
Retirees newsletter

December 2006

Some Editorial Notes

By Gordon Koblitz

Welcome to our first Retiree/Alumni Newsletter generated outside the hallowed halls of our founding office in Corvallis (although our production crew of Lyn Larson, Carol Hisaka, and Vicki Starr are still helping, thank goodness!). The focus of this issue is, of course, the first ever Retirees Retreat in the eastern U.S., planned for next May in Orlando. Many thanks to Steve Aasheim who volunteered to lead the local arrangements effort along with the support of Carmen Sohne/ORL, Ignacio Garcia Bengochea, and the able DEN crew of Cari "Cas" Strouse and Amy Drotar, who diligently pursued getting incredible rates for the Coronado Springs Resort at Disney World and setup for the on-line registration (a mail/phone option is available for those folks without computer access).

Thanks also to the 85+ of you who responded to our request for your email address to circulate this newsletter (it was fun to reconnect with so many of you!). For those who can, but haven't joined the e-list yet, please refer to the related article in this newsletter.

Another thank you to Don Evans for sharing his and Carol's recent trip to Great Britain. We're looking for similar articles (short or long) from our many travelers. Don't worry about editing - we have an editor to help. Include a photo or two and any helpful hints. We would like to continue the travel entries as a regular feature.

Here are some of my thoughts on 2007 goals for the newsletter and related activities:

- Seek regional volunteers to write and/or help contact others who would contribute articles of interest (be it travel, volunteer work, recognition/awards, etc.)
- Continue with the "Where Are They Now and Where Have They Been" articles (refer to first bullet above)

- Follow-up on Gus Pantazi's effort to establish an official Retiree/Alumni Website where we can post past newsletters, photos, retreat information, travel articles, contact lists, etc.
- Run a survey to find out what you would like to see in future newsletters and retreat locations and activities
- Any other suggestions?

Last thought: let's all go out and have a great 2007!!

Another Request (make that "plea") for your Email Address

In our August newsletter we asked for your individual email addresses. Many thanks to the 85 plus who responded! That's the good news. Unfortunately, that only represents about 10 percent of those on our mailing list. Using email delivery, besides the savings in postage we also save on labeling and assembling hard copies of the newsletter, plus e-mail allows "instant" access, color photos, and updates in between newsletters as needed. For those of you who don't have computer access, don't worry-you will receive the newsletter as always. For the rest of the folks (especially our Alumni friends!), please send your email address to gkoblitz@ch2m.com to join the e-list. Thanks in advance!

Fun Visit with Gus

by Gordon Koblitz

There's no better way to celebrate our annual trek to the PNW (and escape the Texas heat) than to have lunch with Gus Pantazi at his favorite haunt (Alexi's on Burnside) and include our wives so they can bask in Gus's arms. Bob and Susie Fuller and Gordon and Donna Merseth joined in the celebration, good food, and great conversation. Gus is doing well and carrying on as usual. He handed over his many disks and related material for the CH Retiree Website that he's

been maintaining over the years with the request that others pick it up and run with it (it's on the 2007 goals list now). In the meantime, he keeps in touch with many of the PDX folks. Drop him an email at: gus@wa-net.com. Thanks for the photos, Donna and Gordon!



From Top L to R: Mary, Susie, Gus, and Donna. Now that's a happy group!



From Top L to R: Gordon K., Bob, Gordon M. and Gus. Hmmmm.....somehow it's not the same holding hands with these guys.

Travel and Timeshare Advisory for Retirees

by Dave Evans

In the early 1980s my wife, Carol, and I purchased timeshare weeks that you had to use or lose. With the advent of the Internet some years later, Carol found a website called www.travelzoo.com. Finally, our oldest son Chris took a job and continues to work in China teaching English to Chinese-speaking students. These three seemingly unrelated events have reached critical mass, with both of us vowing to stay home more in 2007 so we can wash clothes, do dishes, play golf, clean house, and make repairs – the normal retiree stuff. Looking at my pocket-held daytimer (no

electronics here), it looks like we only have five trips booked for 2007 (including our 6th trip to China) versus the 12 trips we took in 2006. Maybe our resolution will take hold by the end of 2007?

The travelzoo.com website deserves a brief special mention. It got us a week in Paris, France, and a week in Madrid, Spain, each trip costing between \$450 and \$600 per person, including round trip airfare from our home in Las Vegas and weeklong hotel stays (3-4 star level). How can anyone say no to travel at those prices and places to see?

