



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Louis District

Information Bulletin

Vol 22

No. 11

November 1985

Nov. 28th



Let Us Give Thanks

DISTRICT DOINGS

Lake Shelbyville

The 9th Annual Eco-Meet, held October 3rd, was the largest held at Shelbyville. Fifty-one teams, representing 24 communities, filled three divisions in the ecology competition. More than 250 coaches and students participated in events on the day of the meet. Many other students were reached through teachers using the study materials as part of their lesson plan and testing them to pick a team. Staff members, including clerical and maintenance staff, as well as uniformed personnel, were aided by 20 volunteers from Eastern Illinois University.

Larry Gutzler spoke to the Shelbyville Jaycees about facilities and activities at the lake.

Humboldt School was treated to two programs by Larry Gutzler. The 32 students learned about snakes and their

importance as well as dangerous plants and animals of the area.

Diana Williams spoke to 35 members of Eastern Illinois University's Recreation Class about employment opportunities with the Corps.

Maria Shafer participated in two Career Day programs held at Lakeland Junior College and Eastern Illinois University. Three hundred students investigated career opportunities with the Corps.

Rend Lake

More than 6200 area school children participated in the National Hunting and Fishing day coloring contest held at Rend Lake. The pictures stressed the important theme that "Sportsmen pay for conservation." Members of the Southern Illinois University Arts Student League judged the competition and local merchants donated prizes. Park Technician Rachel Garren and Park Aid Jon Williams visited eleven schools to make the awards and present programs about conservation.

Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl were parade Grand Marshalls, representing the Corps, at the annual Christopher Festival parade. Approximately 5000 people attended the parade.

Park Technician Ray Zoanetti coordinated work projects for the Cahokia Council Boy Scouts in the Sleepy Hollow area. Projects included trail renovation and nesting box construction.

Personnel from the 130th Infantry, Ill. National Guard utilized the North Marcum campground area for military exercises on 4-5 October.

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DISTRICT DOINGS (Continued)

Rend Lake hosted the Resource Managers Conference in Mt. Vernon, Ill.

Park Ranger Lowell Summers and Park Technician Ken Pierson, along with Ill. Dept. of Conservation employees, coordinated the stocking of 35,640 Largemouth Bass fingerlings.

Congratulations to Jon Williams who received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his quick thinking and positive action in preventing a single and possible multiple drownings which occurred at Rend Lake August 12.

Wappapello Lake

Park Technician Maureen Murrin gave an update of Wappapello happenings to members of the Poplar Bluff Rotary Club.

Maureen also gave two programs on the history and purposes of the project to the Avion Travelcade.

Park Ranger Dan Erickson presented a gatehouse tour to 35 Cub Scouts and their parents from Fisk, Mo.

Visitors to the Wappapello Lake fall auto tour enjoyed spectacular colors of the fall season the weekend of 19-20 October.

Lock and Dam 26(Replacement)

Bill Brown and Cherrie Kimbrough gave briefings to 98 members of the Greater Alton-Twin Rivers Growth Association.

Jim Bissell and Lenn Martin gave a tour and briefing for 15 pre-engineer students from Florissant Valley Jr. College.

Farrell E. Burnett went to Fosterberg City Hall to present a slide program for 70 senior citizens.

Twenty five students for SIU-Edwardsville were given a briefing and tour by Dennis Seibel, Ed Berghoff and Robert Herr.

Lenn Martin and Ed Berghoff hosted a group of construction engineers from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Around the District

Colonel Daniel M. Wilson spoke at a joint meeting of ASCE and SAME. His topic was the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Colonel Wilson was assigned as Asst. Chief of Civil Works for the Pacific area at the time of the occurrence.

Colonel Wilson also gave a presentation on Lock and Dam 26(R) at the Illinois Association of Port Districts Conference in Collinsville, Ill., and he gave the opening remarks at the Federal Women's Seminar on Oct. 31st.

