnelian Bay, California, office. The scholarship winner this year is Gretchen Anderson of Vermilion Community College of Ely, Minnesota. Gretchen is currently working as a WRD summer intern in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, field office. A detailed description of the Hydrologic Technician Program appears in this Newsletter.

The 2008 WRD Retirees Reunion, scheduled for Tampa, Florida, from October 30–November 1, 2008, occurs at a wonderful time to visit Florida. Look for more detailed Reunion information in future Newsletters but mark the date so you can attend. Remember there will be a cruise following the Reunion. Come have fun with your long-time friends!

Reorganization at the USGS seems to be going on forever – it has been a major topic for at least 8 years. However, I examined the current Water Resources programs described in the USGS web page and found a strong similarity to the efforts we were all involved with during past years. The current WRD programs are described in the Division News section of this Newsletter. Hopefully, this is a sign that the long and ongoing reorganization is not negatively affecting the day-to-day work of WRD personnel. The other good news is that the Districts do not seem to be negatively impacted by all of the reorganization. They continue to address local and statewide water problems through the Coop program which continues to flourish.

I want to repeat the message from the May 2007 Newsletter that WRD Retirees will be electing new officers soon. The November Newsletter will contain a slate of candidates. If you are interested in serving as an officer, please call me at 703-777-6357 or email me at jeb393@verizon.net.

In closing, I want to strongly encourage all WRD Retirees to send "News of Retirees" to the Newsletter staff. This is the most popular section of the WRD Retirees Newsletter and it is totally dependent on the information you members send in for publication. Please let your long-time friends and colleagues know what is going on in your life by sending "News" for publication in the Newsletter. Send a hand-written note to WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172 or email your "News" item to wrdretirees@usgs.gov or jeb393@verizon.net. Thanks!

NEWS OF RETIREES

Evelyn Beamer reports, "I recently visited my son and his family in California. We had a nice visit. The grandchildren grow up so quickly. While in California, I had an opportunity to visit, via telephone, with **John Wark**. I am still enjoying my retirement in Pennsylvania and still miss my soul mate, **Norm**."

Jim Blakey says "**Paula** and I stay busy visiting children, grandchildren and traveling. Our most recent trip was to Germany. We send greetings to all fellow WRD Retirees and encourage everyone to come to the 2008 WRD Retirees Reunion in Tampa. **Saundra Duncan** will plan a great cruise following the Reunion. Those of you who were lucky enough to go on the Alaska cruise that **Saundra** planned know how wonderful her cruises can be! Come, enjoy!"

"We recently attended a family reunion in Texas. It was great to see all of the children and grandchildren. If any of you WRD Retirees are going to be in the Denver area this fall, we invite you to attend the Denver WRD Retirees fall luncheon, October 16. If you're going to be in town call me, **Saundra Duncan**, **Hugh Hudson**, **Dave Lystrom**, or **Russ Livingston** for details. I firmly believe laughter is good for the soul and along those lines send the following "**Old folks**" humor for WRD Retirees to consider."

An elderly gentleman of 83 arrived in Paris by plane. At the French customs desk, the man took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry-on bag. "You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked, sarcastically. The elderly gentleman admitted he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready." The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it. Impossible, Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France!" The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained. "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find any Frenchmen to show it to."

Bob, a 70-year-old, extremely wealthy widower, shows up at the Country Club with a breathtakingly beautiful and very sexy 25 year- old blonde who knocks everyone's socks off with her youthful sex appeal and charm. She hangs onto Bob's arm and

listens intently to his every word. His buddies at the club are all aghast. At the very first chance, they corner him and ask, "Bob, how did you get the trophy girlfriend?" Bob replies, "Girlfriend? She's my wife!" They're amazed, but continue to ask. "So, how did you persuade her to marry you?" "I lied about my age", Bob replies. "What, did you tell her you were only 50?" Bob smiles and says, "No, I told her I was 90!"

A group of Americans were traveling by tour bus through Holland. As they stopped at a cheese farm, a young guide led them through the process of cheese making, explaining that goat's milk was used. She showed the group a lively hillside where many goats were grazing. "These" she explained "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in America with your old goats?" A spry old gentleman answered, "They send us on bus tours!"

Nancy Bley reports, "**Jim** and I, along with **Pat** and **Herb Freiberger** recently spent two terrific weeks at a time share property near Cancun, Mexico. The pool at the facility was supposedly the largest pool in North America – it was big and beautiful. A great time was had by all. Hi to all fellow WRD Retirees."

Alan Brown says, "I spent the winter in Baja, California, Mexico revisiting places I had not seen since 1971! I really enjoyed kayaking the clean, clear waters of the Sea of Cortez and camping on the beaches – often at water's edge. Last fall, I spent 2 months in wild and beautiful Alaska, my first visit to the far north. The rest of 2007 will find me continuing my nomadic lifestyle traveling North America in my 4WD van with my golden retriever pup, **Kyla**."

Bob Bubeck reports, "I spent March 2007 on a geochemical/oceanographic cruise with the University of Miami. Nice job to the Blue Ribbon Panel for the proposed changes to the Constitution. Best regards to all WRD Retirees."

Bob Burchett reports, "While visiting my daughter and grandchildren in Tennessee in April, I had a gall bladder attack. I had my gall bladder removed by laparoscopy -- they just punch 4 or 5 holes in you and pump in NO2 and take the gall bladder out in little pieces. I was in

NEWS OF RETIREES

the hospital for 3 days and am doing fine now. Life continues to be an adventure.

"I celebrated one year with my new heart. It came from a 42 year old male from Houston and it was implanted within four hours of the man's death."

Bob, we wish you many more years with your new heart.

Phil Carpenter says, "I really appreciate all the hard work of the WRD Retiree officers and Newsletter staff. Thanks for everything you do for the rest of the Retirees."

Chuck Collier reports, "**Pat** and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary last summer. Nearly all our family was here and hosted an open-house for our friends. The Madison reunion was great. We included a visit with our daughter and her family in Chippewa Falls, WI and saw our former neighbors in White Bear Lake, MN. We were in Cleveland, OH for Christmas and New Years with our daughter. While in Ohio, we got to Columbus one day for lunch with Jean Stewart and her daughter. I'm sure glad WRD Retirees started the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship program."

Joe Cragwall reports, "In July I received a telephone call from **Charlie Gamble**, Nashville TN, advising me of TJ Quarles death on Saturday, July 14. A review of our WRD histories helped me recall that TJ, in his career as Administrative Officer for the Tennessee District (SW Branch and later WRD), served district chiefs Bell, Eaton, Cragwall, Kennedy, and Sauer, and three or more subdistrict chiefs. What a group of engineers/hydrologists to satisfy and keep out of trouble administratively! TJ did it well and earned the deepest respect and confidence of all of us who worked with him. In talking with Charlie, I was pleased to hear that he and **Rebel** are doing well now healthwise and keeping busy in a variety of activities. Last year both of them were experiencing health problems that prevented them from attending our Madison reunion."

