MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

(At the January meeting of the National Executive Committee, the issue of Professional competence was discussed at some length, and AIPG Vice President, John Haun, was asked to prepare a brief statement of the problem with some suggestions, calling for discussion and comment from AIPG members. Here’s your chance to speak out on this important issue—note that you are to correspond directly with John who, as you know, is with the Department of Geology, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado 80401. --Ed.)

"PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE"

"It shall be the duty of all Members to seek to maintain the high standards of competence and ethics established by the Institute." (AIPG Bylaws, Article II, Section 6-A) How, actually, do AIPG Members maintain "high" professional (and scientific) competence?

Some medical societies, for example the Oregon Medical Association, require that 50 hours per year be spent keeping current in medical developments. In 1972, 11 Oregon physicians were expelled from the society for failure to meet this requirement, 6 resigned, and 15 were given additional time because of extenuating circumstances.

Most secondary-school teachers are required to take summer courses at intervals of several years in order to maintain certificates or to justify salary increases and advancements in rank. Most university professors in engineering or the sciences must conduct research and publish papers as a part of the justification for increases in salary, advancement in rank and tenured appointments. Certified public accountants must take short courses annually to continue their certification.

The AIPG does not have a formal requirement for maintaining competence. Should it have such a requirement? If so, what mechanism should be developed to assure compliance?

A partial list of activities that might be considered evidence of maintenance of competency includes: (1) continuing education courses, (2) university courses, (3) company-sponsored short courses, (4) field trips, (5) published scientific papers or book reviews, (6) presentation of scientific papers at regional or national meetings, (7) teaching courses for the first time, and (8) reading the geologic literature 5 (7) hours per week. More questionable evidence of maintenance of competency includes: (1) attendance at a scientific or tech-

nical meeting, (2) management courses and other courses not directly related to geology or allied sciences, and (3) unpublished reports for companies or clients.

If the AIPG should require evidence of this kind, it could be cited each year at the time of dues payment. Retired and/or inactive members should be exempt.

I believe a requirement of this kind should be adopted by the AIPG. What do you think? Please send me your comments or summaries of discussions at Section meetings.

John D. Haun, Vice President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The first meeting of the 1974 Executive Committee was held on January 25 and 26. The Committee approved a budget for 1974 of $70,260.00. This amount includes some funds to be made available to the Standing Committees of the Institute for specific projects approved by the Executive Committee. Approved projects will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds available are expended.

The Executive Committee discussed and approved appointments of members to the Standing Committees of the Institute for 1974. It was decided that one particular committee, Regulatory and Legislative, should have a greater membership than three in order to provide more assistance for the Institute’s Legislative Counsel in Washington. Most of the members of this committee reside in or near Washington, and all are knowledgeable in the workings of our legislative system.

It was noted that the Bylaws of the Institute, Article II, Section 6A, require that members maintain high standards of competency. An ad hoc committee will be appointed to determine a program through which members of the Institute will be able to fulfill the Bylaw requirements.

It was determined that the Institute should have a statement of policy on total resource management. A committee will be appointed to make an investigation and recommend such a statement to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee approved the preparation and printing of a series of Guides and Suggested Practices for Professional Geologists, and distribution of these documents to the membership at cost. The documents will also be made available to nonmembers, but at a slightly higher price.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be in San Antonio, Texas on April 1, 1974.
BALLOTTING RESULTS

The balloeting on proposed amendments to the Constitution, Code of Ethics and Bylaws that was completed on December 16, 1973 resulted in an overwhelming approval of all amendments. Minimum experience qualifications for Institute membership are now a baccalaureate and five years, with one year credit each for a Master’s and a Doctorate.

DEATHS

DR. WILLIAM J. McMANNS, professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at Montana State University, died on December 10, 1973. He was the third president of Montana Section (1969). Bill served his university and the geological profession faithfully and well. A "Bill McManis Memorial Scholarship" in the Earth Sciences has been established at Montana State University.

