

ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

ESPRIT

Vol. 27 No. 11

December 1990

Almost like magic the holiday season, with Christmas and Hanukkah, has come again. The last months of the year fly by and the festive days are upon us.

Another year has gone. A new decade is underway. The District has

changed, as the world has changed. The old has been replaced by the new.

Old Locks and Dam 26 is all but gone; the first blast signaling its demise echoed across the river in April. The magnificent new structure that took its place began operation in February.

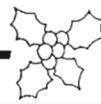
The District has left its old offices of twenty years behind and moved on to new quarters. I hope you all have settled in and are comfortable in your new surroundings.

The District has seen its share of change in 1990, but one thing hasn't changed, the quality of its people and their dedication to the work they do. My personal thanks to each of you for the job you've done in 1990. All of you, no matter what you do, were critical to the District's success.

May joy be with you and yours during this season and on into the New Year. May you have the happiest of holidays. From my family to yours, *Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year!*

James E. Coburn





Corbin's Comments by Col. James E. Corbin



Hi! This time Chuck and Kenny conspired against me! I was ready to make the deadline and Chuck told me that Kenny's computer was down. "Relax, Colonel, it'll be a while before we need your input." Today I find that Kenny's computer is back up, thanks to the IM people, and ESPRIT will be out almost on time, and my article is

late - as usual. Oh well!

As we leave the old year behind and approach the new year, it would be well to take a moment and reflect on the past year.

We got through the worst navigation conditions we've experienced for years, maybe ever, early in the year in terms of low water, then experienced several floods through early summer. We made the transition from L&D 26 to the Mel Price Locks and Dam and began to use the Main Chamber for navigation in February 1990. The Service Base folks continued to keep the gates at Locks 27 and L&D 25 tied together with wire, sweat and chewing gum. We've continued to operate both L&D 24 and L&D 25 at peak efficiency in spite of badly deteriorating structures that require either massive rehabilitation or major replacement.

St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis have started the Upper Mississippi River Navigation Study. Rock Island has started the Illinois River Navigation Study, of which we have a small part.

Construction at the Mel Price Locks and Dam continues and is going well. Hundreds of dignitaries and thousands of folks have visited that project, including the Under Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Transportation, and numerous Senators

and Congressmen, as well as the Governor of Illinois. All went away with a profound sense of awe for the project and a sense of admiration for the people who have "made it happen."

The Environmental Demonstration Area has developed into one of the most significant environmental successes in this section of the country and, in fact, the whole country. With a clear vision, a four page report, and a few hundred thousand dollars, we have created a 1200 acre masterpiece that will get better and better over time. Proof that environmental and economic efforts can reinforce each other to make a better quality of life for us all!

The St. Louis District has moved from a position as the epitome of all that was bad about the Corps in the eyes of the environmental community and many others to a position as the most responsible element in the Corps in the effort to balance economic and ecological efforts. In the process we have opened up an opportunity to get at several billion dollars of ecological and economic infrastructure rehabilitation in the Upper Mississippi Basin.

We are partnering (cost sharing, resources, effort) with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Illinois Department of Conservation, the Illinois Department of Transportation, MSD, MESD, the City of Alton, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, the Navy and Air Force, the FAA, the Nature Conservancy, Migratory Waterfowl Hunters of Illinois, the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the City of St. Louis, Jefferson County, St. Louis County and a host of others in efforts to improve this world and improve the quality of life of all who inhabit this earth! In the process I believe you have moved into a position in this region as a federal agency who cares and who proactively is trying to be a true partner in the development of a better America. I believe even our critics will give us that.

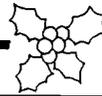
At the same time we changed office buildings. For
(Continued on page 15)



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District

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Combined Federal Campaign Report

Because of your generosity, our 1990 Combined Federal Campaign was a tremendous success. We exceeded our goal by seven percent. Following is an account of the campaign:

Total contributions	\$42,900.50
Goal	\$40,120.00
Amount above goal	\$ 2,780.50
% above goal	7%
Total number of contributors	429
% of eligible employees	67%
Average contribution	\$100

On behalf of the many children, young people and adults who will benefit from your generosity, I sincerely thank you. Thank you for reaching out to help ease the pain and suffering of your fellow human beings.

It was a pleasure and a rewarding experience being your 1990 Combined Federal Campaign Project Officer. I want to publicly say thank you to Dave Mueller, CD-QM, who helped me as the Assistant Project Officer. A special thanks to all the Key Workers who volunteered to solicit contributions

from their fellow workers. Your Key Workers were: Vivian Arthur, IM-S, Kary Barts, OD-PB, Richard Binder, ED-DM, Josephine Bischan, OC, Mattie Bond, RE-P, Sharon Cable, OD-RS, Michael Cain, OD-RC, Randy Curtis, ED-GI, Don Dannan, PM, Mary Ann Dostal, OD-E, Warner Embley, OD-NC, Larry Hamilton, ED-DG, Lillie Harris, ED-R, Gary Hendrix, RO-L, Diadra Henley, EEO, Sharon Hornback, ED-H, Pat Hosford, CD, Barbara Jarman, CT-P, Mike Kruckeberg, OD-NL, Diane Kutz, RO-SL, Christine Leffeler, RO-SU, Sue Mayfield, OD-RJ, Greg Molohan, OD-F, William Moore, LM-T, Sue Mueller, OD-RW, Riley Pope, PD-F, Tom Quigley, ED-D, Pam Reed, RO-S, Chuck Rhodes, ED-E, Helen Schleipman, DC, Jerry Schutte, OD-RR, Dave Spencer, ED-DA, Bill Stroud, ED-H, Matt Struckel, OD-P, Kathy Wier, OD-RM, Ann Woodrome, PO-R, Donna Zoeller, ED-DW.

Thanks again to everybody.

Karl J. Tilens, OD-R
1990 CFC Project Officer

St. Louis District Golf League

The St. Louis District Golf League completed its regular season play on September 11, 1990, with a playoff for the championship between the first half winners (F-Troop) and the second half winners (Skins). In a close match the Skins defeated F-Troop for the 1990 championship. Congratulations to the Skins team members: Dave Harley (Captain), Jim Bissell, Bob Hughey, Bob Herr, John Thoele, Dennis Woodruff, Jon Eckles and Rich Pearce.

The District Fall Golf Tournament and League Banquet were held on September 20, 1990, at the Clinton Hills Golf Course. League awards were given to the league team champion (Skins) and the league runner up (F-Troop). Additional awards were given to the Most Valuable League Player - Ken Wingrove, The Most Improved League Golfer - Fred

Bader, and The League Low Handicap Player - Mel Baldus.

