

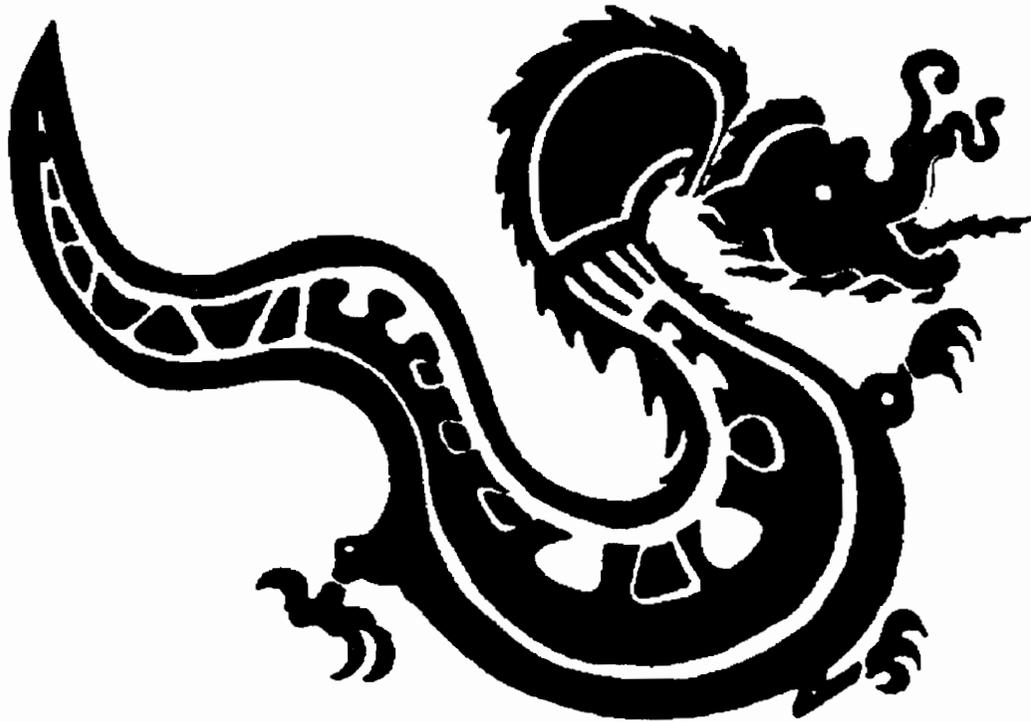
ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

ESPRIT

VOL. 27 NO. 5

May 1990

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month



Article on page 14



Corbin's Comments by Col. James E. Corbin



Hi! It's me again - LATE AS USUAL!

It's been a hectic month, but things are going well in most areas and the EFFORT BY ALL HAS BEEN SUPERB - THANKS!

BG Williams' visit went extremely well, as did MG Kelly's visit. Both realize the fantastic

environmental opportunities that are "there for the taking" in the St. Louis District. Also, you should know that the Corps has elevated environmental projects to the same priority level as navigation and flood control. While reality is different than rhetoric, the senior leadership of the Corps is serious about the environmental effort. It's time to quit fighting the problem and get after it. The country changed in the 1970s; it's time for us to follow suit. Incidentally, some of us still think environmental means only hazardous and toxic waste; THAT'S NOT TRUE - ecological matters are just as important!

Both generals were extremely impressed, as well they should be, with the Mel Price Locks and Dam project and the overall level of excellence we've attained in our other areas! Congratula-

tions to all of you!

Attended the DE/Division Commanders Conference at Ft. Leonard Wood late last week. If I'm any judge of folks, most DEs are a bit frustrated with things. Several districts are as far out in front on the environmental effort (ecological efforts) as we are, and pushing just as hard, in some cases harder.

Also attended the SEMO Port Dedication. The project really looks good, and they have the port in operation. Senator Bond and Congressman Emerson were keynote speakers. Both, particularly Senator Bond, came out very favorably and aggressively for "smart," effective use of our water transportation system.

Also, attended the opening of our visitor center/exhibit area inside the Cannon Powerhouse. It is one of only two available in the 23 power plants that service the Southwest Power Administration. Congressman Volkmer was the keynote speaker and had really positive things to say about the Corps. It is really a super facility that you should all try to visit with your families some time.

In another area we have a really tough O&M funding challenge facing us. As some/many of you know, we've been cutting back in all O&M areas the past six months. While NO JOBS ARE THREATENED our ability to carry out our missions to the level we are accustomed is going to be seriously degraded. As of 1 May 1990 all

(Continued on page 9)



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

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Pathfinder commended

The crew of the St. Louis District's channel patrol boat Pathfinder was awarded a public service commendation by the U.S. Coast Guard during its Coast Guard Industry day in St. Louis.

The crew was cited for distinguished public service in support of the Coast Guard's aids to navigation program on the Upper Mississippi River from June 1988 to January 1990.



In cooperation with the Coast Guard the Pathfinder placed channel marking buoys over a sustained period of time during low river stages and rapidly changing conditions. This effort was vital in facilitating the transport of record grain harvests and insuring the delivery of petroleum products during a period of record cold and record low water.

Receiving the Coast Guard Public Service Commendation award is (from left to right) Howard Fields, deckhand on the MV Pathfinder; Jerry Schaperclaus, Chief Engineer; and Steve Jones, Captain. Presenting the award is Coast Guard Captain Moynihan.