Lois Douglas says, "Hi to all WRD Retirees."

Phil Emery reports, "**Janet** and I continue to enjoy our retirement in Mt. Home, Arkansas. We recently built a pool to beat the summer heat. We hope to attend the next WRD Retirees Reunion in Tampa."

Martha Frisbie reports, "I too, like many others, enjoy the WRD Retirees Newsletter very much. It has now been over 20 years since Howard died, but I still enjoy all of the USGS news and look forward to the next reunion in Tampa. Keep up the good work!"

Ray George says, "Along with the rest of the country, it has been a year to remember. Keep up the good work on the Newsletter."

Gene Hampton reports, "I have paid my WRD Retiree dues through 2016 and hope **Pat** and I both live that long! Best regards to all fellow retirees."

Paul Hayes says, "We are currently living in our Indianapolis home having just returned from our winter 5th wheel home in Sacramento. We will stay here until October and then head back to Sacramento for the winter. This is our second year of "snow birding" and it is working rather nicely. Last year my wife, **Alice**, was diagnosed with MS. She is doing fine but we must return to Sacramento every 90 days for treatment at UC Davis Hospital. That is part of the reason we are "snow birding". Last August we cruised the Inland Passage to Alaska, what a beautiful trip. In fact we liked it so much that we are flying to Alaska this July to see more. Retirement is great, especially here in Indianapolis where we get to see more of our grandchildren along with other family members and friends. For entertainment, we go to local car shows or cruises with one of our 2 Cougars. We have a 1967 Cougar in Indianapolis and a 1968 Cougar in Sacramento. Both are originals and have won several trophies. Hope to see other retirees in the area of somewhere along the road."

Hugh Hudson reports, "I wanted all my fellow retirees to be aware of yet another award our fellow WRD Retiree Joe Cragwall received. It reads, "Joe Cragwall, in recognition of his career accomplishments and particularly of his achievements as District Chief, Tennessee, and for his **** avowed and generously expressed loyalty and devotion for Jack Daniel's 'charcoal mellowed' whiskey **** has been formally and officially designated a Tennessee Squire. With this distinctive honor came a certificate deeding a plot of land in Moore County, Tennessee to Joe from Lem Motlow, Proprietor, Jack Daniel Distillery. Joe will receive from time to time, items such as a Jack Daniels coffee mug or belt buckle and letters from a purported official of Lynchburg, Tennessee requesting permission to

NEWS OF RETIREES

hunt coons or dig fish bait on his land (probably one square inch).”

Jerry Lindholm reports, “As part of a recent WRD Retirees meeting in Boise, Ted Channel, husband of WRD Retiree Linda Channel, told us about the two seismometers he constructed. Each unit was built for several hundred dollars. One station is in their home and the other at the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, where Linda volunteers. Data collected are part of the Worldwide Public Seismic Network and are archived in Redwood City, CA. Recent event files can be viewed at:

<http://www.seismicnet.com/cgi-dos/event.exe>.

Ted mentioned that seismic event seem to be cyclical and that one might be noted the next day. He was right! Sure enough there was an earthquake the next day in Northern California.”

Russ McAvoy says, “We continue to have a good retirement on our 60-acre farm near Charlottesville, VA. I enjoy the local NARFE meetings and am always thrilled to see fellow WRD retiree **Joe Cragwall** at those meetings.”

Dave McCartney reports, “I continue to learn to live without **Kathy**, who is in a nearby Alzheimer’s unit. After 50 plus years it is a tough adjustment. I miss her very much. I did enjoy attending a recent meeting of the New Jersey retirees. **Herb Buxton** gave an outstanding presentation describing the WRD Toxic waste program.”

Paul Rohne says, “I served another 2 weeks of time with FEMA in Denton, TX. After I was released, **Harriet** and I went to San Antonio to visit our son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren and after that we went to Phoenix to visit our daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren. Barring any floods or tornadoes, we will stay home for a while.”

Claire Richardson says, “I am pleased to report that the anticipated reorganization of the Maryland Geological Survey did not come about and we are able to remain with the Department of Natural Resources and stay in our building, once part of Goucher College. I’m still volunteering at the MGS 3 days a week, doing some editing, answering information requests, etc. I think I get some of the information requests because I’ve been around so long that I pre-date the memories of those around me. It’s hard to believe that I started with the Baltimore Ground Water Office in 1946. **Bob**

Bennett and **Rex Meyer** were already working there.”

Vernon Sauer reports, “**Marylou** and I have been doing fine, traveling a bit, and just enjoying life. Last year we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with a cruise to the Alaskan Inland passage. This spring we attended the annual campout arranged by **Lamar Sanders** and hosted by **Marvin Franklin** on his farm near Ohoopie, GA. **Bill Stokes**, **Tim Hale** and **Tim Stamey** were there, as well as a couple of still active USGS employees from the Columbia, SC office. As for myself, I’m still active doing a few odd jobs like re-writing the WMO streamgaging manual (now in review), helping **Vern Schneider** with the Afghanistan project, and I’m still serving as federal chairman of the Sabine River Compact. **Marylou** and I are thoroughly enjoying the small town life here in Hartwell, GA. I am known locally as Tex, the waterologist. We are both active in church as choir members, cooking for about 180 people one a month, and other things. **Marylou** runs a blood drive twice a year, and works with seniors in one of the local nursing homes. Our youngest son, **John**, a Seabee reservist, just returned from a month tour of duty in Iraq. We are very thankful he returned home safely. Life is never dull.”

Walter Scott says, “Between my arthritis and all the medication I’m taking, my days go by faster than I care to think about. In addition, **Floy** had a total knee replacement and much of my time is spent helping her, although she is doing quite well, especially for the shape her knee was in before the operation. She needs less help as time passes. Because it is getting more difficult to get around we have not traveled much in the past year or so and have nothing to report along those lines. Those of you who work so hard keeping WRD Retirees active and going are to be congratulated and I personally want to thank you and wish you well.”

Joe Upson reports, “I’ve had some health problems this winter, mostly from arthritic knees and one temporary heart problem. I’m just now getting back to more or less normal living and getting caught up with correspondence. In April, we had several snowstorms. The early birds, like a couple of robins, had a hard time and one or two other strangers who normally don’t eat bird seed were trying to figure out how to eat from the bird feeders. We also saw a couple of red foxes and a black bear with two cubs.”

NEWS OF RETIREES

Doris Vandruff says, "I really like the cover of the 2006 WRD Retirees Directory. I knew it was going to be Colorado as soon as I opened the envelope. What a joyous surprise to see it was the very valley I lived in for the first 23 years of my life. The mountain in the background is one of Colorado's 14,000 footers. The Great Sand Dunes National Park is to the west (left side) of the photo. The San Juan Mountains on the west side of the valley are the headwaters for the Rio Grande. There are two narrow gauge railroads in the area and they started another one this summer to run from Alamosa to Laved. Go to the San Luis Valley, they need your tourist dollars! Hope 2007 is being kind to all you WRD Retirees."

