HISTORY: UARA

Dr. Margaret Zube, Committee on Gerontology

On Oct. 7, 1978, the Retired Faculty Committee (RFC) was created by a handful of retirees who had gathered on campus to discuss how they might find ways to: assist retired UA employees; utilize retirees; and, make retirement more interesting.

Founding members included Richard Harvill, Elder James, Evelyn Kirmse, Don Klaiss, Leahmae McCoy, Herb Rhodes, Ginny Williams and Mary Opal Wolanin. Subsequently, Ray Bowers, J.D. O'Neill, and George Sparks joined the group. I, as the coordinator of the The Committee on Gerontology (COG), was involved since this inception and I would like to share with you the early history of the UARA.

To strengthen the link between the retiree and the University, the RFC suggested a retiree newsletter to the Personnel Department. The name selected, the suggestion of Herb Rhodes, not only sounds jubilant and happy but relates to the Spanish word conceptualizing retirement.

But then our trouble began. Who and where were the retirees? The UA had no specific list and the state retirement office could not distinguish UA retirees from any others. Members pored through old phone books, pieced together lists from several sources, prepared file cards, and almost pulled their hair out and a less-than-complete mailing list was eventually compiled. (It is interesting to note that of the 700 names assembled only 29 had out-of-state addresses.) Despite adversities, with the held and contributions of Personnel Directors John Robertson and Chuck Norling, Editor Bob Stirling, the COG, and RFC, the first issue was published in April 1980.

A survey of retirees was conducted to identify areas in which RFC could develop programs and activities. Mary Opal Wolanin approached the Alumni Association and lo and behold, the survey was financed! Ray Bowers was at the helm of this formidable task. Results pointed out the need for adequate retirement preparation and this eventually led to greater involvement by retirees in the preretirement workshops of the Personnel Department. A number of retirees indicated financial difficulties resulting because pension benefits failed to keep up with the cost of living (and now UARA has the Legislative Action Committee). And, there was an expression of interest in a University retiree association.

The challenge was taken and work began on what was to become UARA. A request to President Schaefer was honored with a $500 grant — an essential which was used parsimoniously, I assure you. The front page of Vol. 1, July 1980 announced that the founding luncheon of the UARA would be held on Sept. 27, 1980 in the Terrace Dining Room. And in Vol. 1, Oct. 1980, an article by Rachael Maynard tells us that more than 200 staff and faculty attended the luncheon where speaker Evelyn Kirmse shared UA history and stirred up memories with stories and gossip of the past. A constitution and by-laws were approved and the first officers elected — George Sparks, Chairman; Dave Hall, Vice Chairman; Rachael Maynard, Secretary; and Lois St. Pierre, Treasurer.

As the years rolled by new ventures were begun, others fell by the wayside. Some are worthy of rebirth. A very popular activity was Pat Harris' History group of some 20 people who met on Saturdays to hear lectures on Arizona history and take field trips to historic sites. And the involvement of retirees in the preretirement programs seemed to be satisfying both for the preretirees and the retirees. Dealing with the complexities of supplementary health insurance was attacked by Mitch Vavich's Health Insurance committee — with some very tangible results.

So many have given so much of themselves. I can only thank the past Presidents: George Sparks, Dave Hall, Kay Mason, Frank Chambers, Darrel Metcalfe, Bob Svob, Dave Windsor, Howard Greenseth, and Bill Foster. Also the founding Chair of the Legislative Action Committee Herb Abrams. And finally a tribute to Bob Stirling. With Jubilación from the beginning, Bob has not only maintained a chronicle of events since 1980 but has kept readers informed on the many issues and problems which affect the welfare of all UA retirees.
UARA HISTORY—PART TWO

Howard Greenseth, UARA Historian

The success of UARA to date has been made possible by the contributions of many individuals. In compiling this brief history, I am at risk of naming some persons to the exclusion of many others, but in spite of the constraints of space and time I will include as many participants as possible. At a later date I hope to prepare a more comprehensive history of UARA for distribution to the membership.

