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## WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 144  
August 2009

*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

Greetings from Northern Virginia! This time of year is usually characterized by warm (read that hot) weather and high humidity. However, for the last two weeks we have been blessed with beautiful weather with lower than usual humidity. It's been a joy to be outside either just relaxing or puttering in the yard. Prior to this period of nice weather, we had, for much of May and early June, rain almost every day. Some of my friends play Senior Softball twice a week and most of their games in late May through June were cancelled. I played last year but retired this year after missing half of the season and undergoing two MRI's it was time to quit.

On June 1, I had the privilege of attending a beautiful, moving, memorial service, for the late former Chief Hydrologist, Joe Cragwall, one of the most revered persons to hold that position. The service was organized by Jim Biesecker and Hal Langford among others. Retiree's Biesecker, Langford, and Tommy Buchanan, there three days following knee surgery, gave remembrances and recollections of Joe. Other persons were invited to speak and impromptu speakers included Chief Hydrologist, Matt Larson and immediate former Chief Hydrologist, Bob Hirsch. Reverend William Mann, son of retiree Bill Mann, officiated at the service.

Hot off the presses! On July 9<sup>th</sup>, President Obama announced that he has nominated Dr. Marcia K. McNutt for Director, U.S. Geological Survey. Dr. McNutt currently is President and CEO of the Monterey (California) Aquarium Research Institute. More information concerning Dr. McNutt will be provided in the Newsletter following her Senate confirmation. We wish Dr. McNutt the best during her confirmation hearings and in her tenure as Director. Also, on June 26<sup>th</sup>, Associate Director for Water, Matt Larson, announced the appointment of Dr. Jerad Bales to be USGS Chief Scientist for Hydrology, the position that Matt vacated to become Chief Hydrologist. Dr. Bales has most recently been Director of the North Carolina Water Science Center, or as you Retirees are more familiar with, District Chief.

I wish also to acknowledge and thank my long friend and fellow retiree, Mike Gaydos, who passed away on July 19. For the past several years, Mike was responsible for distributing this Newsletter to those of us that receive it by e-mail. He did a wonderful job but had to give up this task following the May Newsletter because of ill health. We will miss Mike greatly. There will be a memorial for him in the November Newsletter. Kate Flynn, still a USGS employee and an affiliate member of WRD Retirees, will be taking over e-mail distribution of the Newsletter beginning with this issue. Thank you, Kate.

You may recall that this year, WRD Retirees will, for the first time, award two Hydro Tech scholarships to students in two-year Hydro Tech programs. The Technician's Scholarship Committee met and reviewed all applications. The winners are announced on page 9 of this Newsletter. Congratulations to these two fine young folks.

On a personal note, my wife Lynne retired on June 3 after 31 years at USGS. We're having a blast. One trip under our belts already and off to Germany in 10 days. Have a great summer everyone.

*Dick*

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**Harriet Allen** writes, "I'm enjoying the new WRD Retiree directory. However, my town listing in the 2009 Directory is incorrect. My address is otherwise correct, but I live in Los Ranchos, not Rio Ranchos. There is a Rio Rancho, NM, and my town, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque (which the post office now recognizes, and it can be shortened to Los Ranchos). I live in Los Ranchos. My zip is correct. I'd like to get this corrected because I would never want to live in Rio Rancho! The two towns are nothing alike! I appreciate the work that keeps the WRD Retirees going."

**Andy Anderson** reports, "Approximately 70 WRD Retirees, spouses, and current USGS employees gathered at the USGS Visitors Center auditorium on June 1 to attend a Memorial service for **Joseph S. "Joe" Cragwall**. Joe's family -- daughter, **Linda Kubistek**, her husband, **Jim**, and their children, **Katie** and **Joey** came from Palmyra, VA. Also, Joe's long-time friend and companion, **Mary Flippen**, from Charlottesville, VA, was present. A Northern Virginia service was held because Joe's home memorial service was held at his residence in Charlottesville and available parking and seating was not sufficient to handle the many Northern Virginia WRD retirees who wanted to pay their respects to Joe. The June 1 service was officiated by **Pastor Bill Mann**, son of WRD Retirees **Bill** and **Helene Mann**. The host, Visitor Center Director **Beth Stettner**, is also the daughter of a WRD Retiree -- **Don Wiesnet**. The Memorial included comments from **Hal Langford**, **Tom Buchanan**, and **Jim Biesecker** -- each telling heartfelt and warming stories about Joe. USGS employees **Matt Larson** and **Bob Hirsch** and USGS retiree and past Associate Director, **Bill Radlinski**, also contributed to the accolades about this great man whom we all miss dearly. About 40 retirees/spouses attended the May meeting of the HQ WRD Retirees. **Eric Evenson** from the Trenton office and project chief of the US Water Census project gave an outstanding presentation on the authorized, but not appropriated, US Water Census project. Eric expects some activities related to the Water Census to begin next year. A brief description of the National Water Census program appears on pp.14&15."

**Bud Anderson** says, "My son from California along with his wife and two grandsons, ages 5 and 6, came to visit recently. They stayed at our home for a few days and then we went camping at Ink's Lake -- fishing (we didn't catch any), hiking and a good time visiting around the camp fire. Last week-end I went to a retreat of my church, First United Methodist of Round Rock, TX, at Lake Buchanan -- enjoyed the fellowship and fishing. We caught 4

stripped bass; one weighed 7 lbs. and measured 28" in length, the other 3 were about 24" and weighed about 5 lbs."

**Carol Anderson** writes, "I've been happily retired for a little over a year and I love it! I am keeping a nice balance of relaxing and being busy. I make sure I keep in touch with friends via phone, emails, lunch dates and going to the movies, and I attend my former office's functions when they have them. My parents are in their 90s and they need special attention, so my sister and I take care of them."

**Pauline Juarez** (she's still working and I swear she'll never retire) and I have a seasonal group package to the Colorado Rockies, so we're attending games and enjoying that very much."

**Dave** and **Alice Appel** write, "We continue to live peacefully in the great inland northwest of Washington State south of Spokane. We are active in our men's and women's group in our church and Dave is the VP of the Whitman County Historical Society. After the snowiest winter ever of record (last year was No. 2) we are ready for spring. We visited with **Frank Hidaka** in Renton, WA, in March and he is doing well. In April we traveled east and visited our five children and their families in KY, SC, and GA and my brother in TN. We also spent two nights with **John** and **Miki Singer** in VA revisiting old times in Southern CA. Now it's back to work in the orchard, garden, and yard. We do several trips each year to fish for bass in the Snake River. Hope to see everyone in Denver in 2010."

**MaryJo Baedecker** writes, "Since my retirement in 2004 I continue work as a scientist emeritus at the USGS about half-time, not counting a few long vacations, and am involved in several research projects in the National Research Program in Reston. I also volunteer at the Bargain Loft, a thrift store in the Reston-Herndon area, and serve on the science advisory committees for other agencies. Three grand-daughters who live close by provide a lot of enjoyment for me and my husband, **Phil**."

**Jim Bailey** says, "**Vivian** and I continue to enjoy retirement in Amherst, VA. Our daughter and her family are nearby so we get to see them frequently. The Newsletter is a great way to stay in touch with old friends. Speaking of staying in touch, **Herb** and **Pat Freiberger** and **Jim** and **Joyce Biesecker** recently visited us and we had a great time. Lots of talk about the old days in the Northeastern Region."

**La Rue Baker-Odenbach** reports, "I can't believe I have been retired for 6 wonderful years. Bob is still ranching, but we've been able to do at least one

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major vacation and some getaways each year. Had a rough winter -- very cold and over 100" of snow, then major flooding all over North Dakota. I'm still involved in the reading program and tutoring students at the local elementary school. Needlework is still a big part of my life, along with attending seminars and retreats. Life is busy, but oh so much fun."

**Bill Bausersfield** writes, "AAADD -- know the symptoms! Thank goodness there's a name for this disorder. Somehow I feel better, even though I have it!! Recently, I was diagnosed with AAADD - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. This is how it manifests: I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing. As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the garbage can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first. But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my check book off the table, and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Pepsi I'd been drinking I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Pepsi aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. The Pepsi is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the Pepsi, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need water. I put the Pepsi on the counter and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do. At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Pepsi sitting on the counter, the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only 1 check in my check book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the

car keys. Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all damn day, and I'm really tired. I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail. Don't laugh -- your day is coming!"

**Julie Berkman** reports, "I took early retirement from USGS to move to Cambridge, England to join my husband who is leading a new program here at Cambridge University, "Arctic Ocean and Geopolitics." We learned this weekend that we can continue to lease our lovely home here for another year so I am sending that address so that written communications can be mailed to our address in the UK through June 2010 or emailed to: [jberkman@wdpc.co.uk](mailto:jberkman@wdpc.co.uk)."

**Jim Biesecker** says, "It makes me very sad to report that **Mike Gaydos** passed away on July 19. He had valiantly been fighting pancreatic cancer for more than a year. Mike was a very private person and therefore only a few people knew he was suffering. He was a terrific friend and I, along with all WRD Retirees who had the good fortune to know Mike, will miss him dearly. Mike was instrumental in getting the email distribution of the Newsletter started and also in continuing to expand the number of retirees who choose to have their copy of the Newsletter delivered by email. A Memorial for Mike Gaydos will appear in the November 2009 edition of the WRD Retirees Newsletter. Our condolences go to Mike's wife of 47 years, Ann, and to his children, Steven and Barbara."

**Alan C. "Ace" Brown** writes, "I am continuing my nomadic full-time RVing, now on my sixth year. Been bouncing around the deserts and mountains of Utah and Colorado the past 3 months. My mountain biking hobby of nearly 20 years seems to be winding down; I hope it's not an age thing! But that is being replaced by expedition travel in my FJ Cruiser. I plan to spend all of September exploring the extensive back roads of Idaho. Winter may find me in Baja if some of the recent drug related violence simmers down. I have never attended a WRD Retirees reunion and probably won't as I am not fond of big cities, fancy hotels, and crowds. I would like to see an alternative gathering for those folks who, like me, who may feel the same way and suggest a campout somewhere in the mountain states. There does not need to be an agenda or any formal arrangements other than securing a large group campsite in some favorable location. It would have to be limited in attendance as campgrounds that can handle large groups are scarce. I see this as aimed more towards the retired technicians as few attend the reunions. If anyone sees some merit in my proposal please email me at [acebrown@vci.net](mailto:acebrown@vci.net)."

