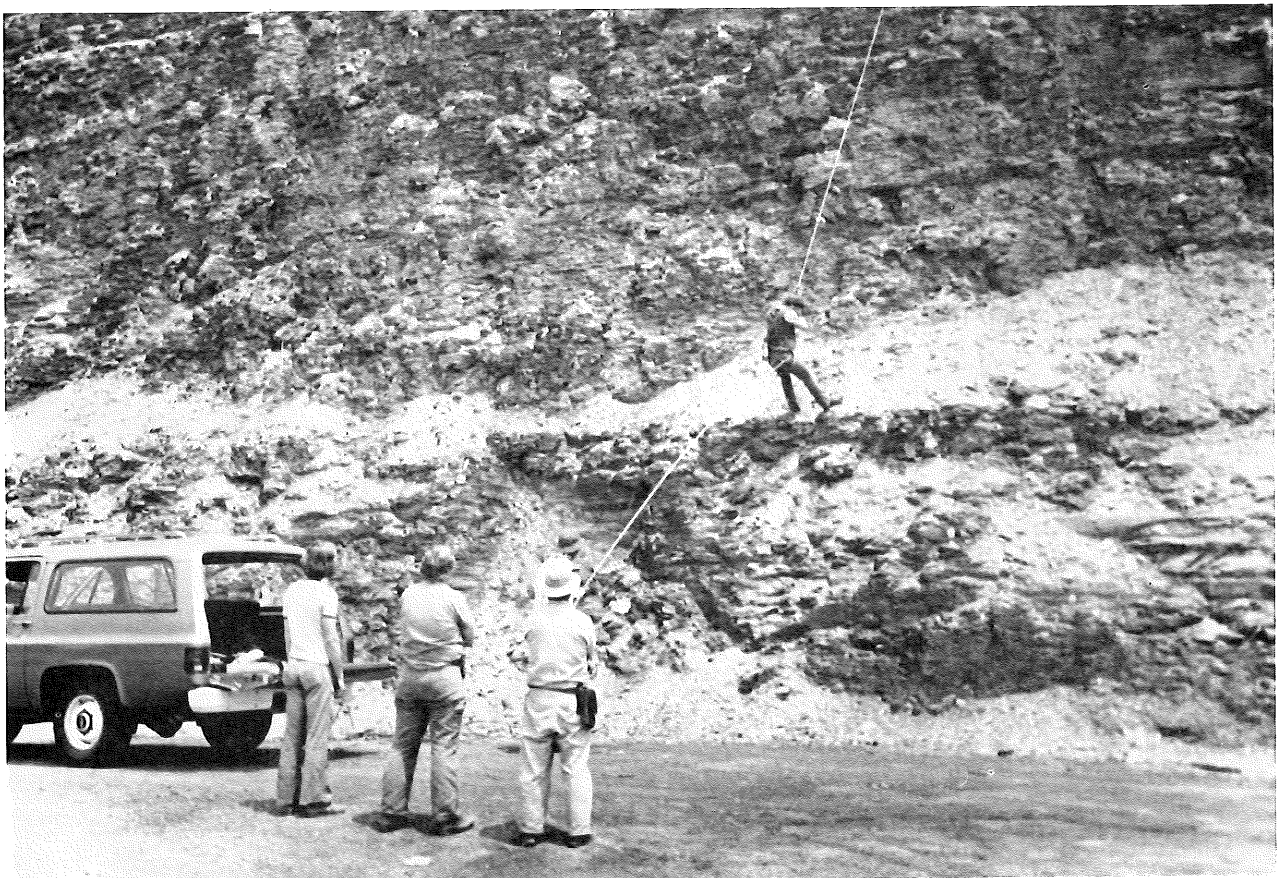


The Department of Geology University of Kentucky

The Round Up (1978)



Before the advent of interstates it didn't require rappelling techniques to study most outcrops in Kentucky. The photo comes from a location along an interstate in eastern Kentucky. It is an exposure of the Devonian-Mississippian black shale. People shown are involved in the stratigraphic aspects of a study contract entered into by the University of Kentucky with ERDA this past year. This is one of many contracts involving universities, geological surveys, and private groups to stimulate gas production from the black shale (Chattanooga and correlatives). There are four projects at the University: one dealing with the characterization (and storage) being handled by the Kentucky Geological Survey, stratigraphy of the black shale in eastern Kentucky being directed by Frank Eddensohn, geochemical studies and a data bank for geochemical studies involving Bill Dennen and Bill Blackburn. The total annual funding is \$250,000 renewable for a five year period for a total of \$1,200,000. Pending is an expansion proposal to include shales of Western Kentucky and a bibliography repository proposal from the Geology Department library. Currently the program is providing five research assistantships for graduate students in the department.

