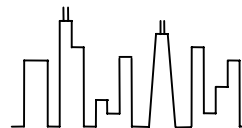


CHICAGO SECTION NEWSLETTER

October 2002 – Website Edition



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

MEETING: Tuesday, October 22, 2002

Topic: “Maintenance and Operating Practices at Surface Mines and Shop Facilities of Coal India Limited”

Guest Speakers: Bill Huber, Vice President,
Weir International Mining Consultants, Downers Grove, IL

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: Soup, smoked butt, chicken paprika, Svickova, dumplings, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, cabbage, vegetable of the day, coffee and homemade desert selection.

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

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

From the Chairman:

Well, thanks to you (and John Head – our speaker) we got off to a great start during our first meeting of the year. We had excellent attendance and the food was plentiful. There were lots of new faces and many familiar ones. I know we crammed a couple of meetings fairly close together this month, but it will be well worth it if you attend the next one on the 22nd. We have a very interesting schedule of speakers planned this year. For any of you who may be undecided about attending our meetings, I hope there will be something on the schedule that catches your interest. For the rest of you, let’s keep up the great attendance numbers because we all benefit when you attend. Thanks

Gordie

From the Program Chairman

This Meeting

In July and August **Weir International Mining Consultants** were contracted by Coal India Limited to conduct an assessment of the maintenance and operating practices of 24 surface mines and 12 shop facilities utilizing mobile equipment purchased with funds supplied through loans from the World Bank. The presentation will discuss the maintenance and operating practices observed during the 6-week assignment.

The Speaker

Bill Huber is a Vice President with Weir International Mining Consultants. He has over 30 years of experience as an engineer, supervisor and operations manager for surface and underground mining operations. During his tenure at WIMC, he has been involved with coal, limestone, industrial minerals and potash projects in the US and overseas, as well as conduct supervisor training seminars for the National Stone Sand and Gravel Association.

Last Meeting

The last meeting was well attended, about 27. John Head presented the history of Health and Safety legislation, and how the DPM rule has had several twists and turns. The industry had to force itself into the rule making process, since the Association of Governmental Industrial Hygienists started setting limits which were not economically feasible. After rounds of litigation, the industry finally got its input into the process. The DPM rule will be in place in 2003. We had a young attorney from Sidley Austin & Brown at the meeting.

Next Meeting

We have lined up most meetings for the Season. Tentatively schedule are **Mike Dunn** of **Conco-Western Stone** for November 26 on their advances in underground stone mining, for January 26 it's Henry Krumb Lecturer from SME National **William "Bill" Langer** of the **USGS** on aggregates, for February 25 **Kelvin Wu** of **MSHA Tech Support** on the Quecreek Mine Flood and Rescue, **Farouk Oksuz** of **Black & Veatch** 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 Fall!!! This is the time of the school year when teachers would love to have speakers on rocks and minerals for the classroom. If anyone is planning to speak and would like to have some hand-outs, please contact me(rdcdriill@rdcdriill.com). Also, we want to hear the success stories of educating the public about mining. Looking forward to November 7-8, 2002, the Illinois Science Teacher's Convention, at Pheasant Run. This event allows us to introduce our resources to over 1500 Science Teachers. See you at the meeting!

Annie Leslie

Weir International Mining Consultants New Offices

Weir International Mining Consultants will move on October 1, 2002, to Executive Towers West I, 1431 Opus Place, Suite 210, Downers Grove, IL, 60515, Telephone 630-968-5400, fax 630-968-5401, web site www.weirimc.com

Send Us Your E-mail Addresses

We are trying to get away from paper mailings, please send your e-mail address to frankatagapito@aol.com to get the electronic newsletter.

Kendorski Invited to Testify Before Pennsylvania Mine Void and Mine Safety Commission

On October 9, **Frank Kendorski** of **Agapito Associates, Inc.**, was invited to testify before **Pennsylvania Governor Mark Schweiker's Special Commission on Mine Voids and Mine Safety** in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Frank was asked to address the Commission on the issues of Rock Mechanics and Barrier Pillar Characterization as they relate to mining water hazards form undetected mine voids.

At the Commission's Chairman's (Raj Ramani, Professor Emeritus of Mining Engineering, Penn State) request, Frank also addressed methods of planning mines for accepting water inundations based upon his 1979 USBM-published guidance on mining with water hazards.

