

# ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT **ESPRIT**

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## St. Louis District Employees Assist in Cerro Grande Fire Recovery Efforts in Los Alamos, New Mexico

By Ida Morris

The Cerro Grande Fire started as a controlled burn by the National Park Service at Bandelier National Monument, which is located near the city and labs at Los Alamos, New Mexico. The fire went out of control and caused the evacuation of the City of Los Alamos the afternoon of 10 May 2000. The fire destroyed almost 48,000 acres and damaged or destroyed over 400 dwellings. Because of the burned watersheds, the runoff factor increased the hazard of flash flooding for the local areas.

As a result of this fire, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was tasked with various projects. FEMA tasked the Corps to provide temporary housing. Trailers were installed, and 114 pads were built with all supporting utilities. The Department of Energy/Los Alamos National Laboratory (DOE/LANL) requested Corps assistance to design and build various flood and erosion control structures. The Pueblo Canyon Slope Protection Project included pipe jacking (including emergency pumping) and the construction of upstream and downstream structures. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) requested assistance to design and build flood prevention projects in the Santa Clara and San Ildefonso Pueblos.

HQUSACE requested TDY assistance to the Albuquerque District. Six St. Louis District employees were chosen to deploy to Albuquerque at various times: Matt Hunn, Geotechnical Branch; Leah Morrow, Lake Shelbyville; Ida Morris, Ordnance and Technical Support Branch; Greg Bertoglio, Design Branch; Pam Reed, Design Branch; and Bill Gidcomb, Lake Shelbyville. Each team member has provided a summary of his or her experiences.

Working at a disaster can be very stressful and tiring.



(l-r) Greg Bertoglio, Ida Morris, Pam Reed, Matt Hunn, Bill Gidcomb, Leah Morrow

cont'd on page 5



## Commander's Perspective



Col. Michael R. Morrow

November is a busy month. The Small Business conference in Washington , DC, MVD Board of Directors meeting in Memphis, local meetings, projects, and training all wrapped around Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day holidays. November is traditionally a month we set aside to give thanks for events and blessings throughout the year. This year as we sit down to celebrate Thanksgiving, we need to reflect on our safety record and thank everyone who helped make it a success. I know I will be thankful that we have an outstanding Safety Office here in the district run by Gary Groenemann and Kathy Meadows.

Gary and Kathy have been proactive throughout the year on safety. This year we finished our confined space entry program that included the marking of all confined spaces followed by actual hands on rescue training. We have had renewed emphasis on divers' training conducted by local and state law enforcement agencies to district employees. The Internet has played a key role in driver's awareness training programs. Safety and alert item literature updates were easily accessed and disseminated district wide. Our accident rates for employee and contractor related incidents have been below the USACE CMR line. There has been an increase in general safety awareness in the work place and during off duty time.

You are all to be commended for your proactive and common sense approach to safety. We all need to thank Gary and Kathy for their devotion to the safety mission and their dedication to our welfare. Essayons!



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

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Carlyle Lake

#### **Christmas Town U.S.A.**

On Friday, December 1, the staff of the Carlyle Lake Project at the Visitor Center hosted a celebration for Christmas Town U.S.A. This annual event was the community's kick off for the 2000 Christmas holidays. Local and state dignitaries along with local talent and the crowning of Miss Christmas Town U.S.A. made this an enjoyable evening for all that attended. On Saturday, December 2, the Christmas Town parade proceeded through Carlyle for the enjoyment of kids of all ages.

#### **Kaskaskia River Watershed Summit**

Kaskaskia Watershed Association (KWA), with over 3,000 members, held their first Summit on November 20, 2000 at Governor's Gun Golf Course at Carlyle. The agenda consisted of an overview of the Kaskaskia River, Streambank Erosion Study, environmental and economic impacts along the river, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Speakers were from different federal and state agencies, and elected officials. One of the main objectives was to endorse and finalize a proposal to the state to add the Kaskaskia River as a second CREP Program.

