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# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 146

February 2010

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a great honor to be elected as president of this fine organization and my pleasure to serve you for the next two years. The WRD Retirees has been in existence for almost 40 years and is still a strong organization existing of about 1400 members. It is a goal of mine to keep the organization strong as we look to keep members in touch with each other and their former agency. Communication is a Key word.

Five of our 2008-2009 National Officers and/or Regional Officers have retired from the Board. Dick Engberg, President; Stan Sauer, Vice President; Bill Shope, Northeast Regional Director (NRD); Lynn Barr, Southeast Regional Director (SRD) and Charlie Morgan, Western Regional Director (WRD) have completed their two-year assignments and are commended for their great service. Jim Blakey, Central Regional Director (CRD) also completed his two-year term but was immediately re-elected to another two-year term, presumably so he could be involved in the planning of the 2010 reunion in Denver. Thanks Jim! I would also like to welcome new Board Members, Mary Jo Baedecker, Vice- President; Marv Sherrill NRD, Don Duerr SRD and Chet Zenone WRD. Bill Boning continues as Secretary, Celso Puente as Treasurer, Charles Nethaway as archivist and Jim Blakey as CRD. About a month ago, Mary Jo and I attended a transition lunch with outgoing president Dick Engberg. Dick imparted much of his vast knowledge of the organization to us, but the most important thing, to me, that he said was " If you really want to know what is going on in the WRD Retirees, you need to talk to the three B's, Boning, Biesecker and Blakey." Therefore, Bill, Jim and Jim, I will be talking with you as well as others a lot over the course of the next two years.

I would like to urge you to circle your calendar for September 9-11, 2010 for the Retirees 15<sup>th</sup> reunion in Denver. The reunion provides a great forum for re-establishing contacts with longtime friends and colleagues. There is more detailed information later in this issue.

For over 30 years, the flagship communication device for the retirees has been the newsletter. I remember when I was a young guy (actually that's getting harder to do) when each WRD District would get one copy of the newsletter for office circulation. Even back then, people would get excited about reading about their retired former colleagues causing many work stoppages. Today's newsletter is awesome compared to 30 years ago. Jim Biesecker and his newspaper staff of Dotty Woods, Vivian Olcott SR, Eileen Smith NR, Merilee Bennett CR, and John Klein WR have done a magnificent job of getting the communication out. However, they couldn't be doing this level of work without our members supplying the news. So, please keep sending in the articles.

Pat and I offer best wishes to each of you for a Happy and Healthy 2010!



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**Andy Anderson** reports, "There were 45 happy retirees/spouses at the December Headquarters lunch meeting of WRD Retirees. It was a festive occasion complete with door prizes: bottles of wine, boxes of candy and cookies plus a beautiful framed photograph of Mt. St. Helens just after the eruption that was donated by **Phil Cohen**. Everyone had a great time and the food was delicious. At the January lunch, about 35 retirees/spouses heard outgoing President **Dick Engberg** give a slide talk about his and **Lynn's** recent vacation to Germany, Switzerland and Austria. The slides were magnificent. About 35 retirees/spouses heard **Pierre Glynn**, Branch Chief, ER Research, give an interesting talk on the water resources, flora and fauna of the westernmost part of Rocky Mountain National Park at the February meeting."

**Bud and Bev Anderson** write, "We just got back from a trip to Warsaw, IN, where we were with our grandson when he received his Eagle Scout Award. While in Warsaw, we were able to spend some time with our granddaughter. She is a sophomore at Butler University in a pharmacy program. The program she is in will take a little more than 5 years and will lead to a Doctor of Pharmacy. We are now great grandparents. The wife of our grandson, they live in MN, had a 4 lb. son that was a little early. The baby is doing well."

**Bob Beall** says, "This has been less than a peaceful year for us. I spent most of June in 3 hospitals for congestive heart failure, pneumonia and fluid on the lungs. Recovering from that, things went well until I had an uncontrollable nose bleed and then emergency surgery on my nose. I had an adverse reaction to the anesthetic and then spent a month in a rehab facility to get walking again. It wasn't the best place to be but now **Elinor** is the chief cook and bottle washer, among many other duties. My thought processes are a bit slow but are gradually improving. Our Dr. put me under Hospice care for 6 months and so we go on a day-to-day basis, thankful for the days we have. I want to say thanks for the many cards and messages we have gotten."

**Nancy Bley** reports, "In April, **Jim** and I took a two-week trip by car to New Orleans and Pensacola. We enjoyed walking the French Quarter. This summer we went by car to Lake Tahoe. We visited the **Carswells** in Lawrence, KS. We met **Jo Ann Schnepf Huffman** and her husband in Moab, UT for sightseeing: Arches National Park and the Canyonlands National Park. Our daughters are doing fine and our grandson is a constant source of pleasure. We watch him once a week plus any other time we get a chance!"

**Bob Brennan** writes, "**Elaine** and I remain in good health. We look forward to seeing a lot of you WRD Retirees at the 2010 WRD Retirees reunion in Denver."

**Alan C. Brown** says, "I became a grandfather again (#2) last December. Continuing to travel through the west and plan to winter in the Florida Panhandle again this year. I always enjoy the Newsletter but it is becoming more and more discomfoting to learn of the passing of those I knew during my career with WRD."

**Bob Bubeck** writes, "Thanks to all the officers and Newsletter staff for keeping WRD Retirees working."

**Scottie Burch** writes, "I sure do enjoy reading the News of Retirees in the WRD Retirees Newsletter and seeing what folks are doing. We have had a lot of rain here in NY and I am living with some flooding."

**Melba Carter** says, "**Jack** and I enjoy the Newsletter."

**Lee Case** says, "Hope all you retirees had a great Holiday season! I actually miss the Northwest, though the shining sun and 75 degrees is not bad."

**Jim Daniel** writes, "The news of **Pat Hollyday's** passing in April brought to mind with some sadness the goofy group of WRD's remote sensing pioneers that were so active but treated somewhat like the crazy uncle in the attic during the 1960s and 70s. The bunch was the brainchild of one of the chief goofs, **Chuck Robinove** (Chuck used to carry his 'Professional Paper' around to show people - inside the covers was a porno magazine). Chuck moved on to the EROS Program in main Interior as assistant to **Bill Fischer** (no relation to Jack). He got the Division to implement a Program Office for Remote Sensing, headed by **Morris "Moe" Deutsch**. Chuck accomplished this by providing money. Moe and his assistant, **Dan Anderson**, were relegated to an office in an obscure building in downtown Washington DC and were left alone by WRD as long as the money kept coming. Although Moe wasn't really crazy, he was kind of goofy and he managed to rope into this new technology several folks who ranged from really weird to marginally sane (I came into this group in 1969 as the DOI and WRD Coordinator for Data Relay Systems). One of the simply weird was **Milton Charles "Murph the Surf" Kolipinski**. Murph was hired into WRD in Miami by **Tom Buchanan**. Murph was a PhD biologist at a time when WRD suffered from hydrologist xenophobia and, as is always the case; the transplant was eventually rejected by the parent organism. Moe sent Tom and Murph money to look at the Everglades from aircraft and space -- much of the restoration effort today stems from these early studies. When Moe's money ran out, Murph moved on to the NPS. Another

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Florida alumnus was **A. Eugene "Gene" Coker**. Gene was a geologist, a good 'ole Georgia boy, and one of the archetypes of an MCP. He once showcased his hydrologic model to a symposium of NASA principal investigators in NASA's Houston headquarters. Gene's model was about 5ft 6in, blonde and dressed in a red miniskirt outfit with calf-high white boots -- a Nancy Sinatra look alike. As she walked down the aisle to join Gene on the stage she received a standing ovation from the 1,000 or so 'scientists.' Gene eventually found a home in EPA. Assigned to be the insulator between these spark plugs and the academic WRD motor was **Aaron Higer**. Of course, all of the remote sensing community wasn't nuts -- **Pat Hollyday** was one of the sane ones, like **Fred Ruggles**, **Walt Steinhilber**, **Bill Powell**, and, among others, **Dick Paulson**. Dick was one of the 12 principle investigators recruited for Data Relay projects (NASA-funded, of course) on the Earth Resources Technology Satellite, ERTS-1, later renamed LANDSAT. The work Dick and I did on that satellite in 1972 led to the extensive real-time data network on stream gages today. Thanks, Pat, for the memories."

**Bob Davis** says, "Hi to all fellow retirees."

**Sandy Downs** writes, "I retired in 1983 and have since moved back to Lincoln, NE. After being a widower for 7 years, I married **Virginia Hardy** in May 2008 and we are now living in my old family home. We are deacons in our Presbyterian Church. We may see you in Denver in 2010 at the reunion."

**Doug Edwards** has written a very comprehensive summary of WRD fishing trips to the Outer Banks of NC. The document, complete with photos, covers trips made since 1974 and includes photos of **George Ferguson**, **Hal Langford**, **Roy Hendricks**, **George Whettstone** and many other folks well known to WRD Retirees. A copy is on file in the WRD Retirees office.

**Tom Edwards** writes, "Since my retirement in 2003 **Kathy** and I have been on the move. Our retirement has been great with time split between cruising aboard Ahwahnee (42 foot sailboat), at our property near Ocean Park on the Long Beach peninsula on the southwest Washington coast, in the Portland, OR area, and other points. Since leaving Portland aboard our boat in May 2004 we have sailed to Alaska, down the U.S. west coast, and in Mexico as far south as Huatulco on the north side of the Gulf of Tehuantepec. From November 2004 until January 2009 our Mexican home port was Mazatlan. Mexican inland travels have included Copper Canyon, Guadalajara, and Oaxaca, and many coastal towns via car or bus. Last January we left Mazatlan sailing south along the Mexican west coast with stops near Puerto

Vallarta, Chamela, and Acapulco along the way. We arrived in Huatulco on February 16, 2009 and have been here since then.

