

# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 156  
August 2012

*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.*

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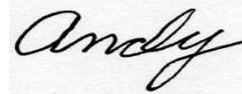
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is now August and quite hot and dry in many areas of the country, including our northern Virginia region. Our editor, Charles Nethaway, has been working quite hard on the Newsletter and doing so while taking his treatments for cancer every week or so. He and I meet periodically to review the Newsletter layout, and it is reassuring to see many retirees responding to requests for information. Bill Boning has been doing a great job of keeping us up to date with incoming information, also. I can't say enough for those retirees who volunteer to carry out the duties necessary to make our retirees group a great organization, which includes the stuffing of envelopes with Newsletters and Directories, supporting the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship program, participating in the local gatherings and meetings, and regional editing of much of the Newsletter content, just to name a few activities.

Our 16<sup>th</sup> WRD Retirees Reunion is approximately one month away, September 20-22, 2012. This is one of the best places for long-time friends and colleagues, and their spouses, to get together and visit. And we welcome all of our new members as well! For those of you who have not yet registered for the reunion, now is the time to complete the Registration Form on page 14 of this Newsletter and mail it to **WRD Retirees Reunion, c/o Kathy D. Peter, 11208 W. Hickory Bark Drive, Boise, ID 83713**, as soon as possible. Kathy and her organizing committee have arranged for a great hotel where we can meet and enjoy quality meals, a hospitality room, and set off on interesting tours in and around Boise. The Informal Reunion "kick-off" gathering is on Thursday evening from 6-9 p.m. A list of early registrants is shown in this Newsletter so you will know some of the folks you will see in Boise. Please read and follow all of the instructions to ensure being registered. A Reunion post-trip to the Sun Valley Resort is also available.

It is with great pleasure to note that we now have approximately 900 Retirees receiving their WRD Retirees Newsletter electronically. It helps cut down on the printing and mailing of the Newsletter, and it allows the electronic readers to receive it a good number of days earlier, plus to see the pictures in color.

One of our great joys is having our four children and four grandchildren near us here in the Herndon/Reston, VA area. But we will be leaving for Boise next month, and Mary and I hope we will see many of our retiree friends at the Reunion.



### The Boise Reunion – Last Chance!

The electronic version of our newsletter will reach you just in time for the deadline for the Reunion.

**DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012**

If you have not signed up and you really want to attend our outstanding Reunion, please do so before Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> (see pp. 11-14). We have a list of attendees who registered prior to the printing of this issue of our newsletter (see pp. 15-16). **"See you in Boise!"**

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

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## New or Re-instated Members

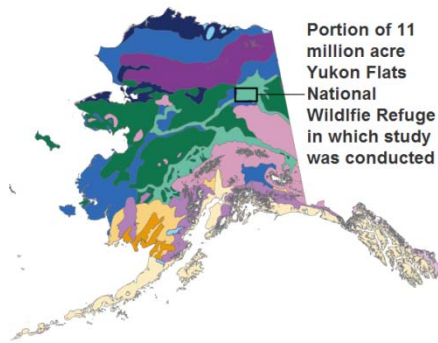
Barbie, Dana L (12) (Shirley) -- conversion from affiliate to member  
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[kidsrx@rockdetective.org](mailto:kidsrx@rockdetective.org) -- reinstated member  
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What's New in Research

By Jerad Bales, USGS Chief Scientist for Water

Permafrost and Groundwater Flow

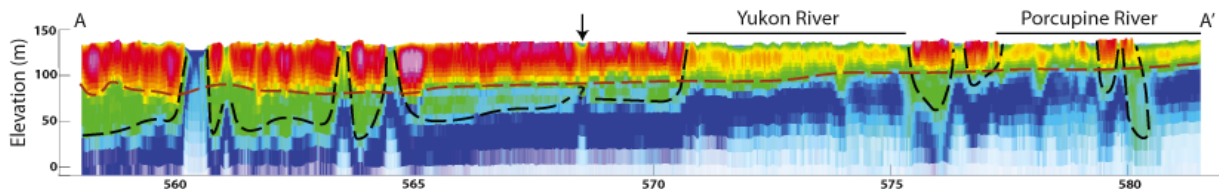
Perennially frozen ground is estimated to cover about 85 percent of the state of Alaska where northern reaches are underlain with continuous permafrost and parts of interior Alaska are underlain by areas of discontinuous and (or) sporadic permafrost. Permafrost is a key control of hydrologic systems, preventing flow of water downwards where present, and focusing flow of deep groundwater upwards where absent. It is clear that northern ecosystems are responding rapidly to climate warming and much of this change may be due to degradation of permafrost that influences these hydrologic pathways. Understanding the role of permafrost in controlling subsurface water routing is therefore central to assessing potential climate change impacts on vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, streamflow, and aquatic chemical exports.



In order to understand effects of permafrost thaw on groundwater flow and surface-water chemistry, Michelle Walvoord and colleagues developed a regional groundwater flow and transport model that links permafrost thaw to changes in groundwater flow and transport. As a part of the groundwater modeling effort, Jared Abraham and others mapped the permafrost in a portion of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3133/>).

USGS conducted an airborne electromagnetic (AEM) survey near Fort Yukon, Alaska. The primary focus of this survey was to map the distribution of permafrost in selected areas in order to supply information for the development of groundwater model. Approximately 1,800 line kilometers were acquired in a combination of typical block style surveying in the immediate area of Fort Yukon and in long reconnaissance lines over a broader area. The widely spaced lines were flown to cross the modern Yukon River in "X" like patterns with intersections at features that have been previously studied.

AEM is used to gather data on the electrical resistivity of materials in the subsurface. The data are then analyzed to interpret the subsurface lithology and the location and extent of permafrost. For this survey, the resistivity was imaged to depths of 50–100 meters. Electrical properties of earth materials are affected by lithology as well as temperature and the presence of ice; frozen materials become substantially more resistive. This allows for the identification of permafrost from the resistivity image



The figure above shows a resistivity cross section along an approximately 25 km long transect (x-axis is in km). The downward-pointing arrow indicates the location of a sinuous side channel of the Yukon River that also is evident as a shallow low-resistivity zone. Interpreted lithologic and permafrost boundaries are superimposed as dashed lines, with the red line showing the silt-gravel contact and the black line showing the bottom of the permafrost. Regions where the permafrost boundary extends to the surface are known as taliks, which are locations of perennially unfrozen ground often underlying thermokarst lakes in which the deep water does not freeze during the winter.

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**Joyce Biesecker** writes, “**Charles**, I just happened to think today that the May newsletter might be online, so I checked – and there it was. I haven’t had a chance to read it completely yet, but what I’ve seen is great! Jim would be proud. Thank you so much for taking on this challenge. I’ll make sure that each of my sons gets a copy. Hope the chemo isn’t wearing you down too terribly. Give me a call when you are up to it.”

**Bill and Shirley Boning** say, “We returned June 10 from a 2-week river cruise in Eastern Europe. The trip began in Bucharest, capital of Romania. Bucharest, as do many of the places we visited, has numerous interesting buildings and things to see and do. The city has the “People’s Palace,” of a size exceeded only by the Pentagon of Washington, DC. From Bucharest, we traveled to Constanta, Romania, which is on the Black Sea. Constanta seems to be a rather depressed city. Our visit to Constanta was by bus, as the lower Danube is so braided that it would be difficult for cruise ships to pass. After leaving Constanta, we traveled back west, and boarded our Vantage cruise ship for the rest of our trip which was on the Danube River. Other countries we stopped at were Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, and several days at the end of the cruise in Hungary. On the part of the cruise that was marked by Romania on the north and Bulgaria on the south, we passed the “Iron Gates” of the Danube where the river flows through narrow gorges and is quite scenic. In the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade is a well known city, with an historic fortress, and it was in Belgrade that we took a ride on the “Blue Train,” which is former President Joseph Tito’s private train. Croatia is also a depressed country and is still recovering from the 1991-95 “Homeland War” – the Croatian War of Independence. Numerous buildings are still in ruins. In Croatia, we visited the city of Osijek with colorful Art Nouveau buildings. In Pecs, Hungary, we toured the Basilica of St. Peter and the Roman Necropolis, UNESCO World Heritage sites. We also visited the city of Kalocsa, which is considered the paprika capital of the world. Budapest is a very interesting and scenic city. On the Buda side the Fisherman’s Bastion and St. Mathias Church are quite impressive, and on the Pest side our tour included Heroes’ Square and the Hungarian State Opera House. We had a great time, and are looking forward to our next river cruise.”

**Bob Boulger** sent a contribution to the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship Fund and said he sincerely appreciates the investment and participation that the Retirees provide in the development of future hydrologic technicians.

