

"WRD RETIREES"

NEWSLETTER NO. 64

AUGUST 1989

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

National Officers: Robert M. Beall, President; Russell H. Langford, Vice President;
Ruth L. Malone, Secretary; Sumner G. Heidel, Treasurer

Regional Officers: Alfred Clebsch, Jr., Central; David McCartney, Northeast;
Donald G. Jordan, Southeast; Loren E. Young, Western

Newsletter Staff: Porter E. Ward, Editor; William J. Schneider, Assoc. Editor;
Francis T. Schaefer, Asst. Editor; George E. Ferguson, Editor Emeritus

1990 Reunion Coordinator: Richard C. Heath

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An editorial last May in, of all things, World Coin News, struck me as a most appropriate reminder for all of us concerned about our organization.

"Individuals who temporarily gain fame for their longevity often quip that when they get up in the morning they read the obituaries. If their names are not there, they say, they go on with the day. Such a devil-may-care attitude in individuals of advanced age always seems to be heart-warming and often it is humorous. There is an unfortunate equivalent for organizations (which) are supposed to be immortal ... It seems natural for them to always be there. (The editorial continues...)"

However, for most organizations, their existence depends on dedicated members and their hard work. It is not the natural state of these organizations just to exist. Their missions are not filled nor their knowledge disseminated automatically....."

It is in this spirit we recognize and pay tribute to the more than thirteen years that our Secretary, Mrs. Ruth L. Malone, has served our WRD Retirees. Each of you, and many others no longer with us, have been greeted upon joining and faithfully recorded in the membership files which document your collective innumerable changes of address.

We wish Ruth the ease of a second retirement whose annuity will be the grateful thought that she kept track of our family through all the years.

Bob Beall

BIENNIAL ELECTION

In accordance with the Charter and Bylaws, the biennial election of national and regional officers will be held by ballot in the November issue of the Newsletter. For additional information see "A Word From the Editor" on the next page.

Don't forget that the 5th reunion of WRD Retirees will be held November 11-15, 1990, in Orlando, Florida -- so mark your calendar!

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

It is time for all members of WRD Retirees to exercise their democratic right to submit nominations for officers of our organization. So, be a name dropper by sending in your choice for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Regional directors by the end of September. Your nominees will be considered carefully by the Nominating Committee (Board of Management) who will prepare an official list of nominees. We will include a ballot in the November Newsletter and the names of those elected will be announced in the February issue. The officers will serve for two years beginning January 1, 1990.

A PLEA FOR PHOTOS

Many of you have expressed a desire to see more photos included in the Newsletter (see article below). We would like to do that, but most of the photos we have on file are either very old or were taken at the National Retirees Reunions. What we need are pictures of local gatherings including luncheons, picnics, horseshoe tournaments, and reunions. We can use color or black and white in any size. How about helping us out?

"IF IT AIN'T BROKE"

Following our tabulation of the results of 79 questionnaire responses in NL 63, ten additional responses have been received. These additional responses follow closely the trend of the earlier results. More than 40 percent of the responses (38, to be exact) contained comments of one type or another. And so, here are some comments on the comments.

By far, the most prevalent comment can be summed up under one that said "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!!" Twenty of you told us that you were happy with the newsletter in its present form. The second most prevalent comment related to the use of more photographs. Specific comments ranged from "include photos submitted by retirees" to "more photos of those who worked in the field and not always retired regional hydrologists and chiefs." Several comments related to news of retirees, and were unanimous in wanting to see more of this feature. One comment specifically wanted to see "more news of active retirees in contrast to those who reside on golf courses." There were also many one-of-a-kind comments. These include suggestions for items on travel opportunities, and Elderhostel programs; a feature on "recollections from the past--how things used-to-be"; a reader's exchange on tips for retirees including retirement arrangements; a humorous or facetious want-ad column ("have forked peach limb, willl witch for water for expenses"); larger print for visually-handicapped; and listings of employment opportunities.

We accept your comments on the newsletter both as a compliment and a mandate to continue on the course that has been so ably developed over the years. We hear your comments for more photos and are already acting on this. Photos add significantly to printing costs, but we feel we can offset this item. We are completely dependent upon you for news of retirees. We especially solicit items of your accomplishments. So don't be bashful; tell us what you're doing! As for the rest of your comments, we will keep them in mind, and consider them as space and opportunity provide. Again, from all of us on the Newsletter staff, our thanks for your continued support and response to the questionnaire.