Don Vaupel says, "I am recovering nicely from knee-replacement surgery. In July, the New Jersey retirees attended a minor league baseball game in Trenton. Lots of food and fun."

CT Welborn reports, "**Dixie** and I and my three daughters left on Sunday June 10 from Galveston and sailed for 2 + days arriving at Montego Bay, Jamaica, on Wednesday morning. The girls went on a safari trip and Dixie and I went shopping for jewelry, that is, Dixie went jewelry shopping. We took a shuttle bus to downtown Montego Bay. Dixie didn't shop, she went to buy. She bought an Ammolite Pendant to match her Ammolite ring and earrings. Then she bought a blue diamond ring and matching earrings. I said I would give her the ring for her birthday. After shopping, we returned to the ship which by the way was the Conquest of the Carnival Cruise line. Later that day we learned that two passengers were robbed while ashore. That's all we knew. When we got home, Beverly went on line and found a news item in the Jamaica newspaper that 17 passengers, including 6 children, were robbed. The newspaper article went on to say that the police later that day cornered the alleged robbers and in an alleged shoot-out one robber was killed. A .38 revolver was found near the man after the alleged shoot-out. In the search of the area for the hold-up men, they found some of the handbags, credit cards, and other items. The passengers returned to the ship that evening. None of this was told to the rest of the passengers. All we heard was about two passengers being robbed. This hold up made

national news. This is the second time Dixie and I have been aboard a cruise ship that made national news. The other time was when we were going through the Panama Canal; we were on the TV show Good Morning America. Our next stop was the Grand Cayman Islands. It was raining when we arrived but that didn't stop me and my daughters from finding a beach and going swimming. Dixie is not a beach person, especially in the rain. The next day we sailed to Cozumel, Mexico. My daughters and I took a 5-hour VIP beach tour that included a 1-hour bus and ferry trip to a small island off Cozumel and 3 hours on the beach, free food, beer, margaritas, and soft drinks. We made the best of it with the free beer and food. Speaking of food, the meals on board the ship were great and a lot of it. For breakfast there was a 4-course meal, for lunch a 4-course meal, and dinner a 5-course meal. You could order as many dishes as you wanted. At one meal I had lobster and prime rib. I gained about 6 pounds, Dixie isn't talking. This was my daughters' first cruise and they really enjoyed it. They are ready to go again. Maybe next year."

CT also reports, "My daughter, Frances, and Dixie's older daughter, Marilyn, Dixie and I will make a swing through the western states ending in Brownsville, Oregon, for a family reunion and then on to Salt Lake City for work in the Mormon Library on genealogy. One thing Frances wants to do is stick her toe in the Pacific Ocean to see how cold it really is. She has never seen the Pacific Ocean. We will swing by LA so Marilyn can visit with a childhood friend who is quite ill and will move through California National Parks to see the redwoods. In Oregon, we will go to the Crater Lake."

Tom Yorke reports, "**Jeannie and I** just finished a great 3-week tour of Italy with **Jim and Joyce Biesecker**. We started with Rome and enjoyed the ruins – especially the Roman Forum – and the Vatican. Next, we had a chance to visit the wonderful artwork in Florence. Happy to report "The David" is still there. The beautiful Italian Riviera followed. This had to be some of the most beautiful seashores in the world! Wish I had \$20 million for a yacht so we could fit in! This was followed by several days in the Italian Alps and then finally Venice. The wine was wonderful."

Request to WRD Retirees. Everyone loves the News of Retirees section of the Newsletter. However, it can be no better nor informative than the material you all submit. Please take time to fill out the space below to let your fellow WRD Retirees know what you have been doing lately. They would love to hear from you. Also, you can email your News to jeb393@Verizon.net.

Please fill in this space with your “News” items.

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

Theodore F. Buckwalter, Hydrologist, 131 Rivercrest Drive, Coraopolis, PA 15108, (412) 262-5869, 08/03/07
Diane C. Shields, Budget Analyst, 47 Woodbridge Road, Marlborough, MA 17520, (508) 460-8349, 06/30/07
David A. Stedfast, Supervisory Hydrologist, 139 Dilworth Lane, Langhorne, PA 19047, (215) 752-8468, 08/03/07
Lee R. Watson, Hydrologist, 6945 Oak Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46220, (317) 257-8992, 07/01/07

Southeastern Region

Robert J. Allen, Hydrologic Technician, 5585 Nottinham Drive, Lilburn, GA 30047, (770) 279-8607, 06/14/07
Steven D. Craig, Hydrologist, 569 Lakeshore Drive, Duluth, GA 30096, 07/03/07
John T. Fisher, Hydrologic Technician, 1275 Sunhill Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30043, (770) 339-7542, 05/01/07
Shera G. Krieger, Customer Service Assistant, 44 Woodridge Lane, Picayune, MS 39466, (601) 798-7173, 04/28/07

Central Region

Jack D. Benton, Hydrologic Technician, 1025 B. Summer Crest Blvd, Burleson, TX 76028, (817) 447-1154, 07/03/07
Robert E. Davis, Supervisory Hydrologist, 810 Lode Street, Helena, MT 59601, (406) 442-9798, 08/03/07
Maria T. Foglesong, Information Assistant, 207 Mary Street, Carson City, NM 89703, 05/29/07
Jon R. Gilhousen, Hydrologic Technician, 2807 Sir Phillip, San Antonio, TX 78209, (210) 829-4736, 06/30/07
Lee B. Goldstein, Hydrologic Technician, 8915 Greiner, Houston, TX 77080, (713) 973-7248, 07/03/07
Lenora A. Hall, Administrative Operations Assistant, 1728 North 4th Street, Bismarck, ND 58501, (701) 222-1255, 05/21/07
Charles Heavener, Hydrologic Technician, 843 Silverpeak, Sherwood, AR 72120, (501) 833-2277, 06/30/07
Glenn F. Huff, Hydrologist, 220 Astor Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88001, 06/30/07
Jackie D. Kelly, Hydrologic Technician, 3213 Avenue "S", Wichita Falls, TX 76309, 06/30/07
Edna Marie Paul, Hydrologic Technician, 31206 Windcrest Park Lane, Spring, TX 77386, 07/03/07
James B. Schiller, Hydrologic Technician, 1216 N. Monroe, San Angelo, TX 76901, (325) 655-9891, 07/03/07
Elisabeth A. Scribner, Supervisory Physical Science Technician, 3010 Tomahawk Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049, (785) 843-7481, 05/03/07