**Angel Class** says, “I enjoy the newsletter. We are fairly well and having good weather here on the island.”

**Dale Cotter** writes, “Keep up the great work.”

**John Crippen** says, “**Eleanor** and I don’t travel as much as we did a few years ago, but we enjoy many happy memories of our working years. We have been fortunate to have had so many good friends during the work years and to have enjoyed our work experiences.”

**Dave Dawdy** reports, “The Dawdy family is doing fine. **Doris** had a stroke a year and a half ago but is still active. I just had a paper published in ASCE on the history of regional flood frequency methods in the USA. Co-authors were Veronica Griffis, a student of Jere Stedinger, now at Michigan Tech, and Vijay Gupta of the University of Colorado. I also had a poster at the EWRI meeting in Albuquerque on gravel transport in streams. It was presented by Prof Leonard Sklar of San Francisco State, the senior author. It is based on data collected in the Klamath basin when I was a consultant for the Forest Service on a Federal Water Rights case. I’m still working on the problem of gravel transport. Incidentally, I am now a full-fledged member of ASCE. I became a life Associate Member. However, after I won the Arid Zones Hydrology Award in 1999 and the Ven Te Chow Award in 2006, I guess the ASCE didn’t think my history degree should be an impediment after all. They said I was eligible to be a Fellow in 5 years. So by the time I am 90 maybe I’ll make it, if any of those who might nominate me are still alive! We enjoy the Retirees newsletter. Keep it coming.”

**Sharon Goss** writes: “**Rick** & I are almost finished with the remodeling of our 1877 home in Sullivan, IN. We finally have a fully functional kitchen! I love it! I am looking forward to having everything done so we can start entertaining. Since we are doing most of the work ourselves and enjoy semi-retirement, we take many breaks. Our home is one of the historical homes in town. It was owned by a lawyer who had Benjamin Harrison as a guest when he was nominated by his party to run for president. Pictures of the progress are on my Facebook page. Rick subs frequently at a local high school. He attempted Kindergarten a few times, but was totally exhausted by the end of the day so he no longer does elementary. He has become the “Mr. Goss is our favorite sub!” at the high school so he has to decline many requests. Both of us are very involved in a mentoring organization for at-risk 7th and 8th grade students. I am the Coordinator/Director of the not-for-profit organization Stair Steps to Success and Rick is the President of the Board of Directors. Rick & I both started as mentors 4 years ago. More information

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about the organization can be found at: [www.stairstepstosuccess.com](http://www.stairstepstosuccess.com). We also bowl on Wednesdays on a seniors' league where we think we are the youngest. There are people in their 80's who bowl better than us!! I was recently asked to join a local literary club, the Friday Afternoon Club, which has been in continual existence in Sullivan for 112 years. It has been a very good source of local history. We are also kept busy by helping on various activities at our church. Our daughter Kyla, an architect, now lives in Chicago so I get to visit her more frequently and get to enjoy the big-city life (we have one stop light in the "city" of Sullivan!). We are going to Rick's 45th high school reunion in May in San Antonio. At the same time we will stay at one of the original family homesteads in Kerrville, TX. Several of his family members, including his daughter Sarah and grandson Ryan, will visit us over Memorial Day weekend. We plan to visit Rick's aunt and uncle in Montana after the reunion in Idaho. That will then leave me with only one State to go before I have visited all 50. Maybe the next reunion can be in Hawaii! We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the reunion in September."

**Irving "Butch" Grossman** writes, "Please note that the telephone number listed for me in the latest—Thirty-Eighth Edition of the WRD Retirees Directory is incorrect. My correct number is 610 359-8786. The Directory is great and so is the Newsletter. Keep up the good work. With all good wishes."

**Polly Keyes** says, "Thank you for the recent copy of the "WRD Retirees Newsletter." It is my duty to inform you that I no longer live in Arvada and have returned to live in the mountains—please use P.O. Box 2024, Frisco, CO 80443 as my new address for sending future copies of the newsletter. Scott (Walter Scott Keys) and I lived here in Frisco until his health demanded that we move to a lower altitude --from 9500 feet. We did enjoy almost 5 years in Arvada until his death in 2011. Thanks again."

**Fritz and June Kilpatrick** wrote to Charles Nethaway, "We know the newsletter has wide and avid readership. Good luck with your new responsibilities!"

**Hal Langford** writes to **Andy Anderson** and **Charles Nethaway**, "You are to be commended---IN SPADES--for producing such a great newsletter under trying conditions, WELL DONE!!!!!"

**Joe & Lila McIntyre** wrote, "Well folks, here it is, one of those trips of a lifetime. Three, yes, three weeks in the Caribbean, WOW!! First, to the Dominican Republic at the Hard Rock Resort; snorkeling, swimming, swimming with dolphins, (man, are they powerful swimmers. They pull you through the water like you were a feather weight), an ATV tour through the jungle, rough ride but fun. And, of course, lying in the hot tropical sun getting the tourist's tan (sunburn)." Next a flight to Miami, then to a tiny island off the coast of Mexico near Cancun named Isla Mujeres (island of women). This was our all time favorite week. The resort is small, only 62 rooms, almost like having our own private resort. The island is 5 miles long and ½ mile wide at the widest point. The most beautiful water you have ever seen. The little dining area was about 30 feet from the ocean and always had a nice breeze. The food was gourmet taste and preparation and the staff was the most friendly we have ever had. There was a short pier with a cabana where you could just lie in the shade and rest, sleep or read, and the water was warm and calm. We took 2 boat tours around the island and the boat picked us up right at our pier. We also rented a golf cart for 2 of the days and toured the whole island twice. Visited the sea turtle rescue. Had the ultimate snorkeling experience at Punta Norte in a little lagoon sheltered by a reef. Hundreds of fish swam all around us and it was shallow enough to walk around in it. Unfortunately, my short wife had the bag with our second camera (the first was stolen in the Dominican Republic) and our cell phone and as we waded across the lagoon the bag drug in the water. Scratch another camera and the cell phone. Needless to say, we don't have many pictures of the trip. Anyway this island is so nice I would live there!! "Week three, was south of Playa del Carman (basically, Cancun South) to the Aventura Spa Resort. Yes, it is what the name implies, steam room, sauna, massages, pedicures, manicures, body scrubs, facials, etc., etc. Man it was a tough life but I'm glad we had to do it!! All of the resorts had iguanas roaming around plus fish and birds that wanted to have meals with us. We also saw wild monkeys at this resort and Aguti's (small rodent like critters) roamed the forests. For a little excitement, we went to XPLOR, sort of a theme park. We, at 71 years young, did 10 zip lines, two underground lake self-paddle tours, and an ATV tour through the jungle and some of the caverns. Do you know how you get up to the zip line towers? I'll let you in on a little secret, there ain't no elevators! Needless to say we were a bit tired at the end of the day. On our last day of the 3 weeks, we got to have our pictures taken with a baby tiger, chance of a lifetime. To really put a great end to our trip, we had a special romantic dinner by the ocean with filet and lobster. P.S. this was also the day before Mother's day."

**Patrick Muffler** of the Geologic Division Retirees sends us his activities: "In response to the request in the latest communication from Geologic Division Retirees, here's what I am doing. I apologize if this repeats anything sent in

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previously. Since I retired as Western Regional Geologist in 2001, I have served as a Scientist Emeritus with the Volcano Hazards Team (now morphed to the Volcano Science Center), volunteering about 25 hours a week when I am in Menlo Park. My focus is the volcanic geology of the Lassen Region of northeast California, where I have worked off-and-on with **Mike Clynne** for 37 years (interrupted a lot by geothermal and managerial tasks). Our major product is a 1:50,000 map of Lassen Volcanic National Park and Vicinity (SIM 2899, published in 2010 [6.3 years in editing and production after Team approval!]). Since my retirement, Mike and I have also published two topical papers (age of Hat Creek Basalt; Poison Lake Chain), a number of abstracts for posters and talks, and are in the final throes of a tortuous volcano-hazard assessment of the Lassen region. Currently, I am heavily involved with a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with Pacific Gas and Electric Corporation aimed at producing a geologic framework for the company's evaluation of seismic hazard to the Pit No 3 dam on the Pit River at Lake Britton. Andy Calvert is the leader of the CRADA, and we are joined by Duane Champion and Mike Clynne. The first year's progress was good, with a map of the tholeiitic basalt of Rocky Ledge (~200 ka), some spectacular paleomagnetic and chemical data discriminating low-potassium olivine tholeiites (LKOTs), and reliable dates on the tholeiitic basalt of Sam Wolfen Spring (~650 ka) and the newly recognized tholeiitic basalt of Rock Spring (~550 ka). This might sound pretty pedestrian, until one realizes that it is just about impossible to distinguish these tholeiitic basalts in the field or petrographically. I also have a 2012 Bradley grant to prepare a geologic map at 1:24,000 of the Cascade volcanic arc between the Thousand Lakes Wilderness Area and Burney Mountain (~240 ka by old K-Ar). This area encompasses a poorly understood part of the arc, part of which was mapped in 1981 under the Geothermal Research Program by me, Ingvar Fridleifsson (Icelandic National Energy Authority), and Mike Clynne, but never published. I now have put the 1981 analog map (compiled on orthophotoquads) into ArcGIS, and I shall field-check it extensively this summer. Finally, I serve as an advisor to Lassen Volcanic National Park on hot-spring and fumarole issues, most recently preparing (with Mike Clynne) a report documenting investigative augering by the Federal Highway Administration into California Hwy 89 where it crosses the Sulphur Works fumarole area. The drilling created a fumarole in the middle of the road—a bit of a challenge to repair.

