

Thanks to our founder of M.J. Schiff & Associates Inc.

**MELVIN J. SCHIFF, P.E.**



***For Teaching Us To:***

***Ask Questions***

***Question Answers***

***Answer with Confidence***

***Have Confidence in our Data***

***&***

***Not To Let The Data Get In The Way***

***-Scot Foreman***

## *Words from M.J. Schiff & Associates Staff*

### MEL

How do we take the measure of a man?

What does the measure of a man exactly mean?

Do we raise a tape from head to toe

And then declare in solemn tone,

Ah, he's more than 5, but less than 6?

Or, do we place an ear to chest

To know the heart that lies within?

Perhaps some calipers will do the trick,

Reveal the mind where lies the genius.

The budding poet, such as I,

Will pass those foolish things right by.

Become a poet, I ask you to,

Put the name upon your lips;

Repeat it oft and think the rhyme;

Hell, Mel, you were swell! *-Paul and Patricia Smith*

I came to work for Mel in 1989 by some great stroke of good luck. Mel needed to replace an engineer at a time when I desperately needed a job with a future. I think I got the better end of the deal. I don't think I would have lasted as long as I did, but Carol liked my long hair. Mel's mind was so sharp, and he was always pushing me to think and learn. I always question my work product by asking myself, "Is it good enough; what would Mel think?" Thank you Mel for the great opportunities you have provided. *-Robert Pannell*

I always looked forward to Mel coming into the office, although it seemed that most of the time he was out enjoying life in Mammoth. However, when he did come in I remember always laughing quietly at my desk as he answered the guys' questions in his sassy and witty way. He was an interesting man who had learned a lot in the field of corrosion and had several stories to share with his employees. He will be missed greatly by all as he is remembered by memories of the man he was. *-Becky Aguiar*

In the short period of 2-1/2 years that I've known Mel, he always seemed to have had that "twinkle" in his eyes. I've always thought of him as that "Cute Little Guy!" Petite in stature - but big on enjoying life, especially his work which he loved so much. He left quite a legacy with the company he founded and will never be forgotten. He was always polite in asking for tasks to be done; it was a pleasure working for him and a privilege to have known him. He will be greatly missed. *-Kathy Phoenix*

Mel has permanently affected my life for the better. I will remember him for his candor, his independent thinking, and mostly for his ability to stretch my self-confidence, perhaps even beyond my true value. I hope he recognized his impact on me and felt some sense of my gratitude. *-James Keegan*

Mel won a special place in my heart over the years. He accepted people the way they were and treated them fairly. He took a personal interest in his staff as he molded them into professional excellence. I will cherish our last staff meeting with Mel which was in March. Mel stopped by at the precise moment of pizza time and sat down to eat with us. He shared some old black-and-white photos from his earlier days in corrosion. He seemed to be basking in the time of "way back when" as the staff listened to his stories and laughed with his dry sense of humor. He was the center attraction and respectfully so. It was a "Kodak" moment of which I was privileged to be present. *-Jennifer J Sybesma-Duran*

Mel was a good man. He was gruff but in a grandfatherly sort-of-way. He always encouraged me to do my best, but to enjoy life at the same time. What I remember most about him, were the stories he would tell of my homeland. He talked about how impressed he was on how a ship crew repaired an engine so that he could reach his destination. But what really surprised me, were the customs and phrases that he picked up during his stay. That was the type of man Mel as. He did his job, but he also found the time to enjoy the moment. *-Ariel Bacani*

Mel was someone I admired and looked up to because he was able to make a mark on the world. I can only hope to be as successful as he was with respect to his knowledge and work ethic. In hindsight, I wish that I had more opportunities to talk with Mel so that I might have absorbed more. *-David Jantz*

