

# Retirees newsletter

**December 2005**

## The Denver Retreat of 2005

This is the first year that our Retirees Retreat has been hosted and subsidized by the company at our world headquarters in Denver. More than 70 retirees and alumni attended this big event.

Because not all of our retirees were lucky enough to travel to Denver for this reunion, we asked two of our attendees to report on what happened during this event so those who did not get to go could vicariously enjoy what they missed.

The following are the reviews contributed by Arlen Borgen and Jack Meier. Some photos taken by Fred Harem and our Denver hosts are included on the last page of the newsletter.

## 2005 DENVER RETREAT

*By Arlen Borgen*

Denver welcomed all of us with great hospitality and a show from Mother Nature. An October snow about six inches deep covered the area around the hotel and office, while just a mile or so west toward the mountains there was no snow, and going east the interstate was closed. Denver truly has its variety of weather.

From the time we arrived at the hotel, CH2M HILL Denver took splendid care of the retirees and alumni attending the reunion. Cari Strouse, Keri Henley, and Amy Drotar (all DEN) had the hotel arrangements so well-organized we even were invited to enjoy the hotel's catered wine tasting in the lobby area. Being spoiled from the start was their idea.

Dinner that evening was in the firm's dining area at the office, a large, nicely presented cafeteria-style room that is open to all the employees. A delicious, too-ample dinner was followed with greetings from Dave Miller, Harlan Moyer, and Ralph Peterson. Ralph, looking well and enthusiastic as in the past, spoke to the group about the firm, its plans for the future, and its professional approach to its business and employee relationships. A preliminary copy of the firm's history assembled from writings, recollections, and interviews was given to each retiree in

attendance for their review and feedback. Harlan and Dave Miller were the principal organizers of the document which, even in its initial state, is 279 pages. A very interesting history for all of us and hopefully of interest to the many people in the firm today and those to come in the future.

Following dinner, many of us toured the office complex, one that we were all proud to see as representative of the firm's growth and success. The group I was with had the pleasure of being shown the facilities by the CEO of a \$3 billion company. The first time I've ever personally known such a person. Everyone was impressed with the exercise room and the fact that it opens early in the morning for the early birds to workout and stays open late in the evening for the night owls.

The next day's program took us first to the Foothills Water Treatment Plant located in the foothills to the southwest of Denver. No snow at the treatment plant!

Ken Miller, who was involved with the project from its very start, gave us a rundown on the history of the plant and plans for the future. The plant, modern in every aspect and architecturally attractive, is located on a viewpoint looking out to the east toward the metropolitan area. Besides delivering high-quality water to the people of Denver and surrounding vicinity, it generates electricity from the water flowing from its sources in the mountains, thereby being essentially self-sustaining in its power requirements. The plant staff were our tour guides and were enthusiastic about their association with CH2M HILL, which we all appreciated.



Arlen Borgen

Naturally thirsty from seeing all that water, we were transported in a large comfortable bus to the Coors Brewery in Golden. No snow in Golden either. The Coors plant is well-organized for tour groups and our guide was a young woman with articulate diction. Very well-schooled on presenting the plant to a group. Coors obviously pays great attention to their public relations. As to the beer, we each got tickets for three glasses, having about 15 or 20 different flavors from which to choose. I believe most of us were quite surprised to see the variety of beers produced by Coors.

The second day was Colorado and World Animal History day. The downtown museum of Colorado history has a very interesting collection of artifacts and memorabilia from prehistoric times, American Indian history, wagon train emigration and mining days. Even several hours spent wandering the halls and floors left us with the feeling that there was still a lot more to see but there was no more time that day. And our appetites were telling us it was approaching noon. Perhaps it was the thought of the barbeque lunch at Bennet's BBQ that got us to the bus on time.

After our meal at Bennet's, we made the afternoon stop at the Wildlife Experience Museum located near the firm's office complex. Animal exhibits from around the world are displayed in attractive settings. The butterfly collection is fascinating with the myriad of colors and patterns exquisitely put together by nature.

