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Newsletter Staff:
Dorothy M. Woods, Editor
NR: David E. Click
SR: Vivian Olcott
CR: Russell K. Livingston
WR: Loren E. Young

Address:
WRD Retirees
P.O. Box 280
Herdon, VA 20172-0280
Phone (703) 648-5641
Fax (703) 648-5002
Email wrdretirees@usgs.gov

WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 133
November 2006

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

Many WRD retirees gathered in Madison in September for an absolutely wonderful reunion. It was once again a great place to see longtime friends and colleagues from around the USA. The Madison reunion committee, headed by Marv and Rosann Sherrill and Warren Gebert, did a tremendous job of making sure all of us had a great time. The hospitality room, operated by Bob and Jean Schoen, was well stocked with food and drink and was always open. The field trips, planned by Lee and Pat Holt were superb and the materials, prepared by Dale and Gerry Cotter, were terrific. Al Harr organized a fun golf outing and designed and made some unique trophies. All in all, those who attended the Madison reunion had a great experience. There are a number of photos in this Newsletter that show the good times everyone had. The 2008 WRD Retirees Reunion will be held in Tampa, FL. Craig Hutchinson has agreed to Chair the Tampa reunion and two of his capable assistants, Dan Duerr and Lynn Barr, were in Madison to accept the WRD Retirees Reunion banner from the Madison group – sort of like transferring the Olympic flag to the next host country. The Tampa reunion, like the 2004 reunion in Portland, will be followed by a cruise that Saundra Duncan has agreed to organize. Any of you who were fortunate enough to participate in the Alaska cruise following the Portland reunion know that she does an outstanding job. I'm sure the 2008 reunion and subsequent cruise will be terrific events – plan now on attending.

Three of your colleagues, Loren Young, Jack Pickering, and Bill Boning, were presented with WRD Retirees Lifetime awards at the Madison reunion. All three of these retirees have contributed many, many hours to the success of WRD Retirees and should serve as models for all of us. Their long-time and continuing contributions help WRD Retirees succeed. Congratulations to Loren, Jack, and Bill! As we mentioned at the award ceremony, the presentation of the Lifetime award doesn't mean any of the awardees can reduce their contributions to the organization.

The WRD Retirees web page, described in more detail in the article on page 7 of this Newsletter, was demonstrated at the reunion. It was well received by those in attendance. Ken Lanfear and Linda Friedman, two recent WRD Retirees, did a wonderful job of putting the web page together. Thanks, Ken and Linda. I encourage all members to go to WRDretirees.org on the world-wide-web and check it out! Please pass on any suggestions regarding improving the web page directly to Ken or Linda.

One of the most pleasant experiences that a number of retirees had in Madison was the tour of the beautiful capitol building. It is beautiful and well-maintained facility. The tour guides gave interesting and personalized tours of the capitol. One surprising feature was the lack of security in the capitol – no metal detectors, no special barriers, no armed security force. For those of us from the D.C. area, it was especially nice to see that the global terror situation has not severely impacted the day-to-day life in Middle America. What a pleasant relief!

As we enter the Holiday season, Joyce and I wish all WRD Retirees a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy Hanukkah. It is such a wonderful time to share with friends and family.

Note to all WRD Retirees

We would appreciate every member taking care of two important matters. Please help guarantee the continued success of WRD Retirees by responding to the dues notice on the last page of this edition. Also, please send News of Retirees items so your friends can be brought up to date on what you have been doing in your retirement. Send the News items to the address shown for WRD Retirees or email them to wrdretirees@usgs.gov. Thanks!

NEWS OF RETIREES

Andy Anderson says, "**Mary** and I had a great trip to Madison, WI, from Herndon, VA. The best part was getting to see so many friendly WRD people. This made our fifth Reunion, in the 11-1/2 years of retirement. We have made some great friends on these occasions. We drove to Madison, with stops in Akron, OH, to have dinner with old friends, then lodged in Elkhart, IN, and looked up **Judy Claussen** in Cassopolis, MI, retired for 9 years, a few miles north of Elkhart, our second night. From there we took a wrong turn through Chicago, IL, and ended going a number of miles out of our way to Milwaukee WI, on our way to Madison. That little mistake saved us about four hours, because there were accidents on I-90, the route I had planned to take. Because the tour we had selected was canceled, Mary and I went out to see "The House on the Rock" on our own anyway. It was really worth the trip and more to see such a structure and collection of memorabilia. On Sunday about noon, we continued our trip on over to St. Paul, MN, and caught up with our daughter, son, and daughter-in-law, at her parents home for the night. They flew up from the Herndon area. Monday morning, we went north to Bayfield, WI, and spent a couple of days on our daughter-in-laws sailboat on Lake Superior; another very good time was had. We left Bayfield on Wednesday around noon, spent the night in Rockford, IL, then on through Indianapolis, IN; Cincinnati, OH; Huntington, WV, and home. A total of 3,000 miles were logged on our '97 Mercury for a great vacation. Many thanks to all the people in Wisconsin who made this a memorable time."

Jim Biesecker reports, "Three outstanding WRD Retirees received the WRD Retiree Lifetime Award at the Madison reunion. The awards are presented in recognition of many years of dedicated and outstanding contributions to WRD Retirees. The wooden plaques with very nice engraving and a USGS streamgaging benchmark were presented to **Loren Young**, who has served as Regional Director, WR, Regional Newsletter Editor, WR, Chairman for the Asilomar reunion, and author of numerous In Memoriam and Memorials; **Ranard "Jack" Pickering**, for many years of service as Treasurer, WRD, Retirees and as a key member of the HQ group; and **William "Bill" Boning** for his many years of distinguished service as Secretary, WRD Retirees – a job that is very demanding, time consuming, and is vital to the success of the WRD Retirees. Congratulations, Loren, Jack and Bill."

Jim also reports, "**Joyce** and I, along with **Tom** and **Jeannie Yorke**, spent an extra day in Wisconsin following the terrific reunion. We visited the House on the Rock, the Mustard Museum, and the state capitol building. All of us were impressed with the history and beauty of the capitol – and the fact that there were no

security checkpoints. It's nice to know there is no need for anti-terrorist measures in America's heartland!"

Laurel Click came out of retirement for the week of October 1 to 7, 2006, to participate in a Medical Mission to Honduras. She and two other registered nurses were part of a team of 13 people from 3 Presbyterian Presbyteries (Carlisle, Donegal, and Tampa Bay) who traveled to Tegucigalpa Honduras and conducted 4 medical clinics. Working with a local doctor and assistants, hired by the team, 700 patients were seen during the 4 days of clinics.

Russ Curtis says, "My activities this past year have been dominated by recovering from radiation treatments for prostate cancer and repairing about \$30,000 damage to my house by Hurricane Wilma. Now that my house and I are in good shape again, I have returned to my routine of jogging, swimming, tending to my 800-1,000 orchids, and enjoying the company of my many lady friends. My only travels of any consequence have been taking the first plane out of Palm Beach International after Wilma to visit friends in Colorado and trips to Lawrence, KS, last Christmas and again this summer to visit my three kids, two of my three grandsons, and seven of my eight great-grandkids. I enjoy splitting my time between my house in Wellington, FL and my condo in Palm Beach, FL.

"I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Mildred Penny. I hired Mildred in the 70's in Lawrence, KS, and she became not only an excellent employee but a very good friend. She was a special lady."

Dan Duerr and **Lynn Barr** report, "We were pleased to receive the official WRD Retirees banner from the Madison organizing committee at the reunion banquet -- sort of like transferring the Olympic flag to the next host nation. The Tampa retirees look forward to hosting a great reunion in 2008. We'll be providing details later for the next reunion probably to be held toward the end of October 2008 -- when the weather is very pleasant and the hurricane threat is diminished. It's great to know that **Sandra Duncan**, who did such a terrific job planning the Alaska cruise in association with the Portland reunion, has agreed to plan a cruise following the Tampa reunion. Come join us for lots of fun!"

George Ferguson says, "The celebrations I had last year in honor of my 100th birthday remain a strong and very fond memory. The very best of the celebrations was the lunch hosted by WRD Retirees. It's great to have so many friends and to be able to share time with them."