#### **Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders', Inc. Meeting**

On 27 September, Robert Wilkins and Gary Buckholtz attended the monthly meeting of the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. at Red Bud. The guest speaker was Joyce Collins, Assistant Field Supervisor of the Marion Ecological Services Sub-Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Marion office was established in 1980 and is administered by the Rock Island Field Office. Ms. Collins discussed the involvement/interest her office has on the Kaskaskia River: navigation channel dredging, oxbow rehabilitation, Bank Erosion Study, Massasauga Rattlesnake Plan, and fish passage of the shovelnose/pallid sturgeon for spawning through the Lock & Dam.

Ms. Collins says stopping the head cutting is top priority and will help locate areas for placement of dredge materials.

#### **Female Offender Training**

In preparation for the transition from male federal inmates to female inmates, the Carlyle Lake Project staff attended a two-hour course on Female Offender Training at the Greenville Federal Institution Training Center. Several issues were explained concerning differences in treatment of incarcerated men and women. The training covered women's privacy issues, games they play, emotions, sexual harassment, and characteristics of the female institution as compared to the men's institution.

#### **Haunted Trail**

The Little Prairie Nature Trail was the setting for the Annual Haunted Trail at Carlyle Lake.



Local participants transformed the trail into ghoulish stops for a path of horror. Brave souls began their journey at the Carlyle McDonald's where a wagon ride took them to the haunted trail. The trail ran Friday,

October 20 and Saturday, October 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. A total of 1800 brave souls embarked on a journey through the haunted trail. Proceeds support the 2001 Carlyle Lake Fireworks Spectacular. The Carlyle Lake Fireworks Committee, the Carlyle Optimist Club, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsored the event.



### **Wappapello Lake**

#### **Road to Recovery**

Wappapello Lake Procurement Technician Louella Fouts returned home after successful surgery on a brain aneurysm. Lou is recovering nicely and thanks everyone for their prayers and concern.



## **From Where I Sat Los Alamos Fire Emergency Work**

### **Leah Morrow**

I worked in the Albuquerque Emergency Operations Center from 21 June to 20 July. As Logistics Support, my first task was to find and compile a list of all the property sent to the field since the beginning of the disaster. I am proud to say that only one cell phone was MIA when I left. After daily visits, I became well acquainted with hotel clerks in the Los Alamos area. It turns out that it is rather difficult to get reservations for that many people for 30 days in about 5 hotels. I also processed personnel in and out of the EOC, and made sure that everyone's timesheets got to the right district each week. Maintaining office supplies was a chore for a staff who never decided that they needed anything until 6 pm on Friday afternoon. In addition, I maintained the EOC message log in Lotus Notes. While my other duties were important, I was most known for moving sandbags. I spent MANY hours in an Albuquerque warehouse counting sandbags, moving sandbags, and waiting for people (who usually showed up) to pick up sandbags.

This was my first emergency experience and, all in all, I had a great experience and I hope to do it again. However, I do have two important lessons for those who go on future emergencies:

1) Make sure your credit card works before you leave home. It is very embarrassing, not to mention time consuming, trying to rent a car or check into a motel without a working card. Much thanks to Chris Bonucchi who straightened my mess out.

2) Be very careful with your rental car. Don't let anyone drive into you, watch for smoke, and don't take a car with a chipped windshield.

### **Ida Morris**

I worked in the Albuquerque District EOC from 21 June to 31 July as a SitRep (Situation Report) Writer. Daily, I received input from the Project Managers and Finance Office, prepared a SitRep, and sent it to the Division Office (SPD), who forwarded it to HQUSACE. I attended the daily meeting held with the Commander and took notes on the various projects for use in the SitRep. I worked closely with the EOC staff and another SitRep Writer from Rock Island District. I was responsible for inputting the receipts and expenditures for the various projects and assisted the district auditor in retrieving information for future audits. The ENLink system used for reporting purposes is being updated constantly, and while I was in Albuquerque, the Attachments part of the system was made operational. I was able to successfully attach project photos to the SitRep, which gave Division and HQ a much better idea of what was going on in the field. I developed an SOP for attachments and sent it to SPD for use by their EOC offices. I was also in charge of Requests for Extensions of TDY personnel.

The best part of disaster work is knowing you are there to help others in need and meeting and working with people from different Corps offices. It's interesting to learn how other Corps Districts conduct business. Living in different parts of the United States lends different outlooks on how business should be handled. Locality, weather, etc. causes different "types" of problems to be encountered in each office. "Shared" expertise can be very helpful in handling a difficult situation. I've made lots of "disaster friends" at various events and keep in touch with a lot of them. The Corps is a good family to work for.

