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ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT **ESPRIT**

GATEWAY TO EXCELLENCE

May 2000

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District starts first stream mitigation bank in the nation

By Phil Brown, Regulatory Branch

What is a mitigation bank? A mitigation bank is a tool used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program to restore, create, enhance and preserve wetlands for compensatory mitigation in advance of impacts to wetlands from development. Typically, mitigation banks are set up as large blocks of wetlands to replace wetlands lost because of development.

When anyone fills or destroys a wetland, a Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act must first be obtained from the Corps of Engineers. When a wetland permit is granted, the permittee impacting the wetland is generally required to replace

these lost wetlands, which is known as compensatory mitigation. However, the Corps of Engineers does not only regulate impacts to wetlands, it also regulates impacts to what is referred to as Waters of the United States (i.e. ponds, lakes and streams). The impacts to Waters of the United States also require

mitigation. This is where the concept of banking can excel.

Directed by federal guidance released in 1995, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coordinates with developers to "bank lands" for aquatic resources impacts. Not only does Banking compensate for aquatic resource losses, but also provides developers an efficient method to practically and economically mitigate for small wetland impacts. The Banking initiative offers an efficient tool to the regulatory process.

Though sometimes burdensome, compensating for wetland impacts is a relatively straightforward task. However, compensating for stream impacts is a diffi-



Fox Creek Stream Mitigation Bank.

(Continued on page 5)



Commander's Perspective



COL Michael R. Morrow

"...we need to think safety in everything we do."

I recently finished a round of visits to our lakes. The lake personnel were very busy finishing up last minute touches for all the visitors who will enjoy our facilities this year. Campers were arriving with all of their home-away-from-home gear, boaters were gliding over the water and picnics were starting to occur. The beaches were being prepared for the opening of the swimming season. All of the lakes had special activities occurring, ranging from school trips for Earth Day to special interpretive outings. Each of our lakes has its own unique personality and is truly enjoyable to visit. The one common thread that I saw entwined throughout all of our projects was safety. The Rangers take their job of ensuring our visitors' safety very seriously.

What about our safety? With the coming of the spring and summer weather we are transformed from being winter couch potatoes into fun seeking outdoors loving people. Most of us are not into extreme sports and therefore think we are safe. For most of us fishing, golf, gardening, outdoor yard projects, day trips and the like are the events that fill our lives this time of the year. Because we are not engaging in what we would consider dangerous activities, we usually do not associate safety with these activities. The reality is that we need to think safety in everything we do, especially these seasonal activities. Reducing the risk in our daily activities is what safety is. Ask yourself some questions. Have I stretched and warmed up before I go hit the golf ball or do my gardening? Do I have all the proper safety gear and eye protection for my new gardening toys? Is my boat in compliance with state regulations, safe to operate and has all the necessary safety and flotation equipment? Has my car been serviced and is safe to operate? Am I rested before my weekend road trip? Has my tractor been fixed? (Bruce) Does my tractor have all the required safety devices? (Stan) Have my smoke detectors and fire extinguishers at home been checked? Do we have a fire evacuation plan?

Most of the accidents that occur happen at or near home. No one wakes up and says "I think I'll have an accident today." Likewise we assume that accidents happen to the other guy. This is simply false logic. Accidents can and do happen. Other drivers cause accidents that can involve us. The chances of an accident happening are greater if we are unprepared. Thinking safety and reducing your risk is a proactive measure you can do to stay healthy. I want you all to take a moment and think about safety. Incorporate safety in all of your personal activities. Enjoy the advent of the summer weather and all the outdoor activities you love so much, but do them safely.



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

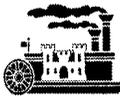
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News Briefs

Wappapello Lake:

Safety award

By John Daves

Wappapello Lake has been chosen as this year's National Water Safety Congress, Region Six Award recipient. Region Six covers seven states including Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota. This award stems from the lake staff's hard work promoting their Public Safety Education Awareness Campaign through the Ranger Willie B. Safe program.

Car show

On Saturday, June 3, the Rod and Kustom Car Club of Poplar Bluff will be partnering with the Corps at Wappapello Lake to provide a car show at the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center. This event will provide a perfect opportunity to reminisce about the "Good Ol' Days," while providing a chance for today's young people to see how, in the last 70 years, the automobile industry has evolved. The event, which runs from 9 to 5, is free, but there is a fee for those wanting to participate in the car show.

Fishing Day

On June 11, the Corps, working in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Wappapello Lion's Club, will conduct the 10th Annual Disabled Persons' Fishing Day. This event will provide a golden opportunity for people with various mental and/or physical challenges to enjoy one of the greatest leisure activities. The event will take place at Redman Creek Boat Ramp at 8 a.m. Pontoon boats, personal flotation devices, bait, tackle and much attention will be provided for all those who attend. A hot lunch, courtesy of the Wappapello Lion's Club, will also be provided.

The MODC has waived the re-

St. Louis District Employees of the Month



The St. Louis District's Co-Employees for May are Shane Peltis (left) and David Baum from Carlyle Lake.