Western Region

Jack D. Doyle, Supervisory Hydrologic Technician, 2910 S. Ithaca Avenue, Boise, IA 83709, (208) 362-9337, 08/03/07
Alice D. Konieczki, Hydrologist, 2433 East Helen Street, Tucson, AZ 85719, 08/02/07
Norwood B. Melcher, Supervisory Hydrologist, 6095 Black Bear Loop, Tucson, AZ 85750, 07/03/07
Suzanne J. Miller, Technical Information Specialist, 944 N. Birch Street, Canby, OR 97013, (503) 266-2484, 06/29/07
Frank S. Oliver, Hydrologic Technician, 2327 W. Catalina View Drive, Tucson, AZ 85742, (520) 229-1060, 06/22/07
Gregory L. Pope, Supervisory Hydrologic Technician, 160 Cimarron Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420, 07/20/07
Alan H. Welch, Research Hydrologist, 2113 De Ann Drive, Carson City, NV 89701, (775) 883-6430, 07/21/07

Congressional Proposal for USGS Budget, FY 2008

The Senate Appropriations Committee has sent its version of the FY 2008 Department of the Interior Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill to the Senate floor. Under this legislation, funding for the U.S. Geological Survey would increase by 2.2 percent over this year.

DIVISION NEWS

WRD Retirees is more interested in the WR part of the proposed budget. Details of the Senate action on the proposed Water programs in FY 2008 are provided below:

WATER RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS:

The FY 2007 current budget is \$214.9 million. The Bush Administration requested \$212.5 million. The House Appropriations Committee would provide \$223.5 million, an increase of 4.0 percent or \$8.6 million. The Senate Appropriations Committee would provide \$224.1 million, an increase of 4.3 percent or \$9.2 million.

The committee report states:

"Changes to the request include the following: \$6,404,000 for the Water Resources Research Institutes, a program that was proposed for elimination; \$2,000,000 to restore the proposed budget reduction to the cooperative water program; \$500,000 (Alexander) to continue USGS participation in the Memphis aquifer study; \$300,000 to restore the Upper San Pedro Partnership to the current year enacted level; \$600,000 to restore funding for the Long-term Estuary Assessment Group [LEAG]; \$1,000,000 to continue a cooperative well drilling and monitoring project and refine models to predict the low-flow characteristics of perennial streams in Hawaii; and \$343,000 for the Lake Champlain monitoring program to supplement base funding of \$157,000 for that program. An increase of \$1,000,000 (Domenici, Bingaman) is provided to implement provisions of the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act. A reduction of \$500,000 has been taken to the proposed ocean action plan to fund that initiative at \$1,000,000."

Nothing is final yet, but as usual in recent years, the Congress is proposing more funds for USGS than the President.

Water Resources Programs at USGS, 2007

We have all heard much about the many changes at the USGS in the recent decade. However, when one examines the ongoing Water Resources Programs at the USGS, it sounds like the working folks are still doing the same important work that we all did before retirement. A list of Water Programs at the USGS for 2007 follows:

State and Regional -- The USGS manages water information at offices located throughout the United States. Although all offices are tied together through a Nation-wide computer network, each collects data and conducts studies in a particular area. Local information is best found at these sites.

USGS Programs Managed by the Water Resources Discipline:

- Cooperative Water Program -- The Cooperative Program, a partnership between the USGS and State and local agencies, provides information that forms the foundation for many of the Nation's water-resources management and planning activities.
- National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP) -- The National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP) is a conceptual plan developed by the USGS for a new approach to the acquisition and delivery of streamflow information.
- National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) -- Since 1991, USGS scientists with the NAWQA program have been collecting and analyzing data and information in more than 50 major river basins and aquifers across the Nation. The goal is to develop long-term consistent and comparable information on streams, ground water, and aquatic ecosystems to support sound management and policy decisions. The NAWQA program is designed to answer these questions:
 - What is the condition of our Nation's streams and ground water?
 - How are these conditions changing over time?
 - How do natural features and human activities affect these conditions?
- Toxic Substances Hydrology (Toxics) Program -- provides unbiased earth science information on the behavior of toxic substances in the Nation's hydrologic environments. The information is used to avoid human exposure, to develop effective cleanup strategies, and to prevent further contamination.

DIVISION NEWS

- Ground Water Resources Program -- The Ground-Water Resources Program encompasses regional studies of ground-water systems, multidisciplinary studies of critical ground-water issues, access to ground-water data, and research and methods development. The program provides unbiased scientific information and many of the tools that are used by Federal, State, and local management and regulatory agencies to make important decisions about the Nation's ground-water resources.
- Hydrologic Research and Development -- conducts basic and problem oriented hydrologic research in support of the mission of the USGS. The program is designed to encourage pursuit of a diverse agenda of research topics aimed at providing new knowledge and insights into varied and complex hydrologic processes that are not well understood.
- State Water Resources Research Institute Program -- A matching grant program to support water resources research, education, and information transfer at the 54 university based Water Resources Research Institutes. This program includes the National Institutes for Water Resources USGS Student Internship Program.
- **Hydrologic Networks and Analysis (HNA) --**

Subprograms:

- Water Information Coordination Program (WICP) -- ensures the availability of water information required for effective decisionmaking for natural resources management and environmental protection and to do it cost effectively.
- Drinking-Water Research Topics -- The wide range of monitoring, assessment, and research activities conducted by the USGS to help understand and protect the quality of our drinking-water resources is described on these pages. These studies are often done in collaboration with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies.
- National Stream Quality Accounting Network (NASQAN) -- focus is on monitoring the water quality of four of the Nation's largest river systems--the Mississippi (including the Missouri and Ohio), the Columbia, the Colorado, and the Rio Grande.
- Hydrologic Benchmark Network (HBN) -- was established in 1963 to provide long-term measurements of streamflow and water quality in areas that are minimally affected by human activities. These data were to be used to study time trends and to serve as controls for separating natural from artificial changes in other streams. The network has consisted of as many as 58 drainage basins in 39 States.
- National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network (NADP/NTN) -- A nationwide network of precipitation monitoring sites. The first sites in the network were established in 1978. The network currently consists of approximately 200 sites.
- National Water Summary Program -- a series of publications designed to increase public understanding of the nature, geographic distribution, magnitude, and trends of the Nation's water resources. It often is referred to as the USGS "encyclopedia of water."
- National Water-Use Program -- examines the withdrawal, use, and return flow of water on local, state, and national levels.
- USGS Environmental Affairs Program -- provides guidance and information on the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental issues.
- Water, Energy, and Biogeochemical Budgets (WEBB) -- understands the processes controlling water, energy, and biogeochemical fluxes over a range of temporal and spatial scales and to understand the interactions of these processes, including the effect of atmospheric and climatic variables.
- National Irrigation Water Quality Program -- A Department of the Interior program to identify and address irrigation-induced water quality and contamination problems related to Department of the Interior water projects in the west.

