

"WRD RETIREES"

NEWSLETTER NO. 61

NOVEMBER 1988

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

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

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

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

1988 Reunion Coordinators: Elwood R. Leeson; Charles R. Collier

Address: "WRD Retirees", c/o USGS, 425A National Center, Reston, VA 22092

Phone: (703)648-5641

Fourth Biennial Reunion--A Great Happening Bellevue, Washington September 13-16, 1988

By any measure you care to use, the 4th Reunion of WRD Retirees was an outstanding success. This, of course, didn't just happen. It took a great deal of time and effort by a lot of dedicated people. If we were to acknowledge and detail all the contributions, the 12 pages of this Newsletter would be filled. Chuck Collier and his hard-working committee, along with many supporters from the Pacific Northwest District, made it all an enduring experience.

We recognize that it is not possible to adequately describe in a limited space all that took place, however, a few recollections of some meeting highlights might be of interest to those that were unable to attend. To begin with, the accommodations, including the two hospitality rooms, were tops, even though one was designated a tea room and the other as a coffee room. Though those two beverages were in evidence, there was no shortage of other refreshments or snacks. The ice-breaker on Tuesday evening was a gala affair attended by perhaps 250 retirees and "actives" and their respective spouses.

At the "business session" on Wednesday, MC'd by Lee Leeson, a number of issues were discussed that ranged from the location for the next reunion to problems the Newsletter staff is experiencing with the Postal Service, to indexing Volume V of WRD History and to progress on Volume VI. Joe Cragwall proposed that the three USGS's Retirees organizations explore the possibility of setting aside funds, for example, in a memorial fund, to support such things as archiving memorabilia, providing support for students to attend technical meetings, etc. The group enthusiastically endorsed the development of a plan for consideration by the organization. Following the meeting, attendees not only enjoyed a fine luncheon but were treated to an excellent presentation by the Chief Hydrologist, Phil Cohen. He discussed past, present, and future WRD and GS programs and priorities and highlighted technical and political problems and opportunities. We concluded that the Division is in good hands.

The trip to Mt. Ranier was especially interesting because an expert WRD guide held forth in each of the five busses. Additionally, each person was given a guidebook prepared just for us by Kevin Scott and others on hydrologic hazards at Mt. Ranier. And what a finale! The Indian-style salmon bake in the Kanaskat-Palmer State Park was outstanding. The salmon was done to a turn over an open alder fire.

Notice: Please inspect the address label on this newsletter. If you find a red "87", your dues are in arrears for 1987 and 1988 (\$3 for 1987 plus \$3 for 1988). If a red "88" appears, you owe only for 1988. You may wish to pay 1989 dues, also (\$3 per year). Please indicate clearly which years your dues payments cover. For those who desire first class mailings, please add \$1 per year. We suggest first class postage especially for those who contemplate moving during 1989 or who use a second residence seasonally.

The post-meeting trip to Mt. St. Helens drew lots of oohs and ahs from both those visiting for the first time as well as those that had been there "early-on" but not recently. The devastation still appears awesome, but the natural changes and recovery are exciting. The trip leader, an employee of the Forest Service was outstanding both in enthusiasm and knowledge.

Those that went on the other post-meeting trip (San Juan Islands and Victoria, B.C.) report they had a great time and that sightseeing was enjoyed by all.

The memories generated in the course of renewing old friendships and making of new ones will not easily fade. It was very pleasurable to chat with active WRD members and to hear them enthusiastically describe their activities. Those carrying the WRD banner get high marks on all counts, but golly -- some of them seem so young!

VIDEO TAPING OFF TO A GOOD START

Since 1983, Ben Jones, Assistant Regional Hydrologist, WR, has been using 1/2-inch video tape equipment to record interviews with leading hydrologists. This project has recently gotten new impetus as the result of the interest of Joe Cragwall, Hugh Hudson, and Phil Cohen. More than twenty interviews are now on tape. The original tapes and one copy of the interviews are being held at the USGS Library in Reston. Copies of the tapes are also available at each of the Regional Offices.

