

CH2MHILL® ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024

Publisher: Bill Van Wagenen ★ **Editor:** Angie Kruse ★ **Layout:** Sarah Harter

Contributors: Jerry Anderson, Dick Bedard, David Dunagan, Deane Faucheux, Doug Gaibler, Martin Hales, Mike Mynhier, Rick Luebbers, Don Marske, Ned Pennock, Vince Rybel, Terry Sheldon, Art Storbo, Scott Trusler, Bill Van Wagenen

***Disclosure:** The CH2M HILL Alumni Association, and this communication, are not affiliated in any way with or supported by Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. or its acquired CH2M HILL Companies, Ltd. group family of companies. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. is not responsible for any content published by or activities of the CH2M HILL Alumni Association.*

Publisher's Note



Greetings everyone,

I am writing this over Labor Day weekend, the holiday set aside to celebrate the “social and economic achievements of American workers” according to the US Department of Labor. A day that our fellow alums can celebrate with pride for efforts to make CH2M HILL a truly great company. Interestingly, Oregon was the first state to pass a law in 1887 recognizing Labor Day.

This Summer Newsletter is once again filled with a wide range of interesting and informative pieces and news about our Association. An inspiring piece by Vince Rybel about the shaping of CH2M HILL’s culture through the WWII experiences of our founders and early employees who were members of the “Greatest Generation”. Not one but two great articles by Art Storbo and Ned Pennock about the April 8th total eclipse with some truly stunning photos. Two really interesting travel articles, one by Jerry Anderson on his trip to Ethiopia and his work with NeverThirst agency, and Doug Gaibler on his travels throughout Europe, Bhutan and Nepal, Machu Picchu in Peru, and driving with an Air Stream across the U.S. with some great photos from all these travels. Another piece by Art Storbo on Dino Hunting in the Rockies that is very informative about the dinosaur era and the several dinosaur museum and dig sites in the western part of the US.

Four pieces remembering Alums who have passed on including a celebration of the life of Gordon Koblitz, one of the two founders of the Alumni Association, and remembrances for Jory Abrams, Babs Suhr, and Harry Mejdell and his wife.

We also have two pieces with a Pay It Forward focus, one by Marlin Hales on a softball game with inmates from the Cobb County Correctional Facility, which warmed my heart as a former softball player. The other by our President Rick Luebbers on his work with high school students at the Nebraska Transportation Center to share his experiences as a transportation engineer. Learned that Rick is also one of 10 kids like me, although I have never milked a cow in my life.

This leads us to some important pieces about the Association including the work of the Future Focus Task Force and plans for the Legacy Gift Fund described in Mike Mynhier’s piece and the Association President and Treasurer reports from Rick Luebbers and Scott Trusler.

Two other highlights in this Newsletter. Check out Don Marske’s “Got News” section at the start, which includes info from Dick Bedard on the upcoming Northeast Reunion on Saturday September 28, noon to 6 PM at the Vanish Brewery just north of Leesburg, Virginia. The other comes from Julia Ripley of Jacobs calling for all those interested in a temporary full-time assignment working on FEMA disaster relief with the Jacobs/CDM Smith JV CCPRS program with opportunities across a wide range of disciplines.

Finally, a shout out to my fellow Newsletter team who are instrumental to the production of the newsletter, including Deane Faucheux, Dave Dunagan, Don Marske, Bob Forbes, Angie Kruse, Sarah Harter and others who help pull together the information that goes into our Newsletter.

Have a great fall and talk with you all again in our next Winter Newsletter.

Warm Regards,
Bill Van Wagenen

Summer 2024 Table of Contents

Breaking News	3
CHAA Website	3
NEWSFLASH CHAA Northeast Alumni Gathering and Celebration	3
CH2M HILL Alumni Association News and Reports.....	4
President’s Corner	4
Treasurer’s Report	6
BIG THANKS to Our CHAA Donors!	6
CHAA Supporters: \$1-\$99	7
CHAA Boosters: \$100+	7
CHAA Sustainers (Lifetime Members): \$500+.....	7
CHAA Patrons (Lifetime Members/Recognition): \$1,000+	7
CHAA Benefactors (Lifetime Members/Recognition): \$5,000+	7
CHAA Champions (Lifetime Members/Recognition): \$10,000+	7
Missing in Action.....	8
Features.....	8
Where Did “That” Come From?	8
When Preparation and Chance Intersect.....	12
Eclipse Over Texas.....	13
Dino Hunt in the Rockies.....	14
Celebration of Life of Gordon Koblitz	16
A Trip to Ethiopia	17
Exploring with Doug and Suzanne Gaibler.....	24
A Day at the Ballpark (Pay it Forward)	28
Workforce Readiness – Visit to University of Nebraska	29
Focusing on the Future	30
Goodbye, Old Friends.....	32
Jory Abrams.....	32
Babs Suhr Remembrance	32
Harry Mejdell	33
Call for Articles.....	34
Ready for a Temporary Full-Time Assignment?.....	34
Join CCPRS, use your experience to help disaster-affected communities.....	34
Jacobs Pension Service Center News	34
Jacobs News.....	34

Breaking News



CHAA WEBSITE

When was it since you browsed CHAA's world famous website? That long? Well, you certainly have missed several new updates. For example, Ed Sloan shares a video of Boise State University's honoring of Ralph Peterson. Or John Parr, Emp #142 shares his career as a Resident Engineer. And much more. Check it out. Go to the [CH2M HILL Alumni Association website](#) and scroll down the homepage to the Latest News and Biographies. If you have a story you would like to share on the website, please contact Don Marske at donmarske@gmail.com.

NEWSFLASH CHAA NORTHEAST ALUMNI GATHERING AND CELEBRATION

In less than a month, our Northeast Gathering and Celebration will occur on Saturday September 28, noon to 6 PM at the Vanish Brewery just north of Leesburg, Virginia. About 125 to 130 CH2M HILL colleagues are expected to attend in person. The weekend also includes a Friday golf tournament, and cocktail reception. On Sunday we will gather to provide and assemble bags of food for over 100 needy school children in the area. A catered brunch later that morning caps the weekend.

If you can't attend in person, you have several ways to contribute. Open your invite and scroll down on the Details page. There you can choose to support these bags of food at \$10 each and/or provide a donation to the CH2M Alumni Association. You can designate this donation either to the CHAA general funds or the CHAA Legacy Fund. Look for more information on the Legacy Fund. You can contact our Treasurer Scott Trusler for any assistance with donations, at ch2mhillaa.treasurer@gmail.com.

And we expect to have a computer set up to host a Zoom call-in from 1 to 3 PM and later at 4-6 PM. Details will be sent out just before the event for the Zoom call-in.

Any questions, contact Dick Bedard at rbedard54@gmail.com or 336-862-3601.



CH2M HILL Alumni Association News and Reports

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Rick Luebbers (rluebber@hotmail.com)



Greetings everyone!

I hope you are happy and well and enjoying the summer months with family and friends.

For the last year and a half, the CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CHAA) Board of Directors has been addressing issues associated with the long-term viability of the CHAA organization and with sustaining CH2M HILL's outstanding legacy. Sustainability is something that we all learned about while at CH2M HILL. Simply stated, it is "The ability to maintain and support a system or process continuously over time." Unfortunately, CH2M HILL was unable to achieve sustainability and ultimately fell short of Ralph Petersen's vision of corporate immortality.

When CH2M HILL was acquired by Jacobs, CHAA's Board of Directors recognized that CH2M HILL alums will no longer be created. CHAA in its current form had suddenly become "unsustainable" for the long run. In response, the Board has undertaken several initiatives to address the future of the CHAA organization.

BRING CHAA CLOSER TO CH2M HILL ALUMS:

In the past, CHAA global reunions were held every 2 years to provide a venue for CH2M friends to gather, recall memories and share retirement activities. The attendees were generally long-term employees who spent their careers establishing new offices, managing large programs, implementing new technologies and building the overall structure of CH2M HILL. Many other CH2M alums joined the firm in the new offices and programs and spent their careers in that location. They often asked, "Why would I fly across the country to spend 3 days with people I don't know." To address this, the Board established a Regional Network/Reunion Committee to seek out local CH2M alumni groups and to encourage them to plug into the CHAA organization and share their activities and events. The Regional Network/ Reunion Committee, led by Anne Kernkamp and Steve Wanders, has successfully identified active CH2M groups across North America and is interested in finding more. If you know of a group of CH2M folks who meet locally, please let Anne or Steve know (see the CHAA email address at the end of this message.).

In addition to sharing information among the Local Groups, Anne and Steve have encouraged local alumni events. So far, local reunions have occurred in Ohio and Milwaukee, with another one scheduled for September in Northern Virginia (see article in this newsletter). At least two other such events are in the planning stages, one in Florida and one in Portland, Oregon.

It is worth noting that Local Groups have begun to reach out to former CH2M staff who are still working with Jacobs or other companies. These alums are being encouraged to engage with the Local Groups and attend alumni events, and hopefully to join CHAA. This is a target-rich environment, with 10,000 former CH2M alums now working at Jacobs.

FUTURE FOCUS TASK FORCE:

At the beginning of last year, the Board established the Future Focus Task Force (FFTF) to explore ways to keep the CHAA alive and active far into the future. The team, led by Bob Chapman and Mike Mynhier, has reviewed many options to extend the life of CHAA and memorialize the legacy of CH2M HILL. Their analysis has resulted in three key objectives:

Pay It Forward:

The FFTF found that many CH2M HILL alums are applying *Little Yellow Book* practices out in their communities, universities, and professional groups. They are keeping CH2M HILL's legacy alive by sharing their experiences and helping others. Whenever we became aware, we have recognized these efforts in the CHAA Newsletter and on the CHAA website. Going forward, we will make a concerted effort to publicize the Pay It Forward activities of CHAA members and to encourage others to do the same. Please let us know of the great things you are doing.

Collaboration with Jacobs:

The FFTF is coordinating with people at Jacobs to explore ways that CHAA and Jacobs may work together in the future. The first task is to find a way to easily communicate with the many former CH2M HILL people who are now working at Jacobs. The life blood of CHAA is through its membership and we hope to attract CH2M alums at Jacobs to join CHAA and engage in our activities. Remember that CHAA membership is open to anyone who has a meaningful work history with CH2M HILL, even if they are still working for Jacobs or any other organization.

The discussions between FFTF and Jacobs have even explored the possibility of opening CHAA membership to all Jacobs' staff, perhaps merging with some of their activities while providing a venue to extend the life of CHAA. We don't yet know how this might play out, so stay tuned for continuing developments in this area.

