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It is estimated that over 400 mass graves dot the Iraqi countryside, most of them in remote areas. A small team of experts led by St. Louis District's Dr. Michael K. "Sonny" Trimble are conducting archaeological and forensic exhumations at some of these graves. They are collecting evidence that will be used in trials of former regime officials to include Saddam Hussein. Because of this site's remoteness a temporary camp was constructed for the team.

Proof Positive

On October 19 the world watched as Saddam Hussein and seven other former regime members were called before an Iraqi court to stand trial for a 1982 massacre in Dujail, a town 50 miles north of Baghdad, which was a center of opposition to Saddam and the Iranian War. The little known massacre, in which 150 people were killed, is just one of several incidents of mass murder that Saddam and fifty of his top officials will stand trial for in the coming years.

Saddam's ironfisted rule of Iraq left hundreds of thousands of people dead, thousands more never seen or heard from again and it created hundreds of thousands of refugees who now reside in countries all over the world.

It is estimated that the Iraqi countryside is dotted with over 400 mass graves. It

would take 20+ years to excavate them all, estimates Dr. Michael K. "Sonny" Trimble, Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for Archaeological Curation and Collections Management in St. Louis.

Knowing who is responsible for these atrocities is one thing. Proving it is an entirely different one. That is where Dr. Trimble and his small team of forensic experts, including federal employees, private citizens and academic professors, enter the picture.

As program director for the Iraq Mass Graves Team (IMGT), which is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Regime Crimes Liaison Office (RCLO) in Baghdad, Trimble and the Corps' forensic team are responsible for performing professional archaeological mass grave

exhumations and forensic analyses to gather evidence that will be used in various trials of former regime members.

The Justice Department, through the RCLO, has been assisting the nation of Iraq to establish a law enforcement-based investigative unit and a judicial system tailored to try former regime members.

The intent of the Mass Graves Program is to assist the RCLO and show through forensic data a pattern of genocide between 1988 and 1996.

"We are at least one-quarter of the overall data recovery effort," Trimble said during a Lunch and Learn with District personnel where he showed the Discovery Channel's *The Case Against Saddam*.

Along with the Dujail massacre, regime members will stand trial for using chemical weapons against the Kurdish town of Halabja in 1988, killing 5,000; the deliberate campaign to kill the Kurdish population, known as the Anfal Campaign; and the suppression of the Shi'ite uprising



Commander's Perspective



COL Lewis F. Setliff III

Along with about 85 of our colleagues from the St. Louis District, I am writing this while responding to the crisis caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Everywhere I look, from the Blue Roof and Debris teams in Mississippi to the people focused on rehabilitating the levees surrounding New Orleans, I see nothing but the kind of determination and performance that should make all of us from the St. Louis District proud.

At the same time, I hear daily how extremely well everyone is continuing to do their jobs back in our District.

Important work is proceeding on Locks 24 and 27. And we see the end result of that work here in New Orleans where just across the Mississippi River from the District Headquarters, an endless stream of ocean-going vessels are loading farm crops from the Midwest for export overseas.

Mary Anne Heitmeyer has been honored with the Hiram Chittenden Award. Dr. Sonny Trimble and his team

are continuing their history-making work in Iraq. And a team of engineers has taken the Wood River Levee project information to Washington DC and briefed HQUSACE and the Civil Works Review Board.

And through all of the daily business in the District, you are finding the compassion and love in your hearts to kick off another Combined Federal Campaign.

Wow! It seems like the higher the pressure, the better the team performs.

I cannot say enough about how much this deployment has taught me about our District, even from several states away.

During the early part of September the amount of support provided to the MVN personnel, the volunteers who showed up in the EOC and the willingness of folks to help was very impressive.

As the team started work in St. Louis, then proceeded to Vicksburg and finally moved to New Orleans – at every step of the way I have been thanked for all of the efforts our personnel are putting forth to aid the New Orleans District in its recovery efforts.

The Emergency Support Function 3 - Public Works and Engineering tasks in both Louisiana and Mississippi have been tremendous missions which will continue for quite a long time.

The contributions of St. Louis District personnel in both states has enabled successes to date as they attempt to provide an increased quality of life to the region's citizens affected by the storm.

There are numerous valuable lessons being driven home here in New Orleans, over in Mississippi and back in St. Louis. Everyone in our District has a vital role. Everyone's work is important. And everyone is a full member of the team and the family. This is true because you all grasp the purpose of our work.

We are all part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with a primary purpose of serving others. In Iraq we are rebuilding a war torn nation whose people have been cheated out of the fruits of their hard work for two decades.

Along our nation's Gulf Coast we are helping our own citizens get back on their feet after they have been punished cruelly by two violent hurricanes. And in St. Louis we are carrying out our normal duties in an exemplary manner. We are serving those whose lives would be much worse without us and our good work.

When you go out in public in your Corps shirt or other attire that identifies you as a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, do so with pride. You are the absolute best at what you do. Don't ever forget that. I sure don't.

Hooah!

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**Proof Positive
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following the first Gulf War, known as Intifada.

“The Anfal Campaign, between 1988 and 1997, involved a systematic, planned destruction of the Kurdish people, not unlike what Hitler did to the Jews, gypsies and other minorities,” Trimble said. “The aim was to wipe out any trace of them. The bodies are buried very deep and the executors had orders that none of the villages were to have rubble above 18 inches remaining.”

Trimble prefers to use heavy equipment in mass graves excavations, a process that is not widely embraced by many in his field. The equipment of choice in Iraq is an 80,000-pound excavator, which is used to remove overburden before using hand tools.

This system is an enormous time saver, Trimble said. Especially important when his central goal is to ensure the team’s safety by getting them in and out of a hostile environment as quickly as possible. It is also extremely helpful when many of the mass graves are up to 12 feet in depth.



A backhoe quickly removes deep layers of sand covering the graves.

The excavation of mass graves linked to these campaigns is providing the evidence for trials and establishing existence of a deliberate, purpose-driven operation by the regime. “The evidence will demonstrate a very phased, well planned, systematic extermination of people by the regime,” Trimble said.

Exhumations for the Anfal Campaign are complete and starting early next year work will begin in southern Iraq to identify victims of the Intifada Campaign.

The call to participate in this historic endeavor was received last summer by the MCX. Deanne Strauser, the then-project manager for the District’s Interagency & International Support program, believes



An endless expansive of featureless desert stretches in all directions. The only surface evidence of the crimes committed here are a littering of shell casings, located by team members using metal detectors.

Trimble’s professional qualifications and the MCX’s work in Southeast Asia, recovering remains of Soldiers killed in Vietnam, probably put them on a short list of experienced and qualified individuals.

“It is not often that the archaeology you perform has such high stakes,” Trimble said. “This is probably the most important job we’ll have in our lives. An entire nation is waiting and the Corps has the best team in the world working on this right now.”

