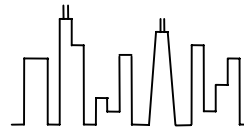


CHICAGO SECTION NEWSLETTER

January 2003 – Website Edition



Newsletter of the Chicago Section of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc. - Founded Spring 1987 – www.chicagosme.org

MEETING: Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Topic: “Environmental Impacts from Aggregates Quarrying in Karst”

Guest Speaker: Mr. William Langer, SME Henry Krumb Lecturer

Time: 5:30 PM Social Hour
6:30 PM Dinner
7:30 PM Speaker

Place: **Golden Duck Restaurant & Bar Bohemian-American Home Cooking**
500 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL. Telephone 630-968-8887

Directions:

From I-294: Exit at I-88 Westbound, Pay 40 cent Toll, Exit at Route 83 South, Route 83 South to Ogden Avenue, Ogden Avenue West to Just Past Fairview Avenue on Right (North Side)

From I-290 Westbound: Exit at Route 83 South, Route 83 South to Ogden Avenue, Ogden Avenue West Just Past Fairview Avenue on Right (North Side)

From I-88 Eastbound: Exit at Highland Avenue, Left to Southbound on Highland Avenue to Ogden Avenue, Left to East on Ogden Avenue, East to Restaurant on Left (North Side) Just Past Dunkin Donuts

From I-355: Exit to I-88 Eastbound, Exit at Highland Avenue, Left to Southbound on Highland Avenue to Ogden Avenue, Left to East on Ogden Avenue, East Restaurant on Left (North Side) Just Past Dunkin Donuts

Menu: BBQ ribs, chicken and cream sausage soup, dumplings, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, cabbage, vegetable, coffee, and desert. Family style

Cost: \$25 for dinner/meeting for Members, \$30 for Non-Members. Any Science teachers or professors are considered a guest of the Section and will get dinner free. Student’s dinners will only be \$5.

Call: Sarah Schlichtholz of Continental Placer, Inc. at 630-469-6340x109
or E-mail at sschlic@continentalplacer.com anytime up to morning of meeting.

From the Chairman:

Once again, it is my pleasure as Chair to our local section of SME to welcome in another year and wish each of you a Happy 2003. If you are anything like me, you had an entertaining but somewhat hectic holiday season. After some time off, it’s good to be back at work...recovering. The calendar year 2002 was good for the Section. We had a great set of regular meetings with excellent speakers, relatively good attendance, and a well-attended joint meeting with AEG. One of the high points of the year, as a whole was that we drew in many new faces. Attendance numbers remained relatively the same, but with the exception of a few core individuals the group was barely recognizable from meeting to meeting. This tells me that our programs and speakers interested and drew from a much larger range of individuals than in (recent) years past. I guess a good goal for this year would be to get this widely varied group to attend more often, thereby increasing attendance and providing more opportunities for fellowship! I especially want to extend special thanks to the “core individuals” mentioned above, who obviously recognize the benefits of regular attendance. However, I still extend a hand of friendship to all of you part-timers, looking forward to seeing you more often.

A good place to start is our upcoming meeting. For this, we are pleased to present Mr. William Langer of the USGS, whom is the Henry Krumb Lecturer from National SME. He will be discussing quarrying in karst terrain – areas where portions of limestone and dolomite formations have dissolved and developed irregular surface topography, sinkholes, caves, heavily weathered joints and fractures, clay pockets, and underground groundwater-drainage networks. Most people (with the exception of affected quarrymen) don’t realize that northern Illinois has some relatively significant modern and paleo-karst terranes, which significantly impacts some of our aggregate quarry operations. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about these problematic areas and how to successfully deal with them. I hope to see you there

.-Gordie

From the Program Chairman **This Meeting**

There is a concern for the effects that aggregate mining has upon karst environments. About three fourths of carbonate rock production in the United States is consumed by the construction industry. Limestone and dolomite also have numerous agricultural and industrial uses. Extracting carbonate rocks for use as aggregate can be accomplished without significant impacts to the environment, if done carefully and within limits set by nature. However, aggregate extraction can cause environmental damage if proper precautions are not taken. Impacts include destruction of cave passages, disruption of surface and underground drainage, ground-water pollution, sinkhole collapse, and loss of natural habitat.