Terry Norris gave a lecture to graduate Missouri Archaeological Society members at the University of Missouri Columbia. His topic was "Recent St. Louis District Archaeology investigations Within the Middle Mississippi River Valley."

Claude Strauser gave a lecture to the Rivers & Harbors Class at the University of Missouri-Rolla. He discussed the principles of river engineering and described the research being conducted by the Potamology Section.

A tour of the Mississippi River near Cape Girardeau aboard the MV MOORE and MV HARDIN was hosted by Claude Strauser and Greg Bertoglio. Twenty-five biologists from five states and personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enjoyed the trip.

Clyde Wilkes spoke to 61 members of the Retired Officers' Association (Southern Illinois Chapter) on "The 9-Foot Channel and Lock and Dam 26 (Replacement" at Scott AFB.

Joe Bisher, SADBUS, participated in the North Central Small Business Council meeting in Grand Forks, ND., 15-18 October.

Richard Sovar gave a briefing on our Computer Aided Drafting capabilities to the Manager and the Engineer of Bethlehem Steel Co.

DISTRICT DOINGS (Continued)

Paul Olson spoke at three Rockwood School District schools about maps and cartography. Ninety students at Fayette School, 52 at Woerther School, and 55 at Westridge enjoyed his presentations.

Mark Twain Lake

Two hundred students from Hannibal, Mexico and St. Louis participated in the "Mark Twain Lake...Be In It" Week. Conservation of natural resources, hydropower and safety at the lake were emphasized throughout the week by Park Technicians Anne Behrens, Chuck Crocker and Cynthia Dierks.

Park Ranger Stephen Austin presented a program to 200 members of the Central Illinois Camera Association Club during their annual workshop in Hannibal.

A special puppet program entitled "Mark Twain Returns to Florida" by Park Technician Anne Behrens highlighted the 5th Annual Salt River Folklife Festival. The two-day event, coordinated by Anne Behrens, was held in conjunction with Mark Twain's 150th birthday celebration in the historic town of Florida, Missouri, the birthplace of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). Three dozen area artists in period dress demonstrated 19th century living skills, arts, crafts, food and music. More than 4100 people attended the event.

SEAT BELT MYTHS AND FACTS

MYTH: I just don't believe it will ever happen to me.

FACT: Everyone of us can expect to be in a crash once every ten years. For one out of 20 of us, it will be a serious crash. For one out of every 60 born today, it will be fatal.

Deadline for submission of items to the December Information Bulletin is 26 November. Earlier submission is encouraged.

NEWS FROM RETIREES WELCOME

SEASON ENDS AT CARLYLE LAKE

Another successful recreation season comes to a close at Carlyle Lake. All Corps operated campgrounds and day use areas close as of October 31. The only exceptions to this are the boat ramps at Keyesport, Dam West, and Boulder, and the West Spillway and General Dean Bridge area.

The Corps of Engineers at Carlyle Lake, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Conservation, has started dredging operations at the lake. The areas to be dredged are the Sailing Association Harbor, Dam West Marina Harbor and the Boulder Harbor.

Cathodic protection for rust prevention is being applied to the tainter gates on the main dam.

CLEARANCE PROCEDURES FOR TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

Supervisors are reminded of the need to ensure that all temporary employees are issued a LMS Form 311, Clearance - Exit Interview Checklist upon termination of employment, so that they may be properly cleared. Completion of the sections for Procurement & Supply Division and Consolidated Personnel Office are not required. Therefore, after all other offices have been cleared, the form will be returned to the employee's immediate supervisor, who will review the form to assure that all clearances have been obtained. Field supervisors should obtain clearance of their employees, as necessary, by telephone contact with the appropriate offices. There is no change in clearance procedures for permanent employees.

The three hardest tasks in the world are neither physical feats nor intellectual achievements, but moral acts: to return love for hate, to include the excluded, and to say, "I was wrong."

When you wonder about the capabilities of the handicapped, remember that just because an instrument is shaped differently it does not mean that it can't make beautiful music.

