



ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT
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November 2001

St. Louis District Welcomes Back an Old Friend!
(Story on page 3)



That was then.....

Dredge Potter launching, 1932



This is now!

Potter sporting new stacks, 2001!



COL Michael R. Morrow, Commander

Our nation was attacked, but not defeated. We have much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving holiday. We have seen and heard of countless examples of selfless service and dedication to duty over the last few months. Service to the Nation has taken on new meaning, as we look at our police, firefighters and other civil servants in a new light. Red Cross blood donations and monies collected for victims' relief efforts continue to grow. People want to help and are looking for ways to make a difference. I recently presented a commanders award to Becky Hayes, a ranger from lake Wappapello, in recognition of her selfless dedication to duty and continuous contributions to her community and project over the last

eleven years. Becky volunteers her free time to serve as a reserve deputy for the Butler County Sheriffs department. She receives no pay for her police duties; only the satisfaction of knowing that the work she does is desperately needed and helps many people throughout her community.



Rebecca Hays, Grandmother Alta Mansfield, Becky Hays, brother Jim Hays and Sister-in-law.

Becky is only one of many Corps employees who volunteer their time and effort to make a difference in their local communities. This Thanksgiving let us remember those who have been killed in the terrorists' attacks and their families. Their suffering and sorrow is unimaginable and our prayers and thoughts will help. Let us also remember those who are volunteering their time to help in their communities. Their efforts make a difference. May you and your family enjoy a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday.

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

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A “B-52” on the River: The Repowering of the Dredge POTTER

By Paul Schmidt, P.E., St. Louis District Service Base

Everyone knows that the Air Force constantly upgrades their aging fleet of 1950-1960 vintage B-52 aircraft so they remain some of the most sophisticated planes in the world. The original structural frames of 50 years ago remain, but the operating parts inside are forever young. It is an innovative, reliable and cost-effective approach that meets mission-critical goals.

So it is with the Corps of Engineers’ Dredge POTTER, a 1932-vintage boat that plied the Mississippi River and its tributaries, its mighty engines filling the sky with clouds of steam while smoke curled from its tall twin stacks. The POTTER was always maintained as a productive boat, with constant upgrades and changes to both the machinery and structure.

Through it all, the one constant was always its steam engines that continued to drive the POTTER through the heartland’s muddy waters for 67 years. But the romantic vision of steamboats conjured up by Mark Twain couldn’t offset the increasing costs of maintaining steam and other aging equipment. Finally in the mid-1990’s the scales tipped in favor of converting her aging propulsion, dredging and auxiliary systems from steam to diesel-electric.

By late 1998, years of planning by the St. Louis District, the Corps’ Marine Design Center and several marine architectural firms produced a comprehensive contract package for bidders to prepare proposals on. Building a brand-new dredge would have cost over \$58 million, but by repowering this old “B-52” into a “new” one, the Corps saved nearly \$ 40 million while vastly increasing capabilities and reliability while decreasing operating expenses.

In late 1999, after being stripped down in its home port at the St. Louis District Service Base, the POTTER was moved by a towing company to the New Orleans shipyard of the successful low bidder, Halter Marine Inc. In one of the more dramatic work sequences, the entire rear third of the 240-foot long, 46-foot wide POTTER was sliced from top to bottom and temporarily separated to facilitate removal of the old boilers and steam engines. Changes in the keel flow lines were made to accommodate new 84 inch propellers, kort nozzles and rudders then the huge rear section was reattached.

Multiple problems plagued the work, and the original contract delivery swelled from 7 months to 20 months.

But the POTTER finally returned to St. Louis District to be outfitted and begin its dredging trials on October 13th. Captain Jim Pierce says initial results are highly promising even while the veteran crew learns the ship’s vast array of new systems.