"Currently (January 2010) we are getting the boat ready to move south through Central America to Panama. Our next Port of Call is planned to be Barillas, El Salvador probably the end of February or first part of March. The limiting factor for departure from Huatulco, MX will be the weather in the Gulf of Tehuantepec (GOT) where gale to hurricane force winds are not uncommon. On arrival in Panama we will do some necessary boat maintenance and then move through the Panama Canal and find a secure hurricane hole on the Atlantic side to leave the boat for the summer season. For more detail and pictures relating to our travels both aboard Ahwahnee and otherwise, checkout our sail-blog at [http://www.sailblogs.com/member/voyage\\_continued](http://www.sailblogs.com/member/voyage_continued)."

**Phil Emery** writes, "**Janet** and I are pretty much stay home people these days. Janet is still involved with several clubs and keeps her creative juices flowing. She had cataract surgery in November and it has put a hold on her artistic side for now. We plan on attending the Denver reunion and hope to see you there."

**Herb** and **Pat Freiburger** hosted their annual Christmas wine dinner at their home on December 5. There were 12 WRD Retirees/spouses in attendance. See the group photo under Local Meetings and Gatherings. As usual the meal prepared by Pat was wonderful!

**Charles R. Gamble** reports, "**Rebel** and I are doing well and staying very busy. We are heavily involved in Church work and volunteer often at Healing Hands International, a humanitarian relief agency. We recently helped with their annual "Magi Project" of collecting Christmas gift boxes for needy children in foreign countries. This year they shipped about 11,200 boxes to Honduras, Guatemala and India, which means that many children will get a Christmas gift that otherwise would not have. I pick up boxes from outlying town using their rental truck. This year I picked up 850 boxes from McKenzie and Huntingdon, TN. We just returned from a long weekend in Pigeon Forge, TN with 7 other couples from our church. Great time! We moved into a new house 3 years ago after 42 years in the old home. It is about 7 mi. further south of Nashville and larger (why, I don't know). Don't let anyone try to tell you that moving is not a job -- especially after being in one place for 42 years. We enjoy the Newsletter and thank those who do such a good job putting it together."

**John George** is living in an assisted living facility in Denver. His address is Distinctive Care, 1370

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Saulsbury St., Lakewood, CO 80214 and his phone number is 303-233-7900. He would appreciate hearing from his old friends.

**Bonnie Greeson** writes, "Another year has flown by here in KY. I remain busy working on the Alter Guild and feeding the homeless through the church. In addition, my sisters and I have been helping our 91-year old Mother. Traveling to GA to visit my boys and their families remains a favorite activity. I wish you all a healthy, happy year."

**Butch Grossman** writes, "Keep up the fine work."

**Sharon Goss** reports, "Sixteen USGS retirees and spouses attended the Indiana Christmas party on December 18. We were entertained by the Lost Water Boys (**Jeff Martin, Rich Duwelius** and **Marty Risch**) who specialize in water-science lyrics utilizing music from various genres. Attendees: **Jerry Davis, Rich Duwelius, John (and Sandy) Goebel, Rick & Sharon Goss, Gene Hammil, Paul Hayes, Randy Keeton, Pat Long, Phyllis Lynch, Adrienne Nell (widow of deceased retiree Graham Nell), Danny Renn, Dennis Stewart, Jim Stewart** and **Lee Watson**."

**William Harenberg** says, "Things are going well. Still healthy. Doesn't seem possible that I have been retired for 15 years. I keep busy with Boy Scouts and our church camp board. I am still getting in the field some. I spent quite a few days this year making discharge measurements."

**Carnie Humphries** reports, "**Jeannine** and I are still enjoying retirement in Mechanicsburg, PA with as many visits to family in FL, SC and MS as we can muster. Special enjoyment is seeing our 2 great-grandchildren in Pensacola. They are such a delight in our lives. Hello to all WRD Retirees."

**Ben Jones** writes, "**Mae** and I were in Hawaii for the holidays. Hope all you WRD Retirees are doing well."

**Clayton Kaufman** writes, "**Brenda** and I say hi to friends of WRD, especially those of the PA District office and the former data relay and instrumentation development projects. We still enjoy fishing and shore activities at our mobile home in Delaware and recently we've begun visiting our daughter's new getaway in the mountain of northern Sullivan Co., PA where I did some streamgaging about 40 years ago! In October I finished my 6<sup>th</sup> season as a part-time ride operator at Hershey Park and I am looking forward to another season in 2010 if they will have me back and this aging body will allow it."

**Fritz Kilpatrick** reports, "When I entered Georgia Tech as a co-op student, I was employed by WRD in

Atlanta. Alternately, I worked three months at the Survey and attended classes for three months at Tech. This superb program enabled me to finance my undergraduate education and to graduate in five years. It also gave me practical work experience. My principal job for the USGS was to do hydraulic tests on model bridge openings. Most of my work was under **R. W. Carter** of the Survey and **Carl Kindswater** at Georgia Tech. Of particular help to me was **Homer Bates**, who ran the woodworking - model construction shop. I would like to express appreciation for co-op programs in general. In cooperation, the USGS and Georgia Tech gave young high school graduates the financial means of obtaining a college education. As a young graduate of Spaulding High School in Griffin, GA, I had high hopes but small prospect of attending college. This co-op program opened the door. I graduated in 1953 with a degree in Civil Engineering and later, in 1958, received the Master of Science in Civil Engineering degree. In retirement, **June** and I continue to live in Haymarket, VA at the Evergreen Country Club. She writes as a hobby. We both play bridge and walk the trails of the Manassas Battlefield Park, and I continue to play golf with former colleagues **Al Condes** and **Bill Mann**."

**George Leavesley** reports, "I continue to slide into retirement – am working half time at CSU as a research scientist. I also continue to do some consulting, having spent two weeks in South Africa on a watershed modeling project. We spend July in PA with **Rose Ann's** family. During that visit I took a week-long bike tour of the Finger Lakes in NY. In Sept. we took a 12-day Mediterranean cruise with stops in Turkey, Greece and Italy. We'll see you at the Denver reunion."

**Harry LeGrand** writes, "**Undine** and I have enjoyed the WRD Retirees Newsletter since I retired in 1974. It should be noted that some new retirees started their careers about the time of my retirement. Following my USGS work I have been doing consulting work and scientific studies in groundwater and related subjects. My variety of studies and work over a span of 60 years has prompted the National Ground Water Association to ask me to prepare my autobiography. This autobiography is somewhat directed to my work but especially to knowledge of history of progress in national groundwater studies. It will be published in the November-December, 2009 issue of the journal of *Ground Water*. It was easy to recall that in 1946 the Ground Water Branch of the USGS was expanding to the extent of having at least one groundwater specialist in almost every state. I was the only groundwater specialist of any source in North Carolina in 1950. Access to data on wells in my early years in Georgia and North Carolina was through spotty records from towns and industries and especially from imperfect

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recollections of well drillers and well owners. The scarcity of well data then did not interfere with my enthusiasm as I continued studies in fractured rock hydrology, karst hydrology, and groundwater contamination. Being an early specialist on studies of groundwater contamination, I was able to work as a consultant to the USEPA occasionally at an early stage in the 1970's. The regulatory agencies were then asking "Is groundwater contamination a significant problem?" Some of my poems, partly about groundwater in NC, can be seen at <http://legrandhydrogeology.blogspot.com>. Undine continues to be sprightly and has more "get up and go" than me. She and I now live with our son, Edmund, and his wife in a wing of a rural home in the Cumberland Plateau of TN. The surrounding hill and dale setting is ideal for inspiring picturesque thoughts about hydrogeologic poetry. I have been fortunate to have been associated with many fine retirees."

**Russ and Anita Livingston** write, "Greetings and our wishes to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season! Our year began with several snowshoe and downhill skiing excursions. In the spring we received the bad news that Anita had breast cancer. Fortunately, it was caught early through a mammogram. She had surgery April 3 and after radiation treatment received a clean bill of health. We also got our 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild in April. Our sons and their families continue to do well. We are looking forward to seeing a lot of you at the Denver reunion."

**Bill and Helene Mann** write, "We are blessed to live in the country. The sunsets are magnificent—a constant change as we look toward the mountains. We now have 4 grandsons in college and a granddaughter in high school – plus 2 other grandkids in middle school."

**Larry Martens** reports, "Rita and I had a quiet year for us. Rita took her daughters and granddaughters on a trip to Santa Fe and I was taken to a Badger game in Madison but other than that we stayed pretty close to home. Unfortunately Rita had a bad fall the first of November: broken jaw, cracked shoulder and numerous bruises. She's now on the mend."

**Jerry McCain** reports, "Mary Ann and I continue to do well on our acreage near Montgomery. We are pretty much stay-at-home folks these days. Both of us continue to enjoy good health – even though the leg I smashed as a youngster occasionally gives me problems. We really enjoy spending time with our daughter and grandson. The Denver Reunion sounds great and we are seriously considering attending."

**Gale McMurtrey** writes, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter. Some of the folks retiring just started to work when I retired in 1981. Three more years and I will have been retired as long as I worked. My wife,

**Ardath**, and I are relatively healthy and still do some traveling – mostly to family events. Along with 6 married children, 25 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren – we have a big and happy family! We still travel to time share condos twice a year. We enjoyed a week in CA in Oct. at a resort near Escondido. We wish all of you the best in your various phases of retirement. Life is good!"