(cont'd on page 6)



## **Los Alamos Fire** (cont'd from page 1)

Sometimes the hours are even longer due to meetings, short suspenses, etc. Special events are missed back home, such as Fathers' Day, children's birthdays, holidays, anniversaries (the first in 29 years I didn't celebrate with my husband), etc. Everyone gets a little homesick and sad, but we all support each other. Meals are not regular, hotels aren't the most comfortable, medication isn't always easy to order, illnesses and dental problems can occur. It's very hard to get laundry or other personal things done. Teammates at home are important to the work also. Without them, time, travel orders, airline tickets, our regular work, etc. , would not be done on time or correctly. Our thanks to all who helped during this disaster. I believe we all had a good experience working in New Mexico, which is not always the case at disaster recoveries. Personality conflicts and power struggles can occur at these events.

If you are the type of person who can't pack up and be ready to leave with just 6 hours notice, can't stand things in disarray - need everything to be orderly and organized, get stressed when priorities change, aren't flexible, and can't stand being away from home, then don't ever sign up for a disaster event. Otherwise, take a chance and enjoy the learning experience. It's hard, but it's worth it.

If you would like to check the progress of the DOE Cerro Grande fire projects, log onto the Albuquerque home page ([www.spa.usace.army.mil](http://www.spa.usace.army.mil)) and you can see some pictures of the sites we

## **NEWS BRIEFS** (cont'd)

### **Crusaders**

On November 17, Wappapello Lake Budget Technician Harlan Lamb and 21 other individuals from several states, including Missouri, Indiana, Arkansas and Florida, traveled to Davoa City, Mindinao, Philippines for Evangelists Crusades. They arrived on November 19 and spent the first two days at Davoa City. They also traveled to the Matisilug Tribe for 3 full days of crusades and medical clinics that included medical, dental, pharmaceutical and optometrical attention. 3,500 individuals were seen, 5,400 prescriptions were written, 187 teeth were pulled, and 555 pairs of eyeglasses were fitted. Mr. Lamb returned to the U.S. on November 27.

### **Hunter Safety**

Wappapello Lake Park Rangers Dan Camden, John Daves, Keith Kelley, Eric Lemons and Rachel Lemons continued their efforts to promote hunter safety through teaching several hunter education safety courses, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation. The Rangers have begun to add a section on water safety and have incorporated Ranger Willie B. Safe into the course. During the past year, approximately 180 students have been certified.

### **Festival of Lights Auto Tour**

Wappapello Lake will host the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights Christmas Auto Tour which began November 24, 2000. The auto tour winds through the Redman Creek West Campground from dusk until 10 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through December 10, and nightly from December 15 through December 30. Numerous businesses, groups and organizations participate in the event by decorating campsites with Christmas lights and various scenes. In 1999, over 20,000 people were dazzled by thousands of twinkling lights. The event is held in partnership with the Wappapello Lions Club and admission is free.

On November 7 and 8, 2000, the Wappapello Lions Club hosted a hearing clinic at the Wappapello Lake Project Office. The clinic was open to the general public and individuals had their hearing tested at no cost.

The Ranger Willie B. Safe activity books are in short supply through the National Water Safety Products Catalog. Only 500,000 books were printed and, as of the end of October, approximately 7,000 books remained. The books are \$62.50 per case, shipping included, and after the supply is gone, there will be no reprints.



*U. S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District—Gateway to Excellence*

## **FUSRAP Helps to Meet District's Small Business Goals**

**By Jacqueline Mattingly**

Environmental removal activities at the FUSRAP sites during the 2000 fiscal year maximized oppor-



tunities for small and disadvantaged businesses to gain valuable environmental experience, thereby expanding their core competencies. Two site contractors, Engineered Demolition, Inc. (ENDE) and Arrowhead Contracting, Inc. (Arrowhead) recently received awards to recognize their outstanding performance during the removal of radioactive contamination from two FUSRAP sites.

