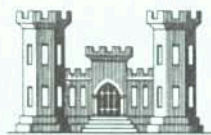




NEWSCASTLE

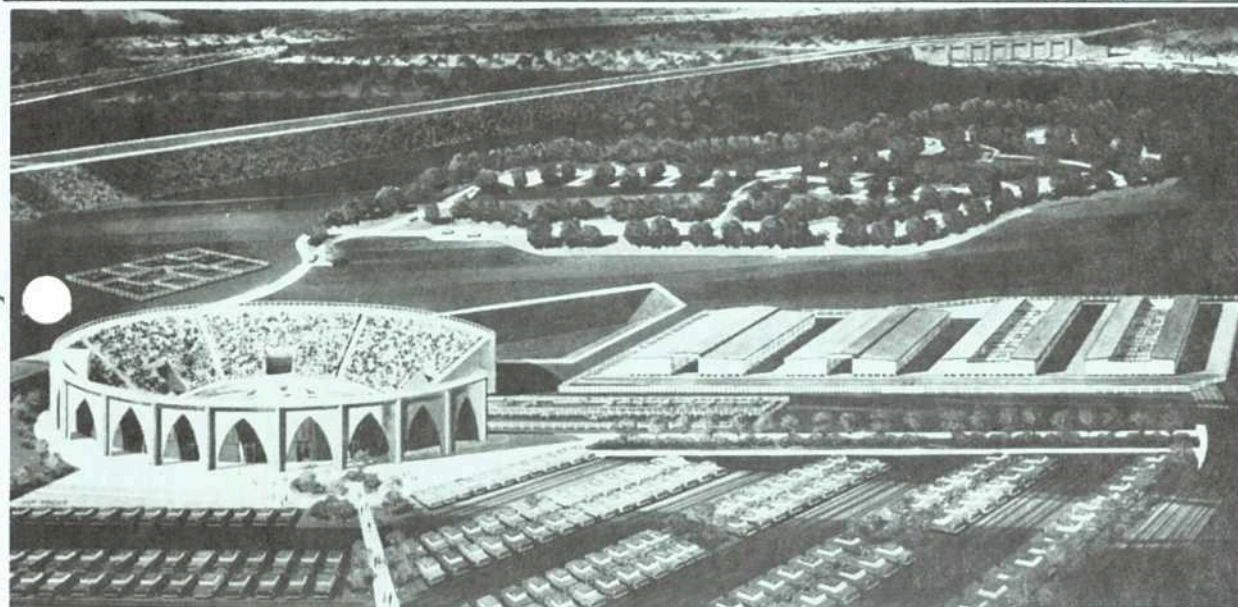


U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Vol. 10 No. 6

INFORMATION EXCHANGE BULLETIN

June 3, 1977



CHARRO ARENA NEW ADDITION TO WHITTIER NARROWS

A joint effort of the Corps and the City of Pico Rivera will soon result in the construction of a 5,000 seat charro arena in a section of the Whittier Narrows flood control reservoir in San Gabriel Valley. The arena is designed for equestrian events with a Mexican-American theme, and will also host other cultural events including concerts.

Besides the circular amphitheater-like stadium, included in plans are 200 stables, wash racks, an exercise arena, landscaping and adjoining parking areas.

The reservoir site for the arena is under long-term lease to the City by the Corps who have jurisdiction over this unincorporated section of the basin. Public access will be provided from the 605 Freeway via a road connecting with Rose Hills Road and the San Gabriel River Parkway.

The arena concept is a composite design drawn from similar charro facilities throughout Mexico and Latin America. Charreadas, Mexican-style rodeo and equestrian exhibitions, are a popular sport in Southern California. Interest and participation generated by these events have outgrown smaller charro arenas in the surrounding area.

Fighter - Builders 202nd Anniversary

ENGINEER DAY 1977 is just around the corner! The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers celebrates its 202nd anniversary on June 16. However, this year LAD will observe the Corps' birthday on Friday, June 17, at Legg Lake, Whittier Narrows, with a beef barbeque complete with beans, potato salad, cole slaw, rolls and butter. Price: \$1.50 per person; 75 cents for children. Awards, games, music, and sports will be highlighted when LAD personnel, families and retirees gather to celebrate the event. Colonel Hugh G. Robinson, District Engineer, will present awards for outstanding performance and achievement with Thelma Choto acting as mistress of ceremonies. Gather up the family and join the fun!

