Association of Engineering Geologists



Southern California Section

NEWSLETTER - April 1990

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Dinner Meeting Tuesday April 10th

- The Quiet Cannon Restaurant
 901 North Via San Clemente
 Montebello
- Cost \$20.00 (Full-Time Students Free)
- For reservations call by April 6th

 Marion (818) 889-0844 (Grover Hollingsworth & Assoc.)
 (Leave Your Name & Number of People in Your Party)

Make reservations by Noon on the Friday before the Meeting

- ☐ 5:30 Social Hour

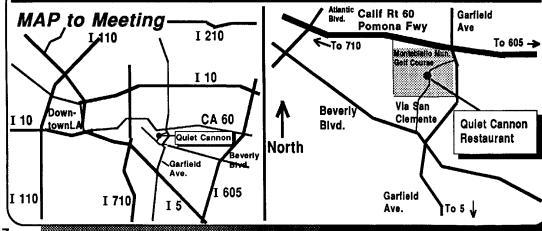
7:30 Announcements

8:00 Program

Program

TOPIC Landslide Dams:
A World-Wide Geologic Hazard

SPEAKER Dr. Robert Schuster - Research
Geologist/ Civil Engineer with the USGS
Branch of Geologic Risk Assessment



Program

Topic & Speaker

Landslide Dams: A World-Wide Geologic Hazard
Dr. Robert Schuster

Landslide dams, which have reached heights as great or greater that the world's largest constructed dams, have proven to be significant hazards in many parts of the world. These natural blockages form in all kinds of physiographic settings, ranging from rock avalanches in steep-walled narrow valleys to sensitive-clay failures in relatively flat river lowlands. Many of these dams have failed catastrophically, causing major downstream flooding. Casualties from some of these flood have numbered into the thousands.

In the United States, two major landslides within the last 10 years have blocked streams, forming large lakes that have been hazardous to downstream populations. The 1980 2.8 cubic kilometer debris avalanche on Mount St. Hellens in the State of Washington dammed the main stem and tributaries of the North Fork Toutle River, forming several lakes. The three largest of these - Spirit, Coldwater, and Castle Lakes - still exist, but their levels and volumes have been stabilized by construction of outlet structures. The 1983 Thistle landslide dammed the Spanish Fork River in central Utah, forming a 98 million cubic meter lake that inundated the small town of Thistle, resulting in the loss of 15 businesses, 10 homes, and railway switching yards. Costs of the Thistle landslide and resulting upstream flooding have been estimated at more than \$200 million.

Dr. Robert L. Schuster is a Research Geologist/Civil Engineer with the USGS at Denver. For over the last 10 years he has been in the Branch of Geologic Risk Assessment. His career spans 40 years. He has been an instructor in engineering geology and civil engineering at Purdue U., a Professor of Civil Engineering at the U. of Colorado, a Professor and Chairman of Civil Engineering at the U. of Idaho. From 1974 to 1979 he was the Chief of the USGS Branch of Engineering Geology. He has published over 170 papers on engineering geology and geotechnical engineering. Most of these papers deal with the study of landslides in the United States and other countries.

THIS MONTH

April 1990



Kelly E. Rowe

This month **Dr. Robert Schuster**, with the USGS, will speak about "Landslide Dams: A World-Wide Geologic Hazard". Dr. Schuster is presently studying landslide dams in Tibet

Bob Hollingsworth reports that Dr. Martin Stout, Professor of Geology at Cas State L.A., is retiring June, 1990. He also reports that Dr. Stout had liver cancer surgery on March 22, 1990. An endowment scholarship fund is being established at Cal State L.A. in his name.

A minimum of \$5,000 is needed to establish the scholarship fund. At 8 percent annual interest this provides about \$400 per year for a student scholarship in Marty's name. Individuals or firms wishing to contribute should make checks payable to:

"Martin Stout Scholarship Fund"

Mail to: Gary Novak, Geology Department
California State University, Los Angeles
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, California 90032

The week of April 22-28 is "National Science & Technology Week '90". It is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20550.

Our illustrious President, Gregory L. Hempen formulated the following proclamation for the 20th anniversary of "EARTH DAY" April 22, 1990.

The President of the United States, George Bush, has called on the U.S citizenry to "rededicate themselves ... to protecting the environment". Some issues have become more clear while other environmental concerns have been found to be much more complex, since the first Earth Day, 22 April 1970. We, as geologists, know many of the triumphs and failings in the protecting our globe. Educated in some areas of environmental protection and mitigation, geologists have a duty to be activists, leaders and society's conscientiousness. "Should we allow the environmental deterioration to continue, man's fate may be worse than extinction" (Ron S. Boster).