Besides the change of power source, the vessel now boasts (among many other new items):

- New 2,400-horsepower propulsion (twice the original power) with improved steering,
- A new high-density dredge pump (in the old 1932 pump shell) that significantly increases dredging capacity,
- New generators, switchgear and variable speed drives throughout,
- New integrated controls, monitoring and alarm systems,
- Modifications to the pilot house to improve visibility and ergonomics, and
- A new dustpan head and ladder assembly, new support A-frame, and stern discharge.

The romance of steam on the river may be gone now, but an old partner has returned to cut a new wake across the waves of Old Man River. The St. Louis District Corps of Engineers’ Dredge POTTER, with its vintage 1932 frame supporting the latest technology, continues to maintain safe and efficient navigation on the Inland Waterway System, an old “B-52” back on station again.



Redesigned stern section ready to be reattached.



Captain James Pierce



First Mate Terry Bequette



Chief Engineer Larry Griffin

The Dredge Potter passes Vicksburg, Mississippi on her way back to St. Louis District.



Chief Engineer Larry Griffin, Captain Jim Pierce and First Mate Terry Bequette pose proudly in front of the Potter's new stack.



Photos from the Age of Steam



Healthy Holiday Eating

by Jason B. Wilson,
Fit-to-Win Coordinator

For most people, just the thought of Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's can add inches to the waist. But any foods - even traditional holiday treats - can fit into a healthful eating plan. The key is moderation and balance.

This is the time of the year for celebration, and food is one of the pleasures of holiday festivities, parties, and other social gatherings. Just because you're trying to eat health conscience doesn't mean you have to skip on these celebrations.

According to ADA's Nutrition and You: Trends 2000 survey, many Americans identified the fear of having to give up their favorite foods as a major obstacle to healthful eating. Here are some tips from ADA:

Be realistic. Don't try to lose weight during the holidays. Instead, strive to maintain your weight by balancing holiday eating with other meals. Eat small lower-calorie meals during the day so you can enjoy celebration foods without overdoing your calorie intake for the day.

Be active and keep moving. Plan an activity that involves fitness, like skiing, ice-skating or hiking.

Take the edge off your hunger before a party. Feeling hungry can sabotage even the strongest will-power, so eat a small, low-fat snack, such as fruit or a bagel, before you head out the door. This will help you avoid rushing to the buffet table when you arrive at a party. Get a beverage, and settle into the festivities before eating. Try sparkling water and a lime twist rather than wine, champagne or a mixed drink. Sparkling water

doesn't supply calories.

Make just one trip to the buffet. And be selective! Choose only the foods you really want to eat and keep portions small. Often just a taste satisfies a craving or curiosity. Also, move your socializing away from the buffet table; this will eliminate unconscious nibbling.

bring a platter of fresh fruit.

Enjoying a sit-down dinner? Make your first helping small. That way, if your host or hostess expects you to take seconds, the total amount will be about the same as a normal-size portion.



Choose lower-calorie party foods. Raw vegetables with a small amount of dip are a good choice. Try boiled shrimp or scallops with cocktail sauce or lemon. Go easy on fried appetizers and cheese cubes. To help ensure there will be healthful treats, bring a dish filled with raw vegetables, or





Winter Driving



What would winter be like without beautiful white snow? Well, driving would probably be a lot safer. Many people don't realize the increased risks of driving in inclement weather. Just taking a simple trip to the grocery store can be dangerous in some cases. The leading cause of death during winter months is due to transportation accidents. During inclement weather it is best to stay home; however, this is not always feasible. Taking a few simple precautionary steps can help make a difference in your winter travels.

VEHICLE PREPARATION

Wintertime is the harshest season for vehicles. Prepare your vehicle for winter by scheduling a complete maintenance check in the fall.

Battery: Cold weather starts require a battery that is fully charged. Recharge or replace weak batteries. Have your charging system checked, too.

Ignition system: Damaged ignition wires or a cracked distributor cap may cause a sudden breakdown.

Lights: Regularly check that *all* lights are functioning properly and that headlights are properly aimed.

Brakes: Brakes should be checked and, if needed, serviced to ensure even braking.

