



The Newscastle



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Los Angeles District

April - May 1999

Chief of Engineers visits Los Angeles



LTG Joe N. Ballard

Eagles View by Colonel John P. Carroll, District Engineer

Team-mates,

This is my first article for the Newscastle, and I ask you to allow that I was busy learning this job and attending all of the required courses and conferences, and getting out to see most of the field offices. I have also met with most of our key sponsors and their congressional delegations. As a result of my travels I can report that we have a strong team, busy at the execution of our tasks. I also see that we could do a whole lot better at communicating with each other. So you can look at this as step one of my part to make that work better.

You have read my bio, I won't go into that. I will say that I have served in the District side of the Corps before and, more importantly, I have been a customer of the Corps, and I know good service when I see it!

You will find that I tend to ask a lot of detailed questions about your job and how you do it; understand that I do this so that when I make decisions I have you and your tasks I mind.

I am open to suggestion and ideas; I believe the saying goes "ain't none of us smart as all of us". I have adopted good ideas from near and far in my career; the great ideas of my team-mates are the reason for my success! I will continue that practice; help me make sure that the authors get the credit!

I will not be co-opted by any part of the organization; I will be working to support, defend and market our whole team. I will do my part to sort all of SPL's baggage from the past, on the road to leaving the bad baggage behind and taking the good into the future, where we all have to work together on a twenty-first century team. The only time we might "cross swords" is if I think you or your part of the team aren't pulling your share of the load (being a team player) or are stuck in the doorway to the future, loaded down with some of that bad baggage!

I am really excited about this job, this great team we have, doing this great work for our country! My family and I REALLY enjoy LA (it has an undeserved reputation back east!)

Next time, customer service!

P.S.

SPL Heroes. I want your help in finding the heroes of the district. A district hero is a team member who has performed a single act or series of acts worthy of the title! The act could be on-the-job or on-the-field coaching a soccer team. You help me find 'em and I'll get them the recognition they deserve.

Trust, Quality, Teamwork!

The Los Angeles District Newscastle

Commander
COL John P. Carroll

PAO/Editor
Dr. Fred-Otto Egeler

Public Affairs Staff
Dr. Anthony Turhollow, Herb Nesmith, Jennie Salas, Beverly Patterson, Delsie Sharp

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Members of Energy and Water Development Committee visit District projects



LA District Engineer COL John Carroll, center, explains some real estate acquisition problems relating to Prado Dam to James Ogsbury, Energy and Water Development Committee Staff Assistant James Ogsbury, left, and William Mills, director of the Orange County Water District.



Congressman Ed Pastor, AZ, addresses a crowd at a luncheon at the Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Control Project's Prado Dam.

Arizona Congressman Ed Pastor, Energy and Water Development Committee and the committee's overall Staff Assistant James Ogsbury travel to the Los Angeles District to look at some its projects. They were met in Arizona by a district team headed by COL John Carroll, district engineer and a South Pacific Division team headed by Division Engineer COL (P) Peter Madsen.

While in Arizona the group met with city officials from Tempe and Phoenix. In addition to briefings while in Phoenix they took a close look at

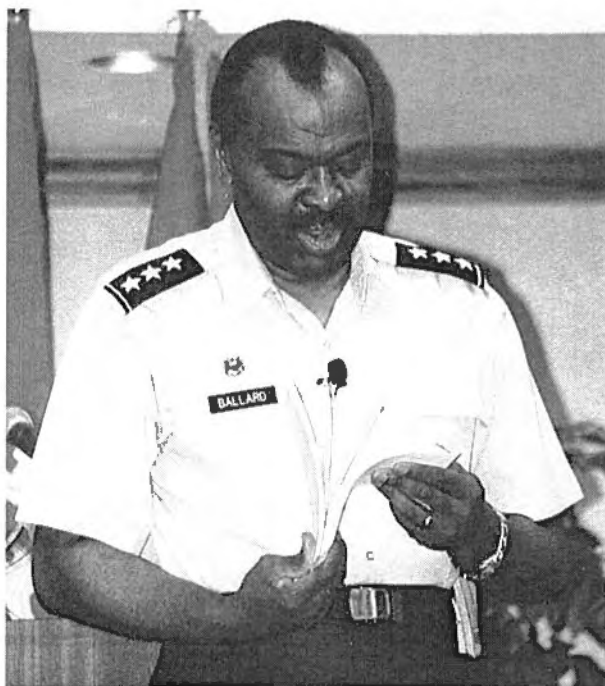
Corps of Engineer Rio Salado and Tres Rios projects.

One of the projects was the Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Control Project and lunched at Prado Dam. During lunch the congressman heard from representatives from the Orange County Flood Control District; Orange County Water District; Riverside Flood Control District and San Bernardino County Flood Control District who explained their project requirements.



