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WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 134
February 2007

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a very mild December and January, winter has finally come to Northern Virginia. Not to complain because we have had virtually no snow! We are pleased to welcome Bill Shope to the Board of Directors of WRD Retirees. Bill has agreed to fill the final year of the term of Regional Director, Northeastern Region, replacing John Ritter who recently moved to Florida. John did a fine job as Regional Director and was instrumental in the early stages of planning the Madison reunion. All of you who are acquainted with Bill know that he will do a terrific job representing NR.

WRD Retirees had a very busy 2006 with the Madison reunion, launching of the WRD Retirees home page, making the Newsletter available online, and initiation of the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship program. One unfinished task is the report of the Blue Ribbon Panel which was created to address the question "**Does WRD Retirees need to change in order to continue to attract the current working force in USGS as they reach retirement?**" I am pleased that the final report of the Blue Ribbon panel is contained in this edition of the Newsletter. The panel arrived at six unanimous recommendations and these are now to be voted on by the WRD Retirees membership. Please carefully read the report of the Panel, vote your conscience on each of the six recommendations, and send your completed ballot to the Secretary. Thanks!

WRD Retirees has always received outstanding support from the working folks at USGS. I want to make special note of the help we recently received from Bob Hirsch, Associate Director for Water. Bob sent an email message to all WRD employees describing the activities of WRD Retirees and encouraging the current workforce to join our organization. His email message is shown in this Newsletter. Thanks Bob!

Retirees who have elected to receive their copy of the Newsletter over the Internet have praised the quick delivery, color photographs, and quality of the document. They are very pleased with the electronic version of the Newsletter. For those WRD Retirees who have a computer connected to the Internet, we encourage you to consider having your Newsletter delivered electronically. Just email Mike Gaydos at tigerlsu2@cox.net expressing your interest and he will see that you receive your Newsletter by email. This will also save our organization printing and mailing costs.

Please remember to pay your dues. If you have any questions about your dues status, email, write, or call Bill Boning, Secretary.



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Jim Bailey says, "Greetings and a very Happy New Year to all WRD Retirees from the Baileys in Amherst, VA."

Bob Beall says, "I want to express thanks for the cards, e-mails, and phone calls that my heart problems of the past 2 months have generated. The doctor considers my condition has advanced from poor to fair or even better than fair. As long as the pharmaceutical industry keeps generating new fixes, I am a willing participant. Though the total recovery is not in sight, the outlook is much better than it was a month ago. Thanks, all." (Bob, we all wish you continued improvement and will keep you in our prayers.)

Jim and Paula Blakey say, "We joined **Jerry and Sandra Duncan** for 2 weeks in Peru in August. Then we went to the Madison reunion in September. Thanks Madison retirees for a great job! We attended our 55th High School reunion in October in Texas. We will be leaving the 21st of January for 2 weeks in Sicily and we will join the Duncans again, beginning March 5th for 2 weeks in Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, and Bosnia."

Chuck Berkstresser reports, "I surely enjoyed the reunion in Madison. My only regret is that **Bev** could not join me. To all, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Season's Greetings belatedly. Also, a sincere thanks to all who were responsible for the success of the Madison Reunion – it was a grand affair! Following the reunion, I went to Waopaca County where I did a GW study in the 1950s, then on to Green Bay to see the National railroad Museum which proved to be as good as the one in Sacramento. All four of our daughters made the trip possible for me."

Bob Boulger reports, "2006 was my first year of retirement. I can say with enthusiasm that I highly recommend it! Folks often ask what retirement is like and I tell them it is about one word – choice. **Marie** and I are doing well and spend much of our time visiting our 7 grandchildren that range from ages one to seventeen. My days are filled with various projects of misspent time like fishing, hiking, reading, and oh yes, taking naps. Those kindergartner kids have a good thing going with that. Thanks to **CT Welborn** for his thought-provoking article on growing up in the 20s through the 50s."

Gary Bradford says, "I'm having some health problems but doing OK for a man of 83. Hi to all of my WRD Retiree friends."

Wayne Bridges reports, "I applaud the Newsletter staff for making the Newsletter available in electronic form. The e-Newsletter available over the Internet is wonderful."

Bob and Libby Burchett drove to Tennessee over the Christmas holidays to see their daughter and grandchildren. This is the first long trip that Bob has been able to take since he received his new heart.

Philip and Patrice Carpenter report, "We're on the road as "Full-timers." We spent the summer in the Pacific Northwest, with kids and grandkids, relatives, and friends. We were able to attend a breakfast meeting of the Washington Retirees in Tacoma. Escape was delayed a couple weeks by Patrice's appendix extraction on September 18. The weather in Lewiston, ID, was mild, when we visited with Patrice's sister. We had some snow on the ground one morning in Nashua, IA, where we spent a couple weeks visiting with friends and cousins from Philip's family. As we notice our own aging, we realize that some of those loved ones we visited most likely won't be around when we return next year. We headed south toward Nashville, stopping a few days at Paducah, KY. What a neat Ohio River town, with murals on the flood walls, and the American Quilters Society Museum--a mecca for quilters. Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area is nearby, run by the National Forest Service. It's a peninsula between the dammed waters of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, with boating access, an Elk and Bison Prairie, and many historic sites, as well as wonderful campgrounds. There were lots of coon hounds and camouflage clothes around, although I'm not sure what hunting season it was. We spent some time in Nashville, seeing the Ryman Auditorium, the Parthenon, visiting the Country Music Hall of Fame, and attending the Grand Old Opry. "The Lion King" production was in town, and after years of being in the right place at the wrong time (and visa versa), we were able to see the show. Fabulous! We drove the Natchez Trace (pronounced "matches," we found out) National Parkway from Nashville, TN, to Natchez, MS, absorbing the history along the way. It's an ancient trail, with its heydays being from about 1790 to 1820. The Meriwether Lewis gravesite monument was impressive and the Grinder's Stand (Inn) replica where he died in 1809 at the age of 35. The parkway mostly parallel's remnants of the Old Trace, winding through cypress swamps, Indian Mounds, and being bordered in some places by cities and farmlands. The leaves were in full color, and there are no commercial vehicles, no big trucks, no advertising signs all along the 440 miles of the trace. Things slow down, the hustle-bustle

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recedes, and the senses are filled. The city of Natchez is amazing--the wonderful old homes, plantations nearby, and steeped in Mississippi River history.

"Now we are in Livingston, TX, at the Escapees Rainbow's End Park, about 60 miles northeast of Houston. We're volunteering at the Care Center, an adult day-care facility that provides services to Escapees who live in their recreation vehicles in spaces around the main building. It's the volunteer help that keeps the prices low for the participants. Mid-December we leave for Weslaco, TX, down by Brownsville, joining some Iowa friends. We'll spend Christmas Day in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico, as part of a group of Winter Texans known as the Amigos. They have a small parade there and distribute presents to about 3,000 children. Weslaco isn't far from Pharr and on January 27, we leave Pharr with a caravan for a 66-day trip down the coast of Mexico, around the Yucatan, drop into Belize and Guatemala, then return up through central Mexico, near Mexico City, and back to Pharr on April 2. We'll be moving toward the Pacific Northwest again, stopping in Tucson to see Patrice's sister and in Las Vegas to see son, Ryan. We need to get to Shelton to get checkups and other business taken care of, kids, and grandkids and all. Mid-June, we leave in a caravan for a 3-month tour of Alaska, Philip wagon-mastering. The caravan consists of nine rigs, including us, some Escapees, and some members of the Alpenlite Travel Club that we've met on other trips and along the way. We're excited about going back and showing friends the Alaska we love. After mid-September 2007, we plan to be back here in Livingston at the Care Center about mid-October for 6 weeks, then to Weslaco again for a while. No plans after that--2008! We love the adventures and send greetings to all. Maybe we'll show up in your neck of the woods. Keep in touch. Life is good. Philip, Patrice, and Carlos."

Derrill Cowing says, "I am currently working for FEMA as a CE/Hydrologist out of Seattle. I'll be headed there again soon."

Joe Cragwall reports, "I enjoyed reading the November 2006 edition of the WRD Retirees Newsletter. Thanks to all involved in its preparation. You all do a great job!"

Dave Dawdy recently was awarded the Ven Te Chow Award by ASCE for pioneering contributions to engineering hydrology and water resources engineering. His contributions to estimations of floods, hydrologic modeling, and to scaling of hydrologic variables were cited. He was also honored for his mentoring of younger members and

his service to the profession. Dave spearheaded the effort to develop the first U.S. Geological Survey distributed watershed model for the prediction of runoff and estimation of flood characteristics from small watersheds.

George and Alice Dempster report, "We hope all enjoyed a lovely holiday season. We can't believe 2006 is almost over. The year has passed so quickly – no doubt because we are always busy. Last April, we spent two weeks in Torremolinos, Spain, as we had done the year before with friends from California. In August 2005, we did a cruise down the Mississippi on the Delta Queen with Survey friends **Stan** and **Grace Longwell**. This fall, we did a 17-day cruise on Holland America, Long Beach to Ft. Lauderdale, via the Panama Canal – our second time through the Canal. We took tours to several places new to us: Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Curacao. Here's wishing everyone in WRD Retirees a healthy, Happy New Year!"

Win Durum has moved to a retirement facility called Homewood in Frederick, MD. It seems like a good move for her since Scott, her son, is only 5 minutes away and stops to see her on his way home from work almost every day.

Derward Edwards says, "Thanks for the Newsletter. I enjoy reading and keeping up with operations and people in WRD Retirees."

Gene Friel reports, "Hope all of you WRD Retirees and your families are doing well. Thanks to all of our officers who do such a fine job keeping the rest of us informed."

Esther Flint says, "Great job on the Newsletter. It keeps getting better all of the time. Thanks to all!"

Charles R. Gamble writes, "Sorry **Rebel** and I missed the Reunion in Wisconsin. We had intended to attend but couldn't get away. This is because we have spent almost the last year getting a new house built and moving into it. We finally got moved in on August 24, so you see we were quite busy around reunion time. We are still in Nashville, only about 5 miles from our old location of 41 years. Try to imagine 41 years of accumulated "stuff"!! We did get rid of some before the move but probably not enough.