Tires: The traction between the tires and the road surface determines how well your vehicle starts, turns and stops. Make certain your snow tires or all-season radials are properly inflated and in good condition. Ensure all four tires have the same tread pattern for even traction.

Exhaust system: Have the exhaust system fully checked for leaks that could send carbon monoxide into your vehicle.

Heating and cooling system: Check your radiator and hoses for cracks and leaks. Make sure the radiator cap, water pump and thermostat work properly. Test the strength of the anti-freeze, and test the functioning of the heater and defroster.

Windshield: Make sure wipers are in good condition and fill up on winter washer fluid.



Driving in Bad Weather

When driving in bad weather plan ahead. It may save you a lot of hassle. The following are some things to think about during your planning process.



- ❖ Make sure you have enough fuel
- ❖ Clear your vehicle of ice and snow. Make sure your windows are clear of ice and fog. Turn on your lights when driving. If visibility becomes poor while driving pull off until it clears up.
- ❖ Measure your speed conditions
- ❖ Sticks to main roads so if you have car trouble you can seek help easier, back roads are not always maintained.
- ❖ Wear your seat belt at ALL TIMES
- ❖ Let someone know where you plan to travel and the route you are taking so you can be searched if you don't show up at a reasonable time

Listen on your radio for current and future weather conditions

Native American Month

By our EEO Office

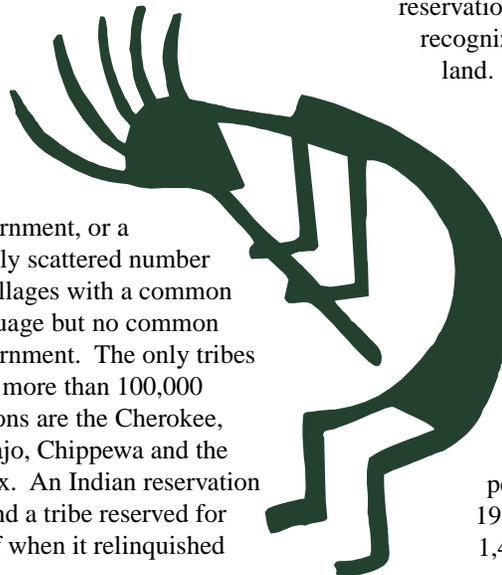
During November, we recognize the diverse cultural contributions that Native Americans have made to this nation. The Army is one of five federal executive agencies, which employs the highest number of Native Americans.

The term "Native American" is used to describe the 550 federally recognized tribes, including 223 Alaskan Native groups such as the Eskimos and the Aleuts. "Federally recognized" means these tribes and groups have a special, legal relationship to the US government and its agent, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, depending upon the particular situation of each tribe. A tribe can be a distinct group within an Indian village or community, the entire

community, a large number of communities, several different groups or villages speaking different languages, but sharing a common

government, or a widely scattered number of villages with a common language but no common government. The only tribes with more than 100,000 persons are the Cherokee, Navajo, Chippewa and the Sioux. An Indian reservation is land a tribe reserved for itself when it relinquished

its other land areas to the U.S. through treaties. Over half of the total U.S. Indian and Alaska Native population now live away from reservations. There are 314 federally recognized reservations and trust land.



According to the 1990 US Census Bureau figures, there were 1,959,234 Native Americans and Alaskan Natives living in the United States (1,878,285 Native Americans, 57,152 Eskimos and 23,797 Aleuts). This is a 37.9 percent increase over the 1980-recorded total of 1,420,400.



Christina Bates joins the Geospatial Engineering Branch.



Ed Brauer works in River Engineering at the Service Base.



Bill Williams is a Hydrologic Technician in Water Control.



Julie Blanks joins Human Resources.



Trade smiles with Sonja Moore as she joins the Executive Office staff.



Readiness Branch welcomes Paula Bell.