Strauser describes it as the “Super Bowl” of forensic investigation.

After the initial call things moved quickly. “Everything happened in a one to two month period of time,” Strauser said. Due to the time crunch, assistance came from all over the Corps. The Transatlantic Programs Center had existing contracts that were used to bring specialist team members, such as pathologists, from outside the Corps onboard.

Folks in contracting, logistics and finance worked long hours making sure everything was ready for the deployment. And an already established camp in northern Iraq being used by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center for the Capture Enemy Ammunitions program was identified as the base camp for the first dig.

“Expertise came from all across the Corps,” Strauser added. “It was amazing. Everyone rose to the occasion. Although

it didn’t hurt that I walked around with the Presidential Directive (signed by the President himself), which established the RCLO and this mission,” she said with a smile. Vice President Dick Cheney is heading the presidential initiative and from him it is a very short line leading to the MCX team.

The Corps of Engineers team in Iraq has included Jim Barnes and Natalie Drew, both from the MCX’s shop, as well as Kelly Bertoglio (Legal), Hank Counts (Engineering), Capt. Ryan Larson and Maj. Chris Grose, all from the St. Louis District. Team members from other Corps offices are Paul Rubenstein (HQ), Patty Patterson (Fort Worth District), and Diane Hobbie (Mobile District).

Many other Corps employees have assisted significantly with logistics, supplies, personnel, administration and report preparation. “They have been invaluable to the effort,” Trimble said. “Kathy Feld and Chris Pulliam of the MCX, and Kathy Tober and her HR shop stand out.”

Also making an invaluable contribution was the District’s Contracting Division. In less than two months, archaeologist Jim Barnes, and Contracting’s Marilyn Aird, Archie Ringgenberg and Kathy Souders were responsible for ordering and receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of equipment prior to the first excavation.



Barnes also deployed with the team, assisting with the excavation and working in the cultural objects analysis laboratory.

Archivist Natalie Drew, along with several MCX team members (Brendan Daniels, Megan Maxwell, Amy McPherson, Heather Pobst and Amy Williams), Service Base crew members and security guard Leonard “Ozone” Giddings, went to Herculean efforts to ensure that all the ordered equipment was packed and shipped to Iraq.

Drew also got the unexpected job of cleaning and stabilizing papers and identification cards recovered from the graves during excavation. While not expected, it was a welcome surprise that some documents were found with people.

For several weeks she worked to clean IDs, uncovering the faces of potential victims – an emotional task.

“These people were just dumped in the middle of the desert while their families had no closure and no idea what became of them. No one deserves that end. This has nothing to do with politics and everything to do with being human.”



Blazing heat and frequent sandstorms added to the laborious efforts of the excavation team.

The immense work that was put into initial preparations was met with frustration in Iraq in 2004. Eighty-five percent of the first team’s equipment did not arrive in time for the first dig. It was scattered all over Iraq. Strauser recalls calling Balad Air Base, north of Baghdad, and enlisting the help of two Soldiers who called all over Iraq trying to track down the missing equipment.

However, the team improvised and got through the very challenging situation. As the layers of dirt were removed and the victims uncovered, what surprised many was the large number of women and children found in the graves.

“I was expecting a lot of adult males but was surprised by the numbers of women and children,” said Jim Kister, a St. Louis-based radiographer with 30 years of experience, who deployed with the team on the second mission. Kister was responsible for x-raying hundreds of remains, evidence that is being used in the case files. He was also key in providing data to and assisting the pathologist in determining the cause of death.



Kister works to repair the team’s automatic film processor. Technology provided the team speed but presented challenges too.

Technology has played a significant role in the team’s work.

“Use of technology makes [the operation] progress rapidly or can bring it to its knees just as quickly,” Trimble said, referring to the requirement for batteries and generators needed to keep the technology up and running. “It’s a blessing and a curse.”

“I usually don’t rely on so much electronic equipment in the field, but in Iraq I’m taking into account unusual safety considerations with this mission,” Trimble said referring to the hostile environment. “I want my people’s footprint in the area to be as brief as possible. I’m focused on getting people out of danger areas as quickly as possible. That’s what bothers me, the stress on my people being out there.”

Doing this type of work in a war zone is something Trimble doubts has been carried out on this scale before. He acknowledged that similar work has been done in Bosnia and Rwanda but fighting was in all essence over with.

For the Mass Graves Team, once the remains are recovered they are taken to a temporary lab established outside of Baghdad. The tents, which are constructed in the shape of a cross, serve as an “efficient system.” There is no luxury of time and while Trimble hates to describe it as such, it is set up much like an assembly line.

“I know it sounds horrible but it’s an assembly-type system,” he explained. It takes approximately four man-days to process each person, going through intake, forensic analysis, cultural objects documentation and determination of death. A strict chain of custody travels with each person. The remains are always signed off on as they enter and leave an area.

A decision was made early on to treat each person recovered as an individual. “The team sees each case as an individual homicide within genocide,” Trimble said.

This structure, he said, was a major contribution of paralegal Kelly Bertoglio, who argued early on “that we shouldn’t lose sight of the individual.” “I was very taken with her reasoned argument,” Trimble said, “and the result is a very unique case and report structure.”

Bertoglio, of the District’s Office of Council, deployed with the team twice and played a significant role in designing the case file format. She focused her expertise on maintaining a solid chain of custody for the evidence, organizing the structure of the case file and maintaining the integrity of evidence. This has been an “opportunity to help that comes once in a lifetime,” she said.

The result of the collaborative effort is that within the final report there is a four-page synopsis for each person recovered, which contains several pictures, information about the victim and their clothing, a record of the cultural artifacts and documents found with them, trauma to the body and the determined cause of death.

“This report is unique,” Trimble said. “It has changed the way mass graves reporting is done.”

Those creating the report’s structure considered the audience first and foremost.



“Ordinarily a report like this would have a lot of academic text in it,” Trimble explained, “but knowing that this was for the Iraqi judges and prosecutors it was structured to give them a clear picture of all the homicides to aid their prosecution. Thus the traditional academic terminology was reduced and we used lots of short descriptions, images and graphs.”

Trimble and the team feel the weight of the work and know the stakes are high.

“The stakes are enormous,” he said. “We understand an entire nation is waiting. We can’t and won’t have any cracks in our work.”

In mid-August Dr. Trimble found himself once again working feverishly to prepare for the upcoming third leg of the

mass graves excavations. It is an “intense build up,” he said, likening the preparation to that of planning a military mission,



Case files are prepared for shipping.

particularly the personnel and logistics.

“The whole project is a logistical puzzle, very complex,” he said. “We are preparing to go out for a year and with that we have to consider food, living quarters, transportation and other life support elements. We are all working hard to make sure that everything we need is there when we arrive.”

