



# NEWSCASTLE

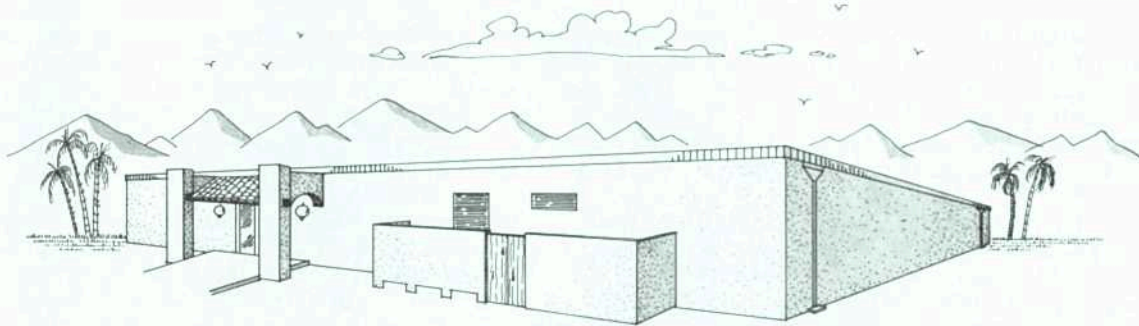


**U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

Vol. 10 No. 9

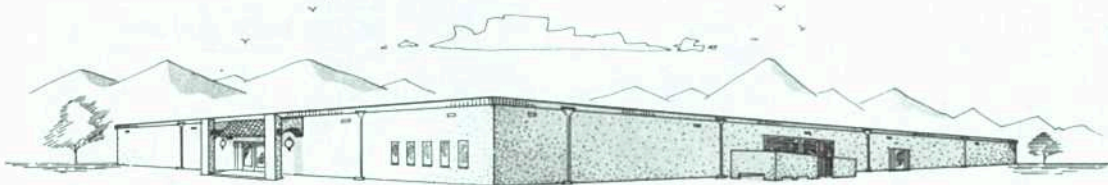
INFORMATION EXCHANGE BULLETIN

September 15, 1977



## **SQUADRON OPERATIONS BUILDING**

MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA



## **RESERVE FORCES OPERATIONAL TRAINING BUILDING**

MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

Groundbreaking ceremonies for a squadron operations building and a Reserve Forces operational training building were held on September 13 at March Air Force Base. Both buildings will be used by the 452d Air Refueling Wing (Air Force Reserve). Taking part in the ceremony were Colonel Hugh G. Robinson, District Engineer, Brigadier General James L. Wade, Commander of the 452d Air Refueling Wing, Colonel Lawrence Pennington, Commander of the 22d Bomb Wing, and other officials. Voyer Watson is the Corps' Project Engineer.

The \$1,490,000 contract was awarded to the D. Cardin Company, Inc., of Beverly Hills, California. It is estimated that completion of the squadron operations building will take 240 days while the Reserve Forces operational training building is scheduled for completion in 300 days.

**National Hispanic Heritage Week - week of September 12**

## WEATHER OR NO ?

Just try and figure this one out. The California drought may soon be a thing of the past, according to UC Berkeley climatologist Orman Granger, but not according to Irving P. Krick Associates. Dr. Granger predicts a 1977-78 winter season with 160% of normal rainfall in California, while the Krick firm forecasts only 70% to 75% of average precipitation in the Sierra watersheds.

According to IAD Meteorologist, Dr. Charles Pyke, the large difference between these two forecasts results from the completely different methods used to produce them. Granger bases his forecast upon a relationship which he claims exists between California weather and the weather patterns along the west coast of Mexico seven years before. The Krick predictions, on the other hand, are based upon a theory of pressure waves and weather cycles developed years ago by meteorologist Dr. I. P. Krick.

Both methods of long-range forecasting are very controversial and Pyke does not put much faith into either one. "There are just so many interacting and constantly changing elements which can influence seasonal weather patterns," says Pyke, "that it is not yet possible to make year-long predictions of rainfall with any real accuracy." He adds that the science of seasonal forecasts is improving largely because of advances in our knowledge of the relationships between ocean temperatures and weather patterns.

Last winter, a large area of cold water in the central Pacific Ocean and warm water off the California coast helped to steer storms northward into Canada, aggravating the drought over the western United States. Pacific Ocean temperatures had largely returned to normal by June of this year indicating a likelihood of a more nearly normal winter in 1977-78. However, a slight reversal of this trend back toward the 1976-77 ocean patterns has developed during the past two months, and this appears to be quite disturbing. "If this reversal toward 1976-77 conditions continues, then it is quite possible that California could be in real trouble by 1978", according to Pyke. He adds, however, that it is still too early to count our chickens or our raindrops.