"Not a lot of other news from us except that pertaining to health. In January 2006, I had a kidney removed because of a cancer spot on it. That took several months to completely recover. Then Rebel developed a thyroid problem. She had part of it removed 41 years ago and had been on

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medication ever since. All of a sudden her remaining thyroid started putting out too much enzyme (or whatever it puts out) and that threw her heart out of rhythm. So, she has spent months under strict doctor's care trying to get her thyroid regulated and monitoring her heart. She finally had the remainder of the thyroid removed in September and is doing much better. The doctors think her heart rhythm problem has corrected itself.

"We stay busy with church activities and volunteering at Healing Hands International, a humanitarian relief agency which sends mostly medical supplies to poor countries such as Honduras, Guatemala, and places in Africa, Russia, India, and elsewhere.

"We enjoy the newsletter very much but are like many others who say there are lots of new names in there that we don't recognize. Thanks to all volunteers who make this organization go."

Wyatt Gambrell reports, "Hi, to all!"

Edwin George says, "Just a note to say keep up the good news of the WRD Retirees. I recently moved to the mountains of NC and **Nancy** will be joining me when she retires from SSA."

Dick Hadley reports, "I recently moved to Greenwood Village, CO. I have been retired for more than 10 years but I am still interested in WRD News. The Newsletters are well done. Congratulations to all involved."

Pat Hamel reports, "I am a new retiree. Thanks so much for advising me my NARFE dues did not include payment to WRD Retirees organization. I'm glad to pay my dues to our fine group."

Ed Harris says, "I really look forward to reading each Newsletter. The effort of publishing it is much appreciated. **Shirley** and I don't do much traveling anymore because of health problems. I still volunteer at the local hospital and go to all the ball games in the area. Best wishes to all WRD Retirees."

Ernie Hubbard reports, "**Jeanne** and I continue to live in our home on the Chesapeake Bay. The fishing is wonderful! I caught a 20 lb rockfish last winter in a fishing tournament. Our boat won second place. We toured France for 2 weeks a while back, seeing the Normandy coast, Monte Carlo, Paris, and other places too numerous to mention. We have rented a condo and will spend this coming January in Naples, FL. We plan to do

some boating, fishing, and sightseeing. It's always a pleasure to get the Newsletter and to learn what old friends and colleagues are doing."

Ralph Heath says, "Now that WRD Retirees is sponsoring a hydrologic technician scholarship, I want to suggest a name for the scholarships. As I recall, **George Ferguson** was the person who really got the WRD Retirees organization and Newsletter started. (Editor's note: Please refer to the WRD Retirees web page at WRDRetirees.org and read the Historical Notes.) In recognition of this and its importance to retired and current employees, I suggest that the scholarships be named the George E. Ferguson Scholarships. In this way we can show our appreciation for George's contributions. (Editor's note: This suggestion will be addressed by the WRD Retirees Board of Directors.) I really enjoy articles like those of **Irv Kantrowitz**, **Russ Curtis** and **C.T. Welborn** in the November edition. I obviously should have spent more time looking for barns on the Syracuse well records!"

JoAnn Huffman reports, "Thanks for all your hard work preparing the Newsletter. I enjoy keeping up with my WRD family."

Clayton Kauffman says, "Hi to WRD Retirees from Clayton and **Brenda**. I can't believe it is more than 12 years since my retirement. Best wishes to all for a joyous holiday season and a Happy 2007. The year 2006 was a tough one for us. We lost our son-in-law in September, after a 14-month battle with brain cancer. We are slowly rebounding and looking forward to the New Year and once again some fishing in Delaware. Our grandchildren are still the joy of our lives. We love watching the 6, 9, and 10 year-olds play soccer, baseball, and basketball. I still have my seasonal part-time job at Hershey Park. Each year finds our rocking chairs becoming more prominent on our list of favorites."

Fritz Kilpatrick reports, "Just a note to say how much we enjoyed the Madison reunion and that we are looking forward to the 2008 reunion in Tampa. Not much going on here – the usual painting every room in the house. I added a deluxe bathroom where there was a screened in porch. Also, a new 20' X 15' glassed porch where we eat most meals in the warm weather. The porch overlooks the 8th fairway of the Evergreen Country Club. As you can see, life is rough!"

Vince Lai says, "Happy New Year to all retirees."

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Phil LaMoreaux says, "As usual, I read with interest the November edition of WRD Retirees Newsletter. Apparently, the reunion in Wisconsin was a great success. Sorry **Bunnie** and I had to change our plans and could not attend. Hopefully we can make the next reunion. I am still busy on many projects with the AGI Environmental Awareness Committee."

Sol Lang reports, "**Yetta** and I are sorry we missed the Madison reunion. We hope to make the next reunion in Tampa."

Rose Lawrence says, "I enjoy the WRD Retirees Newsletter and Directory. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the reunions – I will especially miss Madison, WI. I do so look forward to reading the Newsletter and the interesting News of Retirees section – their work, trips, volunteer efforts, etc. I've had some ups and downs health-wise, but I have recovered quite well."

Jean Leonard says, "**Al** has been in poor health the past couple of years suffering from Primary Lateral Sclerosis. He requires around the clock care and is on a liquid diet." (Editor's note to Al's many WRD Retiree friends: Send Al a card or note at 7350 SW Hillcrest Pl., Beaverton, OR 97008.)

Ken Lindskov sends greetings to all WRD Retirees.

Gus Ludwig says, "I am happy to say that our retirement has gone along nicely. We have traveled much of the world, have seen many beautiful sights, and plan to see more in the future. Our subdivision is almost completely developed and we recently leased our land for natural gas production in a newly discovered field in northern Arkansas. We have a new, very comfortable house in the country; a new, very comfortable house on a lake nearby; and good health that allows us to enjoy them both. Life is good."

"The Arkansas District WRD, held its annual Christmas Party with a lunch at the office. The date was December 14. The office was kind enough to include any and all of the old retirees from the area. Those retirees attending included **Paula Herrin**, newest retiree from the office. **Elton Porter** and his wife **Nelma**, **Autry Meeker**, **Allan Hall**, **Marion Hines** and his wife **Mary**, and my wife **Betty**. Everyone had a very nice time. There was plenty of great food and plenty of conversation."

Marjorie Martin reports, "I enjoyed working for some fine folks during my assignment in Dover, DE. I had the following bosses: **Wilson Bonham**, **Philip**

Pfannebecker, **Art Hodges**, and **Gary Paulachok**. Hi to all of my old friends among the retirees."

Lois McGovern reports, "Thanks to all who work so hard on the WRD Retirees Newsletter! It is always fun to see where our friends are and what they are doing."

Alan Messmore says, "This year has been a year of travel for us, going on a AAA tour of the Continental Divide with nights at Glacier, Yellowstone, and Teton National Park. We also visited grandchildren in Glenwood, IA, in August to celebrate birthdays. On October 27, I had hip replacement surgery for my right side so now I've got all new hips and am walking much better with a normal gait. Finally, I am pleased to read the 2008 WRD Retirees reunion will be in Tampa as I plan on attending."

Jerry Meyer reports, "I hope all is going well with all WRD Retirees. I am anxious to hear more about Bob Beall's health." (Editor's note: Please see Bob's report on his health on page 2 of this newsletter.)

John Moore writes, "My daughter, Pamela gave birth to her second child, a daughter on May 5th (el Cinco de Mayo). I attended the NGWA meeting in San Antonio in April and gave a short course in Field Hydrogeology. At the end of May, I went to Dijon, France to attend a 150-year celebration of the work of Darcy and the 50th for IAH. I spent 2 months in the San Bernardino Mountains doing a spring inventory for the U.S. Forest Service. In late September, **Dickie** and I went to Madison, WI, for the WRD reunion. A week and a half later, I left for China to attend an IAH meeting and presented a paper and taught a short course for geology graduate students. In early December, I was in Las Vegas to attend a NGWA meeting."

John Musser says, "The following list of retirees and spouses attended one or more of the Baton Rouge luncheons in 2006, and all were involved in the relief effort following hurricanes Katrina and Rita: **George Cardwell**, **Louise Chaisson**, **L. J. Dantin**, **Don Dial**, **Gen Floyd**, **Mac Forbes**, **Mike** and **Ann Gaydos**, **Cheryl** and **Noland Johnson**, **Darwin** and **Linda Knochenmus**, **Catherine Lowe**, **Will Martin**, **John** and **Nancy Musser**, **Chris Resweber**, **Elinor Sloss**, **Joe Treadway**, **Charles Whiteman**, **Roger White** and from the Water Science Center, **Charles Demas**, Director and **George Arcement**, Associate Director.

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"Other items of note: **Al Lowe** has dementia and now lives in the Veteran's home at Jackson, LA. Al was a U.S. Marine during WW II and was wounded during the battle of Iwo Jima. **Ada Rich** has recently moved to a nursing home. **Dorothy Meyer**, widow of **Rex**, recently celebrated her 91st birthday and is still living at home.

"All in all, with the aftermath of the hurricanes, we experienced some unforgettable times in 2006."

Braxtel Neely says, "Ya'll are doing a great job with WRD Retirees. I enjoy reading the Newsletter to hear what others are doing. Take care."

Dale Nyman says, "Keep up the good work with WRD Retirees."

Mary Peterson reports, "Last February I slipped on some ice in our parking lot, fell, and broke the long bone in my left leg in four places. Surgery, rehab with lots of therapy, a wheelchair, walker, and cane before I finally got back on my feet! I am now walking normally. But, no golf this year! In August, I went to Seattle to see my first grandchild – a boy. In September, I went to Albuquerque to attend my son, Robert's wedding. It was a very nice occasion with many activities. Now, I am returning to Seattle to visit my daughter again for Christmas. My son and his wife will also be there. I will have all of my family together for the holiday."

Margaret Randolph says, "I love to get the Newsletter and Directory, even though most of the names I don't recognize anymore – I guess I've outlived most of **John's** old friends and associates. John really loved the reunions and seeing long time friends. By the way, he was in WWII in the Navy having served in the South Pacific aboard a ship. He was a Lt. J.G. He and I were married in 1946 and he joined the USGS in 1949. My best to all my retiree friends!"

