

WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 137
November 2007

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It truly has been a pleasure serving as President of this wonderful organization. WRD Retirees accomplished a lot during the past two years: establishing a Hydrologic Technician Scholarship, revising the Constitution and Bylaws, creating a WRD Retirees web page, making the Newsletter available by email, and a great reunion in Madison. A heartfelt thanks to all of the officers and Newsletter staff for their contributions to the success of WRD Retirees--they did a wonderful job. Please see the banner on the left side of this page to identify the officers and Newsletter staff. I want to especially thank the following members who made significant contributions to WRD Retirees during the past two years:

- Marv and Rosann Sherrill, Warren Gebert, Pat and Lee Holt, Al Harr, Dale and Gerry Cotter and Rick Grover for organizing the Madison Reunion.
- Mike Gaydos for keeping the list of who receives their Newsletter by email.
- Ken Lanfear for creating the WRD Retirees web page and keeping it current.
- Bob Beall for gathering the information from WRD Retirees office that is needed to prepare the many In Memoriam statements.
- Phil Emery for suggesting that we start the series of articles to recognize those WRD Retirees that served in WW II or Korea.
- Jim Blakey, Bill Boning, Hal Langford, Russ Wagner, Tom Yorke, and Loren Young -- the "Blue Ribbon Panel" -- for their efforts in determining if WRD Retirees needed any changes and making meaningful recommendations.
- Al Condes, Terry Danielson, Jack Fischer, Anna Lennox, Russ Livingston, Bill Mann, Charles Nethaway, CT Welborn and Loren Young for helping the officers contact the WRD Retirees who were delinquent in their dues payment -- about 500 emails and/or phone calls were made with impressive results.
- Tom Yorke for organizing the HQ meetings, serving as Acting Secretary during Bill Boning's annual summer vacation, and with Al Condes, preparing the Directory.
- Jim Barks for representing WRD Retirees at the OSW conference.
- Jim Blakey, Bill Emmett, Warren Teasdale, Bob Boulger, and Jerry Duncan for serving on the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship selection panel.
- Jack Pickering and Tom Yorke for performing the required Treasury audit.
- Hugh Hudson, Bill Schaefer and Ken Darmer for their interesting and informative articles about measuring the flow of Big Rivers.
- Bob Beall, Bill Boning, Tom Buchanan, George Edelen, Fritz Kilpatrick, Hal Langford, Anna Lennox, Bill Mann, Jack Pickering, Bill Schaefer, Seymore Subitzky, Dennis Sulam, Celso Puente, and Tom Yorke for assistance in mailing the Newsletters and Directory.
- Herb Schumann for representing WRD Retirees at the award of the first Hydrologic Technician scholarship.
- And finally, a special thanks to Hal Langford, Jim Blakey, Tom Yorke, and Herb Freiburger for listening to my ideas and offering sage advice.

WRD Retirees will continue to thrive. An outstanding slate of members is running for office. Remember that only you, the Retirees, can guarantee the continuing success of WRD Retirees. Other USGS retiree groups are floundering while WRD Retirees continues to succeed -- this is in part because of our wide geographic distribution of members and not solely depending on the headquarters group for leadership. Please step forward and volunteer in some capacity to help. Also, please remember to pay your dues. If you have any questions about your dues status, email, write, or call Bill Boning, Secretary. Joyce and I look forward to visiting with you all in Tampa!

NEWS OF RETIREES

Andy Anderson reports, "A group of WRD folks have been making an annual fishing trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina for about 40 years. The 2007 contingent of **Andy Anderson, Hal Langford, John Shanton, Doug Edwards** and **Jim Biesecker** made the annual fishing trek September 22-27. John Shanton is the organizer, outfitter, and chief cook. The fishing was terrific with the catch included fin dolphin, Wahoo, blue fish, sea trout, puppy drum and red fish. Hal, John, and Jim caught some very large red fish – as in excess of 50 pounds and will be receiving citations from North Carolina Department of Fisheries. A great time was had by all and as usual Hal was the big winner at poker."

Craig Bentley says, "Keep the Newsletter coming -- I really enjoy it and the great memories it brings back. All is going along smoothly. **VaDonna** and I still have the grandchildren with us. Both will be in high school this year, and their mother is working steadily, so we believe we can see a glimmer at the end of the tunnel. I remain active in the Association of Engineering and Environmental Geologists (AEG) and was elected recently to the executive committee of the Sierra Club for southern Nevada. We enjoy our friendship with **Charlie and Pauline Morgan** and generally get out to dinner with them once a month. So, life is going along well. Keep up the good work – it definitely is appreciated."

Jim Blakey reports, "The **Georges** and the **Blakeys** Cruised round trip from South Hampton to Rome on the QE2 in September. She is First Class. We returned in time for the Denver area Retiree's Fall Luncheon on October 16. We had 55 retirees and guests, including 6 for the first time; **Zelda Bailey** and **Pat Tucci** (new retiree), **Dannie Collins** and **Bob and Marie Boulger** from the West Slope, and **Tom Maloney** from the National Water Quality Lab. I think everyone enjoyed it. We had some missing because of health issues. **George Dempster** had a stroke in early October and is in rehab in Colorado Springs. I visited with him and on October 23. He says "hello" and would welcome a note or call. **Janice Ward** fell from a horse a week before the luncheon and had to cancel, but I hear she is recovering. We are looking forward to Tampa and hope to see you there."

Gary Bradford says, "I really enjoyed the article in Newsletter 136 about the Amazon River discharge measurements. I drafted the report's

maps. As I recall, the Washington Post wrote an article about the Amazon after Otman's report was published. It was a very well written and interesting report."

Bob Brewer says "**Barbara** and I are living the good life since retirement from the HIF at Stennis Space Center in December 2005. I watch with interest the performance of my former co-workers. But, I am much too busy to do much more than watch. Barbara continues as a Real Estate Broker with the largest agency on the Gulf Coast. My granddaughter Sage just returned from 30 days in Campinas, Brazil with Children's International Summer Village (CISV). She went through an arduous vetting process lasting several months prior to final selection as one of only four 11 year olds from the Gulf Coast. I had a near death experience in March. My appendix burst and gangrene permeated my stomach cavity. A large incision was required and was not stitched up to allow easy access in the event all of the gangrene was not removed. Six weeks later I was back in the gym. I play racquetball six days a week. I give it a rest on Sundays. Barbara and I are active socially with the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra, Community Concerts, Center Stage Play, Quota Club, and one of the oldest Mardi Krewe on the Coast, Les Cavalier. Just being active in Les Cavalier alone entails multiple year round parties and social activities. When you combine that with eating out with friends and family, traveling to St Croix in the American Virgin Islands, traveling to Houston to see our grandson Benjamin and my Mom in Arkansas, and being the go to IT for friends and family with personal computer problems, it does not leave time for much other than reflection and brief snippets of rest. For those of you who may still be debating whether or not to retire, you have my personal recommendation – just know that when you pull that trigger, a whole new world will open up for you. Jump on in. You will enjoy it."

John Briggs writes, "We had a small WRD reunion in London at the end of September. My partner, **Jeff Feiffer**, and I were planning the trip when we found out that **Gail Keeter** from Sacramento was also planning to be in London about the same time and then continuing around England. We coordinated our trips and rented a flat in the Kensington area of London for 10 days. When **Lee Lenfest** heard we were going to be there, he was able to reschedule a flight to Switzerland with a stopover in London so that he

NEWS OF RETIREES

could spend a couple of days with us. Gail's daughter, who is in grad school in Eugene, OR, also joined us for part of the time. Hadn't thought of having a house party in London before but this worked out well, everyone had a good time, and the location was great. I am glad that I am not living permanently in London. The prices in London all looked similar to home except they were in Pounds which meant that they were twice the price."

Nedra Carlson says "I am the widow of **Harry A. Carlson**. I live in the Villages, the friendliest retirement area in Florida. My two daughters also live here. My son, Al, lives in Redding, CA. We just love this place – no snow to shovel! I was 94 years young in July. I keep busy reading and updating four family genealogies. Recently I received a book from **Bob Beall** regarding his weather forecasting experiences in the Army. He was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone at the same time we were there but we didn't know him then. When we returned to the United States and lived in Massachusetts. He and Henry worked in the same office in Boston. I enjoy the WRD Retirees Newsletter."

Ray Cunningham says, "Something happened that I feared would eventually happen -- there was not one person in the last Newsletter that I knew! Now how does one interpret that? Is it that all those mentioned are so much younger? Or, could it be that I'm too old? Most of you would not have known my wife, Bernice, but half of me was severed on November 26, 2006 when she passed away. I don't expect to ever recover. Now, all my life I've strived to tell the truth but after I've written 7 non-fiction books, I finally decided to write some lies. Although my 8th book is historically correct, it is fiction. When raised as a tenant farmer, before radio and we didn't get a newspaper either, we didn't know what was going on, even in the next county. So our stories were greatly reduced. Now that explains the book's title: *If You Don't Know It's Bad, It Isn't*. The book is published by Publish America, Frederick, MD. Outliving friends is bittersweet, but I'm really blessed with excellent health."

