
Retirees newsletter

November 2004

Retiree's 2004 Retreat

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.

Where Are They Now AND WHERE HAVE THEY BEEN

Roy Taylor

Roy, a civil engineer, is one of the real "old timers" in the Boise Office.

Although his specialty was "general civil," he has been involved with many other engineering projects



Roy Taylor

such as a sewer line across the Snake River, and the design of timber structures. He has also gained considerable expertise in fishery design and construction. People who have known Roy well agree that he is very stingy with the spoken word, and once he was given the nickname "Flap Jaw." He handles the written word very well, however, as demonstrated in the following "Where Are They Now" article. Be sure to read the excerpt from Roy's daily journal, **A Day In Nepal**, on page 5 of this newsletter. It is INTERESTING!! Roy retired in 2000.

After serving in the Navy I returned to Corvallis in 1956 and was fortunate to be hired by the small local engineering firm-Cornell, Howland, Hayes and Merryfield. Fred Merryfield had been one of my professors at Oregon State and either didn't remember me or wasn't involved so I was hired anyway.

I started on the Georgia Pacific Paper Mill project at Toledo, OR and then took a two week assignment to work for Earl Reynolds in the Boise office, increasing the BOI staff to about 5 persons. At retirement from full time work, still in Boise, my gold watch said 33 years service. Most of this was general civil, with a favorite of fisheries.

Velma and I are now in good health and enjoying condominium living in Mesa, AZ, with summers in Rexburg, ID to be near better fishing and family (and escape the 110 degrees F. plus Mesa summers). Winters include traveling, swimming, hiking the Superstition Mountains and playing lots of cards. For ocean time we travel South to Rocky Point or other destinations in Mexico.

Armed with my PC, Haestad hydraulics programs and a CAD program, I have kept a hand in with volunteer water conservation projects for our condo complex, and volunteer work for Mission Builders International. MBI does maintenance, sitework and building for Youth With A Mission (YWAM) bases around the world. The most notable of these were Kathmandu and Pokhara in Nepal. (See separate article: "Journal - A Day In Nepal" for my journal of a typical day in Nepal – makes you feel blessed to live in the USA despite our problems.)

We have also been doing a lot of cruising and travel with Overseas Adventure Travel (Costa Rica, Thailand, Peru). Our most recent adventure was as Trash Tracker volunteers for the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area www.nps.gov/volunteer where we bagged a striped bass as well as all manner of other things from the shoreline of Lake Powell. We enjoyed the 2002 CH2M HILL reunion in Baker, OR and look forward to seeing many of you again in the days ahead.

Cliff Bowers

Cliff joined the firm in June 1986 and became CH2M HILL's first full time employee in the Boston Office. In the early 1980's CH2M HILL in a joint-venture with another engineering firm submitted a proposal for a large waste-water project in Beijing, China. Cliff was the proposal manager for the other firm. When Les Wierson first set foot in the Northeast to expand our operations in the New England region, he convinced Cliff to join us. Cliff's experience, expertise and contacts with prospective clients were very helpful in establishing our new office. After 16 years with the firm, Cliff retired from his position as Area Office Manager in 2002.

I retired in April, May, and June of 2002. Since I had been taking 8 weeks off each summer for several years July and August were like a regular summer. Retirement really started in September that year. Since that time I have worked a little to transition relationships with a couple of long-term clients. That has been mutually beneficial and has offered a nice continuation of my relationship with folks in the firm.

Ginny retired 6 years ago from her physical therapy work with the Visiting Nurse Association to

care for our granddaughter while our daughter and her husband work. Now we have three granddaughters and I get to help out. Their parents are schoolteachers so we have school vacations and all summer off. It is a lot of work but enormously rewarding. We love it - and them.



Cliff Bowers' family at Disney World

We have no real interest in travel, been there and done that enough already, but we did drive to Florida last year with the kids and grandkids in the Suburban. We visited with our son in Gainesville, went to Seaworld and Disney World and had a wonderful time.

I have been able to do lots of woodworking projects that have been in the pipeline for years. I have even been able to get the 1925 Model T, that I have owned for 12 years, running. Our summers continue to be oriented around our place in Boothbay, Maine and with sailing and fishing, life is good.

The things I appreciate the most about retirement is the lack of deadlines and billable time. There is always tomorrow. I reflect often on the wonderful career I had as a consultant but I am glad that I retired – I cannot imagine trying to fit work into this busy schedule.

Dick Nichols

At CH2M HILL, Dick is known as the senior electrical engineer who worked in the capacity of chief engineer and quality assurance (QA) head of our electrical department. In addition to many projects, he has been the mentor of most of our new EE's as the firm grew and the electrical department expanded.