The two rangers rescued two men stranded on the lake because of high wind conditions. They braved winds gusting to 30 mph and six-foot waves to reach the men and bring them safely to the Carlyle Sailing Association.

This sort of dedication and concern for the safety of our recreation customers speaks volumes about the attitude of these individuals and our District team as a whole.

Congratulations to Shane and Dave, Employees of the Month for May.



quirements to have a state fishing permit during Free Fishing Days designated as the Saturday and Sunday following the first Monday in June. For more information contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at (573) 290-5730.

Rend Lake:

Beehive thriving

By Janet Mifflin and Maureen Curran

The Visitor Center demonstration beehive was successfully restocked with 2000 Starline Honeybees, which were shipped via the

(Continued on page 4)



News Briefs (cont.)

U.S. Postal Service from Georgia. An Illinois BeeKeepers Association member, Steve Assy, installed the bees in the hive. Worker bees, which make up 80 percent of the hive, have successfully built honeycomb on two of the four frames of the hive. They released the queen from the tiny box she was shipped in by chewing through the powdered sugar plug on one side of the box. The queen has accepted the hive and has been very busy laying eggs.

Computer gift

Webber Township High School in Bluford, Illinois, was the recipient of donated computer hardware and a digital camera from the Rend Lake Project Office. Instead of simply surplusing the equipment, the Rend Lake Office checked with local schools to see if they would be interested in using the equipment. The donation included six computer hard drives, seven monitors and one digital camera.

Water quality

The Project Office and ED-HQ have teamed up to collect water samples and analyze the water quality of Rend Lake. Rend Lake provides drinking water to more than 300,000 people in 65 communities in Southern Illinois. PH, phosphate levels, suspended solids and pesticides are among the parameters that are monitored monthly at the lake.

RIN operational

The Rend Lake Information Network (RIN) is again fully op-

erational. The new RIN was installed by Information Station Specialists. The RIN provides visitors with information on local weather forecasts, the lake level, the lake water temperature, amount of precipitation in the past 24 hours, sunrise and sunset times and daily events. The RIN has a three-mile radius and is transmitted on a 530 Khz channel.

Hunter safety class

The lake's Interpretive Services and Outreach Program Department held one of their annual Hunter Safety Classes on Thursday and Friday, April 20 and 21. The class offered the 39 attendees classroom and hands on activities focusing on wildlife management, gun use and safety, hunter ethics and survival skills. Students who passed the written exam and attended both days were given a Hunter Safety card, which gives individuals under 18 the privilege to hunt. The next class is scheduled for July 22 and 23.



Carlyle Lake:

Earth 2000

By Norma Hall
Carlyle Lake hosted Earth 2000 on April 28 at the Dam West Recreation Area. About 1,400 students from local schools, from kindergarten through 8th grade, learned to appreciate the environment. Partners in the event were the Illinois

Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Natural History Survey, Natural History Education Company, St. Louis Science Center, World Bird Sanctuary, St. Louis Zoo and the St. Louis Herpetology Society.

River meeting

At the annual OKAW River Basin Coalitions meeting in April, Nate Newcomb, Congressman Shimkus' aid, reported that the Congressman had requested \$50,000 through the Corps for the Santa Fe Levee District to begin a Section 205 feasibility study that, hopefully, will lead to the replacement of the levee district's current outdated and faulty water control gates. He also is asking for authorization to be given to the Corps to begin a study of the Kaskaskia River Basin from the confluence of the Kaskaskia River with the Mississippi River to the headwaters above Lake Shelbyville. If authorized, this comprehensive study will address hydropower, flood damage reduction, water supply, navigation, erosion and bank caving, nutrient and sediment management, water quality, recreation, economic development and future water resource needs.

Safety Festival

By Kathy Apple
Carlyle Lake Project will host its first Recreation Safety Festival on Saturday, June 10, from 10 to 2 at the Dam West Recreation Area. The Illinois State Police, Bond and Clinton County fire protection districts and sheriff departments will present safety programs aimed at diverse age groups. Also, the Illinois Extension Service and other organizations from surrounding

(Continued on next page)



Stream mitigation (continued)

cult task to address. For the most part, creating a new stream to replace an impacted or lost stream is not a viable option. Therefore, the only option to mitigate for the permitted impacts is to take an existing stream in a degraded state and restore or enhance it. As such, the St. Louis District has worked to create a stream mitigation project under the guidance of mitigation banking.

At the national level, there are more than 150 existing wetland mitigation banks, three within the St. Louis District. However, only a couple of Corps districts have pursued developing a stream mitigation bank. In a partnering effort with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and

along the border of St. Louis and Franklin Counties. Even though the Missouri Department of Conservation lists Fox Creek as high-quality urban stream, the portion of Fox Creek that is enrolled under this banking initiative is in a severely degraded state. The stream bank consists of about three miles of Fox Creek from Interstate 44 to its confluence with the Meramec River. Developmental encroachment at this portion of Fox Creek could compromise the integrity for the entire stream. As such, the stream bank will have a minimum 100-foot corridor of trees replaced along both banks of the stream, with some portions of the corridor reaching 400 feet. There will be additional in-stream structures for



Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Consultant SCI Engineering, and the Bank Sponsor, Mr. Don Breckenridge, the Fox Creek Stream Mitigation Bank in the St. Louis District has been approved, making it the first stream mitigation bank in the country.