Promotions

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

Delia Flores	Clerk-Typist Correspondence Center
Charles E. Evans	Sociologist Economics Section
Randy K. Skarseth	Computer Programmer ADP Center
Terry A. Wotherspoon	Civil Engr. Tech. Fld Plain Mgmt Sec.
Benjamin G. Oropeza	Civil Engr. Tech. Foundations & Mat'ls.
Judith K. Uhlman	Program Analyst Program Dev. Branch

Blood Donors-Take Note

All supervisors and employees should become aware of DA Civilian Personnel Regulation 990-2, Book 630 entitled "Absence and Leave". All employees who volunteer as blood donors, without compensation, to the American Red Cross, to military hospitals, or other blood banks, or respond to emergency calls for a needy individual will be excused from work without charge to leave. In addition to the time required to travel to and from the blood center and to give blood, donors will be authorized four hours of excused absence on the day the blood is donated for recuperation purposes. All donors are encouraged to take the full four hours for this purpose.

Employees must obtain the approval of their supervisor to leave their place of work to donate blood.

All of which leads up to the fact that the Federal Employees Blood Bank will conduct its semi-annual drive on June 14 in Room 8544, 300 N. Los Angeles Street, 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.

In order to schedule an appointment, fill out the blood pledge card which was distributed to all employees last week, and return it to Connie Eugino, OAS, Ext. 5310.

NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to Tippi Vargo, Personnel Office, and his wife, Nancy, on the birth of Adrian Jeannine on May 9. Adrian weighed 5 lbs. 13 ozs.

And to Joseph Evelyn, Hydrology & Hydraulics Branch, and his wife, Christine, on the arrival of Christopher James on May 14. The newcomer weighed in at 8 lbs. 1/2 ozs.

"T'WAS A GREAT TIME"

From all reports, LADO's first Retirees' Reunion luncheon held on May 11 was a great day for the 83 retirees and guests who attended.

Colonel Hugh G. Robinson, District Engineer, welcomed the group and commented on current and future programs of the Corps. Martin Bentz, Comptroller, extended District greetings and added a few newsy comments on LADO goings-on.

The committee responsible for the arrangements were Doris Hollister, President of the Retirees' Reunion, Frances Mogilinsky, 1st Vice President, Fred Martin, 2d Vice President who acted as Master of Ceremonies, and Lillian Berkovitz, Secretary.

Among those attending were Reo H. Anderson, George Arndt, Sara Bense, Lillian Berkovitz, Ethel Bowser and Walt, Glenn & June Bulow, Mildred Burch, Mary Chaffin, Hedvig Christensen, Frank Consbruck, Ruth Cornblith, Janet Cox, Gerald Crowder, Ernest Digneo, Mr. and Mrs. George Foerst, Winston Freeman, William Franklin, Therese Gardner, Mary Gass, James Gould, Herman Guenther, Jean Gurholt, Les Hall, John Hatteberg, Cecil Hernball, Leo Hollenbeck, Lillian Johnson, Robert Kenny, Albert Klamann, Marian Lunn, Fred and Waukeen Martin, Harry McCormick, Emma McWhorter, Doris Hollister, James Mitchell, Frances Mogilensky, Abel Nuanes, Norma Ochsner and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Edward O'Halloran, C. C. Potter, Emily Rankin, Margaret and Thomas Richardson, Edith Sheu, Ruth Slice, Donald Sloss, Emma Smith, Esther Spelio, Anna and Lyle St. ford, Irene and Homer Stephens, Masao Sugano, Verne Swank (all the way from Sullivan, Missouri), Hazel Swanson, James Townsend, Marie Walcott, Thomas Watson, Elva Wells, Anne T. Wiley, Herbert Windsor, L. H. Wollenberg, David Young, Mr. and Mrs. William McCauley, Kenneth and Anne Willoughby, Anne Davis, Violet Bricker.

RECREATION & THE CORPS

More than 391 million recreation days of use were recorded at Corps lake-side recreation areas during 1976, for an increase of 15 million over 1975.

The 433 Corps lakes and reservoirs provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Nearly two-thirds of these areas are within a 50-mile radius of urban areas with a population of more than 50,000.

Although Corps recreation areas are water-oriented and considered by many to offer the best boating opportunities and are the sites for a number of bass fishing tournaments, they are attracting increasing numbers of tent and trailer campers, as well as day use visitors because of their location near heavily populated communities.

Survivor Benefit Law Change

Retiring Federal employees, of course, still choose a survivor annuity benefit. On the death of the retiree it is payable to a spouse or, if there is no spouse at retirement, to another designated person. This choice is not free: the retiring employee's annuity is reduced to help pay for the benefit.