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**Phil Carpenter** writes, "Greetings to all our WRD friends. We have been in Salem, OR, since December 2007, still full-timing in our fifth wheel travel trailer, still enjoying the lifestyle, just not traveling for a bit. After we completed our 2007 summer trip to Alaska with five other RV travelers, we needed to assist **Patrice's** mother following surgery in the Portland area. She had been having problems taking care of herself in her home in Astoria for some time, and the surgery and subsequent recovery highlighted the need for further evaluation of her situation. With Patrice securing guardianship, Rena was accepted into a Lake Oswego, OR, memory care unit with a diagnosis of late-stage Alzheimer's in October 2007. While taking care of Patrice's mother's business matters in Astoria the great storm of December 1-2, 2007 happened. There were sustained winds of about 90 to 110 miles per hour, with gusts of 125 for about 48 hours! We were in our fifth-wheel about 3 miles from the Pacific, and it was exciting—we pulled in two of the windward slide-outs and hunkered down. All roads out of Astoria were closed for three days, power was out for six, and the damage was amazing—some of the forested areas looked as if a giant hand had pushed the trees over, and some sections just broken off 20 to 30 feet above the ground. A FEMA disaster was declared and a Disaster Field Office was established in Salem. So on December 15, we moved to Salem and Philip went to work for FEMA. This helped with monitoring Patrice's mother, because Astoria is 100 miles from the Lake Oswego facility, whereas Salem is only 40 miles. Once again I helped with hazard mitigation on public projects in the Oregon disaster. Large projects in Tillamook, Vernonia, and Astoria kept me in the field a lot, and busy at the office too. I've worked on FEMA disasters before in Oregon, and we have stayed at the same RV park that I used in previous years. When the FEMA presence in Salem transferred to the regional headquarters in April 2008; I was hired by the State of OR Office of Emergency Management to continue with FEMA work on projects to close out. I have really enjoyed this end of the process—I found out that there is much to be done after FEMA leaves. We managed a couple RV trips in 2008. We joined our Alpenlite Travel Club (ATC) friends in Weiser, ID, for the National Old Time Fiddler's Association contest in June. What an absolute blast! We didn't know how MUCH we liked fiddle music. The town transforms into a gigantic fair, with a parade, booths, stages, and the contests held at the high school. In September, we went around the Olympic Peninsula with our ATC friends on the Seafood Caravan. Twenty one days of seafood dinners, tours, boat rides, camaraderie, and fun! We were in Forks at

the end of the Twilight Festival (your teenage grandchildren will understand—ask them about the books and movie). Another blast! One advantage of being in the Pacific Northwest the last year or so has been spending time with our kids and grandkids. We've attended recitals and birthdays, and spent some time during the holidays with them. Last September I began having trouble with pain in my right knee. Some injections helped quite a lot. The first part of March my left knee had some excruciating pain, and we are dealing with orthopedists and neurologists to handle this episode. This one may be related to a fall I took on Mount St. Helens in 1983. In the meantime, I'm using a cane my son Ryan gave me before the problems started, and not moving around a lot. And not working at OEM, although I hope to go back once the pain is better. Patrice's mother is comfortable and safe where she's at. The facility is just beautiful, and the staff and caregivers attentive. Rena knows us, and is socially the most advanced of the people in her "neighborhood." She's healthy, watches "The Price is Right" daily, and attends Bible study and other activities planned for the patients. Patrice visits her at least once a week, and we take her for about an hour's ride, although I haven't been going since the knee trouble started. If we are able to travel by fall, we're confident that Rena will be well cared for, and Patrice will be in constant contact. We really like Salem now that we've gotten to know it, although we still keep our official mailing address in Shelton. The mail gets forwarded to us twice a week. At this time, we still can't envision settling down into a permanent residence. We're always glad to get the newsletter and catch up. We haven't been in as close contact with some of you as we would like, but we always hope to see you."

**Angel Class** writes, "For the past few months I have been having a lot of problems with the U.S. mail due to a recent change of address, but now everything seems fine. We are doing fine and behaving with some illness and taking care of grandchildren and our small farm. It's good to hear from my old organization. Job well done. Hello to all WRD Retirees and God bless all!"

**Ray Cunningham** says, "I'm a "glass is half full" kind of guy and it sure helps me get through life's hard knocks. And if I didn't look in the mirror or at the calendar, I wouldn't even know that I'm old! I don't even have a serious ailment (below the neck). But, sadly, I've lost so many Survey friends who were many years my junior."

**Ed Davidson** reports, "I would like to let you know I had a heart attack in early May. Not doing so well now."

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**Helen Davidson** reports, "I went to Navasota, TX, at Easter for a family reunion and had a wonderful time. A couple of days after I got back, **Liz Devers** called me. We had a real good conversation and Liz was feeling good. Although Liz fell and broke her hip, she is now able to get around using a cane or sometimes a walker."

**Dan Duerr** writes, "On Sunday, April 19, 2009, Tampa WRD Retirees had dinner at Bahama Breeze -- see a photo from the gathering in the Local Meetings and Gatherings section of this Newsletter. I walked my solo 2.5 miles today, with nice and low humidity. Finished my creative writing class story -- *Party for Brigitte*, can't believe I'm gonna turn in a story about throwing a party for my lawnmower. But why not? It'll cut it. **Kathleen** and I stopped at Lowe's and Target for more gardening and house supplies. Arrived at Bahama Breeze on the causeway at 5:00 for the annual WRD Retirees' Dinner. This year's attendance was an all time low -- way way below base flow. **Carl** and **Betty Goodwin** forgetting the event did not increase the numbers. At least when we called Carl, we heard no wimpy excuses, just the truth, he forgot. Secretly, I was troubled why nobody else showed, tryin not to take it personally. Enough whining, on to the evening. **Craig** and **Tai Hutchinson**, **Lynn** and **Peggy Barr**, and Kathleen and I did our best to uphold the "go go go for U.S. and G." tradition. Our flowered and colorful shirts elevated the spirits as much as the drinks did. Uh huh. What this gathering lacked in numbers, it more than made up for in documentation, as we drew our hand-held devices and sprayed the air with phone calls, text messages, photographs, and perhaps more than I ever noticed. What would the old timers think? Probably that we could have used some of that time and energy to order more drinks. How true. We throttled down our cell phone mania long enough to eat our dinners, whose contents are not important enough for me to remember, but they were good. Yes, there was no business to discuss, no future meetings to schedule, and definitely no reunions to plan. So, we finished dinner and told the waitress, "Thank you, but no desserts for us." We said this as we made plans to meet at the Dairy Queen in Citrus Park. And that's what we did, and that's where we headed, to DQ, where the words "Dairy Queen" are no longer visible, just "DQ." But the ice cream is visible, and how, and how we enjoyed it. The ice cream flavors are important enough to remember, but I'm not gonna, I'm retired. How 'bout, it all was good? We slurped down our delicious calories (not you Tai, not this time anyway), and said good night."

**Joe Elder** writes, "**Elizabeth** and I have been in Corvallis, OR, for 4 years now and in our newly-constructed energy-efficient home for 2 years. We continually find more to enjoy about living in Corvallis. Greetings and best wishes to my colleagues in Madison, Tallahassee and Menlo Park ... and everywhere else my fellow WRD Retirees live."

**Mary Flippen**, long-time friend and companion of **Joe Cragwall** writes, "Thanks to WRD Retirees for a beautiful, moving and appropriate memorial for Joe at the USGS on June 1. It was a moving experience and a beautiful tribute to a very fine man. I loved seeing so many of Joe's dear friends."

**Al Harr** recently was noted for his volunteer efforts. Since retiring Al has volunteered for 8 years in reading at John Muir Elementary School in Madison. He also volunteers in the inpatient care unit at the local Hospice Care Unit, saying that "this is the most satisfying thing I have ever done." His duties with Hospice include assisting with bathing, repositioning and toileting needs, assisting with meals, and providing companionship for patients who are dying. Al is enjoying visits with his late wife's cousins in Italy, occasionally displaying his Italian, complete with hand waving, at WRD Retiree monthly breakfasts.

**Elinor Handman** writes, "I've never been busier! I'm active in several arts organizations, and I'm helping produce a jazz festival in Carson City this summer."

**Rich Hawkinson**, who lives in Colorado, attended the April meeting of the WRD Retirees in Austin, TX. Way to keep in touch with long-time friends, Rich. The Texas meetings attract a lot of out-of-town visitors -- the **Blakeys** travel from Colorado to attend at least one Texas WRD retirees meeting a year.

**Ernie Hubbard** writes, "**Jeanne** and I finally broke down and got broad band. After 20 years of dial-up, it really seems great! My new e-mail address is ehubbard@cox.net. You also can correspond with Jeanne at this address. I will pick up mail from the old address during the next few weeks, but after that, there will only be the new one."

**Warren Hudson** writes, "WRD May 2009 Newsletter and WRD 2009 Annual Directory both received and read and reread again -- well done and thanks so much. These products don't just easily happen; they are the products of much care and a lot of work. I appreciate the effort!"

**John Klein** writes, "**Joyce** and I just spent a week in the heart of the San Juan Mountains (Ouray and Silverton, Colorado). It was great to be back in Ouray where I grew up. I managed to find the

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houses I lived in and we found a 92 yr-old friend of my mother. We got as high on some of the 4x4 roads as we could take our 1-ton Dodge dually. It has 4-wheel drive and can handle the climb, but the width of the one-ton Dodge prevented us from traveling on the narrow roads. We are in Hawaii (Kauai) this month as volunteers at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. We are learning a lot about sea birds, Monk Seals, and Green Sea Turtles.”

**Gerhard Kuhn** reports, “Retirement has been great. The past 2 years have been filled with traveling, home remodeling projects, bike riding and other fitness/outdoor activities, getting together with friends and relatives, etc. The next few months will be super for **Karen** and me. Our son (Matt) and daughter-in-law (Sarah) will be returning home during early December after serving in the Peace Corps for 27 months in Cameroon. Also in December our daughter, Laura, and husband, Jesse, are expecting their first child--our first grandchild! Thanks to the many volunteers and staff of the WRD Retirees Newsletter--it's great to hear all the news and events from the many other retirees.”