Trimble says he is grateful to the MCX and the Corps for having this opportunity to excel. “All of the team took it as a personal challenge. I certainly will never have a greater honor in my career.”

Kister, who echoes the sentiment said, “Without a doubt it is the most important job I’ve ever done. It is historic what we are doing.”

Building A Case

By Kelly Bertoglio

I had thought about volunteering to go to Iraq but wanted to wait until my youngest son graduated from high school before I tossed my name in the hat. Everyone had an opinion about my decision to go to Iraq, which were taken into consideration. The most important were those of my family.

My husband was hesitant but very supportive. Going on a number of disaster relief missions, he knew the satisfaction from helping people in their greatest time of need. My daughter was very much against the idea. My son, who had completed his first tour of duty in Iraq not long before my first tour began, was adamant that I should not go. And my youngest son wanted more information about all aspects of going to Iraq. My parents were divided, my Mom understanding and my Dad very anxious. Everyone accepted the idea when they learned the purpose of our mission.

As a Corps paralegal, I anticipated that I would assist with tort claims and information requests. In less than a month of letting people know I was interested in deploying, I was informed of the details of this particular mission that made my prior tort claim experience extremely inadequate for the job.

The mission given to the Mandatory Center of Expertise for Archaeological Curation and Collections Management required legal assistance but didn’t rise to a level that required an attorney. While the precise details of my task hadn’t been sufficiently developed prior to my arrival in Iraq, Sonny and I managed to define my duties to include organizing the evidence and documentation of the mass graves recoveries, with emphasis on maintaining the chain of custody for all evidence gathered.



Kelly records shell casing locations.

The task also involved keeping accurate records of the evidence as recovered, obtaining the completed forensic analysis data from the anthropologists working at the lab, inclusion of gravesite maps in case files, and, most importantly, development of a case file for each individual recovery.

The case files are a complete record of each individual victim recovered. The individual case files were then given to the Regime Crimes Liaison Office for use in war crime prosecutions of the former Iraqi Regime.

Our first mission was a great success. We developed a system for the preservation of evidence and documents that would easily allow any subsequent teams to understand and continue the processes we developed. The second mission built on the successes of the first and resulted in a fine-tuned process for fieldwork, lab work, and the production of comprehensive case files and final reports. Both teams were phenomenal to work with. It was an honor to work with both teams and the Iraqi government.

I received a special bonus during our second mission. My son, a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne, 325 Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, was in northern Iraq when I arrived for our second mission. After completing their mission they relocated near our camp.

We were able to visit each other, and Sonny organized a tour of the lab for two of the 82nd’s platoons. The guys were very impressed and in awe of what they saw. They were speechless during the entire tour.

All in all, I would do it again in perhaps, two heartbeats.



Locks 27 Begins Scheduled Closure

On October 17, Locks 27 started a 114-day closure that will allow for the replacement of lift gate machinery and counterweights on both lock chambers. The components are at an unacceptable level of risk, increasing the possibility of an unscheduled closure. During this scheduled closure, one of the lock chambers will be open at all times.

In order to best accommodate the navigation industry, the 600-foot auxiliary lock is going through its closure first, starting October 17 and ending December 13. Closing the smaller lock first allows the 1,200-foot main chamber to remain open during the heavier traffic periods of fall and early winter when the grain harvest is being transported down the Mississippi River to Louisiana ports.

There are also other advantages to performing the maintenance on the auxiliary lock first.

"The work that will be done on the main chamber is almost a mirror image of that which is being done on the auxiliary lock," said Jay Fowler, resident engineer for the project. "It gives us the opportunity to do a lessons-learned on anything unexpected we might have encountered on the first set of repairs."

Fowler said they have not encountered any significant items to be addressed prior to commencing work on the main chamber and added that the auxiliary lock is on schedule to be operational by December 13.

After the New Year, similar work will take place on the 1,200-foot main lock chamber, which will be closed from January 3 to March 1. During this closure the 600-foot auxiliary lock will be open; however, due to the lock's smaller size, some tows will be required to make double cuts or special lockages. These lockages require the tow be 'cut' in half and go through the lock chamber in two sections, doubling the time it takes to transit the lock chamber.

A 15-barge tow, what is normally seen



Each lock chamber will undergo a 55-day closure to repair lift gate machinery and counterweights. Locks 27 is a vital part of the navigation system, and the Corps and contractor are committed to keeping the critical work on schedule.

on the upper river, can carry 22,500 tons of cargo or 787,500 bushels of grain.

Locks 27 is the busiest lock on the Upper Mississippi River, annually locking through over 70 million tons of commodities (28 million in grain shipments) and acting as the access point to the Upper Mississippi River as well as the Illinois River.

"We have been working closely with the River Industry Action Committee (RIAC) to minimize impacts to the navigation industry from the closure," said Peg O'Bryan, Chief of the St. Louis District's Operations Division. "This work is critical and will ensure that the lock continues to provide reliable service into the future while minimizing the possibility of unscheduled closures."

Closing locks for scheduled maintenance requires balancing the needs of



A 32-ton section of concrete is removed, enabling the crews to access recesses in the lock walls, necessary to facilitate repairs.

waterborne commerce with the type of work that needs to be accomplished.

Locks 24 (Clarksville, Mo.) and 25 (Winfield, Mo.) have undergone winter closures as part of major rehabilitation, the last being the winter of 2003-2004 at Locks 24. While winter is not the ideal time for this type of work it is the best time for the navigation industry because it corresponds with the annual closure of the upper river in Minnesota.

Midwest Foundation Corporation of Tremont, Ill., is executing the \$13.46 million contract and understands the tasks at hand.

"Like all jobs, safety is a priority," said Tom Clark, superintendent of Midwest. "But this job adds another critical dimension and that is time."

The majority of Midwest Foundation Corporation's construction contracts are maritime related. Previously, they completed similar maintenance for the Corps on other locks on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, including some of the rehabilitation work at Locks 24 in Clarksville, Mo.

"We are committed to completing this closure within the scheduled dates," O'Bryan said. "The work will be done as quickly as possible but doing the job correctly and safely is our first objective. We've got a great contractor onboard who has a strong safety record and history of completing jobs on schedule."



Lock 24's 65-year-old Tainter Gates Get a Much Deserved Rehab

The dust has settled at Lock and Dam 24 in Clarksville, Mo., following three winter closures where blasting operations assisted in the complete refacing of the lock's walls. Following the final winter closure in early 2004, the project's visitor platform, parking lot and lockmaster's office were completed.

With work completed on the lock chamber, major rehabilitation focused on the dam's original 15 tainter gates. The gates are elliptical in shape, 25 feet high by 80 feet long, and are used to maintain the pool upstream of Clarksville during low flow conditions.

Over the years the lower portions of the gates have deteriorated from rust, ice damage and repeated impact of floating debris.

