

NEWSCASTLE



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

Vol. 10

No. 5

INFORMATION EXCHANGE BULLETIN

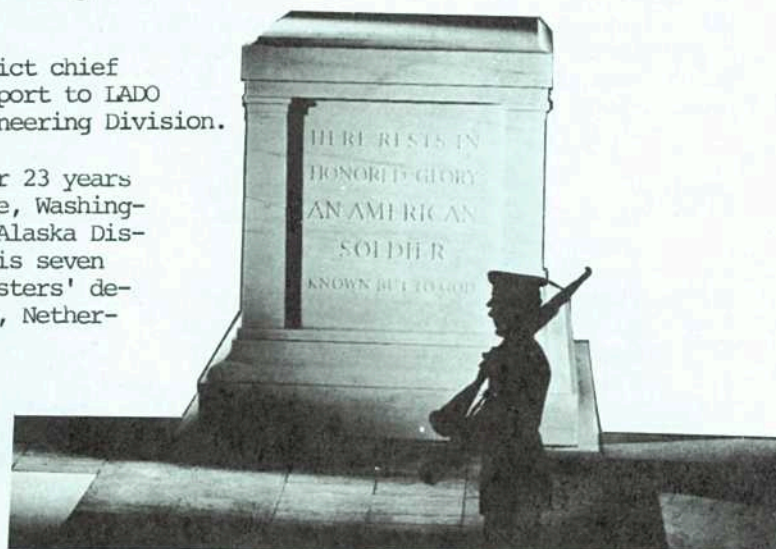
May 6, 1977

New Chief of Engineering Division Named

Norm Arno, former Chicago District chief of the Engineering Division, will report to IADO early this month to head up the Engineering Division.

Arno has been with the Corps for 23 years since beginning his career in Seattle, Washington. In 1962 he transferred to the Alaska District. Taking a sabbatical during his seven years in Alaska, he completed his masters' degree in coastal engineering at Delft, Netherlands.

From 1969 until 1972, Arno was assigned to OCE, first as chief of the Estuary Section Planning Division, and then as chief of the Coastal Engineering Section, Engineering Division. Coming to Chicago in 1972, he served as assistant chief, Engineering Division, and as chief, Hydraulics Design Branch, at NCD. In 1975 he joined the Chicago District as Chief of Engineering Division.



IN HONORED GLORY—Not only on Memorial Day but throughout the year, a military honor guard keeps constant vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a monument in Arlington National Cemetery to all of America's war dead.

MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 30 - MONDAY

TIPS FOR YEAR-ROUND ENERGY SAVINGS

Our Energy Conservation Coordinator, Sid Chriqui, has the following tips on some home energy conservation:

INSULATION: Self-protection against heat and cold. Proper insulation can increase temperature-control efficiency by as much as 20-30% by reducing the load on both heating and cooling equipment. Spring, summer, and fall are the best times to insulate, and effective improvements need not be expensive.

Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows. This inexpensive measure, which can be an easy project for the do-it-yourselfer, could reduce the family's energy costs by 10% or more. If every household were caulked and weatherstripped, the equivalent of 580,000 barrels of home heating fuel could be saved each winter day, thus reducing chances of shortages in cold weather areas of the country.

Insulate the attic and the walls. Install mineral wool, glass fiber, or cellulose insulation to a depth of 6 inches in the attic.

Heating costs should drop about 20%.

If 15 million homes with inadequate attic insulation were upgraded, about 400,000 barrels of heating oil would be saved each winter day - reducing the Nation's demand for residential heating fuels by 4%. Installation of insulation in the walls also yields a large energy saving but requires special equipment and professional help in existing homes.

INTRODUCING

2nd Lt. Steve Cannon comes to IADO from Washington, D. C., where he attended the Officers Basic engineering course. A native of Yuma, Arizona, he majored in Spanish at Northern Arizona University with a minor in Business Administration. From 1974-75, Lt. Cannon worked for the Forest Service in Flagstaff where he was a member of the "hot shot" crew, one of a 20 man crew who are the first ones on the scene of every forest fire. A seasoned farmer, he holds a State of Arizona farmers degree.

THE TRUE FRINGE BENEFITS

If the value of fringe benefits were added to the salary of a GS-4 step 5 employee with six and one-half years of service, the individual's salary would increase by nearly a third, from \$9,424 to about \$12,000 a year.

