

St. Louis Army Engineer District



Esprit

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Mel Price Main Lock Opens for Business



The last bulkhead is removed, as the Melvin Price Locks and Dam prepares to open its main lock to barge traffic. Note the barges lined up, awaiting their turn to lock through. The towboat, Grand Tower, is in the foreground.

The main lock chamber at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam opened to traffic at 2100 hours, on Sunday, 8 April 2001. After three months of grueling workdays, the St. Louis District Service Base and Melvin Price Locks and Dam crews finished re-installing the main lock miter gate originally damaged on 29 December 2000. Crews worked two shifts, and more, to complete stressing the diagonal cross-members of the gate, make final adjustments, pour epoxy backing to the quoin blocks, re-water the lock and remove pumps and 22 bulkheads. As the crews and repair fleet returned to their duty stations to resume normal operations, they experienced great satisfaction in knowing this successful conclusion was the result of a complete team effort and dedication by everyone in getting the job done.

Commander's Perspective

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COL Michael R. Morrow

"Safety first is not just a motto... it's a way of life".

The excellence exhibited by St. Louis District team members continues to be recognized by those outside the District.

Gene Degenhardt has been selected as DOD Value Engineering Professional of the Year. Congratulations on being chosen for this prestigious award, Gene. The District is very proud of you and your accomplishments.

Dean Surface, Construction Representative of the Southern Area Office, has been selected as MVD Hard Hat of the Year. Dean has a long-standing record of outstanding achievements.

In recognition of excellence in promoting water safety at District and national levels, Park Ranger Rachel Garren received an Award of Merit from the National Water Safety Congress, Region VI, at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Nashville, TN.

One of the hallmarks of this District is that we are so diversified in our mission and excellence. Our engineering achievements are well known and widely recognized. What may well be a well-kept secret from the public, and even some District employees, however, is the dedication and outstanding daily performance of our blue-collar workers—the Locks and Dam, Shop and floating plant personnel.

In fair weather or foul, they are subject to daily risking of life and limb to assure that missions continue and our customers are supported. The recent gate repair at Mel Price, although it took its toll in blood, sweat and tears, was successfully completed by the Service Base shop crew and lock personnel. The shop crew will be now taking advantage of the high water closure of river traffic, to make necessary repairs at Lock 25 without impacting navigation.

These jobs require skill, experience, and a strong appreciation and respect for the inherent dangers. “Safety First” is not just a motto here, it’s a way of life. The work that goes on in the pleasant spring and fall must also be done in the blistering heat and stifling humidity of the summer. Walking a lock wall during a midnight January ice storm is no picnic either. The various cables and lines, routinely handled by lock and floating plant personnel, can be a potentially deadly danger to anyone caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. In these situations, teamwork is not only a must—it is a lifeline. Each worker’s safety is dependent on his or her teammates, however, even though all precautions are taken, danger can be just a few seconds away. All the workers in these situations must be constantly alert to protect themselves and each other.

I salute the blue-collar workers of the St. Louis District, and ask the entire District team to join me in saying “THANK YOU” to those responsible for the physical effort that is a critical part of our primary mission.



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

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Employee of the Month



Ms. Kathy Meadows, District Safety and Occupational Health Specialist, is March's Employee of the Month. Kathy's efforts touch the district in many areas.

Her many duties include representing the St. Louis District as a Regional Vice President for the National Water Safety Congress. She has performed an outstanding job in handling the recent annual awards nominations. Kathy also continues to work very hard with Fedsource (formerly FBA) and RM to try and find a solution to the continuing change of district Fit-To-Win Coordinators, continually exploring new options, including hiring from local universities, and has fielded complaints from fit-to-win participants. Kathy demonstrated the true spirit of partnering in her safety audit work with Bruce Douglas, Construction Branch, in developing a PowerPoint presentation preparation for MVD, and in participating in field visits with Carol Matthews of HR for OWCP investigations. She obtained information from the Convention Center Construction Build Show, that assisted the Dredge Potter in purchasing a Automatic External Defibrillator Machine.