After a little rest break, dinner was served at the Inverness Hotel Garden Terrace. We then had a relaxing evening enjoyed by all with the opportunity to visit with friends about their life as a retiree or whatever they might be doing. We all knew of others who would have enjoyed the retreat but for one reason or another could not make it. Hearing about them was part of the enjoyment of the evening.

The next morning, our last day of the get-together, the firm sponsored breakfast in the office cafeteria. Many of our friends who are still active employees came by to say hello. It was just great to see them again and their coming by was very much appreciated.

The cordial reception we all received in Denver spoiled us, reemphasizing the wonderful company that we were part of in our working career.

## RETIREES RETREAT IN DENVER

*By Jack Meier ('62 – '87)*

### DAY 1, OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

Following a wine tasting "get-acquainted" event sponsored by CH2M HILL at our Marriot Hotel South headquarters in Littleton, CO, we proceeded to the 375,000 square foot CH2M HILL Denver campus where we enjoyed a buffet dinner and mixed with other retirees. David Miller, Harlan Moyer, and Ralph Peterson spoke to us about the history of CH2M HILL from its inception by the five founders, and the principles, ethics, and standards embodied in their growth and success. Harlan distributed a draft history of a book put together by him and David



Jack and Sue Meier

Miller, embodying the principles on which our corporation was founded. The prologue lists seven core values of CH2M HILL. The first is "Honesty, Integrity, and Trust." They will distribute additional copies to retirees on request.

### DAY 2, OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

Our first full day, October 11<sup>th</sup>, we toured the Foothills Water Treatment Plant, perhaps CH2M HILL's second major project following the Lake Tahoe project. Basically, the plant is supplied by groundwater from the Denver foothills, which flows by gravity to the treatment plant. It enters the plant through a 57-inch intake, from which it flows through a battery of gravel/sand/anthracite filters, is treated, and then pumped out to the city of Denver and adjacent communities. I was impressed by the layout and appearance of the plant. A lot of thought obviously had been given to future expansion. Adequate space had been provided for maintenance and access to units needing to be removed for repair. Auxiliary equipment, for example chlorination and fire retardant systems, was separated from, yet close to, major processing areas. The control room was a delight to see. Two operators, one at either end of the control room, could keep watch on all control elements from their chairs. Also, the plant has very good communication and security systems.

In the afternoon we toured the Coors Brewery. A guide herded us through various processes, giving detailed descriptions from the source of the hops to the percentages of alcohol comprising their selective products. Our guide was witty, knowledgeable, and thorough. Highlights included the information that the hops are grown in Germany, and alcohol content depends on hops selection and fermentation. Noteworthy facts: 1) Adolph Couers emigrated from Germany as a young man; 2) the brewery has remained in family hands since inception; 3) founder Couers kept the brewery running during the Depression by changing its product from beer to chocolate malted milk. After the tour we were treated to three six-ounce glasses of beer of various alcoholic content.

### DAY 3, OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

This day was Museums Excursions Day. In the morning we visited the Colorado History Museum. Two hours spent there didn't do this fantastic exposition of memorabilia justice. It covered the history of the early Colorado Territory and its settlement by the Indians that lived there at the time they were driven out by the U.S. Cavalry. It also described wars between Indian tribes themselves in the area that is now Arizona. Features included a Colorado timescape of a 3-D model of the state depicting over 10,000 years of history; another

4,000-square-foot exhibit portrayed the lifestyles of ancient inhabitants of Colorado. A filmed narrative by descendants of Indians who survived the war against them by the U.S. Cavalry was heart-wrenching, but not withheld from history.

