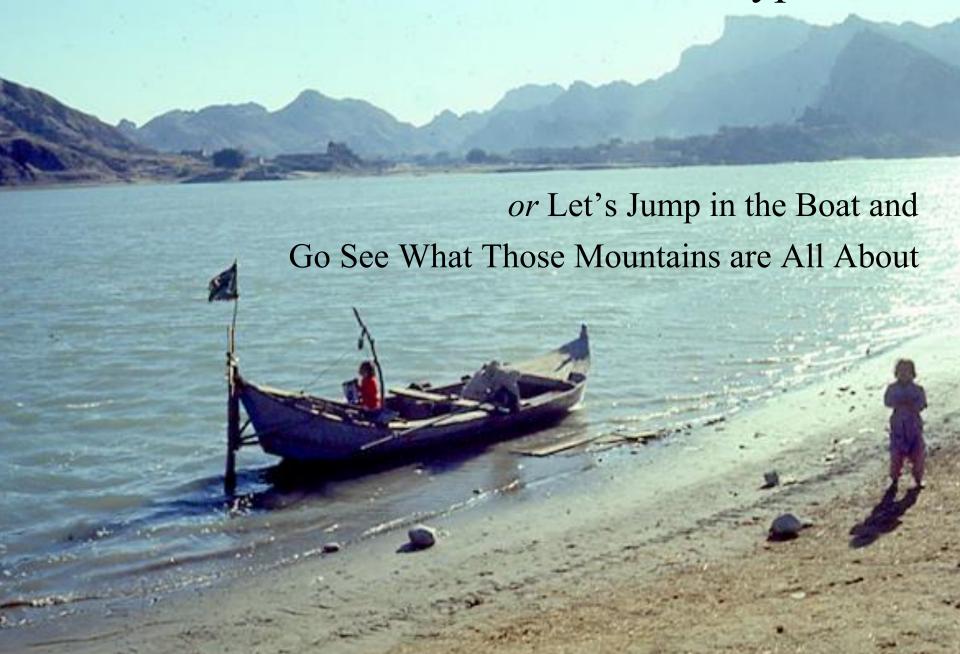
# A Research Career Without Testable Hypotheses



## Starting Out – *First Paper*

#### Marine Sediments: Dating by the Racemization of Amino Acids

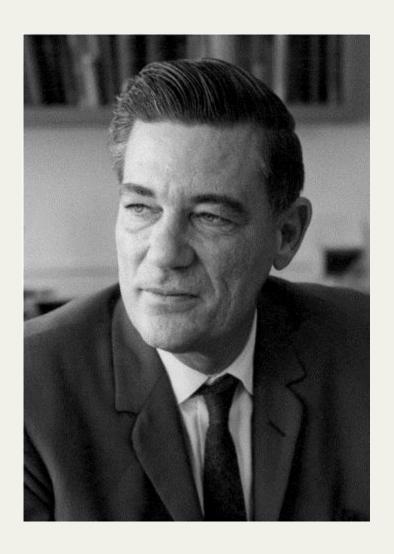
Abstract. Isoleucine has been found to undergo a slow racemization reaction in a 5-meter sediment core taken from the Atlantis fracture zone (water depth, 4014 meters; actual location, 30°15.7′N, 43°18.9′W). The amount of racemization increases with increasing depth below the sediment-seawater interface. This isoleucine racemization reaction was used to calculate an age of 1.23 million years for the bottom of the core.

Bada, Luyendyk and Maynard, Science, 1970

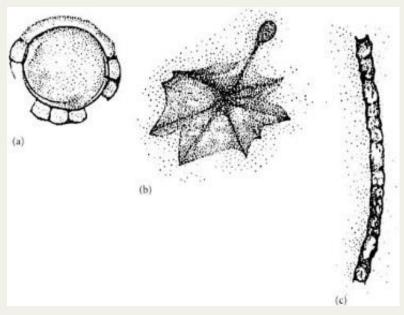
Life on earth has only L-amino acids, an exception being the group D-alanyl-D-alanine, which bacteria use to cross-link their cell walls.

Does Nature have a preference or is it random? Will half of the life forms in the Universe be D and half L?

# Elso Barghoorn



# 1965 – Microfossils from the Gunflint Chert



This paper is one of the reasons I went to Harvard, and it was Elso who introduced me to the Precambrian. His post-doc Dick Leo was doing amino acids on these cherts when I was working on silica in modern sediments in Ray Siever's lab.