Kathy continues to work in her characteristically conscientious way, with little fan fare, and much dedication. Thanks for your hard work Kathy. You truly are an example to others.

Ron Viehweg Retires

By Clarice Trigg



Ron Viehweg was honored by 70 of his co-workers, family, friends and contractor associates at a retirement luncheon on 26 Feb 2001. District Engineer, COL Michael Morrow presented Ron with a Commander's Award and special recognition for his more than 34 years with the Corps in a number of capacities, including Area Engineer and temporary Construction Branch Chief. A cake and coffee reception was also held at District headquarters. Ron was most

instrumental in developing a true partnering concept with the contractors who deal with the Corps of Engineers every day. Ron leaves behind a wealth of information accumulated over his 34 years with the Corps. We will miss him and wish him luck.

Operations Management Workshop 2001

By Mary Anne Heitmeyer

St. Louis District employees shared ideas and knowledge at the Operations Management Workshop hosted by the Clarence Cannon and Mark Twain Lake team, held in Hannibal, MO. The purpose of the workshop was to gain knowledge and an understanding of activities at other projects. Mr. Charles Hess, Director of Operations at USACE, and Mr. Ross Jarrel of MVD also participated, which proved to be a tremendous asset to the workshop.

Project Updates received high ratings. Project highlights were presented by Allen Mehrer, Jamie Burge, Katy Manar, Ashley Mathias, Janet Mifflin, David Baum, and Rick Stubits. Other highlights included Watershed Management by Norma Hall and Dennis Fenske, District Management Team and Product Delivery Team Process by Bob Hughey, budget discussions by Colonel Morrow and Jerry Barnes, budget breakouts lead by Dennis Fenske and Jim Lynch, safety by Gary Groenemann and Keith Kelley, maintenance plans by Dennis Fenske, and leadership visit summaries by Kathy Tober. Breakout sessions included Environmental Documentation by Andrea Lewis and Lynn Neher, Lewis and Clark plans by Rachel Garren, OMBIL update by Roger Hayes and tree vandalism by James Gracey and Mike Skinner.

Innovative ideas were well received. Topics included Mark Twain Lake's Shooting Range, Rend Lake's Bike Trail, Carlyle's use of the Federal Inmate Program, Wappapello's involvement in the NRRS CATT program, Riverland's cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Shelbyville's use of volunteers for cleaning and mowing services.

Out-of-agency guest speakers were Joyce Collins from the Fish and Wildlife Service who discussed preserving endangered species and Elizabeth Grove, Director of the Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water District, who presented the North Fork Watershed Project.

The unforgettable banquet speaker was Ralph Duren from the Missouri Department of Conservation, who spun a great story with his awesome animal calls, most made using no manufactured devices. Keith "Prairie Chicken" Kelley demonstrated proper prairie chicken dance steps. The beautiful print painted and signed by Kathy Dickson was raffled at the banquet and went back to Wappapello with Jamie Burge.

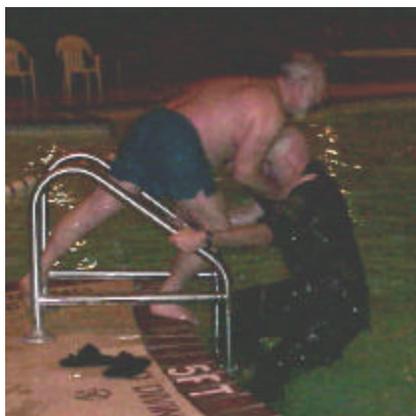
Someone who claims to "never win anything" was definitely a winner this time.

Evenings were also busy. Mark Twain Lake staff members added a personal touch by putting on a delicious BBQ dinner and sharing a birthday cake with Colonel Morrow. We can't overlook the birthday dunk in the pool that our DE received (compliments of Paul Kornberger). Brad Stamp, Jim Hill, Kevin Curran and Jim Ford are new members of the WWLWF (World Wide Leg-Wrestling Federation). Jim Ford thinks it's an area thing but who knows – it may just be the next new Olympic sport.