The lower 6.5 feet of the gates are not only being totally rehabilitated with a new steel skin, but the contractor is also addressing the ineffective seal at the bottom of the gates. Water was so low in 1988 that the gates had to be sand-bagged to prevent water from seeping under the seal.

Also being addressed is gate vibration during certain head conditions. 'Head' is a term used to describe the difference in water level between the upstream and downstream sides of the gate.

Work will be completed on nine of the 15 gates under a base contract with JF Brennan Co., Inc. The contractor will complete this work prior to December 1, said Dave Nulsen, acting lockmaster.

After a mandatory shutdown from December 1 to February 23 due to ice on the river, work may resume on the remaining six gates provided funding is available.

Working on the gates, which are in the middle of the Mighty Mississippi, presents some challenges and exposes the work crew to hazardous conditions such as high water, cold weather and ice.

Work first began on gates 14 and 15, the ones closest to the Illinois side of the



The lower 6.5 feet of Gate 6 has been removed to be replaced with a new steel skin. By December 1, nine of the dam's 15 gates will have completed similar rehab. These are the dam's original gates constructed in 1938 and 1939.

river, in January 2005. Work then followed on gates 1-7. "It is best to work sequentially," said Brian Kleber, retired project manager.

As one of Brian's final site visits before retiring after 38 years with the District, he journeyed up to the lock July 18 with District Engineer, Col. Lewis F. Setliff III, to view the project's status.

On this particular day, six bulkheads were being moved from Gate 1 to Gate 3. The bulkheads, which weigh 50,000 pounds each, create a barrier from the river's water so the construction crew can gain access and work safely.

The contractor performs contract work using a floating plant.

"The contractor has progressively gotten better and improved execution time with each successive gate, and they run a good, clean job," said John Zimmerman of Construction's Northern Area Office in Elsberry, Mo.

The Northern Area Office provides quality assurance to ensure the contractor is providing a quality product in accordance with the contract requirements for the rehabilitation project.

"The contractor is following a definite

process," he went on to say. "The contractor can only work on two gates at a time and these gates must be adjacent to each other."

Reconstruction of the gates involves removing the steel skin along the bottom of the gate, installing a new skin plate with additional support, and sandblasting and painting.

Native debris found inside the gate is also removed.

JF Brennan, out of LaCross, Wis., has four employees onsite; the rest of the work is being accomplished by local labor.

The gates, which are over 65 years old, have lived up to their design life and beyond. "All and all, they knew what they were doing," Zimmerman said of the engineers who designed the gates in 1937.

The major rehabilitation of the lock, which was constructed in 1938-39, is an \$87 million project. The navigation industry is paying for 50 percent of the work through the Inland Waterway Trust Fund, a fund that collects a surcharge for each gallon of fuel purchased for the tow boats.



CFC Kickoff: Employees Excel at Giving

“The Secret to Quality Living is Giving” is this year’s Combined Federal Campaign theme. The CFC campaign, which runs through November 15, provides federal employees an annual opportunity to donate money to non-profit organizations of their choosing.

Last year St. Louis District employees made \$63,600 in donations and pledges. Two hundred and twenty-nine employees contributed, a 34 percent participation rate.

Catherine Cummings, the District’s CFC campaign coordinator, is committed to reaching every District employee this year, with a 100 percent solicitation for support. Key workers are distributing pledge cards and information.

Employees can search for participating charities on the web at www.gatewaycfc.org by clicking on ‘Search Charities’ and then searching by key words.

The District’s target for contributions this year is \$53,500. When setting the District’s goal, which is lower than last year’s, several things were taken into consideration, Cummings explained.

“We wanted to set a realistic goal knowing that the District is a bit smaller this year and that many of our employees are deployed and have already given in such a tremendous way. The CFC campaign is a great way to give back but we recognize that our employees give year round and not just at this one time of year. Whatever contribution our employees make is greatly appreciated.”

The CFC dates back to 1961 and is one of America’s most efficient charities. President Kennedy started the program with an Executive Order in an effort to consolidate the multiple appeals being made to Federal employees throughout the year in the workplace.

Employees have 2,067 non-profit organizations to select from, all approved for participation in CFC. The Office of Personnel Management reviews national and international



District employees load donated items for hurricane victims onto the bed of a 20-foot trailer. Jim Horneman, husband of Regulatory’s Sue Horenman, donated the use of his trailer and personally drove the items to Mississippi.

agencies and a local Federal committee approves local agencies.

The St. Louis Gateway CFC 2004 contributions totaled \$2.95 million and the goal this year is \$3 million, a 1.5 percent increase. If anyone has questions about the CFC campaign they can call Catherine Cummings at 314-331-8060.

As Cummings mentioned, the CFC campaign is not the only time the District shines in its willingness to reach out and support others. Giving is an area where the District excels.



Dredge deckhand Robert Thompson donated his almost two-foot-long ponytail to Locks of Love.

The whole Dredge Potter crew got into the spirit last season when deckhand Robert Thompson was challenged to cut off his almost two-foot-long ponytail and donate it to Locks of Love in Lake

Worth, Fla. The crew took up a donation and drew names to see who got to wield the shears. Allen Diaz held the winning ticket and did the clipping.

The hair and collected donations, totaling \$175, were sent to Locks of Love. Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children 18 years or younger suffering from any type of medical hair loss.

And more recently, the District’s Civilian Activities Council organized a donation drive to assist hurricane victims in Mississippi and Louisiana.

The response, to say the least, was overwhelming. Donations poured into the District over several weeks and it took several employees to pack and load all the donated items. Jim Horneman, husband of Regulatory’s Sue Horneman, donated the use of his 20-foot flatbed trailer and personally drove the items to a receiving center in Pearl, Mississippi. The CAC contributed \$200 to help cover fuel costs.

It is evident that the St. Louis District embraces and demonstrates the CFC theme: “The Secret to Quality Living is Giving.”



Wappapello Lake Volunteers Receive President's Call To Service Award

George and Bea Flanigan, campground hosts at Wappapello Lake, recently received the 2005 President's Volunteer Service Award in recognition of their service to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Wappapello Lake.

The Flanigans were presented with a signed letter of appreciation from President George W. Bush, a signed letter of appreciation from the Chair of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, and the President's Call to Service Award certificate at the Wappapello Lake Project Office Oct. 5.

Bea and George are looking forward to showing off their letter from the President of the United States. And while they were deeply honored by the award, the Flanigans said the greatest honor is that the project staff took the time to nominate them for the award.

The President's Volunteer Service Award is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation on behalf of the President of the United States to recognize individuals, families, and groups who have contributed a significant amount of time to volunteer service. Individuals who complete 4,000 or more hours of volunteer service are recognized with the President's Call to Service Award.

In addition to the Volunteer Service Award, the Flanigans qualified for the prestigious Call to Service Award, having volunteered 5,438 hours at Wappapello Lake from April 2001 through July 2005. George and Bea have been working at Wappapello Lake since April 1990 when they started as contract park attendants.