The results of the Two Player Team Best Ball with Handicap Fall Tournament were as follows: Championship Flight:

- 1st Place - Rich Pearce and Mike Kruckeberg
- 2nd Place - Vernon Drewes and Jim Bissell
- 3rd Place - Bill Meldrum and Bill Sutton
- Least Putts Individual - Dave Harley
- Closest to Pin #5 - none
- Closest to Pin #15 - Mel Baldus
- Longest Drive #4 - Don Sweeney

A-Flight:

- 1st Place - Dennis Gould and Charlie Denzel
- 2nd Place - Bo Carter and Lew Sheuermann
- 3rd Place - Bob Lutz and Elmer Huizenga
- Least Putts Individual - Lee

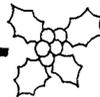
Lenzner

- Closest to Pin #5 - Bob Lutz
- Closest to Pin #15 - Lew Scheuermann
- Longest Drive #4 - Lee Lenzner

B-Flight:

- 1st Place - Dennis Gould and Charlie Denzel
- 2nd Place - Dee Sherbine and Andy Schimpf
- 3rd Place - Dan Marshall and Gary Dyhouse
- Least Putts Individual - Tom Furdek
- Closest to Pin #5 - Ron Lindsay
- Closest to Pin #15 - Mike Sommars
- Longest Drive #4 - Tom Furdek

An award was also given to Dave Harley for the low gross score of 78. The Rich Buncie Award was won by Gary Dyhouse for his low net score of 60.



Santa makes house calls

That time is right around the corner when that annual accounting takes place. Have you been naughty or nice?

Well, as you know, Santa knows. He also wishes that all the boys and girls of all ages have the opportunity to visit with him during this festive season.

On occasion there might be someone who is ill and/or is not able to make that visit. If your household has such a situation, you may want to make arrangements for a personal home-site Santa visit.

To do so call PA at 8000 and provide pertinent information: Your name and extension, name and age of that special person, address and approximate visit date you desire. PA will get back to you to make specific arrangements.

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!

Change in criteria for hiring former overseas employees

Executive Order 12362 of May 12, 1982, allowed family members of U.S. government military and civilian personnel assigned overseas to qualify for noncompetitive appointment to career Civil Service positions upon return to the United States, provided they had worked for at least 24 months in overseas local hire positions and met certain other requirements. The service requirement was reduced to 18 months by Executive Order 12585 of March 3, 1987.

A new Executive Order, 12721, dated July 30, 1990, provides that the Office of Personnel Management may establish requirements under which family members may qualify for this benefit, including determination of the specific amount of overseas employment service family members must complete.

The OPM regulation was published in the Federal Register on October 23, 1990, as an interim regulation and became effective on that date. The new regulation permits any family members who have worked at least 12 months at overseas locations in the past, and met other program requirements, to qualify for noncompetitive appointment as long as they are hired before January 1, 1994. This retroactive feature is designed primarily to benefit family members who in recent years have been relocated to the United States before they completed the service required for noncompetitive appointment eligibility.

Employees who desire additional information on this appointment authority may contact Barbara Boswell, Recruitment and Placement Branch, at 8546.

Chiodini heads for Saudi

The crisis in the Middle East has come much closer to home. One of our own is on his way to participate in Operation Desert Shield. Lou Chiodini left his position as Chief of Program Development when his reserve unit was called up to serve. Lou is a colonel in the Army Reserve.

His unit, the 416th Engineer Command, out of Chicago, was activated the last week of November. They underwent a week of training for desert warfare, then headed for Saudi Arabia.

Lou is Inspector General of the command. He will provide inspection and investigation assistance to the commander of the 416th Engineer Command and to other units attached to the command. He will do such tasks as inspection of administration, inspection of other units' inspection programs, maintenance programs, records keeping and training.

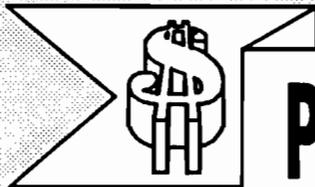
We wish him and all our people in the Persian Gulf area God speed and a safe return to us.

Send Christmas cards to Saudi

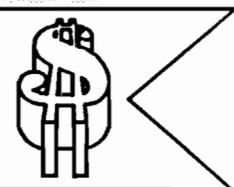
Want to send Christmas cards to service members involved in Desert Shield? Following are the addresses:

Army and Air Force personnel:
Any Soldier/Airman
Operation Desert Shield
APO New York 09848

Navy and Marine Corps personnel:
Any Sailor/Marine
Operation Desert Shield
APO New York 09866



Promotions & Incentive Awards



PROMOTIONS:

Stanley Ebersohl, OD
 Joseph Effertz, PM
 Russell Elliott, IM
 Billy Finley, CD
 Wayne Miller, PM
 James Reed, ED
 Jack Rhodes, IM

PERFORMANCE AWARDS:

Robert Banning, OD
 Arnold Bova, OD
 Norma Browning, OD
 Gary Buckholtz, OD
 Laurie Busse, ED
 Peter Coleman, OD
 Linda Collins, OD
 Arlyn Culver, OD
 Robert Eifert, OD
 William Fauke, OD
 Howard Fields, OD
 John Heitzmann, OD
 Jackie Jones, DC
 Leroy Kaiser, DC
 Jean Kuethe, DC
 Francis Ratliff, OD
 Margaret Robbins, OD
 Jerry Schaperclaus, OD
 Clarence Story, OD
 Richard Ullman, OD

Douglas Van Dorn, OD
 Robert Wich, ED

QUALITY STEP INCREASES:

Wanda Steen, OD

EXCEPTIONAL RATINGS:

Lucien Bailey, OD
 Robert Banning, OD
 Arnold Bova, OD
 Roy Bowen, OD
 William Brown, CD
 Ronald Dieckmann, ED
 Robert Eifert, OD
 Phillip Eydman, PM
 Walter Feld, OD
 Roger Groner, OD
 Alton Jenkins, OD
 Thomas Keevin, PD
 Jean Kuethe, DC
 Darrell LaPlante, OD
 Gerald, McClintock, ED
 Nicholas Miller, OD
 Francis Ratliff, OD
 Jerry Schaperclaus, OD
 Joan Schick, CT
 Donald Schrader, OD
 Wanda Steen, OD
 Clarence Story, OD
 Richard Ullman, OD