The day was December 13, 1999. It was my first day of employment with M.J. Schiff & Associates. I was sitting in a "all hands" meeting as the status of all the current projects was being discussed. Everybody including Mel was there. Graham was giving a technical explanation to somebody about a complicated field test. I don't remember his exact words but Graham said something like "I explained this before but don't be afraid to ask someone else until you really understand it. Sometimes you can hear an explanation from the same person hundreds of times and still don't understand." Just then Graham realized that Mel was sitting there staring at him in disbelief at what he just heard. Mel didn't say much although if eyes are the windows into a man's soul, I could see him thinking "no @\$%! Sherlock, it took me years and years to explain some of these concepts to you." I could tell instantly that there must have been more than a few "incidents of miscommunication". When I thought of that meeting on the drive back to San Diego I had a good laugh. I'll always remember the look on Mel's face borne by a fair share of frustration combined with some good humor! *-Brendan Sheehan*

When I joined MJS&A, everyone volunteered that Mel was a great guy, well known for his competence and integrity. That kind of universal respect among his peers and competitors is rare in any industry. *-Dan Townley*

I met Mel in 1986 on a project in Palmdale, CA. He was some nit-picking owner's representative for a project and was inspecting my work. I was overseeing and assisting our (Harco's) construction crew perform anode installations for a water pipeline and test facility. I thought him quite a pain. I next ran into him in 1987 while testing a system that a Harco (Huntington Beach) construction crew installed. The system was designed by M.J. Schiff & Associates (no Inc. then!). He had me climbing up and down a slope, a steep slope, hanging on by a rope, performing tests that he wanted verified. He went with me and recorded the data while I did the testing at his direction. The project later won a National Award for "Project of the Year". It was the Cove Slope Restoration Project in Dana Point. I designed a corrosion control system for an intake structure and travelling screen off the California Aqueduct at Adelanto. Who do you think was the owner's representative? Yes, Mel. He reviewed my design and was actually quite pleased with my work, with the exception of the fact that I had taken gross liberties with assuming one of the parameters used in designing the system and he let me know it in no uncertain terms. I, of course, though quite humiliated, accepted his constructive criticism and used the actual resistivity data he provided rather than that which I had assumed. The change did, of course, have a bearing on my design and I was thankful

for his review. We kept running into each other on little projects and finally, in late 1988, at what is now Koll Center Irvine South. After Paul Smith, Mel and myself learned about the B.A.C. (Bergsoe Anti-Corrosion) Pin Brazer vs. exothermic welds and their effect on Fusion Bonded Epoxy (F.B.E.) coatings, Mel asked me if I was looking for a job. He knew damn well that I wasn't and that I was gainfully employed by Harco Corporation, at that time, the largest corrosion engineering firm in the world. I respectfully told him so to which he replied, "When you're ready to go to work for a real corrosion company, give me a call". I thanked him and we went about our ways. I, of course, thinking to myself and nearly doubled over with mirth, felt that I, being an employee of such a prestigious company as Harco, would never work for some eccentric little old man with such a tiny company and that that company, M.J. Schiff & Associates, would surely fall by the wayside in the near future. Well, lo and behold, 10-years later, I went to work for that eccentric little old man at that tiny company (Now it was Inc. of course!) and that large prestigious company that I was so enamoured of was no longer, and hadn't been for some time! Mel, of course, had become more known to me over the years and my brash thoughts of eccentricity were quite misplaced. His renown in the field of corrosion is quite literally worldwide. His knowledge was so vast and diverse, that my experience, even after 14 years in the business, simply paled in comparison. I had been contracting to Graham and Mel during the spring of '98 when Graham managed to place me in cold storage in the corrosion group at a Water District here in the Southland, for 6-months! After nearly going insane with boredom and frustration, I spoke with Graham and we worked out a deal for my employ. During my first day in the Upland office, Mel came in and, looking over his glasses, said to me "Well, I see you've come to your senses and finally gone to work with a real corrosion company!" then he turned and walked into his office. Amazed at his recollection and laughing to myself, I felt right at home. I remember during early 1999 working on a concrete water reservoir. I had never worked on a concrete tank before and didn't know where to begin. The large company for which I had worked for so long did not work on this type of structure, we had always left that type of thing to the nook and cranny people, the people that didn't have the where with all to work on "big" projects. Hell, I myself was never concerned with concrete tanks from a corrosion point of view, I thought that concrete basically did not corrode. WRONG! Mel met me on the site and proceeded to school me. Photographs, documentation, question, potential grids, documentation, questions, I thought it'd never end. Then we started testing! It was 40-foot high tank. We took a man-lift to the top and then Mel was the first one in. 40' down a vertical ladder and all over the place like a kid in a candy store. After more pictures, documentation and testing, I was introduced to phenolphthalein. Some type of test used to indicate an approximate range of pH based on color change (tells whether the mortar in the concrete is still good and, hence, whether the concrete is still good!). All this was performed in about 3-hours. The man was a whirlwind and my head was spinning just trying to keep up. I knew then that this man had probably forgotten more about corrosion than I will ever know. I am thankful that I got the opportunity to work with him and to see him for the genuine person that he really was, to have picked his brain a little, to have been enriched in the field of corrosion by his knowledge, short as our time together actually was. His legacy lives on, and shall continue to do so, both in his successor Graham, and, in that little company that bears his name so proudly, M.J. Schiff & Associates, Inc. -Gary L. Barton

