

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

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NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2000

Joint AEG/IGS Monthly Dinner Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2000
Location: Pomona Valley Mining Co., 1777 Gillette Rd., Pomona, CA
Time: 6:00 p.m. - Social Hour; 7:00 p.m. - Dinner and Presentation
Reservations: Call (949) 253-5924 ext. 564 by 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 6, 2000
Cost: \$25.00 per person with advance reservations, \$30.00 at the door, and
\$12.00 for students w/ valid I.D., "No-shows" will be billed \$10.00
Dinner Options: Santa Fe Chicken or Veggie Lasagna - With Suicide Chocolate Cake

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SPEAKER: Will Gaston

TITLE: Working With Attorneys or Litigation Support for Fun and Profit

ABSTRACT:

Working with attorneys can be a practice area that is rewarding intellectually and financially for both geotechnical and environmental consultants. The typical attorney is an English or Poly-Sci undergrad major, so, they need you. Consulting services can include litigation and transactional support to provide document review, expert testimony, typical field work, third-party opinions, and general technical assistance and brainstorming. In litigation, a consultant can be retained as either a testifying or non-testifying expert. Depending upon your interest and desire, you can agree to be identified to testify at a trial, you can help the attorney draft or respond to interrogatories (written questions from the other side), help develop the litigation strategy, or sit in at a deposition as the attorney's "right hand" to help the attorney ask questions of some poor person in the hot seat. By always remembering who your client is and what you were hired to do, you can help the attorney conduct what is a large portion of his work: Fact Gathering, where critical thinking is the coin of the realm.

BIO:

Will Gaston is a Registered Geologist in California and Arizona and is a Registered Environmental Assessor, I and II in California. He is also a licensed attorney and is Principal Consultant for Gaston & Associates, LLC, an environmental consulting and litigation support firm. He has been an independent environmental consultant since 1993.

From 1991 to 1993 he was employed by The Earth Technology Corporation as Managing Senior Geologist in their Commercial Waste Management Division environmental geoscience department. From 1989 to 1991 he worked at Resna Industries as Manager of the Geoscience Department. From 1986 to 1989 he was employed by Alton Geoscience as a Geology Supervisor.

From 1985 to 1986 he worked for a small petroleum engineering consulting firm in Tyler, Texas. Prior to that he was a production geologist for Gulf Oil Corporation from 1979 to 1985. His initial employment after undergraduate school was with Soil Engineering, a small Houston consulting firm where he was a geologist working on a litigation support project involving a dispute over the responsibility for land surface subsidence in the Houston-Galveston area caused by the de-watering of subsurface clays by industrial groundwater production.

He has a BS in Geology from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas; an MS in Geology from the University of Houston; and a JD from Western State University College of Law.

He is a member of the Geological Society of America, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the American Quaternary Association, the American Bar Association, the Orange County Bar Association, and the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

By David Seymour

Even the road of good intentions can sometimes greet you with a few potholes. My family recently encountered a shallow chasm on the road to my Mother's recovery from surgery. My Mom is doing well and looks like she will fully recover. My immediate family on the other hand, could use a respite from the emotional trauma that comes with dealing with the modern health care system. It truly is a monument to bureaucracy. Because of all of this, I was not able to attend the national meeting in San Jose or the subsequent AEG board meeting. Lorraine Muto, our Vice Chair, was gracious enough to represent our section at the board meeting. Our November newsletter will include a summary of the board meeting and the action items for our section. I'd also like to thank **Lorraine, Tania Gonzalez, Wendy Schell, and Roz Munro** for pitching in at the September meeting, which I was not able to attend.

I was hoping to include an outline of my aspirations for the next two years in this month's newsletter. Under the circumstances it's going to have to wait. But for this month, I would like to discuss at least one issue that I believe is important and that is public outreach. Earth Science Week is quickly coming upon us, and is scheduled for October 8 through 14. You may not be able to set something up in such a short time frame, but hopefully, it may inspire you to at least think about the possibilities. Over the last several years, I've given numerous presentations to elementary school classes on rocks and fossils, which have always been well received. Not that I couldn't use a few tips from Toastmasters International, but you'd be amazed by the positive reaction you get from kids when you show them a fossil.