Degenhardt honored

Gene Degenhardt, the Value Engineering Officer, was honored at the YMCA's 137th Annual Dinner Awards Celebration at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Union Station for his contribution as an active member of the Membership and Marketing Committee for the downtown Marquette YMCA.

As an active participant of the District's FIT TO WIN Program, Gene makes it a point to visit out-of-town YMCA's during his frequent business travels. He brings back suggestions. His most recent contribution will result in the initiation of a Step Aerobics program at the Marquette YMCA - a first for Y's in the St. Louis area. Gene has been an aerobic dancing enthusiast at the Y since October 1987.

District runners in River-to-River Relay

The St. Louis District Running Club participated for the second time in the Third Annual 'River-to-River Relay' on Saturday, 21 April. The race started at the Wolf Lake Camp site overlooking the Mississippi River and finished in Galconda, Illinois, on the Ohio River.

The District finished the 80-mile race in 10 hours, 12 minutes, 18 minutes faster than last year. This year's team consisted of, in order of

participation, Stan Zurweller, CD-CP, Larry Gutzler, OD-RS, Tom Ruf, ED-DA, Tom Quigley, ED-D, Mike Brazier, ED-DW, Jerry McClintock and Roger Hoell, both of ED-DA, and Col. Jim Corbin as anchor.

Zurweller recorded the team's fastest pace of 6:08 minutes per mile. Gutzler had the dubious distinction of being the team's oldest runner. Ruf averaged just over 6:45 per mile for 10 miles. Quigley ran one of the longest legs of the race.

Gutzler, Ruf and Quigley will represent the District in this year's classic 'Grandmas Marathon' in Duluth, Minnesota in June.

Col. Corbin's duties, beside running, included team morale officer and vehicle support. Major Brontoli was also involved in the race as diver and running support person (running beside team members and offering encouragement).

Even though some run-
(Continued on next page)



Runners (continued)

ners had to sleep on the floor at the motel the night before, run in the rain, then the humid sun, and forego a decent meal until late that evening, most runners considered the day well spent.

This year's team manager, Jerry McClintock, would like to offer a special THANKS to all the spouses who wash smelly running clothes, stay home with the kids and put up with all the moaning and groaning following a race. You are appreciated.

Espoof makes a point

You have probably seen the witty little takeoff on ESPRIT called Espoof. Espoof helps prove a point. There's at least one clever writer out there in St. Louis District land. Where there's one there's more.

ESPRIT is looking for talented writers. God knows we need 'em. Send us your deathless pros. If it has anything to do with the District or the District's employees you'll have the chance to be immortalized in the pages of ESPRIT. Think about the prestige that'll bring you.

ESPRIT does reserve the right to edit it. We'll even give you a byline, unless it's outstanding writing. In which case we won't, so everybody will think the editor wrote it.

Earth Day St. Louis style

The St. Louis District celebrated Earth Day in a big way throughout the District. Activities included tree and flower planting, lectures, news media interviews, hikes and displays.

In St. Louis our Riverlands Management Office solicited more than 500 volunteers who planted 4,000 trees on public land adjacent to the Chain of Rocks Canal. The project was sponsored by St. Louis Area Global Releaf. Another 5,000 trees were planted on the Missouri side of the Mississippi River as part of the day's activities.

Donations to buy the trees were solicited by the Missouri Department of Conservation and St. Louis Operation Brightside. The Illinois Department of Conservation helped the Corps dig the thousands of holes for the trees.

Speakers at the ceremony, which was held at 1:30 Sunday, 22 April, included Col. Corbin and representatives from Missouri Dept. of Conservation, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Operation Brightside, Global Releaf and the Nature Institute. A press conference for children was held, organized by KIDS (Kids Internationally Distributed Superstation) in St. Louis, at the end of the ceremony.

Wappapello Lake also had a tree planting. Some

185 area elementary school students participated. More than 1000 tree seedlings were planted.

At Carlyle Lake 300 volunteers cleaned up the lake area, planted trees and flowers and built nesting boxes for blue birds, wood ducks and bats. A lunch was donated by local merchants.

At Mark Twain Lake there were prairie and vegetation management discussions and hikes.

There were talks on clean air, coal technology, the conservation of hawks and owls, wilderness preservation and wetland conservation in Southern Illinois given at Rend Lake. Environmentalists manned displays on environmental issues. Channel 3 TV did a feature segment on their nightly news.

Rangers and volunteers planted 150 pine seedlings, 800 prairie plants and more than half an acre of wildflower seed at Lake Shelbyville, Illinois. Sacred Heart school from Pana, Illinois, held a successful recycling drive in front of the visitor center. At the end of the day they had a two and a half ton truck full. Area businesses donated food and prizes. The Earth Day activities at Shelbyville were organized by Park Ranger Bill Campbell.



