



SOUTHERN • CALIFORNIA • SECTION
NEWSLETTER

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DINNER MEETING

- <> Tuesday, July 14, 1987
- <> Luminaria's Restaurant
3500 Ramona Blvd.
Monterey Park, CA
(213) 268-4177
- <> \$16.00 (Includes Tip)
- <> For reservations call
Richard Brose
818-243-4140

MAKE RESERVATIONS BY NOON ON THE
FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- <> 5:30 Social Hour
- 6:45 Dinner
- 7:30 Announcements
- 8:00 Speaker
- 9:00 Section Affairs

PROGRAM

Roy J. Shlemon, Ph.D.
Consultant
Specializing in Quaternary geology,
geomorphology and soil stratigraphy.

"Colluvium-filled Swales: Potential
Sources of Debris Flows in California"
(For detailed outline of program,
see page two)

TOPIC

Colluvium-filled Swales: Potential Sources of Debris Flows in California

In early 1982, several hundred debris flows in the San Francisco Bay area caused loss of life and significant property damage. Most of these flows emanated from previously unrecognized colluvium-filled swales. These swales are now also identified in southern California where they likewise may be potential sources of debris flows.

The modern swales have but minor topographic expression in first-order drainages. Bedrock relief and colluvium-thickness, however, locally may exceed several meters. Radiocarbon and soil-stratigraphic dating indicates that most swales were fluvially-incised in latest Pleistocene time and, owing to regional changes in climate, vegetation and sedimentation, were filled mainly during the Holocene. Failures seemingly stem from episodic, high-intensity rainfall superimposed on above-average antecedent seasonal precipitation. Colluvium-filled swales are usually recognizable on color IR imagery, thus enabling the engineering geologist to map these features and ultimately to develop methods useful to mitigate potential debris flow hazards.

ATTENTION

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT FOR OUTGOING NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Your newsletter editor has resigned effective following mailing of the October issue. John Byer, section chairman (213-877-2757), is anxiously waiting to hear from all volunteers willing to take over. Tasks include gathering news items, editing/rewriting, typing camera ready copy, layout and pasteup, overseeing printing, labeling-stamping-mailing finished product, submitting quarterly section report to the "AEG Newsletter," and handling occasional telephone inquiries about ads to be included or from members who did not receive their newsletters. The job typically takes about six or seven hours a month to physically put each edition together, plus trips to and from the printer, and the time involved in labeling, stamping and mailing.

The incoming editor would put out the November issue and would have to work on it through the month of October.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The June meeting unfortunately had to compete with a Lakers v. Celtics game. It turns out that professional basketball wins out over professional engineering geology. The staff at Kovacs-Byer and Associates put on a last-ditch effort to reach potential attendees by phone. Only 47 members showed up to greet the AEG President, Ted Maynard. Ted gave a short presentation on the affairs affecting the Association of Engineering Geologists. Following dinner, the staff of Kovacs-Byer and Associates gave detailed and informative presentations on the engineering geology of the stops to be visited on the upcoming field trip. Bob Hollingsworth talked about the complicated repair at Upper Wrightwood Drive. Larry Parmelee gave a detailed discussion of the historic aspects of the Coy Drive-Camino de La Cumbre landslide in Sherman Oaks. John Byer talked about the Harvey Witt Project, a detailed geologic and soils engineering exploration in prehistoric landslide terrain. Bob Hollingsworth then described the engineering geologic aspects of repair of the Red Rose landslide in Sherman Oaks. Finally, Charlie Buckley gave us some insight into the geologic conditions surrounding Potrero Canyon Park. During the presentations several attendees were seen rushing back and forth to the bar to check the progress of the Laker game on TV.

Chairman Byer announced that it is time to nominate officers for the upcoming year. Alice Campbell of LeRoy Crandall and Associates (818-243-4140) is Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Anyone wishing to nominate a member for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer is encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Our section officers must be elected by September and certified by the Board of Directors in October.

DEADLINES

Below is a schedule of deadlines for information to be included in the newsletter. They are the dates by which the material must be RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR.

August Newsletter.....July 23
September Newsletter.....Aug 20
October Newsletter.....Sept 18

1987 FIELD TRIP

The Southern California Section field trip, "Selected Landslides and Stabilization Projects of the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles, CA" (aka Legends of the Santa Monica Mountains) is now history. After having been rescheduled to Saturday, June 20, it came off without a hitch. Eighty-five participants arrived at the staging area at the appointed hour. 31 field trip miles and \pm 25 return miles later, the two Trailways buses pulled back into the staging area only seven minutes after the scheduled 5 p.m. return time. Big Red did very well, indeed.

A total of six stops were made at the Wrightwood Drive Slope Repair, Wrightwood Drive/Mountcastle Landslide, Camino de la Cumbre and Associated Landslides, a Beverly Glen Boulevard area of prehistoric landslide terrain, the Red Rose Landslide Stabilization, and Potrero Canyon Park. Good technical explanations of geology and mitigative measures were provided by authors/presenters John Byer, Bob "Gimpy" Hollingsworth, Merv Johnson, Larry Parmelee and Charlie Buckley. George Stolt supplemented the formal program by answering questions and providing insight on many of the problem areas from the perspective of LA's Department of Public Works. An unexpected extra was a question and answer session with Harvey Witt, a property owner at Stop No. 4 who spent several years and a lot more dollars paying for studies and fighting (ultimately successfully) with City Hall for the right to build. Mr. Witt was quite gracious considering that he had just been surprised by upwards of 85 strange people stumbling around his house at an early hour while one of their number blared geo horror stories over a bullhorn.

