

THE GEO-SAMPLER



JUNE 2009

We here at the *GeoSampler* are delighted that Geotechnics is celebrating our 25th anniversary. In fact, 2009 has been a remarkable year for many reasons, not the least of which is that we actually remember those early days in 1984. And we recall with appreciation all those we've worked with over the past two and a half decades. But it got us to thinking: what's up with celebrating anniversaries? And if we were scratching our heads over it, we thought you might enjoy learning about the fruits of our research, too.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY. PLEASE, NO GIFTS.

So how do you celebrate the 25th anniversary of one of the nation's favorite independent geotechnical and geosynthetic testing firms?

The 25th anniversary is a big one, commonly referred to as the silver anniversary. Story goes that among the medieval Germans, it was customary for friends to present a wife with a wreath of silver when she had lived with her husband for twenty-five years. As George Stimpson wrote in 1948, "The silver symbolized the harmony that was assumed to be necessary to make so many years of matrimony possible."

Well, what worked hundreds of years ago in central Europe may not exactly fly in a 21st century laboratory setting, even though quite a bit of harmony is required to perform as many tests on as many samples as Geotechnics has over the past quarter-century. Not to mention all the field work.

A YEAR OF ANNIVERSARIES

Imagine our surprise to learn that our milestone isn't actually the most significant to hit the history books during 2009. That darned Darwin takes the cake this year. Seems the fellow scientist was born in 1809, so this year is the bicentennial of his birth. Which, by the way, trumps silver. Turns out, 1809 was a good year for births, as they read like a who's who of everything we were supposed to have learned in high school. Darwin is joined by his birth twin Abraham Lincoln (Honest Abe and Charles Darwin were actually born on the same day), as well as Edgar Allan Poe, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Felix Mendelssohn, Nikolai Gogol and William Edward Gladstone.

Not to be outdone, 2009 also marks big celebrations focusing on the landing on the moon, four decades ago this July. Yes, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin started the art of moonwalking while Michael Collins stayed in lunar orbit in Apollo 11 and waited for them to get back. Granted, forty isn't as grand as a hundred - or fifty - but these three astronauts, all born in 1930, are around to tell their stories again.



AND OTHER MEMORABLE MOMENTS

The *Smithsonian* magazine, perhaps in a quandary similar to the *GeoSampler*'s, takes time this month to highlight other memorable occasions this year:

20 years ago, seven weeks of protests by students and dissidents end in violence when Chinese soldiers open fire on demonstrators gathered in and around Beijing's Tiananmen Square, as hundreds died and thousands were injured.

50 years ago, or four years after British engineer Christopher Cockerell used a cat-food tin inside a coffee can to test an idea of a vehicle that could move over land and water on a cushion of air, his hovercraft debuts on the waters near England's Isle of Wight.

90 years ago, a British pilot and his navigator crash-landed their biplane in a swamp near Clifden, Ireland - 16 hours and 12 minutes after departing St. John's, Newfoundland - making them the first duo to fly nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean, eight years before Lindbergh would do so alone.

140 years ago, inspired by a contest to make a synthetic-ivory billiard ball, American printer John Wesley Hyatt and his brother, Isaiah, patent a method for making 'solid collodion.' Though they lost the contest, their method eventually yielded the first commercially successful plastic and the eventual basis for a photographic revolution: film.

NOW WHAT?

So, this is all very interesting, you might say. Or at least we hope you say. But what does this have to do with deciding a way for Geotechnics to celebrate our 25th anniversary?

It's very simple. All of us at Geotechnics couldn't imagine anything better than spending a few moments with you, our valued customers, friends and readers. So thanks for sharing a part of your day with us. We're honored to have spent a portion of these 25 years with you.

And, as Neil Armstrong said to Buzz Aldrin on July 20, 1969: "Ain't that somethin'?"

"*A day without sunshine
is like, you know, night.*"

-Anonymous



For the Pun of It

Two antennas met on a roof,
fell in love and got married.
The ceremony wasn't much,
but the reception was excellent.

A jumper cable walks into a bar.
The bartender says, "I'll serve
you, but don't start anything."

Two peanuts walk into a bar,
and one was a salted.

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

A man walks into a bar with a
slab of asphalt under his arm
and says: "A beer please, and
one for the road."

Two cannibals are eating a
clown. One says to the other:
"Does this taste funny to you?"

An invisible man marries an
invisible woman. The kids were
nothing to look at either.

I went to buy some camouflage
trousers the other day but I
couldn't find any.

Two fish swim into a concrete
wall. The one turns to the other
and says "Dam!"

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak
were chilly, so they lit a fire in
the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank,
proving once again that you can't
have your kayak and heat it too.

DejaMoo: The feeling that
you've heard this bull before.



TRADITIONAL AND MODERN ANNIVERSARY GIFTS

Though the lists of wedding anniversary gifts vary by country, the traditional U.S. and modern versions were compiled by librarians at the Chicago Public Library and therefore reflects American practice.

Year	Traditional U.S.	Traditional U.K.	Modern
1st	Paper	Cotton	Clocks
2nd	Cotton	Paper	China
3rd	Leather	Leather	Crystal, Glass
4th	Linen, Silk	Fruit & Flower	Appliances (electrical)
5th	Wood	Wooden	Silverware
6th	Iron	Sugar	Wood objects
7th	Wool, Copper	Woollen	Desk sets/Pen & Pencil sets
8th	Bronze	Salt	Linens, Lace
9th	Pottery, China	Copper	Leather goods
10th	Tin, Aluminium	Tin	Diamond jewelry
11th	Steel		Fashion jewelry, accessories
12th	Silk	Silk & Fine Linen	Pearls, Colored gems
13th	Lace		Textiles, Furs
14th	Ivory		Gold jewelry
15th	Crystal	Crystal	Watches
16th	Obsidian		Silver Holloware
17th	Quartz		Furniture

Year	Traditional U.S.	Traditional U.K.	Modern
18th			Porcelain
19th	Amethyst		Bronze
20th	China	China	Platinum
21st			Brass, Nickel
22nd			Copper
23rd			Silver plate
24th			Musical Instruments
25th	Silver	Silver	Sterling silver
30th	Pearl	Pearl	Pearl
40th	Ruby	Ruby	Ruby
45th	Sapphire		Sapphire
50th	Gold	Golden	Gold
55th	Emerald		Emerald
60th	Diamond	Diamond	Diamond
65th	Platinum	Blue Sapphire	
70th	Titanium	Platinum	
80th	Oak	Oak	

Source: [Wikipedia](#)



Liner Integrity Testing from those who bring you integrity in testing

If you haven't yet heard about Geotechnics geosynthetic liner integrity testing, well, we'd love to fill you in. Or if you'd like a nifty poster demonstrating the importance of it, whether for your home or office, please call J.P. Kline at 412-823-7600.



Our two facilities serve projects across the country.

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