“Other than USGS stuff, I serve on the Board of Trustees of the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology at the Webb Schools in Claremont, CA (the only fully accredited museum in the United States on a high school campus). I also serve most years as a volunteer geologist/naturalist for National Geographic/Lindblad cruises on 61-passenger vessels, primarily in SE Alaska but occasionally along the Columbia and Snake Rivers. I am active in emergency preparedness in Palo Alto and in Santa Clara County, primarily as an emergency ham-radio operator. My wife, **Pat**, and I travel a lot, primarily to Maui, the wine-country of the Pacific Northwest, Paso Robles CA, and France. Finally, two young (7 and 2) grandsons keep us hopping.”

**Clint Nagel** writes, “The idea about a Newsletter Supplement is a great one.”

**Charles Nethaway** tells us that he is more than halfway through his chemotherapy. The last session will be October 1, and he expects a complete response, good for a few years, until he does it all over again. “I want to thank all of you for sending me your best wishes. I plan to be at the Boise Reunion! See you there!”

**Darla Straka** says, “I had to change my email address because spammers were filling up my inbox with crap. I tried to notify everyone that I wanted to have my address but forgot about the Retirees group, so the directory has been published with my old email address. When you send out another newsletter, please include my new email address and send me a copy of any Newsletters that have been distributed since March 2012.”

“I survived last year's Monument Fire in the Huachuca Mountains, Cochise County, AZ. The fire burned within ½ mile of my house and we were sweating bullets that it was going to take out our entire neighborhood. If we don't get a monsoon season this summer, I am afraid we might be fighting more fires in this area. It has been very dry here and there is a lot of dry grass that burns like it has been dosed with gasoline. I hope everyone has a good summer.”

**Chet Zenone** writes to **Charles Nethaway**, “Kudos on your inaugural "voyage" as editor of the WRD Retirees Newsletter. The new issue is evidence that you will continue the high standard for the Newsletter set by our good friend Jim Biesecker. The collection of letters, notes and remembrances to and about Jim was a treat, and 'twas an appropriate and classy touch to allow Joyce to offer the final words.”

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### **Edwin "Ed" Weeks Retires**

**By Rick Healy**

On June 29, 2012, Ed Weeks will officially retire after more than 54 years of service to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ed is an icon in the field of subsurface hydrology, having authored seminal works in groundwater hydraulics, gas movement through the unsaturated zone, and evapotranspiration. He has been an inspiration to generations of scientists, unselfishly mentoring many a young hydrologist. He will be missed for his wisdom and wit and friendly demeanor. We are fortunate that Ed will continue to conduct research as a USGS emeritus scientist.

After graduating from Colorado School of Mines, Ed was offered two positions within the USGS: to work on the Little Plover River project in Central Wisconsin and the Wheatland Flats irrigation study in Wyoming. He accepted the latter position and entered on duty with the Wyoming District of the Ground-Water Branch on June 16, 1958. Three years later, he was again offered the position on the Little Plover project, and in 1962 Ed moved to Madison. The project is documented in two water-supply papers and a 16-mm movie (OFR 63-134).

In 1968, Ed and family headed back to Colorado, where Ed succeeded Bob Stallman as chief of the Multiphase Flow project, under the Regional Research Hydrologist. The Ground-water Branch pulled Ed back to headquarters in 1972. Ed returned to research by agreeing to move to Lubbock, Texas to oversee the large-scale artificial recharge project. While in Lubbock, Ed initiated a study of the use of barometric fluctuations to estimate hydraulic conductivity and conducted some of the first experiments to use CFCs as tracers in the unsaturated zone - work for which he was subsequently awarded the O.E. Meinzer Award from the Geological Society of America.

In 1979, Ed returned to Denver to head up the Unsaturated-Zone Field Studies project. Ed helped in developing the eddy-correlation method for estimating evapotranspiration and initiated a study of water use by tamarisk in the Pecos River flood plain. Ed's interest in the flow of gases within the unsaturated zone brought him to Yucca Mountain and the study of the suitability of the site for disposal of high-level radioactive waste. Ed identified a previously unreported mechanism for potential radionuclide transport - soil gas movement due to topographic effects.

Ed's current research is involved with looking at hydraulic properties of coal seams in areas of coal-bed methane development. In addition to the Meinzer Award, Ed has received the Department of Interior Distinguished Service Award. Ed plans on continuing his research in an emeritus role and doing more hiking and traveling.

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### **Texas WRD Retirees Newsletter**

**By CT Welborn, Secretary-Treasurer**

It was decided to meet in Blanco, TX, for our April meeting with the hope that we could get some members from San Antonio, Fredericksburg, and Blanco. We were pretty successful in that we were able to have 11 members show up. Those that made it to Blanco were: Bob and Libby Burchett, Stan and Virginia Sauer, Paul Rohne, Willard Gibbons, Frank and Cindy Wells, Jack and Velma Rawson, and CT Welborn. We were glad to see all these members, especially Jack and Velma, Frank and Cindy and Stan and Virginia. It's been a while since we seen them.

Bob open the session by wishing everyone a good morning. Bob related about his recent trip to Tennessee to visit his children and granddaughter. Granddaughter, Alex, is doing well in basketball at her college.

Jack said that is staying close to home and visiting the grandchildren.

Willard showed us his photo lab. He is very proud of his lay out. He has some expensive equipment to turn out the many beautiful pictures that he showed us. We were taking pictures of his pictures.

CT is keeping busy around Dixie's house. He is building cages to protect her 4'x4' plant and flower beds. They are constructed of 1"x 2" lumber and hardware cloth. This will keep the birds and animals out. Unfortunately, bugs can get in. He is getting behind in his chores. He has 3 or 4 dead trees to cut down. CT's oldest daughter, Frances will be working in a gift shop in Yellow Stone National Park near Old Faithful. CT plans to visit Yellow Stone after the Reunion in September.

CT got a call from one of our early members, Wallace Robbins. We haven't heard from him and Bernadine in quite some time. He was inquiring about the check he sent for dues. There was some mix up in that some checks were stolen. Wallace is 90 or 91. Wallace told CT his age but he can't remember. Boy I'm glad I can remember everything. They are doing well for 90 or 91.

Wallace is our oldest member. There may be some spouses older. CT hasn't kept up.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 16, 2012, at Rufi's, located on 11800 N Lamar at 0930 hours. Coat and tie not required.



## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

### New Mexico USGS Retirees Meeting Albuquerque, April 11, 2012

Provided by Richard Lepp

These pictures were taken by Kim Ong at the quarterly meeting at Week's Restaurant in Albuquerque. There were 22 people present. Three of the people were from the local office. They updated the retirees on re-organization and studies that were currently underway. Those from the office were Rodger Ferreira, Doug McAda, and Nathan Myers.

The retirees and spouses attending were Richard and Aurora Lepp, Elsie Sanchez, Pat and Dolores Borland, Bobbie Cloud, Dale Rankin, Barbara J Henson, Jack Venhuis, David Ortiz, Roy and Nora Cruz, Bob Knutilla, Bob Tribble, Kim Ong, Rick Sanchez, Herb and Pat Grossman, and Tera Sanchez.



L to R: Dale Rankin, Barbara Henson, Jack Venhuis, David Ortiz, and Nora Cruz



L to R: Rick Sanchez, Herb Grossman, Richard Lepp, Aurora Lepp, and Nathan Myers (still working at USGS)



L to R: Jack Venhuis, David Ortiz, Nora Cruz, Roy Cruz, Bob Knutilla, and Doug McAda (still working at USGS)

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS



L to R: Nathan Myers, Elsie Sanchez, Pat and Dolores Borland, Bobbie Cloud, Dale Rankin, and Barbara Henson



L to R: Bob Tribble, Rodger Ferreira (still working at USGS), Kim Ong, Tera Sanchez, and Pat Grossman

### **Nevada's WRD Luncheon Honors Craig and VaDonna Bentley**

The Nevada WRD Retirees had their May luncheon at the home of Dave and Virginia Bauer in northwest Las Vegas. Dave was not able to attend due to illness; therefore, Virginia hosted the luncheon. The luncheon honored Craig and VaDonna Bentley who were leaving the Las Vegas area and moving to Grand Junction, Colorado on May 7th. They will be greatly missed as they never missed a luncheon. The picture shows the attendees in the backyard of the Bauers' home.