The following is the text of the News Release from the Pennsylvania Governor's Office:

On September 4, 2002, as a direct result of the Quecreek Mine inundation, Governor Schweiker established the Commission on Abandoned Mine Voids and Mine Safety. The Commission held public hearings on Oct. 3 (Johnstown, PA) and Oct. 9 (Pottsville, PA). Experts have been identified as having expertise that may assist the Commission in its mission to investigate and document hazards posed by underground mine voids. The functions related to that mission include evaluating; best engineering practices used in the design of mines adjacent to abandoned mine workings, regulatory policies and permit review procedures for permitting mines adjacent to abandoned mine workings, practices and procedures of mine operations in advance of mining to detect mine voids, training of mine workers who operate mines adjacent to underground mine workings, inspection and compliance of mine operations with approved mine plans and operating requirements, and rescue and response procedures.

Kokal Keen on Kremlin Kenning

Does anyone have or know of a correlation between the **Protodyakonov Hardness Index or Number** (or what the measurement method is) often used in the former Soviet Union and common western measures (Bond Work Index, Compressive Strength, Moh's Hardness, etc.). Please contact **Harold Kokal** at Harold.Kokal@ispat.com.

Boncosky Oil Company purchases Speck Oil of Crystal Lake

Stephen Tivy of **Boncosky Oil Company** forwarded the following: **Boncosky Oil Co.** acquired **Speck Oil Co.** of Crystal Lake on June 6, 2002, increasing its commercial and industrial fuel distribution services by 30% and its workforce by 4 employees. The purchase price has not been disclosed.

Boncosky is the authorized Exxon and Mobil brand lubricants distributor for metropolitan Chicago in Automotive, Commercial and Industrial lines of business. It offers sales and service for conventional, synthetic and biodegradable oils and additional products for commercial and industrial use. Boncosky also provides fuel for commercial and retail markets.

"There's a log of synergy in [the acquisition], because Speck Oil's customer base fits within ours" said **Kevin McCarter**, president of Boncosky Oil Company. "Philosophically it's a fit, because they run their business in a similar fashion: customer oriented".

The acquisition will assist Boncosky with its traditional tank-wagon fueling business as well as its "wet-hosing" operations. The traditional, or "keep full" service delivers diesel fuel to above-ground tanks located at job sites and businesses on a frequent basis, so that machine operators do not have to worry about running out of fuel. Wet-hosing is an on-site, fuel replenishment service for individual pieces of equipment. Excavating, earth-work, mining and delivery services profit from such personalized service.

Jim Amherdt owned Speck Oil with his wife, Gladys. The company was founded by John Speck in the late 1940's and after 10 years as general manager, Amherdt purchased the business in 1986. Since then, Speck Oil was successful in distributing fuel and lubricants for a variety of industrial and commercial customers.

Amherdt thought about selling the company for a couple of years, but because business was good, he decided that now was the time. "I was looking forward to early retirement and moving on with life" he said.

Boncosky also will be keeping its eyes open. "We're always in the acquisition mode, given the right opportunities" McCarter said. "Primarily in this business, we will grow by acquisition."

MACTEC New Name Emphasized

The name "**Harding Lawson ESE**" has been replaced by **MACTEC Engineers and Consultants, Inc.** MACTEC personnel **John Head** and **Kip Smith** remain very active their company's projects. John Head is involved in

consulting in OSHA matters in manufacturing facilities and in landfill reclamation issues. Kip Smith is working on projects in emissions control for several manufacturing and industrial minerals operations, as well as being involved in construction supervision.

Alabama/Mississippi Cooperative Professional Engineering Exam

1. Calculate the smallest limb diameter on a persimmon tree that will support a 10 pound possum.

2. Which of the following cars will rust out the quickest when placed on blocks in your front yard?

- 1966 Ford Fairlane
- 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle
- 1964 Pontiac

3. If your uncle builds a still that operates at a capacity of 20 gallons of shine per hour, how many car radiators are necessary to condense the product?

4. A pulpwood cutter has a chain saw that operates at 2,700 rpm. The density of the pine trees in a plot to be harvested is 470 per acre. The plot is 2.3 acres in size. The average tree diameter is 14 inches. How many Budweiser's will it take to cut the trees?

5. If every old refrigerator in the state vented a charge of R-12 simultaneously, what would be the decrease in the ozone layer?

6. A porch is constructed of 2x8 pine on 24-in. centers with a field rock foundation. The span is 8 feet and the porch length is 16 feet. The porch floor is 1 inch rough sawn pine. When the porch collapses, how many hound dogs will be killed?

7. A man owns a house north of Biloxi and 3.7 acres of land in a hollow with an average slope of 15%. The man has 5 children. Can each of the children place a mobile home on the man's land?