Dick Nichols

One remarkable highlight of Dick's career is his long-time participation in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) an international professional society. He said through his involvement with IEEE and CH2M HILL, he has accumulated more than one million actual flight miles travelling all over the world.

Reflections On a Career, and Afterwards. *I joined CH2M in late 1957 after graduating from Oregon State College in 1949, and then spending a few years with General Electric in New York, and Uncle Sam in the Korean War. As a Corvallis native, I never dreamed of a non-academic EE position in the town where I was born and raised, but that's where I have been based for 47 years. I found out that my Dad had worked at CH2M part time and summers during the period 1951-53 while he was on the faculty at OSU. That made me a second-generation CH2M'er. Now, I am part of a rare third generation CH2M HILL family as our son, Kevin, is a senior civil engineer in the St. Louis office.*

When I joined the firm in December, 1957, as I remember it, there were 68 employees, both engineers and support personnel, split between Corvallis and Boise. One of the first projects I worked on was the electrical system design for the Pasco Water Treatment Plant. Another of my first projects was the electrical power distribution system for Beale Air Force Base in California – Harlan Moyer was the Project Engineer.

Just a couple of years after I joined the firm, my family and I were involved in a catastrophic auto accident near Sacramento. I was off work for over a year recovering from multiple injuries. The response of Burke Hayes, Clair Hill, and CH2M was instantaneous, extremely helpful, and very gratifying.

My first significant CH2M HILL international project involved the electrical system for major water improvements on the West Indies island of Trinidad. We were to train the staff of our local associate as well as get the job done. Over the course of several years in the 1970's, I went to

Trinidad 27 times, about once every three months. Other projects of note that I had the pleasure of working on were the City of Idaho Falls facilities, and the Seattle project for the Boeing 747 final assembly facilities at Everett, Washington.

I retired from CH2M HILL in February of 1994. For the previous year, I had worked under contract full time for LTK Engineering Services helping with the design of the electric power distribution system for the new Portland, Oregon, "MAX" light-rail system. After I officially retired, I continued to work full-time then part-time for a few years for LTK.

Throughout most of my career and still continuing in retirement, I have worked extensively with the IEEE. Highlights have included serving two years as President of the Industry Applications Society, one of the 42 societies under the IEEE umbrella. I served for two years as a member of the IEEE Board of Directors, directing the organization and its 380,000 members around the world. One of the highest honors of my career was being made an IEEE Fellow in 1987. In 1998, the Oregon State University College of Engineering established a program to honor outstanding alumni for their contributions to the profession and to OSU. In that first year, Holly Cornell, Jim Howland, Burke Hayes, Fred Merryfield and Jim Poirot were inducted into the Hall of Fame. In 1999, Bob Adams, Earl Reynolds and I were brought into this august group.

I have kept busy and happy through many years of career and retirement. I am looking forward to keeping busy and happy in the future.

Journal - A Day In Nepal

By Roy Taylor

9:30 AM Impressive departure from Pokhara bus yard, with lots of honking and jousting for position among other buses. Sun shining on Annapurna Range behind City, terraced steep hills in foreground on each side of narrow river valley along our route. Paths lead to scattered houses clinging to the slopes. No three car garages- no garages at all. Walk or ride the bus or motorbike. Rice paddies, wheat and other crops. On the road people, sacred cows, bison, motor bikes, and busses weaving in and out of unused portion of potholed main road to Kathmandu leave an impression of near chaos.

Bus stops at many places. As we approach Mugling the bus fills to overflowing, with standing room only and no space for another body. Dale holds baby on lap. Old lady sits on floor among the crowd. Conductor and passengers hang outside door. One smart rap means stop, two means go fast.

1:00 PM Arrive Mugling. Daal bhat (rice with thin grey bean soup) and cokes in roadside cafe. I pick up the tab- 3,000 Rupees (\$5) for 6 of us. Squatty potty- not nice.

1:30 PM Catch bus to Gorka- home of the legendary Gurka soldiers used by the British in India etc. Winding mountain road. Same overload as before.

3:00 PM Arrive Gorka. Climb 1,000 + steps to 16th century palace of king who united Nepal by subduing many other kings. Take off shoes, belts and other leather items at request of sharp looking Gurka guard in order to tour parts of palace. Incredible rock work, carvings etc. Red on sidewalk looks suspicious- at Hindu shrine guard explains 350 goats sacrificed previous day. Seems like scene out of old testament. Uncomfortable in stocking feet. Unkempt priests tend eternal flame. Back down hill warning wandering goats not good place to play.