Promotions & Incentive Awards



PROMOTIONS:

Donna Adams, OD
Richard Andersen, IM
William Campbell, OD
Terry Dye, OD
Roberto Escalera, RE
Natalie Eschmann, PD
Phillip Eydmann, PM
Russel Higgins, CD
Joseph Laird, OD
Fred McLard, ED
John Perulfi, PD
John Schott, ED
Kenneth Wingrove, OD

PERFORMANCE AWARDS:

Donna Adams, OD
Gloria Aubuchon, CD
Karen Bautsch, CD
Josephine Bischan, OC
Sidney Brown, OD
Frank Catalano, RE
Jane Collins, BC
Darrell Gambill, OD
Gary Groenemann, SO
Norma Hall, EEO
James Hipkiss, OC
Ronald Jackson, OD
Gary Jacobs, RE
Steven Jones, OD
Kenneth Koller, PM
Cecil McLard, OD
Robert Muffler, OC
Maureen Murrin, OD
Douglas Nichols, OD
David O'Connell, ED
Walter Ohar, OC
Theodore Postol, ED
William Ross, OD

Virgil Sanders, CD
Regina Schaffner, OC
Joan Schick, CT
Irene Smugala, CD
Dennis Stephens, ED
James Summers, OD
Mary Ann Swip, CD
Raymond Zoanetti, OD

QUALITY STEP INCREASE:

Gary Schmidt, ED

SPECIAL ACT AWARD:

Sandor Dombi, ED
Charles Grojean, RO-SU
Norma Hall, EEO
Jerry Hawkins, ED
Donna Henrichs, OD
Russell Higgins, RO-SU
Frank Humphrey, RO-SU
Margaret Hurst, CD
Jackie Jones, DC
Deborah Maynard, IM
Roger Siller, IM
Ladonna Supancic, OD
Lawrence Williams, OD
Ronald Bockhorst, IM
Burge Douglas, CD
Barry Fehl, ED
Donald Fendler, CD
Roger Hoell, ED
Joseph Kellett, RO-S
Robert Kelsey, ED
Mark McLean, OD
Thomas Niedernhofer, ED
Regina Pucel, CT
Thomas Ruf, ED
James Soehngen, ED

Richard Ubben, RO-S
Janet Ulivi, ED

EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE RATING:

Gloria Aubuchon, CD
Josephine Bischan, OC
Robert Bringer, BC
Sidney Brown, OD
Jane Collins, BC
Patrick Conroy, ED
Norris Davis, BC
Leona Florek, ED
William Gidcomb, OD
Robert Holt, ED
Ronald Jackson, OD
Steven Jones, OD
Robert Kelsey, ED
Kenneth Koller, PM
Richard Kozeny, ED
Carol Kreutzer, ED
Joseph Lueke, OD
Antoinette Mueller, ED
Maureen Murrin, OD
Gerald Parker, OD
Theodore Postol, ED
Robert Rapp, ED
James Reed, ED
Charles Rhoads, ED
Jack Rhodes, IM
Evelyn Roland, OD
Virgil Sanders, CD
Dawayne Sanders, ED
Gary Schmidt, ED
Hazel Schnatzmeyer, IM
Irene Smugala, CD
Richard Sovar, ED
Gary Stilts, OD
Mark Wunsch, RE



On the Soapbox

Telling the District's story this month were:

Around the District

Gene Degenhardt, our Value Engineering Officer, gave a presentation on team building and creativity to the Kansas City Chapter of the Society of American Value Engineers. Many people were surprised to see how shaving cream can be used in the team building process.

In addition, Gene has been busy on the teaching circuit. He has taught 40-hour VE workshops in Nashville, Tennessee and Walla Walla, Washington.

Bill Sutton, Chief, Project Management Office, gave a slide presentation on the Melvin Price Lock and Dam Project and other St. Louis District projects to 50 members of the East Side Associated Industries organization in Belleville, Illinois.

Wally Feld, OD-N, took the Director General of the National Rivers Board of Zaire, Africa, on a tour of Melvin Price Locks and Dam and Locks 27.

Claude Strauser, ED-H, and Bill Sutton, PM, briefed the above mentioned visitor on District projects.

Joe Bisher, CT, Deputy for Small Business, participated in the National Association of Women Business Owners conference at the Breckenridge Frontenac Hotel, St. Louis.

Ken Koller, PM-A, spoke to the St. Louis Metro Branch of the American Public Works Association on Melvin Price Locks and Dam project.

Claude Strauser, ED-H, was the dinner speaker at the Spring banquet held by the Valley Sailing Association. Claude discussed the problems caused by the low flow on the Mississippi River over the last two years.

Riverlands Office

Area Manager Pat McGinnis gave a presentation and sat on a panel with other resource professionals during the Sierra Club Wetlands Protection Workshop in Columbia, Illinois. Pat also spoke to the South Side Kiwanis Club in St. Louis and the Migratory Waterfowl Hunters organization concerning the District's environmental work on the river.

Ed Berghoff and Jack Vizer (both RO-L) hosted 40 civil engineering students from the University of Iowa on a tour of the Mel Price Dam structure. The Student Chapter of the

Association of General Contractors from Rolla also toured the dam with Jack and Ed.

Fourth grade students from the Evangelical School of Alton met with Anne Vieira at the Mel Price construction overlook for a discussion on river history and the system of locks and dams. Anne also hosted members of the Meadowbrook First Baptist Church of Moro, Illinois, and employees of Merchants Transportation on tours of the dam structure.

Ed Berghoff, RO-L, took 75 people from the Tri-Regional Emergency Preparedness Group on a tour of Mel Price Lock and Dam.