BING Q. YEE, senior geologist with Exxon Company, U.S.A. for 24 years, died August 16, 1973 in Midland following a heart attack; he had been transferred from Oklahoma City only six weeks previously. Holding a B.S. in Mining Engineering (Petroleum) from the Missouri School of Mines, he did graduate work in Geological Engineering at the University of Oklahoma and gained a B.S. in Industrial Engineering (Management) from Wichita State University. He began work with Carter, and was active in AAPG, the Kansas Geological Society, Tulsa Geological Society, and the Oklahoma Section of AIGP.

OKLAHOMA SECTION DEALS PROMPTLY WITH FRAUDULENT ACTION

(from December 1973 "The Oklahoma Certified Geologist")

"Through an Oklahoma Section member’s alertness, a fraudulent operation was uncovered in Oklahoma City. This matter is recounted here in some detail to make the Profession aware of this particular method of operation and... to illustrate AIGP’s capability to act promptly and decisively through its regular committee channels.

"In this particular case, the unscrupulous promoter, here identified as X, contacted a Certified Professional Geologist, a consultant in Oklahoma City, where identified as Y. X wanted Y to prepare a series of "geological reports" on various tracts of acreage in the Rocky Mountain region. X stipulated specifically that Y (or any geologist he used) must be a member of AIGP.

"Apparently X operates in partnership with a land company that seeks out persons who file for and win leases on federal land. Of these persons, X then selects the ones he considers least knowledgeable in mineral evaluation and approaches them individually to get them to agree to pay him for preparation of a geological report on their leases, on a strictly cash basis and typically for a sum of several hundred dollars. The terms of his agreement with the lease owner specify that if the report is "Favorable" (i.e., favorable for the lease owner in terms of potential mineral value), X then will buy the lease for substantially more than the cost of the geological report. This is obviously the angle designed to draw the lease owner in. But the geologist who writes the report is discouraged by X from writing a favorable report in order to get X off the hook. The fact is, the geologist is discouraged from writing a valid report, because X calls for a one-page report based on the sketchiest of maps (usually land maps showing only well symbols), which he provides himself.

"Y, the CPG whom X had approached, reported the matter to the Oklahoma Section Executive Committee, which in turn referred it to the Professional and Scientific Standards Committee, under the chairmanship of Henry Trattner, for AIGP investigative action.

"After an initial investigation by the committee, it was learned that X had been convicted in 1969 by the U.S. District Court for Denver on three counts of using the mails to defraud (Case No. 68-CR-37). The Oklahoma City postal authorities were then notified of the situation, and they have now assumed jurisdiction. The committee offered to work closely with them and to cooperate in every way possible.

"Further investigation by the committee revealed that X had been brought before a grand jury in Flint, Michigan on December 18, but was not indicted. The Michigan authorities suggested... however, that he leave the state promptly. The results in Michigan appear to be typical for, because of his advanced years (he is in his 80’s), juries are extremely reluctant to convict him.

"The fine work of Hank Trattner and the committee again demonstrates the effectiveness of AIGP at the state and national level. The committee intends to monitor the matter to protect the profession and the public and will report any further development.

"We should all be aware that in times of increased activity in petroleum exploration and development, increased fraudulent operations are likely to follow. Thus, it behooves every professional to be on guard against such practices, because anyone who supplies such a report for such a purpose could find himself in the position of being accused as an accessory. With X’s particular mode of operation, a reputable geologist should be able to detect warning signals at the time of the initial contact."
On August 20, 1973 the American Institute of Planners’ Mining Forum was held at the University of Arizona, according to Walter E. Heinrichs, Jr. The Forum was arranged as a rather informal panel discussion, moderated by the head of the local AIPG student section. It addressed the Conoco copper-exploration activity on Tucson’s near west side on 1916 Homestead Act lands wherein mineral rights were reserved to location under the Federal Mining Law of 1872. Some of the land now contains subdivided surface housing. Heinrichs says, "to the uninformed media, public, and politicians, regardless of title restriction which allows exploration, such activity now seems patently like an industry-federal rip-off conspiracy against the individual homeowner, even though he would receive as good (compensation) or actually probably better by far than (would be provided by) customary condemnation if ore is discovered.