DONOVAN KELLY

Crummy But Good Writer with a Lighter Touch

Art Buchwald and the Geologists

© by Donovan Kelly (élan Magazine, May 2007)

Have you seen a real geologist lately? Few residents know that Northern Virginia is a prime nesting area for many actual living geologists and closely related species like hydrologists, mineralogists, and cartographers. Although endangered, a few hundred of these rare earth scientists live amongst us and migrate daily to the U.S. Geological Survey National Center in Reston.

March 3, the 123rd birthday of the USGS, was an especially good day to spot a geologist out frolicking. The celebration was dampened this year by the death of Art Buchwald. He was a favorite humorist and friend of the USGS who had been promising to take geologists to lunch for decades.

As most geological stories do, the Buchwald lunch story started with a stone. A very small stone according to some, but one that was important to Buchwald because it was his first kidney stone. Frank Forrester, the news media guy at USGS, suggested to Buchwald that he have the stone analyzed by geological experts.

The resulting exchange of notes between Buchwald and USGS was recently uncovered by mineralogical detective Harvey Belkin.

17 October 1975: Forrester advised volunteer scientific investigators Ed Dwornik and Meyer Rubin that Buchwald had accepted the offer to make a detailed analysis of his stones. Buchwald wanted to know if his stones could go on tour. Forrester assured Buchwald that his stones would be treated just like the recently arrived moon rocks.

12 November 1975: The first known buchwaldstone arrived at USGS headquarters. Dwornik and Rubin immediately noted the small size compared to their own kidney stones. Buchwald suggested that no one should judge a man by the size of his stones, but agreed to share the Nobel Prize with the two scientists.

"no one should judge a man by the size of his stones"

13 November 1975: Dwornik joins forces with Buchwald and proposes a new theory that the amount of pain, anguish, and screaming produced during the passing of a kidney stone is proportionate to the length of the path traveled by the stone, and not to the width of the path. Claims that the stones of Buchwald and Dwornik must have traveled much farther than those of others.

17 November 1975: Buchwald hoped that any prejudice concerning small stones would not interfere with the science. Forrester assured him "Neither glory nor monetary gain, neither political nor personal prejudicial factors can be permitted to cast the slightest shadow on Project Buchwaldstone."

24 November 1975: Buchwald invited the two principal investigators to lunch at Sans Souci to discuss the progress and perhaps run into someone who could help with the research budget. Forrester responded that research progressed at a feverish pace, the scientists slept in cots, ate at their desks, and were protected by former White House secret agents. Project Buchwaldstone had grown beyond a simple two-man effort, however, and now involved all the best and brightest the USGS had to offer - - at least with regard to kidney stone analyses. Forrester feared that Buchwald would become impoverished by the resulting lunch bill.

16 December 1975: The final report, "Urinary Calculus – Buchwaldian," was released to Buchwald and revealed that the stone was weddellite, a calcium oxalate and a rather common kidney stone composition. Rubin noted that the small sample size made carbon dating difficult, but estimated the age of the stone as less than 50 ± 10 years. Dwornik suggested that Buchwald should put the stone in a box with magnifier on his mantle and call it the "Hope Stone" -- "And hope to hell you never pass another one. As a museum exhibition, another Hope Diamond it's not!"

6 January 1976: On behalf of the President and himself, Buchwald thanked the entire team for their efforts, which he called the greatest step forward since man landed on the moon. The Pentagon had informed him that the Russians have nothing to compare with it and that the mineral weddellite was vital to our missile program. Buchwald concluded, "I may be talking out of turn, but I have recommended that every one of you be given an immediate raise. In case it does not come through, let this letter suffice as appreciation from all the American people."

The final report was delivered to Buchwald in the locker room of his tennis club by my boss, Frank Forrester, and nervous me. My greatest fear was that on our first meeting I would see the great Buchwald naked. I didn't. He wore a towel.

My greatest fear was that on our first meeting I would see the great Buchwald naked.

Forrester was eager to turn the report into a light-hearted news story. Buchwald said, "You have my blessings, but won't you get everybody into trouble?" Forrester reluctantly agreed that he was probably right.

And so the buchwaldstone story was classified and buried until now. Buchwald never did buy anybody lunch, which is one of the many reasons geologists miss him.

[Home & Caption Contest](#) [ABC's of Loudoun History](#) [Prune Juice](#) [Mountain Weekender](#) [Radio Crummy](#)

© 2007 Donovan Kelly

WRD Retirees Hydrologic Technician Scholarship, 2007-08

Gretchen Anderson, Vermilion Community College, is this year's winner

WRD Retirees presented a proposal in the May 2006 WRD Retirees Newsletter to establish an annual \$1500 Scholarship for Hydrologic Technicians. The scholarship is designed to show appreciation and recognition of the Hydrologic Technicians by WRD Retirees. Hydrologic Technicians enjoy a well-deserved reputation of delivering high-quality data products that meet local, state, and National needs. These folks are often referred to as the "backbone" of the water program. The membership of WRD Retirees showed overwhelming support for the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship with 96% of the voting members in favor of the scholarship. The first scholarship was awarded in September 2006.

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 assistance from Jim Kircher, Director, Colorado Water Science Center, and Deborah M. Lowe, Central Region Human Resources Officer, they developed a plan that worked well and has been adopted as the selection process that will be used each year. 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 2nd-year students who have demonstrated the ability to earn good grades, are good citizens, and have interest in employment with USGS. Each student answered 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 USGS employment?

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

Jacob B. Dayley of GateWay Community College in Phoenix, Arizona, was the 2006 scholarship winner. Jacob had a 2006 summer internship with the California Water Science Center. He has since graduated and accepted a position of Hydrologic Technician in the Carnelian Bay, California office of WRD.

2007 Selection:

All eligible candidates were sent a letter soliciting interest in applying for the scholarship. On August 1, 2007, WRD retirees Jim Blakey, Bob Boulger, Jerry Duncan, Bill Emmett, and Warren Teasdale met in Denver, Colorado, to evaluate the applications with assistance from was Jim Kircher, Director of the Colorado Water Science Center and Deborah Lowe, USGS Human Resources Officer, Central Region. This year's winner is Gretchen Anderson of Vermilion Community College. An official presentation ceremony will be held at the Tulsa, Oklahoma field office, where Gretchen is participating as a summer intern. Congratulations, Gretchen.

Local Meetings and Gatherings

Nebraska Retirees at their Monthly Breakfast at the Village Inn



L to R (front row): Gordon Jamison, Elaine Jamison, Marie Braun, Carol Hoy, Joann Engel
L to R (back row): Sandy Downs, Jean McKinney, Lou Quinn, Glenn Engel

New Mexico Retirees at their July 2007 Gathering



L to R (Standing): Cloy Scott, Pat Soule, Herb Grossman, Connie Culbertson, Barbara Henson, Jim Culbertson,
Richard Lepp, John "Pat" Borland, Bob McBreen.
L to R (Seated): Lupe Frenzel, Pat Grossman, Bobbie Cloud, Fred Trauger, Raith Delany, Delores Borland.
L to R (Floor): Peter Frenzel, Kim Ong, Jerry Larson, Gary Roybal.