David Dawdy reports, "Concerning those major discharge measurements, some background on the Amazon measurements may be of interest. **Ray Nace** was working with the WMO on the world water balance. **Luna Leopold** worked on the runoff from the major rivers of the world. The runoff values seemed to relate quite well

except for the Amazon, which was much too low. Luna found that the runoff estimate was not based on streamflow measurements. So, Luna contacted the Brazilian Navy which was responsible for streamflow measurements in Brazil and arranged for the group from the USGS with **Roy Oltman** in charge to cooperate with the Brazilian Navy which provided the ship and crew. Sure enough, when the USGS measurements were used to revise the Amazon runoff the value lined up and the world was back in order. Luna always thought big, and nothing was bigger than the Amazon! Also, **Doris** and I have endowed a Library and Research Fund in the Geophysics Department at San Francisco State University. I also contributed my scientific publications to the library. SF State has a very active program in the high schools to encourage students to take up geophysics as a life work. If anyone wishes to make a tax-free gift of money or publications to the library to further that cause, I am sure it would be welcome. Every little bit helps! The address is SFSU, 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132."

Ernest Dennison says, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter. You all do a good job! I miss reading about old timers who are no longer with us but have gone to the great beyond. The number of recent retirees keeps increasing and I like reading about them too. Life at the Denison's is quite uneventful compared to that of you world travelers. **Ola** spends her time in her wheel chair, her recliner, or bed since her stroke and the onset of Parkinson's. Except for Type 2 Diabetes and Macular Degeneration in my left eye, I am in good health. In July, we spent a week at the home of our daughter here in San Angelo while I flew to Utah for the wedding of a grandson. On October 5, we were honored with an "Open House" here at our home for our 60th Wedding Anniversary. Nearly 100 neighbors, friends, and family were in attendance. Not only do I feel my age by celebrating 60 years of love, but two previous employees, **Lawanna Kiser** and **Jim Schiller**, whom I hired while serving as Subdistrict Chief in San Angelo have since retired. My how the years fly by."

Sandra Duncan reports, "The Denver area WRD Retiree Fall Luncheon was held on Tuesday, October 16, at the Holiday Inn at 14707 W Colfax Avenue in the Emerald/Windsor room. We had 55 retirees and spouses in attendance and had a terrific time. I will soon begin making arrangements for the cruise

NEWS OF RETIREES

associated with the WRD Retirees Reunion to be held in Tampa, FL, which will be held October 30–November 1, 2008. This is a wonderful time to visit Florida so plan on attending and plan on joining many of your fellow retirees on the cruise after the Reunion. We had a terrific cruise following the Portland Reunion and this one will be just as good.”

Phil Emery says, “Hopefully **Janet** and I will be able to make the Tampa Reunion. We sure would like to see our longtime friends and colleagues from WRD. We continue to enjoy our retirement in Mt. Hope, AR. I have decided to write a series of articles for the WRD Retirees Newsletter describing some of the strange, humorous, and dangerous experiences I know about from the times of flying to do WRD fieldwork in Alaska. I will be naming names!”

Herb and **Pat Freiberger** say, “We spent two weeks in late May and early June in Cancun, Mexico with **Nancy** and **Jim Bley** celebrating our 40th wedding anniversaries. We stayed at the Riviera Mayan Palace which is about 30 miles south of Cancun and claims to have one of the largest swimming pools in the world. The pool was a series of joined round pools that you could never seem to see an end. Cancun seemed very touristy with never ending high-rise hotels. We found a city called Playa Del Carmen, 40 miles south of Cancun, to be more authentic Mexican with restaurants, shops, and music which we thoroughly enjoyed. Upon returning home, our daughters, Kathy and Anjie, threw us a 40th wedding anniversary party in our backyard which was great and occurred on probably the nicest day of the year weather wise. Herb wore his old tuxedo for about an hour as it turned out it was about three sizes too small! For an anniversary gift, daughter Kathy gave Pat and I tickets to a concert at Wolftrap, an open-air theater in Northern Virginia. The featured groups were “The Four Tops and the Temptations,” two groups that were near and dear to most of our hearts in the 60’s and 70’s. For your information, both groups have one original member still performing. The original member of the Temptations (don’t remember his name) has been with the group for 46 years since its beginning in 1961. He must be trying to break **Bill Schaefer’s** record for work longevity!! Best regards and keep the newsletter coming.

“Herb also reports that the Maryland Water Science Center has moved to a specially designed building on the campus of the

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). The new address is 5522 Research Park Drive, Baltimore, MD. That’s quite an improvement over the old address which was “Yellow Brick Road” – always sounded like it was near the Wizard of Oz! An open house will be held on October 24, 2007.”

Mike Gaydos says “**Ann** and I continue to enjoy our retirement in Baton Rouge. I am completing my last year as a high school football referee this season. It’s hard to keep up with those young players. I recently moved to Umpire so I don’t need to run quite as much. I continue to compile the list of those WRD Retirees who want to receive the Newsletter by email. It’s working great! The Newsletter is delivered two weeks earlier by email than the hard copy. It also saves the WRD Retirees the cost of printing and mailing. In addition, the photos are in color. If you are interested in receiving your copy of the Newsletter by email, simply email me at TigerLSU2@cox.net and I will be pleased to add your name to the list.”

Ralph Heath reports, “I have recently learned about and obtained copies of several new WRD Circulars from the local office and from one of the authors. They are not only beautifully illustrated with color photographs and drawings but are also written for interested laymen as well as for professionals. In my opinion, they establish a new and outstanding model (standard) for water-resources reports. I believe those retirees who are still interested in the current activities of the Division and in hydrology will also want to obtain copies of some of these circulars. The ones I obtained include *Ground Water and Surface Water, a Single Resource* (Cir. 1139), *Water Budgets: Foundations for Effective Water-Resources and Environmental Management* (Cir. 1308), and *Land Subsidence in the United States* (Cir. 1182).

“The water-resources profession owes a vote of thanks to Bob Hirsh and the other leaders for these outstanding publications.”

Sumner Heidle reports, “I flew on August 15 to permanently stay with my son Dave at 315 Maycroft Court, Roswell, GA 30075. I’ve got some physical limitations now. I had hoped to stay in our house in Leisure World at least till next spring, but health problems convinced me I’d be better leave now. My son Dave is glad to have me here with him and his family. I wish all WRD Retirees the best of times and am glad

NEWS OF RETIREES

that you do a super job publishing the Newsletter."

Peggy Kara says, "I enjoy the Newsletter very much. Thanks for keeping it going".

Vance Kennedy reports, "I read the news about other retirees with interest, so here is my contribution. On March 5th of this year I crashed into another car at an estimated 50 mph while in a coma induced by low blood sugar. I had taken too large a shot of fast-acting insulin and blanked out. The resulting concussion caused two hematomas and, by the end of April, I could not write and had great difficulty speaking. I asked for an MRI and on May 1 had two holes drilled in the skull to drain off pressure in the brain. After several weeks of rehabilitation and gradual recovery, I am still somewhat dizzy and have even worse memory problems than I had before the accident. However, I live alone, take care of myself, and do light work around my farm. Fortunately, the people in the other car were not seriously injured. In early December of last year I finally completed construction on a 2,000 square foot fruit market on my corner where about 25,000 cars per day stop. I am having some trouble getting reliable partners for my market, but I keep trying. The potential is very great, since I have about 1,000 citrus trees representing 23 varieties, many of them relatively unusual. I am well out of the main citrus-growing area, so it is a "niche" market. I concentrate on easy-peel mandarin oranges, with varieties ripening from early December until late spring. There is even some ripening in the summer. I use water flooding to protect against freezing. The Central Valley of California has the best growing conditions in the world, with deep fertile soils; a wonderful climate and snow melt for irrigation. However, the farms are rapidly being paved over with developments, which will be a disaster for our descendants. I'm involved in trying to slow that down with lawsuits and initiatives. I feel so strongly about this that my trust specifies that a significant fraction of the market's profits go to saving farmland. On a personal note, my 83 year-old lady friend of 15 years and I plan a 7-day square dance cruise in November, so I still haven't given that up."

Fritz Kilpatrick reports, "**June** and I finished off our summer with a week of sailing on the *Mary Day*, a two-master schooner out of Camden, ME. The all-wooden ship has co-captains (a husband and wife) and an all-female crew. Two of the women cook gourmet meals for the 28

passengers on a wood stove, and the other two help the captains with the sailing chores. The passengers help hoist the sails in the morning and also help furl them at sundown. With about 4000 islands in the Penobscot Bay where we sailed, there is no lack of villages and other scenic places to visit. A big highlight of this cruise, which we've taken twice before, is always a lobster feast. A tub of lobsters is kept wet and comfortable all day, only to be carried ashore on an isolated beach and boiled until quite red and juicily delicious--or so June says--I ate hot dogs and hamburgers! The lack of hot running water is NOT a highlight, nor was our narrow bunk bed that positioned our noses only a foot or two below the deck above. Wind jamming offers plenty of fun and fresh air, but what a treat to get back to our own comfortable bed at home! Not to mention the hot running water."

Phil LaMoreaux says, "Have enjoyed reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter and the WRD Directory is particularly useful in some of my correspondence. In this issue I was sorry to learn of **Ken Young's** death. He was a great friend and associate while I was in Washington. I have just recently returned from a meeting of the American Association of State Geologists (AASG) in Key Largo with visits to the Everglades and a trip to the coral deposits via glass-bottom boat. To me this is an important meeting each year as it is possible to learn of the programs of the federal and state surveys as well as some associated activities."