Boster's comment is not hollow. Every person makes local decisions of economy, convenience and need. Science now cites

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

the persistence of these domestic consequences and their global warming, deforestation, acid rain, habitat protection and excessive use of earth's resources are only a few of the planetary issues affected by our everyday choices. Regional matters include conservation, toxic contaminant destruction, ground-water protection, waste reduction or waste-to-energy programs, and air pollution. Local problems may only be higher prices for energy or waste disposal, yet can extend to severe restraints on consumption or use. Engineering geologists are in the forefront of only a few of these issues, but our realization of problem significance requires our involvement. This involvement cannot be limited to our job duties; our complicity must extend to public action, education and participation.

The Association of Engineering Geologists is active in assisting members with education, communication and organizational structure for environmental concerns. The Aims of the Association address the need for societal involvement. Today, geologists lead the understanding of these complex problems; tomorrow, Association members will be educators and influencing decision makers. "Man shapes himself through decisions that shape his environment" (Rene Dubos).

THEREFORE, I hereby proclaim Sunday, 22 April 1990, Earth Day. I call upon Association Sections and members to actively participate in formal Earth Day or Earth Week, 15-21 April 1990, activities for the benefit of both our members and our planetary community.

Please note that the MAY 1990 AEG SCS meeting HAS BEEN RELOCATED TO: The Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Vaojean Ave., in Van Nuys. It is in the central San Fernando Valley area. The selection of this site for the May meeting is to provide a more convenient location to meet for the AEG members living in the western and northern Southern California Section area. It is obviously difficult for members working in the Santa Barbara, Ventura or Bakersfield areas to come to meetings at the Quiet Cannon Restaurant, in Montebello. A similar relocation of the monthly meeting will occur in September at a restaurant in southern Orange County, to attract San Diego and Orange County AEG SCS members.

Last month, Dr. David D. Jackson, from UCLA spoke about the use of geodetics in the study of earthquakes and crustal deformation. Because of his notoriety involving the dispute over the existence of the "Palmdale Bulge" he explained that it simply was the result of survey errors. For example, different survey crews had different equipment, and benchmarks located in hardrock areas were less susceptible to settling than those located in surficial sediments.

Dr. Jackson said that the GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) Program utilizing satellite ground-surface location technology can accurately measure 1 out of 10,000,000 units of length. Information from this program has been used to assess the earthquake potential throughout California. Dr. Jackson said that the offshore fault system, off southern California, helps take up total slippage along the San Andreas Fault System here in a broader area than the more narrow areas of the San Andreas Fault System in northern California. The southern California offshore area has potential for earthquakes.

Charles Daugherty, AEG SCS Treasurer, reports that at last month's meeting a total of 39 people called in reservations, as requested, on the Friday before the meeting. However, a total of 93 people showed up on Tuesday, most without reservations. This behavior upsets the coordination of the meeting and the restaurant. Therefore, please make your reservations before or on the Friday before the meetings and show up. The May meeting will be held at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys. They require additional advance notice for the number of reservations for the meeting and restrict the number of last-minute reservations they will accomodate. It is important for the coordination of the meetings that you provide sufficient notice of your reservation and to notify us if you plan to cancel.

Under ASTM Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock, Subcommittee D-18.21 on Ground Water and Vadose Zone Investigations is developing standards for methods and materials used in the conduct of ground water and vadose zone investigations and monitoring. The Subcommittee is chaired by David M. Nielsen of Blasland, Bouck, and Lee, Inc., Westerville, Ohio. Sections within the Subcommittee have been formed to address a variety of narrower subjects. The papers from the ASTM "Symposium on Field Methods for Ground Water Contamination Studies" held Feb. 2-7, 1986 in Cocoa Beach, FL, have been published as ASTM Special Tech. Pub. (STP)-963 "Ground Water Contamination: Field Methods," edited by Gene Collins and A.I. Johnson. It may be purchased from ASTM headquarters, 1916 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Selected papers from the January 26-28, 1988 symposium on "Standards Development for Ground Water and Vadose Zone Monitoring Investigations" were compiled and published in ASTM STP-1053 "Ground Water and Vadose Zone Monitoring" edited by David M Nielsen and A.I. Johnson.

The next meeting of Committee D18 and of Subcommittee D18.21 is at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Francisco during June 18-22, 1990. The next symposium to be sponsored by Subcommittee D18.21 is being organized as "Symposium on Ground Water and Vadose Zone Investigations-into the 1990s" for San Diego during the last week of January 1991. The Call for Papers has recently been distributed: the 300-500 word abstract is due June 1,1990; the final manuscript is due November 30, 1990.

