Two highlights this year were reunions, the first in June/July in Houghton, MI, at the Copper country Homecoming/Old Settlers Ball. We studied an exhibit of 2,000 historic photos of the early Keweenaw Peninsula, and then visited the new Ukrainian monastery on L. Superior near Eagle Harbor. Then we heard papers in a two-day symposium of Keweenaw history, and greeted the arrival of three children and three granddaughters. Saturday my brother John Siller led a tour of Houghton cemetery, where he has cleaned and restored more than 200 gravestones of our ancestors, and then a tour of homes important in Siller or Pryor families since 1850. Saturday evening about 500 souls attended the Old Settlers Ball.

In 1852 Joseph and Elizabeth Pryor came to Eagle River, MI, from Cornwall/Devon with 12 of their 14 children, soon moving to Houghton. Sunday saw the sesquicentennial of Grace United Methodist Church, founded by Elizabeth Pryor and others in 1854. When the elder Pryors died in 1865 they had more than 90 living grandchildren, nearly all in or near Houghton. That Sunday more than 60 folks attended a Pryor family reunion, including Lord John Roper from London.

In late July we had a delayed 51st wedding reunion at Clam Lake, WI, with our three children and their families (photo above). We spent a sunny afternoon cruising Lake Namekagon in our rented pontoon boat; after supper Cam gave a slide show of our children growing up in Madison.

Moving day came again for Cam in late summer as we were certified at last to occupy our new W.H. addition. Find me on the fourth floor, behind the huge library.

One lowlight to report. A benign pituitary tumor, thought removed in 1993, suddenly sprang to life again—yielding hazy vision. Prudence called for its early removal. I had surgery 12/15/04 with clean removal of the pesky tumor. But complications developed and recovery was erratic. Finally after 49 days away I was released from the hospital 2/2/05 and was thrilled to return home to complete the recovery.

ROBERT H. DOTT, JR.

The biggest event for me in 2004 was the publication in March of the Roadside Geology of Wisconsin by myself and John Attig of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (see Outcrop for 2003, and an order form in the back of this Outcrop). We received excellent newspaper and radio publicity and even a couple of signings. The sales have been brisk and compliments many, which is very satisfying after nearly a decade of effort by ourselves and Susan Hunt, the Survey’s talented graphics artist, who prepared all of the many diagrams in the book. John and I have assigned our royalties to the UW Foundation for the benefit of the Department and already a sizable sum has come in.

I was asked to participate in the induction ceremony in April for Charles R. Van Hise into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame at Stevens Point. This posthumous recognition was for the first comprehensive book on conservation published by Van Hise in 1910 (Conservation of Natural Resources in the United States). I was asked to summarize his importance as a geologist. Outside of our profession, however, he is more famous as one of the most important and long-serving presidents of the University (1903-1918) as well as a pioneer in conservation. How he found time teach a course and then write a book about conservation while President is beyond imagination. The subject was a natural complement to “The Wisconsin Idea” that the boundaries of the campus were the boundaries of the state, which was realized with the establishment of the educational Extension Division early in Van Hise’s presidency. I felt honored to contribute to his recognition at the Hall of Fame.

To my surprise, I was asked to present the banquet talk at the 49th Lake Superior Institute of Geology meeting in Duluth, MN in May. The organizers wanted something about the history of geology, so I discussed the “Van Hise Army,” that cadre of geologists of the USGS’ Lake Superior Division based at the UW, which mapped all of the iron ranges between approximately 1882 and 1915. To unravel the complex geology of a region with limited and scattered exposures, they pioneered the use of small structures visible in isolated outcrops, such as cleavage, drag folds, cross- and graded bedding, to infer larger
Louis J. Maher

This was my first full year of retirement, and I am beginning to get the hang of it. I was called up for jury duty for the first time. I was asked to help out with signs for informational kiosks at Pheasant Branch Marsh, which led to giving a talk to the local high school teachers who were using Pheasant Branch for an environmental class, and that led to going along on an afternoon field trip. I also led two groups of 8th graders from Cross Plains on glacial field trips in their area.

During the spring, I drove to Flagstaff to see an old high school friend. On the way I stopped off in Durango and rented a Cessna Skyhawk with a pilot to fly me over the Animas and San Juan Rivers between the San Juan Mountains and Farmington, New Mexico. Charles Mansfield and I flew over the area in 1966, and I wanted to photograph changes that had taken place during the intervening 38 years. Many changes had taken place. The United States’ first and second largest coal-fired power plants had been built north and south of the San Juan River using the area’s low grade Cretaceous coal. The arid region with wonderful longitudinal dunes is now covered with round central-point-irrigated fields. Many new large houses have been built along the Animas River north of Durango. It seemed rather sad in its way. But I did get a chance to visit with Gary Gianniny and his wife Cynthia (Dott) at Durango’s Fort Lewis College before starting home in a snow storm.

The year saw the deaths of several department friends. Those of Bob Gates and Sharon Meinholz are discussed elsewhere, but I also attended the funeral of Ann Bauhs. Ann Bauhs was a departmental secretary who retired during the early 1980’s. She was always helpful and fun to be around. We purchased our first word processor while I was Chair, and Ann was assigned to use it. Early word processors were nowhere as easy to use as today’s. Ann took it in stride, and typed out most of our research papers before microcomputers became common.

Nancy and I finished the year with holiday visits to family in Raton, NM and Durango, CO followed by travels south and west across southern New Mexico and Arizona. At Las Cruces, we had a pleasant visit with Tom and Sue Laudon, who had fled the Oshkosh winter. We then participated in an Elderhostel program in northern Sonora, Mexico, which touched the enormous early Cenozoic silicic volcanic pile of the Sierra Madre Occidental and the 16th Century Spanish silver mining community of Alamos with a charming, well preserved colonial flavor. To assure a full month away from Wisconsin’s winter, we finished with a few days in balmy Palm Desert, CA only to return home to a rude 7.5 inch blizzard and very cold temperatures. C’est la vie.

Gordon Medaris

2004 was another busy, enjoyable year of retirement, including snorkeling in Andros, savoring the delights of Tuscany, canoeing the Flambeau and St. Croix rivers with my grandson, road-tripping in Arizona and New Mexico for rock climbing, mountain biking, and petroglyph viewing, and biking with Nancy along the Danube from Donaueschingen to Regensburg, thus completing our journey of the Danube from its source to Budapest.

A highlight of the year was returning to the Yukon after an