

WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 158-S
SUPPLEMENT
February 2013

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

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From the Editor

Greetings! In this Supplement 158-S, February 2013, we are pleased to have items from the years 1907 to 1972. We are especially happy to have an article from Jim Daniel of Las Vegas, NV, "Yosemite Streamgaging," responding to last quarter's article, "History of the Stream Gage: Merced River at Happy Isles, Yosemite National Park, CA," by Clint Nagel, Bozeman, MT.

Chet Zenone of Salem, OR, found two splendid items that were sent to the late Fred F. Henshaw (1884-1933). The first was his promotion to Junior Engineer, signed by Acting Secretary George Woodruff, and the second was what we can call a media-advisory letter sent by George Otis Smith, the fourth Director of the USGS. I have added remarks about Woodruff and Smith, as well as photographs of them and Henshaw.

Finally, as I was searching through the WRD Retirees Archives photo file cabinet looking for photos of Rolland Carter and William "Bill" Robinson, whose Memorials are in the main Newsletter this month, I selected two group photos to share in this Supplement. They are "Fourth Intensive Seminar in Ground-Water Hydrology, Baton Rouge, LA, February 24-March 6, 1969" (45 attendees) and "Project Planning and Supervision, Denver, CO, October 11-13, 1972" (22 attendees). Among these participants are Jim Daniel (author of the first article, above), John Moore, Dick Grozier, David Dawdy, Ivan Johnson, Dick Fidler, and C.V. Theis, just to name a few.

This is our fourth online Supplement to the WRD Retirees Newsletter. As always, we invite you to rummage through your reports, certificates, training photos, and anything else you would like to send to us. You may write new articles or simply send in items that may be of interest to your fellow retirees. Enjoy!

Do you have material to share? See "[We Want More Contributions](#)," below.

Thanks!

--Charles

We Want More Contributions!

Please send us your training-class photos, articles, memories about your life in the Survey or anything else. Anything! This is a great way to share them with fellow retirees. If you have access to a scanner, you can scan photos and send them by email. Send us originals, including handwritten material, and we will scan them and return the originals back to you.

You may send the contributions online to wrdretirees@usgs.gov or to me at whozit1130@aol.com. If you have something handwritten or an original that is not scanned, pop it in an envelope and send it to my home address, 2370 Albot Road, Reston, VA 20191. Feel free to call me on my cell phone at 703-609-8271 to discuss your material.

Yosemite Streamgaging
By
Jim Daniel

Clint Nagel's November article about Merced River at Happy Isles Fish Hatchery brought back memories of my first few years in WRD. I started in February of 1958 in the Merced, California Field Office. I had recently flunked out of San Jose State College and was watering plants for 75c per hour at a local plant nursery when the father of one of my elementary school classmates, Dwight Ewing (father of Pat Ewing Hammond, who with husband Bob [also WRD retired] is now in Carson City), heard I was in town and came looking for a temporary replacement for his partner (Frank McGraw) who was recuperating from a heart attack. I decided to give WRD a whirl as it seemed more profitable than watering plants.

My field run included 5 gaging stations in and around Yosemite. One of those was Merced River at Happy Isles. Another was Merced River at Pohono Bridge, which I visited last year and saw the antenna for data relay which I later helped bring about (see previous newsletter for story). In those days (1958-1961), there was a Ranger's Club inside the Park which had 10, or so, bedrooms. All WRD folks had privileges to stay there when on official duty. Also in those days, it was common for wives to accompany streamgagers on their rounds. So, whenever I did the Yosemite run, Ruth went with me to enjoy the outdoors, occasionally count clicks, and stay with me in the Club. One time she stood out in the rain while I was on the cable car measuring S. Fk. Merced River near El Portal. That night she developed an asthma attack and I had to take her to the Park hospital (also in the Park, then) for emergency relief. She didn't do that again.

Remember that I was only 19 and 20 during those years and the drinking age was 21. Government driver's licenses were just a 2x3 paper form with the pertinent information simply typed-in. I carefully used a 2H hardness pencil to alter the last 9 in the birth date of February 2, 1939 to be an '8.' For all of 1959, the grocery stores inside the park sold me beer with no questions. That also worked once in the Lake Tahoe casinos. If caught, I probably would have been severely disciplined but I was young and 'What the Hell.'