L to R: Charles Morgan, Gerald Magner, Pauline Morgan, VaDonna Bentley, Craig Bentley, Gerda Seaber, Louise Lupton, and Virginia Bauer.

**SIXTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2012**  
**Boise, Idaho**  
**Thursday, September 20th through Saturday, September 22nd, 2012**

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### Hotel and transportation from airport

The Reunion will be held at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel in downtown Boise. The hotel has 100 guestrooms. Special amenities include in-room coffee makers, hospitality bar, hair dryers, irons and ironing boards, cable television, high speed wireless Internet access and executive work area.

**The Owyhee Plaza address is:** 1109 Main Street, Boise, ID 83702

**For reservations:** call **1-800-233-4611**. If you use their web site <http://www.owyheepiazza.com/> you will need to follow up with a phone call to get the USGS WRD Retirees' rate.

Room rates are \$75 for Single/Double, \$85 for Triple/Quad and \$125 for Suites. There is no charge for parking at the hotel.

Major airlines serving Boise are Southwest, United, Delta, US Airways, Frontier, Alaska, and American. The hotel has a courtesy shuttle from the airport ("Boise Shuttle Service"). Call 800-233-4611 when you arrive at the airport, then walk to the "Courtesy Shuttle" green curb right outside the baggage claim and look for the green & red vans. Also, with advance notification to the Owyhee, the Boise Shuttle Service can arrange for access-available vehicles. The airport is located just 15-minutes from downtown and there are several taxi services available.

If attendance exceeds the space available at The Owyhee, please contact Kathy Peter (kdpeter@gmail.com or 208-761-2989) for suggestions. There are several nearby hotels that are within easy walking distance of the Owyhee.

### Please register and make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

Registration for the Reunion and Hotel Reservations must be made by August 15, 2012. To register, please print, complete, and mail the form at the end of this message or print the online form at:

<http://www.wrretirees.org/Reunion2012>

You can pay by check or with a credit card by going to [www.PayPal.com](http://www.PayPal.com) clicking "Send Money" and make an online payment to the email address [WRD.Reunion.2012@gmail.com](mailto:WRD.Reunion.2012@gmail.com)

### Weather

Boise is a great place to visit in September, temperatures average in the high 70s during the afternoon and in the low 50s at night. The altitude of downtown Boise is about 2500 feet. Located near the western boundary of the Mountain Time Zone, sunset in late September is about 7:40 PM, making for long, cool, lovely evenings in Boise. Downtown Boise is alive in the evenings because of the numerous restaurants, bars, movie theaters, and clubs.

### Schedule of events

#### **Thursday, September 20, 2012**

##### **"The Escape" Full Day North Fork Cabarton Reach of the Payette River**

**Float Trip 8 AM - 5 PM:** Requires arrival in Boise no later than Wednesday, September 19, 2012. This tour will be an all-day float trip with Cascade Raft and Kayak Company of the Cabarton Reach of the North Fork of the Payette River. "Spectacular scenery with glimpses of Idaho's abundant wildlife highlight this full-day trip as you glide through eleven miles of dense, remote forest. Relax in the warm water, enjoy your delicious riverside lunch on this Class II-III section, and let the river wash the world away." Lunch, life-vests and cold-water gear (if needed) are included in the payment to Cascade Raft and Kayak Company. Please note, you must make reservations with the



**Cascade Raft and Kayak Company.** Specific contact information is on the registration form. \$85 for Float, \$25 for transportation from hotel to launch and from take-out.

**Reunion Check-in: Noon to 6 PM.**

(Official hotel room check-in time is 3:00 PM). Information packages containing Reunion functions will be available at a 'Reunion check-in' desk between 12 PM and 6 PM. The Hospitality Room will open at 12 PM. Included in registration.

**Informal Reunion 'kick-off' gathering 6 PM to 9 PM** will include a free 1<sup>st</sup> drink coupon for those participating in the kick-off gathering, a cash bar, and plentiful hors d'ouvres. \$25.

***Friday, September 21, 2012:***

**Business Meeting, 9 AM to 11 AM** All retirees and spouses are invited to participate in the business meeting. Agenda for the meeting will follow at a later date. Included in registration.

***Afternoon of free time to tour Boise on your own.***

**Optional Tour of Snake River wineries and orchards - 1 PM to 6 PM.** This tour will travel southwest of Boise to visit the West Snake River Valley Wine Country. Long known for its fruit orchards, more than two dozen wineries in this part of the Snake River Valley take advantage of the soils, climate, and irrigation water to produce a variety of wines. It is also the perfect time of year to try some local apples and other fruit. Transportation is \$30. Cost does not include any tasting fees that may be charged.

**Dinner on your own** There are many good restaurants within a short walk of the Hotel, including the dining room in the Owyhee Plaza.

***Saturday, September 22, 2012***

**Optional Tour Birds of Prey 8:45 AM to 5 PM** This tour will include a visit to the Peregrine Fund's World Center of Birds of Prey, Swan Falls Dam, and Canyon viewing area. The Peregrine Fund is a non-political, solution-oriented, and hands-on organization, with a mission to restore rare species through captive breeding and releases, improve capacity for local conservation, conduct scientific research and environmental education, and conserve habitat. The Velma Morrison Interpretive Center is a part of the World Center for Birds of Prey where visitors can enjoy seeing a number of raptors and learn about raptor biology, raptor behavior, falconry, and the various projects of The Peregrine Fund. You will see birds up close and flying demonstrations. Please see Bruce Parks excellent description of the Birds of Prey Center in the February newsletter and his work there as a volunteer or the Birds of Prey website. \$40; transportation, lunch, and the Center entrance fee are included. Walking on flat surfaces, some dirt.



**Optional Tour Boise "The City of Trees" 8:45 AM to 5 PM** This tour will take you around historic Boise and include stops at the Old Penitentiary, the MK Nature Center, and the Basque Center. \$40; transportation, entrance fees, and lunch are included. Walking on flat surfaces, mostly paved.

**Gala Banquet: 6 PM to 10 PM** -- Will include closing remarks by the WRD Retirees' President, and awards ceremony. \$35

***Sunday, September 23, 2012 - Tuesday September 25, 2012 Optional Reunion Post Trip to Sun Valley***

You will spend two nights at the [Sun Valley Resort](#), seen in classic movies like "Sun Valley Serenade" and site of the annual gathering of media moguls, the "Allen & Co. Sun Valley Conference", or a Ketchum hotel of your choice. The Resort is adjacent to the historic town of Ketchum on the Big Wood River, one of the top trout streams in Idaho. The bus trip from Boise will take you over Banner Summit to the upper Salmon Basin, through Stanley, past the Sawtooth Mountains, and over Galena Pass down the Big Wood River Valley to

Ketchum. The return trip will take a different route, traveling by way of the famous Thousand Springs of the Snake River Canyon near Hagerman.

Enjoy all that the beautiful Sun Valley has to offer. Swim in one of the resorts three swimming pools, including glass-enclosed hot pools. Shop in the Village or visit downtown Ketchum (using the free shuttle bus or walking on the bike path) to check out the shops, galleries, and unique restaurants. You also can rent bikes at the resort and take the bike trail into town and for many miles along the Wood River. It isn't too hilly (unless you decide to cross the pass to the Salmon River Basin!), and is a great way to enjoy that fresh air. If you like to chase a little white ball while you are walking, reserve a tee time at the Resort course, recognized by Golf Digest as one of the top 75 resort courses in North America. Clubs are available for rental. Be sure to check out the Duchin Lounge and see how many of the celebrities you can identify in the historic photos in the hallways of the Lodge. Don't miss Lucy and little Ricky!

The cost covers the bus and box lunches and drinks for the trip over and back.

You will stay at the Sun Valley Resort for 2 nights, check in on 9/23/2012 at 4 PM and check out 9/25/2012. You have a choice of rooms and condominiums. The Lodge is the beautiful, historic main building that is adjacent to the ice skating rinks and houses the Duchin Lounge. The Inn rooms are also lovely and a short walk from the Lodge. The Condominiums have multiple bedrooms, are within walking distance, and there is a free shuttle around the resort and downtown. We did not reserve a block because they required a non-refundable down payment on the block and we expect rooms to be available because late September weekends are not in a high demand season, and you get the flexibility to choose rooms that fit your needs.