**Andy Lamonds** says, “Thanks to all the hard working WRD retirees who prepare the Retirees Newsletter. I enjoy reading it and appreciate the effort that goes into preparing it. I am still relatively healthy and enjoy living on Logan Martin Lake in east central Alabama. I am active in the local Kiwanis Club and enjoy fishing with my grandsons when they visit. However, this was not a good year for me. I am saddened to report that **Dawne**, my wife of 45 years, recently lost her year-long battle with colon cancer.”

**Ken Lanfear** writes, “**Kathy** and I moved from our house of 31 years into a high-rise condo in the Reston Town Center. You wouldn't believe the junk one accumulates! I gladly left my snow shovels and leaf rakes to the nice young couple who bought our house. The view from our balcony is gorgeous: the whole skyline was lit up on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I continue to be active with photography and editing the AWRA Journal. Our new address is: 11776 Stratford House Pl., Apt. 1003, Reston, VA 20190.”

**Jerry Larson** reports, “Since retiring in 2000, I started Larson Environmental and have been mainly sampling abandoned mines in the Silverton Mining District in southern Colorado for the BLM and Forest Service. I have also done jobs for Cannon Air Force Base and White Sands Missile Range. **Eileen** and I have also traveled a lot beginning with Japan when I retired. We made 5

trips to Italy after a grandson was born in Naples. We have also joined a sailing club and have sailed the Grenadines, BVI, St. Martin, and Belize with a sail off Panama scheduled for next May. We have a timeshare in Puerto Penasco, Mexico, and own a condo at Durango Mountain Resort that we go to. Eileen is still operating her CPA business and so far our health has been good. I was sorry to see that **Art Beetem** died as he hired me and was a great supervisor. I enjoy reading the newsletter but hate to see all the people that I have known in my USGS career passing away.”

**Pat Latkovich** writes, “I moved from Lake Jackson, TX, in February of this year. I am living near my son Tom and his family. My address is now 14086 Airline Highway, Apt. 141, Gonzales, LA 70737. I was diagnosed with breast cancer in July, 2008 and have had Chemo, surgery and radiation and am now cancer free. It was a long road but my daughter Michelle took good care of me while I was in Lake Jackson and Tom is doing likewise here in Gonzales. Enjoy the Newsletter and keeping up with old friends.”

**Lee Lenfest** reports, “All is well in Maine. I have changed my e-mail address to llenfest@gmail.com. I will be discontinuing my current e-mail address within the next few weeks. Looking forward to continuing communications with WRD Retirees in the future.”

**Carol Loskot** writes, “I've been taking classes at the Denver Museum of Science and Nature. I'm planning on getting my paleontology certificate and volunteering for the museum.”

**Frank Manheim** writes, “Greetings from a sometime watery geochemist. I've just submitted my application for enrollment in WRD Retirees. I came on board in Woods Hole in 1964, funded 50% by WRD and GD. My first WRD colleague was **Bob Meade**. Our project was to map and describe the Atlantic coastal margin in a USGS-Woods Hole Oceanographic cooperation. Bob swore he would never again serve as an administrator. He would have surely done the Survey a lot of good running people and programs. But he was able to get away with refusing official requests to take such jobs by threatening to leave for academic realms. He would have had no trouble becoming a professor, because earth science in the universities was enjoying its federal grant-funded “Golden Era” and Bob was a crackerjack earth science observer. Besides geology Bob was a classical music lover who served as President of the Falmouth Music Assoc. and we both sang bass in a local madrigal group-octet. He (not I) had a fine voice which he put to work in solo roles

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after he moved to CO in the 1970s. The first NSF-sponsored offshore drilling program with a dynamically-positioned drilling ship (Caldrill) in 1965 yielded my first scientific breakthrough. I designed a stainless-steel interstitial water squeezer modified from a floating-gasket design by a Russian geochemist. With this device, a hydraulic press, and chlorinity analyses I captured chlorinity profiles that identified fresh water as much as 120 km from shore and at 122 m. depth beneath the sea floor. **Warren Leve**, WRD hydrologist from FL, was immortalized in a picture showing fresh water gushing forth from the drill pipe. He and **Bob Wait** from Brunswick, GA, assessed the fresh water as being attributable to the submarine extension of the Floridian Aquifer. During a visit to groundwater chief **Joe Poland**, to whom I showed the profiles, he showed skepticism that fluids extracted from 3" core samples could yield uncontaminated interstitial water. The technique of extracting fluid samples from drill cores intrigued WRD hydrologist, **Francis Kohout**, who was assigned to Woods Hole. Fran, who became well known for his paper "Cyclic Flow of Sea Water in a Coastal Aquifer," possessed the attribute of scientists in knowing when to carry observations to extreme levels that "more reasonable persons" would not think of. He demonstrated that a very closely spaced salinity profile of interstitial water taken from a drill core from Nantucket Island showed startlingly close resemblance to a conductivity log created by inversion of the electrical resistivity log of the site (Kohout et al, AWRA. Bull., 1977)." However, let me skip forward to my retirement in 2002. The next year I was fortunate to join the School of Public Policy at George Mason University, Fairfax VA, as an affiliate professor. With the stimulation and resources of a university setting available to me and no more Hatch Act to keep me from writing or communicating, I embarked on a 5-year research project culminating in my book released by Springer in March, 2009. I offer a few vignettes from this book to my fellow retirees' attention because, among other things, it contains a 13-page policy history of USGS from the beginning to 2008. Frank T. Manheim, "The Conflict Over Environmental Regulation in the United States," Springer, Singapore, Mar. 2009"

**John Musser** reports, "**Darwin Knochenmus** and I were among the 37 individuals nominated in April for the Golden Apple Award of East Baton Rouge Parish, LA. This award is given each year to a few citizens for exemplary volunteer service to the students of the East Baton Rouge Parish schools. For 2009, I received this award for teaching and leadership in the chess program." Congratulations, John.

**Lela Peterson** writes, "I appreciate the Newsletters you all continue to send me. It keeps me informed about the activities of many long-time friends. Many thanks."

**Hector Ramos** says, "A warm greeting from Puerto Rico to all WRD Retirees members."

**Paul Rhone** says, "**Harriet** is taking chemotherapy again. She will have a CT scan soon to see how she is doing. Hopefully, she won't need any more treatments for the month of June because we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary the last week in June. We have rented a house in Port Aransas and are having all our children, their wives, and grandchildren visiting for the celebration of our Golden Anniversary." We wish you all the best and we will be thinking about you and Harriet.

**Carrol Saboe** writes, "Keep up the good work with the Newsletter. It's great!"

**Bob and Jean Schoen** report, "We tried out "snow birding" for the first time, driving from Wisconsin to Tucson for a couple of winter months. En route we visited with our daughter Wendy in Andrews, TX, in the heart of the Permian Basin oil fields. Andrews is only 30 miles from New Mexico, where our son-in-law works in Mountain Time while they live in the Central time zone. Tucson was great, especially as we watched the Wisconsin blizzards on the Weather Channel. Until the last week, when Jean discovered a scorpion in the bathroom and squashed it. We'll see about next year. And just last week (July 8) our grandson Peter Vandeverter was one of four guides to lead a party of climbers to the summit of Mt. McKinley (Denali) in Alaska."

**Gloria Stiltner** writes, "**Tom Keefer** (see the In Memoriam section of this Newsletter) was my first USGS boss in Mississippi. **Roy** and I have known the Keefers since 1974. We have spent much time and events together. Tom fell off the roof at Sutron while installing an antenna and broke his neck. He had done enough travel flight miles to equal sitting in a plane seat for one year. Here is a guy who works carefully, was only 65, had a "to do" list as long as your arm and he dies in a freaky accident."

**Gary Tasker** reports, "I volunteer 2 days a week at Tricounty Family Ministries in North Charleston, SC -- an ecumenical ministry providing food, clothing, medical care, counseling, transportation, shelter, financial assistance and other vital services to the less fortunate in the Charleston area. My job is to drive a truck around to stores and pickup food and other items that the stores donate to the ministry. To me it is satisfying in part for the altruism of helping

## NEWS OF RETIREES

people in need and in part for the exercise I get from loading and unloading the truck. Also, once or twice a month I help prepare and serve a meal at Crisis Ministries (a homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Charleston)."

**Jim Turner** writes, "Greeting from Pinehurst, in the rolling sand hills in the Ole' North State. Golf here is challenging. The US Kids Tournament will be held here again this July and the US Men's and US Women's Open Tournaments are scheduled to be held here in 2014. These events draw huge crowds and visitors from everywhere. I try to spend as much time as possible with my grandkids in Birmingham, AL and Lawrenceville, NJ. My 6-year old grandson recently found a dollar bill on the street. He picked it up, tore it in half and gave half to his little girl friend Katie, who in return, gave him a big kiss. Katie's mother quizzically asked what was going on. Katie said, "It's OK mom, we're already married." Life's Good! Enjoy!"

**Renee Voegtle** writes, "Thanks you for the WRD Retirees Newsletters. I see less and less familiar names. Thanks to **C.T. Welborn** (whom I don't know) for his daffy, but apt, definitions from the 1500s. Another would be "for whom the bell tolls" – which would have them dig you out post haste. In the 24 years since Joe passed away our kids have grown and have married, raised a child each and have been successful in the chosen fields. Me, I traveled, bought a little house in Ocala, and now do little except read, do crosswords, and eat since my COPD interferes with a lot of my former activities."

**Pat Walker** says, "My life is so wild and fascinating that it's difficult to pick out gems with which to dazzle old friends. Sarcasm aside, I do enjoy the news of friends from the Survey. Admittedly my retired life is less romantic than that of those of you who travel to exotic lands I've only read about. I don't travel much because its little fun traveling alone, arthritis has made driving long distances uncomfortable, the fun of flying has gone, and I'm too comfortable at home. I do go to see my 3 children, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren periodically. They all live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed; Baltimore and Easton, MD, and Richmond, VA, and seem to be surviving the present foolishnesses that afflict mankind. My contacts with things USGS are few and far between. I have email contacts in the Districts where I worked and there's the Retirees newsletter, but little other contact. **Ivan James** calls occasionally. **Herb Johnson** came by from Rhode Island for an overnight visit and updated me with news of old pals, but I've lost track of where the Boston office is! The exciting stuff is generally

focused around local friends. We have a candlepin bowling group that tries to beat that frustrating game each week. (For those of you unfamiliar with candlepin bowling, it is a type of torture invented by Satan. It makes golf pale in frustration.) That's about it. My family will visit me in coming months and maybe I will try a trip or two but nothing really in mind. I always welcome visitors and keep various beverages on hand along with the addresses of good restaurants for use at those times. I'd be pleased as punch to see you."

