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Target

Serving Rock Island Arsenal and HQ AMCCOM

AMCCOM Firepower
We make the difference



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Rock Island, Ill.

July 10, 1987



Rock Island Arsenal's famed stone shop buildings, shown here under construction during the last century, serve as a constant reminder that Arsenal Island has a long and rich history. In honor of RIA's 125th anniversary on July 11, this issue of the

Target includes a special four-page section which features a chronological history of the arsenal and a schedule of events for tomorrow's old-fashioned company picnic at Memorial Field.

Brailsford selected as AMCCOM DCG

Brig. Gen. Marvin D. Brailsford became AMCCOM's deputy commanding general for procurement and readiness earlier this week. He replaces Brig. Gen. Paul L. Greenberg, who has been assigned as the program executive officer for ammunition in Washington, D.C.

Prior to assuming his new post, Brailsford served as commanding general of the 59th Ordnance Brigade in Europe. His other key assignments have included commanding the 60th Ordnance Group in Europe; serving as chief of the Program Management Office at the U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Command; and as deputy chairman for operations for the division air defense gun source selection board.

A native of Burkeville, Texas, Brailsford was commissioned as an officer following his completion of the Reserve Officers Training Corps curriculum at Prairie View A&M University in Texas. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from Prairie View, and also holds a master's degree in bacteriology from Iowa State University.

Brailsford's military education includes completion of the Armor School, the Chemical School, the



Brig. Gen. Marvin D. Brailsford

Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College. Among his decorations are the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Parachutist Badge, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge.

Brailsford and his wife, June, are the parents of three children: Marvin Jr., Keith, and Cynthia.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1987

I am pleased and proud to send greetings and congratulations to everyone gathered to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Rock Island Arsenal.

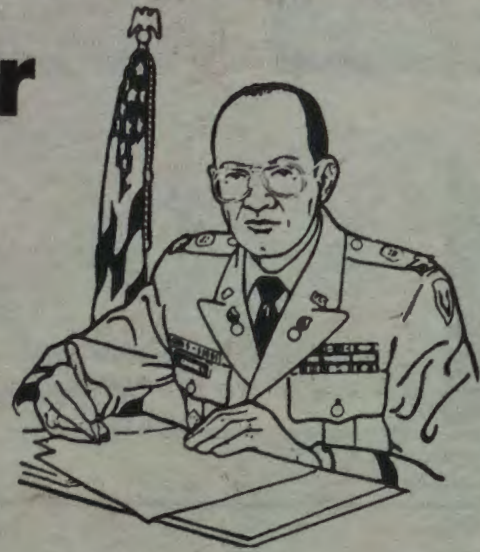
The first chapter in the long and distinguished history of the Rock Island Arsenal was during the Civil War. Ever since those critical days, in times of war and peace, the staff of the Arsenal has performed the crucial task of meeting the pressing material needs of the United States Army. You have constantly adapted to ever-changing technologies and specifications, and you do so today as you prepare for the requirements of the 1990's and beyond with new computerized equipment.

Each of you knows the deep satisfaction of carrying on a proud tradition — of doing your share to keep America strong and free. Your professionalism and dedication are sources of pride to all Americans. I salute you.

You have my very best wishes as you commemorate your proud past and look to a future of continued achievement in our Nation's defense. God bless you, and God bless America.

Ronald Reagan

Commander's Corner



by Col. John S. Cowings

"We cannot buy pride; we cannot legislate it; we cannot force it; and yet, we cannot do without it."
Gen. Creighton W. Abrams

A salute to the workforce

This week, Rock Island is celebrating its 125th year of service to our country.

From the original limestone shop buildings to the modern industrial facility represented by the new REARM factory (the Maj. Charles P. Kingsbury Manufacturing Center), it has been the men and women of the Arsenal workforce who have been the architects of the RIA success story. Your support to our soldiers serving around the globe on freedom's frontiers has elevated Rock Island Arsenal to its current position as a strong pillar of our national defense.

In recognition of your personal contributions toward helping to assure that we remain a free people within a free society, July 11, 1987, has been declared "Rock Island Arsenal Day" throughout the states of Illinois and Iowa by Governors James Thompson and Terry Branstad. In addition, seven mayors from the greater Quad Cities metropolitan area have declared that day as "Rock Island Arsenal Day."