NEWS OF RETIREES

During a family visit to Boulder, Colorado, Bob Beall met the "Lohman lunch bunch" at the Tally Ho in Lakewood on May 31. The nominal excuse was to deliver a segment of the WRD history to Hugh Hudson. Swapping WRD historical vignettes along with Hugh and Stan were Stu Meyers, Frank Ames, Frank Visser, Keith Essex and a retiree from the Geologic Division.

Doug Bedinger was in Arkansas in July in connection with his study of ostracods.

Clarence and Millie Burns headed for Cancun, Mexico, this spring with the idea of seeking a good place to retire. They currently spend their winters in a mobile home near Harlingen, Texas.

Esther and Milt Cook finally got to Seattle in May, somewhat late for the WRD Reunion. Although clouds obstructed their view of the Space Needle, Esther said they enjoyed other scenery but not the weather. Milt grumbled that Frances Sessums did not have a telephone or his name was not in the local directory. (He didn't carry his trusted WRD Directory along.)

Jim Criner notes that he has started writing again and has published one paper on alternative energy sources. He also assists wife Lida in her teaching at a local community college.

Roy Gilstrap notes that he saw Keith Jackson at a meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas, last April. The meeting was for the purpose of forming a N.W. Arkansas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Lowell Guetzkow has been ill for some months, we are sorry to learn, but he reports that he is "on the road to recovery".

Hank Halberg, who provided many of the news items involving Arkansas, underwent prostate surgery and hernia

repair in May. We are pleased to note that he reports "feeling like his old self."

The May 1989 issue of the ASCE National Capitol Section Newsletter reports that Cavis Ham has been given a certificate of appreciation for his years of service to the section as "doorman for many section functions, greeting members and taking their money cheerfully" and dependably.

Ed and Miriam Hodges observed their 50th wedding anniversary early this year. Bob and Evelyn Smith from Mountain View, California, attended the celebration. Miriam is undergoing chemotherapy following removal of a cancerous tumor.

Lee and Pat Holt had WRD Retiree visitors Dale and Gerry Cotter, Ken and Louise Young, Fred and Gerry Dreher, and Chuck and Margaret Hembree. The Holts returned in April from trips to Cuernavaca and Mexico City. Lee continues his ceramic and bronze sculptures and taught the craft to an Elderhostel group in Port Aransas. Pat had two of her stories published in the "Corpus Christi Monthly" with more to come.

Keith Jackson writes that he will have cataract surgery on July 13. We wish him well. (See his Colorado Trip report, NL 61.)

Eva Jennings retired last December as secretary to her NARFE Chapter, a position she held from 1975 to 1988. She is now active in a choir called "Saints Alive".

Ivan Johnson has been organizing sessions on the WRD's Regional Aquifer Systems projects at AWRA meetings. He works with WRD representatives in producing a monograph for distribution by AWRA, including Lindsay Swain on the mid-USA projects and with Al Randall on those in the northeast.

Digger and Suzanne Jones visited relatives in Arkansas while enroute from Johnson City, Tennessee, where Suzanne's mother lives, to Phoenix, Arizona.

J.L. Kunkler writes that he is suffering from poor eyesight and that he will undergo eye surgery "shortly". He hopes it will be successful so that he can drive to Muskogee, Oklahoma for the 50th reunion of his high school class.

Gus Ludwig is chairman of a Committee for the Registration of Professional Geologists in Arkansas.

Jerry and Mary Ann McCain report being "settled in" but not sure they are ready to handle the rocking chair. Sounds like Jerry is ready for contracting.

Don Milliken recovered nicely from a heart valve operation. Don and Bea are leading a group of Seniors on a visit to Switzerland in September. Ask Don about that "Hole in One" he made in April!

Affiliate John E. Moore was recently elected President of the American Institute of Hydrology. Congratulations John.

Charlie and Pauline Morgan returned from Oman in April by way of Bangkok, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Tahiti. At the Auckland, N.Z., airport they were surprised to see a USGS patch on a man's jacket. (See a following item about Jerry and Bernadette Parker.)