We had a couple dozen gages in the High Sierras which couldn't be reached by car in winter time. Therefore, we made 2-3 trips each winter by helicopter to reach them. Some were so remote that we had to build them by flying all the supplies and construction equipment in by helicopter during construction. We found that we had to fly the stilling well sections by hanging them vertically below the bird. It seemed that if they were carried horizontally, they would twirl and wind themselves tightly up to the skids on the helicopter which gave the pilots some pause. We'd get all the stuff in, including food, and the pilot would leave us there for the week or 10 days it took to build the station. We also built emergency cabins and helicopter landing pads for winter access. The cabins came in really handy when we stayed in them on summertime field runs. We got per diem then, regardless of room charges (Oh My!). We had pretty stringent requirements for pilots. We required that they have several thousand hours flying time in the Sierras (they would get enough in 2-3 fire seasons). The thought was that if they survived that long they would be good enough to keep us alive in just a few hours flying to the stations. The rental fee was usually \$120 per hour actual flying time. The pilots loved to take us in the winter. They would fish while we serviced the gage and measured the flow. All-in-all, those early streamgaging experiences were some of the most enjoyable of my WRD career. It was almost unbelievable that we were getting paid to have fun.

One incident unrelated to High Sierra streamgaging involved damage to my sedan delivery field vehicle at a drive-in in Modesto, CA. My partner that day and I stopped for lunch at Mel's Drive-In in Modesto. Mel's was the inspiration for the drive-in George Lucas portrayed in his first movie, American Graffiti. A couple of weeks before, a Carnation milk truck had backed into the overhang at the structure and weakened it substantially. No one paid much attention to it until the day we pulled in with our government vehicle and ordered lunch. We heard a creaking sound and instantaneously the lath and plaster on the underside of the overhang fell on our vehicle. Damage was substantial but was worse on the new Thunderbird parked next to us. I knew this 'accident' would defy belief so I took pictures to accompany

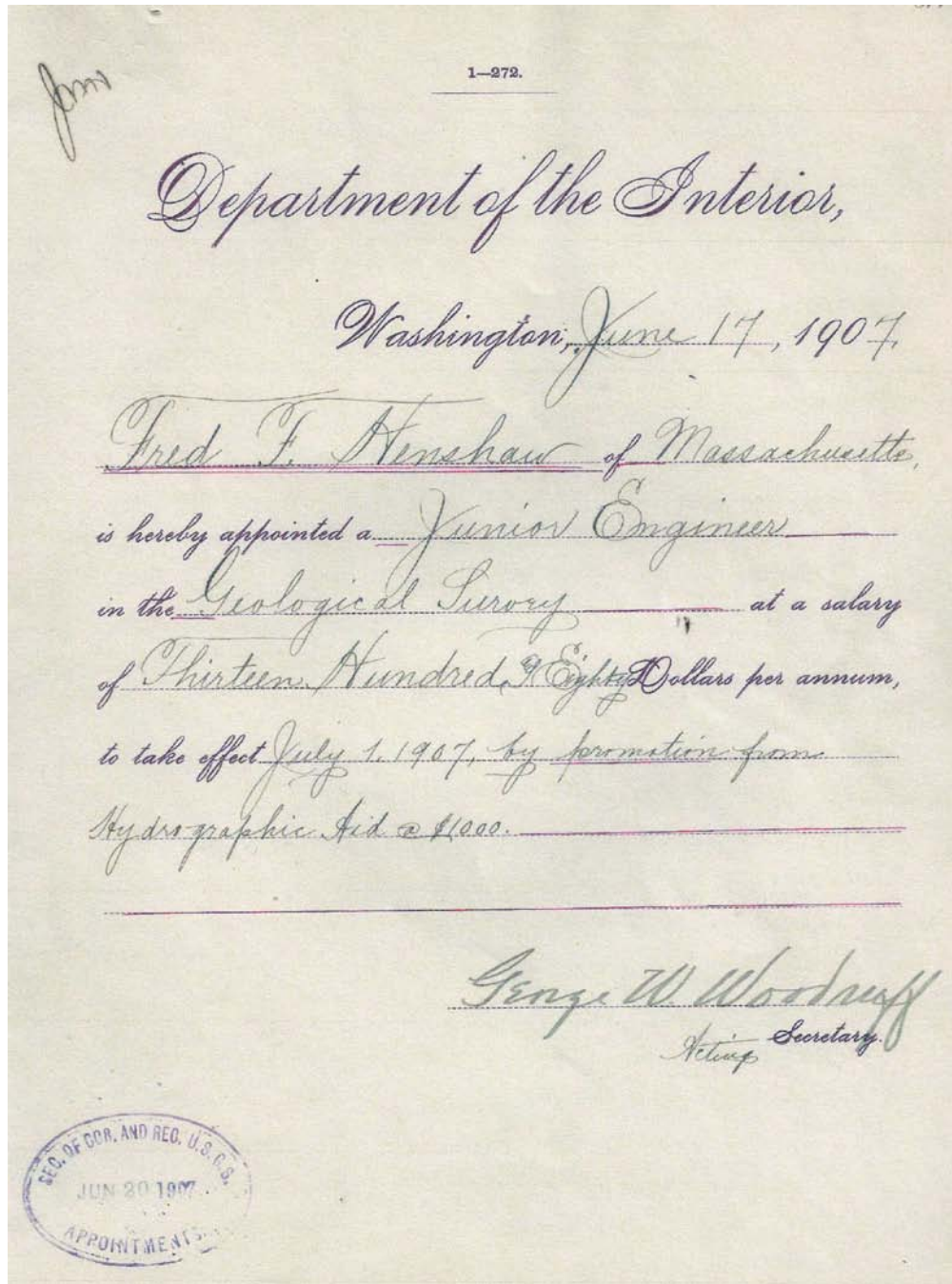
my damage report to the Subdistrict Chief (Willard W. 'Bill' Dean) in Sacramento. I told him that Chicken Little was right, the sky had indeed fallen. See for yourself:



Ah, the good ol' days. Thanks for the memories, Clint Nagel!

Fred F. Henshaw's Promotion (1907) and Letter from the Director (1908)

Contributed by Chet Zenone, with remarks by Charles Nethaway



Fred F. Henshaw of Massachusetts was promoted to a Junior Engineer for the USGS on June 17, 1907, the promotion signed by Acting Secretary, Department of the Interior, George W. Woodruff. Woodruff had been appointed as Acting Secretary by Presidential Executive Order 650 on June 11, 1907, by President Theodore Roosevelt and again on August 11, 1908, when he was designated "to act as Interior Secretary during absences."

Born in 1864, Woodruff graduated from Yale University in 1889, and then attended the University of Pennsylvania to obtain a law degree in 1895. A stellar athlete, his biography shown at the University of Pennsylvania web site, states that:

Woodruff came to the University of Pennsylvania to study law in 1892, earning his LL.B. degree in 1895 and then being admitted to the bar in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. During his law student days and the five years thereafter, Woodruff was also a Penn athletic coach and, for a time, also managing secretary of the Athletic Association. When he arrived at Penn in 1892, Woodruff took charge of coaching both the football team and the rowing crews; concentrating on football only from 1896 until 1901. At Penn ... he compiled an impressive 124-15-2 record, including three undefeated seasons in 1894, 1895 and 1897. His record as a coach earned him election to the Football Hall of Fame in 1963.

After resigning as football coach in 1901, Woodruff began the practice of law. A Republican, Woodruff went on to serve in a number of other government positions, including Finance Clerk in Philadelphia, chief law officer in the Forest Service under his friend Gifford Pinchot, Acting Secretary of the Interior under President Theodore Roosevelt, Pennsylvania state attorney-general and public service commissioner, and a federal judge for Hawaii.

Fred Henshaw's work for the Survey was predominantly concerning Surface Water in Alaska, the Columbia River (WA and OR), and the Oregon District. He transferred to the Federal Power Commission (FPC) in 1928. In 1932, the USGS published Henshaw's "Surface Water Supply of Southeastern Alaska, 1909-1930," Bulletin 836-C, 218 pg., in cooperation with the FPC and the Forest Service. This paper identifies Henshaw as "senior engineer, Federal Power Commission; formerly district engineer, United States Geological Survey."