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS.....
Steve Dibble, left, and Rod McLean were among the recipients of Achievement Awards for Civilian Service that were presented by District Engineer COL John P. Carroll recently. They were given the awards for their service to the Army by taking part in MIA recovery missions in Vietnam. Dibble was successful on both his missions and McLean found the remains he was searching for as

Chief of Engineers holds Townhall Meetings in Los Angeles



"I've got a lot of notes here, but, don't worry. I'm only going to cover some of this material," LTG Joe N. Ballard told district employees during the Townhall.

Los Angeles District team members met with LTG Joe N. Ballard, Chief of Engineers, in a capacity filled meeting room. The March 31st Town Hall Meeting at the Wilshire Grand Hotel, marked the end of his two day tour to the Los Angeles area .

Ballard spoke to the audience on how successful the Corps has been in establishing our relationships with army leadership, saying, **"We are gaining a global presence... phrasing a quote from the English Monarchy....there is not one day the sun doesn't set on a member of the Corps of Engineers."** He proudly commented on how our work for others is growing due to our support of army, nations and agencies of the federal government around the world.

Regionalization

The Chief of Engineers commented on how our Corps is changing through *Regionalization* . . . The Corps is also undergoing a transformation due to cultural changes. "As we reshape our culture we need to remember what drives us unites us... Our goal is to develop a diverse and talented workforce." He emphasized the importance of identifying and building relationships through quality customer care, integrity and professionalism.

"We are thirty-seven thousand plus strong, but

we all start with one, the individual... The Corps owes you as much as your willing to give to it, and quality is everyone's responsibility."

LTG Ballard began his tour of the Los Angeles District on 30 March, with a visit to the Port of Long Beach. He later attended the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) Summit Executive Session, a regional town hall public meeting on the project. He spoke before a concerned group of about 50 people, regarding the required flood insurance costs that has recently been capped at \$309. Also in attendance were representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Association and Los Angeles County. Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-Carson) moderated the event.



Top photo: The Chief of Engineers talks with spectators at the Long Beach Townhall meeting.

Below: DE COL John P. Carroll talks with Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald before the Townhall meeting.



To coin a praise

Chief presents coins to District heroes



Rod Mclean (left photo) and Steve Dibble received their coins from Chief of Engineers LTG Joe N. Ballard, for their service in recovering MIA remains.



Ted Gula received his coin for his work and briefing on the Los Angeles County Drainage Area..



Patsy Delgado received her coin for her outstanding work as the local trip coordinator for the Chief's visit.



John Evans was awarded the Chief's coin for his significant accomplishments as the Acting Equal Employment Opportunities Officer.



Hector Angeles was the project manager for our conversion to Microsoft Office.



Patricia Trainer (left), Mary Workman (center) and Sandra Oliver Hall were given their coins for their outstanding work developing the Multiple Award Task Order Contracts (MATOC) for Contracting Division.



Also receiving the Chief of Engineer's Coins were Lucia Carvajal for her work on MATOC and Glen Alsop for his work with the Environmental Protection Agency and tutoring of Navajo children in math and science. LA District Commander John P. Carroll read the citations.

San Pedro Breakwater 100th Anniversary

Story and photos by Herb Nesmith

SAN PEDRO, Calif. — “For nearly 225 years, the U-S Army Corps of Engineers has been part of the fiber of this nation, serving the people in war and peace. For more than 100 years, the Corps of Engineers has been active as the Los Angeles District. Our responsibility covers rural and densely populated areas in Southern California, Arizona, and Southern Nevada. It’s an area of mountains and desert, of rich farmlands, rivers ... and an oceanfront. It is that ocean front, right where we’re standing today, that the Corps began its first project in the Los Angeles District area,” commented District Engineer COL John P. Carroll at the 100th Anniversary celebration of the beginning of the San Pedro Breakwater. “This place has a particular significance to me, as my father shipped out of the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation during World War II.”

The Corps’ Los Angeles District got its start on December 31, 1898, when Captain J-J Meyler established a district headquarters in one room of a downtown building. Its first goal was to build the breakwater, to help the people of Los Angeles get the manmade deepwater harbor they’d been wanting.

Earlier, in 1890, at the direction of Congress the Secretary of War appointed three members of the Corps of Engineers to a board, and gave them a mission: “to examine the Pacific Coast between Points Dume and Capistrano with a view to determining the best location for a deepwater harbor, to prepare a project and to estimate its costs.” After detailed analysis, the board selected San Pedro, saying the location would offer, in its words, “better protection both from prevailing winds and from dangerous storms ... at less cost for equal development of a breakwater.”

“But, the breakwater, if you’ll pardon the expression, got off to a “rocky” start,” Colonel Carroll told the crowd that had gathered for the ceremony. “First, the location was challenge by a railroad and its influential chief, Collis P. Huntington. The railroad had built a long wharf at Santa Monica, and wanted a federal breakwater built to protect it. Congress then told the Secretary of War to appoint another board of Army engineers to report on which was the better site, San Pedro or Santa Monica, to both accom-



modate the largest ocean-going ships and meet the nation’s need for defense. After consideration of all the factors, the five-member panel decided unanimously in favor of San Pedro.

