

By Carolyn Connell, with assistance from several: primarily Don Tucker, Ken Ross, and Steven Heath

As the 29<sup>th</sup> and newest section of the MAA, only about 40 years in existence, one would think that a complete history would be at one's fingertips. However, it's amazing how quickly facts/dates/important events disappear from records. The following is a work in progress: several of us are still researching the early years of the section's history.

The Intermountain section, which consists of Utah and much of southern Idaho, split off from the Rocky Mountain Section in 1975. On January 2, 1975, Bill Coles (University of Utah) sent a petition to the MAA requesting this split, along with an attachment listing colleges to be included in the proposed new section. The colleges included were ones in Utah and southeastern Idaho plus several others in the Rocky Mountain Section: Mesa State College, Fort Lewis College, Boise State College, College of Idaho (Caldwell), and Montana State University (Bozeman). Below RMS = Rocky Mountain Section and IS = Intermountain Section.

Coles' letter included the statement: "On April 26, 1974, the recommendation to split the RMS was submitted to and accepted by the Business Meeting of the Section."

"The undersigned members of the RMS of the Mathematical Association of America hereby petition the Board of Governors to partition the RMS into two sections, one section to consist of Utah, Southeastern Idaho, and such adjacent areas as wish to be included, and the other section to consist of the remainder of the RMS." There were eight attached pages with a total of 38 signatures. Page 1 included signatures of nine University of Utah faculty and graduate students: Burgess, Mason, Glaser, Coles, Tucker, McMillan, Emerson, Scott, plus one illegible name. (Tucker suggests this was probably Keith Reed, notorious for his illegible writing, though it is surprising that Allan Davis wasn't among the signators). Page 2 included six Utah State University faculty members, starting with Larry Cannon. Page 3 included five from BYU, starting with Hal Moore. Page 4 included five from Idaho State University. Page 5 included three from Mesa State College. Page 6 included 3 from Ricks College. Page 7 was from College of Southern Idaho with a note from the signer, "only member at present." Page 8 included four from Fort Lewis College, and page 9 was from Southern Utah State College: Tebbs and Cotts. Primary reference: University of Texas MAA Archives, Sections Committee file, box 89-7/1 (16038137). Photocopying is not allowed in the archives, so Ken Ross took handwritten notes of the above.

MAA Executive Director A. B. Willcox acknowledged receipt of Coles' petition on January 8, 1975. MAA Secretary Henry Alder wrote Coles on January 15, 1975. The petition went to Lyle E. Mehlenbacher, chair of the Committee on Sections, who reacted positively and noted that currently all of Idaho was part of the Pacific Northwest Section, so that section would need to be

consulted. From minutes of the MAA Board of Governors meeting of January 24, 1975 (reported in the Dec. 1975 issue of the *Mathematical Monthly*, p. 1039):

“The Board approved the recommendation of the Committee on Sections that the Rocky Mountain Section be partitioned to form a new section to be called the Intermountain Section, consisting of Utah and parts of Idaho.”

On June 6, 1975, the new MAA Secretary David Roselle sent the draft proposal to partition the RMS to the new chair of the Committee on Sections, L. H. Lange. He suggested that the Board authorize an organizing committee (Coles—chair, Hunsaker, Irvine, Robinson) and suggested that the first joint meeting be on “the Western Slope (in Grand Junction).” Meanwhile, the secretary of Pacific Northwest Section, who was at the University of Idaho, was consulted, since the new IS would remove some of Idaho from that section.

This partitioning was not due to any feud or disagreement, but rather due to geology: the continental divide made travel between the two sections difficult except in summer months. Most Rocky Mountain section members at that time were on the Denver side of the divide, so section meetings were generally in that region, usually in spring months. Only the meetings held in Grand Junction, Colorado (home of Mesa State College, now known as Colorado Mesa University) or in Durango, Colorado (home of Ft. Lewis College) were fairly accessible by car for members from Utah at that time of year. Other sections admittedly deal with even greater geographic obstacles: the Pacific Northwest section, for example, encompasses Oregon, Washington, Alaska, parts of Idaho and Montana and much of western Canada. Geography and density of population (MAA membership) are important factors, but the wish of local MAA members is the primary consideration in creating a new section. Similar to others of the western sections, population in the region is somewhat sparse, so partitioning the Rocky Mountain Section into two sections resulted in the Intermountain Section being the second smallest of the twenty-nine sections in number of members. In a May 15, 1979, “summary of sections,” from the archives, IS had 118 members. Only the Iowa Section had fewer members, 114. The IS section has only fifteen colleges and universities and about 160 MAA members, as of 2014.

