

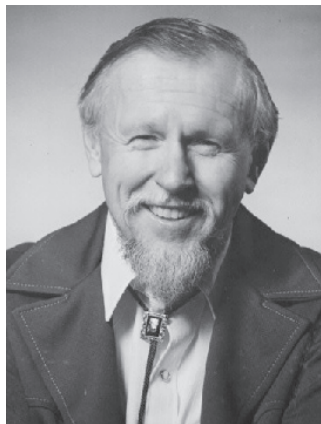
# The SAS Spectrum Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy



## October, 2009

### MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO BILL FATELEY, FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY AND SAS FRIEND



It is with a tremendous sense of sadness and loss that I tell you that Professor William G. Fateley passed away on July 30, 2009. For more than half a century, Bill has been a pillar of the vibrational spectroscopic community, and we will deeply miss him. The sense of loss is, however, tempered by a wealth of memories.

Bill's contributions spanned a wide landscape covering applications of infrared and Raman to problems ranging from fundamental physical chemistry, to biology, to materials science, to instrument development. His career in science started at Franklin College with an undergraduate degree in 1951 followed by graduate work at Kansas State University, culminating in a Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1955. He then did post-doctoral stints with Professor Ellis Lippincott at the University of Maryland and Professor Bryce Crawford at the University of Minnesota. However, Bill often claimed to have dabbled in alchemy as a young boy.

His stories of almost getting gold from lead were always met with skepticism with just a tiny sliver of "could he????". After his post-docs he started work at Dow Chemical in 1957, working in the vibrational spectroscopy lab, where he quickly discovered that no manager could possibly deal with his sense of humor. "I'm lying 90% of the time, but which 90%?" he would often say. So with an abundance of optimism he headed off to academia at the Mellon Institute in 1960 where he held both research and administrative positions and held both faculty and administrative positions at Carnegie-Mellon University when Carnegie Institute of Technology and the Mellon Institute merged to become a single entity. In 1972 he moved to Kansas State University as Professor and Head of the Chemistry Department from 1972 to 1979, Professor of Chemistry from 1972 to 1989, and University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry from 1989 to 1997 and emeritus status from 1997 to 2009. There he quickly became recognized for a vibrant and innovative research program. One interesting indication of his stature in Manhattan was a wooden sculpture of an Indian at an athletic facility. This Indian has a facial caricature with a very accurate resemblance to Bill.

In his 60-year career as a spectroscopist, Bill made significant contributions through more than 150 publications and too many presentations to count. These contributions were recognized by a multitude of awards, both national and international. These included the SSP Award, the Hasler Award, the Meggers Award, and the Coblentz Award. He also received Distinguished Alumni Awards

from both Franklin College and Kansas State University, the Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, and Honorary Membership in the Society for Applied Spectroscopy and the Coblentz Society.

**OBITUARY PREPARED BY D. BRUCE CHASE FOR APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY, 2009, 63 (10),**

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## BILL FATELEY OBITURARY - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

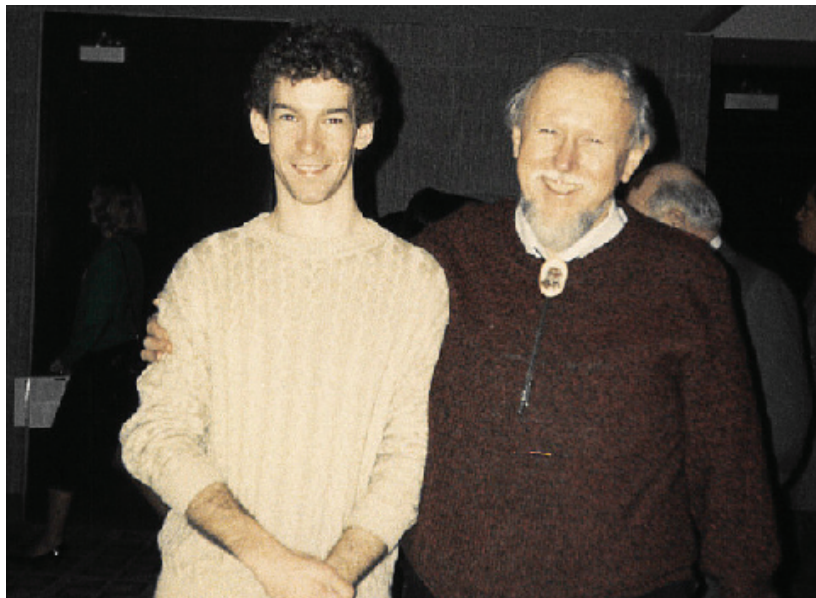
Bill Fateley served the vibrational spectroscopic community in so many ways, but the position we remember him most for was that of Editor-in-Chief of the journal Applied Spectroscopy. During his tenure as Editor-in-Chief, he pushed the Journal from six issues a year to twelve, with an ever increasing level of excellence. In fact, Bill reviewed many of the manuscripts himself. When he finally stepped down as Editor of Applied Spectroscopy, he had established it as the premier journal for the publication of results from infrared and Raman measurements. Though other editors have clearly continued to move the Journal forward, the status of Applied Spectroscopy today rests on a foundation built by Bill Fateley.

