

Retiree's 2004 Retreat, Redding, CA

By Bob Harding, Local Committee Chairman

The Gods smiled down on the 2004 retreat in Redding, CA, October 5th to 8th. The weather was perfect, the food was super and the 75 retirees who attended the retreat enjoyed a GREAT get-together. Many interesting and enjoyable activities were planned for each day, yet there was still ample time to renew old friendships and get caught up on the latest happenings. One of the main considerations in planning our retreat was to have plenty of time to visit with each other as well as including varied and interesting side trips each day.

Tuesday evening's Welcome Dinner, our first activity, was marked by enthusiastic greetings of old friends as well as meeting new ones.

At 8:30 Wednesday morning we boarded our tour bus and a mini-bus and departed on an interesting and fun-filled day. Our first stop at Shasta Dam began by viewing a film on the construction of the dam. Then, we descended several hundred feet by elevator inside the dam to the Power House level where we could see, close-up, the huge turbines and generators, one of which was disassembled for upgrading. The tour guides at the dam were very entertaining as well as informative, and on our departure wished us a "Bon Voyage" for our next stop, the lake itself.

With big appetites and thirsts, we arrived at the boat dock on the McCloud arm of Shasta Lake in time to board a launch for a sumptuous luncheon cruise. The Retreat Committee members very capably served a delicious lunch of barbecued beef tri-tips and chicken breasts with all of the trimmings, including plenty of "Whatever You Want" thirst-quenchers.

After our luncheon cruise we drove by Keswick Dam and Power House, Spring Creek Power House, and the Spring Creek Debris Dam enroute to the Clair A. Hill/Whiskeytown Dam and Reservoir. Some of these facilities are essential mitigation measures for the huge Iron Mountain Mine Super Fund project. CH2M HILL has been working on this project for several years with John Spitzley, RDD, as Project Manager. While on the bus, Joe Patten, who is especially knowledgeable about the entire Trinity Project (part of the statewide California Water Project), told us about the history of the project and the Clair A. Hill/Whiskeytown Dam and how it has impacted northern California. His description of how the dam was named after Clair Hill was fascinating. Ed Lance was the narrator on the mini bus. Their knowledge certainly enhanced our enjoyment of the tour and contributed to a better understanding of the massive Trinity Project.

Thursday morning after a delicious buffet breakfast we departed for the Turtle Bay Museum and Park and the Calatrava Sun Dial Bridge, a unique True Work of Art that so happens to be a bridge as well. We spent several hours exploring the museum and park. The American Society of Civil Engineers' 150 year anniversary exhibit, seen by thousands of people around the country, was especially appropriate for a bunch of visiting engineers. There were drawings, photographs and models depicting the major Civil Engineering projects of the past century and a half.

Most people took the opportunity to walk across the Sacramento River on the glass panel deck of the Sun Dial Bridge enjoying the beauty of the structure and the surrounding landscape. After dinner, we returned to see The Bridge, cleverly illuminated, which emphasizes its amazing design concepts.

After a nice lunch at The Turtle Bay Museum we reboarded our tour buses for the short trip to the McConnell Foundation, the donor for most of the funding for the museum and park, plus approximately \$23 million to design and construct the Sun Dial Bridge (original estimate for a simple steel girder bridge, \$3.5 million). The center of operations of the McConnell Foundation is situated in a beautiful park-like setting of approximately 200 acres of trees, walking paths and water features. We were greeted by Lee Salter, C.E.O. of the foundation, and his staff. They gave us an interesting illustrated talk on the history of the foundation, and the founders, Leay and Carl McConnell. The headquarters building is a delightfully rustic structure of salvaged old wooden beams and imported stone. The building plus the coordinated furnishings, which include many unique metal sculptures and paintings, create an awesome impression.

That evening we enjoyed good food, drink and conversation at the Riverview Country Club overlooking the Sacramento River and the beautiful vistas to the western mountains.

Before we departed we had a general discussion about where the 2006 Retirees' Retreat should be held. The consensus was that more people from the central and eastern states would attend if we were to hold it in a

more central location. It was agreed that whatever location was selected there must be a CH2M HILL office nearby that is capable and willing to serve as the host/coordination center. Denver seemed to best meet these basic criteria, and a near unanimous vote chose that city for the 2006 Retirees' Retreat.

Our farewell breakfast Friday morning served as a time for "Good-Byes," "So good to see you," and "We'll see you in Denver in 2006."

The Redding 2004 Retiree Retreat Committee wishes to thank those who came to enjoy our beautiful and interesting area. We also wish to express our appreciation to everyone who worked to make this one of the best Retreats you have attended.