And so 100 years ago this month, almost to this day (April 24), construction began on the San Pedro Breakwater project.

However, it soon ran into another rock on the road to completion. The first contractor began with rock from a quarry on Catalina. Unfortunately, it was not the right kind of rock for a breakwater. Then, one of the partners died, and the company soon went under. The second contractor did use the right kind of rock – granite – from a quarry in Chatsworth. He also became hard-pressed financially, but did manage to stay afloat and finish,” Carroll went on.

The original design called for a *detached* breakwater, with a gap between the structure and the shore. The idea was to have a second entrance to the harbor, as well as to allow free circulation of water to help keep the bay clean, and to slow down any shoaling inside the breakwater. But rocks and a kelp bed off Point Fermin did not make for a good harbor entrance, and the gap let storm-caused rough water to get inside the breakwater. A project was needed to close the gap, and it was completed in 1912. The result: a structure longer than planned, stretching 9-thousand-250 feet into the bay, containing nearly 3 million tons of rock.

This rock, by the way, is all “fitted” – meaning the breakwater is constructed with the same rock throughout, and does not have an inner core of smaller rocks and sand. It is the only fitted-rock breakwater on the West Coast.



Using the Fishing Pier in the LA Harbor as a background District Engineer COL John P. Carroll speaks to the gathering of the San Pedro Bay Historical Society during their celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of the San Pedro Breakwater.



The San Pedro Breakwater and Fishing Pier as they look today.

In filling the gap, however, they did not use fitted stone. A more economical design was employed, producing a "random mound" but with the same top height and width. The resulting irregularities allow surges of seawater to pass through clefts rather than spilling over the top," Carroll explained.

Explaining more of the breakwaters 'rocky history', Carroll told the group that, "In 1901 the Los Angeles Times charged that there was corruption in the construction of the breakwater – the contractor was allowed to use inferior-quality rock, the paper said. And further allegations insinuated that while Captain Meyler, the district engineer, was seriously ill, his subordinates were lax and inefficient in discharging their responsibilities.

This got the immediate attention of the chief of engineers, a general in Washington. He promptly sent Meyler's boss, Colonel Jared Smith, to Los Angeles to investigate. With Meyler too weak to accompany the colonel, assistant engineer D-E Hughes represented the district. Colonel Smith soon found that the allegations were baseless. And he complemented Hughes on his extensive knowledge of stones, and his grasp of the situation at San Pedro. Yet a Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce committee – which was headed by the publisher of the LA Times, conducted another investigation, the very newspaper that had made the accusations. That committee corroborated the findings of Colonel Smith ... and the Times published the results of the investigations, absolving the Corps of any wrongdoing," he said.

"So, it was a long and rocky road – in more ways than one – to build this breakwater, the first project of the Corps of Engineers' new Los Angeles District. Work started 100 years ago on this historic structure, which has withstood the test of time. On three occasions storms damaged the breakwater, but the Corps made repairs and it is still here, still doing its job, still serving the people of this area.

I used the term "historic structure" because the San Pedro Bay Historical Society wants to get it estab-



CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY —L-R are John Olguin, San Pedro Bay Historical Society, COL John P. Carroll, Lindalouise White, granddaughter of Congressman Stephen White, who was instrumental in obtaining funding for the breakwater and Bruce Seaton, Port of Los Angeles Chief Operating Officer cut the cake..

lished as a California State Landmark, and to have it listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To have this happen, one of the things it needs is the approval of the owner ... that's us, the Army Corps of Engineers. And, members of the society, I am here to tell you today you *have* that approval. This breakwater is one of the keys that enabled Los Angeles Harbor to become one of the nation's leading ports.

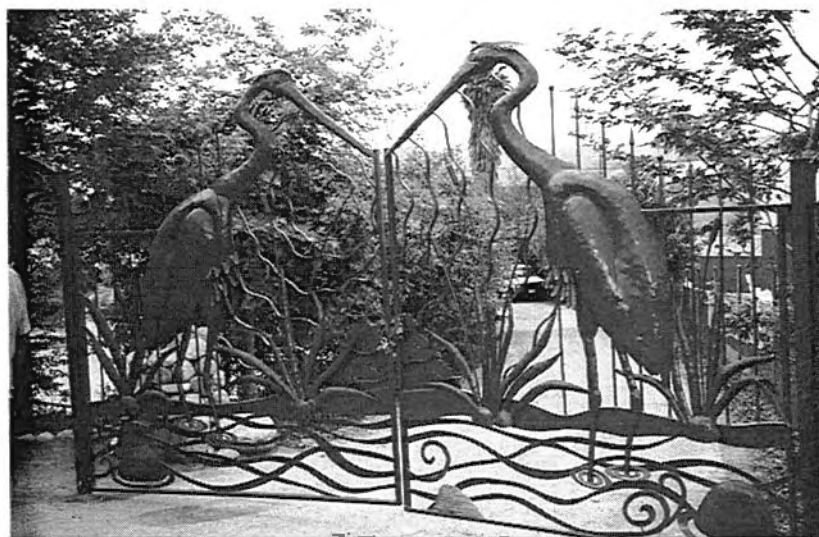
The Corps of Engineers is currently working on another project in this area, to deepen the harbor channel and construct an artificial island to give the port land for another pier. That will enable the harbor to handle the largest ships at sea today, and allow the port to expand its operations and become even more important to the economy of this area, and the nation. And we expect this breakwater to be a significant part of that ... still here, still doing its vital job, well into its second century," Colonel Carroll concluded.