**Jack and Judy Weeks** write, "Hello to all our "old" Survey friends. We enjoy keeping up with you in the Retirees Newsletter. It is a great way to stay in touch. Having said that, here is an update on what we've been doing. We spend our winters in Mesa, AZ. Playing golf mostly. We live in a golf community here in Morrison and seven couples from our club here also have homes in Mesa. So, it is like taking your friends with you on vacation every winter. We get together as a group for golf and dinner twice a month. Last November, we made another trip to Australia. We spent about three weeks in Melbourne visiting relatives, and a little over a week in the Gold Coast and Brisbane with friends. We had a great time; we were wined and dined as only Australians can. Of all the trips we've made to Oz, neither of us have been to the "back of beyond." So, now that air fares have dropped, we decided to make another trip to visit the places we have wanted to see but never seem to get the chance -- Kakadu, Katherine Gorge, Alice Springs and Uluru (Ayers Rock). We have our airline reservations for mid-September to mid-October and we are in the process of making arrangements for places to stay and tours to see the sights. G'day for now, we will report on our adventures when we return."

**CT Welborn** writes, "The April Texas WRD Retirees meeting was held at the Nutty Brown Restaurant as has it been for the past several years. Those present to enjoy good food and fellowship were: **Bob and Libby Burchett, Helen Davidson, Frank Wells, Willard Gibbons, Rich Hawkinson, and CT and Dixie Welborn.** It was great that Rich traveled all the way from Colorado to join us. We had 6 in attendance at the May meeting. My ex-wife, **Evelyn**, passed away at the age of 82 on May 11<sup>th</sup>. It was very hard on our children. I lived with her for nearly 40 years and you don't forget. On June 14<sup>th</sup> me, **Dixie**, and our daughters will take a 7-night cruise from Galveston to Key West, FL, and then to Nassau, Bahamas and other locations. It will be a 2-night cruise back to Galveston."

**FIFTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION  
TO BE HELD IN DENVER, COLORADO  
SEPTEMBER 9 - 11, 2010  
With a post trip to Glenwood Springs on Sept. 12 – 14**

WRD Retirees reunions are one of the very best activities of the organization. They are loads of fun and always involve a wonderful experience of interesting field trips, food, drink in the hospitality suite and fellowship during the entire 3-day reunion. **Mark your calendar** for what will prove to be one of the biggest and best WRD Retirees reunions ever. On **September 9 – 11, 2010**, the Denver Reunion organizing committee has arranged a program that tentatively will include field trips to: the Western Art Museum; Celestial Seasonings Tea factory; Historical Georgetown, Colorado area with a train trip; the Museum of Nature and Science including an IMAX movie; and The Garden of the Gods. A post trip to Glenwood Springs on **September 12 - 14** will be by very comfortable buses with pick up at the reunion hotel site. Following the post trip, the buses will return to the reunion hotel. Arrangements have been made so that luggage and personally owned vehicles can be left at the reunion hotel during the post reunion trip without charge. Also, for retirees flying from Denver on September 15, rooms will be available at the reunion hotel after the post trip. A number of interesting activities and field trips will be included in the reunion post trip.

The organizing committee includes: Jim Blakey, Zelda Bailey, Merilee Bennett, Sandra Duncan, Sara James, Dave Lystrom, John Moore, Pat Tucci, and Janice Ward. Jack and Judy Weeks will be arranging the golf tournament. This is a talented and energetic group of folks. The committee is in the process of fine tuning the arrangements for hotels and the field trips. All of the details, including the names of the Denver Reunion and Glenwood Springs post trip hotels will be included in the November WRD Retirees Newsletter. The November 2009 Newsletter will also include an announcement of a web page that will provide on-line details about the reunion and post trip. **The only action required by all WRD Retirees right now is to mark your calendars for the September 9 – 11 Reunion and the September 12 – 14 post trip. Plan on attending!** These reunions are a terrific place to renew old friendships and have fun.

**WRD RETIREES HYDROLOGIC TECHNICIAN SCHOLARSHIP**

The Hydrologic Technician scholarship program has proven to be extremely popular with both WRD Retirees and the folks currently working at USGS. Hydrologic Technicians enjoy a well-deserved reputation of delivering high-quality data products that meet local, State, and national needs. They are often referred to as the "backbone" of the water program. WRD Retirees started the scholarship program as partial recognition of the many contributions hydrologic technicians make to the success of the USGS water program. Since 2006, WRD Retirees has awarded a scholarship to a second-year student who has demonstrated the ability to earn good grades, is a good citizen, has interest in USGS employment, and preferably has successfully completed one summer of work with USGS and is being recommended by their supervisor to continue with USGS upon successful completion of his/her degree. This year a selection panel consisting of WRD Retirees Jim Blakey, Bob Boulger, Bill Emmett, Ed Gutentag and Warren Teasdale met on August 4 and reviewed the information gathered to select the winners. The committee of WRD Retirees was ably assisted by Deborah Lowe and Carole Deherrera, CR Human Resources and Jim Kircher, Director of the Colorado Water Science Center. Because of the popularity and success of the scholarship program the Board of Directors voted to award two scholarships annually beginning in 2009. The 2009 winners are:

First place winner of a \$1500 scholarship is Lisa Ashmore, a student at GateWay Community College in Phoenix, AZ, who is interning this summer in the Montana Water Science Center.

Second place winner of a \$1000 scholarship is LaShawn Nohrenberg who attends Vermillion Community College in Ely, MN. She is a summer intern in the Nebraska Water Science Center.

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

### Hawaii WRD Retirees at their June 2009 Luncheon



Top left: Akiko Tanaka, Violet Ansai. Top Middle: Reuben Lee, Violet, Steve Tateishi. Top Right: Amy and Ed Watanabe and Salwyn Chinn. Right Middle: Catherine Chinn, John Yee, Pearl Tam and Elaine Yee: Right Bottom: Steve, Salwyn and Grace Tateishi Left Bottom: Amy and Ed, Catherine, Pearl

### Nebraska WRD Retirees at their April breakfast meeting



Front row, L to R: Paul McDonald, Klyda Steele, Marge McDonald, Carol Hoy, Joann Engel, Marie Braun. Row 2: Stephen Hull, Mary Jo Schlotfeld, Lloyd Blackburn, Virginia Downs. Back Row. David Schwartz, Jean McKinney, Lou Ann Quinn, Neil Stuthmann, Sanford Downs, Glenn Engel.

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

### Oklahoma WRD Retirees enjoying themselves at Bob Tortorelli's retirement



Front, L to R: Jamie Norvell, LeeAnn Alf, Cathy Jones-Waggoner Back: Bob Tortorelli, John Havens, Jim Norvell, Charlie Bullock, Karen Steele, Dale Ferree

### Missouri WRD Retirees celebrating life at their summer picnic



L to R: Front: Larry Becker, Juanita Jeffery, Martha Skelton, Zoe Hauth, Leland Hauth, Mary Rosenberg, Carmen Liesman Middle: Lester Grayson, John Skelton, Cathy Hauck, Jim Barks, Patti Barks, Nelda Reed, Horace Jeffery, Leon Reed, Barbara Gray, George Gray Back: Tom Mesko, Henry Hauck, Larry Lumpkin, Gary Alexander

### WRD Retirees volunteers "Stuffing" envelopes with the Directory and May 09 Newsletter



L to R: Harvey Jobson, Celso Puente, Jim Biesecker, Andy Anderson, George Edelen, Dick Engberg and Bill Boning. Workers not shown: Charles Nethaway (photographer) and Ike Winograd.

This is only a small part of the envelopes to be stuffed. Help reduce the workload by signing up for email delivery of your copy of the Newsletter. See the article on p. 18 of this edition.

## **WRD Retiree Volunteers in Action**

### **“I am a CASA Volunteer”**

**By Anna Lenox**

I am a CASA volunteer. What does that mean? It means that I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children. I volunteer through the Fairfax, Virginia CASA, an independent nonprofit organization accredited by the National Court Appointed Special Advocates program. Fairfax CASA recruits and trains volunteers to investigate a child’s situation and to advocate for the best interests of the child in court. All CASA volunteers undergo extensive training; no prior experience in child welfare or the law is required.

CASA volunteers must be at least 21 years of age and comfortable with children. In addition, volunteers must be able to demonstrate strong interpersonal skills and write in a clear, concise manner. The time commitment is extensive and can vary from month to month, with volunteers spending upwards of 12-15 hours per month on a case. Life experience plays an important role in effective advocacy and the “older” generation, or retirees, are often ideal CASA volunteers. However, I have found the CASA ranks to be peopled by volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life.

As a CASA volunteer, it is my job to assure that each child’s needs are identified and addressed, with the goal of living in a safe, permanent, nurturing home. I must do whatever is within my power and authority to protect children from harm. We are required to conduct ourselves at all times in an objective manner that will serve the child’s best interest, including maintaining confidentiality as defined by the Code of Virginia. A CASA volunteer must investigate a child’s circumstances by visiting him or her at least twice each month, and communicating with all others involved in the child’s life, including parents, foster parents, attorneys, social workers, medical service providers, and schools. After gathering the information, a CASA volunteer prepares a report prior to each court hearing. Frequently, this report is the sole source of comprehensive factual information for the Judge, who often relies heavily on its content and recommendations in making decisions during a hearing. Fortunately, every CASA volunteer is assigned a staff supervisor whose role is to provide support and guidance throughout the process.

Before acceptance as a volunteer CASA, I was required to complete 30 hours of pre-service training and agree to a number of background checks. In addition to training and close supervision by my CASA supervisor, I am also required to complete 12 hours of continuing education annually. Training opportunities are presented by the CASA office and are both informative and directly related to CASA activity.

CASA volunteering is a rigorous job, but the rewards are many. By speaking on behalf of our assigned children, we are helping form young lives and our influence will impact future generations. It’s a BIG responsibility, but Fairfax CASA prepares us well for the job. Join us—the need is great!!!

If you would like more information, please visit [www.SpeakForTheChildren.org](http://www.SpeakForTheChildren.org) or visit the Fairfax CASA website at [www.casafairfax.org](http://www.casafairfax.org).