In order to understand how the concept of the University of Arizona Retirees Association became a reality, it is necessary to begin in 1978 and to recognize the unique contribution that Dr. Margaret Zube has made to the creation of retiree organizations at the university. She contributed a historical perspective of UARA in the April 1989 issue of JUBILACION and although I do not want to repeat all information contained in that issue, it is important to emphasize certain facts and introduce other information that will be helpful in understanding these early years.

The University Committee on Gerontology decided to develop the potential resources offered by university retirees and charged its staff coordinator, Dr. Zube, with the task of working to organize a retiree committee. She worked as a liaison to the original Retired Faculty Committee (RFC) and later to UARA. She continues to work in that capacity and her efforts have nurtured our organization and provided an important continuity over the years.

Discussions began March 29, 1978 regarding the formation of a retiree committee. Attending were Margaret Zube, Elder James, Robert Klaiss, Leahmac McCoy and Mary Wolanin. At a meeting on October 4, 1978, the RFC was formed as a working sub-committee of the University Committee on Gerontology. Present at this meeting were Richard Harvill, Evelyn Kirmse, Donald Klaiss, Herbert Muller, Herbert Rhodes, Virginia Williams, Mary Wolanin and Margaret Zube.

Major topics included formulation of a list of retired faculty, a retiree publication, and development of a pre-retirement program. To achieve these goals many university faculty and staff were involved and significant contributions were made by Sherwood Carr, John Robertson, Marty Kilhullen, Willa Ravellette and Robert Stirling. A list of retirees did not exist and an effort was begun to develop one. The initial list was prepared in cooperation with the Computer Center and contained 572 potential contacts.

Although the original concept of the RFC was directed to retired faculty, discussions were taking place in April to broaden the scope to include staff for distribution of a newsletter and as participants in a survey of retirees to solicit their interests and concerns regarding retirement matters. Other ideas discussed were a retiree handbook and participation in the Elderhostel program. In December of 1978 newsletter discussions included suggestions for a name. Jubilado (Spanish for retired), a derivation of the verb Jubilando (retiring), and Jubilación (retirement) were presented.

In 1979 Marty Kilhullen of the Personnel Department continued to work on a computer list and Director Robertson agreed that they would sponsor a faculty-staff retiree newsletter. Dr. George F. Sparks joined the RFC and his involvement would facilitate the formation of a new retiree association and he would make many other significant contributions to UARA.

The year 1980 was a busy year for RFC participants. The concept of a new retirees association developed momentum. The idea would have the support of RFC but was expected to operate as an independent association. A tremendous research effort resulted in publication of a Directory of Retired Faculty and Staff which was published with an initial 415 names. In March President Schaefer provided $500 to assist in the formation of a new retirees' organization. The Alumni Association agreed to fund a survey of retirees. Dr. Sparks initiated the preparation of a constitution and by-laws for the new association. The RFC developed a suggested slate of officers and a

(Continued on page 5)
OUTREACH COMMITTEE
Corinne Wilson, Chairman

Outreach operates on the same calendar year as the university, beginning with July 1, 1991, to June 30, 1992. It is with great sadness that I report the death of 34 retirees through the 15th of January, 1992. A year ago the total deceased for the whole year was only 39. Out of the 34, only nine were members of UARA.

Printed below is a very moving letter I received May 6, 1991: To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in the heart-felt card of sympathy in the calling home of my beloved wife, Evon G. Flurkey, by the Lord. I also want to express my appreciation to the University of Arizona Retirement Association in setting up a memorial in her name to the University’s Sparks Gerontology Endowment.

Please find enclosed a check in the amount of one hundred dollars which is to be applied to the Memorial of Evon G. Flurkey.

Sincerely,
William H. Flurkey II

The following is a list of deceased retirees for 1990 and 1991 with a memorial for each one being given to the University’s Sparks Gerontology Endowment.


