

WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 157

November 2012

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

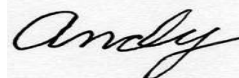
Can you and I believe that fall has practically come and gone so quickly? Several things have happened since the August Newsletter. One great item taken care of is the Hydro-Tech Scholarship. The three successful nominees received their scholarship money and certificates well before they headed back to school (pictures, article begin on page 13). I want to thank those who donated a little extra money toward the scholarship fund, along with their dues (see page 6). That is one of a number ways to be a volunteer to our organization. Very important ways are to send Charles Nethaway, our editor, articles about happenings in your life for future Newsletters; notifying us of any new retirees and retiree-related deaths; keeping in touch with other retirees by phone, e-mail, and letters; and by helping form and attending meetings in your area.

I worked in the safety program the last 10-12 years of my career, traveling to all of the WRD districts, inspecting offices, storage, vehicles, and a great variety of field installations. A better job than that would be hard to find. The rule was to visit all districts once every five years, so I traveled approximately one week each month. During this time I met a great number of our field employees, who are now retired and attend the reunions. It is believed that I may have visited more field installations than anyone.

Since my retirement in January 1995, I have really enjoyed attending the last eight bi-annual WRD Retirees Reunions, getting to meet with old and new retirees, plus attending our lunch/meetings at a local diner each month and learning what is happening in the lives of our local retirees. We have been fortunate to have interesting speakers at our meetings, and I haven't noticed anyone falling asleep.

The Reunion, held in Boise, ID, in September, was well attended. It was very well organized by Kathy Peter and her committee. All aspects went as planned, from the hotel check-in, the registration, hospitality room, our usual meet-and-greet appetizer social on Thursday evening, the business meeting on Friday morning, and free time in the afternoon. The planned trips in and around Boise on Saturday were well attended, and the banquet dinner was really a great experience to complete our reunion. Everyone I spoke with said they enjoyed all aspects of the reunion very much. Approximately thirty Information Technology folk attended the reunion, thanks to Gail Kalen, Gloria Stiltner, and Pat McAlwee.

The headquarters unit of WRD Retirees is now welcoming members of the Geologic Division retirees to our monthly meeting/lunches, which adds an extra dimension to our USGS-WRD Retirees family. Due to age, disabilities, and deaths of WRD retirees, attendance has been tapering off slightly. Since last May we have had about 11 Geologic Division retirees attending our meetings.



Our November Newsletter Supplement

We have a great online Supplement this month. Retiree Clint Nagel, MT, wrote a terrific piece on the history of the gaging station on the Merced River at Happy Isles Bridge near Yosemite, CA. Pete Scott, FL, sent us photos of training classes that were held in Las Vegas and Golden in the 1960s. One is of a class of WRD USGS future recruiters. Besides what we have in the main Newsletter about the Boise 2012 Reunion, we have a list of the attendees and more Reunion photos. Go to www.wrcretirees.org/newsletter.htm page and click on the November 2012 supplement.

National Officers: Clarence W. Anderson, President Alberto Condes, Vice President Charles W. Boning, Secretary Celso Puente, Treasurer Charles Nethaway, Archivist	Regional Directors: Sharon Goss, Northeast Richard M. Bloyd, Southeast C.R. Burchett, Central Chester "Chet" Zenone, Western	Newsletter Staff: Editor: Charles Nethaway Layout Editor: Dorothy M. Woods NR: Eileen R. Smith SR: Vivian Olcott CR: Merilee Bennett WR: John Klein	Address: WRD Retirees P.O. Box 280 Herndon, VA 20172-0280 Phone (703) 648-5641 Web Page: WRD Retirees.org Email: wrcretirees@usgs.gov
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Directory Changes

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Beall, Mrs Robert "Elinor" (W) 562 Patterson Ave, Cumberland, MD 21502 -- address
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Brown, Mrs Eugene "Birdie" (W) 20206 NE 160th Ave Rd, Ft McCoy, FL 32134 -- address
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Norton, Carolyn V (10) 405-752-8540 -- phone
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Ward, Stephen (10) (Ada) smward99@cascable.com -- email
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Wells, Frank (97) (Cindy) fcwells@yahoo.com -- email
Yarger, Mrs Lenord "Clara" (W) 918 Piedra Vista Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123-1948 -- address

New Members

Ardourel, Harold (12) (Maggie Page) 5590 W Lehigh Ave, Denver, CO 80235, 303-984-1064, hardourel@gmail.com
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Gissendanner, John (99) 553 Rainbow Circle, West Columbia, SC 29170, 803-794-9363, gissendanerj@bellsouth.net
Kenyon, Karen (07) (Arny) 9862 W Holt St, Boise, ID 83704, ronikrawl@yahoo.com
Lietman, Patricia (12) 57 Walsh Rd, Halifax, PA 17032, 717-896-3050, plietman@comcast.net
Lins, Katherine (12) (Harry) 2617 Mt. Laurel Place, Reston, VA 20191, 703-620-9240, Lins.katherine@yahoo.com
Pearl, Richard (96) (Muriel) 1803 So Balsam St, Apt 123, Lakewood, CO 80232, 303-798-6641, rhpearl@aol.com
Tucker, Betty (12) (Alan) 1235 Crescent Ave, Idaho Falls, ID 83402, 208-529-2511, tuckere7@msn.com
Wentz, Dennis "Denny" (12) 1840 SE St Andrews Dr, Portland, OR 97202, 503-231-5038

WRD Retirees Directories

We are soliciting pictures that are suitable for the Directory cover. Typically, the pictures are of older equipment, field activities, etc. If you have any such pictures and would like to see them on a cover of a future Directory, please send them to WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon VA 20170. Scanned photos can be emailed to wrdretirees@usgs.gov. Please identify where the picture(s) were taken, and who took them. Credits will be given for the sender of any picture we select.

WRD NEWS

What's New in Research?

By: Jerad Bales, USGS Chief Scientist for Water

Trapping of Sediment and Phosphorus by Reservoirs on Susquehanna River



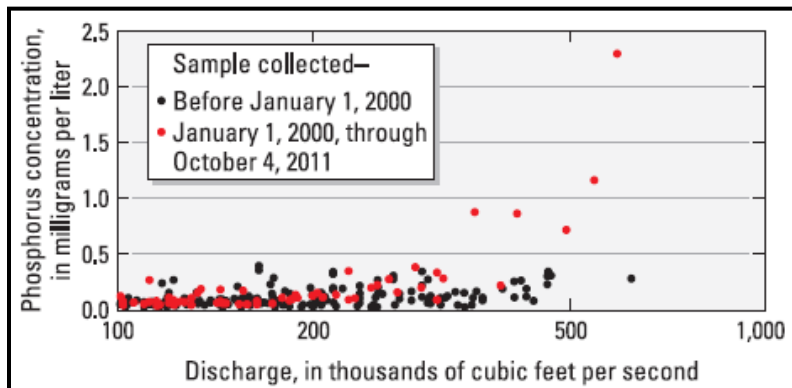
View of the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Lee. Discharge at time of the photo was 220,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Peak discharge for the flood was 778,000 cfs.

The three dams at the downstream end of the Susquehanna River are important in mitigating the downstream transport of nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended sediment from the Susquehanna River watershed to the Chesapeake Bay. The reservoirs are known to be more than 80 percent filled with sediment. A consequence of that filling is that the reservoirs are no longer a major sink for the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment coming from the watershed, but rather are approaching steady state, with an approximately equal balance between the fluxes of these materials that enter the reservoir and those that leave the reservoir and enter the Chesapeake Bay.

A new study by Bob Hirsch (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5185/pdf/sir2012-5185-508.pdf>) demonstrates the effects of recent changes in the trapping

efficiency of the reservoirs (see figure). Water-quality and discharge measurements made during the large flood in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Lee (September 2011), as well as high flows that occurred in March 2011 and after Hurricane Ivan (September 2004), indicate that the threshold for scour in the reservoirs is decreasing, resulting in higher concentrations of phosphorus (as well as suspended sediment) being exported to Chesapeake Bay than prior to about 2000. The relation between discharge and concentration of total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and suspended sediment has changed substantially over the past 10 to 15 years.

The net result of changes upstream in the watershed and within the reservoirs has been a trend of generally increasing fluxes of phosphorus and suspended sediment of slightly more than 3 percent per year since 2000, and a decrease of about 0.3 percent per year for nitrogen. According to the report, from 1996-2011 total phosphorus moving into the Bay has increased by 55 percent, and suspended sediment has increased by 97 percent. These changes have major implications for Chesapeake Bay restoration activities.



Observed concentration of total phosphorus as a function of discharge for the Susquehanna River at Conowingo, MD, showing the change in the relation between discharge and concentration for flows above about 200,000 cfs

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Chuck Berkstresser of Carmichael, CA, reports in with, "By phone, I stay in contact with various retirees, and with some WRDers who went on to other jobs. One is **Jim Helms**, a chemist who was chemistry lab supervisor in Sacramento for about 5 or 7 years, back in the late 1960s and early 70s, till the lab moved to Salt Lake City. Jim lost his wife to various ailments last year. He retired from the U.S. Corps of Engineers and lives in the Seattle area. Jim is doing Okay now. Another former employee of the Ground Water Branch is **Raoul LeBlanc**, a GW technician. Raoul also lives in the Seattle area, which is mushroom paradise. In case it is not obvious, he is a mushroom aficionado and expert (he is still alive and finding edible varieties). Yet another, **Mike Thompson** (not the California Congressman) was WAE in QW before going to the Geologic Division full-time in Menlo Park. All were friends – and still alive. I stay in contact, or try to, with **John Bader**, **Gil Bertoldi**, and **Gail Keeter**. We recently had a mini-reunion set up by Gail. A larger one occurred at **Bob Simpson's** memorial get-together, attended by at least 15 WRD retirees. I still travel to see my four daughters who are spread out over parts of California, and Phoenix, AZ, and they visit me as they can, as do three (of 7) grandchildren. In October, my retired daughter and I will drive to phoenix – I hate flying! Thanks to all who keep "Retirees" going. There are a diminishing number of names I recognize in the "Retirees" – after all, I will have been retired 40 years in June 2013. Unbelievable! Best Wishes."