A letter to Henshaw from the fourth director of the USGS, George Otis Smith, dated August 26, 1908, when Henshaw was a junior engineer working in the field, speaks to the subject of a procedure by which field results are made known to the public. *Aside: Even now we know that there are "procedures" that we must follow when providing results to the public!*



Acting Secretary Woodruff



Fourth Director, George Otis Smith

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

August 26, 1908.

Mr. F. P. Henshaw,

Office.

Sir:

It not infrequently happens, in the course of an investigation of water resources, surface or underground, that results are secured that are of much immediate interest to localities or to individuals. A field worker may be asked as to general results of his work by an engineer or an operator who has extended every possible courtesy in the course of the investigation, and the information may be wanted for an entirely legitimate purpose.

It is a long established policy that the engineer or geologist may make known orally to the owner of the property investigated such of his results as pertain to that property. It is an equally well established policy that general results affecting other properties and other rights than those in which the inquirer is legitimately interested as owner or operator are not to be made known to individuals in advance of their general dissemination to the public.

In order that this latter policy may be adhered to and that at the same time desired information may be made available for legitimate individual use as quickly and as effectively as possible, and in order further that the Geological Survey may express its recognition of the fact that its work is public, in that it is supported by public funds, and its results are for the public benefit, the following procedure is recommended:

During or at the end of the field season the engineer or geologist engaged in an investigation should prepare for the local press a popular statement of the work entrusted to him. The purpose of the investigation, the results secured, the area covered, the form of publication in which the results will finally appear, information as to earlier work in the same or nearby regions, and the publications in which its results are presented should all be mentioned.

So far as possible, the primary purposes of Geological Survey work in general and its relation to natural resources and to their proper development and conservation should be brought out prominently in the article, the writer meanwhile keeping in mind the fact that the average reader, however intelligent and interested, is ignorant of the work and methods of the Survey.

Brief mention of the personnel is advisable, since this will make the statement authoritative and will give it local interest. The purpose of such a statement, however, is not so much to advertise the Survey or any member of its staff as to inform the public of the results of Survey work, especially of whatever results may bear upon a subject about which inquiry has been made.

After the statement has been prepared in form suitable for the local press it should be forwarded to the Director, through the Chief Hydrographer, for approval and upon its return to the field man it can be given to the newspaper having the largest circulation in the area under investigation. If it appears desirable, extra copies will be made in the office, slightly modified in form so as to be suitable for distribution by the field man to other papers in the area, or by the Washington office to State papers.

This procedure is not intended to supplant the general plans for publicity outlined in the report of the Committee on Publicity of the Water Resources Branch, but rather to insist upon the wisdom of the general policy, to provide for a special case, and to urge the cooperation of the field investigator, as well as of the district officers.

The realization of the widespread ignorance of what is actually being done by the Survey in local fields, in spite of the great interest on the part of the public in results, leads me to bring this matter to the attention of the field men. The real life of the organization is in the field, and I therefore urge every member to show the public the nature and purposes of the work. There is no better medium for this than the local press.

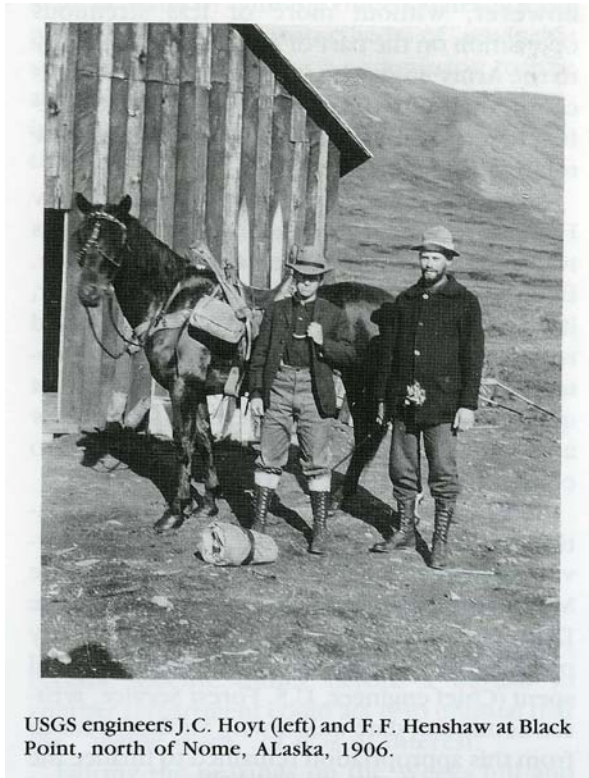
Very respectfully,


Director.