### **Early Years of the Intermountain Section:**

On May 14, 1976, Coles wrote to L. H. Lange (Committee on Sections) regarding the first elections of the IS which occurred at the RMS meeting in Durango, CO, on May 1. They were: E. A. Davis, chair; S. K. Parker, ISU, first vice chair; L. C. Glaser, UU, second vice chair; D. R. Snow, BYU, secretary-treasurer. By this act, Coles dissolved the organizing committee.

In a message from MAA Secretary David Roselle to MAA Executive Director A. B. Willcox, he wrote, “Did I miss a point? Does IS yet have a Governor?” For unknown reasons, the first IS governor did not take office until 1977: Bill Coles. E. Allan Davis attended a Section Representatives meeting at the national MAA meeting in Seattle, August 1977.

Don Tucker, also University of Utah, and Larry Cannon (USU) recall being officers in early years of the section. Professor Linda Hill (Idaho State University) thinks it was in the fall of 1977 that Bill Coles called to ask her to run for office; she became the section’s 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair. Linda has pointed out that because no other new section had been formed in several decades

prior to the Intermountain section's founding, figuring out the mechanism for the founding was pioneering work.

### **Colleges/Universities in the Intermountain Section:**

BYU, Provo, Utah (BYU)

BYU in Idaho, Rexburg, Idaho (BYUI): formerly Ricks College

Dixie State University (Dixie), St. George, Utah

College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, Idaho (CSI)

Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho (ISU)

Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City, Utah (SLCC)

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah (SUU): formerly Southern Utah State College

Snow College, Ephraim, Utah (SC)

Lewis and Clark State College, Lewiston, ID (LCSC)

(perhaps LCSC is still in the Pacific Northwest Section?)

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah (UU)

USU, Logan, Utah (USU)

USU Eastern, Price, Utah (USU Eastern); formerly College of Eastern Utah (CEU)

UVU, Orem, Utah (UVU): formerly Utah Valley State College

WSU, Ogden, Utah (WSU): formerly Weber State College

Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah (WC)

### **Governors of Section:**

1977 - 1980: William J. (Bill) Coles, UU

1980 - 1983: Cecil Edmund (Ed) Burgess, UU

1983 - 1986: Don H. Tucker, UU

1986 - 1989: Richard Tebbs? Don Robinson? Allan Davis?

1989 - 1992: Hal Moore, BYU

1992 - 1995: Lawrence O. Cannon, USU

1995 - 1998: Carolyn Connell Tucker, WC

1998 - 2001: James (Jim) Cannon, BYU

2001 - 2004: Robert (Bob) Heal, USU

2004 - 2007: David Wright, BYU

2007 - 2010: Carolyn Connell, WC

2010 - 2013: Michael Dorff, BYU

2013 - 2016: Kathy Andrist, UVU

### **Other Officers of Section:**

1976

Chair: Allan Davis, UU

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Steve Parker, ISU

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Les Glaser, UU

Secretary-Treasurer: Don Snow, BYU

1977

2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair: Linda Hill, ISU

1979

Chair: Don H. Tucker, UU

1992:

Chair: Jerry Ridenhour, USU

Past chair: Larry Cannon, USU

Chair-elect: Steven Heath, SUU

Sec./Treas.: Dewey Furness, Ricks

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Kendell Hyde, WSU

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Lee Badger, WSU

AHSME Reg. Coordinator, Idaho: Larry C. Ford, ISU

AHSME Reg. Coordinator, Utah: R. Vencil Skarda, BYU

Public Information Officer: Linda C. Hill, ISU

Newsletter editor: Neil Dickson, WSU

1993:

Chair: Steven Heath, SUU

1994:

Chair: Steven Heath, SUU

1996:

Chair: Donald R. Snow, BYU

Chair-elect: Lance L. Littlejohn, USU

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: E. Robert Heal, USU

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Steven T. Cottrell, Davis County School District

Secretary/Treasurer: Dewey F. Furness, Ricks College

Program Chair and Home Page Editor: Linda Hill, ISU

1997:

Chair: Lance Littlejohn, USU

Past Chair: Donald R. Snow, BYU

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Ralph V. Skarda, BYU

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Steven T. Cottrell, Davis Co. School District

Sec./Treas.: Dewey F. Furness, Ricks College

Newsletter Editor: Larry Ford, ISU

Public Information Officer: Linda C. Hill, ISU

1998:

Chair: Vencil Skarda, BYU

Past Chair: Lance Littlejohn, USU

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Kay Litchfield, GTE Govt. System Corp.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Larry Ford, ISU

Sec./Treas.: Kent Bessey, Ricks College  
Newsletter Editor: Richard Tebbs, SUU  
AHSME Coordinator UT: Ralph Skarda, BYU  
AHSME Coordinator ID: Larry C. Ford, ISU

2000:

Chair: Larry C. Ford, ISU  
Past Chair: R. Vencil Skarda, BYU  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Kay Litchfield, GTE Government Systems Corp.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Craig Johnson, Ricks College  
Sec./Treas: Ann Marie Harris, Ricks College  
AHSME Reg. Coordinator, Idaho: Larry C. Ford, ISU  
AHSME Reg. Coordinator, Utah: R. Vencil Skarda, BYU  
Public Information Officer: Linda C. Hill, ISU

Spring 2002:

Chair: Larry C. Ford, ISU  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Kay Litchfield  
Sec./Treas: Ann Marie Harris, Ricks College  
AHSME Reg. Coordinator, Idaho: Larry C. Ford, ISU  
AHSME Reg. Coordinator, Utah: R. Vencil Skarda, BYU  
Public Information Officer: Linda C. Hill, ISU

Fall 2002: Carolyn Connell, WC, elected to serve remainder of Chair's term, until 2004  
Richard Wellman, WC, elected as webmaster for a 3-year term. (This new position should be added to our by-laws)

Chair-Elect: Lee Badger, WSU (to become chair 2004-2006)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Jennifer Youngberg, Ricks College  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: James Cangelosi, USU

2009:

Chair: Troy Goodsell, BYUI  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Dave Brown, USU  
2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair: Cindy Soderstrom, SLCC  
Sec./Treas.: Ann Marie Harmon (now Harris), BYUI  
Web Editor: Kent Kidman, Weber

2010:

Chair: Troy Goodsell, BYUI  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Dave Brown, USU  
2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair: Cindy Soderstrom, SLCC  
Sec./Treas.: Danae Romrell, BYUI  
Web Editor: Nick Korevaar, UU

2011:

Chair: Troy Goodsell, BYUI

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Dave Brown, USU

2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair: Cindy Soderstrom, SLCC

Sec./Treas.: Danae Romrell, BYUI

Web Editor: Nick Korevaar, UU

2012:

Chair: Brynja Kohler, USU

1<sup>st</sup> Vice chair: Derek Hein, SUU

2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair: Jonas D'Andrea, WC

Sec./Treas.: Danae Romrell, BYUI

Web Editor: Nick Korevaar, UU

2013:

Chair: Brynja Kohler, USU

1<sup>st</sup> vice chair: Derek Hein, SUU

2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair: Cindy Soderstrom, SLCC

Sec./Treas.: Danae Romrell, BYUI

Web Editor: Nick Korevaar, UU

2014:

Chair: Violeta Vasilevska, UVU

1<sup>st</sup> Vice chair: Ben Woodruff, BYUI

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice chair: Cindy Soderstrom, SLCC