NEWS OF RETIREES

Mike Gaydos says, "All is well in Louisiana and I continue in my 30th year of officiating high school football. I can still run the field with some of the players, but I've switched positions to Umpire so I don't need to run long distances. I've agreed to compile the list of WRD Retirees who wish to receive their Newsletter by email. So far about 50 members have signed up for email delivery. If you want to receive your copy of the WRD Retirees Newsletter by email, send me an email message at tigersu2@cox.net."

Al Harr reports, "The winners of the golf tournament in Madison were as follows: fewest putts for 18 holes, **Kathy Fidler**; low gross, **Tom Yorke**; and high gross, **Al Harr**. I presented the winners with nice trophies at the banquet. All golfers received a medal for participating."

Sumner Heidel writes, "Ever since I read the interesting stories of other retirees who served in WW II in the newsletter, I wanted to write you about how interesting I found some in particular. My own experience could not match those who were in the Armed Services directly, but from a couple, at least, I saw how my paths may have crossed with a couple members I know, and knew – and never met or knew the stories before."

"When the war started, I was working at the Montana Highway Department (having graduated from Montana State with a degree in Chemical Engineering). Having passed a Civil Service test, I received a call to work for the Naval Department at Bremerton, WA. So, from 1942 until 1945, I worked at the Puget Sound Navy Yard. Thus, I found that **Hal Langford** and **Mervin Petersen** also had some contact in that Navy Yard, but I never discussed with Hal (who was with the USGS in Lincoln, NE, and Mervin Petersen who worked at Riverton while I was at Worland, WY). My own experience was with working on all sorts of craft carriers for repairs and Destroyer Escorts under construction. Thus, the closest I ever got to the war was some "sea trials" in the Straits of Juan de Fuca. The draft board tried to draft me a few times, but the Navy Department told me they'd get me a commission before they'd let me go. But, that never materialized."

"I certainly enjoyed the 20 some years that I was the WRD Treasurer and new regret that I haven't been able to attend the monthly meetings in VA lately, the last being that when George Ferguson was 100 years old. Unfortunately, my wife **Tommie** has not been well, so it's been difficult to get away. We were married June 6, 1942 and have had 64 happy years together. She has had several hospitalizations (mostly short), but on June 23 this year, we took her

to the Brooke Grove nursing facility. Alzheimer's disease is a very difficult one, with no cure. Starting with the gradual loss of memory presumably been checked somewhat, but the ability to think and act normally has worsened the last 6 or so months."

"On the brighter side, our oldest granddaughter is getting married in September in Philadelphia and I hope to go with son, David for that. She (Anne) is a lawyer and has worked there for several years."

"So, I'll close with greetings to all and sorry I can't attend the reunion in Wisconsin."

Janice Herrick (Mrs. Stephen Herrick) of Decatur, GA, celebrated her 100th birthday June 15, 2006 with a luncheon attended by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as reported by her daughter Katherine Tutchings.

Lee Holt reports, "I will be pleased to donate some of my ceramic art work as gifts for retirees at the Tampa reunion in 2008." Twelve of Lee's art items were presented to retirees at the banquet of the Madison reunion – winners were selected at random from a bowl containing all attendee's names. The lucky winners really appreciated the items. Another nice touch made by the Madison reunion organizing committee.

Charles Nethaway attended his first WRD Retirees lunch in October. Everyone was pleased to see Charles who is in excellent health and has his cancer; he calls it the "beast," in remission. We all look forward to Charles' participation in future Retirees' events. Charles, be sure to bring **Carole** to the December lunch because it is always a very nice party.

Mervin S. (Pete) Peterson writes, "My wife, **Charlotte**, and I are doing fairly well for old folks. We do have our regular aches and pains but we are still active and enjoying retirement life. Charlotte has an eye problem and does not see well. She doesn't drive any more and I have to read to her, but we still enjoy each other and live comfortable. We have been married for 62 years, soon 63, and are very happy. We don't travel much anymore but did vacation recently in Charleston, SC, to attend a family reunion on the beach of the "Isle of Palms," and enjoyed many family members there. We had four generations there from PA, TX, UT, and CO. I enjoy meeting with the WRD Retirees groups for breakfast or lunch here in Denver and I really enjoy the newsletter. Thanks to those who continue to prepare it and send it out, although there are fewer and fewer that I know. I have been retired for 26 years. Best wishes to all retirees and have a good year."

NEWS OF RETIREES

Jean Schoen says, "A number of WRD Retirees have requested the recipe for the Norwegian meatballs that we served one evening at the hospitality room in Madison. Therefore, the recipe is below:

NORWEGIAN MEATBALLS

1C bread crumbs	1 can cranberry sauce
2 lbs. ground beef	1 bottle Chile sauce (12 oz)
3 large eggs	1 bottle water
1 pkg. onion soup mix	1C brown sugar
1 can (16oz) sauerkraut	

Combine beef, crumbs, eggs, and onion soup mix. Make into meatballs (using a small ice cream dipper makes approximately 50). Brown slightly. Place in 9x13 pan. Mix all remaining ingredients and pour over meatballs. Bake at 350 degrees about one hour."

Editor's note: **Bob** and Jean Schoen were responsible for the hospitality room during the Madison reunion. They did a fantastic job of keeping the spirits flowing, the food served – including lots of Wisconsin cheese and the Norwegian meatballs – was outstanding, and the hospitality room was open many hours. Thanks, Bob and Jean.

John Shanton says, "Some WRD Retirees recently had a very successful and fun fishing trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. I'm the chief cook; **Andy Anderson** is the salad maker; and **Jim Biesecker**, the chief bottle washer. **Hal Langford** serves as the expert fishing consultant and **Doug Edwards** stays behind to watch the house. We caught lots of puppy drum and fin dolphin. As usual, Hal won the most in the poker game!"

Many of the readers of the WRD Retirees Newsletter may have seen on TV or read that on October 4, a **George F. Smoot** was awarded the 2006 Nobel Prize for Physics, but may not know the rest of the story. The parents of this George F. Smoot are **George** and **Talica** (deceased) **Smoot**. George worked for the Water Resources Division and because of his Mechanical Engineering training, worked many years with the development and production of instruments and recorders for measuring and collecting water resources data, and that is the rest of the story. See www.lbl.gov/Publications/Nobel/

CT Welborn writes, "**Helen** and I had nice chat today because we were the only ones that showed up for the Texas September meeting. The meeting was changed to the forth Wednesday because about 7 members were in Madison, WI for the 13th National WRD Retirees Reunion. Six of the members were still on the road back to Texas. **Bob** and **Libby Burchett** were absent because Bob was slated for a heart

biopsy. They take several chunks out of the heart to see if it is still there, or some other reason. Bob is doing great, but he won't be able to travel until around December. We missed Bob at the Reunion and all of you who could have come. In the past, we have had about 200 members, but this time there were 138. I don't know how the finances came out. They had to plan for about 200. There were 15 cancellations at the last minute. **Dixie** was not feeling up to par and couldn't make the trip. The Texas group, that is people that worked for the USGS in Texas, agreed to come in a day early and have dinner together. There were about 12 people and we had a great get together and dinner. There were some Texans missing from the Reunion but all in all we had a good time.

"There were some hard workers in Madison and they put on a great Reunion. We were kept busy all three days. The first day we had the ice breaker at Tripp Commons in the UW Student Union. We had a Brat Fest with keg beer, sausage, and hamburgers. The beer and food flowed freely. It's a good thing we didn't have to drive. There was a shuttle to take us to the Commons and take us back to the hotel in one piece. After we got back from the Brat Fest, there was always the hospitality room. It stayed open until 10:30 pm.