Deborah T. Richards says, "I have moved so this is notification of a new address and telephone number. My e-mail is still the same. Old address: 466 Deborah Drive, Utica, NY 13502, telephone 315-735-5082. New address: 1450 Miranda Drive, Utica, NY 13502, telephone 315-735-5853. It was nice to see in the most recent newsletter a photo of my old office mates **Lynn Barr** and **Craig Hutchinson** and to see that the 2008 reunion will be in Tampa. The Tampa area has so much to offer."

Don Richardson reports, "It is interesting to read the anecdotes in the WRD Retirees Newsletter and you folks are doing a fine job of putting the

publication together. Just makes me kind of envious though, reading about all the traveling and ambitious activities of other retirees. After 35 years in our home at Point Fosdick, looking out over a nice piece of Puget Sound near Gig Harbor, we finally decided it was time to downsize and get into a gated community where someone else can do the yard work. Not a very long move – only about 10 miles – but now we're on the Tacoma side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, which means we won't have to pay a bridge toll every time we go into "town". Oh, there were other compensations of course, like the fact that Gig Harbor is no longer the quiet little fishing village that it was in '71. We're still enjoying the visits with other WRD retirees at monthly breakfasts in Tacoma, and occasionally we're asked to fill in at the bridge table with some of them. Our travels are mostly with Elderhostel groups, which we've been able to do regularly for many years."

Ev Richardson reports, "I loved my day as a streamgager and hydraulic engineer with WRD."

Don Rima reports, "I do enjoy reading the Newsletter and keeping up with WRD Retirees, their memories, adventures, exploits, achievements, and travels to the far corners of the world. My best to you and yours."

Harry Rodis says, "I always enjoy the Newsletter."

Lamar Sanders writes, "After retiring in September, 2003, I immediately began working with the South Carolina Department of Transportation as a hydraulic engineer, sizing bridges, culverts, and ditches. Although not as varied as work with the USGS, the work is still interesting, and lately, they've been giving me some of the harder studies to do, which I enjoy. The people I work with are most kind to me -- they are a bunch of "good old boys", who love hunting, fishing, and barbecue."

"My two daughters got married, and I find that South Carolinians make really good sons-in-law for several South Carolinian reasons (I am a Georgian, myself). Also, I have a really strong and beautiful new granddaughter, Ava, who is learning all the ropes this year. I asked my cousin, how do you do grandchildren, and he said "Let them do anything they want to, and that way, they like you the best" so, I am trying that out.

"About 2-1/2 years ago, I had my right hip joint replaced because of arthritis and too many bad Aikido rolls. Don't ever be afraid of titanium - it is your friend! Three months after surgery, I was back in Aikido - I can still throw, but not roll, so can dish it

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out but can't take it any more. Five months after surgery, I dragged a deer 300 feet, and at six months, dragged one 800 feet. Ten months after surgery, I made a 10-mile hike with friends celebrating my great-grandfather's survival and walk home from the Confederate surrender at Appomattox. Now, my muscles are even coming back. I'll be 67 next month.

"Also, I am happy to hear that some of the ideas I had before retirement for enhancing quality control of surface water computations and records by computerized graphics and statistics are now being at least partially implemented by OSW and **Joe Nielsen**, who maintains a library of district programs. I am currently trying to finish a new VBA/EXCEL program on my home computer that selects index stations and does daily value comparisons graphically and statistically.

"Some of my Georgia and South Carolina USGS buddies get together once a year to camp out. Once, **Tim Hale** said he would come but would promise not to tell the old stories again. I said, "No, that's the whole purpose of the camping trip, to tell the same old stories over and over." The trick is to invite at least one person to come who hasn't heard them yet!"

"I am afraid of retirement, but may bite the bullet and do it for good in 2008."

Herb Schumann reports, "I continue to do some GW consulting and to stay active. I got a call from my old friend Larry Fellows, our former State Geologist, with an invitation to join him on an American Society of Professional Geologist's field trip to the Wilcox Basin, in southeastern AZ and to talk about the basin's groundwater resources. I mapped and worked the Wilson Basin in the early 1960s and it was great to revisit the area. Recently, I attended my 50th High School reunion in St. Michaels, AZ. Those wonderful old rock buildings have changed very little, but I was shocked at the number of classmates and friends who have passed away. Enough class reunions for me for another 50 years! Keep up the good work with the Newsletter."

Genie Sessums says, "I wish to thank **Joe Cragwall** for writing the wonderful memorial to my husband, **Francis**. It warmed my heart to have Francis' former Chief do this honor. I remember one lovely evening when Francis and I entertained Joe and **Jane Cragwall**, **Joe** and **Mac Wells**, and **Evelyn Oltman** in Falls Church, VA. I have lots of warm memories of Francis' colleagues. God bless you all."

Herb and Elaine Stevens report, "We are fine. Elder years mean doctors are good friends – they keep us moving. 2006 was a good travel year: San Diego, Bend and Portland, OR; plus four Minnesota trips. Jeni Exley, our second daughter, is now our mother and flying with her is great. She takes care of car rentals and hotels. Two grandchildren have left colorful Colorado. Brian Exley, the eldest, has a flying job with Royal Cargo in Michigan. Emily Ellermann just joined the freshman class at Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH, the city where Herb was born. Good wishes for health and fun in the new year."

Terry and Judy Thompson say, "Judy remains fairly healthy but Terry is another story. After putting up with shoulder pain for a year, he went to an orthopedic surgeon in September. His comment was, "Terry, your shoulder is just worn out." So he now has a new one and lots of therapy. To top it off, he had a cataract removed last week. With all the new parts, he figures he's good for at least 25 more years of fun and travel. In January, after a 20-hour flight, we visited Thailand and Cambodia. Both countries were beautiful, the people friendly, and the food delicious. Tailor-made clothes are the thing to purchase in Thailand; so, we did have clothes made at very reasonable prices. Some highlights of the trip in Cambodia were visiting a floating village and rising above Angkor Watt in a balloon; and in Thailand, touring the royal Palace and many golden temples, visiting the hill tribes, and taking an elephant ride. In mid-May, we planted our Wisconsin vegetable garden, and then flew to London. From there we went to Dover where we boarded a cruise ship bound for the Baltic. Our cruise included stops in Germany, Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and England. Now, we hope to enjoy a few months in Florida before going on some other adventure."

Bert Thomsen reports, "After the Madison reunion last fall, I had a pacemaker implanted per recommendations of my cardiologist and arrhythmia consultants. The problem was one of a slow heart rate — 40 beats per minute and going down. So, now I am "ticking" at a regular rate of about 60bpm and slowly gaining energy. Hope to see you all in Tampa in 2008."

Joe Upson reports, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter, although it contains very little information about anyone I knew or worked with. However, a lot of the war-time adventures are very interesting. Right now in New Hampshire it's a dull day and our pond surface is still open. There was very little wildlife this summer and fall. One black bear visited our bird feeder in the spring. We see deer occasionally,

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but have seen none for nearly 6 months. There are, however, enough signs to know they are still around. **Bobbie** and I are getting ready for family to be here at Christmas so we are very busy. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Roger Waller reports, "Keep up the good work on the WRD Retirees Newsletter. It was so nice to see so many retirees at the Madison reunion."

CT Welborn reports, "**Dixie** and I are leaving for South America in a few days. Dixie spent most of the day yesterday shopping. We will be flying to Buenos Aires and board a Princess Cruise Ship and sail around the Horn, stopping at Montevideo, Falkland Islands, Ushuaia (Tierra del Fuego), cruise the Beagle Cannel, around the Horn to Punta Arenas, Chile (Strait of Magellan). We will also cruise the Chilean Fjords, Puerto Montt, and sail to Valparaiso, Chile (Santiago). We fly back from Santiago after a 14 day trip. This will be the first time either of us has been below the Equator. "

George Whetstone says, "I send best wishes to all WRD Retirees."

Sulo Wiitala says, "We are getting too old to generate much News! But, keep those WRD Retirees Newsletters coming."

Marcia Winslow reports, "The latest news is that I had a mini-stroke in early March and spent two

months in the local health center. The upside of that is that my roommate was **Martha Billingsley**, another WRD Retiree member. We had a great time doing crossword puzzles and figuring out how to make sandwiches out of the food we didn't care for. Happy New Year to all."

Tom Yorke reports, "Fifty-six retirees and spouses attended the Christmas luncheon of the headquarters group of retirees. A fun time was had by all, including bottles of wine, boxes of candy, and poinsettias for lucky winners of prizes. **Bill Shope** drove the farthest, about a 4 ½ hour drive from his home in Radford to the Herndon restaurant. **Joe Cragwall** drove about 2 hours from Charlottesville to attend."

Tom also reports, "Forty-one members and spouses got to hear an excellent presentation, arranged by **Anna Lennox**, at the January lunch meeting of the HQ WRD Retirees. The speakers were Meloni Hinnant, Recruiting and Training Manager for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Fairfax County and Donald Demitros, a CASA volunteer. CASA represents all children in Fairfax County who have been involved with any kind of abuse. CASA is the official, court endorsed, advocate for the children. They told some very interesting stories and described what must be to them some very rewarding experiences."

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!

Which WRD Retiree measured the maximum discharge?

By Bill Schaefer, Hugh Hudson and Ken Darmer

In WRD Retiree Newsletter 132, August 2006, **Bill Schaefer** reported, "I recently made use of the 2003 Retirees Directory and took notice of the cover picture. It shows a river in flood and a concrete gage house with its top projecting just about 2 feet or so above the water surface. The caption inside identifies it as the Mississippi River, 18 miles above Cairo, IL, January 26, 1937, and then "wading section upstream 50 miles." I would like to point out that there is (was) a wading section for the Mississippi but that it is some 600 miles-whatever-upstream at Federal Dam, MN, at the outlet of Lake Itasca, the river's source. During the summer of 1933, at a northern Minnesota surveying camp, then required for all CEs at U of M, my class made a wading measurement at that location. Don Ericson, Grand Rapids, probably knows the location. Little did I realize that 4 years later when I accepted a Junior Hydrologic Engineer appointment with the USGS in Fort Smith, AR, that I would be doing more of the same – even a spring flood measurement in excess of 1.2 million cfs of the Mississippi River at Memphis, TN, requiring use of a 300 pound sounding weight. Hugh Hudson, how about Vicksburg?

