

# "WRD RETIREES"

NEWSLETTER NO. 28

AUGUST 1980

An organization of retirees of the Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, who seek to keep in touch with each other and with their former agency.

**National Officers:** Walton H. Durum, **President**; O. Milton Hackett, **Vice President**; Ruth L. Malone, **Secretary**; Sumner G. Heidel, **Treasurer**.

**Regional Officers:** Irene Paulsen, **Central**; Don M. Corbett, **Northeast**; Kenneth B. Young, **Southeast**; Kenneth N. Phillips, **West**. **Administrative Coordinator:** Robert M. Beall

**Newsletter Editor:** George E. Ferguson **Associate Editors:** James W. Geurin and Margaret M. Walling

**Address:** "WRD Retirees," c/o USGS National Center, MS 439, Reston, VA 22092.

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## SURVEY SCIENTISTS PLAY TOP ADVISORY ROLE DURING MOUNT ST. HELENS' VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

All of us who have read the near-daily press items on Mount St. Helens from its first earthquake on March 20, its first volcanic activity on March 27, its eruption on May 18, and the subsequent impacts upon the northwest must have been pleased and proud of the role played by Survey scientists. Probably at no time in its history has the USGS been so widely and frequently queried, quoted, and in the public eye. Portland resident Ken Phillips, District Engineer (SW) for Oregon for 8 years prior to his retirement in 1962, expresses it thus:

"One good thing seems to have come out of the prolonged interest in the eruption of Mount St. Helens: the media people no longer stumble over how to pronounce or spell GEOLOGICAL. For years they used to say 'Geographical Survey' or 'Geodetic Survey,' or something even more original. With some 24 geologists on duty observing the mountain, the reporters and announcers can now rattle it off as smoothly as any WRD retiree. And outsider comment has been uniformly favorable. Just a day or so ago, Oregon's Gov. Atiyeh spoke of the GS men as being 'highly professional' in issuing statements about danger from the volcanic events. And a Washington law-enforcement officer was quoted as saying 'When the U.S. Geological Survey speaks, you had better listen!'"

The Survey's outstanding service has also been acknowledged by the President and the Congress.

But our pride in our newly-strengthened National image is tempered by the death of Survey geologist David A. Johnston who, as President Carter stated in a letter to David's parents, "was conducting important measurements from an observation point about five miles north of the volcano's summit when the initial blast occurred." David's last words carried to the Survey's temporary "command post" at Vancouver, Washington, were, we believe, the first warning of the May 18 blast. They were quoted widely and dramatically by the news media: "Vancouver! This is it!"

The Survey's remarkable record for prompt and meaningful reporting of the sequence of volcanic events and accurate forecasts of what can be expected in the future, was the product of good teamwork, from Director William Menard on down, by a group of scientists with experience not only in volcanology but also in natural hazards in general. They were part of a larger and closely-coordinated team including information personnel and cartographers.

The Survey's hydrologists, as a part of the total Survey team effort, lost no time in securing, interpreting and releasing information on the impact of the volcanic activity on the water resources of the area. A dozen or more WRD researchers from various parts of the U.S. were soon at work in the area. The Washington District personnel began collecting water quality data at additional stream sites immediately following the initial



volcanic activity on March 27. Water-quality analyses showed sharp but only temporary increases in acidity which was attributed to the fine ash that covered the drainage basins. Of the 7 stream-gaging, and 30 water-quality and sediment stations established to collect data during the activity, 5 of the former and 10 of the latter were destroyed by the May 18 eruption and ensuing floods.

The District is establishing a real-time (satellite transmission) network of stations for flood-warning purposes. Unpredictable heating of glaciers from underlying volcanic activity can release suddenly large quantities of water, ice, and sediment to stream systems. Flood data will be needed also during the coming rainy season when mud and debris in river channels and reservoirs will increase the flood potential. Although no significant changes in ground-water systems have been reported, the earth stresses from the volcanic activity may have been sufficient to change aquifer characteristics. Ash deposits may have altered infiltration rates and thus ground-water recharge. The damage from sedimentation of water reservoirs and navigation channels has been widely reported by the news media. Because the last eruptions of Mt. St. Helens resulted in intermittent activity for more than two decades (1831-57), the Survey is preparing for long-term appraisals - its first opportunity to study the eruptive processes and resulting hazards of a Cascade-type volcano. As well as the local monitoring being done, WRD offices across the Nation's area traversed by the ash plume have been collecting ash samples.

For information as to how the volcanic activity has affected people and life patterns in Portland, we again quote from Ken Phillips' letter of July 14:

"The volcanic events have crowded most other news off our front pages for 2 months now. And it is likely that the news becomes exaggerated as distance from the mountain increases. Some people visiting here have seemed surprised that we were not wading in ash up to our ankles; they wanted some to take home, and had difficulty in finding it. And for a short period it was a nuisance. Until the streets were cleaned, many of us put oily cloths over the air intake on our cars to filter out some of the dust raised by traffic. Like many others, I bought a mask; but I used it only when I was cleaning my gutters. (For the statistically-minded, I got about 1 pound of dust for every 10 sq. ft. of roof surface.) But I have seen many worse dust storms east of the Cascade Range, due to wind blowing dry soil.