On September 3, Heinrichs wrote a follow-up letter to Mr. Ronald Asta, Supervisor of the Pima County Government Center in Tucson, in an attempt to summarize some factors related to the panel’s discussion. Because of the significance of its message, we are publishing it herewith, for the consideration and comment of other AIPG members.

"Dear Mr. Asta:

Your expressed belief that Tucson can be made a more idyllic community is not to be criticized. However, your idea cannot be supported that most road blocks to Utopia are the fault of industry and, until the people have more control over industry, we can look for little improvement. I do not propose to reiterate here the deep and still unsolved social arguments of past millennia. But everyone should be aware of the simple and salient facts relevant to both sides of the coin regarding quality of life arguments. Whether we like it or not, we are now a very complex, minerals-dependent, technological society in which mining is an absolute necessity for continued survival.

During the Forum we touched on energy. Also, Senator Ulm cited the importance of breathing. But what good is the purest of air if in the process of getting it, we starve and freeze to death in darkness? Today, the food and water supply of our world depends entirely on energy and mineral production from reserves which took over a century to develop. Moreover, these reserves are just as precarious as anything else in our environment. Thus, circumstances dictate that there must be little restriction and no let up in efforts to prove new domestic material reserves. This is aside from the issue of whether we produce from the reserves immediately, or save them for future needs. Proven reserves are imperative for a quality-of-life assurance for later generations. Potential reserves are absolutely useless except in hypothetical conversations. The situation may be compared to a rotating flywheel which has gradually built up speed over the past century. Now, for at least a time, many feel that we should slow down the flywheel. A few think the flywheel is out of control and will soon disintegrate. A few others want to stop the flywheel completely, even if throwing a monkey wrench in the whole system is required to do it. Some say the wheel is still way below its top design-speed. Others say, why be concerned, because the wheel will self-regulate its own speed.

So what is right? Our best technological exploration judgment says we must prospect where indications are most favorable. If we are forced to search anywhere else, our discoveries will dwindle and so will our reserves. Unfortunately, minerals are not found anywhere and everywhere. They are found only in certain scarce and unique places solely decreed by fortuitous combinations of nature, technology, supply and demand. Even more confounding is the fact that most of our better geologists literally spend their lifetimes looking for these places, and only rarely are a very few ever successful. This is why society must continue to reserve the right for geologists to look wherever possible. Constant encroachment of every other competing land use makes prospecting and exploration no longer feasible in more and more places regardless of the quality of indicated mineral potential there. If this continues unabated, sooner or later it will prove catastrophic for future mineral supplies. Already we are experiencing such effects in domestic energy, and serious shortages in many other materials, including copper, are not far behind.

Now, on your side of the coin, you see undesirable industry getting in the way of housing, recreation, and deep breathing--green-belt type aesthetics. And, we agree that problems exist, but we oppose using whip-saw tactics when the most desirable compromise for society can be achieved sooner by applying some careful thought and enlightened reason. Certainly the best answers for all must lie somewhere between the two extremes.

The risk in exclusive aesthetically inspired planning is that during our preoccupation with such planned improvements for the future, we tend to forget to maintain the plain survival requirements of the present. Already, far too many have the mistaken idea that our basic social foundation is now automatic, infallible and perpetual. Even though this is far from true, we don't have to throw the baby and the bath water out together in searching for solutions to these problems.

The fundamental basis for a successful future for mankind ultimately must be rooted in geology. That is, geology in its broadest sense--including all land, sea and air. Clearly the best so-called land-use planning for everyone is that which is primarily conceived and organized by geologists and then refined by professional planners, architects and others--rather than the other way around, before being ratified by politicians. By the very nature of his training and experience a geologist's perspective of the whole of society is perhaps the widest of anyone. No one understands present land uses and perceives future land needs as well as geologists do. The enclosed folder: "Earth Resources As Foundations For Environmental Planning," explains this further. Extra copies are also enclosed for distribution among your associates. Mr. Ted Eyde has also sent you additional pertinent material regarding urban geology.

