



ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT **ESPRIT**

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Dredged Mississippi River sand provides a ready source of fill material for the Chain of Rocks levee reinforcement. Excess moisture and debris must be removed before bulldozing it into place for the berm construction.

Corps adds new muscle to Chain of Rocks Levee

In the summer of 1993 the Mississippi River surged to a record stage of 49.58 feet in St. Louis, exceeding the previous record by more than six feet. Not only did the river run much higher than ever previously recorded, it stayed at those record heights for a long time.

Impacts were felt in numerous places. One levee that survived the unprecedented assault, the nine-mile-long Chain of Rocks Levee created when its name-

sake canal was dug in the 1940s and 50s, did so only after extensive, heroic flood fighting efforts.

In addition to protecting federal lands adjacent to the canal, the levee is part of a system sheltering more than 180,000 people and \$1.4 billion (1993 figures) worth of fertile farmland, industrial and residential development, including the cities of East St. Louis, Granite City and several smaller communities.

The monumental efforts of 1993 saved all of this, but the fourth highest historic flood in 1995 – though almost eight feet lower than that of 1993 – again called on the best efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prevent the levee from failing.

The Mighty Mississippi River never quite got over the levee, but, in place after place, it started to get under the protective earthen structure. Sand boils



Commander's Perspective



Lt. Col. Gregory C. Raimondo

In the last issue of *Esprit* I focused my attention on safety: both from an organizational and from an individual viewpoint.

On 30 March we were saddened to learn that a worker in the Huntington District fell to his death at a work site. We have lost a fellow Corps employee and it could have easily happened here. In coming days and indeed every day, we are going to shine a bright light on the equipment we depend on to prevent falls. We must check its condition; how we use it and how we train for its use. This was a tragic loss, which would be all the more terrible if we do not learn from it.

Moving to another issue, as those of you who have been involved in the New Orleans story are aware, we are less than 45 days from the start of the next hurricane season!

Through all the Monday morning quarterbacking, past the finger pointing and over the attempts to undermine the Corps reputation, a cadre of the Corps family, both active employees and retired

annuitants, has been answering the action call. They have stood shoulder to shoulder with professionals from other government agencies to bring supplies and materials, remove debris, save property with temporary blue roofs and in general, have made a profound contribution to getting people's lives along the Gulf Coast back to a semblance of normal.

Whether or not there will be hurricanes this fall is unquestioned. There will be. We just don't know where they will strike. Weather "guessers" are pointing at the East Coast. But Mother Nature will make all the decisions.

In the military, we know we cannot deploy soldiers indefinitely. At some point we must take them off the front lines, rest and refit them and prepare for the next battle. It's called reconstitution.

The Corps and our partner agencies are doing this as I write.

As many people from Corps offices outside the Mississippi Valley Division rotate out, nobody will rotate in to fill behind them, unless it is someone from the Valley. Similarly, some of the staunch partners from other agencies are heading home soon to get ready for the next season. We – everyone in MVD – are going to have to fill the gaps.

If you think you have missed the opportunity to serve in the recovery effort from Katrina and Rita, nothing could be further from the truth. If you have been there and are now rested up for another foray, we need you. We need our best and brightest to continue to serve down south. We need people with specific skills, but also we need people with the talent, drive and eagerness to do anything that needs to be done.

Living conditions have improved steadily. There is still a very ample supply

of work and overtime. What hasn't changed is the necessary commitment.

I urge you to find the strength to raise your hand to help your fellow American citizens who have suffered so much from last season's tragic hurricanes. You'll return as a stronger person and employee. You'll make your organization incrementally stronger and more ready too.

This call is for our retirees also. If you want to come back and help, please contact our HR office. Ask people who have been there. Talk to your supervisor and then run it through Emergency Operations. As our colleagues in Task Force Guardian say, "Geaux."

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St. Louis District®

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Levee Muscles Cont. from page 1



The bulldozers work in pairs to aid the rapid drainage of collected material. A special vibratory roller waits its turn to compact the sand and complete the material placement.

(see sidebar story on page 5) appeared repeatedly, indicating that the levee was not performing as intended. Repeated sand boil assaults by a lesser flood in 1995 demonstrated that the 1993 flood had probably weakened the levee's foundation.

In 1997, a study that began after the 1993 flood – reinforced by findings after the 1995 flood – confirmed that design deficiencies existed in the area and would have to be addressed to better protect the region from future floods.

The report recommended installing new relief wells, building larger sand berms on the protected side of the levee and building a new pump station near Chouteau Slough to remove interior precipitation.

This year, significant progress is being made on strengthening the levee's structure by adding sand berms to the toe area of the levee.

The berms are designed to add weight to the interior toe of the levee. This is being done by pumping sand from the bottom of the Mississippi River, over the levee and applying it to the ground. The weight will press down on the underlying structure, making it tougher for water that seeps under the levee to carry structural materials to the surface,

especially closer to the levee where this would cause the worst potential danger.

Sand is being moved onto the land in depths varying from six inches to as much as twelve feet, with an average depth of eight feet.

According to the project's resident engineer, Larry Wernle, using dredged sand for this kind of work is not unusual. "But pumping it 2.5 miles is something I have not worked with before," he noted.

Project manager Susan Wilson and Wernle both cited the economics of using this readily available material and moving it by pipeline versus trucking it to the site.

"We are using nearly 400,000 cubic yards of sand for this phase of the project and dredging is the best way to do this," Wilson noted.

The sand is coming from the Mississippi's bottom near the confluence of the Missouri River and is being brought to the surface by a cutterhead dredge, Dredge Iowa, operated by the firm of L.W. Matteson, of Burlington, Iowa.

To get it to the work site it must first be pumped southward along the Missouri shore of the river, then under the river to the Illinois side where it emerges just inside the Chain of Rocks Canal.

The mix of sand and water – called a slurry – is thick and heavy. Powerful pumps in Dredge Iowa cannot pump it the required 2.5 miles through a 22-inch diameter steel pipe. So interim 6,000 horsepower diesel booster pumps are being used to move it along at a rate of more than 16,000 cubic yards of sand alone per day.



Larry Wernle explains the project's processes to a live FOX 2 television audience.



A back hoe removes floating debris from the dredge run-off before it is returned to the Mississippi. The entire project is being carried out under the watchful eye of motorists crossing the twin Chain of Rocks interstate bridges.

When the sand-water slurry gets to the end of the pipe, that can be extended section by section as work moves forward, it spews out onto the ground.

The heavier sand quickly sinks to the ground. There, powerful bulldozers push it to each side to further drain. As Larry Wernle told a visiting journalist, “The bulldozers act sort of like wiper blades, pushing the sand to the side where it can be stockpiled and excess water can drain out of it.”

Once the sand has drained, the dozers return to spread it. The work calls for building up sand to depths varying from six inches to twelve feet. But it has to be applied in what engineers term “lifts,” or layers, each about six inches thick.