Ben says, "The interviews document the ideas and personalities of leading hydrologists in much the same way we would have done in print several years ago. It occurred to me that we now have an entirely new technology which will give us a great deal of latitude in deriving historical material. For a reasonable small cost we are able to build a very valuable archive for future historians. John Bredehoeft, who was then Regional Hydrologist, encouraged me to do this as a "backyard project", and I have been working on it whenever I could since then."

The fairly slow progress in terms of numbers of interviews is a reflection of the fact that Ben is working on his project only a small part of his time. He is eager to have others become active in the program, either as interviewers or as producers/directors and videographers. A limited amount of equipment is available for loan, and the National Training Center has agreed to provide facilities and, on occasion, videographers. Ben has a package of instructions on how to conduct interviews and ideas on how to set up the camera and get the most out of the equipment. Anyone who is interested, please contact Ben at Western Region Headquarters, (415) 329-4406, FTS 459-4406.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Several readers have asked about deadlines for submitting articles for publication in the Newsletter. We welcome material anytime but the cutoff date for a particular issue is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication. For example, the deadline for the August issue was July 10.

We have learned from press reports that new area codes for the phone system have been instituted in Colorado, Florida, and Massachusetts. Please keep us informed about your changes so that we can maintain a current master directory. This is also a reminder to all Retirees about letting us know when your address changes.

ATTENDEES--FOURTH WRD RETIREES REUNION

WRD RETIREES

Archer, Roger and Florence
Babcock, Horace and Mary Helen
Bailey, James and Vivian
Barrick, Frank and Grace
Beall, Bob
Beamer, Norman and Evelyn
Beetem, Art and Doris
Billingsley, Bill and Martha
Bodhaine, Ethwyn
Boswell, Ernie and Rebecca
Buchanan, Tom and Marie
Burnham, Will and Rose
Busby, Mark
Carrigan, Hadley and Jane
Carroon, Lamar and Barbara
Clebsch, Alfred and Albina
Collier, Chuck and Pat
Cotter, Dale and Gerry
Cragwall, Joe and Jane
Daniels, Warren and Dorothy
Decker, Sherman
Dosch, Rudy
Eissler, Benjamin and Esther
Essex, Keith and Vera
Ferguson, George and Lucille
Flynn, Frank
Forrest, Bill and Edna
Gagnon, Annette
Hackett, Milt and Pam
Harris, Ed
Haushild, Bill and Ann
Hembree, Chuck and Margaret
Hendricks, Roy and Idena

Herbert, Rich
Hidaka, Frank and Teresa
Holt, Lee and Pat
Hudson, Hugh and Becky
Hulsing, Harry and Klava
Irelan, Burdge and Virginia
Irwin, Jim and Mary Ellen
Jeffries, Kitty
Johnson, Ivan and Betty
Jones, Digger and Suzy
Jordan, Donald and Mary Jane
Kapustka, Stan and Doris
Kelley, Rose and DeWitt
Kinnison, Hal and Patricia
Laird, Les and Thelma
Langford, Hal and Jean
Laura, Della
Lawrence, John and Rose
Leeson, Elwood and Dorothy
Leggat, E. R. and Dorothy
Leonard, Al and Jean
McCartney, David and Kathy
McDonald, Charlie
McMurtrey, Gale and Ardath
MacCary, Lawrence
Mack, Fred and Ann
Malesky, Maggie and Jim
Matthai, Howard and Barbara
Mendieta, Herb
Miller, Swede
Molenaar, Dee
Mundorff, Maurice and Irene
Newcomb, Larry and Sara
Odell, Jack and Ida

Parker, Sr., Jerry and Bernadette
Peterson, Lee and Lela
Phillips, Kenneth
Rainwater, Frank and Ferne
Richardson, Don and Jessie
Riggs, Charlie and Johnnie
Robinson, Bill and Elsie
Rogers, James and Margaret
Rorabaugh, Irv and Agnes
Sanderson, Buzz and Betty
Schneider, Bill
Sessums, Francis and Genie
Smith, Bob and Evelyn
Smith, Winchell and Helen
Snell, Leonard and Ann
Tanaka, Harry and Mitzi
Tate, Herb and Nita
Tibbetts, Chase and Jane
Travis, Wayne and Clara
Upson, Joe and Bobbie
Waananen, Arvi and Ellen
Wahl, Ken
Waller, Roger
Walters, Ken
Ward, Porter and Pat
Wark, John and Marcella
Weaver, Hal
Welborn, Clarence
Winslow, Al and Mary Jane
Young, Kenneth and Louise
Young, Loren and Renee