Sec./Treas.: Danae Romrell, BYUI

Webmaster: Nick Korevaar, UU

Historian: Carolyn Connell, WC

### **Section Meetings:**

The 1976 meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section (and first meeting of the Intermountain Section) was at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Officers were elected for the new Intermountain Section, listed above; they were surely in attendance, as were Bill Coles, Don Tucker and Carolyn Tucker and probably many others from Utah and Idaho. That meeting set the precedence for holding joint meetings between the Rocky Mountain section and the new Intermountain section every ten years, with meetings to be held either in Durango or in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Our best records of early section meetings come from Professor Steven Heath, Southern Utah State College (now Southern Utah University):

May 5 – 6, 1978: WSU (from S.H.)

On February 21, 1978, MAA President Henry Alder accepted an invitation to speak at Weber College in Ogden, May 5-6, 1978. (from archives)

May 4 – 5, 1979- in Idaho probably Pocatello (from S.H.)

On August 21, 1979, Richard Ray Tebbs attended the Section Officers meeting at the national summer meeting in Duluth, MN. (from archives)

May 2, 1980- meeting held at USU; Dorothy Bernstein (President or President-Elect of MAA) was unable to visit the IS meeting. (from archives)

April 10 – 11, 1981- BYU (from S.H.)

On February 2, 1980, MAA Secretary Roselle asked Don Albers to visit IS, since IS “specifically requested Don to go and speak on his survey on two-year college mathematics and faculty.” (from archives)

April 16 – 17, 1982- SUSC, 16-17

Invited speaker: Ivan Niven there from MAA, Great person (from S.H.)

1983: UU (Bill Coles, chair)

Invited speaker: Richard D. Anderson from MAA on Math Teacher crisis (from S.H.)

April 27 – 28, 1984: Ricks College

Invited speakers: Harvey Fletcher on modeling; Ken Ross and Ed Burgess there for MAA office. (from S.H.)

April 19 -20, 1985: WSU

Invited speaker: Stephen Mauer from MAA on Finite Mathematics (from S. H.)

March 6 – 8, 1986: UU

Invited speaker: Burgess gave a talk on finite geometries (from S. H.)

April 24 – 25, 1987: ISU

Program: Probably first Short Course on Coding Theory (from S. H.)

National meeting of the MAA held in Salt Lake City in 1987; Allan Davis was on planning committee. From the History of National Meetings by Jim Tattersall (J. J. Tattersall) and Ken Ross:

The 1987 summer meeting was held at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City with 634 mathematicians in attendance. It was held in conjunction with the 90<sup>th</sup> summer meeting of the AMS. The Hedrick Lectures were given by William P. Thurston. The Committee on the Mathematical Education of Teachers sponsored a panel discussion on the pros and cons of the new directions in teacher education. The Committee on the Participation of Women sponsored a panel discussion titled “What are the problems? What are the Solutions?” The Committee on Student Chapters and Activities sponsored the first MAA student paper session. The AWM, Joint Policy Board for Mathematics (JPBM), PME, NSF, and the Interagency Commission from Extramural Mathematics Programs

sponsored sessions at the meeting. There was an outing including dinner and sight-seeing at the nearby Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort.

April 15 – 16, 1988: USU

Invited speaker: Dr. Grumbaum on Tiling of the Plane was short course. S. Heath reports using the info in his geometry class for the rest of his career. (from S. H.)

April 7 – 8, 1989: BYU

Invited speaker: Don Snow short course on Spreadsheets in mathematics (from S. H.)

April 6 – 7, 1990: SUU

Invited speaker: Fred Rickey gave short course on History of Calculus, most interesting. Herb Wilf, MAA visitor. (from S. H.)

April 12 – 13, 1991: Ricks College

Program: Short Course on Fractals. Steve Heath was elected chair-elect for 1993 & 1994. (from S. H.)

April 10 – 11, 1992: WSU

Invited speakers: Roland Lamberson, John Kenelly, Jim Cannon, Pat Henry

April 9 – 10, 1993: UU

Notes from Steve Heath:

I conducted meetings, Jim Cannon honored with Outstanding Teacher Award for section. Don Snow elected Chair-Elect and Chair for 1995 & 1996.