## Full Circle – Last Cinti Paper



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

#### Chemical Geology





Mass-independently fractionated sulfur in Archean paleosols: A large reservoir of negative  $\Delta^{33}$ S anomaly on the early Earth

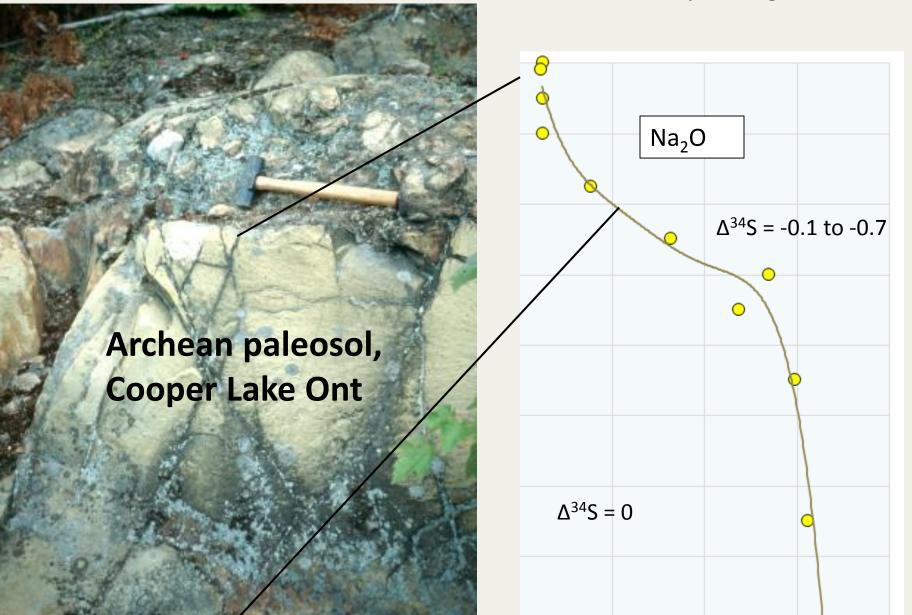
J. Barry Maynard <sup>a,\*</sup>, Sally J. Sutton <sup>b</sup>, Douglas Rumble III <sup>c</sup>, Andrey Bekker <sup>d</sup>

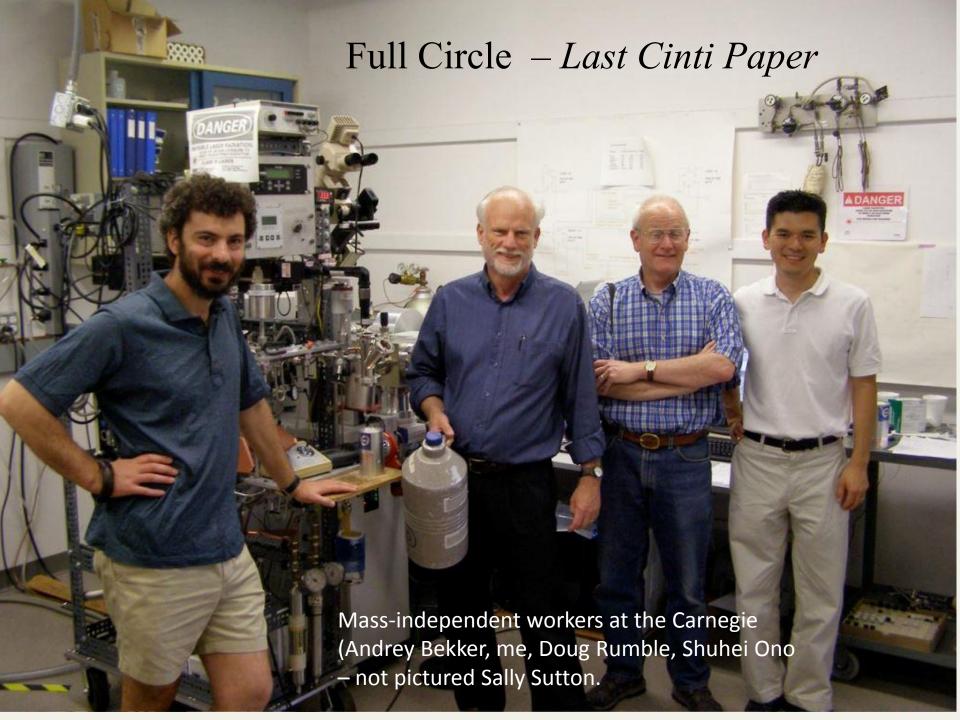
In the atmosphere, S is converted in equal amounts to  $SO_4$ , with a negative  $\Delta^{34}S$ , and  $S_8$ , which is positive. In the absence of oxygen these survive to be transported to the surface. The earth as a whole should be zero, but Archean ocean sediments are always positive.