However, what set Bill apart and what makes our loss so real, is the way Bill interacted with people. He was certainly my mentor, colleague, and friend. Throughout his career, one of Bill's defining character traits was his desire to bring young people along, not just his own graduate students, but also anyone he came in contact with. Early in my career Bill was unbelievably supportive and nurturing. As I progressed, he impressed on me the need for the support of others. Whether at Pittcon, FACSS, EAS, or a variety of other meetings, Bill was always there, usually in the front row, with a supportive question for those who needed a hand, or a joke for old friends. In fact, Bill was probably the primary source for practical jokes at any of these meetings. By the way, he was also the target of more than a few. No one who has heard the famous story of Jack Koenig's delivery of Bill Fateley's talk will ever forget it.

Bill's wonderful good nature and fundamental kindness extended beyond his colleagues. Early on in our friendship it became the custom for Bill to stay with us whenever he came to the east coast. At one point, Bill asked if one of his students could stay with us on an interview trip. We naturally said yes, but Bill told my wife, Jamie, that this person was a vegetarian who only ate alligator meat. At this point in their relationship, Jamie had not yet learned the 10%/90% rule so she made an extra special vegetarian meal (she was unable to find alligator meat in Wilmington). Needless to say this student was a meat and potatoes Kansas product. This began the exchange of practical jokes. Bill's kind nature extended to my son Kip. On Bill's first visit to our house, Kip was four and totally impressed with Bill's cowboy boots. One week later, a genuine pair of child's cowboy boots showed up. This was the start of "Kip and Cowboy Bill." Thirteen years later, Kip worked in Bill's lab for his senior high school project and it actually resulted in a publication. However, the education Bill gave him in the acquisition of surplus army gear and amusement at Jeremiah Bullfrog probably overshadowed the science. As with everyone who knew Bill Fateley, I and my family feel a deep sense of loss at his passing. However, it is also a time to celebrate the life of a truly kind, generous, and caring individual who enriched all of our lives. As long as we continue to relate Bill Fateley stories, he will live on in our hearts. Thanks Bill, for making science and spectroscopy so much fun for us all.

**OBITUARY PREPARED BY D. BRUCE CHASE FOR APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY, 2009, 63 (10),**

**SON JONATHON FATELEY  
(LEFT) WITH BILL**



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## REVIEW OF BILL'S BOOK BY ALEX SCHEELINE REPRODUCED FROM *APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY*

*Science or Fiction* (The 10% Solution). William G. Fateley. Rosedog Books. Pp 192. Price: US\$15 (electronic); US\$20 (hard copy). ISBN 978-1-4349-9212-3.

Early in *Science or Fiction*, his 10% autobiography, 90% tall tale, Bill Fateley says, "Be nice to young people on your way up, so that they will be nice to you on your way down." Trouble is, Bill's esteem among his colleagues has always been in ascent, so he has taken unnecessary precautions. Or maybe not. Decide after reading this column.

I reviewed the electronic version of the book. Empty pages, necessary for proper alignment in hard copy, were included in the electronic version, perhaps an attempt to show the author's abilities at blank verse. Bill's friends will recognize many of these yarns. In some cases, details that have been missed in partial retellings show up. Why is Fateley the yarn spinner he is? Look up the story of his mentor, Ellis R. Lippincott, Jr., on p. 92 (and for the younger set, figure out why there are several organizations giving Lippincott Awards). Bill claimed to have changed the names of all living characters in his book, yet Ira Levin sure looked like he was on the top side of the sod at this year's Pittsburgh Conference. Jack Koenig seems to be in an indeterminate state. Howard Sleuth is revealed as Howard Sloane. The story on p. 98 I've heard from "Roy Partypal," and it's accurate. "How many of the pseudonyms can you decode?" I hear the eager reader inquire. Too many—but why spoil the reader's fun? Let me suggest the *ACS Directory of Graduate Research* and old SAS membership directories as useful supplements.

The story of the indiscrete computer personnel on p. 156 and the literal, but misconstrued, reporting of an event on p. 172 give me license to report on a Fateley escapade that didn't make the book. This reviewer submitted much of his early work to *Applied Spectroscopy*. One early paper was read upon receipt by Bill, judged by him as good enough, and immediately sent to the redactory. Oh, the joy! This should have been a warning; it went unheeded. A few years later, I had a dispute with a student as to whether a particular piece of work was ready to publish. "We'll see what the reviewers say," I resignedly grumbled. The quite modest and incomplete work was shipped off to Fateley. It too was accepted immediately. I phoned Bill, quite perturbed, and asked him why he hadn't sent it out for review. "I'm not here to do your job for you." Lesson learned! But, Bill, will you ever learn the difference between "insure" and "ensure"? Is his usage Fateley flawed?