UARA HISTORY (Continued from page 3)

September date was set for an organizational luncheon in the Student Union Memorial Building. Ray Bowers completed the Retired Faculty & Staff Opinion Survey forms and it was distributed to retirees. Robert Stirling worked to include retirees in the standard Faculty-Staff Directory. The Opinion Survey was published June 23, 1980. Key responses included improving retirement benefits and providing assistance with pre-retirement planning.

In April 1980, VOL. 1, NO. 1 of JUBILACIÓN was published by the Personnel Department, with the cooperation of the Gerontology Committee and RFC. Issue No. 2 carried the name of Charles Norling as Editor. In August, Robert Stirling was appointed Editor and continues in that capacity to this date. On September 27, 1980, a luncheon meeting was held in the Student Union to form the University of Arizona Retirees Association. Guest speaker was President Schaefer. The Constitution and By-Laws were approved by the attendees and annual dues were set at $3.

The purposes of the Association were read: to foster the benefits, interests and well-being of the retired faculty and staff of the University of Arizona through social, educational, and promotional activities, as well as to encourage continuing contact between retirees and the university. The first slate of officers elected were George Sparks, Chairman; David Hall, Vice Chairman; Rachel Maynard, Secretary; and Lois St. Pierre, Treasurer.
OCTOBER 1992
UARA HISTORY—PART THREE
Howard Greenseth, UARA Historian

Membership in 1981 reached 147 and under David Hall's leadership as president, a number of new initiatives were undertaken. Mitchell Vavich developed a dental plan for retirees offered through Amos, Lovitt and Touche. UARA board members began discussions with the University Personnel Department to centralize and improve pre-retirement services. Training Manager Art Lindberg organized seminars conducted by Dr. Tenney of ASU relating to financial planning for retirement. These programs continue to this day. Retirees requested additional programs relating to social security, health care, the ASRS, psychological adjustments necessary prior to retirement, etc. A plan was developed by Leon Blitzer, Ray Shaw, George Sparks, Ray Thompson, Newell Younggren and Margaret Zube which led to seminars on these subjects being given.

The president of UARA began speaking at the UA Annual Retirement and Awards function. UARA has been represented at this function every year except 1990, when no invitation was extended to UARA.

Interesting programs were presented at the luncheon meetings and included one by the Tucson Police Department on the use of hypnotism in the solution of crimes. These programs over the years have been varied. Speakers included Governor Babbitt, Dr. Howard Conant on enjoying modern art, the UA Entertainers, a report on the Old Pueblo trolley restoration project, a view from the garbage can by Dr. Rathje, the UA Rosewood Marimba Band, Directors of the Arizona State Retirement System, University Presidents, the UA Barbershop Quartet and Balalaika Orchestra, the Amphi High School Soundlighters, etc.

Katherine Mason was our leader in 1982 and discussions began on organizing an active retiree volunteer program. Ray Bowers and Ron Klaiss of the Retired Faculty Committee began to develop this committee. A survey was published in Jubilación soliciting areas of retiree interest. Ms. Mason chaired an ad hoc committee to look at improving health care insurance for retirees.

Peter Stoss obtained a small room in the Student Union Memorial Building (room 107C) with the assistance of Building Director, Billy J. Varney. Mary Opal, George Sparks and Dave Hall participated in the pre-retirement seminars conducted by the Personnel Department. Parking stickers were made available to retirees and some may remember that our lots were designated “W” in those early days.

A $5 discount was negotiated on tickets purchased by retirees from the Concerts & Public Affairs Office, free subscriptions to Lo Que Pasa, a 10% discount at the Campus Bookstore and reduced fees for UA courses were developed. UARA became involved in the United Way Campaign.

Another significant event in 1982 occurred on Dec. 8. George and Margaret Sparks donated $25,000 to the UA Foundation “for the welfare and benefit of retired faculty and staff . . . programs, activities which may lead to the preparation for retirement, physical well-being and satisfying years of retirement should be encouraged and receive monetary support.” This led to establishment of the Sparks Endowment managed by a committee representing the UARA, the Gerontology Department and the Personnel Department. Programs funded by the earnings from this endowment have been significant and will be reported as we continue our historical review.