Earth Day 1999

District personnel help clean up LA River

It is interesting to contemplate a tangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependent upon each other in so a complex manner, have all been produced by laws acting around us.

-Charles Darwin, The Origin of Species



Mayor Richard Riordan, left, and artist Brett Goldstone, unlock the Great Heron Gate to the LA River that Goldstone made. Its wrought steel imagery depicts terrain's of the LA River from Tujunga Wash through Downtown Los Angeles, including willows, fish, birds, frogs, rocks and the Downtown skyline.

Story and photos by Fred-Otto Egeler

EARTH DAY ALONG THE LA RIVER...

more than 400 people ranging from conservation groups and students from local schools gathered here to clean up trash and debris along the LA River.

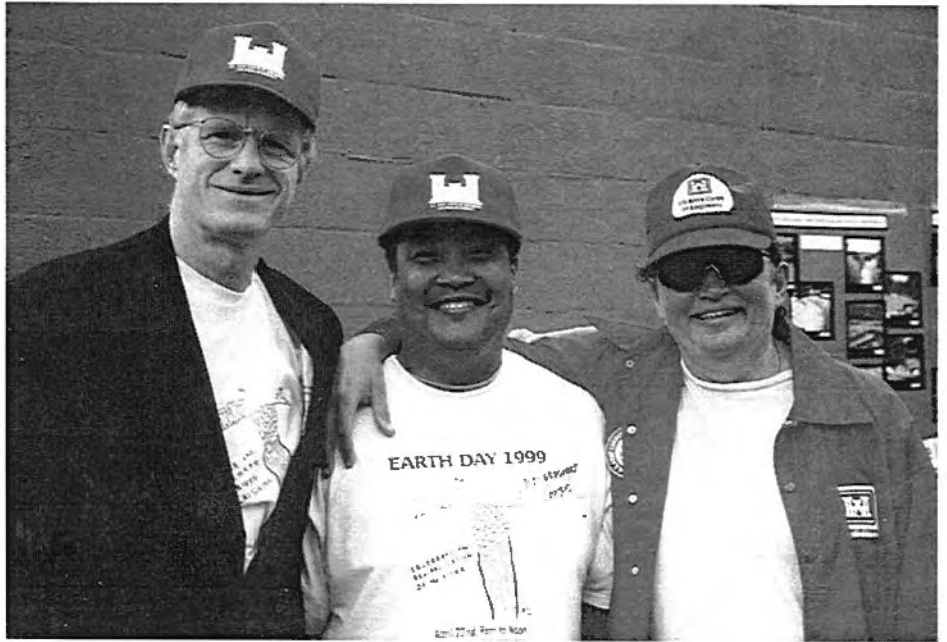
LA Mayor Richard Riordan was on hand to officially open Rattlesnake Park at Fletcher Drive and the LA River west of Taylor Yard by opening a large padlock holding two large Great Heron Gates together. The gates were specially made by artist Brett Goldstone for the park which was created by recreation advocates NorthEast Trees and is one of the first elements of a Los Angeles River Greenway. The park is supported by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Corps of Engineers. In fact actor Ed Begley, Jr. who serves on the board of the Conservancy waving his Corps of Engineers hat in the air, commented, "The outstanding cooperation

of once archenemies Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and the Corp has brought about a better understanding of the river. We all know and realize that the river will never return to it's original form. It's great to join all the young people who have turned out to help cleanup this portion of the river. It gives them a chance to see it close up for a change, instead of from the top of the banks or from bridges."

Los Angeles District Con-Ops personnel were on hand to help cleanup and celebrate Earthday '99. Ted Masigat and Phyllis Trabold coordinated the Corps involvement with Melanie Winters from FoLAR. Ed Kohnman, Toni Masoe, Bob Rozenkowski and Lee Burwell from the District's Baseyard helped load and haul away tons of trash and debris that was collected during the day.



Above, volunteers cleaning up the LA River near Rattlesnake Park..



Above right, Actor Ed Begley, Jr. joined Con-Ops personnel Ted Masigat and Phyllis Trabold for a photo-op.

Right, Fe Rama, left, and Edna Gandarilla of the Los Angeles Department of Public Works gives Phyllis Trabold a hand in filling water bottles for the cleanup crews.



Below, some of the volunteers and the debris they 'carted' up from the LA River during EARTHDAY '99.

