



# ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

# ESPRIT

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December 2003



Dredge Potter works around the clock to pump sedimentation out of the navigation channel. Dredging operations typically start around the 4th of July and end near Christmas. Periods of low water make its work even more critical.

## The Highs and Lows of Old Man River

The Mississippi River has an ever-changing face. Its water levels have fluctuated up and down as much as 28.33 feet in 44 days. The highs and lows of Old Man River present a number of challenges to the District's navigation and flood control missions.

The St. Louis District can experience both a flood and a drought at the same time. For instance, currently the Mississippi Valley watershed is experiencing a drought, but a series of rain showers in November raised the pool at Wappapello Lake ten feet in two days, thus putting the project in a flood status.

This year the District is experiencing worse drought conditions than in 1988 and 1989, said Dave Busse, Chief of Potamology. "But you'd probably never know it," he said, "because [river] traffic is moving better and the District is

handling it better."

Busse credits the improvements to better river forecasts, less severe water level fluctuations, and a more stable navigation channel.

Over 100 river and lake gages aid the District's Water Control Office in making river forecasts and managing water level fluctuations. Just a few years ago the gages were transmitting water levels every four hours, and now the gages transmit every hour.

"Don Coleman and his team in Water Control have made significant improvements and upgrades to the District's data collection network," Busse said. "These upgrades provide more timely and more reliable information so that water levels are managed better."

While Water Control works to manage what is on top, the river engineers and

dredge crews focus on sediment, the main obstacle to the District's mission to provide a safe and dependable 9-foot navigation channel on the Upper Mississippi River.

Dredging offers a temporary solution for sediment buildup, while river engineering uses channel improvement structures, such as dikes and chevrons, to reshape the main navigation channel by using the river's natural forces.

"The channel is in better shape now than it was in '88," said Busse.

For example, during the 1988 drought there were five dredges working in the District. So far this year, the District has used three, and the third one, loaned by the Vicksburg District, has since redeployed.

The navigation industry keeps a close eye on the condition of the channel.

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### Commander's Perspective



**MAJ Joseph D. Tyron**

The last few weeks have been a world wind of events. Low water on the Mississippi, preparation for Lock 24's major rehab and the monsoon of them all...me beginning this month sitting in Colonel Williams' chair, and I must say that the boots under his desk are very large and hard to fill.

I have to be honest; this event has been a humbling one. It is relatively rare, but not unprecedented, that a major gets an opportunity to fill in as the commander for an extended period of time. However, this opportunity is not attributable to me. This opportunity stems from all of you, the extraordinary employees of the St Louis District. Your professionalism and dedication in all you do has provided me the honor and pleasure to continue Col Williams' mission.

Col. Williams has left us temporarily to do a very important job, doing what soldiers do. As you read his latest e-mail, you can see St. Louis District family

surrounds him. But, we all need to support him.

The soldiers and civilians deployed are not the only ones contributing to the war effort. Every day the District is contributing to the reconstruction of Iraq. When you take on a deployee's duties, you are contributing. When you answer calls for help, you are contributing. When you send cookies and Gatorade, you are contributing (more than you know). We should all be proud.

To help our deployed family members feel closer to home, PAO has dedicated pages in Esprit for their holiday messages to the District. They truly have a unique perspective on the holidays. Take the time to read their stories and look at their pictures.

Another article in this issue of Esprit is the District's fight with low water. We have been experiencing low water conditions since the summer, but because of our Water Control folks' expert ability to manage river levels and ensure minimum impact to navigation...we came out on top. The crew of Dredge Potter has also been doing great work this fall getting the navigation channel in shape for the winter.

Other navigational efforts include the long anticipated completion of Lock 24's rehabilitation. The Lock will close on December 15 for its third and final winter closure. The major reconstruction work at Lock 24 demonstrates the positive working relationship our District has with its partners.

With the winter holidays come ice and snow. These elements will be a part of our lives for the next few months. Keep safety at the forefront of your mind when you are traveling to and from work and during

your holiday errands. Give yourself plenty of drive time and slow down when weather conditions warrant it. Please be safe.

The next six months will be an exciting time for us all. Our District is comprised of a diverse group of people, departments and missions. The work you do each day ensures we meet our responsibility to the Army and the Nation.

I readily admit I don't have all the answers. I haven't even heard all of the questions, but with your help and support I look forward to serving with you as your acting commander.

Please keep Col. Williams and his family and all our deployed soldiers and civilians in your thoughts and prayers.

Essayons!

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

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## Managing The Highs and Lows of Old Man River Cont. from page 1

Whether it is grain, petroleum, salt, cement, steel or coal, over three hundred million tons of commodities travel the Mississippi River every year.

On the Upper Mississippi, a majority of the annual revenue is earned between September and December and at the opening of the Upper Mississippi each March, explained Raymond Hopkins, Chairman of RIAC, River Industry Action Committee.

"It is extremely critical that the navigation channel stays open during low water events and the winter. Enormous costs are incurred by the navigational industry that cannot be recuperated each hour that the channel is closed," Hopkins said.

On a weekly basis, Water Control employees conduct teleconferences with the navigation industry and the Coast Guard. Topics discussed include weather and river stage forecasts, specific locations of shallow water and narrow channels, dredging locations, survey and dredging needs, river conditions and potential navigation concerns.

"The tow industry has to make shipping decisions a week out or earlier," said Busse. "The condition and level of the river is of paramount importance."

Joan Stemler, a water control manager, has worked diligently to control the fluctuating river stages by literally working around the clock, Hopkins said.

Whether it involves calling at night or on the weekends, Stemler ensures that any fluctuations in river levels that may impact barge loading and tow sizes are communicated in a timely fashion to river industry representatives, Hopkins explained.

"Joan has taken the time to understand the industries need for accurate forecasts, and she has worked hard to improve them," he said. "These forecasts became one of the most important pieces of information that allowed traffic to keep moving."



**An exposed sand bar near mile marker 174 shows how low the Mississippi was in October.**

Although the Weather Service issues the official river stage forecasts, over the years, the towing industry, and many others living along the river, have come to depend on the Corps' forecasts.