Although I have received no complaints as to accuracy on these history segments to date, there is always the danger that a significant event or effort has been overlooked. It is not too late to offer information and I will be pleased to include new information as a segment in the final part of the UARA history. The next history segment will cover the years 1987 through 1992.
UARA HISTORY—PART FOUR

Howard Greenseth, UARA Historian

The last sentence of the UARA History—Part Three should have read, "The next history segment will cover the years 1983 through 1986," and here I am with that segment.

George Sparks died on Sept. 12, 1983. Herbert Rhodes and Dare Hall jointly chaired a committee to review retiree health insurance and developed a survey report. Retirees were listed in the Student Faculty and Staff Directory, thanks to the efforts of Robert Stirling and others. Discussions began relating to the need for a formal political action committee. The use of door prizes to stimulate attendance at luncheons began in 1982 with the assistance of ASUA Bookstore Manager James Martin. Frank Chambers, with the support of officers Darrel Metcalfe, Kathryn Dunlap and Meta Anderson, intensified their efforts to enroll more retirees into the Association. Seventy-three retirees were honored at the annual Awards & Retirement luncheon.

Darrel Metcalfe was elected President at the 1984 Annual Meeting and amendments were made to the UARA Constitution. It changed the title from Chairman and Vice Chairman (a carryover from the Retired Faculty Committee) to President and Vice-President. The position of Vice-President was designated as president-elect so automatic succession would occur and the terms of secretary and that of treasurer were made two years for improved continuity.

A Program Committee was formed and David Windsor became Chair. Meta Anderson and Rita Mikula formed a Membership Committee and their successors, namely Elizabeth Erwin, Jency Houser and Virginia Shriver, worked to develop accurate records, a plan for renewals and solicitation of new members. The secretaries and treasurers including Amy Jean Knorr and Dorothy DeMiller assisted with this effort. The results of their efforts are best illustrated by statistics: 1985=292; 1986=438; 1987=607; 1988=559; 1989=755; 1990=797; and 1991=821. I had to use some editorial discretion in compiling these totals. Although most of the business of the Association was conducted on a fiscal year basis, other information was recorded on an annual year basis. This was to change in subsequent years when the membership year was changed to the fiscal year, i.e., 7/1-6/30.

Peggy Davis chaired the Host and Hostess Committee and this function proved valuable in assisting the officers with registration at the luncheons and in greeting and seating guests. Russell Lincoln took on the task of the Volunteer Committee. Stationery for the Association came into use as the need for improved communication with other organizations developed. Frank Chambers and Kathryn Dunlap cornered your Historian at a luncheon meeting and in order to escape I agreed to chair the new Legislative Action Committee. With the continuing success of UARA the Retired Faculty Committee decided to dissolve their organization on July 2, 1984.

President Robert Svob led a successful effort to reinstate free parking privileges for retirees. With the help of Billy J. Varney this ultimately led to the issuance of a permanent parking sticker for retirees in a later year. David Hall turned over the leadership of the Insurance Committee to Michael Vavich and Howard Greenseth turned over the Legislative Action Committee to Herbert Abrams in 1985. Sixty-seven retirees were honored at the Awards & Retirement luncheon.

In 1986 the Insurance Committee printed a "Medicare Supplement Program Comparison" after many hours of research and effort and a successful effort was launched to eliminate the one percent fee charged by ASRS to process health insurance premiums for retirees. Mike Hartwell took over the Luncheon Program Committee and Robert Letson chaired the Insurance Committee. Past President Darrel Metcalfe was made UARA liaison to the Arizona Retired Teachers Association and the then Council of Senior Citizen Organizations of Pima County. This practice of setting up liaisons to other groups was to be expanded in future years.

