



# NEWSCASTLE

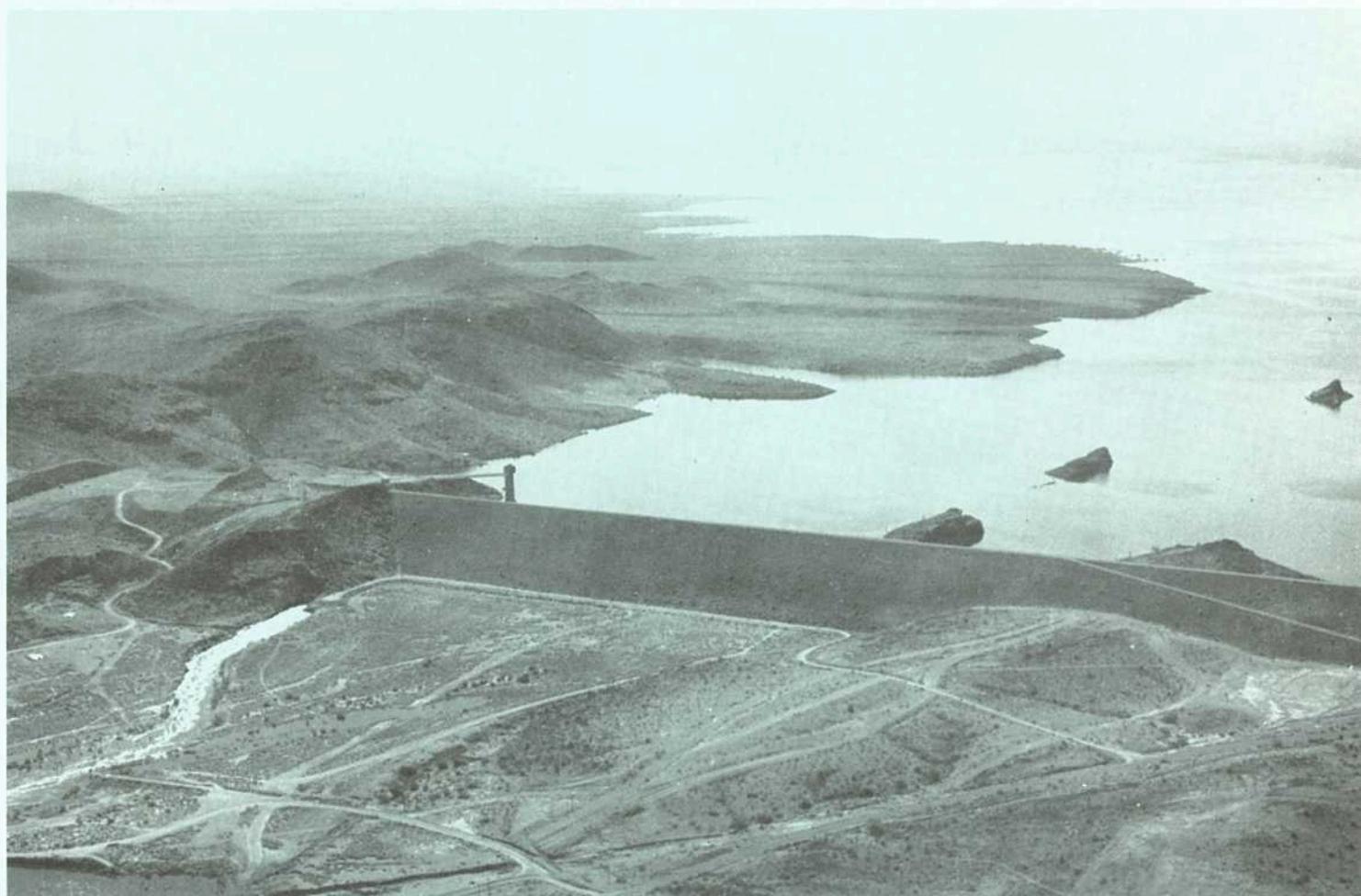


U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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INFORMATION EXCHANGE BULLETIN

March 25, 1977



## Painted Rock M.O. Topic of Meeting

A new operation plan for Painted Rock Dam in Arizona was the subject of a public meeting held March 10 in Wellton, Ariz. Col. Hugh G. Robinson, District Engineer, chaired the Thursday evening meeting, which was attended by about 50 local citizens and representatives of other government agencies.

Purpose of the meeting was to gain public input and opinion on an array of alternatives for operating the dam. All operation plans are generally designed to release impounded water after periods of flooding---to do it as quickly as possible and at the same time keep downstream damages from releases to an absolute minimum.

"It's a delicate balance which is difficult to maintain," Col. Robinson told the audience.

Adding to the problem is a natural process of increasing salinity of water when it is impounded too long. Highly saline water can cause crop damages to downstream farmlands. When water is released too quickly, to provide dam storage capacity to ready the reservoir for the next flood, physical damages from large release flows can occur. The salinity problem is compounded by international agreements on the quality of water delivered to Mexico by the Colorado River. The Gila River below Painted Rock Dam empties into the Colorado close to the Mexican border.

