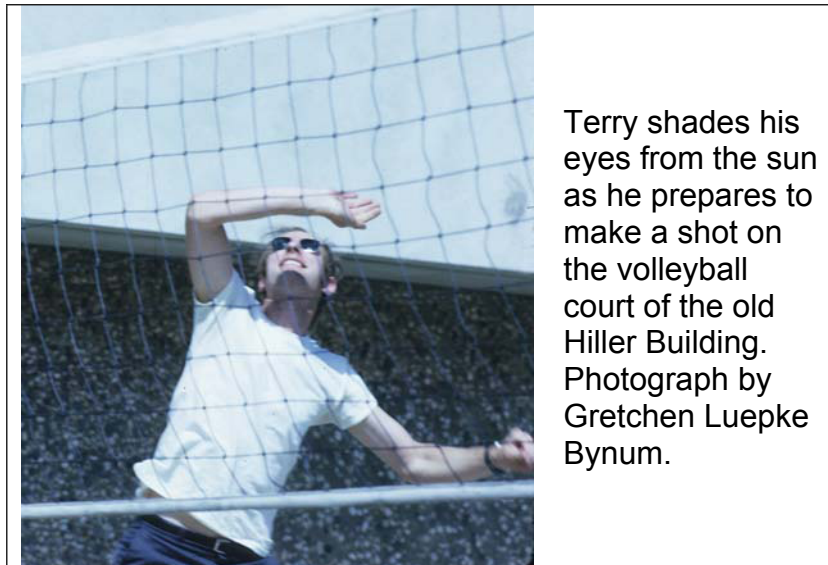




Memories of Terry

By Gretchen Luepke Bynum <gluepke@aol.com>

I first met Terry on the volleyball court at the old Hiller building (on Willow Road in Menlo Park, where the marine geology group was housed until 1978). With his height he was a formidable player. I never worked directly with him because we were associated with different projects. The picture that I took of him on the volleyball court is unfortunately not an active shot, but it does illustrate the persistent problem of an outdoor court—losing sight of the ball in the sun.



Terry shades his eyes from the sun as he prepares to make a shot on the volleyball court of the old Hiller Building. Photograph by Gretchen Luepke Bynum.

Where I really got acquainted with him was when the Survey put on its annual Pick and Hammer Show in 1975. We learned that Terry had performed in barbershop quartets and summer-stock theater. Sing, dance, and act—he was, in other words, a multi-talent. In this circus-themed show, the participants had several roles. In the opening number, Terry was dressed as a clown (the photo of him [next page] was taken during the dress rehearsal). He also played a security guard in a skit that satirized the new USGS not-so-secure security system (this photo [next page] was also in dress-rehearsal).



Terry is in the clown outfit (far right) in the opening number at a dress rehearsal for the 1975 USGS Pick and Hammer Show, a satirical review staged by the USGS Pick and Hammer Club. Photographer unknown.



Terry (right) and Hank Berg play Keystone Cops-type characters in a skit about the not-so-secure new security system that had just been instituted at the USGS. Dress rehearsal for the 1975 USGS Pick and Hammer Show; photographer unknown.



Hilarious skit about the team's SCUBA diving contingent, presented at the 1975 USGS Pick and Hammer Show. Left to right: Hank Berg, Terry Bruns, Ed Clifton. Photographer unknown.

The photo of Terry singing with Hank Berg (left) and Ed Clifton (right) was taken on performance night. This skit focused on the SCUBA-diving contingent of the marine geology program. The words to the song lose a little of the punch without the tune, performed in a Gilbert-and-Sullivan style. But the satire is matchless:

*Merrily we dive so free
To the very, very bottom of the deep blue sea!
The whitecaps up on top are thick
But down on the bottom we don't get sick.
Geophys'cists sail and geophys'cists play
But geophys'cists don't get hazard pay!*

(Chorus: a rhythmic series of "blub, blub, blubs")

*Our suits are filled with holes and cuts.
When we dive in the water, we freeze. Our
Knives are sharp, their blades are steel,
We wear them for their sex appeal.
But if a shark came while we were down,
We'd probably take a breath and drown.*

(Repeat chorus)

*When back at the surface we reconvene
We rarely agree on what we've seen.
But we can publish any way
'Cause none can dispute what we say!
The others can have their ships and labs.
You'll find us on the bottom, picking up crabs!*

(Final chorus)

Terry also took part in the 1976 Pick and Hammer Show, reprising the best of Menlo Park Pick and Hammer skits from 1956 to 1975. Again Terry was in the opening number and several scenes. Both photos [below and next page] were taken in performance.



Terry is second from left in the opening number of the 1976 USGS Pick and Hammer Show. This final Pick and Hammer Show was a giant reprise of the best acts from past shows. Photographer unknown.

The picture of Terry singing alone [below] was taken in a skit that was surely the best send-up of the penchant for arcane scientific jargon. The tune was "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" (from the musical "Mary Poppins"). Terry's character began the number with:

*When I was but an undergrad, and green as I could be
My professor gave the most profound advice to me,
"Remember, if you would excel throughout geology,
That mystic secret of our science—Terminology!"*



Terry sings a song to the tune of "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" in the 1976 USGS Pick and Hammer Show. Photographer unknown.

Next came an interlude, sung by everyone:

(Interlude: "Up with a little pahoehoe, up with a little pahoehoe")

The next three verses contain words barely known to specialists, much less the general public, but if you have your geologic dictionary with you, the verses make perfect sense; they are not just a string of strange words:

*We paleotectonic types are well ahead today
Thanks to geosynclinal terms dreamed up by Marshall Kay.
For in any kind of argument, what could sound more final,
Than "It's hedreocratonic, not zeugogeosynclinal." (sung by Ed Clifton)*

(Repeat interlude)

*And we geomorphologists all owe a debt, I think,
To such early workers in our field as Walther Penck.
Because of his inventiveness, we can predict an endrumpf
Whenever all the geest is gone from off the primärrumpf.* (sung by Bill Normark)

(Repeat interlude)

*We igneous petrologists converse with such a flourish
Compared to us, the rest of you all sound so amateurish.
"A complex of symplectic chadacrysts in rocks xenoikic
Creates a synneusis when the fabric's not domoikic."* (sung by Gretchen Luepke)

(Repeat interlude)

The final verse was sung by Terry and all the others in the scene:

*The concept may be simple but the language cannot be
We must confuse the layman with complex verbosity.
Oh, yes, we'll argue most points, but on this we all agree,
The secret of our science is the TER-MIN-OL-O-GY!!!*



All this is to say my memories of Terry are mostly of laughing, singing, and dancing - and playing volleyball. But I also remember him as someone who really cared about people, a willing listener when you needed someone to talk to. He was truly an outstanding human being. He will always be missed.