Tom Niedernhofer



Gary J. Lee



David E. Mueller



Vick James



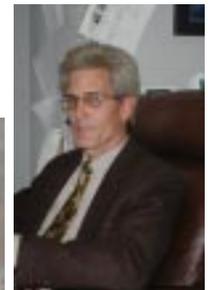
Jeff Stamper

Employees of the Month.....

..for their work supporting the recovery efforts at "Ground Zero" in New York City following the 11 Sep 01 disaster. They worked 14-17 hours a day advising on the structural problems of the buildings. They also worked with very little sleep and many logistical problems to gain the trust and confidence of many city, state and Federal officials with whom he served. Their "can do" attitude and selfless service made them a vital part of a truly effective team as they did their part to ease the suffering in this time of national disaster.



Jule Bartels

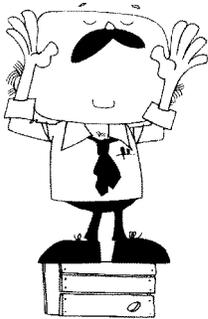


Tim L. Hiller





Around the District



Lake Wappapello

Representatives from Wappapello Lake (Andrew Jefferson and Harlan Lamb) took the Ranger Willie B. Safe Campaign on the road to Springfield, Missouri on 22-25 October 2001 during the 3rd Interactive Bass Pro Fish and Wildlife Museum Water Safety Program. Andrew and Harlan along with Daisy Samantha (Sam) Beagle made a lasting impression with the audiences. Programs were conducted at the Bass Pro Museum (Willard South Elementary, Sunshine



Schools, and private schools), Sherwood Elementary School, Fordland Elementary School, and Nixma Head Start. Three Corps Districts were represented (St. Louis, Kansas City, and Little Rock).

Harlan read the story of Ranger Willie B. Safe and Andrew pumped up the audience with safety songs from the Willie B. Safe audiocassette and introducing them to a new jam! It's entitled "Buckle Up Zip It Up Wear Your Life Jacket." The kids just loved it. Packets were distributed to each student and teacher. Some of the

items included in the packets were WBS screen savers, sticky badges, magnetic and window decals, small autographed photos of WBS, WBS Activity Books, water safety posters, pamphlets, buttons, and Safe Passage Activity Books and Videos (teachers only). This was made possible by an



invitation from Park Ranger Ken Lucius. He attended the "Story of Ranger Willie B. Safe" breakout session at the 1999 International Boating Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) and was very impressed with the presentation. Therefore, he extended Wappapello Lake an invitation to become a part of this annual event with Bass Pro.

Representatives from Stockton Lake (Ken Lucius, Dan Sandersfeld, Buck Wenger and Larry Smith), Table Rock (Greg Oller and Clint Moore), and Truman (David Moore) also shared their expertise in water safety during these sessions. Each session consisted of four stations whereas the students would rotate from one station to the other. They learned about hypothermia, life jackets, water safety rules and playing it safe. This was a grand opportunity for getting others to become a part of Ranger Willie's Safety Team. Bass Pro Education and Resource personnel (Terry Snowden, Rick Collins, and John Hernandez) offered their services to assist Wappapello Lake with any disabled person activity involving hunting or fishing. They were very gracious hosts from start to finish. The next Interactive Water safety Program will be held in the spring or fall of 2002.

In an effort to promote the safe use of project lands, Park Rangers and the Assist Operations Manager at Wappapello Lake have been busy teaching hunter education safety courses throughout the months of October and November. A total of four courses were taught resulting in over 180 students being certified through the Missouri Department of Conservation. Topics for the course include firearm handling, conservation ethics and safe hunting practices.



Eagle

(cont. from page 2)

By Montgomery, Teresa , L&D 25

Well, my mother wanted to stain glass some of the windows on their sunporch a few years back. When they researched the cost of having someone do stain glass for them, my Dad, being an engineer, figured he could do it better and cheaper. He did. The peices I have hanging in my office windows are some of his first attempts at making stain glass.

The peice that catches the eye of everyone passing through the lock is the eagle in flight. It has also become a great conversation peice for District Office visitors.

