



# NEWSCASTLE



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

Vol. 10 No. 1

INFORMATION EXCHANGE BULLETIN

January 19, 1977



## **Gen. Morris Scheduled For District Visit**

Lieutenant General John W. Morris, Chief of Engineers, will visit the District on January 26 and 27. On Wednesday, January 26, he will brief all District personnel at the Police Building auditorium at 9:30 A.M.

Following the briefing, General Morris will make a helicopter tour of the Los Angeles basin and the Santa Ana River after which he is scheduled for a boat tour of the Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor. That evening he will depart for Phoenix, Arizona, and the following day will tour the Indian Bend Wash project. While in Phoenix, the Chief will be guest speaker at the monthly Scottsdale Mayor's breakfast on the morning of January 27. General Morris will later travel to Fort Huachuca where he will meet with the Commanding General and with the Commanding General of the Intelligence Center and observe military construction at the post before departing for Albuquerque.

On his visit in Los Angeles, General Morris will be joined by Brigadier General Richard M. Connell, South Pacific Division Engineer, and Colonel Hugh G. Robinson, District Engineer.

Prepared IAW AR310-2

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



## Incentive Awards



### PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Eva Walker

Adopted Suggestion - \$85

### CONSTRUCTION-OPERATIONS DIVISION

Charles Holt

Letter of Commendation for Registered Professional Safety Engineer

Robert Primera

Adopted Suggestion - \$475

## You and Your Pay Check

In case you have forgotten, this is a reminder that you can have your pay check credited directly to your account in a financial institution. It has proven to be the safest and most effective way of assuring receipt of your pay, on time, every pay day. It works like this. When a number of persons on the payroll designate the same financial institution, the net pay of all the individuals involved will be shown on a list, and a single, composite check will be drawn in favor of the financial institution for the aggregate amount of the list. The composite check is released by the disbursing office in time to be received by the financial institution on the pay day.

The Government guarantees quick credit to the financial institution in the event the composite check is not received by pay day. And the financial institution guarantees that the accounts of all participating personnel will be credited on the established pay day, based on the list, regardless of what may happen to the composite check. Best of all, your account is credited on time even if the check is delayed or lost and even if it is stolen - and even if it were stolen - it could not conceivably be cashed anywhere.

If you're interested, see Diane Marbury, Finance & Accounting Branch, who will give you the proper form to fill out.

## GET ON THE DEFENSIVE

The Safety Office points out that completion of the Defensive Driving Course is required of all District employees in possession of a valid Government Motor Vehicle Operator's ID Card. This can be issued before completion of the course with the understanding that the driver will complete the course at the first opportunity.

Classes will be held in the Federal Building, at the Base Yard, and at other field offices.

The course consists of movies, lecture, and discussion involving common driving situations which can lead to accidents, and proper techniques to avoid them.

District personnel who do not hold a Government Motor Vehicle Operator's ID card may participate in the classes, space permitting.

## Resolution solution.

U.S. Savings Bonds. A good way to end 1976. A great way to start 1977.

Today is history. Tomorrow you can start saving Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan.

Take  
stock  
in America.

Join the Payroll Savings Plan.

## First Inaugural

An event of great interest to Americans everywhere is the inauguration of the President of the United States.

For the first Presidential inaugural of George Washington, Congress appointed a joint committee to consider the time, place and manner in which the oath of office would be administered. But the committee deliberated so long that the inauguration was not held until April 30, 1789. With the exception of that inauguration, Presidents were inaugurated on March 4 until the adoption of the 20th Amendment in 1933, when the present date of January 20 was established.

The inaugural of Washington in New York City, then capitol of the United States, was this Nation's most ornate and elaborate.

Washington came up the river on a highly decorated barge, with 13 masters of local vessels serving as oarsmen. Landing at the foot of Wall Street, he was received by a tumultuous crowd.

As noon of April 30 approached, Washington was escorted by civilian and military dignitaries and driven to Congress Hall where the oath of office was administered. At the end of the oath of office, Washington then added the phrase, used ever since, "So help me God."



# EARTHQUAKE

Here are some tips from the General Services Administration on what to do in the event of an earthquake.

1. Stand in a strong doorway or get under a desk or table. Watch for falling ceiling panels, light fixtures, and other objects. Stay away from tall furniture such as shelving, bookcases, etc. Move away from windows. Don't yield to temptation and run to the window to look outside for damage. Windows may still shatter.

2. Don't rush outside. Stairways and exits may become jammed with people. Do not use elevators, as power may fail. If you are directed to evacuate the building, exit with care to avoid possible falling window glass and other debris. Once outside, try to stay away from buildings, walls, power poles, or other structures that may fall.

3. Seriously injured persons should not be moved unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. First aid should be administered only by someone who is qualified.