## Words from Clients & Friends



Mel at seminar in Pasadena CA. -1999

It has been a great pleasure knowing and working with Mel on many projects over the last nearly forty years. His marvelous sense of humor was a great counterpoint to his outstanding professional ability. He was a man whose integrity was never in question. I take comfort in the memory of our long and friendly relationship, but will miss his knowledge and guidance in the days to come. If Heaven has any corrosion problems, I'm sure St. Peter has Mel working on them right now. With fondest wishes to Mel's family and his multitude of friends, *-LeRoy "Buzz" Crandall*

I have known Mel for most of my corrosion career and always respected his knowledge and efforts in the field of corrosion control. He will be missed and happily thought of well into the future. I have heard it said that a person has achieved greatness if he is thought of by others (outside of the family) for more than a year after his passing. Mel achieved greatness - believe me, Mel will be thought of by many for years. He may not have been tall but he was truly a great man standing tall and erect in his field. *-Chuck Barney*

I will not forget my friend Mel Schiff. I have known Mel for over thirty years. He was always a good friend. He was always a purveyor of good advice. But more than that, he was always honest and straightforward with his comments. He told you how he saw things, including the "good" and the "not-so-good". He told you what you could do to improve the "not-so-good" and he encouraged you to enjoy the "good". Once Mel attended one of our instrument demonstration and one of our instruments balked at working. Mel said, humorously, in his dry, succinct way, "Maybe you should check the instrument before the demonstration to make sure it is working." That is pretty obvious and of course I knew that. However, the truth is that we had not checked the instrument. Since then, I always "check the instruments" before the demonstration. I do this not only because it is such an obvious thing to do, but also more because I suspect that Mel just might come by. I will continue to check the instruments before the demonstration, just as I have, not so much because it is the obvious thing to do, but more because...well because Mel just might come by. I will miss him. *-Earl Pye*