**John Musser** reports, "The Louisiana retirees held their Christmas luncheon on Dec. 2 with 18 retirees/spouses in attendance. Special attendees included **Charles Dumas** and **George Arcement** (current Director and Associate Director of the Louisiana Water Science Center), **Darwin Knochenmus** (former District Chief) and **Dorothy Meyer** (widow of former District Chief **Rex Meyer**). **Max Forbes**, poet laureate of the LA retirees composed and read a special Christmas poem to the delight of the group. For more than 35 years Max has written poems dedicated to transferees and retirees. These poems are elegant and humorous testimonies to many who have served in the LA District. With this meeting, John Musser completed 17 continuous years as District Contact for LA." **Editor's note: Thanks John, you have done a terrific job!**

**Cynthia Norman** reports, "No earth shattering news to report, no world travels or ambitious home project. No complaints either! I attended my 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion in September. It was good to renew old friendships. I spent Thanksgiving with my family in Madison. Of course, music is still my passion and my solace. Old George, my cello, and I keep busy with orchestra and chamber music, and church choir keeps me singing."

**Nancy Ordazzo** writes, "I have moved to 7401 Fullview Ave., Mechanicsville, VA 23111-2115. Phone is 804-559-0494. E-mail is the same. Our children live in this area and it seemed time to be closer to them and our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It has been interesting getting used to a new location and finding our way around. The area is so green with many trees. Much different from the golden hills of California. Woodland was a small compact town and we were never far from doctors, grocery stores, church, movie theater, shopping mall. Mechanicsville is bigger and more spread out, but so far we haven't gotten lost. We sold our vehicles in California so we also had to get used to a new car."

**Ed Otton**, as reported by his son, **Jim**, is living quietly at Brighton Gardens, a retirement community in Lakewood, CO having moved to Lakewood in Aug. 2004 from another retirement community in Catonsville, MD. Ed's wife, **Lucile**, passed away in Aug. 2000. Ed is now 91. Ed and Lucile had been living in MD since 1949 when Ed transferred from the

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KY District to the MD District office, then located on the Johns Hopkins campus. Ed retired with 38 years of government service in Jan. 1981, came back as a rehired annuitant to complete an unfinished report finally resigning in 1983. I have enjoyed reading the newsletter and try to tell dad about some of the people that he knew. I am working on his personal and professional history and would like any photos or personal memories that any of the WRD retirees might have of Ed. Thanks in advance. Jim Otton, Energy Program, GD, USGS, Lakewood, CO

**Kathy Peter** reports, "I was saddened to read of **Don Hillier's** passing. **Jim Blakey** did a fine job of reminding us of Don's many accomplishments and the recognition he truly earned. Looking at Don's delightful and charming smile in the photo brought back my memories of many pleasant hours spent in his classes and in his company after class. Have any of us ever doubted Don's passionate desire to bring USGS publications (and their authors) nearer to a perfection of scientific reporting? He was generous with his time, willingly traveling to remote parts of the Central Region to inculcate us with proper grammar and appropriate wording. His rules and directions live on in the lists of "Hillierisms" some of us still have tucked away in our copies of STA (5, 6, or 7?). Right up to my retirement I could recognize authors who were veterans of the Central Region reports process by their word choice, approach to illustrations, and knowledge of how to punctuate unit modifiers. Remember the hyphen machine gun? Don was strict, but he was a kind and patient mentor to me and to many other authors, I'm sure. Don was fun too, with many oft-told anecdotes and devilish examples to liven up a class. To demonstrate why Director approval of cover illustrations was mandatory, he would tell the story of **John Havens**, formerly of New Mexico and Oklahoma. Besides being a skilled hydrologist, John is a trained and talented artist, producing dozens of original pen-and-ink illustrations for the covers of reports. Don knew John, well enough to know to look carefully at John's illustrations, particularly for concealed images. He had once found five pictures of people, and not like "Where's Waldo" characters, more like Manet's "The lunch on the grass". That is, there were naked women tucked into the branches of the trees and bushes. A revised version of the cover was ordered. The new report package was sitting on a desk waiting for shipment to Headquarters when Don happened to walk by and look down, and there, only recognizable when the cover was viewed upside down, a smiling young unclothed lady gazing back at him. But Don's legacy wasn't just the lessons in parallelism and the fact that a dissolved constituent has only one concentration, whose values vary. Don's legacy to the USGS was the attitude that authors developed about reports. He taught that publications weren't the dirty paperwork left at the end of a job;

communicating our science to contemporary and future users is the trophy for which we work. Science unpublished was science half done and to publish for the USGS was a serious responsibility and an honor. So, I hope you all are finished with your hypothetical green pens, will put them down, and instead lift a glass of your favorite beverage to toast a good man and our valued colleague, Don Hillier."

**Doug Posson** says, "Hi to all WRD Retirees."

**Margaret Randolph** reports, "Thanks to all of you who work on the Newsletter and keeping us all in touch. I don't recognize many of the names anymore, but I love to hear the news and activities of all my WRD friends. I was sorry about the deaths of **Mike Gaydos**, **Joe Cragwall** and **Pat Hollyday**; I knew **Joe Cragwall** almost as long as we were in the USGS. He will certainly be missed. I was pleased to read about the Memorial service for Joe. Thank you so much for the WRD Retirees Newsletters and Directory – I love them! God bless all you retirees. A big hello to all from TN."

**Ron Rathbun** says, "Barbara and I are doing fine. We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past summer with a cruise to Alaska with our family."

**Anita Rollo** writes, "I am pleased to report that Rob (Jim) has been declared well. He had a CT scan and a nuclear renal function test on Friday and we saw the doctor today. The ultrasound indicated fluid in both kidneys which indicated some blockage somewhere. The CT scan showed that the fluid was actually cysts that are on the kidneys. They do no harm and can be ignored. Renal function is perfectly normal. We are delighted. And, we have no regrets about the decision to return home. To do otherwise was just not worth the gamble. We fully expect to return to China. I am going to explore some travel alternatives. That plane ride is a killer. Flying from Houston to London non-stop and spending a few days in London before continuing on to China is an appealing option. British Air is our favorite airline and this plan would allow flying British Air all the way. It will be a long time before we do anything so this is just day dreaming at present. I have 3 true Chinese cookbooks and have been reading them with the intent of doing serious Chinese cooking. I have problems in that I don't really know the names of the things we ate and ingredients are something of a problem. I bought the mushroom dark soy sauce at the supermarket in Beijing. I found another brand of dark soy sauce in my local grocery. I will compare it with the Beijing brands. I now have all of our photographs installed and labeled in the computer and I have generated contact prints for all of them. I have enlarged a few--it is difficult to choose which ones to print in the large format. I have enjoyed reliving the trip when I do this I think I will start with the Suzhou canal. If you are curious, you can see

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a few of my paintings on the internet. I am associated with a group of artists here in Kerrville, the group website is 'visions10.com'. You then click Anita Rollo on the home page. You all have fun! "

**Lamar Sanders** writes, "**Dianne** has improved after the stroke. I have been working part time with a private engineering company and that, along with all my new duties because of Dianne's stroke, keeps me busy."

**Stan and Virginia Sauer** report, "We hope 2009 was a good year for you all. It was a time of joy for us as we celebrated the reaffirmation of our wedding vows. Our 1<sup>st</sup> grandchild got married in Dec. in Augusta, GA. We were hoping to attend but Virginia's health did not permit us doing so. It has been a difficult year for Virginia health wise. The good news is that her lymphoma is now in remission. We are hopeful 2010 will be a much better year for her. We hope to see all of you WRD Retirees during the September reunion."

**Don Schaefer** writes, "**Lori** and I had a great cruise to Alaska this summer. The train trip between Fairbanks and Anchorage was especially memorable. We actually were able to glimpse Denali for awhile."

**Bill Shope** says, "**Jani** and I remain busy with church and various charities. Retirement life in Radford is great. Our 3 boys and their families continue to do well. We wish you all a very Happy New Year."

**Charlie Showen** reports, "I have completed my move from VA to NC. Instead of being 7 hours away from my family, I am now 30 minutes away from my daughter and grandchildren. I have an apartment in an independent living facility at The Pines at Davidson, NC. Davidson is a small college town of about 10,000 residents and has about 1,700 students at the college. I made the right move at the right time! Regards to all."

**Earl Skinner** writes, "I really enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter and want to thank all of you and the staff for the extraordinary job you do in putting out the news. Even though I enjoy reading the Newsletter, it is with a sad heart that I read about the passing of old friends, and the debilitating health of others. However, we all still have our fond memories. I received a Christmas card from **Pat** and **Lee Holt** along with a note saying Lee was under hospice care in Georgia. I was glad they included a cell phone number with a request for friends to call. I did call them on Christmas day and was able to talk with Lee by speaker phone. We reminisced about all the glad times in Wisconsin – the staff members, field trips, trips to meetings, co-authoring reports, and all the other camaraderie in and around the office in Madison. I plan to call again soon to check up on his health. This past year has not been a healthy one for me. I was in the hospital 4 times. I was glad to say goodbye to 2009!