Hugh Hudson replied, "Bill Schaefer, as one old streamgager to another, I enjoyed reading your account in Newsletter 132 of measuring the flow of the Mississippi River. Your recollection of details, including having measured more than 1.2 million cfs at Memphis and for recalling that I once had a role in gaging the Mississippi near Vicksburg, MS, is admirable. I also perceived a challenge as to who has measured the most water with a current meter. I hereby lay claim, among WRD retirees, to having measured the most water in a single discharge measurement, in one channel, with a current meter. These caveats are to keep some smart-aleck geologist from coming up with a calculation of the humongous flood 18,000 years ago when the Pleistocene-epoch Lake Missoula broke out into the Columbia River basin! In early 1950, during the time when I had the job of measuring the flow of the Mississippi River near Vicksburg every week or so, the river peaked at 1,876,000 cfs*. I do not remember how many cfs I measured but as those "peaks" lasted for days, so it is likely that I measured near the maximum. I am, therefore, claiming to have measured a record 1.8 million cfs and anxiously await a possible counterclaim from **Ken Darmer** who was on the Mississippi sub-district staff in 1945 when the river peaked at just over 1.9 million cfs, or from others. Incidentally, Ken once told me about using the heavy-duty Vicksburg equipment to measure the flow of the Atchafalaya River at Krotz Springs, LA, back in the '40s, when much of the Mississippi's flood flow found a better way to the Gulf via the "Chafalaya" and threatened to pirate the entire flow of the Mississippi, potentially leaving Baton Rouge and New Orleans relatively high and dry. Ken is clearly one of the Big River Guys.

Let me tell you something about Ken that he may not want to remember. He gave me my first lesson in making a wading measurement. It was dead of winter and the water was very cold, even in south Mississippi. The waders Ken gave me had a leak in one leg that slowly filled with ice water. It was an unforgettable experience when the water spilled over into the other leg and the family jewels had no place to retreat to!

And finally, Ken Darmer replied, "Thanks for the copy of the correspondence to Bill Schaefer concerning "Big River" measurements. This conjures up a lot of fond memories of my Mississippi days. Yes, I will offer a challenge of your claim to have measured the maximum discharge at Vicksburg (albeit by a minor margin), and thus presumably for the entire United States. In May or June 1943, I made a measurement of 1,944,000 cfs. I don't recall whether my assistant that day was Jimmie Shell or Don Boswell. I recall that I made certain to have my field computations checked, as I was hoping to reach the 2 million mark, but missed it.

That flood of the Mississippi resulted in part from the record flood of the Arkansas River. John Saunders, District Engineer in Fort Smith AK, saw the approaching flood and called for our assistance with the Vicksburg "Rig." Jimmie Shell and I were (happily) "volunteered" for the expedition. We jostled the 1937 Ford truck, with the power takeoff to operate the sounding winch and the revolving boom, across Arkansas to Ft. Smith. We completed the first measurement at the Ft. Smith bridge and (luckily) stayed overnight at Van Buren on the left (north) bank. The next morning we found that a large section of the highway approach from Ft. Smith had washed out. Keith Jackson of the Ft. Smith office rigged up a boat

of some sort and made a measurement of the by-pass flow. During our measurement that day a young soldier, who was among many spectators on the bridge, suddenly leaped over the bridge rail into the river. We saw him surface and struggle on down-river until we lost sight of him in the trees along the bank. We later learned that he had clung to a tree and was rescued. I guess that he had changed his mind about suicide. We then proceeded to the Dardenelle gage some hundred miles downstream. Due to the road washout, we had to laboriously negotiate secondary Ozark Mountain roads, so we had a tiring jaunt. The river at Dardenelle was confined to the bridge opening and was really surging along. I measured the highest velocity of my USGS career here. Even with penta count, the clicks were really rapid. As I recall, we were almost off the chart of the current meter. We measured just over 1,000,000 cfs here. The stream was full of trees and logs. On one hoisting of the weight and meter to avoid a nearly submerged log, the meter just broke the surface as the log struck. Luckily, the weight slipped free. When we pulled the meter up, it was just a mangled metal mess wrapped around the hanger bar. We could hardly recognize it had been a current meter.

Getting back to Vicksburg experiences-we often saw planes flying around on training missions. On a couple of occasions, the fighter-type planes swooped around and flew right under the bridge while we were measuring. One time, they were VERY close to hitting our sounding cable. I reported this and learned that the Dutch government had brought a group of pilots from Java to train at the Jackson Air Base. A rite of passage for these guys was to fly under all the bridges they could. I guess that they were grounded or disciplined. One day a carload of these pilots stopped on the bridge and really expressed in Javanese words that we luckily couldn't understand, that they were unhappy we had reported them! I guess they didn't realize that we might have saved their lives.

Hugh, I was always concerned as to the accuracy of our high-flow measurements. It was disconcerting to look downstream past the railway part of the bridge and see our sounding cable enter the water "way down there!!" We had to recalculate the large air corrections and at times also the wet line correction for each velocity observation. Of course these velocities were observed far downstream from where we had recorded the depth. We often made integrated vertical velocity curves (at 0.1 depth intervals); actually, the .2 and .8 values, as well as the .6 value, were pretty close to the integrated result in most cases. I accompanied the Corps on a couple of their boat measurements. We had some concern about how well they could hold the horizontal, as well as the up and downstream positions, in the swift current. With their large boat and motor and their sextant positioning, I felt that their results should be reliable.

Hugh-sorry about the leaky waders, I assure you that I had no evil intent! We needed to get out the rubber patching kit that I often carried in order to extend the life of our boots and waders.

* My memory is not good to four significant figures. Rudy Dosch's knowledge of the Internet and the local USGS library helped substantiate my claim.

MEMORIAL
Roger G. Wolff
1933 – 2007

Roger Glen Wolff, 74, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey from 1961 to 1994 died January 1, 2007 of cancer at his home in Bluemont, Virginia. A native South Dakotan, he served 2 years in the 101st Airborne Division of the Army. He received a B.S. degree in geology from the South Dakota School of Mines in 1958 and both a M.S. degree in 1960 and Ph.D. in 1961 in geology from the University of Illinois.



Roger began his career with the U.S. Geological Survey as a research hydrologist specializing in groundwater flow in sediments. The influence of the renowned clay expert J.P. Gries in South Dakota led to a career-long interest in the water-transmission properties of clay beds, an unrecognized specialty at the time. Roger published several pioneering papers in that field, an area of research now recognized as crucial to solving problems ranging from radioactive waste isolation to public water supply protection. His use of specially-designed field and laboratory equipment for the comparative analysis of field and laboratory analyses of flow properties established confidence in the then-new laboratory techniques. His measurement methods were later adopted nationally and became instrumental in guiding other researchers in the 1970s and 80s.

From 1974 to 1978, Roger was the Regional Research Hydrologist, Northeastern Research at the USGS after which he returned briefly to independent research. In 1980, Roger was selected to head the Geological Survey's National Research Program in the hydrologic sciences as the Deputy Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Research and Technical Coordination, a position later known as the Chief, Office of Hydrologic Research. He remained in this position until his retirement in 1994. In this position, he guided the research of many of the Nation's preeminent water-resources scientists. He had a particularly important influence on the peer-review based promotion system for scientists and ensured that it became a model of fair, unbiased evaluation. He was universally admired by "his" scientists for his leadership and for deflecting bureaucratic trivialities. He was remembered as "a warm, compassionate, visionary leader who managed with humility, grace, and always good judgment." For many of us at the USGS, Roger was a friend and valued mentor.

Roger Wolff was recognized by the USGS and Department of Interior for his government service receiving the Meritorious Service Award in 1983 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1991. He was recognized as a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and was a member of the American Geophysical Union, International Association of Hydrogeologists, and Sigma Xi.

In 1981, Roger and his wife, Mary, began growing Christmas trees on his farm, Snickers Gap Tree Farm, in Bluemont, Virginia. He moved there permanently from Rockville in 1991. The farm, with 45,000 trees, is believed to be the largest of its kind in Loudoun County, Virginia. Many of his USGS friends went to the farm during the holidays to select a tree and to see Roger and Mary.

Roger was a member of Goose Creek Meeting of the Society of Friends in Lincoln. Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Mary Wolff; two sons, Mark R. Wolff of McLean, Virginia, and Steven C. Wolff of Salt Lake City, Utah; two sisters; and four grandchildren. The family can be reached at P.O. Box 215, Bluemont, VA 22012.

By: Mary Jo Baedecker & Chris Neuzil

MEMORIAL
James Richard (Digger) Jones
1918 – 2006

This is a tribute to a man known universally by his sobriquet, Digger, and respected for his breadth of knowledge. James Richard Jones died in Tucson, Arizona, November 15, 2006 from pneumonia. He was born April 23, 1918 in Orange, New Jersey and received an AB degree in Geology from Princeton University in 1940. He entered graduate school at Syracuse University to continue geologic studies. At the end of the 1941 school year he enlisted in the Corps of Engineers. He was a Pearl Harbor survivor and served in eight campaigns in the Pacific and European theaters. He was released in 1945 with the rank of Captain. In 1946, Digger reentered Syracuse University as a graduate assistant and in 1948 received an M.S. in Geology. On June 14, 1948, he joined the Ground Water Branch, USGS, as a staff geologist in Moorhead, Minnesota area office of the (then) Grand Forks District.



On July 4, 1948, Digger married Suzanne Ludeking in Waukon, Iowa. In 1949, he was transferred to the Boise District as chief of party working on the National Reactor Testing Station and in 1953 to Huron, South Dakota where he became District Geologist. The lure of a foreign assignment struck in 1958 when Digger transferred to the Water Resources Division's Foreign Hydrology Section as a Technical Advisor and was sent to Libya. He soon put his experiences in the domestic program to use serving as a Technical Advisor and Chief of Party for ground-water investigations sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Libya, Ethiopia, East Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen Arab Republic, and India. His services were specifically sought by USAID on a number of occasions to provide consultation to several foreign governments on special water resource problems. These included recommendations to the government of Kenya on a program of water resources and range development for livestock production and consultations with the governments of Mali, Niger, and Upper Volta on hydrologic applications of ERTS imagery. He was retained by UNESCO to consult with international scientific and planning teams on Nubian sandstone aquifers underlying the (then) United Arab Republic, the Sudan, and Libya.