Other things being equal, the proportion of the salary represented by fringe benefits, of course, is greater the lower the grade. But the Government's dollar-for-dollar matching contribution to the retirement fund increases along with the employee's, as salaries go up. Thus, the absolute value of benefits generally increases at higher grades.

For the hypothetical GS-4 step 5, item by item the various benefits are worth:

Annual leave	160 hours @ \$4.53 per hour	\$ 725
Sick leave	104 hours @ \$4.53 per hour	471
Retirement	7% matching contribution	660
Life insurance	\$12,000 (Government contribution 17¢/1000)	53
Health insurance	Blue Cross-Blue Shield, High Option, Self & Family (Government contributes \$24.59 per pay period)	639
Holidays	9 paid	326
		<hr/>
		\$ 2,874

In addition to the tangible benefits which can be measured, employees also can receive:

Worker's Compensation for injuries
Emergency health treatment
Suggestion Awards (cash)
Performance awards (cash)
Pay while on jury duty

How Pay is Adjusted

In case you've wondered how white collar pay is adjusted, here's the way it works:

Bureau of Labor Statistics employees gather data from private industry on private sector salary changes.

President's Pay Agent (Chairman, CSC, and Director OMB) reviews BLS findings and recommends salary adjustment to the President.

Pay Agent also discusses recommendation with Federal Employees Pay Council (unions). Their views and recommendations must be part of the Agent's Report before submitting recommendation to the President.

Advisory Committee on Federal Pay (three private sector pay and labor relations experts) considers views of unions and Pay Agent, then makes separate recommendation to the President.

Using these data and recommendations, the President decides on amount of October comparability adjustment. Then one of two things happens:

1. President puts October comparability adjustment into effect, or

2. By August 31, President send Alternative Plan to Congress. Congress has 30 days to reject the Alternative Plan.

- if either house of Congress rejects the Alternative Plan, the comparability adjustment goes into effect in October.
- if Congress does not reject the Alternative Plan, the Alternative Plan goes into effect.

Sgt. Floyd finds home

St. Louis, Missouri, has been selected as the site of a permanent berth for the SERGEANT FLOYD, the Corps of Engineers river tugboat that served as a floating Bicentennial exhibit. Thirty-three cities had indicated an interest in acquiring the vessel for exhibit.

Cruising the Nation's inland and Gulf Coast waterways during the Bicentennial celebration, the SERGEANT FLOYD'S voyage covered 20,000 miles. She stopped at 250 communities and was visited by over a half a million persons.

RETIREMENTS

Real Estate Division will lose two long-time members on May 13 with the retirement of Jean Hilst, Realty Specialist, after 34 years of service, and Harold Baker, Chief, Management & Disposal Branch, after 16 years of service.

A joint retirement luncheon will be held on Friday, May 13, at Taix Restaurant, 1911 W. Sunset Blvd., 11:30 A.M. - \$5.00 including tax and tip. Call Peggy Ralston, Ext. 5560, for reservations.

The District extends best wishes to Jean and Hal for the most rewarding of retirements.

Time to Plan Ahead

John Redfern, Personnel Office, advises that a two day retirement seminar is scheduled for June 6-7 in Room 7412, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Call John at Ext. 5340, for application to attend.

EEO Achievement Awards

"Everybody is responsible for equal opportunity!" However, it is a reality that not all employees are aggressive in their pursuit of the Corps' EEO Plan of Action objectives and not totally committed to, and fully involved in, providing equal employment opportunity.

Annually, Certificates of Achievement are awarded to individuals who, by their personal efforts, have made contributions to the achievement of significant accomplishments in LADO's EEO Program. The categories for these awards for FY 77 are (1) Manager or supervisor; (2) Employee; and (3) EEO Staff Member.

The selection of the manager or supervisor and the employee will be made by the EEO Advisory Council from nominations received from employees. The selection of the EEO Staff Member will be made by the District Engineer.

Nomination forms have been distributed to all employees for submission of names of individuals who have achieved performance in (1) the support of the EEO Program; (2) accomplishments attained in furthering EEO; and (3) participation in EEO activities or community activities related to EEO principles. These EEO Achievement Awards will be given during the Engineer Day celebration in June.