Mel Marcher reports, "**Jeanne**, my best friend and loving wife of 43 years, passed away on March 30, 2006. We had talked about going to the Madison reunion but the thought of driving for 3 days was daunting. After I retired in 1984, I devoted myself to my mail order book business which gave Jeanne and me an opportunity to combine vacations with book buying trips. By 1995, the Internet killed my business. A couple of years ago I started collecting stamps which was interesting and diverting. In 2000, I lost my left eye to a detached retina and that curtailed my driving somewhat, but Jeanne and I continued our vacation trips. Then in May of this year I lost nearly all the vision in my right eye so I can't drive, collect stamps, or read. Now I spend most of my time listening to television and books on disk. Fortunately, my son, Clinton and my daughter, Sonya, live within minutes of me and they have been wonderful in providing whiskey, cigarettes, food, and the other

NEWS OF RETIREES

necessities of life. I don't know what I would do without them! I was saddened to learn of the passing of **Jim Criner**. When I reported to the District Ground Water office in July 1954, Jim Criner helped us find a place to live, showed us some convenient stores, and invited us out to his house several times for a pleasant evening. I wish everyone well, and if anyone feels like dropping me a note or giving me a call I would be pleased."

Will Martin writes, "Just got back from a week at Poets Harbor, ME, with my wife **Loretta**, daughter Mary Kathryn (Tat), and our Cavalier Spaniel, Duchess. We stayed at a cottage overlooking Pleasant Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. The view was spectacular along with the weather. Sunsets were a picture postcard type sight, and the low humidity was something a southern-living boy like me could really appreciate! We took the Puffin Cruise out to the islands to see the bird life, seals, and porpoises. No Maine black bears were sighted, but the lobsters we ate were to die for."

Charlie Merk reports, "All is well in Florida. I have been working for an investment advisor in Palm Beach, FL, for over a year now. This Wall Street type of business is much different than USGS! It's much more like gambling!! There are many perks to being "right hand" man to a "Donald Trump." Two business trips of note: One a yacht trip on the Intra Coastal Waterway for three weeks from Norfolk, VA, to Palm Beach, FL, on a 1938 "Trumpy" yacht and a second, a motor trip chauffeuring my boss in his Phantom V Rolls Royce, visiting clients at their summer homes in Maine and Nova Scotia. I plan on attending the Tampa reunion and also hope to make a retirees luncheon in Herndon someday soon. I really miss the USGS family."

Dorothy Meyer says, "Enjoyed reading the WRD Newsletter. **Claire Richardson** has been an old friend to **Rex** and me. **Vern** and **Marylou Sauer** are as active as ever. I remember Marylou was a great swimmer. I am limited in my activities due to arthritis. I have given up driving. My son Jim and daughter-in-law live about a 1/2 mile from me and are a great help in doing my errands. I belong to a book club. When it is my turn to entertain, I use the LSU Faculty Club. I was asked to write about my active days in the Unitarian Church Sunday School and Women's Alliance recently. Guess I am the oldest member of the church! I am still working on my Life writing to publish for my family. I have

5 granddaughters and 4 great grandkids. My granddaughter Heather Sims is still living in Germany with her husband, who is in the U.S. Air Force, and two sons. She has become quite a good artist. Has a website and doing well selling her paintings. Thanks for all the effort you put into the Newsletter."

Charlie Morgan reports, "I want to bring the WRD Retirees up to date regarding **Walter Steinhilber**. Walt had disconnected his phone and wasn't answering his mail. We stopped to see him in February 2007. Walt has a brain condition. He still lives at the same address -- 11408 N. 109th Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351. His grand-daughter Teri Secor is taking care of him. Her phone number is 623-972-0201. We visited with Walt for about an hour. In spite of his condition, we had a very pleasant visit with him. He was the same old Walt, very jolly. We really did not detect any problem with his memory. We discussed information about Iowa, Wisconsin, Montana, and **Lee Holt** (he worked with in Jordan) and he responded with no hesitation. It was very good to see him. I'm sure he would like to hear from his old friends."

Jo Porter writes, "After 14 months of planning and construction of our new home, **Chuck** and I moved to our farm in Kentucky (halfway between Cincinnati and Louisville) in late October 2006. The pastures on the farm are leased to a local farmer and we have the pleasure of seeing the cattle graze but not having to take care of them. Additions to our farm in February 2007 were two miniature horses which we named Thunder and Lightning. We still have six cats. In May 2007, we traveled to Eastern Europe. We visited Hungary and Slovakia, then went to Ukraine to visit some of my cousins. It was a great experience and we were able to find the house and gravesites of my great-grandparents. We ended our travels in Berlin, which we enjoyed very much. It was a trip that we will remember for a long time. We are enjoying country-style living and hope to do some exploring of Kentucky and Indiana in the next year. Thanks to everyone for a great newsletter."

Deborah Richards says, "Greetings from the foothills of the Adirondacks. Trees are starting to turn color, but it is very dry. We need lots of rain soon as we are now in a water emergency situation. I was personally interested in what **Claire Richardson** had to say in the recent newsletter about the Maryland Geological

NEWS OF RETIREES

Survey. Just a note, my grandmother graduated in 1903 from the Baltimore College for Women which eventually became Goucher College. In 1903, there were very few women who went to college and graduated so it was a big thing back then. Then in 1939, my mother graduated from Goucher. She loved her years in Baltimore. I still have my mother's letters that she wrote to my grandmother talking about when she and some of her classmates would venture into Baltimore and having a good time."

Claire Richardson says, "All is well here in beautiful Maryland. I enjoy the Newsletter."

Billy Robinson reports, "My thanks to the Newsletter staff for keeping the Newsletter coming. Keep up the good work. It's great to hear about other WRD Retirees -- many of them are longtime friends."

Paul Rohne says, "For the past few weeks I have been working with FEMA in Waco assessing the flood damage but I am home for about 3 weeks and then back to Waco. In the meantime **Harriet** and I will fly to New York to spend a couple of days and then go on a 7-day cruise up to Nova Scotia and return to New York.

Stan and **Virginia Sauer** report, "We recently celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary with a reception and dinner hosted by our three daughters and spouses, as well as their twelve grandchildren. We had a wonderful evening of reminiscing and visiting with more than 180 friends and family, with a Texas style barbeque and lots of beverages enjoyed by all. We were especially pleased that three long time WRD friends and their spouses, **Bob** and **Libby Burchett**, **Larry** and **Rita Martens**, and **Paul** and **Harriett Rohne** could join in the evening's festivities."

Bob Schnieder reports, "Last year, we sold our house in Arlington, VA, and moved into a small apartment in a retirement community in Springfield, VA. One of the most traumatic aspects of the move from a house in which we lived for 46 years and raised three children was what to do with a career-long collection of a large number of textbooks, periodicals, journals, and miscellaneous publications. Incidentally, all the libraries I contacted did not want any of these and I did not want to trash the collection. My solution to this problem should be of interest to many present or future WRD Retirees. I

found that the AAPG (American Association of Petroleum Geologists) has a program for donating collections of such publications to geological libraries in third-world countries or to institutions whose collections have been destroyed or lost. The person donating the collection has to arrange with the AAPG to ship the publications in boxes to Houston, TX. The AAPG pays for the shipping and arranges to ship them overseas to needy institutions. My publications, amounting to a total of 12,000 pounds, were sent to Afghanistan where the entire library was looted by the Taliban. For those interested, I would be glad to provide more specific information, if requested by e-mail (rschneider_22207@yahoo.com) or telephone (703) 533-9694."

Skip Schmidt says, "We just got back from my nephew's wedding in New Jersey and are just now getting caught up on our mail. I think about **Ray Abrams** and **Matt Sliwiak** often; we were pretty good buds as you probably remember. I spoke to Ray and Matt shortly after **Roger Wolff** passed away. Next time we're in the DC area I'm going to make a point of seeing them both. Perhaps that visit will coincide with a Retirees' Luncheon and I'll be able to join everyone for some food and camaraderie. I am planning on attending the next reunion in Tampa; should be fun. We might even join everyone on the cruise (thank you very much **Sandra**). We are enjoying Florida, though we got hammered by Hurricane Charlie in 2004. We'll not stay put for another Cat 4 storm; once in a lifetime is more than enough. Well, I'd best go. I've got a presentation to prepare for the Executive Board of the Peace River Wildlife Center, a rehabilitation facility in Punta Gorda, with which I've been a volunteer for several years. It keeps me busy and I enjoy the hospital work with the animals. My best to all..."