There can be significant differences between the official forecast and ours, Busse said.

Recently, Stemler traveled to St. Paul, Minn., and met with the Weather Service to discuss the necessity for more accurate river stage forecasts. Since the meeting, the Weather Service is now consulting Stemler before their forecasts go out to the public.

"We are not out to beat the Weather Service," said Busse. "The fact that the public and navigation industry has noted that the Weather Service forecasts have gotten better over the last month is a source of pride to the folks in Water Control."

Accurate forecasts help Water Control make decisions on pool levels behind the District's locks and dams. The reason

locks and dams were built is for low water events.

"This is really the time when they shine," Busse said. "We have the best lock and dam people in the Division, and they are critical to getting us through this low water event."

The pool held upstream of the dam structure helps maintain an adequate 9-foot navigation channel.

There is a 670-mile long aquatic staircase stretching from St. Louis to St. Paul. Without the locks and dams, people would literally be able to walk across certain parts of the Upper Mississippi during low water events. (Reference this month's "The Way I Remember")

Periods of low water and flood test the system, and water control managers learn how it performs.

"In Water Control experience is the most important thing you have, and we have a lot of that," Busse said.

In the past ten years, St. Louis has been as low as minus 3 and as high as 49.58.

"That's a 52 foot fluctuation at St. Louis. No other water control managers have seen that," he said. The District's partners learn during these times of flood and low water too.

Hopkins characterizes the Corps working relationship with RIAC as a "true partnership."

"Partnership has become the catch phrase in our industry," he said. "The recent crisis has shown us that the Corps and Industry share common interest in the safety of the public, equipment and property, and protection of the environment."

"The Corps has demonstrated a willingness to communicate, listen with an open mind and understand the needs of everyone impacted and involved."

Keeping those lines of communication open this winter is going to be critical.

"The potential is there for St. Louis to set new record lows," said Stemler. "It is going to be a very long winter."



# Holiday Messages from Iraq



## Thoughts from Alan Dooley

I will have returned shortly before the holidays, but I'm honored to be included in this Esprit.

I am so grateful to be returning home and to know how very, very good I have it in the United States.

Four months in this nation that has endured and lost three wars in fifteen years, suffered three-plus decades of cruel repression and been unable to

prevent the progressive breakdown of virtually all of the services we take for granted in America, has made me a lot less materialistic.

If I get only one gift this Christmas, I hope it will be a permanent grasp of this realization. It would be a shame to come this far, stay this long and work so hard only to forget this lesson.

So what is important if it's not the packages under the tree, the raucous celebration of the arrival of 2004 and all the associated festivity? What's important if it's not the "stuff?" If I can chose a couple more gifts this holiday season, what will they be?

First, I want to know that the gift of all of my freedoms is intact. I have heard countless stories of horrors endured by these people in the last 35 years. I have been told of people whose family members disappeared years ago.

As you travel these holidays, shop and deliver gifts, think occasionally how absolutely refreshing it is to think what you want, go where you wish, say what you want to say and not fear reprisal for any of it. There is no air so fresh as

freedom.

And I hope for the love of those whom I love, cherish and work with this Christmas.

In the end, it's not the comforts of home, or great wealth of "things" that are important. Most of all, I have missed the people who make my life meaningful. I have missed family and friends. I have missed all of you – yup, all of you.

If you are free and loved – you've got everything that's important. I think that's what we are trying to give the Iraqi people this Christmas. We should do no less for those closer to us as well.

If the sweater doesn't fit (or is ugly), if you don't get the table saw you have coveted, if something doesn't arrive in time, or if the new camera doesn't work (well... maybe that last one is important), don't sweat it.

Finally, I hope each of you is blessed with happiness, love and renewed hope for the new year. If you are, you will have had the richest holiday season ever. And God Bless our Corps, our Soldiers and the United States of America.



Chris Morgan poses for a quick picture outside his quarters in Kirkuk.

## Happy Holidays from Chris Morgan

Happy holidays to all, and even though it seems one day is like the next around here, time is going by fast.

I am safe and sound in my temporary home in Kirkuk. The weather here has been perfect up to now.

Some nights it as if it is the 4th of July! We have been lucky and your prayers do indeed help.

We are building the Corps' base camp on the Air Base where security is the best.

We have everything we need here including a PX for the Army and Air Force, along with Burger King and even a mobile Pizza Hut.

My next big job will be a pipeline going under the Tigris River. You can

take a lockmaster away from the river, but he will in some way find his way back.

The Tigris, in the crossing area, looks like our Missouri River around St. Charles as in width. The current is very fast. We will bore 7 pipelines under the riverbed. The largest is a 50-inch pipe.

Take care and thanks for your well wishes.





Greg Walgate and Ida Morris celebrate Thanksgiving far from home.

### Merry Christmas from Natta Gill

It's a great day in Baghdad. Hello Corps family. Thanks for the opportunity to share a few words from Baghdad. I'm doing well and enjoying every minute that I am here. I've met so many great people from all over the world and I'm overwhelmed. I look forward to coming home soon and thanks for all the prayers that have gone out for us. I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!!!



Natta Gill at her desk in Baghdad.

### Season's greetings from Greg Walgate

It is quite amazing the cross section of expertise which came together for our little task force. In some way, every person had something to contribute which may not have been available without them. This team looks for any way possible to "blow through" problems, as our Deputy Commander would say. When you refuse to accept no, sometimes the answer becomes yes.

In some places we are making remarkable progress both with the local Iraqis and on the construction project. In others, we seem to just be making mud. We've pushed along the electrical infrastructure better than any other company or agency so far, even caused others to get their respective butts in gear.

The Iraqis don't celebrate Christmas, but we'll be giving thousands electricity in their homes and businesses just in time for the holidays.

I'll be thinking of my wife, Dawn, our kids, Brynna and Logan, and even some friends and coworkers this holiday season.

### Blessings from Ida Morris

Being in Basrah, Iraq for the holidays is quite an experience. With letters, packages, and e-mails from home, it is hard not to be homesick.