Then a heavy vibrating roller drives over it, both pressing remaining water out of it and better binding the coarse grains of sand together.

The water, which has drained from the sand, contains smaller, lighter particles of soil and is allowed to sit in a retention pond where it further clarifies. Susan

Wilson indicated, “This enables us to return the water we used to transport the sand to the Chouteau Slough as clean or cleaner than when we took it from the River.”

Larry Wernle noted that periodic sampling and testing is confirming that the Corps is meeting this standard.

The prime contract for reinforcing the levee with sand berms and for drilling and installing new relief wells has been given to Lakeshore Engineering Services, Inc., a Chicago firm which has built several other flood protection projects for the St. Louis District.

Wilson explained, “Work is being performed under an IDIQ contract – indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity. This enables us to package the work in an efficient manner and then assign it as task orders as we obtain funding to apply against it. The work this year will cost about \$4.5 million and we are anticipating committing \$5.5 million next year, pending, of course, congressional approval.”

The overall plan for the northern end of the project is broken into three parcels. The middle and southern plots are 20 and 8 acres respectively. The northern segment is about 40 acres.

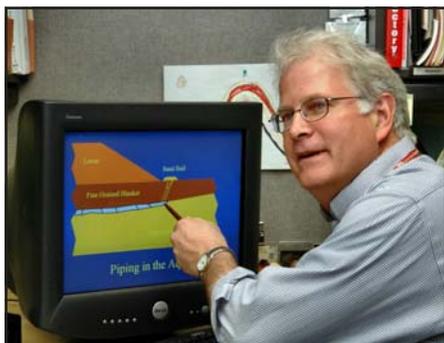
Once the sand has been placed, top soil, which was previously scraped up and stockpiled close to the levee, will be pushed back over the sand. Very little will grow in the raw sand. But warm seasonal grasses will be planted in the top soil cover. These are low-maintenance grasses that tolerate high temperatures and intense sunshine, while building a strong, very tight-knit root structure that will hold the soil and resist erosion.

The target is to provide efficient protection against a 500-year level flood event. “The levee itself is to defeat flooding of that elevation,” Larry Wernle said. The sand berm will address the duration issue. Together they will better keep the water out – for as long as necessary,” he concluded.



Sand Boils 101

Usually *Esprit* tries to present positive and uplifting stories. But unfortunately, this item is about one of those sore subjects that literally can boil over!



Pat Conroy, Geotechnical Engineer.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the world's premier builder of levees and other flood damage reduction structures. But Mother Nature is a formidable adversary whose arsenal includes such tools as high water and wave action, underseepage, plus the insidious, invisible-until-almost-too-late sand boil.

We went to geotechnical engineer Patrick Conroy to explain this potentially destructive phenomenon.

Conroy explained that sand boils start with underseepage during floods, especially with levees constructed on an existing surficial clay blanket that covers a sandy or gravelly aquifer. Another requirement is an adjacent river channel deep enough to provide a direct hydraulic connection between the river and the underlying aquifer.

In non-flood times, groundwater usually flows from the aquifer into the stream, following the contour of the land above, running down hill into streams, ponds and lakes.

But during high water, ground water will reverse its direction and flow back under ground, completely filling and saturating the aquifer. When the floodwaters are higher than the landside ground, the water in the aquifer, under pressure from the river, exerts an upward pressure on the bottom of the clay blanket. With time this increased "head pressure," as it is known to engineers,

can drive the water through the clay blanket to the surface.

Conroy explained that this is expected. "We call it underseepage. When water stands against an earthen levee for a long time, we expect underseepage to occur. In fact, investigations into the occurrence and control of underseepage are a major consideration of the Geotechnical design of a flood protection system.

Underseepage that allows clear water to reach the landside of the levee is not a problem. "It's not uncommon to see an area of dampness in an otherwise dry field when this happens," Conroy told. In fact, you may even see hundreds or thousands of 'pin boils', small watery bumps that look like a water fountain with insufficient pressure, he added.



Sand boil sand bag ring levee.

When flood waters remain high for a long time though, underseepage can increase in volume and velocity and begin the destructive process of moving sand from the foundation aquifer, through the clay blanket, to the surface, forming 'sand boils.'

When the seepage begins making sand boils," Conroy said, "geotechnical engineers get nervous! Sand boils indicate more serious underseepage." Left unchecked, the process can eventually lead to levee failure.

So what do you do when you find sand boils during a flood?

"You fight back – flood fight – by building a sand bag ring around the emerging 'sand boil,' which now can be seen as a bubbling, water-sand slurry," Conroy said. You build the sand bag ring higher and higher, until the weight of the water inside the ring slows the water flow from the boil to where there is just clear water coming from it.

Then you're done – there at least – until sometime later when another boil appears. The next boil may occur in the adjacent field, or it might occur right next to the sand bag ring you just built. But as long as the flood continues they will appear anew somewhere else along the levee. Again. And again.

The theory behind fighting sand boils is an intriguing exercise in engineering. The practical part of flood fighting sand boils is usually just plain hard, dirty work. Just ask a District colleague who's filled and toted the sand bags.

So what do levee designers do?

"We have some effective tools to combat underseepage," says Conroy. "Most commonly, we use relief wells or landside seepage berms. Less commonly we use a sheetpile cutoff or slurry trench cutoff."

Relief wells allow groundwater to flow out of the aquifer, thereby reducing the head-pressure in the aquifer. This pressure reduction decreases the upward seepage through the landside clay blanket and preserves the integrity of that blanket.

Seepage berms allow some of the excess seepage pressure to bleed through the surficial clay blanket and into the berm. There, the seepage flows horizontally to the end of the berm. The downward weight of the seepage berm also counteracts the upward seepage forces acting on the surficial blanket.