Earl Skinner reports, "Well, it seems I should get around to writing you with some news from the Skinners. **Ruth** and I have now moved from the country into the city. We sold our 6-acre farmette out in the country and bought a house in Heber Springs, AR. Our new address is 906 Pineknot Lane, Heber Spring, AR 72543. We have opted not to install a hard-line phone and just go with our cell phones. My cell phone number is 501-206-9130 and Ruth's is 501-206-9129. However, this may change in as much as the "other world" is now sold on computers, email, and on-line web surfing. We decided to do the classic "old folks" act and relocate as

NEWS OF RETIREES

near our son and his family as we could. I had reached the point where I could no longer take care of the 6- acres and was not able to raise the large garden to which I was accustomed. Mowing and trimming 1½ acres became more than I could handle. So, rather than just sit there and allow the weeds and brush to take over as they had before we moved in, we decided to sell it to someone who could properly take care of it. Now, that is just another part of our past. We attended our Skinner Family Reunion in July in Carlyle Lake, IL, and had a wonderful time. That is the only traveling we have done so far this year. However, we plan to attend the homecoming at Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma in November. Outside of that, I remain an avid reader of whodunits and even write a little. I entered a short story in the Cleburne County, AR, Writers' Guild contest this past June and won first place. My short story was "Old Tom, The One-eyed Rabbit Dog." It basically is a true story about a dog I once owned when I was a lad. Ruth is now an avid reader and jigsaw puzzle worker. I work from 10-12 crossword puzzles each week. It doesn't help the body much, but keeps the mind active. I have had two cataract surgeries and a corneal transplant in my left eye. The first cataract surgery was unsuccessful, but the second was very successful. The corneal transplant was done in May of this year and is doing remarkably well. The eyesight in that eye is now 20/30 uncorrected and 20/25 with pin-hole correction. I am hopeful that by October the transplant will be declared a total success and I can schedule cataract surgery for my right eye. If that happens, I should need glasses only for prolonged reading – WHOOPIE! To you wonderful folks that labor at the Virginia office of the WRD Retirees and put out the WRD Retirees Newsletter, I say thank you for the selfless job you do. We in the WRD "outer belt" orbit appreciate you more than we can express. Keep it up and the membership may just vote to double all of your salaries. Well – it's the thought that counts!"

Karen Steele reports, "I really enjoy reading about everyone and what's happening in their lives. Thanks for the great work."

Walt Swain says, "My wife, **Peg**, and I spent a short 3 weeks in June and July (she still working so we're not free to roam at will) in a rented camper van visiting Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, and Romania. Peg made a strong case for skipping Bosnia and Serbia. Something about

land mines! Not very many Americans in the Euro campgrounds, but it's a great way to travel."

CT Welborn reports, "**Dixie** and I have been resting up from the driving tour to the western states we made in July and August. It seems that it takes longer to get caught up. Sometime in October, we will head out to Virginia to drive on the Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway to Great Smoky Mountain National Park in Tennessee. From there we will go over to the head of the Natchez Trail that goes down to Natchez, Mississippi. We will be on the road 10-12 days. We will be back in Austin for a few weeks and then down to Port Aransas for Thanksgiving and maybe for the New Year."

Tom Yorke reports, "The November HQ WRD Retirees Luncheon was attended by 44 members/spouses who heard an excellent presentation by Matt Larsen, Chief Scientist, Water. Matt described a varied and interesting background that includes a 10-year stint as an Emergency Medical professional in San Francisco and an assignment as District Chief, Puerto Rico. Matt's presentation was about the debris flow caused by torrential rains along the Caribbean coast of Venezuela in 1999. The steep slopes, covered by well weathered soils, when exposed to the torrential rains (10 times the yearly average in a 24-hour period) caused debris flows with particles larger than automobiles and caused delta formation at the Sea front. Matt estimated the sediment transport at about 170,000 tonnes per square kilometer. One of Venezuela's states lost 5% of its population and the damage was in excess of \$2 Billion U.S. At the October meeting, yours truly gave a power point presentation describing the recent 3-week trip to Italy that **Jeannie** and I took with **Joyce** and **Jim Biesecker**. There were about 40 members/spouses present. The presentation featured photos from Rome, Florence, the Italian Riviera, the Alps, and Venice. The food and wine were wonderful and the Roman ruins amazing."

Chet Zenone says, "Hope all is going well with you back there in the wet and humid part of the USA! It's great out here in the beautiful Willamette Valley of Oregon."

ELECTION OF WRD RETIREES OFFICERS – 2008-2009 BIENNIUM

It is election time for WRD Retirees Officers. An election ballot with a slate of candidates is included on page 10 of this Newsletter. Please vote your conscience. The nominees were selected as directed by the WRD Retirees Charter. Complete the ballot on page 10 per instructions shown, place the completed ballot in an envelope, and mail it to the Secretary, WRD Retirees, by December 21, 2007. A brief biographical sketch follows:

President, Richard A. “Dick” Enberg: Dick retired in 1999. He started with WRD in Lincoln, NE, in 1962 as a Physical Science Aid while attending the University of Nebraska. In 1965, he was rated as a chemist. He remained in Nebraska until 1986 when he became District Chief, Iowa. In 1990, he was selected as Manager, National Irrigation Water Quality Program. Since retirement, he has worked part-time for the American Water Resources Association. He received the DOI Distinguished Service Award and resides in Sterling, VA, with his wife Lynne, a current USGS employee.

Vice President, Stanley P. “Stan” Sauer: Stan began his WRD career in 1960 as a part-time Hydrologic Field Assistant, GS-3, in the Texas District office while a student at the University of Texas. He continued working in Texas until receiving his Ph.D. in CE in 1969. His was in the SW Branch at HQ from 1969 to 1971, then Bay St. Louis, MS, as the first chief of the Gulf Coast Hydrosience Center. Next it was on to Nashville, TN, as the District Chief from 1973 -80. He was pleased to spend the rest of his career in Reston where he served from 1980-82 as Assistant Chief, SW and from 1983-93 as the Regional Hydrologist, NR. Stan retired in 1993 and he and his wife, Virginia, are enjoying the good life in the Texas Hill Country.

Secretary, Charles W. “Bill” Boning: Bill began his WRD career as a streamgager in the Washington District in 1960. His next assignment was in Juneau, Alaska. Bill was Subdistrict Chief in Tennessee from 1974-78 and Subdistrict Chief in California from 1978-81. In 1981, he was selected as District Chief, Texas, and in 1989 was designated Chief, Surface Water Branch, a position he held until his retirement in 1994. Bill and his wife, Shirley, reside in Herndon, VA.

Treasurer, Celso Puente: Celso began his WRD career in 1966 as a Hydro Tech in San Antonio, TX, office. In 1970, he converted to a Hydrologist. From 1976-80 he served as the Project Chief of the Warrior Coal Field Hydrologic Study in the AL District office. From 1981-86, Celso was Assistant District Chief and Hydrologic Studies Section Chief of West Virginia. Celso transferred to HQ in Reston and served as the WRD Staff Hydrologist for Reports from 1986-2001 and as Acting Chief of Environmental Affairs from 2001-2005. Celso retired in 2005 and currently lives in Herndon, VA, with his wife, Maria.

Archivist, Charles Nethaway, Jr.: Charles joined WRD in 1974 in the Colorado District as a mathematician and computer specialist (B.A., Mathematics, U. of Colorado, 1973), calibrating rainfall-runoff models and developing database-supported applications that graphed actual and projected project expenditures. In 1979, Charles became the first WRD Regional Computer Specialist, NR, and in 1989 Chief of the WRD's Distributed Information System. He is the recipient of the DOI Meritorious Service Award. He was also the Enterprise Architect, DOI National Business Center, before he retired in 2003. He lives in Reston, VA, with his wife, Carole, who is also a WRD Retiree.

Northeastern Region, William B. “Bill” Shope, Jr.: After graduating from the College of Engineering Pennsylvania State University, Bill went to work in 1962 in the Harrisburg, PA, USGS Water Quality Office. Following a 2-year military tour (1963-65) in the Corps of Engineers, Bill returned to Pennsylvania to work in the Philadelphia Office. In late 1965, he transferred back to Harrisburg. In 1966, Bill joined the Water Quality Branch Reports Section in Arlington, VA. The next year he joined the Automatic Data Section under the Assistant Chief for SP&DM. In 1978, Bill became Chief of the Data Relay Project; in 1987, he became Instrumentation Branch Chief; and in 1994, Chief of the Branch of Operational Support. Bill retired in 1999. Bill and his wife Jani live in Radford, VA.

Southeastern Region, G. L. “Lynn” Barr: Lynn began his career in geology after graduating in 1972 from the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. From USF, he was employed by a local engineering company as a field geologist supervising drilling operations. In 1973, Lynn began his WRD career as a Hydro Tech with the Hydrogeologic Studies Section in the Tampa Subdistrict. In 1981, he was converted to hydrologist. Throughout his career, Lynn served as project chief and support to investigate and define the aquifer systems in Florida. He published over thirty ground-water related reports. Lynn retired in 1999 and lives with his wife, Peggy, in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

Central Region, James F. “Jim” Blakey: Jim was employed as a physical science aid in the Austin Water-Quality Lab in 1956, while a student at the University of Texas. In 1965, he transferred to Washington, DC, in the Quality of Water Branch, and then back to Austin in 1968. In 1974, he transferred to Columbus, OH, as District Chief. In 1977, he transferred to the Denver CR Office as Program Officer and in 1978 became District Chief in Colorado. In 1986, he became Regional Hydrologist, CR. Jim retired in 1995. He received the Meritorious Service Award and the Distinguished Service Award. He was President of WRD Retirees from 2004-2005. He and his wife, Paula, live in Lakewood, CO.

Western Region, Charles O. “Charlie” Morgan: Charlie began his WRD career as a geologist in 1956 in Lansing, MI. He transferred to Baton Rouge, LA, in 1957 and was assigned to ground-water projects in Southeastern Louisiana. In 1963, he became involved in computer programming for groundwater data at the University of Kansas. In 1970, he moved to Southern California's Garden Grove office, later called Laguna Niguel, in charge of computer operation and became the Deputy Assistant Branch of Scientific Reports in Reston. In 1985, he transferred to Las Vegas, NV, as acting Subdistrict Chief. He retired for WRD in 1986 and currently lives with his wife, Pauline, in Boulder City, NV.