Mary Oltman Bishop, **Roy Oltman's daughter**, wrote, "I was so pleased to see the WRD newsletter still in publication, and even recognize a few names from the 07 edition I stumbled upon. My name is **Mary Oltman Bishop**, and I am **Roy and Evelyn Oltman's** daughter. It was heartwarming to see **Curt Davis** recognize my father's Amazon River leadership. In 2007, Mr. Davis was still alive. Is he with us still? *[Editor's note: Curt Davis is still an active member of WRD Retirees. He lives in Colonial Beach, VA with his wife, Barbara.]* Our family has copies of the excellent National Geo film made about the Amazon exploration. It was big news in the early 60's. Even more exciting to us little kids was my Dad's appearance on the popular quiz show, "To Tell the Truth." Daddy was such a fine and ethical man; he was a very poor liar on the show and everyone but one person guessed him as the "real" Roy Oltman. Believe me, there was only *ONE* Roy Oltman, and when he died of cancer at only age 65, we were heartbroken. My sister, Mariah, and I are still living, but we lost Mark a few years ago. Mark left two talented young adults, Michael Roy and Erin. I wonder if anyone from my father's era is alive. The last old friend I saw after my mother's death (at age 90) was **Bill Schaefer**.

"I recall colleagues of my parents--the **Mesniers** (MONYAY, pronunciation), **Jim and Madge Carter**, **Tate and Billie Dalrymple**, the **Wells (Joe and Mack** and their engaging poodle named Bounce), **Phil and Gwen Somers** (not sure of spelling of last name, but they were especially fun), **Frances and Helen Sessums**, the **Riggs (Joe and Jonnie)**. -- I am sure I leave many out, but those names come quickly to mind. There was a small family with a couple who lived very long lives--their daughter named Joan, a beautiful and funny woman, took care of them. They were favorites, but I cannot remember the last name. I recall that there was a poker group with the absurdly literary name **Thanotopsis**. This game rotated between homes and I think was mostly survey men. We were kicked out for its duration by my dad --we'd see a movie, have ice cream, and sometimes circle the block waiting to come in. This must have given the men a good opportunity to curse and scratch and talk survey business. They played for small sums. Daddy would arrange an enormous pile of deadly deli cuts; he was particular about this meat tower and insisted on doing it himself. Roy and Evelyn hosted many cocktail buffet dinner parties in those years, cramming large boisterous groups into our house in Falls Church, and we were well trained to pass some appetizers and then vamoose to our upstairs lair. Before long, the large group of well oiled revelers would be singing while my mother played old favorites on the piano. Bourbon was the favored drink in Virginia and my Dad poured freely though wasn't much of a drinker himself. One time my brother and sister ate all of my mother's famous Swedish meatballs just before the party. This was not popular. But they really were delicious. I also recall our dachshund destroying one of the men's hats in the 50's--there was always a pile of gray hats, and he took a fancy to one. He left some wet fluff. This was not popular either. Around that time, some couple, possibly the Riggs, gave me a female guinea pig and my brother a male one. They must have hated my parents. You can guess what happened. We had their squealing descendants for many years until they all escaped in a rainstorm and drowned. By that time we despised them and their incessant squealing, so no tears. My parents were terrible bridge players, and once won the survey booby prize--a white rat. We loved him, named him Frosty, and one of the USGS women made him a tiny necklace of Velveeta hearts. This was still in our fridge in a small red foil box when my mother died; such is the lifespan of Velveeta. Finally, I recall the survey picnic. It coincided with the most blistering, drippy worst summer day before air conditioning, often held at a park like Great Falls with its fantastic merry go round. Everyone brought pot luck food, and had a festive time. From my memory, the USGS was an organization of smart, hard working men (there must have been a couple of women, but I don't recall them in hydrology) most with WW2 service. My Dad spent almost every night reading science journals, and this after working from 7 to 7. I ended up marrying

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a geophysicist (now deceased) and I learned that earth scientists 1) love to be in the field, 2) love to have a few drinks, and 3) are pranksters. I was well prepared for this world from my survey childhood. Not a bad occupation!



"I forgot to mention that we have the original (or an exact model) of the equipment used to measure the Amazon flow, 1963-1964. I recall that my father bought and learned to use a metal lathe prior to the expedition and had to hand create some of the parts they needed. Helped to have his civil engineering degree, I'm sure! "

Editor's Note: Roy Oltman had several leadership positions in WRD; he was Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Research and Technical Coordination, 1966-1971.

Bob Davis writes from Montana, "I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in early August. The cancer had spread from the pancreas to the liver and the initial prognosis was rather grim. However, I started a relatively new and aggressive chemotherapy treatment and the results so far have been surprisingly promising. I don't know what course future treatments will follow, but I am optimistic about a good outcome. I have received many kind thoughts and words of encouragement from many dear friends, and I can't adequately express my appreciation. However, I hope a sincere, heart-felt thank you will suffice for now. Many thoughts go through one's mind at a time like this. The most prominent thought for me was how fortunate I have been to have known and worked with so many wonderful and talented people that I can truly regard as friends. Those friendships brought meaning and happiness throughout my career and continue in retirement. Their value to me is enormous and, once again, I offer my thanks and best wishes to you all."

Hal Langford read the input in this section about **Roy Oltman** and responded with the following: "Thanks, Charles for the letter from Roy Oltman's daughter. I was a colleague of Roy's in the Lincoln, NE, regional office from 1949 to 1959 and then in Washington, DC, from 1959 to 1961, and again from 1966 on until his retirement. As a member of the Thanatopsis poker group, I enjoyed many evenings at Roy's home. I always could go to Roy for advice (technical or otherwise) and valued his views greatly. One anecdote about Roy sticks in my memory. One winter when the Survey was conducting bed-load research at the artificial flume on the Middle Loup River at Dunning, NE, Roy was caught in a blizzard between Broken Bow and Dunning, NE, and could not go forward or turn around in the snow. So he backed the sedan delivery vehicle about 20 miles in the snow storm into Broken Bow. This feat illustrates his character about as well as any I can think of, for he would tackle any problem - even the Amazon River - head on and solve it."

John Musser, our Louisiana contact, reports, "The Louisiana Retirees held their quarterly luncheon on September 5. The main topic of interest was the impact of Hurricane Isaac on South Louisiana in late August – trees uprooted, roofs damaged by wind and rain, days of power outages, and street and house flooding in many communities, especially along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, owing to storm surge. Some of our regulars could not attend this luncheon, owing to damage to their property. Attendees were **George Cardwell**, **Vergie Couvillion**, **Louis** and **Sue Chaisson**, **Don Dial**, **Darwin Knochenmus**, **Will Martin**, **John** and **Nancy Musser**, **Dale Nyman**, and **Dan Tomaszewski**.

Betty Smith, widow of **Earl Smith**, writes to **Bill Boning**, "**Larry Hubbard** -- I'm not sure of the name but he went on to be a district leader in OR – went on a trip in the field with Earl. His wife told me that he dreaded that first trip but when it happened, 'it wasn't so bad.' There were young men and Earl was pleased when Earl

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suggested they might like to read an article about high-water marks' – Hubbard took his home. The other fellow left it on his desk for when he had the time. One more item about Earl – When was Grand Coulee Dam built? It seems that Earl told a story about a school trip to see the first bucket of cement poured for the dam. He graduated in '37. Back to me, in 2010 I turned 90 years old. I had colon cancer, had surgery, and have made an excellent recovery. In 2011, I went to Kentucky to my oldest great-granddaughter's high school graduation. A checkup in 2012 determined that all is well. I have made numerous travels, including an Elderhostel (now Road Scholar) trip to Nanaimo, BC, and to Berlin, Germany to visit an exchange student that had lived with me. There were side trips to Potsdam and to other "new" places. I have just returned from a trip to Dubai, where I saw many memorable sights, including the tall buildings, the many shops on the narrow side streets, the Mall of the Emirates, and a trip to the desert where there were camels, small settlements, a car museum, and excellent restaurants, particularly along Dubai Creek – the main street for boats. And, thanks to all of the WRD Retirees volunteers for their work for the organization."

[Editor's notes: Grand Coulee Dam was constructed between 1933-1942. Betty's memory is on the mark. Larry L. Hubbard was in the Spokane Subdistrict office in the early 1960s with Bill Boning and Earl Smith. Larry did go to Oregon to be the Subdistrict Chief in Portland, then the Assistant District Chief for Hydrologic Data.]

Ken Vaught writes to **Charles Nethaway**, referring to the August Newsletter Supplement, "I just came across the 1976 photo of the group in front of Bldg 53 at the Denver Federal Center – what a treat to see some old familiar faces! Thanks for making that photo available and hope you are doing well. **Tom Major** and I were in the office next to yours in Bldg 53 during this time. Thanks."

CT Welborn told us of the Texas WRD Retirees, "We ate at Nutty Brown's in the High Country, me and only 6 showed up. Those that did make it to the good food and fellowship were: **Bob and Libby Burchett, Frank Wells, Willard Gibbons, and Clarence and Dixie Welborn**. I can excuse **Paul Rohne** because he is tied up with FEMA in Louisiana. Frank has been working his ranch but has little produce because of the drought. Well, I hope more of us make the next Nutty Brown meeting which will be in April. Frank and Cindy live on their ranch in Liberty Hill which is about 40 or 50 miles from the Nutty Brown Restaurant. Willard has been working with his photos and moving about looking for more sights to shoot. CT and Dixie have a couple of Willard's prints. Bob hasn't done much since his trip to Tennessee. CT, Dixie, Clarence's three daughters, and Marylyn Souther, Dixie's oldest will be cruising to the Caribbean at the end of this month. CT said that it's been almost a year since he was forced to give up driving and he is still not use to it. The November meeting will be on the 14th at 0930 hours."

Newsletter Layout Editor Needed

Dotty Woods, our Layout Editor, would like to be moving on after the November Newsletter is published. Jim Biesecker was able to persuade her to continue many issues longer than at first thought. Charles, Dotty, and Andy are going over some names, but would like to have input from fellow retirees. Please let us know who could and would volunteer for this position. It is not a hard job for someone with good computer skills, and it doesn't take a lot of time. Editing for several hours every three months is probably what is necessary.