Legacy Gift Fund:

The FFTF recommended the establishment of the CH2M HILL Legacy Gift Fund (LGF). In response, the CHAA Board of Directors authorized the program at the April 2024 Board Meeting. The LGF is intended to accept charitable donations and to provide grants to individuals for college expenses and to organizations for environmental projects. The grants are to be aligned with CH2M HILL's mission to "make technology work to build a better, more sustainable world." A new Legacy Gift Fund Committee is being established to manage the LGF and to consider grant requests. There are many details to be worked out by the end of 2024 and we would welcome anyone with experience in scholarship programs or non-profit organizations to join the LGF Committee and help make this happen.

To jump start the LGF, we are now accepting donations from all CH2M HILL alumni (CHAA members and non-members). The fund-raising goal for this year is \$15,000. CHAA Board members have pledged \$5,000 as the initial seed money. Our plan is to provide four \$3,000 scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year. Our hope is to also provide a grant for one pay-it-forward project. We need your help to make this happen. See the "Focusing on the Future" article in this Newsletter for details on how you may contribute to the CH2M HILL Legacy Gift Fund.

ONE MORE THING ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY:

The CHAA is your organization, and the Board of Directors is working hard to keep it going well into the future. We manage expenses as tightly as we can, but our costs have gone up like everything else lately. In the coming months, the Board will consider adjustments, such as an increase in the annual dues, options for dues payment like the current 5-year and life membership plans, and perhaps a sustaining membership option. We welcome your ideas and would love to have you join one of the Board Committees.

Thank you so much for your continuing support of the CH2M HILL Alumni Association. You may contact us by email at: ch2mhillaa@gmail.com with comments or questions, and of course to volunteer.

Respectfully,
Rick Luebbers, CHAA President

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Scott Trusler (ch2mhillaa.treasurer@gmail.com)



It's been a very busy year for your CHAA Treasury. We continue to address the day-to-day operational needs for the Association and have also been supporting various other activities such as reunion events, establishing the Legacy Gift Fund, updating and enhancing our online systems and databases, and more. I will spare you the details and offer these highlights:

- **Overall** – the Association financial position remains pretty healthy, given revenue surpluses from prior years; looking to the remainder of 2024 there are no major issues or concerns to report. However, it seems likely that expenses in 2024 will exceed current year revenue (excluding revenue deferred to future years to account for 5-year and Life memberships), a trend that can't be sustained long term.
- **Revenue** – our goal is to generate sufficient current year revenue to cover all current year expenses; thus, maintaining our bank balance or even growing the balance to allow consideration of additional activities. Although membership renewals are behind plan, new memberships have helped to close the gap. Please renew your membership if you have not already done so – it's our main source of operating revenue. Donations to our operations account have also lagged compared to plan – not a major concern at present, although donations for operations in any amount are always welcome. Some donations are now also being directed to the Legacy Gift Fund in lieu of operations.
- **Expenses** – no material changes compared to plan for our expenses year to date and none expected for the remainder of the year. As expected, some of our expense items do increase year over year and we are also working to bring more value to members with new initiatives. Timing for expenses varies based on many factors and our 2024 current year revenue is close to keeping pace with our expenses, but as noted, I expect a current year deficit of perhaps 10-15% of plan. Again, membership renewals and the addition of new members are essential to maintain and enhance CHAA programs.
- The JOIN/RENEW user guide ([CHAA website](#), button in upper right) that was posted to the website seems to have reduced questions and confusion related to joining and renewals with a good number of members changing to a 5-year membership when they renew.
- Our membership database has some new features, updated member information, and is key to contacting members. Our list of alumni has never been longer or more complete thanks to the efforts of many.

Remember this is your association so if you have questions about our financials or about Alumni Association membership related to dues, donations, payment options, or website Members Corner activation or issues, please feel free to contact me at ch2mhillaa.treasurer@gmail.com.

BIG THANKS to Our CHAA Donors!

Listed below are our donors to date, accrued over time through August 6, 2024, for each of the different levels we established. Note, this does not include donations to the Legacy Gift Fund (tracked separately, confidential). This is voluntary, of course, and can be done anonymously, if desired. Members who attain the "Sustainer" level and above will receive a lifetime membership and recognition in every issue as a small token of our appreciation. A major portion of the donations are used to continue upgrading our CHAA website (accessibility, content, security, and enjoyment) and its maintenance, our continuing outreach efforts for legacy colleagues, and to help promote local and regional member groups across the country. In some cases, donations are "targeted" to a specific initiative or project. Updates regarding these efforts are included in each newsletter. Again, thank you all for your generosity!!!

CHAA SUPPORTERS: \$1-\$99

Omur Akay	Debbie Danitz	Dan Lagomarsino	Robert Rickson
Don Amedo	Stu Davis	Ed Lance	Don Russell
Alan Amoth	Joy Dittberner	Pat Lefebvre	David Schertler
Jerry Anderson	David Dunagan	Kurt Leininger	Randy Smith
Katherine Anhalt	Dan Dupies	Jay Mackie	James Smith
Katherine Arnett	Gordon Elliott	Delbert Martin	Stan Smith
David Atkinson	Robert Forbes	Regina McClintock	Joohi Sood
Lisa Bailey	Joseph Gauthier	Harry Mejdell	Ron Staehlin
Randall Beavers	Gary Gray	Bernie Miller	Dan Stock
Tom Bissonnette	George Gunn	Bob Morrison	Mac Stuart
James Black	Tom Haislip	Vern Nelson	Robert Trebble
Jane Bower	Carl Hamann	Steve Newton	Nancy Tuor
Jerry Boyle	John Hansen	Ron Ott	Andy Vollmar
Mike Bracken	Melanie Harris	Willie Paiz	Gina Wammock
Bill Byers	Jim Hawkey	Tom Pennella	Steve Wanders
Thelma Byrd (Haines)	Gary Hermann	Larry Powell	Debbie Whaley
Stephanie Charley	Don Heyer	Dave Raby	Bob Willey
Leofwin Clark	Thomas Holz	John Ramage	Nick Winnike
Virginia Connor	Meg Ibison	Glenn Rehberger	Carolyn Wolfe
George Crawford	Mary Jo Jordan	Mary Reid	Art Zayac

CHAA BOOSTERS: \$100+

Donald Anderson	David Ellison	Thomas Klin	Nancy Schultz
Mike Anglea	Dennis Erwin	John Lee	Mike Schweizer
James Bareinger	Dona Eskelin	Gene Lupia	Rick Smith
Julie Bielman	Richard Frankenfield	Jay McRae	Sondra Smith
Brian Brownsell	Susie Gaare	Asbjorn Nysaether	Art Storbo
Dale Cannon	John Gaston	David Odom	LeRoy Taylor
Dick Corrigan	Mary Gross	Jim Parrish	Bill Van Wagenen
Dick Crim	June Ann Hassebroek	Wayne Pearson	Dan Walters
Michael Doleac	Bo Heller	Sally Peek	Mike Warren
Ted Downen	Richard Horning	Larry Pinson	Peter Wiedemann
Jerry Eggleston	Pat Klampe	Eddilio Santarosa	

CHAA SUSTAINERS (LIFETIME MEMBERS): \$500+

Anonymous	Bob Card	Don Marske	John Sams
Jory Abrams	Terry Crockford	Jeffrey Mather	Jim Schwing
Mark Alpert	Starr Dehn	Greg McIntyre	Terry Sheldon
Sheldon Barker	Tom Higgins	Gordon Nicholson	Ray Tyler
David Bennion	Frank Jenes	Jimmy Otta	Bud VanDerAa
Gwen Buchholz	William Kreutzberger	Jeffrey Randall	Bob Vilker
John Caldwell	Steve Lavinder	Sally Ruggles	Jane Walter

CHAA PATRONS (LIFETIME MEMBERS/RECOGNITION): \$1,000+

Anonymous	Anne Kernkamp	Mark Lasswell
Bob Chapman	Mary Koblit	Rick Luebbers
Mike Fisher	Judy Lasswell	Bob Pailthorp

CHAA BENEFACTORS (LIFETIME MEMBERS/RECOGNITION): \$5,000+

Jacque Hinman

CHAA CHAMPIONS (LIFETIME MEMBERS/RECOGNITION): \$10,000+

Well, we need to be optimistic and aim high for the long haul!

Missing in Action

We are again seeking your help in connecting with some folks without current email addresses or contact information. Many times, it just may be a change in their email address. We've been successful with our last few MIA searches and found several folks each time who are now reconnected with us again. Thank you to the folks who helped us find them!! For this issue, they are:

Steve Armbrust
Ephieum Charley
Stephanie Charley
Christopher Crandall
Stu Davis
David Gee
Jean Gibbs
Richard Glanzman

Gretchen Honan
Katherine Jory
Linda Lack
Lyn Larson
Jong Wook Lee
Rudd Little
Gary Iiu
Kathleen Reyes

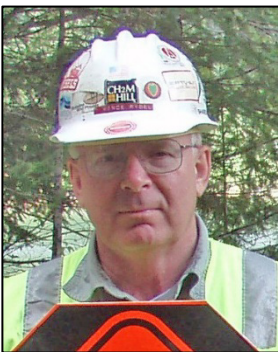
Robert Schmidt
Mary Shoenberger
Tricia Shular
William Spickelmire
John Spitzley
Maxine Stangler
Greg Woodside

An added thought, if you have a LinkedIn (or other) account, perhaps you could help us find some of our missing colleagues you know of by reaching out via LinkedIn and obtain their email address so we can follow-up. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated! Please respond to terrysheldon1949@gmail.com if you have any information that will help reconnect with these alumni. Thank you!!

Features

WHERE DID "THAT" COME FROM?

By Vince Rybel (rybelgm@gmail.com)



How does any organization develop its identity? A good football team will take on the identity of the head coach. A successful business enterprise will mirror the identity of the founders. But what shapes the identity of the coach or the founders? Good question. The answer probably lies in their formative years.

The Greatest Generation

In *The Greatest Generation*, Tom Brokaw proposes that the Americans who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II were forged with extraordinary character traits. Brokaw contends that these included "personal responsibility, duty, honor, and faith." They had to endure a crushing downturn in the nation's economy, where everyone had to make do with less. It would have been easy to descend into hopelessness, but these individuals

somehow maintained a positive outlook.

World War II

WWII was the most significant and influential event of the 20th century. The total devastation is almost incalculable. Total military and civilian deaths probably fall between 70 and 85 million, 3 percent of the world's population at the time. Nearly 14 million Americans served in the military, and over 400,000 never returned home. For those who were born after the war, it is a history book whose outcome is known ahead of time. For the Greatest Generation who lived it in real time, the outcome was not certain. For those who served, their experiences shaped their future lives.

