

The Department of Geology University of Kentucky

The Round Up (1976)



THE COVER

Do you remember last years cover photo? It showed the two cove porches at the back of Bowman with a suggestion that this might provide space for a museum to display some of our fine minerals, fossils, and rock collections should someone come up with funds to enclose and furnish cases. We are delighted to announce that one in our fine alumni group found this suggestion a worthwhile project and has most generously sent the University a check in the amount of \$16,640 to cover the cost of the project. Plans are well under way for setting up the James S. Hudnall Geology Museum.

Dr. Hudnall (he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the recent one hundred and ninth annual University of Kentucky Commencement) visited in the department in May and has seen the plans for the facility. We have ordered display cases and anticipate completion of the project at an early date.

Our cover shows Dr. Hudnall presenting scholarship checks to three of our students to help defray their costs of attending this years Colorado Field Camp. These funds came from the Hudnall Scholarship fund, which he established several years ago to assist worthy students in their educational endeavors. Shown in the picture from left to right are Gary Harned, Dr. James S. Hudnell, Mary Fisher, and Dennis Swager.

The Department of Geology is most grateful to Dr. Hudnall for the generous support he has given the Department over the years as well as his tremendous support to the entire University program as evidence by his \$100,000 challenge gift announced three years ago.

Greetings to all of you (you all) from all of us of the Geology Department. We have finished up another academic year and we feel it has been a good one. At Commencement in May the program listed eleven persons as receiving the Master of Science degree. Bachelors degrees were awarded to five students and there will be a couple more after completion of the summer field camp program. We anticipate several more graduates next year as the senior class is quite large. Currently we have on our lists about 50 undergraduate majors and 28 graduate students.

Homecoming Party October 1976

If you didn't make the geology alumni reunion at Homecoming in October you missed a pretty good bash. It started out mildly with coffee, cookies and the like in the geology library in Bowman and then continued with a cocktail party and dinner at Spindletop Hall (alumni-staff facility on Spindletop farm). This all took place on Friday, then on Saturday there was group seating at the Kentucky-Tulane game which came out to our liking. After the game a goodly portion showed up at the Nelsons for good conversation and refreshments.

Who showed up? Here they are: The Russ Fords, The Jim Vincents, the Johnny Beards, the Bill Champions, the John Huffmans, the Harry Settles, the Bill Lyons, the James Johnsons, the M. C. Nogers, The Oren Schewmakers, Charlie Tribble and Lloyd Baker as well as a number of the geology faculty and wives.

What is your next chance to see some old friends and make some new ones in Lexington? This fall the Geological Society of Kentucky is sponsor of the Eastern Section Meeting of AAPG on October 7 and 8. Headquarters will be the Phoenix Hotel. Two field trips are also planned, one for October 6th and the second on the 9th. Theme for the meeting is "Basin and Arch Relationships". We can surely arrange some sort of a reunion affair during the weekend. There won't be a home football game but there is an opportunity for you to cut expenses to a minimum or even make some money as Keeneland opens on the 9th.

Annual Seminar

On January 31 the Geology Department sponsored its Fifth Annual Seminar "New Concepts in Sedimentology." Approximately 200 persons attended the two session event. Speakers and their titles were as follows: Dr. Raymond Siever, Harvard University, "Chert"; Dr. John E. Sanders, Columbia University, "Sedimentology and the origin of Petroleum"; Dr. John F. Dewey, State University of New York at Albany, "Complexities of Oceanic Sedimentation".

We are convinced that this annual event has proven to be a very worthwhile endeavor of the department. All have been well attended and many favorable comments have come from those in attendance. However there is a rub. We have exhausted funds to meet the necessary expenses. They are not great and we have found no difficulty in attracting outstanding speakers. Wouldn't you like to see your company appear as a co-sponsor of what has proven to be a real success. It only requires

approximately \$1,000 to cover the costs for a year's program. How about suggesting it to someone in your organization who is in a position to make such a contribution. We will gladly furnish further information to anyone who might be interested.

In addition to the one day seminar we have had a number of speakers on the campus during the school year. They were Dr. Kees DeJong, Department of Geology of the University of Cincinnati; Mr. R. O. Donley, Cities Service Company; Dr. William Muelburger, Department of Geology, University of Texas; Dr. John Graves, Department of Geology, University of Cincinnati; Dr. Gabrielle Donnay, Department of Geology, McGill University; Dr. John Griesy, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory; Professor Tuzo Wilson, Ontario Science Center and University of Toronto; Dr. C. Patrick Ervin, Department of Geology, Northern Illinois University; Professor Fred Followill, Department of geology, University of Mississippi; Dr. Tim Atkinson, University of East Anglia, England.

Some Miscellaneous Notes from the Department

We regret to announce the resignation of one of our staff as of July 1. Randy Keller, our geophysicist has accepted a position at the University of Texas at El Paso. In his all too short (3 years) association with this department Randy has been most successful in attracting students into his geophysical courses, has directed several masters theses, been a dedicated researcher and has enhanced the entire departmental program. We wish him well in his new position. We would like to think that his departure in large part is due to the difficulty

involved in trying to keep a Texan away from his homeland when the opportunity to return presents itself. We are actively recruiting his replacement.

