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**Spotlight on a New Member: Gerald Stangl**

**Semi-Retired Professional Engineer, Ditch Witch**

Gerald grew up on a farm in north central South Dakota. He received his B.S. (1966) and M.S. (1968) degrees from South Dakota State University, followed by a Ph.D. (1971) from Oklahoma State University – all in the power and machinery option of agricultural engineering. His dissertation research involved methods to measure and control tractor exhaust noise.



Gerald began his industrial career in 1971 as a design engineer for Ditch Witch (The Charles Machine Works) in Perry, OK. Initial focus was noise and vibration control of its trencher and vibratory plow product lines. Noise control “packages” were developed to meet requirements of certain customers.

Upon licensure as a professional engineer in 1976, Gerald became responsible for testing and certifying rollover protective structures (ROPS) for ride-on models of Ditch Witch products. This led to extensive involvement with various standards groups within the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE International). In 1988, he chaired an SAE subcommittee that developed longitudinal loading requirements for certifying ROPS on earthmoving and construction equipment.

In the early 1980s, Gerald became more involved in research and development. This included joint testing programs with utility cable manufacturers to prove suitability of directly burying their products with vibratory plows. Several joint R&D projects were conducted with the Gas Research Institute

(now Gas Technology Institute), the Electric Power Research Institute, or by joining R&D firms on development proposals to those institutes. A major outcome was the development of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) products (the Jet Trac product line) for near-surface installation of utility services. This required improved electronic tracking systems to guide the drill head along the desired path. Gerald was heavily involved in finding and contracting with a firm for that development and in gaining its patent protection.

The fledging near-surface HDD industry needed trained field crews. A committee within the Association of Equipment Manufacturers developed a “good practices” manual. Gerald led creation of the RFP and contractor selection criteria for its development, provided content input, and edited the first and second editions.

Gerald served as project manager during the first two years of a Japanese Gas Association funded contract to develop a highly automated “intelligent” HDD system. Then, a 2001 downturn in the utility industry led Ditch Witch to offer early retirement to long-time employees. Gerald took that offer, becoming an engineering consultant focusing on intellectual property. He has written more than a dozen provisional patent applications, conducted numerous patent searches, and given depositions in patent infringement cases. Gerald is co-inventor of several patents and has written and presented several technical papers.

## **Committees and Groups**

### **Ambassador and Alumni Relations**

*Russell Wright(chair)/  
Judy Lewis*

### **Archive /Historian**

*Barbara Miller*

### **Benefits**

*Anne Matoy*

### **Catering and Reservations**

*Clem Ward*

### **Communications**

*Zane Quible*

### **Courtesy**

*Carol Olson*

### **Directory**

*Zane Quible*

### **Facilities**

*Althea Wright*

### **Faculty Council**

*Barbara Miller*

### **Finance**

*Ron Elliott(chair)/  
Sharon Nivens*

### **Investment Club**

*Ron Miller*

### **Making the Most of Retirement**

*Zane Quible*

### **Meet and Greet**

*Althea Wright (chair)/  
Kay Keys*

### **Membership**

*Michael Lorenz*

### **Name Tags**

*Russell/Betty Wright*

### **Nominations**

*Anne Matoy*

### **Technology Group**

*Glade Presnal*

### **Tours and Travel**

*Cathy Shuffield*

### **Web Site**

*Zane Quible*

## ***Spotlight on Long-Time Member: Robert Terry Professor Emeritus, Department of Agricultural Education***

Bob is a native of Mountain View, OK, and graduated from high school there in May, 1955. One week later, he began attending Oklahoma A&M College and was awarded the B.S. degree in agricultural education Fall, 1958. The following semester, he began graduate study in agricultural education. In July, 1959, he became the vocational agriculture instructor and FFA advisor in the Perry and Sumner school systems in Noble County. Thus, he taught in Perry in the mornings and in the afternoons in Sumner, a small rural school in northeast Noble County. While in this position, he commuted to OSU for graduate study from which he received the M.S. degree in agricultural education in Summer, 1962.

After four years in the above-described arrangement, he accepted the position of vocational agriculture teacher in the Lone Wolf, OK, public school in Kiowa County. In 1967, he was awarded a graduate research fellowship sponsored by the John Deere Foundation at Ohio State University to pursue the Ph.D. in agricultural education, which he received in 1969.

Bob was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Education at OSU in Fall, 1969, with assignments to teach undergraduate and graduate courses and to advise the OSU Collegiate FFA. He advanced to Associate Professor in 1974. On July 1, 1975, he was promoted to Professor and Department Head and served in that capacity for

almost 19 years until 1993. Following retirement from his faculty position, in early 1994, he was designated Director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program, a post he held for eight years. After retirement from this position, he was named an OSU Regents Service Professor and was elected a member of the OSU Faculty Council, representing the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Bob received several special awards and recognitions, including being designated Outstanding Agricultural Education Student Teacher while an undergraduate. He was active in and elected to leadership roles in several professional organizations. This included representing the American Association of Teacher Educators in Agricultural Education (AATEA) on the National Council of the FFA and the FFA Alumni Council. He served as regional vice president of AATEA and was named a Fellow in that group. The National FFA Association accorded him its Distinguished Service Award. He also received several recognitions from the Oklahoma FFA Association.