Do I owe WRD Retirees dues?

If you receive a paper copy of the Newsletter by U.S. Mail, there is a number in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label on the envelope. This number is the last year you paid dues. If the number is 2012, then you owe dues for 2013. If the number is 2011, then you owe dues for 2012 and for 2013; if the number is 2010, then you owe dues for three years (2011, 2012, and 2013). If you receive your Newsletter electronically you should receive an email message from our Secretary describing the status of your dues.

Dues are \$10 per year and cover the cost of the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship and printing and mailing the Newsletter and Directory. We accept dues for advance years, and contributions above dues are appreciated! If you owe dues to WRD Retirees, please make your check to WRD Retirees, and send it to WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon VA 20172-0280. Indicate how much is for dues and how much is a contribution. Please let us know if we have made an error in recording your past payments. If you have questions, email Bill Boning at cwboning@verizon.net or wrdretirees@usgs.gov. Please also send some "News of Retirees" for the next Newsletter!

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

Ohio District Retirees Luncheon -- October



L to R: Bernie Sroka, Janet Welday (Jerry), Sandy Beck, Steve Hinall, Alan Sedam, Ann Arnett (Dan), and Dick Swisshelm (not in photo).

The Ohio District Retirees meet in October and April for lunch and they are invited to participate with the District office at their picnic in August and Christmas party in December.

MISSOURI LUNCHEON -- June 19, 2012



L to R, Row 1 - Juanita Jeffrey, Horace Jeffery, Tina Eudaly, Mary Rosenburg, Mel Jansen, Barbara Wessner, Suzanne Femmer, Larry Becker

L to R, Row 2 - Cheryl Jansen, Don Spencer, Sue Price, Carmen Liesman, Cathy Hauck, Dale Blevens, Henry Hauck, Nelda Reed, Lester Grayson, Leon Reed, Leo Emmitt, Bob Whitaker, Larry Lumpkin, George Gray, Barbara Gray, Loyd Waite, Patti Barks, Jim Barks

The above photo of the WRD Missouri Retirees was taken at Reed's Lake in Phelps County near Rolla, MO, on June 19th, where they enjoyed a picnic. All retirees and spouses are from the Rolla, St. Louis, and Independence areas of Missouri. Suzanne Femmer recently retired on August 24, 2012.

2012 Boise Reunion

Reunion Committee



L to R: Ivalou O'Dell, John Briggs, Kay Lehmann, Dan Ackerman, Pat Hammond, Bruce Parks, Kathy Peter, Dave Appel.

First-Time Attendees



Front 8: Alan Lamb, Jim Eychaner, Mark Hardy, Charles Nethaway, Bob Blazs, Dick Bow, Robilea Swindell, Kerry Garcia

Back group: Barb Eychaner, Carolyn Lumb, Gail Kalen, Pat Hammond, Bob Hammond, Janice Meckel, Jim Kratz, Jim Meckel, Walt Rennick, Ivalou O'Dell, Alan Tucker, Betty Tucker, Jim Nicholas, Bill Harenberg, Gary Rogers, Jean Harenberg, Janet Rogers, Charlotte Ackerman, Kay Lehmann, Dan Ackerman, Gloria Stiltner, Pat McAlwee, Bruce Parks, Cheryl Parks, Karen Kenyon, Muffy Lindholm, Jerry Lindholm, Ruth Thornberg, Al Arntson, Linda Geiger, Erin Glysson, Jerry Feese, Doug Glysson

Idaho Attendees



Standing from left to right, Janice Meckel, Jim Meckel, Ivalou O'Dell, Alan Tucker, Betty Tucker, Bill Harenberg, Gary Rogers, Jean Harenberg, Janet Rogers, Charlotte Ackerman, Dan Ackerman, Kay Lehmann, Cheryl Parks, Bruce Parks, Kathy Peter, Karen Kenyon, Jerry Lindholm, Muffy Lindholm; kneeling, Mark Hardy

Summary of WRD Retirees 2012 Reunion Business Meeting by Bill Boning

The 2012 WRD Retirees Reunion was held on Thursday, September 19, 2012 to Saturday September 20, 2012. Also a pre-reunion float trip down the Payette River and a post-reunion trip to Sun Valley were part of the reunion.

On Friday morning a business meeting was held. Andy Anderson thanked Kathy Peter, Reunion coordinator and her team, and gave a rendition of the challenges he has had as the newly elected President of the organization, noting that the next reunion will be in the Portland, ME area with Derrill Cowing leading that reunion. Hal Langford gave a summary of the condition of Milt Hackett who has suffered a stroke that has rendered him quite immobile.

Andy then introduced Bill Werkheiser who discussed a variety of things, including the changes at headquarters, the hazards program, Streammail where one can obtain current streamflow conditions, flood inundation mapping with the Corps of Engineers and the National Weather Service, the Rapid Response program, and water monitoring using new technologies. He discussed streamtide networks, the world-wide drought program, and Paul Hsieh's work on the Horizon oil spill for which he won the 2011 Federal Employee of the Year Medal. Bill stated the Survey's vision was to ensure that water is cheap, plentiful, and clean. He briefly described Sparrow modeling, fiber optic modeling, the Delaware River cold water plume, and concluded with a video on Asian Carp.

Following numerous question directed at Bill Werkheiser, Kathy Peter introduced Michael Lewis, the newly selected Director of the Idaho Water Science Center. Mike described his initial days in the position, described the Water Science Center organization, and concluded with plaudits about working for the Geological Survey.

Andy Anderson introduced Derrill Cowing, who gave a brief description of the 2014 reunion to be in the Portland, ME area, noting that it probably will be held a bit later in the year than the 2012 reunion.

The 126 names of members, spouses, and other Survey retirees who have passed away since the 2010 reunion were read by Herb Freiburger and Dick Engberg.

Kathy Peter closed the business meeting by summarizing the activities for the remainder of the reunion. She noted the afternoon trip to the Sawtooth Winery, the trips available for Saturday, and the banquet Saturday evening.

IT Attendees at the WRD Retirees Reunion, Boise, Idaho, September 21, 2012



Front Row (left to right): Marty Stewart, David Boldt, Lorna Schmid, Debbie Spahr, Glenn Doonan, Patty Damon, Carolyn Lumb, Alan Lumb; Middle Row: Pat McAlwee, Gary Rogers, Mindy Blalock, Darcy Person, Gail Kalen, Daphne Wahl, Charles Nethaway, Randy Fields (kneeling); Back Row: Linda Geiger, John Briggs, Gloria Stiltner, Isabelle Halley des Fontaines, Jerry Feese, Merritt Blalock, Dan Gockel, Jim Fulton, Al Arntson, Dick Bow, Scott McFarlane, Walt Rennick; Missing: Ruth Thornberg, Kerry Garcia.

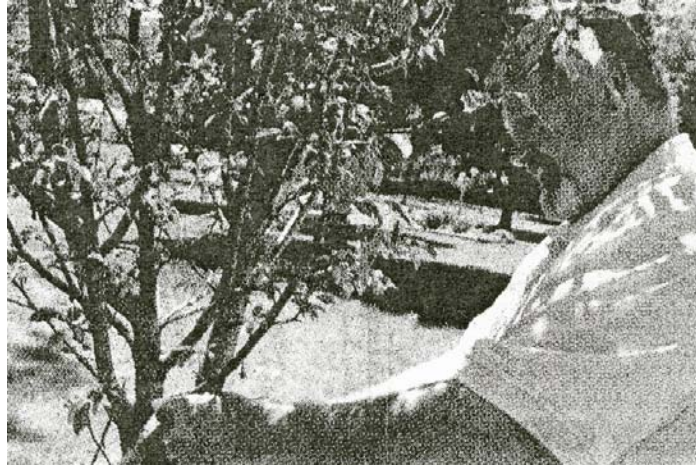
IT Group Attends Boise Reunion

Do you remember the Prime minicomputers or the Data General (DG) desktops that began arriving in the 1980s? If you do, did you know that a group of both retired and currently active Information Technology (IT) personnel who were former System or Software Administrators (SAs) on those computers held an IT meeting at the Sixteenth WRD Retirees Reunion in Boise? Maybe you noticed some new faces, some seemingly too young to be retired, who had not attended any previous reunions. But they may have just blended into the crowd since they weren't wearing pocket protectors or talking in "computerese." This group of approximately 30 IT people came to Boise to visit with old friends and learn some new facts about the state of computing both inside and outside of the USGS.

When Kathy Peter was approached about allowing the IT people to have their own meeting which would coincide with the Business Meeting, she didn't hesitate. She worked with the Owyhee Plaza Hotel to get us our own conference room and the results were even better than we could have anticipated. Photos from past National Information Technology Meetings (NCTM) were on display along with the places and dates of all the NCTMs since the first one was held in Denver too many years ago. Presentations were given by Jim Fulton, Daphne Wahl, and Randy Fields. Names were drawn to tell the group what has been happening in their lives since the Primes and DGs went out the door. Of course we had door prizes which had to be earned by naming 20 former SAs from a selection of past photos. The winner, Daphne Wahl, was able to name 18 out of 20 SAs while the runner-up, Debbie Spahr, named 15. Most of the IT attendees took advantage of the tours and they enjoyed the interaction with their group, even when a forest fire caused the Swan Falls Dam tour to be terminated prematurely. All of the IT people thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as you can see from the group photo that was taken after our meeting. We hope we can do this again in 2014 in Portland, ME.

WRD Volunteers in Action

WRD Retiree Conkling leads "Trees Forever" Efforts in Badger, Iowa



Alvin Conkling, Trees Forever president in Badger and the city's former mayor, admires one of seven trees recently planted in the city's park. Badger again was named a Tree City USA this year for its efforts. ---Photo by B. Summers

Alvin Conkling, WRD Retiree since 2004, served as Badger councilman and its mayor for 21 years. He continues his public service today as head of Trees Forever, taking over the program from Mary Lou Secor.