People here go about their business as usual, even though a lot of earthquakes have been shaking Mount Hood\*, 50 miles to the east. Yesterday a GS man was asked if the Geological Survey was alarmed about this new development, he replied 'Not alarmed--just alert.' Frequent questioning has made them professional in their answers to questions, too. Just last week, Georgia and I took our local Senior group past the Toutle River mud-flow and through the heart of the ashfall of Friday, June 13; traffic seemed normal, but for a few miles a little dust was still on the shoulders of the road. Of the 44 passengers on the bus, not one opted out because of the volcano; in fact, all hoped to get close enough to see it better. (No luck on that score; clouds for all 3 days.) Our trip took us around the Olympic Peninsula, where I had worked for the Forest Service in the summer of 1918 on a field survey to locate spruce suitable for making airplanes. But only one was ever built, the famous Spruce Goose, sold to Howard Hughes, flown for 3 minutes, and now a museum piece. If some retiree wants to come to see Mount St. Helens, tell him to come ahead--just don't plan on climbing it." (Editor's note\*: The Oregon District Office, responding to the alert, is now watching Mount Hood.)



## UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM NAMED FOR WRD RETIREE COUPLE

In recognition of their years of outstanding support of women as engineers, the Utah State University, Logan, Utah, recently honored Don M. and Melba Corbett (WRD 1924-61) at ceremonies dedicating the University's new "Corbett Auditorium" in the Engineering Building. Many of Don's WRD friends know of his innovative actions during the manpower-shortage years of World War II, when, to meet district office needs, he hired and trained capable women to perform engineering functions heretofore performed only by men.

(Margaret M. Walling, 1978 retiree, then Margaret P. Mahey, was one of the first women hired by Don in this capacity.) The Corbett's active interest in the education of women as engineers has continued through the years, climaxing with the establishment of the Don M. and Melba Corbett Scholarships, which, since 1975, have helped 33 women study engineering at Utah State. In a recent letter Don tells us regarding the dedication ceremony, "The affair was far beyond our expectations. It included a recognition of my 80th birthday, which was quite sobering. It was also our 54th wedding anniversary. We held up pretty well through it all, but must admit it has taken some time to recover."

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Eugene L. Peck, Director, Hydrologic Research Laboratory, National Weather Service, Silver Spring, Maryland, was joined by friends at a retirement luncheon on June 26. Gene was closely associated with many Geological Survey technical persons and activities during his career of 38 years of government service.

## WRD FILLS MORE OF ITS MANY KEY VACANCIES

Recent announcements of individuals selected to fill some of the Division's key positions:

James E. Daniel, formerly Ground Water Specialist for the Southeastern Region, is District Chief, New Mexico District, replacing Bill Hale. \*\*\*\* Richard E. Fidler who was Subdistrict Chief, Pueblo, Colorado, is District Chief, South Dakota District, replacing John Powell, who retired. \*\*\*\* Irwin H. Kantrowitz, who was Subdistrict Chief, Syosset, New York, is now District Chief, Florida District, replacing Clyde Conover, who retired. \*\*\*\* Eugene R. Hampton, who was in charge of LIA's Publications and Scientific Information Dissemination Section, has returned to the Division as Chief of the newly established Scientific Publication Section. \*\*\*\* Ivan C. James, II, formerly Chief, Systems Analysis Group, National Center, and more recently a research hydrologist, Northeastern Region, has been selected to fill the vacancy of District Chief, New England District, created by the untimely death of John Baker. \*\*\*\* Jerald F. McCain, Chief, Hydrologic Studies Section, Denver, Colorado, will transfer early in August to the Northeastern Region, to fill the vacancy created by transfer of Porter E. Ward. \*\*\*\* John E. Moore has moved to the position of Deputy Assistant Chief, Scientific Publications and Data Management replacing Sol Lang, now the Division Energy Coordinator.