Based on evaluations, attendees felt the workshop was a great success and good information was exchanged. Kudos to the Clarence Cannon Dam and Mark Twain Lake Staff for the planning and organization of the workshop.



Wet, Sir?



Paul Kornberger destroys his career.

FUSRAP Update: North County

By Jacque Mattingly

It has been nearly three and one-half years since the Corps assumed responsibility for completing the cleanup of the FUSRAP St. Louis Sites in October 1997. When USACE took over in 1997, the Department of Energy (DOE) was in the process of removing contamination from the West End of the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) under a 1997 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). The DOE also removed radiological material from twenty-six of the seventy-eight vicinity properties (VPs) in North County according to DOE Order 5400.5.

Since then, the USACE successfully accelerated work to make substantial progress toward the final cleanup of the North County Sites. Under separate 1998 EE/CAs, the Corps obtained approval to conduct specific actions at the SLAPS and Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) until a final remedy could be selected.

Railspurs were constructed at both the HISS and SLAPS site to safely increase shipping and disposal capacity. Upon completion of the removal action in the SLAPS West End, a sedimentation basin was constructed across the entire western portion of the site to limit the migration of contaminated soils offsite via stormwater runoff. The Radium Pits, believed to contain the most contaminated soils, were removed. Soils at the East End of the site are presently being removed. Approximately, 112,600 cubic yards of material have been removed to date from SLAPS, which is enough to create a 9 foot, by 5 foot thick wall 15-miles long.

Perhaps the most noticeable change since 1997 has been the removal of the piles that stood at HISS for nearly twenty years. The FUSRAP Project Office was relocated one block east to provide room for heavy construction equipment to safely operate. The USACE removed the two small piles of soil from the construction of the HISS railspur, the two Eastern Piles on VP-2, the HISS Supplemental (or Front) Storage Pile, and a portion of the HISS

Main Pile from the site. Approximately 28,400 cubic yards of contaminated soils have been removed from HISS since 1997. Today, only the Main Pile remains at HISS and even this pile will be gone by the end of the year.

Approval of 1998 EE/CAs granted the USACE approval to stabilize SLAPS by substantially limiting the migration of contaminated soils offsite, and remove the piles at HISS. However, work under these EE/CAs is limited. For this reason, the FUSRAP team has been working hard to complete the Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan (FS/PP), which will lead to the selection of a final remedy covering all of the North County Sites. Completion of the North County FS/PP is anticipated this spring when it will be released to the public for review and comment.



St. Louis Downtown Site

Completion of the North County FS/PP is anticipated this spring when it will be released to the public for review and comment.

First Class Ste. Genevieve Project Gets Lots of Attention and Awards

By Alan Hunter

The Ste. Genevieve Urban Levee project received its 15 minutes of fame this past year and maybe a little more. In addition to local news coverage, the project has been featured in several magazines and team members have won several awards for their roles.

Probably the most notable attention was the National Geographic Explorer feature, which aired 8 October 2000. The program was a follow up to a previous Explorer article on the Flood of 1993 and was titled "Can't Drown This Town." Project Manager Jim Zerega was featured in this latest National Geographic feature.

Several trade magazines have featured the project. The cover article for Public Works, September 2000 issue was titled "Expediting a Major Mississippi River Flood Control Project."

Peter Downs prepared an article entitled, "Goodwin Brothers Impresses with Ste. Genevieve Flood Control Project, for the November-December 2000 issue of St. Louis Construction. The article focused on the contractor's work on the pump station contract. Steve London featured the overall project in The Military Engineer January/February 2001's article, "New Levee Protects Old Town."