The Formation of CH2M

The company we all worked for was started by four members of the Greatest Generation who were also WWII veterans. Many of the first employees also had the same roots. Together, they forged the CH2M identity, which later became our "corporate culture." Whatever "that" term means, it defined us.

Among the Greatest Generation, individuals share the following traits:

- They have a strong work ethic.
- They are driven and motivated.
- They live modestly and are frugal consumers and prudent savers.
- They are humble, committed, and optimistic.
- They are honest and completely trustworthy.

Among the WWII veterans, individuals share the following traits:

- They are patriotic.
- They are disciplined.
- They understand the value of teamwork.
- They are good organizers.
- They are “mission oriented.”
- They value the importance of leadership (leading from the front, leading by example).

The following is a partial list of CH2M veterans of WWII. If you know of a CH2M veteran who is not on the list, please contact me, Vince Rybel, at rybelgm@gmail.com.

CH2M WWII Veterans

Jim Howland, USCOE
Austin Evanson, Royal Brit Navy
Fred Merryfield, USCOE
Elmer Seegmueller, U.S. Army
Earl Reynolds, U.S. Navy
Ken Bielman, USCG
Bob Adams, U.S. Navy
Ralph Roderick, U.S. Army
Ralph Martin, U.S. Navy
(Submarines)

Sid Lasswell, U.S. Army
Fred Eidsness, USPHS
Burke Hayes, U.S. Navy
Vaughn Sterling, U.S. Navy
Holly Cornell, USCOE
Jack Meier, U.S. Navy
Fred Harem, U.S. Army Air Corps
Bob Schilling, U.S. Army
Alan Hunnicutt, U.S. Army
Harry Teel, USMC

Clair Hill, U.S. Army
George Silkworth, U.S. Army Air Corps
William Crow, U.S. Army
Archie Rice, U.S. Army
Ed Greey, U.S. Navy
Niels “Swede” Norquist, U.S. Army
Carl Ryden, USAF
Gus Pantazi, U.S. Army
Charles Meek, U.S. Navy

All the founders of CH2M HILL were veterans, and their service has been honored in the WWII Memorial Registry. Following are their stories.



Holly Cornell obtained an ROTC commission upon graduation from Oregon State University in 1938. He entered the U.S. Army in early 1941 and took training at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Then he served as an assistant engineering officer at Fort Benning, Georgia. He then was deployed overseas in the fall of 1944 and served with a combat engineering regiment in Patton’s 3rd Army in Europe. This unit won recognition for their actions at the Remagen Bridge over the Rhine River in early spring 1945. When this bridge collapsed after repeated German fire, nearly 1/3 of one of the regiment's company was lost. At the time of the German surrender in May 1945, his unit had reached the Danube River in Austria. With the war over in Europe, he was reassigned to Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, in preparation for the upcoming invasion of Japan. With the dropping of the two atomic bombs in August 1945, that invasion became unnecessary; he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His military awards included the Bronze Star.



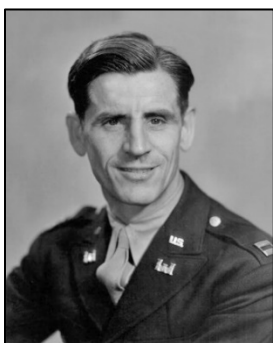
Jim Howland received an ROTC commission in the Corps of Engineers through Oregon State College (now university) in 1938. Following his graduation from M.I.T. with a Master’s Degree in 1939, Jim accepted a job with Standard Oil Co. of California, designing and supervising the construction of refining facilities. He was called to active duty in July 1941. His engineer regiment had loaded their equipment on a troopship destined for the Philippines by December 6, 1941, and was scheduled to sail on December 8. The unit was diverted to Hawaii to construct defense facilities when the loss of the Philippines was imminent. He served in Hawaii as a company commander in an engineering regiment and later as an engineer in the territorial army engineer headquarters. He was then assigned to the engineer headquarters unit for the occupation of Saipan in the Marianas as head of the design section. In May 1944, he participated in the island's capture. While based on Saipan, he also served short tours in the Philippines and on Iwo Jima. He returned to the U.S. in November 1945 after nearly 47 months of overseas duty. He was discharged at the rank of Major. His decorations included the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit.



Thomas Burke Hayes graduated from Oregon State University in 1938 with a degree in electrical engineering and applied for a naval reserve commission shortly after Pearl Harbor. He was called to active duty in November 1942 and served as an electronics and radar instructor at the U.S. Naval Training School situated on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Later in the war, he was assigned to the USS Marblehead (CL-12) that was part of the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea. He was one of four officers that oversaw operations in the ship's combat information center (CIC). In August 1944, the "Marblehead" provided naval gunfire support for the U.S. Army's 36th Infantry Division during the invasion of southern France. Burke was discharged from the Navy in 1945 and returned to Corvallis, Oregon.



Fred Merryfield was born in England in 1900. Near the end of WWI, although underage, he persuaded the Royal Flying Corps (later the RAF) to accept him as a flying officer. Unfortunately, he suffered a crash and was severely injured. After his recovery, he was posted to Canada in connection with the trial of persons who had supplied sub-standard wood for airplane construction. Fred intended to work his way to Australia but got only as far as Oregon where he decided to become an engineering student at the Oregon Agricultural College (OAC), later Oregon State University, in Corvallis. He graduated in 1923 and found employment with the Southern Pacific Railway building what is now the main line between Oregon and California. The chief engineer on the project had a niece, Mildred Berkley, who lived in Pendleton. Fred married Mildred and then returned to Corvallis to teach at OAC. He left Oregon temporarily and took a Master's Degree in Sanitary Engineering at North Carolina after which he returned to OAC to resume teaching.



At the outbreak of WWII, Fred was a professor of civil engineering at Oregon State University when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Despite his prior wartime experience as a pilot in the British Royal Flying Corps (RFC) during WWI, the U.S. Army initially refused to accept his application for a commission in the Corps of Engineers, mainly because of his advanced age. After several attempts, the Army finally allowed him to serve his adopted country. He was given an officer's commission and eventually reached the rank of Captain. He served in the Pacific Theater of operations with an engineering unit. While on duty at New Guinea, he contracted a tropical disease. When his medical condition worsened, he was given a medical evacuation back to the U.S. where he recovered and was honorably discharged. After his recovery, he returned to his teaching job at Oregon State University.



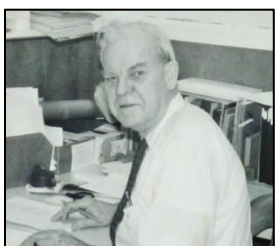
Clair Hill obtained an ROTC commission from the U.S. Army upon graduation from Stanford University. He was called to active duty at the start of the war. Early duty was for 18 months as an engineering officer for improvements to the Benicia Arsenal in California. From there, he was transferred to Aberdeen, Maryland, for explosive ordnance demolition training and then overseas to the North Pacific. He served in the Aleutian Islands, the last 13 months of the war, as the commander of a 400-man ordnance battalion on the island of Adak. After the surrender of Japan, he returned to California and received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army.

All our veterans have a story. Some were called up, and many enlisted. The following are a few more with excerpts from their biography that we have posted on the Alumni History website.



Born in Hot Lake (LaGrande), Oregon, in 1923, Earl Reynolds was an engineering student at Oregon State University when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He entered the U.S. Navy Seabees in August 1943 and took basic training at Camp Endicott, Rhode Island. He was assigned to the 145th Naval Construction Battalion in January 1944. Earl travelled with this unit to Camp Parks and Port Hueneme, California. He deployed overseas in April 1944 aboard the troopship SS Howell Lykes bound for the Naval Base Banika Island, approximately 60 miles from Guadalcanal in the Solomon Island Group. The 145th Naval Construction Battalion constructed an advance base construction camp on this island. In March 1945, the unit left Banika aboard Landing Ship Tank (LST) 581 and LST 672 for Ulithi Atoll, which was the staging area for the 1,400 navy ships that launched the invasion of Okinawa. His unit was attached to the 1st Marine Division. Earl landed on Okinawa on April 3, 1945. They constructed airfields at Machinato and Yonaaru as well as numerous roads on the island.

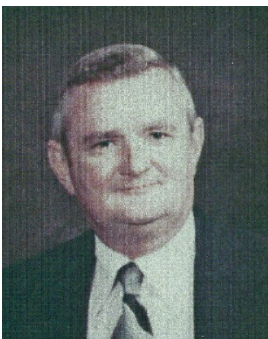
After the war ended, Earl left Okinawa in December 1945. He closed out his naval service at Tongue Point Naval Station near Astoria, Oregon. He was honorably discharged at Bremerton, Washington, in March 1946. He returned to Oregon State in 1946, where he graduated with a BS in Structural Engineering (1947). Earl joined CH2M for the summer of 1947 before moving on to Yale where he earned an MS in Structural Engineering (1948). He joined CH2M as full-time Employee Number 008, in 1948.



Following graduation, Ed Greey joined the Matthews Construction Company in Princeton, New Jersey. He left Matthews in 1942 when he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Civil Engineering Corps, United States Naval Reserve, and was called to active duty where he served in the South Pacific for 46 months. He returned to inactive status in 1946 with the rank of Commander.



On the afternoon of the last day of WWII, Elmer Seegmueller was serving as point scout for the infantry fighting in France when he was shot through the jaw by a sniper. Everything was unsettled that day. In the confusion, the field hospital wired his jaw shut; there were long delays before he got orders to return to the U.S. He was eventually sent back on a slow ship where all he had to eat was what he could get through a straw. It was a long trip home with some sea sickness. Throughout the entire trip, no medical attention supplemented what the field hospital did for him the day he was shot. The incident ended his active military service and earned him a Purple Heart.



Born in Portland, Oregon, in 1927, Harry Teel joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1944, at the age of 17, to fight in World War II, turning 18 in the middle of the Pacific. His service took him to Okinawa; Iwo Jima; and Tsingtao, China, before finally returning home to meet the love of his life, who became his wife of 62 years, Delores (Dee), in 1948.

Because of the war, Sid Lasswell elected not to continue his education after completing his freshman year in 1942. Instead, he worked as a Piping Engineer at the Vancouver, Washington, shipyards, which produced Liberty ships and Landing Ship Tanks (LSTs). During his time there, the shipyards were able to launch one ship a day. Sid participated in the trial run down the Columbia River of the first LST ever built; more about the LST later.