SPECIAL ACT AWARDS:

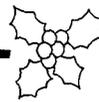
Mark Alvey, ED
 David Berti, OD
 Craig Bridges, IM
 Winston Campbell, OD
 Frank Catalano, RE
 Monica Ellis, OD
 Jackson Eudora, RE
 Lonnie Forrest, OD
 Cynthia Gan, RE
 Larry Gutzler, OD
 Janine Hegger, OD
 Sharon Hornback, ED
 Gary Jacobs, RE
 Susan Janota-Summers, RE
 Phillip Jenkins, OD
 Mary Matecki, RE
 Sharon McGee, ED
 Renee McIntosh, RE
 Wilbur Moore, LM
 Theodore Postol, ED
 Pamela Ripperda, RE
 Lee Ross, IM
 Angela Sanders, RE
 Maria Shafer, OD
 Marilyn Stallings, IM
 John Stewart, DS/PO
 Bradford Strauser, ED
 Harry Ward, ED
 Linda Wichlan, ED
 Theresa Williams, CT
 Mary Winston, RE
 Mark Wunsch, RE

Holiday food drive

The Volunteerism Task Force of the Federal Executive Board of St. Louis is putting together a food drive to help the needy during the holiday season. Watch for con-

tainers in the lobby of the RAY Building from December 10 to 21. Bring in your donations of non-perishable food items.

All donated food goes to the St. Louis Food Bank for distribution to the needy. Remember, hunger doesn't take a holiday.



On the Soapbox

Telling the District's story this month were:

Around the District

Bill Sutton (PM) participated in a speakers panel at the annual meeting of the "River Bend in the 90s" group at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois. The "River Bend" group is made up of business, educational and community leaders representing 10 communities in the Alton, Illinois, area. Bill spoke on the St. Louis District missions and projects.

The District also had a display booth at the "River Bends" meeting showing various projects and initiatives. Larry Kennedy from the Riverlands Management Office staffed the booth and answered questions about District projects.

Paul Schmidt (CD-Q) met with members of Boy Scout Troup 35 of O'Fallon, Illinois, to discuss the Boy Scouts' October theme "Engineering." Paul covered types of engineering and engineers, preparation in school, and showed the "Opening the Waterways" video.

Claude Strauser presented a lecture at the Old Court House at a symposium celebrating the 25th anniversary of The Gateway Arch. The symposium session was entitled, "The Natural Forces Along the Riverfront - The Dynamics of the Mississippi at St. Louis and its Influence on Urban Devel-

opement." Pat McGinnis, Riverlands Manager, was the reactor for this session.

Gary Dyhouse (ED-HE) spoke to a University of Missouri-Rolla class on River and Harbor Engineering, discussing sediment transport concepts and effects on river engineering structures.

Riverlands Office

Bob Wasitis (RO-LEC) hosted 17 students from Wood River High School on a tour of Melvin Price Locks and Dam.

Anne Vieira (OD-RM) conducted a tour of Melvin Price Locks and Dam for 25 FFA members from Highland, Illinois.

The American Society of Civil Engineers from SIU-C toured the Melvin Price structure with Ed Berghoff (RO-L).

Mark Hall (IPA on staff at Riverlands) hosted 15 members of the Drury College Ecology Class on a tour and study of the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area.

Rend Lake

Park Ranger Dawn Kovarik spoke to 20 eighth graders at Ewing Grade School about Hunting Ethics and Conservation Issues.

Dawn also assisted Department of Conservation personnel with hunter orientation at the Youth Pheasant Hunt conducted at Wayne Fitzgerald State Recreation Area.

Park Ranger John Mabery shared hunter safety tips with listeners of WQRL Radio in Benton, Illinois.

Lake Shelbyville

Tom Bloor and Bill Gidcomb took part in the Assumption High School Career Day. Tom explained the mechanics of becoming a natural resource employee and Bill expounded on his work with FEMA during Hurricane Hugo.

Park Rangers Leanne Crouch, Al Lookofsky and Jim Homann recently conducted tours of Lithia Springs campground, the dam and the visitor center for 80 guests of the Clarion Inn who are all private campground owners in Illinois.

Carlyle Lake

Park Manager Alban LeGrand and Park Ranger Lawrence Williams accompanied Louisville District personnel on a tour of Carlyle Lake. The visitors gathered information, pictures, policies and guidance on physical protection of damaged shorelines. They discussed heavy siltation problems, rapid dewatering, exposure to high winds and currents, the use of rip rap and the use of aquatic vegetation to help solve the problem of shoreline erosion.

Wappapello Lake

Park Manager Michael McClen-don and other lake staff took Missouri Department of Conservation Commissioner Jerry Combs on a tour of the lake. They briefed Mr. Combs on the Traditional Access Plan, resource management objectives and MDOC licensed lands at the lake.



NEWS BRIEFS

Lecture series

Claude Strauser (ED-H) and Jim Foster, Waterways Experiment Station (retired) have teamed up to present a three part lecture series at the University of Missouri at Rolla. These lectures will be presented to the Rivers and Harbors Class that is taught by Dr. Glendon T. Stevens, Jr. The topic is river engineering with specific problems case histories to be discussed by the class.

Norris disgusting

The following is excerpted from a letter received by Terry Norris (PD-A) after a talk on archaeology to a 5th grade class at Mera-mec Heights School: Dear Mr. Norris, I really liked your program, I really learned alot! My name is Beth and I'm 11 years old. I hope your cold is over with when you get this. It was really disgusting....

Rend disabled hunt

Twelve of 25 hunters harvested six bucks and six does during the first weekend of the Annual Rend Lake Deer Hunt for The Physically Disabled. Seventy volunteers from the Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club assisted with the hunt. Big Buck honors to Todd Lahr's nine point buck that field dressed at 190 pounds.

MTL disabled hunt

The Third Annual Mark Twain Lake Deer Hunt for Disabled Hunters was held November 17th and 18th in the Indian Creek Recreation Area. Ten hunters participated in the hunt. Seven deer were harvested, three bucks and four does. Park Ranger Shelly Howald coordinated the event with members from the Monroe City and Paris Lions Clubs, Daughters of Isabela from Monroe City and other volunteers who ensured a safe and enjoyable hunting experience.

Plans are underway for the 1991 Spring Turkey Hunt.

Sundowner rehab

The rehabilitation of the Sundowner Marina area at Wappapello Lake is about 90 percent complete. This rehab included upgrading the boat ramp, parking area and vehicle access. This area will now accommodate the public's demand and higher water conditions.