I remember the reasons for being here, but my heart aches for the love and companionship of my family and friends. Even as I write this, tears come to my eyes when I think about home.

All the people I work with here have been great. We are bonded by the same cause, to help the people of Iraq and make the world a safer and better place. We support each other as a family – listening, sharing and caring.

My Corps Family is quite large. It includes the District, as well as other Corps friends I have made during disaster recoveries. I appreciate all the messages, thoughts, prayers, and packages. Every little gesture does make a difference when a person is so far away.

I pray for everyone back home daily. I wish all of you the best of holiday fun, happiness and love. Cherish those close to you and stay safe. God bless America and God bless us, every one.





### Holiday Thoughts from Larry Wernle

Dearest Friends and Co-Workers,

As I write this, it's only November, and I'll have the UNMITIGATED LUXURY of being home for Christmas. Many friends won't. However, PA has asked that we deployees prepare a Holiday message to our families/friends/co-workers back home.

After five and a half months in Iraq, my Holiday message is simple: Stop and smell the roses. Take that extra five minutes - to pet the dog, tickle your niece (mine just turned 10), and enjoy your favorite restaurant with your favorite people. Not just one of these things, ALL of these things. Whatever makes your blood pressure go down and the corners of your mouth go up. Many Americans don't appreciate how good we have it.

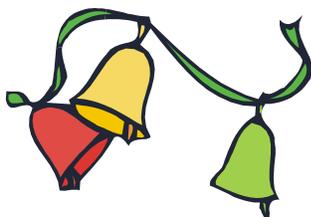
There are hundreds of thousands of soldiers and civilians, busting their butts over here in Iraq every day to see that it stays that way. Stop and appreciate your favorite vista, without worrying about who might be sneaking up behind you with an AK-47. I know I will.



Iraqi children pose while Larry Wernle takes their picture. While helping to rebuild schools, Larry became very familiar with some of the local children. "This picture is why I am here," he wrote.



Larry assesses structural damage to one of the 1,250 plus schools fixed by Sept. 30.



### Holiday Message from Erin Duffy in Baghdad

I would like to wish my family and the Corps family a Happy Holiday season.

Thanksgiving in Baghdad was better than expected. We had real turkey, cornbread stuffing, potatoes, yams, and much more food.

The Thanksgiving DFAC decorations included ice sculptures, streamers, squash sculptures, and bread designs.

They really did it up for us, and we are forever grateful.

I'm sure Christmas in Baghdad will be a drastic change from the holidays in St. Louis, but after celebrating Thanksgiving here, I think they will do their best to give us a taste of home!

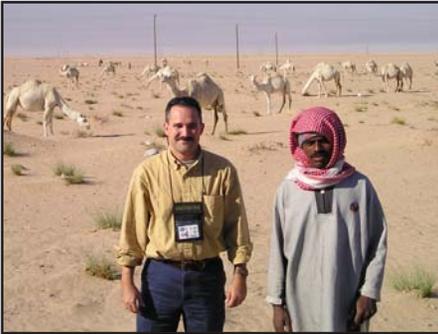
To all back home, have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Erin Duffy took this picture that shows the festive Thanksgiving decorations put up by the dining facility staff.



## Holiday Message from Matt Hunn



**A flock of Kuwaiti camels graze behind Matt and an Iraqi.**

At the Safwan border crossing into Kuwait, I have gotten to know these children pictured below. Some live in a little mud shack a few hundred feet from the crossing.

They hound me for money, and I tell them they only get “money” if they have something to sell - a product or a service. Teaching them capitalism at its finest.

Last week they had Saddam money, Iraqi dinar with Saddam’s face on it, and I bought it from them, five for a dollar. One of the kids noted that my vehicle was very dirty. I told him that if he had a bucket and soapy water to wash my car I would pay him next time I came across. He wanted to start right then with his jacket!

I think the only way we have hopes of changing the future for these children is to teach them better ways of doing things.

I take with me all of your prayers and happiness when I see these children,

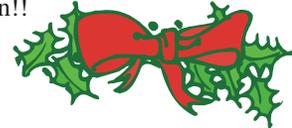
giving them little pieces of candy, a smile, and a kind word.

I carry in my heart a prayer that these children will have a better life than their families before them. And by better I mean the simple things such as a roof over their heads, clean water to drink, books to read, and songs to sing.

Pray for them.

I really could just bring home a whole truckload of these little kids. It breaks my heart and makes me miss my children, too.

I am eating and sleeping well. The weather is wet, and the beer is cold. I’m wishing you all the best for the holiday season!!



**Even though Matt is half a world away, family pictures hung in his office help him feel connected to those he loves.**



**Iraqi children give the peace sign to a convoy as it crosses into Kuwait. “I carry in my heart a prayer that these children will have a better life than their families before them,” Hunn writes. “And by better I mean the simple things such as a roof over their heads, clean water to drink, books to read, and songs to sing.”**



## Riverlands Seeking Volunteers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rivers Project Office, is seeking members for its new park watch program, Riverlands Watch.

The program is similar to "Neighborhood Watch" or "Crime Watch," explained Park Ranger Kimberly Rea, Rivers Project Office.

Members of Riverlands Watch will help ranger staff by providing eyes and ears throughout the Rivers Project Office areas from Lock and Dam 24, Clarksville, Mo., to Locks 27, Granite City, Ill., although the primary areas will be the Riverlands Area Environmental Demonstration Area, Illinois Esplanade and the

Chain of Rocks/Chouteau Island.

Riverlands Watch allows volunteers to play an important role in the protection of public lands, by providing information to park rangers and local law enforcement regarding illegal or dangerous activities on project lands and waters, as well as safety hazards throughout the areas.

As a member of Riverlands Watch, volunteers are asked to observe and report the following items to park ranger staff: illegal or suspicious activities, vandalism, speeding or reckless driving, reckless behavior, dumping or littering, boating in restricted areas, and ATV or Off Road Vehicle use.

Individuals who regularly use the Riverlands Areas for recreational

purposes are the focus of this program and are strongly encouraged to become members of Riverlands Watch.