SPOTLIGHT

DID YOU KNOW???

ON
THE
LIBRARY

--That we have college catalogs from all colleges in Missouri and Illinois.

--That we have Bi-State bus schedules.

--That we have access to thousands of libraries nationwide and can borrow books for you just as if you had a personal library card.

--That we have more than 600 subscriptions to various journals, periodicals and newspapers.

--That the 600+ subscriptions translates to over 7,000 issues received per year.

--That we are the central ordering office for all books and periodical subscriptions for the entire District.

--That we purchase between 400 and 500 new books each year.

--That we have our catalog on microfiche and that you can request to have a new set sent to your office each quarter. We can even arrange for you to get your own fiche reader.

--That we can find information for you on almost any subject--either by looking through our books, making phone calls to the experts, or by doing a computerized search of hundreds of online databases.

--That we have information about all state governments and legislatures.

--That we can find the address of almost any association or organization in the U.S.

--That we have phone books from the cities and towns within our District boundaries as well as other Corps offices.

--That we have a nifty zip code to area code book.

And...This is just the beginning.

Stop by the library in room 926 sometime and we'll fill you in on the rest!

LET'S TALK TURKEY



Cooked turkey should not be kept at room temperature for more than two hours, so don't leave it out between a noon dinner and a repeat of the meal in the evening. The perishable meat should be refrigerated. Wrap left-over stuffing and meat separately and store in covered containers.

Left-over stuffing should be used within one to two days. Left-over turkey meat, if not frozen, should be used within two to three days after roasting.

The doctor told me he'd have me walking within a month after my accident. And he did. When I got his bill, I had to sell my car.

CHRISTMAS



DINNER-DANCE

1985

The 1985 St. Louis District Christmas Dinner Dance, sponsored by the Civilian Activities Council (CAC) will be held at Royale Orleans, 2801 Telegraph Road, South St. Louis County, on Saturday, 14 December 1985. An open bar will begin at 6:30 p.m.; the cost of all drinks is included in the total price. A Deluxe Buffet will be served from 7:00-8:00 p.m., followed by dancing until 12:00 p.m. The variety of music will be expanded to provide something for everyone. Due to the success of CAC activities, supported by District employees, the cost of the dinner dance will be reduced from \$15.00 to \$12.00 for Corps employees and one guest. The cost for retirees and all others will be \$15.00 per person. Tickets are available from 12 November thru 3 December from Irene Smugala, Room 1064, Ext. 5046.

INCENTIVE AWARDS

PROMOTIONS:

Lucille Schulze, LMSPO-S
Gerald Allen, LMSCD-CC

SPECIAL ACT/SERVICE AWARDS:

Regina Pucel, LMSSD-CC
Jack Viser, LMSRO-LEC
Gary Webb, LMSCD-Q
Gary Schmidt, LMSED-HS
Penny Mudd, LMSRO-C
Diane Jones, LMSRE-P
Elsie Kalafatich, LMSRE-P
Charles Hess, LMSRE-P
Joseph Schwenk, LMSED-FS
JoAnn Gray, LMSBC
Janet Eversgerd, LMSBC

Milan Hornak, LMSED-DA
John Poullain, LMSED-DA
Dennis Stephens, LMSED-HE
Clyde Hopple, LMSED-FS
Walter Wagner, LMSED-DM
Dario Franzini, LMSED-DA
Kenneth Anderson, LMSED-S
Michael Rector, LMSED-DG
Craig Donis, LMSRE-A
Laurel Nelson, LMSRE
Robert Barton, LMSOD-PB
Russell Stokely, LMSOD-NC
Jean Beausang, LMSSD-C
Joan Schick, LMSSD-C
Josephine Bischan, LMSOC
Theresa Jenkins, LMSAS-M
Lynne Puetz, LMSCD-C
C. J. Hilton, LMSRO-F

PERFORMANCE AWARDS:

Thomas Ruf, LMSED-DA
John Cullen, LMSED-DM
Robert Hold, LMSED-DA
Robert Rapp, LMSED-HD



LOOK

Where CAC, With Your Support, is Headed

Beginning balance 31 March 1985	257.38
1st fund raiser - Salad Bar (with food donation to New Life Evangelistic Center)	+605.03
2nd fund raiser - Secretaries Day Flowers	+433.60
Sponsorship of Corps Picnic	-518.54
Partial sponsorship of "Change-of-Command" ceremony	- 29.55
3rd fund raiser - Bake & Book Sale (with book donation to Children's Hospital)	+305.59
4th fund raiser - Taco Salad Bar	+561.13
The sale of caps, shirts, POWER coupon books, Silver Dollar City tickets and donations added up to an ending balance on 31 Sep 85 of	1,475.25
ANTICIPATED sponsorship of Corps Xmas Dinner Dance	-800.00

RETIREE "REUNION" TERMED SUCCESS

"This is the biggest crowd we have had in years," was Elmer Huizenga's smiling comment, as he surveyed a dining room packed with 84 retirees and spouses from St. Louis District.

The October retiree's luncheon had been turned into a special event, billed as a reunion of former District employees. Special invitation letters and extra publicity had been sent out for the occasion.

Success was demonstrated by the large turnout.

District retirees get together for lunch on the third Thursday of every month. Over the past year or two, according to Huizenga, attendance had fallen from around 50 people, each month, to 30 or less. There was even a threat of losing their long-standing reservation for the private dining room at Pietros on Watson Road.

This reunion luncheon was an effort to rekindle interest and awareness of the monthly meetings.

Enthusiastic greetings and animated conversations were very much the order of the day, both during the cocktail hour and the sit-down luncheon which followed.

News of and messages from other retirees, who were unable to attend, were passed along by several attendees.

A slide briefing on current District projects and activities was presented by Clyde Wilkes, District PAO.

The next get-together is slated for Thursday, November 21, 11:30 a.m., at Pietro's, 3801 Watson Road. The sponsors expressed hopes that attendance will continue at a higher level than that experienced earlier this year. All District retirees and potential retirees are urged to participate.

WANTED

Diving board. Call Farrell Burnett at 899-0650.

VETERANS DAY Nov. 11th



AMVETS PREAMBLE

"We the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, fully realizing our responsibility to our community, to our State, and to our Nation, associate ourselves for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States;

To safeguard the principles of freedom, liberty and justice for all;

To promote the cause of peace and good will among nations;

To maintain inviolate the freedom of our country;

To preserve the fundamentals of democracy;

To perpetuate the friendship and associations of the Second World War, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars;

And to dedicate ourselves to the cause of mutual assistance, this by the grace of God."



EEO CORNERSTONE

WHAT MUST A MANAGER OR SUPERVISOR DO?

As a manager or supervisor, you are expected to:

1. Leave any personal prejudices of yours at the doorstep of your place of employment. Failure to do so does your company a disservice.

2. Implement fully your company's equal employment opportunity policies.

3. Create and maintain the proper work atmosphere within your department and installation so that all employees are fully aware of your company's equal employment opportunity policies. There should be an absence of animosity or hard feeling between employee groups of any composition.

4. Be constantly alert and sensitive to possible inequalities of job assignments, opportunity, training or any other aspect of employment.

5. Report to appropriate company management for review and corrective action, if necessary, any company policy, practice, or procedure which may act as a barrier to the full utilization of employees protected by the equal employment opportunity laws. Similarly, make any recommendations you think could aid the company's affirmative action program.

6. Make every effort to encourage and assist qualified employees from underutilized groups, such as racial minorities and females, to advance within your company. This would include encouraging their participation in training and educational programs, and providing career counseling, when appropriate.

7. Do not tolerate prejudicial or discriminatory acts of any magnitude within your place of employment. One small incident can trigger a government inquiry or major court case. Report

such acts immediately to appropriate company management. Racial or ethnic slurs or jokes can be offensive to certain groups and have no place in your place of employment.