Because of his “key role” at the shipyards, Sid received a 6-month deferment at 18 years of age and then was inducted into the Army in early 1943 as a Private. Because of his vast engineering and construction experience, Sid was assigned to a Combat Construction Battalion, the Army’s version of the Seabees. From mid-1943 to fall of 1945, the battalion served in the Pacific visiting the exotic islands of New Caledonia, Espittu Santo, Guadalcanal, and eventually Okinawa in southern Japan. After Japan’s surrender, Sid’s group occupied Korea in late 1945, landing at Inchon less than 5 years before the Korean War. The task force of ships that left Okinawa for Korea encountered one of the worst typhoons of record in the East China Sea. Many ships were lost, but the LST Sid was on survived, although with little fresh water and no food for almost 3 days.

Sid left the army in early 1946 as a Master Sergeant and worked in a sawmill in Yoncalla, Oregon, until returning to OSU in the fall on the G.I. Bill.

This is where “it” all came from. With roots like these, how could CH2M HILL be anything but successful?

Postscript

Do you have a family member who served in WWII? If so, you may find them in the National World War II Registry at <https://www.iiiregistry.abmc.gov/>.



WWII Memorial Registry

Honoring the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces, the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home.

<https://www.iiiregistry.abmc.gov/>

If your family member is not there, it is a simple process to add them. For a small fee, you can add a photo; otherwise, the process is free. To be eligible, the inductee must have served in the military, or worked in some capacity at home in support of the war effort. Over 14 million served in the armed forces during the conflict, and countless more in defense-related industries at home. The registry’s goal is to have all honored.

WHEN PREPARATION AND CHANCE INTERSECT

By Ned Pennock (nedthephotodude@gmail.com)



I photographed the April 8, 2024, total eclipse from my brother-in-law's farm near Williamsburg, Indiana. I had been thinking about the eclipse ever since my wife and I returned home from Clarksville, Tennessee, following the August 21, 2017, total eclipse. I captured some decent photos of that eclipse, along with thousands of other photographers.

In the months leading up to the 2024 eclipse, I pondered not even setting up my camera to take photos. After all, a lot of the advice out there is to simply soak up the experience, rather than fiddling with camera settings. However, I decided that I couldn’t pass up the opportunity to try to photograph another eclipse.

We went to bed the night before to storms and a forecast that was calling for overcast skies in the morning of the eclipse, with partial clearing in the afternoon. We were hopeful, but not overly optimistic that we would even see the eclipse. To our great surprise, we woke up on the 8th to clear skies...skies that remained largely clear for the entire duration of the eclipse. So, I went ahead and set up my camera near our small RV in my brother-in-law’s yard.

For you camera nerds out there, I used a Canon R5 with a Canon RF 100-500mm lens. During the partial eclipse, I used a Lee solar filter to capture the various phases of the eclipse leading up to totality. I took photos about every 15 minutes. Then, when totality occurred, I took off my solar filter and switched my camera to shoot a bracketed series of seven photos, altering my shutter speed from 1/4 to 1/1000 sec. I used this technique throughout totality and then switched back after totality ended.

The eclipse started (first contact) at approximately 1:54:11 p.m. EDT and totality (second contact) started at approximately 3:07:49 p.m. EDT.

In the meantime, American Eagle Flight No. 4461 (operated by Republic Airways) was soaring at an elevation of 36,000 feet and a speed of 413 mph. It left La Guardia at about 1:30, heading west on its way to St. Louis.

The night before the trip, the pilot realized he would be passing over Indianapolis close to the time of totality. He calculated that the flight would need to gain 15 minutes to make it on time to see totality. The flight managed to depart La Guardia early (a miracle in itself) and flew fast and accepted all shortcuts. Due to good planning and some good luck, he was able to reduce the flight time to fly into the path of totality.

At 3:11:20 p.m. EDT, our two perspectives on the eclipse intersected...literally...and resulted in a series of photographs of Flight AA4461 seeming to pass right through the eclipse as shown here. Please visit my website to see all my eclipse photos...and many more... at nedpennockphotography.com.

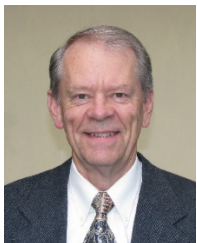
If you are interested in purchasing any photos, please feel free to do so directly from my website or by reaching out to me at nedthephotodude@gmail.com.

I hope that many of you were able to view the eclipse. It really was an awesome sight. For me, seeing Flight RPA4461 and then connecting with Captain Riley made the experience even more special.

Cheers,
Ned Pennock
(937) 689-6093

ECLIPSE OVER TEXAS

By Art Storbo (astorbo@nwlinc.com)



This story builds on the experience my wife, Sharon, and I had with the 2017 total solar eclipse in Madras, Oregon, told in a previous CH2M newsletter/archive. As supporters of Lowell Observatory (LO), we committed to helping the LO team share the eclipse over Texas with the public. We drove to Waco, Texas, 1,900 miles from Bellevue, Washington, because checking delicate, expensive telescope gear as airline baggage or carry-on was unwise. Making matters worse, we had a half-mile walk from parking to Baylor University stadium; and we didn't want to lug our 3-1/2-foot-long Orion 120-mm refractor with heavy tripod and battery drive that far (it stayed in the car).

So, we brought only a small hydrogen alpha telescope and filtered binoculars to share with the general public; but these complemented larger camera-mounted equipment brought by other LO people. The previous day's weather forecast was grim – warning of a possible tornado with rain/hail. But eclipse day dawned only with clouds, then it improved even more.



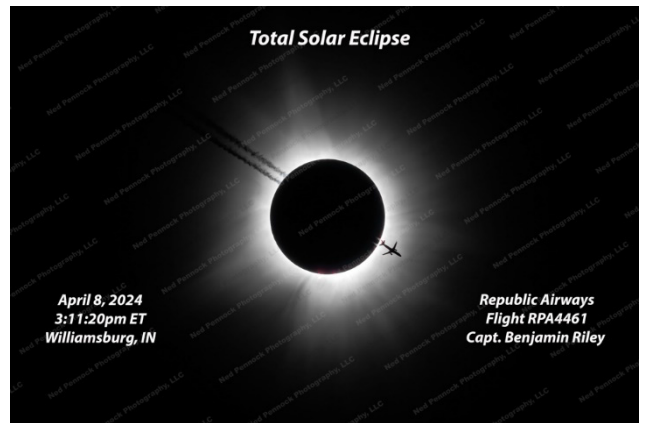
Most stunning eclipse photo!



Mike, head of LO Advisory Board.



Sharon helping the public see and understand eclipse through our hydrogen alpha scope.



Before and after the main event, I took time to become acquainted with other (not LO) people who had far more sophisticated equipment and talent than we had. That paid off nicely. One was an electronics engineer whose specialty is equipping space vehicles with communication antennas; he provided us with this eclipse photo. Another was a PhD camera researcher, located 50 feet from us. While these people captured better photos than we could, we had much fun interacting with the general public who looked through our collective equipment.

For a nearly in-person experience, see this [10-minute recording](#) by the camera researcher. Our team setup was in the lower right of the South View, where you see Sharon and me moving about. Note the clouds' fortuitous breakup, the changes in light as the eclipse progressed, and the excitement of the crowd.

Solar eclipses, though infrequent, have been recorded in human history for thousands of years.

DINO HUNT IN THE ROCKIES

By Art Storbo (astorbo@nwlink.com)



On our way to/from Waco for the eclipse, we stopped at four dinosaur dig/museum sites. We wanted to gather information for an illustrated talk to our North Seattle Rock Club next fall, the talk tentatively titled "Dinosaurs: What the Rocks Tell Us." Everything we know about dinosaurs comes from the rocks, and it's a fascinating story. We had years before been to two dino sites in Montana and Wyoming, but these four fleshed out our knowledge of dino history and rocks. Most U.S. dino recovery sites lie in the Rocky Mountains, which during dinosaur times formed the western shore of the Western Interior Seaway that divided the North American continent during the Cretaceous Period 145-66 Mya (million years ago). Many rocks today can be dated accurately to the nearest 1 My by sophisticated geology lab methods.

Dinosaurs ruled the Earth's animal kingdom from 225 Mya to 66 Mya. Then they were suddenly wiped out when an asteroid 7 miles in diameter struck planet Earth, making a 120-mile-diameter, 12-mile-deep hole in the ocean floor at today's Yucatan peninsula in southeast Mexico. The proof lies in the K-T boundary, a 1-cm thick iridium-rich layer with fallout materials, found in many places around Earth, all dating to 66 Mya. Before this, dinos were as plentiful in what became Europe, Asia, and South America as in North America, but species varied slightly. Following the asteroid strike came world-wide shock waves of blinding light and extreme heat, earthquakes, and fallout of blast materials, from which only land animals underwater and in burrows survived. It was the worst day ever on planet Earth. This was followed by years-long atmospheric pollution by carbon dioxide and sulfur, creating a "nuclear winter" in which most land-based plants died. Life in the oceans fared equally badly; acidification of the oceans from acid rain killed off plankton and all species up the food chain.

We first visited Dinosaur Journey Museum in Fruita, Colorado, where we learned what dinos ate. Herbivores up to 100 feet long and weighing up to 40 tons ate plants including tree branches. Stones rubbing together in their gizzards aided digestion, just as small gravel aids digestion in chickens and some birds today. Carnivores (meat-eaters), like the familiar Tyrannosaurus Rex, grew to 30 feet long and weighed up to 6 tons. Their fossilized bones and coprolites, even their fossilized eggs, tell us their life story. Dino bones tell of health maladies including parasites, injuries including bite marks, broken bones, infections, arthritis, even cancer, and old age when they couldn't find enough to eat, outrun other predators, or avoid drowning in a flash flood or mudhole. Dinosaurs lived a maximum of about 30 years.



A 5-ton Pentaceratops from northwestern New Mexico.



Hundreds of dino tracks at Clayton Lake State Park, New Mexico.

We next visited Clayton Lake State Park, New Mexico. Here are hundreds of dino tracks made in soft clay/sand 100 Mya, then covered with outwash from the eastern flank of the rising Rocky Mountains. In time, these sedimentary materials hardened into stone, much of which later eroded away. Left behind after dam construction was a stone layer, which lay just under the surface of the dam's excavated spillway. When the spillway was scoured clean in 1982 by an overflow, the tracks were recognized. They tell many stories – at least four different kinds of dinosaurs, herbivores, and carnivores, adults and young, travelling singly and in herds – as they walked, ran, dragged their tails, or retreated. Their footprints show toes and claws, correlate with footprints left at other sites, indicate animal size, and distance made with each step walking or running. They avoided crocodiles who left their own traces, and even worms left tracks or burrows.