I was deeply saddened to learn of Mel's death. He is a wonderful man. I first met Mel in the early 1980's when I worked with Jose Villalobos. Mel had contracted with Jose for technical assistance in gathering data on a large water supply project which I want to call the Allen-McCullouch Project but I could easily have gotten the name wrong. Even though I was a young, relatively inexperienced technician, Mel treated me like a peer. One of the first days on the job we were scheduled to meet with representatives for the project. We were going to explain a little about the data to be gathered and demonstrate the equipment. We could easily have measured the pipe potentials with a hand held digital voltmeter, but Mel wanted to impress his clients with the technical nature of the work he was performing. So he opened up the tailgate of his station wagon (a huge 1970's era Chrysler product) and pulled out a Miller B3 Multi-Combination meter. This instrument looks like a small suitcase and when opened, reveals an array of a dozen or so knobs and switches, and two large analogue meters. This effectively, silences the group. Then, Mel proceeds to use the meter as a galvanometer. This involves the use of both meters and several test leads, all in a tangled mess adding to the confusion. Mel makes the appropriate connections and begins to adjust the counter current on one meter which simultaneously causes the needle of the other meter to move. I was fascinated and the client was dumbfounded. The demonstration was a success! I am now in the possession of one these wonderful instruments and still think of Mel whenever I need to upstage a skeptic. *-Alan Mulkey*

Mel Schiff: Always professional. Always a gentlemen. Always a kind word. *-John Barnes*

I'm shocked to hear about Mel...I rode back next to him on the plane from the NACE Expo in Orlando, and he seemed to be in fine health. We had a good talk about

numerous corrosion issues, both old and new. I was reminiscing about a job I had done for him some 20 years or so ago. He had designed a CP system for an Anaheim mobile home park and I was running the Farwest construction crew that he had subcontracted for the installation. Halfway through the job I trenched through some direct burial electrical cables and cut off the power to half of the park! We were both busy trying to calm down the residents while the local power company came out to make repairs! It was an event I'll always remember! What I will remember about Mel is that he had a lot of integrity, while at the same time he didn't take himself too seriously. He had a good sense of humor and was fun to be around. He was certainly dedicated to the corrosion industry and this business has lost one of its best... -*Steve Wahrenbrock*

I first met Mel when I started going to the LA NACE Section meetings about 1994. I really did not know very many people back then and Mel was one of the first NACE members that came up and introduced himself. At each meeting we would always have some sort of a conversation about business or pleasure. He was sincerely interested in how and what I was doing. As I started going to the meetings with more regularity I discovered how well respected Mel was in the corrosion community. That kind of respect only comes with years of dedication and hard work in your field. That was Mel and that is how I will remember him. -*Eugene Tanaka*

I have known Mel Schiff for over 20 years. When I first started in the corrosion business at Pacific Bell, Mel was among the first people to welcome me to NACE. Mel knew that I worked in the Engineering Department and he would always ask me when I was going to get dirty. Several things come to mind when I think of Mel Schiff. Mel was the consummate Professional Engineer and did everything he could to perpetuate the Corrosion PE title. Mel Schiff would gladly share any information he knew or had, if it would help you with a corrosion problem. What a gentleman! I'll miss him. -*Ken Linden*

Mel was always pleasant to work with, and his advice was always good. I will not forget that extra mile that he gave, particularly for our PAC meeting in February. -*Andrew Romer*

This is my favorite Mel story. In February of 1998, I set up my first e-mail address. As you know, my e-mail address is "corrprincess@ardnet.com". This was originally planned to be used only for personal stuff. However, after I gave the address to a few close friends at the NACE conference in San Diego, they all thought that it was hysterical, given that corrprincess stands for corrosion princess. Everyone seems to remember that part. Anyway, when I first gave my e-mail address to Mel, he was offended. Since I could not understand why he was upset, I asked him. He said, "This

corrosion princess doesn't have anything to do with Jewish American Princesses, does it?" After I finished laughing, I explained that I had picked partially because there are so few female corrosion engineers and it would be better to be a princess than a queen (based upon the age thing) and that, besides that, I am not even Jewish. He ultimately found the humor in it. Mel was a wonderful man, one of the most respected corrosion engineers that ever lived outside of a laboratory, had a unique ability to point out the obvious, especially to large groups of people who didn't have the first clue, and do it in a nice, though sarcastic and amusing way. I considered him a good friend and mentor and will miss him dearly. *-Kerri Howell*