"Friday morning we had the WRD business meeting in the Madison Hotel Ballroom. **Jim Biesecker** gave us an update on the state of the WRD Retirees. We are having problems in getting the new retirees to come with us. Although every new retiree receives a 1-year free in the National WRD Retirees, many don't follow up. It was encouraged that all WRD members work toward getting these "young members" to take part in the local WRD meetings as well as in the National WRD Retirees. The National membership stands at approximately 1500 members. A note on the sad side, since the last reunion two years ago in Portland, we lost 77 members. The Director of the USGS, Bob Hirsch, gave information on the Water Resources program of the USGS. Diane Boyer presented "In search of Dam Sites: The 1923 USGS Expedition in the Grand Canyon". Diane gave a very interesting talk on the expedition and showed many pictures. I forget just how long it took to travel 300 miles from Lees Ferry down the canyon--something like 3 or 4 months. They had to go to the banks every night and set up camp. The boats weren't all that big, no motors, just oars. The three boats had to carry all their supplies; however, I think that they were able get some supplies from up on the rim. I don't think they had the rule that you take out what you bring in. The boatmen were wet most of the time going through the white water. They surveyed the entire 300 miles and closed within 4.5 feet. That was pretty good surveying. After the meeting we were served a soup and salad

NEWS OF RETIREES

luncheon. And, of course after lunch came GOLF. God was smiling down on the golfers, for the rains cleared and the sun came out. Since I am not a golfer, I don't know any scores or who won. When they gave out the awards, I wasn't paying attention. Friday night we were on our own. **Paul Rhone**, his wife, **Harriet**, and I went into town for dinner. Harriet wanted Mexican food. I was kind of dubious about finding good Mexican food in Wisconsin, but we found a place and the food was pretty good. The beer was excellent. And, of course, the hospitality room was open until 10:30 pm.

"Saturday was the day for our field trips. There were two trips, one was to the Frank Lloyd Wright Tour and the other tour was to the International Crane Foundation. There were cranes from all over the world. They were from Africa, Australia, China, India, Russia, and the United States. The cranes were all very colorful except for the white whooping cranes. There was a type of crane called Sarus. It would stand up to six feet and had a red band around his neck with a gray to black body. The pens formed a circle and each pen is about 20 feet at the circle, about 100 foot radius, and about 6 feet at the center. There was a building in the center of the circle for maintenance and feeding. Each pen had a male and female, the male had a band on its right leg and the female on its left. There was a chicken like wire on the top of the pens. We saw a pair of whooping cranes and their chick up real close, less than 50 feet. This pair had about an acre of land for their pen. Their wings were clipped so they could not fly away. Because of their wings being clipped, they could not breed. Why? The male couldn't dance and therefore the female was never turned on. That's the truth. There were 32 whooping cranes that spent from April to October in Wisconsin and then fly to Florida. The eggs are laid in the north and hatched in 30 days and the chicks must be ready to fly back to Florida in October. We were told the chicks grow 1 inch/day. That's pretty fast growing. There are 180 whooping cranes that fly to the Aransas Wild Life Center in Texas from Canada. All told, there are about 400 birds in the world, some are in captivity. In the 1940's, there were only 15 whooping cranes in the world. The U.S. Government stepped in and now there are 400 cranes. They are still an endangered species. In the afternoon, we went to the Dells on the Wisconsin River for an hour ride up the river. The river has several dams, not unlike the Colorado in Texas, except the lakes are much narrower and deeper than the ones on the Colorado. At one place in the lake it narrowed to about 50 feet and was over 100 feet deep and all cliffs are sedimentary sandstones and are layered like flagstone. The colors varied from a brown to a light tan. Layers are tilted one way or another as the result of wind. It was a very interesting trip, except

about halfway through the trip, the rains began. I was setting on top deck along with **Rudy Dosch** and about 20 other people. They began to go to the lower deck and all that was left on to deck was Rudy and I. I guess we were both hard headed and waiting for one or the other to move. I had on a water proof jacket; at least I thought that it was water proof. It wasn't. It wasn't very cold, somewhere in the 60's and since I hadn't seen much rain lately, I sat there enjoying the rain. We came to a rest stop, so we had a reason to go down. I finished the trip on the lower covered deck and very wet. No problem. We got back to the hotel about 1630 hours and took a hot shower and got ready for the banquet that evening. I was sitting with **Jim** and **Paula Blakey** and we had the choice of either prime rib or Wisconsin walleyed pike. I'm still a beef man and they had the pike. That evening the golf awards were handed out and as I said before, I wasn't paying attention as to who was low score or high. There was a separate award for the ladies. The won with the low score was setting at our table and I don't remember her name but she was attractive. Of course after the banquet, there was the hospitality room with plenty to drink. All in all it was a very nice reunion and now it's on to Tampa in 2008."

Beatrice Wilson writes, "I am saddened by the death of my husband, Alfonso. He passed away on June 25, 2006. He enjoyed reading the WRD Retirees newsletter and always looked forward to reading the following newsletters."

Tom Yorke reports, "The HQ group of WRD Retirees started meeting monthly again in September. **Bill** and **Helene Mann** hosted a picnic lunch at their home for the September meeting. About 30 folks attended, including **Don** and **JoAnn Leifeste** who were visiting from their home in Georgia. It was an overcast day, but everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed some of the mountain views awaiting the Manns each morning and evening. The October meeting of the HQ group was held at the Amphora Restaurant in Herndon, VA. General Gerald Galloway, Retired, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and University of Maryland Professor, was the guest speaker for a group of 30 retirees and spouses. He gave an outstanding presentation on the government response to Hurricane Katrina and emphasized the lack of a national water policy."

NEWS OF RETIREES

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!

WRD Retirees Web Page

Please visit this web site at WRDRetirees.org

We are pleased to announce that WRD Retirees has its own web page. The world-wide-web address for the web page is WRDRetirees.org. It's great we were able to get that address which should be easy for all to remember.

Ken Lanfear and Linda Friedman, two recent WRD Retirees designed the web page. They both had experience working with web pages, especially Ken, in their official USGS careers and the talent they accumulated served us well. Thanks to Ken and Linda for stepping forward and accepting this responsibility. All of the elected officers help them gather the material. The web page will be an evolving document, readily changed and expanded as we decide what information should be included on the web page. Please go to WRDRetirees.org, review the material currently included, and make any suggestions for additions or improvements by emailing Ken at Lanfear@his.com or Linda at lafried22@hotmail.com.

The contents of the initial web page are quite impressive. It currently includes a welcome message from the President, a list of the 25 locations in the USA where regular meetings of WRD Retirees are held, a list of the thirteen reunions that WRD Retirees has held, photos of the recent Madison reunion, full copies of the May and August 2006 WRD Retirees Newsletters – every edition of future Newsletters will be available on the web page, a list of all District Contacts, a list of WRD Retirees officers, a copy of the constitution and bylaws of WRD Retirees, a document that briefly describes the history of our organization – this is very interesting reading, an online application form to assist interested folks in joining WRD Retirees, and a link to the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources home page. All of these links are live links; just click on the item of interest and that part of the web page will open automatically.

We plan to put additional material on the web site. Current plans include adding the WRD Retirees Directory, all volumes of the WRD history, and a description of the activities of the New Members Committee. If you have suggestions on other material that should be added to the web page, please contact Ken Lanfear or Linda Friedman at the email addresses shown above.

Madison Reunion



The Madison Organizing Committee at the gala banquet. These folks did a superb job with all facets of the reunion. Thanks!
L to R: Lee and **Pat Holt**, **Marv** and **Rosann Sherrill**, **Al Harr**, **Gerry** and **Dale Cotter**



The WRD Retirees Reunion banner is transferred from the Madison folks to the Tampa group that will host the 2008 Reunion. L to R: **Dale Cotter** and **Marv Sherrill**, Madison; **Lynn Barr** and **Dan Duerr**, Tampa. See you all in Tampa!



The three WRD Retirees who were awarded the WRD Retirees Lifetime Award at the Madison Reunion. The award is given to those who have made distinguished contributions to WRD Retirees over many years. The winners are:
L to R: **Loren Young**, **Bill Boning**, and **Jack Pickering**. Congratulations!

Madison Reunion



First time attendees at a WRD Retirees Reunion. We know you all had a great time. Please be sure to make the 2008 Reunion in Tampa your second Reunion attended!



L to R: **Bud Anderson, Fritz Kilpatrick, Rita Martens and Laurel Click** at the Whooping Crane exhibit, the International Crane Federation, as part of the Wisconsin River field trip.



WRD Retirees doing what they do best -- having fun. L to R: **Tom Yorke, Perry Olcott, Steve Hindall, John Wark, and Jim Biesecker** in the Reunion Hospitality room. We spent lots of time there!

Madison Reunion



Al and Mary Condes getting ready to board the bus on the field trip.



Bill and Shirley Boning on the boat ride through the Wisconsin Dells. This stretch of river is one of the most beautiful in the USA.



Paula Blakey, Dale Cotter and Cynthia Norman having a typically good time in the hospitality room.



The hospitality room was again the favorite gathering place for retirees at the reunion. Barkeeps **Dale Cotter** and **Bob Schoen** were two of the reasons folks had so much fun.

