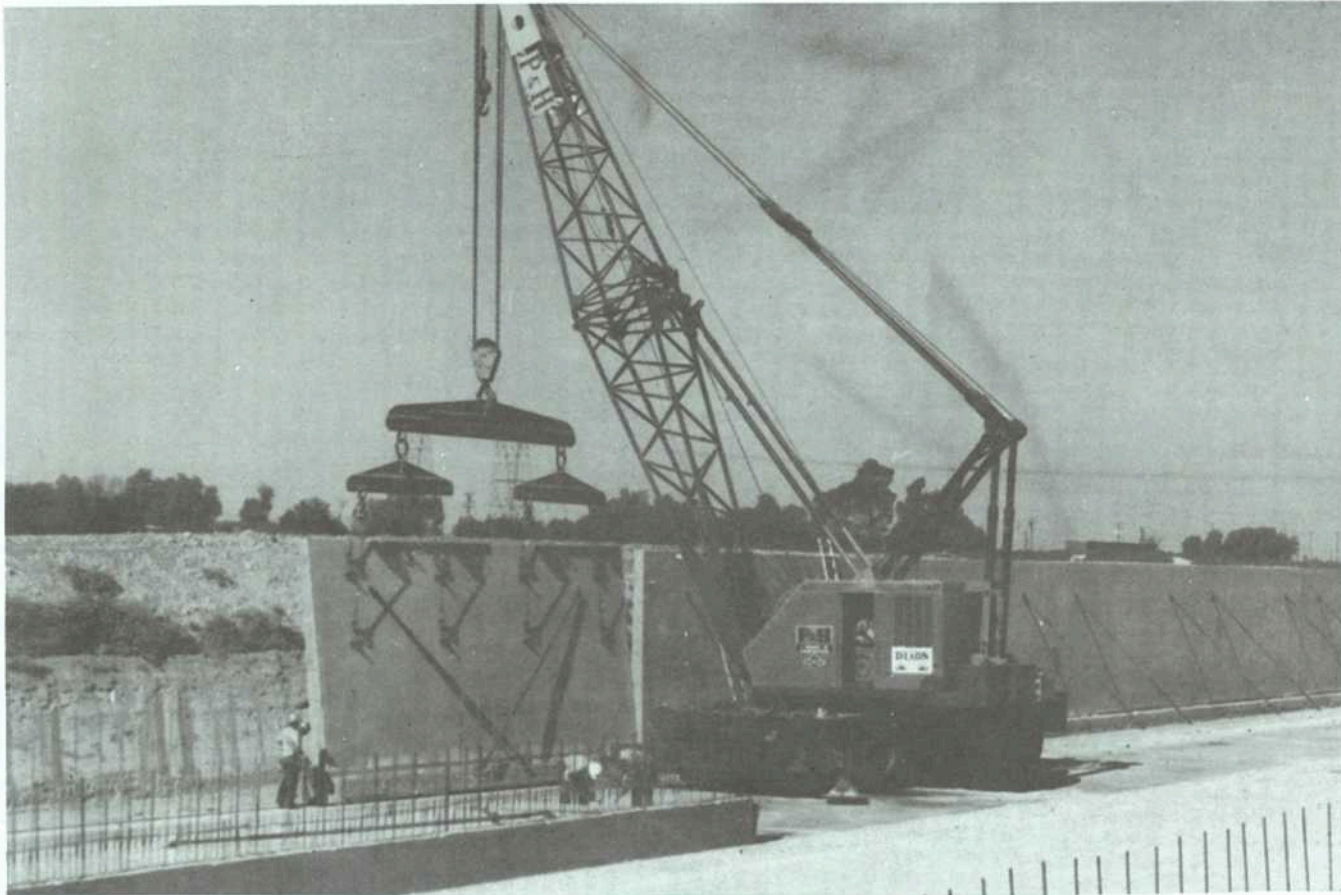


U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Vol. 10 No. 11

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Something New at Cucamonga Creek

A new method in flood control channel engineering that promises major savings in time, labor and public tax dollars underwent testing on November 2 at Cucamonga Creek in San Bernardino County.