4. Report any fires by dialing 688-3264 or 384-3131. Fire alarm pull boxes may also be used. If a fire extinguisher monitor is not available, attempt to extinguish the fire without placing yourself in danger. Easy to use, all purpose fire extinguishers are located throughout the building.

If you have any questions, call the Self-Protection Deputy Coordinator, Phil Robinson, on 688-4134.

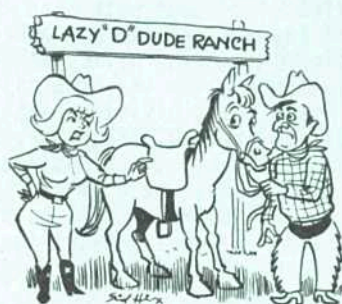
## ATTENTION: TRAVELLERS

Effective January 1, the following change in joint travel regulations, applying to both civilian and military personnel, has been made.

Receipts will be required for lodging. If they are impracticable to obtain or have been inadvertently destroyed, a statement to that effect will be furnished.

Previously, the above was applicable to travel performed to cities designated as high cost areas. In addition, receipts will now be required in all cases for lodging costs in support of a claim involving payment of per diem.

This change is effective for all travel commencing on or after January 1 and lodging receipts should be attached to travel voucher.



"Where's the seat belt?"

## FORT PECK REUNION

The Missouri River Division announces that a reunion of men and women involved during construction of Fort Peck Dam in Montana will be held August 1 through 7 and is anxious to reach everyone who had a part in the project in hopes they will attend.

A full week of celebration is planned including tours, picnic, movies of construction, displays of pictures and mementos, and souvenir book with list of reunion participants.

Fort Peck was ordered built by FDR during the depression as a "make-work" project. It is the world's largest hydraulically earth-filled dam (the largest earth-filled dam at time of construction). At peak construction, ten thousand were employed on the dam and "another ten thousand lived off the first ten," according to one of the workers.

For further information on the reunion, send self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Fort Peck Reunion Committee  
P. O. Box 1977  
Fort Peck, Montana 59223

### Retirees - Please Note

And closer to home, another reunion is on tap. A Retirees' Reunion luncheon will be held at the Roger Young Center, 936 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, on May 11 at 12 noon. Come early and visit with your friends from 11:15 AM to noon.

Menu: Fried chicken, Southern style; or Sugar Cured Baked Ham; Price: \$5.00 including tax and tip.

Please mail the form below, together with check, not later than February 15 to either:

Lillian Berkovitz (213-784-5152)  
4311 Cedros Ave., Apt. 3  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Frances Mogilensky (213-655-2178)  
828 No. Martel Ave., Apt. 9  
Los Angeles, CA 90046

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CHOICE OF ENTREE: \_\_\_\_\_

For further information, call either Lillian or Frances at telephone numbers listed after their names or call Doris Hollister, Office: 213-688-5345 or Home: 213-860-9247.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TOGETHER WITH CHECK NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15 IN ORDER TO MEET RESERVATION DEADLINE.



# Travels Afar

Winfield Collins, Coastal Resources Branch, as Chairman of the Committee on Africa of the Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers, had the experience of a lifetime when he attended the African-American Conference held in Naseru, Lesotho, November 29 to December 2.

The former British dependency, Basutoland, became independent as the Kingdom of Lesotho in 1966. It is about the size of Maryland and is completely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. The government consists of a king, an elected National Assembly of 60, a Senate, Cabinet and prime minister.

The conferences of African and American representatives are a series of meetings bringing together African government officials and Members of Congress in an effort to inform Americans about Africa, strengthen African-American understanding and further African development. The conferences have been made possible by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation and the African host governments.

On his way home, Win stopped in London for a reunion with his brother whom he hadn't seen in 16 years.

## O-Rating / QI Clarified

The following revision was recently issued to emphasize that quality increases are not automatically granted when outstanding performance ratings are approved.

Relationship of outstanding performance ratings to quality increases. The law permits an outstanding rating to be approved...only when all aspects of performance not only exceed normal requirements but are outstanding and deserve special commendation. Approval of a quality increase requires that...the employee concerned has been performing the most important functions of his position in a manner that substantially exceeds normal requirements... The recommendation for a quality increase must show why performance can be characterized as high quality performance above that ordinarily found in the type of position concerned and should contain a certification that on the basis of past experience the employee's high quality performance is likely to continue.

The granting of a quality increase and the assignment of an outstanding rating are two separate actions, and an employee may meet the criteria for a quality increase, but not for an outstanding rating. A quality increase is not automatically granted when an outstanding rating is assigned; however, because an employee who receives an outstanding rating has met a higher criterion in total performance than is required for a quality increase, it is important for the supervisor to consider the appropriateness of granting a quality increase when an outstanding rating is given.