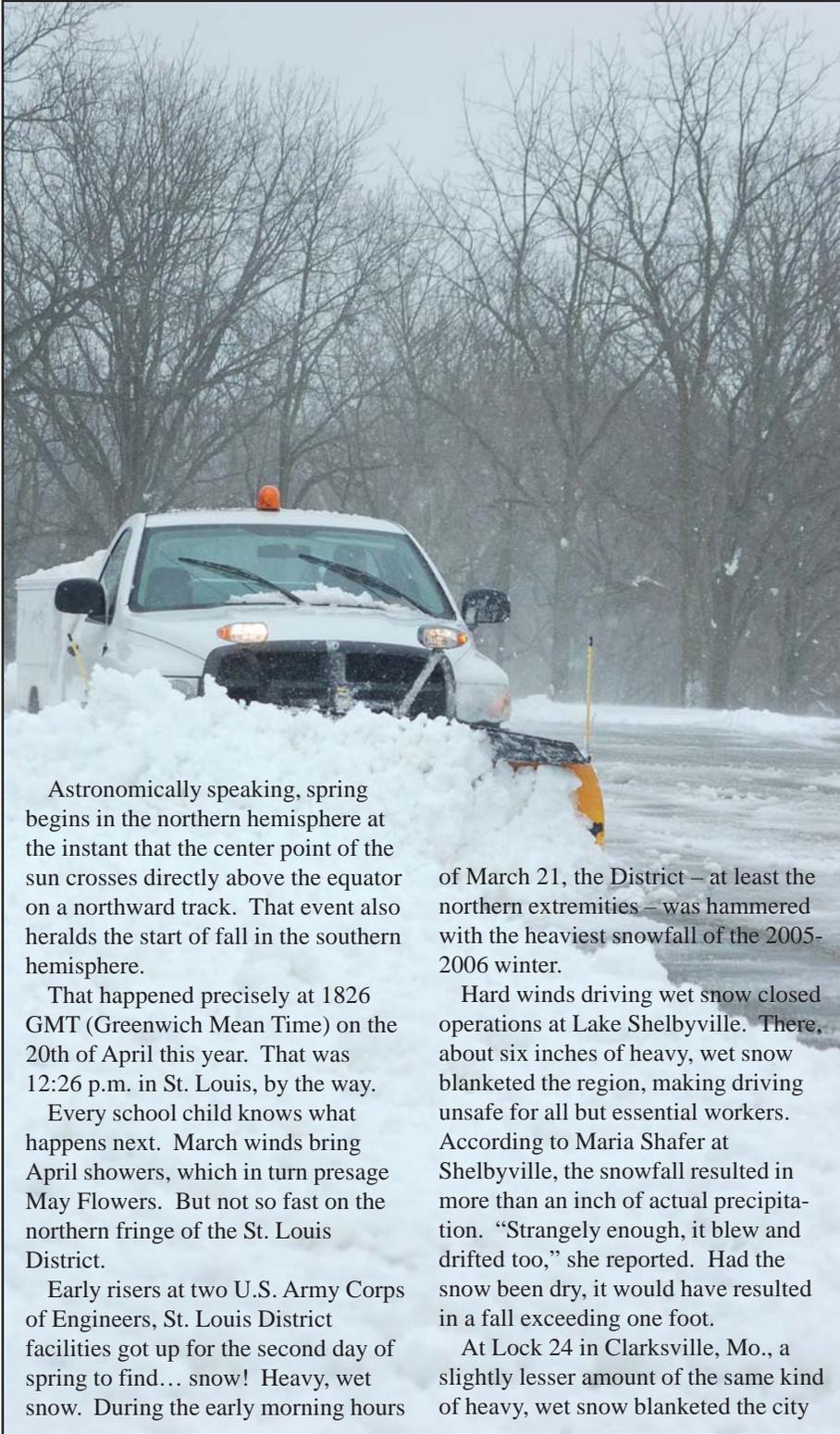
Finally, the width of the seepage berm makes the underseepage travel a longer distance from the levee. The longer seepage path reduces the power and force of the underseepage so that when it does exit landside of the seepage berm, it causes no problems.

This is why the District is building up the sand berm along the eastern side of the Chain of Rocks Canal. The berm will counter the force of underseepage trying to work its way to the surface. If it does make it to the surface, it will do so at a longer, safer distance from the levee.

As thrilling as flood fighting can be, we can certainly "do" with fewer sand boils.



Spring Comes to St. Louis District



Astronomically speaking, spring begins in the northern hemisphere at the instant that the center point of the sun crosses directly above the equator on a northward track. That event also heralds the start of fall in the southern hemisphere.

That happened precisely at 1826 GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) on the 20th of April this year. That was 12:26 p.m. in St. Louis, by the way.

Every school child knows what happens next. March winds bring April showers, which in turn presage May Flowers. But not so fast on the northern fringe of the St. Louis District.

Early risers at two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District facilities got up for the second day of spring to find... snow! Heavy, wet snow. During the early morning hours

of March 21, the District – at least the northern extremities – was hammered with the heaviest snowfall of the 2005-2006 winter.

Hard winds driving wet snow closed operations at Lake Shelbyville. There, about six inches of heavy, wet snow blanketed the region, making driving unsafe for all but essential workers. According to Maria Shafer at Shelbyville, the snowfall resulted in more than an inch of actual precipitation. “Strangely enough, it blew and drifted too,” she reported. Had the snow been dry, it would have resulted in a fall exceeding one foot.

At Lock 24 in Clarksville, Mo., a slightly lesser amount of the same kind of heavy, wet snow blanketed the city



The freshly fallen snow creates hazardous work conditions at Lock 24, Clarksville, Mo. Everyone must pitch in to make it a safe work place.

and lock. But round-the-clock operation there didn't afford employees the luxury of closing down. “Passing towboat crews, especially the deckhands who have to work outside in all kinds of bad weather, probably wouldn't have been too impressed if we had shut down operations,” according to Assistant Lockmaster Dave Nelson.

Less than 100 miles south at the District Headquarters in downtown St. Louis, only a light dusting of snow and some rain fell. But the pictures with this story prove it was not a lie – it snowed heavily in the St. Louis District on the second day of spring, 2006.



Bob Burton is dressed in full winter garb as he works with a frozen lock at Lake Shelbyville.

The uniqueness of each snow flake is lost to Larry Shafer this morning. Today, he's operating one of Lake Shelbyville's snow plow equipped Dodge trucks to clear the roadways. Visitor safety is of utmost concern anytime of the year.



Phishing II

Several issues ago, *Esprit* warned of a relatively new computer-based identity theft ploy called “phishing.” “Phishers” or “phishermen” send out e-mails, often looking like official messages from real senders – like banks, credit unions or in this case, the Federal Thrift Savings Plan. If you are naive enough to answer their messages asking for information or encouraging you to make yourself more secure from identity theft, they can steal your identity and use it in numerous ways that can potentially cost you large sums of money.

The Thrift Savings Plan sent out the following recently. It’s important enough to repeat it. Read and heed.

“On March 16, 2006, some TSP participants received an e-mail purporting to be from the TSP. The e-mail asked for confirmation that the person had added an e-mail address to his or her TSP account. The link in the e-mail took the person to a bogus version of the TSP account access screen where it asked for the person’s Social Security number and PIN. It then took you to another screen

where it asked for credit card and banking information. It appears that on March 17, the link to the bogus web site was disabled and the site closed.

Please be advised that the e-mail is not an official Thrift Savings Plan communication.

You should never give any personal, credit, or banking information in response to unsolicited e-mails or use an embedded link to a site that requests this information. The TSP would never ask for this information via an e-mail. If you did provide this information, contact your credit card company/bank immediately and seek guidance. In addition, please call the TSP (1-877-968-3778); you can assist us in our investigation of this matter and you should change your TSP PIN immediately.

If you want more information regard-



ing “phishing,” you can click on this link to www.onlineonguard.gov/phishing.