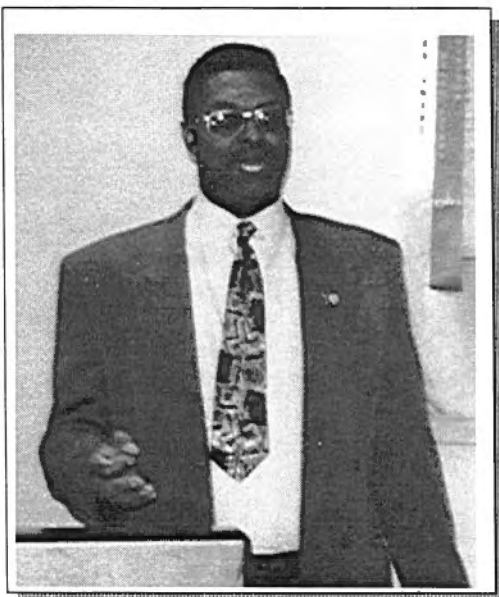


Black History Month Celebrated

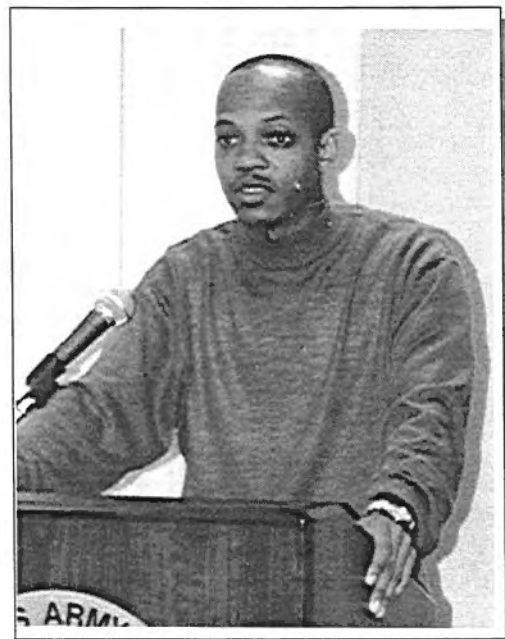


The opening ceremony marked the official celebration start of Black History month at the District. This year's theme, "The Legacy of African American Leadership for the Present & the Future," emphasized the important role African American leaders have played and will continue to play in shaping American traditions.

District employees add festivity to the event, (l-r) Marie Lampkin, Jackie Heard, Bridgette Hollier, Mathews Turner, Liddie Bay, Sandra Sherman, and Mark Harvey.



Guest speaker Mathews Turner enlightened the audience with a series of informational facts reflecting the many unnoted inventions by African Americans.



Mark Harvey, Black Employment Program Manager made opening ceremony remarks..



Rapid Response Vehicle makes its grand appearance at the annual L.A. County Emergency Preparedness Fair

The Los Angeles District participated in the annual L.A. County Emergency Preparedness Fair, , at Griffith Park. The event allowed us to educate the public about the Corp's role during disasters. A well informed staff, a great exhibit, and literature told the story and explained how the Corp's aids disaster victims throughout the nation.

The District's Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) 04 made one of its first appearances at the Fair. Making this year's event a more memorable experience. "I can't tell you how exciting it was for us this year . . . the vehicle is a sure sign we are moving along with technology," said Jacquelyn Heard, Administrative Officer for the District's Emergency Operations Center.

Our RRV is one of 6 in the United States and is equipped with everything required to put a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team into action at an emergency site within 18 hours. The 36-ft long body can accommodate 7 or more individuals. The vehicle comes equipped with laptop computers, drafting and mapping software, global position system equipment, digital cameras, phones, intercom system, satellite communication, and radios (HF, VHF, and CB). It also has a bathroom, microwave oven, coffeepot, refrigerator, water tank and a generator.

Team members from Construction-Operations, Public Affairs, Visual Information and Engineering participated in this years event.



District personnel man our Information Booth every year and hand out thousands of pieces of material and explain what the Corps does during emergencies to visitors..

Chief of Engineers Engineer Day Message to the Corps

Every year, we pause to observe the anniversary of our organization, celebrate our history and accomplishments and prepare to meet the challenges of the future. We have much to celebrate. For 224 years, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has built a reputation of professionalism, integrity, and service to the nation. During this past year, we continued to improve our reputation and build on our tradition of service. Whether responding to natural disasters, making major organizational changes, developing new business practices, or just conducting the day-to-day activities of the organizations, our team responded effectively to the needs of the nation. When Hurricane Georges struck Puerto Rico and the Southeastern United States, our Corps' men and women were on the ground within hours, providing emergency water, ice and power. Other members of our team followed Hurricane Mitch into Honduras and Central America to help devastated countries begin rebuilding. We responded to fires, floods and other natural disasters throughout the country, and most recently, provided vital emergency support to recovery efforts following devastating tornadoes in Oklahoma.