The new procedure, which employs prefabricated concrete wall panels, was used to build one side of a 600-foot section of the Cucamonga Creek flood control channel. The project is a joint effort of the Los Angeles District and the San Bernardino County Flood Control District.

Under the new procedure, the channel bottom was poured first, as in the past, but a 20-foot gap was left between the concrete invert slab and the location for the future channel wall. The wall panels were then poured in a horizontal position resting atop the invert slab. The slab was oiled to prevent the new concrete from adhering to the old. The panels were then lifted in place by crane and concrete poured to bridge the gap between the wall and existing channel invert. By fabricating the wall panels in this way, most of the work can be accomplished on the ground.

The conventional method required pouring the vertical channel walls in place. Wood forms had to be built to hold the concrete requiring a great deal of labor, much of which had to be accomplished off the ground by men working on scaffolds. The new process may cut time and labor by as much as one-third.

NFFE, LOCAL 777

Congratulations to the new officers of NFFE, Local 777, who were installed at a luncheon meeting held at Taix Restaurant on Monday, November 14:

Max Morgenroth	President
Loretta Kukhahn	1st V. P.
Minnie Thompson	2nd V. P.
Lupe Gonzales	3rd V. P.
Larry Hawthorne	4th V. P.
Essie Dillon	Recording Secy.
Lorna Friddle	Financial Secy.
Mary Nelson	Sgt. at Arms
Ray Heindrich	Member at Large
Claude Wong	Member at Large
Ron Weiss	Member at Large

Incentive Awards

Office Administrative Services

Elizabeth Urfano	Sustained Superior Perf.
Vernon Clark	Outstanding Perf Rating & Sustained Superior Perf.
Thomas Laverty	Sustained Superior Perf.

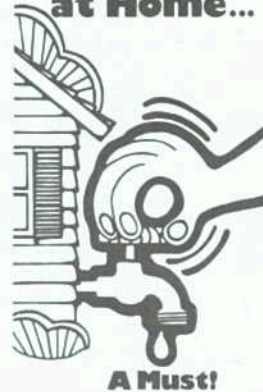
Executive Office

Jeanne Inamura	Outstanding Perf Rating & Quality Increase
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Engineering Division

Tetsuya Kakimoto	Sustained Superior Perf.
Loretta Kukhahn	Outstanding Perf Rating & Quality Increase

Water Conservation at Home...



A GOOD WAY OF LIFE

Water conservation is a good way of life. Remember where water comes from and where it goes. A toilet flush uses up to seven gallons, water taps run at about five gallons a minute while waiting for hot or cold, showers use five to ten gallons a minute, and leaks can soak up hundreds or even thousands of gallons a day.

It isn't hard to conserve water, it doesn't change our lives drastically. It's mostly a matter of using good common sense. Think about water - and when you do, think about conserving it.

The PACE Test and You

If you have wondered about the whys and wherefores of the PACE Test, here's an explanation furnished by the Personnel Office.

The Professional and Administrative Career Examination (PACE or Test 500) is the Department of Army's and Civil Service Commission's entry level test for intern positions. It's designed to serve as only one measure of a candidate's overall ability to progress to the target position/grade in the designated occupational series. The test is a tool for identifying those candidates with the greatest potential for success.

The test has been developed on the basis of extensive research to measure five job-related abilities and to match the abilities of candidates with the needs of the various occupations covered by the examination. The test consists of five operational parts, each representing a separate ability measure. Each of the five parts is scored separately, with different weightings of part scores used to derive "ratings" in each of six occupational categories.

Although the test is required as one rating instrument, it is not used as a screen out device. It is used in combination with other measures of job related abilities for most entry level career program positions at the GS-5 and 7 level. Since career intern candidates from within our workforce are expected to matriculate equally with those from the outside, the score on the examination should be commensurate with the scores of those on the PACE Register. Other screening elements include expected length of civil service career, academic preparation, specialized experience, managerial potential, learning ability and various related factors.