## UNION DENTAL PLAN

Ron Weiss, President of NFFE, Local 777, reports that a new inexpensive dental plan is now available to the dues paying members of NFFE, Local 777. For \$6.50 a month for a single member or \$13.00 per month for a member and family (plus union dues), you are entitled to the following:

X-Rays	No charge
Cleaning, etc.	" "
Silver fillings	" "
Some orthodontic coverage	

The list of dental benefits is too extensive to list so contact your union representative for more details.

BE THE BEST YOU ARE



## Retirees Cost of Living Increase

All retirees will receive a 4.3% cost of living increase effective September 1, 1977. This increase will appear on checks received in October 1977.

Employees retiring on or after September 1, 1977 and before the next cost of living increase (March 1, 1978), will receive the higher annuity rate based on: (1) length of service and high-three average pay through August 31, 1977, plus the 4.3% increase effective September 1, 1977 or (2) the annuity rate computed to the actual date of separation.

## Around the Corps

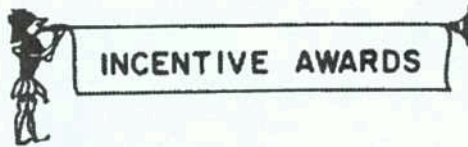
Colonel John M. Adsit became the new District Engineer for the San Francisco District on August 16. He was previously the Commander of the Facilities Engineer Activity in Korea.

Colonel Adsit replaces Colonel Henry A. Flertzheim, Jr., who retired and is now the Director of Public Works for Alameda County in northern California.

## Wanted - Reporters

How's your nose for news?

If you have any news items which you think would be of interest to readers of the NEWSCASTLE, call Eleanor McCarthy, Ext. 5320, no later than the first of each month.



CONSTRUCTION-OPERATIONS DIVISION:

Roman Zawadzki

Certificate of Recognition and Pen -  
Adopted Suggestion

ENGINEERING DIVISION:

Lacene Johnson

Outstanding Performance Rating and Sustained  
Superior Performance Award

Gerard M. Lutticken

Letter of Commendation - Registered Professional  
Engineer

Gerard M. Lutticken and  
Bohumil Hradilek

Special Act - \$175 each

James Y. Ueda

Quality Increase Award

John H. Kennedy  
Edward R. Blodgett

Joint Adopted Suggestion - \$195 each

PERSONNEL OFFICE:

Marty Ruiz

Adopted Suggestion - \$25

## Madinger at Sacramento

Allison Madinger, Chief of the Construction Branch for IADO, is on a six months tour of duty in the Sacramento District under the Executive Development Program.

Madinger's initial assignment is in the Military Design Branch where he will analyze the efforts required for Engineering Division support to the field construction offices in processing contract modifications and unforeseen construction problems.

"This is the first opportunity we've had to offer developmental training to persons outside the District," said George Waddell, Chief of Sacramento's Engineering Division. "We welcome the opportunity and expect it to be as beneficial to us as to the Los Angeles District and the Division."

## New Sacramento D.D.E.

Lt. Col. James G. Johnson is the new Deputy District Engineer for Military Construction in the Sacramento District. He will take over for Lt. Col. Donwell D. Whitley, Jr., who is scheduled for reassignment in the next few weeks. Lt. Col. Johnson came to Sacramento from a three year tour in Japan where he was Director of Facilities Engineering at the U.S. Army Garrison, Honshu.

## unclaimed

A non-technical book which is not Corps property and which has no identification marks was recently turned in to the Library. If anyone has lost such a book, please check with the Librarian.

## This is the Life!

Ron Weiss, Coastal Resources Branch, recently returned from a 45 day trip to Israel, England and Ireland. Ron and his wife, Sylvia, (who comes from Dublin), and their three sons visited Jerusalem where they stayed while visiting Sylvia's family. While there, they toured the old city of Jerusalem, Mt. Moriah, and the former site of the Holy Temple now occupied by the mosque of Omar. They also visited the cities of Elat, Bethlehem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Acco, Safed, and Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee, Masada. The boys even had a swim in the Dead Sea and in the Gulf of Elat. One of their most interesting experiences was spending three days in a working kibbutz not far from the ancient city of Acco.

From Israel, Ron and his family visited London where they not only saw the changing of the guard but also Queen Elizabeth departing on one of her city tours. After visiting Manchester, England, they spent the last week in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland.