Hal and Roger Odell have moved to a retirement apartment at 5526 E. Pima Street in Tucson. Hal is on oxygen 24 hours a day and walks with difficulty. He says that Roger moves about much more freely.

Jerry and Bernadette Parker report a great trip that took them to Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, the Fiji Islands, and Tahiti. In Auckland they ran into

Charlie Morgan, a pleasant surprise. Jerry said that they liked New Zealand's South Island best of all.

Irene Paulson says her move to Crawford, Nebraska, was triggered by yard work, rising costs, and unsavory neighbors who settled their differences with guns.

Dave Phoenix spends his time on the nourishment and propagation of some 300-400 native species of orchids all collected above 5,000'. He highly recommends Leon Wiard's book, "An Introduction to the Orchids of Mexico," for anyone interested in that field.

Carl and Lois Pollard attended the 50th Anniversary Reunion of the Decatur, Illinois, High School in June. There were 284 banquet reservations out of a graduating class of 450. Carl notes that gasoline was eleven cents a gallon in 1939. In late June they took a "Mystery Trip" tour, destination revealed after trip started. It turned out to be the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon City, Texas. On the return they visited the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

In honor of Jack Rawson's retirement last March, his daughter Gina Butcher composed a poem covering his WRD career from recruitment to retirement. The poem is too long for our newsletter, but we applaud Gina for a touching souvenir of the years and we thank Paul Rettman for sending it to us.

Herman and Margaret Ray traveled to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to see their son Kenneth receive an MBA degree and graduate with distinction from the Harvard School of Business Administration. Daughter-in-law Martha received a second Masters from Boston University in May.

Ada Rich was a volunteer worker in an Elementary School Library for 2½ years

until October, 1988. She worked about 700 hours per school year. Now she has come out of retirement for the second time to accept appointment as Administrative Assistant to the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology. She says it is a challenging job.

Bettye (J.E.) Smith had triple bypass surgery in May of 1987 and she reports that she is doing "just fine now"

Bob and Evelyn Smith had a terrific 1988 visiting friends and seeing new sights in Tucson, Seattle, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Switzerland. However, the year 1989 has been spent close to home. Evelyn was on crutches for 6 months due to a hip problem and a fall. Now she is under a specialists care for anemia and rheumatoid arthritis.

The Arkansas Ground Water Association announced a \$500 Richard T. Sniegocki annual scholarship with the financial support for the first year being provided by Dick Sniegocki.

Wayne and Clara Travis are active in Boise community life and use their travel trailer for short trips in season.

Arvi and Ellen Waananen enjoyed a 2-week visit with son, Jack, and family in Reston where Jack works for USGS.

Porter Ward paid a visit to Boulder, Colorado, intending to enjoy the cool mountain air but a record heat wave dictated otherwise. To top this off a forest fire in Boulder Canyon cut short a visit to the "high country"

Agnes Watson enjoys her home on Lake Okaboji in Iowa but says it may not be a "year around" house. When the wind chill was -70° last winter she could only get the downstairs temperature to 45° and to 35° upstairs. She still has her condo in Lincoln so it is probable that she will be found there during the cold months. Agnes has taken trips to Scandinavia, Los Angeles, Hawaii, and San Francisco in addition to her visits to St. Louis to see her children and grandsons.

Becky Williams spent two weeks in Alexandria, Virginia, in March caring for her ill sister-in-law. She notes the weather and the airline strike complicated her stay.