The stream bank is located

stabilization purposes, and upland waterway enhancement by revegetation of warm and cool season grasses.

If successful, this stream mitigation bank will provide many environmental benefits. It could also be the start of many other similar projects in the St. Louis District and across the country.

News Briefs (cont.)

communities will interact with visitors throughout the day to help them learn to be safe traveling or recreating at the lake.

* * *

Public Lands Day 2000 sites

Wappapello Lake, Rend Lake and the Rivers Project have been chosen as event sites for National Public Lands Day 2000. These three sites were selected out of 100 entries. A site manager's reference guide and checklist, along with other brochures and posters will be provided to each project to help with the organization and publicity.

District recognized for community service

By Chuck Camillo

Often the Corps' success is measured not only by how many dollars we receive or spend, but by how we manage the resources we have in serving the American taxpayer. Through outreach efforts, the St. Louis District provides a variety of services to the public. One such outreach program provides outdoor experiences for the physically challenged who would otherwise be unable to participate in events that many take for granted.

The Illinois State Rifle Association presented the St. Louis District and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources with the President's Award for Community Service in recognition of both organizations' outstanding efforts to develop and promote hunting opportunities for physically disabled outdoors enthusiasts. Colonel Morrow received the award on behalf of the District at a May 17th ceremony at the Lake Shelbyville Visitor Center.



Brenda Wynne-George new Contracting chief



Congratulations to Brenda Wynne-George, who began her career in 1978 as a Park Ranger COOP in the Little Rock District. Upon graduating from the University of Arkansas, she accepted a permanent Park Ranger position at the St. Louis District's Carlyle Lake. In 1982 Brenda left the Corps to enter the field of Contracting and Acquisition with the U.S. Army Aviation and Troop Command (ATCOM). When ATCOM was affected by the Base Closure and Realignment Act in 1997, Brenda was rehired by the St. Louis District as a contract specialist, then as Deputy for Small Business.

In her current position as Deputy for Small Business, Brenda actively participates in small business conferences, and uses her knowledge of the government's procurement process to assist small businesses in obtaining contracting opportunities with the Corps and other federal agencies. She has been instrumental in the St. Louis

District's achievement of its small business goals in all categories. She participated on the Headquarters USACE appointed team that developed the standardized plan used to monitor and ensure subcontractor compliance.

Brenda has a vast contracting and acquisition background. At ATCOM, she served as a contracting officer with an unlimited dollar obligation authority, she was the source selection authority for a multi-million dollar defense contract, and served as ATCOM's Generator Section Chief. Over the past 16 years she has managed contracts for primarily military items ranging from spare parts to major weapon systems, and has experience in civil works contracts. She served as Contracting Officer for a three-phased, \$15 million Research and Development Test and Evaluation Cost Reimbursement contract. She is currently the chief negotiator for all 8 (a) set-aside acquisitions.

Ms. Wynne-George is a Level III Certified Procurement Professional. She received a B.S. degree from the University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff in Physical Education and Science in 1980 and a Master of Arts Degree in Business Management from Webster University in Webster Groves, Missouri, in 1998. She is very active in the Girl Scouts, a member of the Community Advisory Council for Brown Elementary School, a member of the St. Louis Minority Business Council, and is involved in many other civic organizations and her local church. She enjoys reading financial magazines, cooking, and traveling.

Brenda is married to Tim George, an Ecologist in the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division. They are the parents of two daughters, Kelley, 11, and Kristen 8.

Korean War 50th anniversary

June, 2000 commemorates the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. The U. S. Government wants to honor Korean War veterans, recognize the contributions and sacrifices made, to provide Americans with a clear understanding and appreciation of the lessons and history of the Korean War, and to remember the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA). This effort will also serve to make every generation of Americans aware of the historical impact of the Korean War in saving a nation from enslavement, and preserving peace, freedom and prosperity.

If you are a retiree or current employee who served in the Korean War, the St. Louis District wants to honor you in a ceremony to be held at the District Headquarters in June, 2000. Col. Michael Morrow will present honorees with a certificate of honor and a token of appreciation for their service and sacrifice. To participate in this ceremony, please contact Terrie Hatfield, 314-331-8001, or Lattissua Tyler, 314-331-8000. Date and time of the ceremony will be provided to you as soon as possible.



New water safety display for Rend

By Janet Mifflin and Maureen Curran

In an attempt to curb the increase in accidents and conflicts between recreational user groups, Rend Lake and Benton area Bombardier Motor Corporation of America are working together to design a water safety display for the Rend Lake Visitor Center.

