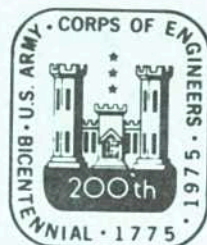




# NEWSCASTLE



## U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Vol. 9 No. 10

INFORMATION EXCHANGE BULLETIN

November 16, 1976

### CHANGES IN ANNUITY INCREASE

The following changes have been made in determining cost of living increases for annuitants:

The one percent bonus that federal and military retirees receive each time they get an annuity raise has been discontinued.

A new annuity system is established in which retirees will get twice a year annuity increases, effective in March and September. The March increases will be based on the total cost of living increase from the period of July through December and the September raises will be based on the period of January through June. The increase will not be dependent on the cost of living rising by three percent as is now the case. Each annuity having a commencement date not later than the effective date of the increase (March 1 and September 1) shall receive the increase.

The above applies to any increase in annuities after the enactment date of PL 94-440 except for the first increase. The increase for March 1, 1977 will be based on the change from December 1975 (the last month prior to enactment of the new law which showed a percent rise forming the basis for a cost of living increase) through December 1976. The every six months annuity increase system will get underway with the September 1977 increase.

### VISIT VANDENBERG

Major General Bates Burnell, Director of Military Construction, OCE, visited Vandenberg Air Force Base on November 12 accompanied by Brigadier General Richard Connell, South Pacific Division Engineer, for a briefing on the Space Shuttle Program and a tour of Vandenberg facilities including SLC-6. LTC Robert Reinen, Deputy District Engineer, and LTC Terry Kirkpatrick represented the District during the visit.

### D. E. Conference

Hosted by the Sacramento District, the District Engineers conference was held November 15-17 at Columbia, California, located in the Mother Lode country in Northern California. District Engineers from Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles Districts participated.

Prepared IAW AR310-2

Issued by: US Army Engineer District, Los Angeles, CA 90053

## Happy Thanksgiving



Ninety neighbors just happened to drop by as the Pilgrims sat down to their first Thanksgiving spread.

They were Indians, and the Pilgrims - outnumbered nearly two to one - graciously invited them to stay. They stayed three days, getting into the spirit so well they slipped back into the woods and hunted up five deer for the festive pot.

The first Thanksgiving dinner in the autumn of 1621 was hardly sumptuous. The Indians suffered chronic near-starvation, and the Pilgrims had lived little better since arriving on the Mayflower the previous December. All but 52 died that first winter.

Oddly, nobody knows when the first Plymouth Thanksgiving occurred - in November, or during the more likely harvest time of September or October. Apparently, the hungry Pilgrims were too busy eating to note the date.



## "LIFE, LIBERTY AND..."

For a Bicentennial backward glance, here's the way "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" actually were at the birth of the Nation, according to "We Americans," the National Geographic Society's informal history of the United States.

There were 3.9 million Americans when the first census was taken in 1790. Births and immigration resulted in a doubling of the colonial population about every 25 years - much more than in the Old World.

In New England, women married at about age 20, men from 25 to 27. The first baby came in about 15 months, and additional children about every two years thereafter, reaching the average family size of seven to nine offspring.

The air was supposed to be healthier than in the Old World. Records don't indicate, however, that colonial children had any better chance of surviving than did youngsters in Europe and England, since through the 1700s, epidemics claimed about 30 per cent of youths under 20 years old.

In 1776, there were 3,500 medical men in the colonies, and experience was the biggest part of their education. Qualified dentists could not be found in the New World until about 1760. Tooth-pullers of the day set teeth from animals, especially elk, in plates for common folk. But George Washington had false teeth carved of the ivory of hippopotamus and walrus.



### Robert McKenzie

Robert McKenzie passed away on October 27. Bob was the Assistant Chief of Construction for many years before he transferred in 1960 to CEBMCO as Deputy Director of the TITAN program. He retired from CEBMCO after substantially completing the huge TITAN undertaking and enjoyed a very active retirement.