Former Corps employees are especially invited to apply as a way to continue their role as part of the Corps family.

Organizations and groups are also encouraged to become members and can schedule information sessions about the program.

"We want to keep public lands safe for all users," said Rea. "This is an opportunity for people to play a proactive role in protecting the Riverlands."

Interested parties are urged to contact Kimberly Rea at the Rivers Project Office at 636-899-2600 x241.

## District Hosts Disability Hunts

Three District lakes hosted successful deer hunts for persons with disabilities the weekend before Thanksgiving. Seventy-six hunters participated in the events at Lake Shelbyville, Mark Twain Lake and Rend Lake.

Seventeen of the 22 hunters who participated in Lake Shelbyville's 14th Annual Deer Hunt for Persons with Disabilities harvested deer. Eighteen volunteers donated at least 16-hours a

day during the 3-day event held Nov. 21-23. Lake Shelbyville's Cooperating Association, the Kaskia Kaw Rivers Conservancy, received approximately \$2,300 in grants from Wal-Mart and the National Rifle Association to help sponsor the event.

Twenty-seven hunters participated in Mark Twain Lake's 2004 Physically Challenged Hunt for

Deer held in the Indian Creek Recreation Area. Indian Creek is a 1,200-acre recreation area that is normally closed to hunting, but this event is an exception to provide a safe environment for the participants. Volunteers coordinated transportation and placement of hunters in their blinds, while other volunteers and civic organizations provided services such as deer retrieval, deer dressing and processing, and meal preparation. Eighteen deer were



Maj. Tyron, L, and participants at the 27th Annual Rend Lake Deer Hunt don their hunting colors.

harvested during the hunt.

Major Joseph Tyron, Acting Commander, and his son Nathan assisted the staff at Rend Lake with the 27th Annual Rend Lake Deer Hunt for Persons with Disabilities. Work began at 4 a.m. Nov. 21 as staff members and Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club volunteers got the hunters to their blinds. The hunt was a huge success with twenty-seven participants and thirteen deer harvested.



Success at Mark Twain Lake.



## Faces & Places



Bill Loughridge and Peggy O'Bryan

### Roger W. (Bill) Loughridge Receives 30-year Pin

Roger W. (Bill) Loughridge, at the Mark Twain Lake Project was presented a 30-year service pin in November.

Bill began his career in the U.S. Air Force in 1966 and served in Vietnam in 1968.

When his tour ended in 1969, Bill went to work for the Missouri Department

of Conservation, and attended the University of Missouri at Columbia's Forestry School.

Bill entered the Missouri National Guard in 1980 and transferred to the Army Reserves in 1998, where he is currently a staff sergeant.

In 1977, Bill came to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and has since worked as a park technician, tractor operator and park ranger in three of the project shops: recreation, visitor assistance and resource management.

Currently Bill is a GS-7 in the resource management shop at Mark Twain Lake.



Denny Foss, Mark Twain Operations Manager, John Stone and Peggy O'Bryan, Chief of Con-Ops.

### John Stone Receives 25-year Pin

John Stone, Senior Power Plant Electrician at Clarence Cannon Dam, was presented his 25-year service pin in November.

After graduating from high school in Springfield, Ohio, John joined the U.S. Army and served as an electrician in Germany from 1970-1973.

He returned to the states and entered an electrician journeyman apprenticeship program with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 669. The apprenticeship lasted from 1974-1979.

From 1979-1981, John did electrical work in Alabama and attended one year of college for electrical engineering in Walla Walla, Washington.

John started work with the Corps in 1981 at the Little Goose Dam, part of the Walla Walla District. He worked at Little Goose Dam until 1985 when he came to the St. Louis District.

John served as a journeyman electrician at Clarence Cannon Dam from 1985 to 1991.

In 1991 he was promoted to senior power plant electrician, the position he holds today.

### NAI Media Award



Pam Doty and Rachel Garren

Park Rangers Pam Doty, Lake Shelbyville, and Rachel Garren, Construction Operations-Readiness Division, received a media award

from the National Association of Interpretation (NAI) at the National Interpreter's Workshop in Reno, Nevada on Nov. 13.

They received third place honors in the interpretive skills training category for creating "Who Wants to Be an Interpretaire." It was among 167 entries judged in twelve different media categories including books, exhibits, posters, trail guides, films and web sites

As part of the District's annual interpretive training for new rangers, one of the topics taught is Freeman Tilden's "Six Principles of Interpretation." Tilden taught, among other things, that interpretation should relate to and involve the audience, and provoke them to want to know more about the subject.

"Tilden's Principles are the foundation for any good interpretive program, trail, exhibit, brochure, etc. but if information is presented in a flat, sterile manner you lose an informal audience's attention," Garren said.

Sometimes Tilden's Principles are hard for even experienced interpreters to comprehend, so "Who Wants to Be an Interpretaire" was created so that new rangers could easily grasp the concept of the principles and basic interpretive skills in a fun and interactive manner.

"Interpretaire" is a PowerPoint presentation, which is fashioned after the "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" game show. The presentation is comprised of 10 games. Each game has five levels, Fern Feeler, Yogi Bear, Tree Hugger, Smokey Bear and Interpretaire.

Similar to the game show the questions get more challenging as the levels increase and participants can use lifelines, Ask a Friend, 50/50, and Survey Says, to help them progress through the game.

Interpretaire was showcased during the National Interpreter's Workshop. It was well received by Corps of Engineers and National Park Service personnel from across the nation. It has the potential to be used as an effective training tool no matter how small or large the group may be.



## A Lady Called Hassie Founding Mother of Shook

by: Meg LaPlante  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Volunteer

Tucked in the heart of Wayne County in Southeast Missouri, equal distances from St. Louis or Memphis, lays the community of Shook, formally Lost Creek.

It is dotted with a church, a country grocery store, named Johnson's, and some scattered buildings, and etched with shadows from a forest of poplar, maples, ash, oak, and hickory.



Shook's Johnson's Store in 1930s.