April 8 – 9, 1994: WC (Carolyn Connell Tucker, chair)

Teaching Award to Lance Littlejohn, who also did a minicourse at the meeting; Ken Ross from MAA was invited speaker

April 7 – 8, 1995: ISU (Linda Hill, chair)

April 19 – 20, 1996: Joint meeting with the Rocky Mountain Section, at Mesa State College, Grand Junction, CO (Ken Ross, MAA President, was the banquet speaker)

April 10 – 12, 1997: USU (Lance Littlejohn, chair?)

April 10 – 11, 1998: BYU

Invited speakers: Richard Askey, Frank Morgan, Ron Graham

Attendance: 125, including 25 students

March 24 – 25, 2000: SUU (Steve Heath, chair) (invited speakers Ken Ross and Ed Burger)

Notes from Jim Cannon: “My wife and I hosted Ken Ross, drove him across the mountains to visit Bryce Canyon, then up to Salt Lake City. Ed Burger provided the mathematical entertainment at that meeting -- showed us how to knot a rope without letting go of the ends of the rope. Ed demonstrated turning shorts inside out.”



April 5 – 7, 2001: Ricks College (invited speakers: Jim Tattersall and Art Benjamin)

October 25-26, 2002: WC (Carolyn Connell, chair)

(The meeting was postponed from spring '02 to fall because of the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City)

Invited Speakers: Joe Gallian, Jim Cannon (BYU), Fred Adler (UU)

March 26-27, 2004: WSU (Lee Badger, chair?)

Invited speakers: Helaman & Claire Ferguson, Don Albers (who was unable to come)

March 4 – 5, 2005: ISU

Invited speakers: Michael Starbird, David Wright, T. H. Steele (WSU)

2006: Joint meeting with the Rocky Mountain Section, at Mesa State College, Grand Junction, CO

March 23 – 24, 2007: UU (Nick Korevaar, chair)

March 14 – 15, 2008: BYU (Michael Dorff); joint meeting with CURM (Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics)

Invited speakers: Lisette dePillis, Thomas Garrity, Bob Devaney, Tina Straley

March 20 – 21, 2009: BYU (Michael Dorff); joint meeting with CURM

Invited speakers: Laura Taalman, Colin Adams, Joe Gallian

March 26 – 27, 2010: USU (Dave Brown)

Invited speakers: Allen Schwenk, Bryan Shader, Douglas Corey

April 8 – 9, 2011: SUU (Derek Hein)

Invited speakers: Francis Edward Su, Ron Graham, Fan Chung, Ted Mehavier

March 22 – 24, 2012: WC (Carolyn Connell & Jonas D'Andrea) and Salt Lake Community College (Cindy Soderstrom)

Invited speakers: Ken Ross, Katherine Socha, Ivars Peterson, Michael Dorff, David Wright

March 29-30, 2013: BYUI

Invited speakers: James Powell (USU), Jennifer Quinn, Robert Bradley

March 28-29, 2014: UVU

Invited speakers: Paul Zorn, Annalisa Crannell, Bob Palais (UVU)

## **Section Awards:**

### **Distinguished Teaching Award:**

1993: Jim Cannon, BYU  
1994: Lance Littlejohn, USU  
1996: Ed Burgess, UU  
2004: Anne Roberts, UU  
2005: Afshin Ghoreishi, WSU  
2006: Tyler Jarvis, BYU  
2007: Peter Alfeld, UU  
2008: Michael Dorff, BYU  
2009: Nick Korevaar, UU  
2010: Richard Wellman, WC  
2011: Henry Zwick, CEU  
2012: David Wright, BYU  
2013: Bill Bynum, WC  
2014: Don H. Tucker, UU

### **Certificate of Meritorious Service:**

1985: Ed Burgess, UU  
1990: Don H. Tucker, UU  
2010: Michael Dorff, BYU

### **Personalities in the Intermountain Section:**

An historical document wouldn't be complete without stories about some of the people involved. The list below is nowhere near complete: there are so many others whose bios should be here! All stories/anecdotes are certified to be mostly true.