Anyway, Gordon Koblitz asked that I do an article about our travels and suggested our recent trip to Great Britain as a candidate. And guess what, the trip was planned around a timeshare week in Wales. Given the poor rate of money exchange, our meals were for the most part in unmentionable pubs and Best Western, Quality Inn, and Travel Lodge hotels.

Our trip to Great Britain covered 19 days and took in the countries of the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and Northern England. Some would say that Wales is not a country, but rather is a part of England. Believe me, the Welch do not agree!

Aside from our sea crossing on low-budget airlines (they put Southwest to shame), the entire 3,000-mile trip was by rented car (Ford Escort or equivalent) with yours truly as the driver and Carol as the outstanding navigator and map-reader on the left side of the road and with a left-handed, five-speed stick shift.

I swear (and I did!) every intersection was round-about with at least four choices of direction, including going around a second or third time while I missed other cars and Carol tried frantically to read road signs and make map comparisons on the fly. Fortunately the locals are good drivers and were watching out for these two Yanks. There were several near misses but no accidents. I measured my skill improvement level by the number of real loud screams from Carol, and my raised voice and number of car stalls in these wonderful round-about. Getting out of the Dublin airport with plans of a 4- to 5-hour drive that day, I think I got 6 to 8 screams, raised voices, and/or stalls. On the 19th day when we returned to Dublin for our trip home, I think I was down to one incident a day.

One more comment related to driving. As I said earlier, the locals were very good but fast drivers, and road signage was outstanding even in the countryside (actually better than anything I have seen in the U.S.). However, often the roads were very narrow, sometimes too narrow for centerline striping, with no places to pull off, and were lined on both sides with cobblestone rock walls covered with vines. The car rental places bragged about how the side mirrors would fold back upon impact. Well, I proved them right on one occasion!

Our trip objectives were to see castles, churches, small and large cities, glass crystal manufacturing, pubs, breweries, and distilleries (you choose each of our priorities based on the remainder of this article). Through Carol's great trip planning and management, all objectives were met. Landing in Dublin, once we got clear of the Ryder Cup golf traffic (that took 3 hours), we headed toward the south part of the Republic of Ireland, a countryside of castles, the first being the Castle of Killkenny, and then onto the Waterford Crystal Factory. The factory was a great tour and of course we bought a souvenir.

From Waterford, we went on to Rock of Cashel and then to the Ashford Castle/Hotel (5 stars +, so just a visit to the grounds around the home once owned by the Guinness Beer family). From there we drove to Northern Ireland with the main objective being Bushmill's Irish Whiskey distillery north of Belfast.

Belfast became a really important stop for us. Belfast is a very interesting large city that everyone should see once if in the area! (We had some of the same feeling when we visited Viet Nam.) Although there had been no recent IRA bombings, the history of a city divided between Catholics and the Church of England with barbed wire, walls with gates, and vacant lots where bombed buildings once stood, is still there to see. Today the protests are in the form of wall art (a large one featured President Bush, and another featured Bobby Sands, the hunger strike youth). The walled gates are still closed each night at 10 p.m. before people leave the various pubs. Also, the Belfast shipyard is where the ship Titanic was built.

Bushmill's is another great stop, not only from the tasting perspective, but also from a tour and

museum perspective. From Bushmill's it was on to Balley Castle and the most beautiful coastline we saw on the entire trip, and then back to Belfast to catch a plane for Edinburgh, Scotland.

The local airlines have Southwest Airlines beaten for cheapness and no frills. They get the cost down to less than a ferry ride by plastic seats that do not recline, no leg room, deplaning directly on the runway parking area, boarding gates that are just trailers bolted together, and limiting total baggage (carryon and checked) to just 40 U.S. pounds. Good thing our flights were each less than an hour long. However, as hard as it is to imagine, they have other flights with flying times of 6 to 8 hours on these same planes.

Edinburgh and its castle would for sure be a place to return to – it's a beautiful city with much to see and do (on par with Paris and Madrid). From Edinburgh we drove to the Dewar's 100-year-old Scotch Whiskey distillery in Aberfeldy, and then to St. Andrews Golf Course where golf was born. Dewar's distillery, its grounds, and museum again were among the best we have ever seen. I just had to bring back their Aberfeldy single malt scotch, which is used as the base for the blended Dewar's (the first U.S. release was only 800 cases this year). We could have played golf at St. Andrews, but with weight limits and the size of our rental cars, there was no way a golf outing would have happened. Even rented clubs would have added too much time to our trip (for all you golfers, a sad but true statement!).

From St. Andrews we drove south into Northern England to visit Alnwick Castle where the outside scenes of the Harry Potter movie were filmed. Another great castle to visit!