Swans at Wappapello

Two trumpeter swans (endangered species) have taken up residence at the Lost Creek Waterfowl Refuge at Wappapello Lake. These swans were originally released at Mingo Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) in Puxico, Missouri, earlier this year.

Handicapped hunt

Four of the nine hunters in the second annual Lake Shelbyville Handicapped Deer Hunt bagged deer. The largest deer taken was a 10 point buck weighing 190 pounds. A button buck and two doe were also taken. Food and trophies for the three night stay were donated by local businesses.

Festival of lights

A new attraction at Lake Shelbyville this year is the Festival of Lights at Eagle Creek State Park. At the entrance to the Clarion Inn Resort at Eagle Creek there are three miles with more than 168 displays of light, ranging between eight and 60 feet high. The festival will run from November 10 through February 3 from dusk until 9 p.m. on weekdays and from dusk until 10 p.m. on weekends. Admission is \$5 per car or \$20 per bus.

Shelbyville attendance

Lake Shelbyville was ranked third in attendance for 1989 in a list of the top travel attractions in Illinois. The Chicago Museum of Science and Industry and the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago were the only attractions to surpass Lake Shelbyville in attendance. The list was put together by the State of Illinois.

Soapbox Continued

Mark Twain Lake

Park Ranger Diane Hellhake and members of the Gem City Rock Club presented an informative program to 52 Webelo Scouts from Monroe City on rock identification and rock hunting.



Ste. Genevieve comes home

The historic Corps of Engineers paddlewheel dredge, the Ste. Genevieve, has returned home to the St. Louis area. Now located on the Missouri riverfront in St. Charles, the boat is slated to become a great rivers museum and educational center when it opens to the public in April 1991.

The Marine Learning Institute, a not-for-profit organization which has been in existence since 1980, now owns and operates the historic vessel which was built in 1932.

Dick Wooten, President of the Institute, said, "There's lots of excitement building about the Ste. Genevieve as well as its new neighbor, the Goldenrod show-boat."

A group of supporters called the "Friends of the Ste. Genevieve" is now being formed. Former crew members of the dredge as well as other current or retired Corps employees are invited to become a

part of the endeavor. "We're hoping that you might come forward with memorabilia about the boat to add to the exhibits that we're planning," said Wooten.

Organizers with the Marine Learning Institute are also seeking Corps people who may have stories about the boat. Your input may be used in exhibits or in media interviews to promote the new museum. The material may also be incorporated in a videotape about the boat that will be shown in the theater planned in the former crews' quarters.

Corps employees who live near the St. Louis metro area are also encouraged to volunteer their time as guides in this new educational center. For more information on how you can get involved with the new river museum on the Ste. Genevieve paddlewheel dredge, call the Marine Learning Institute at (314) 731-3220.

Nomination - Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service

This award consists of a gold medal, rosette and a citation certificate signed by the Secretary of the Army (SA). It is the highest honorary award granted by the SA to Army civilian employees. USACE frequently receives nominations for this award where nominees have not previously been recognized by their MA-COMs with the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. The hierarchy order of awards is as follows:

1. Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service
2. Meritorious Civilian Service Award
3. Superior Civilian Service Award

4. Commanders Award for Civilian Service

5. Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

While the Meritorious Award is not an absolute prerequisite for receiving the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Award, it normally should be awarded as part of a progressive sequence of recognition. It is recognized, however, that there will be some circumstances where a lesser award would be insufficient.

If you need additional information, you may refer to DP 672-1-5, Civilian Personnel Honorary Awards Handbook or contact the Incentive Awards Coordinator at 8539.

10th Annual LMVD Golf Tournament

Firm dates and a site have been decided for the 1991 Division Golf Tourney.

You'll be facing the hazards and challenges of the Winfield Dunn Course at Pickwick Landing State Park in West Tennessee near Pickwick Dam, south of Savannah. Tournament dates will be June 27 and 28, with a practice round scheduled for June 26.

A block of rooms at the park's ultra-modern inn has been reserved for players and their families.

For now, just mark you calendar. More details and information will be forthcoming.

Do you wanna go to Zimbabwe?

Most of you have heard of my Africa trip to Zimbabwe last November. I am planning another trip for November 1991. Considerable savings can be made if I can put together a group of sixteen. As an example, round trip airfare should be around \$1500 per person.

A preliminary meeting is planned for January 7, 1991, at the First State Bank of Red Bud, Red Bud, Illinois. At that meeting a Zimbabwe exchange student will show us her slides and give a talk on her country. Even if you do not think you can make the trip, it should be an interesting evening.

If you have any questions, call me at (618) 939-3704.

Ed Hick



Corps' riverwork press coverage

Editor's note: This article is reprinted with permission of The Enterprise Courier newspaper.

Dr. Rochelle Renken, wildlife research biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation, will give the St. Louis District Corps of Engineers a list of eight sandbar sites in the Middle Mississippi River that may be improved as habitat for least terns.

Dr. Renken met Tuesday morning (Oct. 2) in the area and discussed the possibility of raising some sandbars by the Corps to make them available to the endangered species for from 90 to 100 days in the reproductive season.

Rob Davinroy, St. Louis engineer, also discussed bendway weirs, currently being installed in Dogtooth Bend and Jerry Rapp, St. Louis engineer, discussed work accomplished at Dry Bayou.

Dr. Renken said previous discussions with the Corps had pinpointed areas at River Mile 80 and 130 that could be improved as habitat, but, she said, during her work on the river with the terns this summer, she has identified eight other sites, closer to Prices/Browns Bar, that would give the terns the opportunity to nest further upriver more gradually.

Terns normally nest in the river near where they were born.

The work is an attempt to get the endangered least terns away from the damaging effect of the Ohio River in flood. In 1989, the rivers were low, the terns got off to a good nesting start, and then the Ohio River flooded and the nests were destroyed.

While the birds re-nested when the water went down, nesting success was only around half what

it should have been.

Davinroy said the Corps could make sandbars higher that only are dry for 70 days out of the year, and could also create new sandbars or middle bars in the Middle Mississippi River.

This could be accomplished by dredging selectively, or by the installation of chevron dikes in the river.

As far as the bendway weirs are concerned, Davinroy said Dogtooth Bend, the deep bend north of Charleston, requires barges to go through a series of flanking techniques to navigate that bend, and it sometimes takes them two to three hours to traverse the two mile bend.

