



American Society of Civil Engineers

Our web site: <http://sections.asce.org/columbia/index.html>

# Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

## Newsletter

March, 2005

### Columbia Section Board

Aaron Meilleur, **President**  
(509)-546-2045 (B)  
[aaron.meilleur@hdrinc.com](mailto:aaron.meilleur@hdrinc.com)

Darral Moore, **Vice President and President Elect**  
Phone: (509) 783-2144  
[dsm@jub.com](mailto:dsm@jub.com)

Paul Harmsen, **Secretary/Treasurer**  
(509)-374-4248 (B)  
[pharmsen@mackaysposito.com](mailto:pharmsen@mackaysposito.com)

Bernard (Ben) W. Volk, **Past-President**  
(509)-783-2144 (B)  
[bvolk@jub.com](mailto:bvolk@jub.com)

Theodore W. Pooler,  
**Yakima Branch President**  
(509)-966-7000(B)  
[tpooler@hlacivil.com](mailto:tpooler@hlacivil.com)

Bernard (Ben) W. Volk, **Director-TriCities**  
(509)-783-2144 (B)  
[bvolk@jub.com](mailto:bvolk@jub.com)

**Walla Walla Director - Open**

Dave Krumbein, **Pendleton/LaGrande Director**  
(541)-278-5748  
[DKRUMBEIN@Bluecc.edu](mailto:DKRUMBEIN@Bluecc.edu)

**Yakima Director - Open**

Indrajit (Indra) Ghosh, **Structural Group Chairman**  
(509)-371-9507 (H)  
[lgghosh2000@msn.com](mailto:lgghosh2000@msn.com)

Delbert (Del) L. Ballard, **Historian**  
(509)-946-6401 (H)  
[delballard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:delballard@sbcglobal.net)

Donald P. Kurkjian, **PNC Director**  
(509)-371-2218 (B)  
[Dkurkjian@yahoo.com](mailto:Dkurkjian@yahoo.com)

Julie Nelson, **Newsletter Editor**  
(509)-546-2044(B)  
[julie.nelson@hdrinc.com](mailto:julie.nelson@hdrinc.com)

Donald P. Kurkjian, **Webmaster**  
(509)-371-2218 (B)  
[Dkurkjian@yahoo.com](mailto:Dkurkjian@yahoo.com)

### Columbia Section March 23, 2005 Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday March 23, 2005 at 11:30 am – 1:00 PM

**Place:** Shilo Inn, George Washington Way, Richland

**Meal:** Buffet (Chef's choice) \$15 per person.  
Please pay cash or check to treasurer at the meeting.

**Topic:** Kennewick Irrigation District McNary Pool updated water rights

**Speakers:** Dr. Bill Kinsel,

Dr. Bill Kinsel will be giving a presentation on the Kennewick Irrigation District McNary Pool updated water rights. A brief overview of the application process and what hurdles remain to obtain water. Also, what are the impacts to the water rights and a low snow pack?

Lunch will start at 11:30, and the presentations will start at Noon.

RSVP to: Aaron Meilleur, [aaron.meilleur@hdrinc.com](mailto:aaron.meilleur@hdrinc.com) or (509) 546-2045 by Mar 22, 2004.

### President's Remarks:

Dear Members:

Thank you to all who attended the annual Engineer's Banquet. I believe that everyone who attended was enlightened on the new science surrounding nanotechnology with a fascinating presentation by Mr. Paul Barrows. I would like to congratulate ASME for putting on a wonderful event. This month I would also encourage you to make it to our monthly luncheon where Dr. Kinsel will be speaking on the Kennewick Irrigation District McNary Pool updated water rights. Dr. Kinsel is a long time supporter of the Columbia Section of ASCE and always provides a great perspective on local engineering topics.

Later this week on March 9th, ASCE will release its 2005 Infrastructure Report Card, viewed on the national web-site and released to news organizations. This always receives a large amount of press about the state of the nations crumbling infrastructure. Many of the recommendations put forth in past report cards and updates have not been acted upon, and the conditions have not magically gotten better. Please do your part as a professional to take an active role in local organizations and provide leadership to the region to assist in these issues. If you are interested in getting more involved with these topics, ASCE provides a number of opportunities for its members to participate.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Meilleur, P.E.

Columbia Section, President

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### ASCE Seminars and Courses

ASCE has been committed to providing top quality continuing education for civil engineers and related professionals for more than 31 years. The Society holds more than 275 seminars and computer workshops every year on a wide variety of technical, management, and regulatory topics. These seminars are held in more than 45 cities across the U.S. In addition, ASCE offers customized on-site training and many distance learning programs, including live interpretive web/teleconference seminars, online courses, and courses on CD, videotape, and audiotape. For seminar and course information, visit <http://www.asce.org/conted/>

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### How long does it take to double \$1?

How long will it take to double \$1 at 10% nominal interest, compounded continuously?

$$F = Pe^{rn}$$

$$2 = 1e^{(0.10)n}$$

$$e^{0.10n} = 2$$

$$\text{or, } 0.10n = \ln 2 = 0.693$$

$$n = 6.93 \text{ years}$$

Where as:

- F = A future sum of money.
  - P = A present sum of money.
  - r = Nominal interest rate per interest period.
  - N = Number of interest periods.
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### “The Engineer of the Twentieth Century”

In May 1902 the fifty-year-old American Society of Civil Engineers held its annual convention in Washington, D.C. Robert Moore, the newly elected president, gave a welcoming address entitled, “The Engineer of the Twentieth Century.” He began by eulogizing the engineers of the past for making human life “not only longer, but richer and better worth living.” Then he acclaimed the achievements of his contemporaries and fellow members. Finally he warmed to his chosen topic, the engineer of the coming era:

And in the future, even more than in the present, will the secrets of power be in his keeping, and more and more will he be a leader and benefactor of men. That his place in the esteem of his fellows and of the world will keep pace with his growing capacity and widening achievement is as certain as that effect will follow cause.

What a flush of pleasure they must have felt, those engineers of 1902, to hear themselves described as benefactors of mankind. What a quickening of the pulse there must have been as they listened to their leader predict success and glory for them in the years ahead. Doubtless they sat quietly, looking solemn in their starched collars and frock coats, the way we see them in faded photographs. But beneath those sedate facades they could not have helped but feel the stirrings of a fierce joy.

To be and engineer in 1902, or at any time between 1850 and 1950, was to be a participant in a great adventure, a leader in a great crusade. Technology, as everyone could see, was making miraculous advances, and, as a natural consequence, the prospects for mankind were becoming increasingly bright.

Samuel C. Florman, *The Existential Pleasures of Engineering* (p. 3)

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