Later in the year a successful effort was made to combine the open enrollment for health insurance plans for active employees with that of retirees. As Chair of the Legislative Action Committee, Herbert Abrams and his committee members solicited information from various states and a survey was published. This effort was funded by earnings from the Sparks Endowment. Other recipients of Sparks Endowment support this year included the UARA Insurance Committee and the Personnel Department which printed a Retiree Benefits manual. Elizabeth Erwin, as Secretary, managed the mailings of UARA announcements through the UA Printing & Reproductions Department.
UARA HISTORY—PART FIVE

Howard Greenseth, UARA Historian

Officers of the Association elected in 1987 included President Howard Greenseth, Vice President June Morrison, Secretary Amy Jean Knorr and Treasurer Dorothy DeMiller. Sol Resnick continued to chair the Volunteers Committee and the number of volunteers involved in UA and public service increased to 34. Nestor Roos became Chair of the Insurance Committee and Robert Letson assumed the Chair of the Legislative Action Committee.

The officers of the association changed the organization year from annual to fiscal, i.e., 7/1-6/30. It was decided that participation in the United Way Campaign would be as a separate reporting organization. A retiree organization was formed at Northern Arizona University and the groups began discussions of common goals. The Association began registering with the Secretary of State as a lobbying organization.

UARA recommended approval of funding for a proposal by David Smith and Victor Christopherson to the Sparks Gerontology Endowment to develop a strategy to improve our relationships with the legislature and state officials in furthering retirement legislation. UARA retirees actively assisted the investigators in improving liaisons with other organizations, the legislature and furthering improved benefits such as a permanent COLA and a health insurance benefit.

An active Legislative Action Committee worked on legislation resulting in a bill that increased the benefit for retirees under ASRS by sixty cents for each year of active service plus years of retirement with a minimum increase of two percent and a maximum of ten percent. The legislature continued to ignore the recommendations of actuaries regarding the contribution rate and reduced it from 5.15 percent to four percent. Rather than entertainment the January 1988 luncheon was dedicated to assisting retirees present in preparation of letters to their legislators expressing concern about the integrity of the ASRS. Over one hundred letters were written and mailed that day.

An administrative decision to eliminate fee waivers for retirees was successfully rescinded due to the efforts of Nestor Roos and others. Representatives from UARA begin a series of meetings with other state-wide retirement organizations to form a coalition.

This led to the formation of CARE, i.e., the Coalition of Active and Retired Members of the Arizona State Retirement System. A general meeting was held including representatives from the university retirement groups, state and local teacher organizations, community colleges, state worker unions, etc. Fourteen major organizations were represented to approve a constitution and by-laws and to elect officers. Howard Greenseth and Robert Letson were made representatives from UARA. UARA members continued to serve with this organization later with Howard Greenseth elected Chairperson, Amy Jean Knorr as Secretary and Robert Letson as Chair of the Legislative Committee. Intense lobbying resulted in passage of legislation providing a health insurance benefit for retirees with ten or more years of active service funded by the ASRS. A fact not commonly known is that our own Robert Letson essentially wrote the bill for the legislative staff and this is what passed with minor changes.

The April 1988 luncheon included election of new officers which included President William Foster, Vice President Newell Younggren, and Secretary Vera Minnick. Vice President June Morrison was unable to assume the presidency due to ill health. The number of liaisons with other organizations was expanded and Howard Greenseth became liaison to the Staff Advisory Council and represented UARA at the annual Staff and Retirement Awards luncheon in May. Francis “Sledge” Hammer began formation of a Telephone Tree to assist with lobbying efforts and Jency Houser became chairperson of the Membership Committee. The Sparks Gerontology Committee agreed to continue funding the Smith and Christopherson work for another year.