First Monthly Get-together of the Ohio Retirees



L to R (front): Dick Swisshelm, Sandy Beck, Hilda Nichols
L to R (back): Steve Hindall, Jeff deRoche, Al Sadan, Joyce McClure, Janet Welday

Presentation of 2007 Hydrologic Technician Scholarship Award



Gretchen Anderson (center), 2007 winner of the WRD Retirees Hydrologic Technician Scholarship, receives her check from a co-worker at a ceremony in the Tulsa field office on August 13, 2007. Congratulations, Gretchen.

“When not all went well with a well”

**By Phil Emery
WRD Retiree, Mountain Home, Arkansas**

During the early 70s, I was Project Chief of a U.S. Geological Survey geohydrologic investigation of Colorado's Wet Mountain Valley. As part of the study, we drilled a 1,200 foot test hole in the valley-fill aquifer. I planned to properly plug the hole after running geophysical logs. However, the uncased mud-filled hole started flowing. The rancher-land owner told me that he would pay for the required thousand-foot plus casing if we would run it down the hole, so he would then have a flowing artesian stock well. "Fine with me", I replied, "as long as the U.S. Geological Survey can use it to monitor artesian pressure." We completed the well, installed a control valve, and pressure-gage attachment.

All went well until Fall, when the rancher adjusted the control valve down, to reduce the flow for the winter. Temperatures in the Wet Mountain Valley (altitude 8,000 feet) decline rapidly starting in September. A flowing artesian well's valve must be left slightly open to avoid freezing and bursting. Needless to say, where it commonly gets down to -20 to -50 degrees F, a deposit of ice will accumulate. During the winter the well started leaking water around the surface casing. This leakage produced additional ice. By Spring, a large, conspicuous ice mound had formed. My District Chief in Denver, Ted Moulder, told me to either plug the well or fix the surface-casing leak, as he didn't want a government-drilled well being a water-wasting "public spectacle."

A well driller friend agreed, for a price, to "plumb-up" the well so an outfit called Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company could pump cement downward into the formation, via the annular space between the inner-pipe casing and outer surface casing. This, we thought, would stop the leakage. The "Big Day" came. Halliburton arrived from Eastern Colorado with a "pumper truck" and a truck with three tons of bagged cement. We quickly (those guys charged by the hour) proceeded to pump concrete down the annular hole space. It only took a few minutes to use up all the cement. At first it appeared we were successful. But, as we were having a smoke and thinking how clever we all were, water started bubbling up around the outside of the surface casing.

The closest supply of cement was in Westcliffe (population 312) some three miles away. It was there, or Pueblo, which was a round trip of four hours! Jumping in my government car, I led the Halliburton truck to town and proceeded to the Valley's only lumber yard. I used a government "Form 44" to buy **all** the cement they had – regardless of type. We returned to the well site and quickly pumped that cement supply down the hold. It stopped leaking!

I've often wondered what was said when the folks in the Wet Mountain Valley tried to buy some cement during the next several weeks and were told there was none available. I can guess it went something like – "A little Government fella came in here, bought it all, and then went out and pumped it down a hole in the ground."

Some months later I was told to report to the Denver office of the Interior Department's Office of the Solicitor. They had been disturbed to learn that I had "given" the rancher a well that was paid for by federal funds. The Federal Attorney informed me that if I should ever misappropriate government money again, I might find myself in Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary!

“RECENT RESEARCH ACTIVITY IN WRD”

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

Watersheds: Water and Solute Mass Balance

Scientists use watershed mass balance calculations to estimate the changes that occur when water interacts with a watershed's vegetation, soils, and bedrock. A comparison of the mass of water and accompanying dissolved and suspended materials that is entering a watershed with what exits, that watershed enables scientists and watershed managers to better understand weathering and other abiotic and biotic reactions and provides them with a means to better understand human influence on water quality.



Taking this approach a step further, USGS scientists working in the Water Science Centers (formerly known as WRD Districts) and the WRD National Research Program, used mass balance calculations to compare the differences and similarities of five small, relatively undisturbed watersheds that have greatly differing climate, geology, physiography, and ecology. Data were collected over a six-year period (October 1991 through September 1997) in a study of the five watersheds of the USGS Water, Energy, and Biogeochemical (WEBB) program. In evaluating the monthly and annual watershed mass balance of water and major inorganic solutes in the five watersheds (located in Colorado, Wisconsin, Vermont, Georgia, and Puerto Rico), the variety of conditions (alpine/subalpine, boreal, temperate, subtropical, tropical) provided a gradient in which to study and contrast processes within and across watersheds and to determine the primary regional controls on yields of the major dissolved inorganic solutes.

Results reported in a new journal article included the following:

- For solutes derived primarily from rock weathering (Ca, Mg, Na, K, and H_4SiO_4), net fluxes (outputs in streamflow minus inputs in deposition) varied by two orders of magnitude, which is attributed to a large gradient in rock weathering rates controlled by climate and geologic parent material.
- The net flux of solutes that are largely atmospherically derived (NH_4 , NO_3 , SO_4 , and Cl) was similar among sites; SO_4 was the most variable and NH_4 and NO_3 were generally retained (except for NO_3 in Colorado);
- The timing and amount of water and solutes exported from each watershed are linked to regional climate. The Puerto Rico watershed had the highest annual precipitation and it, and to a lesser extent the Georgia watershed, was sometimes greatly affected by hurricanes and tropical storms. Snowmelt dominated the runoff patterns in Vermont and Colorado, where snowmelt periods are relatively brief (one to two months). The Wisconsin watershed had the lowest annual precipitation and the least variability in monthly runoff; snowmelt influence was relatively minor due to lower snowfall amounts and high infiltration capacity.

Additional information on the results and information on data uncertainties (e.g., lack of dry-deposition in input fluxes) are available in the journal article: [Peters, N.E., Shanley, J.B., Aulenbach, B.T., Webb, R.M., Campbell, D.H., Hunt, R., Larsen, M.C., Stallard, R.F., Troester, J., and Walker, J.F., 2006, Water and solute mass balance of five small, relatively undisturbed watersheds in the U.S.: Science of the Total Environment, v. 358, p. 221- 242.](#)

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia M. Briggs of Reston, Virginia, died July 8, 2007, at the age of 89. Her Federal service began in 1963 with the U.S. Army Map Service in the District of Columbia. In 1966, Virginia transferred to the WRD Surface Water Branch as a clerk-typist in the Basic Records Section in Arlington, Virginia. The following year she was reassigned to the U.S. Geological Survey's Office of International Activities as their secretary-typist. She continued to serve in that office through the USGS move to Reston in 1973. She retired from WRD in 1980. Virginia's husband, Leroy Franklin Briggs and her son, Dennis Leroy Briggs, both preceded her in death. She is survived by sisters, Doris Earle and Mary Alexander; brother, Paul Rollins; grandchildren, Kimberly Goedert of State College, Pennsylvania and John B. Briggs of Bristow, Virginia, along with six great-grandchildren. One of Virginia's passions in retirement was participation in international travel.