## **WRD RETIREE VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION**

### **John and Joyce Klein's volunteer experiences with the National Wildlife Refuges**

Just prior to my retirement in 2006, I was attending my last US/Mexico Department of Interior Field Coordination Committee meeting at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) near McAllen, TX. While on a tour of the refuge I noticed what appeared to be a partially completed RV park. The refuge manager explained to us that this was going to be the location for their volunteers to park their RVs. He went on to explain that without a viable volunteer population, the refuge would soon have to close. Since Joyce and I had been carefully planning a retirement life that would in part be in an RV touring the country, we decided the volunteer program at Santa Ana would be an excellent opportunity for us to enjoy not only a nomadic lifestyle, but also the ability to keep busy with natural resource issues. In December 2006, we departed Tucson in our new truck and RV, bound for Texas to start a 3-month volunteer detail.

Congress enacted the Volunteer-Partnership Enhancement Act in 1998. At that time, only two refuges had full-time volunteer coordinators, and these experiments had been very successful. The intent of this new Act was to encourage recruitment and use of more volunteers. Faced with major budget cuts in 2004 many refuges began to turn to volunteers. In FY 2007, there were 33,000 volunteers, and they give 1.31 million hours of service. Our Santa Ana NWR experience was wonderful. We parked in the now completed RV Park on a large level cement pad, with full water, sewer, and electric hook-ups. There was also a new laundry facility and propane was provided. We were required to work three days a week, even though we often worked more. Our tasks were varied and ranged from Visitor Center sales; trail maintenance, building duck boxes, and water level control in a number of habitat ponds. Joyce and another volunteer set up an environmental education module that they then took out to the local elementary schools. We had a great time; learned a lot about migratory birds, and saw up close the debate and issues surrounding illegal immigration and the negative (trash) impact in the refuge (which borders Mexico separated only by the Rio Grande).

We didn't have to ask if we could come back in 2008, they were overjoyed we would return. During this second detail we realized we had complete control over the tasks we were assigned. I had my own truck and the ability to call the river master when it was necessary to pump river water into the ponds. My duties were no longer confined to just the Santa Ana refuge, but a number of other refuge sites between Falcon Reservoir and the Brownsville area. Joyce and her friend from the previous year continued their environmental education program. Again they wanted us to return in 2009, but I was covered with seed tick bites, it was time to move on.

This last winter found us in the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR. Again we had a nice RV site in a very isolated and beautiful spot. Even though we arrived in a blinding blizzard, we soon had a great opportunity to watch a Virginia spring suddenly burst into bloom. Our duties here were to run the Visitor's Center. It was another wonderful couple of months, everyone (well almost everyone) who walked in the door had a deep love of nature. It is a beautiful visitor's center, one of the best we have seen. I encourage all of you to visit.

Our latest volunteer detail is drawing to a close in Kauai, Hawaii. We have been roving interpreters at the Kilauea Point NWR. If any of you have visited the historical lighthouse near Princeville, Kauai, you have been on the refuge. But we had to come up to speed pretty fast. We arrived one day and working the next. The birds here are all sea birds and lead a very different life than mainland birds. In addition we have monk seals, spinning dolphins, and green sea turtles. We also took on the extra volunteer task of baby-sitting new monk seals. This involved some strenuous hikes into remote beach areas where the mothers had given birth and were nursing and training the pups. Monk Seals are a protected species in Hawaii and when a new pup is born it is necessary to provide protection for the mothers and pups from stupid humans. A seal pup will nurse for 5 to 7 weeks and then the mother, once she senses the pup is ready to live on its own, will take off. The baby sitters are then constantly watching the young pups, moving barriers and fences, warning folks to stay back (which is kind of interesting since the beach several pups were born on has a nudist population). But if the pup has been out feeding all night, it will sleep most of the day and we can enjoy the incredible views (not the nudists), clear water, and sounds of the surf.

We are unsure of our location next winter, probably someplace out west. We find the variability of locations and resources to be the constant learning challenge we want. At the end of each day we know we have instilled some new threads of thought into the minds of visitors about the importance of wildlife protection and we have learned from the research prompted by an inquisitive question.

## WRD NEWS

### Recent Retirements

**Note to all WRD Retirees: Recent retirees automatically become members of WRD Retirees. Please contact the recent retirees listed below that live in your area and welcome them aboard. Invite them to participate in your Local Meetings and Gatherings! Call them and invite them to become active in our organization.**

#### Northeastern Region

Wendy J. Danchuk, Cartographer, 9091 State Road 19, Mazomanie, WI 53560, 608-767-2504, 07/03/09  
Randall R. Durlin, Hydrologic Technician, 562 Bush Road, Danville, PA 17821, 05/09/09  
Clifford R. Moses, Hydrologic Technician, 1461 Little Wolf Creek Road, Williamsburg, KY 40769-9714,  
606-549-3049, 07/03/09  
William J. Rose, Hydrologist, 2742 Mason Street, Madison, WI 53705, 608-238-8381, 07/03/09

#### Central Region

Dale W. Blevins, Hydrologist, 18808 E. Independence Avenue, Independence, MO 64056, 816-796-9280,  
07/03/09  
Leo B. House, Hydrologist, P.O. Box 2246, Evergreen, CO 80437-2246, 303-674-5618, 07/03/09  
Robert A. Swanson, Hydrologic Technician, 17 Huntington Street, Wichita, KS 67206, 05/03/09

#### Western Region

Daniel J. Ackerman, Hydrologist, 2207 Darah Street, Idaho Falls, ID 83402, 208-529-9840, 07/03/09  
Robert E. Bostic, Hydrologic Technician, 4299 Louise Drive, Carson City, NV 89706, 775-883-7029, 05/03/09  
Steve P. Garcia, Cartographic Technician, 705 Eastridge Place, Boise, ID 83712-7504, 208-336-3569, 05/31/09  
Michael S. Lico, Hydrologist, 5840 Conte Drive, Carson City, NV 89701, 07/03/09  
Byron J. Richards, Master (Vessel Polaris), 807 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025, 07/03/09

#### Headquarters

S. Ernest Dreyer, Jr., Hydrologist, 11474 Orchard Lane, Reston, VA 20190, 703-437-6220, 05/31/09  
Timothy L. Miller, Senior Science Advisor, 7643 Red Fox Trail, Hudson, OH 44236, 07/03/09

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### National Water Census

A new and exciting program has been authorized for USGS. The following material is taken from the USGS web page. Eric Evenson, the project chief for the National Water Census from Trenton, NJ, gave an interesting and informative description of this new project at the May meeting of the HQ WRD Retirees. The 21<sup>st</sup> century brings a new set of water resource challenges. Water shortage and use conflict have become more commonplace in many areas of the United States -- even in normal water years -- for irrigation of crops, for growing cities and communities, for energy production, and for the environment and species protected under the law. Much has changed since the last overall assessment of water resources for the Nation was published by the Water Resources Council in 1978. It is time for a comprehensive examination of water availability in the United States using what we have learned during the past thirty years and with up-to-date capabilities. In response to a request from Congress, the USGS released a report in 2002, "Concepts for National Assessment of Water Availability and Use," Circular 1223. The circular outlines a broad framework by which a national assessment could take place and advocates using 21 Water Resources Regions for the study units. In 2005, USGS embarked on a pilot study of water availability in the Great Lakes Basin. The pilot focuses on understanding the dynamics of the water resources in the basin in terms of the flows and yields of both ground and surface water and demonstrates the importance of water-use data to quantifying water availability. In 2007, the USGS released its ten-year strategy in the form of "Facing Tomorrow's Challenges – U. S. G. S. Science in the Decade 2007-2017," Circular 1309. One of the seven major strategic directions identified in the Circular is "A Water Census of the United States: Quantifying, Forecasting, and Securing Freshwater for America's Future." These are the initial steps to implementing a National Water Census. In the next decade, the Nation will need a new appraisal for water availability that links both water quality and quantity, tracks changing flow, use, and storage of water, as well as developing models and predictive tools to guide its decisions.

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In 2007, the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) released a report entitled "A Strategy for Federal Science and Technology to Support Water Availability and Quality in the United States." That report stated, ***"The United States has a strong need for an ongoing census of water that describes the status of our Nation's water resource at any point in time and identifies trends over time."*** In its simplest terms the philosophy of the initiative is "You can't manage what you don't measure." Knowing our Nation's water "assets" and rates of use on an ongoing basis is crucial to wise management. The USGS will release an implementation plan in the fall of 2009, demonstrating how the Bureau will put the National Water Census into operation. In this plan, the USGS will: 1) Bring existing plans and legislative mandates together in one strategy. 2) Integrate existing science efforts across the USGS and the Department of the Interior to bring more resources to bear on water availability questions. 3) Design the plan to answer the questions: Does the Nation have an adequate quantity of water, with sufficient quality and timing-characteristics, to meet both human and ecological needs, and will this water be present to meet existing and future needs?

The USGS goal is to place technical information and tools into the hands of stakeholders that allow them to evaluate water availability for the questions that they are facing. The responsibility for management of water supplies rests at the State and local government level, but knowledge of the hydrologic system is needed across State lines. Therefore, we need to provide a seamless national database of water availability data across jurisdictional boundaries. The National Water Census will use and build on data and assessments accomplished through State and local initiatives, as well as information produced under programs such as the Cooperative Water Program. The National Water Census will also use the strength of other Bureau programs such as: the National Water Quality Assessment Program; Regional Groundwater Availability Studies; the National Water Use Information Program; and the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program.

The products of the National Water Census will include:

- a database of hydrologic indicators, addressing: precipitation, evapotranspiration, water in storage in snow pack, ice fields and large lakes, groundwater levels, rates of groundwater recharge, changes in groundwater storage, stream run-off characteristics, total water withdrawals by source, interbasin transfers, consumptive uses, return flows, impaired surface and groundwater supplies use for existing demands;
- a program for assessing flow needs for wildlife and habitat which will: classify the streams across the Nation for their hydro-ecological type, systematically examine the ecological affects of hydrologic alteration, develop flow alteration-ecological response relationships for each type of river or stream;
- an application for delivering water availability information at the scales that are relevant to the user;
- and, a series of studies focused on selected watersheds where there is significant competition over water resources. Here, the USGS and stakeholders will work collaboratively to comprehensively assess the technical aspects of water availability.