(continued on page 8)
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vito Gotautas, former member of the National AIPG Executive Committee, has followed up on Kirk Badgley's letter in the December TPG, with a suggestion that merits serious consideration by AIPG members. The appropriate sections follow:

Dear Editor:

I agree with Mr. Badgley's thesis concerning retraining and relocating programs for geologists who find themselves unemployed; especially, those that work in Natural Resources Industries. However, this program should be available to all geologists regardless of their field specialty. Further, I agree that all employers should fund this program. However, instead of API or the American Mining Congress administering this program, I suggest that the AIPG investigate setting up a "Holding Corporation" that would be used as the trustee or custodian for the accumulated funds provided by the employers and the subject corporation administer these funds in retraining and relocating unemployed geologists.

Another more pressing need has existed for a long period of time; namely, of providing an adequate, continuous, retirement program for all geologists. It is well known that most geologists change jobs less than three or more times during their professional careers. Each time they do, their retirement plan is interrupted. If this occurs a number of times during one's career, when one reaches retirement age, one's accrued retirement funds are minimal to nonexistent. Therefore, a "Holding Corporation" that I described above could be an ideal vehicle for implementing an uninterrupted retirement program for all companies. In this manner an administrative-investment program could be engineered so that regardless of the number of job changes, the retirement benefits would continue to vest, unbroken, for each geologist.

As an example, if one works for a major oil company and the retirement plan provides that the respective company will invest a certain percentage of dollars per month toward an employee's retirement; if the employee leaves the company and/or is terminated, the accrued retirement funds would then be transferred to the "Holding Corporation" where they could be reinvested in the same major company plan, if available, but would be controlled by the "Holding Corporation." If this option is not available or desirable, the "Holding Corporation" would invest the funds in other appropriate investment programs.

I envision where both the programs described above can be administered by an AIPG "Holding Corporation." Further, I would like other geologists' thoughts concerning this plan and if many agree that it is a desirable goal, then I recommend that the Executive Committee appoint a committee to look into the feasibility of such a program.

January 23, 1974

Vito A. Gotautas

STATE SECTION NEWS

CALIFORNIA

(January 7, 1974 Newsletter) The Executive Committee met on September 14 and the Annual Meeting of the Section was held the next day. Secretary James Saunders reported that 120 ballots for officers had been returned, out of the 162 members residing in California (not bad—74%), and the officers were elected. (See 1974 Directory.)

President Donald Hallinger outlined progress on the formation of a Geological Coordinating Council, which would have representatives from all of the geological societies, from all segments of the geological professions in California. AIPG would review the bills before the State Senate and Assembly and would propose action where appropriate; this would be reported in a newsletter, with costs to be shared by all societies. Actual costs of lobbying would also be shared in a similar manner.

Considerable discussion of a closer linkage with students took place, including a student-membership category, attendance by AIPG members at "career days" on the several campuses, and provision of a liaison whereby students could call on AIPG members for assistance. 1974 President James Slosson's first official act was to establish a Student Liaison Committee, with Gordon Oakeshott as chairman.

Committee chairmen for 1974 were announced. (It is interesting that the California Section, like Colorado and a few others, has, in addition to nine committees that duplicate the national ones, four others—on Continuing Education, Educational Counseling, Governmental Relations, and, of course, Screening.)

The newsletter ran a brief description of a proposed State Land Use Act, and contained an article on offshore drilling by President Slosson. It also had a note that the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers voted on December 12 to adopt the use of the Uniform Examination of the National Council of Engineering Examiners, and also voted to withhold reciprocity from any state that does not use the U.E. on a central grading and scoring basis.

COLORADO

(January 1974 issue of Colorado Section Review) The first regular monthly meeting was held on January 14, with an attorney speaking on a case history involving a lawsuit arising from "nonconsideration of geologic factors in construction projects."