**ELECTION BALLOT, WRD RETIREES
2008 – 2009**

Vote for one person for each National office and a Regional Director in **your** Region. Vote for either the nominee shown or another Retiree whose name you must enter in the blank space to the right of the nominee. Complete the ballot by placing an "X" in the parentheses to the right of that candidate. Print your name and provide your signature. Mail your completed Election Ballot to:

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

Your ballot must be received by December 21, 2007. A brief biographical sketch for each nominee appears on page 9 of this Newsletter.

President:	Richard A. Engberg	()	_____	()
Vice President:	Stanley P. Sauer	()	_____	()
Secretary:	Charles W. "Bill" Boning	()	_____	()
Treasurer:	Celso Puente	()	_____	()
Archivist:	Charles Nethaway	()	_____	()

Regional Director: **Note** -- vote **only** for a candidate in **your** Region

Northeastern:	William G. Shope	()	_____	()
Southeastern:	Gerald "Lynn" Barr	()	_____	()
Central:	James F. Blakey	()	_____	()
Western:	Charles O. Morgan	()	_____	()

Member's Name: (Please print): _____

Member's Signature: _____

NEWS OF RETIREES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please use the space below to let us know what's happening in your life. Your friends and colleagues in WRD Retirees would like to hear what you have been doing! Thanks!

DIVISION NEWS

Note to WRD Retirees: Recent retirees automatically become members of WRD Retirees. If you know any of these folks who recently joined our ranks, reach out and welcome them aboard. Please invite them to your Local Meetings!

Recent Retirements

Northeastern Region

Robert M. Goldstein, Biologist, 45 Tracy Cove Circle, Rome, Maine 04963, (207) 397-5070, 09/30/07

Robert D. Schopp, Hydrologist, 16 Sanbert Circle, Hamilton Square, New Jersey 08690, 09/28/07

Central Region

Gregory R. Melhus, Hydrologic Technician, 34470 Gama Beach Road, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744, (218) 326-1118, 08/31/07

Glenn G. Patterson, Hydrologist, PO Box 473, Allenspark, Colorado 80510, 08/31/07

Patrick Tucci, Hydrologist, 15339 W. Ellsworth Drive, Golden, Colorado 80401, (303) 279-5504, 10/03/07

Western Region

Samuel N. Luoma, Research Hydrologist, 19229 Sonoma Highway #239, Sonoma, California 95476, 10/01/07

Diane L. Schuermann, Budget Analyst, 2872 Maudray Way, Carmichael, California 95608, (916) 485-2458, 10/03/07

Margaret H. Stockhill, Secretary (Office Automation), 777 W. Middlefield Road, Mountain View, California 94043, (650) 964-5020, 08/31/07

Headquarters

Doretha T. Harris, Property Inventory Assistant, 1428 T Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020, 10/03/07

Walton H. Low, Hydrologist, 815 Branch Drive #305, Herndon, Virginia 20170, 10/02/07

SPECIAL NOTE FROM PAST PRESIDENT JIM BLAKEY

BOTTLED WATER

Would you like to save money, save energy, and help the environment, and not give up anything?

1. Stop buying bottled water. The water from your tap is as safe and as good as that from the bottle.
2. Energy is used to make the plastic bottle from crude oil.
3. Most bottles end up in a land fill. Do you recycle? Energy is needed to recycle. Stop and save, save, save!!!

DIVISION NEWS

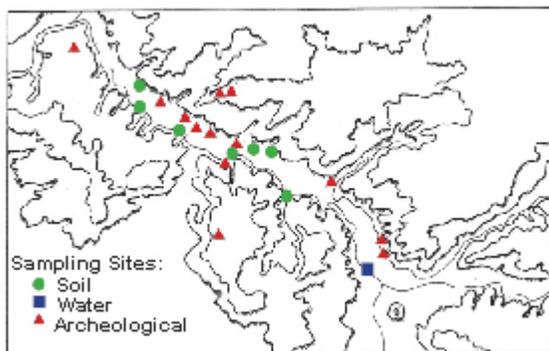
WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH”

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

Here are two short summaries of current WRD research. For more information email Matt at mclarsen@usgs.gov. Thank you Linda Friedman for writing the maize summary, and Mark Landers and Jaime Painter, USGS Georgia Water Science Center, for the water use summary.

Soil and Water Chemical Analyses used to Determine Origin of Prehistoric Maize

Over the past few decades, some archeologists have come to the conclusion that Chaco Canyon in northern New Mexico could not have supported the number of people that lived at or visited it a thousand years ago. Recent USGS studies provide evidence that supports this conclusion and demonstrates that at least some maize was transported over considerable distances in pre-Columbian times



[Map shows soil and water sample sites in Chaco Canyon.]

In studies done in cooperation with the University of Colorado, the Navajo Nation, and others, USGS scientists showed that little maize could have been grown in the San Juan Basin near Chaco Canyon and that much of the archaeological corn found there was imported from distant areas. Based on their analysis of trace element and strontium isotope distributions in soil and water samples collected from agricultural sites in the San Juan Basin, the researchers suggest that from time to time, the Chacoan population received foodstuffs from either the San Juan River system (Aztec and Salmon greathouses), from the Chuska slope, or from sites along the Rio Chaco downstream of Chaco Canyon. The scientists found that one or more of three widespread droughts that occurred in the early-11th, middle-12th and late-13th centuries also affected the Mississippian Cahokians, the Anasazi, the Fremont, and the Lovelock cultures.

For additional information, see *Benson, L.V., 2004, Sources of ancient maize found in Chacoan great houses: U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 2004-3035, (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2004/3035/>)* or contact Larry V. Benson, lbenson@usgs.gov

How Much Water Is in the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint Rivers, and How Much Is Used?



Persistent drought in the southeastern United States has reached crisis proportions in some communities. A new USGS fact sheet describes long-term water use trends in what is known as the ACF basin, where the President has asked the Department of Interior to help guide water use decision makers.

Questions of how much water is in the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint (ACF) Rivers and how much is used do not have simple answers. The answers depend on the location in the river basin and on the year and season. Location is important because as one moves from upstream to downstream in a typical river, additions to streamflow from tributaries plus ground water and subtractions of streamflow from consumptive use are cumulative, with increasing total amounts in the downstream direction.

Time is important because streamflow and consumptive use can vary by hundreds of percent from year to year and season to season at a given location; consumptive use typically is highest during droughts and summer months when streamflow typically is low. For more information, see USGS fact sheet at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2007/3034/pdf/fs2007-3034.pdf>

More News about the Adventures of Don Kelly on the Mississippi River Research Vessel with Bob Meade

The May 2007 edition of the WRD Retirees Newsletter contained an article by Don Kelly, "Married to My Baseball Cap." Don says: "How to explain how a man becomes married to his cap, for better or for worse, in cleanliness and in grime? Would you have us divorce our cap, cast it away, merely because we have grown old and worn together? Surely this is a dangerous legal precedent for any wife to take. Yesterday my wife shook her head at my Louisiana cap. When I wear that cap I'm young and churning up the Mississippi River again on a research boat bound from New Orleans to St. Paul. As the greenest and most useless member of the scientific crew, I drew the watch from midnight to six, standing with the pilot and picking straight stretches of river every ten miles where we could stop and take water samples without being run over by barges. That left 9 miles out of every 10 for enjoying the river in the moonlight and dreaming about pirates and damsels in distress. I was standing at the rail and the damsels were just about to thank me when Captain Ahab stomped into the cabin. Dr. Robert Meade, senior research scientist, immediately began grilling me on things nautical, discovered my total ignorance, and started pounding endless dull details about navigation lights and radar images into my head. My moonlight cruise was ruined."

Don went on to explain the trials and tribulations of his experience "cruising" the Mississippi as part of Bob Meade's research project. After reading the article, Bob sent the following note to Don and the Newsletter staff wants to share this with our readers.

Regarding "Married to my Baseball Cap" by Don Kelly in WRD Retirees Newsletter 135 (May 2007)

Dear Don: Nicely captured was the plight of the cub pilot. But, if you're going to cast yourself as young Sam Clemens, can't you at least grant me the role of Horace Bixby (Sam's mentor on the river) rather than that of Captain Ahab? Much relieved was I to read that, despite the stomping and the growling (mine, allegedly) and the anger and the cursing (yours, admittedly), you left the boat in having made a new friend (me, presumably). Warm fuzzies all around. And, thanks for making the trip with us, to see for yourself what fun can be had while doing good science. You weren't all that bad a shipmate.