The site is sponsored by a consortium of Federal agencies (including the Federal Trade Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Department of Commerce, and Department of Homeland Security) and is designed to educate people about “phishing” and how to avoid getting hooked by one of these scams.

The key to remember is not to access the TSP Web site by clicking on links in an e-mail – you may not get where you think you are going. Always access your TSP account by opening a new Browser window and typing <http://www.tsp.gov> into the Address/URL field.

The TSP is actively investigating this matter.

Remember: no bank, lender or other financial institution will send you an email asking you to send them your account number. Only convey that information in messages that you initiate to known addresses in the same manner the TSP advises above.

Safety Bulletin: USACE Employee Suffers Fatal Fall in Huntington District

In last month’s *Esprit* newsletter, acting District Engineer Lt. Col. Greg Raimondo focused on the need for ongoing attention to all aspects of safety. The tragic message below puts an unfortunate reality face on that message.

On March 23, 2006 a USACE employee suffered a fatal injury in a fall at the Winfield Lock and Dam in the Huntington District.

Preliminary findings indicate that two employees were working on a temporary elevated platform that was attached to the lock gate. They were preparing to lift a rod from the lock gate with a crane. The crane was spooling excess cable in order to raise the chain rigging that was lying on the floor of the platform when apparently a shackle from the chain rigging slipped through the gap between

the work platform and the lock gate.

As the chain rigging was being hoisted, the shackle became wedged between the work platform and the lock gate, lifting and dislodging one side of the elevated work platform. The platform rotated from a horizontal position downward, coming to rest in a vertical position. One employee avoided falling by holding onto a secure object. The other employee fell approximately 45 feet to the floor of the dewatered lock chamber.

Preliminary Conclusions

Initial lessons from an ongoing investigation show a need for awareness and focus on the following areas:

- Safe use of elevated work platforms/scaffolds
- Safety and engineering assessment of

elevated work platforms; special attention should be paid to hooks, fasteners, and/or assemblies that secure and stabilize work platforms.

- Use of appropriate crane rigging and maintaining positive control/observation of rigging.
- Use of fall protection as required.
- Use of Activity Hazard Analysis for all operations.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers directed District Engineers to conduct a survey of equipment, procedures and training with respect to fall prevention injury prevention, giving districts 72 hours to complete this remedial action.

Danger never takes a holiday, so safety has to work 24x7x365 too.



Hundreds Flock to Corps' Engineers Week Display at St. Louis Science Center

Several hundred young people and adults hovered around the St. Louis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers display Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 25-26 at the St. Louis Science Center.

The popular display featured an operating model of a typical Mississippi River Lock and Dam. For some of the younger children, the water flowing through the display offered an unforeseen opportunity to play in the cool

water. But older children and adults gained a basic understanding of operation of the huge concrete and steel locks that support safe and efficient navigation on the nation's rivers, including near their hometown.

A wide variety of materials telling of recreation, water safety, environmental, historical and flood reduction programs supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis were also popular with the visitors who often mobbed the display several deep. Many took home "one of each" for future reading and consideration.

Many visitors expressed surprise that there is no need for pumps to raise and lower water levels in the lock chambers. "The Mississippi River is our pump. By opening huge valves, called culvert valves, we can let water from the upstream pool flow into the chamber or let it flow out into the downstream, lower pool," they were told repeatedly.

Hundreds of young people got the chance to try their hands at operating the model lock. Carefully comparing water levels in the chamber, they determined when it was safe to open the upstream lift gate and push a model barge tow into the chamber. Once the lift gate was closed, they first ensured that the upstream culvert valve was closed, and then opened the downstream valve. Shouts of glee accompanied the descent of the model barge tow as water ran from the chamber.

Once the model chamber's level was equal to the lower pool's level, the young people carefully opened the miter gates and allowed the tow to head downstream.

hulking dinosaur model. Every question was quickly used as an opportunity to tell some facet of the Corps Story and how important the engineering profession is to our nation. "Engineers turn ideas into reality," the visitors were told.

The traffic flow for this year's exhibit increased dramatically from that during the previous two years. The probable reason was the location of the Corps display, downstairs near the Dinosaur exhibit area. The Corps has locked up this choice location for the next two years and we hope to expand our offering next year by adding bridge building to the opportunities for young people to learn about engineering and for everyone to learn how the U.S. Army



The District's lock and dam model drew attention from adults and children. Here, Nicole Dalrymple (PA), shows how river tows travel between pools on the Mississippi River.

"Can I do it again?" "Of course you can." And the process started again.

Numerous discussions occurred throughout both days at the Science Center where several volunteer Corps employees did their best to keep up with the eager visits in the shadow of a

Corps of Engineers works every day to improve their lives.

Volunteers who took the story of engineering to the Science Center in 2006 included: Jaynie Doerr, Charlie Deutsch, Keisha Hurst, Joe Stevens, Nicole Dalrymple and Alan Dooley.



Farewell to a Friend and Co-Worker

The loss of any member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District family is always hard to accept. Dan Erickson's passing on Dec. 13 last year was especially hard on his fellow workers at the Rivers Project Office and indeed, throughout the District and the Mississippi Valley.

Dan had planned to retire after 29 years of exemplary service, on Jan. 3, 2006. But at age 55, he was taken from his wife Sue and two sons, Matthew and Todd – indeed all of us.

Dan's life was a special life that we hope to celebrate in *Esprit*, vice simply noting it in an obituary.

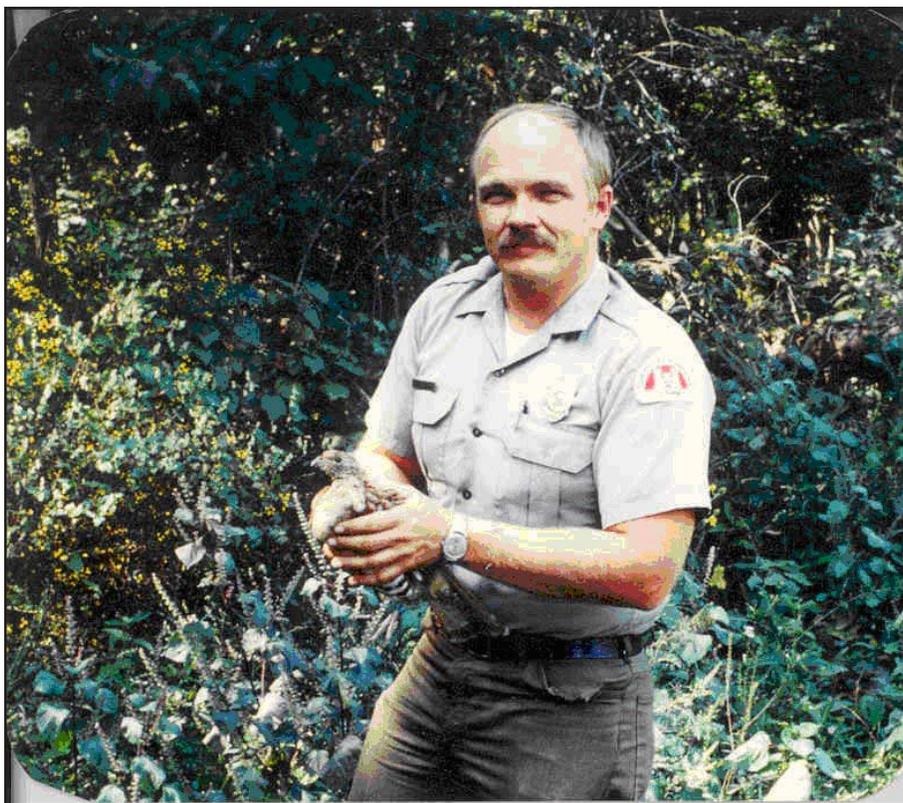
A forest management specialist by education, Dan was graduated from the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1972.