Continued from page 3

Membership in ASTM Subcommittee D18.21 is open to any person interested in ground water or vadose zone investigations. For additional information contact: (215)299-5516 Robert Morgan, Group manager, ASTM 1916 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19103

SDAG annual field trip first call for papers. Field trip is scheduled for October 20th and will cover geotechnical issues, e.g., slope stabilization, deep fill monitoring, fill saturation and ground improvement techniques. If you would like to contribute a paper, contact John Hoobs, at Geocon Inc., (619)558-6900.

The Dibblee Geological Foundation has set Saturday, May 5th, as the date for "A Day in the Field with Tom Dibblee in the Santa Monica Mountains". The foundation is asking for a minimum donation of \$35.00 per person, including field trip and BBQ. The left-over proceeds from this event will be used to publish additional geologic maps of the current Dibblee -Santa Monica Mountains series. The previous "Day in the Field with Tom Dibblee" was a great success for all participants. For reservations please contact, by April 20th, John R. Powell (805) 653-5556 or write to John, c/o Staal, Gardner & Dunne, Inc., 121 North Fir St., Suite F, Ventura, CA 93001. Helmut Ehrenspeck (805) 968-0481 is also a contact for this event.

The Technical Section of the California Groundwater Association held its first Southern California Section meeting. It was an informal dinner meeting held at the Days Hotel in Diamond Bar on March 21. There were a total of 45 people who attended, comprised of vendors, and consulting scientists and engineers. Future regularly-scheduled meetings are being planned to provide a forum for discussing ground-water issues among regulators, drillers, vendors, and consultants. For additional information call Thomas E. Nuckols, with Bryan A. Stirrat & Assoc., at (714)598-9803.

Seminars/Meetings/Field Trips

APRIL 1990

2-6"Annual Engineering Geology and Soils Engineering Symposium" Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho Short Course 2-3: Design of Shallow Foundations with Microcomputers. CONTACT: (208)236-3273 - Dr. Robinson, Office of Continuing Education, Non-credit Programs P.O. Box 8062, Pocatello, ID 83209

2-6"12th Annual Groundwater Analysis and the Design of Dewatering Systems" Orlando, FL. Univ. of Missouri at Rolla Continuing Education (UMRCE). CONTACT: UMRCE (800)752-5057 Continuing Education, 119 Mechanical Engineering Annex, UMR, Rolla 65401-0249

2-6"4th Annual Short Course on Soil Dynamics and Foundation Engineering" St. Louis, MO. Univ. of Missouri at Rolla Continuing Education (UMRCE). CONTACT: UMRCE (800)752-5057 Continuing Education, 119 Mechanical Engineering Annex, UMR, Rolla 65401-0249

8-12"High Level Radioactive Waste Management" CONTACT: ASCE. 9-11"UNIX*C +" San Francisco, CA. USENIX Association. CONTACT: USENIX Conference Office, (714)588-8649 22672 Lambert St., Ste. 613, El Toro, CA 92630.

16-20"14th Embankment Dams-Soil Aspects" Orlando, FL. Univ. of Missouri at Rolla Continuing Education (UMRCE). CONTACT: UMRCE (800)752-5057 Continuing Education, 119 Mechanical Engineering Annex, UMR, Rolla 65401-

17-19"HAZMACON '90" Anaheim, CA. Assoc. of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), AEG, et.al., Hazardous Materials Conference Exposition CONTACT: (415)464-7951 Terry Bursztynsky, P.E., ABAG, P.O. Box 2050, Oakland, CA 94604

17-20"Short Course - High Resolution Common Offset Shallow Seismic Reflection Surveying" Sunnyvale, CA. EG&G Geometrics CONTACT: 408)734-4614 Myra Crettol, EG&G Geom., 395 Jave Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 940894

17-20"The National Forum on Education and Continuing Development for the Civil Engineer - Setting the Agenda for the 90's and Beyond" Las Vegas, NV. ASCE - at Ceasars Palace and UNLV CONTACT: Amer. Soc. Civil Eng., Education Activities Division, P.O. Box 832, Somerset NJ 08873-0832. 22 "EARTH DAY - 20 YEARS LATER", at locations throughout the U.S. and around the world. Theme: What has happened over the last 20 years and what direction are we going to preserve and improve our living space. 30-5/4"12th Annual Fundamentals of Grouting" Denver, CO. Univ. of Missouri at Rolla Continuing Education (UMRCE). CONTACT: UMRCE (800)752-5057 Continuing Education, 119 Mechanical Engineering Annex, UMR, Rolla 65401-0249

