

# 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. It is 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 was our tour guides and was enthusiastic about their association with CH2M HILL, which we all appreciated.

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 and 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.



Arlen Borgen

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 with 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 barbecue 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 10TH

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 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 11TH

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



Jack and Sue Meier

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

**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

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.



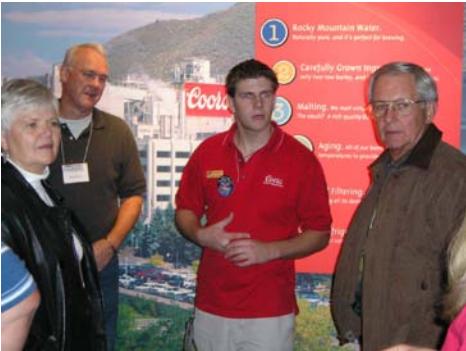
Coors Brewery - Megan Snider,  
Nofal Kasrawi & Tom McCoach



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 – Sid Lasswell & Steve Lee



Welcome Dinner – Don Evans & Ken Miller



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



Welcome Dinner – Harlan Moyer



Coors Brewery – Group Photo



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