Somehow a magical blend of Dan's bachelor's degree in Forest Management and his special capabilities, took him to work for the Army in 1972. There he showed extraordinary skills as a linguist. Working for the National Security Agency and gaining extensive language training, Dan carried out specialized intelligence functions that were so highly classified that we will probably never know all that he did. He read, spoke and understood Czech superbly – so we can guess that he was monitoring the situation in the former Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact in eastern Europe.

Dan came to the Corps in 1976, starting at Wappapello Lake as a GS-4 Park Ranger. His first son Matthew, was just born at the time. Excelling in natural resource programs, Dan's talent and energy lifted him rapidly through the ranks. In 1981 he was a GS-9 and a father for a second time as the Erickson's second son, Todd was born.

In 1989 he moved to the new Riverlands Office as a GS-11.

There his value to the District, the Corps and the Nation blossomed as he led us all by his example. His love of the Mississippi River, its preservation and restoration tied him forever to



Dan Erickson loved the outdoors and would rather be with his feathered friends than stuck behind a desk.

numerous agencies (USFS, USFWS, IDNR, MDNR, ILLEPA and EPA) that worked together to manage the Middle Mississippi River as an integrated resource. His vision, for which he became the glue between these organizations, was of a river blending a vibrant natural habitat; a safe, reliable transportation system and a place for all who love the outdoors to commune with its special attributes.

On task forces, product delivery teams, at meetings or just in the field working with his hands in the rich ecosystem he so much adored, Dan Erickson put his heart and soul into all he did. He could often be heard uttering his favorite words: "Life is good," or "Argh," as he worked to ensure the future of his beloved natural world.

And then suddenly, Dan's life was over. But not his works.

The American Land Conservancy, with Dan's constant encouragement, and according to ALC vice president Jenny Frazier, his mentoring, patience, insights

and humor, has today conserved more than 25,000 acres of the Middle Mississippi River's lands for future generations.

Dan Erickson was never a man who coveted honors or awards. Rather, to him the wilderness, the rivers that course through it and all of its inhabitants, were his daily rewards for his dedicated work.

It is fitting therefore, that his family has asked that anyone who wishes to celebrate Dan's life – and not to continue to mourn for his loss – should make a contribution to the American Land Conservancy in his name, to:

**Dan Erickson Memorial Fund
c/o Jenny Frazier, VP
American Land Conservancy
Rt. 1, Box 600C
Marble Hill, MO 63764.**

Then walk through the woods and prairies. Sit alongside the mighty Mississippi River. Close your eyes and hear Dan say once more, "Life is good." And you know what? It's because he did so much to make it that way for all of us.



Kaskia-Kaw Cooperating Association “Power of Three” is Named Best in Nation

A cult TV series, “Charmed,” features three sister witches who use what they call, “The Power of Three,” to make the world a better place.

Three people who formed the Kaskia-Kaw Rivers Conservancy in November 1999 are anything but witches. For the Corps, they have been angels. Their combined efforts have made life much richer for residents and visitors to the region, from Lake Shelbyville to Carlyle Lake and down the Kaskaskia River to the Mississippi River.

The Kaskia-Kaw Rivers Conservancy (KKRC) Cooperating Association has been singled out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the nation’s top such group for supporting the Corps in its recreation and natural resources management programs. The selection was announced March 6, at an Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL) convention in Little Rock, Ark.

The Corps joined there with the National Park Service; the Bureau of Land Management; the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service to recognize the best partnership organizations supporting these various land management agencies. The convention is an annual event that brings together people from associations and federal agencies they support to learn ways to improve these partnerships. The Corps currently recognizes its top cooperating association with its “Excellence in Interpretive Partnership” award every-other-year at this conference.

Kathy Niksic, who heads up the KKRC, said, “When we were put up for the award this year, there were three of us!” In the past year the group has doubled to six. “Of the original three, I’m semi-retired, one gentleman farms and the third lady has a job that gives her flexibility to volunteer two or three days a week.



(L) Andrea Lewis, Lake Shelbyville Manager and (R) Debra Stokes, Senior Policy Advisor for Partnerships, flank Kaskia-Kaw Rivers Conservancy (KKRC) Cooperating Association president Kathy Niksic. Niksic accepted the 2006 Excellence in Interpretive Partnerships award for the organization at the annual Association of Partners for Public Lands convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, March 6, 2006.

Niksic also noted, “We’ll be seven years old this fall. So I guess we have come a pretty long way pretty quickly.”

Cooperating Associations are non-profit, tax-exempt, educational organizations made up of mostly volunteers who give of their time to assist the federal government to provide benefits to visitors. Associations primarily operate gift and book shops in federal visitor centers. However, many organize special events and programs that support community outreach efforts and help meet management objectives. Revenues they generate go back to support educational initiatives at projects where they operate. For example, when associations provide period costumes and equipment, this helps interpretive employees better weave a rich tapestry of history and nature lore for public land visitors.

The Kaskia-Kaw group is one of the smallest groups ever to win the Corps’ Excellence in Interpretive Partnerships honor.

The KKRC provides everyday support to Shelbyville and Carlyle lakes. “We simply could not bring what we offer to the public without their support,” Lake Shelbyville Operations Manager Andrea Lewis said. “They do so much that so few people know about.”

After incorporating as a non-profit organization in 1999, the KKRC came onboard with the Corps at Lake Shelbyville, signing a cooperating agreement in July 2000. They widened their association in September 2003 by adding Carlyle Lake and then the entire Kaskaskia River Navigation Project to their responsibilities.

During their partnership with the Corps, the KKRC has taken on numerous community outreach events including: an annual Muskets and Drums Muster of revolutionary war re-enactors; Spores ‘N More, to teach people about mushrooms, finding and preparing them; to the Tom Short 5 kilometer run/walk to support the projected 172-mile General Dacey Trail that will someday connect



Lake Shelbyville and many surrounding communities.

But the KKRC's crowning achievement came in May 2005 when they co-hosted the 2005 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental and Natural Resources Conference in St. Louis. Bringing more than \$60,000 in organizational resources and volunteer efforts of every member of the small organization to bear, they were critical to organizing and carrying out a huge, national event.