The Speaker

Bill Langer has been a research geologist with the **United States Geological Survey** since 1971, and has been the USGS Resource Geologist for Aggregates since 1976. Bill is a member of the **International Association of Engineering Geologists** Commission No. 17 on Aggregates, the **ASTM** Committees for Concrete Aggregates (C-09) and Road and Paving Materials (D-04), and serves on a number of committees for the **Industrial Minerals Division of SME**. Bill has conducted geologic mapping, and conducted field studies of aggregate resources in the US in the glaciated northeast and mid-continent, the Atlantic Coastal Plain, the Appalachian Piedmont, the Great Basin, and the Rocky Mountain Front Range. Bill has published over 50 reports and maps relating to crushed stone and gravel resources, and has lectured about aggregate resources in the US, Canada, and Europe. He writes monthly columns about geology and aggregate resources for *Aggregates Manager* and *Quarry Australia*.

Last Meeting

We were pleased to hear from **Mike Dunn** of **Conco Western Stone Company** at our last meeting....maybe I'm getting ahead of myself...let's begin a little earlier that night.

Well, it was one of those nights. The snow was just beginning to fall and the roads were horrendous. I was worrying about attendance...would this affect the meeting? To add to my worries, AEG had speaker problems with their meeting a week earlier

and asked if their interested members could attend with us this month, potentially swelling our ranks to over thirty. No problem there...the meeting room was huge! Nevertheless, my mind was swirling like the new fallen snow as I walked in the Golden Duck, arms full of SME debris, melting snow dripping off my nose. The hostess immediately informed me that "the Hungarian Engineers were using the big room tonight and SME would be using the small room in the back"...Oh great! OK, no matter, we can overcome this... I was thinking about the spring meeting when our previous meeting restaurant had bellied up but they didn't contact us and we showed up with no place to go... She promptly led me to the back, a cozy, little room. It looked o.k. for 15 maybe 20, not much for a presentation though. Hey, but what the heck, we'll make due. At least I had the overhead projector... special request, I was told...no PowerPoint, no slide projector...just a vintage talk the old manly way. After everything's set up and ready to go, in walks **Mike Dunn**. Glancing at the overhead projector he wryly quips, "where's the projector?" Gulp...Oh, nice joke Mike, I'm thinking. "You almost got me on that one, ha ha". Again, (with a little more concern...not fear... in his eyes) "No, where is the projector?" Mike lays down a pack of slides, eyes a little more concerned. I think, Boy, he's good, No, too good...Gulp! No way...WAY!

The scramble begins, where do we find a projector on a night like this. The Section owns one...let's see **Kip Smith** of **Mactec** has it, he'll be here in a few. Several phone calls later reveals Kip is in Detroit, snowed in. The projector is maybe at work, or is it in his garage? **John Head** also of **Mactec**, heads back to the office to find it. **Frank Kendorski** of **Agapito** is sick with the flu. **Mike Melton** of **Material Service** heads to his office. No **Raj Rajaram** of **Black & Veatch**. **John Magyar** of **International Mining Services** is one hour away from his office. No **Sarah Schlichholz** of **Continental Placer**. **Annie Leslie** of **Raimonde Drilling's** fingers are flying, her cell phone's smoking. Well, to make a long story short, NO PROJECTOR. *And I was worried about space.*

As the story goes...We were pleased to HEAR from **Mike Dunn** of **Conco Western Stone Company** during our last meeting. Mike SPOKE to us about recent and innovative changes at Conco's

underground mine in North Aurora. Talk about a manly presentation, he pulled it off without any crutches, no PowerPoint, no slides, no overhead projector (no microphone). Man to man, so to speak, he stepped up to the mike and grabbed the bull by the horns and...you get the point. Great presentation! Another innovative approach by "Da Man".