A Challenge Cost Share Agreement between the Corps of Engineers and the Bombardier Motor Corporation of America, which produces recreational boats and personal watercraft, has been entered into for the development of the new water safety exhibit.

The Corps' portion of the display will include the production of a water safety video, necessary audiovisual equipment, and a painted mural, which includes a written water safety message. Bombardier director of marketing, Keith Yunger, and his staff made arrangements for the corporation to donate a SeaDoo LRV personal watercraft mounted on a pedestal for the centerpiece of the display.



Keith Yunger, Bombardier Motor Corporation, about to accept a plaque recognizing the corporation held by Park Ranger Janet Mifflin.

Tom Ruf wins FEB award

Congratulations to Tom Ruf of the Structural/Architectural Section, Design Branch, Engineering Division, who was recognized by the Federal Executive Board for outstanding achievement in the Professional / Scientific category.



One of the most important missions assigned to the Corps is to insure the safe and reliable operation of the lock and dam system on our rivers, which includes providing timely repairs to the locks in order to transport goods and services with minimal interruption. Tom is a leader in the use of innovative technology that assists in predicting when structural steel lock and dam components are in need of replacement. Tom's efforts in the area of monitoring

stress in large steel structures are estimated to have saved the towing industry \$30 million in delay costs.

Tom presented a very comprehensive article on the Lock and Dam 24 tainter gates and gate anchorages in the January Esprit, in which he explained quite vividly how his stress monitoring process is used to determine fatigue capacity of the structures in the major rehabilitation investigations. He has also developed and installed an electronic load monitoring system to capture the loading in the large diagonal steel straps attached to the backs of the miter gates at Melvin Price Locks and Dam. The diagonals prevent the gates from sagging and maintain the gate surface in a vertical plane. The load cells transmit load and stress data in real time via a modem to a remote-accessing capability computer, which allows efficient monitoring of the structural stress, and immediate corrective action.

Tom Ruf is recognized by the Corps of Engineers as a pioneer in the non-destructive monitoring of large steel gates in both relatively new structures and older structures. Congratulations, Tom, on your ex-

Upon completion of the display, visitors will be able to sit on the personal watercraft while watching the water safety video. The display will complement information taught in the Boating Safety Class that focuses on personal watercraft. This display replaces a small boat safety display that has existed at the visitor center since the early 1980s.

Did you know?

A cat was among the hundreds of workers who helped build Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State. Engineers were unable to get a particular cable through a drainpipe, so they attached it to the cat's tail, and he walked it through.



Real Life Science 2000 at the Service Base

By Paul Schmidt
Base RLS 2000 Coordinator

The St. Louis District Service Base was host once again to Real Life Science 2000 groups, tying together a wealth of new exhibits and old favorites over the 15-acre industrial support facility. Our goal was a real hands-on experience in a wide variety of workday and scientific areas our visitors might want to pursue as they grow up, like the daughter of our electrician **Chris Gibson**, who gets a lesson from her dad in overhead crane operation.

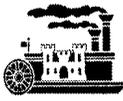


WATER QUALITY LABORATORY:

Jim Twichell showed our visitors industrial hygiene safety instruments (such as the RLS 2000 Day Coordinator **Terrie Hatfield** hiding in a full-face respirator), while **Donna Zoeller** and **Tori Calong** showed them the intricacies of water testing equipment and how it is used by the District.



GEOTECHNICAL LABORATORY: The team of **Steve Conner**, **Mark Alvey** and **Harry Ward** all showed students and parents the wonders of laboratory science and "grounded" them in the techniques of soils, aggregate & concrete testing.



SERVICE BASE HEAVY EQUIPMENT DISPLAY

Equipment operator **Darrell LaPlante** showed our visitors the huge cranes, backhoes, forklifts and other heavy equipment we use at the Base and when we go on site to repair our locks and dams.



METAL SHOP AND MACHINE SHOP:

In the Metal Shop, welder **Joe McElligott** showed the visitors how we bend thick sheet steel in the huge metal press break, while fellow welder **Craig Nelson** explained his craft and gave the kids a close-up view of TIG welding aluminum handrails.



Machinist **Jim Adden** & ironworker **Ken Wingrove** introduced our guests to the huge Machine Shop, with its wide variety of heavy machining equipment, like lathes, drill presses and boring mills.

Electrician **Chris Gibson** and projects engineer **Paul Schmidt** gave visitors the opportunity to see just how good a crane operator they could be with a chance to operate the huge overhead crane in the Machine Shop. It was fun to see how much talent it takes to hit the mark on the floor with a load suspended 30 feet in the air!





M/V BOYER: Our visitors were introduced to the District's overwater surveying missions by **John Naeger** and **Joe Burnett**. Stories of their work in other districts (all the way to New Orleans) were fascinating! The students got on board the **BOYER** and got to see all the instruments it takes to get that job done.