The Ste. Genevieve Levee project required a lot of coordination and teamwork from beginning to end. Several groups and individuals were singled out for various awards, however, most of the recipients will quickly acknowledge that at least a piece of their awards belongs to the whole team. The Corps team consisted of representatives from Project Management, Engineering Division, Construction Division, Safety Office, Contracting, Counsel, Value Engineering and the Executive Office. Contractors involved in the team were Bloomsdale Construction (North Closure), Dumey Contractors (Highway 61 Bypass), Goodwin Brothers, Inc. (Middle Closure and Pump Station) and Luhr Brothers, Inc. (Levee). In addition to the prime contractors, there were numerous subcontractors and suppliers that were instrumental in the construction process. Local sponsors from the town of Ste. Genevieve and the Joint Levee Commission rounded out the partnership.



Alan Hunter and Jeff Derrick receive Partnering 2000 award from General Arnold.

Two of the project's primary subcontractors that received awards or made awards for individual effort to their employees for work on the project were Shanon Wilson and HAZMED. Shanon Wilson, the major materials testing subcontractor for most of the construction, was awarded an honorable mention by the Consulting Engineers Council of Missouri for their part in the value engineer evaluation of the project. HAZMED, who provided contract inspection services to the Corps' Ste. Genevieve Resident Office during the last three contracts, presented Jay Fairbanks with their "Big Dog" award, HAZMED's second highest award, representing technical competence and customer care.

Representing the Corps of Engineers, Dean Surface, District and MVD Hard Hat of the Year, was the senior construction representative on the last three contracts of the Ste. Genevieve project.

The last three contracts were ongoing simultaneously. Work had to be coordinated among the three contracts, two contractors, two railroad companies and the public. For their efforts in project management and safety on two of the projects, Goodwin Brothers received both management and safety awards for the Pump Station and the Middle Closure. Both projects were completed ahead of schedule and with no lost time accidents.

The Ste. Genevieve Pump Station was completed under a formal partnering agreement. The charter for the agreement was ratified by representatives of the Corps of Engineers, Goodwin Brothers and the local sponsor. For the achievements of the team under this agreement, the Associated General Contractors and MVD presented the Partnering 2000 award to the team. (See March 2001 Esprit). The competition for the award represented the six Corps Districts in the Division. This is the first time the award has been given.

While the fifteen minutes of fame for the Ste. Genevieve project team may be coming to an end, the results of dedication, untiring effort and a job well done will be remembered for years to come. Mayor Ralph Beckerman recently commented, “The progress of the levee has been outstanding. We are going to finish ahead of schedule due to the contractors and Corps of Engineers working together. The quality control of the Corps has been exceptional. We are going to end up with a First Class Urban Design Levee.”

Ste. Genevieve Urban Levee – a first class project from a first class team.

St. Louis District Continues to Reap Prestigious Awards

By Terrie Hatfield

Mr. Gene Degenhardt, St. Louis District Value Engineer, has been recognized by the Secretary of Defense as the **top Value Engineering Professional in DOD**--the highest honor awarded a VE Officer in the Federal Service. A Certified Value Specialist (CVS), Gene has led the VE effort in St. Louis since 1982. He has been the coordinator and lead instructor for the Corps of Engineers worldwide VE training program since 1984, and is recognized as the Corps leader in VE training, personally conducting over 140 workshops, studies and seminars, and has



served as instructor for over 2200 students. Recognized as one of the best in the profession, Gene has developed many innovative teaching materials, now used by other VE professionals in tailoring courses to meet specific needs. He continues to develop the Corps VE training program, and is currently developing an outreach program for the Pittsburgh District to acquaint engineering students with Corps employment and VE methodology. This is expected to evolve into a Corps-wide program.

An internationally recognized member of SAVE (Society of American Value Engineers) International, Gene serves as liaison between SAVE and the Corps VE community and has mentored numerous CVS applicants. A recipient of SAVE’s International Distinguished Service Award, Gene has held many SAVE Board positions, including National Director – Construction Liaison; President, St. Louis Chapter; Chairman, SAVE Blue Ribbon Task Force; and Director, SAVE International Steering Committee. He is a member of the Editorial Board of SAVE International’s Value World professional journal, and has authored numerous VE papers and articles, including Concept Speculation and FACT – New Tools for the



DEAN SURFACE IS MVD HARD HAT OF THE YEAR

By Alan Hunter

Dean Surface, Construction Representative of the Southern Area Office has been selected as MVD Hard Hat of the year. This award is presented annually to the most outstanding construction field office employee in the Division. It is based on demonstrated knowledge of quality management, innovative methods of evaluating, controlling and/or influencing the quality of construction, actions in support of Corps policy, leadership, mentoring and training of newer employees, relationships with peers, contractors and users, attitude toward and dedication to success and ability to focus on solutions.