Back in 97 or 98, I was connecting on flights through Oakland to Sacramento. I saw Mel on the plane. On grabbing stuff out of the overhead compartment and moving to exit, I said hello and introduced myself. Mel looked up at me and said something like, "Hi Mark, I know you." I hadn't seen or talked to Mel for years but he knew me and remembered that I had done a little consulting work for him on plastics many years back, and that I had changed jobs, etc. We walked out of the plane and down the ramp talking about work, blah, blah, blah, and the fate of the California Corrosion P.E., which was his reason for that trip to Sacramento. It was just an everyday thing, as if we saw each other and bantered on and on about the same old stuff on a regular basis. That was the last time I saw Mel. *-Mark Schilling*

I received a call one day from Mel, asking what the fastest and most reliable technique for locating shorts on a pipeline was. As I advised him the best I could, Mel says to me, "But Mark, I only have 15 minutes to get this job done. I have 5 minutes to get to the site, 5 minutes to locate the short and 5 minutes to get off the site." I replied to Mel, "Fifteen minutes. What's the hurry?" Mel says to me, "I am working on the job site at The Mirage Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas and that damn volcano keeps going off every fifteen minutes!" *-Mark J Byerly, Sr*

I met Mel, in person, back around 1986. I was between jobs and Mel hired me to handle an over-the-line potential survey for him. I think it was the first time either of us had used the backpack contraption with the tricorder and walking stick, then downloading the information to a PC for analysis. He impressed me so much with his willingness and ability to learn a new technology. I think every time I got together with Mel I was impressed. At conferences he would always have sharp, insightful and well-informed comments either at committee meetings or at the technical presentations. He always seemed humble about it though, never asking questions to impress or embarrass the speaker. I liked sitting near him because I thought I could learn more from him than the speaker usually. I liked his candidness. "That's just plain stupid", he said after one talk. Mel treated everyone equal. At some meetings I'd be the only person under the age of 50 (and I was in my 30s) and the only female. At one of those meetings Mel nominated

me for an officer position. I'm quite sure it never would have occurred to anyone else in the room to nominate me, but I think Mel was born to think "outside the box". I didn't really care about being an officer but it meant a lot to me that he nominated me. I wasn't just impressed with his technical knowledge and professional career, but I was also impressed by his personal life. On the few occasions I was able to spend time with Mel and Carol, I truly admired the respect in their relationship. I admired the directness with which Mel discussed his illness. "It's frustrating", he told me. "I write like a damn second grader now." And unlike others, who get so wrapped up in their work that they forget to live, I can smile as I imagine Mel skiing down the slopes or remember the video of Mel & Carol sailing off Bequia. I will truly miss him and my heart-felt sympathy goes out to Carol, Graham, Julie and their family. -*Toni Lyons*

I have known Mel since the 1980s. Before Christmas, Mel would send us wine but then he changed it to boxes of chocolate candies. I told Mel I liked the wine but I am allergic to chocolate. Mel replied, "You want to get drunk and then sue me?! That's too bad." Mel was very humorous and very nice man. -*Mike Shahabi*

It's a really great loss for the family and friends. I had great regards for Mel and I respected him very much and I liked him as a person. He was a real professional engineer. -*Tawab Assifi*

Travel is part of any corrosion engineer's life. My life was always enriched and less lonely whenever, during my travels, I ran into Mel (and later, Mel and Carol). This was especially true at AWWA and NACE International meetings in some distant city or even at times when we were both at the same job walk in preparation of competing for a new job. My most welcome occasions came when we were opposite each other in a lawsuit about some corroded structure. It was so nice to have an honest, ethical and knowledgeable adversary. We sometimes commented about some of the other types of people we ran into while serving as an expert witness. Carol and Graham, please accept mine and my brother's heartfelt sympathies. Warmest regards, -*Don Waters*

Mel was my mentor in corrosion engineering. He inspired my interest in it in the first place and then encouraged me along the way. -*Bruce F McCollom*