## RETIREMENTS CONTINUE BUT AT A SLOWER RATE

Recent Retirements from WRD, not already announced in previous issues include: Richmond F. Brown, Associate District Chief, Anchorage, Alaska, on April 30. \*\*\*\* Catherine Eiby, Accounting Technician, Austin, Texas, on May 31. \*\*\*\* Ruth Foresman, Editorial Assistant, Cheyenne, Wyoming, on April 18. \*\*\*\* A. Brice Gordon, Hydrologist, Columbus, Ohio, on August 8. \*\*\*\* Robert Hedman, Hydrologist, Lawrence, Kansas, on February 29. \*\*\*\* Mary Haugan, Accounting Technician, Orlando, Florida, on June 27. \*\*\*\* Richard E. Hedges, Hydrologist, Ocala, Florida, on June 24. \*\*\*\* C. L. R. Holt, Program Officer, Southeastern Region, on May 4. \*\*\*\* Harry Hulsing, District Chief, Anchorage, Alaska, on August 23. \*\*\*\* Gordon E. Lakke, Hydrologist, Sacramento, California, on June 27. \*\*\*\* Fred Ruggles, Hydrologist, Water Use Program, National Center, on June 27. \*\*\*\* Douglas E. Thompson, Gaging Station Construction Worker, Tacoma, Washington, on June 2. \*\*\*\* Mary Underwood, Accounting Technician, Columbus, Ohio, on May 30. \*\*\*\* Rudolf H. Westphal, Hydrologic Technician, Yuma, Arizona, on June 15.



## NEWS ABOUT RETIREES

On May 9, 35 WRD persons, including retirees, enjoyed an evening at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre, Rockville, Maryland, and a musical play, "Finian's Rainbow." This was a regular social event sponsored by the Survey Wives group. \*\*\*\* Following his retirement on February 29 from the Washington District Staff, John and Jeanne Bartells moved to a four-acre tract on the bank of the Yellowstone River, 30 miles from the north entrance to Yellowstone National Park. \*\*\*\* Bob and Elinor Beall and daughter returned to home base in Reston, Virginia, in mid-July after a 3-week driving trip to visit Bob's mother in Quebec. \*\*\*\* Paul Benedict reports that he and Sarah Jane enjoyed a visit in late June from Ken and Mary Love who recently followed earlier steps by their two daughters in becoming California residents. \*\*\*\* The University of Iowa's Benedict Fellowship for study of Alluvial Processes, which was endowed by Paul and Sarah Jane Benedict in 1977, continues to help support talented students engaged in research on problems related to the understanding, management, or utilization of alluvial rivers. One of the previous recipients, Edward E. Fischer, has just accepted employment with the USGS in Albuquerque. Paul continues to be active in this field with plans to attend meetings at the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Lab in July and again in October.

The early efforts of the late Seth D. Breeding in the establishment of the Travis (Austin) Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers was recognized by that organization on June 13. A biographic summary of Seth's life, career, and attainments was presented by Trigg Twichell. Evelyn Breeding, Seth's widow, was presented with a bronze medal in memory of the occasion. \*\*\*\* Our congratulations to Roy and Mate Cabell on their 50th wedding anniversary. This happy event was observed at a reception in Salt Lake City on June 15 that was arranged by their son Ed and daughter LaVerne. They were presented with a book compiled from recollections of pleasant associations of earlier years contributed by friends and former colleagues. \*\*\*\* Joe Cragwall has been asked by Pacific Power & Light to serve as one of four members of a panel of consultants to advise on and review a study of optional strategies for maintaining maximum safe storage that may be held in reservoirs on the Lewis River system that drains the area south of the now active Mount St. Helens volcano. Future storage levels must be sufficiently low to preclude excessive flooding and dam failure in the event of additional volcanic activity and high enough to provide for the vital power demands of the region. Those involved in this unique study will have few, if any, precedents to draw from.

Leon Davis is the traffic manager of the amateur radio station at the Veteran's Adm. Medical Center at Albuquerque, New Mexico. Staffed by volunteers, the station provides a free service for the sending of messages to any place in the USA, and to most other places in the world. Leon gives us news of Wayne Steel who left the staff of the Norman, Oklahoma District (GW) in 1951 for pilot training and a subsequent career with the US Air Force, with service in Korea. Wayne retired in 1975 as a Colonel, the last year being spent as an USAF engineer. He then became project manager for a nuclear power plant and currently is a division manager for materials management in Omaha. \*\*\*\* Eldon and Judy Dennis are back home in Texas after 1-1/2 years on the Island of St. Helena off the west coast of Africa, their second stay on that remote spot where Eldon says, "it takes about six months for an exchange of letters from the USA." He adds that "It is a volcanic island of Pliocene and Pleistocene age and not likely to blow her top as St. Helens in Washington did recently." Eldon and Judy continue to be strong advocates of world order. \*\*\*\* Walt Durum has been elected to the Advisory Board, the Northern Virginia Bank, and has served as a consultant to the Northern Virginia Dental Society for the past 2 years.