Those of us who began our careers under Bob's direction consider it a real privilege to have been associated with him. We remember especially his integrity, sense of fairness, decisiveness and his beautiful sense of humor.

## NEW SERVICE OFFERED

Jeannette Hargrave, District Librarian, reports that the Library now has a reader-printer which will take either 16 or 35 mm roll film or microfiche with a reduction ratio of 24 or 48. The microform is projected on a screen for reading. If you need a paper copy, the machine will print one. To conserve space, the Library is now subscribing to microfiche editions of back issues of journals such as Engineering News-Record, Water Resources Research, and the Division Journals of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The District is also subscribing to certain other very useful services on microfiche. National Technical Information Service (NTIS), an element of the Department of Commerce, offers a service it calls SRIM (Selected Research in Microfiche). At a cost of only 45 cents per report, you may subscribe to one, some, or all of a number of subject categories, or merely to a sub-category within a given field. With such a subscription you will automatically receive, in your specified field of interest, fiche copies of all scientific and technical reports produced by Federal agencies and their contractors.

Some of the major fields to which one may subscribe are Ocean Technology and Engineering, Natural Resources, Civil and Structural Engineering, Environmental Pollution and Control, Urban Technology, Business and Economics, and Energy. Sub-categories under Civil and Structural Engineering, for example, are Highway Engineering; Civil Engineering; Construction Equipment; Materials and Supplies; and Soil and Rock Mechanics. Some of the Sub-categories under Ocean Technology and Engineering are Marine Engineering; Dynamic Oceanography; Biological Oceanography; Marine Geophysics and Geology; and Hydrography. Still further subdivision is possible by selecting, within any given category, only the reports of certain, not all, Federal agencies.

LADO now subscribes, under various main fields, to the following sub-categories: Hydrology and Limnology; Biological Oceanography; Botany; Ecology; Zoology; Water Pollution and Control; Environmental Management and Planning; Urban Regional Relationships; and NASA Earth Resources Survey.

If anyone wishes to subscribe to other SRIM services or wishes further information regarding them, please see the Librarian.

## GREETINGS!

Morris Sheklow returned October 18 to the District as Auditor-in-Charge of the Los Angeles Resident Audit Office.



## INCENTIVE AWARDS

### CERTIFICATES - COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN KEY MEMBERS 1976

Sylvester Williams	Engineering Division
Essie Dillon	Engineering Division
Donald Sears	Engineering Division
Minnie Thompson	Base Yard
John Wilk, Jr.	Engineering Division
Loretta Kukhahn	Engineering Division
Ida Simms	Office of Counsel

#### OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER

Masao Sugano (Retired)	Adopted Suggestion - \$250
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#### ENGINEERING DIVISION

Norma Martinez	Outstanding Performance Rating
James Ueda	Adopted Suggestion - \$50

#### PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Perry Hume Davis II	Sustained Superior Performance
Lawrence Hawthorne	Adopted Suggestion - Certificate of Recognition

#### OFFICE OF COUNSEL

Stephen Temmel	Outstanding Perf Rating and Sustained Superior Performance
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#### BASE YARD

Richard Oddone	Group Suggestion - Adopted Suggestion \$50 each
Mark Hofeldt	
David Lester	
Andrew Caples	Sustained Superior Performance

## Points to Remember

Have you ever wondered why you have to sign your time card whenever you use even one hour of sick leave? It's because during FY 75 the General Accounting Office imposed the requirement on all Federal agencies that sick leave be certified by signing the statement "I certify that this absence was in accordance with statutes and regulations authorizing sick leave".

Additional guidance was provided by OCE, Central Payroll Office and SPD. The certification statement is now printed on the reverse of the revised Time & Attendance cards. However, those employees not having access to their T&A cards must use SF-71 with the certification statement typed in the remarks section.