Madison Reunion



Milt Hackett, Bob Hirsch, Joe Cragwall, Jack Pickering (background), and **Mary Flippen** at the Brat and Beer Fest.



Tom and Marie Buchanan
Two favorite WRD retirees. Is Marie telling Tom where to go?



Stan and Virginia Sauer
Still enjoying each other after all these years.



Paul and Harriet Rohne enjoying the Wisconsin countryside

Reunion photos courtesy of **Peggy Barr, Bob Beall, Joyce Biesecker, Bill Boning, Dale Cotter, Marsella Wark**

New Members Committee

By Steve Hindall

Attracting and retaining new members of WRD Retirees is important to the future. This is especially true in an organization of retirees that by nature has a high attrition rate. WRD Retirees was started in 1973 with 221 members. Membership has steadily increased over the history of the organization: in 1985 we had 817 members, in 1995 we had 1,095 members, and we currently have 1,456 members.

Several years ago the elected officers of WRD Retirees decided to extend a free one-year membership to everyone who retires from USGS, WRD. This has proven to be a valuable procedure. However, we need to pay much more attention to personal contacts with our new members – the future of the organization – so they become active and long-time members. This is clearly demonstrated by checking the WRD Retirees Directory and noting that we do not have phone numbers or email addresses for many of the new members who joined in 2005 and 2006. To address this issue, the President created a New Members Committee. I have agreed to Chair the New Members Committee. Initial plans include:

1. Have an existing WRD Retiree personally contact -- visit, phone call, or email are all fine -- every new member of WRD Retirees. The list of recent retirees in each Newsletter will serve as the starting point.
2. Obtain the telephone number of each new member. Send data to Bill Boning, WRD Retirees Secretary, for inclusion in the WRD Retiree Directory and for Directory changes published in the Newsletters.
3. Obtain the email address of each new member. Send data to Mike Gaydos, to be included in the list of members who will receive their Newsletter by email, and to Bill Boning, for inclusion in the Directory and Newsletter.
4. Strongly encourage the new members to have their Newsletter delivered by email. If they don't have a PC connected to the Internet, this will of course not be a viable option. Otherwise, they should be willing to have their Newsletter delivered electronically.

The existing Regional Directors and District Contacts can help with these tasks. However, history has shown that procedure alone is simply not getting the job done. We need to involve more retirees to make sure we contact every new one and welcome them to WRD Retirees. The structure is basically in place to accomplish this task. We just need to tweak it a little. First, we need to be sure all District (Science Centers) Contacts take a proactive approach. They need to make personal contact with all new retirees in their state. If a District Contact is not willing to do this, they need to be replaced by a person who will maintain this contact. The second area to examine is to somehow be sure that no WRD employee retires unnoticed. I see two ways this can be accomplished. One is to be sure there is a process to get this information from Personnel at Headquarters and then down through the chain to the District Contacts. The second is to come up through the Districts by maintaining good local contact. The District Contacts can get a jump on whatever process we come up with by contacting all the retirees in their state as listed in the November Newsletter. WRD Retirees who have volunteered to serve on the New Member Committee are:

Steven Hindall, Chairman
Pete Antilla
Jeff Armbruster
Merilee Bennett
Al Condes
Sandra Duncan
Warren Gebert

Al Harr
Bob Knutilla
Charlie Morgan
John Ritter
Eileen Smith
Russ Wagner

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

James D. Filbeck, Hydrologic Technician, 69 Lionheart Lane, Benton, Kentucky 42025, 07/25/06

Ronald A. McGregor, Information Technology Specialist, 3411 27th Avenue, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748, 08/03/06

Thomas J. Popowski, Hydrologic Technician, c/o USGS/WRD, P.O. Box 506, Rice Lake, Wisconsin 54868, 09/01/06

Robert J. Rogers, Supervisory Hydrologist, 3 Crestview Drive, West Sand Lake, New York 12196, 09/30/06

James A. Stewart, Supervisory Hydrologist, 5805 East 675 South, Waldron, Indiana 46182, 10/03/06

Southeastern Region

Zaida I. Aquino, Hydrologist, Calle San Jacinto 1401 Altamesa, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00921, 09/01/06

Central Region

Green, Robert B., Supervisory Chemist, 1135 Park Avenue #703, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 10/31/06

Paula C. Herrin, Administrative Officer, 611 Grandview Street, Sherwood, Arkansas 72120, 09/01/06

Cathy Ann Jones-Waggoner, Admin Operations Assistant, 817 SE 36th, Moore, Oklahoma 73160, 09/01/06

Roger W. Lee, Hydrologist, 8918A White Pine Lane, Dallas, Texas 75238, 11/03/06

Western Region

Richard J. La Camera, Hydrologist, 1693 Sweet View Court, Henderson, Nevada 89014, 10/02/06

Donald H. Schaefer, Hydrologist, 431 Brittany Court, Carson City, Nevada 89701, 10/02/06

“WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH”

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

Here are two research highlights. The first one describes work by Dr. Faith Fitzpatrick, a geomorphologist in the Wisconsin Water Science Center (WSC, the new name for 'Districts'). Faith recently visited six WSCs to present this work. The second highlight describes work on volcanoes by a WRD NRP researcher, Dr. Bill Evans, who is based in our Menlo Park, CA, office.

Catastrophic Floods and Episodic Sediment Movement—Effects on Stream Channels

Large amounts of sediment can be eroded, transported, and deposited as a result of catastrophic floods. Depositional landforms along channel margins, such as natural levees, tend to persist over decades and centuries by being built up and added to during large floods but untouched by small or moderate floods. Many streams across the United States with historically large sediment loads from watershed-scale land disturbance, such as logging or agriculture, have legacy sediment stored along channel margins, especially in stream reaches where the valley slope changes in a downstream direction from steep to gentle. These thick overbank deposits can gradually cause the channel to look like it is downcutting, as shown in the photograph, when, in fact, sedimentation is the dominant process. Popular methods used to interpret geomorphic processes from channel form typically overlook the importance of the legacy sediment on modern channel-forming processes and sediment loads. This is an especially important issue for stream restoration projects and sediment-source studies, which are a significant activity in the US at this time.

You can contact Faith Fitzpatrick for more information at: fafitzpa@usgs.gov.

DIVISION NEWS

Volcanic Gas Hazards: Mammoth Mountain, Calif. and Cameroon

Erupting volcanoes emit vast amounts of gases, particularly carbon dioxide and sulfur compounds that are toxic to humans. Dormant volcanoes can also release potentially toxic gases; such non-eruptive gas has been responsible for nearly 2000 deaths world-wide in the past decade or so. USGS personnel have investigated this type of gas hazard throughout the world for many years. Mammoth Mountain, in eastern California, is dormant but lies in a region characterized by frequent and occasionally catastrophic volcanic activity. Reports of trees dying and dizziness in confined spaces (including at a large ski resort leasing slopes from the U.S. Forest Service) led to investigations by USGS. They found that diffuse seepage of odorless carbon dioxide up through the soil zone was suffocating the tree roots and producing lethal concentrations in poorly ventilated structures and showed that the area affected by gas flow through the soil is much larger than the present-day area of tree kill. Tragically, several skiers were killed this past winter when they fell into a carbon dioxide-filled crevasse. Continued monitoring is critical since carbon dioxide gas is heavier than air and thus potentially dangerous to people in depressions, and poorly ventilated enclosures, such as cabins. Another situation of carbon dioxide release occurred in the 1980's in Cameroon. More than 1500 people were killed when dissolved carbon dioxide that had accumulated in high concentrations at the bottom of two lakes was suddenly released into the atmosphere. USGS scientists were asked to help with the investigation of the Cameroon lakes and have been involved in efforts to avoid another catastrophe through controlled degassing of the lakes.

For additional information about the potential hazard at Mammoth Mountain, see the USGS fact sheet, *Invisible CO₂ gas killing trees at Mammoth Mountain, California*; for information about efforts controlled degassing in Cameroon see *Kling, G. W., Evans, W.C., Tanyileke, G., Kusakabe, M., Ohba, T., Yoshida, Y., and Hell, J. V., 2005, Degassing Lakes Nyos and Monoun – Defusing certain disaster: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, v. 102, p. 14,185-14,190*; or contact: Bill Evans at: wcevans@usgs.gov.