We have recently seen the excellent article by Jack Feth entitled, "100 Years of Outstanding Service," published in two parts in the Johnson Drillers Journal for July-August and for September-October, 1979. \*\*\*\* Art Goucher, a management information



specialist at the National Center, who retired in 1977 and moved to Florida late in 1979, says that Miami is "truly God's country." Art purchased a new two-bedroom, two-bath mobile home and is already picking lemons from the trees he planted. He says that Bob Perry stopped for some golfing in March and he is hopeful that other friends will come by. \*\*\*\* From Earl Harbeck: "Agnes and I spent a month on Maui, Hawaii, as we have done before. When we arrived in mid-February, the beach was in terrible shape owing to the late January storms that dumped some 40 inches of rain in a week. The beach front dunes were badly eroded, and the underlying lava was exposed in many areas. But nature is a magnificent healer, and when we left a month later, nearly all the lava was covered with sand and the beaches were fast regaining their normal sizes." \*\*\*\* It was good to learn that Miss Annie Hardin is successfully recuperating from recent hospitalization with pneumonia. \*\*\*\* We are pleased to learn that Herb Hinson's eyesight is now much better following his two operations in 1979.

Ethel (Mrs. W. Glenn) Hoyt's 90th birthday on June 29 brought greetings by mail from many distant Survey friends and visits from those in the vicinity. Although her limited eyesight prevents personal acknowledgment, being remembered on this occasion was a happy and rich experience for Mrs. Hoyt. \*\*\*\* Ruth Kelley, who was with the Providence, Rhode Island, office staff until her retirement in 1970, spent a week at the DAR Continental Congress in Washington, D.C. in April. \*\*\*\* New member Owen Larimer, in charge of hydrologic analysis for the South Dakota District at the time of his retirement in 1979, advises that he and Hazel are spending their summers in Huron and winters in Mesa, Arizona, and are enjoying their "carefree days." Their Huron address will be listed in the next issue. \*\*\*\* Florida tourists Les and Ginny Lenfest spent a night with Ken and Louise Young at Ocala on May 5. \*\*\*\* Ruth Malone, after attending a convention in Richmond, Virginia, in mid July, drove over to the nearby coast for a visit with Margaret Merchant in Onemo, Virginia. Ruth and Margaret were one-time close associates in their handling of secretarial functions in the Chief Hydrologist's Office for the final years in Washington and during the initial period at Reston.

Mrs. DeWitt McNutt (Peggy), formerly with WRD's Central Regional Headquarters and the Colorado District, and now living in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, visited friends and former co-workers in Denver from late May to mid-June. She presided at the wedding reception of her daughter, Amy Ann, to William Habbie, Jr. Those who last saw Peggy while she was bedfast or in a wheelchair, share her pleasure in being well enough to travel unaided. \*\*\*\* John Moore, Deputy Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Scientific Publications, has been elected chairman of the U.S. Section of the International Association of Hydrogeologists for an 198084 term. He succeeds Leonard A. Wood who will continue as a committee member. Other recently elected members include Lee Holt and Ken Vanlier. Bob Dingman, WRD's Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Scientific Publications is also a committee member, as are Ivan Johnson and Joe Rosenshein. \*\*\*\* Ray Nace writes from Raleigh, North Carolina, "I am still grinding away on my opus on world waters to be published by UNESCO." (We are looking forward to the finished product, Ray, which will be a major contribution to literature on global resources.) \*\*\*\* Nat and Gertrude Perlmutter have returned home to Tampa, Florida, after several months in Annapolis, Maryland, where Nat had been assisting the Annapolis Office of Geraghty and Miller.

Our sympathy to Carl and Lois Pollard whose mothers passed away in February and March. Carl and Lois recently flew from home base in California to Atlanta where they joined a guided tour called Southern Homes History and Hospitality. Taking bus trips to Savannah, Beaufort, and Charleston, they were particularly impressed with Pirates House Restaurant and Middleton Place Gardens in the Charleston Area. Carl says that a tunnel, which connects the restaurant to the waterfront, once was used to "shanghai" men for short-handed ocean-going ships. \*\*\*\* Lula and Ed Smith have recently moved into a new home in rural Colorado, which they "planned from top to bottom and hope to enjoy every minute of living there." Lula says, "I have a country kitchen and will have a large garden of



roses."

\*\*\*\* G. F. "Skip" Worts was a member of a USGS team that went to South Korea on an energy assessment evaluation in March. Skip says that they spent 3 weeks in Seoul and one in the field (but well "away from the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea") on this interesting assignment. On his way home he visited Tom and Jeanne Eakin at their home in Hawaii and also Honolulu District retiree Jimmy Nitta who grows "truck crops and the most beautiful orchids you ever did see!" \*\*\*\* Don Wallace tells us that he and Mable "don't travel very far now-days. Since I reached 81, I find my knee joints are stiff." Despite this, Don continues to maintain their large grounds. \*\*\*\* Ken and Louise Young spent most of May in London visiting son Brad and his wife Bonnie who live in nearby Wimbledon. While abroad they also made an 8-day trip to Greece.