OTHER ATTENDEES

Aldridge, Byron and Beverly
Ayers, Mark
Bauer, Dan
Bennett, James
Blakey, Jim and Paula
Boning, Bill
Bubeck, Bob
Burchett, Bob and Libby
Camp, Dave
Carpenter, Philip and Patrice
Carswell, Bill
Case, Lee and Jean
Coffin, Donald
Cohen, Phil
Conomos, John
Cook, Jim
Costa, John
Daniel, Jim and Ruth

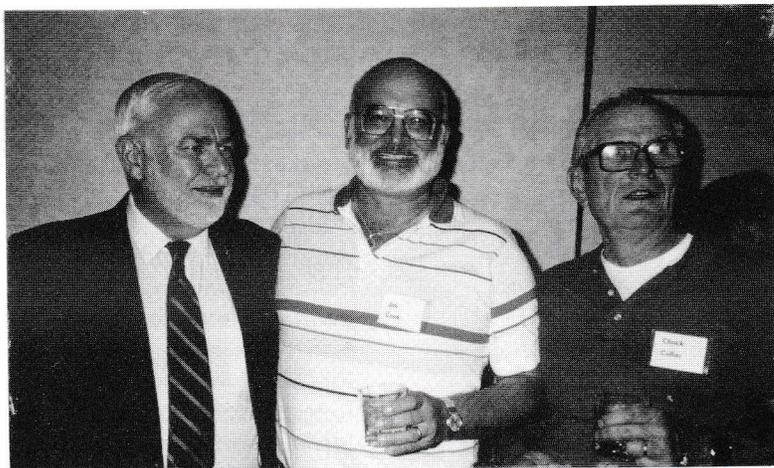
Emery, Phil and Janet
Engberg, Dick
Engel, Glen
Fidler, Dick and Kathy
Fretwell, Marv
Gallino, Gary
Hanson, Ronald
Hren, Janet
Hughes, Jerry
Huntzinger, Thomas
Jarrett, Bob
Jones, Ben and Mae
Kircher, Jim
Klein, John
Knutilla, Robert
McGavock, Ed
McLean, John
Mann, Bill and Helene

Mendieta, Herb
Meyer, Bill
Moody, Dave
Moore, Grady and Judy
Moreland, Joe
Moss, Marshall
Parker, Essie (Mrs. G.G. Parker, Jr.)
Pascale, Jerry
Prince, Keith
Pringle, Pat
Sauer, Stanley and Virginia
Schneider, Verne
Schnepf, JoAnn
Scott, Kevin
Spieker, Andy
VanDenburgh, Steve
Woodward, Dennis