Departmental Staff Changes

There have been some staff changes since the last mailing of the Round-up. We have filled the vacancy in the geophysicist position vacated by Randy Keller. Our newcomer is Ronald L. Street who was appointed as an Assistant Professor. Professor Street received a bachelor of science degree in applied physics from Michigan Technological University in 1964, a master of science degree in geophysics from the same institution in 1972, and a doctor of philosophy degree in geophysics from St. Louis University in 1975. He served as an officer in the U. S. Navy from 1964 to 1969. After completing his Ph.D. degree and until his arrival at

Kentucky he was employed by Weston Geophysical Research, Inc. at Westboro, Massachusetts as a seismologist consultant.

John Thraillkill's four year term as departmental chairman ended as of July 1, 1977. Bill Dennen was appointed to succeed him for a four year term.

Steve Lenhart who received his Master's Degree here in 1975 has returned for the year to work toward a doctorate. He has been teaching at Tidewater Community College at Virginia Beach and has a year's leave of absence. This year in addition to some studying Steve has an appointment as Instructor and is teaching elementary classes and in charge of the elementary laboratories.

There were two promotions in the department this past summer. John Thraillkill was elevated from associate professor to professor and Vivian Hall our librarian was promoted to Librarian III with tenure.

Some changes have occurred in the office staff since our last Round-Up. Of the three positions only one is occupied by the same person. Marjorie Palmer is still at her post. Trish Bryant has left the front office to work with Frank Ettensohn on the Black Shale project. Her place has been filled by Linda Cronch. Shirley Pile has taken over the position of accounts clerk. Elizabeth Drymon has been hired for office work with the Black Shale project.

Bill Brown was on sabbatical leave the fall semester. He spent much of his time in Lexington but made several excursions into the Piedmont. He used his sabbatical to compile the large amount of information he has gathered over the years in his field studies in the Appalachian area. Bill relinquished his duties as Director of Graduate Studies. Bill Blackburn was appointed by the Graduate School Dean to succeed him. Vin Nelson retired at the end of January (1978) and in the fall, in anticipation of

the retirement, Bud Fisher became Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Vin Nelson, as editor of The Round Up, has carefully hidden one of the more important happenings in the department this year, namely his retirement. Students and faculty alike will miss our day-to-day association with him, but alumni will be more fortunate since he plans to continue as our interface with you.

For the record, Vin's original appointment was in September, 1938, he attained the rank of full professor in May of 1950, and served as departmental chairman in 1966-67. He was on leave in Indonesia in 1961-64 and went to Ecuador as a Senior Fulbright Lecturer in 1971. Of particular note among his numerous activities and services are his years as director of field camp, liaison work with the geology library, and AAPG activities.

After 39 years and 5 months of consecutive service marked by sincere dedication to the department and profession we are all in his debt.

***** W.H. Dennen *****

Seminar Program

The Seminar Program continues to be an important adjunct to the departmental educational effort. It is sponsored jointly by the Department and Chi Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon. Some financial support comes from the office of the Graduate Dean. Lois Campbell has been the faculty coordinator responsible for this years program. The listing of the program which follows will indicate its excellence and breadth.

Fall Semester, 1977

Sept. 22 Traveling the Grand Canyon--A Slide Show
Leslie Giles, Bob Lieber, Jim Rankin and John Thrailkill,
Department of Geology, University of Kentucky

- Sept. 29 Bermuda: A Geological Review
Norm Fagge, Mike Miller and Joyce Price,
Department of Geology, University of Kentucky
- Oct. 6 Reclamation of Strip-mined Land in Western Kentucky
Richard I. Barnhisel,
Department of Agronomy, University of Kentucky
- Oct. 13 The Bracelet Bay Mound--A Mixed Hydrodynamic and Biogenetic Buildup
in the Lower Carboniferous of Wales
W. C. MacQuown
Department of Geology, University of Kentucky
- Oct. 27 The Geochemistry of Shales Associated with Major Coal Seams in
Kentucky
Thomas G. Robl
Institute for Mining and Mineral Research, Lexington, Kentucky
- Nov. 3 The Geologist in State Government
Thomas B. Griswold
Department of Energy, Frankfort, Kentucky
- Nov. 10 Mississippian Geodes in Kentucky
Irving S. Fisher,
Department of Geology, University of Kentucky
- Nov. 17 Origin and Age of the So-called Lafayette Formation of the
Northern Mississippi Embayment
Wilds W. Olive
U. S. Geological Survey, Lexington, Kentucky
- Dec. 1 Precambrian Microfossils, Macrofossils and Stromatolites
Robert J. Horodyski
Department of Earth Sciences, University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana
- Dec. 8 Studies on the Chemistry of the Moon
William D. Ehmann,
Department of Chemistry, University of Kentucky

Spring Semester, 1978

- Feb. 2 Mississippian Analog to Recent Andros Island Tidal Flats
Frank R. Ettensohn
Department of Geology, University of Kentucky
- Feb. 9 Ore Deposits of the Central and Northern Rockies
James E. Bever
Department of Geology, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
- Feb. 16 Changes in the Physical and Biologic Environment Initiated by
Dam Construction, Truckee River Basin, Northern Nevada
Dale F. Ritter
Department of Geology, University of Southern Illinois,
Carbondale, Illinois