Florence (Mrs. Burke L.) Bigwood, who lives near her son and family in Concord, Mass., plans to spend most of August at Cape Cod. \*\*\*\* Joe and Marion Callahan returned to the USA in July for a few weeks "back home" in Washington, D.C. area. Joe says that he is enjoying his work as a resident consultant in the Philippines (N.L. 27; p. 4) and the opportunity it gives for close and continuing association with a ground-water development project "just like my years with the Georgia District." \*\*\*\* Clyde Conover, recently retired district chief for Florida, was cited in the lead article in the March issue of the Florida Water Resources Center Newsletter for his "41 years of distinguished service." Clyde currently is devoting most of his time to the completion of a hydrologic almanac for that State. Also on the almanac project is Dick Heath who began the study prior to his retirement from the Florida District last year. \*\*\*\* Edith McLean, who retired from WRD's Headquarters staff in 1965 says that despite the fact that she is a "city-bred Yankee," she has greatly enjoyed her recent years "in the foothills of North Carolina, growing and canning my own vegetables and even making pickles and loving every minute of it!" \*\*\*\* George Smoot and Al Pendleton left USA on July 19 to visit several locations in India as advisors to the World Bank on water-resources development. They plan to return in mid August. The Smoot's enjoyed a visit by Madge and Rolland Carter in early spring. \*\*\*\* Herb and Ruth Stewart received a warm retirement sendoff on June 5 when 65 of their friends gathered for luncheon at Herndon, Virginia, near Reston. To conserve Herb's golfing energy, a most welcome gift was a golf cart and several accessories. Following his assignment to the Office of Water Data Coordination, Herb has been a Special Assistant, Environmental Analysis, in the Director's Office. \*\*\*\* Herb and Alice Swenson visited North Dakota for Alice's high school reunion in Williston, June 28 and 29. A banquet and picnic highlighted the busy weekend. About 400 attended the reunion picnic held at a nearby park on Lake Sakakawea, the 200-mile-long reservoir formed by Missouri River's Garrison Dam. Herb says the level of Devils Lake, in the eastern part of the State, is much higher now than observed in Survey studies of 30 years ago. From an elevation marker he estimated the lake level on July 1 as 1,427 feet, about 12 feet above the maximum altitude reported in 1950. \*\*\*\* Charles F. Keech, living near Lincoln, Nebraska, writes "Many retirees report eventful and exciting experiences. My activities are not really exciting; for example, big in my life is waiting for and watching the sunrise. We live on a five-acre spread near the city limits that is in grass and trees. We raise countless grasshoppers and enough dog ticks to keep us from romping in the hay. Have a garden that is appreciated by the insects. Some years I get my seed back. Also raise a great variety of weeds. Birds enjoy the place. My friendly wrens returned last week. Robins, cardinals, and thrushes are carrying on outrageously. I spend a little time at the Institute of Natural Resources of the University of Nebraska. Review a report now and then and hold down a nice swivel chair. And we are happy that winter and fuel bills are gone for awhile."

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A "gem" from the May issue of the Geologic Division Retirees Newsletter: "CHARLIE HUNT comments that the USGS has just published Prof. Paper 1028, Studies related to the Charleston, South Carolina, earthquake of 1886--A preliminary report. Another of those damnable rush jobs!"



MEMOIR: ROBERT O. R. MARTIN (1906-1966)

Many WRD retirees are fishing enthusiasts, so among you may be some who know Roland Martin as America's most famous tournament fisherman. A recent sports page column in the Washington Star had this to say:

"Among the touring professional fishermen who travel throughout the United States to fish big-money Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and other tournaments, no one has won more fame and cash than Roland Martin. From his pond-hopping teen-age days in Maryland to the fishing-guide years at South Carolina's Santee-Cooper Lakes--to his move to Broken Arrow, Okla., and the beginning of a television career, Martin's story reads like a novel with a happy ending: Bass Angler of the Year titles in 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1978, and 1979--the all-time (more than \$120,000) money winner on the B.A.S.S. circuit, the production and hosting of one of the more popular TV fishing shows in the land. The list goes on."

Well, we know Roland Martin as "Buddy," the son of the late Bob (Robert O. R.) and Ann Martin. Bob Martin began his long and varied career with the Survey in July 1930, in the Power Resources Branch under A. H. Horton in the Washington Office. After a year he transferred to the Trenton, New Jersey District (1931-34), the first of six different SW Branch district offices; followed by Augusta, Maine (1934-38); Albany, New York (1938-41); St. Louis, Missouri (1941-44), a sub-office where he was responsible for the measurement and compilation of four main-stem Mississippi River stations; Iowa City, Iowa (1944-46); and College Park, Maryland (1946-56). In 1956 he returned to the Washington Office, to the Hydrologic Studies Section (SW), where he co-authored several reports, including two in the 1963 series of "Contributions to the Hydrology of the U.S.," dealing with water-supply characteristics of streams in eastern United States. In 1964, he transferred to the Foreign Hydrology Section (ODC) and accepted a 2-year assignment in Recife, Brazil. On completion of that assignment, Bob and Ann planned a tour of Europe en route back home, to include a visit with relatives in Sweden. They picked up a new car in Paris, and while driving through Belgium on June 21, 1966, both Bob and Ann were killed in a tragic head-on collision with another car. Roland and his aunt, who were travelling with them, survived.