The town of Shook is located smack-dab in the foothills of Missouri's Ozark Mountains. Since 1938, a portion of the community has been part of over 44,000 acres managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Wappapello Lake.

Whispers about the need to build a dam on Missouri's St. Francis River in order to control flooding of the lower Mississippi Valley whistled throughout the community of Shook.

The Overton Act of 1936, sponsored by Senator John Overton of Louisiana, authorized the expenditure for flood control in the headwater area of the St. Francis River.

In 1938, construction of a dam on the St. Francis River, 11 miles east of Shook, began.

The area of farmland, forest, towns, and roadways experienced a metamor-



Hassie and her husband Clyde stand outside present-day Johnson's Store.

phosis, creating today's Wappapello Dam and Lake.

The federal government purchased towns, farms, and property, including Johnson's Store.

Contractors, in preparing the area for a dam, used up-to-date giant engineering equipment. The river had to be rerouted, tons of earth shifted, yards of concrete poured, and thousands of stones were needed to complete the project.

Loud booms from exploding dynamite caused the earth to tremble similar to an earthquake. All the turmoil seemed more than some locals could bear, but it didn't shake Shook, or the founding mother Lonia Hasseltine Atnip Johnson, "Hassie" as the locals know her.

In October 1922, up the road north of Shook at Mud Spring Hollow, John Alexander Atnip and his wife Minnie Louisa Leach Atnip could not have imagined that their sixth child, a baby girl they named Lonia Hasseltine, would remain in the area "forever," Hassie said.

"I am proud of my heritage," she said. "I have so many fond memories of my childhood, family, and friends. Today, the Shook community gives me a joyful life."

Hassie attended Davis School, located near Mud Spring Hollow.

"It was Clyde Johnson, my second grade schoolmaster, and later my husband, who gave me the nickname

Hassie," she said. "He said the names Lonia or Hasseltine was not me. I needed a shorter name."

Hassie was a good student and took courses in teacher training. In 1942, she returned to Davis School as the school-teacher.

"It was one of the highlights of my life," Hassie said.

Clyde left for duty with the U.S. Army, and Hassie quit teaching and accepted a job in St. Louis working in a small arms factory when World War II.

After the war in 1945, Hassie and Clyde returned to their hometown Shook, got married and had two children, Diane Louise and Edward Alexandra.

"I love Shook." Hassie declares. "This community is my true love, but my heartbeat is Clyde."

Clyde became the community's postmaster in 1945 and when he retired in 1985, Hassie took over and held the position until the post office was discontinued in 1999.

The post office was based out of Shook's Johnson's Store. Step inside Johnson's and it's like traveling back in time. Little has changed since the store was built in the 1930s.

If you choose to join customers in Johnson's Store, you will find a play running daily with the leading lady, Hassie, performing for all her customers



Hassie hold up a 1930s egg sizer.

as she graciously speaks the lines of her true personal experiences of the then and now “going on” in Shook.

Hassie will proudly demonstrate an instrument that verifies the size of an egg. This equipment, along with an egg tester, is a federal requirement if you commercially buy and sell eggs.

“My only bartering activity was buying eggs from my customers.” Hassie explains. “Some needed to sell eggs for their daily bread.”

In a rear corner of the store sits a huge floor scale. It is used to weigh animal feed.

“People ask when I will close Johnson’s Store because the trade is very slow,” Hassie reveals with a frown.

“My reply is: I don’t know what I’d do to keep busy and I’d miss my customers.”

She continues, “I do ask myself ‘what if?’ I would actually close the doors

forever. The answer to the question is clear. There is no need to even think about it because I can close at any time and do as I need and want. I’d just let my regular customers know when.”

Hassie is dedicated to the health and welfare of the community of Shook. She helped establish the Shiloh Church where she’s been clerk for 42 years.

Her interaction with the entire community literally earns her the title of Founding Mother of Shook.

*The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is gathering historical facts, photos, and stories about the land that is now part of Wappapello Lake. If you have any material to share, please forward it to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Wappapello Lake at 10992 Highway T, Wappapello, Missouri 63966.*

## Engineers fought and lived through day of infamy.

Corps of Engineers Historical Vignette

Seven December 1941 was the opening scene of World War II, and the Army Corps of Engineers was there.

At 7:55 a.m., two waves of Japanese warplanes from a naval task force about 250 miles north of Hawaii appeared over Oahu. Some headed for American warships at Pearl Harbor and the planes on the ground at nearby Hickam Field; others hit Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Field, and Bellows Field.

The Corps of Engineers in Hawaii consisted of soldier-engineers in the Army’s Hawaiian Department, and the Corps’ Honolulu Engineer District, then part of the South Pacific Division.

Col. Albert K.B. Lyman, a Hawaiian native, was the Army’s Hawaiian Department Engineer with offices at Fort Shafter. He commanded the 34th Engineer Combat Regiment, the 804th Engineer Aviation Battalion, plus the 3rd Engineer Combat Battalion of the 25th Infantry Division. All of Lyman’s engineers were at Schofield Barracks.

On the civil side, Lt. Col. Theodore Wyman, the Honolulu District Engineer, had offices at the Alexander Young Building in Honolulu employing 10 officers and 400 civilians. Fourteen field area offices had three officers and 200 civilians. Many district team members were at work that morning; there had been a rapid increase in defense projects after France fell in 1940.

Wyman’s work force was building stationary early-warning radar sites on Kauai, Maui, and Oahu, although none were operational on 7 December.

No district team members or engineers were killed when the Japanese struck without warning, but there were close calls. Paul J. Lynch, the area engineer in charge of construction at Bellows Field, watched with horror as Japanese planes strafed the field, destroying most of the P-40 Warhawk fighter planes. Lynch directed dispersal of his equipment, and because of his efforts none was lost.

First Lieutenant Harvey R. Fraser was at Schofield Barracks that morning preparing to leave the next day, 8 December. One of the first bomb blasts

blew out a window of Fraser’s house and he ran to get his pistol to shoot at the low-flying planes, forgetting he had already turned in his weapon. He found his men in the street shooting at attacking planes. Fraser told the supply sergeant to give weapons to anyone who asked and to tell them to shoot at the Japanese planes. Later, Fraser almost had to pay for the weapons because in the haste to go to war no one had asked for, or given out, receipts!