The introduction included great people, who upon observing ordinary everyday things, came to develop new engineered marvels. Tied into the idea that...Mike told us about baby strollers and sound shield for his scalers, theater projection lighting and blast hole patterns, wells...drilled from the bottom up, suspended conveyors, roof movement monitors, and ventilation shafts. The clincher of the evening was the story about the 85 to 90 year old guy who was complaining at a public hearing about Conco's request to do another 15 years beyond the 20 already approved...quite an optimist! Thanks, Mike. Great job. Sorry about the projector, maybe next time...as always, the optimist!

Gordie Stevens

Next Meeting

We have lined up most meetings for the Season. For **February**, our meeting will be on **March 4**, due to scheduling problems, but it will be an excellent one with **Kelvin Wu** of **MSHA Tech Support** from Pittsburgh on the **Quecreek Mine Flood and Rescue** in Pennsylvania this past summer. **Kelvin** was the senior-most MSHA Technical Support guy there, and was on site 24-hours-a-day, around the clock, until the rescue, and took part in or made made crucial many decisions to pull off this miraculous feat. **Farouk Oksuz** of **Black & Veatch** will be our speaker on **March 25** on the grouting and sealing of the MWRDGC McCook Reservoir, **John Weibmar** of **Caterpillar** on new technologies in mobile equipment on **April 22**, and **Satya Harpalani** of **SIU** on **May 27** on new development in coal mining downstate. Please note that dates often change due to last-minute changes in speaker's schedules.

Raj Rajaram

GEM News

Happy New Year to All! As 2002 came to a close, I discovered we are beginning to run low on mineral samples for schools and the teachers' workshop. If anyone has 35 samples of any rock or mineral, please let me know. The workshop scheduled for

this summer is fast approaching and it never hurts to be prepared. Earth Day planning is underway, if anyone would like to volunteer at the annual event please contact me at rdcdrill@rdc-drill.com. Do not hesitate to bring corporate trinkets in quantities of 35 to our next meeting for the **Science Teacher's Workshop 2003**. Wish you all the best in 2003! **Annie Leslie**

Pincomb In New Digs

Art Pincomb of **Associated Geologists, Inc.** has moved to new quarters at [new address](#) for **Associated Geologists, Inc.**, is 700 S. Randall Rd., Suite 3, St. Charles, IL 60174. Same phone and fax.

Mining Engineer Looking for Employment

McMillan Nzombola, 5555 SW 9th Street, Apt 18, Des Moines, Iowa, 50315, (515) 256-2007. Looking for entry level position in mining industry. South Dakota School of Mines, BS Mining Engineering, May, 2002. Currently working for **Terracon** in Des Moines, IA. Also worked with **South Dakota Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources**.

Rajaram Hits the Lecture Circuit in India

Raj Rajaram of **Black & Veatch** presented a paper entitled "Geotechnical Engineering in Waste Management Practice" at the **Indian Geotechnical Conference** in Allahabad, India. He took this occasion to help the **Illinois Institute of Technology** launch an Internet program on Environmental Management in four major cities in India. This Certificate program will be given to representatives from industry in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai (former Madras), and Mumbai (former Bombay). A two-day conference in Delhi on Environmental Management was conducted by Raj to publicize the IIT Chicago program. He also met officials from Indian companies to sell B&V services. By the way, the dates of the conference in Allahabad were December 20-22, and the conference in Delhi was December 16-17.