Want to be a Mentor to USGS Employees – Volunteer Today

Most of us can recall having a mentor as we developed our USGS careers and many of us can recall later being a mentor as we shared our knowledge and skills with fellow employees and associates. The USGS Mentoring Program describes mentoring as a dynamic, evolving partnership where a caring person invests time and know-how to enhance another person's growth, knowledge, or skills. Mentoring at USGS is a voluntary program among active employees with two components: 1-Year Guided and Self Directed. **WRD Retirees** are invited to become a **Mentor Emeritus** in an extension of the Self-Directed Program.

As few as several WRD Retiree volunteers will make the Mentor Emeritus program a success and a larger number of volunteers will make a significant impact. WRD Retirees have a variety of knowledge and skills to share, ranging from administrative talents to the cutting edge of scientific research. The USGS Mentoring Program is available to all disciplines though it is expected that WRD Retirees will have the greatest association with employees of the Water Resources Discipline. The Self-Directed Program is an informal arrangement between mentor and mentoree, the partnership lasts as long as mutually agreeable, and contributions may range from infrequent telephone or email exchanges to side-by-side contact in the office or field. For more information on the USGS Mentoring Program, you can also visit the USGS Mentoring Program website at <http://training.usgs.gov> and click on mentoring for more details.

Mentors Emeritus will be added to a database of active-employee mentors and the USGS Mentoring Program will help to match a mentoree with a potential mentor from this database of USGS mentors located throughout the United States. To assist in the matching of mentoree with mentor, WRD Retiree volunteers are asked to provide a brief summary of the knowledge and skills that they offer to share, along with their name and contact information; though internet access and email may be useful, it is not required. Initially, Bill Emmett will coordinate the Mentor Emeritus information with the USGS Mentoring Program. Volunteers from WRD Retirees, contact Bill at w.emmett@att.net or at (303) 795-7510 and provide your name, specialties, and contact information. As the Mentor Emeritus program grows, we anticipate using our online resources to further announce the willingness of WRD Retirees to serve as mentors. Please feel free to contact the Deputy Director of USGS Mentoring, Stacey Clarke, with any questions directly related to the USGS Mentoring Program at sdclarke@usgs.gov or at (303) 445-4674.

Humorous Stories about WRD field or office work

In the May 2005 edition, we introduced the series for humorous stories about WRD field or office work. We've all heard some hilarious stories during our careers. Please share them with others – send your story to the WRD Retirees office or email them to wrdretirees@usgs.gov. Thanks from the Newsletter staff and all of your colleagues eager to hear your stories!

Two and One Half Humorous Stories by Irv Kantrowitz

Here are some humorous stories from New York in the early 1960's. The half story requires a little imagination, the next one is self-deprecating, and the last is a long-overdue confession.

Under the legendary A. W. Harrington, the surface-water district in New York had long held an annual "Convocation." After Mr. Harrington's reign ended, the Convocation was held a few more times and eventually included ground-water personnel as well. Thinking of A.W. Harrington brought to mind the story about why he exiled, on 2-week notice, a young engineer, Norbert "Whitey" Luzsinsky, to Alabama. The story is X-rated, embarrassing to Harrington and his long-time secretary, and involves Whitey coming into the office unexpectedly on a weekend. It will remain untold – use your imagination. Desperate to return to the northeast, Whitey eventually transferred to the ground-water branch. He did pioneering work on salt-water intrusion on Long Island until his untimely death in 1963. But ... back to the Convocation.

My first assignment as a ground-water geologist in the Long Island office was to work with Ed Pluhowski, a surface-water engineer, on what we regarded as a ground-breaking interdisciplinary study. For the 1960 or 1961 Convocation, Ed and I were "invited" by Ralph Heath to describe the surface-ground water relationships of a stream we had studied. It was the first paper I had ever presented. The morning of the Convocation, I came down to the restaurant at the hotel for breakfast and was invited by Henry Barksdale to join his table which was populated by Washington notables of the ground-water persuasion. Mr. Barksdale was one of Oscar Meinzer's original cadre of ground-water scientists and by the time of this story he was a patrician gentleman serving as Branch Area Chief. He recognized me because on two occasions I had met him at the last subway stop in Queens and driven him to meetings at the Mineola, Long Island office. Despite recognizing me, it later became obvious he didn't remember my name or what I was working on. Breakfast dragged on with repeated refilling of coffee cups and the time of the Convocation was fast approaching. I finally mentioned this fact, probably my first words to this distinguished group, and Mr. Barksdale remarked that he had looked at the schedule and was intending to miss the first paper. His sentiments were echoed by the others and without saying a word, I left to deliver the first paper.

In 1962, I transferred (voluntarily, no embarrassing stories) to Syracuse, NY, to conduct a ground-water study. I was engaged in well inventory using key-sort cards in which well data could be coded and sorted. The card included spaces for a diagram of the well and a site map of its location. Ralph Heath, the District Geologist, insisted that these be drawn in great detail, with a straight edge ruler (not rough field sketches); the goal was to enable future investigators to find the well and locate sampling and measuring points with no uncertainty. On several occasions, Ralph would send new hires out to Syracuse for training in the key-sort technique. On one such occasion, with a trainee who will remain nameless (this is my confession only!), we inventoried a well in a farm yard. The well was in the open and the site map was meticulously drawn showing the location in reference to a large barn. After we finished, instead of just leaving, we sat in the car, doubtless discussing the finer points of preparing an accurate and neat site map. After a few minutes, what should appear but an armada of tractors. They drove into the farmyard and before our astonished eyes, quickly attached chains to the under side of the barn and began pulling it away! So much for the accurate site map we had spent so much time and effort on. I suggested that we just pretend we had left the farm yard when we should have, and without altering the map, we drove off in pursuit of other wells to conquer. Sorry, Ralph. This city boy never used a barn as a reference point again, and I suspect neither did my trainee.

The "Iceberg" by Russ Curtis

In the early '60's, Jim Craig and I were running a winter field trip to measure the discharge of the Republican River in northeast Kansas. At one site, the river had heavy ice on each shore but was flowing open in the center. In those days we had to use ice chisels to cut holes in the ice large enough to get a current meter through. Jim and I started chopping holes on opposite sides with plans to meet near the center. As I was chopping away, I noticed that Jim was no longer on the opposite shore. The large chunk of ice he was standing on had broken loose and was slowly floating downstream. Jim was so busy chopping, he had not noticed what was happening. I yelled at him to alert him to the situation but I couldn't help from laughing. Jim was not so amused, but the "iceberg" eventually lodged against the shore and he was able to jump off without even getting wet. We meet frequently and sometimes remember this incident, but I always feel like I am laughing louder than he is.

Congratulations to all of those born in the 1920's, 30's, 40's, and 50's

CT Welborn sent this thought provoking email and we thought many of you would be interested and enjoy reading it.

First, many of us survived after being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes. Then after that trauma, our cribs were covered with bright-colored, lead-based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, no childproof locks on cabinets or doors. When we rode our bikes, we did not wear any helmets, not to mention the dangers we took of hitchhiking.

As children, we rode in cars with no seat belts or air bags and special car seats were not used. Riding in the back of a pickup on a warm day was always a special treat. We drank water from the garden hose, NOT a water bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends from one bottle and no one actually died from this. We ate cupcakes, white bread, and real butter and soda with real sugar and yet we were not overweight because – we were always outside playing. We would leave home in the morning and play all day long, as long as we were home when the streetlights came on.

We didn't have cell phones so no one could reach us all day and we were OK! We would spend hours building go carts out of scrap material only to discover when we were going down hill that we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned how to solve the problem. We did not have Playstation's, Nintendo's, or X-Boxes, in fact we had no video games. We did not have 99 channels of cable/satellite TV, no DVD movies, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet, and no chat rooms. We had friends and we went outside and found them.

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits resulting from these accidents. We played with worms, made mud pies from dirt, and the worms didn't live inside us forever! We got BB guns for our 10th birthday and even though we were told it would happen, did not put out many eyes.

We made up games using sticks and tennis balls. We walked or rode bikes to our friends' houses and knocked on the doors or rang the doorbell – or just yelled at them. Little League had tryouts and not everybody made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.