The District is continuing its study toward finding the best operation schedule for Painted Rock Dam. The public input gained from the meeting will assist with the study and in reaching a final recommendation.

# Make A Note

The following legal holidays will be observed by Federal employees during Calendar Year 1977:

30 May	Monday	Memorial Day
4 July	Monday	Independence Day
5 September	Monday	Labor Day
10 October	Monday	Columbus Day
24 October	Monday	Veteran's Day
24 November	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day
26 December	Monday	Christmas Day

For pay and leave purposes, on a legal public holiday and any other day declared to be a holiday by Federal statute or Executive Order, the following rules apply:

a. For employees whose basic workweek is Monday through Friday:

- (1) When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the Friday immediately preceding is a legal public holiday;
- (2) When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the Monday immediately following is a legal public holiday.

b. For employees whose basic workweek is other than Monday through Friday:

- (1) When a holiday falls on their first day off, the day immediately preceding is a legal public holiday.
- (2) When a holiday falls on their second day off, the day immediately following is a legal holiday.

## BLACK PERSPECTIVE

As part of the continuing EEO Awareness Program which began in October 1976, the Los Angeles District scheduled a management training session called "Black Perspective" in conjunction with the celebration of Black History during February.

The program focused on resources, problems and accomplishments in the Los Angeles community in the areas of education and employment.

A panel made up of representatives from the Los Angeles Urban League, Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers and Federal Executive Board/EO Council. The film "Heritage in Black" was shown in addition to exhibits on Black History depicting almost every profession including politics - from Crispus Attucks to General Daniel "Chappie" James, ENT Air Force Base, Colorado.

The District Engineer is continuing to seek a positive, personal interest and aggressive pursuit of all employees in achieving the EEO Plan of Action objectives with LADO.

## Today's Corps

The present day missions of the Corps of Engineers have evolved from the military and civil works responsibilities of the early Corps. The organization that provided the nation with the engineering and construction capability necessary for national defense and commercial and territorial expansion serves similar functions in the 20th century.

The field organization which supports the Chief of Engineers' responsibilities in military and civil works activities consists of 14 Engineer Divisions, 39 subordinate Engineer Districts and five research laboratories. Eleven of the Divisions are located in the Continental United States and three overseas. Not every District or Division implements military construction programs, although with the exception of the Huntsville Division, each District and Division within the United States executes a portion of the civil works program, based on its geographical area of responsibility. Thirty-five thousand men and women in uniform, 51,000 facilities engineering employees, and 40,000 civilians serving in the Divisions and Districts are members of the Corps' worldwide engineering team.



## Life of a Dam Tender

# Routine Night Ends in Errand of Mercy

The life of a dam operator in remote areas of the arid Southwest is a demanding one. It's a 24-hour job requiring flexibility and the ability at times to be all things to all people.

To Larry Conley, operator of Alamo Dam in Arizona, this was never so true as it was on the night of February 21. That night had all the indications of being just another routine Monday evening, save for the fact that Alamo Lake campground still had a few stragglers---last-minute holdovers from the long three-day weekend.

In one family of campers a crisis was brewing. The wife was eight months pregnant. She'd had a history of three miscarriages, and by late in the night of February 21 she was in danger of having another. She began hemorrhaging.

Larry and the Alamo park ranger were called. They arrived quickly on the scene in the ranger's emergency vehicle, an ambulance camper on the back of a pickup truck. The ranger and dam-tender-turned-paramedic began immediate first aid.

They gave intravenous injections and managed to stop the bleeding. The immediate danger past, they rushed their patient first to Parker and then on to Havasu City where proper medical facilities were available.

The story has a happy ending---a baby boy, 2½ lbs. Not exactly strapping, but healthy. Both the baby and mother are doing fine. As for Larry Conley, he's back on the job, ready for the next crisis. With a little luck next time it will be something simple, less anxious and with a low adrenalin quotient---maybe the Standard Project Flood.

## LADO Hosts District Engineers Conference

The Los Angeles District hosted the quarterly District Engineers Conference in Santa Barbara, on March 16-18. The three-day event provided a forum for the Division Engineer, District Engineers and staff to discuss, on a face-to-face basis, such things as policy matters, management and scheduling problems and innovative engineering techniques being developed.

Participating were BG Richard M. Connell, South Pacific Division Engineer, District Engineers Col. Hugh G. Robinson (Los Angeles), Col. H. A. Flertzheim, Jr. (San Francisco), and Col. Donald M. O'Shei (Sacramento), key Division and District staff members and their wives.

SPD presentations on the western drought, revised procedures for review of civil works planning reports, and plans for implementing zero based budgeting were among the agenda items.

District presentation topics included "Shore Protection by Submerged Breakwater" (Los Angeles), "Water Wells" (Sacramento), and "Corte Madera Creek" (San Francisco).