All of Dean's 16 years with the St. Louis District have been spent in the Cape Girardeau/Jackson area. Career achievements include the Cape LaCroix/Walker Branch drainage project in Cape Girardeau, the Lake Wappapello office and shop, and renovations at Lake Wappapello campgrounds.

This past year, Dean became the senior construction representative on the Ste. Genevieve Urban Levee project. Three of the five project phases, valued at over \$21 million, were the pumping station/gravity flow structure, the middle closure structure and a three-mile stretch of sand core levee. All three projects were completed ahead of schedule and the total project came in under the government's estimate. Dean's efforts in the areas of quality assurance and safety insured a quality product delivered in a safe manner. Two of the projects finished with no lost time accidents. Dean is also the senior construction representative on the \$4.5 million Cape Girardeau Detention Reservoir. He helped establish a formal partnership with the City of Cape Girardeau and the contractor.

Dean has seen construction contract management change during his career with the Corps. Early on he directed contractors concerning contractual requirements, daily hand written reports were required and transmittals were tracked in ledgers. Today, he has mastered the Resident Management System (RMS) and other computer programs which save time and increase efficiency. Contractors are now assuming more responsibility for quality control, which frees up time so Dean can become more involved in the management of the construction process.

Dean also excels in the training and mentoring of new employees. This year, he has taken it upon himself to provide guidance to two new civil engineering technician student trainees and assure they learn how to do things the Corps way.

Dean is a first sergeant with Company B, 203 Engineering Battalion, of the Missouri National Guard. He lives with his wife, Carolyn and sons, Jacob and Nathan, on their farm near Marble Hill, MO. His hobbies include beer making, woodworking, house building, photography and reading, and hopes to return to cattle farming when he retires.

Dean has previously received the Hard Hat of the Year and Inspector of the Year Awards for the St. Louis District. His projects require a diversity of skills and have involved high visibility. The Ste. Genevieve project was featured in several trade magazines and on National Geographic Explorer. The pump station partnering team, of which Dean is an integral member, received the MVD/AGC Partnering 2000 award. Dean's accomplishments and his commitment make him a fine representative for the District and the Division. We are proud to have him on our team.

(Degenhardt Award (cont'd from page 7))

The Most Important Habit of Highly Effective People--Finding the Champion Within You; and How to Think Like Leonardo DaVinci Using Covey's Seven Habits.

Perhaps the best known St. Louis District VE success story was the study of the Ste. Genevieve flood control project, involving outstanding teamwork with the local sponsor, outside experts and Corps technical experts. The historical significance of this project gained national attention and this study resulted in project changes that lowered the cost while increasing the safety and functionality of the flood control system. Gene has conducted VE studies for several other agencies and organizations, including the Arroyo Pasajero Flood Control Project, Tracy Fish Facility Site Infrastructure Development for the Bureau of Reclamation in California, and an inter-agency study for the Mechanized Infantry Training Center at Fork Polk Louisiana, which reduced project cost while improving functionality. This achievement was critical to overseas force readiness capabilities, and considered to be an unparalleled success in getting various entities to work together for a common goal. Such activities promote growth of Corps programs and value methodology.

The St. Louis District is well aware of Gene's always-positive outlook. He is considered to be the most proactive and enthusiastic Value Engineering Officer in the Corps, and his efforts have resulted in numerous successes, within and outside the District. By demonstrating consistent cost savings without decreasing value, Gene promotes an "on time under budget" image for the Corps. His external contacts have proven to be an effective marketing tool, bringing new work into the Corps while promoting the value methodology.

