Memorial to Ira Wendell Marine
1927–1986

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I. Wendell Marine died of cancer of the esophagus on February 8, 1986. He was 58 years old. Known to his many friends as Wendell or “Wink”, he is sadly missed by us all. We have lost a scientist of the highest integrity. Wendell was a true professional, critical and relentless in pursuing and integrating a wide variety of ground water-related disciplines. His professional life not only involved the usual ingredients of a scientific career, but also the responsibility for planning and making decisions that related to his position as a senior research associate with the Savannah River Laboratory of DuPont.

Wendell was born on April 15, 1927, in Washington, D.C. In 1943, at the age of 16, he enrolled in St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland. He had just completed his sophomore year in high school; but it was the height of World War II, and the small liberal arts college accepted a few high school students so they could complete some college studies before serving in the armed forces. Wendell entered the U.S. Navy in July 1945 and served for one year.

After leaving the service, he was unsure of future plans, so he enrolled in Veterans High School in Washington where he received his high school certificate within a few months. He then decided to take a year off and see the U.S. He left D.C. in January 1947 and began a hitch-hiking odyssey across the country. His first stop was Miami, where he worked for a while and then went on to New Orleans; there he sold hot tamales during Mardi Gras. He spent some time in Fort Worth painting house trailers; then it was on to L.A. and San Francisco, hanging awnings and working on a houseboat, among other jobs. He then returned to D.C.—and Annapolis—and St. John’s. He graduated in 1949 with a degree in liberal arts.

From 1949 to 1951 he was enrolled in graduate studies in geology at Johns Hopkins University. After leaving Hopkins in May 1951, he was employed by the Alaskan Geology Branch of the USGS as a field assistant. He spent the summer field session mapping the geology of the north slope of the Brooks Range for a naval petroleum oil reserve. After returning from Alaska he was employed as a geologist with the USGS in Salisbury, Maryland, and later in Newark, Delaware, where he collaborated on a report on the geology and ground-water resources of Delaware.

Wendell then attended the University of Utah from 1954 to 1960, working on a Ph.D. in geology with emphasis on ground water. While a student, he worked part time for the USGS in Utah and completed several studies of ground water in the national parks in the state. Those of us who were with him during those days in Utah remember him with fondness as a serious and supportive fellow student, an excellent bridge player, and one of the all-time great gimlet mixers. He received his Ph.D. degree in 1960; his dissertation was a study of the geology and ground-water resources of the Jordan Valley of Utah.

In 1960 he moved to Norman, Oklahoma. There he completed several studies of ground-water movement in the Oklahoma panhandle for the USGS.

In August 1961, Wendell moved to Aiken, South Carolina as senior supervisor of the Hydrological Studies Section of the USGS, to study radioactive waste disposal at the Atomic Energy
Commission's Savannah River Plant. He was concerned with hydraulics of fluid movement, terrestrial heat flow, earth tides, and exploration geophysics. In 1968 he received an AEC certificate of appreciation for his "invaluable service" to the waste disposal program.

In 1970 he transferred to Columbia, South Carolina, where he was a section leader for the Hydrologic Studies Section of the Water Resources Division of the USGS. While there, he was involved in estuary hydraulic studies, dispersion studies, ground-water studies, and studies of the chemical quality of water.

In November 1971 he was employed by the DuPont Company at the Savannah River Plant in Aiken as a research associate in the Savannah River Laboratory. He became a senior research associate in 1980.

Teaching was a vital part of Wendell's life and he taught geology and physical science at the University of South Carolina at Aiken. While at graduate school in Salt Lake City, he taught classes in paleontology and stratigraphy and sedimentation at Westminster College.

He was an avid photographer and inveterate traveler. He enjoyed sharing his travel experiences and photographs (slides) with his friends and colleagues. He was often called upon by organizations and schools to give slide shows of his trips to Alaska, the Galapagos, China, and many of the U.S. national parks.

Wendell was one of 12 scientists selected as judges for special Atomic Energy Commission awards at the 21st International Science Fair in Baltimore in 1970. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the American Geophysical Union, the International Association of Hydrogeologists, the National Well Water Association, the American Institute of Hydrology, and the Carolina Geological Society.

Following his death, an editorial in the *Aiken Standard* quotes coworkers as saying he "significantly advanced the state of knowledge of the hydrogeology of the Savannah River Plant site and played a key role in developing an understanding of how waste material moves through the earth. A scholar in the classical sense . . . he could instruct and inspire not only the younger scientists with whom he was associated but he had the patience and perception to explain technical subjects to laymen." In recognition of this, the I. Wendell Marine Memorial Scholarship in Geology has been established at the University of South Carolina at Aiken.

As one who has kept in touch with Wendell and his family over the years since graduate school, I know him to have been a devoted husband and father, an excellent researcher, reporter, and teacher, and an irreplaceable friend.

He is survived by his wife Helen; two daughters, Karen Marine-Bellamy and Linda; and two sons, Andrew and Kenneth.

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