Next you probably wonder "What are the statutes and regulations authorizing sick leave?" Well, here they are: FPM 630 S4 and S13, FPM Supplements 990-1 and 990-2, and are available in the Personnel Office.

Sick leave is appropriate when the employee:

- receives medical, dental, or optical examination or treatment.
- is incapacitated for duty by sickness, injury, or pregnancy and confinement.
- is required to give care and attendance to an immediate family member who has a contagious disease; or
- would jeopardize the health of others because of exposure to a contagious disease.

Sick leave is inappropriate for maternity reasons. A male employee may request only annual leave or LWOP to assist or care for his minor children or the mother of his newborn child while she is incapacitated for maternity reasons.

## SUGGEST - SUGGEST



## Right To Communicate

The right of military and civilian personnel to communicate with a Member of Congress is protected by statute. This provision is implemented in Army regulations as follows:

Paragraph 5-13, AR 600-20, Army Command Policy and Procedure provides that: "No person may restrict any member of an armed force from communication with a Member of Congress, unless the communication is unlawful or violates a regulation necessary to the security of the United States (10 USC 1034). Leaders are responsible, however, for continually advising subordinates to seek advice or assistance within the chain of command, from appropriate staff agencies, or from an inspector general if there is a complaint, and that a communication concerning a personal problem forwarded to anyone who is not in the local chain of command inevitably must be returned to the local commander for consideration before action can be taken to render assistance; also that service members should so inform members of their families."

Paragraph 1-14, AR 600-50, Standards of Conduct for Department of Army Personnel, provides that: "The right of civilian employees, either individually or collectively, to petition Congress, or any member thereof, or to furnish information to any committee or Member of Congress, is provided by law (5 USC 7102). Letters to Congress, as well as petitions and other communications, are covered by this provision. While the Department of the Army desires that employees seek to resolve any problem or grievance locally, any employee exercising his right to correspond with a Congressman shall be free from restraint or coercion."

"Sneeze on Monday,  
sneeze for danger;  
Sneeze on Tuesday, kiss a  
stranger;  
Sneeze on Wednesday,  
receive a letter;  
Sneeze on Thursday,  
something better;  
Sneeze on Friday, sneeze  
for sorrow;  
Sneeze on Saturday, see  
your lover tomorrow;  
Sneeze on Sunday, your  
safety seek,  
Or the Devil will have you  
for the rest of the week."

## KUDOS

In a memorandum addressed to District employees, Colonel Hugh G. Robinson, District Engineer, expressed his appreciation for the commendation received from the South Pacific Division Engineer for the significant contribution made by LADO for FY 1976-1976T Cost Reduction Goals.

Colonel Robinson notes that LAD's contributions were \$231,300 in the Military area and \$508,200 in Civil Works economies - 297% and 202% of prorated goals respectively.

## OPEN SEASON

A Federal Employees Health Benefits Program open season will be held November 15-30. Under open season regulations, any eligible employee who is not currently registered may enroll, and an enrolled employee may change from one plan or option to another, or from self only to self and family, or a combination of these. Those employees who do not wish to make a change in current enrollment need take no action during this open season.

Distribution of open season literature will be made through Mail & Records prior to November 15. This year each employee will receive an open season instruction pamphlet, a list of premium rates for all plans, and brochures for the Government-wide Indemnity Benefit Plan (Aetna), the Government-wide Service Benefit Plan (Blue Cross-Blue Shield), the Ross-Loos Medical Group, the DePaulo Health Plan, and the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan.

Members of employee organizations, whether or not they are currently enrolled in the organization's health plan, will receive an appropriate brochure, by mail, directly from the Commission. Brochures on the following employee organization plans will be available to all employees upon request through the Personnel Office:

- AFGE Health Benefit Plan
- Alliance Health Benefit Plan
- American Postal Workers Union Plan
- Govt. Employees Hospital Assn. Benefit Plan
- Mail Handlers Benefit Plan
- Nat'l Assn. of Letter Carriers Health Benefit Plan.