In 1975, Digger was named Chief of the Division's Office of International Hydrology and assumed responsibility for coordinating the travel, training, staffing, report production, State Department clearances, and employee evaluation of all technical advisors involved in the Bureau's foreign hydrology program. A major portion of his time was spent in travel status, evaluating on-going technical programs and determining hydrologic needs of cooperating foreign governments through State Department and United Nations contacts. His ultimate "field trip" took him to Timbuktu, Mali, whose city mosque dating from ca 1325 is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

In 1980, Digger Jones applied for retirement after some 36 years of Federal service. Not long thereafter he took the position of groundwater expert in the Provincial Water Works Authority in Bangkok, Thailand. The humidity must have been unsuitable because he next joined a group of ex-USGS colleagues doing water resource studies in Oman.

Finally settling in Tucson, Digger maintained his interest in hydrology by working with a Super Fund unit of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. With a lifelong interest in stamps, Digger was an active volunteer at the Postal History Foundation and Library in Tucson.

He touched many lives. He is survived by his wife Suzanne Ludeking; daughters, Lucinda (Cindy), Sara Jones Ferguson, and Elizabeth (Lalla); grandsons, James and Michael Ferguson; and goddaughters, Jane Perry and Jean Heminger. One of the many guest book entries that accompanied Digger's obituary: "Please accept my heart felt condolences. I remember your father/grandfather as a happy energetic man in a house full of GIRLS! The series of stock ponds he helped design and build in Ethiopia are still in use." And, finally, another: "I and my whole family) will never forget this unique and funny individual who never failed to have an interesting story from his unusual and colorful life. With his larger-than-life personality, it is difficult to imagine a world without Digger Jones in it, but I suspect that his presence will be felt and remembered for a long time to come.

By: Robert M. Beall

Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel

By Jim Biesecker, Jim Blakey, Bill Boning, Hal Langford, Russ Wagner, Tom Yorke, and Loren Young

Introduction

It is imperative that WRD Retirees makes sure the working folks at USGS relate to our retiree organization and that we make every effort to continue to recruit new dedicated and long-time members. The President's message in the February 2006 WRD Retirees Newsletter raised the question as to whether or not any changes are needed to make sure WRD Retirees remains the viable organization it has always been and we want it to remain. Specifically, the question "**Does WRD Retirees need to change in order to continue to attract the current working force in USGS as they reach retirement?**" must be addressed.

Membership

A Blue Ribbon Panel was appointed to address this question. Members are: Hal Langford, Loren Young, Bill Boning, Jim Blakey, Tom Yorke, Russ Wagner, and Jim Biesecker. This includes some "old timers," some fairly recent retirees, four members who have served as President, a man who has served as our Secretary for ten years, and two Regional Directors (one current and one past). There are also representatives from the three states with the most members in WRD Retirees: Virginia, California, and Colorado and a representative from all four WRD Regions plus headquarters.

Background

Specifically, the panel was asked to reflect on Bill Robinson's remarks following Cathy Hill's keynote address in Portland that "We no longer have a parent organization." and the comment made to Herb Freiburger during a recent trip to the Maryland office to recruit new members – "In ten years no working folks will recognize the name Water Resources Division Retirees!" I'm sure you will all agree that the WRD we knew and loved has gone through some dramatic changes in the last decade. In fact, the name Division has not been used by USGS for more than a decade, does not appear on any official USGS or Interior documents, and is not a part of the existing USGS organization. More importantly, the term "Division" is not recognized by the current workforce.

Meetings

Panel members held two face-to-face meetings, a telephone conference meeting, and numerous meetings with two or three panel members present. We had some very thorough discussions. We also met with Acting Director Pat Leahy and Associate Director for Water Bob Hirsch. Also, we met with the other USGS retiree organizations -- Geologic Division Retirees and TOPO Retirees. Additionally, a preliminary report of the Blue Ribbon Panel was made at the Madison reunion.

Recommendations

All recommendations are unanimous. Our conclusion was that WRD Retirees is a thriving organization. The mission statement: "**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.**" truly reflects the organization. However, because Division is no longer used at USGS, we recommend the mission statement be modified as follows:

Honoring WRD Retirees who served in WW II or Korea

This series continues to be very popular with WRD retirees and other readers of the Newsletter. This edition contains accounts of the service of Dee Molenaar. To those WRD Retirees who served in WW II or Korea and have not yet shared your experiences with us, please send us your stories for publication in a future Newsletter.

Dee Molenaar

During the depression years of the 1930s, I often thought of joining the U.S. Coast Guard and by patrol boat seeing a bit of southeastern Alaska. When my Selective Service number came up for draft in April 1941, I was deferred until mid-summer. This was due to my serving as a summit guide for Mt. Rainier, where some of my duties including taking soldiers from nearby Ft. Lewis onto glaciers and getting them ready for duty in Alaska. Upon my return to Los Angeles, I joined the U.S. Coast Guard on September 18, 1941, and by train and bus started out for the Coast Guard training facility at Port Townsend, WA. Upon completion of the 1-month "boot camp," I was assigned to the USCG repair base on the Lake Washington ship canal in Ballard in northwestern Seattle.

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, while tossing popcorn to ducks in Lake Washington, I got shouted to by a passing motorist who said, "Hey sailor, you better get back to your ship; the Japs have bombed Pearl Harbor. Until then, I had barely heard of Pearl Harbor. My initial duties on that first night ending the "Day of Infamy" were aboard a patrol boat moving along the Seattle waterfront and harbor. I was finally feeling important to the war effort by shouting from the waterfront piers – to enforce the city's blackout orders – "This is the United States Coast Guard. Turn those lights out!"

Other patrol duties during the first few months of the war included escorting dynamite-laden barges away from the docks and to the middle of Puget Sound for loading on Merchant Marine transports headed for the Western Pacific. Then, during winter 1942 to spring 1943, I served for a few months in the Cascade Mountains east of Everett, leading Coast Guard recruits in tree-felling and firewood-chopping details to warm our base at Big Four Inn, one of the annexes created by the Coast Guard in taking over a few resorts early in the war. In April 1943, I returned to Seattle and served 4 months in the USCG photo lab in the 13th Naval District, after which I was assigned as a photographer in the Coast Guard's LORAN Construction Detachment unit on Attu in the Aleutians and on several islands in the southwestern Pacific. This Long Range Navigation system provided military aircraft a triangulation network of stations guiding their safe return after bombing missions in the Pacific.

The memorable moments of my 49 months of service included shore-patrol duty on the Seattle waterfront (mostly jailing drunks); leading hikes in the Cascades; doing ID portraits of Coast Guard officers; chopping steps up an icy slope in Attu to lead officers over a ridge crest to the bleak wintry locale of our LORAN station; spending Christmas eve of 1943 unloading huge oil drums from an LCM bounding against a rocky dock in a storm bashed cove; flying aboard a PBY "Catalina" over blue-green water of the coral fringed atolls of Majoro, Kwajalein, Palau, Peleiu and Morotai; dancing in the moonlight with bare-breasted Polynesian beauties to the beat of a stick on a 50-gal oil drum in a native village near one of our stations; and hiking with another Coastie through 3 miles of dense jungle to gain a Marine hilltop station on Guam, at which point we were notified that we had just crossed land still occupied by surviving remnants of the Japanese Army.

While doing my dark room work in the Air Corps photo lab on Guam, I noted many aerials from B-29s taken during their bombing mission over Japan and hearing rumors that something big was about to happen and the war would be over. Among my favorite photos taken during the war, besides western Pacific sunsets, was one in mid-1945 of a flag flying at half-mast from a pole on a lonely beach of Peleliu, honoring our recently deceased Franklin D. Roosevelt, our Commander-in Chief, and to many of us GIs our popular leader through 13 of the most trying years in our Nation's history.

Great Support of WRD Retirees by USGS

Your elected officers, especially the Regional Directors, and every District Contact are trying to ensure that as many recent retirees as possible join WRD Retirees. There is a concerted effort to have the District Contact, or other WRD Retiree official, contact every recent retiree personally. We have received terrific support from the USGS, notably the Associate Director for Water, Bob Hirsch, when he sent the following email to all WRD employees.

To All WRD Employees:

"You're busy pursuing your career with the U.S. Geological Survey, but someday -- soon for some -- you'll retire and enjoy life after the Survey. Many of your colleagues from the past have joined an active and fun retirement group, WRD Retirees. This group was established in 1973 with about 220 members and currently has about 1,500 members.

The purpose of WRD Retirees is "to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency." WRD Retirees has three main activities for fostering communication among themselves and active employees of USGS.

1. Monthly or quarterly meetings are held at 25 locations throughout the Nation.
2. National Reunions are held every other year. The reunion locations are moved around the country to allow members from various areas to attend. This year's WRD Retirees Reunion was held in Madison, WI; the 2004 Reunion was held in Portland, OR; and the 2002 Reunion was held in San Antonio, TX. The tentative location for the 2008 Reunion is Tampa, FL.
3. Four WRD Retirees Newsletters are published each year and a WRD Retirees Directory is maintained. A local contact is provided in each of the 50 states to facilitate contact with every Water Science Center.

Currently, about 30 USGS employees are members of WRD Retirees as affiliate members - including most of the WRD Senior Staff.

The WRD Retirees have recently established a web site at <http://www.wrdretirees.org>. It contains much information describing the organization and its functions, and includes the May and August 2006 WRD Retirees Newsletters. All future Newsletters will be available at this site.