Communication — an Art

We are all aware of the importance of communication in our daily lives and as public employees. The District Engineer has reminded us that the Toastmasters and Toastmistress Clubs offer unique programs for learning the science and art of effective communication. These programs have been officially designated as self-improvement programs in communication and leadership. Accordingly, attendance at these meetings is without charge to leave or loss of pay.

Certificates of Achievement are awarded to members upon completion of each phase of the program and copies of these certificates are placed in the employee's official personnel folder. In addition, an award is given to the Outstanding Toastmaster of the Year and to the Outstanding Toastmistress of the Year.

REMINDER: The Toastmasters meet on alternate Thursdays at 11:30 A.M. Toastmistress members meet at 11:30 A.M. on the first and third Wednesday of each month, from September through June.

Supervisors are urged to encourage employees to become active members of the Toastmasters and Toastmistress Clubs. By attending and participating in these clubs, employees would develop skills in communication and leadership that would enhance the image of the Corps in meeting and dealing with the various publics.

KUDOS

Massad G. Joseph, son of Lillian Joseph, Cost Accounting Section, F&A Branch, will graduate in June from Harvard Medical School after which he will intern at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles for one year. He has been accepted at UCLA for residency in dermatology following internship.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following personnel who received promotions in March 1977:

Emma Bryant	Voucher Examiner, Comptroller, Examinations Sec.
Gladys Crook	Bindery-Finish Worker Reproduction Branch
Wilbur Olsen	Civil Engineer Tech, Const-Operations Division, Engr Eval & Maint Sec
Leticia Perez	Clerk-Typist, Const-Opr Div., Res. Improvement Project
Gordon Reetz	Biologist, Engr Div, Env Res Br, Planning Sec
Ernest Saenz	Civil Engineer Tech, Engr Div, F&M Br, Matls & Invest Sec
Robert D. Toaz, Jr	Hydraulic Engineer, Engr Div, Hyd Br, Hyd Sec
Laura Tschudi	Tech Pub Writer & Editor Engr Div, Env Res Br, Planning Sec
Nicolas Valenzuela	Accountant Accountant Sub-Program
William Weber	Civil Engineer Tech, Constr-Opr Div, Engr Eval & Maint Sec
Mark Weintraub	General Attorney Office of Counsel

Subtilty

And Sid Chriqui, OAS, received the following terse communication from his daughter recently: "Dad: I really want the Millikan yearbook and it's selling for \$5.50. I have the 50¢, so can you please leave me \$5.00. Thank you so much. Love. Sandi".

Project 77/77 SUGGEST

Small vs Large Cars

The cost of optional auto equipment is just a one time expense at time of purchase, but will continue for the life of the car. It is estimated that the increased cost of added fuel alone at 63¢ a gallon, will result in an increased gas bill of \$268, in 10,000 miles of driving, comparing the car expected to be most economical with the car expected to be least economical.

The most economical car in the estimate is a mini-compact, with four cylinders, manual transmission, without air conditioner. The most uneconomical is a luxury sedan, eight cylinders, automatic, with air conditioning. Not taken into account in the study is the increase in mileage from using radial ply tires.

Besides the added fuel costs, the purchaser of the larger car who includes much optional equipment, will likely incur added insurance and maintenance costs. All these costs should be considered before a potential buyer decides what car to buy, and how to equip it.

A free publication, "1977 California Gas Mileage Guide", second edition, January 1977, is available at many service stations, or by writing to Fuel Economy, Pueblo, Colorado, 81009. It lists relative fuel economy of the various domestic and imported cars.

Around The Corps

Major General Ernest Graves will become Deputy Chief of the Corps of Engineers on July 1 succeeding Major General Robert C. Marshall, who will assume his new duties as Lower Mississippi Valley Division Engineer on July 1.

It is interesting to note that at one time General Graves served as Deputy District Engineer at LADO after which he served as the first director of the Army Engineer Nuclear Cratering Group located at Livermore, California.

Brigadier General James C. Donovan is scheduled to become Southwestern Division Engineer with headquarters at Dallas, Texas, on July 1. He will succeed Major General Charles I. McGinnis, who will be reassigned as Director of Civil Works, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, D. C.

Colonel John M. Adsit will become San Francisco District Engineer in August 1977, succeeding Colonel Henry A. Flertzheim, Jr., whose assignment will be announced later.