Alamosaurus skeleton replica, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

At the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque, we saw numerous skeletons of dinos of all sizes, even bird size – some still lying in the rock they were buried in. Modern science can even tell us what color the dinos were. The exhibits included several clutches of dino eggs – from 2" to cantaloupe in size. Most dinos didn't guard their nests of 20-50 eggs. Up to 50 percent of eggs were eaten by small predators, and hatchlings often died as food for predators as well, leaving 10 percent to grow to adulthood. This museum is one of the best.

At Dinosaur National Monument in the northeast corner of Utah, we visited the Quarry Exhibit Hall. It encloses a wall of rock dipping at 45 degrees like the strata in the surrounding hills. The rock is filled with dino bones, believed to have piled up in the flash flood of a river.

As a result, many bones are mixed together, though some skeletons are nearly intact and complete. This site was first discovered in 1909. Fossils from nearly 400 different dinosaurs have been recovered here. Visitors can touch fossils still in the rock, and it is easy to see the fossilized bones as they are darker than the surrounding rock.

And in keeping with a common rock collector's habit, we bought a few rocks - a gizzard stone, another coprolite, a fossilized bone, and a 10-inch Tyrannosaurus Rex tooth (this one a recast, as these real artifacts aren't usually sold to the public).



Quarry Exhibit Hall near Vernal, Utah.



Interior of Quarry Exhibit Hall near Vernal, Utah.



Dinosaur bones you can touch at Quarry Exhibit Hall.

A great trip, combining two hobbies (the eclipse) of planet Earth history.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE OF GORDON KOBLITZ

By Don Marske (donmarske@gmail.com)



On May 25, Gordon's family gathered on Maui to celebrate his life. The event was well attended by Gordon's family, including his in-laws and several grandchildren. His CH2M HILL family was represented by Bob and Meredith Chapman, Tom Haislip, Joan and me. The party was located at the Kamaole I Beach Park adjacent to the Royal Mauian, Gordon's favorite location on Maui.

The event started with a meet and greet that included the dedication of a park bench in Gordon's memory and his engineering service to the development of the wastewater infrastructure in the Kihei area.





We next enjoyed a catered dinner and entertainment by a local Hawaiian singer. Bob took the opportunity to present Mary with a framed plaque of the CHAA Board's resolution designating May 23, 2024, as Gordon Koblitz Day.

In keeping with the Hawaiian theme, dinner was followed by a traditional Hawaiian ceremony performed by a Hawaiian priest. The ceremony concluded with the sunset blowing of the conch shell to the four points of the compass.

The following morning the family gathered once again for another ceremony that concluded with a canoe trip for the scattering of the ashes.

As Mary said, "His was a life well lived."

A TRIP TO ETHIOPIA

By Jerry Anderson (jerry.l.anderson.11@gmail.com)



In February and March of 2024, I joined two other people from my church in Louisville, Kentucky, to travel to Yabelo, Ethiopia, and surrounding smaller communities. The purpose of our trip was to meet with representatives of the nonprofit organization NeverThirst and its partner agencies in the country.

We visited nearby communities where drinking water systems were recently constructed by these agencies, and where future water projects were proposed, all near Yabelo.

After arriving from the U.S. at the international airport in the centrally located capital, Addis Ababa, we took a short flight to Arba Minch, a city with an estimated population of 200,000 (in 2017). Arba Minch is about 220 miles south-southwest of Addis Ababa.



NeverThirst and EEC representatives in Addis Ababa and the travelers from Louisville.



The Ethiopia capital, Addis Ababa, reportedly has about 7 million residents.



Arrival to Arba Minch on a shuttle flight.

Then, after traveling about 4 hours by truck, we came to Yabelo. This city is in the Oromia regional state of Ethiopia in the extreme south, 70 miles from the border with Kenya. The latest national census was conducted in 1994, reporting a population of 10,322 for the community, but estimates of the current population are much higher, exceeding 30,000 people. Highways and roads ranged from good quality paved asphalt to gravel and partially paved roads. At times, we had to reduce our speed to 10 mph to dodge potholes and navigate around washed-out roadbeds. When pavement quality was good enough for traveling at highway speeds, extreme care was still necessary due to the frequent presence of livestock. The animals would unexpectedly cross the highway or simply walk in the middle of the road



Sudden free-range surprises on the highway are common.



Two-way cow traffic on the highway; no room for cars.

Background

Ethiopia is a land-locked country in East Africa. At 1,104,300 square kilometers, it has a land area almost exactly midway between Alaska and Texas. This country has one of the most rugged and complex topographies in Africa. The most common geological features in south-central Ethiopia, the area of interest for our trip, are low hills and plateaus.



Ethiopia is land-locked, in east-central Africa.



Yabelo is in south-central Ethiopia, just 70 miles from Kenya.



Residents fortunate enough to have year-round flowing streams share the water with livestock and wildlife, which contaminate the water.

The river drainage basins in the south-central part of the country are transboundary, with rivers flowing generally southeast into and through Somalia, discharging to the Indian Ocean. Lack of precipitation and long-term drought have caused many rivers and streams to be intermittent, flowing only during the rainy seasons rather than year-round. About half of the annual rainfall typically falls in July and August. Streams that do flow are populated by ubiquitous wildlife and livestock. Unfortunately, these animals contaminate the surface water supplies, making them unsafe to drink.

Ethiopia's estimated population in 2021 exceeded 126 million people, with an annual growth rate of 2.6 percent. Only 38 percent of Ethiopians reportedly have access to safe drinking water sources, and only

12 percent use improved sanitation facilities, according to data available from 2012. Several additional factors have worsened Ethiopia's water crisis. The lack of water and sanitation, for example, has created and spread food shortages and famine across the country, and forced children to find and collect drinking water rather than attending school. Water-borne illnesses have claimed many lives.¹

During drought, groundwater is often relied on to provide secure drinking water, particularly in rural Africa where other options are limited.² Studies have shown that the performance of most hand-dug wells and springs declines significantly throughout the extended dry season. On the other hand, boreholes (drilled wells) equipped with hand pumps are the most reliable water supply, with groundwater levels in the wells recovering within hours. Additionally, boreholes are least affected by surface water contamination. Many communities, which rely solely on springs, shallow wells, or rivers, experience severe water shortage during drought conditions. The impacts of the water shortages include greatly increased time requirements for daily water collection, reports of violent conflict, missed meals, reduced school attendance by children, reduced farm activity, and increased health problems.

Religion in Ethiopia

Religious faiths in Ethiopia consist of Christianity at 67 percent (Orthodox, Pentecostal, and Catholic combined), Sunni Muslim at 31 percent, and the remainder indigenous religions, as reported in 2022 by the U.S. Department of State, Office of International Religious Freedom. The Christian population is denser in highly populated areas like Addis Ababa, and other cities to the north, whereas the southern part of the country is more rural and populated with people of the Muslim faith. These statistics are relevant to how NeverThirst and partner organizations identify, finance, and implement their water projects.

NeverThirst and Partner Agencies

NeverThirst, based in Birmingham, Alabama, is a 501(c)3 organization that has water projects in five African and three Asian countries. It partners with and invests in local organizations with proven experience in drinking water, sanitation, and health programs (WASH). Their WASH partners share the same values, such as empowering the local church in rural villages to help people gain access to clean and "living" (spiritual) water. Water and sanitation projects include household water filters, deep (greater than 20 meters [m]) wells with hand pumps or electric pumps and solar panels, biosand filters, tapped mountain springs, household toilets and latrines, and gravity-fed water piping to an entire community. In every setting, the organization promotes sanitation and good hygiene practices with education and creates a local water committee trained to provide a sustainable water supply.

¹ Water in Ethiopia: Drought, Disease, Death; Global Majority E-Journal, Vol. 3, No. 2.

² A.M MacDonald, et al 2019 *Environ. Res. Lett.* 14.

In parallel with the construction phase, NeverThirst's local partners empower local pastors and other Christians to be the face of the water projects in the villages. This takes time and intentionality in building the confidence and capacity of the local Christians who themselves are often marginalized and even persecuted. WASH programs give the local church the opportunity to love, serve, and reach people with clean and "living" water. In Ethiopia, NeverThirst partners with two agencies:

- LM International (LMI)
- Ethiopian Evangelical Church (EEC) Mekaene Yesus ("Place of Jesus") Development and Social Services Commission

LMI is a Swedish organization headquartered in Stockholm with the vision "Dignified Life - Sustainable World," and it has a presence in 24 countries, including Ethiopia. The LMI mission is to: "apply a holistic approach in which we not only save lives but also enable individuals to achieve their full potential. We endeavor to strengthen the resilience of people and societies during crisis and disaster situations." Its four focus areas are:

- Food Security and Livelihood
- Health and Wellbeing
- Education and Training
- Water and Sanitation

EEC assists poor and disadvantaged people by promoting human transformation and care for the natural environment. Key intervention areas include health and nutrition (reproductive health, communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases, nutrition, sanitation, and hygiene); education and child development; humanitarian response; and livelihoods development. EEC is one of the faith-based partners of DanChurchAid (Danish Evangelical Lutheran origin) with a cooperation lasting more than 25 years to date. EEC works with over 50 partners (mostly financial entities) in communities to create Bible study and prayer groups, in addition to the typical social projects like hospitals, health services, education, and improved sanitation and water supplies.

Project Sites

The typical design for a drilled well and wellhead in this region is a 12-inch-diameter bored hole with a removable or permanent 10-inch-diameter surface casing that telescopes to an 8-inch-diameter bored hole to the aquifer depth. The well design includes a 4-inch-diameter PVC casing, slotted PVC screen, and gravel packed in the annular space.



A 4-inch PVC casing is the most common material used for community wells with hand pumps.



The PVC casing is slotted in the aquifer layer for groundwater collection.

The most common hand pump in use is the Indian Mark II, which was designed in the 1970s. This design is now in the public domain, and several variants exist in the many countries where these pumps are installed.

This hand pump can reportedly operate to depths as low as 80 m, but 50 m is the recommended maximum depth according to the Rural Water Supply Network. At ground level, a lever-operated pump stand is anchored to a concrete pad, approximately 6 feet square, which seals the casing and protects it from surface water contamination.

In this photo, local residents build a barrier fence around the well to protect it from overuse and vandalism.



Typical wellhead and hand pump installation with barrier fence.



Water collection using the container of choice, a 20-liter jerrycan, is often a community affair.



Indian Mark II hand pump.



Overflow from the wellhead is contained and flows to a trough for livestock.