APPLIED RIVER ENGINEERING CENTER: Students were shown the micro-modeling techniques by **Ed Riiff** that were pioneered in the St. Louis District, as well as giving the students a chance to change riverbed conditions on a model and see the immediate results. They were young scientists experimenting and learning in a new area!



We at the Service Base were happy to share our job knowledge with a new generation and look forward to next year's RLS Day at the Service Base, when we can include our newly-repowered **Dredge POTTER** in the tour! **Essayons!**



Hayes's *On Point* hit bookshelves May 15th

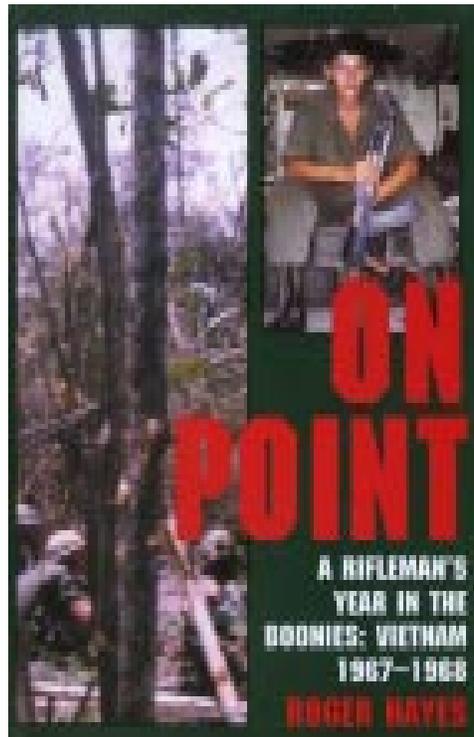
by Sandy Clawson

When Roger Hayes served in Vietnam, he never dreamed that one day he would author a memoir about his experiences. His book, *On Point--A Rifleman's Year in the Boonies: Vietnam 1967-1968*, was published by Presidio Press, "America's foremost publisher of military history."

Although Roger was signed by Presidio last June, he says it has been difficult to maintain a high level of excitement over such a long period. "But there have been peaks along the way," he explained. One of the recent peaks was the completion of the book cover, which he received in the mail from his publisher. It's an attractive, eye-catching design. The next high point was the delivery of an advance copy of the book itself. "I received it around the first of April," he added.

Events seem to be occurring quickly now, but while he was writing, Roger had doubts whether his work would appear in print. The development of *On Point* began in November, 1996. The first draft was completed in three months, with the second taking another six months. Editing and improving the text continued for another nine months. In May, 1998, the manuscript was sent to the U.S. Copyright Office. The following December, Roger began sending "book proposals" to literary agents and publishers.

"A book proposal," he explained, "is a one or two page document that describes the work--what it's about, what makes it unique, and, most importantly, why it will sell." In June, 1999, six months after that process



began, Presidio Press called and said they liked the manuscript well enough to publish it.

Over the intervening months, the book was reworked by Roger to meet the requests of the publisher, copyedited, proofread, and finally printed. Meanwhile, Presidio Press has also been busy with the design of the book's cover and interior, and the development of marketing and promotion plans. Advance copies of the book have been mailed to major book reviewers, and a news release will soon be sent to our country's largest newspapers. "At that point, my executive editor tells me I can expect to receive requests for interviews," Roger said.

For the past two months, *On Point* has been available for advance orders on web sites that offer books for sale including Amazon.com, BN.com (Barnes and Nobles), Borders.com, and several others. Be-

ginning May 15, it made its appearance in book stores.

"I feel extremely lucky to be where I am with this," Roger said. "A lot of good writers never get this far. All the time I was writing, I felt that there was little chance of selling my story, but getting it down on paper was enough to keep me going. I thought it would make a good family and unit history. Knowing that it will soon be on the shelves of book stores all across America really blows me away."

The Story of *On Point*: Roger's book covers his military career, beginning with a draft board physical at the age of 18. Two years later, after three semesters of college, he was drafted. After initial and advanced training, he arrived in Vietnam as a private first-class. He slowly became a contributing member of his unit and served as a point man and tunnel rat. Eventually he rose to the level of squad leader, and returned home wearing sergeant stripes. During his tour of duty, he was wounded four times. Roger explained that two of his wounds were very minor, but each of the other two injuries required a month of recuperation. The wounds, described in his book, were inflicted by a hand grenade, land mine, recoilless rifle (bazooka), and a machine gun.

Roger describes his book as a lot more than a story about war. He also wrote about the close relationships formed by the men of his platoon who depended on each other for support, entertainment, and last but not least, their survival. It's written with a touch of humor and contains a bit of romance.

(Continued on page 14)



Remembering the Holocaust

By Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

Months of combat couldn't steel World War II American GIs for the sights they witnessed when they liberated the Nazi death camp at Nordhausen, Germany, on April 11, 1945.

"We were battle-tired and combat-wise medics, and we thought there was nothing left in the books we didn't know," said Army Sgt. Ragene Farris, 329th Medical Battalion, 104th Infantry Division, in a history of the division. "Yet in a short period of two days I and many others of the division saw and lived a story we shall never forget."