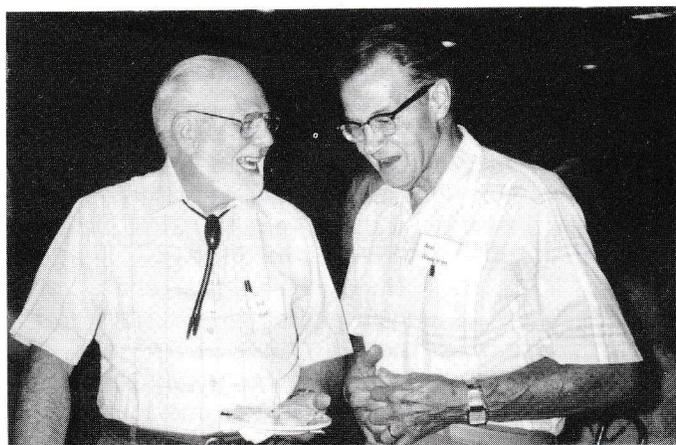
SEATTLE REUNION



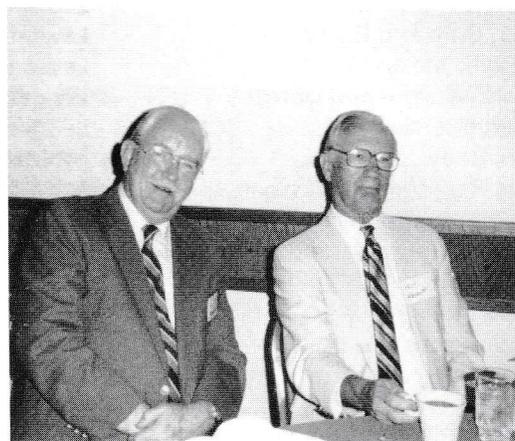
Lee and Dorothy Leeson



Phil Carpenter Jim Cook Chuck Collier



Bob Beall Arvi Waananen



Joe Cragwall Milt Hackett



Al and Jean Leonard, and Digger and Suzy Jones



Ken Phillips Jerry Parker, Sr.

SEPTEMBER 13-16, 1988



Burge and Virginia Irelan



Ida and Jack Odell



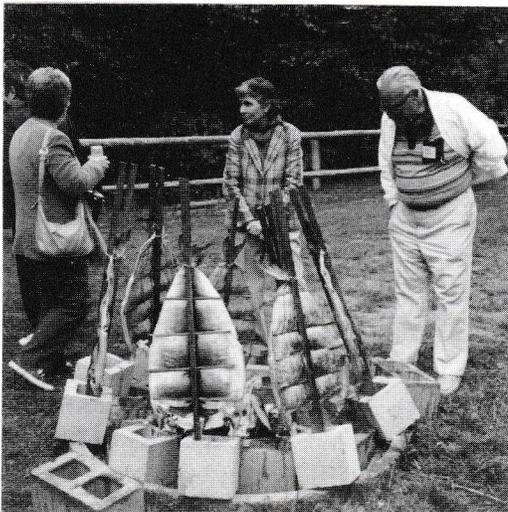
Roy and Idena Hendricks



Phil Cohen Jerry Parker, Sr.



Harry Tanaka Pat Ward



Genie Sessums and Horace Babcock,
facing baking salmon



Charlie and Johnnie Riggs Frank Flynn Bill Forrest

DOWN THE COLORADO WITH KEITH JACKSON

The following is a first-hand account by S. K. Jackson on his float trip through the Grand Canyon on the Colorado River, May 23-29.

The trip was sponsored by the Museum Foundation of the University of Arkansas. Dr. Walter Manger, head of the Geology Department, made the arrangements and served as leader for the trip. He is an outstanding authority on the geology of the Grand Canyon, and had made previous trips through the canyon.

There were 15 local people on the trip, including 8 men and 7 women. Included, in addition to the group leader, were three physicians and their wives; a recent doctoral graduate in geology and his wife; a high school teacher; a retired petroleum engineer and amateur archaeologist; a housewife; an active ecologist (Ozark Society); a professional psychologist; and a retired hydrologist (SKJ).

We were flown to Las Vegas by commercial jet, then by a local airline in small planes to Lees Ferry, the "put-in" location, 15 miles below Glen Canyon Dam.

The boat was a typical river raft--33 feet long and 15 feet wide, including side pontoons, and powered by a 33 H.P. motor. The boat was operated by a head boatman assisted by a "swamper"; both were highly efficient and knowledgeable of the river; the chief boatman had 13 years' experience in "running the river". All baggage and day-use equipment, along with food storage containers were lashed in the middle of the boat and protected by a water-proof cover.

Six days were spent on the river, during which we traversed about 188 miles. The put-out point was a short distance below Lava Falls, the highest and most dangerous rapid on the river, where it drops 37 feet in a distance of several hundred feet.

We were taken out of the canyon by helicopter and flown to a small landing field on the rim; thence by small planes some hundred miles to Boulder City. The latter trip was made in rather violent weather--the only adverse weather experienced during the trip. Immediately after the last of our party left the Canyon, all flights of the helicopter were canceled, and several boat parties were left stranded in the bottom of the gorge.