Bob and Ann (Sandstrom) who were married in Augusta, Maine, in 1935, left three children--Joan, now Mrs. Dean Koth, who lives in Potomac, Maryland; Roland, who lives in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; and Robert, who lives at the former family home in Laurel, Maryland. Roland's TV show is called "Fishing with Roland Martin." It is syndicated in over 100 TV outlets across the country. (Prepared by Frank Flynn, who on reading the Washington Star article, suspected the family relationship. His subsequent research resulted in this interesting account--a fitting memoir for Bob and Ann Martin.)

MEMOIR: ASTLEY B. PURTON (1886-1962)

Astley B. Purton was born October 7, 1886, in Minneapolis, Kansas. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1907, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He began his government career with the Coast and Geodetic Survey on July 1, 1907, and remained there until December 31, 1909. Mr. Purton then transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey January 1, 1910, and was assigned to the Salt Lake City Office at an annual salary of \$1,080. On January 1, 1911, he was transferred to the Boise, Idaho District Office where he remained until October 1, 1912, when he was transferred to the Survey's Washington, D.C. Office. He returned to the Boise Office on February 4, 1913, and on April 1, 1915, made what was to be his final transfer to the Salt Lake City District Office which had jurisdiction over Utah and Nevada.



Upon the resignation of C. C. Jacob, Mr. Purton was made District Engineer effective April 1, 1918, and served continuously in that capacity until January 1, 1943, when, at his own request, he was relieved of administrative duties because of his health. The boundaries of the District remained the same throughout his tenure of duty as District Engineer.

On October 31, 1956, Mr. Purton retired from government service. The November 1, 1956, issue of the Salt Lake City Tribune carried an article titled "UTAH WATER AUTHORITY RETIRES FROM GOVERNMENT JOB, After 49 Years and Four Months of Continuous Service." This article stated that on his 70th birthday an open house in his honor was held at the Federal Building, where M. T. Wilson, then District Engineer, stated that: "One of the finest tributes that can be paid to Mr. Purton's character and loyalty is the fact that eight men who are now Surface Water District Engineers of the USGS received their early training under him."

Mr. Purton passed away in 1962 at the age of 76. Mrs. Purton died in 1953.

Mr. Purton was not one to intrude in a controversial problem. Rather, his philosophy was to let it work itself out, which it did in most cases. However, when it became an absolute necessity, he did not hesitate to take a stand in defending what he thought was right. He was a firm believer that the District Engineer should share the field work along with his staff. He visualized the water-use and storage potential of streams emanating from the western slopes of the Wasatch Mountains, extending from the Logan River on the north, to the Provo River on the south, with the Weber River Basin becoming the focus of his interest. It was the basic data collected on streamflow at gaging stations installed and operated by Mr. Purton that led to the wise and orderly developments of the water resources of this basin. The fact that Purton's contribution may not have received due recognition seems typical of the limited attention given by the public concerning the Survey in its inventory of water supplies in many other sections of the country. This contention is best expressed by quoting from an article published in the May 27, 1944, issue of the Saturday Evening Post entitled, "Will there be enough water," written by freelance writer Harold Titus, who at the time was Chairman of the Michigan Conservation Resources Commission (the Survey's cooperating official in that State). The quotation follows:

"The United States Geological Survey, a steady, old fashioned agency, which all these years has plugged along without the aid of a public relations division, has the spotlight in countless troubled localities, but is too busy to take any bows." --- "The Geological Survey does not rely on rainfall records alone as an index of the amount of water coming to the earth. It prefers streamflow records because such data reflects precipitation over the entire basins."

Purton was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and although he had two daughters but no sons, he was active in the Boy Scouts of America. He was a past president of the Intermountain Section, American Society of Civil Engineers.