SUGGEST - SUGGEST



Los Angeles District Has Money To Burn

"Shred the checks - incinerate the shreds- and enshrine the ashes," shouted the Comptroller. And that's just the way it was done at 2:00 P.M., on Friday November 4, when Martin Bentz, Comptroller, Herman Morganstern, Disbursing Officer, John Mashihara and Robert Kane, Deputy Disbursing Officers, Mary Nelsor, Cashier, Ted Phillips, Photographer, and Richard Lowe, Equipment Operator, gathered with solemn mien and mixed emotions to destroy 1,607 surplus U.S. Treasury checks.

The blank checks were the unused stock of Military checks on hand at the close of business on October 31, which became obsolete with the implementation of the Treasury/Federal Reserve Bank Truncation Program on November 1. Under the new program, Magnetic Ink Check Reconciliation encoded checks were directed to be used by all Federal agencies to facilitate electronic clearing and transfer activities between the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banking System.

"This is a truly unique event in Los Angeles District operations," commented Martin Bentz, Comptroller. "It is doubtful that any of us will again participate in the mass destruction of blank Treasury checks which the Disbursing Officer normally protects with unfailing zeal."

The remains of these historical checks may be viewed in the Comptroller's Office, Room 6673.

PROMOTIONS

Richard Clark
Surveying Tech
Survey Br

Ronald Wolf
Economist
Economics Sec

Edward Louie
Landscape Architect
Environmental Res Br

Bruce Beach
Civil Engr Tech
Hydro-Hydraulics Br

Elvia Garcia
Clerk Typist
Hydro-Hydraulics Br

April Addis
Clerk Typist
Program Development Br

Verna Clements
Composer (MT/SC) Operator
Specs & Estimating Sec

Richard Andrews
Civil Engr
Construction-Opns Div.

Angeline Murdock
Realty Clerk
Real Estate Division

Thomas Luzano
Landscape Architect
Environmental Res Br

Davis Dow
Elec Engr
Construction-Opns Div

Lee Anderson
Civil Engr Tech
Santa Ana River Res Office

Teresa Alarcon
Clerk Typist
Program Development Br

Dorothy Hinson
Procurement Agent
Proc & Supply Division

Paul Apodaca
Civil Engr
Engr Sub-Program

Frank Hubel
Civil Engr
Construction-Opns Div

Calvin Kameya
Systems Accountant
Comptroller - F&A Br

Goldie Niman
Supv Accountant
Comptroller - F&A Br

Frederick White, Jr.
Economist
Economics Sec

Carrie Hill
Clerk
Environmental Res Br

Castles in your Future

If you're interested in obtaining Corps memorabilia, Marian Frament, Engineering Division, Ext. 5520, can order items for you. Among the articles are attractive custom-made emblematic jewelry for men and women featuring detailed miniature Engineer Castles mounted on various jewelry items finished in (yellow) gold color or (white) silver color; and cigarette lighters. Marian has a list of items, so check them out.

Dreams come true with



U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

Coastal Zone '78 Symposium

COASTAL ZONE '78, a national symposium on the technical, environmental, socio-economic and regulatory aspects of coastal zone planning and management, will be held March 14-16, 1978, at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco.

The conference, which is expected to attract more than 1,000 participants, is sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers, in cooperation with The Conservation Foundation and the U.S. Office of Coastal Zone Management.

More than 200 papers will be presented during the three day event covering themes of "Planning and Management Considerations," "Environmental Considerations," and "Engineering and Other Technical Considerations." The conference will be preceded by a one-day short course on the History and Implementation of Coastal Zone Management. All papers will be printed in the Proceedings made available to symposium participants.

Further information and a preliminary program, including a listing of paper titles and authors, is available by writing to: J. Robert Edmisten, Executive Director, COASTAL ZONE '78, P. O. Box 26062, San Francisco, California 94126.

DISBURSING SECTION - A BIRD'S EYEVUE

As you leave the Executive Office and walk along the east hallway, you'll notice a Dutch door. And peering inside, you'll spot Mary Nelson and Louise Flores, deep in paper work. It's nothing new since between them they rack up 37 years of experience right there in the Disbursing Section.