The proclamations read in part that RIA's workers "have demonstrated their skill and craftsmanship consistently over the past 125 years, helping Rock Island Arsenal to grow into one of the Army's most important logistical support installations." They also stated that RIA has contributed to the growth and prosperity of the states and the Quad Cities and has been a good neighbor.

You also may have noticed the personal greetings from the White House, reprinted on the front page of this issue of *Target*. All of this recognition was earned by you and the others who've been members of the RIA workforce over the past century and a quarter. You deserve to be proud to be part of such a rich tradition.

SERVICE SAVINGS SAFE+Y

Army leaders send proclamation

On May 10, 1816, soldiers from the 8th Infantry in St. Louis landed on a 946-acre island in the Mississippi River between what is now Iowa and Illinois. For the next 46 years, the island fortress, known as Fort Armstrong, had the mission of protecting settlers as they made their trek westward.

In 1862, Congress passed an act changing Fort Armstrong to Rock Island Arsenal, creating what has become the Army's foremost industrial designer and producer of defense weaponry of outstanding quality.

World War II marked a period in Rock Island Arsenal's 125-year history of unsurpassed production of all types of artillery and small arms munitions, spare parts, and loading machines for the U.S. Navy. Today, Rock Island Arsenal produces the Army's newest towed howitzer, along with other components of modern weaponry.

Over the years, Rock Island Arsenal has provided jobs for thousands of people from the Quad Cities area. These men and women have made a major contribution to the security of the Free World through their dedication and diligence.

We proclaim this the 125th anniversary of Rock Island Arsenal and ask that you pledge to maintain the outstanding tradition of this great installation.

Gen. Carl E. Vuono
U.S. Army Chief of Staff

John O. Marsh Jr.
Secretary of the Army

U.S. Constitution was once kept in a tin box

The U.S. Constitution is one of the most cherished, respected and talked-about documents in the history of global politics. Yet the original draft of the Constitution was kept out of public view for 146 years and was nearly lost and forgotten.

After the Constitution was approved, written and signed 260 years ago in Philadelphia, it was sent to New York City, then the nation's capital. It came back to Philadelphia in 1790 when that city was named temporary home of the seat of government.

In 1800, Washington, D.C., became the permanent national capital and the home of the Constitution, as well as of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. But the documents that made the nation possible were not kept in any one place. Instead, they were shifted among various sites within the State Department.

At times, the exact location of the

three documents could not be determined. Once, they were found stored in a tin box at the bottom of a closet. But even after the centennials of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights passed, they remained stashed away like some forgotten mementoes.

In 1894, someone noticed some deterioration in the Declaration, the oldest of the three documents. They were then sealed between two glass plates and stored in the State Department's basement.

Our key national documents were finally brought out of the basement in 1921, when an executive order signed by President Warren Harding directed that they be turned over to the Library of Congress so they could receive expert care and be placed on public display. Three years later, the American public got its first chance to see the original draft of the Constitution.



On this date

Editor's note: This column was prepared in cooperation with the AMCCOM Historical Office in honor of Rock Island Arsenal's 125th anniversary.

On July 11, 1862, the U.S. Congress passed an act which officially established Rock Island Arsenal.

On July 13, 1962, RIA held a Centennial Ball at the Davenport Coliseum Ballroom during which a king and queen were chosen in honor of their years of service at the arsenal.

On July 19, 1875, the Army Chief of Ordnance signed orders that initiated the manufacture of infantry and cavalry equipment at RIA.

On July 23, 1865, the Rock Island Prison Barracks officially closed.

AMCCOM Commander
MG Fred Hissong Jr.

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Col. John S. Cowings

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Arsenal Island employees are among AMC's best

Two Arsenal Island employees were honored as being among the best in the U.S. Army Materiel Command during the third annual AMC Commander's Recognition Day ceremony, held June 23 at command headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

Gen. Louis C. Wagner Jr., commanding general of AMC, presented Steve Hall of the Rock Island Arsenal Civilian Personnel Office with the Civilian Personnel Administration Excellence Award. The general also named Willard Burt of the AMC Installations and Services Activity as one of the command's ten outstanding employees of the year.

Hall won the prestigious personnel award for his work as a labor relations specialist at RIA. In that position, he represents arsenal management in dealings with union officials representing RIA employees.

"I serve as a conduit of communications between management and the workforce, and I try to build mutual respect between the two parties," Hall said of his job.