To reserve at the Resort, call the hotel directly at 1-800-786-8259 or register online at:

<http://www.sunvalley.com/trip-planner/lodging/>

When you make your reservation you will be charged for the first night. That charge is refundable (minus a \$25 cancellation fee) if you cancel more than 30 days before scheduled check in on the 23rd.

Or, look for other lodging in downtown Ketchum at: <http://www.sunvalleyreservations.com/lodging>

Be sure to specify downtown; the bus will drop you off and pick you up on Tuesday.

*\$150.00 for bus and box lunches.* The bus will leave Boise on Sunday (September 23) at 9:00 AM and leave Sun Valley to return to Boise at 9:00 AM on Tuesday (September 25). Estimated return to Boise is 4:00 PM, so plan flights accordingly.

### **For More Information:**

Kathy Peter, Chair (ID) [kdpeter@gmail.com](mailto:kdpeter@gmail.com) 208-761-2989

Dan Ackerman (ID) [ackerman@cableone.net](mailto:ackerman@cableone.net)

Dave Appel (WA) [appeldh@colfax.com](mailto:appeldh@colfax.com)

John Briggs (OR) [jcbriggs2@comcast.net](mailto:jcbriggs2@comcast.net)

Bill Emmett (CO) [WilliamWEmmett@gmail.com](mailto:WilliamWEmmett@gmail.com)

Pauline Morgan (NV) [Com112831@aol.com](mailto:Com112831@aol.com)

Bruce Parks (ID) [parksbruce@yahoo.com](mailto:parksbruce@yahoo.com)

Deb Parliman (ID) [dparliman@yahoo.com](mailto:dparliman@yahoo.com)

Ivalou O'Dell [ivalou@cableone.net](mailto:ivalou@cableone.net)

Chet Zenone (OR) [chetwrz@live.com](mailto:chetwrz@live.com)

**SIXTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2012**

**Boise, Idaho**

**Thursday, September 20th through Saturday, September 22nd, 2012**

Complete the following form, keep a copy, and mail the completed form, with your check payable to "WRD Retirees 2012" to:

WRD Retirees Reunion  
c/o Kathy D. Peter  
11208 W. Hickory Bark Dr.  
Boise, ID 83713

You can pay with a credit card using PayPal by [clicking here](#) and send the payment to the email address [WRD.Reunion.2012@gmail.com](mailto:WRD.Reunion.2012@gmail.com)

**REGISTRATION—DEADLINE AUGUST 15, 2012** - Refunds are available prior to the August 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Registration Fee</b>	Number _____ @ \$40 per person	\$ _____
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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012**

<b>"The Escape" North Fork Cabarton Reach of the Payette River Float Trip: cost \$85 to the Raft company.</b> Reserve directly with: Cascade Raft and Kayak, <a href="http://www.cascaderaft.com">www.cascaderaft.com</a> , Phone 800.292.7238 (8 am to 5 pm) <b>Reunion-provided Bus transportation cost is \$25</b>	Number: _____ @ \$25 per person for bus	\$ _____
<b>Informal Reunion 'kick-off' gathering 6 PM to 9 PM</b> (cash bar after 1 <sup>st</sup> drink)	Number _____ @ \$25 per person	\$ _____

**TOUR** Busses are reserved for each tour. Cancelled tours due to lack of participation will either be refunded or we will try to accommodate the participants in the remaining tour.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2012 (Afternoon Optional Activity)**

<b>Tour of Snake River wineries and orchards. 1 to 6 PM</b>	Number: _____ @ \$30 per person	\$ _____
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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2012**

	Number @ \$40 per person and lunch choice			
	Ham and Swiss	Turkey and Cheddar	Vegetarian	
<b>Birds of Prey 8:45 AM to 5 PM</b>				\$ _____
<b>The City of Trees 8:45 AM to 5 PM</b>				\$ _____
<b>Saturday Gala Banquet 6 to 10 PM</b>	Number attending _____ @ \$35 per person			
	Prime Rib	Salmon	Vegetarian	\$ _____

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2012 - TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2012** Optional Reunion Post Trip to Sun Valley. Please refer back to 'REUNION POST TRIP -- Sun Valley Resort' for accommodations cost.

Transportation to and from Sun Valley (see details for hotel above).	Number attending _____ @ \$150 per person	\$ _____
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<b>Total (registration, reception, banquet, tours)</b>	\$ _____
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Questions? [WRD.Reunion.2012@gmail.com](mailto:WRD.Reunion.2012@gmail.com) or call Kathy Peter at 208-761-2989

Registrations as of 7/30/2012  
Watch the Reunion 2012 page for updates.

	Payette River Float Trip	Reunion kick-off gathering	Winery Tour	Birds Of Prey Tour	City Of Trees	Sun Valley Transport ation	Banquet
Blalock, Merritt		X			X		
Blalock, Mindy		X			X		
Feese, Jerry	X	X			X		X
Swindell, Robilea	X	X			X		X
Bailey, Zelda		X	X		X		X
Boning, Bill		X	X		X		X
Boning, Shirley		X	X		X		X
Tucci, Pat		X	X		X		X
Bengston, Barb	X	X	X		X		X
Carswell, Bill	X	X	X		X		X
Carswell, Linda	X	X	X		X		X
Goss, Rick	X	X	X		X		X
Goss, Sharon	X	X	X		X		X
James, Ivan	X	X	X		X		X
James, Sara	X	X	X		X		X
Kratz, Jim	X	X	X		X		X
Meeder, Ernie	X	X	X		X		X
Thompson, Judy	X	X	X		X		X
Schoen, Jean		X	X		X	X	X
Schoen, Robert		X	X		X	X	X
Ward, Janice		X	X			X	X
Swisshelm, Dick	X	X	X	X		X	X
Swisshelm, Sheri	X	X	X	X		X	X
Peter, Fred		X					
Peter, Kathy		X					X
De Fontaines, Isabelle		X	X	X			
Stiltner, Gloria							X
Doonan, Glenn		X					X
Kalen, Gail		X					X
Knutilla, Bob		X					X
Knutilla, Shirlee		X					X
Mann, Bill		X					X
Mann, Helene		X					X
McAlwee, Pat		X					X
Appel, Alice		X	X				X
Appel, Dave		X	X				X
Bast, Dotty		X	X				X
Bast, Tom		X	X				X
Buchett, Libby		X	X				X

Burchett, Bob		X	X				X
Cowing, Derrill		X	X				X
Cowing, Mary Jean		X	X				X
Freiberger, Herb		X	X				X
Freiberger, Pat		X	X				X
Singer, John		X	X				X
Singer, Micki		X	X				X
Weeks, Jack		X	X				X
Weeks, Judy		X	X				X
O'Dell, Ivalou		X		X			X
Geiger, Linda	X			X			X
Anderson, Andy		X		X			X
Anderson, Mary		X		X			X
Duncan, Jerry		X		X			X
Duncan, Sandra		X		X			X
Hindall, Sandy		X		X			X
Hindall, Steve		X		X			X
Meckel, James		X		X			X
Meckel, Janis		X		X			X
Serio, Darryl		X		X			X
Zenone, Chet		X		X			X
Nicholas, Bonnie	X	X		X			X
Nicholas, Jim	X	X		X			X
Hanson, Ellie			X	X			X
Blakey, Jim		X	X	X			X
Blakey, Paula		X	X	X			X
Eychaner, Barb		X	X	X			X
Eychaner, Jim		X	X	X			X
Hanson, Ron		X	X	X			X
Langford, Hal		X	X	X			X
Pickering, Jack		X	X	X			X
Biesecker, Joyce	X	X	X	X			X
Borland, Dolores	X	X	X	X			X
Borland, Pat	X	X	X	X			X
Click, David	X	X	X	X			X
Click, Laurel	X	X	X	X			X
Rollo, Anita	X	X	X	X			X
Rollo, Jim	X	X	X	X			X



## Death Winked at Me

By Chuck Robinove

I walked across the northern Wyoming gravel plain on a sunny, breezy, slightly warm day. The sagebrush was widely spaced and about knee high, easy to walk around. I felt good, lunch had been delicious and filling, I was working at what I wanted to do, and all was right with the world. Carrying my pack with my rock hammer, steel tape, notebook, and sample sacks, I continued on my way from the road north toward the edge of the Dry Creek river terrace where I intended to measure the thickness of the gravel layer at the riverbank. I'm a geologist; that's one of the things I do. I had gone about a 100 yards when a feeling came over me and overwhelmed me and brought me to a stop.

I knew that I was going to die. I had no doubt of that. I knew it deep within me. Nothing had changed. But I knew, without a shadow of a doubt, that I was going to die. I couldn't move. If I took one more step, I was going to die.