### **Ed Burgess** (Cecil Edmond Burgess)

Certainly, Ed Burgess had a huge impact on the Intermountain Section and on the University of Utah, where he chaired the math department from 1967 to 1977. Ed was born in Happy, Texas, on January 21, 1920, and passed away on November 18, 2004. As noted above, Ed was instrumental in the founding of the Intermountain Section and served as its second governor. He received the section teaching award in 1996. In his nomination letter for Ed, Jim Cannon (BYU, one of Ed's 10 PhD students) commented about Ed:

“Ed Burgess, tall, lanky, sometimes stooped, with a deep Texas drawl, has ambled, sometimes nodded, his way through a series of teaching and administrative duties at the University of Utah, always surprising the onlookers by his supreme effectiveness. Burgess would sit at the back of our graduate topology class and listen, call on students to present their work, make an occasional comment, perhaps pass out a new sheet of problems. I loved the class, the theorems, the cutthroat competition, and felt that anyone could teach such a class. Thirty years later I realize just how subtle a matter it was to make such a class work: How do you play the students off against one another to maximize their participation and success? ... How much do you intervene when there are errors? ...Ed Burgess manages the whole thing in what seemed effortless fashion, completely

unobtrusively, and managed thereby to turn out a whole series of capable, confident problem solvers as Ph.D. students. ...One person who served for a long time on a major university committee with Burgess said that he had never seen Burgess fail to get what he wanted on this committee, yet, he said, Burgess was never obviously trying. When one considers how helpful and effective and useful Burgess has been through the years, one wants somehow to see the hidden view beneath the surface of the water where the feet must be churning and the arms madly stroking to keep this wonderful, effortless show afloat. I am full of admiration for this man.”

At the Intermountain section meeting in Pocatello in March, 2005, quite a few gathered for an informal sharing of stories about Ed (including Carolyn Connell’s memory of having a spectacular skiing collision with Ed years ago: no serious injury to either). There was also a special session at the R.L. Moore Legacy meeting in June, 2005, honoring Ed.

### **Bill Coles** (William J. Coles)

Longtime faculty member at the University of Utah, 1956 until recently, Bill was born on Halloween, Oct 31, 1929, in Marquette, Michigan, received a B.A. at Northern Michigan in 1950 and Ph.D. from Duke in 1954, having been a Fullbright Scholar at Cambridge the previous year. He was an analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense before coming to the U of U in 1956. Bill has served the MAA and AMS in many capacities, including chairing the committee that was formed to organize the Intermountain Section, 1974 – 1976. Bill is a quiet person, making him a serious predator for trout in Utah’s streams. He is also a writer and teller of tales, sometimes true, much to the dismay of his colleagues Burgess and Tucker. He also plays a mean banjo.

### **E. Allan Davis**

Professor at University of Utah from 1955 until ???, Allan was instrumental in the founding of the Intermountain Section and served as its first chair, 1976 – 1978 (?). Known to be somewhat formal in the classroom, he nevertheless took delight in his epsilon-delta games with his students. He frequently gave them an epsilon and asked for a delta, so the story is that one day, students had prepared a cardboard delta. When Allan asked them for an appropriate delta that day, a student threw the delta to Allan; he looked at it and threw it back, saying ‘too big.’ Allan was a leader in math education at the University and also co-authored, with Jean Pedersen, a widely-used trig text.

### **Don Tucker** (Don Harrell Tucker)

Don is another Texan who has had a major impact on the Intermountain Section. Born in Brownwood Texas, January 21, 1930 (exactly 10 years after Ed!), Don attended West Texas State College, as did Ed, studied with R.L.Moore at the University of Texas, as did Ed, and spent his entire teaching career at the University of Utah, also like Ed. Don also served as governor of the section and has been awarded the section’s teaching excellence award. Stories about Don abound from his nearly sixty years of teaching at the University, such as his various sayings attributed to Bud Jones, a Throckmorton, Texas personage (possibly fictional). He’s known for quizzing students about the etymology of various words; he regularly uses “iota” instead of “epsilon” and refers students to the Council of Nicea in 326 for reasons why. Don plays the mandolin; he, Bill Coles, Sam Young and various graduate students have been known to entertain at departmental gatherings.