KUDOS

Jesse Show, Hydraulics & Hydrologic Branch, is bursting with pride these days since his youngest daughter, Joyce, recently won first place in the Bank of America Achievement Award contest in science and mathematics. Joyce placed first among 36,000 competing high school seniors and was awarded a check for \$1,000. In addition, she received



Newly elected officers of NFFE, Local 777, who will serve for the period 1976-1977 are:

Ronald Weiss	President
Max Morgenroth	1st Vice Pres.
Loretta Kukhahn	2nd Vice Pres.
Lupe Gonzales	3rd Vice Pres.
Roman Zawadzki	4th Vice Pres.
Betty Gladwill	Recording Secy.
Louise Flores	Financial Secy.
Mary Nelson	Sergeant at Arms
Carmina Saggau	Member at Large
John Wilk, Jr.	Member at Large
Donald Sears	Member at Large

Right to the Point

Here are some excerpts from Michael Olesker's column in the NEWS AMERICAN of Baltimore, Maryland. It seems as though some of the letters cited arrived at the Claims Section of the State Department Social Services.

They sent letters. Like the woman trying to straighten out payments for a child. "I'm very much annoyed," she wrote, "to find that you have branded my boy as illiterate, as this is a dirty lie. I was married to his father a week before he was born."

One woman wrote somewhat plaintively, "My husband got his project cut off two weeks ago, and I haven't had any relief since."

Swinging for LAD

The April Desert Mashie Golf Tournament held in Phoenix, Arizona, was won by Chuck Holt, Construction-Operations Division, Navigations Branch.

Chuck shot way over his head by shooting a career low of 78 on one round. He finished the two day tournament, competing with 350 golfers, with the best Net. Be sure to stop by his office and notice all the prizes he received - a beautiful bronze trophy, silver medalist cup, digital watch, new golf bag and golf balls. Some participants said the tournament was fixed, but we don't think so, even if the Phoenix Police Department showed Chuck the way out of town. Congratulations, Chuck!

a Presidential commendation as Presidential Scholar of 1977 with an accompanying Presidential Scholar Medallion.

As a result of receiving the award, Joyce has been accepted by Harvard, UC Berkeley and Stanford universities, all with offers of the highest scholarships.

We are sorry to report the death of Ruth Bender, who retired from the Base Yard some years ago, on February 23.

Where Does Your Job Fit In?

Jeannette Hargrave, District Librarian, submitted the following article taken from the PASADENA STAR NEWS of March 17:

Librarians have the least stressful jobs and factory production line inspectors the most stressful, according to a new study by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) which looked at 22,000 working men and women.

Here are the 10 most stressful jobs (and even the NIOSH researchers say they are surprised):

1. Inspectors (those who do inspection tests in blue collar assembly line operations).
2. Health technology technicians.
3. Clinical laboratory technicians.
4. Miners and mine workers.
5. Industrial laborers.
6. Warehouse personnel.
7. Office managers.
8. Public relations workers.
9. Licensed practical nurses.
10. Waiters.

The 10 least stressful jobs, ranked with the most tranquil first, are:

1. Librarians.
2. Professional technicians ("say, someone working in a research lab").
3. Stock handlers.
4. Sewers and stitchers (in factories).
5. Store checkout workers.
6. College or university professors.
7. Office machine operators.
8. Vehicle washers.
9. Surveyors.
10. Bank tellers.

Jeannette's comments are: "I DON'T AGREE! Not when the book someone needs today is reposing at the home of the borrower who is on three months leave. Not when books silently vanish from the shelves never to be seen again. Not when gremlins (or the librarian) misfile circulation cards. Not when publishers maliciously send the old edition of a book instead of the new one ordered. Not when the publication of books and journals increases tenfold every year -(I can't keep up; I can't catch up). Not when, after learning to look knowledgeable about rebars, tetrapods, cathodic protection, and sheepsfoot rollers, I now have to do the same with photovoltaic cells cps, 24 and 48 reduction ratios, COM, and rattus rattus rats. Not when the Rocky Mountains stand between me and a start on library automation. Frustration! And the ultimate frustration is the perfidious misprint of Librarians for Engineers!"

CREDIT UNION

Excerpts from "YOU AND YOUR MONEY" -Whether you agree with the saying that "money answereth all things" or believe with Shakespeare that "who steals my purse steals trash", two things are reasonably certain: We cannot do without money and for most of us, there is never quite enough. How big a part does money play in your life? However big the part it will be ONLY as good as you make it.