I couldn't move my feet; that would be fatal. I turned my body and looked around me to see what had happened to pin me to the spot. At first I saw only gravel, sagebrush, and the sky. I looked all around me and then I saw it.

About 4 feet behind me and a couple of feet to the left of my track was a wooden board about a foot long and about half a foot wide with a sharpened stake nailed to its middle. I had seen it but it hadn't registered and I had walked right by it. I couldn't see any words, but it was obviously a sign that had fallen over on its face. It was a sign that I would die if I didn't do the right thing. I knew what I had to do, and I hoped I could do it.

I looked over my shoulder and very slowly and carefully I walked backward trying with all my willpower to make sure that I stepped only in the tracks that I had made when I walked forward. When I was about 10 feet away from the sign, I turned and walked faster for about another 20 feet. Then, I picked up large pieces of gravel and started to throw them at an area ahead of where I had stopped. I threw 5 rocks, 10 rocks, 15 rocks. And then it happened. The explosion confirmed my worst fears.

A rock smashing on the ground had finally set off the shotgun shell that had been buried in a very shallow hole and covered over with dirt. It had been planted to kill a coyote by shooting cyanide pellets in his mouth when he sniffed and dug around the baited trap. I had almost stepped on it and if I had I would have gotten the load of cyanide.

How did I know? I didn't, really. But I knew about such traps and had seen them before. Usually the trapper placed several signs around the trap to warn people where they were. Coyotes can't read. But where I was walking, it was likely that I was the only person who had needed to walk there since the trap was planted, perhaps as long as a year ago. This one had only one sign and it had blown over and fallen on its face. But that was enough for my subconscious to recognize it for what it was. Not enough to tell my conscious mind what and where the danger was but enough to bring on that overwhelming feeling of impending death. Death had winked at me and gone on his way.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Rick Allen** of Los Ranchos, NM, husband of WRD retiree Harriet Allen, died peacefully at home on July 3, 2012, after bravely facing lung cancer. Rick graduated from Wichita State University, majoring in languages. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a translator and Russian code interceptor. He then began a long career as a Creative Director and Copywriter in the field of advertising. Rick won a CLIO and nearly 100 other awards for his work from New York to Los Angeles to Albuquerque. He was a lifelong learner, particularly in the sciences, and was known for his limericks, some too bawdy to print! Rick also enjoyed painting and drawing, acting in plays, music, and puzzles. A loving spouse, father, and friend, he is also survived by his daughter Adabel Allen.

**Michael Kevin Cunningham**, age 56, of Cross Lanes, WV, passed away suddenly on the morning of Friday, June 1, 2012. He was born in Morgantown to Robert Dale and JoAnn (Murphy) Cunningham. Mike grew up in Morgantown, where he met and married Betty Joann Host. Mike was gifted in music and technology. After early retirement from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), he spent his time with family, especially his granddaughter, Gillian; keeping up with advancements in technology; riding and restoring Harley-Davidson motorcycles; music (piano, banjo and guitar); reading; and helping friends in need. Mike is united with his parents, Robert and JoAnn, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Jo; his two sons, Michael and wife, Amber; and Adam and his fiancée, Whitney; a granddaughter, Gillian; and his brother, Patrick and wife, Erin; along with nephew, Brandon, and nieces, Caitlin and Amanda.

**Louis P. "Bud" Denis**, age 84, a longtime resident of Albuquerque, NM, passed away Saturday, May 5, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Lois; children, Mark Denis and wife, Denise, Jeanette Gray, and Connie White; grandchildren, Marianne, Melissa, Matt, Kevin, Ryan, and Craig. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jean and Venie Denis, and his brother, Edward Denis. Louis served our country in the U.S. Army. He graduated from the University of Arizona, and worked for the U.S. Geological Survey for 35 years. He loved his family, bowling, baseball, and going to Hawley Lake. We want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. He will be missed. A Memorial Service was held 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 10, 2012, at French - Lomas Chapel, 10500 Lomas Blvd NE (505-275-3500). Please visit the online guestbook for Louis P. Denis at [www.RememberTheirStory.com](http://www.RememberTheirStory.com)

**Xava Willine "Billie" Dutton**, 91, passed away on February 23, 2012 at Aspen Place Assisted Living in Westminster, CO. Billie was born in Burden, KS on September 24, 1920 to James William and Gladys Laura Lippert Dutton. Her family moved to Ponca City, OK when she was 18 months old. She graduated from Ponca City High School in 1938 and went on to graduate from the University of Oklahoma in 1942. Billie then worked for Michael Baker Engineering Firm in offices in Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi and followed that as a draftsman for Union Oil. Then, in 1951, Billie joined the U.S. Geological Survey as draftsman and illustrator. When the Colorado water resources offices were consolidated into a single district, Billie became the Chief, Technical Illustrations Unit, Colorado District, working with Margaret Olsen, Bob Olmstead, and Noel Cummings. She remained in the District until retirement in 1982. Billie was a natural athlete. She was an avid snow skier, a bicycling enthusiast, and an outstanding golfer. She loved hiking in the mountains and her greatest joy came from sharing those mountains with family and friends. She made many visits to Canada, Mexico and Europe. The numerous pieces of silver jewelry she made reflected only one of her many artistic talents. She will be remembered by her family and many friends for her giving spirit, caring heart, and ever present sense of humor. Billie was preceded in death by her parents, James and Gladys Dutton, her sister E. Dee Barrington and her brother-in-law, John S. Barrington. She is survived by her niece, Sara Dee Westerheide and husband, Chuck of Stillwater, OK; her nephew J. Christopher Barrington of Broomfield, CO; her great nephews John A. Westerheide and wife Shanell of Houston, TX and C. Patrick Westerheide of Norman, OK; and her great-niece Gretta Dee Barrington of Broomfield, CO. Memorial services were held at Covenant Village in Westminster, CO on February 27 in Ponca City, OK, on March 31, 2012. Memorial Contributions in Billie's name may be made to the Benevolent Care Fund of Covenant Village of Colorado, 9153 Yarrow Street, Westminster, CO 80023. Arrangements were made under the care of Rundus Funeral Home, Broomfield, CO.

**Dewitt M Kelley**, age 94, was born on September 27, 1916, and passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2011. Dewitt was a resident of Palo Alto, California. He was survived by his wife, WRD retiree Rose I. Kelley, who passed away in January 2012. See below.

**Rose Isaacman Kelley**, age 91, retired WRD employee, passed away on January 29, 2012 in Palo Alto, California. Rose worked for WRD in California. She and her husband, Dewitt M. Kelley (see above) were married in Contra Costa, California, on December 20, 1972. She was born in Pennsylvania of parents of Russian decent. Her

## IN MEMORIAM

siblings were Edith, David, and Clara Isaacman. Rose and Dewitt lived their final years in Vi at Palo Alto, a continuing care community providing residents with a balanced lifestyle focusing on wellness and vitality.

**Yetta S. Lang**, 84, of Leawood, Kansas, passed away Saturday, May 12, 2012. Yetta was the wife of Sol Lang who retired from WRD. Sol was Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Scientific Publication and Data Management (SP&DM) when he retired. Services for Yetta were held on May 14 at The Louis Memorial Chapel. A private family burial followed. Arrangements were made at The Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO.

**Mrs. Elmer P. "Joy" Mathews**, age 99, passed away on May 12, 2012. She was the wife of the late WRD Retiree **Elmer P. Mathews** (died February 2009, age 94). Joy was a long-time resident of Asbury Place, Maryville, TN. Joy was born Rebecca Joy Grigsby on February 3, 1913 in Tennessee. Elmer was born on December 29, 1915. Elmer began his career in Chattanooga in 1940 in Chattanooga, TN, first as a junior hydrologic engineer, surface water, and later as a supervisory hydrologist. Elmer, a.k.a. Phillip, moved to Little Rock, AR in 1962 in the Data Section. He retired in June 1965. Joy graduated from the U of TN and taught high school home economics and participated in community home economics groups.

**Faye Shampine**, 72, wife of WRD Retiree Bill Shampine, passed away on June 30, 2012 in Ocala, FL. She was a Florida native and was born Verna Faye Perkins on April 23, 1940. Faye and Bill were high-school sweethearts and married after college in August 1962. Faye and Bill had two children, Eric and Dina; and five grandchildren, Cameron, Collin, Cherise, Hannah, and Meagan. Faye's degree was from the U of FL in elementary school education. After the university, Faye taught second grade until they had their first child in 1967. Bill became a USGS chemist in October 1962, after starting with USGS in May 1961 as a physical science aide. When Bill's assignment as technical advisor in hydrology took them to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Faye taught second grade at the Riyadh International Community School – some of her students spoke no English! Back in Denver and after their children were out of high school, Faye worked 10 years for the American Water Works Association while Bill was very active with WRD, including heading up the National Training Center, the Quality Assurance program, and serving as a member of the team that contributed to the Multilateral Middle East Peace Process (MEPP). Besides FL and Saudi Arabia, Bill was stationed in NY, LA, IN, GA, and CO. That Faye and Bill loved to travel is an understatement. Faye traveled to 35 different countries and went around the world once! Repeating from her memorial service, "May she rest in peace in the palm of God's hand."