Next was a drive to Rhyl, England, and a week at our timeshare with day tours around Wales (again great and interesting castles) and a 2-day side trip to the York area where we toured together and stayed with friends from our Singapore days at the pub that they own and operate. In two foreign languages (Welsh and Gallic – no vowels, just consonants – I think Russian would be easier to read) are routinely spoken before English. Street signs listed all three languages, with English being the smallest print at the bottom of the sign. (Does this remind you a bit of Quebec, Canada?)

From Liverpool we flew back to Dublin for several days of city touring and the all-important tour of

the Guinness Brewery – a very interesting brewery, tasting room, and museum.

It was then back to Las Vegas for 2 days of clothes washing and repacking for 5 days in Albuquerque and the hot air balloon races (a travel story for another day).



Having lunch at Alnwick Castle in Northern England, where Harry Potter movie outside scenes were shot.

Orlando Beckons! Tuesday, May 22 thru Friday, May 25, 2007

by Steve Aasheim

What a great place to get re-acquainted with your CH2M HILL friends, and get back up to speed on how the firm continues to evolve! The dates for our first ever Retirees Retreat in the eastern U.S. are Tuesday, May 22 thru Friday, May 25. Our venue is the Coronado Springs Resort on the Walt Disney World property (you will love this place!). Disney's shuttles will pick you up at the airport in Orlando, and on-property transportation is complementary as well, so unless you want to do some other sightseeing you won't have to rent a car.

For those of you who have never been to Disney (or Orlando), you'll never find a better opportunity. This is "shoulder season," to the extent that such a season exists in the Orlando area. The weather will be warm—expect upper 80s to low 90s—but the full Florida summer should not yet be evident. Disney World is an incredible complex including four major theme parks: Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, Animal Kingdom and MGM

Studios. But a visit to the grounds and gardens and to some of the incredible properties, like Wilderness Lodge, is worth the trip even if you never set foot in a theme park. In addition, Orlando has Sea World and Universal Studios, a host of night-time entertainment opportunities (think Las Vegas without the gambling and the smoke), and shopping to die for.

We have been able to block out only 35 rooms at the Coronado at our extremely low negotiated rate of \$123 plus taxes per night double occupancy. Children under 18 in the same room are free. Disney requires a guarantee and we lack the financial ability as a group to guarantee more rooms than that. Once these rooms are booked Disney may be unable to accommodate you on-property and/or the rates may increase, **so book as soon as you can.** Use the online booking link shown here

<https://www.seeuthere.com/event/m1c9c395-409289509487>) or call Amy Drotar or Cari "Cas"

Strouse in DEN to start the process (720- 286-4200). Online or by phone you will be able to leave credit card information for the room reservation and indicate the activities you wish to participate in. Once you have done the online registration or called Amy or Cari to request the registration form, fill it out and mail it with a check for the full amount of registration and your chosen activities to Judy Clark/CVO, CH2M HILL, 2300 NW Walnut Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330. Please note that if space is available Disney will extend the preferred room rates three days either side of the retreat. Again, the earlier you commit the better the odds your request can be honored.

A mandatory non-refundable registration fee of \$50 per person will be required. And our Wednesday and Thursday activities (see below) will require an additional fee to cover bus, meal, and admissions or tour cost. These activities are optional and cost extra, but of course we hope nearly everyone will elect to participate, particularly on Wednesday.

The firm has committed enough to fund the opening dinner on Tuesday, and Friday's breakfast will be included in your registration fee.

The preliminary agenda looks like this:

Tuesday evening—Reception and Dinner. A guest speaker from the Southeast Region will welcome

us to Florida and Orlando (hopefully this will be Bob Bailey).

Wednesday—Breakfast on your own and then a “9 to 5” excursion to see some client projects and visit the NASA space center at Cape Canaveral. We have plans to visit Cocoa, a long-term client for whom we have developed a surface water supply, a well field with aquifer storage and recovery, and a very sophisticated water treatment plant. Then we will go on to Port Canaveral, where we have done many projects, including work on the cruise ship terminal. We will either have lunch at Port Canaveral or en route to the Space Center at Cape Canaveral. We’ll spend a couple of hours at Cape Canaveral, getting a private site tour, then back to Coronado Springs for a well-earned rest and dining with friends or on your own. Note this excursion is optional, but will be the highlight of the visit. We will be using a bus or buses, and only those on the bus will be able to participate in the day’s activities. Private cars will not be allowed. The cost of this activity is \$100 per person including transportation, lunch, and NASA Space Center tickets. It is possible we will have more attendees than space, so sign up early!