8. Be considerate of your company's image in the minority community as well as the community at large, and strive to earn respect for your company through positive accomplishments in the area of equal employment.

Remember: Your company must hold you accountable for meeting your equal employment opportunity responsibilities.

Source: A handbook for Managers and Supervisors.

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

VEHICLE ACCIDENTS FOR OCT 85: None

Total vehicle accidents, FY 86: None

Total vehicle accidents, FY 85: Five

PERSONAL INJURIES - CONTRACTOR

EMPLOYEES - OCT 85: None

Total accidents for FY 86: None

Total accidents for FY 85: Fifteen

PERSONAL INJURIES - GOVERNMENT

EMPLOYEES - OCT 85: Two

Total accidents for FY 86: Two

Total accidents for FY 85: Fifteen

A government employee at Lock and Dam 26(R) stepped on a stone and twisted his ankle while accessing a contractor rock barge.

A Government employee at Lake Shelbyville was carrying some metal posts and bumped into the tongue of a trailer. He suffered a contusion to his left leg.

LAKE FATALITIES FOR OCT 85: None

Total lake fatalities for FY 86: None

Total lake fatalities for FY 85: Seven

Carlyle Lake - 2

Lake Shelbyville - 1

Rend Lake - 1

Wappapello Lake - 3

DRIVERS ADD VARIETY TO ACCIDENTS

If you were involved in an automobile accident, how would you describe it in 30 words or less?

The York, Nebraska, Police Department's annual report has some examples, taken from an insurance company publication, of how others handled the questions.

"The guy was all over the road, I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."

"I collided with a stationary truck coming from the other way."

"An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle, and vanished."

"The telephone pole was approaching fast. I was attempting to swerve out of its path when it struck my front end."

"The indirect cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth."

"I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."

"The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go, so I ran over him."

"I saw the slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he bounced off the hood of my car."

"The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions."

"I was backing my car out of the driveway in the usual manner when it was struck by the other car in the same place it had been struck several times before."

"To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck the pedestrian."

"Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have."



"I was on my way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident."

HENRY MILLER SHREVE

October 21st marked the 200th anniversary of a man who may have been more important than any other in the development of the Mississippi River Navigation system, Henry Miller Shreve.

Captain Shreve first came to St. Louis in 1807 as the 22 year old master of a 35 ton barge. His exploits included running the British blockade for Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812, breaking the Fulton-Livingston monopoly on river trade and designing the first two-decker steamboat--the 403 ton Washington.

He conceived the basic design of a steam powered snagboat in 1821. He felt it was the only way to remove the more formidable snags in the river system.

Later, after he was appointed Superintendent of Western Rivers, Shreve convinced Congress to appropriate the necessary money (about \$20,000), and the first steam snagboat, Heliopolis, was completed in 1829.

By 1830 the worst obstructions in the Mississippi River from St. Louis to New Orleans were cleared.

Shreve made his mark in the St. Louis riverfront. In 1830 he was called upon to start clearing the St. Louis Harbor of islands and accumulated silt. The river channel was moving eastward and isolating St. Louis as a harbor. His plans and studies were later brilliantly executed by Robert E. Lee, removing Bloody Island and Duncan's Island and returning the deep water channel to the St. Louis side.

Henry Shreve died in 1851 and is buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis along with O'Fallon, Gratiot, Clark and Eads, names that live forever in history. Shreve Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana and Shreve School are named in honor of this great American engineer.