Advice given by Mr. Purton to a prospective Junior Engineer, "I am certain that you will be beginning your engineering experience in an organization of which you can be proud, in which you will make lasting friends and, if you apply yourself with enthusiasm, you will have no difficulty in catching on to the work and making a success." (Editor's note: We are grateful to Don Corbett, long-time District Chief (SW) for Indiana, for the above memoir. Don was hired by Purton and became one of the 8 District Chiefs referred to by M. T. Wilson (above). The other seven were: Frank Bell (Georgia, Colorado); Vern Bennoin (Iowa); W. E. Dickinson (Arizona); Faye Hansen (Louisiana); J. H. Morgan (Illinois); J. W. Morgan (Pennsylvania); and M. T. Wilson (Utah). Leon Jenson of the Utah District staff, reports that Mr. Purton's daughters, Mrs. Jack R. (Frances) Day and Mrs. F. P. (Catherine) Hoagland, reside in Salt Lake City, Utah.)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A recent issue of Alumni News from a large university included an article "Senior Scholars," which included profiles of retired persons who were either auditing courses at the university or were working towards degrees in their "mature years." One man had been a personnel director for a large New York corporation, counseling employees when they reached age 63 and helping them to decide what they were going to do in leisure years and where they were going to live. Studies by the corporation had shown that weather was not as important in the selection of a retirement home as family, friends, and roots in the community. "We found that older persons who retired and moved to a distant State in the sunbelt often returned in a year or so and, when possible, went back to live in the community they had left." Many of you probably have been faced with a similar situation and have made or will be making choices to fit your individual needs. WRD retirees are now located in all 50 States, D.C., the Philippines, England, and France, which suggest that roots are an important factor in this decision. Walt Durum

## NEWS FOR RETIREES

Some of us who have arranged to have our monthly annuity checks deposited directly to a bank or a savings and loan institution may not yet be aware of a new law, effective May 10, that requires verification of such deposits. The financial organization is required to advise the direct-deposit-program participant within 2 days following the arrival and crediting of the checks or if the checks did not arrive. (From AARP News Bul., May 1980.) \*\*\*\* We regret that the planned Retiree's cruise to Bermuda, September 7-14, has been cancelled. Warren Daniels informs us that insufficient cabin reservations were made to qualify for special group fare reduction.

## WRD RETIREE'S GOLF OUTING

Plans are underway for a WRD Retiree's golf outing sometime next spring, possibly in May. We invite your suggestions on where to hold it, should it be regional or local, should it be for mixed couples or include a separate ladies' unit. Please send your ideas to Joe Cragwall, 4901 English Drive, Annandale, Virginia 22003, or to this office.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following were on hand on May 1 to process the May (No. 27) Newsletter: Bob Beall, Joe Cragwall, Warren Daniels, Walt Durum, George Ferguson, Frank Flynn, Cavis Ham, Sumner Heidel, and Ruth Malone.

The seventh edition of the "WRD Retirees" directory was mailed to members on July 22. Those assisting in the sizeable task of collating and stapling the 875 copies and addressing nearly 600 of them for bulk mailing were: Bob Beall, Walt Durum, George Edelen, George Ferguson, Jim Geurin, Milt Hackett, Warren and Isabel Hastings, Sumner Heidel, Carl Kindsvater, Ruth Malone, Bill Mierley, Faulkner and Margaret Walling, Joe Wells, and Finch White. The names of those who assisted in the preparation of the directory are acknowledged in its introductory section.

Treasurer Sumner Heidel advises that, since the May (No. 27) Newsletter, special contributions in amounts up to \$20 have been sent in by the following: Robert Devaul, Owen Larimer, Cavis Ham, Roy Cabell, Earl Harbeck, Tom Nolan, Clyde Conover, Frank Flynn, Hal Hall, George Smoot, Ruth Kelley, Art Goucher, Eleanor Gulley, Bob Hedman, Paul Johnston, F. B. McGraw, Phil Somers, Cecil Thomas, Bill Isherwood, Don Wallace, Bill Lamar, John McCabe, and "Skip" Worts. Their support is appreciated.



## IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth D. Barrick, wife of former WRD Administrative Officer Frank Barrick, died of cancer on May 10 in Bradenton, Florida, where they have been living since his retirement in 1973. Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Bettie moved to Washington, D.C., in the early 1940's where she and Frank met while both were with the Survey. They were married about 1943. In recent years in Bradenton, Bettie was very active in their church activities and enjoyed gardening and bridge. Their oldest daughter, "Pat" and family live in Danville, California, and daughter Linda and family are in Dallas. Son Bob is with the Survey's Branch of Financial Management at the National Center and he and family reside in Reston. Younger son, Ken, lives in Bradenton at the family home. Frank's sister lives nearby.

Howard C. Beaber, an assistant district chief for Kentucky at the time of his retirement in 1977, died on July 8 in Florida where he and wife Marty had lived since last May. Born in 1919 in Cortez, Colorado, and a 1941 graduate (BS-CE) of University of Colorado, Howard joined the Denver District (SW) in the latter year. He transferred to the Alaska District in 1954 and moved to the Kentucky District in 1957. Survivors include his wife (address in directory), two daughters, a son, and two grandchildren.

Robert K. Fahnstock, part-time stream-sediment specialist for WRD since 1956 and a member of the faculty of State University of New York at Fredonia, was killed in the crash of a small plane in Colorado on April 20. Engaged in WRD projects first in Ithaca, New York, and later at Fort Collins, Colorado, and Austin, Texas, Bob was associated with the New York District since 1970, particularly as a consultant and report reviewer for the Genessee River sediment study.