Members of the Project Management, Construction, Contracting and the Small Business Offices developed an Acquisition Strategy to identify suitable cleanup projects for small business contractors. The first project, valued at \$3 million,

consisted of the removal of 15,900 cubic yards of material from four contaminated piles of soil and debris at the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) in Berkeley, Missouri. In February 2000, ENDE was selected to remove the East Piles and the Rail Spur Spoil Piles from HISS. By May, ENDE successfully completed the entire removal action. Their efforts resulted in the recent award of yet another

(l-r) Dave Wilder (ENDE), Col. Morrow, Anna Chung (ENDE), Bryant Crouch (Arrowhead), second row- Curt Koutelas (Arrowhead), Brenda Bienkowski (CO), Karen Fountain (DB), third row- Brenda Wynne-George (CT), Sharon Cotner (PM), Glen Chatman DB)

pile removal contract during the 2000 fiscal year.

The second project required the removal of uranium-contaminated dust from overhead structures at the Madison Site. Arrowhead Contracting, Inc., a small business contractor with site-specific radiological experience, was awarded the remediation contract for the decontamination of the Madison Site. Already working under a compressed schedule to accommodate the operational needs of the property holder, Arrowhead finished the decontamination ahead of schedule and under budget.

The FUSRAP team manages contracts with other small businesses to accomplish its mission in addition to ENDE and Arrowhead. For the last two years, HAZMED has supplied knowledgeable quality assurance personnel to assist with environmental and construction management. More recently, general site work is being provided by Pangea, Inc. Utilization of these contractors has enabled the St. Louis District to meet its small business goals.

## **From Where I Sat—Los Alamos Fire** (cont'd from page 4)

**Greg Bertoglio**

I arrived on 23 June, four hours before my baggage. When I checked in at the district EOC office, I was assigned to the DOE team. Kris Schafer and Monique Osterman were the Project Managers for this work. I quickly became the lead engineer in the district office, coordinating review of the A/E design. URS was the engineering firm doing design of roadway protection, armoring of the Los Alamos Canyon dam, the Flood Retention Structure and low elevation weirs. When the drawings were submitted, they were reviewed by a team of engineers assigned to the construction site and by a team of engineers assigned to the district. Working on DOE property, in particular the Los Alamos National Laboratory, was quite challenging and frustrating. The contracts were set up as Design and Build. It became apparent early on that it was more of a Build and Design approach.



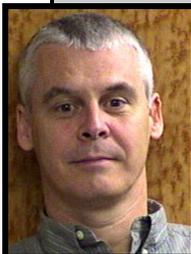
## U. S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District—Gateway to Excellence

### NEW EMPLOYEES



Cheryl Cooper

A warm welcome to Cheryl Cooper, Procurement Assistant in the Rivers Project Office. For 18 years Cheryl served the Corps at the Europe District While in Germany, Cheryl was a Volksmarcher, which involved a 10 km walk every weekend, logging nearly 1000 km (that's almost 600 miles, folks).



Michael King

Michael King, Environmental Engineer in Design Branch, comes to us from the private sector where he dealt with pumps and waste water equipment. Mike lives in Edwardsville, IL, with his wife and son. For enjoyment, Mike works on old Volkswagens and is active in the Cub Scouts.

### Los Alamos (cont'd from page 6)

It was rewarding to see projects go from design to completion within a matter of weeks, something we don't see on district jobs. Finally, I would like to thank everybody from the St. Louis District who was involved, particularly those in New Mexico. Without their professional approach to the job at hand, my work would have been much more difficult. Remember, we can only help in situations like this if the rest of the District Team pitches in at home. For me that includes family and friends.

### Bill Gidcomb

I arrived in Albuquerque on 24 June. Assigned to the Los Alamos (DOE) field office, I worked at a project for the Los Alamos National Lab (LANL). The task was to armor plate a small dam that was originally constructed by a private school system, later nationalized and rebuilt by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer for water supply to the labs and housing units built for the Manhattan project. Due to the loss of vegetation caused by the Cerro Grande fires, the Lab's Hydrologists predicted a 100 year flood event would occur within the next

five years. The dam was an earthen structure approximately 45' high and about 200' wide. Soil nails were set on 10' centers, reinforced with wire and shotcrete applied to a depth of 6' to the downstream face of the dam. The entire spillway basin and both downstream abutments were paved downstream about 250', and the upstream face and both abutments upstream approx 250'. This project was completed about 30 July, and I was sent to a project in a top secrete area. To go through the gate at the facility we had to face loaded M-16 rifles and a Humvee with a 50 caliber machine gun pointed in our direction. Needless to say, we elected to go into the canyon by scaling down with a climbing rope. We constructed a batch plant, haul road and built a "Flood Retention Structure" with "roller compacted concrete" approximately 90' high by 300' long. to protect something downstream. Design to completion of concrete work was about 60 days. The LANL folks treated us well and Los Alamos was a very interesting place.