Hall, who won the Commander's Award for Civilian Service last year, was honored for doing that job well. He was specifically cited for his work during the recent commercial activities study; for proposing improvements to the arsenal's workers compensation program; and for his serv-



Steve Hall



Willard Burt

ice on the arsenal's Hispanic Training Committee and Handicapped Awareness Committee.

A native of Leavenworth, Kan., Hall came to work at RIA in 1978 following an internship at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. He later spent three years at Torrejon Air Force Base in Spain, then returned to the arsenal in 1984. Hall, who lives with his family in Davenport, spends part of his off-hours teaching courses in industrial relations at St. Ambrose University.

While the award was presented personally to Hall, he noted that it re-

credit has to go to them and to their hard work."

Burt was cited for leading the branch in its effort to acquire automated data equipment that would aid in the management of retail logistics programs, self-service supply centers, and other support activities for AMC's 67 installations. The equipment is currently being installed and delivered ahead of schedule.

Burt was also honored for directing the 1986 AMC property accountability equipment and supply management workshop and for his constant attention to developing his staff through education, on-the-job training and special assignments.

A native of Norfolk, Va., Burt began his federal career in 1953 as a radio mechanic at Norfolk Naval Air Station. After serving two years in the Army and spending three years working in private industry, Burt returned to federal employment in 1961 as a production controller at the U.S. Army Signal Command at Fort Monmouth, N.J. He came to work at Arsenal Island in 1972.

In his off-hours, Burt is a private pilot, an amateur radio operator, and secretary of the Rock Island Arsenal Sportsmen's Club. He and his wife, Rose, live in Coal Valley and are the parents of four children.

Union plans birthday party

The National Federation of Federal Employees celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, and the union local representing Arsenal Island employees has planned some birthday events for the weekend of Sept. 11-13.

Local 15 of NFFE will sponsor a prime rib dinner/dance cruise on Friday, Sept. 11 on the Queen of Hearts. Cost is \$22.89 per person, and the boat will leave the dock at Moline at 6 p.m.

Saturday's events will include a pig roast at Scott County Park beginning at noon. Admission to the roast will be \$3 for union members and \$3.75 for non-members. On Sunday at 10:30 a.m., a brunch will be held at the Riverview Inn at the foot of the Government Bridge in Davenport for \$7.45 a person.

NFFE is also sponsoring a night at Quad City Downs on Friday, July 24. For \$18 a person, those



attending will receive a prime rib dinner, a reserved table in the clubhouse, a program, and free general admission to a future race.

All Arsenal Island employees are welcome at these events, and should make reservations for the birthday weekend by July 17 and for the night at the races by July 20. For reservations and for more information, contact the union office at Ext. 2-3654 or Donna Romic at Ext. 2-2775.

Vuono sworn in as Army Chief of Staff

Gen. Carl E. Vuono was sworn in as the Army's 31st chief of staff during formal ceremonies held in the Pentagon on June 23.

The oath was administered by Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, who said that the job of chief of staff was one "which cannot be delegated.... The chief is a policy maker, a teacher, a mentor, a role model, a protagonist and a conciliator. He establishes priorities and sets the tone and temper of this great Army."

In his remarks, Vuono noted that the oath he had taken was in substance the same oath taken by all uniformed and civilian members of the Department of Defense. He said that the principal duty that he and all DoD members had sworn to dis-

charge was "to produce combat-ready forces...capable of deterring any attack on our nation's interests."

"To ensure this capability, we must know our profession and share a vision of our Army," Vuono added. "I believe this vision must include three time dimensions: past, present and future. We build on the past, we're responsible for the present, and we shape the future."

Vuono came to the Army's top post from a position as the deputy chief of staff for operations and plans. He has held a variety of leadership positions during his Army career, including as deputy commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and commander of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. (ARNEWS)

Family members get more access to federal jobs

An amended Presidential executive order has given the federally employed family members of federal personnel stationed overseas wider access to federal employment stateside.

The amendment expands the original executive order, which took effect in 1982 and authorized special consideration for eligible candidates whose sponsors return from overseas. The original order covered the family members of those in the uniformed service and in the civil service, so long as those family members were employed in appropriated-fund positions and met the hiring standards of the positions they would choose to apply for upon their return to the United States.

As amended, the executive order now extends coverage to the family members of nonappropriated-fund employees, so long as these new eligibles were employed in appropriated-fund positions while overseas.