"She loved trees and flowers, and she was really good at it," he said. "Three or four years ago, she was not able to continue living on her own, and she had to move to an apartment in Humboldt. At that time, I was still mayor, so I just took over the position and continue taking care of the trees, the grant money, and planting for the city of Badger."

The project began with a small area outside of town, near its lagoon system. "It was kind of like a wildlife area, with plenty of different trees," Conkling said. "Some years before that, we had an area by the elevator that would block off the elevator from the residential. We planned several rows of planting trees there. Now we're putting trees in the park."

Conkling has been a public servant "one way or another," having worked 38 years for the USGS, specializing in water resources.

"I'm still on call, working for them, after I retired even," he said. "Public service work, even after I got out, I continued doing the trees as something to do to contribute to the city. Small towns need people volunteering, just going and doing things. "There is value in beautification," Conkling said. "This year I planted some Japanese lilac trees," he said. "We planted some of those over in our park areas, so we'd have some different colors, blooms in the fall, and different variations of colors. Our problem is that we're running out of public areas to plant trees in. We have to get innovative where we put the trees."

Last year, Badger was recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for an 18th year. "It's always nice to be recognized for your efforts," Conkling said. "It's a positive thing that people come forward and recognize that. It's not a real necessary thing, but it's nice."

Badger was also one of 24 cities in Iowa to receive a special growth award.

"It's an extra effort of doing extra things with planting trees and promoting the care of trees," Conkling said. "We usually get free wood mulch from some of the tree trimmers, and they leave it in town. People can come get free mulch for their trees."

Seven new trees were planted in the city park this spring, Conkling said, and its entrance was redone. "Prisoners over at Rockwell City rebuilt the gates and the railing for it. This will really enhance the park over there," he said. "We're going to have to start looking for some more areas to plant the trees in because we're running out. We want at least some open spaces for kids to play soccer or toss a football. We don't want to get too crowded with trees, so there are no open spaces."

Conkling enjoyed his 21 years serving as councilman and as mayor of Badger, he said. "In a small town, it's the little things that are always there." "It's not the big things people make issues of, especially in small towns. Everybody's got a better idea how to do things. You deal with it, and accept people's input. You let the council work with them and let them decide what they want to do, because they have the say of if they want to spend the money for the project or not." Conkling became involved with city government by providing input and knowledge granted to him from his work with the USGS, particularly in acquiring items, something that's "been helpful over the years."

"I was able to obtain a 4-wheel drive emergency vehicle for the Fire Department at no cost through a program where vehicles are surplus," he said. "We had a surplus 4-wheel drive Suburban at the time, so we were able to get that surplus to the Forestry Department in Ames, and they were able to give it back to the Badger Fire Department. They used it for an emergency vehicle for medical calls. At the time, they didn't have anything with 4-wheel drive or for winter weather."

This summer, Conkling will continue his work with the Geological Survey. Though he retired in 2004, 3 months later he took on an on-call position. "Every year I work some time for them on different projects," he said. "Last year I worked on the Missouri River flood in the Omaha area. "This summer, I'm going back and work on the river. We're going to go out and collect data on the bed material, how it moved down the channel."

Conkling was previously involved with the 1993 flood, work that kept him busy coordinating resources for repairing flood damage through 1994. "My job has allowed me to do quite a bit of traveling throughout the country, different areas of doing outreach for the USGS, doing demonstrations," he said. "I worked a couple of national Boy Scout jamborees. I've done open houses. It's been a rewarding career, all around."

It's important to serve your community, Conkling said. "It's up to each individual," he said. "You put in life what you get out of it. Some people just want to go along and let somebody else do those things and they're not interested. I do the same thing at our church. I volunteer and do projects, whatever may come up that I'm able to do for them."

Conkling finds volunteering personally rewarding. "I can look back, not only for myself, but it stands as an example for my grandkids and my kids," he said. "I think it's a good, positive image for kids to see that people go out and volunteer and not expect anything back from it. You should go at it just because you want to do it, without a pat on the back or thank you or anything else."

At Boise Reunion Gala

CT Welborn and May Jones, Most Years Retired



Betty Tucker and Doug Glysson, Most Recently Retired



2012 Hydrologic Technicians Scholarships

The WRD Retirees were happy to give out three scholarships this year. After good competition, we were pleased to give them to first-place winner Timothy Bronetto of Gateway College, working in the Hawaii WSC; and second-place winners, tied, Alyxander Schlafge of Vermilion College who works in the Texas WSC and Sarah Jeanne Davis of Western Dakota College who is working in the Wyoming WSC.

Each year a WRD Retirees Scholarship Committee pour through nominees' applications and choose the winners. WRD Retirees support these deserving students who will have a very a good chance to become career employees of the Water Science Centers of the USGS. We know this is a win-win proposition!



Ronald L. Rickman, Data Section Chief, USGS, Honolulu, HI, left, was present when first-place scholarship recipient **Timothy Bronetto** received his award, a \$4,000 scholarship, along with retiree John Yee. Ron said, "Tim was very surprised and really stoked to receive the scholarship."

Stephen S. Anthony, Director of the USGS Pacific Islands WSC in Honolulu, said, "Tim is a worthwhile investment; a real keeper. *Mahalo* to John and the rest of the WRD retirees for making this possible. Tim was thrilled and honored."



Ernie Baker (USGS-Retired), left, looks on as Robert L. Joseph, Director, USGS Texas WSC, gives **Alyx Schlafge** the \$3,000 2nd Place scholarship. Joseph P. Capesius, Supervisory Hydrologist, Austin Field Unit, Texas WSC, said “Alyx is truly a pleasure to work with and I look forward to mentoring him more in the coming years.”



Sarah Jeanne Davis of Wyoming WSC receives her \$3,000 2nd Place scholarship from Studies Section Chief Kirk Miller. WSC Chief Dave Mott and retiree Dave Peterson look on. Everyone had a great pizza lunch following the presentation and made quite a social out of the scholarship get-together.

Dave Mott, Director of the Wyoming WSC said, “Sarah’s scholarship presentation was a fun and fulfilling day to get everyone together. It is inspirational to know the retirees still care so much for the hard work going on in the Centers and the importance of bringing in new talent. Sarah is a good one, you picked well.”

Details about the Hydrologic Technician scholarship program, including a list of all prior winners and the selection process are shown on the WRD Retirees web page at WRDRetirees.org, scholarships.

IN MEMORIAM

Gerry G. W. Armentrout of Green Valley, AZ, has passed away, this according to his son in a brief note that he sent us. We have no further details at this time. Gerry was born on September 15, 1927, and retired from the USGS in 1982. He began working for the USGS in 1951 as a Hydrologic Field Assistant, WAE, in Surface Water in the Champaign, IL, office. He married Valerie Hayes in Cook County, IL, in 1952. After being promoted and becoming a Hydraulic Engineer in 1953, Gerry relocated to Flagstaff, and in 1957 he was assigned to Safford, AZ, and was engineer-in-charge from 1959-1961. In 1961 Gerry moved to Topeka, KS (Studies Section) and in 1965, along with M. W. Busby, completed a 207-page *Kansas stream-flow characteristics Part 6A, Baseflow data, Technical Report 6A*. By 1966, Gerry had relocated to Casper, WY, where he spent the rest of his career as a supervisory hydraulic engineer in the Investigations Section of the Casper Subdistrict, Wyoming District. He was the Hydrologist-in-Charge in Casper from 1967-1975. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Gerry had three younger brothers (source: 1940 census), Norman, Dean, and Wayne.

Jack Thomas Barraclough, 84, of Idaho Falls, passed away on July, 24, 2012, at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center. He was born September 15, 1927, in Salt Lake City, UT. Jack joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 and served as a Gunner in WWII. Jack received his degree in Hydrology from the University of Idaho in Moscow, ID, in 1951. He first joined the USGS as a hydrologic engineer in 1951 in Boise, then moved to Florida from 1953-1963, as a ground-water specialist. In 1963, Jack returned to Idaho Falls to be a hydrologic engineer and then a research hydrologist (1966). Jack was a researcher and a project chief at the National Reactor Testing Station, later renamed the Idaho National Laboratory. Jack developed fundamental information on the disposing of reactor wastes. He retired from the USGS in 1983. Jack married Dorothy Jensen and they had children, Denise, Jacqueline and Bruce. He and Dorothy were active in the Kiwanis and Elk Clubs. He loved fishing, hunting, and camping and Yellowstone was an annual event. His marriage to Dorothy ended. Jack married Betty Howell in 1973, becoming the father for her five children. They had one son together, Jared. Betty passed away in 1981. Jack met and married Betty's good friend, Elaine Dalby, later in 1981. After retiring from the USGS, Jack became a hydrology consultant for EG&G Measurements. First elected in 1992, Jack served 14 years in the Idaho House Legislature and was a member of several committees. As Chair of Idaho's Education Committee, he facilitated the growth of Charter Schools. Jack and Elaine traveled and experienced many countries' cultures before Elaine died in 2009. Jack is survived by his children, Denise Plaizier; Jan (Daniel) Wanstrom; Bruce Barraclough; Douglas Howell; Renae (Greg) Barrett; Glade (Carrie) Howell; Garrett Howell; Jared (Janet) Barraclough; and brother, Hal Barraclough. He was a loving grandfather to 30 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wives Betty and Elaine; a brother, Albert; and a daughter, Jacqueline. Funeral Services were held at the Idaho Falls LDS Rose Park Ward with interment in Rose Hill Cemetery and Military Rites performed by the Bonneville County Veterans Memorial Team and Idaho Honor Guard. Condolences may be sent to the family online at www.woodfuneralhome.com.