Whether you're nearing retirement or have a number of years before you retire, I encourage you to stay in touch with your former colleagues by joining WRD Retirees now as an affiliate or as a regular member when you retire. They can be reached by email at wrdretirees@usgs.gov or by writing to them at: WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280."

signed, Bob Hirsch

You, too, can help with this effort! Please examine the list of recent retirees that appears in each edition of the Newsletter and if you know any of these folks, contact them and welcome them to WRD Retirees. 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 L. Bragg, Hydrologist, Route 5, Box 289-D, Charleston, WV 25312, 01/03/07
Guerino L. Centinaro, Jr., Hydrologic Technician, 105 Cynthia Court, Cinnaminson, NJ 80770, 12/01/06
Denis F. Healy, Hydrologist, P.O. Box 286, Perry, MI 48872, 01/03/07
Ronald E. Thompson, Jr., Hydrologist, 824 Landau Court, Camp Hill, PA 17011 – 01/03/07
Thomas L. Wicker, Hydrologic Technician, 411 Regal Drive, Dekalb, IL 60115, 01/02/07

Southeastern Region

Roger P. Rumenik, Safety & Occupational Health Manager, 2435 Potts Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308, 01/03/07
Gerald L. Ryan, Supervisory Hydrologist, 5001 Royal Troon Drive, Raleigh, NC 27604, 01/03/07
Margni Ingram Shealy, Information Specialist, 234 Ball Park Road, Lexington, SC 29072, 12/31/06

Central Region

Ronald R. Berg, Supply Technician, 2196 Zinnia Street, Golden, CO 80401, 01/03/07
Ralph K. Dewees, Jr., Hydrologic Technician, 6446 Roadrunner Loop NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144, 01/03/07
Ronnie A. Drudik, Hydrologic Technician, 213 North 23rd, Ord, NE 68862, 01/03/07
John J. French, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 124, Ft. Peck, MT 59223, 01/03/07
Robert L. Gold, Hydrologist, 1301 Valencia Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, 01/03/07
Robert B. Green, Supervisory Chemist, 1135 Park Avenue #703, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, 10/31/06
Henry S. Hauck, Supervisory Hydrologic Technician, 35170 Maries City Road 532, Dixon, MO 65459, 01/03/07
Daniel E. Hitch, Hydrologic Technician, 17 South Ash Street, North Platte, NE 69101, 12/01/06
Gerhard Kuhn, Hydrologist, 10648 West Quarto Drive, Littleton, CO 80127, 01/03/07
George H. Leavesley, Research Hydrologist, 6068 S. Lamar Drive, Littleton, CO 80123, 01/03/07
Roger W. Lee, Hydrologist, 8918A White Pine Lane, Dallas, TX 75238, 11/03/06
Thomas J. Leiker, Chemist, 8886 W. Prentice Avenue, Littleton, CO 80123, 12/01/06
James E. Norvell, Jr., Hydrologic Technician, 1708 Remington Road, Edmond, OK 73034, 12/31/06
Zell E. Peterman, Research Geologist, 9795 W. Ohio Drive, Lakewood, CO 80226, 01/01/07
Stephen D. Porter, Hydrologist, 30325 Lone Spruce Road, Evergreen, CO 80439, 12/31/06
Pamela K. Smith, Hydrologic Technician, 2409 Miami Drive, Iowa City, IA 52240, 12/30/06
Laverne George Sultz, Hydrologic Technician, 1105 5th Street West, Kalispell, MT 59901, 12/31/06
Joseph B. Treadway, Jr., Engineering Technician, 38333 Hudson Street, Pearl River, LA 70452, 01/03/07
Ralph W. Wilcox, III, Hydrologist, 16 Bennett Road, Los Lunas, NM 87031, 01/02/07
Thomas C. Winter, Research Hydrologist, 8520 Meadowlark Drive, Lakewood, CO 80226, 12/01/06

Western Region

James W. Borchers, Hydrologist, 1315 Locust Place, Davis, CA 95616, 01/03/07
Ralph T. Cheng, Research Hydrologist, 71 Oak Haven Way, Woodside, CA 94062, 01/03/07
John C. McNulty, Hydrologic Technician, 5664 Ponca Way, Kelseyville, CA 95451, 01/02/07
Karen W. Miller, Administrative Officer, 18438 S. Ferguson Road, Oregon City, OR 97045, 12/01/06
Lee A. Price, Hydrologic Technician, 560 Teakwood Drive, Redding, CA 96003, 01/03/07

Headquarters

***Janice M. Biggar**, Fiscal Specialist, 1106 Burwick Drive, Herndon, VA 20170, 02/25/06

* Inadvertently left off a previous list.

DIVISION NEWS

New Members

Centinaro, Guerino (06), 105 Cynthia Ct., Cinnaminson, NJ 80770, 12/01/06, 856-303-8876,
gwcentin@msn.com

Gibbons, Willard J. (01), 271 Trainer Wuest Road, Blanco, TX 78606, 830-833-4492

Johnson, Cheryl (06) (Noland) 4226 Kilkenny Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, 225-275-5501

Rogers, Robert J. "Bob" (06) (Janice), 3 Crestview Drive, West Sand Lake, NY 12196, 207-443-1728,
boborjanice@yahoo.com

Watkins, Caroline "Toni" (84), 1811 South Harlan Circle, Apt 213, Lakewood, CO 80232, 303-238-2860

Wilson, Kathy (06) (Bill), 1057 Elliott Street, Wheatland, WY 82201, 307-322-1623, kewilson@juno.com

New Affiliate Members

Barbie, Dana (Affil) (Shirley), 17445 Dornach Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660, 512-252-0487, dlbarbie@usgs.gov

Blanchard, Steve (Affil) (Julia), 511 Cindy Court, Sterling, VA 20164, 703-430-4480, spring-grove@adelphia.net

Eimers, Jody (Affil), 409 National Center, Reston, VA 20192, 703-648-5071, jleimers@usgs.gov

Garcia, Kerry T. (Affil), 4488 Hidden Meadow Drive, Carson City, NV 89701, ktgarcia@usgs.gov

Grason, David (Affil) (Holly), 7458 First League, Columbia, MD 21046, 703-648-5293, dgrason@usgs.gov

Hirsch, Robert M. (Affil) (Gretchen Ellsworth), 409 National Center, USGS, Reston, VA 20192, 703-648-5315,
rhirsch@usgs.gov

Knobel, Leroy (Affil), 163 E 15th Street, Idaho Falls, ID 83404, 208-523-4016, llknobel@usgs.gov

Larsen, Matt (Affil) (Brunilda), 12153 Tryton Way, Reston, VA 20190, 703-437-7760(h), 703-648-5055(w),
mclarsen@usgs.gov

Martin, Edward H. (Affil) (Diane), 1106 Beth Meadow Court, Lawrenceville, GA 30043, 678-442-1748,
Edward_martin@bellsouth.net

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tresederco@msn.com,

As mentioned above, all the Recent Retirees are automatically made members of WRD Retirees. They receive a "Welcome Aboard" letter from the President and a copy of a recent Newsletter. In addition, the Regional Directors are heading an effort to make sure each recent retiree is contacted by a WRD Retirees representative, usually the appropriate District Contact. This is an important step in trying to get these folks to become long-time and active members. Please help us by personally getting in touch with any of the recent retirees you know or have worked with in your career. Thanks!

DIVISION NEWS

“WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH”

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

WRD research highlighted in this issue focuses on the Platte River in Nebraska. The first section provides a general description of USGS work carried out by the Nebraska Water Science Center. The second highlight describes an element of the work: streamflow and sediment transport research on the Platte led by a WRD NRP researcher, Paul Kinzel, who is based in our Denver, CO office. These highlights are taken from the NE WSC and NRP web pages.

The Platte River Program-- A USGS Priority Ecosystems Program

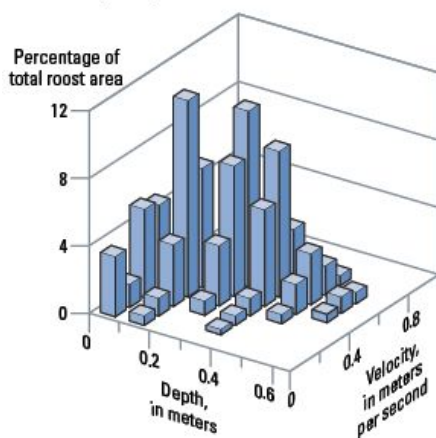


The central Platte River Valley in Nebraska is an internationally significant staging area for migratory water birds of the Central Flyway and is best known for the one-half million sandhill cranes and the several million other waterfowl that migrate annually through the valley. Nine endangered species use the central Platte River Valley for habitat, including the whooping crane, piping plover, and least tern. Changes in water and land use and seven consecutive years of drought have transformed the river channel and altered adjacent wet meadows. With changes in the hydrology of the river and the structure of riparian habitats, the sustainability of migratory and resident birds and other biota have been brought into question. Of central concern is how the ecosystem has adjusted to changes in streamflow. Developing successful strategies to sustain or rehabilitate the riparian ecosystem of the central Platte River, requires an understanding of the linkages between hydrology, river morphology, biological communities, and ecosystem processes. The USGS Platte River Priority Ecosystems

Study uses resources from all four USGS Disciplines to build interdisciplinary teams to examine these physical and biological linkages. The general objectives are to 1) provide a better understanding of migratory and resident birds and other biota and the ecology of their habitats; 2) provide a better understanding of the physical processes that influence the habitats; 3) use this knowledge to evaluate the effects of different management strategies on individual species and their habitats.

For more information, see <http://ne.water.usgs.gov/platte/> or contact the USGS NE WSC Director, Bob Swanson, at rswanson@usgs.gov

Platte River: Assessing Sandhill Crane Roosting Distribution



Each spring approximately 500,000 sandhill cranes and some endangered whooping cranes use the Central Platte River Valley in Nebraska as a staging habitat during their migration north to breeding and nesting grounds in Canada, Alaska, and the Siberian Arctic. Over the last century changes in the flow of the river have altered the river channels and the distribution of roost sites. USGS researchers determined a direct linkage between crane roosting habitat and river flows in the Platte. The results are useful for estimating crane populations and for providing resource managers with techniques to understand crane habitats.