The most exciting feature of the trip was, of course, the running of the rapids. Most of the rapids generated only a shower of cold water over the boat. (The water released from the depths of Glen Canyon Reservoir is about 46 degrees F.). However, in the major rapids, huge walls of water flowed over the boat and, particularly for those near the front, required a tight grip on the boat lashings to prevent going overboard. Life jackets, securely fastened, were required to be worn at all time when the boat was moving.

These float trips have become very popular. Permits must be obtained well in advance from the Park Service, which limits the number and timing of the trips. The Service has established rigid rules regarding wastes and littering, and these are monitored and strictly enforced.

The trip was a bit on the "roughing it" side. Night camps were made on sand bars, which are composed of very fine sand that made for poor walking but a good sleeping surface--in a sleeping bag over a ground sheet. Numerous hikes were made up side canyons, which sometimes required considerable rock climbing but opened up interesting scenery, water falls, and, in some cases, historical Indian habitations. When on the river we were usually thoroughly soaked to the skin, but the dry desert air soon dried us out between dousings.

In all it was a most interesting and delightful experience. The spectacular scenery throughout the river gorge and the towering cliffs, giving a pictorial record of almost 40 million years of geologic history--it is truly one of the great wonders of the world--very impressive.

DIRECTOR PECK ADDRESSES GS RETIREES

On July 22, 1988, Director Dallas Peck addressed GS retirees at a meeting in the Reston Headquarters auditorium. The purpose of the gathering was to bring the retirees up-to-date on the status of the soon to be completed Visitors' Center, and to seek their assistance in its operation. Before visiting the Center, Dallas briefed attendees on GS's program, activities, and aspirations. Also, personnel and organization changes were touched on.

The physical aspects of the Center are first class and consist of a reception lounge, projection room, and auditorium. Equipment will include, among other things, nine projectors, computer terminals, and TV screens (one of which will drop down from the ceiling).

The retirees were invited to assist in a variety of activities including greeting visitors, manning telephones, acting as tour guides, scheduling tours, preparing and presenting lectures, etc.

The Director has assured that your presence and your ideas on how to make this endeavor a lasting success--are welcome and encouraged. Former Associate Director, Bill Radlinski, has assumed the role of coordinator for the GS retiree organizations.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Two new USGS publications may be of interest to members.

The first, "Ground Water and the Rural Homeowner" by Roger Waller, is a short, 37-page general interest booklet that discusses common well problems encountered by the rural homeowner and how to recognize them, solve them, or get help. Single copies are available at no cost from the Book and Open-File Reports Section, USGS, Federal Center, Box 25425, Denver, Colorado 80225.

The second, a voluminous 560-page document titled "National Water Summary 1986" is mainly a compilation of hydrologic conditions and water-related events for the year (68 pages), hydrologic perspectives on water issues (66 pages), and State summaries of ground-water quality (412 pages). The document, published as WSP 2325, is available at a cost of 5.12 cents per page (\$36.00 total cost), and can only be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 as Stock No. 024-001-03562-2.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Treasurer Sumner Heidel reports since our acknowledgment in N.L. 59 and through September 14 he has received contributions as large as \$44 in excess of dues from 29 members. Our thanks to the following who have made extra contributions of \$5 or more each: Fred Veatch, Mrs. Karl Jetter, Lee Thatcher, Burdge Irelan, Robert Allen, Mrs. Leon Wiard, Mrs. Tillie Yocus, Lewis Conn, George LaRocque, Ken Taylor, Roy Clifford Gilstrap, Orison H. Jeffers, Mrs. Margaret Youmans, Art Diaz, Art Goucher, John Scopi, and also to the others who contributed one to 4 dollars more than requested dues. We continue to appreciate the generosity and interest shown by these retirees whose contributions totalled \$221.

RECENT AWARDS

Several active WRD personnel were recipients of recent awards.

Philip Cohen, the Chief Hydrologist, received the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award from President Reagan on August 2, 1988. This is the highest rank civilian award for Federal employees.

Edgar Imhoff, of Sacramento, California, received the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award at a ceremony held on September 20, 1988.

Three WRD personnel also received the Department of the Interior Distinguished Service Award at a recent Departmental ceremony. They are Dan A. Davis of Honolulu, Hawaii, for his work on potable water on Pacific atolls; Vernon B. Sauer of Stone Mountain, Georgia, for his contributions to water resources programs; and Edwin P. Weeks of Pine, Colorado, for his field-study work on unsaturated zones.