C. Scott Bennett, III, 68, of Columbia, SC, passed away on May 2, 2012. Scott was born August 6, 1943 in Huntingdon, TN. He was a son of the late Curtis Scott Bennett, Jr. and Carmen Moore Bennett. Scott was a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a degree in Civil Engineering. While at the University of Utah, he was a member of Chi Epsilon National Honorary Civil Engineering Fraternity. He retired from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as Assistant District Chief for the State of South Carolina. While employed with the USGS, he was instrumental in bringing real-time data collection to the State of South Carolina. He was project leader on a study of the impact of the I-77 beltway around Columbia. He authored numerous other professional articles related to hydrology in South Carolina. Scott received the Superior Service Award for his contribution to the agency. After 6 years of retirement, he worked as a building inspector in Richland County, SC. Scott obtained a Master Code Professional certification, which at the time he was one of only 500 in the entire United States to have this distinction. He was recognized by Richland County for this exceptional accomplishment. He also held 17 other professional certifications, which was the most held by any inspector in the State of South Carolina; and served as mentor to new inspectors. He was also an Engineering Consultant with The Dennis Corporation. He was also a licensed home builder, licensed home inspector, and a master electrician. Scott's hobbies were fishing, any sports related to the Tennessee Volunteers, woodworking, enjoying nature, and spending time with his family and friends. His accomplishments were many but known to few due to his humble nature. Scott is survived by his wife of 26 years, Jane Hutto Bennett; son, Tim Bennett (Jan); daughter, Sheryl Bennett Lawter (Jody); step daughters, April Maranville Dowdee (Jim); Julianna Maranville O'Hara (Michael); and June Maranville; grandsons, Thomas Pease, Matthew Minnich, and Tyler Bennett; brother, Donald Bennett (Marcia); niece, Samantha and nephew, Chris; beloved dog, Lily and a host of family, friends, and beloved pets. A memorial service was held at Caughman-Harman Funeral Home, Irmo/St. Andrews Chapel. A Celebration of Scott's life followed at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Pets, Inc., 300 Orchard Drive, West Columbia, SC 29170 or to Midlands Special Needs Foundation, 109 A Vista Oaks Drive, Lexington, SC 29072, or a charity of one's choice.

Lewis G. Conn, 86, of Nashville, TN, passed away on September 26, 2009. He was preceded in death by his father, Herschel Conn and mother, Gladys Conn. Lewis is survived by his wife of 59 years, Gwen Conn; children, John Conn (Darlene); Melinda Conn; and Mary Lou Hutton (Robert); grandson, Ryan Hutton; sister, Mary Wayland; brother, H.L. Conn Jr. He was a graduate of Knoxville High School and received a bachelor's degree in Engineering from the University of Tennessee and served as a U.S. Marine during World War II in the South Pacific. He retired from the USGS after 40 years of service and was a devoted member of Belle Meade United Methodist Church. He was an avid fan of University of Tennessee athletics and worked for many years with Boy Scout Troop 8, assisting with their annual Christmas tree sale.

IN MEMORIAM

Funeral services were held at Belle Meade United Methodist Church. Grave-side services were held in Knoxville, TN, at Highland Memorial Cemetery on Kingston Pike. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Belle Meade United Methodist Church or Alive Hospice of Nashville.

Ola Belle Polk Denison, 85, died in San Angelo, TX, on Friday, December 9, 2011. Ola, wife of WRD Retiree **Ernest Samuel Denison**, was born on June 4, 1926, in Marvell, Phillips County, AR, to Roy Lee and Audie Lavoun Berry Polk. She attended schools in Marvell and Helena, AR. Funeral services were held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in San Angelo. For the past 64 years she has been married to Ernest. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandma and homemaker. She met Ernest in Memphis, TN, when he was stationed at the Naval Air Technical Training Center near Memphis. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Utah where she helped her husband earn a BS degree in civil engineering in 1951. Upon graduation, Ernest entered civil service as a hydraulic engineer with the USGS. His employment took them from Utah to Alaska and on to Nebraska, Texas, and the New England District and to Wyoming. After her husband retired from the USGS, they spent a year in the West Indies as LDS missionaries, serving in Haiti, Barbados, and Saint Lucia. Upon returning to their home in Cheyenne, they sold their house and moved back to San Angelo in 1985, the city they had previously learned to love. They built their own home in the Las Lomas Subdivision, a project that took 4 years. Ola Belle and Ernest were always active in their church and worked side by side in the various LDS organizations. Ola Belle was preceded in death by her parents; a younger brother, Darnell Roy Polk; a sister, Virginia Boyd; and a son, Ernest Darnell Denison. Ola leaves a legacy of love and service to 83 living posterity including her husband, Ernest, of 64 years and five of her six children and their spouses, Virginia Denison (Darnell's wife), Rozanne (Rick) Clayson, Mark (Melanie) Denison; Kevin (Shauna) Denison, Brent (Joy) Denison, and Roger (Janet) Denison. She has two sisters, Clarice (Lamon) Anderson, and Laverne (Maurice) Fey; and four brothers, Bobbie (Anne) Polk, Ray (Bobby) Polk, and Dennis (Vickie) Polk and Dale Polk. She also has 31 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren with more to come in the very near future. The family wishes to thank Hospice of San Angelo, Medway Home Health, and all the doctors, friends, and neighbors who have helped through this difficult time. Donations can be made to Hospice of San Angelo or your favorite charity.

Charles A. Favor, 69, husband of WRD Retiree **Barbara Favor**, passed away on July 14, 2011 in Tucson, AZ. Charles was born on January 1, 1942, in Elizabeth, NJ, son of Charles Anthony Favor and Elsie Catherine Rehus. Charlie is survived by his wife, Barbara and their children, Catherine (Michael) and Phillip (Natasha); his brother, Michael and grandson, Carson, as well as nieces and nephews. Barbara served in the U.S. Army in 1961-1964, then as a civil servant for the Department of the Army. She began work for the USGS in 1965 in the Basic Data Section in WRD in Washington, DC. She then spent 1967-1971 as a publications assistant with the WRD Bulletin in Washington. After taking time off to be a stay-at-home mom from 1971-1975, Barbara returned to the WRD Bulletin and in 1977 transferred to Tucson to work in the Reports Section until her retirement in 2001. The Favours were members of St. Vincent De Paul in San Angelo for 7 years. Charlie was also a veteran, serving in the Navy for 4 years. Donations may be made in Charlie's name to St. Vincent De Paul Society at Our Mother of Sorrows Church. Charlie was loved and will be missed by his family and friends. Services were held at Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Tucson. Interment was at East Lawn Cemetery. Arrangements were made by Heather Mortuary.

James Wyatt Gambrell, 98, patriarch of four generations of Gambrell's, passed away at Emory University Hospital VistaCare Hospice in Atlanta on January 15, 2012, from complications of pneumonia. Wyatt was born in Belton, SC, September 17, 1913, to Mamie Inez Poore Gambrell and Reuben Jackson Gambrell. He attended Duke University and graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1935 with a BS in Civil Engineering. In his 35-year career with the USGS, beginning in 1936 as a Junior Hydrologic Engineer in WRD, he was assigned to surface-water branches in NC, TN, LA, DC, and VA. When the Virginia offices were reorganized into a District, Wyatt became the first District Chief in the new Virginia WRD District in Richmond in 1966 and retired from Richmond in 1973. Wyatt dedicated himself to Gambrell family genealogy and donated 50 years of materials to the Belton Area Museum in 2010. Besides being devoted to his family and friends, Wyatt became an accomplished snow skier at age 70. Wyatt was predeceased by his parents; brother, Dr. Reuben J. Gambrell, Jr., noted artist; first wife, Mary Katherine Foster Gambrell. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Patricia Mayton Gambrell; two daughters, Allison G. Swilley (William), and Caroline G. Staton (James); step-daughter, Kerrin Smith Avedon; 4 grandchildren; 4 step-grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. A Memorial Service was held at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dobbs Chapel and interment was at Arlington Memorial Park in Sandy Springs, GA. Memorial gifts may be made in Wyatt's name to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3003 Howell Mill Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30327; First Baptist Church, PO Box 366, Belton, SC 29627; Belton Area Museum Association, 100 N Main Street, Belton, SC 29627; or VistaCare Hospice Foundation, 1364 Clifton Road, Unit 5G, Mailbox #86, Atlanta, GA 30322.

Dorothy R. Ham, 98, widow of the late **Cavis Ham**, passed away on May 29, 2012. Her son, Bob Ham, reported the sad news. Cavis passed away on December 7, 2008, at the age of 96. Cavis began his USGS career in the Surface Water Branch, Colorado District, in 1936. He was in charge of the Denver compilation unit. In April 1957, he was assigned to a 6-month project on the performance of current meters at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. In 1958, he transferred to the Albany, NY, SW office. By 1966, he was in the HQ Basic Records Section in Washington, DC. Cavis retired in 1979.

IN MEMORIAM

The Ham's were parents of Russell B. Ham, Elaine H. Wolfe, Robert C. Ham, and devoted grandparents of Catherine A. Wolfe and Andrew R. Wolfe.

Edna May Johnson, 80, wife of the late WRD Retiree **Mel Johnson**, passed away on July 8, 2012. Edna was born November 3, 1931, in Cascade, MT to Margaret (Oliver) and Russell Tintinger. Edna attended schools in Great Falls, Ulm, and Boulder MT. Mel worked in the Investigations and Studies Section in the Montana District. With funding from the Montana Highway Commission, Mel was in charge of as many as 214 surface-water stations focused on determining the magnitude and frequency of floods from basins with small drainage areas in Montana for several years up until his retirement in 1976. Edna and her husband Mel owned a small farm east of Helena where they raised 13 children and resided until October 2006. Edna was a member of the East Helena Recreation Council, VFW Post 10010 Ladies Auxiliary, 4-H, Girl Scouts, and Home Extension Club to name a few. She hosted many memorable events on the farm--especially community fishing derbies. Later in life she sold Avon products. She finally quit ringing the doorbell last year after a 40-year career. Edna May was a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Edna was preceded in death by her parents; husband Mel, daughter Alice, daughter and son-in-laws: Renee Johnson, Richard Stein, Edward Molyneaux and grandson: Matthew Lindner. Edna is survived by children and in-laws: Donald, Dick Lewis, Bertha Stein, Margaret (Vern) Miller, Carol Molyneaux, Thomas, Cynthia (Jimmy) Wollenberg, David (Brenda), Steven, Edward (Millie), Dora (Mike) Lindner, Lora, and Melva (Keith) Fowler. She is also survived by 35 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren; brothers: Don (Carolyn), Ken (Dee), Wes (Katy) Tintinger; half-sisters: Bette (Gordon) Hoven, June (John) Sine, Jan McGee; adopted sister Jean (Dan) Carson; and sister-in-law Dolores (Lori) Johnson. Visitation was at Anderson Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home and the funeral was at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. Private burial was at Castner Falls Cemetery outside of Cascade. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to the Landscaping project of Our Redeemers Lutheran Church or to a charity of your choice. To offer a condolence to the family or to share a memory of Edna, please visit www.aswfuneralhome.com.