Four Reach SME 25-Year Membership Mark

We have four members whom will receive their **25-Year SME** membership certificates in January 2003: **Robert A. Bauer, Charles H. Dowding, Reynaldo**

G. Ong, and Gary R. Williams. Congratulations. My, how time flies.

U.S. Mine Deaths Fall to Lowest Level

By **ROGER ALFORD**

c The Associated Press

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (AP) - The number of miners killed on the job in the United States in 2002 fell to the lowest level on record: 67. The **U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration** reported that 27 of the deaths happened in coal mines, down from 42 in 2001, and 40 were in copper, gold, stone and other types of mines, up from 30 in 2001. The 67 deaths are the lowest number since the federal government began keeping records in 1910. The previous low was last year's 72 deaths. "Clearly, it's a trend that we wanted to see," said **Bruce Watzman**, vice president for safety and health with the **National Mining Association**. "It's a trend we hope and pray for on a daily basis." Nine people died in Kentucky's coalfields in 2002. West Virginia was second in coal mine fatalities with six. Virginia had five and Pennsylvania three. Nationally, more than 100 coal miners died in mine accidents each year through the 1970s, but the numbers have declined since then. **Bill Caylor**, president of the **Kentucky Coal Association**, said the decrease in deaths in 2002 came despite an increase in mining activity. "It's a combination of better training, better equipment, more conscientious oversight by regulatory agencies and more emphasis on safety by companies," he said. "Our goal is to have zero fatalities, and we're slowly heading toward that goal. The mining industry won't be happy until we reach that goal."

Miners Missing after Chinese Mine Blast

BBC: Saturday, 11 January, 2003, 16:15 GMT

China's work safety record is the worst in the world. An explosion in a Chinese coal mine has left at least 30 miners missing only a day after a blast in another mine killed 8 workers, local officials have said.

Two people are said to have survived the explosion, which occurred on Saturday morning at the Boaxing Coal Mine near Harbin, capital of the northern Heilongjiang province, about 600 miles northeast of Beijing, China's official news agency Xinhua said.

Rescue workers are currently searching for those missing, however one official said

that the likelihood of finding the miners alive was unclear. "It's difficult to say whether the... missing miners can be saved," he said. "The explosion destroyed the shaft, so rescuers have not reached the accident site." An investigation has been launched into the cause of the blast.

On Friday another explosion, this time at a coal mine in the neighbouring province of Jilin in the Songshu in mine the city of Baishan about 500 miles northeast of Beijing, killed eight miners as they were buried under tons of rock. An employee told the Associated Press news agency that the blast was caused by natural gas, however officially an investigation is said to be ongoing. *China's mining industry has the world's worst record for work safety, with Beijing's work safety bureau reporting that at least 4,500 fatalities occurred in coal mines last year, although unofficial estimates put the figure as high as 10,000.* Many such incidents occurred in privately owned mines which lack operating licenses and adequate safety equipment. Thousands of such mines have remained open despite a long-running campaign to shut down those that are unlicensed. China relies heavily on the coal industry for its energy needs.

Dumbest Lawyer Questions Ever

Q: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

Q: Were you present when your picture was taken?

Q: How was your first marriage terminated? A: By death.

Q: And by whose death was it terminated?

Implementation Of the Safe Explosives Act

Applying Stricter Controls on The Purchase of Explosives

Washington, DC - The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) announces that on November 25, 2002, President Bush signed new legislation that restricts the availability of explosives to felons and other persons prohibited from possessing explosives, strengthens licensing and permitting requirements, and aids in the fight against terrorism. This legislation, the Safe Explosives Act, amends Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970.

Previously, a Federal permit to purchase explosive materials was necessary if a person wished to transport, ship, or receive

explosives in interstate commerce. A permit, however, was not necessary if a person acquired and used explosives within his or her State of residence. The new legislation now requires that any person who wishes to transport, ship, cause to be transported, or receive explosive materials in either interstate or intrastate commerce must first obtain a Federal permit issued by ATF. This requirement takes effect May 24, 2003.

