



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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RETIREE

CORNER

When most actuaries retire from active practice, they quickly find their time filled with leisure activities, travel, volunteer work, and other interests they put on the back burner during their working years. This occasional "corner" of *The Actuary* will feature news of retirees and their activities — experiences and new opportunities, anecdotes and observations.

Philip Feuer

Philip Feuer responded to Bob Berin, SOA president-elect, when he wrote to all retired members asking for material for this column. Feuer sent a clipping from the *Greenwich* (Connecticut) *Times*, his local newspaper, in which his comments about a 1992 trip to Eastern Europe appeared. Feuer mentions the admiration for anything American he witnessed in the countries he visited. However, he had to field some tough questions about race relations from those who had seen the Los Angeles riots on television.

Feuer said he left East Central Europe with these heartfelt hopes:

I hope democracy remains as alive and well as it is today....

I hope the move to free market economies is accomplished without too much pain. Once completed, I hope these people aren't too disappointed when they realize that capitalism is far from perfect and are buffeted by its harsh realities. I hope we don't lose the tremendous affection and respect America commands in this part of the world. Although an enlightened foreign policy will help, in the end, it's up to each one of us. One-on-one people contact will be the key.

Ross Adams

Charlie Habeck sent a May 25, 1994, news clipping about S. Ross Adams. *The Daily Astorian* (Astoria, Oregon) told of Adams' "retirement" at age 86 from the Tongue Point Job Corps Center, where he tutored young adults in math. He and his wife will stay on the Center's Community Relations Council, however, "because being active in civic affairs is a habit neither can completely break." Adams also plans to reduce his work at the Columbia River Maritime Museum as a volunteer guide and his letter-writing for Amnesty International to spend more time with his wife.

The Center's education manager said she wished she had a dozen volunteers like Adams. His parting comments included encouraging others to volunteer: "Don't be afraid of not being capable. It doesn't take any special background or talent, just willingness to help."



Bob Grindley enjoying one bonus of retirement — time to take treks to the Himalayan mountains in Nepal.

Bob Grindley

Since retiring from William M. Mercer Ltd. three years ago, Bob Grindley has been on four expeditions to the Himalayan mountain ranges of Nepal. As quoted in the *Calgary Herald* last fall, Grindley was hooked after his first trip in 1991:

"I came back from that trip feeling my life had totally changed. Nepal

won't appeal to everyone; the country is poor and some of the conditions people live under are shocking by our standards. But seeing how happy those people were, living with so little — it really helped put my life into perspective."

Grindley came within a few miles of Mount Everest once on a trek in mountains over 18,000 feet. The average expedition has 10 hikers and a "supporting cast" of 35 sherpa guides, cooks, and porters.

"In some respects, it's like traveling in the style of the grand British expeditions," he said. At 6 a.m., a porter leaves hot tea outside your hut and then takes down the sleeping huts while you breakfast. They serve a hot lunch outdoors and arrange tours of villages and shopping during afternoons. The tents are set up when you reach your camp site at 5 p.m. so you can rest before dinner.

Although you don't have to be an excellent athlete to trek in Nepal,

Grindley gets in shape by hiking regularly four or five months in advance. Many of those on the treks are women age 50 and up.

He will be glad to share information about the group he treks with if contacted at his *Directory* address.

For the next column, we'd like to hear from more retired actuaries about your volunteer activities. Are they ones

that use your technical and business skills learned during your actuarial career? Or are they completely outside the area you worked in before? Were they new areas of interest you acquired after you retired, or were they just a continuation of an earlier activity? Write your comments to *The Actuary* at the Society office.