My problems began in December 2008 when I had a TERP done – they found I had prostate cancer. I began a 42-day radiation treatment in January 09. Almost halfway through the program my diverticulosis turned into a diverticulitis and late March 21 my intestine ruptured and that ended by radiation treatments. The next day I had emergency surgery, eight inches of intestine were removed and an ostomy bag put in place. They had trouble controlling my temperature and an expected short hospital stay turned into an 11-day stay. I was discharged and one week later reentered the hospital for a cat scan, ultrasound, an MRI and exhaustive blood work. The Drs. were looking for a tumor or abscess that would cause the temperature spikes, but neither was found. However, during my third stay they biopsied the lining of my abdomen and found E coli. With this knowledge they began treating me with Invance, an E Coli specific antibiotic and this took care of the temperature spikes. So I was sent home and a home-health nurse came to my home to administer daily port-injected Invance, and I began a long recovery to get healthy. I was healthy enough to have a repeat procedure done in late August, and again a short expected stay turned into a nine-day stay because they could not control my nausea. With the Dr's permission I cured that problem myself with repeated doses of Roloids. I was dismissed to come home and try to recuperate and am still working on that task! I tell you having a tube down your throat twice for a week at a time dose not make a happy camper. My problems this past year have pretty much kept **Ruth** and I at home and almost turned Ruth into a full-time nursemaid. What little time I had this past year I rode on a bus to pick up handicapped children and adults for transportation to the Community School of Cleburne County. I was not able to continue that after my surgery in March because it involved loading and unloading people in wheel chairs. This past year I served as President of the Board of Directors of Cleburne County Cares, Inc. This is an all volunteer program that cares for indigent people in Cleburne Co., AR. We operate a thrift store, food bank and provide many other services and needs for those in the County who are financially stressed and in crisis. Incidentally, our Executive Director was nominated and selected as Volunteer of the Year for Arkansas for 2009 and will be feted by the State his spring. I have asked to be relieved of my duties with the Board for 2010 in order to try and catch up with tasks around the house that went undone during my health problems of 2009. As yet, they have not granted my request. Here's hoping that 2010 is better than 2009 and is a great year, not only for me but for all WRD Retirees. I turned that big 75 this past Christmas day and I guess I will have to slow down even more. Maybe Ruth and I may be able to travel more this year (at least to places other than hospitals) and perhaps we can attend the WRD Retirees reunion in Denver. Happy New Year to you all!"

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Brett Smith** reports, "Although I've only "dipped my toe into Lake Retirement", I'm most certainly enjoying it! I'm working part time delivering medical materials to the Nuclear Med Clinics in our area (about 200 mile radius). It's relatively stress free work....."just cruizin" and it pays for the travel. We just got back from Hawaii and in January we are taking my son, daughter, son in law and my two grandkids (6 and 9 yrs. old) on a Caribbean cruise. Might as well go for it while everything is still working."

**Gloria Stiltner** writes, "I have had my Real Estate license and been associated with Prudential Carruthers Realtors, Leesburg, VA, for 5 years now. I love being a Realtor. I enjoy helping people and getting to use my administrative and negotiating skills, and even Math sometimes (HAHA!). Also I can go to work anytime I want! The danger is, you pretty much work 24/7 and have to force yourself to take a day off! Have Faith, the Market will change! Loudoun County is the highest birth rate county in Virginia. Let's see, I only have to keep my license for 20 more years to benefit."

**Bert Thomsen** says, "I had a close call in May – bleeding from a ruptured blood vessel in the esophagus or stomach. Symptoms were nausea and vomiting. Fortunately my son was here on vacation and he called the paramedics. Doctors used an endoscope to apply clips on the ruptured vessel and I spent a week in the hospital – 3 days in ICU. I'm told that events like this are rare and seldom reoccur!"

**Janice Ward** writes, "The best perk for working for the US Government is to be able to retire at a young age when you can still do lots of interesting things. I am truly enjoying retirement in Golden, CO. I look forward to seeing many of you fellow WRD Retirees this September at the reunion in Denver."

**John Wark** writes, "**Marcella** and I are still doing genealogy and excited to have recently found another Wark cousin through our Wark DNA project. We are still golfing, not always well, but happy with the activity. Hopefully we will see a lot of you fellow WRD Retirees at the Denver reunion."

**Wayne Webb** reports, "**Sue** and I continue to enjoy retirement in rural Virginia. I enjoy fishing every opportunity I get and we still bowl. Not high scores but the exercise is fun. I still do some part-time consulting for a local firm."

**Betty Jean Webber** reports, "I enjoy the WRD Retirees Newsletter very much and still recognize a few names which bring back many happy memories from when my husband, Earl, worked for USGS in Ohio for many years."

**Jack Weeks** says, "All you WRD Retirees who are golfers take note. Judy and I are planning a great golf tournament for the WRD Retirees reunion in Denver. Please email me at [jjweeks@gmail.com](mailto:jjweeks@gmail.com) too get details."

**CT Welborn** says, "**Bob and Libby Burchett, Stan and Virginia Sauer, Clarence and Dixie Welborn, Helen Davidson, and Willard Gibbons** attended the fall luncheon of Texas WRD Retirees. CT and Dixie made a 15 day trip, 3700 mile to Virginia, Tennessee, and Mississippi. They traveled down the Blue Ridge Parkway, 440miles, to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park in Tennessee, over to Nashville to the Natchez Trace, 400 miles down to Natchez, Mississippi and home. They made this trip before and it only took them 10 days. This time it took them 15 days. Must be getting older? They enjoyed the trip very much and hope to make it again. His daughter, Frances, may be the driver next time. The Christmas party held at the Burchett's home was a real success. Those that made it to the party were: **Bob and Libby Burchett, Bud and Beverly Anderson, Jack and Velma Rawson, Dixie and Clarence Welborn, Jayne May, guests Ann Artis, Gail Sladek and Beverly Welborn MacCarty.** There was no meeting. Just a good time was had by all. There was beer, wine, soft drinks, and Bob's margaritas and the Mexican food were excellent."

**Sulo Wiitala** writes, "All is well in Iowa."

**Bill Wilson** reports, "Best wishes to all WRD Retirees for a great New Year!"

**Johnson Yee** reports, "The Hawaii WRD Retirees are quite active and have lots of fun at our lunch meetings. We enjoy reminiscing about our working days in USGS. See the photo taken at one of our recent lunch meetings in this edition of the Newsletter. You can tell we are all happy in retirement!"

**Chet Zenone** writes, "The 2009 hurricane season was a dud – no Federal disaster declarations. I did spend a few months on a FEMA deployment to Washington state and Alaska, where record-breaking ice-jam floods severely damaged or "wiped out" villages along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. I am enjoying my new role as Regional Director, WR for WRD Retirees. Hope to see a lot of you WRD Retirees at the Reunion in Denver during September."



**FIFTHTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2010**  
**Denver, Colorado**  
**September 9th – September 11th, 2010**

**HOTEL**

The WRD Retirees 2010 Reunion will take place at the Holiday Inn/Lakewood, Lakewood, Colorado, near the end of summer when temperatures can range in the low 70s to mid 80s during the day with much cooler evenings (as low as the 40's). One hundred rooms have been reserved for the Reunion -- we can get more rooms if reservations are made before the August 1, 2010 deadline. There is no charge for parking at the hotel. Rooms consist of both King and 2 bedded rooms. The rate is \$89.00 per room plus tax, and includes a complimentary breakfast for both occupants during the stay. Rates will be honored if the guests wish to extend their stay, either coming early or staying after the reunion.

Room reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn/Lakewood **directly** at 303-980-9200 or **online** at [www.hilakewood.com](http://www.hilakewood.com) and referencing the **Group Code 'WRD Retirees'** for the Reunion dates and, if you are staying for the post Reunion trip to Glenwood Springs, for the return night of September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**The Holiday Inn's address is:** 7390 W. Hampden Avenue  
Lakewood, CO 80227

**This article and the registration form can also be found on the following website:**  
[http://home.sprintmail.com/~ptucci/WRD/index\\_retire.htm](http://home.sprintmail.com/~ptucci/WRD/index_retire.htm)

**TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AIRPORT** may be arranged by one of several methods: (1) Car Rental Agencies; (2) SuperShuttle \$58.00 per person round trip – arrangements can be made by calling 1-800-525-3177, or visiting their website [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com) ; and, (3) local taxi cab services at the airport upon arrival (approx. \$100 one-way, could be split 4 ways with 4 people, plus tip)

**MEDICAL NOTE:** An article on how to prevent 'High Altitude Sickness' is included on page 13.

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

**Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> (Official hotel room check-in time is 4:00 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 noon. An informal Reunion 'kick-off' gathering is scheduled from 6 PM to 9 PM in the Banquet Ball Room and 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.

**Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

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

Optional afternoon activities will include:

- Golf outing with Jack and Judy Weeks – please contact them directly by email at [ijnjweeks@gmail.com](mailto:ijnjweeks@gmail.com) if you are interested.
- Rockies baseball game (vs. Arizona Diamond Backs) – tentatively
- Or, an afternoon of free time

**Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Tours: 8 AM – 4 PM** -- Please refer to specific tour for times.

**Gala Buffet Banquet: 6 – 10 PM** -- Will include closing remarks by the WRD Retirees' President and awards ceremony.

## TOURS

The Reunion committee has arranged five tours. Some retirees may wish to forego the organized tours and take advantage of the Denver areas amenities. Below are brief descriptions of the tours, times, and, their websites.

**Celestial Seasoning and Leanin' Tree Tours (8:45 AM – 4:00 PM):** Celestial Seasoning tour ([www.celestialseasonings.com](http://www.celestialseasonings.com) ), includes a tour of the world's most advanced tea production plant, some tea tasting and an opportunity to visit their gift shop. Leanin' Tree tour ([www.leanintree.com/Museum.html](http://www.leanintree.com/Museum.html) ), are exhibits of the private art collection of Ed Trumble, Founder and Chairman of Leanin' Tree, publisher of fine art greeting cards since 1949. His collection was born of a passion for American western art that has spanned five decades and continues to grow today.