## Telephone Etiquette Is Important

Telephone etiquette is important. The impression of a business office often is formed by a caller from the courtesy and efficiency of the person on the other end of the line.

To help make that positive impression here are 12 tips on receiving a telephone call.

- 1) Answer as promptly as possible.
- 2) Identify yourself when answering.
- 3) Speak distinctly and pleasantly.
- 4) Avoid making abrupt, trite, or misleading phrases.
- 5) Give the caller a report and make an offer to help. "He stepped out for a few minutes. May I ask him to call you?" illustrates this tip.
- 6) When necessary, give the caller an accurate telephone number or extension where the person needed may be reached.
- 7) Volunteer your own assistance. "May I help you, or could anyone else help you?" often leaves a good impression.
- 8) Request identity of a caller only when necessary and do so in a tactful manner.
- 9) Explain off-the-line delays. Be sure to let the caller know you are going to have to put the phone down and why.
- 10) Take messages willingly. Write details on a suitable form and deliver them promptly.
- 11) Transfer the call elsewhere only when the correct number is known. No one likes a "run around."
- 12) Say goodbye pleasantly and hang up gently.



## Ethel Bowser Retires

Channels Section is not the same these days since Ethel Bowser retired on January 7 after more than 24 years of Federal service, 22 years of which were with the Los Angeles District.

Ethel's service with the District was in planning and design work connected with flood control dams, levees, and channels in southern California and Arizona which provide flood protection for those areas.

The "boys" in the Channels Section and a large group of her friends gathered in the conference room on her last day to wish her the happiest of retirements and to remind her of how much she will be missed.

## Curran Now Retiree

William M. Curran, Jr., retired from the Office of Counsel with more than 32 years of Federal service on January 7. Before his assignment in the Office of Counsel, Bill was an attorney with the Acquisition Branch of the Real Estate Division, later becoming chief of that branch. Subsequently, he was assigned as Assistant District Counsel, Office of Counsel, where he served as attorney for all District real estate activities as well as legal advisor to the Chief of the Real Estate Division.

We'll all miss Bill's Irish humor and his presence in that "big green chair".



## Blood Bank Drive

The Federal Employees Blood Bank will conduct its semi-annual drive on February 1 in Room 8544 between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

As a member of the Blood Bank, you can secure blood needed to replace blood actually used by you or your immediate family (i.e., spouse, unmarried dependent children under age 21, your parents, or parents of your spouse). Only those who actually donate blood to the Federal Employees Blood Bank, or those who offer to donate blood but are rejected, are members.

This bank is open to all Federal employees between the ages of 17 and 66. Those who offer to donate but are temporarily rejected are temporarily covered until the next drive. Employees permanently rejected are permanently covered. Retirees and employees who are members of the blood bank when they reach age 66 (by donation or under temporary or permanent rejection) are permanently covered.

Please call Rosemarie Sandoval, OAS, Extension 5310 for further information.

## BARELA LUNCHEON

A farewell retirement luncheon is set for January 19 for Dave A. Barela, Hydraulics Section, at Luminaria's Restaurant, 3500 Ramona Blvd., Monterey Park. Festivities start at 11:30 A.M.; Price: \$6.50 including tax and tip. For tickets call D. Tucker, Extension 5524 or Marian Frament, Extension 5520.

## Toastmistress

Noontimers Toastmistress Club is having its Annual Speech Contest on Wednesday, February 23, at Taix Restaurant, 1911 West Sunset Blvd., 11:30 A.M. Price of lunch: \$5.00 - either beef or sea bass. For reservations, call Thelma Choto, Extension 5511, later than February 21.

## KUDOS

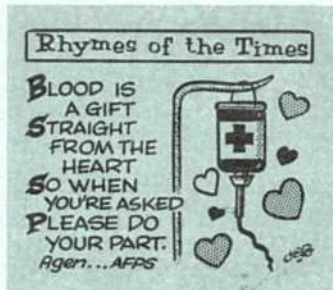
Congratulations are due Chuck Holt of Construction-Operations Division's Navigation Branch who recently became a registered Professional Safety Engineer.

## OPEN HOUSE

The Executive Office and LAD officers will host an Open House for all employees on Tuesday, February 1, from 1300 hours to 1600 hours in the Executive Conference Room.

The Open House will be held in three one hour segments so that all personnel may attend.

## SUGGEST - SUGGEST



## NAT'L ENGINEERS WEEK

"Key to the Future...Engineering" is this year's theme for National Engineers Week 1977 scheduled for February 20-26.

LTC Robert H. Reinen, Deputy District Engineer, has been named chairman of the Engineering '77 steering committee by Dr. Robert McNeill, president of the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering which sponsors the celebration each year. Honorary chairman for the event is Dr. Nathan W. Snyder of the Ralph M. Parsons Company of Pasadena.