"The USGS should focus on the scientific integration of water use, water flow, and water quality in order to expand knowledge and generate policy-relevant information about human impacts on both water and ecological resources." from: Estimating water use in the United States: A New Paradigm for the National Water-Use Information Program.

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### **USGS Goes Off the Power Grid -- Measuring Snow with a Bucket, Windmill, and the Sun by Bob Lent, Chief, USGS Maine Water Science Center**

In the Maine District, WRD scientists have figured out how to measure snowfall in remote areas with a bucket, a small windmill, and the sun -- all the while saving money, energy, and, ultimately helping to save lives. What led to this energy-efficient ingenuity was the need to help the National Weather Service forecast and predict the risk of floods from spring snowmelt. The problem was this: While the USGS has about 15 snowmelt measurement

## WRD NEWS

sites in Maine, they also needed a way to measure snowfall in remote areas where power grids are scarce. Emergency managers need accurate information to prepare for forthcoming hazards and energy companies need to plan ahead for how much water to expect in reservoirs. Bob Lent, Chief of the USGS Maine Water Science Center in Augusta said, "We cobbled together a small-scale commercial windmill to replace commercial AC power, and supplemented the windmill with solar panels. What we ended up with is a windmill that powers our measurements on windy and cloudy days, and solar panels that power them on calm, sunny days."

A prototype system has been housed in use at the USGS office in Augusta for the past winter. It has proved so accurate, said Lent, that the USGS plans to install four snowfall sites around the state this summer using the same system. Basically, the system looks like this: a gage is attached to a 5-gallon bucket that sits atop a simple wooden platform on a metal pole. The gage has a heating element to melt the snow as it collects in the cone of the bucket. The gage only turns on when snow is detected. Nearby is a data-collection box that is linked to the windmill and solar panels. When the bucket fills up with melted snow it tips over and empties. Each tip of the bucket measures 0.01 inches of precipitation and is recorded to the data recorder, which transmits the data and is updated on the web every hour.

"We are very optimistic about the utility of this system in other remote areas in the country. It would be good for any remote site that needs more power than solar alone can deliver. For example, this could be used to measure water quality in the swamps of Florida as well as snowfall in Maine. It's a very small step in a very long journey of helping this country become greener, but this embodies what we need to be doing and the direction in which we need to be going, Lent noted." A photo is show below.



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### **Newly selected Chief Scientist, WRD, USGS**

Dr. Jerad Bales has been selected as the USGS Chief Scientist for Hydrology. In his more than 23 years with the USGS, he has served as a research hydrologist, supervisory hydrologist and, most recently, Director of the USGS North Carolina Water Science Center. Jerad's leadership in fostering a diverse pool of talent and promoting scientific collaborations and partnerships has contributed to the North Carolina Water Science Center becoming one of the most efficient and productive in the USGS. He has held positions in the private sector and academia. He has been a strong champion of innovation in the measurement of streamflow and water quality, advancing the North Carolina Science Center in the use of acoustic velocity meters to measure stream discharge in tidal waters and in the use of continuous water-quality monitoring. He served as Chair of the ASCE Committee on Hydraulic Instrumentation and has collaborated with many Federal agencies, including NASA, NOAA, USAID, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, and the Department of Defense. He holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Texas.

**MEMORIAL**  
**Norwood "Nick" B. Melcher**  
**August 23, 1948 - April 9, 2009**

Nick Melcher, an action-oriented and visionary leader of USGS-WRD for 34 years, passed away on April 9, 2009, in Tucson, AZ. He died unexpectedly and suddenly after contracting a sepsis condition in his blood. Nick retired in 2007, but remained active in the hydrology discipline as Executive Director of the Arizona Hydrologic Society. Nick began his career as a staff hydrologist in the Helena, Montana Field Office and along his career path served as Subdistrict Chief in Kentucky; Data Chief, Studies Chief and District Chief in Iowa; and Arizona Water Science Center Director.



In Iowa, Nick brought with him a new standard of service, dedication, and excellence to each of the positions he held. As Data Chief, Nick strengthened the stream gaging program and set the standard for publication of the annual Water Data Report by April 1 of the following year. Nick also was an early supporter of developing a real-time reporting capability, laying the foundation for achieving 100% real-time status by the time he left. As District Chief, Nick oversaw the strengthening of the District's program, including diversification of cooperators and projects and elimination of overdue reports. Nick was known for his attention to detail and striving for excellence. He developed an outstanding rapport with field personnel, which served the Iowa District well during the incredible demands placed on the staff during the historic Midwest flooding of 1993. Nick recognized the importance of good customer relations and always sought to leave the cooperators with a feeling they were getting more than their money's worth with work from the USGS.

In Arizona, Nick's accomplishments illustrate his many fine qualities as a leader, a pioneer, and a scientist. Upon arrival in Arizona, the District was 3 years behind in finalizing the basic data reports, had closed FY93 with a large shortfall, and the cooperator base had lost confidence in the District's ability to complete work on time. With the assistance of senior staff, Nick proceeded to build back the trust and respect of the Federal, tribal, state, and local cooperators, and to put the USGS Office on firm financial footing. He accomplished those tasks over a period of years through his hard work, a spirit of customer service, and a sound science vision. Nick developed one of the broadest and most innovative groundwater programs in the nation, advancing critical studies on groundwater availability, land subsidence, ephemeral channel recharge, and groundwater/surface-water interactions. Nick's surface-water programs, which included sediment-transport modeling in the Grand Canyon, Manning's-n verifications, and a regional assessment of salinity, were innovative and highly influential with decision makers. In Arizona, he advanced the use of geophysical tools--including developing methods to measure aquifer storage change using microgravity. The Center's absolute gravity meter is the only one in the USGS and is a critical and unique asset. He was active at the national level in surface water. Stream gaging, a core competency of WRD, has been historically slow to adopt new methods and instrumentation. Challenged by the USGS Director to implement new technologies, the Chief Hydrologist established a "Hydro21 Committee" in 1996 to improve hydrological instrumentation and measurement procedures. Nick was appointed the first Chair and remained the committee's spark plug infusing energy and enthusiasm for this work up to and even after retirement. Under Nick's leadership, Hydro21 sought to change the stream measurement paradigm by developing non-contact methods. Using instruments that never touch the water, Nick envisioned a day when more accurate data could be collected, especially under flood conditions, and expose the field technicians to less risk. For example, Nick proposed mounting radar devices on the struts of a helicopter to conduct stream discharge measurements at "hard to reach" locations. This non-contact approach was successful and the results published in the Journal of Geophysical Research Letters (Melcher et al, 2002). Hydro21 was an extraordinary and elite assignment within the Survey.

Science was also advanced as Nick was a strong supporter of University collaboration and took full advantage of being co-located on the campus of the University of Arizona. At any one time, Nick supported 15 to 30 University students, many who received their Master's or PhD degrees from the Hydrology Department by working on projects with Center Staff. Numerous students have benefited from Nick's philosophy; several still work for the USGS as permanent staff and others have moved on to other endeavors in the field of Hydrology. In the later part of his USGS career, Nick focused his energies towards communicating the relevance of science to policy and decision makers. Nick was planning to ramp up his AHS activities by increasing representation of the Society and its goals and activities before the many decision makers and influential professionals that he knew well, when he unexpectedly passed away. He was nominated for a lifetime achievement award by his colleagues within the hydrology community in Arizona. Nick had many interests including bicycling, skiing, hiking, photography, astronomy and traveling the world. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Paula, and his twin sons, Henry and Clifton and four grandchildren which he adored. He was buried in Ely, MN, a place he loved.

By Mark T. Anderson, John Hoffman and Robert Buchmiller

## **Want to do something that's easy and will really help WRD Retirees?**

### **It's easy – just read this article and follow the instructions**

Have your copy of the WRD Retirees Newsletter delivered electronically. There are 262 WRD Retirees who have email addresses but still get the Newsletter delivered in printed form. If you are one of these retirees, by agreeing to have your Newsletter delivered in electronic format, you would really help our organization. If you order your Newsletter by email it will arrive at least one month earlier than the printed version, it will be in full color and by doing this you will also save WRD Retirees money -- we won't need to print and mail your copy of the Newsletter. Receiving your Newsletter electronically will also help the WRD Retiree volunteers responsible for delivering the Newsletters because they won't need to stuff your Newsletter in an envelope for mailing.

We are committed to delivering the highest quality and most interesting Newsletter possible. Of our 1360 members, about 960 receive the black and white paper copy via US Mail. A full color version is delivered via e-mail to about 400 members. However, to receive the Newsletter by email requires a personal computer connected to the Internet by a relatively high-speed connection. But, as mentioned above, there are 262 WRD Retirees who have a personal computer connected to the Internet but do not receive the Newsletter by email. If you are one of those 262 members, you probably have a relatively low-speed Internet connection and it would take an inordinate amount of time to download a 24-page file. There is another method we can use to make the WRD Retirees Newsletter available to you over the Internet -- by use of our WRDRetirees.org web page. The Newsletter is posted on the web page about the same time it is emailed to members who receive their copy of each edition via email. We could send you an email notifying you that the Newsletter is available on the web page. You would simply go to the web page at WRDRetirees.org, click on Newsletter (the third bullet under "Contents" on the right side of the document), then click on the current edition (it will be the first one listed).

**If you agree to try receiving the Newsletter by one of the electronic versions, send an email to Kate Flynn at wrdretirees@gmail.com and indicate if you (1) want to receive the Newsletter by email or (2) want to be notified when the Newsletter is available on the web.** If after trying one of the electronic versions you find that you prefer the paper version, let Kate know and she will put your name back on the mailing list for the paper copy.

Thanks for considering the electronic methods of WRD Retirees Newsletter delivery. It saves the organization printing and mailing costs and makes the volunteer's job easier -- it requires a lot of work to "stuff" 1,000 Newsletters in envelopes and mail them. See the photo on page 11 that shows retiree volunteers at work for a small sampling of the effort involved in stuffing 1,000 Newsletters in envelopes.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Joel Dysart** passed away on October 11, 2004, in Towson, MD. Joel was born in Huntingdon, PA, on May 18, 1940. After graduating from Drexel University he taught in the Westchester, NY, public school system for many years. He then decided to pursue his interest in earth science and began graduate school at Florida State University. His first WRD assignment was as a Hydrologist in the Tallahassee office in 1974. He transferred to the KY District in 1976 and to the NY District in 1981 to serve as a Geochemist on the Northeast Glacial Regional Aquifer RASA project. Joel transferred to the Maryland District office in Towson in 1991 and retired from USGS in 1994.

