

CIVIL ENGINEER



T H E N E W S L E T T E R

Tacoma ♦ Olympia Section of the
American Society of Civil Engineers



Volume 68

Founded 1930

SEPTEMBER 1999

**CIVIL ENGINEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!
THEY PROVIDE THE QUALITY OF LIFE!**

The **Civil Engineer Newsletter** is published for the Tacoma/Olympia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers monthly from September to June.

To submit ads or articles of interest, please contact the President of the Section or the Editor. Information must be submitted not later than the 15th of the month prior to publication.

For address changes and corrections, contact the Editor.

President

Jim Brigham.....(253) 383-4940
JBrigham@GeoEngineers.com

Pres. Elect.

Kathy Hargrave.....(253) 474-9449

Secretary

Chris Beckman.....(253) 798-3557

Treasurer

Kristina Nelson.....(253) 591-5765
knelson@ci.tacoma.us

Director

Perry Shea.....(360) 493-6002
passca@mail.tss.net

Director

Michael Hale.....(253) 591-5789

Younger Members

Brian Matthews.....(360) 491-3399
bmatthews@skillings.com

Past Pres.

Rebecca Vader.....(253) 272-3343
timv@halcyon.com

Editor

Nancy Searle.....(253) 564-5885
jessailor@aol.com

Section Home Page WEB address:

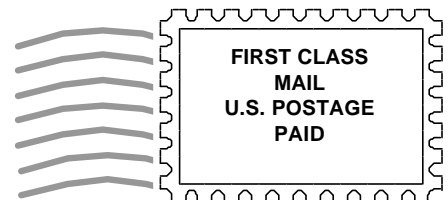
<http://www.asce.org/gsd/sections/tacoly/tacoly.htm>

WEBmaster: Richard Swanson.....

(360) 455-3161 RSwanson@skillings.com

**CIVIL ENGINEER
The NEWSLETTER**

c/o Searle J&N
950 S Locust Lane
Tacoma WA 98465



SEPTEMBER MEETING

LUNCH MEETING

Kelso Landslide

Mitzels American Kitchen

7805 S. Hosmer

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Social: 11:30 AM

Lunch: 11:50 Turkey Alfredo

Program 12:20

The program is free to all. Lunch cost is \$10.00 for members, and students half-price.

Speaker: **Ken Buss**, P.E., Principal GeoEngineers, Inc.

In February 1998, a sewer line separated in the Aldercrest neighborhood in Kelso, Washington. This was the first indication that the city was facing a problem of monumental proportions. At about the same time, residents began to notice cracking in walls and sticking doors in their homes, then, in early April, ground separation of 2 to 6 feet vertically began the destruction of residences located on and below the reactivated head scarp of an ancient, massive slope failure. The landslide has continued to grow to its present size of about 3,000 feet wide by about 1,500 feet from toe to top of head scarp. At its maximum, the head scarp is now about 90 to 110 feet high. Slope movement is now evident upslope of the head scarp to the top of the ridge. As of this date, 60 homes have been completely destroyed and at least 60 more are experiencing some degree of damage. On October 16, 1998 President Clinton issued a disaster declaration for the area. Presently, the FEMA declaration area includes 138 homes that will ultimately be affected and will have to be evacuated. Total damages to public facilities in the neighborhood is estimated to be in excess

of 5 million dollars and total damages to private property is estimated to be in excess of 23 million dollars.

Ken Buss will give us an overview of the project and a report on it's current status. Ken will also lead our FIELD TRIP scheduled on Saturday, September 18. (See related article on Page 3 of this newsletter).

Reservations for lunch are important. Please call Connie Linden at (253) 383-2422 or Mark Leingang (360) 754-9339 by the close of business, Friday, September 10, 1999*. This will let us tell the cooks how many to expect. You can also make reservations by E-mailing Mark at MLeingang@MSN.com Members with reservations who do not attend will be billed.

*NOTE: If you aren't able to call in your reservation by the deadline and you find you will be able to attend, **please call anyway**. It's better to call late than to just show up because we can let the restaurant know and add another seat.

Directions:

I-5 Northbound: Take exit #128, left at light.

I-5 Southbound: Take Exit #129, stay in left lane, right at first light onto Tacoma Mall Blvd, right at 2nd light onto 72nd Street, drive over freeway, right on Hosmer.

Book Review

This book was recommended to me by my wife and best friend, Michelle:

The Red Lion The Elixir of Eternal Life - An Alchemical Novel

By Maria Szepes ISBN: 0-9652621-8-9

From Adyar Book News (Sydney, Australia):

I have severe doubts that I was ever an alchemist in a past life. Paracelsus and his cronies leave me utterly unmoved (except for coloring in the pretty pictures), and I know I'm meant to savor the spiritus mercurius like a '71 Shiraz, but I find all that sulphur and salt a bit hard to swallow. I've always preferred my Elixir of Life with a dash of sugar, just a sprig of prima materia and a large shot of Jung.