Where is the negative reservoir?

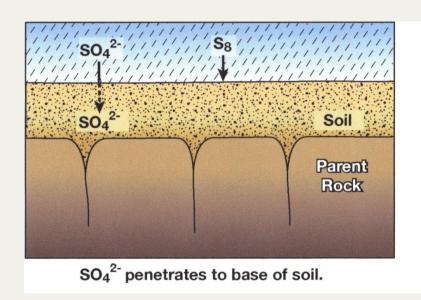
## Full Circle – Last Cinti Paper

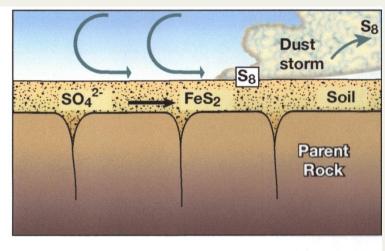
Archean paleosols (and diamictites) turn out to always be negative





## A Model for Fractionating Sulfur in the Archean





S<sub>8</sub>-enriched dust carried to ocean.

Negative  $\Delta^{34}$ S in SO<sub>4</sub> retained on land, converted to pyrite S by sulfate reducing bacteria

Positive  $\Delta^{34}$ S lost as S<sub>8</sub> to oceans, also goes to pyrite

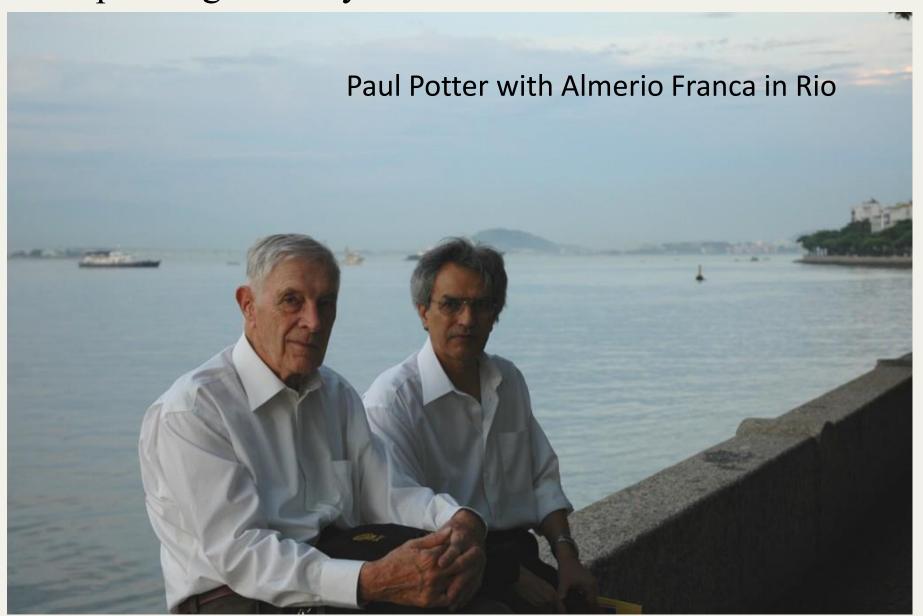
# What Do These Have in Common?

One, they deal with the chemical signal of early life on Earth

Two, neither has anything to do with Mn

Three, neither started out with any hypothesis – they were both explorations of what appeared to be interesting situations