New officers were elected (see 1974 Directory). New Section President Max Bergendahl's editorial told of the six objectives he has in mind for 1974: (1) legislative surveillance, including a registered lobbyist; (2) working with city and county planning boards and other local officials; (3) information service for members on active and planned projects of the Colorado and U.S. Geological Surveys; (4) outlook for current and future employment of geologists in Colorado; (5) publicity and public relations; and (6) more direct participation in hearings and workshops pertaining to the public lands.
Committee reports showed that the Interprofessional Relations Committee spent most of its time on legislative efforts; the Legislative Monitoring Committee read all 1062 bills, and studied 56 bills and eight resolutions in detail--14 passed (including H.B. 1529 on mineral deposit preservation and H.B. 1574 on geologic reports; two that did not pass were H.B. 1110 on geologists' registration and S.B. 377 on land use); the Environmental Committee was especially active because of the increased interest and involvement by geologists in environmental geology, which was brought on by S.B. 35 requiring geologic reports on subdivisions; the Continuing Education Committee functioned together with the Environment Committee, providing a seminar on environmental geology in February, 1973, with A.E.G. co-sponsorship, and co-sponsoring the Second Governor's Conference on Environmental Geology.

The February 1974 issue of the Colorado Communicator told of continued activity by the Section in continuing education, as follows: (1) preliminary plans have been formulated for a one- or two-day seminar on Geology and Local Government in April 1974, to familiarize geologists with recent legislation affecting their activities and to make them aware of the many geologic problems involved in land-use decisions being made by local governments; and (2) AIPG, A.E.G. and the Colorado Geological Survey will co-sponsor a short course on Ground Water and Wells, to be held in late March.

The February Colorado Communicator also included information about two company jobs -- for a coal geologist and a uranium geologist. It also referred to employment opportunities with the State of Colorado. (This service is one that other State Sections could well emulate. --Ed.)

MISSOURI

The Annual Meeting of the Section was held on September 21, a day before the annual meeting of the Association of Missouri Geologists. James Westcott reported that, although some 20 bills bearing on geology in some way were introduced into the legislature, most died in committee or failed to pass. President Al Sprenge reported on utilization of geologists in the State Highway Department. A major bone of contention is their classification as "technologists" rather than a more professional term such as "geologist."

Officers for 1974 were elected (see 1974 Directory). Total membership at the end of the year stood at 35, a decrease of one since a year ago.

Two joint meetings were held with the St. Louis Chapter of the A.E.G. during the winter and spring, one in St. Louis and one in Rolla, but unfortunately the guest speakers were met with poor attendance on both occasions.

MONTANA

The Annual Meeting was held in Billings on September 29 with the following program:

Environmental Impact Assessments; the Geologist's Role--Ted Wirth (Landscape Architect)
Geologists as Expert Witnesses -- Bruce Toole (Attorney)

Why Geologists Must Become Involved -- Ray Harrison (Cardinal Petroleum Company)
Minerals and the Environment -- Don With (U.S.B.L.M.)
Surface Mining, Not Another Rocky Mountain Trench -- Roger Rice (Western Energy Company)

The Section met on October 9 with a report from the National Annual Meeting in New Orleans; on November 26 with a discussion of "Compensation for Geological Services," and again on January 9th.

OKLAHOMA

(December 1973 Newsletter, The Oklahoma Certified Geologists) The Section's eight committees were active during the year, with Public Relations getting out press releases on all aspects of AIPG work in Oklahoma, with Registration and Legislation monitoring legislation, with the Environmental Committee members participating in an evening course sponsored by Oklahoma City Geological Society, which can be taken in Oklahoma City for credit at either the University of Oklahoma or Oklahoma State University.

At the Section's Annual Meeting on September 8, the Registration and Legislation Committee reported that its efforts were successful in getting both AIPG and AAPG mentioned specifically in the enabling legislation for the establishment of the Oklahoma Energy Advisory Council. The Professional and Scientific Standards Committee was very active last fall in a case of fraud, which is presented elsewhere in this issue of TPG. Officers for 1974 were elected (see 1974 Directory).