Bill MacQuown spent last summer and fall in Europe and returned shortly before Christmas. In January he was hospitalized with a serious illness but came through with flying colors and is back on the job busily engaged in writing up the results of his research endeavors while abroad.

We began to wonder if Bowman was a healthy place to be around when John Thrailkill also wound up in the hospital in February with a ruptured spleen but he also has made a fast recovery so that all are present and accounted for.

The technical program of the Northeastern Section and Southeastern Section of G.S.A. in March at Arlington, VA was well prepresented by papers from this department. Authors were Blackburn, Brown, Keller, Fisher, and Mike Ammerman who has just completed his M.S. degree and gone to work for Amoco.

Major Equipment Acquisitions

In 1964 the department acquired a Phillips Norelco X-ray diffractometer and fluorescent analysis spectrograph (XRF). This marked the beginning of refined analytical equipment for our research laboratories. In 1969 we were the recipients (declared surplus by the Medical School) of a General Electric XRF. The Norelco proved very cumbersome in shifting from diffraction to fluorescence. With the acquisition of the G.E. the Norelco was used entirely for diffraction and the G.E. for fluorescent analysis. The Norelco is still going strong as a

diffraction unit because it is fairly simple and the state of the art has changed little. However, the G.E. is now far behind the state of the art and it has had about 30% to 50% down time. In addition it has been costly to maintain (about \$1,000 per year). It also is inoperative on elements below potassium in atomic number and we have found it necessary to beg time for our graduate students on vacuum units at Eastern Kentucky University, the University of N. Carolina and elsewhere in order to complete research projects. There have been persistent attempts to get a new instrument with no success. However, this spring due to persuasive efforts of Thrailkill, Blackburn, Fisher, and Keller the administration has come up with the funds (around \$36,000) to purchase a new vacuum path, wave length dispersal XRF.

We also have acquired three new field vehicles to replace three of our current fleet of five. We are hoping for delivery prior to departure date for this years field camp. Our group will be on Cement Creek between June 15 and August 6. If you get at all close why not drop by and have a look at the old camp spot. Phyl and Vin Nelson and Frank Ettensohn will be in residence. Frank will assume the responsibilities for the operation of the camp after this summer.

AAPG New Orleans Meeting May 1976

We really had a fine reunion dinner at the annual AAPG Convention in New Orleans. It was held at the Royal Orleans Hotel in French quarter. Much credit for its success should go to Charlie Holbrook who made the local arrangements, contacts,

etc. Cocktails were followed by an elegant dinner. I'm not sure the list of those attending is too accurate. We tried to get everyone there to check our list of Alums to keep track but with a successful open bar sometimes it gets a bit difficult to know if someone hasn't been skipped. The list below makes no attempt to include spouses but where husband and wife are both geology majors from U.K. we tried to include them. If we left anyone out send us a note and we will give you special billing in next years Round Up.

Here is the list as best we can determine: Hal Adams, Mike Ammerman, Jim Barr, Leslie Berry, Jim Blankship, Clemont Bruce, Bick Byrne, Kevin Carney, Linda Covert, Charlie Cunard, Mike Dusing, Russ Ford, Dan Hamilton, Don Haney, Char. Holbrook, Bill and Emily Jackson, Steve Jennings, Bill King, Jim and Janet Kirby, Ken Pavona, Luther Powell, Charlie Thurman, Jim Vance, Jane Welch, Jim Wixted. From home base were Lois Campbell, Frank Ettensohn, Bill MacQuown and Vin Nelson.

We appointed a committee from the group to develop a bit of organization within the alumni. Russ Ford will serve as chairman and who knows, you may be hearing from this committee one of these days.

Departmental Awards

Phillip Davis was awarded the \$1000 George W. Pirtle Fellowship for 1976-77. This fellowship, made possible by the generosity of Mr. Pirtle, is given annually to an outstanding graduate student. Wendell Overcash was named the recipient of the \$500 Chevron Scholarship which has been given for a number

of years to a junior student for use during his senior year. This year we were also able to make an award to a student emphasizing geophysics thanks to a grant from Amoco. This scholarship, which consists of a \$900 grant, was given to Scott Schillereff. The Tarr Award from the Chi Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon went to Dennis Swager and William Martin. They each got a rock hammer.

The McFarlan Fund

A number of you through your contributions have made it possible to maintain the McFarlan Fund as a very important component of our educational efforts. A considerable amount of the money spent this year has gone to purchase expendable and specialized laboratory supplies needed by students for theses problems. A second category has been travel money to aid students who have had field expenses in order to complete theses and another sum has gone toward defraying a part of the cost of travel of students to scientific meetings. We have also helped defray a portion of the student travel cost for our annual fall departmental field trip. This past year we looked at the geology of a portion of the Blue Ridge of North Carolina.

As you know we are making no attempt to make this an endowment fund but rather to spend it as needs arise which are deemed worthwhile. Funds can be carried over from one year to the next but the only assurance we have of continuation of this important source of assistance is through your annual contributions. Many of you have been loyal supporters but with

the rather large number of alumni we have on our roster (around 300) it wouldn't require a very large contribution from each one of you to surely make a difference in our program. It is simple to contribute. Just write a check to the University of Kentucky marked "McFarlan Fund".