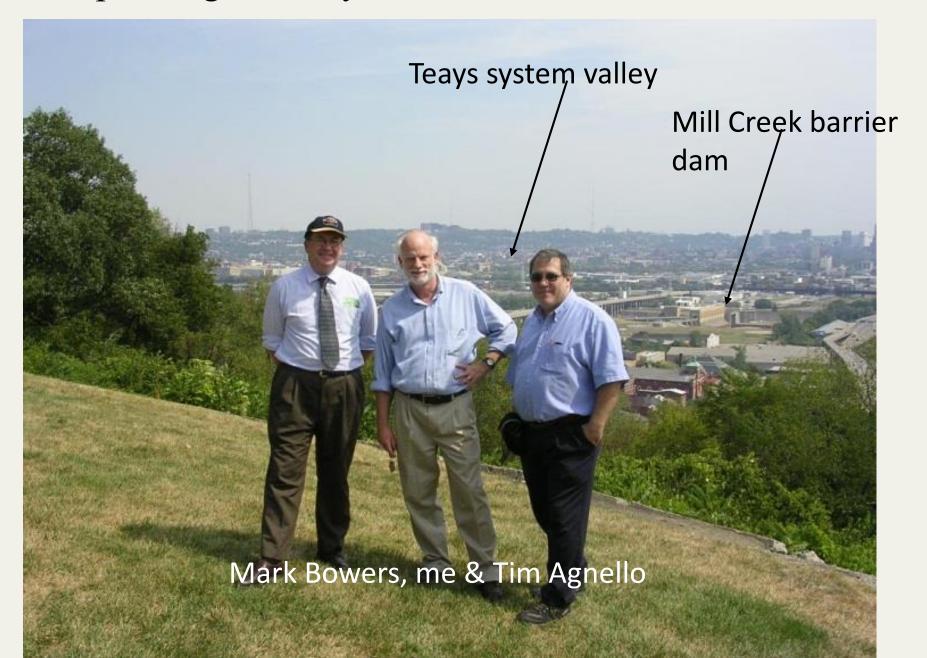
# Help Along the Way —



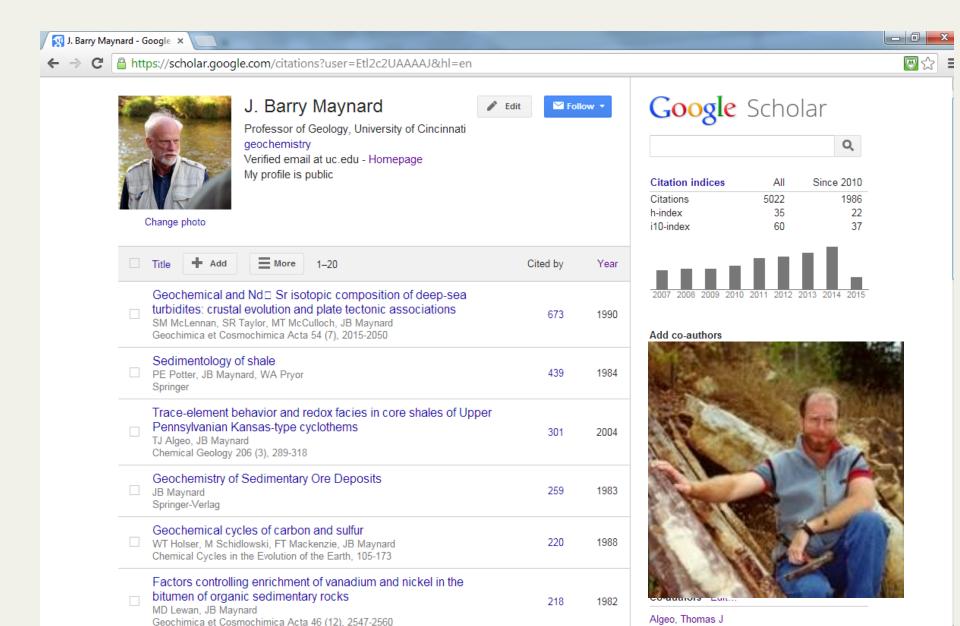
# Help Along the Way — Paul receiving award from Petrobras



## Help Along the Way — the Hillside Boys



#### Help Along the Way – Tom Algeo, the Black Shale Czar



#### Help Along the Way – David Mast: generator of pipe dreams



With Mike Schock – the source of all information on Pb scales; Anne Sandvig – who lured us into this arena; Mike DeSantis – who takes the best photos in the world; Steve Harmon – who does the best SEM work; and most of all Abigail Cantor for her support through many projects together.