Employees wishing to enroll or change their enrollment must complete a Health Benefits Registration Form. These forms are available from the Personnel Office and must be completed and submitted to that office before the close of business on the last working day in November.

New enrollments and changes in current enrollments elected during the open season will normally become effective January 9, 1977.

## Toastmasters

The officers of Essayons Toastmasters Club 988 and John Redfern, Training Officer, Personnel Office, request the inclusion of Toastmaster manual completion in 201 files.

All employees who have completed manuals or other Toastmaster training projects are asked to notify any Toastmaster officer: Pan Lizardi, Gordon Reetz, Jack Hutchinson, Chris Sands, Phil Tryon or John Wilk.

This information is required in order to update both 201 and Toastmaster files.



## BILL LAIDLAW - HIS LIFE

Fred Martin, Comptroller retiree now living in San Clemente, sent us a news clipping on the activities of Bill Laidlaw since he retired from LADO in 1963. Retirement is a misnomer in this case. During the last three years, he has worked 1,700 hours as a volunteer for the San Clemente General Hospital Auxiliary. Working about three hours a day, Laidlaw works at the hospital's reception desk, gift shop, central supply department and also serves as general factotum in the hospital.

Fred recalls that Bill and Joe Guiar handled the ADP work back when only engineering studies were being done.

Always tinkering, he has designed a gate that swings uphill onto his driveway; has built several telescopes, grinding his own lenses; and once invented a warning device for drivers towing house trailers to alert them to soft tires.

But the most interesting thing he has done, Bill says, is what he is doing now: a study of nutrition and its role in good health.

## Training Scheduled

All "dictators" take notice. "Art of Dictation" classes will be held March 15-16, 1977 and August 4-5, 1977 given by the U.S. Civil Service Commission Regional Training Center here in Los Angeles.

Tillie Gonzales, Chief of the Correspondence Center, encourages new employees and others who have not taken this course but who are using the services of the Center to attend. If interested, submit OF 170 through the Personnel Office at least 90 days in advance of the course.

## FLASH FLOODS HIT

On the weekends of September 10 and 24, two major storms struck desert areas of the District. Most of the damage resulted from flash flood incidents in widely scattered areas in the huge desert valley bordering the Colorado River and eastward to the Palm Springs area. Major damage occurred in Ocatilla, east of El Centro; in Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage and Indian Wells, southeast of Palm Springs, and in Bullhead City, on the Colorado River. Initial estimates were that these two weekends of thunderstorm activity caused \$40 million damage to the public sector and \$128 million damage to the private sector, including agricultural losses.

Since the storms, a group of District people have been involved in working on damage estimates, engineering evaluations, and support of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration. Bob Douglass, who coordinated the effort, has high praise for the following who worked so hard and put in many long hours: Bob Weber, Tom Bertin, Pan Lizardi, Kent Chen, John McVey, Art Moncayo, Delia Flores, Chuck Orvis, Lee Anderson, Tom Hembree, and Bill Sablan.

## Dream boat.



Take stock in America.  
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds.

## CFC Results

The results of the Combined Federal Campaign are in and thanks to the generous contributions of the District exceeded our goal of \$10,000 by approximately \$600.00 or a total of \$10,590.90. The following stewards of NFFE, Local 777, are to be commended for their part in making the 1976 campaign a success:

Sylvester Williams  
Essie Dillion  
Donald Sears  
Minnie Thompson  
Claude Wong  
John Wilk, Jr.  
Loretta Kukhahan

## Swingers Open Season

Open season for joining the District Golf Club for the 1977 tournament season will start in December. All employees are invited to join in this outdoor fellowship activity. A tournament is played each month on a different course. Three flights are usually contested. It isn't necessary to be a low handicapper. For further information and an application blank, see any 1977 officer of the club. They are: Nancy Cavanaugh, President, Handicap Chairman; Jack Hughes, Treasurer-Secretary; Diane Marbury, Tournament Chairman.