TEXAS

The January 1974 issue of The Texas Professional Geologist contained an eloquent editorial by past president M.O. Turner on AIPG's future. He pointed out how the E's and A's (economists, environmentalists and ecologists; accountants, administrators and attorneys) fail to listen to geologists on energy, minerals and environmental problems. Then he recommended a new short course in the politics and diplomacy of economic geology -- it would be helpful, he said, merely if it taught geologists how to make public speeches and write press releases about the basic facts of mineral exploration and production.

New officers were elected, as reported in the 1974 Directory. The new Executive Committee met on December 8 and again on February 1, and another meeting is scheduled for the AAPG National Convention in April.

WEST VIRGINIA

A special meeting of the Section was held in Morgantown on February 8 with committee reports and an open forum to discuss AIPG, and a tour of the Energy Research Center of the U.S.B.L.M.
SEPTEMBER 1973 TPG QUESTIONNAIRE

The September TPG contained a two-page tear-out mailer questionnaire about the national activities and services of AIGP. (This questionnaire was prepared by the Editor and screened by the Executive Committee.)

We expected to get some useful comments -- and we did. We expected to receive some questionnaires that had been hurriedly filled out -- and we did. We expected to see diversity of opinion -- and we did. And we hoped to get a reasonable rate of return -- but we didn't. We received only 83 total returns, out of a mailing of some 2250! That's less than half of one percent. Obviously, something went wrong -- perhaps this is "just one more questionnaire to fill out," perhaps its purpose was not crystal clear, perhaps it was not properly constructed, or was offensive, or something. Certainly, for some 2170 AIGP members it was deemed a waste of time, so they put it in the circular file.

We thought that perhaps the newer members might have responded more than those of longer standing, but returns were pretty well spread across the board. Obviously, with a return of 0.4 percent we cannot do anything statistically valid, or even remotely suggest a trend. However, the following table might be useful in telling us of areas where this 0.4 percent feel that AIGP should beef up its activity. Returns were as follows:

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<td>70</td>
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<td>Reg. &amp; Leg.</td>
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<td>Annual Meetings</td>
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<td>Geol. in Environ.</td>
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Remembering that the markings of different individuals ranged widely across the G-F-P spectrum, nevertheless there seems to be a general feeling that, nationally, AIGP is doing well on professional and scientific standards and on ethics, but poorly on public relations and professional employment standards.

The AIGP, the replying members feel, should be doing more and less of the following (note that some items appear in both columns, again suggesting the diversity of member views):

MORE

- public relations (11)
- speakers' bureau
- radio & T.V. programs
- certification (2)
- reporting on state reg.
- national registration

LESS

- public relations (1)
- popular articles
- certification (1)
- state registration (2)
- uniformity of state reg. laws

Also, one respondent said that AIGP's low performance nationally is due to its low budget, but another objected to dues increase to $100. In addition, one felt that the national AIGP should not have taken a stand on the deletion allowance, and one felt that we should change the experience requirement to permit more young people to become members.

One respondent said that we "need more action." We'll throw that one right back by asking, what kind of action? In fact, many respondents (as is true of most questionnaires, we suspect) chose to make broad general statements such as this on numerous issues. Such comments are useless; what the Executive Committee needs is substantive comments, suggesting specific actions.

On Question 2, about participation in national meetings, 36 said it would help if the meetings were nearby, 33 said it would help if part of their expenses were paid, and 28 said they'd participate if asked to serve in some way. A couple said they'd attend if the meeting were back-to-back with another society's meeting. On the other hand, a couple said that none of the three would make any difference to them; they'd attend if they could take the time.

Questions 3-6 were asked with a dual purpose -- in part, to find out how AIGP members have been active, but more importantly to inform members of the various ways in which they can reach the different publics that need their input and that they have a responsibility to attempt to reach.

Regarding Question 3, only 29 of 83 had presented talks on geological subjects to nonprofessional groups (for a dismal 47%); only 33 (40%) have been on radio, T.V. or in the press, and most surprising of all, only 29 (35%) have talked to young people in other than college geology classes!