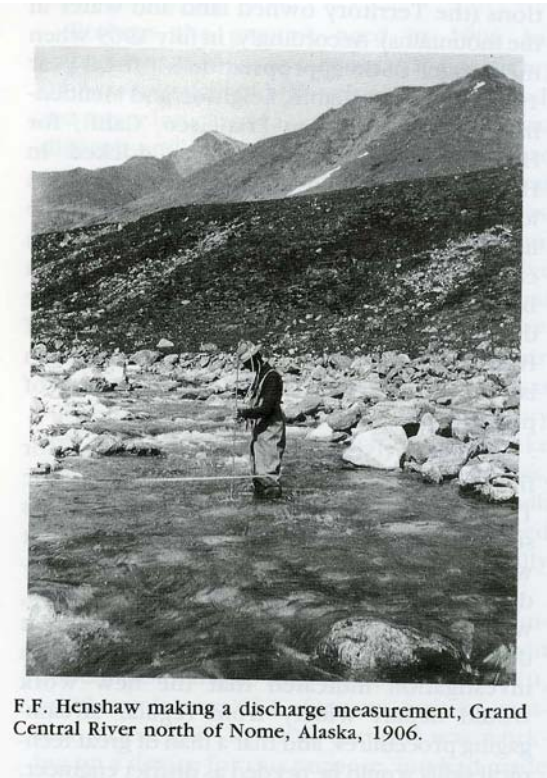
Director Smith's procedures are amazingly close to what we are now told to do with data and associated articles.

Fred F. Henshaw's career started in the Washington, DC, office of Surface Water. He then transferred to Alaska where he worked in the field in the vicinity of Nome, establishing and monitoring gaging stations along rivers and streams. As his career progressed, he became the district engineer of the Columbia River District which was generally a precursor to the two districts, the Oregon and Washington WRD districts. He was given a choice to become the district engineer of either Washington or Oregon. He

chose Oregon “because Oregon appeared to offer greater possibilities.” (*A History of Water Resources Branch, U.S. Geological Survey: Volume I, From Predecessor Surveys to June 30, 1919, p. 255*)



USGS engineers J.C. Hoyt (left) and F.F. Henshaw at Black Point, north of Nome, Alaska, 1906.



F.F. Henshaw making a discharge measurement, Grand Central River north of Nome, Alaska, 1906.

We have two pictures of Mr. Henshaw in the field near Nome, Alaska. (*A History of Water Resources Branch, U.S. Geological Survey: Volume I, From Predecessor Surveys to June 30, 1919, pp. 144-145*)

Fourth Intensive Seminar in Ground-Water Hydrology, Baton Rouge, 1969

**FOURTH INTENSIVE SEMINAR IN GROUND-WATER HYDROLOGY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA – FEBRUARY 24–MARCH 6, 1969**



Front row, L to R: Johnson, Reed, Daniel, Van Voast, Maclay, Dale, Newton
Row 2, L to R: Cotter, Jones, Wood, Moore, Taylor (State), Sammel, Theis, Drescher
Row 3, L to R: Dial, Broom, Zack, Tanaka, Wallace, Ludwig, Chitre (India), MacCary, Rima, Grubb, McGuinness
Row 4, L to R: Rogers, Emmett, Novitzki, Moore, Kimrey, Knight, Cushman, McMaster, Lohman
Row 5, L to R: Vanlier, Kohout, Baker, Wahl, Cardwell, Fidler, Newcome, Shuter, Boswell, Meyer

Project Planning and Supervision, Denver, October 1972

PROJECT PLANNING AND SUPERVISION

WATER RESOURCES DIVISION TRAINING CENTER
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER, COLORADO
OCTOBER 11-13, 1972



Back Row (L to R): Moore, Hadley, Weist, Dawdy, Leggat, Sullivan, McMurtrey, Page

Middle Row (L to R): Tate, Childers, Soule, Marcher, Haire, Lusby, Marie

Front Row (L to R): Wall, Grozier, Musser, Conover, Cushman, Harder, Gordon