He said since downbound traffic has the right of way, there are often long delay times in negotiating the bend, and that has an economic impact on taxpayers.

That, he added, is why they came up with the structural solution of the bendway weirs.

One tow carries as much as four and a half trains, or 1,800 trucks. The river is a very important traffic artery for bulk commodity products.

Dogtooth bend does not have a smooth single radius. It has several, and at higher flows, you get deflection flows at the southwestern part of the bend, where the flows become pressure points, and overbank blueholes have formed.

At Dry Bayou, at the southeastern portion of the bend, you get slough flows across Thompson Bend.

Without a program monitored by Rapp for the past five years, a cutoff would have formed across the neck of Thompson Bend, Davinroy said.

Rapp indicated it is approximately 18 river miles around Thompson Bend from Dry Bayou to the I-57 bridge.

The 10,000 acre peninsula in the 1940s had roughly 5,000 acres of trees. By 1970, only about 1,000 acres remained in timber.

He said the area flooded in 1979 and a 50-foot deep bluehole formed. The river was sending about 20 percent of the total river flow out across the bend.

Flooding continued twice a year into the early 1980s, and farmers realized the lack of timber was a problem. The Soil Conservation Service estimated that 40,000 tons of topsoil were being washed away annually due to the conditions.

In 1985, landowners started planting tree screens on the bend, and more than 100,000 trees have been planted since.

In October 1986 there was another major Mississippi River flood, and even with only a one-year growth on the trees, a different and less severe scour pattern was observed.

There was another flood in May of this year, and there was virtually no scour out there.

Rapp said the landowners, the Buffalo Bend Levee Corporation, were those primarily responsible for getting the trees planted. The Conservation Department helped with planning and with getting the trees from Westvaco, SCS helped as well as the Corps.

If the trees had not gone in the bend, and if a cutoff had formed, it would have taken years for the river to stabilize enough to allow for barge traffic. "It would have been whitewater," Rapp said.

In order to stabilize the outside of Dogtooth Bend, Davinroy tested
(Continued on next page)



Press coverage cont.

and worked for more than four years to come up with the bendway weir concept.

In a bend like this, the Corps over the years stabilized the outside of the bend with revetment, and the energy in the river, as it attempted to meander and was restrained, was pushed downward, causing a deep hole to form against the Missouri bank at the point where the deflection flows strike the bank.

At the same time, the point of Browns Bar continued to encroach into the navigation channel and had to be removed periodically by dredging.

The bendway weirs cause the energy of the river to erode the point of the sandbar, creating a wider, shallower channel, one easier to navigate.

The first weir was installed last June, and five have now been constructed out of a total of 10 called for in that bend.

He said after these are evaluated, the Corps plans to install them in a number of other bends in the rivers.

Federal workers banned from writing or speaking for pay

The federal ethics agency has told government workers they can't accept payment for writing articles or giving speeches, even if the subject is completely unrelated to their work.

Government employee unions say thousands of federal workers engage in such activities in their off-duty time and will be affected by the ban.

Federal workers and First Amendment lawyers say the new restrictions, mandated by Congress, violate federal employees' right of free speech.

Prior cropland excluded from wetlands ban

Land identified as "prior converted croplands" by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) will not be subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, according to new guidance issued last Wednesday (Oct 3) by the Corps of Engineers Washington headquarters.

A clarification of the term "normal circumstances" has resulted in "prior converted croplands" not requiring Section 404 permits.

Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Kelly, Director of Civil Works for the Corps, issued the clarification in the form of a regulatory guidance letter to the Corps field offices.

Since 1977, the Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have defined wetlands as "areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions..."

A key component of the regulatory definition of wetlands is the concept of "normal circumstances." The January 1989 wetlands delineation manual, which has been developed by the Corps, EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Soil Conservation Service, defined "normal circumstances" as "the soil and hydrological characteristics that exist on a piece of property regardless of whether wetlands vegetation has been destroyed by activities such as farming."

The guidance issued Wednesday applies to areas that are in agricultural crop production, most notably "prior converted crop-

land." The guidance considers the cropping activity the normal circumstances of these areas. "Prior converted cropland" is defined by the SCS as "wetlands which were both manipulated and cropped before December 23, 1985, to the extent that they no longer exhibit important wetland values."

The Corps believes that, in most cases, because these areas only minimally meet the hydrology criteria for wetlands, they do not show important wetland values. These croplands are inundated for no more than 14 consecutive days during the growing season and do not contain pothole or playa wetlands.

Farm lands which are inundated 15 days or more or contain potholes or playas are considered wetlands and subject to jurisdiction. The Corps urges farmers with questions to contact their local Corps district office.

General Kelly emphasized that the Corps remains committed to protecting the waters of the United States, including wetlands, from unnecessary alterations.

He said that this guidance on prior converted cropland should not be construed in any way as a retreat or weakening of this commitment.

The guidance on prior converted cropland will allow the Corps to focus its limited regulatory resources on the Nation's important aquatic resources. In this regard, the Corps will implement the Section 404 program in a manner that is fully consistent with the goals of the Clean Water Act.



To your health

"Fit to Win" update

The "Fit to Win" program is now headquartered in the RAY Building Life Center. All CE employees from around the District are invited to drop in and tour the new facility. Unfortunately, only those located in the RAY Building and the Service Base will be close enough to take advantage of the new facility on a regular basis.

The Director of the new Life Center is Mrs. Pattie Henderson, a graduate of the University of Kansas with a B.S. degree in Exercise Science. Pattie has more than five years experience in the field of fitness and health education.

David McNeel will be continuing as the "Fit to Win" Program Director. For all CE employees throughout the District who are interested in joining "Fit to Win," including those who wish to exercise on their own, but do not want to join a fitness center, Dave can be reached at (314) 539-7823.

In an effort to provide continuing health education and increased "Fit to Win" participation at outlying District sites, small areas known as "Life Centers" have been developed at each location. These areas consist of a bulletin board, decorated with helpful and healthful information

and also a hanging magazine file filled with additional articles and pamphlets pertaining to all areas of health, fitness and wellness. New and updated information will be sent to the "Life Centers" on a regular basis.

Thanks to all St. Louis District employees who have taken part in the most recent Campaign Life Health Education Programs. Ninety-five employees took part in the recent "Fit to Win" Stress Reduction classes. In addition, a number of sites have taken advantage of Hypertension and/or Lowback Screenings.