Thursday—Again, breakfast on your own. At 9 am we will have our second excursion, again by bus or van depending on the number who sign up. The plans for this day include visits to some projects we have done for Orlando Utilities and Winter Park, and then lunch at a Winter Park restaurant. Along the way you’ll get to see some of beautiful downtown Orlando and the historic suburb of Winter Park. The cost of this activity is \$25 per person and includes transportation only. Lunch will be on your own. We’ll be back in the early afternoon, in plenty of time to take in some of the Disney attractions or go off-site to Universal or Sea World. Or do some shopping. Believe me, Orlando has shopping. Also, one of my favorite activities is the half-day Disney behind-the-scenes tour that explores how the Disney folks make all this magic happen. This is a fun alternative for those folks who choose not to do the OU/Winter Park excursion. Our hotel concierge will be able to help with these and other activities.

There will be a group golf outing on Thursday afternoon; if interested, indicate so when you register. Depending on group size we will set up tee times or have a shotgun start at a local golf

course. Expect to pay green fees and cart fees of less than \$100 per person, payable at the course.

Thursday’s evening meal will also be on your own. I would suggest dining somewhere in the park, then finding a good viewing spot for the evening fireworks and laser light shows. There is a permanent Cirque du Soleil theater at Downtown Disney. I highly recommend this show.

Friday morning at 8:00 am will be our closing breakfast and business meeting. Business meeting? Yes, to discuss where and when we might convene next, what we want to be as a group when we grow up, do we want to be an organization with a purpose, etc. The Friday breakfast cost is included in your registration.

We’d love to see you in Orlando! And as mentioned above, Disney will extend the rates a few days either side of our meeting just in case you want to make it more of a visit (grand- kids?). But don’t put this off; register today! The truth of the matter is, the best part of these gatherings is getting back together again, catching up on what your friends are up to, and re-living past “glories.” Do It!

2006 Retirees

Thanks go to Marie Haezebrook/DEN for furnishing the list.

Mary Barzee 6/30	Wilmar Kohne (IDC) 12/31
Estelle Bates-Eccles 12/1	Dick Monroe 10/20
David Bennion 5/19	Bill Murdock 4/30
Jim Butt 5/19	Robert Nagel 1/31
Dick Corrigan 5/5	Dennis Sandretto 9/8
George Gunn 12/30/05	Cliff Thompson 7/14
Larry Henderson 4/28	Doyle Tinkey 5/31
Gordon Koblitz 10/6	Ann West 9/22

2006 Deceased Retirees

James Abbott 5/31
Francis Nordquist Brown 6/1
John Burke 9/14
Ed Clinton 1/18
Penny (Mrs. Joe) Farris 11/2
Joan (Mrs. Clair) Hill 12/18
Joan Hughey 2/18
Murray Pzena 4/10
Bob Richards 4/16
Lila (Mrs. Gene) Swanson 3/9
Bill Thornton 4/26

Keeping Work Fun and Meaningful

by Gordon Koblitz

It started earlier this year when Bob Bailey mentioned that he would like to get a few senior staff together to brainstorm ways to keep many of our senior staff (including part- and flex-time) engaged with SER clients and projects as they consider retirement options and beyond. It fit with Ralph Peterson and Bill Dehn's concern about the large numbers of "Boomers" approaching retirement age and the resulting impact on the firm's ability to continue to expand and service our clients.

So Bob invited a group of SER staff, including Bill Dehn, Cliff Thompson, Dale Green, Mary Jo Jordan, Steve Aasheim, Jim Hawkey, Mike Mynhier, and Gordon Koblitz, and their spouses to a workshop in ORL in early May. Bob explained the background, purpose, and desired outcome of the meeting. Folks were asked to share why they stayed with CH2M HILL so long, things that were important to keep work fun and meaningful, and what would make them want to continue

contributing. In addition, the spouses shared what is important to them in having their spouse continue in a role with the firm (very enlightening to all).

At the end of the workshop, recommendations, a summary, and an action plan were developed. Bob and Mary Jo took some items that could be implemented at the SER level and followed up on these. Others that were applicable firmwide were taken by Bill and referred to a corporate group working on a "Mature Workforce Initiative" (MWI). It is a very comprehensive program; as parts are finalized, they will be shared with staff in 2007.

Bill has also initiated a quarterly conference call for around 120 part- and flex-time staff to inform them of the MWI, firm performance and outlook, organizational changes and other topics of interest. This program has been well-received and appreciated by many who didn't feel as "connected" because of their part- or flex-time status. Several MWI actions have already been implemented, with more targeted for the first quarter of 2007. A future article will highlight some of the new initiatives and Bob Allen's vision for the program.