Gene stresses that a primary goal of VE is not to seek additional funding, but to improve functionality with the funds available, in addition to cutting cost. His personal objective is to use his creativity, people skills, well-known enthusiasm and 18 years of VE experience to raise the Corps VE program and training to a new level of effectiveness. He continually works to improve the process, thereby improving service to our customers and the nation.

The St. Louis District extends sincere congratulations to Gene Degenhardt on this distinguished award, and takes great pride in the recognition by others of our outstanding employees. Gene will be honored 6 June 2001 at a Pentagon ceremony along with the other Corps VE award recipients, the Chicago District and DE, Colonel Mark A. Roncoli, and William A. Brown, HQUSACE Deputy Director of Military Programs.

Award for Interpretive Excellence

Kathy Dickson, student park ranger at Wappapello Lake was selected winner of the St. Louis District's Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence. When it comes to creating an interpretive activity, program or event, Kathy is an artist capable of weaving information, entertainment and



excitement together to inspire any audience. That capability combined with her artistic skills make her the outstanding interpretive ranger that she is. Kathy's nomination will be forwarded to MVD, and if selected, she will represent the Division at Headquarters. The other outstanding project nominees were Kim Hammel, Carlyle Lake; Tim Bischoff, Rend Lake; Maria Shafer, Lake Shelbyville; Hope Pollmann, Rivers Project; and Chris Coe, Mark Twain Lake.

Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia Navigation Project



Hiram M. Chittenden Award Nominee
Park Ranger Kimberly Hammel received a Certificate of Recognition from COL Morrow for her

nomination for Excellence in Interpretation. Ms. Hammel faces the challenge of being divided between two programs each year, Interpretation and Recreation. She has a variety of achievements to her credit including the task of educating the area on the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, listed as a Federal Candidate Species and an Illinois Endangered Species. The Carlyle Lake area is one of the few known sites where the Eastern Massasauga exists in Illinois. For this snake to survive, education to the public is vital, and Ms. Hammel is providing this education through schools and outreach programs.

New Administration Building

The new administration building will replace the current structure that has served Carlyle Lake for 40 years. In the 40 years of service, the old office once served as a single facility for the administrative staff and a maintenance shop. Currently, the Carlyle Lake staff is staffed in several different buildings in the area. This new building will consolidate the staff into a single building for more efficient operations and future energy reductions. A geothermal heat pump system will be installed to help reduce energy costs by as much as 50% over other conventional heating and cooling systems. The new building will meet federal accessibility standards for the public. Visitors to the Carlyle Lake Administration Building will not be affected by the new construction.

Wappapello Lake

Special Events:

5-6 May: Intertribal Living Indian Village, Greenville Recreation Area.

12 May: 11th Annual Disabled Persons Fishing Day, Redman Creek Recreation Area

19-20 May: 12th Annual Drag Boat Races

8-11 May: Wappapello Lake staff will assist the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge Ecology Days

Visitor Center Open Season: The Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center will open its doors for the recreation season on 5 May and will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through 20 May. Beginning 25 May, the Visitor Center will be open daily. Hours will be Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Television Tapings: Park Rangers Keith Kelley and Richard Chenoweth taped interviews about upcoming special events with CBS affiliate KFVS-12 in Cape Girardeau. The tapings promoted the Old Greenville Black Powder Rendezvous and the Intertribal Living Indian Village, for the “Perspective” program hosted by anchor Mike Shain. The shows air on Sunday mornings at 6:00 a.m.

Prairie Chickens Where? Late in March at the Operations Managers Conference several staff members reported spotting a prairie chicken in Hannibal, Missouri. The sighting was later confirmed with pictures taken during the event. The crowd that gathered was quite amused by the fowl performance.