President Foster expressed a desire to broaden the participation of retirees in association decisions and suggested formation of a council to assist the officers with input prior to their decision on important matters. A council was formed including the officers, past president, the editor of Jubilación, committee chairpersons and liaisons from other organizations. He also appointed Francis Hammer and Corinne Wilson to be members at large. Dorothy Donnelly became chairperson of the Welcoming Committee and continued to assist retirees at luncheon functions of the association. Accounts were set up with the Arizona State Employees Credit Union for deposit of association funds.
UARA HISTORY—PART SIX

Howard Greenseth, UARA Historian

Association officers elected in 1989 included President Newell Younggren, Vice President Edward Louttit, Secretary Irving Yall, and Treasurer James Witner. Raymond Klein became chair of the Legislative Action Committee and Virginia Shriver assumed responsibility for the Social Committee. Wayburn Jeter became liaison to the Pima Council on Aging and David Smith succeeded Howard Greenseth as chair of the state-wide organization CARE with Robert Letson continuing to serve this organization as chair of the Legislative Action Committee.

In the previous history segment I got a little ahead of the actual chronological order of events relating to the Telephone Tree. The hard-working chair of this committee was Edward Louttit and they made a significant contribution to the passage of legislation during the 1988-89 legislative year. In concert with the Legislative Action Committee, legislation was passed resulting in an ad hoc COLA of two percent effective July 1, 1990 and a three percent “hold harmless” bill that offset in part the reduction in retiree benefits from ASRS exempt from state taxation. “Sledge” Hammer succeeded Ed as chair of this committee in 1989.

A poll of the membership indicated a desire to go off-campus for luncheons and the January luncheon convened at the Elk’s Club with excellent attendance. The April luncheon was held at the Davis Monahan Officers Club. William Foster continued to serve as chair of Special Events, making arrangements for a special retiree event at the Gaslight Theater.

A new activity was initiated by Corinne Wilson. Called Outreach she monitored the passing of University retirees and messages of sympathy were conveyed to relatives. Long-time member and supporter of UARA, President Emeritus Richard Harvill passed away in November.

Officers elected in 1990 included President Jency Houser and Vice President Frances Hammer. Secretary Irving Yall and Treasurer James Witner continued their terms of office. Newell Younggren assumed responsibility for luncheon programs and Katherine Holsinger agreed to handle luncheon reservations. Amy Jean Knorr became chair of the Welcoming Committee. Edward Louttit became chair of the Legislative Action Committee and Herbert Abrams was appointed liaison to the Faculty Senate. President Houser also asked Howard Greenseth to act as Historian for the Association and to prepare a more complete history of UARA.

With increased correspondence it was decided to set up a separate post office box for the Association and new stationery was printed as well. The need for a central office to house records and handle inquiries became a necessity and President Houser appointed a committee consisting of Younggren, Yall and Greenseth to contact the University administration.

It was agreed that a UARA publication was needed to augment Jubilación and Irving Yall developed a publication entitled UARA Talk with Vol. I, No. 1 issued on March 15. The Outreach Program was expanded and UARA made a donation to the Sparks Fund as a memorial to deceased retirees. An effort had been underway for some years to help Arizona State University organize a retiree association. This effort, initiated by David Smith, received support from numerous UARA retirees and became a reality this year. Vic Christopherson represented UARA in connection with the United Way and donations exceeded all previous fund raising efforts. Additional activities of the Association in 1990 will be summarized in the next segment.
UARA HISTORY—PART SEVEN

Howard Greenseth, UARA Historian

Additional activities of the Association in 1990 included the following: Edwin Gallison, Director of the Arizona State Retirement System, gave a special presentation to the UARA Council. Grants from the Sparks Endowment included $365 to Irving Yall to improve Association communications, $600 to William Foster to help fund a special reception for new retirees and $1,000 to Vic Christopherson to organize and conduct a legislative training seminar for members involved in legislative and political activity for the Association.

A bill was introduced in the State Legislature to divert $70 million from the ASRS fund to the Department of Commerce for venture capital investments. The ASRS Investment Advisory Council called a special public meeting at Mesa Community College with a number of UARA members joining other groups in protesting this proposal. House Bill 2016 did not pass. Members of the Legislative Action Committee helped develop legislation to provide a graduated health insurance benefit for retirees from five to nine years of service and this passed the legislature. Members attended and participated in the annual meeting of CARE (Coalition of Active & Retired Members of the ASRS). Howard Greenseth was appointed liaison to the Staff Advisory Council.