From 1990 until 2001, the Flanigans worked as contract park attendants and volunteered their services as needed. In 2001, they decided they no longer wanted to be park attendants but signed up to be full-time volunteer host attendants at Peoples Creek Campground and the visitor center.

"George and Bea have always called Wappapello Lake home and have taken



The Flanigans were recognized for volunteering over 5,400 hours.

great pride in this project," said Park Ranger Diane Stratton. Diane is the visitor assistance lead park ranger at Wappapello Lake.

"Since 2001, Bea and George have expanded their volunteer services to include collecting and counting day use revenues, inspecting and maintaining traffic counters, and various other tasks," she added.

"The Flanigans have demonstrated a long and proud record of volunteer service," said Gary Stilts, Wappapello Lake's project manager. "The project office is blessed to have a number of volunteers who play an invaluable role in the day-to-day operation of this project. The Flanigans are very deserving of this recognition."

Volunteers at Army Corps of Engineers' lakes do a variety of tasks such as campground hosting, park maintenance, date collection and habitat management.

They also help staff the visitor center, work special events, give tours and do informational programs for visitors. Volunteers have been and continue to be an essential member of the Corps' management team.

Information reference the President's Volunteer Service Award is online at www.presidentialserviceawards.org.

Individuals interested in volunteering at Corps lakes and projects can visit the Volunteer Clearinghouse website at www.lrn.usace.army.mil/volunteer or call 1-800-VOL-TEER (1-800-865-8337).

Gone But Not Forgotten



Since June the District has said some sad good-byes to longstanding, much appreciated family members of the St. Louis District.

Collectively they left with 545 years of service.

Executive Office

Col. C. Kevin Williams 26 Years

Engineering

Billy Arthur 33 Years
Shirly Boyer 25 Years
Dennis Chambers 36 Years
Calvin Mooney 33 Years
Ted Moore 25 Years
Gerald Schwalbe 23 Years
Linda Wichlan 38 Years

Operations

Gary Buckholtz 34 Years
Joan Heckstetter 38 Years
Phil Skaggs 41 Years
Ken Wingrove 27 Years

Project Management

Brian Kleber 38 Years
Wayne Miller 34 Years

Construction

Clarice Trigg 26 Years
Diana Tripp 36 Years

Real Estate

Tom Hewlett 32 Years

Thank you for your years of dedicated service. We miss you!



Mark Twain Lake Park Ranger is Tops Corpwide

It is a long list of accomplishments that led to Mary Anne Heitmeyer, Mark Twain Lake's Interpretive Services Outreach Program (ISOP) coordinator, being selected as the recipient of the 2005 Hiram M. Chittenden Award.

The Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Excellence in Interpretation recognizes the superior interpretive efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 'Interpreter of the Year.' The award is based on the demonstration of creativity and originality, creating a positive experience for visitors and enhancing the public's understanding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Mary Anne has been the driving force behind Mark Twain Lake's successful interpretive program for the past eleven years, ensuring the project's programs are of the highest caliber and quality.

"She is an innovative self-starter, dedicated team member, self-driven and handles her responsibility with ease," her nomination packet reads. It continues: "[Mary Anne] typically surpasses expectations and is extremely accurate in her work and consistently exceeds deadlines. [She] handles pressure well and faces the challenges associated with ISOP with complete confidence and great proficiency."

"This is a prestigious award in the Ranger/Interpretative services program," said Denny Foss, Mark Twain Lake operations manager. "The award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution in public recreation and water safety, public relations, and the interpretation/appreciation of our natural communities."

Mary Anne has contributed to all these programs, coordinating and implementing 18 special events in 2004."

Mary Anne was instrumental in bringing "The Vietnam Veterans Traveling *Wall That Heals*" to Mark Twain Lake the summer of 2004. She brought



Mary Anne Heitmeyer was presented the 'Interpreter of the Year' award by Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Stroock at the Senior Leaders Conference. A long list of accomplishments made her the deserving winner of this honor.

together corporate sponsors and partners who donated the exhibit fee and other expenses totaling \$6,200.

She organized local VFW and American Legion groups, three Chambers of Commerce, local businesses and volunteers from Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. The event also required over 100 volunteers, who donated 550 hours to be "on duty" around the clock for three days while the wall was on display.

Event coordination involved organizing monthly planning meetings and the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as arranging for a Fort Leonard Wood Honor Guard, a 21-gun salute, a helicopter flyover and a special MIA/POW evening ceremony. Twelve thousand visitors came to Mark Twain Lake during the exhibit.

Additionally, for the last four years Mary Anne has organized the lake's C.A.S.T. For Kids event, an event that partners volunteers, who love to fish, with disabled and disadvantaged kids for a day of fishing, fun and camaraderie.

She also launched the 'Outdoor 101 for Women' program when she noticed that countless women of all ages in the area wanted additional opportunities to train and learn new outdoor activities.

The fun, non-threatening curriculum has taught local women the joys of outdoor activities such as camping, hunting, backpacking, archery, fishing, ATV use, wildflower gardening and outdoor cooking.

Mary Anne is a powerful advocate for water safety, chairing the St. Louis District Water Safety Committee and coordinating with other agencies to include the Missouri State Water Patrol.

She produces, updates and maintains Mark Twain Lake's Web page. She was also among a small group of rangers selected nationally to participate in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration Signature Event held in Alton, Illinois.

As ISOP coordinator, Mary Anne oversees a staff that presents over 200 onsite and offsite programs annually, produces dozens of news releases and visitor newsletters. She is also the program leader for four Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) employees, as well as the lake's volunteer coordinator.

"It's great that Mary Anne has been recognized as the 2005 Chittenden winner for her accomplishments in 2004, because it was really an outstanding year



for her,” said Rachel Garren, acting chief of the Operations Technical and Policy Branch. “Mary Anne does great things at Mark Twain Lake, plus she is always willing to help with District and even national-level initiatives that are beyond her already demanding responsibilities.”

Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, presented Mary Anne the award at the 2005 Senior Leaders Conference in Dallas. She will also be presented the award at the National Interpreters Workshop in Mobile, Ala., in November.

“It was an honor to be chosen as the District nominee by my counterparts in the Interpretive Services and Outreach Program and to be chosen as the national winner was the icing on the cake,” Mary Anne said. “I am very humbled to receive this award. It takes a team to

accomplish all of the programs, events and visitor experiences that we create and to have our work acknowledged in this way is very rewarding.”



Mary Anne embraces the success of C.A.S.T. for Kids with Art Pasley, its Eastern Regional Director, and participant Cassie Boston.

“Mary Anne exemplifies the true spirit of Hiram M. Chittenden in everything she does and is genuinely deserving of

this award,” said Peggy O’ Bryan, Operations Division Chief. “She is an exemplary employee who uses her interpretive abilities to do countless things to improve the Corps’ image and create positive experiences for our customers. We are all very proud of her.”