Harry Edward Koester, 90, of Mechanicsburg, PA, passed away Wednesday, October 24, 2012. Born July 18, 1922 in Albuquerque, NM, he was a son of the late Harry F. and Gertrude Koester and was raised primarily by his grandparents, Sophia and Peter Weber. Part of America's greatest generation, Harry was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, having served in the 8th Air Force, 2nd Division, 44th Bombing Group and 68th Bombardment Squadron. Flying aboard B-24 bombers as a turret and tail gunner, he earned numerous distinctions and awards, including an Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was a graduate of the University of New Mexico and worked as a geologist, hydrologist, and chemist for the USGS. Harry began his Survey career in the QW Branch in Albuquerque in 1953 and from 1961-1965 he was the chief of the Chemical Quality Laboratory there. In 1965, Harry transferred to the Harrisburg Subdistrict of the Pennsylvania QWB District. In 1974, Harry was in charge of a Field Headquarters in Clarion, PA. He was one of several authors of Pennsylvania ground-water studies until the end of his career in 1980. He also worked for the state as a geologist prior to his retirement. Harry was a member of VFW, the American Legion, and the Elks. In his free time, he enjoyed dancing, traveling with his wife, Irene, and was an avid reader. Surviving is his loving wife, Irene M. (Coggins) Koester; his children, David, Peter, William, and Jonathan Koester, Jane Sarver, Sandra Darr, Maureen Smith, Patricia Letnaunchyn, and John Lahey; eleven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren; as well as his brother, Lee Koester and his sister, Louise Tenbroeck. Graveside services with military honors were held at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS, 66675. To sign the online guestbook, see www.malpezzifuneralhome.com.

Correction re write-up for **Yetta Lang**, wife of **Sol Lang**: Sol writes to us, "Thanks for printing the note by 'unknown' author about Yetta's passing. We were married for almost 63 years and of course, I miss her very much. In the note, I was referred to as the Assistant Chief for SP&DM when I retired. I appreciate the promotion but I was only the Deputy Assistant Chief. Also, at retirement I was the Staff Assistant to the Chief Hydrologist. Between these two positions I had assignments with the Interior Department and EPA. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify part of my career. Sincerely, Sol Lang"

*[Editor's note: It was I who wrote the In Memoriam for Yetta, and I am responsible for the error. In fact, in those years I was on many details from Colorado into SP&DM, usually in **Charlie Showen's** area, and I remember Sol being down the hall and a senior manager in the group; hence, my error! Sol, I am very sorry for your loss. —Charles]*

Rebecca Joy Grigsby Mathews, 99, widow of WRD retiree **Elmer Philip "Phil" Mathews**, and a long-time resident at Asbury Place, Maryville, TN, passed away May 12, 2012, at Blount Memorial Hospital. Joy was in good health until recent complications with pneumonia. She was loved by a wide array of friends and family. Born and raised in East Tennessee, she attended Elon College, NC, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, graduating with a degree in Home Economics. She taught high school Home Ec. and actively participated in Home Economics groups in Tennessee and Arkansas. A strong Christian, she attended church wherever she and her family lived, and the Eusebia Presbyterian Church, Seymour, TN, for the last 35 years, serving in many roles including that of Elder. She worked with pleasure in several Garden Clubs and brought flowers to her churches, earning her the beloved title of "Flower Girl." Joy's husband, Phil, received his degree from Mississippi State University with a BS in Civil Engineering. After serving in the Navy in WWII as a Lt. Commander, he

IN MEMORIAM

began his WRD career in Chattanooga in 1940 as a Jr. Hydraulic Engineer, transferring to Knoxville in 1944 and becoming its Subdistrict Chief in the early 1960s. In 1961, he moved to Little Rock as a SW specialist for the Arkansas District, retiring in 1975. In addition to being predeceased by Phil, Joy was predeceased by nine of her eleven brothers and sisters: Edwin Grigsby, Emily Fair, Florence Underwood, Bill Grigsby, Katherine Martin, twins Alan and Oliver Grigsby, Clara Loveday, and Dorothy Todd. She is survived by brothers Eugene Grigsby and Milburn Grigsby. She is also survived by her son David L. Jean and wife Sandra, and her daughter Lin M. Stepp and husband J.L., of Knoxville, TN. Her four grandchildren are: Kelly Christian and husband Darren, Phillip Jean and wife Emily, Max Stepp, and Katherine Stepp. Five great-grandchildren are Eli, Oliver and Emeri Christian; and Avery and Kayla Jean. A memorial service was held at Eusebia Presbyterian Church in Seymour, TN. Arrangements were made by Smith Funeral & Cremation Service, Maryville, TN.

“Sonny” Ewell Hudson Mohler, Jr., 82, died on September 19, 2012, in Fairfax, VA. The memorial service and interment were private. Sonny was born in Tuxedo, MD, on December 29, 1929. Sonny's parents were Ewell Hudson Mohler and Estella C. Mohler. He also had a sister, Estella M. Loveless and a brother, William A. Mohler. He is survived by his wife, Joan. Sonny received his Bachelors of Science from the University of Maryland (1946-1951) majoring in Civil Engineering. In 1955-57, Sonny was Engineer-in-Charge of Maryland's Subdistrict Office in Cumberland. He transferred to College Park from 1957-64 and assumed responsibility for the Hydrologic Data Section. In 1975, Sonny moved to Fairfax, VA, to head up that office. He remained in Virginia until his retirement in 1986. Notes for the Mohler family may be left at the Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home using their web address <http://www.fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com>.

Edythe Myrle (Kennedy) Murray, 98, widow of **C. Richard Murray**, passed away on April 30, 2012. Edythe was born on August 7, 1913, in Granby, MO. She and Richard were married on May 31, 1936. Funeral services were held at the Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church and interment took place at the Lake Carroll Cemetery in Tampa, FL. C. Richard Murray was well-traveled in the USGS. As a ground-water hydrologist in New Mexico by 1940, Murray published “A Study of nonthermal flowing wells south of Hot Springs, Sierra County, New Mexico” in 1945. He was in the Iowa GW Branch in 1950-1953. He then was overseas for a number of assignments beginning in 1953: project chief in Cairo for a ground-water assessment, 1953-1956; ground-water consultant in the Philippines, 1957-1961; on an assessment team in Jordan beginning in 1962 where he recommended various ground-water actions and, under his direction, these recommendations were completed by Jordan's Central Water Authority. In 1966, Murray provided water-use data for the first national assessment of water resources by the Water Resources Council as authorized by the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965. The results were transmitted by WRC Chairman, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall on November 1, 1968.

Mona Floy Christensen Scott, 86, wife of WRD Retiree Walter R. Scott (1921-2009), passed away quietly in Logan, Utah, on December 22, 2011. Floy was born May 24, 1925, in Thatcher, Utah, in the home of her parents, Melvin and Ivie Christensen. She spent her childhood on the farm in Thatcher and on the ranch in Faust Valley. She graduated from Bear River High School and went to Logan to attend college. In October 1943, her sister insisted that she go to a Blind Date Halloween Dance. Floy was matched up with a tall, good-looking man named Walter Ray Scott who was in the Army (1940-1945). The blind date was successful and, after a long-distance relationship, Floy and Walt were married December 8, 1945 in Tremonton. Walter graduated from Utah State University and began working for the USGS in 1949. The Survey took them to Kemmerer and Riverton, WY (1952, hydrologist-in-charge in Riverton); Milford, PA and Albany, NY (assistant engineer to the Delaware River Master and Assistant District Chief in New York); Spokane (1960, Subdistrict Chief) and Tacoma, WA (1965, Assistant District Chief, Programs and Plans, and author of OFR on the characteristics of Colville River Basin); and finally Bismarck, ND, where he was District Chief until his retirement in 1978 when he was followed by L. Grady Moore. In 1978, they moved to Cache Valley after Walter's retirement and built their dream home in Providence, Utah. Floy and Walt enjoyed worldwide travel. They spent 18 months in Australia serving an LSD Family History Mission. Floy lived the Gospel the best she could, truly putting its principles into action. She and Walter had four children, Jean, Jim, Dennis and Mary. She gave her unconditional love to her children and to anyone who needed it, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The family spent her last Thanksgiving together. It was a priceless gift, the last time they would see their mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Floy is survived by all her children and their spouses, Jean and Bill Ray; Jim and Janee' Scott; Dennis and Janet Scott, and Mary and Steve Schirado; 15 grandchildren; and 39 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her dear husband, Walter, of 63 years; and her mother, father, brother, sister, two brothers-in-law, a sister-in-law and a great-grandson. Funeral services were held at the Fox Ridge Ward building in Providence, UT. Condolences and thoughts may be expressed to the family online at www.allenmortuaries.net.