Of course, man cannot live by geology alone, and a field party, like Napoleon's army, travels on its stomach. The logistics and refreshments crew did yeoman service in fueling us all along the way. There was beer, coffee & doughnuts, beer, sandwiches, beer, various salads, beer, chips, beer, pickles, beer, apples, beer, soft drinks, beer, cookies, and more beer. At the lunch stop we were provided with tables and chairs and even an awning for the sun wary to sit under while drinking beer. (And who was that young lady sitting just outside the awning and snoozing behind the dark glasses?)

A special lunch stop treat was the presentation by Tom Dibblee. He showed all fourteen of his Santa Monica Mountain maps pinned together in a giant mosaic, and spent about 30 minutes explaining the geology, the maps' development to date, and his continuing efforts to get them published. Arrangements were made to provide the Dibblee Foundation with the section mailing list--so readers, stand by for a contact some time in the near future. When one observes Tom in action on a field trip, it becomes obvious why he is such a prolific mapper. While most other participants were gawking, schmoozing, drinking beer and otherwise having fun, Tom kept continually busy with sample bags and sketch books to refine even further his interpretation of Santa Monica Mountains geology.

For those fond of showing off their physiques, a handsome field trip T-shirt was provided. Each shirt comes equipped with a blue neck band and arm bands. The front bears the AEG logo surrounded by the words "1987 Field Trip." On the back is printed "Legends of the Santa Monica Mountains." Such a shirt is suitable for advertising where you have been or for lying about where you wish you had been--there are still some left and they can be bought for \$6 each. For more information, contact Jon Irvine of Kovacs-Byer and Associates (213-877-2757 or 818-980-0825).

Even if you can't wear it, the field trip guide book may prove to be more useful than the T-shirt. Five-eighths of an inch thick, it is replete with authoritative text, maps, geologic sections and photographs. The only thing missing are the notations on movie star's homes which were provided orally by our group leaders. There are plenty of these books left and no Southern California geologist should be without one. They will go on sale as soon as the pricing can be worked out. Watch this space for further developments.

Although the subject was failures, the 1987 field trip was anything but, and we are indebted to the following individuals and firms for all of the effort they put into it:

Guidebook

Dana Boehnlein (KBA)
Giuseppe Cugno (KBA)
Sharon Estrin (Geosoils)
Jon Irvine (KBA)
Larry Parmelee (KBA)
The Staff of Kovacs-Byer & Associates

Logistics & Refreshments

Dana Boehnlein (KBA)
Richard Brose (LeRoy Crandall)
Converse Consultants
LeRoy Crandall and Associates
Giuseppe Cugno (KBA)
D and H Excavation
Jim Eddings Trackhoe
GeoSoils
Grover and Associates
Harley Tucker, Inc.
Jon Irvine (KBA)
Kovacs-Byer and Associates
Mountain Geology, Inc.
Robertson Geotechnical
Staal, Gardner and Dunne, Inc.

A special vote of thanks is due Gary Kovacs and John Byer for the hundreds of business man hours they permitted their firm to contribute.

MEMBER NEWS

CHARLIE DAUGHERTY and DICK PROCTOR attended the June 15, 16 and 17 Rapid Excavation and Tunneling Conference in New Orleans where they rediscovered Dixieland Jazz, Mint Juleps, Cajun cooking, and the real meaning of the word "humidity." Unsubstantiated rumor has it that they were even observed attending a couple of technical sessions.

RICHARD ESCANDON, ex of Robertson Geotechnical finally discovered there are things in life other than sunshine and fresh air. He has accepted a position with DeLeuw, Cather and Company, one of the partners in the joint venture assigned to manage construction of the L.A. Metro Rail system. One of Richard's tasks will be to map the geology exposed by tunneling operations. It is said that he intends to have his eyes surgically enlarged for better seeing in the dark.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST &
SENIOR GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER
Irvine Consulting Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries, Irvine Soils Engineering, Inc., Highland Soils Engineering, Inc., and Coastal Valley Soils Engineering, Inc., have openings for Senior Engineering Geologists and Senior Geotechnical Engineers. The positions require appropriate registration or ability to obtain registration and five to ten years experience. Each position offers excellent salary, benefits, and opportunity for advancement. Openings are for the Irvine, San Bernardino and Calabasas areas. Send resumes to Gary F. Stoney, Irvine Consulting Group, Inc., 15 Mason, Irvine, CA 92718. EOE

SECTION MAILING LIST REQUEST AND FEE

IF YOU ARE AN AEG MEMBER AND WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION MAILINGS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM AND MAIL IT WITH A CHECK FOR THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED.

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mailing address

()

PHONE

Make check payable to Southern California Section, AEG.

FEES:

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[] \$15.00

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Mail to:

RICHARD BROSE
AEG Section Treasurer
LeRoy Crandall & Associates
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