**Georgetown Museums and Train Ride (8:45 AM – 4:00 PM – Elevation 8,512):**

The self-guided tours will include the Hotel de Paris ([www.hoteldeparismuseum.org/](http://www.hoteldeparismuseum.org/)), the Hamill House ([www.historicgeorgetown.org/houses/hamill.htm](http://www.historicgeorgetown.org/houses/hamill.htm) ), and the Energy Museum ([www.georgetownenergymuseum.org/](http://www.georgetownenergymuseum.org/) ); and finally a train ride on the Georgetown Loop Railroad ([www.georgetownlooprr.com/](http://www.georgetownlooprr.com/) ), brings Colorado history to life, the beauty of the rugged Rocky Mountains surrounds you as an old-time steam locomotive or a powerful diesel locomotive winds up the Clear Creek canyon, hauling your train past the remains of several gold and silver mines.

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science (9:30 AM – 2:30 PM):** The Museum ([www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org) ) has expertise and provides programming in six main areas. The exhibitions, IMAX films, lectures, classes, and programs pertain to one or more of the following core competencies in anthropology, geology, health science, paleontology, space science and zoology.

**Front Range Tour (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM):** This tour takes you to some of the most scenic vistas along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains and the associated museums that chronicle the history of the area. At Dinosaur Ridge near Morrison we will have a guided tour of the excavated dinosaur tracks and bones. World famous Red Rocks Amphitheater is a unique geologic feature and the museum traces the colorful history of musical performances there. Lookout Mountain and Buffalo Bill's Museum and Grave have permanent exhibits about Buffalo Bill's life and a spectacular view of Denver and the Plains. ([www.dinoridge.org](http://www.dinoridge.org)); ([www.redrocksonline.com](http://www.redrocksonline.com) ); ([www.buffalobill.org](http://www.buffalobill.org) )

**Garden of the Gods (7:30 AM – 4:00 PM – Elevation 6,008):** Explore Colorado Springs' paradise in one magical stop. Garden of the Gods Park ([www.gardenofgods.com](http://www.gardenofgods.com) ) is a registered National Natural Landmark. Imagine dramatic views, 300' towering sandstone rock formations against a backdrop of snow-capped Pikes Peak and brilliant blue skies.

## REUNION POST TRIP -- Glenwood Springs September 12<sup>th</sup> – September 14<sup>th</sup>

**Elevation – 7,000 ft. (Reference 'Prevent High Altitude Sickness in Denver' article on page 13.)**

Come join us for a trip back in time, and visit THE HOTEL COLORADO that opened in 1887. You will spend two nights where Teddy Roosevelt, Molly Brown, Presidents Taft and Harrison, and many other famous people from the past have stayed. In 1977, the hotel entered into THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

The 6-hour bus trips from and to Denver will include 2-hour lunch stops near Lake Dillon (elev. 8000 ft). We will travel over THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE thru Eisenhower Tunnel, then over VAIL PASS and thru spectacular GLENWOOD CANYON. The cost of round trip bus ride is \$80 per person. If you prefer, drive over in a POV and save the bus costs. However, you will miss the on-going presentation on geology, hydrology and biology during the bus ride.

The Reunion Post Trip hotel (*including a full buffet breakfast*) will be \$132/night – double occupancy.

Call the hotel directly at 1-800-544-3998. Ask for the **WRD RETIREES GROUP**. You will be charged for the first night when you make your reservation. Buses will leave Lakewood on Sunday (September 12th) at 9:30 – 10:00 AM, and leave Glenwood Springs to return to Lakewood at 9:30 -10:00 AM on Tuesday (September 14<sup>th</sup>).

Monday (September 13th) is a free day. So after breakfast, consider a guided tour of the hotel, a therapeutic dip in the large hot springs pool, a tram ride up to Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, or all three. In addition to the hotel dining room, there are several excellent restaurants close by. For more information about Glenwood Springs and things to do, visit website: <http://www.glenwoodchamber.com/>

You may leave large bags and cars at the Holiday Inn. Also, a block of rooms has been reserved for Tuesday night (September 14th) for people flying out on Wednesday (September 15<sup>th</sup>) at the same rate that was established above for the Reunion. You should make a reservation for September 14<sup>th</sup> when you reserve for September 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Please note the following:**

**-Registration for the Reunion and Hotel Reservations must be made by August 1, 2010.**

**-Please register and make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.**

**-Information and links to related sites are available through the WRD Retirees 2010 Reunion website at [http://home.sprintmail.com/~ptucci/WRD/index\\_retire.htm](http://home.sprintmail.com/~ptucci/WRD/index_retire.htm) or is also accessible through the “Reunions” page at the WRD Retirees website at: <http://wrddretirees.org/>**

**If you have any questions, please contact the following:**

Merilee Bennett  
Jim Blakey

[merjimeric@comcast.net](mailto:merjimeric@comcast.net)  
[jblakey@comcast.net](mailto:jblakey@comcast.net)

303-232-5205  
303-988-8520



**Join your fellow WRD Retirees for the Denver reunion and enjoy sights as shown above!**

**WRD RETIREES 2010 REUNION, DENVER, COLORADO  
SEPTEMBER 9 – 11, 2010**

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

**REGISTRATION FEE—DEADLINE AUGUST 1, 2010**

**Registration Fee --** Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Refunds are available prior to the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline date.

**FOOD --** Group meals are listed. Other meals are on-your-own.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

Reunion 'Kick-Off' Party at the Holiday Inn (6 – 9 PM) – Hors d'ouvres (cash bar after 1<sup>st</sup> drink)

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(A ticket for the 1<sup>st</sup> drink, if attending will be included in your package at the time of Reunion check-in)**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2010 (Afternoon Optional Activities)**

-Golf Tournament (Jack and Judy Weeks) – refer back to information in the Reunion memo for arrangements

-Rockies Baseball Game (vs. Arizona Diamond Backs) Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ \$ TBD

A 'Group Rate' may be available depending on the number attending.

**TOURS --** A 55-passenger bus is reserved for each tour. All tours run simultaneously; cancelled tours due to lack of participation will either be refunded or we will try to accommodate the participants in a remaining tour as available.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010**

Celestial Seasoning and Leanin' Tree	Number attending _____ @ \$26 per person	\$ _____
Georgetown Museums and Train Trip	Number attending _____ @ \$53 per person	\$ _____
Museum of Nature and Science, Denver	Number attending _____ @ \$31 per person	\$ _____
Front Range Tour	Number attending _____ @ \$36 per person	\$ _____
Garden of the Gods	Number attending _____ @ \$45 per person	\$ _____

**-Catered Lunch** – French Bread Sandwich, Soup, Potato Salad, Dessert and a Beverage

**-Please indicate your sandwich choice:**

Ham and Cheddar \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey and Swiss \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** All lunches will be on your own, except for the Garden of the Gods tour where a 'Catered' lunch is included in the tour price.

**GALA BANQUET -- SEPTEMBER 11, 2010**

Buffet Dinner Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** *Special arrangements for a Vegetarian Meal can be arranged if desired*

*Please indicate* Number of People \_\_\_\_\_ for this selection only.

**POST REUNION TRIP (September 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>)**

Glenwood Springs Trip Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$80 per person (*transportation only*) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please refer back to '**REUNION POST TRIP -- Glenwood Springs**' for accommodations cost

**TOTAL (registration, food, and tours) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Reunion registration and hotel reservations must be made by August 1, 2010.**

Mail this form, with your check, payable to "**WRD Retirees 2010**" to WRD Retirees c/o Merilee A. Bennett, 3026 Parfet Drive, Lakewood, CO 80215.

# **Prevent Altitude Sickness While in Denver**

**By Thom W. Conroy**

While experiencing the splendor of the Colorado Rocky Mountains can be an unforgettable adventure, most flat-landers rarely give consideration to a potentially life threatening circumstance. Altitude Sickness is a serious malady inflicted upon unprepared visitors to the Denver area, as it presents symptoms ranging from minor discomfort to possible death, in severe untreated cases. Individuals in poor health or suffering from Cardiac or Respiratory Illnesses are particularly at risk to succumb.

In Regions such as Denver, Colorado air pressure falls with an increase in altitude, as well as the amount of available oxygen molecules. The usual amount of oxygen in the air stays about constant. Rapid ascent into high altitudes, overexertion, and dehydration can contribute to Altitude Sickness, or Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS). Recognition of symptoms is vital, and may include headache, fatigue, dizziness, and stomach distress. A well prepared visitor or new resident to the Denver area can take preventative measures to ensure a smooth acclimatization.

A few easy to follow rules for adapting to high altitudes are:

- 1) If you suffer from a physical condition, consult a Physician before traveling.
- 2) Realize your personal physical limitations – be honest.
- 3) Limit alcohol and caffeine intake as they lead to dehydration.
- 4) Increase your daily water intake; in high altitudes water vapor is lost from the lungs.
- 5) Conserve energy; realize your body is experiencing unusual strain.
- 6) Arrive early to high altitude locations. Allow yourself 24 hours rest before becoming active.
- 7) Try to eat regularly even if you are not hungry. A good rule is high altitude, high carbohydrates.
- 8) Travel with companions, there is safety in numbers in case of an emergency.
- 9) Ascend and descend includes slowly, take time to rest frequently.
- 10) Keep a watchful eye on seniors and children in your party.
- 11) Take a cell phone along for emergency communications.
- 12) Wear loose clothing that blocks rays, it can be quite hot, even in high altitudes in summer.