Anthony Homyk, Jr., district chief for Missouri at the time of his retirement in 1976, died on July 3 in Rolla, Missouri. Tony was born in 1919 in Benld, Illinois, and was a 1942 CE graduate of Missouri School of Mines. A bombardier in WW II, he was shot down twice and was interned in Sweden for the last six months of the war. He joined the staff of the Indianapolis District (SW) soon after graduation and in 1953 he transferred to the Missouri District where he succeeded the late Harry Bolon as district chief (SW) in 1962. Tony was very active in civic affairs and in professional affiliations. He was a director of the Rolla Board of Education in 1963-64 and a former president of the local section of ASCE. Mrs. Homyk (Erma) may be reached at the address given in the directory. Their two daughters also reside in Rolla.

Nancy R. Inman, who was a member of the SW administrative staffs at National Headquarters, first (1957-68) at Arlington and later (1972-73) in D.C., died on April 22. In recent years, Nancy and her husband devoted their time to the management of their business in Falls Church, Virginia, a shop carrying a complete line of dance supplies. Besides her husband, Nancy is survived by two daughters.

Kent Ogata, Chief of the subdistrict office at Champaign, Illinois, until his retirement in 1979, died on June 7 after a long illness. Born in 1915 at Gary, Indiana, Kent attended the University of Illinois and then joined the Illinois District (SW) in 1943. After 5 years at the district headquarters in Urbana, including 2 years of military service in 1945-46, he transferred to Champaign where he spent the balance of his Survey career. He is survived by his wife, Helen (address in directory), son Kent of Norcross, Georgia, daughter Carole King of Woodstock, Illinois, daughter Jayne at the home address, his mother and seven grandchildren.



Miner R. Stackpole, born July 12, 1889, Sanford, Maine, died May 31 in Mount Dora, Florida. Mr. Stackpole entered the U.S. Geological Survey in June 1917 and was District Engineer in the Maine office for many years until his retirement in January 1956. He held a Life Membership in the Maine Association of Engineers, as well as a Life Membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers, and was a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Maine. He served on many commissions relating to water resources problems in Maine, New Hampshire, and along the boundary of the adjoining Canadian Provinces. He served in the U.S. Army July 1918 to November 1918. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, golf, and traveling. He especially enjoyed the Maine woods, lakes, and streams. Surviving are his widow, Wilda G. Stackpole, Mount Dora, Florida; two sons, Miner B. Stackpole of Manchester, Connecticut, also retired from the Survey, and Philip W. Stackpole of Montclair, New Jersey; a daughter, Margaret Willingford, Auburn, Maine; a brother, G. Kenneth Stackpole, Harrison, Maine; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. (Editor's note: we are grateful to Miner B. Stackpole for this biographical sketch of his father, a highly-regarded district chief who supervised the surface water activities in Maine for 36 years.)

#### FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY (7th Edition)

##### NEW MEMBERS

Bartells, John H. ('80) (Jeanne), P. O. Box 304, Emigrant, MT 59027  
 Conover, Clyde S. ('80) (Peg), 411 Vinnedge Ride, Tallahassee, FL 32303  
 Dennis, P. Eldon ('67) (Jewel), 2613 Yale, San Angelo, TX 76901  
 Edelen, George W. ('80), 1500 - 16th Road North, Arlington, VA 22209  
 Frederick, Bernard J. ('80) (Greta), 112 Rand Circle, Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
 Hagan, Miss Helen E. ('80), 337 Solano NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108  
 Larimer, Owen J. ('79) (Hazel), 1266 Kansas SE, Huron, SD 57350  
 McGraw, Francis B. ('74) (Ruth), 1161 Julie Drive, Merced, CA 95340  
 Ruggles, Frederick H., Jr. ('80) (Anne), 12662 Willow Spring Ct., Herndon, VA 22070  
 Stewart, Herbert G., Jr. ('79) (Ruth), 2153 Seaman Ct., Herndon, VA 22070  
 Winslow, John D. ('80) (Marcia R.), 4723 Woodridge Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612

##### REVISIONS TO DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

Hackett, O. Milton ('80) (Pam), 2908 N. Stafford St., Arlington, VA 22207  
 Homyk, Mrs. Anthony (Erma) (W), 1104 E. Ninth St., Rolla, MO 65401  
 Ogata, Mrs. Kent M. (Helen) (W), 2018 Boudreau Dr., Urbana, IL 61801  
 Stackpole, Mrs. Miner R. (Wilda) (W), 1213 East Second Ave., Mt. Dora, FL 32757

##### NEW AFFILIATE

Wolff, Roger G. (Mary), U.S. Geological Survey, National Center, MS 413, Reston, VA 22092

##### REVISION TO DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATES

Grossman, Irving G. "Butch" (Ann), 2123 Golf Course Dr., Reston, VA 22091



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