Your Credit Union is now in the process of providing a more efficient and economical procedure for handling some of your transactions. More information soon. REMINDER: Credit Union offices hours - 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

We are sorry to report the death of William James, Chief of the Audit Branch, Office of Comptroller, who retired in 1969.

PAY CHECK SNAFU?

If you're still having problems in getting prompt delivery of your pay checks, you don't have to put up with it. Remember, you have an alternative - why not have your check credited directly to your account in a financial institution? The composite check deal is a good one - your check is credited on time even if the composite check is not received by pay day. It has proven to be the safest and most effective way of assuring receipt of your pay, on time, every pay day.

In case you're interested in using this system, see Diane Marbury, Finance & Accounting Branch, who will give you the proper form to fill out.

ADIOS!

Best wishes to Sandra East, EEO Officer, who is leaving on May 27, for a new position at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, as full time Federal Women's Program Coordinator.

Workboat Set For Workout

The Survey Branch has just taken delivery of a new all aluminum workboat powered by a Hardin Marine Engine with Jacuzzi Jet Drive. It's 23 feet long with an eight foot beam and weighs 4,700 pounds with a load capacity of 20,000 pounds. The enclosed cabin measures eight and one-half feet in length, five and one-half feet in width and six feet in height.

The boat will be used for sounding and diving operations in the harbors and lagoons within the District boundaries. The cabin is large enough to accommodate the District's electronic hydrographic positioning equipment and a crew of from two to four people.

The boat will be christened the MORRIS B. NISWONGER. We salute the Survey Branch in perpetuating the memory of an outstanding man. "Morrie" was the former chief of the Survey Section directing hydrographic surveys for the District from 1956 until his death in 1974.

Christening and launching are scheduled within a month.

Defensive Driving Pays Off

IADO drivers have plenty of company when they participate in the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course. More than one million drivers completed the course in 1976, making a total of about 8 million since the program was inaugurated in 1965. Most organizations with large fleet activities offer the course to their drivers.

The Council recently made a study of 8,000 drivers in 26 states which showed they had 32.8% fewer accidents the year after taking the course than the year before they took it. In IADO, we have lowered the number of accidents involving our drivers since introduction of the course in 1971. As an extra benefit to participants in the course, some insurance companies give a reduced rate for completion of the course.

IN SYMPATHY


The District extends its sympathy to Leonard Soo Hoo, Environmental Resources Branch, on the recent death of his father.

And to Nancy Cavanaugh, Construction-Operation Division, on the death of her father.

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

Don't Miss It

THE GREAT DEBATE between Toastmasters Club and Toastmistress Club will be held on Wednesday, May 18, Rm. 7412, from 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M. Everyone is invited. The subject will be "The Equal Rights Amendment." Teams:

AFFIRMATIVE

Thelma Choto
Barbara Madison
Gordon Reetz

NEGATIVE

Richard Gutschow
Sue Torres
Claude Wong

Moderator: Sandra East

Incentive Awards

EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

Florence Palmer Adopted Suggestion - \$25

ENGINEERING DIVISION:

Kenneth Kules Adopted Suggestion \$50

CONSTRUCTION-OPERATIONS DIVISION:

Richard Grover Certificate of Appreciation
City Spirit Festival
Rudy Kuhn Certificate of Appreciation
City Spirit Festival

OAS - CORRESPONDENCE CENTER:

Verdie Cannady Sustained Superior Perf.
Diane Watkins Quality Increase

Toastmistress Speech Contest

As you know, Noontimers Toastmistress Club held a speech contest at Taix Restaurant on February 23, and we are pleased announce the following winners:

1st Place: Diane Marbury, F&A Branch
Subject: Wisdom
2nd Place: Sandra East, EEO Officer
Subject: Music
3rd Place: Betty Gladwill, Constr-Opns Div,
Subject: Art

As first place winner, Diane automatically qualified to enter the next level speech contest held on April 23 At the Hyatt Airport Hotel. This time she was second place winner and must be on standby for the Regional Conference to be held on June 11 in San Diego.

On hand in the cheering section were Sandra East, Ida Simms, Sheryl Leverette, Barbara Madison, Catherine Ferguson, Barbara Bailey, and Lillian Johnson, retiree.