MAY 1990

5-Saturday"A Day in the Field with Tom Dibblee in the Santa Monica Mountains" Malibu State Park, CA. \$35/person CONTACT: (805) 653-5556 John Powell, c/o Staal, Gardner & Dunne, Inc. 121 North Fir Street, Suite F, Ventura, CA 93001, or (805) 968-0481 Helmut Ehrenspeck. Dibblee Geological Foundation, P.O. Box 60560, Santa Barbara, CA 93160

7-9"UNIX EXPO West" Los Angeles, CA. Los Angeles Convention Center. CONTACT: National Expositions Company, Inc., 15 W. 39th Street., N.Y., NY

7-11"Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Organic Chemicals in Ground Water Use of Models for Site Assessment and Remediation" Cost: \$1,250. Los Angeles Airport Marina Hotel, 8601 Lincoln Blvd. Marina del Rey, CA CONTACT: (619)943-7694 Lois Elms, Coordinator, Hydrocarbons in Ground Water, 6992 El Camino Real, Suite 104-263, Carlsbad, CA 92009.

14-17"Fourth National Outdoor Action Conference on Aquifer Restoration, Ground Water Monitoring and Geophysical Methods" Las Vegas, NV. NWWA CONTACT: (614)761-1711 National Water Well Assoc. P.O. Box 182039, Dept. 017, Columbus, OH 43218

18-21"Presentation of Papers & Field Trip for: Mojave Desert Quaternary Research Symposium " The Mojave Desert Quaternary Research Center San Bernardino County Museum. CONTACT: (714)798-8570. Jennifer Reynolds, Editor LMDQRC San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA 92374

INDEPENDENT INSTRUCTORS FOR GEOLOGISTS AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST EXAMS - COURSE LOCATIONS FOR 1990 REG Review, Inc. is starting classes for the upcoming geologist exams in September.

They will be held at the following locations over the next few months.

San Diego (SD) Limit 15 Woodward Clyde Consuls. Converse Environ. West 1550 Hotel Circle North

San Diego, CA 92108

Pasadena (LA) Limit 20 3393 East Foothill Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91109

Costa Mesa (CM) Limit 15 Converse Environ. West 151 Kalmus Drive, Suite H Costa Mesa, CA 92626

SERIES I COURSES April June, 1990 SERIES II COURSES July August, 1990 For more information CONTACT: REG REVIEW, Inc. 6555 Oakwood Drive Oakland, CA 94611 (415) 339-3771 Lisa Dirth (415) 852-9099 Patti Osiecki

Series I and Series II Courses present the same material in two five hour sessions. Courses cover the major topics expected on the California Geology Registration Exam. Major emphasis is given to understanding the principles of structural geology, map interpretation, California geology, geologic hazards, hydrogeology, and engineering geology. Questions and problem solving are an integral part of the course. Class size is limited (from 15 to 20 people depending upon course location) to encourage individual participation and preparation. Provided with the course registration is the 1990 edition of the Study Manual. A Manual will be mailed to all course preregistrants upon receipt of fees.

The 1990 Study Manual is a copyrighted publication that presents technical information important to know for the California Geology Registration (R.G.) and Certified Engineering Geology (C.E.G.) Exams. Technical text, figures, sample problems and answers, and a reading list are highlights of the book. The Study Manual is also offered for separate purchase. The price of \$75.00 includes sales tax (where applicable), Priority Mail postage, and handling. Rush order postage is extra. Estimated publication date for the 1990 Study Manual is March 1, 1990.



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Career Opportunity For Engineering Geologist

Immediate opening is available for an engineering geologist with 2 or mor years of experience in field mapping, trench/boring logging, and report writing. B.S. in Geology required. Preferred skills include writing/verbal communication with laypersons, interest in neotechtonics, landslides, and ground water. Salary commensurate with experience. CONTACT: (714) 888-2422

or send resume to: Gary S. Rasmussen & Assoc., Inc.

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Riverside County Personnel Dept. County Administrative Center 4080 Lemon Street, Room 109 Riverside, CA 92501-3664

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> Career Opportunity For Staff Geologists

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CONTACT: (714) 889-8004 or send resume to:

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Kelly E. Rowe AEG Secretary/Newsletter Editor c/o Geraghty & Miller, Inc. 17800 Castleton Street, Suite 175 City of Industry, CA 91748