In the reach of the Platte River near the Rowe Sanctuary, crane roost maps were defined from infrared video and then overlain on results from a flow model to identify the ranges in depth and velocity preferred by roosting cranes. As shown in the plot to the left, cranes generally prefer to roost in water depths less than 0.40 meters with velocities less than 0.70 meters per second. By examining these results at several stream flows, it was determined that the largest amount of available roosting habitat occurs at the Rowe Sanctuary when the streamflow in this channel is about 37 cubic meters per second. The study described shows how remote sensing, hydraulic modeling, and habitat assessments can be used to develop scientific tools for evaluating the efficacy of management actions.

For additional information, see <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2005/3029/> or contact: Paul Kinzel at pjkinzel@usgs.gov.

DIVISION NEWS

Accomplishment of WRD in 2006

The following is an excerpt from a New Year's greeting email sent from Bob Hirsch to all WRD employees. If you are interested in reading the entire text, it can be viewed on WRDretirees.org.

"As we begin 2007, I'd like to take stock of our recent achievements and to reflect on some of the things that we in the Water Resources Discipline of the USGS have accomplished over the last year. These accomplishments come about through the hard work of over 3600 hydrologic technicians, hydrologists, other scientists, and administrative staff. Highlights are listed using six science directions recently identified by the USGS.

Understanding Ecosystems and Predicting Ecosystem Change: Ensuring the Nation's Economic and Environmental Future

One of the most pressing ecosystem questions that the Nation faces is how to preserve and enhance the quality of aquatic and riparian ecosystems in the face of increasing pressure to withdraw surface and ground water. I'm pleased to say that we are addressing this with innovative science. One example of this is the work of James Henriksen and John Keasley (BRD Fort Collins, CO) and Jonathan Kennen and Steve Nieswand (WRD West Trenton, NJ). They recently published a "Users' manual for the Hydroecological Integrity Assessment Process software," and have been applying these methods to explore issues of hydrologic alteration in New Jersey through the Cooperative Water Program. Their report can be found at: <http://www.fort.usgs.gov/products/publications/21598/21598.pdf>. On the same topic, a new study is underway in the Flint River Basin in Georgia. This study, co-led by Mary Freeman (BRD Athens, GA) and Brian Hughes (WRD Atlanta, GA), was initiated by the Bureau Program Council to help move the whole USGS toward improved understanding and methods for predicting the impacts of land and water management changes on streamflow conditions and ultimately on the quality of the aquatic habitat. Together, these two studies typify the diverse nature in which USGS science is developed. The New Jersey study was developed "bottom-up" with coop funds and interest. The latter was "top-down" and conducted with federally appropriated funds. Both will enhance the ability of the USGS to address these crucial ecological flow questions.

The Role of the Environment and Wildlife in Human Health

Arsenic in supplies is a major concern in many areas of the United States and worldwide. Occurrence of arsenic depends on the geologic framework, geochemical processes, and the hydrologic flow system. During the past year, there have been three publications on arsenic in New England supplies. They are the work of a WRD and GD team of Joe Ayotte, Rob Robinson and others. References to recent papers are found on the project web site -- <http://nh.water.usgs.gov/projects/arsenic.htm>. Our scientists have contributed to helping communities solve their problems of high arsenic. A team from the WRD San Diego office, along with cooperators from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, was awarded the "Mega Million Dollar Platinum Eagle Award" for saving the County of Los Angeles more than \$33 million. They were recognized for well-modifications in the Antelope Valley that enables the County to draw from low arsenic zones and avoid the high arsenic zones. These modifications were based on the use of the depth-dependent ground- sampling approach developed and applied by the hydrologists in our San Diego office.

A Water Census of the United States: Quantifying, Forecasting, and Securing Freshwater for America's Future

The building blocks for a "water census" begin with USGS hydrologic monitoring networks. Our stakeholders continue to be very vocal in their support of our networks. A group of 23 national organizations sent a letter this past August to the Secretary of the Interior and Director of the Office of Management and Budget in "...support [of] the U.S. Geological Survey's Cooperative Water Program and National Streamflow Information Program." Their letter states that "Our need for accurate streamflow, groundwater and other water resource data continues to increase along with our population, economy, land uses and education. The USGS streamgaging programs have a proven record of providing reliable information concerning America's water resources that is essential to decision makers in both the public and private sectors for a wide variety of planning, design and management functions." Use of our NWIS Web database continues to grow at an annual rate of about 30 percent. We now average about 1 million successful page requests per day for USGS hydrologic data.

DIVISION NEWS

A National Hazards, Risk, and Resilience Assessment Program

Natural hazards have always been a crucial part of the USGS Water program. The USGS has a lead role in providing data, methods, and software used across the flood-hazard community to estimate flood frequency. The USGS software, PeakFQ, that implements the interagency standard method (Bulletin 17B) has been enhanced to include more effective use of paleoflood information. The report that describes use of the new software is available at: http://water.usgs.gov/osw/pubs/TM_4-B4/. This year, the USGS published a data set, report, and fact sheet from the network of 47 sensors deployed September 2005 to capture storm surge data from Hurricane Rita -- <http://www.ofcm.gov/ihc06/Presentations/Posters/p-18mason-poster.pdf>. This experimental effort, led by Ben McGee (WRD Ruston, Louisiana) has led to the development of an operational protocol for future hurricanes. This was tested in Hurricane Ernesto during the 2006 hurricane season.

Climate Variability and Change: Clarifying the Record and Assessing the Consequences

The global climate and hydrologic cycle are intimately linked. One of the most important consequences of climate change will be changes in hydrologic conditions. WRD scientists continue to be prolific in publications on changes observed in the seasonal pattern of streamflow and precipitation type over the past century. Clear changes in hydrologic condition have been seen in areas where snow plays a major role in the hydrologic system. One recent paper of note is that by Glenn Hodgkins and Robert Dudley (WRD Augusta, ME), "Changes in the Magnitude of Annual and Monthly Streamflows in New England, 1902-2002".

Finally, with the growing public awareness of climate issues, it is often the case that scientists and the public will interpret short-term departures from "normal" conditions as being significant trends. A recent paper by Tim Cohn and Harry Lins (WRD Reston, VA), entitled "Nature's style: Trendy and insignificant" -- http://water.usgs.gov/osw/pubs/Naturally_Trendy-Cohn-Lins_GRL_2005.pdf, shows the pitfalls of describing the significance of observed trends. The historic and paleo-hydrologic record show that significant periods of wet or dry periods are quite common prior to the era of increased greenhouse gases. This behavior must be considered in evaluating the cause of current trends.

Energy and Minerals for America's Future: Providing a Scientific Foundation for Decision Makers

The potential for water pollution and impacts on aquatic ecosystems is always present in mineral extraction. The question that frequently arises is how much of the pollution from a mine is due to mineralization rather than the mining process itself. What would the concentrations of acid, metals, and other harmful materials have been if mining had not occurred? Given these natural backgrounds, what should be used as a definition of "clean" when government agencies press mining companies to clean up streams and aquifers? The USGS recently completed the "Questa Baseline and Pre-Mining Ground-Water Quality Investigation" -- http://wwwbrr.cr.usgs.gov/projects/GWC_chemtherm/questa.htm. Under the leadership of Kirk Nordstrom (WRD Boulder, CO), this project involved over 30 people from 6 different offices, including a significant number from the Geologic Discipline. The team has produced a large number of publications. This study serves as an example of the kind of approach that the USGS can bring to understanding the impacts of mineral mining.

Conclusion

These achievements show clearly that our science is relevant to solving important contemporary problems. They demonstrate how well we are working to move science forward and provide information needed to protect and manage our Nation's natural resources."

Bob Hirsch

IN MEMORIAM

Beverly "Bev" Berkstresser passed away on December 22, 2006, at the age of 81, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Bev is survived by her husband of 59 years, C.F. (Chuck) Berkstresser, WRD Retiree, and their four daughters: Jean, Ann, Julie, and Laura; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandson. Bev graduated from Baylor University in 1945 with a BS in chemistry and earned an MS in chemistry from the University of Iowa in 1947, where she met and married the love of her life. She settled in Sacramento in 1961. Bev taught math and science at Vista Nueva Continuation High School for 15 years. For many years, Bev and Chuck enjoyed sailing. Chuck began his USGS career in 1952 as a Geologist in Sacramento and also served in the New Mexico and Wisconsin offices. He returned to Sacramento in 1961 and served there until his retirement in 1973.

Martha Billingsley, 86, died November 11, 2006, in Raleigh, NC. A native of Texas, she attended North Texas State University. Martha was very active in the United Methodist Church and volunteered for many years with Meals on Wheels and "The Shepherds Table" soup kitchen. She enjoyed playing bridge and helping people. She is survived by her daughter, Debby Hays; five grandsons; and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Paula Earp, and her husband, Granville "Bill" Billingsley. Bill served with WRD from 1945-1980. He began his career as a Chemist in Austin, served as District Chemist in NC, was the first chief of the Automated Data Section in HQ, and from 1967 until his retirement in 1971 was the Chief of the WRD Reports Section.

Rose W. Burnham, wife of the late Willis L. Burnham, passed away a year ago October in Boise, ID. Although Willis (Will) passed away in 1992, Rose enjoyed keeping track of the many WRD friends that she met around the country during the many years she served as "survey wife". She is survived by a son, Guy. Will was with the USGS from 1952 until his retirement in 1976. After starting his career with the GW Branch in Sacramento, he served as the District Chief in Idaho and Hawaii.

Bernice Cunningham passed away on November 26, 2006, at age 83, in Ocala, FL. She was a retired telephone operator. Bernice was married for 59 years to WRD Retiree Ray E. Cunningham. She is survived by her husband, three daughters, Carol Justice, and Lois and Janet Cunningham; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Ray, a U.S. Army veteran, served as a Hydrologic Technician in Ocala and Tallahassee, FL, from 1949-1976 and is the author of several booklets.

James E. Elkins of Jonesboro, LA, passed away on January 7, 2007. James served as a Hydrologic Technician in the Jonesboro field office for many years. He retired in 1979 and was a member of WRD Retirees.

B. E. Ellison, Jr., age 89, died November 14, 2006, in Jackson, MS. B.E. spent his entire USGS career in the Jackson office. He started as a Clerk in the SW office in 1947 and later was an Engineering Aid and a Hydrologic Technician. Following his retirement from WRD in 1973, he worked for the Mississippi Board of Water Commissioners.