- Feb. 23 Alluvial Diamonds in West Africa
 William H. Dennen
 Department of Geology, University of Kentucky
- Mar. 2 A Late Cretaceous Collisional Event along the Motagua Suture Zone, Central America
 John F. Sutter
 Dept. of Geology and Mineralogy, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- Mar. 9 The Occurrence and Distribution of Sulfur in Coal in Eastern Kentucky
 Norman C. Hester
 Dept. of Geology, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky
- Mar. 30 Kinetics of Carbonate Dissolution
 Neil Plummer
 U. S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia
- Apr. 13 Microcracks in Rocks
 M. Gene Simmons,
 Department of Earth and Planetary Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts

In January of last year we again held our one day seminar New Concepts in Sedimentology. Our original program planned by Frank Ettensohn had to be modified at the last minute as two of our three scheduled speakers Dr. Albert Carozzi from the University of Illinois and Dr. Harold Gluskoter from the Illinois Geological Survey were trapped in Urbana by a winter storm. Frank found two excellent replacements. Dr. William MacQuown from our department and Dr. Paul Potter from the University of Cincinnati took up the slack.

Dr. M. Dane Picard, University of Utah spoke on Depositional Environments and Petroleum Potential in Eolian Deposits. MacQuown discussed Stratigraphic and Structural Aspects of the Fort Payne Producing Fields in Northern Tennessee and Potter's topic was Big Rivers.

Tragedy at Field Camp

The entire Department was shocked and saddened by the tragic accident which occurred at the Colorado Field Camp on July 27. One of the department vehicles was involved in a single car accident on Colorado 135 at the

curve just above the Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery. The accident occurred at 9:30 a.m. The Travelall failed to negotiate the dangerous curve and rolled over twice. The accident took the lives of two students enrolled for the summer term only at UK. Killed were Richard Gottesman of Birmingham, Michigan a student at Harvard University and Roy Abbott III of Short Hills, New Jersey and a student at Skidmore College. Five others were injured; two very seriously. One of these was a University of Kentucky student--Stephen Campbell, from Owensboro who is still in the process of recuperating. The field course completed Steve's requirements for the bachelors degree. The other is James Crandall of Wyoming, Michigan. He is a student at Grand Valley College and at this writing is still in a comatose state.

AAPG Meetings and Alumni

Bill MacQuown and Vin Nelson attended the annual meeting of AAPG in Washington in June. The number of UK Alumni attending wasn't large. Those who come to mind are Bernard Pierson, Lou Ponsetto, Emily and Bill Jackson, Clement Bruce and our former faculty member Randy Keller. Leonard Wood who is with the Department of Transportation also put in an appearance. This list is no doubt incomplete and for this please forgive our short memory. MacQuown and Nelson both plan to be in Oklahoma City for this year's meeting. The All Alumni Cocktail Party will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday April 10. The AAPG announcement states that this years gathering will also include Company Alumni and they are calling the affair "Unicoal Beer Bust" with no charge. We hope that many of you will be able to attend the meetings and gather at our designated station at the Unicoal Bust.

Space Needs

The University issued a five year plan in 1977 which included a list of major capital construction priorities. Under the years 1978-1980 there were fifteen buildings or additions listed in order of priority totaling a cost of 40.5 million dollars. An earth science building was in position 12 which we unprejudiced people feel is far too low. However a new Pharmacy building was number one and should this be built it should open up some additional space for geology in the west end of Bowman Hall now occupied by the College of Pharmacy.

Student Enrollment

Currently we have 86 undergraduate students who say they are geology majors. We know that a number of them will fall by the wayside. Nevertheless this is probably the largest undergraduate enrollment the department has ever had. There are 33 graduate students enrolled. During the current school year we have had 6 persons complete the master's degree work and three others have completed the requirements for the Ph.D. degree.

Miscellaneous Faculty Activities

Both Bill Dennen and Bruce Moore wound up in far away places this past summer. Moore engaged in consulting in Australia and Dennen spent some time in Liberia as an alluvial diamond consultant.

MacQuown has managed to use up any spare time he has had as a consultant dealing with the Ft. Payne oil pay in eastern Tennessee. This work resulted in his being asked to be a speaker in March at the annual West Virginia Symposium on Oil and Gas in Eastern United States and at the Tennessee Oil and Gas Association annual Meeting in Knoxville in May.

Thrailkil is undertaking a ground water tracing study in central Kentucky and makes himself unpopular at times, like skiers thinking snow,

he thinks rain--large enough to produce lots of runoff.

Street is tracking down the effects in Kentucky of past major earthquakes. He also hopes to be able to install a seismological observatory in the near future.

McFarlan Fund

We want to thank all of you who have shown interest, concern, and generosity by contributing to the McFarlan Fund. We continue to use the money for assistance of various sorts to students. The number of contributors from what is becoming a quite large alumni group is relatively small. It is this writer's belief that many more of you really have good intentions but just don't quite get around to taking action. Remember that it doesn't require large sums to accomplish much in enriching a student's educational experience. Why not now while you are thinking about it put a contribution into a mail addressed to the University of Kentucky. Payment should be to the University of Kentucky and designated for the McFarlan Fund.