

As for bad news, shortly after returning from the southern hemisphere, I suffered a crisis in my achin' ole back. My orthopedic doctor announced that, "although I had the mind of a 30 year old, I had the spine of an 80 year old" and no way should I go on a scheduled Grand Canyon raft trip in July. So I sent geologist son-in-law **Gary Gianniny** in my place and Nancy went as planned. Meanwhile, I stayed in Durango with Cynthia and her two children. We witnessed the final conquest of the unprecedented Missionary Ridge fire and the first of many debris flows resulting from the denudation of steep mountain sides. Thanks to therapy and time, I am now able to cope pretty well with my back problem.

In September, **John Attig** and I sent to the Mountain Press in Missoula, Montana the manuscript for our *Roadside Geology of Wisconsin*. It is being edited as I write this, and with luck the book may appear by GSA time next autumn. The state survey's graphics artist, Susan Hunt, is creating many outstanding diagrams for it. John and I have assigned all of our royalty rights for the benefit of the Department.

Through the persuasion of **Basil Tikoff**, I returned to the classroom in the fall semester to present my lectures on the History of Geologic Thought. Although a lot more work than I had anticipated, it was a rewarding experience. I doubt if I shall do any more teaching, however. Less profound activities last year included, as usual, leading several walks in the Baraboo Hills for various lay groups and also attending the GSA meeting in Denver. I enjoyed presenting the annual History Division award to **Dennis Dean**, a UW-Madison alumnus and former Professor of Humanities at the UW-Parkside campus. Dennis had been in my first History of Geology class in 1965, and he has published outstanding scholarship in the subject. In November, I attended the annual History of Science Society's annual meeting in Milwaukee.

Visits to our scattered family members become more frequent every year. We spent Christmas in Walla Walla, Washington where our youngest son and his wife are both teaching at Whitman College (in humanities, not geology). Walla Walla lies at the edge of the famous Scablands, so there are interesting geologic attractions nearby as well as numerous wineries. We celebrated the New Year by taking a cruise in Baja California and the train ride into the Copper Canyon country of mainland Mexico.

Gordon Medaris, Jr.

Each year of retirement seems to pass by more quickly than the last! I was as busy in 2002 as in previous recent years, presenting a paper with **Brad Singer** at the Institute on Lake Superior Geology in Kenora on the age of quartzite brecciation in the Baraboo Quartzite, which we now know to be 1,450 Ma (more evidence of the effects of Wolf River magmatism!), and another paper with **Clark Johnson** and **Herb Wang** at a conference in the Czech Republic on the geochemistry and thermal evolution of mantle xenoliths along the San Andreas fault zone. Our multiauthored effort (Medaris, Singer, **Dott**, **Naymark**, **Johnson**, and **Schott**) on the Baraboo Quartzite was finally completed—see the "Archivist Corner" for more details—and will appear in the May, 2003, issue of *The Journal of Geology*. Ultramafic rocks continue to play an important role in my geological endeavors, and I spent considerable time in the fall obtaining electron microprobe analyses of peridotite samples from the Bohemian Massif and from Norway, in preparation for Conferences in the Czech Republic in May and in Norway in June of this year.

Despite my continued dedication (obsession?) to geological research, Nancy and I took several enjoyable trips in 2002. We returned to Bonaire in January with my son and daughter-in-law for our annual

snorkeling fix, followed by a trip to the Everglades in March with my older daughter and grandson for canoeing, hiking, biking, and more snorkeling. After the Czech Conference in June, Nancy and I biked for several weeks in Cesky Raj (Czech Paradise) in northern Bohemia—a wonderland of sandstone rock towers, learning more about Czech history in the process, and of course, sampling all of the local, superb beers. In September we drove West for some nostalgic rock climbing in Big and Little Cottonwood canyons in the Wasatch Range (where I used to spend Sundays when teaching field camp), followed by a week of fantastic climbing in the City of Rocks, Idaho, with my younger daughter and son-in-law. October found us rock climbing again at Rushmore and The Needles in the Black Hills—a magical place that continues to hold a special place in our hearts.

Lloyd Pray

My 83rd year, and the 14th since my retirement in 1989, was filled with satisfying activity. Some of the activity was geologic, but most centered on Carrel and my large family, including the interesting lives of our four sons and the dozen grandchildren. There were many visits of family to our rural home of some 34 years on the west side of Madison or to our newly completed cottage on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Superior (my homeland).

The two geologic highlights of my year were both in the Southwest—Texas and New Mexico. I much enjoyed attending the March SEPM-AAPG Annual Convention in Houston and the October New Mexico Geologic Society Annual Field Conference in South Central New Mexico. The Houston convention was fun for the many renewed contacts with former students making their mark in industry, government or academic circles (e.g. the SEPM Carbonate Research Group meeting was headed by **Katherine Giles** (State University of New Mexico) and **Evan Franseen**, Kansas Geological Survey). The annual Wisconsin Geology and Geophysics Alumni gathering was well attended (see elsewhere in the Outcrop).

The New Mexico Geological Society annual October field conference attracted some 190 geologists to the south central New Mexico region. It focused on the San Andreas and Oscura Mountain region and on the White Sands National Monument and 5000 year old basalt flows of the Tularosa Valley, areas normally closed to geologists owing to its use as part of a major testing site for military missiles. We were permitted to visit the sobering 1945 "Trinity Site" of the first atomic bomb. Katie Giles and **Bill Raatz** (1996 PhD of **Toni Simo**) are now prominent in New Mexico geological circles. I was pleased to have the 361 page Conference Guidebook, entitled "Geology of the White Sands" dedicated to myself in recognition of my mapping and interpretations beginning in the late 1940's of the geology of Sacramento Mountains Escarpment. Research of that area has been active ever since, and findings include that of UW geology students—**David Delgado**, and **Don Yurewicz** MS theses of the 1970's, **Robert Goldstein**, PhD, 1980, and Toni Simo's PhD students, Bill Raatz and **Kent Kirkby** in the 1990's. I am saddened by the sudden heart attack death late last year of my student, **Dave Delgado**, whose career spanned some 30 years with Phillips Petroleum Research Group. (See Death Notices.)

As this is being written, despite the increasing drum beats for overseas military action by our government, we join many in hoping for peaceful resolution of our international problems.