8. A 2-ton coal truck is overloaded and proceeding 900 yards down a steep grade on a secondary road at 45 mph. The brakes fail. Given the average traffic loading of secondary roads, what are the chances that it will strike a vehicle that has a muffler?

9. A coal mine operates a NFPA Class 1, Division 2 Hazardous Area. The Mine employs 120 miners per shift. A gas warning is issued at the beginning of 3rd shift. How many packs of unfiltered Camel cigarettes will be smoked during the shift?

10. At a reduction in gene pool variability rate of 7.5% per generation, how long will

it take a town that has been bypassed by the interstate to breed a country western singer.

Vulcan Quarries Recognized for Outstanding Environmental Efforts

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--(BUSINESS WIRE) **Vulcan Materials Company** (NYSE:VMC) announced today that its River Rock Plant in Fresno, California, received the Gold Award for Excellence in the **National Stone and Gravel Association's** "Environmental Eagle" awards program. Vulcan's Blakely Island sales yard in Mobile, Alabama, and Houston sales yard won top awards in the distribution center category. Another 11 Vulcan facilities were also recognized for their outstanding achievements in environmental stewardship.

The Environmental Eagle Award was created by the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association in 1992 to provide national recognition for aggregate-producing companies actively contributing to the maintenance of the environment in and around their operations, as evidenced by a corporate commitment to the full use of environmental controls and systems. The award is based, in part, on the extent to which an operation meets and exceeds technical environmental and regulatory requirements. The Eagle Award is not based on aesthetic or beautification criteria.

Donald M. James, Vulcan's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer said, "Vulcan has a steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship. I'm very proud of our Eagle award-winning facilities because they have taken this commitment beyond mere compliance to the level of leadership."

Vulcan Materials Company, an S&P 500 company, is a producer of industrial materials with significant positions in two industries. It is the nation's foremost producer of construction aggregates, a major producer of other construction materials, and a leading chemicals manufacturer, supplying chloralkali and other industrial chemicals.

CONTACT:

Vulcan Materials Company, Birmingham
Media Contact: **John English**,
205/298-3220

History of Hillside Quarry

In 1853, Marion F. Covell, as well as other township farmers, busily worked to

improve their farmlands. Some were plowing, some planting crops and others were drilling their wells. But by 1854, Marion Covell discovered he had something more then fertile soil on his inherited land.

It seemed to be rock and nothing but rock! How could a crop grow in this dismal field? This could account for the scrubby growth of brush on the larger part of his land. He could hardly continue caring for his crossbreed of Durham cattle with so little pastureland and poor crops.

Much disturbed, Marion Covell asked Captain Soeey Smith, a Civil War engineer, to advise him about his problem. "It's limestone," Captain Smith exclaimed. "Marion, I believe you have a stone quarry here!" Farming no longer interested Marion Covell. Now he had to find a way to develop a quarry and give others the benefits of a new industry.

At first he sold the limestone for 50 cents a wagonload to farmers who were willing to dig it themselves by hand. They

soon forged a steady path from their farms to his quarry for now they had a way to fill their mud holes and make a passable road for their teams.

But Covell had to find a quicker easier way to remove the stone and started blasting the rock with dynamite.

In the earliest days, quarry blasting meant a weekly paycheck, no matter if cracks appeared in plastered walls or ceilings. Housewives covered them with wallpaper, far more attractive than the messy calcimine. However, dishes shook, rattled and rolled from the tables and rocks flew in the air looking like flocks of pigeons overhead to land on nearby Bellwood rooftops.

At times, the ground shook so severely residents in Hillside wondered if they were experiencing the tremors of an earthquake. Complaints were received from the Bellwood Community Association asking cooperation from the Hillside Board of Trustees to curb the heavy blasting nuisances.

But Marion Covell continued his growing quarry business. In 1888, The Proviso Stone and Gravel Company was formed with Marion Covell as the vice president. The mining operation was a good source of low-cost stone, a material basic to the development of early roads and highways for the entire Chicago area.

When Marion Covell became the Commissioner of Highways for the Township, he initiated the use of gravel for roads and used Madison Street in the western suburbs as a demonstration site to prove its merits.

However, the quarry also continued to be a nuisance through the years with constant efforts by the communities to stop the blasting. From a tiny hole made with a pick and shovel, the quarry continued to operate reaching a depth of nearly 300 feet and covering an area of over 70 acres. Nearly all of Marion Covell's farmland became a quarry site!

Courtesy of Hillside Public Library