To quote Mary and Louise, "There's never a dull moment here since where there's money, there's always somebody looking for it". And among those "somebodies" are people coming in for travel advances, contractors in for payments, discounts due on vouchers, Clerk of the Court vouchers with deadlines, and imprest fund cashiers in for reimbursements. Then there are collections which have to be deposited within 48 hours after receipt, plus driving to the Federal Reserve Bank to deposit the money.

Few people realize that Mary and Louise are responsible for check disbursements amounting to, on the average, of from four to eight million dollars per month with average monthly collections amounting to about \$600,000. "We've never been able to figure out why they call it a Disbursing Section when we also handle so many millions of dollars in collections, too", say Mary and Louise. "We've always felt it should have been named 'Receipts and Disbursements Section'. We often think of the zillions of dollars we have handled in the years we've been on this job and one thing we're proud of - we've never lost a penny in all the 37 years."



Health Benefits Open Season

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program open season - November 14 - December 9, 1977: Under open season regulations, any eligible employee who is not currently registered may enroll, and an enrolled employee may change from one plan or option to another, or from self only to self and family, or a combination of these. Those employees who do not wish to make a change in current enrollment need take no action during this open season.

Distribution of open season literature will be made as soon as it is received. Each employee will receive an open season instruction pamphlet, a list of premium rates, and brochures for the Government-wide Indemnity Benefit Plan (Aetna), and Government-wide Service Benefit Plan (Blue Cross/Blue Shield). Employees who are assigned to duty stations in California will receive brochures on Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, De Paulo Health Plan and Ross Loos Medical Group. Employees who are assigned to duty stations in Arizona will receive the brochure on Arizona Health Plan.

Members of employee organizations, whether or not they are currently enrolled in the organization's health plan, will receive an appropriate brochure, by mail, directly from the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Brochures on the following employee organization plans will be available to all employees upon request to the Personnel Office:

- AFGE Health Benefit Plan
- Postmasters Benefits Plan
- Government Employees Hospital Assn. Benefit Plan
- National Assn. of Letter Carriers Health Benefits Plan (NALC)
- Mail Handlers Benefits Plan
- Alliance Health Benefit Plan
- American Postal Workers Union Plan

Employees wishing to enroll or change their enrollment must complete a Health Benefits Registration Form and submit to Personnel before close of business December 9, 1977.

New enrollments and changes in current enrollments elected during the open season will become effective January 8, 1978.



Olé, Louie

Round and round he spun, a veritable whirling dervish on a bicycle - three times circling the 23 mile course - a total of 69 exhausting miles. That was Louie Rodrigo, Environmental Resources Branch, on October 4 in Santa Monica when he raised \$1,000.65 for the American Diabetes Association. Louie had 208 sponsors pledging so much a mile. We really do stick together since 186 of the sponsors were District employees.

Congratulations, Louie!

Better Check This

Diane Marbury, Payroll Liaison Officer, reports that the Central Payroll Office advises that effective January 1, 1978, all W-2 forms will be mailed directly to the employee's address of record on file in the Payroll office.

Employees are urged to see that their address is correct and current to insure receipt of their 1977 W-2 forms for income tax purposes.

High Cost Areas

HIGH COST AREAS	DAILY AMOUNTS
Albany, NY	\$ 39.00
Baltimore, MD	41.00
Boston, MA	49.00
Bridgeport, CT	40.00
Chicago, Ill	45.00
Charleston, WV	39.00
Dallas, TX	39.00
Detroit, MI	42.00
Hartford, CT	39.00
Houston, TX	41.00
Las Vegas, NV	48.00
Los Angeles, CA	40.00
Miami, FL	43.00
Milwaukee, WI	39.00
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN	41.00
Newark, NJ	45.00
New Orleans, LA	44.00
New York, NY/Boroughs of Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens & Staten Island	50.00
Philadelphia, PA	46.00
Providence, RI	40.00
San Francisco/Oakland, CA	45.00
Washington, DC (corp. limits of Washington, DC; cities of Alexandria, Falls Church & Fairfax; and counties of Arlington, Loudoun & Fairfax in Virginia & counties of Montgomery & Prince Georges in Maryland)	50.00