REUNION LOAN PAYS OFF

Kenneth Walters sent us a check for \$366.93, which is \$316.93 above the loan of \$50 that WRD Retirees made to assist in preparing for the Seattle Reunion last fall. Part of the "profit" accumulated from the reunion bank account and the remainder is from unidentified sources. We can't go wrong with returns like that.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Treasurer Sumner Heidel reports since our acknowledgement in N.L. 62 and for the 6-month period January 1, 1989, through June 30, 1989, he has received contributions from 103 members for a total of \$912. Contributions as large as \$44 in excess of dues have been received, and our special thanks go to the following who made extra contributions of \$5 or more each: Irene Paulsen, Jim Criner, Dave McCartney, Frank Ames, Charlie McDonald, Tom Hanly, Don Turney, Mary Perkins, Cavis Ham, Nevin Hoy, Thad McLaughlin, Winchell Smith, M.S. Bedinger, Alan Hely, Ken MacKichan, Willard Mills, Marlin Lowry, Glen Miller, Dave Phoenix, Joe Callahan, Bill Davis, Merle Hudson, C. Richard Murray, Agnes Watson, Frank Clarke, Dan Fogarty, Ken Love, Art Piper, Eugene Steele, S.W. Wiitala, Bill Broadhurst, Anita Flack, Roy Clifford Gilstrap, Ben Jones, James Snyder, Evelynne May, Ed Bradley, Ellis Gordon, Philip Emery, Richard McCullough, Ethwyn Bodhaine, Leon Jensen, Herman Brice, Edward Burke, Willis Burnham, Al Clebsch, Herman Feltz, Paul Rettman, Bob Steacy, Ken Taylor, Earl Williams, Bill Billingsley, Richmond Brown, Robert DeVaul, Lowell Guetzkow, Howard Haworth, George Whetstone, George Cardwell, and Wayne Travis. Of course, all the contributions are appreciated and have helped us maintain a sound financial condition, without requests for higher dues so far.

DIVISION NEWS

At an Honor Awards Ceremony on May 5, 1989, the following WRD personnel were recognized:

SUPERIOR SERVICE AWARDS:

Nancy C. Bley ** Irene A. Girard ** Gary C. Huffman ** Rick L. Jones **
Kimberly S. Rogers ** C. Larry Togans

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS:

Jeffrey T. Armbruster ** Richard M. Bloyd ** Frank T. Carlson ** DGeorge
A. Dinwiddie ** Herbert J. Freiburger ** Harold G. Golden ** Eugene R.
Hampton ** Benjamin L. Jones ** Darwin D. Knockenmus ** Miguel A.
Lopez ** Nancy C. Lopez ** James A. Miller ** Jesse M. McNellis **
Stephen E. Ragone

Your Assistant Editor notes with considerable satisfaction that the Water Resources Division has a significant presence and participation in the National Conference on Hydraulic Engineering and International Symposium on Sediment Transport Modeling. The conference is sponsored by the Hydraulics Division of ASCE, and is being held in New Orleans this month.

IN MEMORIAM

Marjorie H. Brice died on May 22, 1989, at home in Arlington, Virginia. She was the wife of Herman D. Brice, who at the time of his retirement in 1975 was assigned to the Reports Section in Washington, D.C. Survivors include her husband and a daughter Candace.

George H. Chase died on April, 18, 1989, at the age of 71 of a heart attack at his home in Dale City, Virginia. At the time of his death, he was a hydrologist with the Environmental Affairs Program in Reston, Virginia, with more than 40 years of service in the USGS. Survivors include his wife, Barbara; a son, Michael; a daughter, Mary Jacobs; and two grandchildren.

Dorothy G. Newell died on May 28, 1989, in Boise, Idaho, at the age of 89. She was the widow of Thomas R. Newell, who at the time of his retirement in 1958 was District Engineer in the Idaho office.

Robert D. Schmickle died on December 22, 1988, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, of cardiac arrest at the age of 82. At the time of his retirement in 1961, he was in charge of the Surface Water Sub-district office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Survivors include his wife, Esther; a son, Richard; a daughter, Roberta; and two grandchildren.

Victor T. Stringfield died on June 19, 1989, in Washington, D.C., at the age of 86 following a stroke. At the time of his retirement in 1980, he was a hydrologist in the Office of the Division Chief in Reston, Virginia. Survivors include two daughters--Barbara Madison and Beverly Wood--and three grandchildren. His wife, Jessica, died in 1988.

Word has been received that Ivan Barnes died on May 11, 1989, in Portland, Oregon. At the time of his death, he was a geologist in the Western Region.

MEMOIR
Manuel A. Benson
1911-1987

Current methods used by hydrologists and engineers for interpreting the risk from stream flooding are based to a considerable extent on the basic understanding and the analytical procedures developed over many years by Manuel A. Benson, who died in September 1987.