Their unprecedented support – no other Cooperating Association has ever taken on such an event – garnered the highest praise from Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, at the conclusion of the event. Maj. Gen. Don Riley, the Corps Director of Civil Works reinforced the Chief's praise in a letter to the KKRC, calling the event, co-hosted by an organization that already strongly supports Corps goals in education, research and outreach, an unprecedented win-win for everyone.

The tiny group continues to blaze a brilliant trail through the Kaskaskia River Valley, through two Corps project lakes to the river's confluence with the Mississippi. In fact, they next plan to expand their offerings by bringing a gift-book shop to the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam. "We think it's a wonderful place for visitors to get another look at what the Corps does for the region and America," Niksic said.

The KKRC is ample proof that small numbers of people, when truly dedicated and selfless, can have immense and far reaching positive impacts.



The Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

By Dick Boudreau, Human Resources

The family of Federal employees enjoys a reputation for generosity and the employees of the St. Louis District go a long way toward supporting and validating this reputation.

We have all seen the boxes of clothing and toys that District employees donate. We see the CFC chart surge over the top year after year, thanks to the generosity of District employees. We even keep a steady chain of life's little goodies flowing to our volunteers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Perhaps what we have not been able to see and celebrate is the good that we do for one of our own through the Leave Donation Program. This is a quiet program conducted with little hoopla, and its results little publicized. This 'laid back' attitude of the program can lead us all to lose sight of its powerful impact on the lives of those it touches.

Imagine that one day you find yourself unable to perform your work due to illness. Time passes. Treatments continue. Leave balances diminish. More time passes and the day arrives when your sick leave is all gone as well as your annual leave. Treatments are to continue and you remain unable to return to work. Added to your health concerns, you are now facing potentially crippling financial issues.

Financial managers state that most of us are only 2 paychecks away from financial crisis. Perhaps you don't rest and sleep quite so well as you wonder about tomorrow. Health issues take a back seat to other worries. How will you feed your family? How will you pay those relentless bills: the credit cards, the utilities, your insurance premiums, etc? What if you lose your home? How will you pay those now all too frequent medical co-pays? What about tuition and clothes for the kids?

For many of our employees, you have been the answer to those questions. Through the Federal Leave Donation Program you donated some of your accumulated annual leave to help your fellow employees meet their financial needs in a time of serious and continuing medical crisis. And you didn't even take a dime out of your own pocket!

In 2005, District employees donated more than 1,500 hours to other District employees in documented serious need. For three quarters of a year employees who would have been without pay continued to receive their bi-weekly paycheck. The Eagle still flew for them.

Sometimes more leave is donated than the recipient is able to use. What a wonderful situation! In those cases the donated leave is returned to the donors on a pro-rated basis.

And who gave and who gives? The program maintains donor confidentiality so we can't provide names, not even to the recipients of the donated leave. But most donations were processed from employees at the higher levels of the pay ladders and from those with "use or lose" leave.

How much did donors give? Amounts ranged from a single hour to as much as 80 hours. Some employees seem to donate a specific amount to every request that comes to their attention. Others respond on a case-by-case basis. At any given time, not everyone is in a position to respond with a donation.

We can only admire the generosity of the St. Louis District family and give a tip of the hat to a program which, with a minimum of bureaucracy and paperwork, with little or no hoopla, and with great compassion does so much for employees who unexpectedly find themselves facing a critical need that exceeds their resources.

Next time you see a request for leave donation in your email, remember how much the smallest donation can help.



St. Louis District Cultural Anthropologist Blends Family Heritage, Training and Corps Program

By Nicole Dalrymple, PA

In 1990 the U.S. Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, also known as NAGPRA. This law required all federal agencies and museums that receive federal funding to identify and inventory all Native American, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian human skeleton remains, funerary and sacred objects, and objects of cultural ancestry, in their archaeological collections.



Tens of thousands lined the capitol streets for the opening of The National Museum of American Indians in Washington DC September, 2004. An hours-long parade of Native Americans was a highlight of the event.



Roberta Hayworth poses with James Pepper Henry, member of the Kaw Nation.

Over the last century, construction projects on federal property unearthed hundreds of thousands of prehistoric and historic artifacts that were stored in universities, museums, and contractor

and federal agency offices across the United States. Under NAGPRA, these were all to be identified and then through consultation returned to affiliated tribes.

In 1994, Roberta Hayworth, cultural anthropologist with the St. Louis District, was completing her Masters degree in anthropology at Wichita State University, writing her thesis on NAGPRA. Little did she know at the time what a significant role the new legislation would play in her professional career and the opportunity it would provide her to facilitate relationships between federal agencies and her fellow Native Americans.

Growing up in Kansas and Oklahoma, Hayworth learned about her people – the Citizen Potawatomi Nation – in stories her grandparents shared. She was told how the nation was relocated from the Great Lakes area to Shawnee, Oklahoma in the 1830s as part of the congressionally-approved 1830 Indian Removal Act.

Between 1830 and 1850, approximately 100,000 American Indians were forcefully removed from lands east of the Mississippi River to make room for white settlers.

St. Louis District consults with 27 tribes, many who passed through this region during their forced relocation.

Hayworth’s tribal heritage has

benefited the work she’s done for the Army Corps of Engineers since 1995.

“My heritage certainly gives me some credibility with the tribes and helps me understand the issues better,” Hayworth explained. “I know what removal has done to the native peoples, so I can relate not only to their issues but also to their history.”

NAGPRA was designed to address the treatment and repatriation of Native American remains and artifacts, and acknowledge tribes rights to claim ancestral remains and materials that were removed from their original resting place.

When Hayworth was hired by the District’s Mandatory Center of Expertise for Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections, the center was in the midst of a massive project for the Department of Defense. Because of NAGPRA all DoD collections predating 1990 were being located, and Hayworth assisted in identifying which tribes DoD installations should be consulting.

All items discovered on federal lands since the 1990 legislation are referred to as Section 3 material or inadvertent discoveries. Inadvertent discoveries can happen in many ways: a shallow grave can become exposed simply due to time and natural erosion; construction of a nature trail or maintenance work can



uncover remains; and there is also the unlawful discovery due to grave robbers.

“When an inadvertent discovery occurs,” Hayworth said, “a physical anthropologist will use the teeth, age of bones, and other criteria to determine if the remains are Native American. If they are identified as Native American than requirements under NAGPRA must be followed.”

Another stipulation under the 1990 law was a requirement for federal agencies to consult with Native peoples. This has placed a burden of sorts on the Native tribes, Hayworth explained. Countless letters of invitation to consult come from dozens of federal agencies, to including all branches of the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Land Reclamation, National Parks Service and most land management agencies.

“It’s important to remember that before NAGPRA tribes weren’t contacted regarding the reburial of their ancestors,” Hayworth explained. “This still is a very difficult issue to address.”