Now, allow me to resume my assigned role of Captain Ahab. Seeing as how you've allowed your essay to be published in a USGS series (and therefore, no doubt destined for a fate archival), I feel a visceral necessity to set the record straight in the form of an ex-post-publication colleague review. My memory differs from yours in several of the points you raise and incidents you recall:

1. Your bridge watch was from midnight to four. The two mates went six-on-and-six-off, but the scientists (there were three of us) went four-on-and-eight-off. As Chief Scientist, I hoarded the four-to-eight watch for myself, as it included both sunset and sunrise on the river, and midwatch reliefs for both supper and breakfast. Refer to the passage about halfway through "Life on the Mississippi" that Mark Twain (as he was known by that time) wrote during his later trip, as a paying passenger, down the river. The passage that begins "I had myself called with the four o'clock watch, mornings, for one cannot see too many summer sunrises on the Mississippi. They are enchanting. First, there is the eloquence of silence; for a deep hush broods everywhere. "But you know where to find the rest of this.
2. I never slept in the upper bunk. The lower bunk was mine. In fact, during the course of our ten sampling cruises spaced over five years, I slept a total of 360 nights (the equivalent of almost a full year) in that same lower starboard bunk in the forepeak of RV ACADIANA.
3. Did I really say, "Read me where you're AT in the book"? I blush for the superfluous preposition.
4. I don't recall ever being able to repeat from memory (at least not verbatim) two pages of LOTM—a paragraph maybe. But, I am pleased and flattered that you report it that way. Right in the spirit of Mark Twain, where a few minor fibs along the way never really tarnish the eventually-arrived-at larger truth.

5. My field notes for 24-31 March 1992 inform me that you did not complete the upriver trip in St. Paul, but left ACADIAN at Cape Girardeau, MO, to fly back to Reston. My notes from the previous cruise tell me that you met the boat at Lock&Dam 1 in St. Paul and slept aboard the one night of 5 October 1991, in anticipation of a press briefing that you had organized for the following day. (Becky Phipps caught up with us ten days later for another press briefing in Lacrosse, WI.) But, getting back to Mark Twain, and especially his penchant for tarnishing scientific truths in pursuit of more telling philosophical ones, let me bore you (again?) with my favorite example (LOTM, Chapter XVII). Mark Twain has been discussing river meander cutoffs for a page and a half, and he continues: "Since my own day on the Mississippi, cut-offs have been made at Hurricane Island; at Island 100; at Napoleon, Arkansas; at Walnut Bend; and at Council Bend. These shortened the river, in the aggregate, 67 miles. In my own time a cutoff was made at American Bend, which shortened the river 10 miles or more. "Therefore, the Mississippi between Cairo and New Orleans was 1215 miles long 176 ago. It was 1180 after the cutoff of 1722. It was 1040 after the American Bend cut-off. It has lost 67 miles since. Consequently its length is only 973 miles at present. "Now, if I wanted to be one of those ponderous scientific people, and "let on" to prove what had occurred in the remote past by what had occurred in a given time in the recent past, or what will occur in the far future by what has occurred in late years, what an opportunity is here! Geology never had such a chance, or such exact data to argue from!Please observe – "In the space of 176 years the Lower Mississippi has shortened itself 242 miles. That is an average of a trifle over one mile and a third per year. Therefore, any calm person, who is not blind or idiotic, can see that in the Old Oolitic Silurian Period, just a million years ago next November, the Lower Mississippi River was upwards of 1,300,000 miles long, and stuck out over the Gulf of Mexico like a fishing-rod. And, by the same token any person can see that 742 years from now the Lower Mississippi will be only a mile and three quarters long, and Cairo and New Orleans will have joined their streets together, and be plodding comfortably along under a single mayor and a mutual board of aldermen. There is something fascinating about science. One gets such wholesale returns of conjecture out of such a trifling investment of fact."

Here's to more good times on the big rivers,
(Still) your friend, Bob Meade

In response to Bob's note, Don -- in return -- states: "Captain Bob, thank you for the kind words. I'm proudly adding "You weren't all that bad a shipmate" to my official resume. And you are of course right, as always, on all points of technical accuracy, starting with being a better Bixby than an Ahab. Although, I'm sure the young Sam Clemens fearfully saw Ahab upon first meeting Bixby. Let me add to the record a sidebar story about the alleged grilling you gave me on my first night. As I remember, I got through your basic questions about red and green navigation lights OK until we hit a big bend in the river and there were suddenly red and green lights on both sides of us. I was completely flustered. Then you asked me about the white navigation lights. Here I failed completely. After you explained the importance of white crossing lights in some detail and left, the captain turned to me. He had been quietly manning the wheel and shaking his head in disapproval of my obvious landlubber ignorance until you were gone. Then he turned to me and sheepishly asked, "What are the white lights again?" Seems he didn't know about white lights either, because he had a blue water license and was used to the open ocean where white crossing lights were not so common. If he ever got his brown water license, he owes you some tuition. Thanks again for the memories, accurate and otherwise."

Cub Don Kelly, who is currently re-reading "Huckleberry Finn."

“The Reluctant Beaver”

By Phil Emery, District Chief, Alaska, 1981-90

Working out of the Juneau office, Harold Seitz and Donny Thomas had their share of flying adventures. Donny was born and raised in a family of commercial fishermen from Juneau and was no stranger to the wilds of Alaska. Shortly after I arrived in Alaska, Harold transferred from Boise, Idaho, to be Subdistrict Chief at Juneau. He too was familiar with working in remote areas.

Harold and Donny set out to install a remote sensing stream-measurement station near Prince of Wales Island, at the extreme southeast corner of Alaska. The station's equipment had to be protected from the harsh elements and marauding bears by a sturdy, well made structure.

At one of the island's docks, Harold, Donny, and the pilot loaded the chartered single-engine de Havilland Beaver float plane with a portable cement mixer, cement, 2X4s, roofing material, hardware, tools, bear guns, and survival gear. In addition, they added the satellite antenna. Donny was concerned with the proper loading of the plane. I'm sure they discussed matters, but Harold was in charge and also somewhat of the Admiral Farragut “Damn the Torpedoes” type.

They taxied out into the wind and the pilot “fire walled” the throttle of the Beaver's Pratt & Whitney R-985 radial engine. For nearly a mile they roared along Clarence strait, but the plane would not get up “on step.” Aircraft floats (pontoons) have a hydraulic step on the bottom, much like many small power boats.

Two choices seemed apparent. One, taxi back to shore and lighten the load, or two, keep going until they burned off enough fuel to lighten the load. Harold selected the latter, and after another mile or so they go up on step, reached takeoff speed, and flew the overloaded plane to the stream gage construction site. Just as when he first told me – Harold still laughs about the whole thing, but will admit he pushed it. Had a downdraft off an island mountain hit them as they tenuously lifted off, or had the engine missed a beat, they might have “gone in.”

This got me thinking. I looked in the voluminous Federal regulations. They stated that in the event of death of personnel on official travel status, the U.S. Geological Survey would pay the cost of transportation of the remains of deceased personnel from the site of death back to their “Official Duty Station.” Somehow, I developed this mental scenario-image of the bodies of Harold and Donny stretched out on their desks – back at the Official Duty Station – and then me calling and requesting their next of kin to come to our office at the Federal Building and pick them up. This mental macabre image haunted me until I left Alaska.

During the years, there have been many USGS aircraft incidents and accidents in Alaska. Presently, I'm working on stories from Jack McKechnie, Larry Leveen, Charlie Sloan, and Tom Miller.

Building the First Water Resources Division Snow Mobile

By Mervin S. (Pete) Petersen

September 2007

When I saw the pictures of the early snow cat on the 2007 edition of the WRD Retirees Directory I was reminded of the beginning of my career with the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Resources Division. I helped Vaughn Irons build the very first model of the snow cat shown on the cover of the Directory. It was Vaughn's idea to build something that could take us to gauging stations located in the Wasatch and Uintah mountains in the winter time where the snow-packed roads were not plowed. Previous to this time we were getting to the stations to service them in the winter by driving part way in a 4-wheel drive truck and then going the rest of the way on snow shoes, packing all our gear on back packs, and walking sometimes one to two miles. Vaughn had in his mind how it could be done and I helped him build the first unit.

It was in the year of 1946, I was fresh out of the Navy in World War II and looking for a job as an Engineer. I was hired by Vaughn Irons who was the Engineer in Charge of the Logan, Utah Sub-district office at that time. I started at stream gauging and working up the records of stream flow. Soon after I started, Vaughn had been working on this snow cat project and he asked me to help with the construction of the first try. It is possible that Walt Scott was in on this also.

One of my first jobs in the Logan office was to help Vaughn build his first idea of a snow mobile. You could not buy one at that time. His idea was to take an old model A or maybe a model T Ford or Chevrolet, I can't recall which was used first, to use the frame, motor, and part of the body to begin construction of a snow machine. I worked for some time helping him to build this first model. We replaced the front wheels with a form of ski and made them to steer the machine. Then, we fashioned snow treads for the back wheels similar to caterpillar tractors to power the snow mobile. We used large old rubber belts to build the treads and bolted pieces of iron rods to give it traction. The back wheels were made to drive the wheels and treads and give the machine the power needed to make it move. We then rigged the steering wheel to guide the machine and used the cab of the old truck to protect the driver from the weather, with windshield, radiator, and cover as usual. This was the first model of the snow cat and we worked for several weeks as I recall getting this in running order.

Needless to say, this first model did not operate very well to start with. We had difficulty in keeping the power treads on the machine. We had many breakdowns in the beginning and had to make changes as time went on, but we finally got it to run sufficiently, with frequent repairs, to get to some gauging stations. We even got it to run well enough so we loaned it to surrounding states such as Wyoming, Idaho, and as I recall, maybe South Dakota to help with their winter work.