As entertaining as *Science or Fiction* may be, it only hints at Fateley's many contributions to vibrational spectroscopy, to the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, and to the well-being of individual spectroscopists. A

**SANDY O'NEIL (APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY PRODUCTION AND COMPOSITION EDITOR), WIFE WANDA FATELEY, BILL, AND DI-ANNE LANDOLL**



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*Scifinder* search reveals 168 unduplicated citations; frequently other, reputable characters are co-authors. A lot of what “everyone knows” about vibrational spectroscopy, including the frequency shifts associated with hydrogen bonding, far-IR correlation charts, and Raman correlation charts, bear Bill’s imprimatur. He even collaborated on some atomic spectroscopy papers when Bob Fry was at KSU. Most practicing spectroscopists think of *Applied Spectroscopy* as a monthly journal. When Bill took over as editor, it was bi-monthly; he built the monthly franchise we now take for granted. Those who do Hadamard spectroscopy can still visualize the Buckminster Fuller-inspired dome in which D.O.M. Associates (D.O.M. = Dirty Old Man) built its instruments. But for my generation of spectroscopists, it’s the mentoring that many of us believe was his most valued contribution. “Gerry R.” (p. 188) has credited Fateley with being central to promoting this eminent scientist from comparative obscurity to eventual stardom. Victor and Kathryn (p. 143) have traveled far, and not only because they could go toe-to-toe with WGF. One of my former graduate students post-doc’d with Bill and found one of the few places on earth where he could indulge his instrument design interests to the point of satiety. Bill liberated at least one European whose spirits were flagging, brought him to the US, and gave him the opportunity to rise to new heights. And he did all this despite some personal losses that many of his admirers find staggering (“Success is measured in the amount of failures you can overcome.”) Perhaps Fateley wrote this book for his family, then shared it with friends and strangers, but more likely he considers all of us spectroscopists to be family, and he thinks we’d be a lot happier if we were all a little stranger. Bill showed us how to be enlightened while having a terrific time, working hard, thinking hard, playing hard, and living large. And a little blarney along the way? Why not?

To The Usual Suspects who probably could have embellished even more on Fateley’s blandishments: it wouldn’t surprise me if you got postcards announcing the availability of the book from him too. Read it, write additional reviews, and send them to Fateley in honor of his 80th birthday this year.

REPRODUCED FROM *APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY*, 2009, 63 (6), 156A.

## MEMORIES OF BILL FATELEY

I completed a Post Doc with Bill during his Hadamard heydays. Those that knew Bill well, knew that he could give and take with anyone.

JEFF WHITE

LINDA BRIGGS  
(PITTCOON ASSISTANT),  
BILL, AND  
BARBARA STULL (SAS  
ASSISTANT)



*Comments to [butcherATemail.wcu.edu](mailto:butcherATemail.wcu.edu)*

## MEMORIES OF BILL

I met Bill for the first time at my first ICOFTS meeting at George Mason University in 1989. I'll never forget that first impression...shaking hands with a researcher of his caliber, dressed up in comfortable jeans overalls and a plaid shirt. His laugh was unique and infectious! He graciously provided our socializing venue for that meeting disguised as a mobile spectroscopy lab disguised as a rather large recreational vehicle. I will never forget his dedication to the field of spectroscopy and how much he enjoyed teasing everyone. Bill...you will be missed!!

**GLORIA STORY**

The best thing I did as SAS President was to direct the Publications Committee to nominate Bill as Editor.

**MARVIN MARGOSHES**

Sad news indeed. Bill was a special one.

**GARY M. HIEFTJE**

Some years ago, when Bill Fateley was editor of Applied Spectroscopy, and the journal was being newly printed by Allen Press, Bill hired Sandy O'Neil to be the redactor and, eventually, the assistant to the editor for Applied Spectroscopy. (I am Sandy O'Neil, although, having remarried and re-nicknamed, I am now Nan Namenson). I did the copyediting and proof reading and author badgering, working with the folks at Allen Press and with Bill and then Jim Holcombe and then Joel Harris. ( Lucky me: what a lineup! ) At the onset, had Bill known how abysmally ignorant I was about science, he might've looked elsewhere. However, he was not hiring me to do the science: that was the job of the authors, reviewers, and editors. And I thankfully discovered that a dangling participle is a dangling participle whether you are writing about chemistry or chess. In time, along with my other responsibilities, I was asked to "pretty up" Bill's regular editorials. His accomplishments were so numerous and so varied -- chemist, teacher, administrator, woodworker, prankster, etc., etc. -- he did not need to pretend that he could catch all those dangling whatchamacallits. And he was so encouraging to those he took under his wing, whatever the endeavor. As my boss, Bill was generous with compliments and stingy with criticisms. If there was praise to be had, he shared it or downright gave it away; if there was blame, he insisted on keeping it all for himself. And there were some mistakes with the journal, including a handful of real whoppers. Bill simply made the apologies, we ran the Erratum notes, and, in time, the passing embarrassments became just another good, funny story that Bill would tell, his eyes twinkling slyly. He knew what was important in the long run -- the science, the well-being of the society and the journal, the professional relationships -- and he took care of us all with his integrity, his honesty, and his rollicking, mischievous sense of humor. Bill Fateley changed my life, and if I marched in step with all the other folks who can say that, we'd make a good, long parade.