A “wide net” is cast when an agency first initiates contact with the tribes, Hayworth said. Letters of invitation may be sent to dozens of tribes but only a few will enter into consultation.

“I let the tribes decide which areas of the country they are interested in and whether the land in question is too far from their aboriginal lands,” she said.

It was only the District’s second meeting with tribes in the mid 1990s when tribal leaders asked if remains found on Army Corps of Engineers property could be reburied on Corps property, Hayworth remembers. Col. Thomas Suermann, then District Engineer, pushed for reburial on federal property following a discovery of human remains at Mark Twain Lake.

The tribes, especially the Sac and Fox, wanted to rebury the remains as close as possible to the original site. Hayworth began to pursue the issue because many tribes were requesting that bones and artifacts be interred at the project site.

At the time there was no precedence or law to make it happen, but legislation in the Water Resources Development Act



Participants from Hawaii reminded everyone of the wonderful diversity of native cultures that literally span our nation and history from our first state to its fiftieth, half-way across the Pacific Ocean.

of 2000 provided the needed authorization for reburial on federal lands.

Last year the St. Louis District became the first Corps district to identify reburial sites at its lake projects and to have a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the commander and several tribes for the designation of a reburial site at Mark Twain Lake. Future MOA signings are planned for Rend and Carlyle lakes this summer and plans are in the works for Lake Shelbyville.

Tribes selected the location for reburial lands from several options submitted by each lake’s operations manager. “The lake managers were asked to pick sites that were out of the way and were not at risk for development,” Hayworth explained. The tribes visited each lake and selected the proposed locations themselves. In all but one case the District was able to grant the tribe’s first preference.

The actual reburial locations are kept in strictest confidence. Only a handful of people know the exact location.

Over the years Hayworth has established a positive relationship with the tribes through honest dealings, hard work and meaningful site visits. Tribal

representatives have visited all five of the District’s lakes, and next year Hayworth plans to show them one of the District’s lock and dam projects.

“During previous site visits, tribal representatives have met lake managers and park rangers,” Hayworth said. “The visits serve two purposes. They open the eyes of the rangers, showing them the importance of being careful with inadvertent discoveries, and they teach the tribes about the importance and purpose of the Corps projects.”

With an established Tribal Relations program in St. Louis, Hayworth has been asked to assist other federal agencies to comply with NAGPRA. “I will share my documents with anyone who asks,” she said. “I’ll give them the verbiage and a sound starting point.”

Knowing Hayworth’s reputation and positive relationship with the tribes, a Savannah District archeologist referred personnel at the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station and recruiting Depot at Parris Island, both in Beaufort, S.C., to Hayworth for help.

“The Marines have a small staff at the Air Station and Parris Island,” Hayworth explained. “They don’t have anyone



dedicated to Indian Affairs.”

With Hayworth’s help the Air Station became the first Marine installation to sign an MOU, outlining the Air Station’s consultation with American Indians. The MOU was signed March 21, 2005 with three Creek Nation tribal towns – Thophlocco, Alabama-Quassarte and the Kialegee.

Four months later, the Air Station entered into a second MOU with the Five Civilized Tribes – Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole and Muscogee (Creek) Nations.

The agreements establish a process for the Air Station to coordinate with tribes when impacts are made that might disturb archaeological sites or areas of interest to the tribes, or if remains or artifacts are discovered.

This same MOU will be signed by Parris Island and the tribes in July 2007.

Hayworth has enjoyed her work with the Marines at the Air Base. “I love going out there. It’s a beautiful town and the base leadership has been very enthusiastic about working with tribes.”

Her work for the Marines has extended beyond the Air Base. “So far I’ve written scopes of work for four additional Marine bases. All of this is helping them get into compliance with NAGPRA,” she said.

Seeing federal agencies come to the table with native tribes brings Hayworth great personal satisfaction. “A meeting between a federal agency and the tribes is my favorite part,” she said. “I like seeing the relationships take shape and knowing that consultations are taking place.”

Additionally, Hayworth is able to do meaningful work that is helping her people and other native tribes. “All the work that goes into planning the meetings and drafting the MOUs is worth it; it’s almost like old home week for me,” she said. “I have friendships with all of the different tribes. I have always felt close to my heritage, and I feel like I’m contributing back. By working for a federal agency, I can work from the inside and I’m able to affect change. We all win when we work together like this.”



Retiree’s Corner



Pete Puricelli’s reports and our irregular *Esprit* publishing schedule have been out of synch for awhile. One report narrowly missed the last edition of *Esprit*, and we got a “stop the presses” update just as we were getting ready to print this edition. So here’s a merged version of both. We’re trying to get *Esprit* back on schedule, Pete.

The retirees started 2006 at a new location, Pietro’s on Watson. For those that hadn’t heard, after the retirees meeting for lunch at the Salad Bowl on Lindell for a number of years, the restaurant was closed for a development.

So starting in January, the retirees moved to Pietro’s. It turns out that the new location, is really not new to some of the retirees. Don Wampler said that he remembers the retirees meeting there when he retired back in early 1970. He didn’t remember why they moved, but said that it felt good to be back.

There was a large number of customers and added noise and distraction impacted some retirees who have bad hearing due to age. Nevertheless, they all seemed to have a great lunch and agreed to meet there in the future.

Dennis Gould mentioned that he was driving to Kansas City to meet family to fly to Los Angeles. They were going to visit more family there.

Lee Robinson said that he recently visited Ron Messerli and his wife Nancy. They are both doing great. Ron has a part time business, like most retirees, to stay out of Nancy’s hair, but really hasn’t changed. He is still full of devilment.

Wally Feld said that he attended Larry Strunk’s retirement. There was a large

group to see him off. Wally said that he saw Dan Flippen and Red Buchhold there. They both looked great. Wally also mentioned that Sylvia Reinga recently passed away. She was in Ops.

Don Wampler said that he received a Christmas card from Len Alfeld, but doesn’t know what he is doing now days.

Joe Bisher was his usual self. When he arrived, a waitress gave him a big hug and a kiss. Joe said “That’s my wife’s niece.”

Soon another young lady gave him a hug. (Remember, young is a relative term compared to Joe’s age.) He again said, “Another of my wife’s nieces.” The second lady was Barb Jarman and this raised questions about Joe’s first assertion. But later the waitress confirmed she was Joe’s wife’s niece.

Lew Scheuermann said that he hasn’t heard from Bill Thomure recently. He tried to call him several times but didn’t get any response.

Elsie Kalafatich said that she recently talked to Lois Bockhorst and that Ron had been in the hospital for about 9 days for heart related problems. Ron was recuperating but not able to attend the luncheons just yet. Maybe soon.

Sandor Dombi said that heart problems seem to be the thing recently. Just the previous week he went to the hospital with pains that he thought were a heart attack. Fortunately, after being examined in the ER, they said it was not a heart attack and sent him on his way. (You can’t be too careful these days, with the age of the retirees.)

