

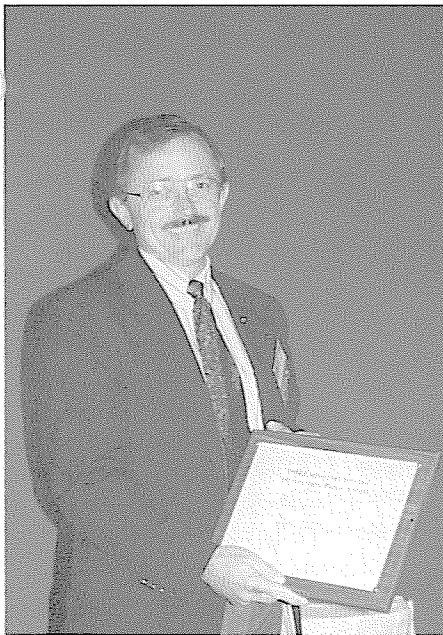
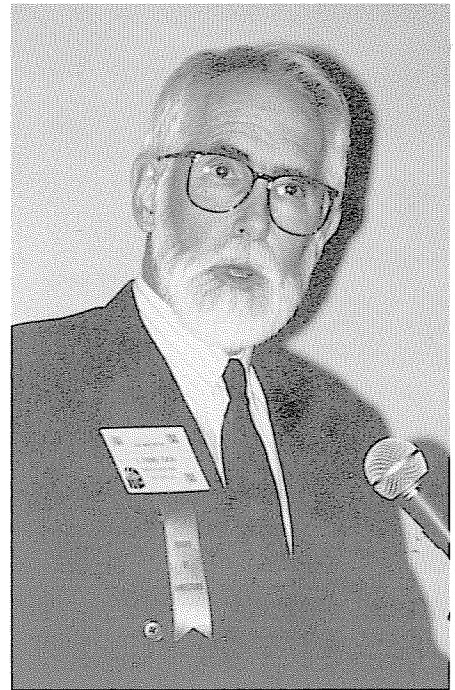
News of the Institute

Distinguished Lecturer Tobin Calls for A Covenant for Seismic Safety

1996 EERI Distinguished Lecturer L. Thomas Tobin has called for EERI members to develop and adopt a "Covenant for Seismic Safety." Presenting his lecture for the first time before the membership gathered for the Annual Meeting, Tobin challenged members to:

- 1) Improve the knowledge and practice of earthquake risk reduction among ourselves, and our colleagues;
- 2) Publicize our expectations and disclose earthquake risk so those affected can make informed risk decisions; and
- 3) Use our earthquake knowledge to change policy.

Tobin says he looks forward to working with the membership and the Board of Directors to develop an ethical statement for EERI by year's end. If you would like Tobin to present the Lecture to your organization, contact the EERI office.



Borchardt Receives EERI's Outstanding Paper Award

"Estimates of Site-Dependent Response Spectra for Design Methodology and Justification" by Roger Borchardt, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, CA, was selected as Outstanding Paper published in the EERI Journal *Earthquake Spectra* in 1994. The paper, which appeared in Volume 10, Number 4, presents a simple four-step methodology for estimating site-dependent response spectra. Based on recent borehole-geotechnical data and strong-motion measurements, the methodology provides new unambiguous definitions of site classes and rigorous empirical estimates of site-dependent amplification factors in terms of mean shear-wave velocity. During the EERI Annual Meeting awards ceremony, Borchardt accepted a plaque honoring his achievement. Keep this award in mind as you read *Spectra*. The Honors Committee will soon be calling for nominations for the 1995 award.

Learning from Earthquakes

Indonesia Hit with 8.0 m_s Earthquake and Tsunami

The Irian Jaya region of Indonesia suffered an $m_s = 8.0$ quake at 3:00 p.m. local time on February 17, 1996, followed by a series of magnitude 5 and 6 aftershocks, including a magnitude 6.7 which

struck about eight hours after the main shock. As of press time for the *Newsletter*, reports of damage and injuries were sketchy. The Indonesian Meteorological and Geophysics Office placed the epi-

center 110 km east of Biak, in the Pacific Ocean. Biak's airport control tower, Grand Mosque, and many houses were destroyed. Tsunamis between 4-7 m in height were reported.