The amendment also reduced the amount of overseas employment needed to qualify for non-competitive employment from 24 to 18 months; increases from two to three years the period during which the family member is eligible after returning to the United States; and allows the

U.S. Office of Personnel Management to grant waivers from the three-year limit if the eligible employee demonstrates hardship in the job search process.

Left unchanged by the amendment are requirements that candidates for non-competitive appointments be U.S. citizens at the time they apply for stateside jobs and that they have a current performance rating of at least "fully successful."

The order is retroactive, so some employees whose eligibility had expired may now be eligible again. For example, an otherwise eligible person who had only 18 months of overseas employment when he or she returned to the United States two and a half years ago would regain eligibility for the next six months.

For more information on the program, contact Hattie Martin in the Civilian Personnel Office at Ext. 2-1201. (ARNEWS)

Apprentices hold 50-year reunion

by Paul Levesque

In 1937, a group of 35 men just barely out of boyhood began machinist apprentice training at Rock Island Arsenal.

These young men, like the high school graduates of today, may not have been entirely optimistic about the future. They were starting their adult lives in a year in which fascism was on the march and freedom was in retreat around the world, when wars and rumors of war abounded. The Great Depression was still going strong eight years after the stock market crashed, and it seemed as though good jobs might never be available again.

Because of very high unemployment, about 600 people took the aptitude test for the 1937 apprentice class, the first formed at the arsenal in 15 years. The 35 selected for the class accepted the apprentice jobs at 26 cents an hour, meager wages even back then, for it represented a rare opportunity to learn a trade and to better their lives.

The apprentices spent the next four years in training, making little money and spending \$3 a month of what they did make for correspondence courses. They then graduated and began slowly drifting apart. Some remained at RIA, some went off to fight in the war that had finally begun, others left for other reasons. As time passed, the question of what had happened to those 35 young men who had shared an uncertain start on life remained.

The possibility of a reunion was first discussed in the 1950s by Herb Johnson and Everret Long, two members of the 1937 apprentice class who were working together at a California electronics firm. But the reunion was never organized, and Johnson later returned to the Midwest and held several important management positions on Arsenal Island before retiring to his home near Muscatine.

Then, last year, Long contacted Johnson and raised the possibility of a 50-year reunion in 1987. Johnson agreed to help organize the get-together, and formed a five-member committee of Long and four former apprentices still living near and around the Quad Cities.

Through personal contacts and public records, the committee managed to track down all 35 members of the apprentice class. Nine were deceased, and the 26 surviving members were invited to a reunion at RIA and asked to fill out a biographical sketch and give a brief explanation of what participating in the apprentice program had meant to them.

All 26 responded, and 18 subsequently made it to the reunion. The three-day get-together, held last month, was highlighted by a reception and a banquet at the RIA Officers' Club, a boat ride on the Mississippi River, and a tour of the present-

day apprentice school and of RIA's new manufacturing facilities. For some, it was their first look at the arsenal and at the Quad Cities in over 40 years.

As the apprentices got together, swapped stories, and looked at the booklet that had been compiled about them, they found that they had one thing in common—all had gone on to successful lives, and all could attribute at least part of that success to their apprentice training.

Three of the members of the class went on to found or co-found their own businesses. Two later piloted commercial aircraft, one retiring as a captain with TWA. One helped build the first atomic bomb at Los Alamos, N.M., while another settled in as a farmer and rural mail carrier. Several remained as machinists and several others became engineers, and many had long and successful careers at Arsenal Island.

Looking back, the apprentices described their machinist training as "better than a college education and a lot cheaper..."; "Simply and honestly put, RIA training was the BEST..."; "A wonderful way to start a work life."

Robert Althaus, an RIA retiree now living in Moline, discovered the value of his apprentice training during World War II while serving with the Army Corps of Engineers.

"I found that none of the guys who went through apprenticeships in private industry had the varied background that we did," Althaus said. "While their training was pretty narrow, we learned about the entire manufacturing process and got hands-on experience in every phase of production."

"The training turned out to be a great background for engineering, and apparently for a lot of other professions," said Robert Clarke of Silvis, an engineer who retired from the AMCCOM Project Manager's office. "I think it's because we were trained to be versatile and to solve problems. The idea was to get it to where they could give us an illustration and a block of metal and have us make a part."

The tour taken during the reunion revealed that apprentice training is still conducted much as it was 50 years ago at RIA. Apprentices still receive a combination of classroom and hands-on training and gain experience in all phases of production.