In this same vein, I'm also promoting "Geologic Points of Interest" signs along California highways. I've already made a few contacts with colleagues at Caltrans to see how feasible this might be. Imagine flying down the 10 freeway and passing a brown sign marking "San Andreas Fault Zone". A brief, simple statement for the motoring public to ponder as they crawl back and forth to Vegas. Any suggestions on how to make this happen are appreciated.

MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK - OCTOBER 8 THROUGH 14

Visit www.earthsciweek.org

SOUTH COAST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP - LAS VEGAS, OCTOBER 14 & 15

Contact Bill Goodman at 949-442-2442 or Wgoodman@nmggeotech.com

QUOTABLE QUOTES

By David Seymour

'Never was there a dogma more calculated to foster indolence, and to blunt the keen edge of curiosity, than this assumption of the discordance between the ancient and existing causes of change...The student, instead of being encouraged with the hope of interpreting the enigmas presented to him in the earth's structure, was taught to despond from the first. Geology, it was affirmed, could never rise to the rank of an exact science; the greater number of phenomena must forever remain inexplicable...'. Charles Lyell from Principles of Geology, 1830, the conclusion to Volume 1. This passage speaks of Lyell's support of uniformitarianism and against the use of miracles in explaining natural phenomena.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need an area mapped? How would you like to have this group of field geologists as part of your team??

Lehi F. Hintze

Peter D. Rowley

John (Jack) G. Vedder

Parke D. Snaveley, Jr.

Clarence A. Hall, Jr.

F. Bartlett (Bart) Ekren

Thomas A. Steven

These exceptional field geologists are all Dibblee Medal recipients including Dr. Thomas A. Steven who was awarded the Dibblee Medal by legendary field geologist Tom Dibblee in June of 2000.

Do you know someone who should be added to this list for 2001? Nominations of candidates to be considered for the eighth award of the Dibblee Medal are now being solicited. Nomination should include the name of the candidate, biographical data, a description of the geologic mapping, and the names of at least two geologists who support the nomination. Mail each nomination and supporting data by January 31, 2001, to:

Mr. John R. Powell, President
Dibblee Geological Foundation
Post Office Box 2309
Camarillo, California 93011

The Thomas Wilson Dibblee, Jr. Geological Foundation (Dibblee Geological Foundation) has established the Dibblee Medal in recognition of the unique contributions of Tom Dibblee to the science of geologic mapping. The award consists of an attractive sterling silver medal bearing the likeness of Tom Dibblee; and on the reverse side, a geologic sketch map of California, the geology of which has been Tom Dibblee's domain for more than 60 years.

The Dibblee Foundation is a nonprofit corporation chartered in California in 1983 for the purpose of publishing Tom Dibblee's geologic mapping. To date, the Foundation has published the geology by Tom Dibblee in over one hundred full 7½-minute quadrangles, with several hundred more awaiting publication. You can help our publication effort by sending a donation to the Dibblee Foundation.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PROJECT GEOLOGIST

Camarillo and Irvine, CA offices

Bing Yen & Associates, Inc. is seeking qualified candidates to fill Project Geologist positions in both our Camarillo and Irvine, CA offices. We are seeking individuals with a BA/BS in Geology (MA/MS preferred), a minimum of 6 years experience in engineering geology, strong communication and computer skills, and ability to work in a team environment. California registration as a Certified Engineering Geologist, or ability to obtain registration within 1 year, is preferred.

Please submit resumes to:

BING YEN & ASSOCIATES, INC. Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Established 1979

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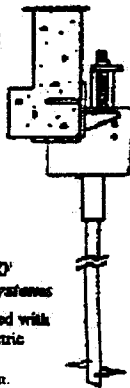
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**ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS REVIEW
California Site Assessment Report**

Our report identifies agency-listed hazardous waste / contaminated sites, solid waste landfills, hazardous waste transfer stations, spills, underground storage tanks and leaking underground fuel tanks in proximity to the subject site. The databases used were obtained from selected government agencies in charge of collecting and keeping such records in accordance with ASTM E-1527-97 (Standard Government Records Inquiry for Commercial Real Estate Transactions).

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Association of Engineering Geologists
Southern California Section



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