**NAN NAMENSON (FORMERLY SANDY O'NEIL)**

**LINDA BRIGGS (PITTCON  
ASSISTANT), BILL, AND  
BOB WITKOWSKI  
(PITTCON OFFICER)**



*Comments to [butcherATemail.wcu.edu](mailto:butcherATemail.wcu.edu)*



## MEMORIES OF BILL

A person, with a unique sense of humor and a great scientist. He will be missed.

**BOB MICHEL**

So many words come to mind when I think of Bill. Mentor, humorist, spectroscopy leader, consultant, SAS stalwart, educator, editor, on and on and on. Most of all, I'll remember how much fun it was to be around Bill. You could always count on a smile, some good natured ribbing and sage advice. Condolences to family and friends.

**PAUL N. BOURASSA**

My fondest memory of Bill was in his grass skirt at FACSS in Anaheim..... He was unique and took such pleasure in his job description of "dirty old man" but he was, in truth, a gentle soul. He will be missed.

**NANCY MILLER-IHLI**

Seventeen years ago, my wife Marie threw a surprise party for my 50th birthday. She sent me out with my kids, ostensibly to look for a suit as my present (the one that I am still occasionally seen wearing when formal attire is called for!) On returning to the house, I was welcomed immediately by many of my friends and colleagues. Five minutes later, who comes walking down the stairs but Bill, preceded by his infectious laugh. A great time was had by all and Bill stayed with us for a couple of days. The next day, he and Marie drove into town to buy pastries for breakfast and they happened to meet Marie's boss in the bakery. Bill immediately took her on one side and told her that he and Marie were having an affair but that she wasn't to tell anyone! Needless to say, her boss wasn't aware of the 10% rule and was totally shocked. As was usual with Bill's interventions, this one took some explanations, none of which I am convinced that Marie's boss believed. Bill was a character with a heart of gold, and I will miss him greatly.

**PETER GRIFFITHS**

### **BILL AND JOANN BROWN (FORMER SAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)**



The photos are great, and remind us that we've all made many great friends through our associations with SAS, FACSS and PittCon. Friends that we should cherish. We will all miss Bill.

**JON CARNAHAN**

Bill was a wonderful friend and gentleman who supported me through some rough times. I will miss his happy face and great sense of humor.

**JIM WINEFORDNER**

Bill was our friend, our mentor, our inspiration, our supporter, our beloved colleague.

**KATHY & VIC KALASINSKY**

*Comments to [butcherATemail.wcu.edu](mailto:butcherATemail.wcu.edu)*

## MEMORIES OF BILL FATELEY

In the spring of 1989, I had the pleasure of hosting Bill Fateley for his one-and-only sabbatical leave from KSU. It was a crazy time, with my colleague Stan Pons announcing the discovery of 'cold fusion' and stepping down as chair of the Chemistry Department a few days after Bill arrived. On short notice, I was asked by the Dean to chair the department, while reporters roamed our hallways looking for folks to interview. Bill kept me sane that spring, with humor, science discussions, and sage advice about decisions that I faced as a department chair. Years later as editor of *Applied Spectroscopy*, I felt responsible to continue the tradition of quality and excellence established by my predecessors, Bill Fateley and Jim Holcombe. Bill would occasionally call me on the phone and offer support and encouragement about how the Journal was doing. Those phone calls from Bill are a precious memory.

**JOEL HARRIS**

### BILL WITH GEN BONINI



### BILL AT WORK



Thanks to everyone who contributed to this special issue. Particular thanks to Mike Epstein, who provided the photos and inspiration for the special issue; Peter Griffiths who provided information for the photos and allowed me to use material from *Applied Spectroscopy*; Bruce Chase for writing the obituary; and Alex Scheeline for writing the book review. I would welcome additional photos or memories to be added to the tribute.

Thanks,

David Butcher, Editor of the SAS Spectrum Newsletter

***Comments to [butcherATemail.wcu.edu](mailto:butcherATemail.wcu.edu)***