The idea of a parent bailing us out never occurred to us. They actually sided with the law. Generations born in these years produced some of the best risk takers, inventors, and problem solvers EVER! The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovations and ideas. We had freedom, success, and responsibility, and learned to deal with it all.

And you are one of them. Congratulations!

Local Meetings and Gatherings

WRD Retirees who worked in Grand Rapids, Minnesota



Jim Johnson's farm, at the confluence of the Prairie and Mississippi Rivers, provided an ideal picnic spot for WRD Retirees who worked in Grand Rapids, MN in the '60s and '70s. Pictured at the Aug. 4, 2006 picnic are:

L to R: Jim Zirbel, Jim Johnson, John Helgesen, Bill Gothard and Greg Melhous. Absent: Jerry Lindholm and Dan Pangburn.

September Meeting of the HQ Retirees



The Manns hosted a picnic at their home for the September meeting of the HQ retirees. All present had a chance to appreciate the beautiful view of the Blue Ridge from the Manns' home.

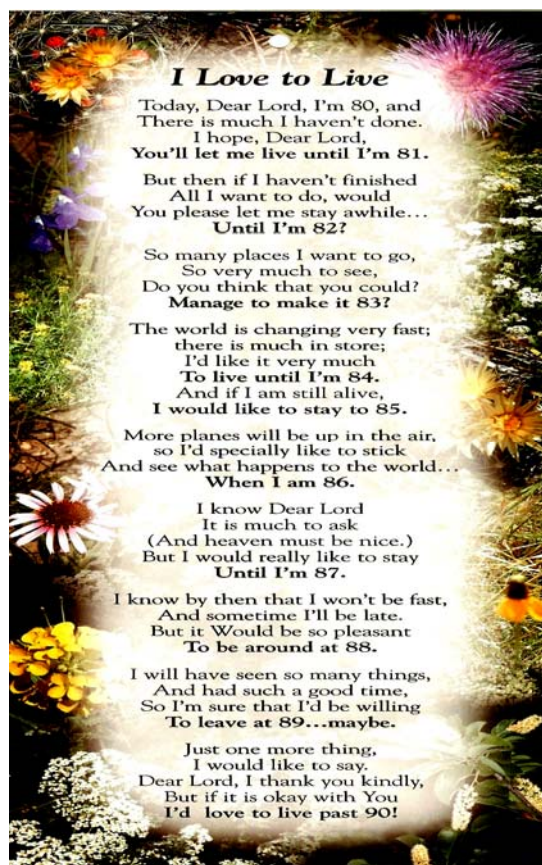
L to R: Kneeling: Harvey Jobson, Helene Mann, Marie Buchanan. Front Row: Norm Hutchinson, Milt Hackett, Pam Hackett, Bob Beall, George Ferguson, Al Condes, Eileen Smith, Mary Condes, Charlene Simpson, Alice Dilandro, Bev McCoy. Back Row: Chuck Appel, George Edelen, Barbara Jobson, Fritz Kilpatrick, June Kilpatrick, Jim Hatchet, Joan Ferguson, Tom Yorke, Dick Engberg, Tom Buchanan, Bill Mann.

IN MEMORIAM

Micki Thomsen, age 81, of Scottsdale, Arizona, passed away July 23, 2006, from lung cancer and other complications. She was born, Irma Moen, July 25, 1925, in Cresco, Iowa, the daughter of Oscar and Lora Moen, and is survived by her husband of 47 years Bert Thomsen, a 1989 retiree of the Water Resources Division. Micki and Bert met in 1957 in Rapid City, South Dakota, when he was a student at the South Dakota School of Mines. Other survivors include a daughter, Lisa Morrison of Scottsdale; a son, Mark Thomsen of Rhinelander, Wisconsin; five grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

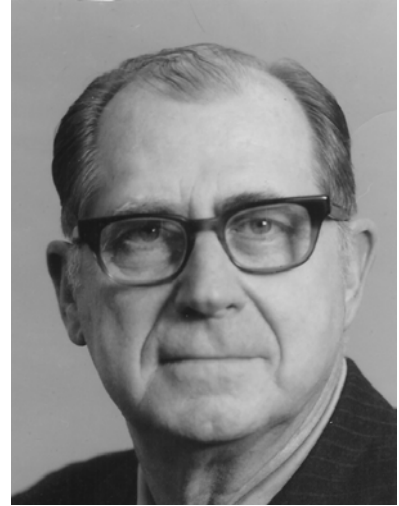
James E. "Bert" Weir died August 5, 2006 following a long period of failing health. He was 80. Bert was born in Pecos, Texas, and was a graduate of the University of New Mexico, having received a BS in Geology there in 1950. Prior to enrolling at the University of New Mexico, Bert served in WW II in the 242nd Infantry Regiment, in Germany from 1944-46. He was awarded the Silver Star and a battlefield commission for heroic service. Bert joined the USGS in 1950, as a Physical Science Aid with the GW Branch in Albuquerque, New Mexico and was converted to a Geologist in 1953. Bert also worked in Mercury, Nevada and Lakewood, Colorado – both with the Nuclear Hydrology Program and the Colorado District. He described his USGS career as follows: "I can't remember any era in my 30-year career that was uninteresting and solely routine. I was privileged to associate closely with the thinkers, idea men, and truly great researchers all through the ranks. God and the administrative bureaucrats saw fit to bless me with super interesting, often unusual work of an applied research variety." Bert's words were describing his contributions to geohydrologic investigation at the White Sands Missile Range, the Nevada Test Site, and project Plow Share, among others. Bert retired from the USGS in 1981. Bert's wife, Betty Lawson Weir, preceded him in death. He is survived by two daughters, Kitryn Ann Sullivan and Adla Maurine Weir, a son, Scot Owen Weir.

Alfonzo Wilson, age 93, passed away on June 25, 2006. Alfonzo was a native of El Paso, Texas, born January 1, 1913. He graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona in 1936. His USGS career began in 1938 in Los Angeles, California, with the SW Branch. From 1942-44 he served with to the U.S. Navy. Following WW II, he was assigned to the Urbana, Illinois SW office until 1948 when he transferred to Jackson, Mississippi. In 1954, Alfonzo transferred to the Tucson, Arizona SW office and served there as a Hydraulic Engineer and Research Hydrologist until his retirement in 1972. He wrote part of the UNESCO report on World Water Balance, and authored several USGS publications on drought. His wife, Beatrice J. Wilson survives him.



MEMORIAL
Francis B. Sessums
1916 – 2006

Francis Blake Sessums, civil engineer, hydrologist, and at the time of his retirement in 1983, Program Officer of WRD, died March 18, 2006 in Salem, Oregon, just two months short of his 90th birthday. Following his retirement from WRD, he and wife Genie (Lonnie Vining Martin) relocated from Falls Church, Virginia, to Salem, to enjoy their retirement. Genie has informed us that Francis suffered congestive heart failure in his late 70s, leaving him with short-term memory loss, but not long-term. He enjoyed recalling incidents with many of his WRD colleagues when their names showed in our newsletters as she read to him over these later years.



Francis was born May 23, 1916 in Pioneer, Louisiana, one of five children of Richard and Bessie Sessums. All of these family members preceded him in death, as did his first wife of 43 years, Helen Sansing. According to wife Genie, Francis had a zeal for life, labor, and scholarly leanings. At 13, he drove a T-model truck to deliver ice. He worked as a cream tester while attending Louisiana Tech where he received a BS in Chemistry. Later, he received a BS in Civil Engineering from Louisiana Tech. In 1939, Francis accepted a position with the USGS as a Junior Hydraulic Engineer in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He served as Assistant Engineer in Louisiana and South Dakota before transferring to Bismark, North Dakota, as Assistant District Engineer in 1947. In 1952, he transferred to Fort Worth, Texas, to head up the field office of the Texas District, but resigned from the USGS in 1953 to accept employment with the Louisiana Department of Public Works.

From 1953 -1955, he served as Assistant District Engineer, then as District Engineer, for the Southwest District of that Department, with responsibilities for management of engineering and construction, program development, engineering design, and administration of contracts and cooperative programs. In 1955 and 1956, he was the Chief of the State's Water Resources and Topographic Mapping Division, where he coordinated the investigation and utilization of the State's water resources, including the cooperative program with the USGS, represented Louisiana on the Arkansas-White-Red Basins Interagency Committee, served as Secretary of the Sabine River Authority of Louisiana, and as a member of the Engineering Advisory Committee on the Red River Compact Commission. From 1956 to 1970, Francis was employed by Dow Chemical Company as Project Engineer and Assistant to the General Manager. His responsibilities included plant-site layout, public relations, and engineering design.