Among the differences that were noticed were the presence of women in today's apprentice classes and the modernizations made in machining over the past half-century.

"We worked on machines that could only perform one operation, that needed to be run completely by hand, and that were driven by leather belts connected to a main drive shaft," Clarke said.

"And production control was something we

did with a stubby pencil and a clipboard," Johnson added.

In going through the arsenal's new facilities, though, the apprentices found numerically-controlled machines requiring little manual operation. All were capable of performing several different jobs, all were independently powered, and all receive machining instructions via computer.

Amidst all the new gadgetry, the former apprentices found other things that had remained the same and others that had changed. For example, employees of the 1930s followed their own version of a smoking policy, along with a whole set of strict rules.

"If you smoked, you couldn't do it in the factory," Althaus said. "You could either sneak out for a minute or do it outside during lunch."

"There were rules against making excessive noise and rules against whistling," he added. "And we stood all day — if you had a stool, you were one of the elite. We didn't have any coffee breaks, either. We worked four hours, took 45 minutes for lunch, and worked four more hours."

Looking back, the apprentices described their machinist training as "better than a college education and a lot cheaper..." "Simply and honestly put, RIA training was the BEST..."

The apprentices worked on an island with only 1,400 employees, and one on which many of today's buildings either hadn't been constructed or hadn't yet been converted to their present uses. According to Johnson, the apprentice class worked with much equipment that had been mothballed since World War I.

"Back then, the arsenal would have big build-ups during a war, then would really slow down during peacetime," Johnson said. "So everybody was encouraged to see the arsenal doing such a great job of modernizing and building now, when there is no war."

Despite the passage of time, the apprentices found that old-fashioned hospitality was still alive and well at RIA.

"Everybody at the arsenal went all out for us," Clarke said. "The commander took the time to personally greet us, the tour was just fantastic, and the club put on a beautiful banquet. We appreciate what everyone did for us."

"It was a lot of fun," Johnson said of the reunion. "Maybe we'll have another one some day."

Special 125th anniversary section



RIA: a chronological history

On July 11, 1862, the U.S. Congress passed an act which officially established Rock Island Arsenal. But the recorded history of Arsenal Island dates back to 1804, and the island's unrecorded history dates back to centuries before that, when it was a favorite hunting and camping ground for the Indians inhabiting the area.

What follows is a chronological history listing the significant events and accomplishments that made RIA what it is today — the free world's largest arsenal.

The Target gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the AMCCOM Historical Office in preparing this section.

1804 Sauk and Fox Indians sign a treaty ceding land, including Arsenal Island, to the U.S. government.

1816 Detachment of infantry troops lands on Arsenal Island and begins clearing timber for the construction of Fort Armstrong.

1831 Black Hawk signs a treaty in which he agrees to abandon his camp at the mouth of the Rock River and relocate west of the Mississippi.

1832 Black Hawk and about 1,000 followers recross the Mississippi, precipitating Black Hawk's War. Fort Armstrong becomes center of military activity during the war, which ends with Black Hawk's defeat in September.

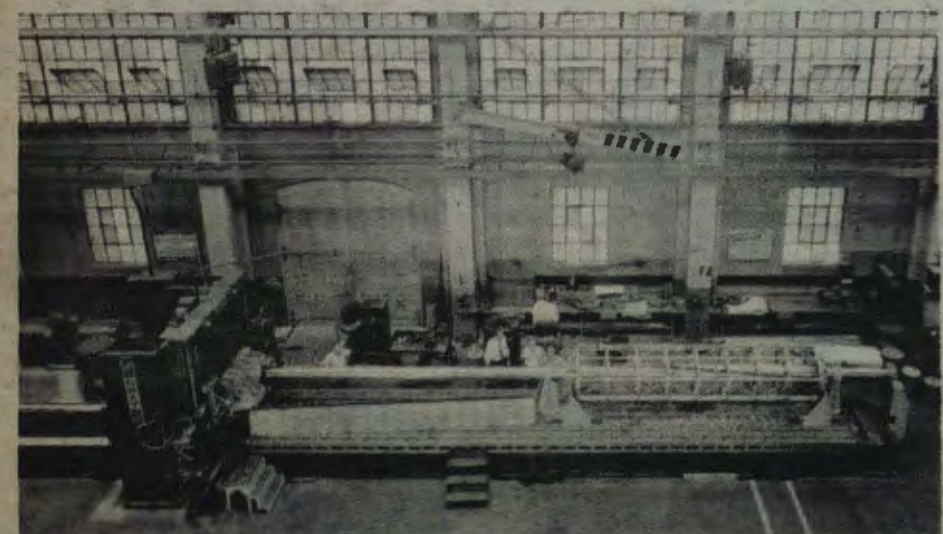
(cont. on page 2)



Members of the 1937 machinist apprentice class, the first formed at RIA in 15 years, gathered for this graduation photo. Eighteen of the apprentices returned to the arsenal for a reunion last month and were photographed on the steps of Bldg. 390. A survey taken before the reunion revealed that all members of the class went on to successful careers, and that all attributed at least part of their success to their apprentice training.