As an aside, the Texas influence (and R.L. Moore influence) on the University of Utah has been considerable. Ferdinand Biesele was a University of Texas Ph.D (advisor: H.S. Vandiver). Others: Ed Burgess, John Barrett (student of Ettliger) and Lida Barrett (Moore student); John was instrumental in hiring Don. Several of H.S. Wall's students, including Berl Helton and Sam Young, were on the faculty for some time; Keith Reed, another Moore student, was a longtime faculty member.

**Ken Ross**, elected as an honorary member of the Intermountain Section in 2012

Everyone knows Ken, but many do not know that he grew up in Salt Lake City and attended the University of Utah. (Interestingly, Ken is the third in this list with a January 21 birthday! Ken was born on January 21, 1936.) Ken recalls attending a symposium given by John Barrett in the spring of 1956; John was interviewing for a position at the University. But Ken especially remembers meeting Lida Barrett at the tea after the symposium: Lida was, in Ken's words, John's "trailing spouse." Lida and Ken, both future MAA presidents, remember this chance meeting when Ken was a "mere undergraduate student and certainly wasn't an extrovert." They later became close friends.

Ken gave his first math talk at a meeting in Salt Lake — a 10-minute talk at the AMS-MAA summer meeting in Salt Lake in 1959. He recalls that Ferdinand Biesele attended his talk; Biesele's encouragement was key to Ken's pursuing a career in mathematics. Ken has been the invited speaker no fewer than *six* times at Intermountain Section meetings. Below are Ken's notes about those six talks:

Rexburg, April 1984. Title, "A probabilistic approach to studying groups."

Pocatello, April 24, 1987. Title almost surely, "Another Approach to Riemann-Stieltjes Integrals." That's the talk that would have been better, at this meeting focused on applied math, if I had revised the opening to explain/remind folks that these integrals are all that many statisticians need — and that my approach was better.

Salt Lake City, 1994. Title, "Supportive Practices and Ethics in the Employment of Young Mathematicians." This was more of a sermon on a subject that I was greatly concerned about at the time. At the end, I overheard a fellow tell another fellow, "That was the most depressing talk I've ever heard." I had given the talk before, but I never gave it again! Also, Lida Barrett was at this meeting and she told those gathered to all vote for me (for MAA President) — I was mortified. (Ken remembers his remarks upon winning that election, that he was sure he had carried Utah and Iceland.)

Grand Junction, about April 25, 1996. Title was something like, "Mathematicians I've Known at the University of Utah." Ferdinand Biesele, Clarence R. (Ray) Wylie, C.E. (Ed) Burgess, Charles J. Thorne, Jimmy Wolfe, L.E. Ward, etc. I have no record of this talk, though. This was, evidently, an after-banquet talk because I remember throwing my voice to the back of the restaurant where Burgess was seated.

Cedar City, March 24 or 25, 2000. I cannot figure out what I talked about this time, probably random walks and Markov chains. For this visit, Jim Cannon drove me to

Cedar City. Then his wife appeared, and they drove me back to Salt Lake (or Provo) via Panquitch and Bryce Canyon because I'd never been to either place. Most memorable at this meeting was Ed Burger (Edward B. Burger) who took off his pants at the banquet — standing on a table in the restaurant (cafeteria?) while retaining his modesty of course. Even the staff came out from the kitchen to watch. And this was in Cedar City!

Salt Lake City, March 24, 2012, as newly honorary Section member. Title, "Frequencies of First Digits of Data." That was at the community college on State Street, at 17th South (was South High). Down the hall (on the second floor) on the right was where I'd taken trig from Miss Schroder (or Schroeder) exactly 60 years earlier.

Ken says he's proud to be the only person who's a member of two MAA sections; we're certainly proud to claim him.