Effective September 18, 1977



From the Latin Quarter

The Spanish Speaking Program Committee presented a special Thanksgiving Day program on November 17 which featured as main speaker Philip Montez, Regional Director of the Western Field Office for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; slide presentation by Richard Baca, U. S. Postal Service. A panel consisting of Dionicio Gonzales, Al Robles, Philip Marguez, Panfilo Lizardi, and Joan Lucero also participated. A large crowd of District employees attended and thoroughly enjoyed the delicious Mexican luncheon which followed. Mil gracias to all those who planned and contributed to the program and luncheon.

And still in the Latin mood, the Mexican-American Engineering Society announces a National Symposium on Engineering to be held January 23-25, 1978 at California State University, Fullerton. MAES is a tax-exempt organization committed to the goals of improving educational, employment and promotional opportunities for Mexican-Americans in the fields of science and engineering.

FLEXITIME?

The District Flexitime Committee has been hard at work and now has completed a draft of the flexitime model test plan, an employee handbook of information about flexitime. The Committee will be meeting with Division and Staff Office Chiefs to review the test plan model. A tentative target date of mid-December to implement a six month flexitime test has been established pending SPD and OCE approval.

DISNEYLAND TRIPS

Did you know that Disneyland is now sponsoring escorted trips to various countries including Mexico and South America? And at a low price.

Check with Eva Walker, Public Affairs Office, for details.

WELCOME ABOARD

Congratulations to William Weber of the Santa Ana River Resident Office and his wife, Susan, on the birth of their second son, James William, on October 24. James William weighed six pounds.

BE CALCULATING !

Beware the pocket calculator!

A man carrying a calculator in his shirt pocket was injured when the gadget exploded. A metal object in the pocket had touched the calculator's battery charge contacts, causing a short circuit.

Always put the calculator in its carrying case before sticking it in your pocket.

New Procedures

New procedures for processing Class Complaints of Discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or age, were recently published by the U.S. Civil Service Commission. The procedures permit current and former employees and applicants to file class complaints concerning discriminatory personnel management policies or practices which employing agencies have the authority to discontinue or change.

Under the new procedures, an applicant or employee, acting as "class agent," may file a complaint on behalf of him or herself and others similarly affected. To do this, the agent must be judged to have the ability to protect fairly and adequately the interest of the whole class. Class complaints must also meet several tests to be accepted. For example, the class must be so numerous that a consolidated complaint by all its members is impractical and the complaint must present questions of fact common to the class and claims typical of it.

Agencies are required to notify members of the affected class when a complaint is accepted and class members must be advised of their right to "opt out" of the class or be foreclosed from filing an individual complaint involving the same issues. Still to be worked out are the details of identifying and notifying class members.

Several class discrimination complaints have already been filed within Army. These complaints require very careful handling by Commanders and their staffs because precedents set will have wide potential impact.

ATTENDS CONFERENCE

Ida Simms, District Federal Women's Coordinator, attended the International Women's Year Conference held at Houston, Texas, on November 18-21.

The conference brought together women from 50 States to vote on resolutions to be presented to the President and Congress concerning women's rights.

SALUD !

Congratulations to Captain Kent Gonser, formerly assigned to the District, and Pat Heddens on their November 5 wedding at West Point.

Notice to Retirees

Thanks, retirees, for your response and interest in having a "For Retirees Only" column in the NEWSCASTLE. The final vote was 43 in favor of such a column. Now, maybe someone could dream up a catchy column title? Send in your suggestions.

In the past, there have been successful efforts to get together groups of retirees having common professional backgrounds - notably among these was from the Comptroller area last year. We hope these professional interest groups will continue to meet, but this current effort is broader since we are trying to maintain a line of communication among all retirees without reference to the professional area from which they retired.

Many of you asked for addresses and/or telephone numbers of the "alumni." If you want to be included in this list, please write Eleanor McCarthy, Public Affairs Office, Room 6120, giving current mailing address and/or telephone, etc., and request that this information be included in a roster of retirees which will be published as an adjunct to the NEWSCASTLE. Let us know by January 15, 1978.