The best survival tool for Altitude Sickness is common sense. A small amount of research prior to undertaking travel of an unfamiliar environment can not only protect personal health, but the well being of loved ones and acquaintances. In this instance, an ounce of prevention may just save a life.

Associated Content website:

[www.associatedcontent.com/article/924677/prevent\\_altitude\\_sickness\\_while\\_in.html?cat=70](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/924677/prevent_altitude_sickness_while_in.html?cat=70)

## WRD NEWS

### Recent Retirements

**Note to all WRD Retirees. Recent retirees automatically become new members of WRD Retirees. Please treat these new members like old friends – welcome them aboard and invite them to participate in Local Meetings and Gatherings. Call them and ask them to become active in our organization. Thanks!**

#### Northeastern Region

Richard J. Ahlin, Hydrologic Technician, 3033 Sandy Bluff Place, Richmond, VA 23233, (804) 364-1630, 01/01/10  
James R. Dine, Hydrologist, 4 Argyle Ave., Glen Rock, PA 17327, (717) 235-4529, 01/02/10  
Lonnie J. Fekula, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 386, Hickory, PA 15340, 12/31/09  
James M. Gerhart, Hydrologist, 1823 Lear Court, Bel Air, MD 21015, (410) 838-9037, 01/02/10  
Patricia M. Murray, Hydrologic Technician, 5859 Veeder Road, Slingerlands, NY 12159, (518) 869-1220, 01/02/10  
Robert H. Pentz, Hydrologic Technician, 1900 Northleigh Road, Timonium, MD 21093, (410) 561-9739, 12/31/09  
Daniel J. Phelan, Hydrologist, 6007 Lakeview Road, Baltimore, MD 21210, (410) 377-9001, 01/02/10  
Stephen M. Ward, Hydrologist, 1812 Maple Drive, Evans, West Virginia 25241, (304) 984-1569, 01/01/10

#### Southeastern Region

Ronald G. Garrett, Hydrologic Technician, 2501 Harptree Court, Raleigh, NC 27613, (919) 847-3308, 11/18/09  
Gail M. Moran, Administrative Officer, 8830 Manoo Place, Diamondhead, MS 39525, (228) 255-4486, 12/03/09  
Lloyd H. Woosley, Jr., Hydrologist, 3240 Indian Trail, Eustis, FL 32726, 11/03/09

#### Central Region

Robert L. Blazs, Hydrologist, 10716 Green Valley Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73151, (405) 771-5438, 01/02/10  
Peter W. Bush, Hydrologist, 1212 Noton Court, Pflugerville, TX 78660, (512) 251-7850, 1/01/10  
Marilyn H. Corn, Admin. Technician, P.O. Box 977, Centerville, UT 84014, (801) 295-9793, 12/31/09  
Denise Dennett, Budget Analyst, 15800 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Golden, CO 80401, (303) 279-4810, 12/31/09  
Alfred J. Driscoll, Chemist, 6501 Devinney Court, Arvada, CO 80004, (303) 425-6614, 12/02/09  
John R. Garbarino, Chemist, 13773 West Ohio Drive, Lakewood, CO 80228, (303) 985-9981, 01/01/10  
Kevin G. Guttormson, Hydrologic Tech., 1415 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SW, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, (218) 999-7234, 11/02/09  
Merle Wesley Shockey, Chemist, 10660 W/ 106<sup>th</sup> Place, Westminster, CO 80021, (303) 465-3583 10/31/09  
Vincent C. Walczyk, Hydrologic Technician, 7700 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68512, (402) 328-0487, 01/01/10

#### Western Region

Jeffrey Agajanian Hydrologic Technician, 553 Rancho Terrace, Escondido, CA 92026, (760) 480-6549, 12/31/09  
Joseph T. Bunt, Jr., Electronics Technician, 2119 Varian Place, Boise, ID 83709, (208) 377-0919, 01/01/10  
Randy L. Dinehart, Hydrologist, 3933 Chariot Circle, Rescue, CA 95672, (530) 672-0237, 01/02/10  
Shirley D. Francisco, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 25163, Munds Park, AZ 86017, (928) 286-2716, 01/01/10  
Kerry T. Garcia, Hydrologist, 4488 Hidden Meadow Drive, Carson City, NV 89701, (775) 882-4190, 01/01/10  
Michael J. Johnson, Hydrologic Technician, 399 Pasture Drive, Carson City, NV 89701, (775) 885-9682, 12/03/09  
Gary L. Otto, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 621, Indian Springs, NV 89018, (702) 371-8341, 12/31/09  
Joseph P. Rousseau, Hydrologist, 500 South Maurine Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401, (208) 542-0784, 12/31/09  
William A. Taylor, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 809, Spokane, WA 99210, 12/31/09  
Mark L. Weitz, Info. Tech. Specialist, 32 Bennett Lane, Oakville, WA 98568, (360) 273-8865, 12/31/09

**Get your Newsletter sooner and in full color! Use email or use the WRDRetirees web page.**

Since May 2006, we have "mailed" the Newsletter using both email and US mail. Of our 1,400 members, 950 receive the paper copy via US Mail. A full color version is emailed to about 450 members. The email version is delivered about one month earlier than the US Mail version and is in full color! However, to receive the Newsletter by email requires a personal computer connected to the Internet by a relatively high-speed connection. There are nearly 300 WRD Retirees who have a personal computer connected to the Internet but do not receive the Newsletter by email. If you are one of those 300 retirees, you probably have a relatively low-speed Internet connection and it would take an inordinate amount of time to download a 24-page file. There is another method we can use to make the Newsletter available to you over the Internet -- by use of our web page. The Newsletter is posted on the web page about the same time it is emailed. We could send you an email notifying you that the Newsletter is available on the web page. You would simply go to the web page at [WRDRetirees.org](http://WRDRetirees.org) and click on Newsletter. If you want a paper copy it is quite easy to print one from the web page.

If you agree to receive your Newsletter by one of the electronic versions, send an email to Kate Flynn at [wrdretirees@gmail.com](mailto:wrdretirees@gmail.com) and indicate if you (1) want to receive the Newsletter by email or (2) want to be notified when the Newsletter is available on the web. By doing either of the above you will really help WRD Retirees! Thanks.

**WRD News**  
**“What’s New in Research?”**  
**Geological Carbon Sequestration by Jerad Bales, WRD, Chief Scientist**

The term “carbon sequestration” is used to describe both natural and deliberate processes by which carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is either removed from the atmosphere or diverted from emission sources and stored in the ocean, terrestrial environments (vegetation, soils, and sediments), and geologic formations. Before human-caused CO<sub>2</sub> emissions began, the natural processes that make up the global carbon cycle maintained a near balance between the uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> and its release back to the atmosphere.

Existing CO<sub>2</sub> uptake mechanisms (or sinks), however, are insufficient to offset the accelerating pace of emissions related to human activities. Annual carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels in the United States are about 1.6 gigatons, whereas annual uptake amounts are only about 0.5 gigatons, resulting in a net release of about 1.1 gigatons per year. As a result, there is a need for approaches that both reduce emissions and increase storage. USGS scientists are providing information that will help maximize carbon storage through both geologic and biological sequestration, and minimize undesirable effects of this storage on humans and the environment. This article addresses geological sequestration, and the next newsletter will address biological carbon sequestration. Geologic capture and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> has the potential to reduce future world emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from energy by 20%. Carbon sequestration already is underway in trials, with 3 megatons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year from power plants or natural gas cleanup being captured and stored. Worldwide, large demonstrations are planned at 36 power plants, and the American Recovery and Re-investment Act of 2009 provides \$3.4 billion for carbon sequestration demonstration activities.

Injection of CO<sub>2</sub> for storage into pore spaces of sedimentary rocks is based, in part, on industrial experience of injection into hydrocarbon fields for enhanced oil recovery. Natural sites have, of course, stored CO<sub>2</sub> for tens of millions of years, but efforts to scale-up injection face the fundamental problem that the subsurface contains no empty space. Injected CO<sub>2</sub> is in a supercritical state, is buoyant, displaces huge volumes of formation water, and is chemically reactive with reservoir and seal rocks. The extent to which injected CO<sub>2</sub> will move through seals and existing boreholes to contaminate underground sources of drinking water or displace saline water into groundwater supplies is poorly understood, and may be a limiting factor to geological sequestration. Likewise, there could be problems of induced seismicity and dynamic changes in permeability as a result of seismicity and geochemical reactions. These sorts of conceptual problems require an in-depth understanding of CO<sub>2</sub>-brine-mineral interactions and aquifer mechanics, which the USGS is addressing through both the National Research Program and the Geology Discipline’s Energy Program, and in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy and EPA, among others.

NRP scientists monitored the injection of CO<sub>2</sub> into a deep saline aquifer in a sedimentary formation near Frio, TX, photo (courtesy Yousif Kharaka, USGS). Injection at the site was successful and resulted in the development of new geochemical tools, including the use of isotopes to track CO<sub>2</sub> movement. Monitoring results did indicate that some of the injected CO<sub>2</sub> migrated from one formation to another, and that strict measures are needed to prevent CO<sub>2</sub> escape and brine leakage. In addition, this study concluded that detailed site characterizations are needed to minimize environmental impacts, and that both near-surface and deep subsurface monitoring is necessary to detect leakage. Much additional research is needed before full-scale implementation of this technology can proceed with confidence. Additional information on USGS Geologic Carbon Sequestration activities, at <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/usgspubs/fs/fs20083097>.





## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

Washington retirees enjoyed their fall lunch meeting. Living in the Pacific NW must be great!



L to R: Les Laird, Dave Kresch, Dee Molenaar, Deanna Walth, Tom Higgins, Evelyn Johanson, Jim Ebbert, Don Richardson, Norm Dion, Denny Cline, and Rod Williams.