In terms of AIGP members' interaction with policy makers at various levels (Question 4), our respondents' record was weak -- but not as weak as some of us had expected. Congressional committees and individual congressmen have heard from 18, state legislatures from 20, county and municipal entities from 23, and industry has heard from 3.
Regarding Question 5 (service as a policy maker at the various levels of government), our replies included one in the Congress, seven in State Legislatures, 12 in county and municipal government, and nine in regional government. Not bad.

Service on committees to such governmental bodies was surprisingly poor -- only a third have participated in this way. The record was: federal 10; state 16; county 7; municipal 9, and regional 6. Where is this active participation by all AIPG members, supposedly the geoscientists who appreciate most the need for such input into decision-making by our governmental bodies? Perhaps we were too rough, five paragraphs earlier, when we chastized the one respondent who said we "need more action." Obviously, we do.

In the space at the end of the questionnaire for "other comments," we were pleased to receive a number. In the first place, eight members volunteered to work -- either in whatever way AIPG needs them or by specifying an activity. There were gripes from four, some general and some specific. And there was a word of praise from one, about "improved communication." Perhaps this can be blended with the criticism under Question 1 of communications being too wordy.

We had hoped that the questionnaire would serve a dual purpose--of assessing what members think the national AIPG should do and how, and of providing members with ideas about involvement of other AIPG members and how each could enhance his own involvement. We are not sure we accomplished the job, however.

Underlying it all, of course, is the desire of the Executive Committee to serve better the AIPG membership and the society of which we are all a part. This can be done in some ways at the national level. But it also can and must be done at the state and local levels, because the specific problems are there and they can be attacked best there. Thus, your active support of AIPG State Sections and local units is needed. Let's get "more action!"

HAZARDS TO GEOLOGISTS

We talk about geologic hazards, but how about hazards to geologists doing their professional thing, mapping? The following excerpt from The Mines Magazine of September, 1973, tells its own story.

"In addition to the usual hazards that geologists encounter in mapping urban geology (speeding cars, excavation cave-ins, dogs, and irate land developers), the risk of being apprehended as a suspected murderer must be added.

"In May of 1973 while mapping the geology of an undeveloped and lonely part of Salt Lake City, Utah, Dick Van Horn (Colorado School of Mines, Geol. E. 1947) was tracked down by a helicopter, a half-dozen police officers, and a television news camera crew. The pilot of the helicopter misidentified Van Horn's notebook case as a pistol and his pick as a rifle.

"When the unsuspecting Van Horn moved out of his 'hiding place' behind a rock, 'rifles' in hand, two tactical squad officers of the Salt Lake Police went for their guns. Fortunately, they were close enough by this time to determine that Van Horn was unarmed, so their guns remained holstered.

"The object of the search, Salt Lake's largest manhunting many years, had murdered his wife in the street that morning."

We experienced a similar unnerving happening when we were State Geologist of South Dakota. Heading west across the state in our own car on a Sunday in about 1980, when snow showers were interrupting an otherwise pleasant wintry day, we drove off the highway on a country road for a quarter of a mile or so, parted the three-strand barbed-wire fence and climbed a fairly steep slope of range grass to a bluff of Ogallala caprock where a fallen block contained a fossil horse femur and fossil hackberry seeds that we wanted to photograph. Mission accomplished, between scuds of snow, we returned to our car, returned to and crossed the highway, and proceeded to strike off on sandy lanes for some eight to ten miles to do car-window geology before returning to the highway and continuing to the next small town, named Mission.

We didn't have a car radio, so could not know that a ten-year-old girl had turned up missing from a ranch the previous afternoon near the town of Winner, and the sheriff had had a posse out searching for her and her suspected abductors. They were also using a small plane. A local rancher's wife had seen our car with a "foreign" license plate (South Dakota plates were coded by county then), and had reported it to the sheriff's office, who had dispatched the plane which traced our meanderings across the back country. After all, what was someone doing in a snowstorm on a Sunday up the hill away from a country road, behind a huge boulder? Then, why did this person take off on a fox-and-goose chase across miles and miles of poor roads, if not to throw off his pursuers?