Our USACE team is supporting our troops around the world as they fight for and maintain peace while providing a strong American presence abroad. We are providing vital support to our peace keeping troops in Bosnia and Albania. We worked with the Eighth U.S. Army in Korea to clean up after heavy flooding damaged several U.S. camps. We continue to improve the ability of our servicemembers and DoD civilians' to deploy and while enhancing their quality of life through better living, training and working facilities. In addition to our many missions at home, we are called on to foster the ideals of democracy and freedom abroad by supporting other nations in crucial infrastructure and natural resource developments. We have assisted others in Africa, Russia, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

We also made numerous changes in how we do business so we can better serve the customer. Our project managers are moving onto Army installations with the Directors of Public Works to provide more timely access to Corps resources. We set up our divisions as business centers to manage work and resources on a regional level. We made major changes in Military Programs and Research and Development to streamline the organizations and improve business practices. And for the first time, we have a national reservation service so people can call, or web surf, and reserve a Corps recreation facility anywhere in the country. We should be proud of our past and our accomplishments, but we should also sharpen our focus on the future. We have a strong Vision to guide us and a foundation of 224 years of service to support us. I know with the dedication and commitment of the Engineer Team, we will meet the challenges of next century and continue to grow as the world's premier public engineering organization.

ESSAYONS!

/s/JOE N. BALLARD
Lieutenant General
Commanding



GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS!!!

After much waiting and anticipation, the District's request for public transportation was finally approved on 17 May.

Effective 1 July 99, team members working at the District headquarters will receive a \$25.00 per month transportation subsidy for using public transportation. More details are being prepared by LMO and will be published shortly.





A-PI HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION BRINGS GUEST SPEAKERS TO DISTRICT...*Ruth Kwan, Superior Court Judge, East Lake Juvenile Division, speaking to the audience said "that we need to celebrate our legacy by creating our own. We should not allow fading traditions to shape our future...we must dream big and make our own traditions towards a positive future."*

(Photo by Salas)



BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY.....*Corps kids had an opportunity to witness and learn first hand about the effects of flooding at this years bring you child to work function. Planning Division's Debbie Lamb and Mike Green created a model to show children how fast flooding occurs and the damages that can happen without effective flood management. Other District team members were on hand to speak about various planning aspects.*

On the Rhodes to success.....

Ask any parent what their proudest lifetime achievement could be, and certainly they would say, their children. If you ask Takuo Matsuoka, electrical engineer, General Engineering Section the same question, and with a gleam in his eye, and a huge grin, he would say, he definitely agrees. That is because late last year, daughter, Karen Y. Matsuoka was selected as one of thirty-two Rhodes Scholars in the United States.

Karen, a Stanford University student, was chosen from 909 applicants, who were sponsored by 310 colleges and universities. She earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and religious studies in 1996 and a master's degree in religious studies in 1997. As a Rhodes scholar she plans to pursue a degree in English language and literature.

Rhodes Scholarships are awarded to college students of distinction: those who make their mark in different ways; like leading the effort to discourage the waving of the Confederate flag at school sporting events or developing an expertise in science while at the same time achieving academic distinctions.

The scholarships are the oldest international study awards available to American students. They were created in 1902 by the will of Cecil Rhodes, a British philanthropist and colonial pioneer. Since 1903, 2,854 students have won the scholarships, which provide a 2-3 years'



study at the Oxford University in England.

Ms. Matsuoka has received several academic honors and awards, including recognition for her paper entitled "The Language of Sacrifice" which was presented at the Lewis and Clark College Annual Gender Studies Symposium in 1997. She also won the Lopez Prize for best essay in the Humanities and Women Studies for her essay entitled "Semiotics for a Feminist Theological Discourse" in 1996. She received a Stanford undergraduate research opportunity grant to design and implement a "Philosophy for Children" curriculum in 1996.

She is actively involved with the Asian American Community. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the San Jose Japanese American Resource Center/Museum. She is also involved with the American Diabetes Association. (Karen was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at the age of 8). In 1996 she founded the "Diabetic Buddies Program," a mentor based support program for diabetic youth in the Los Angeles and she also is a member of Advocacy Alert Project: a political advocacy group for diabetics.

In addition, Ms. Matsuoka works as a graphic designer for the Earth Science Division at the NASA Ames Research Center.

U.S. Naval and Marine Reserves are now proud new owners of a Locker and Shower Facility, Building 2630 at March Air Force Base. The Corps of Engineers Contract Administration Inland Resident Office awarded the 8(A) contract totaling approximately \$462,662.00 to Arid Construction Technology, Inc. last year.

"Throughout the period of this contract, the flexibility of the Army Corps of Engineers allowed us to make this the best facility possible," said Lt. Cmdr. David Courtney of the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center. "Arid Construction played a huge part in improving this project from the original contract specifications. Their value engineering suggestions and alternatives provided us with a better floor plan, increased options for portability, improved flexibility in replacement of eventual damage, a safer environment, and far better aesthetics than specified. That is the reason we are giving them this plaque of appreciation for a job well done."