Ben was a native of Boston and graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 1933. He worked for a general contractor until 1938 when he became a junior engineer in the Boston Surface Water Office of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). His first assignment was the supervision of 10 people in compiling topographic basin characteristics of New England streams. This was followed by the gaging of streams and the computation of flow records for publication. His competence in this latter assignment led to his being detailed to the Indiana District following the flood of May 1943 where he computed peak discharges by the slope-area and contracted-opening methods. He transferred to the Indianapolis office later that year and was office engineer there for several years.



In 1948 he became a member of the Technical Standards Section (later called the Floods Section) in Washington, D.C., where his first assignment was to assist in the development of methods for performing regional flood-frequency analyses. Ben spent the rest of his career in the Washington office where he developed solutions to a wide variety of problems in surface water. He provided consultative advice and guidance to Headquarters and field offices on problems that required use of analytical methods and techniques. The competence he developed in these methods was enhanced by formal courses he took outside of office hours in hydrology, statistics, probability, and computer programming; and by his membership and participation in the activities of professional societies in engineering, hydrology, and statistics. He was a registered professional engineer in Virginia.

Ben served as chairman of the Work Group on Flood Flow Frequency Analysis of the Interagency Water Resources Council Hydrology Committee, which authored Bulletin 15 of the Council as a first effort to standardize Federal practice in flood-frequency analysis. Also, because of his competence in flood studies, he was appointed chairman of a Work Group on Field Methods in Hydrology for the Hydrometeorological Commission of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and personally authored a comprehensive report on indirect methods of measuring stream discharge, which was published by WMO. Worldwide use of the procedures described in that report has greatly increased the bank of reliable flood data. He led a team of researchers which showed that the relation of streamflow characteristics to basin characteristics could be used to evaluate a data network. The surface-water data networks of the USGS throughout the United States were analyzed by these procedures and were substantially modified for greater efficiency as the result.

The culmination of his intensive personal research was the publication of three comprehensive reports on the magnitude and frequency of floods which introduced new techniques involving advanced mathematical procedures and extensive use of computers. His competence and his contribution to the USGS, and to the profession, was recognized by the Department of the Interior which presented him the Distinguished Service Award in 1972.

Ben retired on Christmas Day, 1971, and moved to Florida where he worked part time as a rehired annuitant for about 10 years. During his retirement years, he was an orchestra Concert Master, an outstanding player and teacher of the card game of bridge, and he and his wife, Charlotte, travelled extensively, usually by cruise ships. He attended his 50th class reunion at Harvard in 1983, and he and Charlotte celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1986.

Those who knew Ben remember him not only as an eminent hydrologist but particularly as a helpful colleague and a pleasant companion. (H.C. Riggs)

RECENT RETIREMENTS

Headquarters: Wayne Hammond, Hydrologist, on June 30, 1989 **** Stanley Longwill, Hydrologist, on May 12, 1989 **** Robert Robinson, Hydrologist, on June 2, 1989 **** Frank T. Carlson, R&EC, on July 14, 1989 **** Ruth Kosco, Editorial Assistant, on July 28, 1989.

Northeastern Region: Mildred Lelond, Cartographic Technician, Indianapolis, IN, on June 3, 1989 **** Albert Tyre, Hydrological Technician, Charleston, WV, on May 19, 1989.

Southeastern Region: Leroy Marburger, Accounting Technician, Louisville, KY, on April 28, 1989 **** Jose Alicea-Ortez, Scientific Illustrator, San Juan, PR, on April 28, 1989 **** Frances J. Whetstone, Administrative Officer, Columbia, SC, on June 2, 1989.

Central Region: Donald Coffin, Hydrologist, Lakewood, CO, on June 30, 1989.

Western Region: Salwyn S. Chinn, Supervisory Hydrologist, Honolulu, HI, on April 3, 1989 **** Reuben Lee, Hydrologist, Honolulu, HI, on June 2, 1989 **** Eleanor Stackhouse, Accounting Technician, Anchorage, AK, on May 1, 1989 **** Robert J. Madison, Hydrologist, Anchorage, AK, on June 1, 1989.

KEY POSITIONS FILLED

Bill Boning, former District Chief, Texas, appointed Chief, Office of Surface Water, Reston, VA.

Bob Hirsch, former Office Program Coordination and Technical Support appointed Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Research and External Coordination, Reston, VA.

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