Help Along the Way – Nick Beukes & Charles Kingsley show why

**Giant Stromatolites** 

Chocolate Dolostones (Mn enriched)

Thanks to the many who helped me with the "Manganese Adventure" in Canada, Pakistan, South Africa, Mexico, and China

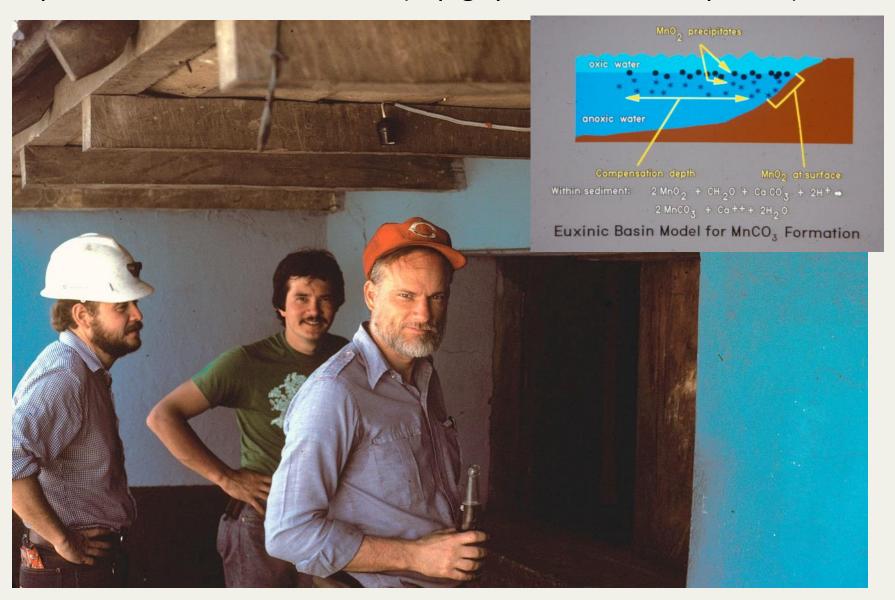
## Help Along the Way —

Students – Mike Lewan: top guy in oil generation

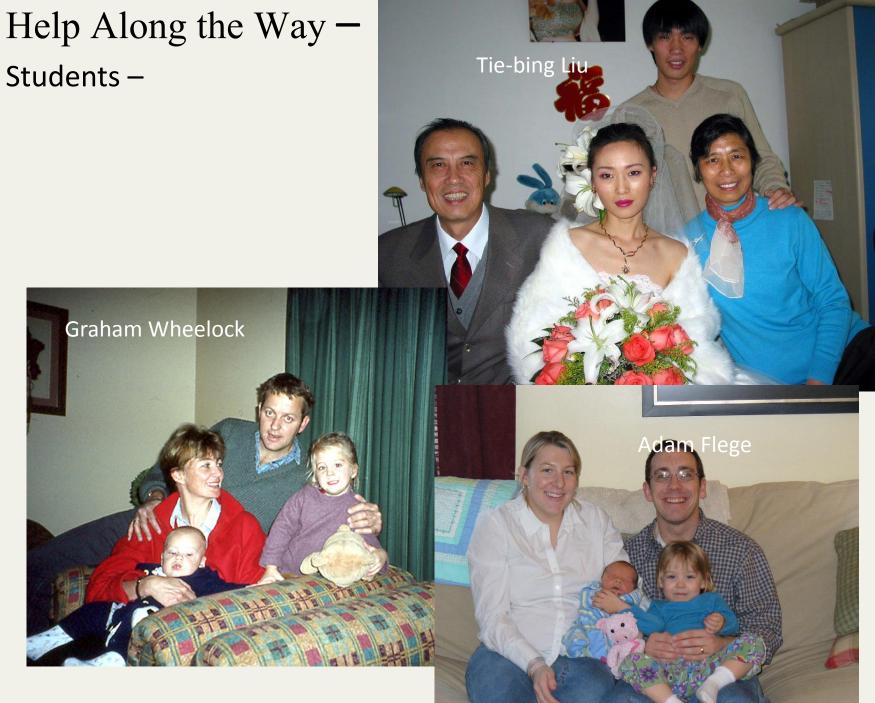


# Help Along the Way –

Alphonso Martinez, Pat Okita (top guy in mine development)