**Robert Leroy "Bobby" Taylor**, age 48, long-time site administrator in the Louisiana Water Science Center, passed away peacefully at home on May 15, 2012, after an almost 2-year battle with cancer. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army with 4 years of active-duty service and 2 years of reserve duty. He was a 1982 graduate of Clinton High and a 1990 graduate of Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA. Bobby started working for the Louisiana District in 1989 as a student computer clerk, became a computer specialist in 1991, and an IT Specialist (systems administrator) in 2002. Bobby was a dedicated member of the Louisiana Water Science Center, was always professional in his work, and was always friendly and helpful to his co-workers. Those of us that knew Bobby personally will remember the cooperative and can-do attitude that he always brought to every situation. Bobby was an outstanding employee, but more than that, he understood the wisdom of a helping hand, the true power of kindness, and the gift that is hidden in every act of giving. He was an active member of Prince Hall Masonic, Mt. Zion Lodge 223, where he served as the Worship Master. He was a member of the Clinton Community Male Chorus for 22 years and an active member of the Asbury United Methodist Church, where he served on the Usher Board and as a lay leader. He was a terrific father, active in his church and local schools, and a coach and mentor to many young men in his community. He was a coach with the Clinton Community Football League and the Clinton Community Baseball League. He was an active parent volunteer in the East Feliciana Parish Public School System. He served on several committees in East Feliciana Parish. Bobby always looked at every situation as an opportunity to teach, or to learn, even up to and including this long battle with cancer. His body lost that fight, but his spirit is overwhelmingly victorious and lives on in his family, friends, and co-workers. Bobby was just as committed to his belief in God and never wavered during his trials with cancer. Survivors include his wife, Tonia Griffin-Taylor; parents, Henry A. and Betty G. Taylor; daughters, Jalen, Mia and MyKara Taylor; son, Joshua Taylor; sisters, Mildred Conrad (Samuel), Betty J. Griffin and 1 godsister, Mary Kenerson (Sam); brothers, Henry E. Taylor (Gloria), Donald Taylor (Lilly) of Clinton, LA, Ronald Taylor (Towanda) of McManus, LA, and Roderick Taylor (Janel) of Phoenix, AZ. He was preceded in death by maternal grandmother, Lena Nevitt; paternal grandparents, Josh and Piccola Taylor. Special thanks to Dr. Hilton, Dr. Miletello, Dr. Russel, Dr. Pou, the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and The Hospice of Baton Rouge. Interment was at the Asbury Community Cemetery.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Keith Leslie Walgren**, 74, of Cheyenne died July 24 at Davis Hospice Center. He was born on April 15, 1938, in Straton, Nebraska, and had lived in Cheyenne for 62 years. Keith is survived by his wife, WRD retiree Jan (Williams) Walgren, whom he met in high school. Jan has been retired for 16 years. Jan had expert knowledge of the Water Quality Data Base as it was in the 1980's and 1990's. She checked the accuracy of the water quality stations and helped produce the QW portion of the Annual Data Report for many years. Keith retired from Laramie County School District 1 as the grounds foreman after 32 years of employment. He was a member of the Airport Golf Course. He was a very good handyman and, as creative as he was, he could fix anything. Keith and Jan enjoyed traveling south in the winter. He loved to fish and camp. He was a true friend to everyone. Keith and Jan's first date was at the roller skating rink before marrying on December 16, 1956, in Cheyenne. He is also survived by two daughters, Pam Stiles (Wally) and Patty Hendershot (Bob), all of Cheyenne; a brother, Bob Walgren (Sharon) of Wauneta, NE; three sisters, Maxine Kimble (Marv) of Leesburg, GA, Evelyn Kanost of Broomfield, CO, and Janice Trefren (Joe) of Thornton, CO; four grandchildren, Chanda Whiting, Tristin Williams (Rod) and Ashley Call (Travis), all of Cheyenne, and Rhonda May of Monroe, LA; and six great-grandchildren, Isaac Reyes, Jalyne Williams, Mackenzie Call and Liam Call, all of Cheyenne, and Gracie and Milana May, both of Monroe. After his memorial service, a reception was held at the Elks Lodge. Friends who wish may contribute to Davis Hospice or the Colby Daniel Alexander Scholarship Fund. Friends may also sign his online guestbook and watch the live webcast of his services at [wrcfuneral.com](http://wrcfuneral.com).

## MEMORIAL

**Andrew Voytik**  
**1923-2012**

Andrew Voytik, 89, of Hershey, PA, passed away on Sunday, June 10, 2012, in ManoCare, Elizabethtown, PA. He was born in Sharon, PA, a son of the late Andrew, Sr. and Katherine Voytik.

From 1943 to 1945, Voytik was a WWII Army infantryman with Co. B Tank Destroyer Battalion, serving 20 of those months overseas.

Andrew began working for Voytik Construction Company in 1948 and took civil engineering courses at night at Youngstown University. Later he was a full-time student at Youngstown and graduated with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering. In September 1965, Mr. Voytik enrolled in the master's program in hydrology at Colorado State University. His master's thesis was entitled "Runoff Predictions from Arid Regions" and he graduated in June 1967.



After his master's from Colorado State, in October 1967 Andrew accepted a position with the Surface Water Branch of the USGS in Harrisburg. Many of his products were Flood Insurance Studies prepared by the USGS for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He was third author, along with C.D. Kauffman and J.T. Armbruster, of Open File Report 76-247, "Time-of-Travel Studies on the Susquehanna River, Binghamton, NY to Clarks Ferry, PA." He retired as an engineer for the USGS in Harrisburg in January 1985.

Andrew was a member of the Evangelical Free Church of Hershey and the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. He was an avid golfer and especially enjoyed antiques with his wife. Andrew is survived by his beloved wife, Helen S. (Rhinier) Voytik; stepdaughter, Barbara A. Metz of Myrtle Beach, SC; stepson, Jere Brendle of Millersville; 4 step-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation was held Thursday, June 14, 2012, in the Hoover Funeral Home in Hershey followed by a service with Pastor Daniel Witwer officiating. Private interment was in the Hershey Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorial contributions be made to "The Building Fund" of the Evangelical Free Church of Hershey, P.O. Box 648, Hershey, PA 17033. Condolences may be sent via the online guest book at [www.hooverfuneralhome.com](http://www.hooverfuneralhome.com)

By: Charles Nethaway

**Necrology List  
To be Read at 2012 Reunion**

**By Bill Boning**

A list of names is being prepared identifying those whose deaths have been learned since the last reunion in Denver 2010. Some of these deaths were as long ago as July 2008, although most of them occurred since September 2010. The names include members who retired as long ago as the early 1970's.

The list, which has about 124 names, includes 66 retiree members of WRD Retirees, 19 widowed members, 16 spouses of members, and 23 non-members. The latter were former employees of the USGS, but had not joined WRD Retirees. Undoubtedly there are additional names of members, spouses, and non-members that have passed away and some may be identified at the 2012 reunion in Boise, ID. This necrology list will be read at the reunion in Boise.

We rely on members to let us know about these deaths, so if you know of other people who have passed away who were WRD retirees or their spouses, whether they were members of our organization or not, please let us know so that we may further update our list. Send information to Bill Boning or to [wrdretirees@usgs.gov](mailto:wrdretirees@usgs.gov). We will publish these names in the Newsletter and the annual WRD Retirees Directory.

**Hydrologic Technician Scholarship Winners Announced**

Jim Blakey, one of the members of the Hydro Tech Scholarship Committee, announced in late July the three students who are receiving the 2012 Hydrologic Technician Scholarships. They are Tim Brunetto in Honolulu, Sarah Davis in Cheyenne, and Alyxander Schlafge in Austin.

In August, President Andy Anderson will be contacting these fine students and arranging for the scholarships to reach them in time for their upcoming school sessions. We will have more information about the winners and their supervisors, along with photos, in the November 2012 issue of the Newsletter. A table showing the winners, their scholarship and college, and the WSC office and supervisor is shown below.