I feel especially privileged to have been a part of an industry which has so abundantly supported all of us. More than the work we do and the services our firms render, the people with whom we interface really make the industry - and our lives. Within the

corrosion engineering profession, one of the most inspiring personages to me was Melvin J. Schiff. I appreciated his help and caring attitude in the early stages of my career and our relationship during the following decades. Mel was the "patriarch" of our profession here in the western United States and an inspiration to those who knew and worked with him. In addition to the work relationship, it was always a pleasure to see each other at AWWA and other industry association functions, especially the banquets. It seemed that for many years, Irma and me, Mel and Carol, and a few other stalwarts were always the last ones on the dance floor. Wonderful times! Mel's passing will definitely leave a large void in our profession. However, his absence will be less painful for all of us as we look back on former times and look forward to those who will carry the banner in the present and at future times. Carol, Graham, and other, know that the Lord will continue to bless the home, family and business as in the past. We trust our lives will always be enhanced. With much love and gratitude. *-Bill Harper*

I just learned from Kerri that Mel has lost his battle. Please accept our sincere sympathy for your loss. Mel's love of our profession, his zeal and his willingness to share with us his opinions will be missed in the corrosion community. *-Jack Tinnea*

Following is one of my fondest memories of Mel, however there were many. I always found Mel and Carol to be concerned and dear friends, always the same warm reception whenever we met. Carol, our hearts go out to you and to the whole family. After knowing Mel and Carol for several years, Bill and I were at an AWWA Conference in Sacramento where Mel was also in attendance. One of the nights of the conference a group of us decided to go into Old Town for dinner. Ten or twelve of us were sitting at a long table, however Bill locked our keys in the car and had gone outside with the Triple A people to retrieve them. Ted Harrington, of Marin Water District was sitting across the table from Mel and me. Ted was always one to hold a lively conversation and he found the perfect participant in Mel. Especially since California's finest wine was being sampled! I found both of them interesting conversationalists and was attentively listening. Ted was questioning Mel about his daughter who at the time was in law school. Then he turned to me and asked, "Is she your oldest daughter?" After stumbling around on how to answer that, I said, "Well, yes she is." Mel started laughing and Ted was looking strangely at us both when I realized that wasn't the whole answer and blurted out, "But, I'm married to Bill Harper." Then Mel really burst out laughing as I tried to explain to a very quizzical Ted. From that time on, Mel and I would chuckle over "our oldest daughter" whenever we saw each other. Mel was very proud of his family. With great warmth and memories, *-Irma Harper*

I became deeply saddened when learned of Mel's passing through E-mail this week. Although this was expected eventually, considering his recent illness, it has hit me harder than I expected. I first met Mel at a regional NACE meeting in Portland in 1974

or 1975. His warm, subtle humor and understated professional approach immediately drew me to him. Eventually he became what I consider one of the few close personal friends I have in, as well as outside the corrosion business. I respected, admired and loved him, a one a kind human being and I feel privileged to have known him. I never had the experience of working with Mel on a day to day basis, but we took parallel paths through the Western Region NACE political structure and national board and this meant that we got together 2 or 3 times a year at conferences. Meeting him at a conference always brought a warm feeling even at the most boring event. I have more than my share of "Mel moments" in my memory bank. One such moment occurred at last month's NACE conference in Orlando. We had run into each other in the exhibit hall and were kibitzing about some thing or another (as usual) when Kerri Howell came up to us. She said as time went on I was beginning to look more like Mel every day. We three made fun of it but deep down I proudly considered that a compliment and it is a memory that will warm my soul for many years. I can only offer you and your mom my deepest, heart felt condolences. The only positive aspect of this is that wherever Mel has decided to go, it is an improved place because he is now there. Best Regards. *-Phil Simon*