A Thursday afternoon bus tour of coastal activities in the Santa Barbara area was also featured. All conference participants visited three small-craft harbors: Santa Barbara, Ventura Marina and Channel Islands Harbor. Charles Holt, Navigation Branch Chief, provided an informative narrative to explain the coastal works.

## Spanish Speaking Program

The Greater Los Angeles Federal Spanish Speaking Program held a "job fair" at the UCLA Westwood campus March 10. LAD was represented by Barbara E. Madison, personnel management specialist; Virginia Collins, Spanish speaking program committee member; and Carmina Saggau, Spanish speaking program coordinator.

Other participants included representatives from various Los Angeles area Federal agencies and the Civil Service Commission. Job fairs are held monthly at local colleges and universities in an effort to disseminate information on civilian career opportunities in government to Hispanic students.

## Sternberg Retires

After 26 years of negotiating with contractors, Frank Sternberg of the Construction-Operations Division is about to begin negotiating his own contract for leisure time.

Frank is retiring and a luncheon in his honor is scheduled for March 31 at Sorrentino's Restaurant in the Valley. Reservations should be made through Dorothy, Mary or Debbie at Ext. 5600. Cost for the luncheon is \$5.75. Best of luck, Frank, on your retirement. Don't forget to read the fine print!

## REMINDER

A reminder to all District retirees---there will be a luncheon get-together May 11, at Rodger Young Center, 936 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles. The luncheon, scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m., is \$5.00, parking is free. For reservations call Doris, 860-9247; Francis, 655-2178; or Lillian, 784-5152.

The District was saddened to receive news of the death of Josephine Keipp, March 12, after a long illness. Mrs. Keipp worked for many years in the Real Estate Division and retired in 1957.



**OPEN A BOOK  
OPEN YOUR MIND  
OPEN YOUR FUTURE**

## On Account of Sick Leave

Have you considered your sick leave account as an insurance policy? It is just that, and one you can increase in value as time goes by without one penny of cost to you.

Do you know that your investment (unused sick leave) will pay you a cash return if you never use it? Unused sick leave is credited to your total Federal service in determining your retirement annuity.

For example, an employee who retires after 30 years service receives 56% of his highest three consecutive years salary. If that employee has 2080 hours (one work year) unused sick leave, the employee will receive 58%. On a high-three average salary of \$15,000 per year, this is a difference of \$300 per year for the rest of the annuitant's life. A survivor annuity to the annuitant's spouse would be likewise increased.

Have you considered what would happen were you to become ill for a prolonged period of time? If you have unused sick leave, this can be your unpaid insurance.

## Annuity Hike

All retirees received a 4.8 % cost-of-living increase, effective 1 March. The increase will appear on checks received in April.

Employees retiring on or after 1 March 1977, and before the next cost-of-living increase, will receive the HIGHER annuity rate based on (1) length of service and "high-three" average pay through 28 Feb. 1977, plus the 4.8% increase of 1 March, or (2) the annuity rate computed to the date of actual separation.

## NEWSCASTLE

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*Hugh G. Robinson*  
 HUGH G. ROBINSON  
 COL, CE  
 District Engineer

## Incentive Awards

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Eva Walker Adopted Suggestion - \$25

### CONSTRUCTION-OPERATIONS

Gayle M. Sugimoto Adopted Suggestion - \$25

Allen D. Brenneise Outstanding Perf. Rating & Special Act Award

Edward A. Lipka Special Act Award

James Elder Special Act Award

Nancy M. Cavanaugh Special Act Award

Leroy A. Jauman Special Act Award

### ENGINEERING DIVISION

Bruce C. Beach Ltr of Commendation - Registered Engineer-in-Training

## S.A.M.E. Newsline

The March 16 meeting of the Society of American Military Engineers featured Stephen J. Koonce, Director of Facilities and Acting Los Angeles County Engineer, as guest speaker. Koonce told a large audience of about 90 persons about a new program his County Engineering agency has undertaken to cut planning and design time for major construction projects. He said new procedures of "cradle-to-grave" project management and computerized scheduling have shortened an old four-year average concept-to-construction time to less than one year today.

Koonce estimated the time- and labor-saving system has saved Los Angeles County taxpayers more than \$50 million over the last four years. The meeting was conducted jointly between SAME and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, April 12, at Rodger Young Center, 936 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles. A special program will be presented by the Ralph M. Parsons Co. on the North Slope Alaskan Oil operation, for which the company is a managing contractor. Call ext. 5334 for reservations.

In other SAME news, the annual Installation Ball is now scheduled for June 11, at Allen Center, Long Beach Naval Facility, Terminal Island.



GREEN SCENE---Dale Pierce (left), Environmental Resources Branch, points out ecological resources at Whittier Narrows to Helen Mary Williams (center), director, and a group of counselors for Outward Bound Adventures, a community service organization, during recent LAD-hosted field trip.