Elizabeth “Betty” Joan Meyer Spahn, 84, passed away on June 20, 2012, after a lengthy illness with COPD. Betty was born June 3, 1928, the fifth daughter of Bessie E. (Gibson) and Walter B. Meyer in Alma, NE. After graduating from high school, she worked as a bookkeeper/cashier for the local J.C. Penney store. In 1947, she moved to Denver and began her government employment with the Veterans Administration. In April 1948, she married Reuben G. Spahn. She was a stay-at-home mom in the early years of her marriage, staying at home with her children, Jane Elizabeth and John Michael. Rejoining the Federal government, Betty first worked for the Air Force Finance Center, and lastly for the USGS as Executive Assistant to the WRD Regional Hydrologist until she retired after 21 years of Federal service. Betty treasured her children and siblings. She enjoyed music, travel, genealogy projects, various bridge clubs, and her many wonderful friends. She had

IN MEMORIAM

a great sense of humor and always looked on the bright side of life. She often said "the great thing about getting older is you don't lose all the other ages you've been!" She enjoyed them all. Her husband, Reuben, preceded her in death in 1984, as did her parents, Bessie E. Gibson and Walter B. Meyer, and his sisters, Irene Moore, Margaret Cain, and Evelyn Skiles. She is survived by daughter, Jane Elizabeth Brown and son, John Michael Spahn, and sister Bonnie Williams; nieces Susan Graf; Carole Peterson; nephews Brad Skiles; David Williams; and Craig Williams; and numerous other relatives. The family wishes to thank all who cared for Elizabeth, especially her Family Home Care Hospice nurses and attendants. Their care and concern were exemplary. She will never be forgotten by those who knew her. Graveside services were held in Denver. In lieu of flowers, friends should feel free to donate to Family Home Care Hospice or a favorite charity in Betty's name.

L. Leonard "Len" Werho, 86, passed away on July 26, 2012. Len was born on September 27, 1925, in Parlier, CA, to Finnish immigrant parents, Lauri and Lempi Werho. He spoke only Finnish until he entered 1st grade in Reedley, CA. Len graduated in 1943 from Reedley High School. During World War II, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served 2-1/2 years in Europe. He was assigned to the 65th Division Reconnaissance Troop in France, Germany and Austria. Returning home, he enrolled in Reedley College and met his wife Barbara, who survives him after 63 years of marriage. Their children are Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dennis (Louise) Werho; Kenneth (Kay) Werho; Janet Brown; and Sandra (Mike) Astemborski. Also surviving are 8 grandchildren: Kaitlyn and Trevor Werho; David Werho, MD; and CH Lt Daniel (Susanna) Werho; Adam (Nancy) and Bryan Astemborski and 3 great grandchildren, Rachel and Allison Astemborski and Caleb Brown. Upon graduation from Fresno State College, Leonard accepted employment with Tidewater Oil Company in Coalinga, CA. In 1952, he joined the USGS, Surface Water Division, in Sacramento, CA, and then transferred to Redding, CA, until December 1960. He relocated to Phoenix, AZ for 19 years and then to Yuma, retiring from the USGS as Chief of that Office in December 1983. At FSC, he belonged to the Engineer's Club, and in Sacramento became a life member of the ASCE. Upon becoming a Christian in 1952, church and lay ministry became a priority, and he joined the Christian Business Men's Committee in the early 1950's; he was Regional Chairman while in Yuma. He was a member of Palmcroft Baptist Church. Since retirement, he continued to teach Bible Studies, and visit the hospitalized and homebound. Len was helpful wherever he could be. Health issues and proximity to family prompted moving back to Phoenix in 1991. His death followed a slow decline and Alzheimer disease. Services were held in late September 2012.

Charles D. "Chuck" Whiteman, Jr., 81, of Denham Springs, LA, died on September 19, 2012, of heart failure. He was born in 1931 in Tyler, TX, and following service in the U.S. Air Force as a mechanic, graduated from the University of Texas, Phi Beta Kappa, as a geologist. He worked in the oil industry for a few years. Then, in 1964 Chuck joined the Ground Water Branch in the District Office in Baton Rouge, LA. He remained a member of the district staff until retiring in 1990. His hydrologic specialty was the aquifer system of southeast Louisiana, especially the Baton Rouge area, for which he published several reports. He was a charter member of the Baton Rouge Geological Society from 1979 until his death, and also a member of the National Rifle Association. Chuck was predeceased by his wife, Jettie Exine Collins Whiteman. He is survived by several stepchildren and their descendants.

Harold H. (Bud) Zehner, 75, of Toccoa, GA, died peacefully on October 16, 2011, at Cottingham Hospice House, Seneca, SC. Bud was born September 10, 1936, in Effingham, GA, the son of Herman and Bridget (Buehnekemper) Zehner. He graduated from Southern Illinois University with a Master of Science. Bud worked as a hydro-geologist with the USGS in numerous offices throughout the country. Bud was the project chief in Tennessee for TN030, "ORNL burial ground." Bud was in the Kentucky District, Ground-Water Investigations in the late 1970s and was responsible for Open File Report 93-157, Water Resources of Selected Areas of Kentucky." He served his country as a U.S. Marine, was a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Atlanta, and a third-degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by four sisters, Norma Wernsing; Sidona Frazier; Bernice Maier; and Mary Lou Engle; many nieces and nephews; and special friends, Katy and Tim Hale. He was preceded by his parents; sister, Margaret Kenter; brothers, John (Jack) Zehner; and infant, Bobby. Funeral services were held at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Effingham, with burial in St. Anthony Cemetery. Contributions may be made to St. Anthony School Adopt a Student Program or School Sisters of Notre Dame, 320 E. Ripa Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63125-2897. Online condolences may be left at www.bauerfh.com.

MEMORIAL

Raymond O. (Ray) Abrams 1921 - 2012

On August 10, 2012, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) family lost a dear friend and dedicated member who was a pioneer in the development and implementation of tools for the effective management and professional growth of science, engineering, technical and support staff alike. Raymond O. "Ray" Abrams was born in Hicksville, NY, on what was then rural farmland on Long Island. As a boy, he learned to sail on Long Island Sound, a hobby and avocation that lasted his lifetime. When he wasn't on or near the water he liked nothing better than to talk sailing and the many "adventures" he had while at the helm. Ray was really a very private man, humble to a fault. He was very quick to change the subject when the conversation focused on him or his accomplishments, always finding a way to get to "now what can we do for you." He was just that kind of gentleman. I was always amazed by his phenomenal memory for names. That's one of the reasons he excelled as a recruiter. But, I get ahead of myself.

Ray left us to be with the Lord just one month before his 91st birthday. His health had failed over the past several years, and he moved from his home in Falls Church to an assisted-living facility in Farnham, VA, not far from family. His Pastor and staff at the Manor said from day one, Ray made it his new mission in life to lift up the spirits of the other elderly and infirm residents, and he did that right up to the end. He refused to complain about his own ailments and discomfort. That's the Ray I knew. Besides his many friends and colleagues, he is survived by his loving daughter Patricia Abrams Wright (Greg) of Kinsale, VA; granddaughter Jennifer Hoyt (Nathan); grandson Gregory Wright, IV; and great-grandson Alex Hoyt. Ray was predeceased by his wife Liz, Virginia born and raised, and the love of his life.

Ray was a veteran of World War II, and was a survivor of the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor. He never talked to me about that day. He was assigned later to the submarine service and participated in many stealth commando raids on Japanese positions throughout the Pacific theater. Before his discharge, he was promoted to Midshipman and assigned to university training in engineering. He was proud to have attended the University of Virginia (UVA), and, after the war, made his home in Charlottesville, where he met and married Liz.

Ray began his career with the USGS as a hydrologic field assistant with the Surface Water Branch (SWB) in the Charlottesville Office. The Office was located on the UVA campus. He accepted a temporary appointment as an engineering aide on September 14, 1948, and was converted to competitive status in 1949. Ray worked as a streamgager for the SWB out of Charlottesville until 1957, when a funding issue precipitated by Appropriations Bill wording ended the cooperative program with the State's principal water agency. As part of the plan to address the lack of funding, Ray was detailed to headquarters, to work on surface-water records. He was fond of saying he was "temporarily" assigned to headquarters in 1958, and never left! He was permanently reassigned to the SWB Training Section in 1959. The Section's name was changed to the SWB Career Development Section in early 1962, shortly before all human-capital management was shifted from Branch oversight to centralized Water Resources Division (WRD) oversight. Ray's warm personality, his critical but fair judgment of individual potential, his winning smile, and his general competence and confidence were recognized early as real assets in dealing with university staff and possible new hires. These personal characteristics and his managerial talents led to his appointment as Technical Training Officer and Chief of the Recruiting and Training Section at the Division level in late 1962. His title was changed to Employee Development Officer in 1964, and to Manpower Utilization Officer in 1968, a title that better reflected the full range of human-resource management activities he now directed: staff utilization, organizational development, employee training, and professional recruiting. During this period, Ray was integrally involved in supporting Division Chief Luna Leopold's goals of earning WRD's recognition as the premier national and international scientific water-resources organization. Ray was on the front line in establishing university degree programs in hydrology; creating a new job classification for hydrologists; career-development planning and management; establishing the National Training Center in Denver, CO; implementing formal employee appraisals; development and management of technical correspondence courses and graduate school opportunities for employees; support for the WRD Technical Training Committee; career documentation; and recruitment coordination including the development of candidate evaluation tools specific to the science of hydrology and supporting sciences. Ray was the informal "dean" of the hydrology short course required of all new recruits and offered in conjunction with academicians at the University of Arizona throughout the mid to late 1960s. In recognition of his major contributions to the support of science programs in the USGS through the development and application of sound human-resource management tools, Ray was granted the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award in 1976.

Ray retired in December 1981. He stayed active in retirement and volunteered for many years with the WRD Retirees Organization to help with the Newsletter. He was proud of the day he was "promoted from envelope stuffer to stapler." He loved his annual sail on the Chesapeake Bay with Matt Sliwiak of the Personnel Office and me; oh the stories I could tell! And he loved taking day trips to the picturesque towns around the Bay. He could crack crabs and drink beer with the best of them. Before he retired Ray made sure he developed a staff he felt comfortable would carry on and further enhance his legacy of human-resource management support for the organization he so loved. Ray liked to say that if he did his job well as a supervisor as it related to the development of his staff, when he left it would be like taking his finger out of a bucket of water: the casual observer would never know he was ever there. He did do his job well. But those of us in the WRD family whom he touched so deeply will never forget that Raymond O. Abrams was there.

To my colleague, mentor, and dear friend: may God hold you in the palm of His hand and always grant you fair winds to fill your sails and following seas to steady your course.

By: Norman E. "Skip" Schmidt, Jr.