RIA's manufacturing facilities were used to build tanks during World War II (right) and to machine parts for rocket launchers during the mid-1950s (below). In the years before there was an arsenal on Arsenal Island, Fort Armstrong (bottom) stood guard on its western tip as barges, steamers and sailboats plied the Mississippi.

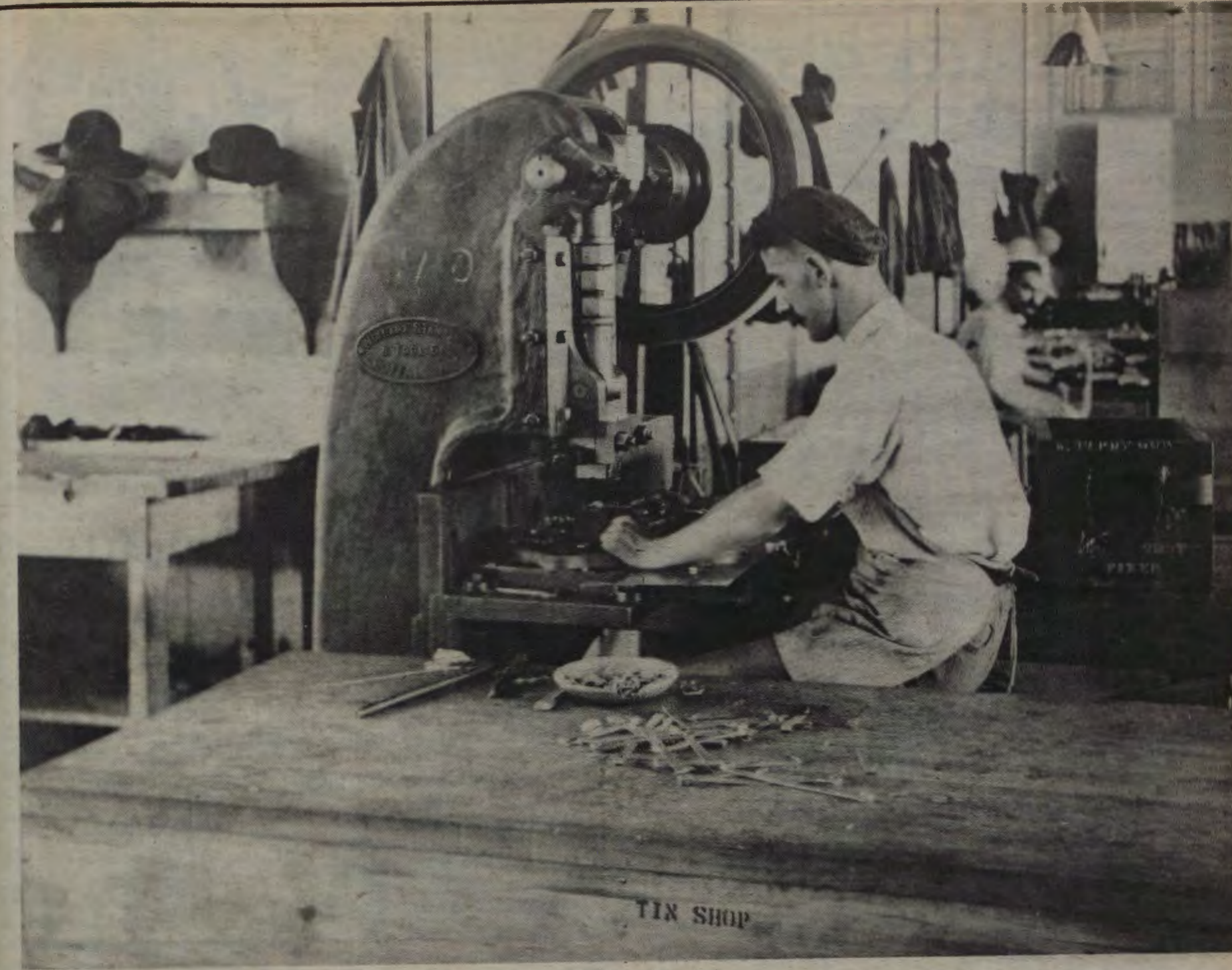


Chronological history

(cont. from page 1)