Wappapello Lake

Park Rangers Andrew Jefferson, Daniel Camdan and Ray Portwood conducted seven radio interviews throughout the Southeast Missouri region. Topics included earth day activities, special events and recreation opportunities available at Wappapello Lake.

Park Ranger James Lynch conducted an off-site program for the Poplar Bluff Garden Club. James informed the group about resource management and Traditional Access at the lake.

Park Ranger Daniel



Camden was interviewed by "The Journal" newspaper in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Dan informed the public about the Spring Roadside Cleanup

Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson was interviewed by Mr. Bud Theis of the "Labor Tribune" newspaper. Andrew pointed out various recreational opportunities available at the lake in addition to showing Mr. Theis several recreation areas and facilities.

Park Ranger Ray Portwood presented a conservation program titled "Owls of Missouri" for 43 students from the Sacred Heart Elementary School of Poplar Bluff. Ray talked about the natural history, unknown facts and specifics on owls found in Missouri.

Carlyle Lake

Park Rangers Joe Smothers and Lawrence Williams were interviewed by John Scattergood and Tootie Cooksy of WILY Radio. Their topics were the special events planned at Carlyle Lake for the 1990 Recreation Season.

Park Ranger Joe Smothers was interviewed by radio stations WGEL and WSMI of Greenville and Litchfield, Illinois. They discussed the Corps of Engineers' efforts to save the environment and the activities of the Carlyle Lake Clean-up/Earth Day Celebrations.

Dick Conner and Dave Busse, ED-HP, spoke to 160 members of the Okaw River Basin Coalition. Discussion included the proposed

conceptual plan for the Kaskaskia River and the flood protection provided by the Corps to the area farmers.

Assistant Park Manager Dick Conner was a guest on WILY radio, Centralia, Illinois, to discuss the Kaskaskia Plan and resource management activities on Carlyle Lake.

Rend Lake

Park Ranger Mike Edwards visited with 12 pre-schoolers from the Second Baptist Church Pre-school in West Frankfort to make them aware of ways they could help the environment.

Rangers Jackie Brachear and Gary Campbell talked with 70 students at the Benton Middle School and advised them on career opportunities with the Corps.

Park Ranger Rachel Garen conducted a tour of Rend Lake for 20 SIU-Carbondale recreation students. She focused her talk on campsite design.

Rend Lake rangers conducted a two day hunter safety certification course for 35 youngsters at the visitor center.

Park Ranger Gene Morgan visited the City of Benton, Illinois, to join in their Earth Day 1990 festivities on April 22.

Mark Twain Lake

Collectively, Park Rangers Diane Hellhake, Judy Schwanke, Mary Ann Heitmeyer and Chuck Crocker presented many environmental education and power plant tours to about 300

students throughout the month.

Assistant Park Manager David Berti presented a lake update to 25 members and guests of the Palmyra Kiwanis Club.

Lake Shelbyville

Park Rangers Leanne Crouch and Don Brown took 56 fifth graders from Nokomis, Illinois, on a tour of the dam and visitor center.

Park Aid Jim Homann gave 12 Boy Scouts from Arthur, Illinois, a tour of the dam.

Park Manager Winston Campbell gave an overview of economic problems inherent in the management of a multi-purpose lake project to a resource economics class from the University of Illinois.

Park Ranger Al Lookofsky led a group of Illinois Conservation Corps personnel on a tour of Corps of Engineers recreation facilities to compare Corps areas to State Parks.

Lock & Dam 24 is 50 years old

Lock and Dam 24 at Clarksville, Missouri celebrated its 50th birthday in March. Fifty years ago President Roosevelt was invited by Congressman Clarence Cannon to attend the dedication, however, the ceremony was never held. The lock and dam's completion marked the completion of the Upper Mississippi canalization project.



NEWS BRIEFS

Award to Durbin

The Carlyle Lake Management Office presented an award to Kay Durbin, owner/operator of McDonald's restaurant in Carlyle, for her outstanding support of water safety at Carlyle Lake. Ms. Durbin played a key role in having water safety messages printed on tray liners and allowing the Carlyle Lake staff to place a water safety exhibit in her establishment.

Armed Forces Day

Wappapello Lake hosted the Twelfth Annual Armed Forces Celebration on 12 May at the Redman Creek Recreation Area. Several flyovers, static displays, booths (federal and state agencies), military recruiters and much more were present. In conjunction with this activity, a fiftieth year rededication ribbon cutting ceremony was held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in front of the gatehouse at the south end of the dam.

Tourism conference

Wappapello Lake Park Manager Michael McClendon

and Park Ranger Sue Mueller attended the Ozark Heritage Tourism Association Conference at Sam A. Baker State Park. The purpose of this conference was to find new ways of increasing tourism in the Ozark Heritage Region.

Spring cleanup

The Annual Spring Roadside Cleanup was conducted on 21 April at Wappapello Lake. Sixty-five volunteers collected 75 bags of trash along approximately nine miles of state highways.

Lake cleanup day

The Sixth Annual Mark Twain Lake Cleanup Day was celebrated Saturday, April 14th. About 70 volunteers braved the cool damp weather to pick up litter along public roads and the shoreline of the lake. "Woodsy" (Boy Scout Jason Henderson) visited volunteers throughout the morning. Park Ranger Chuck Crocker was the Corps coordinator. Corps employees Wayne Williams, Joe Rodenbaugh, Diane Hellhake, Becky Ebbing, Kevin Thompson and Judy Schwanke assisted.