**Duane Everett** died on May 13, 2009 in Baton Rouge, LA, at age 80. A native of Oklahoma, he served in the U.S. Navy and graduated from Oklahoma State University with a BS degree in chemistry. In 1958, he joined the QW Branch in Baton Rouge, where he spent most of his career. In the 1960s he spent four years in the Nevada District as QW specialist. He was an expert on the characteristics of the Lower Mississippi River. Following retirement in 1986, he worked for several years for the LA Dept. of Environmental Quality. He is survived by his wife, Delores, two children, and six grandchildren.

**Malcolm D. Hale** passed away June 7, 2009, at age 89, in Warrenton, GA. Malcolm was a Mississippi native and graduated with a BSCE from Mississippi State College in 1941. He joined the USGS that year as a Jr. Hydraulic Engineer in the Austin SW office. Malcolm was on military furlough from 1943-46 with the U.S. Army Air Corps and was discharged as a Captain. He returned to WRD to the Fort Worth subdistrict office and in 1960 was appointed as District Engineer in Indianapolis and in 1967 District Chief. Malcolm was designated as Mid Continent Region planning officer in 1971 and in 1972 served in that position when the Mid Continent Region was moved to the SR in Atlanta. He retired in 1976. He is survived by his wife, Sue; daughter Ann McWilliams; and 4 grandchildren.

**Este Fisher "Pat" Hollyday** died peacefully at home in Nashville TN, on April 21, 2009. He had battled prostate cancer for ten years. Pat graduated from Gilman School in Baltimore, received a degree in geology from Yale University in 1957 and a master's degree in hydrology from the University of Arizona in 1963. It was during a 2-year stint in the U.S. Army in Japan and Korea that he discovered a love for hydrology that he pursued for the rest of his life. As a scientist for the U.S. Geological Survey 1964-1999, he published several dozen abstracts and scientific reports, specializing in groundwater resources. Part of his work involved mentoring students and young scientists at the USGS. He was an organizer of the first Tennessee Hydrology Symposium in 1986. After retirement, he wrote a geology trail guide for Edwin Warner Park in Nashville, also teaching the staff and teachers about local geology. He was an elder and choir member of Southminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Pat enjoyed singing, sailing, biking and reading. He particularly enjoyed kayaking trips taken with his son David. He is survived by his wife Susan, son David, daughters Marian Tidwell and Heather Mixon, and five grandchildren.

**Eva Hood** a native of Georgetown, TX, passed away on April 16, 2009, at age 81, in Salt Lake City. She was the wife of WRD Retiree James W. "Jim" Hood. They met shortly after Jim returned from WW II and married shortly thereafter. Jim served as a Hydrologist in El Paso, TX, and Albuquerque, NM, retiring in 1984. Eva enjoyed cooking and being a mother. Following retirement, Jim and Eva moved to Salt Lake City. Eva is survived by her husband, Jim; daughter, Jean Marie; and sons Jim, Jr. and Richard Allen.

**Thomas N. "Tom" Keefer** passed away June 12, 2009, in Sterling, VA, not far from his home in Lucketts, where he and his wife Sally Leroux Keefer have resided since 1986. Tom was 65. He was born and raised in Parshall, CO, graduating from West Grand High School in 1962. Tom attended Colorado State University where he received a B.S. CE, an M.S. CE and a Ph.D. in CE in 1971. He and Sally Leroux married in 1966. Upon graduation he moved to Slidell, LA, where he worked at the NASA Test Facility in Bay St. Louis, MS. In 1977, he joined another USGS employee in Northern Virginia to help form Sutron Corporation which has become a leading provider of hydrological, meteorological and oceanic monitoring services. In January 2009 he retired and began working "part time" to give him more time to spend with family. Tom was an amateur aviator, built an airplane, bicycled centuries, was a scuba diver, built clocks, and had a wood shop. He is survived by his wife, Sally; son, Tom Jr.; and 2 grandchildren.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Charles Wallace “Chuck” Lane**, 87, of Meridian, ID, died April 19, 2009. Chuck was born in Muskogee, OK, and attended Muskogee Junior College for two years before being employed by Boeing Airplane Company in Wichita, KS, as a tool designer. He enlisted in the Army Air Corp in 1942 where he became a B-17 pilot and proudly served his country in the European Theatre. Upon discharge from the service, he earned a BS degree in geology from Kansas State University. He was employed by the U.S. Geological Survey until his retirement in 1976. He married Marian L. Lang in 1949. Their first home was in Iowa City, IA, where their two children were born. His USGS service took him to Lawrence, KS; Billings and Helena, MT; and Denver. During the last 15 years with the Survey, he led the water resource programs in Montana and Kansas. Upon retirement, he and Marian moved to Idaho where they lived for 30 years. He enjoyed camping, fishing, and was a skilled woodworker and stain glass artist. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marian; two children, Charles A. and Margaret L. Lane; and 3 grandchildren.

**Harold C. “Hal” Matraw** passed away June 19, 2009, in Boone, NC, at age 67. An Alabama native, Hal received a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, MS from Washington State University and a Ph. D. in Geological Oceanography from Florida State University in 1973. Hal began his WRD career with the Miami office in 1972, working on several water quality projects. In 1978, he was selected as project chief of the Apalachicola River Quality Assessment and in 1985 was appointed staff assistant to Director Dallas Peck. He then served as District Chief, Tennessee until his retirement in 1998. He worked for the Tennessee Department of Environment Conservation for 5 years after retiring from USGS. Hal loved food, enjoyed people and the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing and was an active member of the Episcopal Church. He and Doris moved to Boone in 2004. Hal is survived by his wife of 43 years, Doris; daughter Renee Furman; son, Bryan; and 6 grandchildren.

**Earley M. Miller**, at 88, died April 6, 2008 in Richmond, VA. During WW II, he served in the U.S. Navy in both the European and African theatres as an aviation radioman and aerial gunner. He received his BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia in 1950 and was employed by the Surface Water Branch in Charlottesville. Earley transferred to Many, LA, in 1957 to start a new USGS office and moved back to Richmond in 1964. He retired in 1978 and enjoyed retirement, golfing, and hunting. He is survived by his wife, Rosalie; 2 sons; 7 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

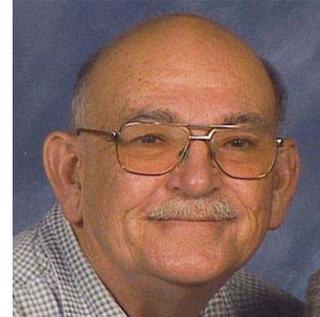
**Margaret Ruth Creech Rachal**, age 94, died February 20, 2009, in Hattiesburg, MS. She began work for the WRD in 1953 as secretary to the district engineer, and continued to serve as secretary to North Carolina district chiefs until her retirement in 1978. Her Survey duties also included outstanding work as editor of the district's newsletter Currents and Undercurrents. She was a member and president of the Raleigh chapter of the American Business Women's Association, a member of the Questers Antique Collecting Club, and her honors included selection as American Business Woman of the Year. She is survived by daughter, Billie Jean Krum; son, John Ralph Rachal III; 5 grandchildren; and 2 great grandchildren.

**James Newton “Jim” Sansom** died May 21, 2009, in Fort Worth, TX. Jim was born in Mart, TX, on August 5, 1923, was raised in Mart, and following high school enrolled in the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Texas at Austin. He interrupted his studies to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps training navigators during WWII. After the war, he returned to Austin, completed his degree and accepted a position with the USGS to work in the hydraulics/hydrology section. During his career, Jim contributed to the WRD effort to map and predict flood events for river systems throughout the southwestern states. While in Austin, Jim volunteered and served in numerous charitable and service organizations including the Boys Club, Civitans and Boy Scouts. In 1978, he retired from the USGS and moved with his wife Edna to Mart to be a country surveyor and to care for their parents. Following Edna's death, Jim married Anita Kay Daniel in 1982 and later moved to Fort Worth. He is survived by his wife, Kay; son, Donald; daughters, Clara N. Trahan and Martha A. McCuller; stepdaughter, Rhonda Moore; stepsons, Sidney and Kevin Daniel; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Marcia Winslow**, widow of WRD retiree John Winslow, passed away November 2007 in Raleigh, NC. Marcia was a Massachusetts native and was 76. John passed away in 2004. He was a hydrologist with WRD from 1950-74 serving in Columbus, OH; Albany, NY; and Lawrence, KS. There are no survivors.

**MEMORIAL**  
**Donald E. "Don" Hillier**  
**1936-2009**

Donald E. "Don" Hillier died on April 20, 2009, in West Seattle, Washington. Don was born on December 10, 1936, in Detroit, Michigan. He lived in Detroit through high school, and then he enrolled in the University of Michigan. He received a B.S. in geology in 1959. Don began his career with the USGS in July 1959 with the Geologic Division in Washington, D.C. His report activities started immediately with his first assignment preparing final illustrations for a Geological Survey of Alabama publication of a deceased author.



During 1960-65, Don worked for the Publications Division; first in the Illustrations Section where he prepared thematic geologic and hydrologic maps; then in the Review Section where he reviewed maps prepared in the Illustrations Section; and then to Chief of the Cartographic Compilation and Construction Section, and he was responsible for the compilation and construction of special base-map materials; and finally Chief of the Design and Review Section, and was responsible for all illustrations prepared for USGS Reports.

In 1965, Don joined WRD in the Reports Section in Headquarters as Assistant Geohydrologic Map Editor. Remember the 1242 Wing in old GSA? In 1968, he was promoted to Geohydrologic Map Editor and, in 1973, to Chief, Publications Unit. Don's first field assignment came in 1975 when he then transferred to the Colorado District as Project Chief and District Reports Specialist. During the next 5 years, he was Project Chief of 2 projects; was the author of 12 reports; reviewed all reports for the Colorado District; and trained authors in report planning, writing, and review procedures.

In 1980, Don transferred to the Central Region Office as Regional Reports Improvement Advisor. He appraised about 500 abstracts and reports annually for publication by USGS. Many of us, some of us many times, had our reports polished and improved by Don. Remember the green ink? The demands for his time and talent continued on National Program initiatives such as the National Water Summary and the National Ground-Water Atlas. His unique abilities and style made him an outstanding instructor in all phases of WRD and USGS reports.