In Israel, Ron says, one can go from the 20th century all the way back to the first century A.D. just by crossing the street. They were especially impressed by the friendliness of the people in Ireland. Needless to say, they are already planning a return trip to England and Ireland.

## RECUPERATING

Ed Sanchez, who retired from the Engineering Division, is recuperating from emergency surgery at his home at 1824 Country Place, Ojai, California 93023. His old friends may wish to write him a note.

## Leave Administration

The Civil Service Commission, Federal Personnel Manual, provides that the approval of leave - all employee absences, sick leave, annual leave, leave-without-pay and military leave - to name just a few, must be approved by the immediate supervisor. The LAD Supervisor's Handbook for Personnel Management, SPL OM 690-18, states that the use of authorized leave of absence is subject to the prior notification and approval of the appropriate official or supervisor to whom leave authority has been delegated. This means the first line or most immediate supervisor.

In the recent employee survey, 49.8% or 137 employees of those responding to the questionnaire indicated "No" or "Not sure" to the question "Does sick leave have to be approved by your supervisor?"

Employees should be cautioned that failing to obtain supervisory approval for absenting themselves from their job can result in serious actions against them. Also, it is not enough to merely telephone the timekeeper or a friend and inform them that you will "not be in today," because these employees do not have the authority to approve leave.

If you are uncertain as to whom you should call to request any leave of absence, ask your supervisor.

## Happy Birthday, L.A.

Founded in 1781, the city of Los Angeles celebrated its 196th birthday on Sunday, September 4.

Olvera Street was the setting for a colorful program of mariachis, native dances, and a spectacular fireworks display.



## PROMOTIONS

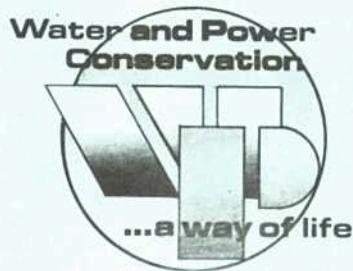
Congratulations to the following on their July promotions:

Odrell M. Anderson	Accounting Technician Comptroller
Elizabeth E. Beatty	Procurement Clerk Procurement & Supply Division
Faye Bloom	Secretary (Typing) Engineering Division Design Branch
Connie Eugino	Secretary (Typing) Office of Admin. Services
Joseph S. Salinaz	Construction Representative Arizona Resident Office Indian Bend Wash Project Off.
Richard Surynt	Physical Scientist Environmental Resources Br. Water Quality Section
Wayne B. Wheeler	Construction Representative Arizona Resident Office Fort Huachuca Project Office

## Something to Remember

When an employee transfers from one agency to another, any previously filed designation of beneficiary is no longer valid. If you have changed agencies and again wish to name a beneficiary, a new designation must be filed.

You are reminded also that a change in family status without a corresponding change in designation or cancellation of beneficiary may result in a settlement other than that desired.



## TIPS ON WATER USE

LAD's Energy Conservation Coordinator, Sid Chriqui, has the following tips on water conservation.

In the bathroom, you can make the most substantial reduction in your personal water use. Over three-fourths of the water used indoors is used in the bathroom, mostly for flushing toilets and for showers and baths.

Use less water for baths or take shorter showers.

Consider purchasing water saving devices that restrict the flow of water such as a reduced flow shower head.

Adjust shower heads to a fine spray to reduce the flow of water.

Don't use the toilet to flush away objects that should be thrown in a trash can.

Displace some of the toilet tank water by placing upright in the tank one or two weighted one-quart plastic bottles. Flexible damming devices are also commercially available. (Toilets can use up to 5 or 7 gallons with every flush).

Repair leaky faucets, showers, and toilet tanks.

Don't leave the water running when you are shaving or brushing your teeth.

## It's Breathtaking!

The St. Christopher's Motorists Security Association, a British group that insists drivers against loss of use of their cars, is seeking to install breath-taking "jukeboxes" in Britain's 150,000 taverns and pubs. For 10 pence, a patron would be able to test his breath to determine if he is legally sober enough to drive home. Some British traffic officials object to the scheme, saying that it would defeat the purpose of the country's drunk driving law. But the association says that it will help keep the drunks off the road.

## Corps Addition

Congratulations to Ben Orropeza, Foundations & Materials Branch, and his wife, Lilly, on the birth of their first child, Monique Melissa, on August 9. Monique weighed 6 lbs. 7 ozs.

## D.E. Briefs District

Colonel Hugh G. Robinson, District Engineer, held four briefing sessions for District members on August 23. Using slides, Colonel Robinson covered current and projected District activities. Signs of the times: Seems as though the largest attendance was at the "No Smoking" session.