Prizes and lunch were provided by area businesses.

Displays at Twain

The weekend display schedule coordinated by Park Ranger Diane Hellhake for the M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center at Mark Twain Lake continues to be very successful. Arbor Day activities were celebrated April 1st with forest management presentations. Small pine trees were available for everyone. Art work from area schools was rotated and displayed throughout the month attracting many parents and admirers. Fairy Tales were told on April 8th to "kids" of all ages. The kite making and flying event on April 29th proved to be a popular "sport" for all the "kids."

Twain gets award

Mark Twain Lake Park Manager Dennis Foss recently accepted the 1990 Certificate of Merit Award during the annual meeting of the Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshops. The award acknowledged the lake Management Office's efforts to employ people with disabilities. About 90 nominations were reviewed for the six awards.

Messerli gets award

Ron Messerli's (OD-F) son Dennis, an Air Force ROTC cadet at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, has received the "Outstanding Freshman Cadet of the Year" award.



District vies for award Corbin's Comments (cont.)

The St. Louis District was the only government agency represented in the annual American Academy of Environmental Engineers Excellence in Environmental Engineering awards competition. The District was entered in the Research category with its research on the use of bubble curtains to reduce the affects of underwater blasting on aquatic life. The other categories were Planning, Design and Operations/Management.

The Research winner was a biological nutrient removal research study done in Orlando, Florida.

O&M expenditures and obligations require my approval. The last thing you need is me functioning as a squad leader, but that's the only way we can get through the year. You folks are just too professional and want to do too good a job (those are compliments folks), thus I've got to take some missions off the plate because you won't. We have cancelled or suspended almost all O&M contracts at both the rivers and the lakes and are in the process of detailing folks into other work that is adequately funded in the District.

A final thought: the water situation in the Mississippi River is going to be as bad or worse this year than last year.

Without the rock removal effort, navigation between Cairo and St. Louis would have been stopped for 40+ days in 1989. It is going to be another tough, challenging year on the river. Incidentally, we are now suffering a backlog of tows at L&Ds 24 and 25.

Really appreciate your effort! Hang in there as a team! By the way, we are expanding the team building process to Branch and Section Chiefs starting this month. Have heard rumblings in the hallways that some of you below Division Chief feel you've been forgotten in this process. That's not true gang. It just takes longer to work the team building process than we would like.

You're doing a great job, keep it up!

Accident Summary

PERSONAL INJURIES - GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
- APRIL 90: One

Total accidents for FY90: Four
Total accidents for FY89: Twenty-one
An employee on the Dredge Potter broke a finger when his wrench slipped and landed on the little finger of his left hand.

PERSONAL INJURIES - CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES
- APRIL 90: One

Total accidents for FY90: Four
Total accidents for FY89: Five
A laborer at L&D 26 suffered bruises to his foot and ankle while stacking salvage items on a hopper barge. The material shifted, catching his foot between a

piece of salvage and the side of the hopper barge.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - APRIL 90:
None

Total vehicle accidents for FY90: Two
Total vehicle accidents for FY89: Two

LAKE FATALITIES - APRIL 90: None
Total lake fatalities for FY90: None

Total lake fatalities for FY89: Six
Mark Twain Lake - 1
Lake Shelbyville - 2
Rend Lake - 1
Wappapello Lake - 2

**get the
Safety Belt Habit**

**It's a
Snap**



Cutbacks don't mean RIFs

By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Informa-
tion Service

News stories prophe-
sizing the doom to follow
impending Department of
Defense budget cuts greet
DoD civilians and service
members almost daily. But
budget cuts don't always
trigger the dreaded reduc-
tion in force.

Reductions in force are
usually the last resort
for agencies dealing with
budget cuts, said Tom
Glennon, an Office of
Personnel Management
staffing specialist.

First of all, he said,
RIFs are costly. The
government spends an aver-
age \$7,800 in administra-
tive costs, severance pay
and other expenses to
process each person af-
fected. In addition,
senior employees "bump"
junior workers out of
their jobs, which ad-
versely affects morale and
management's goal of ef-
fective staffing.

Christopher Jehn, DoD's
senior personnel manager,
cited those bad effects of
RIFs as reasons for the
department's current hir-
ing freeze. His plan
calls for attrition to be
the principal means of
reducing the civilian
workforce.

If attrition doesn't
meet goals, however, agen-
cies can avoid a RIF by
using other options, said
Glennon. They can cut
discretionary expendi-
tures, such as non-essen-
tial travel. They also

may cut all but essential
overtime, holiday and
premium pay.

In addition, agencies
anticipating cuts can hire
temporaries for some posi-
tions. Government posi-
tions can be either adver-
tised as temporary or
filled using private-
sector temporary agencies.
Office of Personnel Man-
agement rules have permit-
ted use of private tempo-
rary agencies since Janu-
ary 1989. These workers'
employer is the temporary
agency, not the govern-
ment.

Agencies could encour-
age workers to take leave
without pay, change from
full-time to part-time
work schedules or reduce
their part-time work
hours.