New officers of the Association elected in 1991 included President Francis Hammer, Vice President Irving Yall, Secretary Corrine Wilson, Treasurer Wayburn Jeter and Past President Jenci Houser continued to serve on the Board. In addition to continuing committee chairs Katherine Holsinger directed luncheon reservation activities with Newell Younggren coordinating luncheon programs.

An effort by UARA members led by David Smith to assist ASU in forming a retiree organization helped in formation of the ASU Retirees Association in April. Association representatives attended their first general meeting to extend the best wishes of our Association. A group of members led by Francis Hammer was successful in organizing a new association of the three state universities called the Arizona Universities Retirees Council. Three members of each university were appointed to the Council and UARA would be represented by Francis Hammer, Irving Yall and Howard Greenseth.

Efforts to secure an office on campus were successful and space was provided at 1211 N. Warren Avenue. Jenci Houser was appointed Office Manager and she organized donations of furniture and supplies by UARA members, a group of volunteers to staff the office 10am-2pm, Monday through Friday. central organization of UARA files and the office became functional in February. The Sparks Endowment assisted with costs associated with the office telephone and answering machine and Irving Yall installed this equipment.

The Sparks Endowment funded reception for new retirees was conducted at the Alumni-Foundation Building and the legislative training seminar organized by Vic Christopherson was successful in training 25 members of the Association. Luncheon sites for Association functions included the Davis-Monthan Officers Club and Hilton East. A memorial in the amount of $50 was donated to the Sparks Endowment in memory of deceased retirees and Corinne Wilson continued her work with the Outreach Committee to contact family members of deceased retirees to extend condolences on behalf of the Association.
UARA HISTORY - PART EIGHT
Howard Greenseth, UARA Historian

April 1991 marked completion of eleven years of continuous publication of the retirees newsletter JUBILACIÓN by the Personnel Department of the University (Dept. of Human Resources) with Robert Stirling as Editor. As the year came to a close, a yard sign was erected to identify the UARA office on Warren Avenue.

Association officers elected in 1992 were President Irving Yall, Vice President James Witner, Treasurer Wayburn Jeter and Secretary Corrine Wilson. An annual donation of $150 was made to the Memorial Fund in memory of deceased U of A retirees. The free subscription to Lo Que Pasa for retirees was replaced by a modest fee for mailing. Howard Greenseth gave a presentation at the annual Pre-Retirement Seminar on behalf of UARA sponsored by the U of A Department of Human Resources. With funding from the Sparks Endowment Fund a reception for new retirees was held at the Alumni-Foundation building. President Yall represented the Association at the inauguration ceremonies for President Manuel Pacheco.

Katherine Holsinger, who had served as Reservations Chair for several years, turned over responsibility to Jeanne Briner. Jency Houser accepted responsibility for updating the Telephone Tree and assignment of captains and this considerable effort was acknowledged by the UARA Council. R.E. Calmes replaced William Foster as Chair of Special Activities.

Edgar Louttit turned over the chair of the Legislative Committee to Dr. David Wayne Smith. A proposal to the Sparks Endowment to fund a graduate student (in a gerontology related field) to assist with research and legislative efforts was approved and $3,000 was made available for this effort. Ms. Melissa Murray was hired. Retiree legislation included passage of a five per cent COLA increase, extension of the three percent hold harmless tax legislation to new retirees and a minimum benefit floor of $600/month for retirees 75 years or older was enacted.

Amy Jean Knorr (Chair of the Welcoming Committee) was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Home Economics Foundation. The Association Executive Committee approved creation of a new class of membership called Life Membership for a one time donation of $100. President Yall appointed a nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers for 1993 and these included James Witner as Chair and Francis Hammer, Jency Houser and Newell Younggren.

This completes the current series of UARA history segments. As in any attempt to document the history of an Association there is the danger that some significant event or the work of some individuals was not recognized. Although I have heard no suggestions to date don’t hesitate to convey this information to me for future segments.