

# Association of Engineering Geologists

Southern California Section

## NEWSLETTER- March 1992



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12 Issues/year-\$25 to "AEG"  
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1470 S. Valley Vista Dr. #150  
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2550 Beverly Blvd.  
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**Dinner Meeting Tuesday March 10th**

**Joint Meeting with the Geotechnical Section of ASCE**

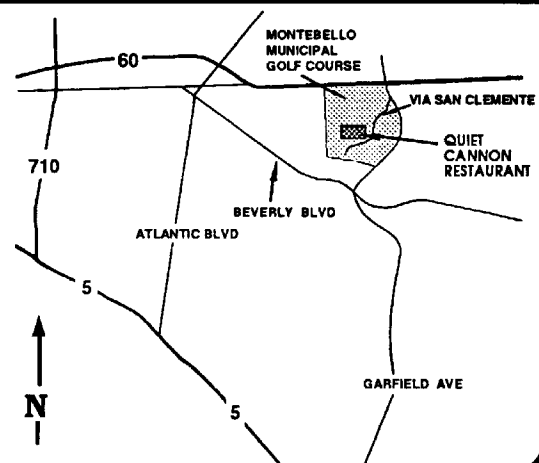
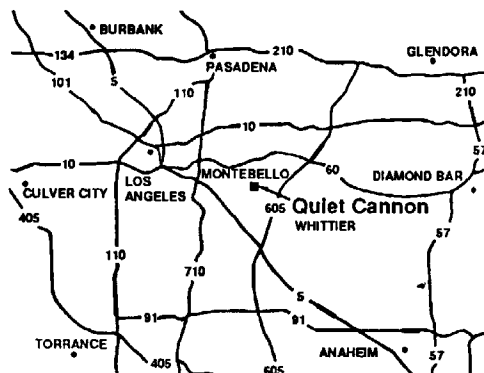
- The Quiet Cannon Restaurant  
901 North Via San Clemente  
Montebello
- Cost - \$20.00 (Full-Time Students - Free)
- Make reservations by Friday March 6th!!!**  
URS Consultants (Dottie) 310-983-6800  
(Leave Your Name & Number of People in Your Party)
- 5:30 Social Hour
- 6:45 Dinner
- 8:00 Program

## Program

### Geotechnical Engineering Aspects of the Big Rock Mesa Landslide

**Dr. Bing C. Yen, President,  
Bing Yen & Associates, Inc.,  
Irvine, California**

#### MAP to Meeting



# PROGRAM Topic & Speaker

## Geotechnical Engineering Aspects of the Big Rock Mesa Landslide

Dr. Bing C. Yen, President,  
Bing Yen & Associates, Inc.,  
Irvine, California

The 1983 mass movement of the Big Rock Mesa landslide in the Malibu coastal area involved about 40+ million cubic meters of soil and rock. This landslide has received much publicity due to the celebrities that live on it and the effect this landslide has had on the real estate value of the homes and land in the area. The landslide has been investigated by several consultants in the past. The most current expert on the landslide, Dr. Yen, will discuss the history of geotechnical monitoring and evaluations of the site. His presentation will include a discussion on the evaluation of the stability of the landslide under different groundwater conditions and seismic events. Selected mitigation alternatives suitable for the landslide will also be presented.

Dr. Yen has over 30 years of experience in many aspects of geotechnical engineering involving hundreds of projects. He is currently president of his own firm, Bing Yen & Associates, Inc., in Irvine. He also was a professor of geotechnical engineering for most of his career at California State University in Long Beach. He is a registered professional civil engineer and geotechnical engineer in California. Dr. Yen has been and is currently active in a number of technical advisory committees in California. He is currently the lead geotechnical consultant to mitigate the Big Rock Mesa landslide for the County of Los Angeles.

### Faculty Position Announcement Temporary Lecturers

#### California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

The Geological Sciences Department at CalPoly is seeking part-time temporary lecturers. Minimum qualifications include a Master's degree in one of the geological sciences, astronomy or related field. Teaching or industrial experience preferred. Teaching areas available include Physical, Historical, Economic, Environmental, Engineering Geology, Astronomy, Oceanography, Hydrogeology, Paleontology, Geochemistry, Mineralogy, Petrology, Climatology, Meteorology, and Geomorphology. Temporary appointments are most often made for one academic quarter only (approximately 11 weeks) at fractions ranging from 3/15 to 12/15 of full-time; two and three quarter appointments are sometimes possible. Incumbents may be reappointed to subsequent quarters during any pool year contingent upon funding and favorable performance evaluations. Salary ranges from approximately \$1,937.60 to \$2321.60 per 3-unit course per quarter, depending upon qualifications. To become a member of the applicant pool, please request an application form from:

Dr. John Klasik, Chair  
Geological Sciences Department  
California State Polytechnic University  
Pomona, California 91768

Interested persons must submit an application form, curriculum vita, and the names of three references.



