

L. CARL YATES

L. Carl Yates was born in Roe, Arkansas in 1930, during America's Great Depression. His father was a logger in the timber business and his mother spent most of her time taking care of their family of nine children, six boys and three girls. Young Carl graduated from Elkins High School in 1948 with no particular plans for the future, working construction, as a farm laborer, an apple harvester in Washington State and as a chicken wrangler in the early days of the Arkansas poultry industry.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953. Selected for Officer Candidate School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia Engineering Center, he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in May 1952. For the next year, he worked in Korea engineering, building and repairing airstrips and fueling facilities. "When I graduated high school, I didn't really think about what I would do with my life. But while I was in the Army," says Yates, "I got to know people who had gone to college. They had the best assignments and most of the seniority. It didn't take long for me to figure out that if I was going to earn a living, I had to get a degree."

Yates' two children, Doug and Sandy, were born while he attended the University of Arkansas and even with help from the G.I. Bill, he needed to work to support his family. Since he had the know-how and experience from his military career, he worked part time in construction, earning an hourly wage of \$1. As an eager engineering student with leadership skills, he came to the attention L.M. McGoodwin, a Fayetteville consulting engineer, who hired Yates to work part time for an hourly wage of \$1.50. "I was in tall cotton," says Yates.

He received his B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas in 1958 and went to work full time for McGoodwin. Yates spent eight years with the firm as a surveyor, draftsman and administrator. McGoodwin's proprietorship incorporated in 1966 and named Yates as president of the new firm, McGoodwin, Williams and Yates. Since that time, he has guided the company through four decades and dozens of successful projects related to water and wastewater treatment, ranging in size from a few hundred thousand dollars to \$40 million plus.

But to be a good engineer is one thing. To be an engineer with an understanding of a bigger picture is something else. In all MWY projects, Yates and his team of professionals never forget that a community's health, quality of life and economic viability are the intangibles that must prosper long after a project is handed over to the client.

Yates has devoted significant energy to the American Consulting Engineers Council. He was president of the state organization in 1983-84 and continues to be active at both state and national levels, having completed two two-year terms as a national director. He also served on the ACEC/EPA Region 6 Liaison Committee to advise EPA on policy development for many years.

He has been closely involved with the EPA Construction Grants Program and subsequent Revolving Loan Fund Program since their predecessor program and in 1980 was invited by the EPA to participate in a national workshop concerning development of strategies for municipal wastewater treatment.

Beginning in 1976, Yates served the State of Arkansas as a member of the State Policy Advisory Committee for Water Quality Management and Planning. As chairman of the Water Quality Standards Subcommittee, he provided assistance to the State in development of initial water quality management plans.

In 1981, Yates testified on behalf of the American Consulting Engineers Council before the Water Resources Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Public Works and Transportation Committee concerning revisions to the Clean Water Act.

In 1979, he was selected as Engineer of the Year by the Arkansas chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America for service to the construction industry and in 1980 was presented the Engineer of the Year award by the Northwest chapter of the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers. In 1997, he was named Engineer of the Year by the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers and has twice been named to "Who's Who in Engineering" by the American Association of Engineering Societies.