The project sites that we toured were located within about 40 kilometers of Yabelo. We visited three hand pump sites and a hand pump repair project, where internal mechanical parts (pump and discharge pipe) were replaced after a service period of about 2 years. (The equipment usually lasts longer than 2 years, but this pump was reportedly improperly operated, which led to premature failure.) In each case these community wells eliminated the need for residents to use unsafe and unreliable surface water that was contaminated by animals.



Many streams flow intermittently and water from all streams is shared with livestock and wild animals.



Residents typically dig a shallow well to obtain water from a dry stream bed when no other nearby sources are available.

When a stream stops flowing due to dry weather, the residents resort to digging a hole in the stream bed to find water. See the following table for a summary of information about the sites we visited.

NeverThirst Projects near Yabelo			
Project Area*	Pump Type	Depth of Borehole	Remarks
Nano Oda	Indian Mark II hand pump	27 m	
Meika Dambi	Indian Mark II hand pump	44 m	
Qorke	Indian Mark II hand pump	67 m	
Goro Gudina	Indian Mark II hand pump	41 m	Renovated by replacing pump and parts.
Chelelka	Grundfos vertical turbine	55 m	Powered by 220-volt solar panels.
Danicha	NA	NA	Well was not deep enough for yield, and larger drill rig is needed.
Buya	NA	NA	Drilling was underway.

**Phonetic spellings*



An electric vertical turbine pumps water to this storage tank; note four solar panels at the top.



This well is equipped with a solar-powered submersible pump and its discharge is piped to a small, elevated tank.

The fifth site listed in the table has a different configuration. It is equipped with an electric vertical turbine that pumps directly to a small, slightly elevated storage tank on the site. Connected to the tank is a tap stand with multiple spigots for filling containers or washing. Mounted above the storage tank are four solar panels. Each panel generates 300 watts of power at 220 volts.

Lastly, we saw original water access points that were very dirty—carrying diseases like cholera and diarrhea—which end in deaths, especially for young kids and teens.

A well installation was attempted at the Danicha site, but unfortunately the depth capability of the drilling rig (more than 100 m) was exceeded before a suitable aquifer was found. The existing water supply for this small community has very limited capacity, inconvenient access, and very poor water quality.



Woman at left has dropped a jerrycan connected to rope to the woman below to collect the muddy water for their domestic use.



Well drilling is underway with a crew from LMI.

Note in the photo that two women work together to collect water in their containers, known as jerrycans. Because of the steep embankment, they use a rope to hoist the container to normal ground level. Fortunately, LMI recently acquired a larger drilling rig with capability for a 300-m depth and it will hopefully soon be used to construct a deep well on this site.

At still another site, we saw the LMI team in the process of drilling a new well. Interestingly, this site was less than 30 m from a highway, which had an electric power distribution line alongside.

Despite the nearby electrical source, the well will be powered by solar panels because the electric distribution system is reportedly not reliable enough to power this water supply.

The NeverThirst goal for community wells with hand pumps is to serve up to about 600 people, and for wells with electric submersible pumps and tap stands to serve 1,000 or more people. In practice, these numbers are often exceeded. NeverThirst and partners in Ethiopia report that 94% of their well projects are still in operation. Providing maintainable water systems is a core value of NeverThirst in delivering sustainable community water solutions.

We had the opportunity on a Sunday morning to visit a new community church near a newly constructed well. A church building will eventually be built, but for now, meeting under a tree works nicely.

A short distance behind the church is a hole in the ground that serves as their baptismal area.

In January, the hole was lined with a plastic tarp and filled with water, jerrycan by jerrycan, and 56 people were baptized there. Wow, what a way to improvise!

In another nearby village with a new community well, a church was recently constructed using common materials—a composite of chopped straw and mud.



One Sunday morning we visited a new community church which held its services under a tree.



Not far from the church under a tree was a baptismal site; water is hauled by jerrycan to fill this hole, which has a plastic tarp liner. Last January, 56 people were baptized here.



This church was recently constructed in a community where a drilled well was installed. The walls are a composite of chopped straw and mud, with green sticks as reinforcement around window and door openings.

Finally, the building shown below serves as the living quarters for the drilling team and engineers and is also the field office for LMI in Yabelo.



This building serves as the living quarters for the drilling team and engineers, and the field office for LMI in Yabelo.

EXPLORING WITH DOUG AND SUZANNE GAIBLER

By Doug Gaibler (doug.gaibler@gmail.com)



A Bit of History

On November 5, 1973, I embarked on my career with CH2M HILL in the Portland office, just after their merger with Clair A. Hill and Associates. I joined a team that had relocated from the Redding, California, office to Portland to help integrate Clair A. Hill and Associates with CH2M.

Fast forward to 1987. I moved to Reston, Virginia, to work on a large water pipeline project. What was initially planned to be a 3- to 5-year assignment turned into a 27-year journey. I eventually retired in December 2014 after 42 rewarding years. After leaving CH2M HILL, I spent a few more years working part-time for a small, 20-person highway engineering firm. This was a significant cultural shift that I enjoyed.

Let the Travels Begin!

Since retiring, my wife Suzanne and I frequently travel to Oregon to visit family and friends. These visits often included skiing or hiking, fulfilling my craving for mountain time. Our travels have expanded beyond the U.S., taking us to France, Italy, Greece, Belgium, England, Ireland, Portugal, Netherlands and Peru. Most of these adventures were shared with Suzanne and my son Drew, who joined me on the skiing and hiking trips. The following photos capture some of these memorable moments. Exploring new places and cultures with loved ones has created many wonderful memories.



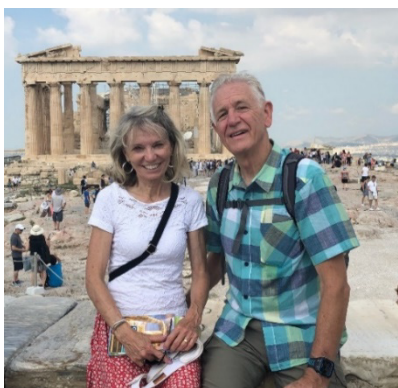
England – Royal Observatory – Greenwich.



Portugal – Cape Saint Vincent.



France – Mont-Saint-Michel – Normandy.



Greece – The Parthenon – Athens.



Italy – Trevi Fountain – Rome.



Peru – Sun Gate – Machu Picchu.



Cross Country Trip – Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Navigating COVID from the Comfort of an Airstream

When COVID hit and lockdowns were enforced, we found a unique way to continue our travels while staying safe within our family bubble. In the spring of 2020, we purchased a mid-sized Airstream travel trailer, allowing us to comply with federal and state guidelines while continuing to explore. During those COVID years, we journeyed throughout the Mid-Atlantic states and made a cross-country trip from Virginia to California via a southern route, including portions of Route 66, visits to several national parks, and of course some wine tasting when we reached California.

The Guys' Trip to Nepal and Bhutan

Once COVID restrictions eased, a dinner conversation with friends led to a realization that my friend Bill and I both had a visit to Nepal and Bhutan to see Mount Everest and hike in the Himalayas on our bucket list. Encouraged by our wives, who had no interest in the trip, we teamed up and embarked on this adventure in April of this year.

On April 17 we departed from Dulles Airport and 30 hours later we arrived in Kathmandu. We spent time exploring Kathmandu Valley, home to over 3 million people. We toured the city and its surroundings, visiting markets, museums, art galleries, Hindu and Buddhist, temples, monasteries, and monuments.

Our early morning flight from Kathmandu to Bhutan was with one of the only two airlines servicing Paro International Airport, famously known as one of the most challenging airports in the world. The runway, merely 6,500 feet long, sits at 7,500 feet above sea level and is surrounded by peaks as high as 18,000 feet. Only a handful of pilots are certified to land at Paro due to the lack of radar, the short runway, and the manual visual approach required to navigate a canyon on the final approach. With the canyon narrowing to 600 feet, it seemed as if the aircraft's wings could touch the trees lining either side as we made our approach to the runway.



Nepal – Boudhonath Stupa – Kathmandu.



Nepal – Patan Dunbar Square – Liliput.

The Grandeur of Mount Everest and the Himalayas

The flight was breathtaking, offering stunning views of the Himalayas, including four of the five tallest peaks on earth, including Mount Everest.



Mount Everest – our first sighting.



Mount Everest – our second sighting.

Our time in Bhutan was filled with hiking, exploring local markets, visiting Buddhist temples and monasteries, and enjoying the picturesque scenery and the friendly, happy people. The departure from Bhutan was as exhilarating as the arrival, with the plane using every inch of the 6,500-foot runway. The 18,000-foot peaks encircling the airport required a steep climb and sharp banking, creating a dramatic scene of only ground directly below us on one side and endless sky on the other. Here are some highlights.

Memories of Bhutan



A free range yak herd.



Subsistence agriculture.



Dantak Mountain Pass Hike.



Buddhist Punakha Dzong (17th-century fortress-monastery), Khamsum Yuelley / Namgyal Chorten (Buddhist Shrine).



Hike to Taktshang Lhakhang (Tiger's Nest).

The Trip of a Lifetime

This trip was truly the adventure of a lifetime. Witnessing Mount Everest, hiking in the Himalayas, and immersing ourselves in a vastly different culture was incredible. The scenery was spectacular, the people were wonderful, and the culture and food were intriguing. I hope someday to return to Nepal and spend more time on the trails outside the city.

A DAY AT THE BALLPARK (PAY IT FORWARD)

By Martin Hales (marlin.hales@gmail.com)



10am Sunday morning. Already hot. It was one of the driest summers on record, so no surprise. We all showed up at a reasonable time, considering some of us were nursing slight hangovers from the previous night of consuming adult beverages, dancing and singing to our favorite oldies at Studebakers. We didn't quite have enough to field a team, but since we were borrowing their bats, balls, and bases, it seemed reasonable they'd let us borrow a couple of players, too.

Who were "they"? They were inmates from the Cobb County Correctional Institute. When the gates opened for them to escape to the ball field, the sight made me slightly uncomfortable, and wasn't something my foggy mind was prepared to comprehend. Turning my attention to the field itself, I noticed it had more home-field

advantages than the friendly confines at Wrigley. There was a small weed forest in the outfield that was a Bermuda Triangle for routine fly balls and the occasional center fielder. There was also a mud bog between home plate and first base that would be more easily navigated with my Subaru 4x4 than my weekend warrior sneakers. How a swampy base path existed in a record-setting dry spell was its own unsolved mystery. Best seat in the house was reserved for the VIP in the guard tower just off the third base line.