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**A NATIONAL REGISTRATION  
EXAMINATION FOR GEOLOGISTS  
IS IN THE WORKS -  
AND YOU CAN HELP WRITE IT!**

AEG is participating in a pioneering effort by the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) to develop a nationally acceptable registration examination for geologists. The exam should be ready for use within the year.

ASBOG is developing the exam to increase the efficiency of the testing and reciprocity processes for state boards which register geologists. The exam is being created under the guidance of Dr. Jack Warner, a psychometrician experienced in registration exam construction. Volunteers from ASBOG boards and from several professional associations are evaluating the applicability of items from existing exams and are writing their own suggested test items.

AEG's volunteers on the ASBOG committee are Bob Tepel (AEG Secretary) and Chris Mathewson (Manager of AEG's Committee on Professional Registration). "This new examination is a fresh start and is a great opportunity for those of us in the real world of geologic practice to have input into a major registration test," says Tepel. "We need ideas from the membership about the types of items and subjects that should and should not, in their opinion, be on a registration test, as well as comments on test format and length." For those who want to help by suggesting actual questions, Tepel has developed a short "Examination Item Writer's Guide" which is available to registered geologists who would like to contribute items (questions, problems, statements to be completed) in exam format. (It isn't as formidable as it sounds).

Complaining about registration exams is common. The opportunity to improve them is not. The more real-world experience and knowledge that can be put into this exam, the better it will be for the profession, the boards, and the public. If AEG members contribute a multitude of ideas and items, the exam item pool will represent the type of geology we practice: the type that impacts the public health, safety and welfare every day (rather than the test be overloaded with questions from petroleum and economic geology, paleontology, etc.). To request your "Examination Item Writer's Guide," or to communicate your other ideas about registration exams, contact AEG's Secretary at (408) 927-0710, ext. 602, (days, Pacific time) or by mail:

Robert E. Tepel  
Secretary, AEG  
767 Lemonwood Ct.  
San Jose, California 95120

**Mr. Tepel needs to hear from YOU with test items and ideas as soon as possible; preferably by the end of April.**

**FIELD TRIP GUIDEBOOKS AND  
ANNUAL SECTION FIELD TRIP**  
*By Rob Larson, Chairman, Field Trip Committee*

On February 15, the remaining guidebooks from last year's annual field trip were assembled at the office of California Geo/Systems by Rachel Fischer, Richard Gladson, Robert Larson, and Chris Sexton, under the leadership of Dave Ebersold. These volunteers deserve a **big thank you**. Their efforts and the sale of these remaining guidebooks will allow last year's field trip not only to break even, but to make about a 10% profit. The profit will hopefully be used to reprint two of the Santa Monica Mountains guidebooks that are presently out of print.

Due to the lack of a volunteer to be field trip leader, and because of the impending annual meeting, there will be no annual section field trip this year. I encourage everyone to participate in the field trips planned for the annual meeting. If anyone would like to take over the Field Trip Committee and start planning the 1993 Annual Field Trip, please contact me at (818) 458-4923. Past experience suggests it is never too early to start planning.

**LUCY BIRDSALL MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The South Coast Geological Society has established an annual \$500 Lucy Birdsall Memorial Scholarship for students at local Southern California two- and four-year colleges and universities. This scholarship honors a geologist who served for 34 years as the US Geological Survey's Public Inquiries Officer in Los Angeles. This registered California geologist, president and honorary member of many local geological organizations was known for her enthusiasm and dedication which helped increase public awareness of geology as she became known as the main source of earth-science information in the Los Angeles area for geologists, geology students, city officials, news media, school children and the general public.

Deadline for application each year is March 31, recipients will be notified by May 1.

For more information, students should contact their department heads at their college or university for application forms, or write to:

Chairman Marshall Payne  
Lucy Birdsall Memorial Scholarship Fund  
South Coast Geological Society  
P.O. Box 10244  
Santa Ana, California 92711

## **ANNUAL AEG MEETING 1992 WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The committee is soliciting start-up contributions from engineering geology and geotechnical consulting firms in the Southern California area. Three levels of sponsorship are planned: Gold - \$1,000 contribution, Silver - \$500 contribution, and Bronze - \$250 contribution. All sponsors will receive recognition in the section newsletter, the meeting bulletin, and posters at the meeting. Sponsors at the \$500 level will receive a framed, signed, numbered print of the artist gift which will be given to all registrants. Sponsors at the \$1,000 level will receive the signed print and special recognition at the awards dinner. We are happy to accept a contribution of any amount to help with initial fundings. And, if things get better, you can always up your contribution!