James H. "Jim" Criner, 88, of Deer, Arkansas, passed away on June 12, 2007. An Arkansas native, Jim obtained his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Arkansas in 1950. Prior to college, he served in the U.S. Army in World War II. His initial full-time assignment with Water Resources Division was with the Ground Water Branch in Little Rock, Arkansas, as a Hydraulic Engineer in 1950. Jim served as an Engineering Aide in the Little Rock office for two years prior to his graduation. He also served in the Ground Water Branch offices in Memphis, Tennessee, and Tallahassee, Florida. He retired from the USGS from the Tennessee District office in 1976. Jim was active in Engineering Clubs and the American Geophysical Union. He enjoyed Arabian horses, video photography, and served as an advisor to several local high schools. He is survived by his wife Lida Adkins Criner.

Warren Elwin "Hof" Hofstra died May 8, 2007, at age 83. Hof was living in Venice, Florida, with his wife of 58 years, Mary. Hof was born in Cadillac, Michigan, and grew up during the depression. He graduated from Michigan State University with a MS in Geology. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of WW II and Korea, serving as a First Lieutenant in the Antiaircraft Artillery Unit. He joined WRD as a Geologist in the Colorado District in 1968. Before joining the USGS he enjoyed a distinguished career as an oil and gas exploration geologist starting with Texas Oil Company and later working with Ambassador Oil Company, Anadarko Production Company, and as an independent consultant. With WRD, Warren served as an outstanding project chief for the High Plains Aquifer study and the Jefferson County Quality of Groundwater investigations, among others. His special loves included geology, lapidary, the mountains, and travel. Hof is survived by his wife, Emily Mary; sons, Kurt Warren and Albert Hugh; and three grandchildren.

Eugene L. Hogue, 76, passed away on April 17, 2007. Eugene was a native of Olean, New York. He began his Water Resources Division career as an Engineering Aide in the San Diego, California Surface Water Office in 1952. In 1959, he transferred to the Santa Fe, New Mexico office and in 1965 transferred to the Honolulu, Hawaii Surface Water office as a Hydrologic Engineering Technician. He retired from the Honolulu office in 1976. His wife, Mary, passed away several years ago.

Thomas J. "TJ" Quarles passed away July 14, 2007, at age 88. TJ was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on January 13, 1919 and graduated from High School in Chattanooga. He began his professional career with the Rural Electrification Administration in 1939 as an Assistant Clerk. TJ transferred to the USGS in 1942, accepting an Assistant Clerk position with the Surface Water Office in Chattanooga. He was a WW II veteran and returned to duty with the USGS in November of 1946. He was the first District Administrative Officer, rising to that position when Tennessee became a WRD District in 1966. TJ served as the Tennessee District Administrative Officer until his retirement in 1979. Joe Cragwall summed up his career very eloquently stating "A review of our WRD histories helped me recall that TJ, in his career as Administrative Officer for the Tennessee District (SW Branch and later WRD), served District Chiefs Bell, Eaton, Cragwall, Kennedy, and Sauer, and three or more Subdistrict Chiefs. What a group of engineers/hydrologists to satisfy and keep out of trouble administratively! TJ did it well and earned the deepest respect and confidence of all of us who worked with him."

IN MEMORIAM

Woodrow W. Wilson of Pueblo, Colorado, died on April 7, 2007, at age 90. Woodrow began his WRD career in the Ground Water office in Garden City, Kansas, in 1941. He served in the U.S. Army in WW II and fought in both France and Germany, attaining the rank of Sergeant. He attended Topeka Business College from 1935-37 and was a student at Kansas University during 1945-46. With the USGS, he transferred to Lawrence, Kansas, in 1946 and to the Denver, Colorado, Ground Water office in 1956. He retired while serving in the Colorado District in 1973. Woodrow was known as a talented GW technician. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Billie M. Wilson, who died July 20, 2006. Woodrow is survived by a daughter, Marcia Brooks; son, Pat Wilson; and two great grandchildren.

More information regarding the Streamflow Maximus Emeritus Award

The February 2007 WRD Retirees Newsletter contained an interesting and well-received article by Bill Schaefer, Hugh Hudson, and Ken Darmer, "Which WRD Retiree measured the maximum discharge?" Ken Darmer was recognized as having measured the maximum discharge. That measurement occurred on the Mississippi River at Vicksburg. Ken says, "In May or June 1943, I made a measurement of 1,944,000 cfs. I don't recall whether my assistant that day was Jimmie Shell or Don Boswell. I recall that I made certain to have my field computations checked, as I was hoping to reach the 2 million mark, but missed it. That flood of the Mississippi resulted in part from the record flood of the Arkansas River. John Saunders, District Engineer in Fort Smith, Arkansas, saw the approaching flood and called for our assistance with the Vicksburg "Rig." Jimmie Shell and I were (happily) "volunteered" for the expedition. In recognition of having measured the most water in a single discharge measurement, in one channel, with a current meter, WRD Retirees has prepared and will be presenting to Ken a **Certificate of Achievement** recognizing him as **Streamgager Maximus Emeritus**.

Michael L. "Mickey" Plunkett emailed WRD retirees on May 24, 2007, to say "I'm the Director of the Mississippi Water Science Center, which is where I've spent my entire career. I was hired as a coop student by Lamar Carroon in January 1974 and as a civil engineer upon graduation by Gerald Parker. Mike Gaydos selected me as Data Section Chief a few years later where I also worked for Gerry Ryan and Lenny Frost before being selected as District Chief about 6 years ago. I came up through the bridge hydraulics and streamgaging programs so I read with interest the article about the pending Streamgager Maximus Emeritus (SME) Award for Mr. Darmer. Since we have all the records for Mississippi River at Vicksburg measurements, I thought it would be a good idea to make a copy of the record measurement and provide it to you for the SME award presentation ceremony. I reviewed the listing of 2,316 USGS measurements made on the Mississippi River at Vicksburg and what I found in the records is a little different than the information provided in the article.

Ken Darmer was, in fact, involved in the peak flow measurement of a June 5, 1943 flood (meas. # 1653) but the measured flow was only 1,610,000 cfs. Mr. Darmer's highest measurement was during an April 1945 flood (meas. # 1752) in which he and Mr. Boswell measured 1,922,000 cfs on April 9, however, the event crested a couple days later on April 11 (meas. # 1753) when Boswell and Shell measured 1,970,000 cfs.

