



Left to Right: Ernest T. Selig, Kathy Greene, and Vincent P. Drnevich.

## Editorial

# The Changing of the Guard

"The Changing of the Guard" would be an appropriate caption for the above photograph. At the Meeting of ASTM Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock in Los Angeles last June, I became the new Technical Editor for the *Geotechnical Testing Journal*. I am succeeding Ernest Selig, founder and first Technical Editor of the Journal. With us is Kathleen Greene, ASTM's Manager of Acquisition and Review.

Ernie will be taking a well deserved sabbatical leave beginning in December. ASTM's Committee D-18 and the geotechnical engineering profession are indebted to him for getting the journal off the ground and for much of the success that it enjoys today. Frequently, it is referred to as Ernie's Journal, a fitting tribute to him for the countless hours associated with putting it together and making sure each issue gets out.

There is significant effort on the part of many people associated with a publication. We in the engineering practice are familiar with the effort necessary to perform studies and write papers. The success of a journal depends on the quality of the papers it contains. This Journal has continually received a good selection of excellent papers. I hope that this continues during my tenure as Technical Editor. Once papers are submitted, additional work must be done before those papers actually appear in print. Much of the work is handled by the excellent staff at ASTM. In the time ahead, I should become very familiar with Kathy Greene, Therese Pravitz, and Susan Gebremedhin.

Quality also is controlled by those who perform the reviews. Fortunately, the approximately 600 members of Committee D-18 provide the breadth of expertise and willingness that is necessary. Their continued support is most appreciated.

Over the years since 1977, Ernie has been assisted by members of the Editorial Board. They have done more than their share of the reviews and have provided news items, book reviews, and testing tips for inclusion in the Journal, all on a voluntary basis. Many have served multiple terms of three years. We are very grateful for their contributions and service.

Goals for my term as Technical Editor include (1) maintain the standards of quality that are expected by the Society, the profession, and the readership; (2) promote the use of the Journal to a larger number of people; (3) increase its responsiveness to the geotechnical

testing community; and (4) increase its service to the committees in ASTM dealing with geotechnical testing.

Visibility is a keyword in achieving these goals. If the Journal, with substantive information, is made more visible, it will have greater impact and stature. To increase visibility, the size of the Editorial Board will be increased to include five or six representatives of foreign countries. Each of these persons will be charged with guiding papers and information to the Journal from his or her region.

A number of Board members will be specifically charged with providing the Testing Forum section of the Journal with Testing Tips or News. Input to this section is not limited to Board members; all are encouraged to send in testing tips, letters to the editor, and news items. Questions and other queries also are invited. I'll bet that there are many questions lurking in the minds of engineers and lab technicians about why certain things are done or are not done. With a worldwide readership, some very interesting responses should be received.

Automation and computerization are bywords these days. Geotechnical testing ranges from the very simple to the very sophisticated, but the trend is definitely towards automation. It is within the purview of the Journal to provide instructional type articles on such topics as data acquisition, feedback control, transducers, statistical analysis of data, and calibration procedures. Do you, the readers, wish to see more of this in the Journal?

Great use is made of the geotechnical testing standards established by Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock and its sister committees. These standards are reviewed and rebaloted every five years. Many standards are in preparation. Others need to be initiated. The Testing Forum section of the Journal provides an excellent vehicle for the readership to find out what is going on and for the committees to find out what is needed by the readership. Increased emphasis will be placed on this in the future.

Let me close with an invitation to you to write me with your ideas and suggestions for the Journal. I'll respond either through the Journal or to you personally.

Vincent P. Drnevich  
Technical Editor