"We also ask agencies
to look at short furloughs
(involuntary days off
without pay)," said Glen-
non. He noted, though,
that longer furloughs are
often not cost-effective
because agencies have to
pay unemployment compensa-
tion. "That cancels out
any savings. In addition,
a furlough of more than 30
calendar days is consid-
ered a RIF action."

Glennon said DoD has
rarely used furloughs,
except for asking employ-
ees to take annual leave
or leave without pay the
day after Thanksgiving or
around Christmas if their
work site was a contrac-
tor's plant that shut down
at these times.

Reimbursable details
are another option. In

this case, employees of
strapped agencies are
temporarily sent to work
for other components that
are willing to pay their
salaries.

An agency can also
offer employees voluntary
reductions in grade with
"saved pay"; that is,
workers get a signed
agreement that protects
their current pay for two
years. The agency also
can waive some of a job's
normal qualifications if
an employee is reassigned
in this situation.

The process works like
this: A GS-13 management
analyst making \$42,601 a
year is in a position to
be abolished. The agency
has a vacant GS-12 ac-
countant position with an
education prerequisite of
24 college credits in
accounting. The agency
may choose to offer the
GS-13 the accountant's
position and saved pay,
and, if necessary, to
waive the educational
requirement.

This method is less
expensive for the agency
than a RIF, which could
affect several people in a
domino effect. Employees
are often repromoted
within two years, Glennon
said, but if that doesn't
happen, their pay stays as
close to their old salary
as possible, to a maximum
of 150 percent of the
salary for the 10th step
of the new grade level.

"It is often cheaper
for the government to pay
such an employee the

(Continued on page 12)



To your health

Hard head or hard hats

It is easy to see that some construction workers hate to wear hard hats. Mr. Frank M. Craham of Western Paving Construction Co., Denver, Colorado, has proposed an alternative to wearing hard hats. It's called a Head-Hardness Certification Program.

This new program is intended for those workers who feel their heads are already hard enough. A construction worker seeking Head-Hardness Certification must pass the following battery of tests.

The Penetration Test - A one pound plumb bob will be repeatedly dropped from a distance of no less than ten feet onto the applicant's head. If the point penetrates less than 3/8 of an inch, then the pene-

tration test will be passed.

The Heat and Chemical-Resistance Test - The applicant's head will be tested for fire resistance properties. The applicant's head will be tested for chemical resistance. Details of the Heat and Chemical Resistance Test are being developed in a soon to be released American National Standards Institute standard.

The Electrical Test - The applicant's head will be subjected to a 30,000 volt, 60 Hertz current. A leakage of less than nine mili-amps is required below 20,000 volts with no breakdown of insulation resistance below 30,000 volts is considered adequate.

The Impact Test - An iron ball weighing eight (8) pounds will be dropped from a height of no less than five feet onto the top of the applicant's head. The average force transmitted to the applicant's brain by the impact of the ball must be not less than 850 pounds. An applicant passes if he (or she) can remember the day of the week.

Those workers who satisfactorily complete the program will receive the coveted "Head-Hardness Certificate." These workers may work on the job without donning a hard hat. Those workers who fail the program must wear their hard hats when on the project site.

A pet bird may lower your blood pressure

A University of Pennsylvania study shows that bird owners talk more to their pets than people who own a dog. And they give their pets more intimate attention.

The researchers also found that while people touch dogs more, and perceive them as being more sensitive to moods, the

bird's being at eye level made the owner more likely to converse with it. And interactions were calmer and more stress-reducing.

Animal ecologist Alan Beck believes bird owners see a need to be gentle and non-threatening, which makes them more calm. They had an average ten point decrease in blood

pressure when they talked to their birds.

Beck doesn't suggest that you trade your dog for a bird. What he does suggest is that interacting with any pet in a calm fashion brings increased calmness and lower blood pressure to the owner.



Cutbacks (cont.)

higher salary and send him to college to get the accounting credits than run a RIF affecting several people at a cost averaging \$7,800 each," Glennon said. "In addition, the government retains a good, experienced employee."

Agencies facing massive cutbacks can ask the Office of Personnel Management for authority to offer early retirement. By combining voluntary early retirements with an intensive outplacement program, Glennon said, Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, Calif., cut 1,100 positions - almost 20 percent of its workforce - with no RIF actions. Of the cuts, only 150 were by early retirement. The other 950 people found new jobs.

Nutri Guides coming

We have been able to obtain approximately 700 Nutri Guides published by Schnucks Market. These will be distributed in the near future to as many as our supply will allow. The guide has good information about low calorie, low fat, low cholesterol and very low sodium foods, by brand name and types. Please watch for it and if you don't need it, please forward to someone who can use the guide.

Thinking of retirement?

You've heard all the horror stories about the long wait for the first annuity check. Well, now you can help yourself to a faster annuity check when you get ready to retire! Our goal is for a retiring employee to receive an initial annuity check from the Office of Personnel Management no later than 30 days after receipt of your final paycheck.

To meet this goal, the Personnel Office has received permission to forward retirement cases to the Payroll Office two weeks prior to the effective date of retirement. In order to do this, we need to know at least four weeks in advance of your retirement date.