The St. Louis District is home to three other Chittenden award winners to include last year’s winner Tim Bischoff of Rend Lake, Lake Shelbyville’s Pam Doty (2000) and Rivers Project’s Carol Ryan (1998).

Hiram Chittenden was a renowned U.S. Army officer, engineer, author and historian, and champion of our natural resources. For more information about the award and Hiram Chittenden visit <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/interpretive/awards.html>

District Coop Hire Hailed for College Scholarship

St. Louis District Student Coop Program Hire Keith Thole has been announced by the Association of Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) as one of their two scholarship recipients for the 2005-06 academic year. Thole is an engineering student at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Thole’s academic excellence and other contributions has been recognized with the award of \$2,500 to help with the current year’s school expenses. He was one of two winners and competed against a total of 29 well-qualified applicants to gain the honor.

The ASDSO announcement quoted Travis Tutka as stating, “Thole is very intelligent and does not mind getting his hands dirty. He actually appears to enjoy the hard physical work. In my opinion, these are two critical ingredients for a dam safety engineer.”

John Moyle, Chairman of ASDSO’s Scholarship Committee, remarked: “The Scholarship Committee is proud to recognize Mr. Thole. We were impressed not only by his academic qualifications, but also by his demonstrated interest



Jason Anderson (l) and Keith Thole (r) check a piezometer near Carlyle Lake Dam. Piezometers are used to monitor levels of water in the ground and provide dam safety experts with data on this water’s movement.

in dam safety. He has much to offer the profession.”

In addition to the academic excellence demonstrated by the Aviston, Ill., native, Thole has been cited for intramural athletics participation and his volunteer work with the Habitat for Humanity. He

also volunteers teaching young people mathematics.

The ASDSO is a national, non-profit organization founded in 1984 and dedicated to improving dam safety through research, education and communication.



Mighty Mississippi Nears Historic Lows

Throughout spring and summer 2005, the Mississippi River was relatively benign, featuring ample water for navigation and the multitude of other uses that it meets.

But as summer crossed the midpoint, the river dropped precipitously to historic lows for that time of year and necessitated starting the dredging season early.

The District's Dredge Potter got underway July 30 and the cutterhead Dredge America, owned by Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co., came under contract at the same time and initiated the District's low water response. On Aug. 12, just two weeks later, the river would drop to -1.81 feet on the St. Louis gage before getting a "comfortable" three-foot bump following a series of rains in the Midwest.

"This is not a lightly taken decision," said Operations Chief Peggy O'Bryan. "Dredging costs a lot of money. It seems like it's even more expensive when we try to balance its cost against the tight funding this year. It costs \$65,000 a day to send Potter into action. America adds \$45,000 to that cost each day."

As costly as dredging is, it is often the only effective response to emerging requirements at specific locations. As the river flow decreases, the energy that carries the millions of tons of sediment – almost all sand – diminishes and the sand falls to the bottom.

Historic information tells the Corps where it will likely find shoaling each dry season. Surveys by Corps and Coast Guard vessels confirm these locations or identify new ones. A steady flow of communications from commercial tow operators also helps keep tabs on the entire system.

When these places are identified and surveyed, dredging plans can be developed from survey data. Next, the sequence of meeting these challenges must be laid out, prioritizing operations based on need, the dredge's location and predictions.

This year, in addition to drought conditions causing flows from up the Mississippi to diminish, the Missouri



Dredge Potter is capable of responding to emerging problems in the navigation channel due to low water. It can remove 30-40 thousand cubic yards of material per hour from the river bottom.

River has been subject to an even longer duration dry spell and the Ohio River is in dire straits. Thus prospects for relief are not good throughout the valley and assets are being stretched.

"In the past we have called on other Corps assets to help in St. Louis," according to District dredging project coordinator Lance Engle. "M/V Jadwin came up from Vicksburg a couple of years ago to help us. But the challenge is wider spread this time. We are taking a system-wide view of it. It makes little sense for us to focus only on keeping the 300-miles of the Mississippi in the St. Louis District open if stretches above and below here don't get the proper attention," he pointed out.

Already the St. Louis survey vessel – MV Pathfinder – with her sophisticated sonar mapping capability – has gone into the Ohio River to help the Louisville District prepare to dredge the lower reaches of that river. And on August 15, Dredge America, under contract to the St. Louis District, was also dispatched to the Ohio River to help.

Speaking from Potter by phone, from the dredge's work site at Mississippi River Mile 103, just south of Chester, Ill., Captain Jim Pierce, Potter's Master, told of his intense pride in the men and women "Just Getting-er done." Pierce called his crew a group of people who are extremely dedicated and ready to do whatever it takes. "I'm short of people and others are volunteering to step into the gap and work overtime. They aren't working extra hours on days they would work anyhow,

but they are doing without their normal days off to ensure that we have a crew out here that is able to do the job and do it safely. I just couldn't be prouder of them," he concluded.

Rains during the second week in August offered a brief hiatus from the steady descent of the river that really started to become evident in late July. First rains – up to two inches in places – mostly soaked into the ground, although eventually some run off brought the Mississippi River up nearly five feet during August. But longer-term predictions for the normally dry fall season and reductions in Missouri River flows that took place in mid October are not causes for optimism.

Along with drought impacts on farming, dredging activity has been a focus of rapidly emerging media interest since the dry weather took effect this year. The St. Louis District dredge, Potter, attracted intense attention, especially when it ventured into the St. Louis Harbor near the city's downtown skyline. Easily visible from the Poplar Street Bridge, which carries Interstates 55, 64 and 70 over the Mississippi, as well as the venerable Eads bridge, which carries tens of thousands of commuters daily between Illinois and Missouri on the region's Metrolink light rail system, television stations and other media lined up to visit the vessel and report on its work.

The story ran in several local print media. Several radio stations and all network television stations in St. Louis carried one or more segments that used



Dredge Potter to help tell the story of the region's drought. In fact, images and interviews of local dredging went national on CNN and CBS television networks and the story became nationwide in the Wall Street Journal and New York Times.



First Mate Terry Bequette's interview with a local television station was seen on CNN Headline News.

But to at least one St. Louis river expert, the story should be that there is no story at this point.

"The system is working," according to

Dave Busse. "The system of locks and dams on the Mississippi, the reservoirs on the Missouri and the river engineering structures on the Mississippi are working.

"Before those features were built, this kind of weather would have halted commercial navigation on the river, but at readings near the -2 foot mark in St. Louis, there are at worst some minor inconveniences," he added.

Busse is most proud of the river engineering structures, many of which have been added since the next-to-record lows in 1988.

"We used to dredge a lot more in this District," he noted. Indeed, St. Louis was once home to five dredges.