The true Maximus Emeritus Award winners are a couple guys named Moore and Hendricks who measured 2,077,000 cfs (meas. # 698) on February 17, 1937. This event was the only time in the measurement history in which more than 2,000,000 cfs was measured. Measurements 694-703 (February 13-24) were all made by these two hydrographers and were all above 2M cfs. Each measurement took 7-8 hours and measurements were made ever 1-2 days from late December through early March to document the historical event. We do have all of the original measurements in our files."

In response to Mike Plunkett's email, Hugh Hudson responded, "This is an extremely interesting development in the Streamgager Maximus Emeritus issue and I greatly appreciate Mike's input. S.C. Moore was Carl Moore who operated the Vicksburg station out of Montgomery before the Jackson office was established as a subdistrict of the Alabama Surface Water Branch District. I've heard him mentioned many times by Ed Rice, Andy Anderson, and other old timers. I don't know about Hendricks but it probably was not Roy. There obviously needs to be an acknowledgment of Carl's record measurement but one of the rules of this contest was limiting it to a WRD Retirees, so the award to Ken, in my opinion, still prevails, but with a major qualifier."

The WRD Retiree records shows S.C. "Carl" Moore was born on July 7, 1905, and entered on duty with the USGS on August 5, 1929. He retired with more than 40 years of service on October 31, 1969. Carl died in February 1979. He was a member of WRD Retirees until his death. His widow continued membership for a few years, but dropped her membership in 1984. WRD Retiree records also show that Ernest L. "Roy" Hendricks entered on duty as a Junior Engineer in Florida on April 22, 1935 and

transferred to Atlanta in 1942. His employment card does not have any early record of working in Mississippi or Alabama, but he of course could have been on detail to the floods in Mississippi in 1937. Yes, this is the same "Roy" Hendricks that later became our Chief Hydrologist. However, we cannot be certain that Roy was the one who assisted Carl Moore on the February 1937 measurement by Carl Moore. The timing and location are certainly correct. However, Hugh Hudson reports, "I still do not think Carl Moore measured the Mississippi at Vicksburg with Roy Hendricks but with some other Hendricks, probably a technician. Roy and I swapped yarns over the years about streamgaging in the south and he never mentioned anything about working temporarily or on detail anywhere in Mississippi."

Hugh Hudson also stated, "The real dozy of a flood on the Mississippi was that of 1927 that launched Hoover's rise to the presidency, Hodding Carter's book "Lanterns on the Levee" and figured prominently in John Barry's "Rising Tide" and I had wondered if the floodflow was measured. Probably not. The Water Science Director in Mississippi, Mike Plunkett, once again checked the discharge measurements at Vicksburg and found that "It looks like the USGS wasn't involved in the 1927 flood at the Vicksburg site. USGS measurement #1 was made by Tripp & Anderson July 13-14, 1931. They measured 217,000 cfs."

In light of this data, Ken Darmer will still be recognized as a Streamflow Maximus Emeritus award winner. Also, posthumously, an award will be made to S.C. "Carl" Moore.

More High Water! The Amazon

**By Luther C. "Curt" Davis
WRD Retiree, Colonial Beach, Virginia**

In response to accounts by Bill Schaefer, Hugh Hudson, and Ken Darmer of high-water discharge measurements using the standard Price current meter, I commend all of them for jobs well done! I remember Bill and Hugh but I do not remember having ever met Ken, although I've heard a lot about him and my heartiest congratulations to him on his Maximus Emeritus Award as reported in WRD Retirees Newsletter 135, May 2007.

But, before putting the subject of maximum current meter measured discharges to rest, I suggest that some recognition is owed to the late Roy E. Oltman, who in 1963 assembled a team consisting of four USGS hydraulic engineers and technical personnel of the Brazilian Navy and the University of Brazil to engage in a hydrologic investigation of the Amazon River flow characteristics.

On July 13, 1963, this Oltman-led team measured an Amazon River rate of flow of 7,640,000 cfs at a point about 500 miles from its mouth near Obidos, Brazil. On July 20-22, 1963, a second measurement of the Amazon of 5,970,000 cfs was made at a point about 900 miles upstream from its mouth near Nanaus, Brazil. (Editor's note: if you are interested in reading more about this effort to measure the flow of the Amazon, it is very well described in USGS Circular 466, "Amazon River Investigations, Reconnaissance measurements of July 1963" by Rob E. Oltman and others.)

The 7,640,000 cfs measurement of July 16 near Obidos, using the standard Price current meter, was probably a world record that still may stand to this date. My best regards to all my USGS friends. (Editor's note: Curt Davis is the last surviving member of the WRD Oltman-led team that made the above measurements of the Amazon.)

Wiesnet's Window on the World

By Donald R. Wiesnet
WRD Retiree, Vienna, Virginia

Reproduced from the March 2007 NARFE Chapter Newsletter

"The ice is finally melting," I think, as I peer out of my front picture window through the lacy curtains. But, my mind is not really focused on the ice. I am mulling over in my own mind what the year 2007 will bring now that I have reached the ripe old age of 80! My goodness, those years went by rapidly. My daughter, Beth, hosted an open-house party and lots of friends and family came. Beth had a bunch of old pictures enlarged, and they engendered a lot of memories as well as comments. The food was fabulous and all in all it was a great party.

Nonetheless, the overarching, irrefutable fact that I had to face now was that I was now – officially-ancient! It is a sobering thought to be ancient. At the party I kept looking around for a wheelchair. I was remembering the three stages of life: youth, maturity, and "You're looking good." An awful lot of people at the party were telling me that I was "looking good." Later, as I crawled into bed, tired but feeling good about all the well wishes of my friends and family, I was glad that this milestone was behind me. I slept well.

The next day I rose, went about my daily tasks and realized that being 80 was no big deal! It didn't feel any different than being 79! I want to wish all my readers a happy birthday (whenever your day arrives), and on that day remember: You are not a year older; you are only a day older.

TREASURER'S REPORT, SECOND QUARTER 2007

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$7,654.33 in its treasury at the end of the second quarter for calendar year 2007. Receipts for the quarter were \$1,881.30 from dues and contributions. Disbursements for the quarter were \$3,195.66 for printing of Newsletter 135, including a \$2,063.00 loan to the Florida Committee for the 2008 WRD Retirees Reunion in Tampa, Florida.

During the quarter, a total of \$219.00 was received in contributions from 18 members. Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Jack C. Rosenau, Charles and Carole Nethaway, Edward Rhodehamel, Philip Cohen, Claire Richardson, William W. Doyel, Ted Small, Thomas Zembrzuski, John Klein, George A. "Tony" Irwin, Lorraine Kohout, Marjorie S. Reid, James W. George, Doris A. Vandruff, Michael Simpson, Walter R. Scott, and Gibert Bertoldi.

WRD Retirees
P.O. Box 280
Herndon, VA 20172-0280

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RESTON, VA
PERMIT NO. 186