However, now I'm a convert. If you hate being interrupted whilst in transcendental suspense, don't read *The Red Lion* on the train unless you're going on a very long trip; you'll resent every time you have to get off! A young man murders his magister in order to get the Elixir of Immortality. Naturally, he gets his comeuppance when the astral forces he has released take over. We follow his spiritual evolution surrounded by a truly Dickensian array of sleazy and deranged characters until he becomes apprenticed to the Count Saint-Germaine on the eve of the French Revolution. Nor does it end there. Here's a crackling picaresque tale of karmic consequences, and a reincarnational journey with enough intrigue to curdle your Philosopher's Stone. And very subtly interspersed - with not a hint of didacticism - is the alchemy.

It is rare to come across elegant, "literary" occult novels. Who is Maria Szepes, and why has such a superb and intelligent novel, published in Hungary in 1946, taken so long to be translated?

President's Corner

JIM BRIGHAM

Well, September is here already and I hope you all had a nice summer. It seems like time is speeding up these days, except when I'm stuck in meetings.

Lunch Meeting

Our speaker this month is Ken Buss, PE, Principal, Redmond Office of GeoEngineers. Ken will be discussing the Aldercrest-Banyon landslide in Kelso, Washington. This monumental landslide includes 138 homes that will ultimately be affected and will have to be evacuated. Total damages to public facilities in the neighborhood is estimated to be in excess of 5 million dollars and total damages to private property is estimated to be in excess of 23 million dollars. This promises to be a great program, so don't miss it.

Note that this will be a LUNCH meeting. Connie Linden has reserved a conference room at Mitzels American Kitchen (in front of MEGA Foods on Hosmer up the street from Best Western). Not only is it convenient, we were also able to reduce the price of lunch to something reasonable. So come and check out our new meeting location.

Swan Song

This is September and my last column, so it's time for my swan song. I have enjoyed being your president this past year and appreciate all of your support and flexibility while we tried some new things. Kudos are in order for our newsletter editor, Nancy Searle both for putting up with me all year and for turning each newsletter from a sows ear (my submittals) into a silk purse (her edited versions). Thanks are also due to our Past President, Rebecca Vader, for shepherding me through this process; to our President-Elect, Kathy Hargrave for her unlimited support, effort, and enthusiasm; to our webmaster and incoming President-Elect, Richard Swanson, for his support, expertise, and quiet good humor. I also wish to thank our retiring treasurer of many years, Kristina Nelson for going one more year despite the pressures of increased responsibilities at work and at home; Jim Carlsen for attending those PNW and meetings and representing our section with integrity and evenness; our house chairs Connie Linden and Mark Liengang, who do all of the work and get little recognition; our secretary, Chris Beckman, and, last but not least, the entire Board of Directors - without you nothing would get accomplished.

Field Trip

Don't forget our FIELD TRIP on Saturday September 18 at 10 a.m. in Kelso—and, I'll see you at Mitzels on September 14.



Until then,

Feedback

Your feedback is always welcomed and can only make this newsletter and your President more useful. Please address questions, comments, statements, and opinions to JBrigham@GeoEngineers.com

Jim Brigham, President
Tacoma Olympia Section
JBrigham@GeoEngineers.com

FIELD TRIP FIELD TRIP FIELD TRIP!

The September 18th FIELD TRIP will be a tour of the Aldercrest-Banyon Landslide in Kelso lead by our September speaker, Ken Buss of GeoEngineers.

We will meet at the SAFEWAY Parking lot in Kelso at 10:00 A.M. and carpool from there. Total time of the Field Trip is estimated to be around 2 hours. **Field Trip will occur Rain or Shine.**

Directions: Travel south on I-5 to Exit 39 at Kelso; Turn left at the end of the exit ramp, and cross under the freeway to the east side. At the first light turn right and travel a block or so. The Safeway parking lot will be on the left side of the road.

Questions? Contact Jim Brigham (JBrigham@GeoEngineers.com)

ASCE launches Web site



The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has launched a web site featuring 27 of its journals, which will be accessible free of charge until January 2000.

Until 2000, when full access to the site becomes accessible only to paid subscribers, web browsers can search 1999 ASCE journals along with the 80,000 bibliographic records of the Civil Engineering Database (CEDB). The site allows desktop access to: technical information, a broad range of content across 27 engineering specialties, custom search capabilities and desktop article delivery. Visit: <http://www.pubs.asce.org/journals/jrns.html>

Positions Wanted/Positions Open

Resume Policy: Our section newsletter will provide free space for ASCE students and members to advertise their qualifications. The resume information needs to be received by the 20th of the month to make the next newsletter. If you still don't have a job, send it again the next month. The resume information is limited to: *Name, Engineering Degree/Year, Position Desired, Years of Related Experience, Membership Status, ASCE section, Address to obtain more information, and Daytime Phone.* Please send information to JBrigham@GeoEngineers.com

Position Open: Public Works Managers

Tacoma Public Works Department has two openings: Stormwater Section Supervisor and Solid Waste/Special Projects Supervisor. These are permanent, full time positions managing, supervising and directing engineers and other professional staff. Stormwater Supervisor manages the city's surface water program to address flooding/erosion and NPDES permit compliance. Solid Waste /Special Projects supervisor manages the engineering support work for the Solid Waste Utility and for the environmental cleanup activities for the Stormwater/Solid Waste Utilities. College degree and relevant experience required. \$60,819 to \$73,964 DOQ. Application deadline September 1, 1999. For detailed information contact Tacoma Utility Services Engineering Division (253)591-5588.