"But today the system of wing dams, bendway wiers, etc., has resulted in a navigation channel that largely maintains itself by harnessing the energy of flowing water at deep water times to prepare the channel for lower levels.

"The navigation channel is simply in better condition because of their presence," Busse said of the structures.

In addition to saving large sums of money, the structures are also credited with creating a more diverse ecosystem. As they focus energy on keeping silt out of the navigation channel, they also create scour holes and can be use to create or alter sand bars or islands. Different sizes of rock in them contribute to a diverse environment that attracts and fosters a diverse ecology. "The river is better in almost every way for their presence," Busse said.

The Mississippi River is always on the minds of those who depend on it for their livings or whose lives are tied closely to its rises and falls. But this is one of those times when the Mississippi garners broader, even nationwide attention. The rest of this year's story of the river remains to be played out for everyone.

And oh yes. The last time we had a stretch of extremely low water on the Mississippi it was followed by the great flood of 1993. That's not a prediction and hopefully will not be part of this year's story.

Joan Stemler and Sonny Trimble Recognized for Excellence

For the third consecutive year the Greater St. Louis Federal Executive Board recognized St. Louis District employees for excellence.

"Each year the Federal Executive Board has the opportunity to acknowledge citizens who serve their country and change the world through public service," wrote Charlie Meyer, Chairman of the Greater St. Louis Federal Executive Board.

In an awards ceremony earlier this year, Dr. Sonny Trimble was honored in the professional category for his work as Program Director for the Mass Graves Project with the Department of Justice's Regime Crimes Liaison Office, and Joan Stemler was honored for her tireless efforts and continual commitment to managing a

lengthy drought that could have great impacts on the navigation industry.

The 22-person team Sonny leads is providing the Iraqi legal system with evidence in their prosecution of members of the former Iraqi regime, to include former president Saddam Hussein. Sonny has been responsible for planning and overseeing all aspects of the exhumations of several mass gravesites around Iraq and for constructing a temporary forensic laboratory.

"The results of these activities will provide direct benefits to the people of Iraq, will contribute to Middle East stability, and will strengthen the global resolve against human rights violations and atrocities," Mel Baldus, Chief of Engineering and Construction Division, wrote in the nomination packet.

"Sonny is also demonstrating the nation's support for the Global War on Terrorism by emphasizing our resolve to bring to trial those individuals accused of unthinkable crimes against human beings," he added.

Joan Stemler, recognized in the FEB's

technical award category, has been breaking new ground for women in Water Control. Just recently she was named Chief of Water Control Operations, making her the only female in the Mississippi Valley Division and the first non-engineer to hold this position.

"Joan has reached levels in the Water Control field that are unprecedented for a female or a non-engineer," Dave Busse wrote in her nomination packet. "She has accomplished this with hard work, perseverance and a relentless desire to serve the public."

During the past 24 months the District has experienced a severe drought on the Mississippi River. Joan developed and executed a plan that reduced the impacts of the drought on navigation as well as the St. Louis District. Her efforts in 2004 resulted in additional revenue to the barge industry of at least \$2 million, and a cost savings to the Corps of at least \$1 million.

Congratulations Sonny and Joan on your much-deserved recognition!



This calculator requires no batteries. Front Row (l to r): Ray Kopsky, Rich Astrack, Larry Strunk, Bruce Douglas. Center Row (l to r): Ron Dieckmann, Tom Quigley, Bob Mesko, Dennis Morgan, Alan Brandt, Ed Demsky. Back Row (l to r): Dario Franzi, Tom Freeman, John Helfrich, Steve O'Connor, Mike Dace, Ken Koller, Mark Alvey and Brian Kleber.

Slip Sticking Your Way Through Life

Most younger employees of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have never seen a Slide Rule – or “slip stick” as it was also known. If they have seen one, they may not have known what it was and almost certainly didn’t know how to use one. Calculating with a slide rule is not a dying art: it’s dead.

To set the record straight, except for adding or subtracting, anything that can be done today with a scientific calculator can be done with a slide rule. This includes multiplying, dividing, extracting square or cube roots, finding and using logarithms and trig functions.

Slide rules are so far removed from today’s frame of reference that showing one to a child and performing a series of calculations on it assumes something akin to slight of hand or magic.

Prior to about 1973 anyone that was enrolled in college as an engineering

student or science major solved all mathematical problems the “Old Fashioned Way,” with a slide rule and a stubby pencil. Each student was required to take a one credit hour slide rule course to learn how to use the thing.

The University that I attended had a slide rule about 12 feet long hanging from the classroom wall. This was a “teaching aid” used by the instructors.

After 1973, students were allowed to use scientific calculators – the first ones being about the size of a paperback book and costing more than \$100 – to solve mathematical problems.

Any engineering student or scientist enrolled in college before 1973, would probably be considered an “old” engineer or scientist by the younger generation.

Many of the “Old Engineers and Scientists” working for St. Louis District have either recently retired or will retire

within the next five years.

We thought it would be fun to introduce the younger generation to the Slide Rule, bringing ours back for one last “hurrah” and having our picture taken with our slide rules before we all depart the digitally dominated District. We are all very proud of having earned our college degrees the “Old Fashioned Way.”

In case you are wondering, there were 18 present for the picture with 624,036 total years of service (calculated based on years, months and days of service) for an average of 34.6687 years of service in the Engineering or Scientific professions.

Yes, I calculated this on my slide rule, but alas, after deriving the decimal equivalents of years, months and days of service, I had to add them up on a piece of paper.

Larry Strunk
“Old Engineer”



Retiree's Corner



The retirees had monthly luncheons at the Salad Bowl August 18, September 15 and October 20.

In August, Joe Bisher had a copy of the program for the rechristening of the Dredge Potter. Joe related some stories about his time aboard the dredges. The crew worked very hard but also had some "playtime," which helped keep the morale of the crew very high.

Dennis Gould shared that the golf league recognized Lee Robinson as the "best player" in the league. Lee was humbled by the honor and was going to buy drinks for everyone.

Elsie Kalafatich said she recently attended the retirement ceremony of Tom Hewlett, Chief of Real Estate. She remembered Tom coming to the Real Estate Division from Planning. Tom did quite well in the years he devoted to the real estate business. Congratulations Tom on your new career.

In September, Sandor Dombi shared a presentation he compiled of Hurricane Katrina photos. Over several weeks he had collected photos showing the destruction and power of Mother Nature knowing that not all the retirees have access to the Internet. He thought the presentation would be informative for them.

Wally Feld provided some narrative, since most of the photos related to work the Corps did. Wally also mentioned that about six years ago he participated in an exercise that tested the emergency mobilization plan. All the Districts participated and from the looks of the

current situation, the plan was well thought out. The conditions reflected in the plan actually happened and the Corps responded in accordance with the plan. It was a good test and provided good experience for the actual thing.