So there we were, the Cumberland Jaycees, champions of charities and community service that now included playing softball on Sunday mornings with teams whose mascot is Book 'em Danno. A few minutes earlier while walking to the field, we listened to the encouraging wisdom of our fellow Jaycee and volunteer coach, Rosemary: "Yep, the last time we played these guys, they beat us something like 37-3, or maybe 4. I can't remember the exact score, but we got slaughtered." Ibuprofen, please.

They gave us the choice of when to bat, so we chose to go last. We were the home team at the Cobb County Correctional Institute, which I found rather funny. My sense of humor took a hit when they scored 8 runs in the top half of the first inning. The bottom half of the inning went much faster. Prisoners of the mud bog, we didn't even get to first base. We warmed up a bit in the third inning, thanks to a disappearing mental fog, and having sweated some of the impurities

out of our sluggish selves. With a surprising flurry of hits, we jumped out to an 11-10 lead. Equally impressive was our ability to hide our amazement with the hit parade.

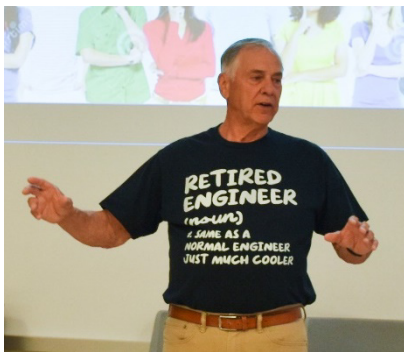
By the fifth inning, they had jumped back out to a 21-12 lead. Our first base coach saw this as opportunity to offer more encouragement: "Okay, gang. We've got them right where we want them." Taunting inmates, brilliant strategy. There were times I questioned the wisdom of our leadership. But the pessimist in me was proven wrong, as we whittled away at the lead until we went into the 7th and final inning tied at 21. After holding them to one run, things looked promising until two quick outs had us down to our last out with nobody on base. Suddenly, a cloud appeared from nowhere, briefly blocking out enough sunlight to allow the bats to see again. One run scored and the winning run was at second base. The final batter stepped up to the plate, knocked a line drive into left field, and the winning run beat the throw to home plate. You could almost hear Harry Carey yelling from the guard tower "Cubs win! Holy cow!" as we muddled through the bog for a quick home plate celebration.

As we lined up for a post-game handshake, our triumphant joy was brought back to the reality of our opponents' immediate future. I was reliving a memory of a childhood neighbor, who was allowed to come out to play, but only for a short time and on a short leash. The handshakes and smiles were genuine, offering a brief insight to the fact these weren't inmates, but people. Maybe not stars of their community, but people that had names, feelings, families, and friends who worried about them. People that made some poor choices along the way, requiring a mandatory course correction apart from the rest of us average Joes.

As we walked back to our cars, a couple of them waved through the fence and bid us farewell. "Thanks a lot for coming out. You don't know how much we appreciate it." Probably not. But we had a renewed appreciation for our basic freedoms that we take for granted. Freedom to trudge daily to the 9 to 5, to pursue happiness, to open the sunroof and feel the breeze and sunshine, to plan another Saturday night at Studebakers – to make better choices. My favorite line in the Jaycee Creed was "service to humanity is the best work of life." Usually that came in the shape of fundraisers for Muscular Dystrophy, bowling for Big Brothers, releasing balloons at the Special Olympics. But just giving up a Sunday morning to play ball and make someone's day felt good too.

WORKFORCE READINESS – VISIT TO UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

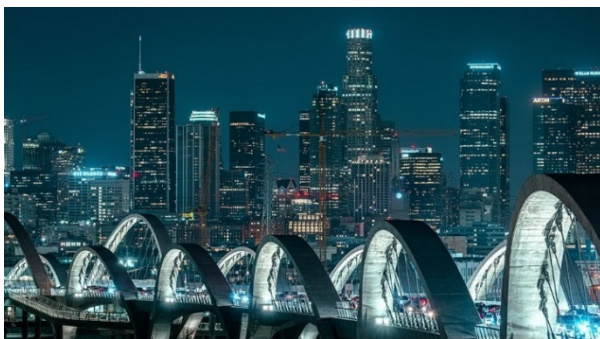
By Rick Luebbers (rluebber@hotmail.com)



The Nebraska Transportation Center (NTC) is the umbrella organization for transportation research at the University of Nebraska. One of its programs is to create awareness among middle school and high school students in Nebraska about the role of engineering and construction in society, and how it impacts every facet of our lives. NTC's goal is to provide a place for students to engage with current engineering practitioners, to learn relevant industry skills not taught in classrooms, to receive mentoring to improve student success, and to connect students to internship opportunities.

Of particular interest to me, NTC seeks to educate high school students about the many aspects of transportation engineering. Students are introduced to engineering through opportunities that include field trips to NTC research labs, presentations from current U of N students, and hands-on activities.

I was invited to attend the 2024 Discover Transportation Engineering Summer Program. It was focused on high school students interested in transportation engineering. The students spent 3 days and 2 nights at the University where they met industry professionals and toured their workplaces. They also competed to create solutions to transportation problems. The students experienced a bit of campus life and got a head start on scholarship applications.



My part was to describe how a farm boy – one of 10 kids on a sharecropping farm in northeast Nebraska – could attend the University of Nebraska and graduate with a BS degree in civil engineering. And how that education was the cornerstone of a four-decade career as a professional transportation engineer. I went from milking cows and bucking bales to working on billion-dollar projects in the US and Canada and advising the City Engineer of Los Angeles on the delivery of the iconic Sixth Street Viaduct.

If I could do it, so could they!

FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

By Mike Mynhier (mmynhier@bellsouth.net)

CHAA Background



CH2M HILL is remembered as one of the most influential firms in the environmental and infrastructure design and construction industry. Much of this legacy remains alive today through the former CH2M HILL staff who are actively engaged in the CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CHAA) and others who are continuing their careers within Jacobs and other similar firms. The CHAA

has grown out of an effort to document and sustain the firm's history and legacy. Our purpose is to preserve and expand the many relationships and friendships between former CH2M HILL employees, our clients, and industry organizations that were built over the years, to celebrate the firm's commitment to build a better world, and to sustain the value of our legacy.

Future Focus Task Force

Over the last several years, more and more of our members have joined the "Oldies but Goldies" club. The CHAA Board launched a Future Focus Task Force (FFTF) in 2023 to explore ways to make the legacy of CH2M HILL live on long after most of our current members have gone to their reward. Its two-year mission was to gather information from members on how best to create a lasting legacy, consider the options, and formulate strategies that can be implemented. Three primary paths forward emerged.

Regional Reunions, Gatherings, Fellowship

A major thrust of the FFTF this year has been to further nurture regional networking and gatherings. While numerous reunions uniting the entire organization have been held over the years, regional gatherings appear to have more traction with the current membership. They attract colleagues who worked together over the years, are alumni of many similar universities, and share more common ground than broader gatherings. One important outcome is that CHAA's Regional Networks/Reunions Committee recently created a best practices document and an experienced member support team that will enable organizers to select from several successful models and avoid having to reinvent the wheel to recreate enjoyable events.



Pay It Forward Activities



The FFTF also identified the importance of recognizing and nurturing the good work alums are doing that fulfills the "build a better world" elements of our heritage. Both the accomplishments of individuals as well as those of groups of alums who join with industry and community projects merit celebration.

Defining approaches for Inclusion of younger alumni who are still actively working within Jacobs and other organizations has been another key strategy. Many of these younger alumni are also active in professional societies and industry organizations like Engineers In Action, Bridges to Prosperity, or Water for People. Finding and creating synergy between retired and younger alumni toward Pay-it-Forward endeavors can be an important future path.

Legacy Gift Fund

During the remainder of 2024, the FFTF and several other alumni will be assisting the CHAA Board in completing the setup of the CHAA Legacy Gift Fund (LGF). Our goals are to create initial funding during 2024 and facilitate Board action in January 2025 to fully stand up and begin administering the Fund.

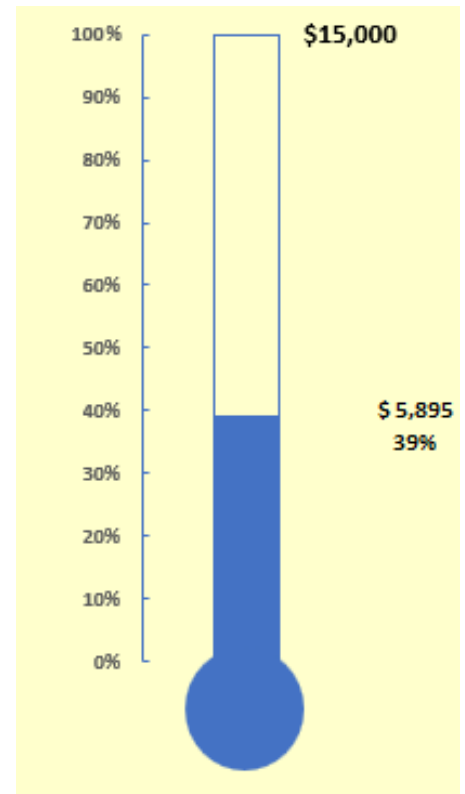
A lot of details still need to be addressed and captured in a LGF Framework Guidance Document, including creating a clear vision, and governance, communication, fund raising, and operational details. A Board Committee is being established to chart a path forward to achieve our goal for legacy longevity and to develop and administer a Framework Guidance Document for the Fund.

This will include a draft 3-year plan for evolving a more substantial fund in the future. The LGF will be entirely separate from the operating accounts of CHAA and will be dedicated solely to legacy-related activities.

Preliminary thinking is to set a first-year donation target amount of \$15,000 to be raised by year end. These funds will then be allocated in 2025 to several scholarships in college and university STEM pursuits and perhaps one Pay It Forward activity. A standing Board committee will be created to administer the Fund. As the graphic here indicates, as of early August substantial donations to the LGF have already accumulated, and significant additional pledges received from CHAA Board members. **As the Framework is developed, donations in any amount towards initial creation of the Fund are vitally important and will be hugely appreciated!**

Donations can be made by: (1) mailing a check made out to CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CH2M HILL Alumni Association, c/o Scott Trusler, 1003 Rangeview Dr., Black Hawk, CO 80422); (2) making a donation via PayPal using this link to our website: <https://ch2mhillalumni.org/donate/>, including indicating that your donation is to be directed to the LGF account in the PayPal transaction form; (3) transmitting funds bank-to-bank via Zelle (recipient should be ch2mhillaa.treasurer@gmail.com and indicating funds are to be directed to the LGF); (4) making a donation via your individual charitable gift account (such as Fidelity Charitable) and denoting our federal charity ID number 82-5325424; or (5) making a tax-free distribution from your IRA account. Our CHAA treasurer, Scott Trusler (ch2mhillaa.treasurer@gmail.com) will gladly provide assistance.