Final Report—Tacoma-Olympia Section 1998 Public Affairs Grant

The grant was requested and used to support the educational outreach program known as MESA, a program aimed at increasing exposure to, interest in, and proficiency in Math, Engineering, and Science. The local MESA program is active in the two most populous of the six counties comprising our section: Pierce and Thurston counties. MESA reaches primarily middle, junior, and senior high school students.

After much discussion with the leadership of MESA, our section decided to direct the \$1016 of our grant in support of the First Annual MESA Day, on June 1, 1999. MESA Day was an exciting event held to celebrate the achievements of the individuals and school clubs that had been meeting throughout the school year and to provide a competition environment for displaying the math, engineering, and science skills learned during that time.

According to Brenda Tisdale-Walker, Director, our grant was used to buy materials and supplies for the competitions, a need they did not know how they were going to meet. The 6-hour event was fun, challenging, and celebratory, with competition, lunch, awards ceremonies, scholarship announcements, and the award reception. Approximately 300 students were accompanied by teachers, club advisors, scholarship sponsors from the technical and scientific business community, and parents.

MESA staff acknowledged our desire to show how civil engineers, and ASCE in particular, supported this program and this event. They also thanked us for individual ASCE member volunteer actions over the year. MESA staff arranged for our name recognition and other media relations. The grant coordinators arranged for the internal section publicity of this activity, including a section meeting presentation and an article for our newsletter.

Tacoma-Olympia ASCE was pleased with the outcome and impact of this grant. One unexpected benefit was a tie-in to a MESA summer camp program started this year by our student section's faculty and staff at the St. Martin's College.

ASCE Annual Calendar

Section meetings: open meetings held once a month, September through June, generally meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. Locations alternate between Tacoma and Lacey and times vary between lunch and dinner meetings.

Local Board: open meetings, generally the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Locations vary. Please contact the President for the location if you would like to attend.

A preliminary schedule is shown below. Please check our web page or contact a house chair for firm information one week prior to each listed meeting. To have a monthly meeting announcement and newsletter mailed to your address, please join the Tacoma-Olympia Section (in addition to the national organization).

Seattle Section information for the 2000 Convention is included. September 14 – Lunch meeting at Mitzel's – Kelso Landslide

September 18 – Field Trip with Ken Buss, GeoEngineers, Kelso Landslide

October 12 – Seahawks Stadium

The University of Washington TRANSPEED program offers transportation engineering and planning short courses for professionals in public agencies and the private sector.

TRANSPEED courses are designed for transportation professionals at the federal, state, local agency, and private sector levels. The program is administered by the University of Washington College of Engineering and is developed under agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation.

The following two and three day courses are scheduled for the period of September 1999-January 2000:

Legal Liability – Lacey, September 14-15

Basic Highway Capacity Analysis, Lacey, September 21-23

Managing Project Delivery, Seattle September, 28-30

Fundamentals of Traffic Engineering, Lacey, October 5-7

Design and Application of Roadway Safety Features, Seattle, October 6-8

Roadway Value Engineering, Seattle, October 12-14

Traffic Engineering Operations, Lacey, October 19-21

Hydrology and Basic Hydraulics, Vancouver, WA, November 3-4

Advanced Highway Capacity Analysis, Seattle, November 3-5

Traffic Calming: Techniques and Management (New Format) Vancouver, WA, November 8-10

Roadway Culvert Hydraulic Design, Vancouver, WA, November 16-17

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Seattle, December 1-3

Stormwater Engineering, Vancouver, WA, December 8-10

Design and Application of Roadway Safety Features, Vancouver, WA, December 13-15

Public Works Construction Project Management, Seattle, January 10-11, 2000

Construction Inspection of Public VISIT OUR WEB SITE: <http://www.engr.washington.edu/~uw-ep>

For program information or registration, please contact Julie Smith or Christy Roop, University of Washington, Engineering Professional Programs, 10303 Meridian Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98133, (206) 543-5539; fax (206) 543-2352. For information on the content of specific courses, contact Jim McManus, University of Washington, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, 101B More Hall, Seattle, WA 98195 (206) 543-3747; fax (206) 543-1543.

PELP Programs

For additional information about these or other PELP courses, or to have your name added to the course announcement bulletin mailing list, contact Ron Bucknam, PELP Program Director. PELP Program Director, at 206/543-1178; fax: 206/685-3836; or E-mail: rbucknam@u.washington.edu.

Use of Constructed Wetlands for Improving Stormwater Quality
September 8 and 9, 1999: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. \$345 (early registration)/\$375

Basics of Project Management for Design Professionals
September 14, 16 and 21, 1999 (three sessions): 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
\$175 (early registration)/\$195