### **AEG 1992 DONATION LIST**

#### **GOLD**

Glenn A. Brown  
Converse Environmental West  
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#### **SILVER**

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Zeiser Geotechnical, Inc.

### **Miscellaneous Contributions**

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**Contributions to Date: \$11,625.00  
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## BOOK SALE

### Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section

- Blake, T., and Larson, R.A., Eds., 1991, Engineering Geology along the Simi-Santa Rosa fault system and adjacent areas, Simi Valley to Camarillo, Ventura County, California: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, August 24, 1991, volumes 1 and 2, 383 pgs., 4 map sheets. **\$40.00**
- Buckley, C.I., and Larson, R.A., Eds., 1990, Geology and Engineering Geology of the western Soledad Basin, Los Angeles County, California: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, November 3, 1990, 185 pgs., 2 map sheets. **\$25.00**
- Cann, L., and Steiner, E., Eds., 1989, Engineering Geology along Coastal Orange County: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, September 23, 1989, 207 pgs. **\$20.00**
- Lamar, D.L., Ed., 1978, Geologic Guide and Engineering Geology Case Histories, Los Angeles Metropolitan Area: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists, First Annual California Section Conference, May 12-14, 1978, 174 pgs. **\$16.00**
- Stout, M.L., Ed., 1976, Geologic Guide to the San Bernardino Mountains, Southern California: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, May 22, 1976, 114 pgs. **\$11.00**
- Byer, J.W., Ed., 1975, Sycamore Canyon Fault, Verdugo Fault, York Boulevard Fault, Raymond Fault, and Sierra Madre Fault Zone: Guidebook for the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Field Trip, September 27, 1975, 68 pgs. **\$ 8.00**
- Buesch, D., Ed., 1979, Geomorphic Applications in Engineering Geology: A State-of-the-Art Short Course: Short course held at California State University at Los Angeles, November 10-11, 1979, reprinted by the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists, 145 pgs. **\$11.00**
- City of Los Angeles, 1982, Geologic Maps of the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles, California: 333 map sheets at 1" = 400', compiled by the Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works, City of Los Angeles, reprinted by the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists, 342 pgs. **\$26.00**

**Books are available from:** Joe Cota, Publications Chairman, AEG Southern California Section, c/o GeoSoils, Inc., 6634 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys, California 91406, (818) 785-2158. Make checks payable to AEG Southern California Section. **Please add 8.25% sales tax and the following postage/handling charges:** \$2.50 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional book.

#### **SECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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## Seminars/Meetings/Field Trips

### MARCH 1992

**2-6 Short course on Fundamentals of Deep Foundations, Analysis, Design, Testing and Inspection**, in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Presented by the University of Missouri-Rolla Civil Engineering Continuing Education. **CONTACT:** Norma R. Fleming, U. of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, MO 65401-0249, 1-800-752-5057 or 314-341-4200.

**25-29 Second Conference on Earthquake Hazards in the San Francisco Bay Area**, in Hayward, California. **CONTACT:** Dr. Sue Hirschfeld, Department of Geological Sciences, California State University, Hayward, CA 94542-3088, (510) 881-3486.

### APRIL 1992

**29-May 1 1992 Pacific Section Convention AAPG-SEPM-SEG-EMD**, in Sacramento, California. Theme for the convention is "Creative Approaches to Environmentally Sound Exploration". **CONTACT:** Rich Boyd, General Chairman, Capitol Oil Corporation, 1545 River Park Drive, #501, Sacramento, CA 95815, (916) 929-4141.

### JUNE 1992

**15-17 First Thematic Conference on Remote Sensing for Marine and Coastal Environments: Needs and Solutions for Pollution Monitoring, Control, and Abatement**, in New Orleans, Louisiana. **CONTACT:** Nancy Wallman, ERIM, Box 134001, Ann Arbor, MI, 48113-4001, (313) 994-1200, ext. 3234.

### CALL FOR PAPERS AEG 1992

Submission of papers for Technical Sessions and Poster Sessions for the 35th Annual Meeting, AEG, are now being accepted for presentation and for publication in the proceedings. Complete papers are due by May 1, 1992. For additional information contact Rosenberg & Risinberg at (310) 397-6338.

Tania Gonzalez  
AEG Secretary/Newsletter Editor  
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