Following our lunch break at Bennett's BBQ, we visited the Denver Wildlife Experience Museum, where we wandered through exhibits of animals, their habitats, varieties, and natures. Various exhibits contained life-like settings of stuffed critters adapted to common habitats, for example, ducks, mudhens, loons, beavers, otters, and ferrets. Large stuffed animals included bison (1,500 lbs), buffalo (800 lbs), giraffe, lions, tigers, etc. Species I had never heard of were on display here. At each station one could press a button to hear their calls. Also included was a hall of over 50 paintings by famed western artist Larry Fanning

I apologize for the length of this review in trying to cover all that we did and saw, but the retreat was a resounding success, and some kudos are in order. First, on behalf of the 77 retirees who attended, I wish to thank the CH2M HILL management for their generous contribution to our hotel bills. Next, we would like to thank those employees who organized and ramrodded the retreat activities. I know of only Cari Strouse in DEN and Judy Clark in CVO, but I include their counterparts in the other offices as well. I also thank the young ladies who spoiled us on the shuttle busses with the fruit, breakfast bars, chocolate bars, soft drinks, and other things they tempted us with. We also thank hostesses Amy Drotar, Keri Henley, Amber Rowell and Megan Snider for arranging our transportation between the Marriott and the airport.

## Retreat 2006 In Florida???

According to our regular retirees retreat schedule, we are to have the gathering once every two years starting with the 2004 retreat in Redding, California. Since the retreat in Denver this year was a special one and was organized and hosted by the firm, we should have another one next year.

Retirees in Florida have expressed interest in having it in the Gainesville area if there are enough people interested in attending. Time is a little short because the retreat in Florida would have to be early in the summer to be ahead of the hurricane season. However, we should be able to do it if there are 40 to 50 people interested in attending.

So please give this idea some thought. If your answer is "yes," please drop a postcard to the CVO office. Or, if you have internet access, please send e-mail to [cshieh@ch2m.com](mailto:cshieh@ch2m.com) or [jclark@ch2m.com](mailto:jclark@ch2m.com) before the end of January 2006. We will take it from there.

## Where Are They Now AND WHERE HAVE THEY BEEN



Ken Durant

Because of some unforeseen problems, our regular contributions for the column "Where Are They Now" cannot make the publication date of this issue. For a substitute, we are including news on the whereabouts of newly retired IDC president Ken Durant as a special treat.

Because Ken is almost a public figure, his retirement tribute and his forthcoming retirement life have been headlined in Ted Johnson's CH2M HILL Newsletter and featured in local newspapers.

Naturally, the following is not from Ken's own writing but excerpts from various news articles.

On September 27, 2005, Ken Durant was honored at a retirement tribute at Portland's Multnomah Athletic Club. Many of our retirees probably only know Ken as the president of IDC, ever since the establishment of that organization. Actually, Ken had been associated with our Portland office for many years before he plunged into the firm's first subsidiary to pursue industrial work in the private sector, which was a pretty radical idea at that time. He took 35 CH2M HILL staff that have developed into a successful business 20 years later with hundreds of employees and offices all over the world. The original 35 CH2M staff agreed to transfer over to the fledging startup, with no assurance that they could return to their former positions if the IDC experiment failed. Some 16 of those 35 are still working at IDC today.

Ken closed the evening with warm thanks to the crowd, and with encouragement to all to sustain the unique CH2M HILL culture. He added: "At the end of the day, the trust in your fellow employee is all-important. If you lose that, the company would just be like any other company. For those of us who've been there and enjoyed that through the years, I hope that's not lost in the future."

Now that Ken has retired, he intends to spend his leisure time in a great "hideout" that he and his wife Penny prepared many years ago. It is a nursery farm they have planned and built in the hills of Dayton, a vineyard area southwest of Portland, Oregon.

It is best to quote a newspaper article from *The Oregonian* August 7, 2005, as follows:

A peaceful place to enjoy some muffins and gaze at the lavender, at their retail nursery in the hills of Dayton,

Penny and Ken Durant also have created a romantic getaway.

This is Penny's dream," says Ken Durant in a voice just above a whisper. He is standing on the outer rim of Red Ridge Farms' perennial nursery, looking down over a field of flowering lavender outlined with rose beds. Beyond, there are rolling hills pleated with lush green grapevines from Domaine Drouhin Winery. Durant, by nature, is an ebullient man, but this stunning landscape brings a reverie to anyone who sees it.