Our special thanks to: Judy Mueller, Chief Helper and Hard Worker • C.Y. Shieh, Coordinator of the Retirees Activities Center • Gus Pantazi, our Webmaster

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Don Fox • Bob Harding • Ed Lance • Bob Morrison • Joe Patten

Good Friends and Good Times

By Les Wierson

On a beautiful fall morning Myrna and I left Portland for Redding, about 8 hours south of us. We had Myrna's new car, CD books, music and took turns driving. It is great to be retired. We stopped for lunch at one of our favorite restaurants, the Wolf Creek Tavern just north of Grants Pass. Heading south, Mt Shasta was spectacular in the afternoon sun.

We arrived at the Red Lion Inn about an hour before our welcome dinner. Picked up our name tags and ventured into the meeting room. I am always a little nervous but soon was overwhelmed by seeing so many old friends and a warm feeling that we are all part of the CH2M HILL family. We spent the evening talking with everyone about old times and what we are doing today. Lots of conversations about friends that could not attend and what they were doing. Myrna and I left the welcome dinner with a happy heart, glad that we could attend.

Bob and Madge Harding and the Redding group were excellent hosts. For the next two days we were treated to tours and events. The highlight for us was the Sun Dial Bridge and park, a must for anyone visiting Redding.

We were able to visit with friends in a relaxed atmosphere.

We had our Farewell dinner at the Redding Country Club, overlooking the Sacramento River. It's a beautiful facility, and yes, Bob, the prime rib was excellent. We discussed when and where we would like to meet again. A number of people expressed interest in a Midwest/East location. Atlanta, Gainesville, S. Calif., Las Vegas, Branson, and Washington, DC were mentioned as possibilities. For 2006 Denver seems to have the most interest, with Boise as a possibility.

The next day we attended the Farewell Breakfast and said our good-byes. A great time and all planned around the CH2M HILL Alumni event Myrna and I are looking forward to our 2006 get together... "God willing and the creek don't rise." Then we headed off for our next adventure, a white-knuckle trip down the California Coast on Highway 1 to San Francisco and among other things, a walk across the Golden Gate Bridge.

Thoughts on the Redding, CA, Retreat

By Arleta Burton

It is always great to get to see former workmates as when we are working, we spend more time with them than we do our own families

One of the highlights for me was the tour of Shasta Dam. After our tour, we went to the Lake Shasta Caverns area where we climbed aboard a party barge (with much slipping and sliding) that took us out on Shasta Lake as well as served us a delicious lunch while we were on the water. The barge took us to where we could view the Bridge over the McCloud arm of Shasta Lake and it was pointed out that along with the I-5 traffic on the

upper deck of the bridge, there was a railroad on the lower deck. On our way back to the dock, a boat was pointed out as the "Rest Room" boat. This is a practical way of keeping pollution out of the lake.

Clair A. Hill/Whiskeytown Dam and Reservoir, which we visited, was named for the founder of Clair Hill & Associates the company that merged with CH2M many years ago.

The Turtle Bay Museum is not your typical museum with lots of dusty exhibits, but is more interactive. They have a very large below ground fish aquarium where you can view many species of fish identified in a laminated book. After the self-guided tour, we were served a bountiful lunch in the museum's large lunchroom facility.

As humbling as it was, a few of us were even given an opportunity to laugh at ourselves during this retreat. At the wonderful dinner at the Riverview Country Club, adjacent to our room was a very nice large open deck so many of us took our beverages outside to enjoy a beautiful sunset. When dinner arrived and we went back into the building, new conversations were started and introductions were made. We soon realized that we were in the wrong room. The room next to us (which also had use of the same outside deck) was being used by a large constituent of doctors. Upon realizing this, we had to excuse ourselves and find our own group! Some of us considered staying with our newfound friends in lieu of keeping our next doctor's appointment! Just goes to show you that you really do learn life's most important lessons while in Kindergarten.....to hold hands with your buddy and always stay with your group!

This is the third retiree's retreat I have attended and they have all been well worth the time, effort, and expense to attend. I would encourage you all to make the effort.

Redding Retreat Photos – Smile!



1 - Steve Aasheim, Dave Evans, Carole Aasheim: Shasta Dam Info Center.

2 - Madge Harding, Marylou Mlcoch: Thursday night dinner at Riverview Country Club.



3 - Jane and Lyle Bower: Lunch cruise on Lake Shasta.

4 - Fred Harem, Anne Merryfield, Dorie Harem, Valerie and Dick Nichols, Carol and Harlan Moyer: "Welcome" dinner at the Red Lion.



5 - Harry Mejdell, Bob Morrison, Dorothy Mejdell, Sandie Morrison: Boarding bus after tour of Shasta Dam.



6 - Ken and Julie Bielman, Lyle and Jane Bower: Dinner at Riverview CC.

7 - Arleta Burton, Arlen Borgen: Riverview CC.



8 - Julie Bielman at the Calatrava Sun Dial Bridge.