Farris never forgot what he saw that day. The purpose of Yom Hashoah - the Day of Remembrance, May 2 - is so those who did not see the Holocaust do not forget its lessons. The theme for the 2000 observance is "The Holocaust and the New Century: The Imperative to Remember."

DoD encourages all members to reflect on the lessons of the Holocaust during Yom Hashoah. "The Holocaust is not merely a story of destruction, loss and apathy," wrote Alphonso Maldon Jr., assistant secretary of defense for force management policy, in a memo to DoD departments. "It is a remarkable account of ordinary individuals of extraordinary courage.

"This occasion reminds us that we should continually rededicate ourselves to the principles of equality and justice for all," Maldon continued. "For our nation, it is an opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of Holocaust victims, survivors and their liberators, and reaffirm into the new millennium our belief in the dignity and worth of every individual."

Nordhausen was the site of a concentration camp that supplied workers to underground factories that produced the Nazi V-1 and V-2 rockets. Officials estimate that from 1943 until 1945, 60,000 prisoners worked in these factories. Of those, 20,000 had died from various causes including starvation, fatigue and execution.

When the 104th Infantry Division liberated Nordhausen, the call quickly went out for all the division's medics to help the victims. Many prisoners were near death, and the sheer number quickly overwhelmed the capacity of the division. U.S. commanders went into the city of Nordhausen and ordered the population to help rescue the prisoners of the camp and the accompanying factories.

Army Pfc. John M. Galione was one of the men who discovered Camp Dora - the underground factory staffed by slave labor. "We thought nothing could hurt us. We were hard from war," Galione wrote in a post-war remembrance. "But, when we walked in there, we couldn't help getting choked up. Some of the soldiers



Liberated prisoners in the Mauthausen concentration camp near Linz, Austria, give a rousing welcome to the 11th Armored Division. (Photo by Cpl. Donald R. Ornitz, USA)

even got sick to their stomachs - they turned aside and threw up by the fence. There were dead bodies piled up. The smell was so bad, like nothing you can imagine. We couldn't believe any human being could be so cruel.



"The people were so happy to see us, they were tugging our clothes, thanking us, hugging us. Some were even putting their hands together and thanking God. They just wanted to touch us, like we were God or an answer to their prayers. They looked like the walking dead. They were skin and bones. That's all. No meat. Their faces were sunken like skeletons. Some of them were so weak they didn't even live long enough to be rescued. They were so weak, we had to carry them out."

Nordhausen was just one concentration camp. There were hundreds of others stretched across Germany and Eastern Europe. The largest was Auschwitz, in Poland. Established in 1940, it was really a series of camps, including concentration, extermination, and forced-labor camps.

More than one million people were murdered at Auschwitz, nine of 10 of them Jewish. The Nazis made death a system. It was Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's "Final Solution" to the "Jewish Problem." Jews and



These women and children were liberated from the concentration camp at Lambach, Austria, by the 71st Infantry Division. The death rate, mostly from starvation, was reputed to be 200 to 300 a day. (Photo by Sgt. Robert Holliday, USA)

other "undesirables" - Gypsies, homosexuals and anyone who disagreed with Hitler - were moved to the area. Those who could work in the slave labor camps, did so until they died. Those who could not work went straight to the gas chambers and were murdered. The four largest gas chambers could each kill 2,000 people at one time.

General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme allied commander and later President of the United States, visited a camp soon after its liberation

and witnessed the depravity of the Nazi regime first hand. "The things I saw beggar description," Eisenhower wrote to General of the Army George C. Marshall, Army chief of staff. "The visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty and bestiality were overpowering. I made the visit deliber-



A six-year-old war orphan with a Buchenwald badge on his sleeve waits for his name to be called for departure to Switzerland in June 1945. (Photo by Pfc. G.A. Haynia, USA)

ately in order to be in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to 'propaganda.'"

But it has been 55 years since the liberation of the camps. Direct witnesses of the atrocities are growing old. Survivors of the camps - many still suffering from the effects - are dying. "Time dulls the impact of events," wrote Leon Karalokian of the 104th Signal Company, who helped liberate Nordhausen. "There are those who now maintain Hitler's Holocaust never occurred. Would that it was possible to take the doubters by the hand, back through the years, and point out the tragedy of this minor concentration camp! Sobered and drained, each of us eventually left the area [of Nordhausen], in the words of a poet, a sadder but wiser man."



To your health

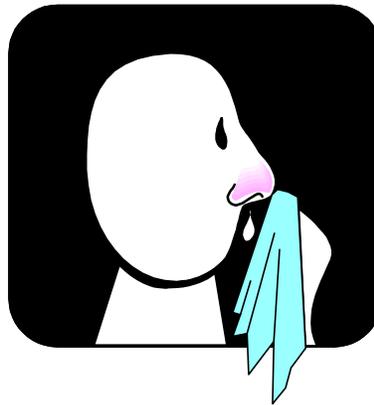
Seasonal allergies can lead to more problems

Whether you call it hay fever, rose fever, or allergic rhinitis, a runny nose and itchy eyes are a sure sign of spring.