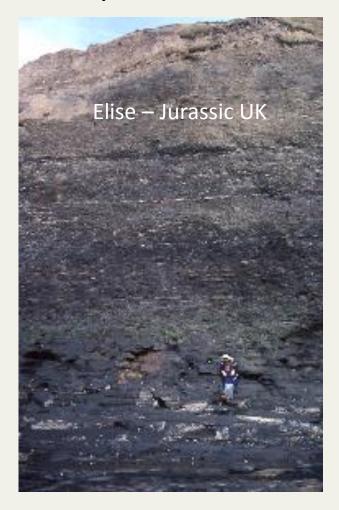


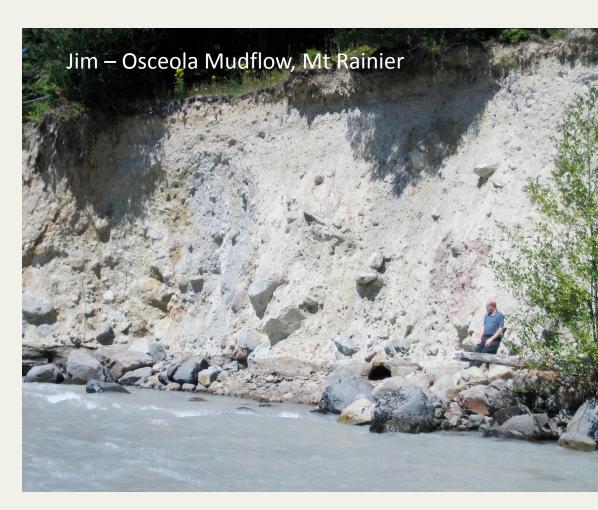
Students –





# Help Along the Way — Family





## Help Along the Way –

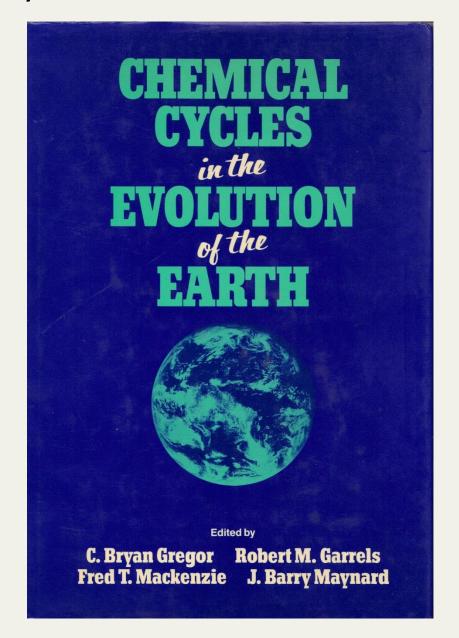
Family



My logistics expert: Laying out the 4-day Field Trip

### Help Along the Way — Emmaly: The world's best editor





# Getting there — China, Train to Changsha

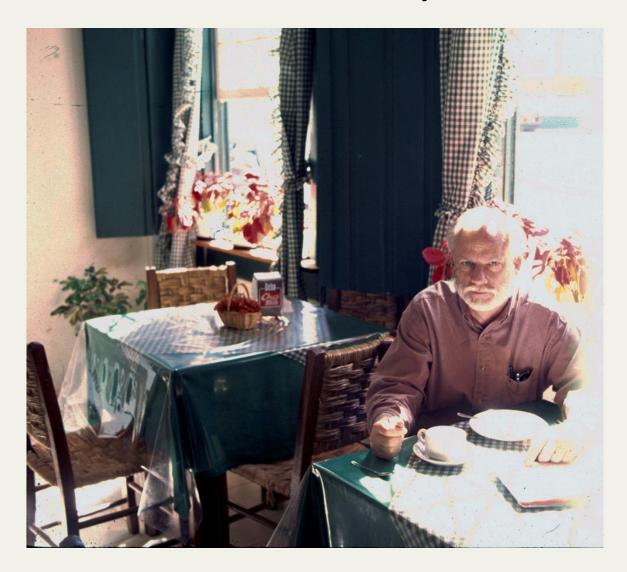




Many thanks to my colleagues in the Federal and State Surveys, especially Eric Force, Bill Cannon, and John Slack

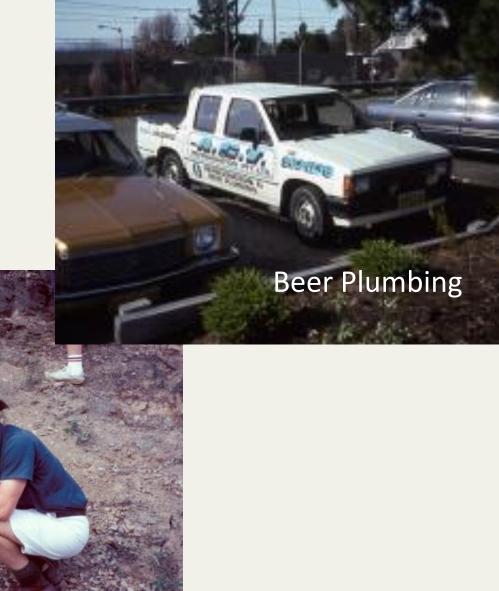
Nelson Shafer and Joel Leventhal enjoying superior accommodation