<b>Winners of the 2012 Hydrologic Technician Scholarships</b>				
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>WSC Office</b>	<b>WSC Supervisor</b>
Tim Brunetto	\$4,000.00	Gateway College	Honolulu, HI	Ron Rickman
Sarah Davis	\$3,000.00	Western Dakota College	Cheyenne, WY	Kirk Miller
Alyxander Schlafge	\$3,000.00	Vermillion College	Austin, TX	Joe Capesius

## **MadMen & USGS/WRD The National Ad Campaign That Almost Was**

**By Jim Daniel**

What with the confluence of a number of current events, such as the return of the hit cable TV show "MadMen," on-going flaps about earmarks, and the fiercely partisan political climate, it seems an appropriate time to recount an unusual effort in the Survey that relates to all three.

In the mid-1980s, several Senators and Congressmen joined hands 'across the aisle' (when that was still done, unlike today) to establish the National Water Alliance. Key among the participants were Senators Dennis DeConcini (D-Arizona, always confused by Hal Langford with Pete Domenici, R-New Mexico), Dave Durenberger (R-Minnesota, later to retire from the Senate after being 'denounced' for ethics violations), Robert Dole (R-Kansas, later to be his party's Presidential candidate), and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, (D-New York, later to be Ambassador to the UN). Several Congressmen, including Roe (D-New Jersey), Hammerschmidt (R-Arkansas), Foley (D-Washington), and Wright (D-Texas) were also members but the Senators were the driving force.

This formidable political alliance, through a 1985 letter from DeConcini, invited Director Dallas Peck and the USGS to join them in a public outreach effort to call attention to water and water pollution problems. Key to this effort would be a television advertising campaign to educate citizens in the hope of gaining their support for developing sound public water policy. Dallas replied that such sounded interesting and we should discuss it further - DeConcini agreed. Dallas turned to Phil Cohen because the topic was water and Phil turned to, you guessed it, Jim Daniel who in the past had shown some proclivity to pursue non-traditional assignments for WRD. In our initial internal meeting about the effort, I opined to Dallas and Doyle that I didn't think we should do it because the Alliance would just be using us for their own political ends. The reply was something along the line of "Kid, you just don't understand how the system works." So, the die was cast, I saluted and said "Aye, aye, sir." I probably said 'Yes, sir' but the 'Aye, Aye' is for Jack Fischer.

Our efforts over the next few months were in conjunction with Alliance President Jim Magner (who discussed his award-winning book, 'A Haunting Beauty: Vietnam Through the Eyes of an Artist' at the Old Naval Hospital on March 25, 2012) and Communications Director Margot Warren (currently Chief of a public liaison branch at the National Institutes of Health). WRD's Scientific Information Management staff (illustrations, network, and outreach) developed plans and products pointing toward a Spring 1986 presentation to the National Ad Council in New York City. Magner, Warren, and I beat the bushes on a modest rubber chicken circuit to test out concepts. We envisioned a series of TV spots similar to the well-known one of Iron Eyes Cody shedding a tear over the trash in our streams.

We knew that the campaign was going to cost money. The promise was that the Senators would add money to the USGS budget to cover our costs (Oh My Gosh -- EARMARK!). I would ask Magner on occasion where the Alliance would get their share of the money. He would just grin (obviously, the kid really didn't yet understand how the system worked). And, of course, Phil and I regularly briefed Dallas and Doyle.

The presentation to the Ad Council came on May 22, 1986. Magner, Warren, and I arrived at the Madison Avenue Ad Council offices with my half-dozen large briefing boards in a 3x5 foot folio. The Ad Council members included the Executive Vice President of Revlon, the Vice Chairman of Dow Jones & Co, and the Chairman of Benton & Bowles, Inc. Senator Moynihan kicked off our presentation with one of his extemporaneous 15 minute talks in which he confessed later to Magner that he had no idea what he was saying. Then it was me. They claimed to have liked our presentation and I guess I believe that. But, the most curious thing to me was that these high-powered MadMen of advertising weren't as interested in the proposed campaign as they were in asking me questions about the water they drank every day in the City. Luckily I knew enough about the Magothy and Lloyd Aquifers as well as the Delaware catchments that I could talk about them without too much BS. As a personal aside, while waiting in La Guardia airport to catch a flight back to Washington, I was doing counted cross-stitch in a chair next to Joe Theisman and his

then girl friend, Cathy Lee Crosby. Cathy Lee watched me very closely for a long time. I don't know whether she was interested in the cross-stitch or just amazed that a grown man was doing needlework in the airport.

Within a month, the Council informed us that they approved our campaign and would put professional ad staff to work on developing a series of TV spots at cost. Such cost would be about \$400K per year for two years to be shared equally by the USGS and the Alliance. I'm sure that our presentation was the key factor in their decision and not the little talk by their own powerful New York Senator! Whatever the reason, we were all excited at the prospect of a National campaign and quickly scheduled a meeting with Magner, Warren, Peck, Frederick, Cohen, Daniel, and Kelly (Donovan had been very patient with us while we cavorted in his baliwick). It was at this meeting that Magner finally answered the question of where the Alliance would get their funding. The USGS would use the add-on to contract with the Alliance to manage the campaign and they would pay the Ad Council \$200K per year from the contract proceeds. The kid finally understood how the system works.

Dallas was furious and non-plussed as were we all. He described the arrangement to Magner's face as a blatant bait-and-switch act. Discussions following that meeting revolved around whether we (USGS) should withdraw. There were pros and cons. Pro -- we resented the set up to be used. Con -- we might tick off a very powerful group of legislators. In the end Dallas took the courageous step of informing DeConcini that because of budget uncertainties, the USGS must decline further participation in the campaign. Even now, when I see the Ad Council logo in a TV Public Service spot, I think of that time when the USGS almost had our own National Ad Campaign.

### **August 2012 Newsletter Supplement, NL 156-S**

This month's Newsletter Supplement consists of three photographs from 1976, 1985, and this year. The 1985 photo taken on the Denver Federal Center shows 25 students in a Seminar for WRD Managers and many of you will recognize some of these people. The oldest photo is dated February 1976 and is taken in the Colorado District parking lot on the east side of Building 53 at the time that Jim Biesecker was the District Chief. Twenty-nine people are in this annotated photo. The last photo in the Supplement was taken this year in the waters of Lake Ontario showing Hal Langford doing what Hal likes to do these days. Two other articles included in this month's Newsletter, those by Chuck Robinove and Jim Daniel, were originally going to be put in the Supplement, but we had room in the main Newsletter for them. Thank you, everyone, for your contributions – "Keep 'em coming!"

For the August Supplement, go to <http://www.wrdretirees.org/Newsletters/aug12s.pdf>

## TREASURER'S REPORT, SECOND QUARTER 2012

Treasurer Celso Puentes reports that the organization had \$19,985.78 in its treasury at the end of the second quarter for calendar year 2012. Receipts for the quarter were \$1,010.51 from dues and contributions from 70 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$1,629.00, including the costs for printing of the WRD Retirees Newsletter and the Directory. During the quarter, a total of \$250.00 in contributions was received from 16 members.

Special thanks for contributions above dues go to:

Jerald F. McCain, Richard D. Hawkinson, Mrs. Wayne Hammond, Doris A. Vandruff, Gordon R. Keezer, Robert Boulger, David Madrill, Linda J. Mc Mullen, Ernest Denison, Owen Williams, R. Dale Cotter, John R. Crippen, Randal Dinehart, Doris A. Vandruff, Mary Garrelts, and Geogina De Pineiro.

### Inviting New WRD Retirees to Join Us

After May 2012, WRD Retirees have changed the way we receive information about newly retired USGS personnel. We will not automatically receive names, addresses, and other information that we use to contact new retirees, give them dues-waived membership, and send them one year's set of newsletters and our directory. Andy Anderson, Bill Boning, and I are working on how to contact these new retirees. We may provide each Water Science Center with a way that new retirees can send their information to [wrdretirees@usgs.gov](mailto:wrdretirees@usgs.gov) when they retire. We hope that "WRD Retirees" could be mentioned in the Pre-Retirement Planning Seminar.

Meanwhile, if you know active employees who are about to retire, or those who have already retired, please let them know about us and how we help retirees stay connected with their friends from Water through meetings, reunions, a directory of over 1,400 names, and, of course, this Newsletter. Please make a copy of this page and pass it along to any potential new member. Thank you very much!

### ***"WRD RETIREES" for New Retirees***

If you are about to retire from the USGS, we cordially invite you to join "WRD Retirees." Along with membership, you will receive one year of free quarterly newsletters, a WRD Retirees Directory, and invitations to local WRD meetings and the biannual WRD Reunion. The first year's dues are waived. To learn more about WRD Retirees, see our web site at <http://www.wrdretirees.org/>.

The full form to join is at <http://www.wrdretirees.org/applicationforms.htm>. But to get started, just fill out the following short form and send it to us at WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280 or email it to [wrdretirees@usgs.gov](mailto:wrdretirees@usgs.gov). You may also phone 703-648-5641.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF RETIREMENT \_\_\_\_\_

HOME EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_