Red Ridge Farms may be Penny Durant's vision, but it is the close-knit partnership of husband and wife that has made this Dayton hillside an imperative destination for gardeners and wine country enthusiasts. The family-owned retail nursery grows a variety of hardy landscaping plants as well as more than 300 varieties of herbs and 100 varieties of lavender; it has a garden shop that inspires container-garden envy (the pots, urns, and planters from Vietnam are sleek and elegant and really well-priced); and the real surprise: a beautiful guest suite above the store.

With its spiral staircase winding alongside rows of fragrant drying herbs and its two balconies revealing Mount Jefferson and the views of Willamette Valley vineyards, this romantic getaway is an ideal hideaway for Oregon winery visitors. And it's still pretty much a secret!

Penny grew up on a 1,400-acre homestead in Northern California, and she credits her grandmother and a favorite fifth-grade teacher for passing on their love of plant life and taxonomy. Ken also points out that from the time they were first married 44 years ago, she would tell him to save his money when it came to buying her expensive gifts. She didn't want fancy vacations, jewelry, or clothes; what she wanted was land: land to cultivate the plants she loved, the values of stewardship in which she believed, and a quality of life that made her happy. Durant, an engineer who went on to become the president of a subsidiary of CH2M HILL, also shares her viewpoint and has worked to make this vision and Red Ridge Farms into a reality.

For a midmorning break, Penny serves iced herbal tea and muffins studded with fresh raspberries and

lavender. It's a recipe she's adapted from Sharon Shipley's "The Lavender Cookbook," (Running Press, 2004). We enjoy the crunchy-topped muffins in the patio overlooking the lavender field even though there are all kinds of other interesting places to nestle in or spread out, and Penny encourages people to do just that with a picnic.

"Oh, of course, I'd love to have them shop at the store or the nursery, but it also gives me a lot of pleasure seeing people just come here to enjoy the scenery," she says as we spot a couple hand-in-hand making their way over to a shady stand of birch trees.

Red Ridge Farms is at 5510 N.E. Breyman Orchards Road, Dayton; 503-864-8502; [www.redridgefarms.com](http://www.redridgefarms.com).

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## Status of Draft of CH2M HILL History

*from Fred Harem*

As reported earlier in this newsletter by Arlen Borgen and Jack Meier, copies of the draft document were distributed to all retirees in attendance at the dinner on October 10. The preparers, Dave Miller and Harlan Moyer, emphasized that the document in its current form should not be considered as complete, and asked that we "read and hopefully enjoy" the work at this point. Those interested were asked to submit positive comments, constructive criticism, and to point out any errors or things we thought missing, or where further emphasis was needed.

Additional copies of the draft document were reportedly mailed to retirees who planned to attend the Denver Retreat but for various reasons had to cancel. Harlan has indicated that all comments received to date will be reviewed by him and/or Dave Miller, and that he then expects to have the work edited by a professional, print the document, and have it mailed out as a revised draft within the ensuing 2 or 3 months. Hopefully those of us who wish to review the document at that time can receive copies and make further comments.

**The following are just a sampling of photos showing the people and the fun that was had at the Denver Retreat!**



On the bus!



Museum – Fred & Dorie Harem



**Foothills WTP – Lyle Hassebroek & Dave Evans**



**Welcome Dinner – Sid Lasswell & Steve Lee**



**Welcome Dinner – Harlan Moyer**



**Coors Brewery - Megan Snider, Nofal Kasrawi & Tom Mlcoch**



**Welcome Dinner – Carol Wilkinson & Ramona Richards**



**Welcome Dinner – Dave Miller**



**Coors Brewery – Sharon Anglea, Rick Kester, Coors employee, Mike Anglea**



**Welcome Dinner – Roy & Velma Taylor**



**Welcome Dinner – Ralph Peterson**



**Foothills WTP – Carolyn & Bill Irving, & Doris Harem**



**Welcome Dinner – Yvonne & Steve Lee**



**Welcome Dinner – Ralph accepting signed t-shirt from Eleanor Benedict**



**Welcome Dinner – Don Evans & Ken Miller**



**Retreat Hostesses – Keri Henley, Megan Snider, Amber Rowell, Amy Drotar, & Cari Strouse**



Coors Brewery – Group Photo



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