The retirees met again at Pietro’s in March.

There was an honored attendee from out of town, the Honorable John Clark, Mayor of Canton, Missouri, and his wife, Mary Ellen. Many of you knew John as a “regular guy” working in the Engineering Division. Now he is running a community and with all the problems of working with state and federal agencies, nothing has changed. The retirees paid him the appropriate respect due a retired government employee/mayor.

Lee Robinson mentioned that he and



many of his Elk Brothers visited the Veterans Hospital to spread some joy and cheer on Valentine's Day. There were many Veterans that had no one visit and they were very appreciative of the Elks presence.

Dennis Gould had just returned from Los Angeles and said the people and drivers there seem to be from another world. He was visiting family and was glad to return to sanity in Missouri.

Elsie Kalafatich mentioned that she called Ron Bockhorst's home and talked to his wife, Lois, and she said Ron was still very sick. He is under the doctor's care and is hopeful to be at a luncheon very soon.

Joan and Dennis Schick made an appearance. She said Joe Bisher had been on her case to attend and she finally worked this into their schedule. She said that since they retired, they have been so busy they rarely get all of their appointments accomplished. Retirement is keeping them busier than when they worked. (That's good.)

Joe Bisher vowed that he will stop bringing his nieces to the luncheon, except for Nancy, she works at Pietro's and she has to put up with him.

Wally Feld mentioned the Spring Golf Tournament on April 7. He said that they had worked out the problems of last year about rain-outs by amending the bylaws.

December 1970:

The annual Christmas Dinner Dance was held at the Boulevard Room of the Sheraton Jefferson Hotel December 12. There was a good crowd attended and the District crowned a new queen — Miss Sally Unterreiner.

At the recent bid opening for Phase I of the main dam construction at Cannon Reservoir, the apparent low bidder was D. H. Blattner and Sons, Inc. Blattner's bid was later withdrawn and the contract went to Clarkson Construction Company of Kansas City, Missouri.

New employees:

- Riley Pope Engineering Division (returned from military duty)
- James Prater L&D 25
- Harold Roupe ED

Norman Browning OD

Feb/Mar 1971

New employees:

- Carol Sherrill Dredge Ste Gen
- Edmond Rogers Service Base
- Natalie Devine ED-PB
- Thomas Furdek ED-HW
- Kathleen Wieda DC
- Mary Farwell AC-S
- Anthony Manzo PB-R
- Dennis Foss OD-RC
- Nancy Nickel ED-A

The District held a public meeting at Cape Girardeau to gather public opinion prior to a study of a small boat and commercial harbor there.

Larry Wright, Ed Russell and Phil Eydmann were given certificates of appreciation from the Galveston District Engineer for their work during the Hurricane Celia recovery.

The week of 15-19 March 1971 was proclaimed Federal Employee of the Year week by Mayor Cervantes and Lawrence Roos, County Supervisor.

Outstanding Performance Awards:

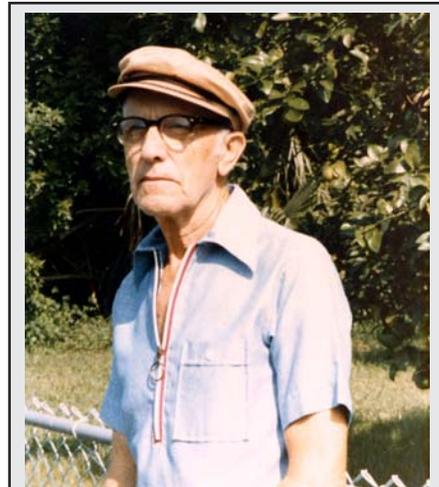
- John Miller Cannon Res Office
- Farrell Burnett Cannon Res Office
- Al Fedder ED, Flood Plains Mgt
- Norbert Long .. ED, River Stabilization
- Marvin Ortwerth ED-D
- Constant Meister ED-S
- Joan King PB
- Don Wampler PB
- William Shanks ED-D
- Robert Parsons CD

Retirees:

- William Wall ED-FM 38 yrs.
- Max Blohm Dredge Ste Gen, 11 yrs.
- Al Fedder ED 35 yrs.
- Robert Turina ED-DA, 21 yrs.
- Verna Lamm AS, 26 yrs.
- Clarence Krause PB, 30 yrs.
- John Gurley OD, 38 yrs.
- Grace Diestelkamp PB, 29 yrs.

Total:241 years

Remember: The retirees meet at Pietro's on Watson at about 11:00am on the third Thursday of each month. Hope to see you there.



Dan Courtney

Century bound

Former St. Louis District employee Dan Courtney will reach another milestone April 24, when he marks his 95th birthday. Courtney, whose son Roger Courtney, of Florissant, Mo., is also a former Corps District employee, thinks he might be the oldest living St. Louis District employee. If there are any older, the list is certainly short.

Dan Courtney currently resides in Bradenton, Fla., and also lays claim to another unusual milestone. He has been retired for 40 years now – more than the 37 years he worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Happy Birthday, Dan. And Many happy returns.

Ed. Note:

We first heard from Dan Courtney in the January 2005 issue of *Esprit*. He told of being the radioman on Dredge Fort Gage. The Gage's bell is on display in our 4th floor lobby. You may use this link or visit our home page to review the article on line. <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/pa/esprit/2005/esp0501.pdf>

We've Moved!



What can you do to save the Earth?

Saving the Earth is a big project, but if each one of us does a few helpful things, it becomes a step toward the goal. Here is what you could do.

- **Recycle.** Save your bottles, cans, tires, and paper so they can be used again. You could be surprised where they end up. When the Super Bowl was held on Ford Field in Detroit, it was played on FieldTurf, a multilayered system made from recycled tires and tennis shoes, along with sand, to create a cushioned playing field. It recycled 250,000 old tires.

- **Stop burning your trash.** When the trash is burned, it releases toxins into the air. Items that produce poisons include bleached paper, some inks, and painted or treated wood. Plastics such as those found in wrapping tubing, piping, flooring, toys, and jugs contain poisonous polyvinyl chloride. The

poisons form because the temperatures in burning barrels are too low to destroy them.

Smoke carries the toxins, which can cause breathing problems. When they

settle on the soil, they can be carried off by rainwater and ultimately contaminate ground water.

- **Reduce paper trash.** Use both sides of a sheet of paper. Save documents with your computer keyboard rather than printing them out. When you need a handout, count how many people will get it and print only that many.

- **Reuse computer disks, and recycle toner cartridges.** Check your supplies before you order more. Organize pens, pencils, markers, paper, clips, notes, and tape refills so you know what you actually need.

- **Take toxics off your home shopping list.** Choose biodegradable and non-toxic cleaning products. Use only latex paints.

- **Before you buy something that could end up in the trash, ask yourself if you really need it.**



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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