

3) screwdrivers. My birth mother's family lived mostly under the radar and left few foot prints.

But with luck and persistence we found two members of my birth father's family. Those of us guys sent blood samples to a Milwaukee lab, and the DNA tests show that brothers John and Frank Siller of Ann Arbor, MI, are my relatives—at least cousins. However, other evidence in hand suggests that they are my half-brothers. Frank and John are underground contractors (some say ditch diggers) who have installed many pipelines and fluid systems (some 90" in diameter) across the country. We are all descended from Edward L. Siller who came to Milwaukee in 1849 at age 12 from St. Petersburg, Russia, where his father (a German) was a math professor at the Royal Academy. In 1859 Edward moved to Houghton, MI, and that year married Amelia M. Newcomb, who had been born in Devonshire, England. In time, they had eight children, and one of these sons was my paternal grandfather.

So in retirement I have learned that both my birth parents were YOOPERS! Your worst suspicions are confirmed, and I am revealed.

#### ❖ Robert H. Dott, Jr.

There were several highlights and only one low light for me in 2001. In March, Nancy and I spent three pleasant weeks in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. We first visited Cynthia and her family in Durango, CO, where husband Gary Gianniny, who is known to many alums (PhD 1995), teaches geology at Ft. Lewis College. Also this academic year (2001-2002) Cynthia is teaching ecology and our youngest, Brian, is teaching oriental history—all at the same institution. How is that for coincidences? We also visited our older daughter, Karen, and her family in Raton, New Mexico, where petroleum engineer husband, Bill Ordemann, is involved in a large coal bed methane extraction project on one of Ted Turner's huge ranches. This source of a natural gas long regarded as the scourge of coal miners, is a big, new thing in the petroleum industry. Therefore, I was anxious to learn more about it. What Bill showed me is that completion of many shallow wells drilled through coal layers and the optimization of gas flow from them is far more complicated than one might imagine. Much of the complication involves the interaction of ground water with the coal and gas, but I shall not attempt to explain what I only partly understand. Between our family visitations, we enjoyed a fine Elderhostel program at Taos. Besides learning about the rich history and cultural traditions of northern New Mexico, we played geo-tourists along the Rio Grande rift.

In May, I joined Gordon Medaris and Mike Mudrey

in helping run the annual Lake Superior Institute of Geology, which met in Madison this year. Gordon and I led a field trip to show off our (mostly Gordon's) exciting new insights about the classic Baraboo district. Also in May, I had to begin an eight-week siege of radiation treatments for prostate cancer, which is the nemesis of us older males. Well over 50% of men over 70 have or will have it, and my time had come. At present, I seem to be clear, my PSA having dropped to 1.05 as of December (down from a high of 8.6 last April). There is a moral for all guys out there—monitor your PSA annually after age 50. My unanticipated medical interlude caused me to skip the AAPG meeting in Denver and, worse, to give up a raft trip through the Grand Canyon with sedimentary geologist John Warne (Colorado School of Mines). We are scheduled to fulfill the latter dream this next summer with John.

By August, I had recouped enough to join a family reunion at our favorite Coos Bay, Oregon. This was planned to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary with our entire family (19 total), and it was a great success. I also managed to commune with some favorite Eocene deltaic strata, which I had studied on and off since 1955. Also in August, the results of my latest major history of geology project were published in the GSA Bulletin. "*The Wisconsin Roots of the Modern Revolution in Structural Geology*" features the Irving-Van Hise-Leith-Mead dynasty, which was so important in launching our department to prominence in the early 20th Century. I am not sure what I shall tackle next.

In spite of September 11, Nancy and I flew to Boston for the annual GSA meeting in November. I was deeply honored to receive the L.L. Sloss Award from the Sedimentary Division of GSA. It was especially meaningful for me because of a long and rewarding acquaintance with Larry Sloss. Charlie Byers' exaggerated citation appears in *GSA Today* for February, 2002.