For millions of seasonal allergy sufferers, spring can be a miserable season. Deciding to "tough it out" and forego treatment or reaching for an over-the-counter product can diminish quality of life and, even worse, predispose sufferers to chronic respiratory disorder. Researchers are now confirming that chronic respiratory disorders such as sinus infections and asthma are directly linked to allergies.

A visit to the doctor can be an invaluable first step toward effective allergy control. Tests can de-

termine what triggers the allergies, and effective medication to control their symptoms can be determined.



The Task Force on Allergic Disorders has compiled the first summary of information from 21

diverse health-professional organizations on the care of patients with allergic disorders. The Allergy Report offers standardized recommendations for diagnosis and treatment, while recognizing the connection between allergies and asthma, sinusitis, and middle-ear disease.

The information is primarily for doctors, insurance companies and HMOs, but anyone interested can get the information over the Internet at www.aaaai.org. Or individuals can contact the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology at (800) 822-2762 for more information.

Good news about gray matter

For many years, doctors thought the brain matured in the first years of life and didn't change much after that. But new discoveries show that the brain continually reorganized itself. Called "neuroplasticity," "it means you create your brain from the input you get, and you can continually re-create and upgrade it, according to the Center of Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey.

In addition to learning implications, doctors may be able to use these discoveries to relieve depression, rehabilitate stroke victims, and treat Alzheimer's disease.

New sickle-cell treatment

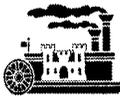
Sickle-cell anemia is an inherited disorder in which red blood cells take on a sickle shape. The result is painful and usually fatal. Now doctors at Emory University in Atlanta have cured a 13-year-old boy by transplanting stem cells from the cord blood of a newborn infant. The patient had to first undergo nine days of chemotherapy to kill the source of his sickled blood cells and neutralize his immune system so it would accept the new cells. He was hospitalized several times in the following year, but by year's end the patient was pronounced cured and well.

Hayes book (continued)

Dr. Eric Bergerud, a history professor and author of four books, wrote the foreword for *On Point*. He describes it as "a splendid combat memoir with battle descriptions that leave the palms sweaty. . . Anyone interested in men at war will learn much from Roger Hayes's moving and very well told story."

"The people here in the district have been very supportive and enthusiastic," Roger concluded. "Quite a few have told me that they've already ordered the book. I won't forget that."

We won't forget it, either, and wish him the best.



Retiree Review

By the Retiree Correspondent

The retirees had their April get-together on the 20th at the Salad Bowl.

It was a beautiful day, but a little windy. The winds may have kept some of the folks away for fear that they may be blown in the wrong direction.

Lew Scheuermann said that the Spring golf outing appeared to have been a success. Everyone had a great time even though the weather was a little cool in the morning. Lew also mentioned that the Division tournament would be held in Millington, Tenn. on June 15 & 16. Anyone interested should call the District Golf League officers for particulars. Lew also mentioned that he talked to Jim Baker recently. Jim told him that he was watching the PGA pros play past his back yard. (Jim lives on a PGA golf course in the San Diego area.) Lew also talked to Elmer Huizenga and Elmer told him he was a little under the weather. Elmer was going to have some test taken to determine the problem. Hopefully Elmer will study for the test this time and the results will be favorable.

Charlie Denzel said that he had lunch with John Jansen the other day. John is feeling fine and is going to be a "nonagenarian later this month, on the 24th in fact. (For those of you who don't know what that is, it is someone who is in their nineties.) CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN!!! You are a member of a very exclusive group. Charlie also read a letter from Tom Lovelace about all the recent articles in the paper about the Corps. Tom's letter was an attempt to protect the image of the Corps, not necessarily taking a position. He pointed out that the Corps has been involved with controversy in the past and that when the dust settled the right decision prevailed. Charlie mentioned that he recently met Lee Lenzner in St. Anthony's Hospital. Charlie was there doing volunteer work, Lee was there as a patient for "by-pass surgery". Lee was in great spirits and was anxious to get out and to get back to doing retirement "stuff." Hang in there Lee, we are all pulling for you for a speedy recovery.

Don Wampler asked if any one had heard about George Clapp. Don had heard that George had undergone some sort of heart surgery in recent weeks. If that be the case, George, we all wish you a speedy recovery and are looking for your return with some very good sto-

ries. Don also mentioned that he recently visited Charleston, Missouri, for the Azalea display. He highly recommended the short trip, about 20 miles South of Cape.