During the time I used the snow cat I had one experience I would like to relate that may be of interest. I started out alone one winter morning in a 4-wheel drive truck with the snow cat on the trailer, to go to the gauging station to service the recorder and measure the flow of the stream. This gauging station was on the headwaters of the Blacksmith Fork River, north and east of Logan, Utah, a tributary to the Bear River. I drove as far as possible in the snow and then unloaded the snow cat and proceeded to travel to the gauging station, but I had not gone over a mile or two when the tread of the snow cat came off and I could not go farther.

So, I got out the snow shoes and backpack with my equipment and took off to go to the gauging station. I arrived at the station, took care of all the things I had to do and prepared to snow shoe back to the truck. I had only gone a short distance when off to my right I spotted a mountain lion up in the trees nearby. It was looking at me with great interest and I was at a loss to know what to do. I decided to continue my journey back to the truck, keeping a very close eye on the mountain lion. I had only gone a short distance when I noticed mountain lion tracks right next to the tracks I had made on my way to the station. This lion had followed me for most of the distance I had traveled from the snow cat to the gauging station. I was very concerned about my safety at this point but there was not much I could do except make a noise and get away as fast as I could. I watched the lion for quite a distance and found out that he was not following

me as I went back to the truck. I made it back to the truck and felt very fortunate to have avoided a possible attack by the lion. What a day in my life!

Now after this time I was transferred to Riverton, Wyoming, under the authority of Frank Bell, who was regional Engineer in Denver, Colorado, at that time and I lost track of the snow machine. However, if my memory is correct, I believe the Wyoming District inherited the machine, made many improvements to it and used it for some time. Perhaps someone in the Wyoming District can now give us more information as to what is the current status of the snow cat or what happened to it. Maybe it is resting in some shed in Wyoming as a keepsake. Thanks for letting me tell my story.

MEMORIAL
Edward J. Kennedy
1918 – 2007

Edward James Kennedy died of a heart attack on August 25, 2007. He was 89 years old. He is survived by his wife, Alice, of Owings Mills, MD; six children, Patricia Kennedy of Washington, D.C.; John Kennedy of Arlington, VA; Edward Kennedy Jr. of Opelika, AL; Bairbre Kennedy of Baltimore, MD; and Robert Kennedy of Alexandria, VA; a brother, sister, and five grandchildren. Ed was born in Akron, OH and grew up in Baltimore. After attending high school at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, he graduated from the School of Engineering at the University of Maryland at the ripe old age of 19. Thereon he entered duty as a junior hydraulic engineer with the Mid-Atlantic District (SW) of the USGS on January 19, 1939, progressing through a series of increasing responsibilities.



In 1946, Ed transferred to Williamsburg, KY, as the subdistrict engineer. In 1951, he transferred into the Louisville, KY District (SW) to become the Office Engineer. In Kentucky, Ed became the expert on slope ratings. The disastrous 1951 floods in Kansas proved a challenge to the streamgaging network. Shortly after his arrival in Kansas in 1953 as Office Engineer, he was promoted to Assistant District Engineer to manage the improvement of the streamgaging program. Ed was responsible for developing the tight schedules and routines for field trips, efficient records computations, and final data report publication. In 1961, Ed was selected as the Kansas Surface-Water District Engineer. Besides his expertise in slope stations (of which Kansas had some) and rate-of-change-of-stage stations (of which Kansas had many), Ed pushed for early adoption of new gaging technologies and equipment. When the bubble gages and Fisher-Porter digital punches became available, Ed championed the conversion of the district to those technologies. Ed designed the gage house shelter, the components of which were contracted out and the final shelter assembled in the District garage/workshop. The 'standard' Kansas installation consisted of that shelter housing a mercury manometer, a Fisher-Porter digital punch, and with a backup Stevens A-35 graphical recorder. Though the Surface Water Branch pressured districts to convert completely to the digital punch recorders and abandon the graphical recorders, Ed saw that the graphical recorders were of value in debugging problems with the manometers.

Ed was devoted to his family and his job but seldom took a vacation while in Kansas. At one point when the Area Engineer's office strongly suggested that he should take a vacation, Ed signed up for two weeks of annual leave and moved into a spare drafting table in the Hydrologic Studies Section. He spent the two weeks redrafting all of the rating curves for the 100 plus Kansas gaging stations and reworked some of the more complicated ones. At the end of the two weeks, he took a day off and then returned to this District Chief's desk. As an example of his devotion to his children, he taught his six children, when they reached the age of 3, how to read using "Nancy" and "Gasoline Alley" in the Sunday comics as a primer.

With the reorganization of WRD, Ed was selected as the District Chief, WRD in Tennessee in 1967, where he served until being reassigned to the SW Branch office in 1971 as lead hydrologist for flood insurance studies. While there he wrote Discharge Ratings at Gaging Stations and Computation of Continuous Records of Streamflow. He remained in that position until his retirement at the end of 1980.

Ed gave employees with talent and initiative a lot of room to grow. For those who did not come up to his expectations, he could be quite demanding. He will long be remembered for his deep knowledge of streamgaging practices and procedures, his good engineering sense, his pipe, his jolly laugh, his oft-told stories, his friendly pointed repartee, and his loyalty as a friend. He and his lovely, most-gracious and charming wife, Alice, were immensely proud of their children and their accomplishments.

By: Ivan James

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara J. Anderson, 70, passed away on November 26, 2006, in Denver, CO. Barbara had a BS in Geology and began her USGS career with the Geologic Division in 1966. She joined WRD in 1969 in the Hydrologic Laboratory and transferred to the Research program, Heavy Metals project in 1980. Barbara retired in 1995. She was an active conservationist and an active volunteer at Roxboro Park, near Denver, to help preserve the site. She is survived by her brother, Russell K. Anderson.

Mary "Todd" Barker passed away April 23, 2007 in Tulsa, OK, at age 82. A native of North Little Rock, AR, she was a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. Mary retired in 1996 and her WRD career spanned 24 years as an Administrative Assistant in the Oklahoma District office. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, and is survived by her son, Stephen Baker, and two grandchildren.

Patricia Bennett, wife of Gordon D. Bennett, age 86, passed away at the family home in Euless, TX, on July 1, 2007, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Pat was born Patricia Ann Collins in Jersey City, NJ, on July 1, 1928. She attended college on full scholarship, earning a BS in chemistry in 1950. Following graduation, she worked for Union Carbide. Pat and Gordon's marriage in 1958 brought her career in New York to a close; like many Survey wives, she moved frequently during the next several years, as her husband's work took the family first to Harrisburg, then to Greenville, PA, to Lahore, Pakistan, to Long Island, to Puerto Rico, and finally to northern VA. During hostilities between India and Pakistan in 1965, she and the children were airlifted along with other American dependents to safety in Teheran, where they were in refugee status for three months. Wherever she lived, Pat found things to enjoy in the local culture and volunteer opportunities in local charities and in her church and made lifelong friends, particularly among other USGS families. She was an avid sports fan and had many interests among which the strongest were sewing and needlework, swimming, travel, and computers. In 2001, despite a steadily growing impairment caused by her disease, she was still able to do most of the typing for the second edition of a lengthy text in solute transport simulation. In addition to her husband of 49 years, Pat is survived by two daughters, Alice Flannery and Margaret Jones; a son, Christopher Bennett; and 20 grandchildren.

Dorothy C. Fawcett, widow of WRD Retiree Bob Fawcett, passed away September 16, 2007, in Columbus, OH, at age 84. She was born September 2, 1923, in New Philadelphia, OH, and graduated from New Philadelphia High in 1941 and Southern Nazarene University in 1949. Her husband, Bob, started his WRD career with the QW office in Columbus, OH, in 1964 and worked in the Laboratory Unit of the Ohio District until his retirement. Dorothy was a longtime member of Whitehall Church of the Nazarene where she was a Missionary Board member and Director of Vacation Bible School. Dorothy is survived by her daughter, Teresa; a granddaughter, Terra; and numerous foster children.

Walker Frederick passed away in Tacoma, WA, on June 30, 2007, at age 83. A native of Cedar Rapids, IA, he received a BS in Geology from the University of Puget Sound in 1951. Following graduation, he was employed by the State of Washington and assigned to the USGS in Tacoma. He joined the USGS as a full time employee in 1952 as an Engineering Aide. In 1968, he was converted to a Hydrologist in Tacoma and remained in that position until his retirement. He was a member of the Tacoma Engineers Club and the Northwest Geological Society. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, and a son.

Eleanor Loraine Gulley, 87, died in De Soto, KS, on October 1, 2007. A native of Linwood, KS, she was born February 12, 1920. She worked for the Kansas District in Lawrence as a Clerk-typist, Secretary, and Administrative Assistant for more than 30 years, retiring in 1980. She was a member of NARFE and the Order of the Eastern Star. She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Ralph Gulley.