Interview with Jack R. Niemi
19 July 1985

Q. What do you believe are the most important qualities of a good leader?

A. I put intelligence down as first on my list. Followed by ability to communicate, optimism, ambition, determination, respect for human dignity - care for people, really care about the dignity of all the people that you come in contact, no matter what their position in the organization may be. A willingness to share power; you can't share responsibility. Responsibility always belongs to whoever is in charge. But the power you use to achieve the organizational objectives I think can and should be shared. A quality of not taking things as given. Just because we've always done it that way before, doesn't mean it's always the best way to do things. A participative approach to management - in other words getting people to share in development of concepts and procedures and the way we carry out things. The ability to be aware of your own strengths and weaknesses. I think we all have those. Not everybody is as aware as they could and should be of those individual strengths and weaknesses. A concern for development - self development and the development of others. That's a bit different than respect for human dignity. You can respect an individual but if you don't care enough about them to develop them to their full potential, then I don't think you have done everything you can do. And last on my list is a sense of humor. If you don't have that, you might go crazy sometimes. I think if people had all those qualities and put them all together in an integrated manner that they'd turn out to be an excellent leader.

Q. How would you describe your leadership style?

A. I hope I get people to participate in decision making activities. I do care about development - my own and others. I do have a high degree of respect for individual human beings and the dignity of the work they do. I think that's something that some people lack. I think if a manager could improve in one area, that's the one I would recommend. Everybody, no matter what their job is, should feel a sense of importance of the work they do. If they come to work every day with, "It's just a job, my objective is to put in eight hours and collect my paycheck," they haven't done much for the organization or themselves as individuals.

Q. Who do you personally feel comes closest to the ideal leader either in the present time or past history? What qualities of this person exemplify leadership?

A. My choice of a good leader, that I have personal knowledge of, is our present District Engineer, Colonel Beech. He exemplifies many of the things that I put down on my list. I think the highest one on the list is that respect for human dignity. One of the qualities of a good leader is getting out of the office and talking to the people in the organization, getting around to their workplace, and talking to them. That's how you put into effect some of the things I've talked about. You can respect what they do, not just their position in the organization. COL Beech does an excellent job of MBWA (management by wandering around). Intelligence, communication, a sense of humor, respect for individuals, concern for development of the people of the organization, ambition, determination - he has all those qualities.

Interview (Continued)

In thinking about the second part of your question, my candidate for that historical leader would be Abraham Lincoln. If anybody was ever faced with exceedingly difficult problems, it was certainly Abe Lincoln. I think he did an outstanding job in an exceedingly difficult area: A whole country torn by very difficult issues, brother against brother, all the things you know about the Civil War.

Q. What other things do you feel we can do here in the District to enhance our leaders and their leadership quality?

A. I think we need to continue the kind of things we're doing and perhaps pay closer attention to them. "In Search of Excellence" was a training course that the TAA staff has taken. We got that same training for the managers within the Engineering Division. I think a continuation of that type of activity is important and should be continued. I can tell you some things that we are following up on within the Engineering Division, which I think will contribute to leadership qualities in the future. You can have all the good ideas in the world but if you can't communicate those to someone else, particularly in an organizational structure where you have some organizational objectives, if you can't communicate those objectives and qualities that you are trying to foster to the individuals, then you're not going to make much progress. So one of the things we are doing in the Engineering Division to follow-up on "In Search of Excellence" training is a continuation of Engineering Division employee meetings. In May of this year we got together at Soldier's Memorial and all the branch chief's talked for a few minutes about their organizations and what kind of things were happening in their organizations. I gave out