In 1970, he resumed employment with USGS in Washington, D.C. to serve on the Chief Hydrologist's staff in a senior level position for a limited term detail from WRD to the Department of Interior's Office of Program Analysis. There, his duties involved the coordination and integration of planning and budgeting for the Department's programs of water and energy. In 1972, he returned to WRD as Program Officer for the Division and served proficiently in that position until he retired in 1983. Throughout his career, he stayed active in his profession. As a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, he served as a President of the Louisiana Section, and as a National Director, District 14. He was also a member of the Louisiana Engineering Society, a past Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, and a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas and Louisiana.

Surviving Francis are Genie, his second wife of 21 years; son, William Blake Sessums and wife Gail of San Antonio, Texas; daughters, Betty and husband Dr. Mylan Van Newkirk of New Zealand, and Carol Paden of Smyrna Beach, Florida and New York; 3 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; stepchildren, Renette Autrey, Glenda Fillible, Walter Loren Martin, Christina Joy Mealue, and Leanetta Jean Investor; 17 grandchildren; and many great grandchildren.

By: Joseph S. Cragwall

New Members

Crouch, Tom (94) (Mia), 44973 Silver Rose St, Temecula, CA 92592, 951-587-2040, tcrouch42@verizon.net
Gibbons, Willard J. (01), 271 Trainer Wuest Rd, Blanco, TX 78606, 830-833-4492, wgibbons@texas-skies.com,
web site www.willardgibbons.com

WRD Retirees Directory Changes

Ahlstedt, Steven A. (05), bigshelldaddy@bellsouth.net (email)
Anderson, Mrs. David B "Norma" (W), Hernando, FL (David died 28 May 2006)
Arden, Lorraine R. (03) Meridian, ID (dropped per request)
Babcock, Horace M. (77), 5830 N Fountains Avenue, Apt 332, Tucson, AZ 85704 (address)
Barnell, Richard L. (60) (Betty), 116 Lantana Lane, Rockport, TX 78382, rbarnell@intergate.com (address, email)
Bartlett, William P., Jr. "Bill" (Affil), 7708 Bridle Path Circle, Frederick, MD 21701, 301-898-7191 (address, phone)
Birdwell, George A. (95) (Vicki), P.O. Box 252, Egnar, CO 81325 (address)
Bloyd, Richard M. (90) 5395 Windswept Trace, Sugar Hill, GA 30518, 770-932-2118, rbmoss34@bellsouth.net
(delete spouse, new address, phone, email)
Bortleson, Gilbert C. (95) (Marlene) Black Diamond, WA, gbortles@aol.com (email)
Bower, Mrs. David E "Margaret" (W), Jenison, MI (Dave died 26 May 2006)
Bowie, James E. "Jim" (80) (Sue), jbowie1@bellsouth.net (email)
Brown, Mrs. Delbert "Helen" (W) 13691 East Marina Dr., Bldg 216, #501, Aurora, CO 80014-3724 (address)
Brown, Mrs. Iva "Mrs. Phillip" (W) Mayview Convalescence Center, Rm 172, 513 E Whitaker Mill Rd, Raleigh, NC
27608 (address)
Bryant, Charles T. (87) (Shirley), chasbethbryant@bellsouth.net (email)
Burchett, C. Robert "Bob" (99) (Libby) Austin TX, bubbabibby@hotmail.com (email)
Carswell, William J., Jr. (Affil) (Linda) 4700 W 27th St, Apt 008, Lawrence, KS 66047, 785-843-1017,
lcars22@sunflower.com (address, phone, email)
Cotter, R. Dale (86) (Gerry), Madison, WI, dgcott@tds.net (email)
Chase, Mrs. George H "Barbara" (W) 3812 Forrestgate Dr, Apt 331, Winston Salem NC 27103-2972 (address)
Cruff, Mrs. Russell W "Carla" (W) (dropped per request)
Day, Mrs. Bennie L "Patricia" (W) Hastings, NE (Bennie died 27 April 2006)
Donato, Mary M. (06), Boise ID (dropped per request)
Ebling, John L. (89) Portland OR, louela2929@msn.com (email correction)
Elder, John F. (03) (Elizabeth), 4587 NW Elmwood Dr, Corvallis, OR 97330, 541-738-2937, jnelder@comcast.net
address, phone, email
Fletcher, Mrs. Margaret H. (67), Raleigh, NC (Margaret died 10 Nov 2004)
Frisch, Joel (90) (Laurel), jfrisch@usgs.gov (email)
Gibbs, Douglas E (98) (Terry), 764 Jones Rd, Molena, GA 30258 (address)
Graf, Julia B. (99) (Don) 2836 E 1st Street, Tucson, AZ 85716-4103, jbgraf@msn.com (address, email)
Green, Stanley T. (04), 219 E Poppy Lane, Pueblo, CO 81007-3018 (address)
Grossman, Irving G. "Butch" (86) (Ann), 11 Martins Run G104, Media, PA 19063 (add nickname, address)
Hale, Malcolm D. (76) (Sue), Warrenton GA, malsuhale@classicssouth.net (email)
Hamamoto, Shirley (90) (Stanley), P.O. Box 685, Hooker, OK 73945, skh-sah@ptsi.net (address, email)
Hammond, Robert "Bob" (99) (Pat), Bow, NH, repehammond@comcast.net (email)
Harenburg, William A. "Bill" (94) (Jean), harenbrg@msn.com (email)
Hellyer-Malesky, Margaret (84) (Jim), Tacoma, WA, margaretm3@webtv.net, 253-472-0793 (email, phone)
Hershey, Mrs. Lloyd A. "Bette" (W), Lamar, CO (dropped, no response to inquiry)
Hill, Catherine L. (06) (Paul Hearne), 3104 Fox Den Lane, Oakton VA 22124 (conversion from Affiliate)
Hines, Marion S. (79) (Mary) Little Rock, AR, 501-225-1249, mhyde@aristotle.net (phone, email)
Ipsaro, Helen F. (04) (Chuck), Fredericksburg, VA, chuck122928@aol.com (email)
Irwin, George A. "Tony" (95) (Carol), Tallahassee, FL, twin25@earthlink.net (email)
Joyner, Boyd F. (78), Safety Harbor, FL (Boyd died 26 July, 2006)
Kelley, DeWitt M. (72) and Rose (72), 620 Sand Hill Rd, Apt 304C, Palo Alto, CA (apartment correction)
Kirby, William H. (05), 9505 Scarab St, Vienna, VA 23182, 703-938-2688 (phone)

Knochenmus, Darwin (93) (Linda), dknochen@bellsouth.net (email)

Lanfear, Kenneth J. "Ken" (06) (Kathy), 1648 Wainwright Dr, Reston, VA 20190, 703-217-8670, editor@awra.org (spouse, phone, email)

Lawrence, Mrs. Carl L. "Muriel" (W), cmlawren@juno.com (email)

Leonard, Alvin R. (81) (Jean), 12705 SE River Rd, Apt 504A, Portland, OR 97222-9732 (address)

Livingston, Russell K. "Russ" (02) (Anita), Golden, CO, russandanita@comcast.net (email)

Long, Mrs. William A. "Betty" (W), Stuart, FL (Bill died)

Madrill, David C. (03), 478 Sundown Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81504-6121, 970-523-5971 (address, phone)

Martens, Lawrence A. "Larry" (92) (Rita), Pell City, AL, lmartens@centurytel.net (email)

Martin, Will C. (97) (Loretta), wandlmartin@bellsouth.net (email)

McAlwee, Patricia M. (04), pmcalwee@verizon.net (email)

Meadows, Mrs. Linda E. (97) (Douglas), 4302 Turtle Lane, Little River, SC 29566-7973 (address)

Molenaar, Dee (83) (Colleen), Burley, WA, landformmaps@juno.com (email)

Moss, Marshall (94) (Carolyn), memoss@comcast.net (email)

Musgrove, Rufus H. (80), Dowling Park, FL (Rufus died 24 Mar 2005)

Nelson, George (93), gnels3915@aol.com (email)

