

Canadian Geotechnical Society

Halifax, Nova Scotia,

13 November 2000

Thank you Brian for your very kind words.
(Grace)

My friends:

Actually Dr. Ralph B. Peck does not need an introduction, because his name appears in every textbook published since WWII. However, since Brian asked me to say a few words about him, I shall do so.

It gives me great personal pleasure to introduce to you a world-renowned geotechnical engineer and good friend of mine, Dr. Ralph B. Peck. Almost exactly 3 decades ago Ralph was here on his first trans-Canada lecture tour, and I cherish a photo of his visit to our home. We are indeed very honoured that Ralph, who was born ^(on 23 June 1912) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is giving us his second Cross-Country lecture.

He studied civil engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnique Institute in eastern New York, U.S.A., graduating in 1934. After receiving his doctor of civil engineering degree in 1937 he worked briefly as a structural engineer with the American Bridge Company. Then Ralph literally "came down to earth", while attending the soil mechanics and earth dam classes of Arthur Casagrande at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, until 1939.

At that time Karl Terzaghi became consultant to the city of Chicago, Illinois, for the design and construction of their subways. He engaged Ralph as his representative on this job. There he made the famous measurements of the forces and deformations on the struts and sheeting of the excavations in the soft plastic clay, and the settlements and damage of the buildings nearby. Furthermore, he made similar important measurements in connection with the liner-plate tunnels north of the Chicago River and the time-displacement patterns. In 1942 Ralph joined the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, from which he retired in 1974.

Ralph is the co-author of over 200 technical papers and two definitive textbooks, "Soil Mechanics in Engineering Practice" and "Foundation Engineering", both in their third Edition. From 1969 to 1973 he served as the fifth president of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, and in the latter year he received the prestigious U.S. National Medal of Science from President Gerald Ford.

Ralph has been a coveted expert consultant on numerous geotechnical works through the world. Six months ago copies of all his publications, job files diaries, medals and awards have been collected in the Ralph B Peck Library at the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute near Oslo, Norway. It is housed in a room adjacent to the Terzaghi Library initiated by NGI's first director, the late Laurits Bjerrum.

After this only brief introduction, I now would like to ask Ralph Peck to present his lecture on "Site Characterization, Expect the Unexpected." *Ralph, please.*

***(G.G. Meyerhof
13 November 2000)***

Société Canadienne de Géotechnique
Canadian Geotechnical Society



As part of the Cross-Canada Lecture Tour, the Nova Scotia Section of the Canadian Geotechnical Society will present an informative lecture November 13, 2000 commencing at 17:00 hours on

Site Characterization, Expect the Unexpected

By: **Dr. Ralph Peck**

Talk: A series of examples of site characterization pertaining to a variety of geological conditions will be described, with emphasis on the actual or possible consequences of overlooking or failing to discover features decisive in the execution of engineering works. Conclusions will be drawn regarding the implications with respect to idealization and modeling.

Date: MONDAY November 13, 2000

Time: 17:00 to 18:00 hours, catered reception
18:00 to 19:00 hours, Dr. Ralph Peck Lecture *C.G.T. Introduction.
J.D. Brown Thanks.*

Location: The Prince George Hotel (Windsor 2 Room) at 1725 Market Street, Halifax, NS

Catered: Coffee, tea, imported and local cheese, water crackers, sliced seasonal fruit, cash bar

All welcome - Bring a colleague

Please contact Brian Grace at 468-7777, Fax: 468-9009 or by e-mail: ✓ *(Q) + (S)*
bgrace@jacqueswhitford.com ASAP to confirm your attendance.