The Denver Reunion organizing committee. Mark your calendars so you can attend the September 9-11 reunion in Denver and the post reunion trip to Glenwood Springs on September 12-14. These folks guarantee a fun time for all!



L to R. Pat Tucci, Zelda Bailey, Sara James, Sandra Duncan, John Moore, Janice Ward, Merilee Bennett, Jerry Pascale and Jim Blakey



## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

WRD retirees who worked in the Grand Forks, MN office during the 60s and 70s met for lunch on July 31.



L to R: Wally Larson, Jerry Lindholm, Bill Gothard, Jim Johnson and Greg Melhous.  
At 96, Jim is as witty as ever.

WRD retirees present at the wine dinner hosted by Herb (our new WRD Retirees President) and Pat Frieberger at their home on December 5, 2009. Much fun was had by all! WRD Retirees from MD, VA, and KS attended.



L to R: Herb Freiberger, Pat Freiberger, John Covey, Theresa Rose, Jim Bley, Joyce Biesecker, Nancy Bley, Jim Biesecker, Linda Carswell, Bill Carswell, Nancy Pentz, Bob Pentz.

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

Hawaii WRD Retirees had much fun at a lunch in Honolulu in November. You can tell by the smiles that a great time was had by all.



The Wyoming WRD retirees, plus 3 visiting retirees from Colorado met for lunch and fellowship at the Cheyenne Airport Golf Club on December 5th. A good time was had by all!



L to R: Standing: Joe Wallace, Pam Schuetz, Sue Wallace, Keith Walgren, Helen Crist, Marvin Crist, Kathy Wilson, Marlin Lowery, Janet Cunningham, Warren Gookin, Lynn Cunningham, Marge Gookin, Rod Larsen, Frances Ringen, Karen Mora, Bruce Ringen, Joel Schuetz, Judy Wilson, Tommy Sullivan, Bill Emmett, Bob Brennan, Jim Blakey, Jim Rankl. Seated: Sherry Green, Jan Walgren, Liz Adels, Bill Wilson.

## **WRD RETIREE VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION**

**Whitman County Historical Society**  
**President: David H Appel (Retired USGS-WRD 1994)**

Whitman County lies in the southeastern part of Washington State sharing its eastern border with Idaho. Colfax, the county seat, lies 60 miles south of Spokane in the heart of what is known as the "Palouse region." The Palouse is an area of rolling hills formed by loess soils that was originally covered with abundant bunch grass and used by the Indians for grazing and hunting. As the white settlers in the last half of the 1800's started to "wrestle" the land away from the natives, they found that the soil was not just good for grazing but very fertile and the climatic conditions favorable for growing small grains (wheat). This led to a land rush by farmers establishing claims, taking up residence, and building fences; thereby, eliminating the Indians' livelihood. As we know, the Indians were eventually displaced (after more "wrestling") and the area settled by whites. The County was dotted with many small communities, each containing a grocery, bar, church, blacksmith, and school to serve the farmers, since transportation was by horse on dirt roads. The settlers were right about the Palouse soils and climate—the Palouse is now the highest yielding dryland-wheat growing area in the United States.

The Whitman County Historical Society (WCHS) was formed in 1972 with the expressed purpose of preserving and promoting the history and historical sites in Whitman Co. I joined the group about seven years ago. We currently own four different properties: the Perkins House in Colfax (built in 1886 and is the oldest standing building in the County), the Holy Trinity Chapel in Palouse (built in 1895), the Roy Chatters Newspaper and Print Museum (with the *Palouse Republic* presses from 1887) and our Archives in Pullman. These properties are open to the public. The WCHS consists of about 500 members representing most aspects of Whitman County life from Washington State University (WSU) professors in Pullman to the farmers scattered throughout the county. Our activities the past couple of years included: upkeep and showing of our properties, setting up exhibits in the several community events, operating a blacksmith shop at the Palouse Empire Fair, correcting the written history of the "Steptoe Battle" and touring the corrected battle sites, and the usual Ice Cream Social at the Perkins House.

This year we will begin working with the Fair Foundation to relocate one of the last two remaining "one room schoolhouses" still standing in the county. It must be moved about 12 miles and relocated at the Palouse Empire Fair grounds where it will be set up as a museum and small meeting facility. The WCHS will be involved with the site preparation, renovation of the schoolhouse after it arrives, and operation of it as a museum.

As a final side note—I really wasn't into "old" until I found out that my great grandpa established the first business in Dusty, Washington around 1900, a blacksmith shop!

## IN MEMORIAM

**William “Bill” Allen** long time Greenville, RI, resident, died Monday, April 20, 2009. Born in Cranston, RI, he graduated from Cranston East High School. He attended Bowdoin College in ME and graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1939 with a B.S. in biology. In 1941, he received a Masters in geology from the University of Missouri. Bill worked for the USGS for over 30 years, retiring in 1972. He was a WWII army veteran and was attached to 30th Engineers Topograph Battalion. He continued playing tennis beyond his 80th birthday. He is survived by his children, William D. and David B. Allen, Phebe A. Jacobs and Jane M. Bishop. He also leaves 7 grandchildren and 4 great-granddaughters.

**Leo A. Bohner**, 85, passed away on July 6, 2009, in Yerington, NV. Leo was a Nebraska native and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1951 with a BSCE. Leo began with WRD as an Engineer in Topeka, KS, in 1953. He transferred to Ellinwood, KS, in 1956 and to Wichita in 1965 as Engineer-in-Charge. In 1966 he moved to Elko, NV, as the Engineer-in-Charge. In 1975, Leo transferred one final time to the District Office in Carson City, NV, and worked there until his retirement in 1982. Leo is survived by his wife Della of 59 years, two sons, Dennis and Steve and 5 grandchildren.

**Lillian Boner** passed away June 1, 2009, at age 80, in Tucson, AZ. She was the wife of WRD Retiree Fred Boner. They met in Bozeman, MT, while Fred was a member of the USGS team studying the water resources of the Gallatin Valley and were married in 1953. Lillian is survived by her husband Fred, sons Lonny and William, daughter Paulette, 4 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great- grandchildren.

**Frank Dalton** died November 12, 2009 in Latham, NY. An Albany native, he started with WRD as an Engineering Aid in the Albany SW office in 1957. He was later converted to a Hydrologic Technician and served 42 years with USGS collecting and interpreting hydrologic data, spending his entire career in Albany. He was in the National Guard, retiring as a master sergeant after 28 years of service. Frank enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping and was an avid NY Yankees and NY Giants fan. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jean; a son, Frank and 2 granddaughters.

**Mary Reid Esch** (formerly **Mary E. Reid**) passed away at her Dallas home on November 26, 2009. She was 95. Her USGS career began in Denver and subsequently, Washington, DC, serving as Exec. Assistant to the Director, USGS. In that position, she had the opportunity to establish and direct the Public Inquiries Office in Dallas, Texas in 1957. She retired in 1973. A gifted pianist, Mary enjoyed performing music, travel and interior design. She is survived by her daughter, Sydney and her son-in-law, Joel. She was a phenomenal mother and role model for them and her extended family.

**Robert Eugene “Bob” Fish**, 92, died November 2, 2009 at his home of 50 years in Milford, PA. Bob attended high school at the University Training School at the University of Kentucky, and graduated from U.K. with a BSCE in 1938. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honorary Fraternity. After graduation, he began his career with the USGS in Louisville, KY. In 1941, he married Dorothy Ann Dowling and the couple soon moved to Pittsburgh, where their daughters were born, and again to Raleigh, NC, where their son was born. In 1958, he transferred to Milford, PA, to oversee the office of the Delaware River Master and continued in employment there until retirement. Bob was devoted to his family, his church, and the community. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, PTA President, Chairman of the Pike Co. American Heart Association, and President of Lehigh Valley Chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers. He served on the Milford Planning Commission and was Borough Codes Enforcer for a number of years. He was a past president of the Milford Lion's Club, and recently was awarded a chevron for 50 years of continuous membership in the local club. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Dorothy, in April 1990. He is survived by his children, Nancy Leigh Fish Hanna, Melinda Clarissa Fish Galbreath and Robert Ellison Fish and 3 grandchildren.

**John Kammerer**, 86, passed away in Lexington, MA, on April 19, 2008. John received a BA from Washington and Lee University in 1943 and later did graduate work in Geology at MIT. He began his USGS career as a Geologist with the GW office in Memphis and later worked as a groundwater hydrologist in Philadelphia, Boston and Albany before transferring to headquarters to work in the Special Reports Unit. He was Chief of the Special Reports Unit from 1967-75. John authored a fact sheet on large rivers of the world. He retired in 1990 and is survived by his wife, Barbara, who is living in Lexington.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Oscar Lara** died October 1, 2009 at age 84. Born in Bolivia, he spent his early life there, serving in the Bolivian army after high school. He moved to Champaign, IL, where he enrolled in the University of Illinois and earned a BSCE. He began his long USGS career with a part-time appointment while a student. After graduation, he began his WRD assignment in Champaign and Arlington, with the SW branch, transferring to Iowa City in 1970. He was a SW specialist in the IA District, authoring reports on flood-frequency and low flow. Oscar retired in 1986 and worked for a consulting firm in Madison, WI. He was preceded in death by his wife of 34 years, Joan Ganos Lara. He later married Maritza who passed away in 2009. Oscar is survived by 3 daughters: Katherine Mack, Anclrea Schmitt and Christine Harrison.