As eventful as 7 December 1941 was, it was but the first of many days of war for the engineers in Hawaii. Honolulu District built more airfields, and port and base facilities for the war.

All the Hawaiian Department engineer units served in the war. The 34th Engineers served in the Central Pacific and landed on Kwajalein. The 804th Engineers, also in the Central Pacific, saw action at Saipan. The 3rd and 64th Engineers went to the Southwest Pacific and fought and built their way through the Solomons, New Guinea, and the Philippines



## The Way I Remember It



The Mississippi River was low last year, the lowest since 1989, in fact. It's low again as we close in on winter with the potential of setting a new record low in 2004.

At any rate, recently while sitting through the interminable teleconferences and meetings discussing another season of abnormally low water conditions, my ever-wandering mind contemplated some questions: What would the river be like without the locks and dams? What impacts would we experience? What would the environmental consequences be?

In my mind, I am drafting this article for Esprit... Hmmmmmm.

An early U.S. Army Corps of Engineers report stated, "In its original condition the Mississippi consisted of a series of relatively deep pools separated by shallow bars and rapids. The channel was obstructed by rocks and snags. Low water made stretches of the river impossible to navigate, while at higher stages it was navigable to St. Paul."

Through some research, I have found a very interesting publication: "A History of Fish and Fishing in the Upper Mississippi River," published in 1954 by the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC). I will use this report as my main source for this article.

As always, I will edit for brevity and clarity. In other words, some of the following are my words, some are from the report and some of the report references have been edited. I have the original report at my desk if you wish to read it.

For purposes of this discussion, I am going to define the Upper Mississippi as the reach of the river above St. Louis. At least as early as the 1870s there was an



Photos courtesy of the Rock Island District

**Three residents stand in the Mississippi River's bed near Arsenal Island during a low water event, May 1931. Before locks and dams, water levels were sometimes so low people could walk across certain parts of the river.**

increasing alarm over the disappearance of fishery resources in the Upper Mississippi River Valley. The U.S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries began to artificially add fish to the river. In 1872, 25,000 American shad were placed in the Mississippi River a few miles above St. Paul, Minn.

Further south, in 1874, the first head of the Iowa Board of Fish Commissioners was an enthusiastic advocate of planting fish in every available stream including the portion of the Mississippi, which formed the eastern boundary of Iowa. In 1884, a report stated that shad had been planted quite extensively in the Mississippi. But two short years later, in 1886, a report declared that shad planting in the Mississippi River was a failure.

In the ten years from 1874 to 1884, 1.34 million American shad were planted in the river. Thousands of Atlantic salmon were also unsuccessfully stocked.

The species of fish, which was most successfully planted in the late nineteenth century, was the carp. In fact, the planting was so successful that the poundage of carp has exceeded that of any other fish in the commercial fisheries of the Mississippi River since 1900.

One of the most time-consuming efforts on the river during this time frame was called "fish rescue." The spring floods submerged the lowlands along the river and as the water receded, side channels and sloughs became isolated from the river's main channel. As summer came

and the high water receded, many of the adult fish returned to the river channel, but many of the young fish became stranded in the off channel areas.

Some of these off channel areas became dry in a few days. Others lasted for weeks or months while the water slowly evaporated or seeped away. The landlocked fish died, either quickly when the off channel areas become completely dry, or more slowly in the larger areas of low water, starving or finally smothering if the remaining small areas of water froze in the winter.

The idea of rescuing the fish from the off channel areas was originated with B.F. Shaw around the 1870s. The rescue work began in Iowa in 1876 and grew in volume and importance through the years until the nine-foot channel was constructed, stabilizing the water level. This practice of rescuing fish lasted until the 1930s.

Each year, millions of fish were rescued. Some were used to stock lakes and farm ponds and the remainder were put in the main channel of the Mississippi River.

The Fisheries Research Bulletin, published in November/December 1918, stated by the time the season closed on November 18, 1918, 54.9 million fish had been rescued. A Minnesota newspaper said that one-day's rescue saved more fish than could be bred at one of the hatcheries in a year. Three years later in 1921, fish rescues peaked, with a total of 176 million



**Residents can no longer stand in the Mississippi riverbed near Arsenal Island. The navigation project now provides reliable water levels during low water events as seen in this spring 2000 photo.**

fish rescued.

The program of rescuing fish irritated some of the people along the river. These people object to taking the bass away from the sloughs and planting them in inland waters. They claimed that the rescuers did not confine themselves to taking the fish from the sloughs, but intimated that they stole them from the river for other people's benefit, etc.

The debate that bubbled and raged for more than half a century became "O.B.E" – overcome by events – with the development of the nine-foot channel and the consequent stabilization of the water levels.

In the Fisheries Service Bulletin for December 1937, there was this note. "It is probable that this is the last season in which any appreciable quantity of fish can be salvaged from the drying sloughs in the Upper Mississippi area because of the fact that the nine-foot channel development will provide stable water levels."

And so the era of having to rescue millions of stranded fish from low waters in the summer ended as the dams and locks – created for navigation – made their impact felt on the aquatic inhabitants of the river.

A 1945 report said that the locks and dams have converted the river into a series of lakes. "It is a stretch of interesting and varied topography; but the configuration of the water course is now largely controlled and defined by the series of dams. Each dam, separated from the next by a distance of fifteen to thirty

miles, creates a flat pool several miles in length.

The partial impoundment of the river has brought, and is bringing, about many distinct changes in the water topography, and hence in the conditions which make up an environment for fish and

wildlife." This publication goes on to say one of the effects of the locks and dams has been an increase in the permanent water area.

Of course, there are many factors affecting the condition of the aquatic environment other than the creation of the pools resulting from the construction of the locks and dams. One of the main factors is water quality. No matter how good the available habitat is, it will not have good fish populations if the quality of the water is poor. This report addresses this issue.