The new legislation creates a new category of permit -- a "limited permit" -- designed for the intrastate purchaser who buys explosives infrequently and does not intend to transport or use the explosives interstate. This permit will allow the purchaser to receive explosive materials from an in-State explosives licensee or permittee on no more than six (6) occasions during the period of the permit. The permit will allow ATF to better monitor explosives commerce in an effort to enhance homeland security, but is designed to not be overly burdensome to legitimate purchasers. The limited permit is valid for one year and is renewable. ATF intends to set the application fee for the limited permit at \$25.

The new legislation requires that all applicants for explosives licenses and permits submit photographs and fingerprints so that ATF can perform thorough background checks. The legislation also requires that all applicants submit the names and identifying information of all employees who will possess explosive materials. In this way, ATF can conduct a thorough background check to ensure that these individuals are not prohibited from receiving or possessing explosives. Under previous law, no background checks were conducted for the employees of businesses that used explosives. The business owners or managers were required to be on record with ATF; employees such as warehousemen and drivers were not. The new legislation enables ATF to systematically identify and conduct background checks on such employees to reduce the risk that prohibited persons will gain access to explosives.

The new legislation also expands the categories of prohibited persons to include: (1) aliens (with limited exceptions); (2) persons dishonorably discharged from the military; and (3) citizens of the United States who have renounced their

citizenship. The new prohibitions on possession of explosive materials are effective January 24, 2003.

Finally, the new legislation will require manufacturers and importers of explosive materials, including ammonium nitrate, to furnish samples of these materials to ATF, as well as information on their chemical composition or other information ATF may request. This will assist ATF in the identification of explosives found at crime scenes. This provision will be effective January 24, 2003.

TOP 15 REASONS TO ATTEND SME's 2003 ANNUAL MEETING!

#15 More than 75 educational sessions for one low price!

#14 Discounted hotel rates for all attendees who reserve rooms before January 31!

#13 All technical sessions under one roof - no cabs needed!

#12 Cincinnati is reasonably priced with easy access from most major cities!

#11 Cincinnati is the best location to attract customers from the construction materials and aggregates industry

#10 Free Internet access in the Exhibition Hall available to e-mail your home or office!

#9 Interactive discussions on operating practices!

#8 Professional education to help you save time and increase your productivity!

#7 You'll have the perpetual advantage of networking at a meeting of your colleagues, clients and friends.

#6 More than 250 companies showcasing products and services you can use to increase company profits, save you and your company time and money, and find out about the newest technology in the industry.

#5 More than 3800 industry professionals, executives, managers, consultants and providers with whom to exchange information and ideas!

#4 Timely specialty programs include: Advances in Gravity Concentration; Functional Fillers and Nanoscale Minerals, Construction Materials: Stone Sand and Gravel for Americas Infrastructure; Contributions From Museums; Communicating our Business and more!

#3 Two hosted receptions and one hosted luncheon in the exhibition hall means

lower food & beverage expenses to you or your organization!

#2 The Keynote Session featuring Brett Harvey, Charles Potts, Andrew Sharkey, and Tim Snider on "The Infrastructure Elements of the Modern Economy"

#1 Develop the skills and contacts to make you more valuable to your organization!

2003 SME Annual Meeting & Exhibit February 24-26, 2003 - Cincinnati, Ohio

Discounted advance registration rates available until February 7, 2003

Register now at

<http://www.smenet.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting/index.cfm>

Treasurer's Report

Checking & CD December 1, 2001

\$4,946.93

Income

Section Dues \$ 380.00

Rebates \$ 320.00

Meetings \$3,750.00

Interest (CD) \$ 17.68

Total Income to

November 30, 2002

\$4,467.68

Expenses

Meetings \$2,840.30

Scholarships \$ 50.00

Operating Expenses (Stamps, Gifts, Website) \$1,077.42

GEM Activities \$ 300.00

Total Expenses to November 30, 2002 \$4,267.72

Net Gain(Loss) November 30, 2002 to November 30, 2002 \$ 199.96

Balance Checking & CD November 30, 2002 \$5,146.89

SME Chicago Section Treasurer

Art Pincomb