In 1987, Don received the Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award and, in 1992; he received The Distinguished Service Award. He retired in 1992, and soon after he and his wife Barbara moved to Ellensburg, Washington. As many of you know, Barbara was a USGS employee too, working for the Geologic Division for 22 years.

Don continued his many interests of bird feeding, collecting lead soldiers and stamps, building models for military equipment and planes, gardening (especially growing bearded iris and selling them at the farmers' market), and volunteering at neighborhood food banks. For the last 5 years he and Barbara lived in West Seattle. Don is survived by his wife of 50 years, Barbara, daughters Leslie and Janet and two granddaughters, all living in West Seattle. Memorials may be sent to Peace Lutheran Church, 8316 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W, Seattle, WA 98136; White Center Food Bank, 10829 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98146; or to Heifer International, 1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202.

By Jim Blakey

**A Worm's Eye View of the Airline Industry - Part II**  
**Or, My Life at the Ticket Counter By Jim Daniel**

Soon after I started with American, more agents were hired allowing me the opportunity to bid on and 'win' shifts at the ticket counter rather than late-night lost baggage. Here, I was able to interact with passengers from myriad backgrounds who started at Dulles. Most folks don't realize that when they walk up to an agent at the counter, they are a captive audience -- they can't get away until the agent hands them a boarding pass. Numerous entertainment, political and sports celebrities, and former USGS colleagues traveled from Washington.

**Stars** -- Dixie Carter (Designing Women) and husband Hal Holbrook (movies and TV shows): They were frequent visitors to the Clinton White House during 1996-2000 -- remember that Designing Women was created by Linda Bloodworth Thomason (a Hillary friend) and the opening shots were in a Little Rock, AR, neighborhood. Ms. Carter was always gracious and pleased that I would remember she liked the bulkhead in 1<sup>st</sup> Class which helped her with a back problem. Mr. Holbrook told me early on he was through with his Mark Twain one-man show. But, he soon did it again. When I asked him "Why?" he replied the money was just too good to pass up! Earl Hamner, Jr (The Waltons author and producer) and wife: I told him I always liked his work and that young people on the counter didn't know who he was. As they walked away from the counter, he returned to tell me that as a young man he vowed that he would never disparage young people like older folks did. He said now he was older, understood the attitude, and almost couldn't stand young people! I had conversations with all of the following: Tab Hunter (remember him?), George Stevens, Jr (movie producer), Jack Valenti (movie industry lobbyist) and separately his daughter (worked for Warner Bros), Judge Reinhold, George Takei (Mr. Sulu on Star Trek), Martha Plimpton (Goonies), Martin Sheen (West Wing TV at the time), Jamie Lee Curtis (we had a nice conversation about Merced CA where her mother went to school - a few years before Ruth and me), Loretta Switt (MASH), and others.

**Sports Figures** --Sugar Ray Leonard, his second wife and their two children, his daughter from his first wife, and his then-current mother-in-law: They were all going Premium Class to Los Angeles at about \$3,000 per. I remarked that he could charter a flight for what he paid for all of them. He replied that he could, but, he got better service on our flight and it was simpler. Charley Taylor, the Washington Redskin receiver: Now, Charley was certainly a gifted player, but it seemed some of the lights in his chandelier were dim. He wanted a ticket for the 2002 Super Bowl and told me what dates he wanted to fly. I remarked that the Super Bowl had been delayed a week after 9/11 and that his desired dates were for the original time. He insisted, I wrote the ticket as he wanted, and, a week later, he was back to another agent to change to the later dates! Other sports figures included Bill Russell (Boston Celtics Hall-of Famer), Pete Rose (discredited Cincinnati Reds record holder for hits), Howie Long (Oakland Raiders and TV analyst) and Deion Sanders

**Politicians** --Senator Orrin Hatch brought his granddaughter to be checked in for Salt Lake City. I asked the 12-yr old if she enjoyed her visit to the big white house on a particular road. Puzzled, Hatch asked how I knew about that. I replied that my son used to read his and Joe Gibbs' (he lived nearby) water meters for the Fairfax County Water Authority. He and his wife laughed. Senator Max Baucus and wife: They were on their way to St. Barts. I mentioned that in my real job with the USGS we helped him with the controversial plan of The Church Universal and Triumphant to pump groundwater next to Yellowstone. He praised the Survey for our work. He also offered that the woman who was the leader of the sect had developed Alzheimer's and was no longer a factor in the organization. Other politicians: Senator Leahy (destination Puerto Rico), Secretary Tommy Thompson (just after 9/11 going to Rochester, MN - I suspect to learn more from Mayo researchers about the then-current anthrax scare), Congressman Charley Rangle (he was late -- I told him he needed to run to catch his flight so he took off and ran!), and James Carville (TV analyst).

**Two non-celebrity stories are worth mentioning.** One was the lady going to Africa with 5 extra bags. I told her the extra charge would be \$375. She claimed she had no money and no credit card. After back-and-forth exchanges like she had to pay, she never had to before, etc, she finally admitted she had money but it was in her panty hose -- I'm sure she expected that would settle the matter. I turned to the female agent next to me and asked her to take the lady to the back office to retrieve the money. When they came back, I was very careful with the cash. American got its money and I went to wash my hands immediately. Then there was a Middle Eastern man who put a box up on the scale to check it in. I noticed that something in the box 'sloshed' (a real security trigger). I asked and he said he had been to Mecca and was taking home some water from the sacred spring. I asked if I could open it and dip a piece of paper in it. He said OK, I did, the paper didn't dissolve and fluid didn't cling to it.

**Former Colleagues** -- Dallas Peck, Chuck Appel, Porter Ward, Bob Hirsch, Doug Nebert, and Jack Fischer. Jack and Maria were going to Chile and checked a box of electric fencing to take to her father. Jack later told me he had to pay duty on it at Chilean customs. Although I really had a ball at the counter, I did come away with some discouraging observations. I found that people lie, A LOT! Not only do they lie, they continue to lie when they know you know they're lying! "I always do it this way; I never had to do that before and so on. Because I was old and had many interests, I became known by the other agents as "The Department of Obscure Information." One day after discovering that a lady was the ex-wife of William Peter Blatty (author of the Exorcist) and that the next passenger was the cousin of baseball's Mel Ott, a young agent working next to me said, "You scare the passengers when you know so much about them!"

I retired from American in 2003 when we moved to Las Vegas. I was still working at Dulles on 9/11 when American 77 went into the Pentagon. Our secretary was on the flight to visit her sister in Los Angeles. That period was not fun. That's the only regret I hold from the best retirement hobby ever. Ruth and I still make lots of use of our lifetime flight benefits.

## CHANGES TO 2009 WRD RETIREES DIRECTORY

Allen, Harriet (06) (Rick) 8301-4 Fourth St NW, Los Ranchos, NM 87114 -- address  
Anderson, Steve W. (01) (Linda) [coossteve@charter.net](mailto:coossteve@charter.net) -- email  
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Boswell, Mrs Ernest H. "Rebecca" (W) 204 Eastbrooke St, Jackson, MS 39216-4716 -- address  
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email, zip code  
Denison, Ernest S. (84) (Ola) 325-944-1713 -- phone  
Dolnack, Mrs Donald "Joan" (W) 724-929-2293 -- phone  
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Latkovich, Mrs Vito "Patricia" (W) 14086 Airline Highway, Apt 141, Gonzales, LA 70737 -- address  
Laura, Della (90) 925-736-5066 -- phone area code  
Lawrence, Mrs Carl "Muriel" (W) 2601 NW Garrymore Dr, Apt 3, Corvallis, OR 97330 -- address  
Lee, Roger (06) 14100 Avery Ranch Blvd, #202, Austin, TX 78717, 512-906-0898 -- address, phone  
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Showen, Charles R. (87) 400 Avinger Lane, Apt 245, Davidson, NC 28036, 704-896-1245 -- address, phone  
Trapp, Henry (91) (Erika) [trapphie@yahoo.com](mailto:trapphie@yahoo.com) -- email  
Zenone, Chester (01) (Merilee) [chetwrdez@live.com](mailto:chetwrdez@live.com) -- email

## **TREASURER'S REPORT, SECOND QUARTER 2009**

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$19,112.96 in its treasury at the end of the second quarter for calendar year 2009. Receipts for the quarter were \$1,404.00 from dues and contributions from 48 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$3,087.86, including the printing for WRD Retirees Newsletter 143 and the May 2009 WRD Retiree Directory.

During the quarter a total of \$384.00 was received in contributions from 18 members. Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Philip Carpenter, Mrs. Lee "Lela" Peterson, Millard M. Hiner, James Blakey, Carol L. Loskot, Claire Richardson, Wilbert O. Thomas, Mary L. Garralts, Eileen Smith, Linda E. Meadows, Joe A. Moreland, Philip Cohen, Alan Burns, Vincent C. Lai, Jack McCoy, LaRue Baker-Odenbach, Frank Olmsted, and Alexandra Anderson.

### **WRD Retirees Board Member Elections, November 2009**

As described by our constitution and bylaws, WRD Retirees will hold an election for officers for 2010-2011 in November 2009. An official slate of candidates and an election ballot will appear in the November 2009 WRD Retirees Newsletter. The Board of Directors is the nominating committee. If you would like to propose a member for consideration by the Board of Directors to serve as an officer, please send the name of that member, by October 1, 2009, to President Dick Engberg -- either by email at [rengberg@verizon.net](mailto:rengberg@verizon.net) or by U.S. Mail to 130 Minor Road, Sterling, VA 20165.

### **Surviving Spouses Receive Complimentary WRD Retiree Membership**

It is WRD Retiree policy to provide spouses of deceased WRD Retirees a complimentary membership. We try to notify all surviving spouses regarding this policy. WRD Retirees extends condolences to the survivor including a statement that future WRD Retiree membership is without cost. Many surviving spouses are aware of the complimentary membership and still send contributions because they enjoy reading the quarterly WRD Retirees Newsletter and having a membership Directory for their use. Those voluntary contributions are greatly appreciated. We hope that all of the surviving spouses enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter and want to continue their membership. However, if you are a surviving spouse, and the WRD Retirees Newsletter is not of interest to you and you do not wish to remain on our membership roll, please notify us so your name can be removed. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.