The report said, the building of towns and cities along the river has led to considerable pollution of the Mississippi from sewage and industrial wastes. The condition of the river between Minneapolis and Lake Pepin became so serious that a survey was ordered by the legislature of Minnesota in 1927.

The data obtained indicated that the fish generally shunned grossly polluted waters where the dissolved oxygen content was low.

The report went on to explain that commercial fishing was greatly reduced, or completely destroyed in some places because of pollution. Commercial fishermen in the St. Louis vicinity were said to complain about a gassy or oily flavor to fish they caught.

Today the water quality of the river has improved dramatically. Some of this is attributable to modern sewage treatment systems. Some can be traced to better farming practices. But some is because

the locks and dams have created a more stable environment for the aquatic inhabitants of the river.

This doesn't mean that all of the problems have been solved. Nor does it necessarily mean that the original Mississippi River was "wrong."

What it does mean is that with the coming of a large human population to the region, it was necessary to enhance the multiple-use nature of the river – to accommodate navigation, recreation and the environment. The locks, dams and river structures contribute to all three – not perfectly – but the relationship between human habitation and the river remains a work in progress.

There are those who call for removing the locks and dams and river structures, restoring the river to its prior state. But if they want that they are going to have to accept economic impacts on America's status in the global market, loss of the reliable water supply that the Mississippi affords, the death of millions of fish each summer (not to mention the smell!) and to relinquish the recreation and leisure afforded by the river today. They will have to lose it all.

The Mississippi – sans the locks, dams and river structures we have today would be a different river, and not necessarily a better one.

The St. Louis District of the Corps of Engineers continues to work with numerous and diverse partners to improve both the economic utility and habitat of the Mississippi. The hard work of this team is dedicated to maintaining commerce and creating habitat diversity for both the navigation pools and the open river portion of the river.

Whew! Dave Busse is driving a point home to somebody and looking to me to agree. Nobody has noticed that I haven't been participating in or even listening to the teleconference discussing low water.

I've been contemplating what it would be like without the tools necessary to achieve a win-win solution for everyone's interests. And I don't think I like it that way. I guess I'd better get back to work.

*Claude*



## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance - Jan. 21

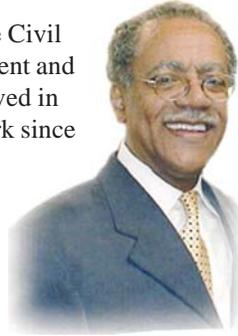
In observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday, the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office will be presenting a Dr. King program on Jan. 21 at 10 a.m. in the RAY Federal Building's 2nd floor auditorium.

The guest speaker for this year's event will be Dr. Samuel "Billy" Kyles of Memphis, Tenn. Kyles is widely believed to be the only living person to have been with King during his dying hour.

Dr. Kyles, who has served as pastor of the Monumental Baptist Church in Memphis since 1959, is a recognized

resource on the Civil Rights Movement and has been involved in civil rights work since the 1960s.

In February 1968, Memphis sanitation workers went on strike due to low pay and poor working conditions. Kyles led the effort to gain community support for the striking workers. He organized nightly rallies and raised money before scheduling a



**Dr. Samuel "Billy" Kyles**

major rally for April 3, 1968.

Dr. Kyles invited the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to come to Memphis and speak at the event. Dr. King accepted the invitation and gave his last speech, titled "I've Been to the Mountain Top," at the April 3 rally.

The following day, Dr. King was assassinated while he stood talking on the balcony of his second floor room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to listen to a firsthand account of the Civil Rights Movement and the tragic assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

All employees, former employees and retirees are welcome to attend.

## Corps Success: Partnering with the Community

*By Lou Dell'Orco*

When the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program was transferred from the Department of Energy to the Corps of Engineers in fiscal year 1998, the St. Louis District's FUSRAP Project Team inherited a community and regulatory agencies that were broken into many factions.

Due to what was perceived as a lack of credible information from the executing federal agency, they could not agree on a cleanup criteria, much less a path forward for restoration of the sites.

Over the course of many years, the DOE had made many promises, but the community did not see any results.

Additionally, there were other community factions trying to press their agenda. This resulted in an overall feeling from site stakeholders that the federal government could not be trusted to keep their word and that the program would backslide when the Corps of Engineers took over.

Upon transfer of the program, the Corps team identified and personally spoke with the site stakeholders to hear their thoughts and concerns first hand. One common theme emerged: "This is

our community, keep us involved in the decision making process."

As a result of listening to this and other concerns of the stakeholders, the District's FUSRAP Project Office developed and executed an aggressive community relations program.

We began by building relationships with the impacted politicians and community leaders. Team members with excellent communication and relationship skills were utilized to establish, develop and nurture these relationships. This process included an emphasis on openness and sharing through public workshops, briefings and presentations, listening, getting out into the schools and many other items.

We also reached out to state and federal officials, working hand in hand with them to protect human health and natural resources for the citizens of St. Louis, as well as the press, to spread the news of our commitment to improve the environment.

Monthly public meetings were, and continue to be held, to keep the public informed of the progress of the sites. A quarterly newsletter is sent to an extensive mailing list to ensure those who can't attend are kept informed.

Additionally, website updates, the distribution of documents to local

libraries, the support to utilities operating in impacted areas and the offer of support to impacted property owners, who wish to do property improvement prior to remediation, has generated positive response on our execution of the program.

The team's efforts and initiative to date has gained and maintained the trust and respect of the diverse base of organizations involved in the program.

By being straightforward and honest in our dealings with the stakeholders, our efforts allayed the fears of the community and gave them a renewed vote of confidence in the government.

"The Corps of Engineers has gained our trust," said Ric Cavanagh, chairman, St. Louis Oversight Committee. "I do want to say that we are very, very pleased with the cooperation and communication we've received from the Corps of Engineers. It's been a delightful change perhaps, to be honest, from what we have experienced in the past."

The team's ability to continue to explain, advocate, express facts and ideas in a convincing manner and negotiate with individuals and groups internally and externally has paid huge dividends for the FUSRAP program.