Oden, Daisie M. (03), Fredericksburg, VA (spouse Hilliary died 3 July 2006)

Oltman, Mrs. Evelyn (W), Evanston, IL (Evelyn died August 4, 2006)

Owens, Nancy (98) (Dennis), nwowens@earthlink.net (email)

Penny, Mildred C. (86) Lawrence, KS (Mildred died 29 May 2006)

Peters, Jim (04) (Barbara), Strasburg, VA, jpeters@visuallink.com (email)

Porter, Mrs. Jo (95) (Charles), 2615 Hwy 325, Worthville, KY 41098, 502-463-2683 (address, phone)

Radke, Dean B. (96) (Dee), P.O. Box 8594, Missoula, MT 59807, dean_radke@msn.com (address, email)

Richardson, Don (73) (Jessie), 5814 61st Ave West, University Place, WA 98467, donjessier@peoplepc.com (address, email)

Ritter, John (95) (Judy), 6532 NW 37th Drive, Gainesville, FL 32653 (address)

Rubin, Jacob "Jake" (95) (Ruth), Palo Alto, CA, 650-494-6936 (phone area code)

Rutledge, Albert T. "Al" (06) (Anne), 11052 Thrush Ridge Rd, Reston, VA 20191, rutledgealbert@comcast.net (spouse, email)

Schmidt, Valarie L. (03) La Coste, TX (dropped)

Schneider, Robert (81) (Lore K), 7416 Spring Village Drive #112, Springfield, VA 22150 (address)

Shampine, William J. (05) (Faye), Ocala, FL, fabls62@cfl.rr.com (email)

Simpson, Charlene T. (06) (Bill), 125 Applegate Dr, Sterling, VA 20164 (conversion from affiliate member)

Slack, James R. (05) (Mary Ward), 305 New Cameron Drive, Lexington, VA 24450 (address)

Stamey, Timothy C. (06) (Brenda), 1924 Hunt Crossing Ct, Lawrenceville, GA 30043, 770-339-1634, tcstamey@aol.com (address, phone, email)

Stewart, Mrs. Mack R. "Ellen" (W), Marigold House, 5723 Jackson St, #214, Alexandria, LA 71301 (address correction)

Still, Patsy J. "Pat" (90), pjstill@charter.net (email)

Straka, Darla E. (05), 9499 Springtail Dr., Hereford, AZ 85615-7702, 520-225-0478 (address, phone)

Sylvester, Marc A. (04) (Marie Kelly) Danville, CA, marc@mtashland.net (email)

Taylor, George C. (74) (Ruth), Sunrise Asst. Living of Arlington, 2000 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22207, 703-524-5300 (desk) (address, phone)

Thomas, Janet T. (04), jnthomas@comcast.net (email)

Trainer, Mrs. Frank "Martha" (W), 10501 Lagrima de Oro Rd NE, Apt 345, Albuquerque, NM 87111 (address, Frank died May 30, 2006)

Vanlier, Kenneth E. (80) (Mary), 5026 SW 88th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32608 (address)

Visher, Mrs. Frank "Dorothy" (W), New Castle, CO (Dorothy died 28 June 2003)

Wald, Mrs. James D. "Donnita" (W), Bismarck, ND (James died 17 July 2006)

Weaver, Kenneth N. (94) (Mary), 2525 Pot Spring Rd, Unit 5322, Timonium, MD 21903-2852 (address)

Weir, James E. "Bert" (81), Wheat Ridge, CO (delete, Bert died 5 August 2006)

Wilson, Mrs. Alfonso "Beatriz" (W), El Paso, TX (Al died 25 June 2006)

Zaccor, Martha E. (89) Palo Alto, CA (spouse James died)

Zenone, Chester "Chet" (01) (Merilee), Salem, OR, chetwrdez@msn.com (email)

LEOPOLD SHACK AND FARM

WRD Retirees Tour and Luna B. Leopold Memorial Service

In 1935, Aldo Leopold and his family initiated their own ecological restoration experiment on a worn-out farm along the Wisconsin River outside of Baraboo, Wisconsin. Planting thousands of pine trees, restoring prairies, and documenting the ensuing changes in the landscape further informed and inspired Leopold. The Shack, a re-built chicken coop on the farm, is where Leopold and his family stayed on weekend retreats and is the birthplace of the essays in *A Sand County Almanac*, a classic in the conservation literature. Edited by Aldo's son Luna (former Chief Hydrologist of the Water Resources Division) and published in 1949 after Aldo's death, the essays serve as cornerstones for modern conservation science, policy, and ethics.

WRD Retirees held their thirteenth biennial reunion in Madison, Wisconsin, September 21-23, 2006. Ten early arrivals to the Reunion visited the Leopold Shack during a pre-Reunion tour on Thursday morning, September 21. Led by tour guides from the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the group visited several of the locations mentioned in *A Sand County Almanac* while listening to verse from the essays and ended their tour at the now-famous Shack structure.

Luna B. Leopold, Aldo's son, worked for the Water Resources Division during 1950 to 1973 and was Chief Hydrologist from 1957 to 1966. Luna died on February 23, 2006, at age 90. The Leopold family held a Memorial Service for Luna at the Shack on Sunday, September 24. Among 50 guests paying tribute to Luna were his sisters Estella (WA) and Nina (WI), children Bruce (MD) and Madelyn (WI), and stepchildren Rett (IL) and Carrie (WI). WRD Retiree, Bill Emmett, a 45-year associate of Luna's, related several 'Luna stories' to the enjoyment of the gathering. A Memorial to Luna was published on page 14 of the May 2006 WRD Retirees Newsletter 131 (available online at www.wrcretirees.org); some biographical data for Luna may be found there.



L to R: Larry and Virgene Becker, Bill and Helene Mann, Dick Swisshelm, Jim Blakey, Clarence Welborn, Jim and Merilee Bennett, and Bill Emmett.

TREASURER'S REPORT, THIRD QUARTER 2006

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$1,035.09 in its treasury at the end of the third quarter for calendar year 2006. Receipts for the quarter were \$2,048.00 from dues and contributions. Disbursements for the quarter were \$7,968.39 for printing and mailing of Newsletter nos. 131 and 132, and the 2006 WRD Retirees Directory (Thirty-Second Edition), including \$1,500 for the first 2006 WRD Hydrologic Technician Scholarship. Disbursements also include \$124.40 to cover the maintenance fees for the WRD Retirees Homepage.

During the quarter, a total of \$533.00 was received in contributions above dues from 33 members. Special thanks for contributions of \$6.00 or more go to: Bruce L. Foxworthy, James F. Turner, Robert W. Devaul, Robert W. James, Willard J. Gibbons, David C. Madril, Seymour "Sy" Subitsky, Milton O. Hackett, Stanley P. Sauer, Ben and Mary Jones, Wilbur O. Thomas, Sumner G. Heidel, Russell C. Wagner, James F. "Jim" Blakey, Russell E. Curtis Jr., James E. Elkins, Richard A. "Dick" Engberg, Betty B. Keener, Ruth Yeager-Thornburg, John R. Palmer, Mrs. John J. "Doris" Molloy, Claire A. Richardson, Jesse H. Kingler, Mark S. Gerl, Mrs. Adolph "Wanda" Summerlin, Robert C. Bubeck, William H. Robinson, Larry L. Jones, Marjorie S. Reid, Philip "Phil" Cohen, Glenn G. Patterson, Donald E. Vaupel, Edwin H. McGavock, A. H. "Gus" Ludwig, and Charles G. Lamb. Contributions of less than \$6.00 from 8 members also are appreciated.

DO YOU OWE ANY DUES TO WRD RETIREES?

Do you owe WRD Retirees any dues? Please check for a number in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label of this Newsletter. This number represents the last year your dues were paid. For example, if the number is 2006, then you owe dues for 2007; if the number is 2005, then you owe dues for two years (2006 and 2007). Dues have been increased to \$10.00 per year. The dues increase is to cover the costs of printing and mailing the Newsletter and funding the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship. The increase is less than the cost of a couple gallons of gas! We will accept dues for advance years, and contributions above dues are still welcome and appreciated! If the number shown in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label for this edition of WRD Retirees Newsletter is 2006 or earlier, please send your check for dues owed to WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280. Please indicate how much of your payment is for dues and how much is a contribution. We are not perfect -- please let us know if we have made any error in recording your dues payments. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter!

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