Woodrow "Dutch" Evett, age 88, died October 24, 2006. A SC native, "Dutch" was a University of South Carolina graduate in Civil Engineering and served in the U.S. Army during WW II. He had a 30-year career, starting in 1943, with the USGS as a Hydraulic Engineer in the SW office in Columbia, SC. He also completed assignments in Nepal and Brazil. Following his retirement from the USGS in 1973, he worked on foreign assignments in Burma, Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, Africa, China and other countries. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Lennie Goldson Evett; a son, Jack B. (Linda); and daughter, Bunny (Doug) Williams; six grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and brother, Colby. He was predeceased by two sisters, Lila and Lillian.

Lois C. Fleshmon, died September 20, 2006, in Culpeper, VA, at age 70. A Culpeper native, she received her undergraduate degree from Hampton University. Following graduation, Lois was hired as an Editorial Assistant, WRD Reports Section in Reston. Her career spanned 37 years in the Reports Section and advanced from typesetting to high-tech computer systems. She retired in 1995. She is survived by two cousins, Beatrice Fleshmon Robinson and Earl Scott, and a goddaughter, Shelby Reed.

Tommie (Mrs. Sumner) Heidel passed away January 19, 2007, in Silver Spring, MD, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Tommie and Sumner were married for 64 years. She was a teacher and homemaker. She is survived by her husband, Sumner; son, David; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by son, Jim. Sumner began his WRD career in Worland, WY, in 1946, as a Hydraulic Engineer and also served in the Lincoln, Washington, DC, and Towson, MD, offices during his career. He served as Treasurer of WRD Retirees for many years and is the recipient of a Lifetime WRD Retirees Award.

Barbara Walker Horton passed away on September 15, 2006, in Cocoa Beach, FL. She was the administrator for the YWCA in Manchester, CT before retiring to Cocoa Beach in 1989. She was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and a member of the Women of the Moose and Red Hat Society. She is survived by a step-son, John Michael and a step-grandson. Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, John Horton, a WRD Retiree. John served in the Pennsylvania and Oklahoma Districts and also served on the Director's staff before his assignment as District Engineer, Connecticut. John retired in 1970.

Charlotte Elizabeth Kiser, 82, died September 6, 2006, in Albuquerque, NM. Charlotte graduated with high honors from the University of Utah in 1945 and continued with graduate studies in Botany at the University of Wisconsin. She was the widow of Raymond T. Kiser, a WRD Retiree who passed away in 1992. Charlotte lived in Pakistan, Nigeria, and Puerto Rico in addition to many of the Western US states. Travel was a passion and fortunately she was able to see much of the world. Charlotte is survived by her son, Karl Kiser of Albuquerque. Ray Kiser began his WRD career as a Chemist in the NM QW office in 1943 and

IN MEMORIAM

served in the Utah, Washington, DC, Alaska, and Puerto Rico offices, plus several foreign assignments before his retirement in 1972.

Evelyn Oltman, widow of WRD Retiree Roy E. Oltman, was laid to rest next to her husband in National Memorial Park in Falls Church, VA, on August 17, 2007. She was 90. "Mrs. O", as she was known to several generations of her music students, was a talented pianist and music director for several private schools. She was a music therapist for the developmentally disabled and a founder of the Child Development Center. Her extensive charitable work was recognized by local, state, and national organizations. She pioneered music drama therapy techniques with disabled children. Evelyn is survived by her daughters, Maria Oltman Vandersluys and Mary Oltman Bishop; daughter-in-law Doris Oltman; and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy E. Oltman, WRD Retiree. Roy, a 1933 graduate of the University of Minnesota, worked with the USGS from 1934 until his retirement in 1972. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-46. Roy led the USGS expedition to conduct the first measurement of the Amazon River and in 1967 was appointed as the Assistant Chief for Research and Technical Coordination.

Verrie F. Pearce died on November 26, 2006, at age 79, in Roseville, CA. Verrie was a 1950 Civil Engineering graduate of Washington State University and an open-channel hydrologist for the USGS. He also served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. His WRD career began as a Hydraulic Engineer in Tacoma in 1950. Verrie also served in the Carlsbad, NM; Cambridge, NE; and Sacramento, CA, offices of the SW Branch. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He is survived by his wife, Lillian; daughters, Diana Cox-Pratt, Karen Flanagan, Coral Di Mento, and Anne Pearce; sons, Verrie and Jim; and 20 grandchildren.

Don C. Perkins, 85, of Fremont, WI, passed away on September 18, 2006. An Indiana native, he attended Purdue University for one year, South Dakota State University for two years, and served in the U.S. Army in WWII and in Korea. He began his career with the USGS in 1950 with the SW branch in Indianapolis as an Engineering Aid. In 1953, he passed the examination as a Hydraulic Engineer. He also served in the Illinois and Pennsylvania WRD offices and had foreign assignments in Afghanistan and Brazil. He retired in 1979. He was an active member of NARFE, the VFW, American Legion, and Lions Club. Don enjoyed traveling, fishing, and spending time with his family. He is survived by his daughter, Kathy Danke and grandsons Joe Kern and Pete Kern. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Helen.

Wayne Potter a Florida native, who graduated from Ocala High School in 1955 and began working for the USGS in Ocala in 1956, died on September 9, 2005, at age 68. Wayne married Carolyn McTureous in 1957. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force from 1960 to 1964 and then returned to work at the USGS in Ocala. He transferred to Orlando in 1972. In 1979, he transferred to the Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility at Stennis Space Center, where he worked until his retirement in 1994. After retirement, Wayne and Carolyn moved to Franklin, NC, where he enjoyed a woodworking hobby. They were married for 48 years. Wayne was a member of Long Beach Baptist Church in Long Beach, MS. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; two children, Wayne Glenn Potter and Nancy Lynn Lucas; and three grandchildren.

Joyce Ross passed away on November 4, 2006, at age 84. A Tacoma native, she graduated from Stadium High School in 1940. During WWII she worked at the Mount Rainier Ordinance Depot, returning later where she met the love of her life, Phil Ross. After the base closure, she was employed by the USGS, where she remained for 21 years, retiring as a computer tech. Joyce's work was a huge support to many of the Geologists and Hydrologists of the Tacoma Office during those years. Her loyalty and dependability were unmatched. Joyce is survived by her husband of 42 years, Phil Ross; daughter, Narda Cain Fox; son, Odis Crossland; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Helen St. John died at home in Modesto, CA, on November 17, 2006. She began her WRD career as a Secretary in the CA District office in 1967, transferring from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Helen transferred to WRD Headquarters in 1976 to be the Personal Assistant to Chief Hydrologist Joseph S. Cragwall. In 1979, she moved with Joe to the Associate Director's office. She also served as the Personal Assistant for Joe's successor as Associate, Doyle Frederick. Newly appointed Director Dallas Peck picked Helen as his Personal Assistant in 1981 and she served in that capacity until her retirement in 1986. Helen was always known as a quality professional. Upon retirement she moved to CA and enjoyed being with her family.

Marvin Dwayne Stevens of Bridgeport, NE, died November 26, 2006. He was 69. Marv served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1957. He started his WRD career as a Hydrologic Engineering Aid in the SW office in Casper, WY, in 1963. Marv also worked in Riverton and Cheyenne before transferring to Garden City, KS, in 1984. Survivors include his wife, Janice Stevens; daughter, Connie L. Namanny; one grandson; and one great-granddaughter.

James Zaccor died last September at the age of 81. He was the husband of Martha Zaccor who worked at the Geological Survey in Menlo Park in the Water Resources Division for many years. Jim died of pulmonary fibrosis. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and worked as a physicist for two or three different companies. He leaves his wife, Martha; a son, Scot; and a daughter, Karen. His son Gary died several years ago of cancer.

TREASURER'S REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2006

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$4,888.89 in its treasury at the end of the fourth quarter for calendar year 2006. Receipts for the quarter were \$6,869.16 from dues and contributions. Disbursements for the quarter were \$3,015.36 for printing and mailing of Newsletter No.133 and other miscellaneous expenses.

During the quarter, a total of \$1,564.00 was received in contributions above dues from 76 members. Special thanks for contributions of \$8.00 or more go to: Paul Rettman, Gayle Fullerton, Philip Lamoreaux, Earley M. Miller, Dorothy J. Niles, Richard Swisshelm, Mrs. Robert J. "Evelyn" Smith, Mrs. John Lawrence, John Briggs, George W. Edelen, Mrs. John Randolph, Raymond O. Abrams, Jimmy G. Pond, Edwin Harris, Wayne and Lorretta Solley, Frank Hidaka, Bobby G. Byrd, Kenneth Lindskov, Herbert H. Stevens, Carney Humphreys, Wayne E. Webb, Howard F. McCormack, Mrs. John Winslow, David C. Madril, Seymour "Sy" Subitzky, Ennio "Vince" Guisti, Sulo Wiitala, Malcolm D. Hale, Doug Posson, Edwin D. George, Edward L. Burke, Chester E. Thomas, Theron R. Dosch, Russell C. Wagner, Joseph Rosenshein, Dale R. Cotter, D. Edwards, Anthony Maevsky, Wyatt J. Gambrell, Joel K. Kimrey, Mrs. Francis B. Sessums, David Weiss, Joseph S. Cragwall, Derrill Cowing, James R. Slack, Ester R. Flint, Richard F. Hadley, Gilbert Bertoldi, Hector Colon-Ramos, James K. Culbertson, Arthur G. Scott, John P. Monis, Edward S. Davidson, Perry and Vivian Olcott, Luther C. Davis, Dolores Felsheim, Ernest F. Hubbard, Bobbie Cloud, Mary B. Peterson, LaRue A. Baker-Odenbach, Beverly Pittarelli, Norman E. Schmidt, James M. Bettendorf, Harriett Bonham, William E. Harkness, Marjorie Martin, William W. Dudley, William P. Bartlett, Fred C. Boner, Edward E. Morris, Pedro Vasquez, Marvin Sherrill, Gary D. Cobb, Gerald Meyer, Jack Rawson, William R. Kaehrle, and Charles R. Wood. Contributions of less than \$8.00 from 23 members also are appreciated.

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