In the past, a survivor benefit could not be changed once it was made. This meant, for instance, that if a spouse died before the retiree, the reduction for survivor benefit continued, although there would be no survivor annuity payable. For unmarried employees who elect a survivor annuity for a designated person, there is no change. But the law was liberalized in 1974 for the benefit of married employees.

If a spouse who had been designated to receive a survivor annuity dies before the retiree, the annuity will return to the higher unreduced rate. This change, which also applies to any other termination of the marriage (such as divorce), becomes effective the first month after the month in which the marriage ends.

Further, if a retiree later remarries, the reduced rate, which provides for a survivor annuity will be restored. If the spouse is married to the annuitant for at least one year or if there is a child born of the marriage, the second spouse will be entitled to survivor annuity when the retiree dies.

Although this liberalization does not apply to employees who are unmarried and elect a survivor annuity for an insurable interest, a new provision does benefit these employees. If an insurable interest is designated and the retired employee later marries, he or she may provide an annuity to the spouse. This change must be made within one year after the marriage.

The Civil Service Commission says choosing a survivor benefit is an important decision which should be considered before time to retire. Discuss it with your spouse or person you want to designate and check with your personnel office for details as to cost and procedure.

California & The Drought

The Southern California drought has been here before. An historical perspective reveals that the Southland has suffered, and survived, several severe droughts in the past, and undoubtedly will do so again.

Southern California in the 19th century, for example, experienced at least three major droughts and more than twice that number of periods of heavy flooding. These wet years and dry years were the subject of a paper written in the late 19th century by J. M. Guinn, a local climatologist of that period. Published in the Historical Society of Southern California's quarterly for 1890, Guinn's writing was brought to light during an historical records search conducted for the Los Angeles District by researchers from the University of California at Riverside.

Guinn cites the winter of 1811-12 as the earliest Southern California flood for which he was able to uncover records. Floods of that year and again in 1822 sent local streams on a rampage. They overflowed their banks, and in the case of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel and Santa Ana Rivers, the force of the flood realigned their routes.

However, it was the drought which changed the course of California history. A relatively wet year was enjoyed in 1825, and during this and preceding years of abundant rainfall, wide areas of rich pasture land were developed and a thriving cattle industry evolved in Southern California.

But feast turned to famine and beginning in 1827, three years of severe drought ensued. Cattle died by the thousands. Only their hides were left behind, to be shipped out of San Pedro in heavy-laden "hide-droghers."

Floods occurred in 1832 and again a decade later in 1842. Then another three year drought, 1844-46, returned full force "with its usual accompaniment of starving cattle and horses."

In January 1850 California was besieged by another deluge. The year 1856 was a year of severe drought, intense summer heat, earthquakes, thunder and lightning and severe sand storms, and was considered the driest and most unhealthful season known for 20 years.

The century's worst drought - three years of it began in the fall of 1862 and lasted until 1865. The seasonal rainfall for 1862-63 (compared to the 50 inches of a year earlier) was less than four inches.

Only time will tell whether the current drought - already recognized as the worst to occur in more than a century - will surpass the meteorological calamities described by Guinn.

Suggestion Award

A cash award of \$300 was awarded for a suggestion submitted by a former Construction-Operations Division Employee of this District. James L. La Frenaye's suggestion to secure or reduce the size of the fill hatch of the tank on water trucks was adopted by OCE and will be included in the General Safety Requirement Manual in June 1977. Adoption of this suggestion will contribute to IAD's Safety Program and will increase public safety by reducing the possibility of a child falling into a tank of water and drowning.

Old Glory - 200 Years of Honor

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all".

Flag Day, June 14, 1977, marks the 200th anniversary of the adoption by the Continental Congress of the stars and stripes as the official flag of the United States.

This wording of the pledge varies slightly from the original, which was drawn up in 1892 in the office of THE YOUTH'S COMPANION magazine in Boston. It was first used in the public schools in celebration of Columbus Day, October 12, 1892.

The pledge received official recognition by Congress in an Act approved June 22, 1912. The phrase "under God" was added to the pledge by a Congressional Act of June 11, 1951.

14 June

Flag Day



"I pledge
allegiance to the Flag
of the United States . . ."