So, we stopped in Mission to call home before eating lunch (it was about 2 P.M.); the glass phone booth was approached by a couple of husky ranchers -- whom we thought were waiting to place their calls after we were through. We had heard a couple of cars pull into the curbside diagonal parking stalls while we were on the phone, but then the booth was just down the street from the only cafe in town, so we didn't think anything of it. When we finished our call and stepped outside, we then saw the sheriff's car and the sheriff approached from behind us while the two other men made no move to enter the phone booth but instead blocked our path.

The sheriff asked us who we were and for identification papers. That done but not believed, he then asked if we had been up behind the fallen rock off the back road in a snowstorm at 10:30 that morning, and if so, why? We admitted that we had been and told him about the 8-10 million-year-old horse and hackberry seeds. Then we volunteered that we had done some back-road reconnaissance geology, describing what roads we had taken. By now he and his deputies had become convinced that this person must not be their suspect, so they let us go on our way.

A hazard to the field geologist, yea, but we were impressed with something else -- the thoroughness of their surveillance system of professionals (sheriff), semi-professionals (deputies), and nonprofessionals (observant rancher's wife). Oh, yes, they apprehended their man later that afternoon and he confessed to the abduction.
WHAT GOOD IS THE PURURE OF AIR... (continued)

If you would care to meet and discuss these matters further, many of my colleagues and I will be pleased to meet you as mutually convenient. Meanwhile, your comments are most earnestly solicited, as are those from Senator J. S. UmI or any other individuals to whom we may send copies of this letter. We wish to help any way that we can.

Faithfully,

Walter E. Heinrichs, Jr.
Certified Professional Geologist #688
Registered Professional Engineer, Ariz. #2447


EDITOR’S SHORT ITEMS

Natural hazards, said an article in Science for December 7, 1973, have an especially devastating effect on transitional societies, because developing countries are particularly vulnerable. Professor Robert W. Kates, of Clark University’s Department of Geography, used as his guinea pig the Managua, Nicaragua earthquake of December, 1972. Kates and his five co-authors presented (pp. 981–990) an excellent discussion, concluding that Managua reminds us elsewhere in North America of our own vulnerability even though we are a developed rather than a transitional society. You should read it.

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The U.S. Bureau of Mines has liaison officers in each state and news items are gathered monthly for circulation among each officer in a News Bulletin. One that caught our eye in the September, 1973 issue dealt with a lawsuit filed by a drilling company (American National Petroleum Company) near Cleveland, Ohio against Terraneers, Inc. (a geological consulting firm), the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and the Geauga County Health Department, for defaming the drilling company’s business reputation. The sin, said A.N.P. Co., was that it was inferred that natural gas was seeping from a well drilled by A.N.P. Co. in Auburn Township, was potentially explosive, and was contaminating nearby water wells. The report said that the leakage was "caused by the illegal and improper practices of the drilling company.” The County Health Department restricted all drilling within a two-mile radius of the leaking well, and the Plain Dealer then ran a news story on it. We’d be interested in further information on the outcome of this one, so let’s hear it from the Ohio Section.

PROFESSIONAL PARAGRAPHS

BURTON C. BECKER has been elected Vice President of Hittman Associates, Inc., the environmental research, development and engineering services division of Hittman Corporation having headquarters in Columbia, Mo. Becker is currently director of the Environmental & Geosciences Department of H.A.I. A 1960 graduate of the University of Nebraska, he joined H.A.I. in 1970.

DR. RICHARD H. BERRY has joined the Washington, D.C. offices of Dames & Moore as senior geologist. D & M, a consulting firm specializing in the environmental and applied earth sciences, maintains 33 offices worldwide. Berry, whose Ph.D. is from Yale, formerly worked for Carter Oil Company, the New York State Geological Survey, Brown & Root, Inc., Environmental Research Corp., and Computer Sciences Corp.

GERALD M. FRIEDMAN, Professor of Geology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, has been elected President of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists. He continues to serve as Vice President of the International Association of Sedimentologists.

ALAN GEYER, with the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, was named recipient of the Ralph Digman Award for the National Association of Geology Teachers. The award is given for outstanding contributions on behalf of laymen-directed and precollege-oriented geology teaching.