# Places - Brazil, always time for a nice lunch



Muito Obrigado Almerio, Laury, Carlos. Tudo Bem. Places — Australia, a unique spot. Thanks to my hosts at Tas Uni and Sydney Uni plus all my friends in mining

Barrie Bolto



#### Places -

Mexico, geology from horseback. Student is Eric May. Our thanks to Rafael Alexandri and Alphonso Martinez





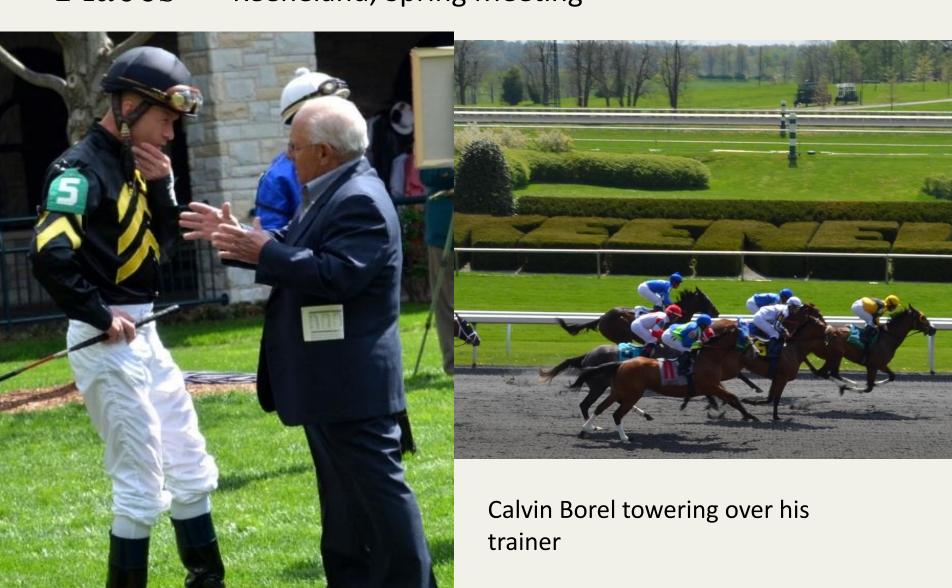
# Places — 4-Day Field Trips to Gettysburg and to Cumberland Gap

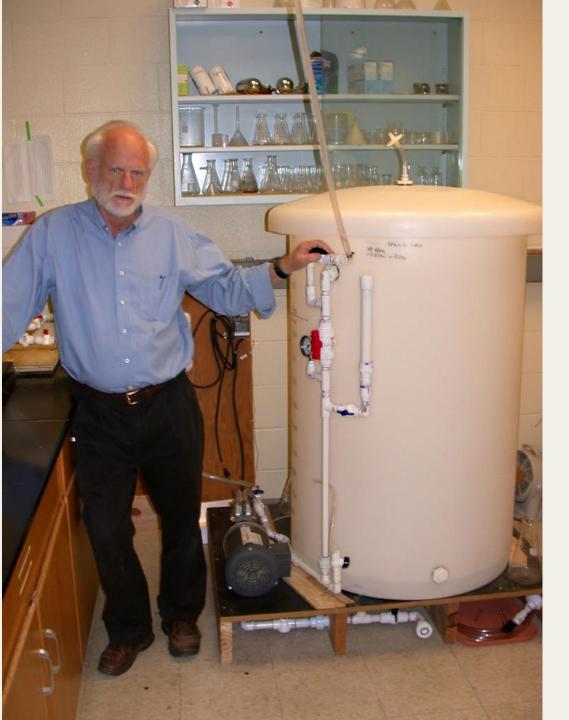
Re-enactment of Confederate prisoners being marched to the rear



Kees Dejong on top of Pine Mountain drawing the overthrust

# Places — Keeneland, Spring Meeting





# What Now???

# New Frontiers in the West