Joe Bisher told the retirees that he was a very happy man. Seems that his 23-year-old Lincoln passed all the tests for license renewal. With all the dings and dents, the "old girl" still made the grade. (Considering that once, while parking, Joe was asked if anyone was hurt in the accident?) Joe also mentioned hearing that emissions tests may be out in two years, just as soon as they get all the old cars out of the system and off the streets.

In October, much of the discussion involved the recent announcement of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) annuity increase and the Medicare Part D on prescription drugs.

Joe Bisher had an article from the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), indicating that the COLA increase would basically be 4.1 percent for those retirees under the Civil Service Retirement (CSR) plan and 3.1 percent for those under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). In addition, it was mentioned that there would be about a \$10.30 increase in Medicare premiums next year.

Fortunately, Larry McCarthy and Don Wampler, were there to explain the difference between CSR and FERS. They were both from the Personnel Offices, of their time.

Lew Scheuermann mentioned that Bill Thomure was "under the weather." Bill underwent some corrective surgery and was recuperating very well. He hopes to be at the November luncheon.

Elsie Kalafatich mentioned that Laurel Nelson was a little under the weather too and sent her best wishes. She felt that she shouldn't share her discomfort with the rest of the retirees.

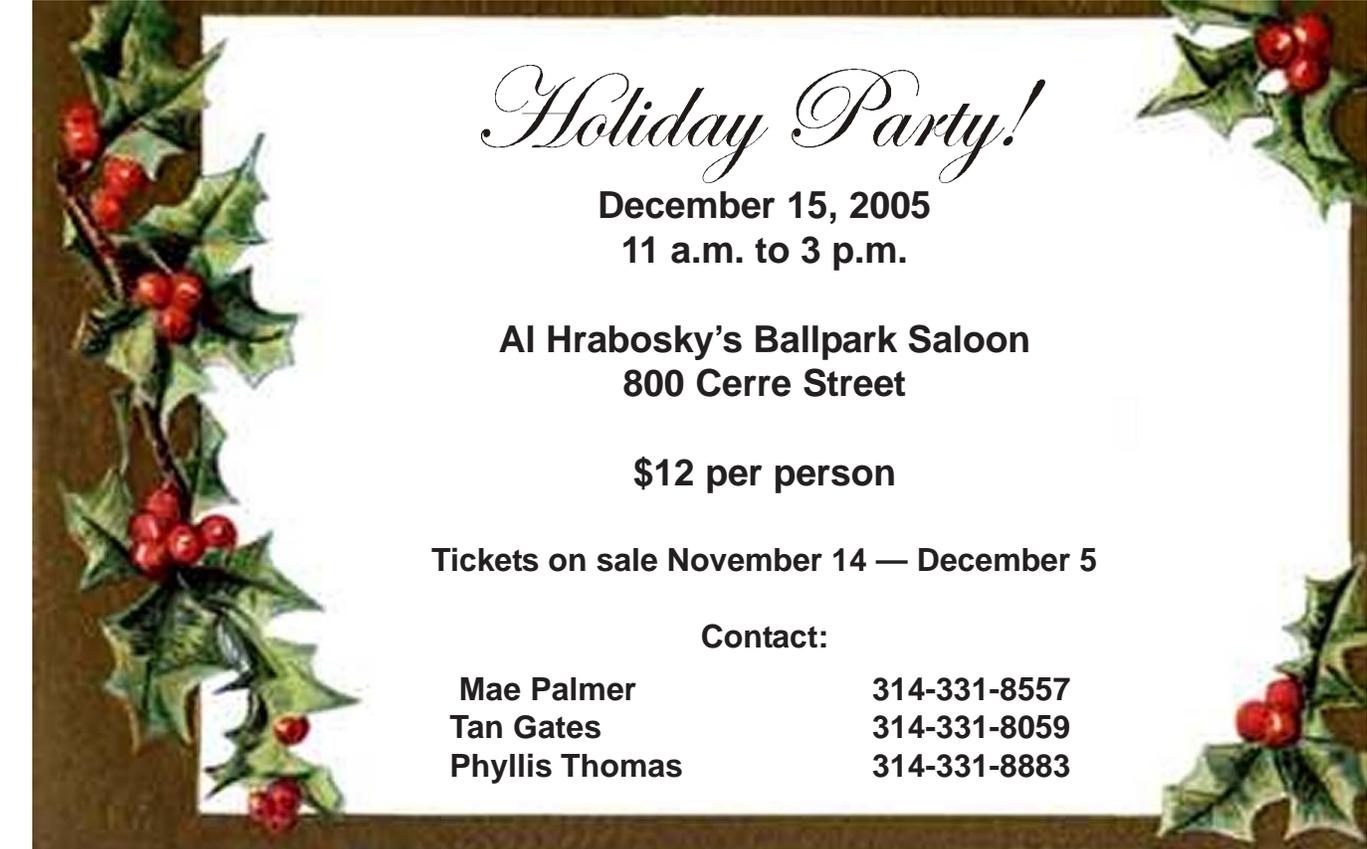
We wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday. We hope to see you soon. Luncheons are the third Thursday of every month, at the Salad Bowl around 11 a.m.

FLASHBACK 1970

- On August 1, 1970 the gates were closed at Lake Shelbyville and the lake began to form. It was officially dedicated September 12, 1970. An estimated 12,000 spectators were on hand for the morning parade and in the afternoon some 6,000 watched the dedication.
- The auxiliary lock at Locks and Dam 26 was closed for maintenance in order to keep it operating until the new locks could replace it. Repairs were to include placing cement in the cracks and holes under the intermediate and river lock walls to stabilize them.
- As a result of balloting, the National Association of Government Employees was granted exclusive representation rights for the Floating Plant Units at the Service Base. The National Federation of Federal Employees was granted exclusive representation rights for the employees of the District office at 906 Olive Street, except for supervisors, engineers and personnel officials.
- Colonel LeTellier, of the New Orleans District, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Hubert Cooper from the Rend Lake Resident Office for his work while on TDY at New Orleans during the Hurricane Camille Recovery.
- The gates at Rend Lake were 'theoretically closed' October 24, 1970. Since there aren't any real gates, a ceremony was held marking the start of impounding the water. Dignitaries present included a U.S. Senator and Representative, local officials and thousands of interested citizens.
- The 7th floor canteen and 10th floor lunch rooms at 210 Tucker were opened and operated by the Missouri Bureau for the Blind in early November 1970, with all resulting commissions going to that organization.

New employees included:

Gary Buckholtz	Deckhand,	Kennedy
John Heitzmann	Mechanical Engineer	
Susan Spiegel		Economist
Ralph Wilkey		Civil Engineer
Frederick Bader	Hydraulic Engineer	



Holiday Party!

December 15, 2005

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Al Hrabosky's Ballpark Saloon
800 Cerre Street**

\$12 per person

Tickets on sale November 14 — December 5

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