Also during the year past, I see that I led four geo-walks in the Baraboo Hills for such groups as the Sauk County Earth Day, Audubon, Nature Conservancy, and some Madison Unitarians. I also pontificated at an abandoned quarry in Sauk County from which the Cambrian dolomite came for building the famous Frank Lloyd Wright-designed First Unitarian Meeting House in Madison. This event concluded a prolonged celebration of the 50th anniversary of that building—a nice coincidence with that other 50th.

After cataract surgery in December, Nancy and I embarked once again for Colorado and New Mexico for holiday celebrations with about two-thirds of our family. It was a blast not only for familial reasons, but the Raton area has one of the world's best preserved K-T boundary sequences, which we saw under the guidance of



*Bob Dott and Dan Damrow. Damrow discovered unique Late Cambrian jellyfish fossils in a Wisconsin quarry. Read Bob Dott's description inside the front cover. Photo courtesy of Bob Dott.*

son-in-law Bill. Also near Raton is a very young volcanic field, which includes Capulin Volcano National Monument. I remember visiting Capulin when I was about 10 years old during a family vacation to the Rocky Mountains. I know that I fell in love with mountains on that trip, and I think that Capulin helped pre-adapt me for my career in geology.

At the time of writing this in January, I was being barraged by reporters and broadcasters for more information about the Cambrian jellyfish stranding locality in central Wisconsin (*featured on our cover*), which I have been studying for several years with two other geologists. A pre-publication announcement by GSA of our paper, which is published in the February, 2002 *Geology*, attracted an amazing amount of interest including an interview on National Public Radio (besides the cover photo this year, see also last year's *Outcrop*, p. 69 for a photo of three of the medusoid impressions).

#### ❖ Gordon Medaris

Retirement continues to be busy, productive, and enjoyable. The 47th Institute on Lake Superior Geology was held in Madison in May (the last one in Madison being in 1973!), for which Bob Dott and I prepared a new field guide to the Baraboo Range and led an excursion for about 60 folks. It was a great opportunity to present the new data on the Baraboo Quartzite that we've acquired during the past five years. In September I travelled to Japan to attend the 6th International Eclogite Conference (it's hard to believe that I've been attending these conferences since 1982), where I presented results on eclogites in the South Carpathians, Romania, and an invited address on the thermobarometry and geochemistry of garnet peridotites in HP and UHP terranes.

Retirement hasn't been all work, however. Nancy and I took an enjoyable trip to Cat Island, one of the out islands in the Bahamas, where we biked the length of

the island, stopping in small communities along the way for snorkelling, beer, and local food. In October we spent a couple of weeks rock-climbing, first in the Black Hills and then in the Colorado Front Range, during which we were blessed with gorgeous Indian summer weather. We completed our 2001 travels with another road trip in December, this time for rock

climbing in Arizona and exploring petroglyph and archaeological sites in Arizona and New Mexico, vowing to return to the southwest for more of the same in 2002!

#### ❖ Lloyd Pray

Year 2001 found me "alive and kicking," mostly enjoying life. This past year Carrel and I have remained in relatively good health for our "fourscore plus" years. In 2001 I had some tastes of the fun of geology but much more time was spent with Carrel in family matters including the maturing of our four sons, their wives and our twelve grandchildren who now range in age from four to twenty-six. Since September 11th, contemplation of what the world will present for the world's grandchildren is especially sobering. Lots of enjoyable time in 2001 was devoted to caring for our small farm home, gardens and environs, and to overseeing the building of a cottage on long-held family property on the south shore of Lake Superior—my roots.

My geologic highlight was seven days in Denver attending the SEPM's 75th anniversary celebration and the following AAPG International convention. Both brought appreciated contact with many former students and other geology friends who are not often on the Wisconsin scene. (Attendees at the departments alumni party are listed elsewhere in this *Outcrop*.)

Most of my career I have been a field geologist, and have loved it and thrived on it. I have tried to promote the necessity of critical field observations for students and others. Recently I came across a clipping long buried in my files by UW's early eminent Professor, Charles Richard Van Hise. From his "Selections and Work of a Geologist", 1902, he offers his perspective for field work that may be of interest, exactly a century after its writing. Is it still valid in a time of diminished opportunities for field work?

"A geologist once said to me of my teacher and