



Retirees newsletter

March 2003

Retirees' 2002 Northwest Retreat

by Ken Bielman

Forty-six people attended our fourth retirees retreat held in Eastern Oregon September 5 - 8, 2002. For those of us fortunate enough to attend, it was a supercalifragilistic experience! Arlen Borgen, a native of the Baker City area, spearheaded the event with assistance from several fellow retirees and Judy Mueller/CVO, who provided the important logistics support. As extra guides and helpers, Arlen also enlisted the help of his daughter, Heather (Seattle); and from the Baker City area, his sister, Marilyn (County Nurse), nephew Kerry and his wife, Kari, and their two daughters. Kari is the publisher of the local daily newspaper.

Our welcoming dinner Thursday evening and farewell breakfast on Sunday morning were held at the historic, ornate and newly restored Geiser Grand Hotel in Baker City, an establishment that in former years had a reputation for activities not appropriate for a lady to talk about. (Gracious!) Between those two events, our time was chockfull of sightseeing in the Wallowa and Blue Mountains. So we could share camaraderie on these explorations, Arlen arranged for a comfortable tour bus with driver. Among other sites, we visited the Oregon Trail and Hells Canyon Interpretive Centers; Oxbow Dam Park; the Old West cattle town of Halfway; Hells Canyon Dam; Snake River Canyon; Anthony Lakes ski/camping area; the historic ghost town of Granite; and the gigantic gold dredge at Sumpter. We even took a ride on the steam driven, narrow gauge railway that skirts the river rock tailings of the dredge.

Of course, one can't be expected to do all that touring and breathe all that fresh air without gaining hearty appetites! We enjoyed breakfast at the Anthony Lakes Ski Lodge, a box lunch (set up by Arlen's relatives) at Oxbow Dam Park on the banks of the Snake, and a Western dinner at the Haines Steak House in (where else?) Haines, OR. Our most memorable meal, however, was the fantastic BBQ we enjoyed under the pine trees in Kari and Kerry Borgen's wooded yard. We not only *chowed-down* on

perfectly done steaks, but we left few leftovers in the salad bowls, baked bean casseroles, potato foils, and pie and cake tins. After our meal, we were treated to a short discourse on and demonstration of timber handling and processing by Kerry, who sawed a sizable log into boards using his one-operator portable sawmill. When we left Baker City that morning, it was 27 degrees. Brrr! At two PM it was 80-ish. Pant, pant! On return to Baker City it was '40-ish. Brrr! Many of us had forgotten just how many stars, are visible when not dimmed by city lights. It was a time to remember.

So, who attended our get together? Besides the retirees and spouses in the Northwest region, there were:

Ken and Shirley Wengler from Florida. Leroy and Velma Taylor from Arizona (Roy retired from BOI) Jerry and Kullaya Knapp, Dick and Mary Morgan, and Harry and Adrienne Young from California and, Warren and Chloe Edgley from Alaska. On the next page are some pictures taken by "staff photographer," Judy Mueller, and others. These photos were picked at random. Those of you who receive the CH2M HILL HILL newsletter, "Unlimited," can see these pictures in color. Our Webmaster, Gus Pantazi, has put together more detailed information about the retreat. If interested, check the CH2M HILL HILL Website at <http://www.alumni.ch2m.com/retreat>.

Ver-r-r-y INTERESTING

An unquotable quote found in the "body" of an engineer's out-of-date resume, "While with the Washington State Highway Department, he worked on the designing and drafting of the new *brides*." Penciled lightly in the margin: "Boy, how do you get a job like that???"