Fit to winners

Charlene Boecklen - While Charlene is not currently an active member of the "Fit to Win" program, she did find time to take part in one of our recent Campaign Life Skin Cancer Screenings. Are we glad she did. The physician found a small discolored patch of skin on Charlene's upper lip which he recommended she have removed immediately. It was found to be malignant. As a result of early detection and treatment, Charlene's future looks as bright as ever. Charlene believes had it not been for the screening, she would never have had the growth checked.

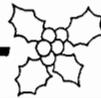
Doug VanDorn - Doug is another individual who is not

currently a "Fit to Win" participant. He is, however, glad he decided to go through the Phase I "Fit to Win" testing and fitness evaluation. Doug claims it probably saved his life. After performing the exercise bike test, it was noted that he had an abnormal EKG response and the PHS physician recommended he seek further evaluation before starting an exercise program. After further testing, it was discovered that Doug had suffered two silent heart attacks (no symptoms) and was at very high risk of suffering another fatal heart attack. Doug has since made some drastic changes in his eating habits, has learned to

handle stress much more effectively and has started a regular walking/jogging program.

Helen Schleipman - Helen has been a regular exerciser for several years. So in May 1990, she decided to take advantage of the "Fit to Win" program's offer to pay for part of the cost of her yearly fitness center membership and also to take advantage of the free testing and fitness evaluation. As a result of her renewed commitment to fitness and regular exercise regimen, Helen had made the following improvements by August: She replaced six pounds of fat with two pounds of muscle. She decreased her percentage of body-fat by 11 percent. She

(Continued on next page)



Fit to winners cont.

increased her aerobic capacity by 14 percent. She increased her musculoskeletal strength and endurance by 29 percent. And she decreased her functional age to that of a 15 year old. Helen's score ranked her at the 99th percentile for her age and sex.

Paul Kornberger - Paul joined "Fit to Win" in April 1990. He immediately began exercising regularly both at home and at the Downtown YMCA. Paul found he enjoyed a cross-training program which included stationary bicycling, water aerobics, a rowing machine and punching a heavy bag at home. Paul was retested at the end of July and had made the following improvements: He lost nine pounds of fat and added five pounds of muscle. He decreased his body-fat percentage by 12 percent. He increased his aerobic capacity by 23 percent. And he decreased his functional age by 24 years.

Congratulations to all these outstanding St. Louis District employees.

Exercise can be bad for your lungs

Joggers and other outdoor exercisers should work out indoors on days when pollution levels are high, especially during winter months when smoke from wood stoves and fireplaces add to industry and automobile pollution, according to the American Lung Association (ALA).

It is estimated that a runner on a 30-minute jog through a typically polluted urban area breathes in an amount of carbon monoxide equal to that inhaled from smoking a pack of cigarettes. People inhale nearly 20,000 liters of air each day, while they normally drink only about two liters of liquid daily. In addition, exercise may boost air intake as much as 20 times.

The ALA cautions outdoor exercisers against breathing through their mouths to avoid

bringing polluted air directly into the lungs.

Other precautions recommended by the ALA:

- * Check daily air-quality index in local newspapers or from local air pollution control agency.

- * Avoid exercising outdoors in early morning or evening in neighborhoods that produce a lot of smoke from wood-burning stoves and fireplaces.

- * Avoid congested streets and rush-hour traffic; pollution levels can be high within 50 feet of the road.

Living with smoker is dangerous

Non-smokers who live with smokers have a 20 to 30 percent higher risk of dying from heart disease than other non-smokers, recent studies have found. Scientists estimate that passive or second-hand smoking accounts for nearly 32,000 deaths from heart disease, in addition to 3,000 diagnosed cases of lung cancer in the U.S. each year.

Carbon monoxide, the disease-causing mechanism in the smoke, reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen, decreasing the heart's efficiency.

"The cancer deaths combined with the heart disease deaths make passive smoking the third leading cause of preventable death in this country - behind smoking and alcohol abuse," said Stanton Glantz, a cardiovascular researcher and statistician at the University of California in San Francisco.

Accident Summary

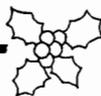
PERSONAL INJURIES - GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - NOVEMBER 90: One
Total accidents for FY91: One
Total accidents for FY90: Thirteen

A maintenance worker suffered a strain to his right leg while trying to dislodge debris from a plow.

PERSONAL INJURIES - CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES - NOVEMBER 90: None
Total accidents for FY91: One
Total accidents for FY90: Eight

GOVERNMENT VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - NOVEMBER 90: None
Total vehicle accidents for FY91: None
Total vehicle accidents for FY90: Five

LAKE FATALITIES - NOVEMBER 90: None
Total lake fatalities for FY91: None
Total lake fatalities for FY90: Five
Carlyle Lake - 1
Lake Shelbyville - 1
Rend Lake - 2
Wappapello Lake - 1



Retiree Review

The crowd was a little larger in November; there were 35 present. That is not back to the 40+ we were attracting in the Spring and early-Summer, but it is better.

Howard Beinke was back, as Senior Retiree Present.

There was no First Timer, in the strictest sense, but Mike Cullen was there on OJT status. Mike promised to join us next month as a full-fledged retiree.

Several regulars were with us after absences of two or more months: Evelyn Grote, Gordon Davis and Steve Williams. Also, the Bakers and the Huizen-gas, who recently returned from a tour of Spain and Portugal.

Elmer H. had a cataract removed just a week ago. There may have been some after-effects because Elmer said we all looked better, which is not his normal style.

Roger Cuddeback and Kate Stiles continued their unbroken records (38 and 29 months, respectively). Milt Walter and Pete Puricelli each made their second appearance.

The CAC was represented by Mary Ann Dostal and Pat Hosford. They were having some success at selling Christmas Dinner Dance tickets and cook-books.

Jack Niemi, once again, was the District rep. Jack spoke about the results of the Congressional budget battle (relatively positive) and a visit by John Shannon, under-secretary of the Army.

Someone passed along word that the January COLA is to be 5.4 percent.

* * *

All of you in the immediate St. Louis area should have already received a letter regarding the December luncheon, but here is the info anyway:

It will be the regular date, time and place (3rd Thursday, around 11 a.m., at the Salad Bowl), but it will not be the regular luncheon.

Instead of the normal cafeteria line, we will have a private buffet (and bar) in our meeting room. The buffet will cost \$11 per person and will include entrees (turkey, beef, mostaccioli), two vegetables, salad, jello, assorted relishes, dessert, rolls & butter and beverage. This is essentially the same as last year, which was lovely (except for the bitter cold weather, which held attendance down). We are hoping for a better crowd this year.

