Phil Brown

The end of the 4th week of the Wasatch Uinta Field Camp found the staff and students engaged in a furious game of tabletop shuffleboard at the No Name Saloon. When out of the night which was 40 below . . . no wait, wrong story. What really happened was a "townie" got into the game and she turned out to be the Education Reporter for *The Park Record*. Well one thing led to another and we set up an appointment to talk about the 40 years that our Field Camp has utilized the Chateau Apres as a base to add "color" to the summer season in Park City, Utah. Having only been actively involved with camp for the past seven years I know that I did not do justice to the past — I apologize to those of you who were there. On the other hand, I am also aware that, "the older we get, the better we were"— I hope to hear some stories from the past.

— P. B.

Gathered in front of Chateau Apres, a group of students listens to an instructor. The photo was taken by Bob Dott twenty years ago.

GEOLOGY CAMP MARKS 40TH YEAR IN TOWN

Every summer group stays at Chateau Apres

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by Dale Thompson

Experience in the field can be as good as gold when it comes to landing a job, especially in the mining industry.

For its fortieth summer in a row the Wasatch-Uinta Geology Field Camp has brought undergraduates to scour the nearby mountains to identify everything from valuable minerals to shale.

Students in the camp call the Chateau Apres home for six weeks where owner Ed Hosenfeld has been hosting the group since it began.

Program director and geology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Phillip Brown said the program has relationships with people throughout the community including some who allow the students on their private land.

The undergraduates, hailing from six different universities including the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Minnesota-Duluth, University of Iowa, University of Illinois, Western Kentucky University and Michigan State University, spend much of the camp creating color-coded maps of an area identifying the different rocks on a site. From those they create what is called a geologic cross section, a side view of the site and the layers underneath.

Students also have to know how those rocks were formed to have a better understanding of the geologic history.

"They map the surface, and then we generally have them try to tell us what is going on," Brown said.

In Utah that could be a lot. Brown explained one of the reasons Park City was selected as home to the program is because over two billion years of Earth's history is reflected in the mountains in the area.

"They need to see their projects in the context of the bigger picture," Brown said.

Once upon a time Utah boasted prime beach-front property because it was on the edge of the ancient North American continent. Since then Brown said everything west of the state has been formed by collisional events that the rocks bore witness to.

Students uncover the story through work in the surrounding areas and field trips to places like Antelope Island and Grand Teton National Park.

The experience allows students to apply what they have learned in class to real life while helping students figure out whether or not they want a job in the industry.

"It's hard to know before they get here who will take an interest and show an aptitude," Brown said.

Those that do show an interest and aptitude often find work. Two former teaching assistants for the program went on to work for Newmont Mining Corporation, a very large gold producer.

Brown said now is a good time to get into the field. In the past, the price of minerals and oil has been low so very few people were hired in the industry. But as the prices go up, mines are looking to hire again and are in need of workers with experience.

"They can't find geologists that have been trained because metal prices have been so low for so long," Brown said.

A mining company in Minnesota did find camp participant Erik Haroldson.

Like many other students in the program he is in his last year of college. When he graduates from the University of Minnesota-Duluth Haroldson said he will consider going back to the mining company he started working with last summer.

His job included analyzing deposits to learn what areas are feasible to mine.

He said he has enjoyed his six weeks in Park City.

"I like it, I like getting out and being in the outdoors (and) I enjoy the area," Haroldson said.

Adjusting to the elevation has proven to be one of the more difficult things about the program.

"Being from the Midwest the hills take a bit of getting used to. We do a lot of hiking straight uphill," he said.

But the elevation won't stop another trip to take advantage of the powder in Park City. Haroldson said he would like to come back in the winter.

Brown said for those who decide on other career paths the camp is still a valuable experience and teaches practical problem solving skills by helping the students start with an unknown and work toward a solution.

The program is not all work and no play. Students often take advantage of climbing opportunities in Little Cottonwood Canyon or play everything from ultimate Frisbee to soccer in the field across from the Chateau.

"Most of our injuries at camp are sports-related," Brown said.

Students and staff also take advantage of the night life and pop up at local Main Street establishments like the No Name Saloon.

Brown added that while some of the groups can get a little rowdy they ultimately try to be respectful to the Chateau's neighbors and preserve the relationships they have built up over the past 40 years.

"We do everything we can to be good citizens and contribute to the color of the area," Brown said. ●

A Canadian Contingent

Ted Best, PhD 1953 (tedbest@shaw.ca) sent this about a Canadian contingent of grad students some fifty years ago. It was precipitated by a recent reunion of the remnants of the group.

From late in the 1940's to the mid 50's a large number of Canadians (some seventeen) attended the Geology Department grad school at University of Wisconsin at Madison. Why this surge that has never been repeated? After World War II undergrad enrollment surged with the large number of veterans, but quality Canadian geology grad departments were few. Secondly, Wisconsin placed an emphasis on field work and most Canadians had summer field experience working for the Geological Survey of Canada or the resource companies as undergrads. Canada was entering a boom in the mineral and petroleum industries.

It was a different era in that Canadian graduate geologists were for the most part males. At Wisconsin similarly undergrad and grad students were almost all men. What a subsequent tectonic change for the better!

The contingent consisted of Bob Bell, Ted Best, Bud Cumming, Con Gravenor, Gordon Gross, Lew Green, Al Goodwin, Al Gregory, Cec Hewlett, Ted Howell, Bob Hutchinson, Dick Hutchinson, Harry Lowther, Terry Patrick, Bob Rowe, Jim Scott and Harry Woodward. Fourteen completed their PhD and two their Master's. Two of the group were killed doing geological work. Ted Howell died in a canoe accident doing field work in Labrador while still a grad student at Wisconsin. Cec Hewlett died in a mountain accident in Eastern BC a few years after graduation from Wisconsin. Many of us were married mostly during our grad time—several marrying Americans. Not only was it an exhilarating time for us in a vital and exciting department but we had a wonderful time as newlyweds in the welcoming environment of Madison.

All of us returned to Canada–more than two thirds to the minerals sector and the rest to the petroleum sector. During our careers some spent periods internationally. Three (Dick Hutchinson, Al Goodwin and Con Gravenor) had outstanding academic careers. Four (Gordon Gross, Lew Green, Bud Cumming and Cec Hewlett) spent most of their careers with the Geological Survey of Canada or provincial surveys. Two (Harry Woodward and Bob Hutchinson) spent time in industry and government. Jim Scott, Ted Best, and Harry Lowther worked in the petroleum industry, and Bob Rowe, Al Gregory, Terry Patrick, and Bob Bell in the mineral industry. We led a diverse professional life. I believe it is a fair to state that as a group we have made an important contribution to Canada. One of the group was inducted into the Canadian Minerals Hall of Fame and one into the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame. We must thank the University of Wisconsin, the State of Wisconsin for financial support to some, the exceptional group of professors at that time who devoted so much professional and free time to all. We have fond memories of the department, the profs and staff and the other grad and undergrad students.

Only nine of the original seventeen are alive (Best, Green, Bob and Dick Hutchinson, Woodward, Goodwin, Gross, Rowe and Gregory). In September 2006 we had a reunion and a geological tour through the Canadian Rockies for most of us. Almost all of the Madison wives, who did so much to support us financially and gave their encouragement and love, are well.