The Los Angeles area Engineers Week activities include a Fellowship Awards luncheon on February 18 at the Pacifica Hotel and an all-day student engineering career seminar at the California Museum of Science and Industry on February 24. Climaxing the celebration of National Engineers Week will be the February 24 Engineering Awards banquet at the Regency Hyatt Hotel.

## Federal Women's Program

The Federal Women's Program Committee sponsored its first "Brown Bag" session for 1977 on January 13. The subject matter of the session was "Drug and Alcohol Abuse", with Bob Simons, LAD's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Coordinator, co-hosting the program.

Ms. Debbie Smith of the Alcoholism Council of Greater Los Angeles was guest speaker.

## SALUTE !

Gina Baricelli, Economics Section, deserves a medal for bravery. When the Italian tanker exploded in Los Angeles Harbor last December, Gina had the presence of mind to push her father away from a bay window which shattered from the impact of the explosion, and probably saved his life.

\*\*\*\*\*

And how about the fact that Jack Wood and his wife received an invitation to the inaugural. Jack, as you know, is that stalwart of the Construction-Operations Division.



## ADIOS SYLVANA!

And Sylvana Decigaran, the strong right arm of several Chiefs of the Engineering Division, called it a day when she retired on January 7 after more than 33 years of service.

Syl has been secretary to the Chief of the Engineering Division for the past 13 years and demonstrated an outstanding ability in screening the voluminous correspondence and technical reports which passed over her desk.

With her departure, the Engineering Division loses a font of information and expertise which contributed so much to the effectiveness of the District.

A retirement luncheon in her honor will be held on Friday, February 4, at the Quiet Cannon, 901 Via San Clemente, Montebello, 11:30 A.M. Menu: Boneless breast of chicken; Swiss steak - \$6.25 including tax and tip. For reservations, call Delores McCree or Lydia Martinez, Extension 5472.

## District Swingers in Action

Colonel Robinson presented the annual Match Play Trophies to winners for the 1976 season on December 16. "A" Flight winner was Dave Barela, Engineering Division; runner-up, Mel Anderson, associate member. "B" Flight winner was Alvin Smart, Procurement & Supply Division; runner-up Jim Cimmino, associate member.

The membership drive for 1977 closes January 20. Contact Nancy Cavanaugh, Diane Marbury or Jack Hughes for application blank.


The 1977 golf schedule to date is:

January 15	Debell, 10:30 A.M. (Sat)
February 14	Rancho Park, 8:30 A.M. (Mon)
March 5	Los Serranos, 10:00 A.M. (Sat)
April 3	Los Verdes, 11:00 A.M. (Sun)
May 13	Griffith Park, 12:00 (Fri)
June 25	Montebello, 11:30 A.M. (Sat)
July 23	El Prado, 9:00 A.M. (Sat)
August 13	Santa Anita, 12:00 (Sat)
Sept.	Open date
October	Open date
Nov. 19	Whittier Narrows, 10:00 A.M. (Sat)
Dec. 10	Encino, 8:30 A.M. (Sat)

## 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

## Credit Union

Here's a bit of good news from your Credit Union. Nine percent financing on new cars and vacation vehicles has been extended through June 30, 1977.

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 27, 11:30 A.M., in Room 6048.

## BARELA RETIRES

After 25 years of Federal service, Dave A. Barela, Chief of the Flood Hydraulics Unit #3, Hydraulics Section, decided to retire.

Graduating from the University of New Mexico with a degree in civil engineering, Dave became well known in the District when he was in charge of LADO's Hydraulic Model Laboratory, then located at the Base Yard at Whittier Narrows.

Dave, Pan Lizardi, Tad Ouchi, and Al Honda consider themselves charter members of the Channels Section because of their long association with that Section since it was organized in 1954.

Dave's pleasant personality and his interest and participation in many Corps activities will be greatly missed. Bueno suerte, Dave!

## Toastmistress

And Noontimers Toastmistress Club is extending an invitation to all District personnel to attend the installation of new officers on Wednesday, January 19, in Room 3123, at 11:30 A.M. And they are even going to serve FOOD!

Those being installed are:

President	Sandra East
1st V.P.	Diane Marbury
2nd V.P.	Barbara Madison
Secretary	Leticia Perez
Treasurer	Sue Torres

## CONDOLENCES

The District extends condolences to Sidney Chiqui, Office of Administrative Services, on the death of his father on January 15.

## WHOOO ?

And who invited five horses to a "come as you are" birthday party, featuring a cake topped by eight carrots - in lieu of candles? Check with Stacy Bolin, Examination Section, who staged the celebration on the day of son Jeff's horse's eighth birthday.