Corps contractor receives Navy Award



Lt. Cmdr. David Courtney presents an award to Andrew Hernandez, president of Arid Construction for their outstanding work on the project.

Historical vignette

Flood Control in Southern California and National Defense

by District Historian Dr. Anthony Turhollow,

Did you know that out of the crisis in world affairs that culminated in World War II there arose a new aspect of flood control: its importance to national defense. Colonel Warren T. Hannum, Division Engineer, South Pacific Division, presented this point of view at the meeting of the National Resources Committee in Los Angeles on 1 March 1941. Although he carefully noted that provision for the safety and the security of the millions of people living and working in southern California was the primary reason for the involvement of the Federal Government in controlling destructive floods in the coastal basins of southern California, he also added that where floods interfered with national defense, corrective measures had to be taken.

Under authorization of the Flood Control Act of 1936 which established flood control as a proper activity for the Federal Government the Los Angeles District in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (organized in 1915) formulated a general plan for flood control of the Los Angeles River in December 1936. In February 1938 the District submitted a general plan for the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers. These plans became the basis for the Los Angeles County Drainage Area project (LACDA). While flood control problems existed throughout southern California, the emphasis would be on three population centers where national defense industries were concentrated: Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties.

Further impetus to the development of the flood control program for the area came from the flood of 2 March 1938 which devastated southern California. In Los Angeles County the flood caused more than \$40 million dollars in damage

and took a toll of 49 lives. In spite of complete breakdown of rail, telephone, highway, and mail services for the City of Los Angeles, the Mayor on emergency national radio hook-up, the only available means of communication, reassured the world that: "The sun is shining over southern California today and . . . Los Angeles is still smiling."

Col. Hannum pointed out that expenditures for flood control were still necessary in addition to the huge sums already spent. The floods against which protection had to be provided were caused by the same conditions which made southern California ideally situated topographically and climatically for national defense industries. In 1938 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) sent Harry Hopkins, his trusted advisor, to determine how quickly aircraft factories in California could convert to the production of warplanes, for the President felt certain that war was coming to America and that air power was a key to victory. Taking advantage of the belief of the hardcore of the isolationists in Fortress America, FDR asked for a billion-dollar "two-ocean" Navy which Congress authorized in 1938. To the President non-military activities of the War Department, including the Army Corps of Engineers, had to give way to the needs of national defense.

With this shift from emphasis on civil works to military project, the Corps required new assignments or faced drastic reductions in personnel and the dismantling of "an existing, widely extended field organization, fully equipped, and highly trained and experienced in all types of construction," and whose continued existence was vital to national defense. Thus in 1940 began the process of shifting military construc-

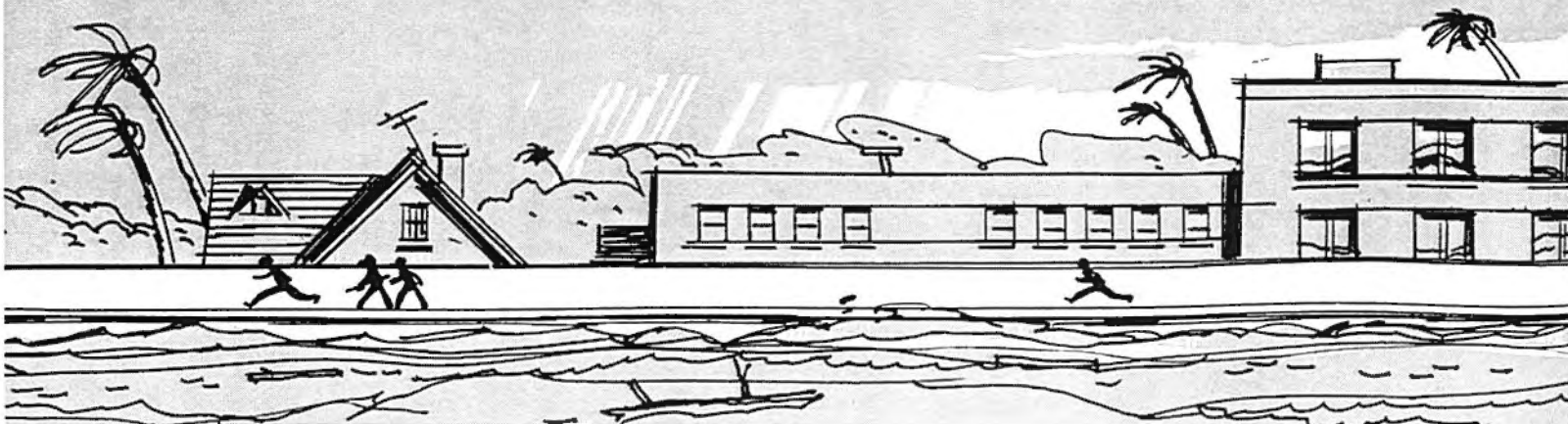
tion to the Corps. In addition, Congress enlarged the Corps' role in the interest of national defense.