Stay tuned for more information about the Legacy Gift Fund and CHAA's efforts toward sustaining the good work of CH2M HILL.



Goodbye, Old Friends

We publish news of the passing of our CH2M HILL colleagues as we receive notices from CHAA members. Although the loss of each person is a sad event, there are many memorable moments in their careers. Please feel free to share your thoughts in an email to the CHAA address (ch2mhillaa@gmail.com). We will include your comments in the next Newsletter.

JORY ABRAMS



Jory Lee Abrams, age 74, passed away on April 20, 2024, in McMinnville, Oregon. Jory was born in Corvallis, Oregon, to Kathleen and Herb Miller as the eldest of four children.

Jory's love for her husband, Gerry, was the cornerstone of her life. Married for forty-six years, Jory and Gerry were partners in every sense of the word, sharing their devotion to family and friends, their commitment to causes important to them and their love of travel and the arts.

Jory was one of only four women to graduate with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Portland State University in 1979. She went on to enjoy a long and successful career with CH2M HILL until her retirement in 2006. While there, she ultimately rose to the position of Vice President,

Northwest Region, Traffic Transportation Manager.

She was the President of the PSU Alumni Association for several years and was recognized as a member of the PSU Distinguished Alumni.

Her family and friends will remember her for her unwavering love and support, her sense of adventure, and her intense drive to accomplish what she set her mind to. She laughed easily, was fiercely protective of her loved ones and was always there to offer sage advice.

Jory is survived by her husband, Gerald Abrams; and her siblings, Page Miller, Lisa Houghton and Clay Miller; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

BABS SUHR REMEMBRANCE



This special remembrance is dedicated to all spouses, parents, family members, and mentors who have had a positive impact on their working partner.

Barbara A. Suhr, affectionately known as Babs, passed away peacefully at the age of 88 on February 23, 2024. Born on August 30, 1935, in Hays, Kansas, she spent her formative years in Topeka, Kansas. Her pursuit of knowledge led her to the College of St. Mary (Nebraska) where she earned a BS degree in chemistry. Babs' heart found a perfect match in L. Gene Suhr when they married on September 1, 1961. Their love story spanned over 5 decades until Gene's passing in 2013.

The couple moved to Corvallis, Oregon, with Babs taking on the roles of raising two children, Stephen (Steve), and Christopher (Chris), caring for her Mother Teresa (Tree) and Gene's father Lenord (Len), and serving as an unpaid staff member while Gene worked as a paid employee for an engineering consulting firm called Cornell, Howland, Hays, and Merryfield (CH2M). Gene's work took them both and sometimes other family members to Seattle, Washington; Reston, Virginia; Los Angeles-Orange County, California; Alexandria, Egypt; Boston, Massachusetts; and finally, to Vancouver, Washington, where Gene retired. At different times Len and Steve also worked for CH2M or as it was later called CH2M HILL.

As copied from the CH2M HILL Alumni Website, "Much has been said, sometimes with a bit of hyperbole, about the stalwart heroes and heroines who founded and steered CH2M HILL to the heights of glory it enjoyed until it was sold to Jacobs Engineering, December 13, 2017. An unintended oversight is the role that these spouses, husbands, and wives, played in this arduous journey. They are among the true, invisible, unsung heroes and heroines who contributed immensely to the growth of CH2M HILL. Their sacrifices are legendary; their patience and understanding have been unlimited; their strength has been a resource that has been drawn on continuously over the decades by all who worked their hearts out to make CH2M HILL succeed." Babs was such a person.

In the water and wastewater group, Babs was a host to staff and clients, a mentor to other spouses, and a person who housed other staff to save the firm money. Julie Brendis, a friend Babs mentored, said she is remembered as someone who was smart, kind, compassionate, humble, funny, never gossiped, center of attention without seeking it, role model, a good friend with sincerity, great faith, great steward of relationship, and ability to entertain. And as Steve mentioned, Babs could meet anyone and never met a stranger. She was determined and cared for others.

Finally, as best said by Jerry and Mary Boyle, she was Yin for Gene's Yang; they both will be sorely missed and that they made the world a better place. Google says, Yin [feminine energy] and Yang [masculine energy] are present in everyone, and when balanced, they promote peace and harmony in a romantic relationship. A couple with balanced Yin and Yang energy listens and supports each other equally, ebbing and flowing from these roles depending upon their needs.

A funeral mass for Babs was celebrated on Monday, April 15, 2024, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Vancouver. A livestream of the mass was provided for those who couldn't attend in person. The following timestamps of the speeches are offered:

- Father Armando's honoring of Babs and Gene [here](#).
- Friend Julie Brandeis' and Steve's Remembrance [here](#).

HARRY MEJDELL



On July 10, 2024, Harry H. Mejdell passed on to be with God and his many loved ones who went before him. Born in Portland, Oregon, in 1931, Harry Mejdell attended Oregon State University where he received a BS degree in Structural Engineering in 1956. He joined CH2M in 1955 as a part-time draftsman and went on to build a strong and highly regarded structural engineering organization within the firm. In 1957, he joined the Corvallis (CVO) structural department. He obtained his Professional Engineer civil license in 1958 and his structural license the following year. He pursued post-graduate studies in structural engineering until 1963.

Starting in 1960, Harry was assigned Structural Department Head for CVO and later became the Structural Lead on the Boise Federal Office Building and Courthouse (1962). In 1963, he transferred to the Boise office (BOI), where he spent 5 years building the Structural Department as the Structural Lead and Manager of New Business Development. Harry transferred back to CVO in 1968 as the Structural Department Head. In 1970, the firm reorganized to incorporate the discipline system where Harry was appointed Director and, later, Vice President of Structural Engineering and Architecture. He served as Director of Structural Engineering during CH2M HILL's tremendous growth and expansion years; and always demonstrated his support, commitment and teamwork personality. Harry developed lifelong friendships with colleagues he worked with and the engineers he hired and mentored. He was instrumental in creating the feeling of family that was enjoyed in the Corvallis office.

Harry was active in professional societies where he held major offices at chapter, state, and national levels including President of the Structural Engineers of Oregon (SEAO) from 1973 to 1974. He is a lifetime SEAO member and a fellow/life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Harry was also active in community service groups. Among those groups was the Corvallis MidValley Lions Club, where he served as President.

Harry retired in 1993 after 37 years of rewarding structural engineering projects. But he continued to work part-time for Industrial Design and Construction, also known as IDC, on a number of Hewlett-Packard projects, and for CH2M HILL as Lead Structural Engineer on the Changi Wastewater Treatment Plant project in Singapore.

After retiring, Harry took up watercolor painting and more recently served on the Board of Directors of the Watercolor Society of Oregon. Harry watercolor painted their family Christmas card for the past 30 years. In addition to painting, he enjoyed skiing and golfing. In 2000, he volunteered as a golf-course rater for the Oregon Golf Association.

Harry and his wife, Dorothy, celebrated their 70th anniversary in 2024. They enjoyed their retired years with their three children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Harry was able to live on his own, supporting his wife Dorothy as she is cared for in Memory Care after he cared for her for ten years at home. His family is thankful he was able to spend his last hours with her in Hospice House in Bend, Oregon. Dorothy passed away suddenly on August 22, 2024. Although the family is sad losing both their mom and dad only a few short weeks apart, they are happy that Harry and Dorothy are together again.

Harry's playful, caring and determined presence will be missed. Even in his last days he shared stories of his impressive civil and structural engineering jobs completed across the world. He enjoyed the many people he worked alongside. He shared tearful stories of those he grew to love and have fun with. He shared stories of fun times on golf courses and rating courses through the OGA.

Harry is survived by his children, Cindy, Dan, and Brenda, as well as grandchildren Josh and Mackenna and great grandchildren Henry and Jane. Harry lived life to the fullest with his wife Dorothy back in Central Oregon where he loved the outdoors. He was a wonderful model in being a successful and caring person. They are dearly missed.

Call for Articles

We'd love to include any stories you'd care to share in our next CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CHAA) newsletter. Recent trips you've taken, interesting hobbies, new careers, life in transition to retirement, etc. would be of great interest to others.

You don't have to be a CHAA member to share a story in the newsletter, just a CH2M alum (including those folks still working for Jacobs). And you don't have to be retired! Anytime you have/see something that looks like an interesting news article, please share it with the News Team. You may either fully write the article (complete with a photo or two) or just get it in front of the News Team and let someone there track it down and write it up.

Please contact Bill at bill.vanwagenenjr@gmail.com and David Dunagan at D_Dunagan@msn.com to let them know if you have something you'd like to share.

Here's a link to our website where you'll find information about Alumni History (biographies, etc.) and Alumni Activities (hobbies, travel, reunions, etc.): <https://ch2mhillalumni.org/>. Check out the "Got News" for guidelines for articles for the Newsletter.

If you would like to join the CHAA, there's a simple process described there, too! That will allow you access to all of our newsletters and a full roster of members (with contact info).

Ready for a Temporary Full-Time Assignment?

JOIN CCPRS, USE YOUR EXPERIENCE TO HELP DISASTER-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES



Are you interested in helping those in need after a disaster? Are you ready to use your skill set to aid in the recovery of a disaster-affected community for 6-12 months or longer? The CCPRS program may be your answer. We are a joint venture company comprised of two JV partners (Jacobs and CDM Smith) and subcontractors. We are a dedicated FEMA Public Assistance Technical Assistance Contractor (PA TAC). Jacobs' CCPRS FEMA program is looking for US citizens who have expertise in labor categories such as administrative professionals, civil, electrical and mechanical engineers, archaeologists, accountants, architects, construction managers, site inspectors, project

managers, etc. Most roles require 6- to 12-month commitments including full-time travel status (fully reimbursed according to federal regulations, including per diem costs). If you are interested in learning more about these roles and how to get involved, contact a member of Jacobs' CCPRS Resourcing Team: Tre Sayles at Tre.Sayles@Jacobs.com, Luisa Stringer at Luisa.Stringer@Jacobs.com, or Julia Ripley at Julia.Ripley@Jacobs.com.

Jacobs Pension Service Center News

Jacobs' Consolidated Pension Plan Service Center number (by Willis Towers Watson) is 888-482-6632 or www.eepoint.com/jacobs for assistance.

For any other inquiries, please contact Jacobs HR and Global People services at the following e-mail: JACOBSHRUS.CAN@jacobs.com.

Jacobs News

We encourage our readers to check the Jacobs company website for the latest project wins and related news and stock news:

<https://www.jacobs.com> for general information.