Here is some news about some old friends.

EVA HUBERT writes that she and Vernon have moved to Hesperia, CA, and WILLIAM J. HERRON, has moved to Sun City, AZ. Rumor has it that Eva is finding it a bit windy. Speaking of the wind, you all seem to have scattered to the wind - Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Texas, Virginia, Missouri, rural Southern California - Hemet, Ojai, San Clemente, Vista - but 26 of you are hanging in there in the L.A. metropolitan area, smog and all.

MARY CHAFFIN writes that returning to L.A. is great and that she had retained her California voter registration. STEVE FRAUSTO also may return to San Diego to live and definitely will be here in June 1978 when his daughter graduates as an M.D. from UCLA Medical School. BURNETTA WALROTH writes she responded to a lady (nameless) who wanted to hear from "old timers" but apparently preferred MASCULINE correspondents. Loran STILES has had a rough time with stomach problems plus a bad back but writes that you can't keep "a good Army Engineer down." LYDIA KRAEMER writes she was hospitalized with a broken leg. Hope by this time you're not still grounded, Lydia.

There was a wealth of information on newsletters and willingness to help from FLORENCE KROLL. If we get overwhelmed, we'll surely enlist your help, Florence. Thanks for the offer.

(Continued on back page)

Retirees (cont'd)

The ever-charming ROBERT HARDER writes (tongue-in cheek, Bob?) of his dividends.... "not the least of such is my association with LADO and reward for such in the form of annuity. My appreciation of this boon in my life escapes words. With or without words, my annuity helped to underwrite my 1975 trip to Norway...I would like to know which nite-spot my fellow retirees are staying out of - or getting looped in. Lots of good from the "was evergreen Pacific Northwest."

And lots of good from LADO to all of you. Let us hear from you

LAS VEGAS TRIP

Don't miss the last three day trip to Las Vegas scheduled for this year.

DECEMBER 2 - FRIDAY. Golden Nugget Hotel. Trip includes a dinner show and two additional free breakfasts....PLUS \$5.00 cash (not coupons) at the Maxim Hotel.

PRICE: \$49.00. For additional information, call Blanche Merrill, Ext. 5592.

CONDOLENCES

To Dorothy Gillham, Construction-Operations Division, on the death of her husband, Frank, October 26. Frank retired in April 1968 as Chief of the District's Motor Pool.

To Gillespie Cox, Procurement & Supply Division, on the recent death of his father.

THANK YOU


Carmina Saggau, Spanish Speaking Program Coordinator, extends many thanks to committee members Virginia Collins, Lupe Gonzales, Vince Olague, Reynaldo Perez, Louis Rodrigo and Rosemarie Sandoval, for their efforts in making the Special Dia de Gracias Program a tremendous success.

NEWSCASTLE

A general information newsletter 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

Notes from your Credit Union:

JOINT OWNERSHIP - Yes and No.

Home - Yes and No. To make sure your property is disposed of as you both wish, it is best to have a will. Husband and wife could both die as a result of an accident.

Joint Savings Account- Yes and No. Cash for personal security requires an account in your own name. Do you know how your State handles joint accounts upon death of one of the owners? Is it temporarily frozen? This could cause considerable immediate financial inconvenience.

Securities - Yes and No. Mostly no. Remember both partners must sign. Illness, disagreements, and death will interfere with this requirement. Stocks, bonds, and mutual funds are best owned individually; some in each of your names.

Joint ownership can increase estate taxes, depending on total worth of the husband and wife. Holding property individually and arranging your estate properly can save you money. Seek the advice of a good lawyer.

Our best wishes to all of you for a bountiful and meaningful Thanksgiving.

KUDOS

Sidney Chriqui and Connie Eugino, Office of Administrative Services, attended a luncheon on October 25 at USC sponsored by the Red Cross to recognize Federal agencies contributing the most to the Blood Bank program. Sid was presented a plaque in acknowledgment of his 10 years involvement in the program.

Happy Thanksgiving