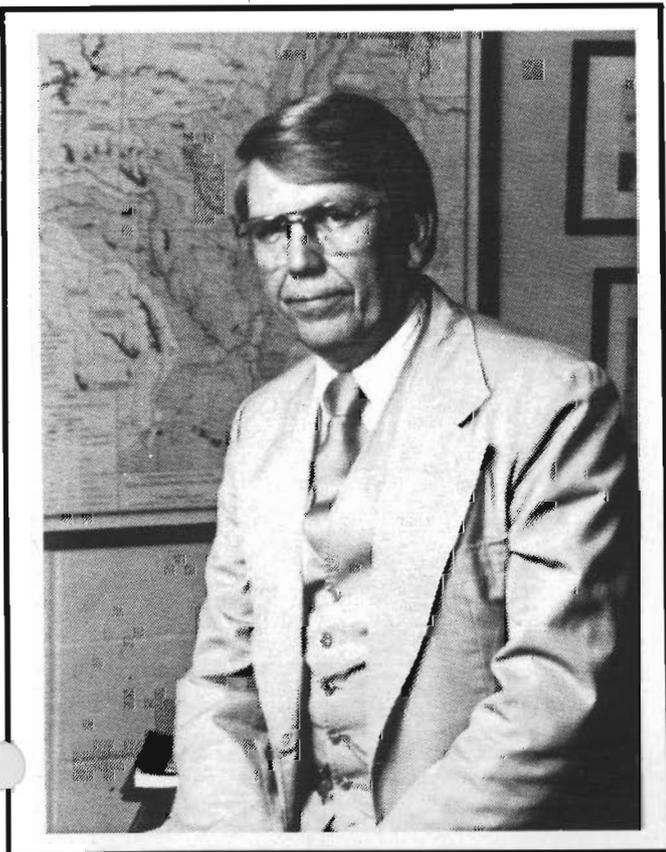
awards to those I called "Engineering Division Champions." They are nonmonetary awards recognizing the principles that we established in "Search of Excellence" - the professionalism, quality, integrity and the principles that I think are important. We are going to follow that up with another meeting in the fall. The featured event at the next meeting will be an annual report of the activities of the Engineering Division. The purpose of the report will be to communicate to all of the people in the organization what the organization does, what kind of things we are doing, where does our money come from, what do we spend it on, what kind of training have we accomplished, what awards were given, and what promotions were made. The objective is to communicate to the newest and lowest ranking member of the organization a sense of organization - this is what we do, what you do is important to the objectives of the organization.

Q. I was going to ask you about what you just talked about in terms of how you were pursuing the "In Search of Excellence." So you anticipated my question.

A. That's one of the things we're doing. I've set an objective for myself to spend more time out from behind my desk. It is difficult to do. It does not happen unless you make it happen. The easiest thing to do is to sit behind your desk and deal with the flow of paper that comes across it which is neverending and can consume all of your time, if you would let it do so. We can have a little more respect for the individuals in the organization. You can write notes to people. It doesn't take much time to do and I've been trying to do that. I've been fostering that within the

Interview (Continued)

meetings that I have with branch and section chiefs. If you are reading a report or a memo or whatever it might be and you think somebody has done a good job, a DF, a letter, or whatever; it only takes a few seconds to jot down a note about it and send it to whoever authored it. One of the things that had the biggest impression on me happened recently while "wandering around," was seeing a note that I had written to somebody congratulating them on something or other. It was three years old, but the recipient had stuck it up by their desk for all to see. Obviously it was important to them. That shows the importance of something that takes ten seconds to do that makes somebody else feel that they are a contributor to the values of the organization. That was an important lesson for me. If writing a ten second note is important to somebody, it is much more significant to go down and spend fifteen minutes talking to them at their workplace.



FORGIVE ME WHEN I WHINE

Today upon the bus I saw
A lovely girl with golden hair.
I envied her, she seemed so gay
And, oh, I wished I were so fair.
When suddenly she rose to leave
I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one foot and wore a brace
But as she passed--a smile!
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two feet--the world is mine.

And when I stopped to buy some sweets
The boy who served me had such charm
His manner was so kind and warm.
I said, "It's nice to deal with you,
Such courtesy I seldom find."
He turned and said, "Oh thank you sir."
And then I knew that he was blind.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two eyes--the world is mine.

Then when walking down the street
I saw a child with eyes of blue.
He stood and watched the others play.
It seemed he knew not what to do.
I paused a moment, then I said,
"Why don't you join the others, dear?"
And then I knew he could not hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two ears--the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go,
With eyes to see the sunset's glow,
With ears to hear what I would know,
I'm blessed indeed--the world is mine.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.

Author Unknown.

*Happy
Thanksgiving*