Three additional WRD members were honored recently by the Geological Society of America. William (Bill) Back was the recipient of the Hydrogeology Division's Award for Distinguished Service both for his scientific contributions and his efforts on behalf of the Hydrogeology Division. Isaac J. Winograd was the recipient of the O. E. Meinzer Award for his published contributions to the field of hydrogeology. Warren Wood was selected as the Birdsall Distinguished Lecturer for 1988-89, and as such will lecture and conduct informal discussions on ground water topics at host institutions across the country.

RECENT RETIREMENTS

Headquarters: Donald Leifeste, Hydrologist, on September 30****Joan Wilcox, Secretary, Bay St. Louis, MS, on August 3****Norman Hutchison, Hydrologist, on July 30****Eileen Smith, Secretary, on September 10.

Northeastern Region; Richard Morrill, Hydrologist, Augusta, ME, on July 29.

Southeastern Region: Harold L. Edmiston, Hydro. Technician, Memphis, TN, on July 1****Augustine H. Ludwig, Little Rock, AR, Hydrologist, on September 2****Jack Steinberg, Administrative Clerk, Miami, FL, on August 12.

Central Region: Robert B. Morton, Hydrologist, Oklahoma City, OK, on September 30**** Mary K. Namba, Computer Assistant, Lakewood, CO, on September 2.

Western Region: None.

KEY POSITIONS FILLED

Lawrence Martens, District Chief, NY, selected as Assistant Regional Hydrologist, NR.

Richard Novitzki, Subdistrict Chief, Ithaca, NY, selected as Chief of the Illinois District.

Wanda Meeks, Assistant District Chief, Raleigh, NC, selected as Chief of the Orlando Subdistrict Office.

William Herb, Subdistrict Chief. Fort Worth, TX, selected as District Chief, Minnesota.

NEWS OF RETIREES

D.J. (Ceedy) and Kay Cederstrom visited New Brunswick and Nova Scotia again with high spots a lobster dinner at River John, N.S., and Canada Day (July 1) at Pugwash where they were regaled by costumed bagpipers. They also saw Ann's Green Gables on Prince Edward Island.

Louise Chaisson toured the Northeastern U.S. with a senior citizen group and recommends the trip to Yankee land.

Al Clebsch has entered into a volunteer agreement with the Central Region, WRD, to review the files and manuscripts of the late C. V. Theis to look for unpublished manuscripts that the Survey might wish to publish. After some 4 weeks of sorting through 9 cubic feet of boxes and 13 file drawers, he has located several candidates for publication.

Milt and Esther Cook recovered from serious operations in time to attend the NARFE convention in Little Rock in September. They were official delegates.

After enjoying the Bellevue Reunion, Joe and Jane Cragwall journeyed southward along the Washington, Oregon, and northern California Coasts, followed by three days in Yosemite National Park, as motoring guests of Lee and Lela Peterson in their new Mercury Marquis. Helen St. John and sister Maxine Brown joined the four for the Park visit. Helen sends greetings to all former coworkers from her new home in Modesto where her house connects via patio to Sister Maxine's, an ideal setup for separate togetherness.

Shortly after George and Lucille Ferguson returned from the Seattle Reunion, George became seriously ill with pneumonia. We are gratified to report that he is recovering nicely.

Wyatt Gambrell and Patricia Smith were married on May 28 in Atlanta, Georgia.

On September 11, Jackie Hartwell was stricken with a mild heart attack. She and Jim were forced to cancel their scheduled departure for the Retiree Reunion the following day. We are gratified to report that Jackie is recovering nicely.

Marion Hines, Guy Bearden, and Dick Sniegocki recently visited Doug Bedinger in Las Vegas, where Doug is in consulting work associated with UNLV. Dick did some dove hunting while there and he also reports a new granddaughter.

Betty Holm won a trip to Europe and took Joe along. Joe had been in Europe in WWII and said he'd never go back. He enjoyed the trip with Betty so much that they went back for another 3 weeks. Abe Cameron says you can teach an old dog new tricks.