## Guess Who Arrived?

Congratulations to Philip Marquez, Office of Counsel, and his wife, Eva, on the birth of David Michael, who weighed in at 8 pounds 2 ounces on November 1.

## NOTE !

The Phoenix Urban Study office in Phoenix has a new telephone number: 261-6781.



## CREDIT UNION

Your Credit Union extends a special invitation to you as a member to make any holiday financial arrangements NOW.

We are well prepared.

For non-members: We invite you to look into the many opportunities and advantages you are missing, simply because you are not a member.

Incidentally, we are trying to locate Cecile Small who retired from the Examination Section some time ago. Anyone having her present address please call the Credit Union, Ext. 5345.

## Remember When?

Nostalgia seems to be in style right now and remembering the active group of bowlers LAD had comes to mind. In addition to a weekly league, the bowlers participated in Corps of Engineers World-wide Tournaments each year. One of our retirees is especially proud of the trophy won in this World-wide Tournament in 1959. Emil "Sam" Reed had high individual series - 605 scratch; was highest of 515 in "C" series and fourth in over 1,750 entered. His team, in addition to Sam, consisted of Harry Berger, Grant Ogden, Neil MacDougall and Betty (Reynolds) Berger. The Corps of Engineers World-wide Tournament is still operating among offices which have bowling leagues.

## Off - To - Saudi

Wes Syren, Chief, Procurement & Supply Division, is leaving December 6 for a short trip to Saudi Arabia with Archie Hayes, Chief of San Francisco District's Procurement & Supply Division, to inspect the area prior to preparation of contracts for Port Operations in Riyadh.

## Toastmistress Club

Noontimers Toastmistress Club annual See's candy project is underway. Get your orders in before November 19 for December 6 delivery. Prices are even lower on some items than those offered in the cafeteria.

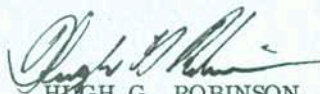
Toastmasters and Toastmistress Clubs will have their annual joint Christmas meeting on December 16 at Little Joe's.

## NEWSCASTLE

An information exchange bulletin published by the Public Affairs Office, Los Angeles District.

Perry Hume Davis II                      Chief

Eleanor McCarthy                      Editor

  
HUGH G. ROBINSON  
COL, CE  
District Engineer

## REMINDER

Copies of the Los Angeles District history are available in the Public Affairs Office, Room 6120, where they may be purchased for \$4.75 with checks payable to the Treasurer of the United States. LADO traces its history to December 31, 1898 but the published edition of the history goes back to the earliest explorations and surveys of this area by Engineer officers before the Mexican war.

## New Per Diem Rates

Effective October 3, per diem rates for military and civilian employees have increased from \$33 per day to \$35 per day for all travel in the Continental U.S.

In addition, there are new per diem rates for high cost areas, and two new high cost areas have been established. The following changes have been made to existing high cost areas:

Location	Old Rate	New Rate
Boston, Mass.	\$ 38	\$ 49
Chicago, Ill.	39	43
Los Angeles, CA	37	40
New York City, Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens	39	50
San Francisco, CA	39	41
Washington, D. C.	42	50

The two new high cost areas established are Newark, New Jersey, with a per diem rate of \$42 per day and Philadelphia, Pa., with a per diem rate of \$46.



## WHO DAT ?

Watching the action from the sidelines at last month's District Halloween party was a dark haired quiet mannered man who didn't speak to anyone - not a part of any group - and not in costume. Just stood around alone until someone approached and asked if he worked for the Corps. He just smiled. After some minutes of respective nodding and smiling, the light began to dawn. It was Sam (Himself) Ackerman, complete with wig, who thoroughly snowed them all.