There are several good reasons for this. When we receive your request for an estimate, we thoroughly review your Official Personnel Folder (OPF) to ensure that all of your prior service is creditable and properly documented. We include in our estimate any deposit/re-deposit time in order to counsel you on the effect of non-payment of your estimated final annuity computation. In many cases, this takes a fair amount of time. Many court rulings and regulations have resulted in additional documentation and counseling.

Two examples include

the Spouse Equity Act and the requirements for creditability of Post-56 military service. The average time to properly research, assemble, process and counsel an employee is about four staff-hours. We want to ensure that we have sufficient time to resolve any potential problems.

In summary, we request two things of you if you are considering retirement:

1. Request a computation of benefits at least six to eight weeks earlier than the date you had in mind. Preliminary counseling will be available to you when you receive your computation.

2. Be sure of your retirement date. It takes a lot of time to cancel a retirement once it leaves our office.

When you do these two things, Personnel will be able to give you the individual, special attention you deserve as well as to help to achieve a timely receipt of your annuity check.

If you are considering retirement in the near future, it's not too early to call Brenda Hamell, CELMS-PO-S, 5538, to request an estimate or to set an appointment for counseling and completion of necessary documents.



Retiree Review

The April gathering brought out 41 people, a gain of one over March -- but four of them were guests of one sort or another.

Lou Chiodini, District Exec, brought Sandy Sandlin along. Sandy is the current Chief of Real Estate. Kate Stiles brought her cousin, Ruby Morgan and Linda Wichlon was also a guest.

Janice Maxwell was with us for the first time.

Roger Cuddeback was emcee (Elmer H. having pulled one of his stunts of promising not to be there and then reneging).

For the first time this year, Jim Bake, Bill Brown, Jim Lawler, Jim Meanor (former DE), Ruth Pollaro and Lew Scheurman signed in. Neva Dickman, Rose Duda, Virginia Herold and Sylvia Beininga were back after a couple of absences.

As was Homer Duff, who handed out brochures about the CCC alumni.

Kate Stiles, by asking for phone numbers, had heard from quite a number of absent retirees.

Bill Douglas is in Memphis for tests and therapy. Bob Turina is confined to a wheelchair, but drives a specially equipped car. Max Lamb is in bad shape with lung problems. Rich Sontag has stomach problems. Alice Rinkle was released from the hospital after treatment for jaundice.

Warren McCoy and Helen Cavanaugh are doing well.

Ulas Wilson is still a question mark. He has a lump in his brain which doctors think (and we pray) is non-malignant and apparently not the cause of his initial collapse. He may have suffered a slight stroke and was back in St. Mary's Health Center for further tests.

Hopefully, next month will bring more pleasant news.

The May luncheon will be the regular 3rd Thursday, May 17. Please join us at the Salad Bowl around 11 or 11:30.

P.S. The Bullfight slide show seemed to go over fairly well and didn't scare too many away.

CAW

Retirees

Fred Troutner, Jr., Lockmaster at Lock and Dam 25, Winfield, Missouri, is retiring April 28, after 36 years of Federal Service. Fred has been with the St. Louis District for almost 35 years.

Letter from a retiree

Dear Col. Corbin:

This is just a note to express my gratitude and appreciation for your implementation of the FIT TO WIN program within the St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers. As you may know, I was fortunate enough to complete Phase II of the program before I left the St. Louis District. I was so favorably impressed with the results that I bought an exercise bicycle for my use at home after I retired. I do my best to work out on the bike every other day to maintain or even improve my fitness level.

If it hadn't been for the FIT TO WIN program, I probably would not have gotten started on the physical fitness kick. I am so appreciative of what it has done for me that I wanted you to know. And, yes THANK YOU VERY MUCH, I am enjoying the freedom that retirement affords me. Keep up the good work of the St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers.

Sincerely,

John J. Clark, P.E.



Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

In 498 A.D. Hwui Shan, a Chinese priest, sailed down the west coast of America. He spent 40 years among the Indians. He is the first known person of Asian-Pacific heritage to come to the North American continent. Today more than five million Americans trace their ancestry to the original peoples of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Their diverse culture and history have enriched this nation by making a significant impact in every arena of endeavor.

Asian-Pacific Americans make up about two percent of the nation's population, but the number is expected to rise sharply by the year 2000. This ever growing presence is a vibrant spirit and force in America that will help expand the horizons of our future and fulfill the national destiny.

Asian-Pacific Americans have served in virtually every war in United States history. The most decorated combat unit in World War II was the segregated Nisei 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team. By the end of World War II there were substantial numbers of Asian-Pacific Army officers in National Guard and reserve units in Hawaii. Today, Asian-Pacific Americans occupy important posts throughout the American military establishment.

Asian-Pacific Americans

first began to work in significant numbers for the federal government during World War II. Despite legal constraints and racial discrimination, the expertise and education of these workers was considered invaluable to the U.S. war effort. During the 1950s and 1960s the numbers of Asian-Pacific Americans in the federal service increased significantly. By 1986 they held 2.68 percent of all white collar federal jobs. Asian-Pacific Americans now occupy prestigious positions at the highest levels of the federal government. They present an impressive and inspiring array of talent, professionalism and commitment; qualities that have always distinguished the Asian-Pacific American federal employee.