An anonymous retiree tells us he is dreading having to face the crowds to do his Christmas shopping, and suggests moving Christmas to July when the stores aren't nearly as crowded.

Merle and Jean Huber and Harold and Arlene Leymeister motored to Pavillion, Wyoming, to visit Ralph and Echo Zettlemoyer. A pleasant reunion, except for the weather, is reported.

Keith Jackson, while on a visit to son Keith, Jr., and family in Fort Worth, was hospitalized after experiencing severe chills and fever. The diagnosis was Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Keith remembered that he had removed a tick a short time before while at home in Arkansas. After 6 days and a loss of 20 pounds, he returned to his son's home for further recovery and then back to his home in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Burge Irelan reports that he and Virginia have lived in Leisure World in Laguna Hills, California, for 2 years. Alice Whitlow, the former Mrs. Ed Barron, is the only other WRD retiree in their retirement community of more than 20,000 residents. The Irelans attend the State NARFE conventions and Burge is an officer in the local chapter. Also, they attended a reunion of alumni of the College of Emporia, Kansas, in Phoenix, Arizona, in April.

The American Society for Testing and Materials has presented Ivan Johnson with the William T. Cavanaugh Memorial Award which recognizes outstanding eminence in the national and international voluntary standards field.

NEWS OF RETIREES

Gus Ludwig, Arkansas District, retired at the end of August. His retirement party was attended by more than 150 friends and associates including Bill Williams, State Geologist, and Jim Cook, Regional Hydrologist.

Margaret and Jim Malesky especially enjoyed the Elderhostel week at Lakeview, Oregon, where they learned about cattle ranching, the Civil War, indians, and pioneers, and had the opportunity to produce some art pieces.

Phil Mathews visited the Arkansas District office on October 3, his first trip to Little Rock since his retirement in 1975.

Rex Meyer tells us that he regrets not being able to attend the Seattle Reunion, but the old "ticker" was not up to it. Thankfully, things are now greatly improved.

We join other friends of Maurice and Irene Mundorff in wishing them a great 50th wedding anniversary.

Norman and Lillian Payne with son Douglas traveled to Nova Scotia and Quebec in July. They cite wonderful scenery, the Bay of Fundy tides (close to 50 feet between high and low), and traffic heavier than they have seen anywhere (they should try the Washington Beltway). Quebec City and Niagara Falls were as fascinating as ever.

Verrie F. Pearce, President of Pearce Hydrology, Inc., Roseville, California, has saved \$240,000 in construction costs for two bridges for the city of Lincoln, California, by designing bridge approaches that will wash out during a flood of 100-year recurrence interval. The concept allows an appreciable reduction in the length of the bridges whose construction costs far exceed that of roadways.

Geological Survey Director Dallas Peck underwent surgery on September 15 to remove a malignant tumor from a lung. We are pleased to report that he is progressing satisfactorily and that he returned to work part time starting October 3. His home address is 2524 Heathcliff Lane, Reston, Virginia 22091.

Bill Schaefer, your assistant editor, was hospitalized unexpectedly July 22 for eye surgery-retina problem. By the end of September, he was back to normal activities.

Audrey (Mrs. Merle) Schroeder, was a delegate to the Biennial Convention of NARFE in Little Rock. Edith and Hank Halberg attended the NARFE banquet, with 2,700 other retirees. During early September, Edith and Hank took an Elderhostel tour on the Copper Canyon train trip in Chihuahua, Mexico. The group of canyons is said to be four times as large as our Grand Canyon. It is very wild country, and the Tarahumara Indians are very primitive, living in caves and primitive houses.

Dr. Hugo R. Thomas, State Geologist of Connecticut and Director of the Natural Resources Center, has been selected as one of three recipients of the John Wesley Powell Award for Citizen's Achievement by the U.S. Geological Survey. The award, presented by USGS Director Dallas Peck, cites Hugo for activities beneficial to the USGS programs and mission dating back to his work while still on the faculty at UConn and covering his 15 years with DEP. Hugo was specifically cited for his leadership in the use of a comprehensive water-resources information system.