## Retiree's Corner



The retirees met at the Salad Bowl on November 20 at 11:30 a.m.

Don Wampler mentioned that Bob Maxwell was doing well, but had trouble with his knees. This reduces his ability to move around, and he stays close to home.

Elsie Kalafatich and Sandor Dombi talked about the "good old days" at the District. When salaries were mentioned, several retirees said they remember starting at \$1,200.00 per year. (That was a long time ago.) Elsie's husband, John said no matter what Elsie made, he never saw any of it. Everyone agreed that even with that very small amount of salary, since the prices were also very low, they always had enough to go around and still put a little something in the savings account.

Lew and Helen Scheuermann brought along with them a fellow retiree, long gone from these parts-Bill Thomure. It was a bitter sweet gathering, It was good to see Bill, but we were saddened to learn that his wife, Ursula, had passed away in September. Our condolences to Bill and his family for their loss.

Joe Bisher mentioned that he recently talked to Ruddle Spring. Ruddle has been doing a lot of traveling, visiting his children and grandchildren. Ruddle spoke with Dan Courtney about the old times including Captain Morey Brady.

Joe related that Captain Brady used to like to tell of his World War II days sailing LST's from Chicago down the Illinois and Misisippi Rivers to the Gulf. They would remove the superstructures for the trip and then re-install it at New Orleans.

Joe also said that Dan Courtney started his career as a clerk and radio operator on the Dredges, for the Corps, and was an expert on the use of Morse Code. During World War II, it was the only reliable means of communications.

Joe, a former Dredge clerk and radio operator, also remembers that the Service Base, at one time, had all the lumber and material for the Quarter Boats and Maintenance Unit materials, complete floating plant repair facilities, to support three Dredges and storage for all the equipment needed for flood fight.

Joe said that "Those were the days."

Here are some excerpt from the Information Bulletins of years age:

### November 20, 1968

- Recruitment for qualified personnel for duty in Vietnam was a high priority.

- Col. Decker announced that a location had been selected for the Meramec Park Reservoir Real Estate Office at 234 West Main Street in Sullivan, Missouri.

- A Special Award was presented to Paul Nadziejko, Engineering Division, Design Branch, for saving the life of a four year old boy from drowning at a picnic of Structural Section employees at Wilmore Park on 25 August 1968. Paul's quick thinking and decisive action were commended.

### November 6, 1973

- The District welcomed aboard the first full-time EEO Officer, Mrs. Glendolyn (Jean) Hungerford who came from U.S. Army Troop Support Command.

- A model exhibit of the Clarence Cannon Project was put on display at the offices of the Hannibal Courier-Post newspaper.

- Dr Hanley (Bo) Smith made a special talk to the entire Country Day student body, some 400 strong, about the Meramec. Lots of action on the Meramec Project as the time for the construction start approached.

The Retirees will have their December Luncheon on December 18, at about 11:30am at the Salad Bowl. Hope to see many of you there.



**Jim Fogilphol and Lee Harris enjoyed a lunch at the National Great Rivers Museum with the ROMEOs.**

On Nov. 19, Foggie met ROMEO at the National Great Rivers Museum.

Foggie, of course, is Jim Fogilphol the retired lockmaster of many years at L&D 26. ROMEO, Retired Old Men Eating Out, is a loosely-knit group of retired Corps folks who meet once a month for lunch.

Most of the ROMEOs played some part in making Mel Price a reality. A special attraction, in addition to Foggie's presence, was that of another retired Lockmaster. Lee Harris, who retired in 1975 as Lockmaster at Locks 27, came to the lunch also.

The group toured the newly opened museum as well as the locks and dam and maintenance facilities.

The project staff at the museum provided the guided tour and answered all the questions of the 15 ROMEOs who were there.



**Carol Ryan gives ROMEO a tour of National Great Rivers Museum.**

# A Holiday Message

The holidays are a time for remembering others, and for giving to others.

This year, I want us to remember that there are many in our Corps of Engineers family who are serving in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq. They are giving an expensive gift...willingly sacrificing their holiday with their families so that others who lived for decades under tyrannical rule might have a future of safety and freedom.

I'm enormously proud of them. They volunteered for an important cause, and they are doing excellent work under difficult circumstances.

Of course, Afghanistan and Iraq are not the only places where our Corps team members will spend the holidays. Our people are at work in 91 countries worldwide, and many of them will also be separated from their loved ones during the holidays.

Please take a few moments during these holidays to remember those in the Corps family who are serving overseas. If you are acquainted with some of them, please mail them a card or send them an e-mail letting them know that you're thinking about them, and that their service is appreciated. I have also served overseas during the holidays under difficult conditions, and you can trust me on this...in the situations that our people face in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere, simple gifts like those will be treasured.

For all of us, this has been a busy year. As in years past, the Corps of Engineers has taken part in events that made headlines, and made a difference.

When the space shuttle Columbia burned up during re-entry, Corps people took part in the search in Texas and other states to find debris that helped piece together what happened to the spacecraft.

During Super typhoon Pongsona on Guam, Hurricane Isabel on the East Coast, and the wildfires in California, Corps emergency teams were on the scene to fight the disaster, and to clean up afterwards.

Whether it is helping clear landmines in Afghanistan, or advising the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources in re-routing water to preserve the Marsh Arabs' way of life, or providing new facilities for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, this year Corps people have continued making a difference in America, and in the world.

The holidays are also a time to look to the future, and the Corps of Engineers' future is bright. The plans for USACE 2012 have been released and are now being implemented. People throughout the Corps are learning the basics of the Project Management Business Process, cornerstone of the Corps' new way of doing business. And Corps people are learning the concepts of competitive sourcing, which will be our part in the President's Management Agenda.

These actions and others will give the Corps of Engineers the best possible gift...the ability to improve our service to the American people. As always, I encourage all of you to take time off during this holiday season. Relax and have fun, and especially make time to enjoy your families.

And my family and I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season, and a happy, prosperous New Year.

Essayons!  
ROBERT B. FLOWERS  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