MEMORIAL

Joe S. Downey
1931 - 2012

Joe S. Downey, 81, passed away on August 19, 2012, as the result of Parkinson's disease that incapacitated him for the past two and a half years. Joe was cremated and his ashes were interred at Fort Logan National Cemetery. His memorial service was held at the Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lakewood, CO. He is survived by his wife, Shirley.



Joe's earliest accomplishment at 17 was as an Eagle Scout. At age 19, after the start of the Korean War in 1950, Joe enlisted in the Marine Corps and fought the North Korean Marines in hand-to-hand battle at the Chosen Reservoir. Afterward he was in covert actions, traveling by submarine for combat intelligence, by capturing enemies, and all returning by submarine. Joe also witnessed a surface atomic weapons test at Camp Mercury, NV. Joe left the Marines in 1956.

In 1957-1961, Joe was a student at the University of Arizona. During the summers he was a research assistant at the Arizona Geochronology lab. Joe also studied the desert fauna and flora. After graduation, Joe spent 2 years writing equipment manuals for defense contractors and a year as a mining engineer for a copper mine. Then Joe went to work with the Army Corps of Engineers, 1964-1966, studying the geology of Dam site foundations. In 1966, he transferred to the USGS WRD in Albany, NY as a hydrologist, which was his true niche. In 1967, he transferred to Grand Forks, ND, where he conducted county studies. While in Grand Forks Joe also studied for a M.S. in Geology at the University of North Dakota and also achieved an FAA rating as an Instrument Pilot. In 1974, Joe transferred to Bismarck, ND, where he was the Reports Specialist, Computer Specialist, and a Project leader. In 1976, Joe was relocated to Lincoln, NE, as a Supervisory Hydrologist and as Assistant District Chief.

Joe relocated to Lakewood, CO, in 1978, as the Digital Modeler for the Madison Limestone Project and its successor project, The Great Plains RASA. In 1982-1983, he went to Fairbanks, AK, to study the landfill with all its unique frozen-ground features. In December 1983, he married the love of his life, Shirley. Joe transferred to the Nuclear Hydrology Program in 1984, which morphed into the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Study. Joe always wanted things to go just right on the job. He had experience with writing technical QA/QC manuals for Military contractors working for the U.S. Government. So when the Department of Energy had occasion to use Quality Assurance people during the Yucca Mountain Study, sometimes there were "differences." For example, when a Department of Energy QA person asked if ORION was qualified to repair a pH meter under warranty, Joe said, "ORION built it, why can they not fix it?" The QA person responded, "They must prove that they can fix it!!" Joe answered, "It's still under Orion's own warranty!!" End of discussion.

The pictures above are of Joe at work in Nevada.

By: Ed Gutentag

MEMORIAL

John R. Rapp
1921 - 2012

John Richard Rapp, Sr., passed away at home in Fairfax, VA, on September 28, 2012. He was born on May 28, 1921 in El Paso, Texas, the son of John August Rapp and Carrie Myrle Shaw Rapp, and brother of Martha Franklin and William Rapp. He loved music and played trumpet, baritone, bassoon, French horn, bass horn, and violin. John began his college career in 1940 at Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy (now U of Texas at El Paso, UTEP) majoring first in forestry then geology. During the 1940s, John served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was a B-24 Bombardier, Navigator, and Expert Gunner. He flew 43 missions and his plane was hit by the Japanese more than 100 times in one mission. Looking down at the water between the islands he could see sharks from the plane! In a bombing run over Balikpapan, Borneo, John had just dropped a bomb and stood up just when a small shell hit him in the gut but didn't explode. He



was not injured because he was wearing his flack vest that he normally NEVER wore! In a freak accident during an air raid at his base, he broke his back and suffered back and intestinal problems for the rest of his life. After John got home after the service, he married the love of his life, Betty Jean Gschwind on May 30, 1945. In 1948, John joined the USGS after finishing his college degree compliments of the GI Bill. His first assignment was in Cheyenne, WY, and he was greeted with a huge blizzard the next January. Next stop was St. Paul, then to Albuquerque beginning in 1956. While officially in NM, he worked out of El Paso for the first 18 months. He worked on the Reservations met many Indian Chiefs – he recalls going cross-country with them, everyone bouncing around in his Government carryall wagon. In 1960, he was sent to Green River, WY, where he studied a Trona mine and the effects of groundwater (he hated going down in that mine – the walls creaked!), then back to Cheyenne and on to Lansing, MI, in 1965. While in Michigan he did some graduate work at Michigan State. In 1967, he was sent to the D.C. area, supposedly for 3 years, but he never got back out west. He retired from the USGS in 1980, but he didn't really retire. He continued to work as a private consultant in geology and hydrology, and with EPA. He spent almost 4 years as Chief of a district in the Sultanate of Oman (Straits of Hormuz), and he and Betty not only saw Oman, but were also able to visit England and Scotland several times. John had worked for the USGS as a Groundwater Geologist and Hydrologist for over 32 years, with projects in 11 states, and over 35 publications to his credit. Betty got involved with geology, too, and they spent many weekends fossil hunting out west of El Paso on the road to Las Cruces. Betty was continually frustrated with how John could come behind her and find arrowheads and fossils she had passed right over. He grew up hunting for arrowheads and spear points with his folks -- he was quite successful in his outings with his Dad. John and Betty had two children, John Richard Rapp, Jr. and Pamela Ann Rapp and grandchildren, Elizabeth Anne Agnew, Ruth Anne Rapp, and Katherine Rose Agnew.

John's Memorial Ceremony was at Truro Anglican Church in Fairfax, VA. Even with his full life, it was said: "Betty was the center of his world." And, finally, John personified, I Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." That was John as his family knew him. He attended the Reston-Herndon WRD Retirees luncheons up until the very end of his life. We who knew him at the Survey will miss him, too. Rest in Peace, John.

By Pamela Ann Agnew and Charles Nethaway

MEMORIAL

Frank A. Welder
1923 - 2012

Long time resident of Meeker, CO and USGS retiree Frank A. Welder, 89, passed away at his home September 4, 2012. Jean Welder, Frank's wife of 57 years, was with him at the time of his passing. In addition to his wife, Jean, Frank leaves behind a daughter, Maureen Mabrey (Rick); two sons, Brian (Carla) and Shawn; five grandchildren; four great grandchildren; all of Colorado; and a brother, Edward (Anne) in Texas.



Frank was born January 12, 1923 in Victoria, TX, to Frank and Margery Welder. After enlisting in the Army Air Force in 1943, he served in the European Theater of Operations during the last two years of WW II. Following military discharge, Frank went on to earn his B.S. degree in Geology from the University of Texas in 1949 and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Geology from Louisiana State University in 1951 and 1955. During this period, Frank worked as both a teaching and research assistant. He also completed a 3-year study of sediment deposition in the Mississippi River delta for the office of Naval Research.

Frank first worked for the USGS from 1954-1958. As a geohydrologist, Frank was project chief of a study that assessed the hydrology of the Edwards Limestone aquifer in SW Texas. Subsequently, Frank taught Geology at NE Louisiana State University from 1958-1964. In September 1964, Frank accepted a career appointment with the USGS in Denver. His main interest was the geohydrology of NW Colorado, especially Piceance basin. In 1975, Frank was transferred to the USGS office in Meeker, CO. His influence, presentations, and study results greatly contributed to the hydrology assessments important in the Colorado Oil-Shale program. Of more than 25 geoscience publications authored by Frank, more than half of them addressed the geohydrology of northwestern Colorado.

Following retirement from the USGS in 1983, Frank remained very active. He and Jean spent a year in Sultanata, Oman, where he supervised a groundwater investigation. While in Meeker, Frank frequently taught Geology where he emphasized investigative processes and independent thought. Frank gave presentations in many locations in the country, was a member of several professional organizations, and a citation recipient from the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Frank and Jean maintained an avid interest in physical conditioning and shared their interests with many in Meeker. In 2000, he was awarded the black belt by the U.S. Tae Kwan Do Federation at age 78. Frank will be missed by all who knew him.

By: Bob Tobin

TREASURER'S REPORT, THIRD QUARTER 2012

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$10,210.17 in its treasury at the end of the third quarter for calendar year 2012. Receipts for the quarter were \$3,508.42 from dues and contributions from 17 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$10,846.03, including the costs for printing of the WRD Retirees Newsletter and the funds awarded to 3 students as part of the WRD Retirees Scholarship Program. During the quarter, a total of \$235.00 in contributions above dues was received from 11 members.

Special thanks for contributions above dues go to:

Benjamin " Ben" Jones, Theodore Sieger, Elaine Gockel, John Klein, James F. Bailey, Jack R. Carter, Luis Santiago-Rivera, Henry Trapp, Wendell Tangborn, Charles F. Berkstresser, and Ralph C. Heath.

Inviting New WRD Retirees to Join Us

After May 2012, WRD Retirees have changed the way we receive information about newly retired USGS personnel. We will not automatically receive names, addresses, and other information that we use to contact new retirees. Andy Anderson, Bill Boning, and Charles Nethaway are working on how to contact these new retirees. We may provide each Water Science Center with a way that new retirees can send their information to wrdretirees@usgs.gov when they retire. We hope that "WRD Retirees" could be mentioned in the Pre-Retirement Planning Seminar.

Meanwhile, if you know active employees who are about to retire, or those who have already retired, please let them know about us and how we help retirees stay connected with their friends from Water through meetings, reunions, a directory of over 1,400 names, and, of course, this Newsletter. Please make a copy of this page and pass it along to any potential new member. Thank you very much!

"WRD RETIREES" for New Retirees

If you are about to retire from the USGS, we cordially invite you to join "WRD Retirees." Along with membership, you will receive one year of free quarterly newsletters, a WRD Retirees Directory, and invitations to local WRD meetings and the biannual WRD Reunion. The first year's dues are waived. To learn more about WRD Retirees, see our web site at <http://www.wrdretirees.org/>.

The full form to join is at <http://www.wrdretirees.org/applicationforms.htm>. But to get started, just fill out the following short form and send it to us at WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280 or email it to wrdretirees@usgs.gov. You may also phone 703-648-5641.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE OF RETIREMENT _____

HOME EMAIL _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____