The offers to purchase the eagle came pouring in almost as soon as I hung it in my office window. The most offered at this point has been \$500. I have declined all offers to purchase the stain glass eagle. I explain that is was a gift from my Dad and I refuse to sell to anyone.



Rend Lake



Fall Controlled Burn Season in Progress at Rend Lake: The Rend Lake Environmental Management department, with the assistance of fellow Park Rangers from the Interpretive Services and Facilities Management departments, began the fall controlled burn season on Monday, November 5. Rangers burn areas in the fall to control the encroachment of woody vegetation in open field areas. Burning slows the progress of succession and releases nutrients back into the soil. Burning is more cost effective and natural than mowing. Approved burn plans allow for the burning of approximately 40 acres during the fall season.



Voyager re-enactors pose for a group photo at the Freedom Festival



Fall scenery at South Marcum Cove



Just having fun



Lake Shelbyville

A Big, Blue Moon

by Mary Anne Heitmeyer



Once in a Blue Moon is a common way of saying *not very often*. We commonly think of it as the second Full Moon to occur in a single calendar month. A traditional definition of a Blue Moon is the third Full Moon in a season that has four Full Moons. This year, November happens to be a month that has two Full Moons, one on November 1 and another on November 30, 2001.



Fall color abounds at Lake Shelbyville this year



Carlyle lake



Carlyle's new Administration Building

Air Force Civil Engineers supporting Carlyle Lake Project: The 375th Civil Engineer Squadron from Scott Air Force Base worked at Carlyle Lake from October 17-19 completing skills training and military exercises. During this time, approximately 70 individuals worked around the clock rebuilding and replacing all structural members of the roof on Picnic Shelter #2 in the Dam West Day Use Area and installing an oil and water separator in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Maintenance Compound. The labor provided by Scott Air Force Base will result in several thousand dollars worth of savings to the Carlyle Lake Project and also provide valuable training for the squadron.



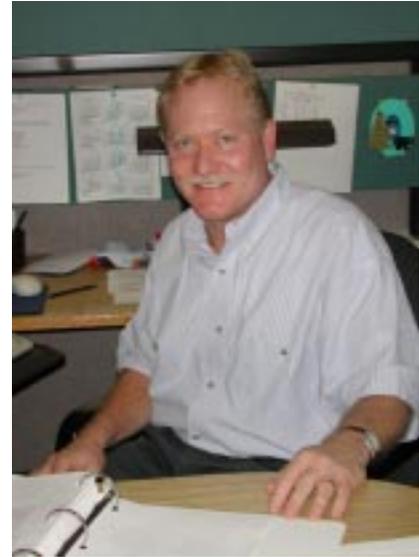
Nutty Saturday: The second annual Nutty Saturday was held at the Carlyle Lake/ Kaskaskia Navigation Project on Saturday, 3 November. Over 125 lbs. of nuts and acorns were collected by the Boy and Girl Scout groups of the area. Seedbeds were then created with these nuts followed by the seedlings being potted and later planted in various locations around Carlyle Lake. These trees help reforestation efforts at the project. Prizes of trees, bird houses, and squirrel feeders were presented to the winners. Top prize was Boy Scout Pack #225 of Breese with 31 lbs. of nuts.



One fine fellow!



On 29 October 2001, John Dierker was invested as a fellow in the Society of American Military Engineers. The ceremony took place at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. John received this honor for his contributions to the Society.



Mr. Jim Lynch has been selected to be the new Chief of the Technical and Policy Branch of Construction - Operations Readiness Division.

MVD HARD HAT OF THE YEAR



Dean Surface of the Southern Area Office is the MVD Hard Hat of the year. This award is presented yearly to the most outstanding construction field office employee in the Division. The award is based on the individual's demonstrated knowledge of quality management, innovative methods of evaluating, controlling and/or influencing the quality of construction, actions in support of Corps policy, leadership or mentoring of and training ability with newer employees, relationships maintained with peers, contractors and users, attitude towards and dedication to success and ability to focus on solutions.