Having worked in the corrosion field for the past forty-one years, Mel and I crossed paths many times. In the days past, we encouraged our salespeople to provide a lot of professional courtesy and not solicit the customers of M.J. Schiff and other professionals for their engineering services. It's a shame that our industry does not operate that way anymore. I remember when Mel had his first heart problem, our engineer, Bethel Bond went to Mel and offered his services while Mel was recovering. This was accepted, as Mel new how we operated and his customers were safe in Bethel's hands. The first deep anode that we bid, that Mel had designed was for the Air Force. It was located on a rail right away, at Long Beach Blvd. We were the low bidders for the installation. I remember that Mel called me on the phone, fussing at me, asking me, "Why in the hell is our price so high." I thought about it for a second and then stated that a certain number of dollars was for installing the job and I had added \$1,000 for putting up with him. He didn't say anything for a good bit, then replied "That's fine, send me the grand and I'll stay at home!" Many years later he commented that we must have done a good job as the system was still operating as designed. He didn't even take credit for his excellent design. There were many years of enjoyment in our work. It's sad to see so many of our corrosion people leaving us. When Mel and I started, we were the young people. We will miss him and follow his many footprints in the corrosion industry. Mel Schiff was a Professional Corrosion Engineer! *-Gordon Rankin*

I was sorry to hear of Mel Schiff's passing away. I want you to know that we will all miss Mel for a number of reasons. I always felt he was an honest gentleman with integrity and I regarded him not only a professional friend but a personal friend. I enjoyed working with him and supporting him in many different things that he did in his professional life. I even had occasions where I was asked to consult for clients on projects where it was potential litigation against Mel Schiff for his work, and I always

defended his actions in his work because I knew that he was a man of integrity. I will miss him as well as his family. Besides being a competent professional in his field of corrosion, I enjoyed his humor and his congeniality. I will also miss him for those attributes. Please express my most sincere sympathy to all of the people at your laboratory as well as all of the close family and relatives on his passing. -*Larry E. McKnight*

Mel's family asked me to say a few words about Mel and his affiliation with NACE (the National Association of Corrosion Engineers); but first I would like to thank Mel's family for letting us share a portion of Mel's life with them. Mel was a long-time distinguished NACE member. He entered the corrosion control field in 1946 and founded his own corrosion engineering firm in 1959, which received the Western Region Outstanding Company Award in 1995. He was a pure professional engineer, registered as both a corrosion engineer and electrical engineer in the State of California and was a NACE Corrosion Specialist. He was an active member of NACE for more than 50 years and served NACE at the local level (L.A. Section Founding Father who served all chairs) and the Region level (holding all chairs) and National level (as Director 1991-1993). He served as NACE's representative on state and national committees related to professional registration of Corrosion Engineers and the National Electrical Code. He was also a Founding Father of the Western States Corrosion Seminar and a frequent instructor. Mel was the Western Region nominee for President of NACE. Most notable in his career has been his technical accomplishments. In 1987, he received the Western Region's Engineer of the Year Award for his technical excellence. He was authored and co-authored in many technical papers on Corrosion Test Instrumentation, Soil Corrosivity, Cathodic Protection, Stray Current Interference, Corrosion Control of Waste Water Treatment Equipment and many others. As we salute Mel for his accomplishments, I know if there is a corrosion problem in heaven Mel has found it and is working on the solution. Via Con Dios Mi Amigo!!! -*Bill Stead*

I was saddened to hear of the death of Mel. I know that all of us that had the opportunity to work with him were impacted by his human and professional qualities, and especially by his integrity. You summed it up so well when you said that he was "a good and kind man, the consummate professional engineer and a gentleman through and through. -*K. Anthony Selby*

Mel passed on much to you and to the others in the corrosion community. The examples that he set regarding competence, professionalism and integrity combined with his own brand of very dry wit will have a long lasting effect on us all. -*James F. Jenkins*