The Department of the Army will observe Asian-Pacific Heritage Month from 1 to 31 May 1990. Although normally a week in duration, President Bush has decided to extend the traditional celebration to a month-long observance.

The theme for this year's observance is "Asian-Pacific Americans: Commitment, Contribution and New Direction."

A display on Asian-Pacific American heritage can be viewed in the display case in the 8th floor lobby.

Col Corbin commended

Col. Corbin has been commended by the Conservation Federation of Missouri. In a resolution passed by the Federation at their Annual Convention Col. Corbin was recognized for seeking to balance economic and environmental interests in the District.

The resolution went on to list some of the major environmental work being done in the St. Louis District. It commended Col. Corbin for his leadership and strong environmental ethic.

Tips for success

- * Market and sell at every opportunity.
- * Keep your eyes open at all times to find and pursue innovative ideas.
- * Remember that time is of first importance in a service business. There is no substitute for good service. You are saving time for the customer.

Lunch martini disappears

A survey of 2,500 business professionals done by Runzheimer International shows that drinking alcoholic beverages at lunch is almost a thing of the past. Only 7 percent of those surveyed said they might have a drink with lunch.



Corps helps build early railroads

By Dr. Anthony Turhollow,
LAD Historian

As population and trade flourished in early America, the need grew for improved transportation to link the Atlantic seaboard and the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys.

The General Survey Act of 1824 empowered the president to commission surveys, plans and estimates of roads and canals he judged of national importance. This act also authorized the president to carry out surveys by employing the services of "such officers of the Corps of Engineers... as he may think proper."

From 1824 to 1838, the Army Corps of Engineers tackled the formidable mission of connecting the Atlantic Coast and the western frontier -- the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys.

Major projects were to repair the Cumberland Road (originally surveyed by the Corps in 1811), survey canal routes between Chesapeake and Delaware bays and Chesapeake Bay and the Ohio River, and plan railroads between the cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York and the lands beyond the Appalachian Mountains.

The Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) was to be the first American railroad. Army engineers assisted the City of Baltimore to meet the competition from

Philadelphia and New York City for western markets by planning a railroad across the mountains to Ohio. This was a bold and imaginative plan to use the relatively untried technology of railroads.

To get the best technology available, the company sent Captain William McNeill, 2d Lt. George Whistler, whose son became the famous painter, and Jonathan Knight to England to study British railroads. The British led the world in steam engine development, but later their engines would prove unsuitable for the rough American terrain.

In May 1830 the first thirteen miles of track, between Baltimore and Ellicott Mills, opened for service with horse-drawn passenger cars. Thus the first railroad in the country began operations without locomotive engines.

To remedy the situation, the B&O commissioned Peter Cooper to construct a locomotive which amounted to a contraption of wheels, pulleys and levers connected to an engine and boiler

mounted on a flatcar. He named his machine The Tom Thumb, but except for a famous race with a horse-drawn car and occasional pleasure trips, this locomotive was never placed in operation.

Finally in 1831 the B&O obtained a practical and dependable locomotive, built by Matthias Baldwin in Philadelphia, that would be the first of the famous Baldwin locomotives in railroad history.

Eventually a railroad system would stretch across the new nation -- much of it surveyed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

DO YOU KNOW?
.....about the Corps' work
in American history
by Bill Fleming Los Angeles Times

THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SURVEYED AND CONSTRUCTED THE **FIRST RAILROAD** IN AMERICA -- WHICH WAS POWERED BY A HORSE!

IN 1829, 13 MILES OF TRACK OPENED NEAR BALTIMORE -- THE START OF THE SPAN ACROSS THE CONTINENT -- COMPLETED IN 1869...



CORPS ENGINEER CAPT. GEO. WHISTLER SUPERVISED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST TRACK FOR PASSENGER SERVICE IN THE U.S.... HIS SON BECAME THE GREAT PAINTER, JAS. McNEILL WHISTLER.

BY 1837, ENGINES COULD DO 25 MPH & "EXPERTS" PROCLAIMED SPEEDS OVER 30 M.P.H. WOULD "SUFFOCATE" PASSENGERS!

THE FIRST ENGINES IN 1831 REQUIRED "BARRIER" CARS, USUALLY LOADED WITH COTTON, TO PROTECT PASSENGERS FROM BOILER EXPLOSIONS -- COMMON THEN...



BF-4

PROUD TO SERVE



ARMED FORCES DAY 1990

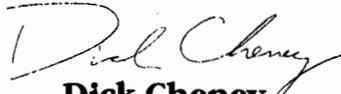
Secretary of Defense Memorial Day Message

Today, we pay tribute to those members of the Armed Forces who have died in defense of our country.

Each year, our observance of Memorial Day reminds us that the freedom we enjoy as Americans has not come easily. Valiant men and women of many generations have paid the ultimate price to secure it. The rows of white tombstones in our national military cemeteries give silent testimony to this fact.

The most fitting tribute we can give these fallen heroes is to reaffirm our devotion to the sacred trust for which they fought. You, the members of our Armed Forces, can take great pride in the qualities you share with those who have gone before—courage, professionalism and a steadfast commitment to freedom. We take great pride in you.

I join with you, the living guardians of liberty, and millions of other Americans in pledging to guard the legacy of freedom bestowed on us by those we honor today.


Dick Cheney
Secretary of Defense