To Col. Hannum the significance which national defense assumed by 1941 increased justification for flood protection in southern California. He pointed out that: Because of its many airports, airplane factories, and related defense activities, Los Angeles County occupies a position of particular prominence."

While conceding that the relation of flood control to national defense in the Santa Ana Basin, the San Diego area, and other streams in the southern coastal basins was less in extent and magnitude than in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River basins, nevertheless the District and local officials were giving careful consideration to those defense activities in those basins which would suffer impairment from floods.

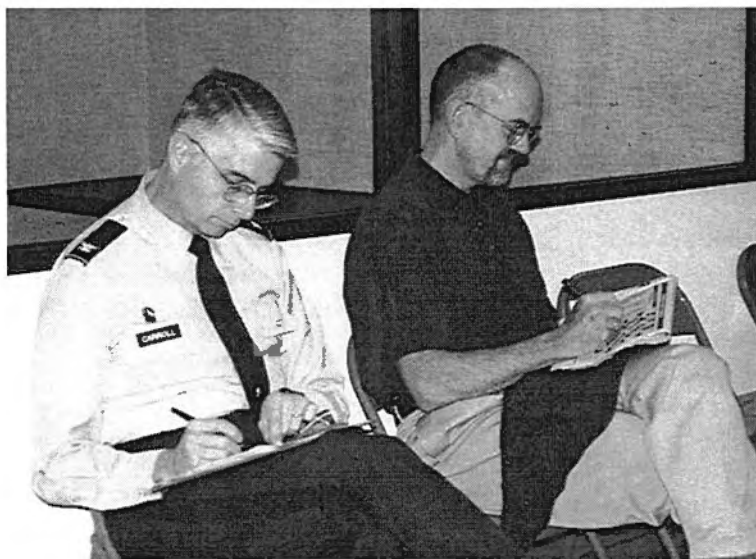
By the end of 1941 the District had completed Hansen and Sepulveda Dams for LACDA, and Prado Dam for Santa Ana River Project, as well as submitting preliminary reports and surveys for the San Diego River and other southern coastal streams.

During World War II, these flood control projects proved their value by providing vital protection for major defense industries, as well as for important military and naval establishments in southern California. For example, in the spring of 1943 the value of flood control improvements in the Los Angeles River Basin was demonstrated. This while the uncontrolled 1938 flood caused heavy loss of life and severe property damage in Los Angeles County, the 1943 flood was controlled by the completed portions of LACDA which probably saved many lives and made possible the uninterrupted operation of war plants in the county, proving that civil works were vital to national defense.



Bloodsuckers run vamped

VAMPIRES VISIT DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS



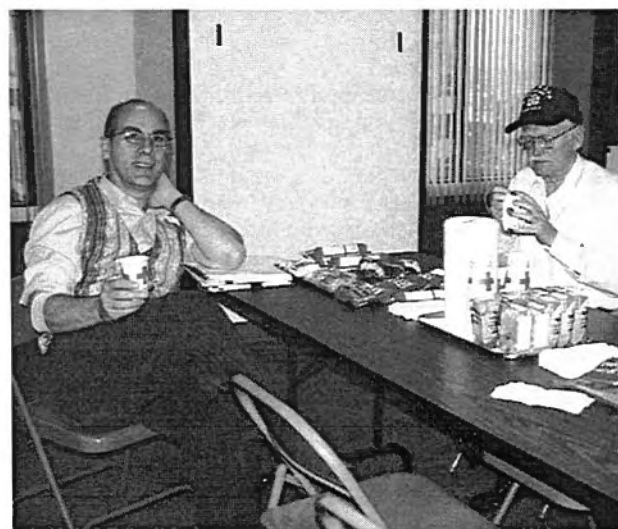
Above left, COL John P. Carroll and Dave Lukesh fill out the donor forms as Cecilia Morgan gives blood above. They are three of the many district employees who signed up for the semi-annual blood drive.

Photos by Jennie Salas

THE GIFT OF LIFE.....Personnel from the Los Angeles District headquarter joined with the Office of the 911 Wilshire Building to participate in the Semi-annual blood drive.

Three-fourths of the blood drawn will help save the lives of more than 126 people, according to a note to District Commander COL John P. Carroll, from Cyndi Peterson, American Red Cross Donor Recruitment Representative.

"The extreme success of the blood drive must be attributed largely to the dedication and hard work of recruiters for the Corps of Engineers: Francine Nevarez, Rosemarie Sandoval, and Dr. Fred-Otto Egeler who took on the responsibility for coordinating the drive and recruiting donors," Peterson wrote. "Our thanks to you and all of your employees who donated for your ongoing support and contribution to the community blood supply."



Mark Durham, left, enjoys the after donation refreshments as Fred-Otto Egeler dates some blood donor stickers for donors to wear.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
P.O. Box 532711
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