Richard C. Heath, age 87, died February 23, 2007, at his home in Ocala, Florida, following a lengthy illness. He was born June 25, 1919, in Gardner, FL. Upon graduation from the University of Florida in 1946, he was employed as a Surface Water hydrologist for the USGS until his retirement in 1979. He was a single engine commercial pilot and a former commander of the Ocala Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol for which he flew numerous search and rescue missions. He was an avid bass fisherman and enjoyed many hours on his beloved Ocklawaha River. He wrote a book to be published in 2008 about the Ocklawaha River documenting the Steamboat Landings, Running the Crooked River. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Maxine; two daughters and their spouses, Carol and Byron Hinson and Joan and Bobby Stark; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Robert J. Lefebvre, an NMD retiree and member of WRD Retirees, age 87, died on October 30, 2006. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Col. Lefebvre was a graduate of New York University, ROTC and entered the U.S. Army as a

IN MEMORIAM

lieutenant in 1940, serving in WW II. He rose to the rank of Colonel. Following his military service, in 1978, he was employed in various Federal agencies, including the USGS. He was the husband of Janet Lefebvre who died on February 28, 1997, and he is survived by his six children, Denise, Robert, Jr., Stephen, Gregory, Claire and Kenneth and his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Fred Mack, 83, died of a heart attack on August 22, 2007. Born and educated in Watertown, NY, Fred was a veteran of WW II, serving in France and Germany from 1944-46. Following his discharge from the U.S. Army, he earned his BS and Master's degrees from Syracuse University. He began his WRD career as a GW hydrologist assigned to the GW branch in Albany, NY, and transferred to Annapolis, MD, in 1959. He retired from the USGS in 1980. Fred was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and loved spending time with his family. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Jeanne D. Mack. Fred is survived by his second wife, Ann S. Mack, whom he married in 1986, and his daughter, Abigail J. Mack.

Jeanne Marcher, wife of WRD Retiree Mel Marcher, passed away March 30, 2006. A Kansas native she was an active member of the Grace Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. Jeanne enjoyed reading and donated to many charitable organizations. She was 80. Mel worked for WRD from 1954 until his retirement in 1985. He started with the GW office in Memphis and also served in Nashville and Anchorage before his final assignment in Oklahoma City. He was the author of numerous reports. Jeanne is survived by her husband, Mel; step-son, Clinton; and step-daughter, Sonya.

Kyle Medina a native of Santa Cruz, NM, passed away in Garden City, KS ,on September 24, 2007, at age 71. He earned a BS in Agricultural Engineering from New Mexico A&M in an MS in CE from the University of Kansas. He started working for WRD in 1960 as a Hydraulic Engineer with the SW office in Santa Fe and during 1964-67 was assigned to the SW Branch in HQ. He next transferred to the KS District and worked there until his retirement in 1996. He was a member of the United Methodist Church and a Free Mason. Kyle is survived by a son, Kent, and a daughter, Kimberly.

Jacob Rubin – WRD retiree Jacob Rubin, age 88, died 24 October 2007 in Redwood City, CA. Born February 1 1919, in Wloclawek, Poland, Jake excelled in mathematics and science as a young man. Sensing the impending Holocaust, his parents sent him to England to finish high school and then to UCLA to start college. Cut off (and eventually orphaned) by the German invasion of Poland in 1939, Jake migrated to Berkeley, where he received a BS in 1942 and a PhD in 1949 in soil science. Between degrees, he served in the U.S. Army as an infantryman in the Pacific theater of World War II. He also married and started a family. In 1950, he moved to Israel, working at the Agricultural Research Station at Rehovoth as a Soil Physicist. He became Chair of the Irrigation and Soil Physics Department in 1956 and Director of the Institute of Soils and Water in 1959. Fundamental research into the nature of unsaturated flow at Rehovoth led to a series of seminal papers combining theory, experimental data, and numerical modeling on infiltration, drainage, and redistribution. In 1962, Jake joined the USGS in Menlo Park, where he led research into unsaturated flow and reactive solute transport until retiring in 1995. He championed the early application of numerical models to hydrologic analysis and was instrumental in establishing the National Training Center in Denver. In the mid-1980s, Jake led the group that formulated the USGS National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program. Devoted to his family, he is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, a nephew, and nine grandchildren.

Ted A. Small of San Antonio, TX, age 83, passed away Friday, June 8, 2007. He was born in El Paso, where he met the love of his life Lanier McMahan in high school. He served in WW II with the U.S. Army, 84th Infantry. Ted received a BS in Geology from the Texas College of Mines. He worked for El Paso Natural Gas and the U.S. Boundary Commission before joining the USGS in 1969. He worked with WRD in Texas until his retirement in 1999. His studies took him to Big Bend National Park and he never tired of exploring this area. An avid fisherman and sometime hunter, he also enjoyed baseball, basketball, and his Texas A&M football. Ted was a member of Castle Hills Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lanier, and is survived by a son, Stuart; daughters, Teddi Lash and Johnnie Lynn Small; 6 grandchildren; and 3 great grandchildren.

Leo Gordon Stearns, passed away on April 13, 2004, in Austin, TX, at age 84. He was born in Richmond, VA, and served in WW II with the U.S. Army in Burma. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1948 with a BS in CE and starting in 1948 worked for WRD in Michigan, New Mexico, and Texas until his retirement in 1979. His wife, Margaret Albineau, preceded him in death. He is survived by sons, Lance, Joseph, and Gordon; daughters, Michelle Moya, Margaret Polley, Elizabeth Long; and 12 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.

Local Meetings and Gatherings

Attendees at the Northern California Luncheon held in September



L to R : Clark Londquist, Mike DeGrand, Kathy Shay, Jim Borchers, Ron Fogelman, Ginny Wenslaff, Nancy Ordazzo, Jerre McClelland, Gail Keeter, Mike Simpson, Pat Shiffer, and Robert Simpson.
Missing from the photo is Robert Meyer, who took it.

Kansas Retirees at their July Luncheon



L to R (seated): Maria Stullken, Ralph Clement, Caroline Jordan
L to R (standing): Charlene Calhoun, Jack Kume, Lloyd Stullken, Linda Carswell, Jesse McNellis, Ron Wolf, Janet Craig, Jim Craig, and Paul Jordan

WRD Retirees Directory Changes

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Roach, George A. (05) (Ella) P.O. Box 115, San Fernando City, 2500 La Union, Philippines -- address

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 Rogers, James E. (85) 203 Pin Oak Dr, Mountain City, TX 78610, 512-268-1563 -- address, phone, death of spouse
 Samuels, Ellen L. (06) 605 El Dorado Dr NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114 -- address
 Schaefer, Donald H. (06) (Lorie) 775-882-8465, dschaefer@gbis.com -- spouse, phone, email
 Schaffranek, Raymond W. (07) (Susan) rayschaf@comcast.net -- add spouse, email
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 Skinner, Earl L. (84) (Ruth) 906 Pineknot Ln, Heber Springs, AR 72543, 501-206-9130 -- address, cell phone
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 Steele, Karen S. (04) (Gary Adair) -- add spouse
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WRD Retirees Western Caribbean Cruise

Saundra Duncan, the WRD Retirees official tour guide, has once again planned a cruise following the WRD Retiree Reunion. The Tampa Reunion will be held October 30 - November 1, 2008, a great time to be visiting Florida. Craig Hutchinson and the Tampa organizing committee are making great progress in planning the 2008 reunion. The Western Caribbean Cruise will immediately follow the Reunion, departing Tampa on Sunday, November 2 and returning to Tampa on Sunday, November 9. The cruise will be aboard a Carnival ship and will include stops in Grand Cayman; Isla Roatan, Honduras; Belize and Cozumel, Mexico. Because we are reserving a large number of cabins, cruisers will get a \$25 cabin credit and a one-hour cocktail party with an open bar and hot and cold canapes. Prices per person are: Interior cabins -- from \$479, Ocean view cabins -- from \$579 and Balcony cabins -- from \$679. Upgrades are very likely, depending on the number of retirees who decide to go on the cruise but only within the category initially booked (e.g.; inside to inside, balcony to balcony.) There is an additional fee of approximately \$65 for port charges and taxes. Cruisers will need to send Saundra Duncan a deposit of \$250 when you decide to join us on this fun cruise with many of your fellow WRD Retirees.

For additional information, contact Saundra Duncan, 304 South Flora Way, Golden, CO 80401, telephone 303-279-5061, or email her at wrdcruise@comcast.net.

TREASURER'S REPORT, THIRD QUARTER 2007

Treasurer Celso Puento reports that the organization had \$4,351.41 in its treasury at the end of the third quarter for calendar year 2007. Receipts for the quarter were \$333.41 from dues and contributions from 16 members. Disbursements for the quarter were \$3,636.10 for printing of Newsletter 136, including \$1,500.00 for the 2007 WRD Retirees Hydrologic Scholarship awarded to Ms. Gretchen Anderson from the Tulsa, Oklahoma Sub-district Office.

During the quarter, a total of \$20.00 was received in contributions from 2 members. Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: William H. Robinson and Este F. "Pat" Hollyday.

Do you owe WRD Retirees any dues? Please check for a number in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label of this newsletter. This number represents the last year your dues were paid. For example, if the number is 2007, then you owe dues for 2008; if the number is 2006, then you owe dues for two years (2007 and 2008). Dues are \$10 per year. Dues are necessary to cover the cost of printing and mailing the Directory, the quarterly newsletter, and funding the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship. We will accept dues for advance years, and contributions above dues are still welcome and appreciated! If the number shown in the upper right hand corner of the mail label is 2007 or earlier, please send your check for dues owed to: WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon VA 20172-0280. Please indicate how much of your payment is for dues and how much is a contribution. We are not perfect - please let us know if we have made any error in recording your past dues payments. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter!

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