**Imogene Mary "Jean" Langford** of Springfield, VA, passed away on December 16, 2009, at age 83. A native of Marysville, KS, Jean grew up in Topeka and attended Washburn University there. She was a devout lifelong member of the Catholic Church and brought faith, warmth and a helping hand to all she knew. Jean lived her life with a "can do" attitude that embodied her strong Midwestern roots. Jean was the wife of WRD Retiree Russell Hal Langford, ex-President of WRD Retirees, who is still very active in the HQ group of retirees. Hal served in WRD as Chief of OWDC and as Associate Chief Hydrologist, the position he retired from in 1985. Jean is survived by her husband of 63 years, Hal, and her cherished children: Amy, Stephen, David and Rusty. She is also survived by 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**L.B. "Bud" Peirce** passed away August 30, 2009. Bud was born on May 29, 1911, in Pensacola, FL. He grew up in West Virginia and graduated from Davis and Elkins College in 1933 with a BS Degree in Physics and Mathematics. Following college, he married Ella Elizabeth Hokman and they had 3 children. He began service with the USGS in 1936 as a Hydraulic Engineer. He transferred to Montgomery, AL, in 1945 and then to Tuscaloosa in 1968. After he retired from the WRD, Bud was employed by the Geological Survey of Alabama as a Water Resources Specialist until 1973. After his "second retirement," Bud moved with family to Panama City, FL, where he spent the remainder of his life. Bud was a continuous Ham Radio Operator for 59 years beginning in 1930. He built his own Ham Radio equipment, enjoying both building and operating equipment. He was a master chess player and a self taught musician, specializing in organ and accordion.

**Eugene "Gene" Shuter**, was born April 23, 1930 in Westport, IN, and passed away on October 25, 2009, in Meridian, ID. In 1939, his family moved from Westport, IN, to Boise, ID, where he later attended Boise Junior College. He served in the U.S. Army. Gene met his wife-to-be, Carrie, in Seattle and they were married in 1949. Gene started his USGS career in 1948 in the Boise office under Raymond L. Nace. In December 1954, he left the Survey to dairy farm and in December 1955 he returned to the Survey and was sent to the Louisville, KY, office. He later transferred to Denver and worked in the Hydrologic Laboratory. In 1961, Gene transferred to Idaho Falls, ID, to work at the National Reactor Testing Station where he remained until 1963. He then transferred back to Denver where he became Chief of the Hydrologic Equipment and Services Unit. Some years later, Gene organized and ran the Research Drilling, Sampling, and Testing Techniques Unit where he remained in charge until his retirement in 1979. During his 30-year service to USGS, he authored many reports and received the Excellence of Service Award in 1973 and a Meritorious Service Award in 1977. His loving wife and best friend of 60 years, Carrie; son, Raymond; daughter, Susan; 3 granddaughters, and a great grandson survive.

**George Williams** died in Herndon, VA, on December 1, 2009, at age 82. George was born in the United Kingdom and graduated from high school in the UK. A veteran of the British Army, he served in the Royal Engineers from 1945-48 and was honorably discharged as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. He earned a BS in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Toronto and an MS in Agricultural Engineering, Soils and Water, from the University of Nebraska in 1954. George began his professional career working for several consulting firms in Colorado on irrigation systems. From 1960-62, he worked on a ground water project in West Pakistan. Later he also worked in Abu Dhabi. His first WRD assignment was as a Hydrologist in Albany, NY, in 1965, where he worked on projects including quality of public water supplies and flood prone areas. His final assignment was in HQ as Chief, Planning Section retiring from that position in 1997. He enjoyed fishing, playing bridge and gardening. George is survived by his wife, Delpha, a daughter Cally Kawachi and 2 granddaughters.

**Marjorie Mae Zielke**, age 86, died December 16, 2009, in Columbus, OH. An Ohio native, Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband Clarence Zielke. She is survived by her son, Mike Miller; step-children, Clarence Zielke, Jr., and Linda Scholl; and four grandchildren. Marj began her career with USGS in 1957 as a Physical Scientist in the chemical lab in Columbus and retired in 1984.

## **Data from 1909...about 100 Years Ago**

**What a difference a century makes! Some information for the United States from 1909:**

- The average life expectancy was 47 years.
- Gasoline was sold in drug stores only.
- Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The average wage was 22 cents per hour.
- More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.
- Ninety percent of all doctors had no college education at all. Instead, they attended Medical Schools, many of which were condemned in the press and the government as 'substandard.'
- Sugar cost 4 cents a pound, eggs were 14 cents a dozen.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- The American flag had 45 stars.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!
- Crossword puzzles and canned beer hadn't been invented yet.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write.
- Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire nation.

## CHANGES TO 2009 WRD RETIREES DIRECTORY

Agnew, Allen F (81) (Frances): 2595 NE Jack London St, Apt B15, Corvallis OR 97330 – addr  
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Brown, Mrs. Delbert "Helen" (W): 6128 East Lola Way, Englewood CO 80110, 303-250-8165 – addr, ph  
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Hillier, Mrs. Don "Barbara" (W): [hillierdb@msn.com](mailto:hillierdb@msn.com) – email  
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Smith, Barry S (02) (Mary): [bsamuelsmith@comcast.net](mailto:bsamuelsmith@comcast.net) – email  
Stewart, Mrs. Mack "Ellen" (W): c/o Larry Stewart, 5118 Windermere Blvd, Alexandria LA 71301 – addr  
Sylvester, Marc A (04) (Marie Kelly): 382 Engler St, Sonoma CA 95476, 707-939-8337 – addr, ph  
Thomas, Mrs. Donald M "Corky" (W): [dthomash2o@verizon.net](mailto:dthomash2o@verizon.net) – email

### NEW or REINSTATED MEMBERS – in addition to the Recent Retirees listed on p. 14

Borchers, James W (07) 1315 Locust Pl, Davis CA 95618, 530-756-1442, [jimborchers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimborchers@sbcglobal.net)  
Mora, Karen (Affil) P.O. Box 662, Wellington CO 80549, 970-420-5108, [klmora@hotmail.com](mailto:klmora@hotmail.com)  
Reid-Hedge, Sydney (Affil) (Joel) 4229 Livingston Ave, Dallas TX 75205, [sydneyrh@airmail.net](mailto:sydneyrh@airmail.net), 214-526-8226

## TREASURER'S REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2009

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$16,355.80 in its treasury at the end of the fourth quarter for calendar year 2009. Receipts for the quarter were \$2,257.37 from dues and contributions from 120 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$623.98, including the costs for the printing of WRD Retirees Newsletter 145. During the quarter a total of \$637.00 was received in contributions from 39 members. Special thanks for contributions above dues go to : Mrs. James C. Munsdorff, Mrs. John Randolph, Mrs. Charles Lane, Patrick O. Jefferson, Theodore Sieger, Mrs. John C. Kammerer, George Edelen, Mrs. Malcolm Hale, Mrs. E. "Alice" Kennedy, Ms. Charlotte "Scottie" Burch, Ms. Gale McMurtrey, Alan M. Lumb, Russell C. Wagner, Theron R. Dosch, Joe & Kay Moreland, Bruce Parks, Margie M. Shapira, Douglas Posson, Arthur G. Scott, Mrs. G. "Mary" DeBuchananne, Donald A. Goolsby, Richard Luckey, James F. Blakey, James R. Slack, Mrs. Beverly A. "Bev" Pittarelli, Jack Carter, James E. Biesecker, Mrs. Earl "Betty Jean" Webber, Ronald E. Rathbun, Sulo Wiitala, Mrs. Veronica A. "Ronnie" Andreani, Charles R. Showen, Ren Jen Sun, Orville B. Lloyd, Ivan Burmeister, Craig Hutchinson, William P. Bartlett, Gordon L. Nelson, and Robert C. Bubeck.

### Message from the WRD Retirees Secretary, Bill Boning

**Dues for WRD Retirees:** The November Newsletter had a message on the front page about dues. The message said "There is a number in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label. The number is the last year you paid dues." I apologize that I forgot to add that number when the mailing labels were printed. Many members have sent dues anyway and that is appreciated. The label on this edition of the Newsletter should have a number in the upper right hand corner indicating the last year your dues were paid! If the number is 2009, then you owe dues for 2010; if the number is 2008, then you owe dues for two years (2009 and 2010). Dues are \$10 per year and cover the costs of the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship program and printing and mailing the Newsletters and Directory. We accept dues for advance years and contributions above dues are appreciated. If the number in the upper right hand corner of the mailing label of the February Newsletter is 2009 or earlier, please send a check to: WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280. Please indicate how much is for dues and how much is a contribution. Please let me know if I have made any errors in recording your past payments. Dues payments made in February 2010 may not yet be recorded. Members who receive their copy of the Newsletter by email have already been notified of their dues status. If you have questions about dues email me at: [cwboning@verizon.net](mailto:cwboning@verizon.net) or [wrcretirees@usgs.gov](mailto:wrcretirees@usgs.gov) or phone me at 703-435-0031.

**The 2010 Directory:** The 2010 Directory is targeted for publication with the May Newsletter. Changes or corrections to be included in the 2010 Directory need to be received in the WRD Retirees office by March 2, 2010. Please review the information in the 2009 Directory and send any changes in address, phone number, and email address, etc. to me at [cwboning@verizon.net](mailto:cwboning@verizon.net) or [wrcretirees@usgs.gov](mailto:wrcretirees@usgs.gov) or by phone to 703-435-0031. I am soliciting pictures that might be used as a cover for the 2010 Directory. Traditionally the cover picture is of old equipment or an old field photo. If you have a picture that would be appropriate for the cover, please contact me. We also will need a short caption for the picture which will appear on the first page of the Directory.