I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family of condolences to the family of Mel Schiff, having recently heard the sad news of his passing. As so many have no doubt already said, he was a true icon in the corrosion community. I remember well those occasions when I had the chance to spend time talking with Mel at NACE functions or perhaps the occasional project interview. I always took every chance to converse with Mel because he had a great sense of humor, both about himself and in general. We especially had fun in trying to figure out what the NACE organization was going to do next. Whenever Mel's name would come up in discussions with other colleagues (and his name frequently did), I was always quite happy to be able to say that I have met him, that I knew him, and that he was such a great fellow. Mel will be long remembered and spoken well of amongst his colleagues. *-John French*

Your friends at Boyle Engineering in Las Vegas share in your deep sorrow at the loss of Mel. Mel was a great friend, classy gentleman, and one heck of an engineer who will be sorely missed by all who knew him. *-Mark Briggs & Charles Shreves*

I did not know Mel well as George Moller and I had just been married 10 years ago when I first met Mel and Carol. George since passed away in 1998, but what I know is that Mel and George were long-time friends. When I went to my first Corrosion Engineers (NACE) Christmas part in LA, we had the fortune of sitting at the table with Mel and Carol. They greeted me warmly and made me feel quite at home for a newcomer. I was impressed by Mel's knowledge and a great sense of humor. I'm sure you will miss his vitality and love of life. *-Anne S. Moller (wife of George E Moller)*

Mel Schiff was a great man, a very knowledgeable electrical engineer and a corrosion engineer. I was so proud to know him and I told many people that I knew one of the committee members who restructured ARTICLE 250 of the NEC code. Mel had been a great help to me in doing the corrosion design work. He will be missed by me and many other engineers at the SFPUC. *-Mongkol Mahavongtrakul*

Mel was the instructor in my first course in corrosion. His ability to connect with his students inspired me to go on to take many more NACE courses. His passing on is a great loss to the profession. *-Phil dela Cruz*

Mel and his knowledge in the field of corrosion engineering and our having known him will never be forgotten. The knowing of him and his work accomplished will never pass.

As the message from a card says, "they are physically no longer with us, but their memory and love live on in our memories, and our hearts are stronger because of our memories and love." -*Russell J Mullins, Gary R. Martin, Michael R. Limbaugh, Kurt Carlson, Daniel Wyatt, Curtis Croteau, Wald Amora, Robert Shaffer, Bobbie Copple, and Alice E. Smith*

I always valued Mel's knowledge and professionalism. I will miss him. -*Perry Maljian*

I worked with Mel for many years. He was a very sweet man. He will be missed. -*Brenda Moore*

We have lost a leader in his field, a very interesting co-worker, and a good friend. -*IMECA -LA*

I was so startled to hear of Mel's passing. I knew nothing of his illness, but also I suppose it was the fullness with which he lived life that makes it hard to imagine he is no longer among us. I particularly remember working with him on the LA Convention Center problem, where we were among the charlatans. I will always remember Mel's impish grin as we hooked up a car battery to the corroding pipe to show the foolishness of the measurements of a certain consultant (who will remain nameless). I can still see him using the probe like a fencer's foil with that grin of his, and all the rest of us trying to contain our laughter, while the nameless consultant continued blithely on, oblivious to our merriment. Of course later, this experimental data was used to discredit the consultant's opinions. That is Mel as I remember him, having fun while he delivered the goods. I shall miss him greatly. -*Dave Heumann*

I had hoped as had many others that Mel had overcome his cancer. I like to think that Mel lives and his life is reflected in you and your family and in the business that he founded. We have no doubt that MJS&A will continue to be the most professional and the very best value in its field, and we will not hesitate to recommend you and your company to our clients and anyone else to whom we can provide reference. Please accept our belated condolences, our thoughts and our prayers for your loss. -*Gary A Loretitsch*

Mel was my mentor when I started "corroding" in the late 1960s and had many working contacts in subsequent years. He was a wonderful person and I will always cherish his memory. -Stefan Zellner



*Mel working at MJS&A's office in Upland California - 1998*