Mark in Sands of Time

In the ever shifting sands of time, American civil servants have made some deep footprints. They developed:

- A way to mass produce penicillin
- Space exploration
- The first electronic computer
- Wash and wear fabrics
- Radar and sonar
- The basic designs for most military and commercial aircraft
- The first neon light
- Nuclear-powered submarines
- The instrument landing system used by all military and commercial aircraft
- Use of satellites in weather forecasting
- Dextran as blood plasma extender
- Standards of purity for food and drugs
- The aerosol dispenser
- Long-lasting synthetic lubricants

Direct Deposit-Annuity Check

Did you know that civil service annuitants may now have their monthly checks go directly to their banks for immediate deposit? The system is voluntary.

It was tested first last July in Florida and Georgia. At present, nearly 200,000 annuitants are using this direct deposit system, called Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

It offers safety and added convenience, particularly for those who experience difficulty in getting to their banks.

Annuitants wishing to use EFT may obtain Standard Form 1199A, Authorization for Deposit of Federal Recurring Payments, from their bank or financial institution.

As soon as the Commission places the bank's or financial organization's address on its automated annuity deposit system, a notice will be sent to the annuitant at his or her correspondence address.

TAKE IT EASY

Have you ever thought how much time is saved by a driver who weaves in and out of traffic? That was the question posed recently by a builder of precision instruments and a tire manufacturer.

In a joint effort to find the answer, they equipped two identical cars with instruments to record driving details.

Over half of the 1,000 mile test route was on freeways.

Driver number one was instructed to travel the route in the shortest possible time. Driver number two was advised to avoid all risks, maintain the traffic tempo, and relax.

Driver number one crossed the finish line after 20 hours and 12 minutes driving time. The driver of car number two arrived 31 minutes minutes later.

Although the fast driver took considerably more risks, his average speed was less than 50 MPH compared to the slower driver's average of 48-plus MPH. Other statistics:

	Fast Driver	Slow Driver
Panic stops	4	0
Applied brakes	1335	652
Passed others	2004	645
Passed by others	13	142

In addition to the greater wear and tear on car number one, it consumed 10 gallons more gasoline than car number two.

Drive to arrive alive!

Louis Stracke to Retire

A retirement luncheon is scheduled for Louis E. Stracke, Industrial Property Management Specialist, Office of Comptroller, on June 3 at the Hong Kong Low Restaurant, 425 Gin Ling Way, Chinatown; price \$5.00. Call Diane Marbury, Ext. 5358 for reservations.

Lou is retiring with a total of 42 years of service - 25 years with the Corps in addition to service with the U. S. Navy from 1927 to 1945. Officially, he will retire on June 10.

We will miss Lou's cooperative pleasant manner and wish him the most rewarding of retirements.

PYKE HONORED

Congratulations to Dr. Charles B. Pyke, Hydrologic-Hydraulics Branch, who was presented with an achievement award at the Meteorology Society, Los Angeles Chapter, annual banquet on Friday, May 20. The award was given in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the flash flood awareness program, including the flash flood awareness week conference held April 21-27 in Arizona.

KUDOS

Monte Gualtiere, Construction-Operations Division, after nine months study, will graduate in June from U.S.C. with a Master of Science Degree. Monte pursued his studies under the advanced study program sponsored by the Government and is to be congratulated on receiving all A's in his course of study.

Ida Off to Saudi

Ida Nagai, formerly of OAS and now with Management Analysis Branch, is scheduled to leave on June 25 for a one year's tour of duty at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, with the Engineer Logistic Command, where she will supervise OAS functions.

Bergers Visit Japan

Betty and Harry Berger are on a three weeks trip to Japan where they will visit Harry's son, Paul, at Camp Zama. Naturally, Harry will get in a few rounds of golf.

Welcome Back

Bob Yamazaki, Property Accounting Section, recently returned from a year's tour of duty at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and says a 10-11 hour day, six or seven days a week is not unusual. And Bob thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

It's good to know that LADO personnel are recognized for their outstanding work, even in far-off Saudi. Bob was commended by Ambassador William J. Porter for his part in the support given by the Corps to Secretary of State Vance on his visit to Riyadh last February. Nice going, Bob!

Watch That Electricity

Here are some more tips from our Energy Conservation Coordinator, Sid Chriqui.

Many of the conservation measures involve saving electricity. But there is one way householders can help save it before it gets to their homes.

During the late afternoon and early evening hours the load on the Nation's electrical systems often reaches its peak. To meet the heavy demand, electric utilities must use back-up generating equipment that is not energy efficient.

Try to use energy-intensive equipment and appliances such as dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers, and electric ovens in the early morning or late evening hours.

If everyone scheduled household chores so as to lighten the load on the generating plants during peak load hours, fewer inefficient generating units would have to be placed in service, and the utilities' daily fuel consumption would be reduced. So would the possibilities of brownouts and blackouts.