In retirement, Bob and his late wife, Barbara, became life members of the OSU Emeriti Association. He served a term as vice president for programs and represented the group on the Faculty Council Retirement and Fringe Benefits Committee. He was also a member of the Emeriti Council for several years. He continues to attend most of the Monday Night Dinner meetings.

## *A Retirement Activity: League of Women Voters*

*Velda Lorenz, Emeriti Association Member*

I've been married for 55 years and lived the entire time on University campuses: Cornell University; University of Georgia; Kansas State University; and Oklahoma State University. I have an AB degree in English from UGA but have always had time to pursue my own interests. I quilt, read, and volunteer at our church. I think I have been a member of most organizations that involved my husband's veterinary profession and our three children's activities.



at the Oklahoma History Museum. After a very long struggle, Oklahoma was the 32<sup>nd</sup> state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

The battle for voting rights began July 19, 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York when a few women had the courage to be-

lieve they had a voice in the United States and deserved the right to vote. Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Addams, Sojourner Truth, and Susan B. Anthony are only a few of the women who prepared the way.

As I have aged, I wanted to be active in community programs that served citizens; and the League of Women Voters (LWVS) has filled that wish. The League of Women Voters has local, state, and national affiliations. The national League was formed in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt six months before the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution was finally ratified. The League of Women Voters will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020.

I presented a program for the Payne County Historical Society on the suffrage movement. After studying several good books on the subject, I found that speaking on a subject I am passionate about is very fulfilling. The color, yellow, was chosen to represent the Suffragettes and their long march for equality. We still follow their example as the picture shows.

Our goal as an organization is to register voters, to provide a forum for candidates to meet the public, and to use all forms of communication to educate the public on issues concerning their welfare. These can be local, state, or national issues; and we believe the more information you have, the better for everyone.

We are non-partisan and respectful of others' opinions. The "League" is concerned with climate change, criminal justice, immigration, and redistricting. Issues are studied, and consensus statements are made each year. The Stillwater League will take up a new study after our state convention in May. I feel like I am making a difference in society and the future for all because of my membership in LWVS.

I can't neglect including the history of women's right to vote. We celebrated passage of women's right to vote in Oklahoma last November



Caption: Velda Lorenz at a Payne County Historical Society meeting.

## *A Retirement Trip: Amsterdam and Environs* *Ron Miller, Professor Emeritus, and Louise Miller* *Department of Finance*

This river cruise was a first for us in two respects. First, we had never been on a trip we hadn't planned and organized. Second, we had never been on a cruise. We arrived in Amsterdam two days before the cruise started so we could adjust to the time difference.

We boarded the MS Amadeus Queen after 4 pm, got settled in, and then had what would turn out to be one of many delicious meals. All of our meals were covered on the trip and served on board. Lunches were normally three courses, and dinners were four or five courses. We had an assigned table for the trip and ate all of our meals with the same couple. They were pleasant, and the assigned seating was not a problem. The daily structure of the trip was breakfast, a morning excursion, lunch, an afternoon excursion, dinner, and an evening activity on board. Most of the traveling was done overnight. The accommodations and service on the cruise were excellent.

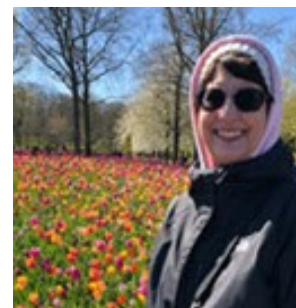
On Day 1, we had a morning tour of Amsterdam, but we did not go on the afternoon visit to the fishing village of Volendam. On Day 2, we toured Arnhem, "A Bridge Too Far," and went to the Airborne Museum of Hartenstein in the morning, but



we passed on the open air museum in the afternoon. On Day 3, Louise toured Middelburg in the morning; and I nursed a knee so I would be ready for Day 4.

On Day 4, we did the morning excursion to St. Bavo Cathedral in Ghent and took the afternoon excursion to Bruges. Given that we had been to Bruges three times before and this was our first time to Ghent, we should have stayed in Ghent. Our morning excursion on Day 5 in Antwerp was to the Cathedral of Our Lady to see paintings by Peter Paul Rubens, including the Raising of the Cross and the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. In the afternoon, we stayed in Antwerp and passed on the hour and a half bus trip to Brussels.

On Day 6, we passed on the morning excursion to the historic windmills of Kinderdijk, so one of us would not be too tired for our afternoon excursion to the Keukenhof Flower Gardens. Louise wanted to see all 7 million tulips planted there annually, but I could only cover 2 of the 9.5 miles of footpaths.



**Caption: Louise Miller standing in front of a tulip field.**



Our takeaways from this trip were these: People can schedule too many excursions. People can overeat. We saw tons of river cruises occurring, and we will probably go on another one.