Pete Puricelli mentioned that he received information from the District Public Affairs Office about a bill pending in the Missouri House of Representatives pertaining to State income taxes on government pensions. This is the same bill that was before the State House last year and was allow to die in committee. This bill, HB1159, has been voted out of committee and is awaiting action by the Speaker, who is opposed to it, as is the Governor. Information has it that the House has sufficient votes to override any veto by the Governor. The problem is getting the bill to the Governor for action, before the current session of the Legislature ends. The bill provides for an individual tax deduction of 100% of the amount of any annuity, pension or retirement received by a retired federal, state or local government employee. It was mentioned that anyone interested should write the Speaker, Steve Gaw, and/or the Governor, Mel Carnahan and express your views.

Mention was made that Jack Niemi's wife passed away since last month's luncheon. Our condolences to the Niemi family in this time of sorrow.

The senior retiree was none other that the other member of the nonagenarian group-Bob Maxwell. Bob said that he either didn't know or had forgotten what that meant, but in any event he was afraid to use the word.

The story tellers, in the absence of THE STORY TELLER-George Clapp, were Don Wampler, Charlie Denzel and Sandor Dombi.

The next luncheon will be at the Salad Bowl on May 18th at about 11:00a.m. Hope to see some more of you there.

Editor's Note: Daniel B. Courtney, who retired from the District in 1966, celebrated his 89th birthday on April 24. Dan worked for the Corps for nearly 38 years, and saw many changes since he was hired in 1928. Dan has lived in Florida since 1966 and, we are happy to report, still enjoys reasonably good health. He communicates regularly with John Jansen (who shares the same birthday) and would enjoy hearing from other retirees. Happy belated birthday Dan, and continued good health.

Tips from the RM Team

By Chris Bonucchi

We are getting a lot of inquiries regarding travel. Here are some of the questions and answers.

Question: Why did I not get paid for my mileage to and from the airport?

Answer: Actual miles driven must be entered in the "Remarks" portion (CEFMS Screen 7.25.1) of the travel voucher in addition to entering the dollar amount in CEFMS Screen 7.36 (Reimbursable Expenses).

Question: Why was I overpaid on my lodging?

Answer: One reason is a mistake made when claiming lodging and lodging taxes. The lodging amount shown on the voucher itinerary screen should never include taxes. Show the daily lodging without the tax on the travel voucher itinerary screen. Claim the taxes separately in the reimbursable expense portion of the voucher.

For example: Jane Doe traveled to Windy City, Texas for 5 nights. Cost of lodging is \$58 per night; the lodging bill total is for \$324.00. (\$290 lodging, \$29 lodging taxes, \$5 conference lodging surcharge). To claim this correctly show \$58.00 in the lodging block on the Travel Voucher Itinerary Create/Update Screen (CEFMS Screen 7.35). Claim the total of the taxes and lodging surcharge separately on the Travel Voucher Reimbursable Expense Screen (CEFMS screen 7.36). Separate codes have been established in CEFMS for taxes (TX) and conference surcharges (TY).

Question: Can I get reimbursed for Laundry and Dry Cleaning expenses when TDY?

Answer: The Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) has been changed to allow reimbursement of laundry and

dry cleaning expenses for civilians, but not for military members. Civilians on TDY at least four (4) consecutive nights may claim these items as a reimbursable expense incurred during TDY. Travel Approving Officials are responsible for determining the reasonableness of the expense.

Questions: How do I show reconstructive travel on my voucher?

Answer: Show your actual departure and arrival times (based on driving your POV) on the Travel Voucher Itinerary Create/Update Screen. Show your constructive comparison in the Traveler Remarks Screen. Show the total mileage reimbursement entitlement in the Reimbursable Expense Screen.

Scenario: Employee drove his/her car in lieu of flying and the travel order shows a "2" in the block for Privately Owned Conveyance on the Travel Order Create/Update Screen (CEFMS Screen 12.1). A "2" is entered in this block if: Mileage reimbursement and per diem is limited to constructive cost of common carrier transportation and related per diem as determined in the JTR.

Example:

Employee is TDY to Louisville, Kentucky.

CEFMS Travel Voucher Itinerary Create/Update Screen (7.35): Show actual departure and arrival time; show "PA" for mode of Transportation; complete rest of screen.

CEFMS Traveler Remarks Screen (7.25.1): Show the following information: Traveled by POC from residence to Louisville, KY - 700 miles round trip at \$.325 = \$227.50

Cost of airline ticket: \$130.00

Airport parking: \$32.00

R/T mileage from Residence to airport \$26.00 (80 mi x .325)

Total cost of traveling by air

\$188.00, therefore mileage reimbursement should be limited to \$188.00.

CEFMS Travel Voucher Reimbursable Expense Screen (7.36) : Show \$188.00 as miscellaneous expense.

Note: amount of reimbursement will vary based on actual circumstances.

New employees



Jennifer Miller is a student trainee (Archivist) in the Curation and Archives Branch of Engineering Division. Jennifer lives in St. Louis and attends Meramec Community College.



Erin Duffy is a student trainee (Civil Engineer) in the Geotechnical Branch of Engineering Division. Erin lives in O'Fallon, Missouri, and recently transferred from UMSL to SIU Edwardsville to complete her B.S. in Civil Engineering.