5:00 PM Just miss bus. Sit by road in bustling marketplace. Dale and Lee take a chance on local cuisine.

6:00 PM Catch bus- roar down twisting mountain road to place opposite Karak's home village. Dark by now- fortunately have 2 flashlights. Wind down bluff, take off shoes to wade two branches of swift mountain river. Slippery rocks underfoot. Cross rice paddies, wheat and potato fields, all well tended. Climb steep terraced hillside to village of small homes and outbuildings for bison, chickens etc. Daal bhat and talks by candlelight. Squatty potty not tall enough for even short westerners. Seniors get a hard bed, others sleep on floor. So ends another day in Nepal.

Denver Office FROM CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS TO WORLD HEADQUARTERS

When our company started expanding business and moving from west coast to the east, Ken Bielman was the first to set up our Denver Office in 1971. The first office was rented spaces in a building near the then Stapleton Airport, northeast of the city center.



MONTBELLO OFFICE BUILDING

CH2M's first office in the Rocky Mountain Region. We occupied the 5th floor. August 1971 to 1978.



KEN BIELMAN

First Regional Manager of the Denver Office, 1971 to 1978.

In 1978, Bob Pailthop took over the operation and moved the office to the Denver Tech Center near Greenwood Village in the southeast of the city.

As the firm continued its geographical expansion, it became apparent that the corporate operations should be moved from remote Corvallis to a more centralized location. Denver was selected, fulfilling Ken Bielman's early prophesy that the Denver office would someday become CH2M HILL's "World Headquarters," a comment that was met with hoots, guffaws, and knee slappings by the stalwarts in Corvallis. But gradually, department by department, the transition was made, and by 1983 Denver officially became CH2M HILL's Corporate Headquarters.

As the company continued its phenomenal growth, the need for larger and larger corporate facilities grew as well, prompting the development of our landmark compound, the CH2M HILL Office Campus in Denver, completed in 2002. An amazing GIANT STEP from our first office!

The following are some pictures of our new Denver campus. Quite a progress from the first office!



Company Sign



West Building



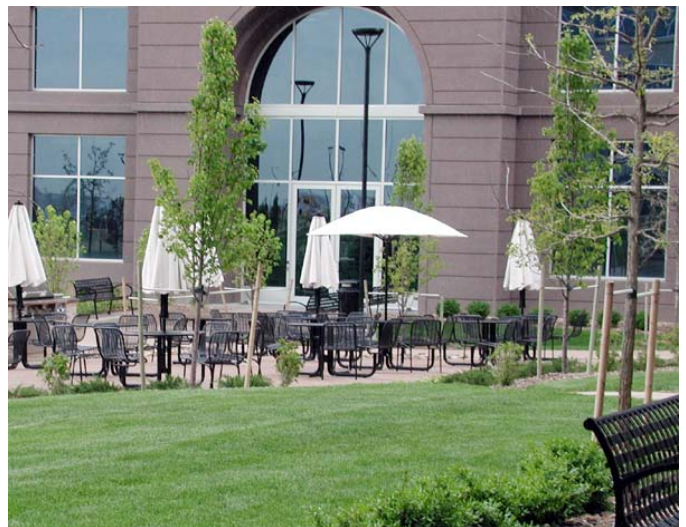
Aerial View, Denver Campus



North Building



Main South Building



Outside Seating Area

REDDING RETREAT PHOTOS – SMILE!

1 - Steve Aasheim, Dave Evans,
Carole Aasheim:

Shasta Dam
Information
Center



2 – Madge Harding, Marylou Mlcoch: Dinner
Thursday night at the
Riverview Country
Club



4 – Fred Harem,
Anne Merryfield,
Dorie Harem, Valerie
Nichols,



Dick
Nichols,
Carol
Moyer,
Harlan
Moyer:
at
the
"Welcom
e" dinner
at the
Red Lion

3 – Jane and Lyle
Bower:
Lunch Cruise
on Lake Shasta



5 – Harry
Mejdell, Bob
Morrison,
Dorothy
Mejdell,
Sandie
Morrison:
Before
reboarding the
bus after the tour of Shasta Dam



6 – Ken
Bielman,
Julie
Bielman,
Lyle Bower,
Jane
Bower:
Dinner at
the
Riverview
Country
Club

7 – Arleta Burton, Arlen Borgen:
Riverview Country Club



8 – Julie
Bielman
on the
Sun Dial
Bridge



CH2MHILL
P.O. Box 428
Corvallis, OR 97339-0428