We need a head count at least 48 hours before the event. So, if you haven't called in (and it's not too late when you get this), but want to attend, call PAO at 331-8000, not later than Monday, December 17.

Retirees

Mr. Benny Russell retired October 31 from the Dredge Potter after 32 years of federal service. He spent more than 27 years with the St. Louis District.

William Remmert retired November 30 from Floodplain Management Section after 27 years of federal service. Bill spent almost 25 years with the District.

Edward Bond, District Comptroller, retired November 30 after 38 years of federal service. Ed has worked for eight agencies. He was with the St. Louis District almost four years.

Michael Cullen, Assistant Chief of Operations, retired November 30 after 30 years of federal service. Mike spent 27 years with the District.

Charles Denzel, Hydraulics Branch, retired on November 30 after 33 years of federal service. Charlie was with the District for almost 29 years.

Leonard Alfeld, Management Analysis Branch of DC, retired November 30 with 31 years of federal service. Len spent 28 1/2 years with the St. Louis District.

Denzel says bye

Just a short note to say thanks to all you District people. It has been a pleasure knowing and working with you. Thanks for all the efforts for my luncheon and the kind words you said in my behalf. I am grateful. Now to relax, enjoy and be happy.

Sincerely,
Charlie Denzel



Christmas toy safety tips



By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information
Service

Child-development experts say that play is children's work: It's how they develop the skills to be competent adults. Unfortunately, many children suffer on-the-job injuries.

Last year, some 148,000 toy-related injuries sent kids to hospital emergency rooms. Of these, some 122,000 involved children under 15, according to Debbie Tinsworth, a statistician for the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

While few injuries resulted in death or permanent damage, there were some fatalities: Most involved choking on balloons or small balls. Tinsworth said that not all of the choking incidents involved younger ages. Five and six-year-olds choked on balloons, she said.

Other toy-related deaths and serious injuries involved riding toys that kids rode into traffic or swimming pools. Small children riding on the driveway can easily go into the street, not realizing drivers may be unable to see them, she said.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission lists bicycles and skateboards separately from toys. In 1989, about 515,000 bicycle injuries and 65,000 skateboard injuries sent people to the hospital.

Three-quarters of the deaths from bicycle accidents involve head injuries, so Tinsworth recommends giving a helmet along with the new bicycle. The Safe Kids Program, part of the curriculum at DoD Dependents Schools and most public schools, emphasizes the importance of wearing helmets. But helmets are not the only recommended safety gear.

"An attentive parent is the best way to ensure safety," said Richard Ziegler, Chief of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Technical Branch for Quality Assurance. "Parents have to watch while they're shopping and while their children are

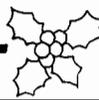
playing. In addition, they have to remember the importance of maintenance. For example, some bicycle accidents are the result of improper maintenance. Toys for younger children that were once safe can break and become unsafe."

Ziegler said parents have to maintain toys for younger children and to teach older children the importance of maintaining their own things - for example, keeping bicycle spokes tightened and tires inflated. He also said parents with children of several ages have to teach older children to keep inappropriate toys away from their younger brothers and sisters.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission and the military exchange systems work together to spot unsafe toys and to keep them off the market. Some things quality assurance people want to avoid are:

- * Sharp points and edges;
- * Small parts on toys for young children;
- * Loud noises that can damage hearing;
- * Absence of appropriate warnings, such as the warnings on cap guns not to fire them near the face or head;
- * Burning hazards, such as toy stoves that can burn a child;
- * Strangulation hazards; and
- * Entrapment hazards, such as toy chests that can smother a child or injure him if the lid falls.

"However," said Ziegler, "Safety warnings and well-designed toys are no substitute for proper supervision of children."



Corbin's Comments (cont.)

those of you who want to come visit, please do! We plan to hold an "Open House" as soon as Major Brontoli and "Team" make a few alterations to our existing set-up, probably by April 1991.

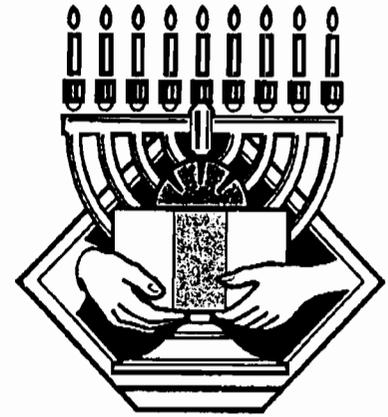
Along the way we had several people retire after long, distinguished careers full of achievement. While we'll miss them, those of you who have remained have stepped in and are doing a fantastic job.

We also weathered a major cut in an already badly underfunded O&M Program that stretched and tore at the emotional fabric of our District, and tested our ability to remain relevant to the needs of the Midwestern Society of which we are a crucial element. While Navigation is probably our number one priority because of the impact on the country and world of the \$15-20 billion of commerce that transits the St. Louis area on the river system we provide and maintain (incidentally we will set all-time highs for tonnages at L&D 24, L&D 25, MPL&D and Locks 27), - the recreational, environmental and aesthetic opportunities (quality of life) that our lakes and rivers offer attracted

almost 17 million visits this past year. That's a true testament to your abilities to succeed in spite of adversity. Additionally, we dodged a near Trinity River (in Texas) disaster in the Kaskaskia Basin in the late Spring where another two inches of rain could have caused us to lose control of the river.

I could go on and on for another 50 pages on the fantastic job you've done and are doing, but will stop here or I'll miss press time. I realize that there are lots of problems and challenges out there and that you have many concerns. Well you should! These are extremely fluid, maybe even unsettling times in view of the changing order of the world, the potential for war, the budgeting and economic challenges facing our country and the Corps; but, with the ability, drive, interest and concern you've exhibited the past 12 months to amass a remarkable record of accomplishment, you will continue to excel as long as you work together as a "District team." Heck. You might even survive me!

Have a good holiday! Take care of each other so that we don't have any tragedies and all return safe and healthy (not sure sane is valid or valuable) to attack the challenges of the New Year! Thanks for a great 1990!!



Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights

The story lives. Judah and his army entered the temple after recapturing the holy city from the Syrians.

They found it ruined and profaned. The Old Testament Book of Maccabees tells how the altar was rebuilt and rededicated with a celebration lasting eight days.

For twenty-one centuries, in many lands, the flames of Hanukkah have been lit in commemoration of the miracle that occurred in ancient Judea. The miraculous burning of lights for eight days (on one day's fuel) gives a romantic and less threatening miracle than the real one of the tenacious persistence of Jewish faith in spite of all odds.