### Pam Reed

I arrived in Albuquerque on Friday, 23 June. I was sent out as a Specification Writer and was immediately assigned to work on the Department of Energy (DOE) projects. The Corps was tasked by DOE to not only define potential flood threats attributable to post burn conditions within the basins located on the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) property, but also to present recommendations for reduction of the potential flood, erosion, and sedimentation threats. The Corps used an existing Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) and issued ten different design/construct task orders to meet DOE needs.

I was part of the in-house review team that was assigned to review and comment on the Contractor's efforts. Several of the road crossing armoring sites along State Road 501 and Pajarito Canyon Road were assigned to the Corps team to develop the plans and specifications for these locations. While working on the LANL property, I was subjected to the



## NSPE FEDERAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

By Mel Baldus

Twenty-seven outstanding USACE nominees (2 Military and 25 Civilian) were selected to participate in the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) Federal Engineer of the Year Award competition. USACE has selected Claude Strauser, Chief, Hydrologic and Hydraulics Branch as one of two engineers who will represent the Corps in the Federal-wide competition. The other selectee is MAJ Darien Peter Helmlinger, Project Engineer, Far East District, Tongduchon Resident Office, Camp Casey, Korea. The nominees were paneled at Headquarters, and winners were subject to CG approval. Headquarters considers the two USACE winners to be “the best of the best” of the United States’ Engineering Agency. The two candidates will be referred to the NSPE for the Federal-wide selection, competing with candidates from about thirty-five other competing agencies.

The NSPE judges will select the Top Ten from all the agencies' candidates and the Federal Engineer of the Year will be selected from the Top Ten group. All candidates will be honored in an awards ceremony that will be held during National Engineers’ Week, February 18-24, 2001. The Top Ten finalists will receive special recognition and the Federal Engineer of the Year will be presented with a gold medallion. The Federal Engineer of the Year will be recognized at the July NSPE Annual Convention and is encouraged to present a paper in his or her area of expertise.

The St. Louis District is proud to be represented by Claude Strauser, whose decades of innovation and expertise made him an ideal candidate for this award. Congratulations to Claude on his selection for this honor.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



The November employee of the month is Lattissua Tyler of the Public Affairs Office. As the mission of the Public Affairs Office expanded, Lattissua, while still a student employee, met the challenges head on. Her initiative and ability to take charge enabled the PAO to function during a period of flux which saw a six-month absence of the Public Affairs Officer, the retirement of the district’s long-time public affairs specialist, the addition of two new public affairs specialists, a new supervisor, and the addition of new customer requirements. Her creativity and willingness to take on new responsibilities without hesitation have significantly increased the effectiveness of the Office in providing PA support to the District.

Tisha’s determination is further reflected in that, while employed full-time, she attended school full-time, obtaining a degree in Public Policy (with honors), while raising three young sons with her husband, Johnny.

Her spirit, successful efforts at self improvement and perseverance are an inspiration to us all.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work”

Thomas Edison

Submitted by Lattissua Tyler



## NEWS BRIEFS (cont'd from page 5)

## Los Alamos (cont'd from page 7)

### Mark Twain Lake



#### Shooting Range

The Mark Twain Lake Shooting Range, located in the Warren G. See South Spillway Recreation Area, opened on Saturday, September 16, 2000. Many hunters and sportsmen are enjoying the ideal location and safe design of the shooting range.

Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the National Rifle Association Foundation were on hand for the ribbon cutting of the range. These partners pooled resources and expertise to provide safe shooting facilities in the Mark Twain Lake area. The range was designed and built in cooperation with members of the Mark Twain Lake Project Office, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the National Rifle Association Foundation to provide a safe and efficient range. The range provides a public shooting range for the benefit of educational training during hunter education courses, youth shooting programs, area law enforcement, recreational shooters and the promotion of shooting sports.

A volunteer agreement has been signed by local sportsman Bob Stevens to assist with range maintenance, including sweeping of the range to remove spent brass and litter pick-up.

A nominal fee of \$1.00 per shooter per day is collected by an honor vault system. Reservations may be made. For more information please contact the Mark Twain Lake Project Office at 20642 Highway J, Monroe City, Missouri, 63456 or call (573) 735-4097.

strict security checks that come with working on a top secret facility. This was the most strenuous job site I have ever been on. We were constructing a sediment retention structure in Pajarito Canyon, upstream of a top secret area. In order to get on the floor of the canyon, we were required to "walk down" into the canyon. That proved not to be as easy as first thought as it meant one was subjected to using a climbing rope. The experience, at times was more like a mountain climbing expedition than a trip to a job site. Needless to say, it was quite an adventure.

Before I left, some of the projects were completed and others were well on their way to completion. I enjoyed my time in the Los Alamos area and made many new friends, as well as becoming reacquainted with some former disaster co-workers, along the way.

**(More on Los Alamos next month).**

### MARK TWAIN SAID IT



*" the military engineers have taken upon their shoulders the job of making the Mississippi over again- a job transcended in size by only the original job of creating it."*

*"I entered upon the small enterprise of "learning" twelve or thirteen hundred miles of the great Mississippi River with the easy confidence of my time of life. If I had really known what I was about to require of my faculties, I should not have had the courage to begin."*

*From Life on the Mississippi*



## RETIREE REVIEW

Thursday, November 16th was cold and brisk, but the sun was shining and it was clear enough for the retirees to venture out and attend the monthly luncheon at the Salad Bowl. The crowd wasn't very big, compared to years ago, but large enough for the current times.

Lew Scheuermann said that he recently talked to Elmer Huinzenga and that he is doing about the same. He is under the weather and he said that the doctors told him that if his condition doesn't improve with the current medicine, they will try some "shots". Elmer told him to make it any kind, about 100 proof or Jack Daniels if possible. Elmer's family was visiting for the Thanksgiving holidays, so he had a house full. Lew said that he has not heard from Jim Baker recently and assumes that he is enjoying himself on the golf course.

Elsie Kalafatich said that it is alarming that we may be getting a small increase in our annuity and that the medical program will reflect an increase next year that will just about equal the annuity increase. She also mentioned that she recently went to the library to meet Alma Wilder. Alma was a member of the Program Development Office before she took an overseas assignment and then retired. Elsie said that Alma hadn't changed much except for maybe a few gray hairs. (Ever notice how others grow more MATURE and we never change.)

Pete Puricelli mentioned that the retirees' prize story teller, George Clapp, passed away on November 7th. He will be missed. Our condolences to his family.

Charlie Denzel mentioned that John Jansen was busy supervising work being done in his front yard by MSD. They were working on the sewer system that went right through his yard and he wasn't too happy about it, but what can you do about it. Charlie said that recently he and John met Col. McKinney, Red Buchhold and a few others at the Mel Price Project for a visit and then lunch. John informed the group that he had worked on the original project, and provided them with some interesting information. (John can make telling of his experiences very interesting.)

Ron Bockhorst mentioned that he recently attended a meeting of NARFE and heard an explanation of changes in the medical programs for the year 2001. It sounds like the retiree will be paying more and getting less. (What has changed?) He recommended that everyone consider joining NARFE. Charlie Denzel supported the concept.

Next month, the luncheon will be on December 21st just a few days before Christmas. It would be great if more of the retirees could find time to attend and enjoy good cheer and happiness. It will be at the Salad Bowl at about 11:00 am. Hope to see you there.

## THANKS VETERANS!

Today we enjoy the blessings of peace, a peace earned by the valor and sacrifice of millions of veterans whose ranks are filled with heroes, spanning every conflict of this century from the Great War to Desert Storm. Through a long and bitter Cold War, and in countless places stricken by war and famine, they brought help and hope and a chance for peace. Their selfless service strengthens and inspires our great nation. To the veterans among us and to those who have passed on, we say "Thank you." We remember.