Porter and Pat Ward had the good fortune of meeting up with Loren and Renee Young in Banff, B.C., where they enjoyed a scrumptious luncheon together at the elegant old Banff Springs Hotel. Incidentally, if you see a car with California plates inscribed "OLE RNNR", (or something like that) chances are that the driver is Loren.

P.E. LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc., (PELA), consulting hydrologists, geologists, and environmental scientists, announce the opening of an office in Vienna, Virginia, a Washington suburb. Don Wiesnet and Moe Deutsch will serve as senior associates for PELA in the Vienna office.

IN MEMORIAM

Roger C. Baker died on June 29, 1988, in Austin, Texas, at the age of 78 after a long illness. He entered on duty with the Division of Ground Water in Trenton, New Jersey, in March 1938 as a ground-water geologist. At the time of his retirement in 1967, he was a hydrologist with the District Office in Austin, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; a son, Roger, Jr.; a daughter, Susan Morrall; and one granddaughter.

Jessica F. Stringfield died on August 29, 1988, in Washington, D.C. She was the wife of Victor (Vic) Stringfield, who at the time of his retirement in June 1972 was a staff scientist at Division headquarters. In addition to her husband, Vic, she is survived by two daughters, Barbara Madison and Beverly Wood, and three grandchildren.

Mendall P. Thomas died on August 29, 1988, in Hartford, Connecticut, at the age of 79. He entered on duty with the Division of Surface Water in Hartford, Connecticut, in October 1936 as a junior hydraulic engineer. At the time of his retirement in November 1987, he

was a supervisory hydrologist in the Connecticut District Office. He is survived by his wife, Dorothea; a son, Warren; a daughter, Leslie Woods; and five grandchildren.

Betty M. Weir died on August 11, 1988, in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, at the age of 59. She was the wife of James E. (Burt) Weir who, at the time of his retirement in 1981, was a hydrologist in the Denver Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado. In addition to her husband, Bert, she is survived by a son, Scott; two daughters, Kitryn Sullivan and Adla Weir; and one grandson.

Word has been received that Clifford H. McConnell of Lemoyne, Pennsylvania, died on August 2, 1988. As a State official, he served for many years as the State cooperater for the joint State-Federal Water Resources program in Pennsylvania. More recently, he served as a member of the Office of Water Data Coordination Non-Federal Advisory Committee. He is survived by his wife, Mary; three sons-Gary, Craig, and Kevin; and three grandchildren.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Like a number of you, I have been contributing draft pages to the WRD history of the "Leopold years," - 1957-66. My present task (with much help from George Taylor's PP 911) is to document the international activities of those years. Coincidentally, I have recently finished reading James Michener's 1963 novel 'Caravans,' set in the Kingdom of Afganistan in 1946. This was the time when Morrison-Knudsen-Afganistan Company engineers began their surface-water investigations of the Helmand basin under a U.S. Technical Cooperation Administration contract. In the novel, the hero (an attache from the U.S. Embassy) is sent from Kabul to the still primitive southern part of the country on one mission from which he was redirected across the desert to find and retrieve an American engineer who had broken his leg in the course of measuring the spring runoff of the Helmand River. This engineer refuses to leave until his records have been gathered from "... this lonely shack, the veritable end of the world where the temperature was daily above one hundred and thirty." Alas, the engineer didn't make it back.

What struck me, in addition to the earlier comments about the water gauges and their purpose, were Michener's words in his Note to the Reader at the end of the book. "The vigorous struggle between America and Russia for Afganistan's affection . . . goes on unceasingly with ultimate victory uncertain. An overriding fact is this: Russia abuts on the northern border for nearly seven hundred miles, while the United States is nearly eight thousand miles away. Under these circumstances it is remarkable that our side has done as well as it has . . . Our victories have been the result of selfless work by dedicated men and women like John Prichard, the fictional engineer . . . Apparently, when our country needs such men, there is an endless supply, but we rarely call upon them or find a worthy place for them when they are called."

It is a rather remarkable tribute to find in print but one which I find reflected in George Taylor's words and in the stories that have been passed on to me by those who participated in our altruistic missions in far-away places. Their efforts are not entirely forgotten.

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