In America, special conditions combine with religious freedom for the development of Hanukkah into a major celebration. Though it is sometimes felt that its growth has been in competition to the Christmas celebration, Hanukkah has been waiting to take its true place in Jewish celebrations for centuries.

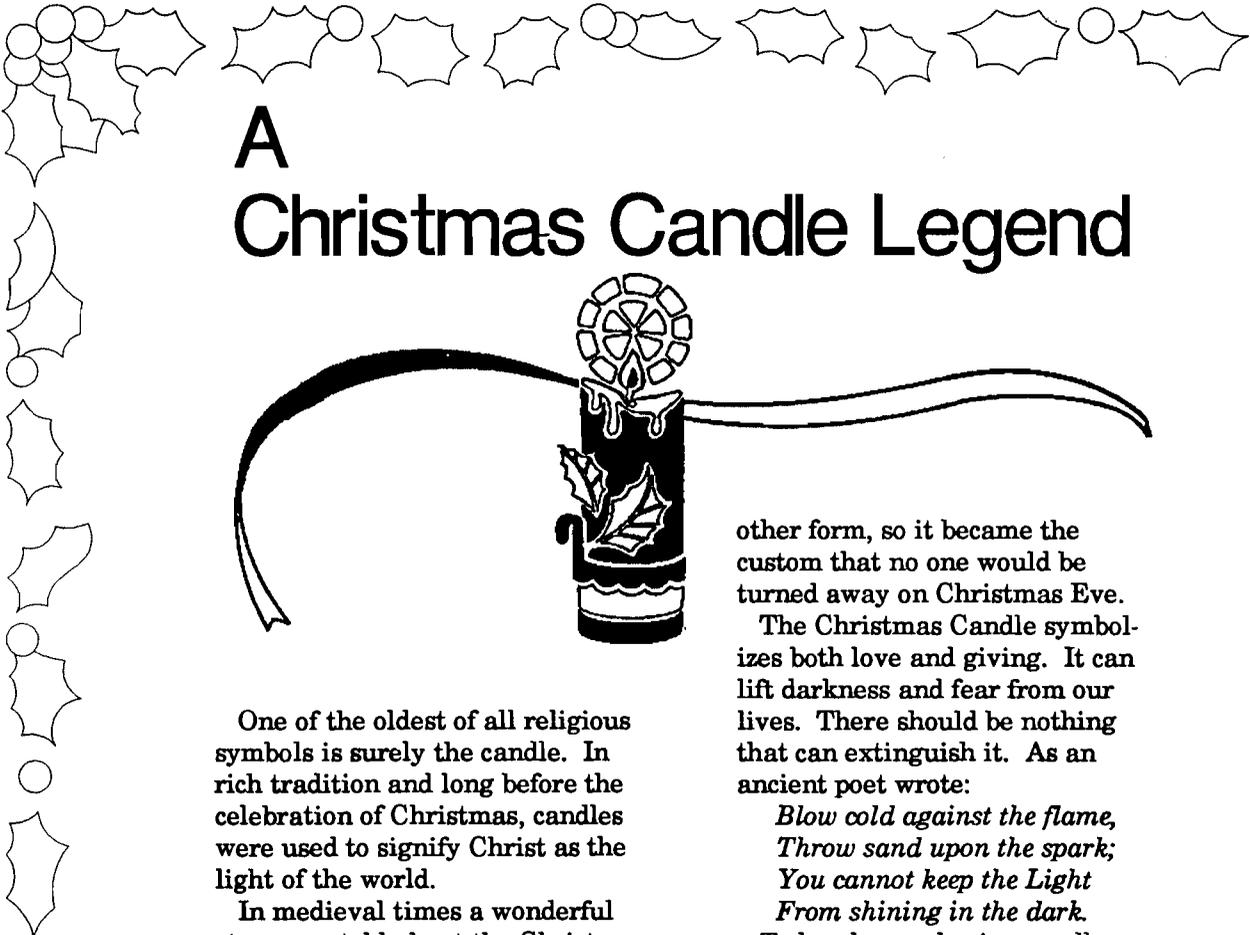
The Menorah, with its lighted candles, will prove again that the spirit and the Arc of the Covenant are alive and well.

The work of Christmas

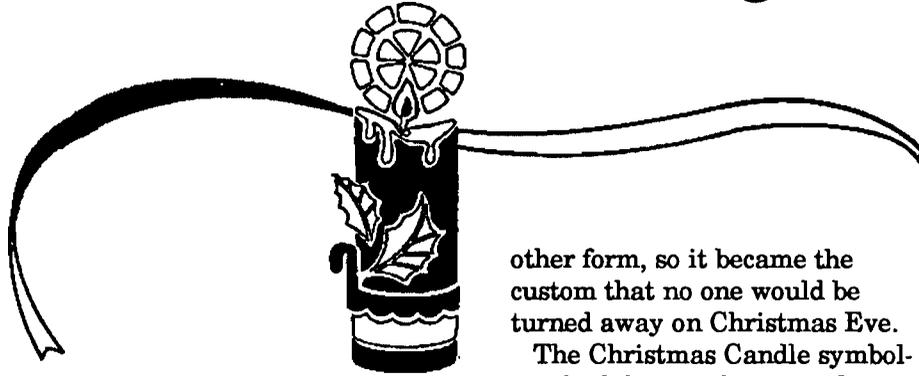
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Rev. Howard Thurman



A Christmas Candle Legend



One of the oldest of all religious symbols is surely the candle. In rich tradition and long before the celebration of Christmas, candles were used to signify Christ as the light of the world.

In medieval times a wonderful story was told about the Christmas Candle. It was said that on Christmas Eve the Christ Child wanders throughout the world, looking for places where He will be welcomed. Those who love Him place lighted candles in their windows, offering welcome and shelter.

No one knew whether He would come as a lonely child or in some

other form, so it became the custom that no one would be turned away on Christmas Eve.

The Christmas Candle symbolizes both love and giving. It can lift darkness and fear from our lives. There should be nothing that can extinguish it. As an ancient poet wrote:

*Blow cold against the flame,
Throw sand upon the spark;
You cannot keep the Light
From shining in the dark.*

Today, large glowing candles, beautiful red tapers and radiant electric candles are in the windows of homes and stores. They are at the center of banquet tables and upon the altars of our churches. Always, they bear silent witness to the glorious light of Bethlehem.