The District bids best wishes to Gerry Barnes on his new position

RAY Building evacuation.



How did we do? According to GSA, the building was evacuated in 20 minutes, and this included the handicapped persons on all floors. (This was the first time we ever did this). With everything considered, the drill was a success.



Retiree's Corner



The retirees had their monthy luncheon on November 15th. There weren't very many in attendance, but considering the great weather that day, it was understandable.

Lew Scheuermann mentioned that the Bakers were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary, later this year. He received a call from their daughter asking that anyone wishing to send them a card should send it to her instead, since she is planning a surprise celebration. Their anniversary is December 31st and she would like to have any cards by December

15th. (WOW, Jim must have married a child bride.) Lew also mentioned that Estelle Huizenga is doing great. She has everything under control. She is still in Jackson Missouri, but is giving serious consideration to moving to something smaller and maybe closer to her children. (Knowing her, she will make the right decision, when the time comes.)

Larry McCarthy finally brought his bride and said that He is really enjoying retirement and living the city life. (Since they live in the Tower Grove Park area, they can enjoy the best of both worlds [City and County]).

Information has it that John Kalafatich came out second best in an arm wrestling contest and suffered a broken wrist. (He should know better than argue with Elsie, when she says NO MORE DESSERT.) Hope you get better John, we will miss your great humor at the luncheons. This may also add a stroke to your golf game, as well.

Bob and Barb Lutz ventured North from their resort area of Kinberling City, just to have lunch with the gang. (Always wondered where folks that live in resort areas fo for a vacation.) They are almost all moved in and ready for visitors. Maybe the retirees should consider having a luncheon at the Lutz's at some future date.

Elias Hydar was recently seen enjoying the likes of the music and dancing at the American Czech Center, in the City. He never missed a dance and gave a good account of himself on the dance floor. (Eli was the former Chief of Budget, many years ago. He sure looks great for someone who fought the "wars with Homer Duff's army".)

The December luncheon is scheduled for December 20th, at the Salad Bowl, at about 11:00am. Hope to see many of you there.

**The ice machine's back!
Thanks, LM!**



New award from Division



General. Arnold has designed a new type of recognition for employees who have used their "Just Do It" authority. It's a nice "Just Did It" compass and our District Commander has received a supply of them for presentation.

If you see folks in the District whom you believe are deserving of this recognition, please let your supervisor know (or theirs) so that this info can be passed on.



Inscription on the compass.

New inductees to the *Gallery of Distinguished Civilians*



Jack R. Niemi

1962 — 1989

Mr. Niemi began his long and distinguished career with the St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1962. He served as the Chief of the Engineering Division from 1973 to 1989. From 1989 until his retirement in 1993, he served as the Deputy District Engineer for Project Management for the St. Louis District.

Mr. Niemi was personally honored many times for his achievements. He received an “Award for Design Excellence” from the President of the United States. He was awarded the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award, a Professional Recognition Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Department of the Army Achievement Award. He also received the Engineer of the Year Award from the St. Louis Chapter of the National Association of Professional Engineers and honored by being designated the Engineer of the Year of the Lower Mississippi Valley Division. Mr. Niemi’s contributions to the Corps of Engineers and the citizens of the Mississippi Valley will be enduring. His work has improved the quality of life for future generations.

Otto K. Steffens

1967 — 1984

Mr. Otto K. Steffens’ achievements in his career began with his military service to his country during World War II, from which he was honorably discharged in 1945. His career with the US Army Corps of Engineers spanned 36 years. From July 1967 thru June 1984 he worked for the St. Louis District. During that time he was the Resident Engineer for the St. Louis Flood Protection Resident Office. In 1970, he became the Resident Engineer for the construction of Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir and served in that capacity until his retirement and project completion in 1984.

Mr. Steffens has been a model of excellence and dedication to public service. He maintained high personal standards of performance and accountability. He was a very respected member of both the St. Louis District and the entire northeast Missouri community.