(Ed. Note: Although the prairie chicken photo could not be used here, it was noted that Hannibal prairie chickens apparently look a lot like ranger Keith Kelley)



Rend Lake

by Dawn Kovarik and Tim Bischoff



Corkey, the St. Louis District's robotic partner and quite possibly the smartest boat on land, spent the month of March at Rend Lake, visiting several of Southern Illinois' elementary and preschools. During his stay at Rend Lake, Corkey and Rangers Janet Mifflin, Tim Bischoff, and Dawn Kovarik traveled over 1,000 miles to give approximately 30 water safety programs. By the time the water safety marathon was complete, Corkey had taught the 6 rules of water safety to 3,593 students ranging in age from Kindergarten through 4th grade and several teachers and administrative staff members, too.



Corkey and Ranger Janet Mifflin teach students about water safety.

Corkey also made a surprise visit to Rend Lake's monthly safety meeting. He showed off his knowledge of water safety by assisting Park Ranger Janet Mifflin in refreshing the

memories of the staff on emergency response procedures and the six rules of water safety. The staff joined Corkey in a rousing rendition of Corkey's favorite song, "Row. Row, Row Your Boat".

Corkey is an excellent teaching aid for young students. They seem to hang on his every word and enjoy interacting with this comical, wealth of water safety knowledge. Corkey's home dock is at the Shelbyville Project Office and he makes short visits to each of the 5 lake projects throughout the year.

Rend Lake Fishing Information: Many of the 2.75 million annual visitors to Rend Lake enjoy the excellent fishing opportunities, however, fishing at Rend Lake for the first time can be confusing. The ranger staff provides a weekly report of fishing conditions for the lake. The report contains advice on best locations and choice of bait for each sport fish species, and fishing regulations. The report is a used by media outlets and tourism organizations to explain fishing opportunities to our visitors. The ranger staff uses the fishing report as a means of



promoting a positive experience for our visitors. This report can also be found on Rend Lake's website.

Rend Lake welcomes new park ranger, Randy Cordray. Originally from Belvidere, IL, Randy now makes his home in Mount Vernon. He was previously employed by U.S. Fish & Wildlife as a Deputy Project Leader. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The retirees met at the Salad Bowl on 15 March to enjoy a good meal and exchange each others' company. Some of the regulars were missed, but those that did attend enjoyed themselves.

Lew Scheuerman said he had some applications for the Spring golf tournament to be held on 20 April at the Quail Creek Golf Club. The Golf League will begin on 17 April. He invited the retirees to consider joining. Lew hasn't heard from the Bakers or the Huizengas, and assumes that all is well.

Lets mark your calendars for the next month luncheon, on 19 April at the Salad Bowl at about 11:30. Hope to see more of you there.

Editor's Note: Retiree Edward Cronin reports that he and his wife, Eleanor, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by spending a month in Hawaii in October 2000. They want all their old friends to know that they still travel extensively throughout the US and Canada, enjoying the sights. They are both well and extend their best wishes to all.

Colonel Morrow Reaches Half-Century Mark

By The Mole

Col. Morrow celebrated his fiftieth birthday on 24 March by dancing the night away at the SIDS Sock-Hop. Mrs. Morrow (Michelle) and their son, Chris, were present to celebrate the occasion, which was also Chris's 23rd birthday. Earlier in the week, attendees at the Operations Managers' Meeting in Hannibal marked the Colonel's upcoming birthday by unceremoniously throwing the tough Airborne Ranger into the motel swimming pool--combat boots and all. (See related story and photos on page 4).



Kathy Hatfield admires the Morrow family birthday cake.

The Sock Hop's highlight of the evening occurred when the band's female vocalist invited Col.

Morrow to have a seat front and center on the dance floor. She then proceeded with her rendition of "Happy Birthday Col Morrow" in the same fashion as Marilyn Monroe did to President Kennedy many years ago. In the firm belief that a picture is worth a thousand words, this writer directs your attention to the look on our Commander's face in the accompanying photo. After the Colonel regained his military bearing and proclaimed his innocence to his wife, the Corps contingent shared a specially decorated birthday cake.



Happy Birthday to you, too.

Happy Birthday, Colonel Morrow--and may you have at least 50 more. And Happy Birthday to Chris--a chip off the old block.