

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

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NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1998

In Memoriam

NORMAN ROSS TILFORD

(1934-1997)

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Norman Ross Tilford, Professor of Geology at Texas A&M University and Executive Director of the Association of Engineering Geologists, perished in an aircraft accident on the evening of November 13, 1997. Professor Tilford was enroute to Van Horn, Texas to lead a student field trip when the accident occurred. An extensive aerial and ground search was instituted by the Civil Air Patrol that involved over 600 searchers and more than 900 hours of flight-time in a 13,000 square mile search theater. The search ended on December 13, 1997, when two hunters found the wreckage of Norm's aircraft in a densely wooded area on private land about 9 miles west of Johnson City, Texas.

Professor Tilford was born in Moscow, Kansas on December 14, 1934. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in 1954 from Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. He began his career in engineering geology as an Assistant Geologist in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Los Angeles where he worked on foundation geology for major dams and underground military installations. He then joined Harza Engineering Company as a Geologist and Project Manager where he worked in West Pakistan on ground-water development, dam investigations and construction, and quarry development. He returned to Arizona State to pursue his graduate degree studying the geology of the Stewart Mountain dam site, a dam that exhibited movement for over 30 years. In 1966, he earned his Master of Science degree in Geology. Following graduate school, he directed the site selection and construction of a marine terminal for the Philadelphia Port Corporation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1969, he joined Ebasco Services, Inc., where he served as head foundation geologist during construction of one of the ten largest dams in the world at that time, the Keban Dam, in Turkey. Professor Tilford returned to the United States in 1972 and became Ebasco's Chief Geologist in 1975. His career continued to keep him traveling as he provided expert advice on major projects around the world. He was a Registered Professional Geologist in Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, North Carolina and Oregon and a Certified Engineering Geologist in California and Oregon.

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In 1985, Norman Tilford, joined the faculty at Texas A&M University. He was known for his consistent use of "reality" in the class room and for his field trips. He published more than 30 abstracts and 22 papers and gave numerous professional presentations throughout the world. His main interests were active tectonics, water resources development, evaluation of geological hazards, and site selection studies.

Professor Tilford was active in professional societies. His greatest contributions were to the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG), the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute and the U.S. Committee on Large Dams. Tilford received the Floyd T. Johnson Service Award from AEG in 1992 in recognition of his long and faithful service to the profession. Professor Tilford served AEG as the Advertising Coordinator, Secretary (1983-84), President-Elect (1985) and President (1986). In 1987, he became the Editor of *The Bulletin of The Association of Engineering Geologists*. During his editorship, an AEG Publications Production Department was established to handle the production of the Bulletin. In 1994, Professor Tilford was instrumental in developing a partnership with the Geological Society of America to jointly publish a new journal, *Environmental and Engineering Geosciences*. On June 1, 1997, Norman Tilford was appointed the Executive Director of AEG.

We have lost a good friend and colleague, the engineering geology profession has lost a dedicated servant, Texas A&M University has lost a great teacher and the Association of Engineering Geologists has lost an outstanding leader. A memorial service will be held on January 17, 1998, at Hilltop Lakes, Texas. In his memory and to honor his life, the Norman R. Tilford Scholarship has been established to support student field work. Persons wishing to contribute to the scholarship fund should send their donations, made out to the Engineering Geology Foundation and marked for the Tilford Fund, - to John Ivey, Treasurer, Engineering Geology Foundation, 15554 West 67th Avenue, Arvada, CO 80007-7041.

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Deadline for submittals to the February 1998 Newsletter: January 23, 1998.
Please submit via e-mail or on disc and via snail mail.

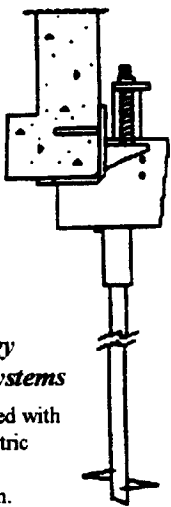
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January Meeting**TUESDAY JANUARY 13, 1998**

Dinner Meeting at Stevens Steak House

- 5:30 Social Hour & One-half
- 7:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Announcements
- 7:45 Program

Stevens Steak House

5332 Stevens Place, City of Commerce, California

Reservations (Reservations which are not canceled will be billed)

Call Nichole Harris at Montgomery Watson

(626) 568-6041

Please make reservations by Friday, January 9, 1997

Cost \$25.00 per person Students \$15.00 per person**SPEAKER** Don Michael**TOPIC** Need for Hydrogeologic Expertise at the Local Agency Level

Don Michael received his BA in geology from Occidental College in 1953 and his MA from UCLA in 1960. His early work was as an engineering geologist for the State Divisions of Water Resources and Highways, and later as a geologist for the Monolith Portland Cement Company. Since 1960 he has practiced privately in engineering geology and hydrogeology in southern California except for four years in the Republic of Viet Nam, two years as head of the Hydrology Department of Pope, Evans and Robbins, Ltd., Saigon, and two years as an advisor in geology and hydrogeology to the Science Advisor, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Viet Nam.

Generally, local public agencies lack personnel with extensive experience in ground water. This undesirable circumstance is exacerbated by the ever-increasing demand for land development on the one hand and environmental protection on the other. Mr. Michael will illustrate the manner in which public agencies can respond inappropriately to such matters by summarizing recent events that took place in Ventura County and the City of Malibu.

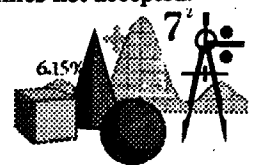
As a result of the Ventura County General Plan's requirement to show a "permanent" ground water supply in certain circumstances, a well test has been devised to demonstrate such a supply even though it is impossible for any kind of well test to determine storage. In another case, Ventura County demanded an extensive ground-water monitoring program based on an unwarranted assumption that septic-system effluent from a proposed subdivision would pollute ground water.

In Malibu, a proposed 28-unit condominium that would inject 11,300 gallons of effluent per day into the sands of Broad Beach has been approved by various engineers and geologists. The approvals have been made despite the fact that the developer's claim of a few inches of equilibrium level rise is based upon an obviously erroneous application of image-well theory, and with the full knowledge that an alternative model which is quite straightforward and never challenged shows that the rise would be 1.5 to perhaps 8 feet, depending upon the choice of aquifer constants.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANT ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST - San Jose, CA (Salary \$4314-5226) monthly plus generous benefits package and 2% PERS retirement at 55 plan. Santa Clara Water District performs a variety of professional level engineering geologic work related to flood control and water conveyance/treatment facilities. Will evaluate and interpret geologic instrumentation programs and data, prepare reports for geologic stability/safety of proposed and existing embankments, dams and foundations, and perform related duties. Requirements: Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree with geology emphasis or related PLUS two years of professional engineering geologic experience. Apply: SCVWD Personnel Office (408) 265-2607 ext. 2260 for application package. Final filing date, January 28, 1998 at 4:30 pm. Postmarks/facsimiles not accepted. EOE/AA.

**Happy
New Year**





Association of Engineering Geologists
Southern California Section

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AEG Newsletter Editor
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