Careful use of lighting provides the homemaker other conservation opportunities.

To save electricity through wise lighting:

Remove one bulb out of three and replace it with a burned-out bulb for safety; replace others with bulbs of the next lower wattage. But be sure to provide adequate lighting for safety (e.g., in stairwells). Concentrate light in reading and working areas, and for safety.

This should save about four percent in electricity costs in the average home.

If everyone took these conservation steps, the Nation's consumption of energy would drop by about 50 million kilowatt hours of electricity per day (enough to light about 16 million homes).

Turn off all lights when not needed. (One 100-watt bulb burning for 10 hours uses 11,600 Btu's, or the equivalent of a pound of coal or one-half pint of oil.)

Use fluorescent lights in suitable areas - in garage, in the kitchen and bath, among others. They give more lumens per watt. One 40-watt fluorescent tube, for example, provides more light than three 60-watt incandescent bulbs. (A 40-watt fluorescent lamp gives off about 80 lumens per watt; a 60-watt incandescent gives off only 14.7 lumens per watt. The lower-watt but higher-lumen fluorescent would save about 140 watts of electricity over a period of seven hours.)

Project 77/77

SUGGEST

WHO HE ?

In case your've forgotten, Webster defines the word "requisition" as "a written request for something (materials, supplies, or personnel) authorized but not made available automatically." And so it is that requests for certain items must of necessity be described in detail on what is informally known as Form 3059.

It's not just an ordinary requisition form, however. Right at the top of the form, there it is - "Requisition on Warehouseman" - who he is, or where he hangs out, nobody knows. But when in doubt, you learn that he is indispensable - something no office can be without - because if you don't address your request to him, you'll never get anything. A very demanding individual, he requires proper cost keys and explicit descriptions of articles requested. So, from the typewriter, the form is signed, (very courteously), and taken hither and yon where all factors are carefully scrutinized before "He" will guarantee delivery, if at all. He's a stern taskmaster, this Warehouseman, I'd surely love to meet him face-to-face someday.

S.A.M.E.

INSTALLATION DINNER DANCE - JUNE 11, SATURDAY, Allen Center, The Officers Club, Long Beach Naval Station. Cocktails: 6:00 P.M.; Dinner - 7:00 P.M.; Price \$10.00 per person. Music and Dancing. Call 688-5334 for reservations.

Credit Union

CREDIT UNION - SERVING YOU FROM 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Room 6541 - telephone 688-5345.


How much would it cost you for the new car you're planning to buy? Take your pick - 9%, 10.8% - 12%. Don't be taken in. See your Credit Union - BEFORE JUNE 30, 1977. The purchase of your new car will then cost you ONLY 9% per annum.



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

CIVIL ENGINEERS - TAKE NOTE

National ASCE has recently established a Civil Engineering Management Division. In addition, the Committee on Engineering Management, Los Angeles Section, is seeking recognition as a Technical Group. All civil engineers in management positions are encouraged to join. Younger ASCE members who may be anticipating moving into the ranks of management, are especially welcome.

Dr. B. J. Shell, civil engineer, President of Northrop University, and prior to his present position Dean of Engineering at Cal Poly, will speak on "Civil Engineers in Management" at the June 7 meeting at the Rodger Young Center, 936 W. Washington Blvd.; social hour - 11:30 A.M.; lunch - 12:00 noon; program - 12:30 P.M.; price - \$6.00. For reservations call Connie Bickmore, (213) 386-6291.

Results of Great Debate

At the Great Debate between Noontimers Toasmistress and Essayons Toastmasters Clubs on May 18, the proposition was "The Equal Rights Amendment Should be Ratified and Made a Part of the Constitution of the United States." Debaters were:

<u>Affirmative</u>	<u>Negative</u>
Barbara Madison	Claude Wong
Gordon Reetz	Diane Marbury (Prog.Chmn)
Thelma Choto	Richard Gutschow

Moderator - Sandra East.

Thought provoking statements from each team provided a stimulating session by dynamic speakers Pro and Con!

Winners were the Affirmative Team, 492/411. Many thanks to the judges: Col. Reinen, Barbara Bailey, Roman Zawadzki and Ida Simms.

PROMOTIONS

And congratulations to other personnel who received promotions during April 1977:

Henry E. Rane	Elec Engr Tech (Temp) Phoenix Res. Ofc.
Mary L. Grande	Realty Clerk (Steno) Real Estate Division
Carolyn A. West	Secretary (Typing) Env. Resources Br.
Susan M. Garcia	Engr. Draftsman Design Branch