## SALUTE!

Congratulations to Lt.Col. Robert H. Reinen, Deputy District Engineer, who is now a registered professional engineer in the state of California.

## RETIRES - PLEASE NOTE

A reminder to all retirees to send in their responses to the questionnaire regarding their interest in starting an "alumni association" of District retirees. We have received a number of favorable responses so far, but are still short of a full response so that a decision may be made. Incidentally, it's a joy to hear from so many of you.

## GUIAR RETIRES

After 32 years of Federal service, Webster (Joe) Guiar, Chief of the Computer Systems Branch of the Automatic Data Processing Center, retired on August 19. Joe was with the Los Angeles District for 29 years and saw three years of active service with the Air Force in the European Theater during World War II, earning a commission of 1st Lieutenant during the last year in the European Theater.

One of the District's most competent senior computer specialists, Joe's contribution to the ADPC will be greatly missed.

Best wishes from us all, Joe, for a very happy retirement.

## George Barton

Word has been received that George N. Barton, former employee of the Los Angeles District, died August 13 in Honolulu. George worked in Construction-Operations, Engineering, and Real Estate Divisions, and OAS.

## Project 77/77

## SUGGEST

## JOINS O.A.S. STAFF

A native Californian, Lynne Clinton is the new Chief of the General Services Branch, Office of Administrative Services. After graduation from the University of California at Santa Barbara, she joined the Officers Candidate program of the Navy and was commissioned an ensign in 1955 and served with the Navy until 1968. Her last duty station was the 3rd Naval District Headquarters in New York City. Following separation from the Navy, Lynne joined civil service working at the same headquarters in the Public Affairs Office as community relations specialist where she served until 1974. During this time, she also acted as director of Administrative Services Division. Lynne joined LADO in 1976. Prior to her present assignment, she was an editorial assistant in the Correspondence Center.

## New EEO Officer

Claudia Van Blake, the District's new EEO Officer, comes to LADO after four and one-half years with the U.S. Civil Service Commission regional office in San Francisco, where she taught classes, advised various agencies on EEO programs, and reviewed agency affirmative action plans.

Born in Plainfield, New Jersey, Claudia formerly worked as personnelist with the Veterans Administration in Newark, New Jersey, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and at the Westwood Wadsworth Veterans Hospital.


As Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, she is responsible to see that the local program incorporates all legal requirements and that it is designed and administered to improve the utilization of all employees, including minority groups and women, and to assure fair treatment without regard to any non-merit considerations. In this capacity, Claudia acts as principal advisor to the District Engineer and staff officials in civil rights and equal opportunity matters affecting the civilian workforce.

The District extends condolences to Lillian Joseph, Finance & Accounting Branch, on the death of her mother August 20.

## 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

## "Due Process"

New Civil Service regulations extend Constitutional due process to civil service annuitants in recovering overpayments or collecting debts - allowing annuitants to present their side of the story. CSC will notify the annuitant of any overpayment or debt; then he/she can submit relevant information. CSC will review the written record to determine whether the annuitant qualifies for waiver/adjustment of the amount. If not, the annuitant can have a conveniently located hearing before an appeals officer of the Federal Employee Appeals Authority, who will recommend a decision to CSC's retirement bureau for final decision. If dissatisfied with the bureau decision, the annuitant can appeal to the Appeals Review Board. The new procedures do not apply to collections completed before the March 1, 1977 annuity check.

## C.F.C.

It's that time of year again. The Combined Federal Campaign begins on September 15 and will continue through October 30. As you know, this is the only charitable fund raising campaign conducted during the year and is strictly voluntary. Colonel Robinson, District Engineer, is the Division Chairman for Army installations in the Los Angeles area. Dorothy Gillham, Construction-Operations Division, is this year's District Chairman and will be assisted by District representatives:

Sheryl Leverette	Engineering Div.
Mary Grande	Real Estate Div.
Dorothy Hansen	Proc & Supply Div.
Carmie Tutt	Comptroller
Connie Eugino	OAS
Eva Walker	Public Affairs
Sandy Martin	Construction
Betty Gladwill	Opns & Nav. Branches
Leticia Perez	Resource Improv.
Lynda Ward	Personnel
Lillian Miller	ADP

Let's try and make it another record year!

## CREDIT UNION

By now, all members must have received a notice regarding opening a new or converting your presently outstanding personal unsecured loan to the NEW "Instant Credit Account." This means that when your application has been approved, your personal instant credit line limit will be set up. With your credit approved in advance of any possible need, all you have to do is simply make a request for the needed cash.

For further information, call your Credit Union Office - Extension 5345, Room 6541.