## WORDS

An encouraging word can help a person make it through the day. A destructive or unkind word to someone who is down will further discourage that individual. Be careful with your words. Do not destroy the spirit to go on in difficult times. Special is the individual who takes the time to encourage another.



## WHAT ARE THEY DOING BACK THERE?

By Sandy Clawson and Lenard Ross  
(photos by Sandy Clawson)

Construction, construction everywhere! One can hardly drive down a street close to the RAY building and not run into it. The most inconvenient construction for those who work in the RAY building is happening under a portion of Interstate 64, right in back of the building. Sandy Clawson and Len Ross toured the area and learned that the purpose of all this construction is to improve the ability of I-64 to withstand a major earthquake. According to Mark Grossenbacher, Missouri Department of Transportation Area Engineer for this project, “MoDOT...looked at all the roads in Missouri to see which ones needed some kind of earthquake retrofit. Then we put them in priority and I-64 was at the top of the list.”



I-64 was built back in the early 1960s with state-of-the-art technology. Unfortunately, it is no longer state-of-the-art. “After the earthquakes in the last ten years in California, in Norwood and San Francisco, we realized that if we had a major earthquake, this freeway just wasn’t built to stand up to that abuse”, said Grossenbacher.

Several processes are being used to retrofit the underside of I-64. First, each square pillar is made round by adding half-moon shaped concrete pieces to its exterior. “This makes it easier to add the second step, the addition of steel cables which encircle the pillar. It will make it more able to withstand the side to side shaking that occurs in an earthquake”, said Jim Swinney, Construction Inspector for the project. To make the structure more able to handle the up and down motion, the pillar footings are being reinforced. Four to six new piers are added at each column. The piers are sunken 40 to 70 feet and then six feet into solid rock. A new footing is then placed around the old footing and the two are attached with reinforcing bar anchors. The end closest to the new guard gate is being reinforced all the way up the pillar, but the other end over the parking areas is only being reinforced at the weak spots. After these reinforcements are complete, the beams that go under I-64 will be reinforced with rebar that goes through the concrete beams.

What does this mean to you? “Well, after the project is complete, I-64 should be more able to withstand an earthquake.” Swinney explained. “We have also been working with GSA to redesign the parking lot and make it bigger and much more pleasing to the eye, there will be planter boxes between the parking areas, where the grassy areas used to be. We have also reinforced the concrete wall that is on the North side with a type of block that looks better and works well for us too”.

The \$15 million project is expected to be completed in the fall or winter of 2001. “We really appreciate the patience that people who work in this building have shown. We know how awful it can be, but everyone has been understanding.” exclaimed Grossenbacher. “It makes my job easier.”



### Note:

We thank Don Wichern, Assistant District Engineer, MoDOT for making our tour possible and Mark Grossenbacher and Jim Swinney for taking time out of their busy schedules to show us their project.



# HALLOWEEN 2000



Mr. and Mrs. Crow



Devils & Witches



Who is this guy?

Stay Puft



First prize is awarded.



This Red Hot Spiderwoman dances, she sings, she BITES, She STINGS!



Pumpkins in all shapes, sizes, and manner of dress.



Our dedicated Corps Team stands ready.

Proof positive that our highly professional staff is still on the job, even when haunting the halls and lobby of the District Headquarters. If you can't guess who they are, here are some hints:

1. The Crows: Real life Mr. & Mrs., coffee-craving Division Chief and Paralegal with hair of flame.
2. This CAC President is devilish, but our HR professional isn't really a witch.
3. This guy is really very pretty without the beard. The Estate is Real.
4. Stay Puft, explosives expert, looks like he blew himself up.
5. This Red Hot Spiderwoman follows disaster.
6. Who is that dressed as Major Wood?

## DID YOU KNOW?

On May 22, 1849, Abraham Lincoln was granted U.S. Patent No. 6469, for inventing "a new and improved manner of combining adjustable buoyant air chambers with a steamboat or other vessel for the purpose of enabling their draught of water to be readily lessened to enable them to pass over bars, or through shallow water, without discharging their cargoes."



Willie B. Safe wishes everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.