- 1836 The garrison at Fort Armstrong is evacuated.
- 1840 Fort Armstrong is reactivated as a depot and remains open until 1845.
- 1850 The public sale of land on Arsenal Island is announced. However, the auction is cancelled on the day scheduled for the sale.
- 1856 The first bridge across the Mississippi River is built, but is destroyed by fire less than a month after it opens when it is rammed by a steamboat.
- 1860 A committee of ten prominent citizens in the area appeals Congress to select Rock Island as the site of a new western arsenal.
- 1862 An act of Congress officially establishes Rock Island Arsenal.
- 1863 The Ordnance Corps begins construction of the Clock Tower Building, RIA's first permanent structure, and the Quartermaster Corps begins constructing the Rock Island Prison Barracks.
- 1865 Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Rodman, the "Father of Rock Island Arsenal," assumes command of RIA. He relocates the site of the arsenal to the center of the island and develops a plan for the construction of a group of ten stone shops.
- 1866 Construction of Shop B, the first building in the main arsenal complex, begins.
- 1867 Construction is completed on the Clock Tower Building.
- 1870 Construction begins on the RIA commander's quarters, now known as Quarters One. The building is completed one year later.
- 1871 Brig. Gen. Rodman dies and is buried on Arsenal Island. His funeral is one of the largest ever in the area.
- 1873 Blacksmith facilities are moved from their temporary location into Shop E. Other machinery also moves into its permanent location.
- 1874 A steel rolling mill is placed in Shop F and used to manufacture angle iron and steel bars used in the construction of the stone shops.
- 1875 Leather, arms, and small arms repair sections are established in Shop G.
- 1876 The Army chief of ordnance orders RIA to manufacture cavalry and infantry equipment. Arsenal workers begin cleaning and repairing breech-loading rifles.
- 1881 RIA's first target printing press is installed in Shop C. The press was manufactured at the arsenal.

- 1885 The RIA Jewelry Department is established in order to manufacture silver marksman's pins and sharpshooter badges. An electroplating shop is also established.
- 1892 RIA is assigned the mission of building carriages for field and siege guns.
- 1894 The first electric lights are installed at RIA.
- 1898 The Spanish-American War gives the arsenal its first real test. Total employment is increased from 375 to 2,900. Wartime production includes parts for caissons and gun carriages and mess kits. RIA installs a system that uses wire rope to transmit power from the water plant to the machines in the shops.
- 1899 The war ends and employment drops below 500. Plans are developed to begin manufacturing small arms at RIA.
- 1900 The first street car tracks are laid on Arsenal Island.
- 1902 Construction begins on RIA's first hydroelectric power plant. Many parts for the plant are produced in the arsenal's Artillery Vehicle Department.
- 1904 A proving ground is established at the east end of Arsenal Island. RIA begins production of Springfield Rifles.
- 1905 Employment rises to an average of 2,145.
- 1906 RIA installs its first gas welding unit. Polo saddles are manufactured at the arsenal.
- 1909 A sawmill is set up to produce lumber used in the manufacture of spokes for artillery wheels. Electric cloth cutters are installed.
- 1910 The machinist apprentice school is established. The first turret lathe at RIA is installed.
- 1911 RIA adopts a time and motion study of machine speed and working habits known as the Taylor System of Scientific Management.
- 1913 The manufacture of rifles at RIA is discontinued.
- 1915 Rifle manufacturing resumes. RIA packs and ships supplies for Gen. "Black Jack" Pershing's expedition against Pancho Villa.
- 1917 World War I leads to a great expansion of RIA's facilities and manpower. For the first time in arsenal history, all ten stone shops are in operation. Congress appropriates \$1.5 million for the establishment of a new proving ground at Savanna, Ill., to be used for the testing of field artillery produced at RIA. A group of skilled shop employees enlist and go to France to help set up the first ordnance depot in that country.



In this photo taken around the turn of the century, a worker manufactures a mess kit in RIA's tin shop.

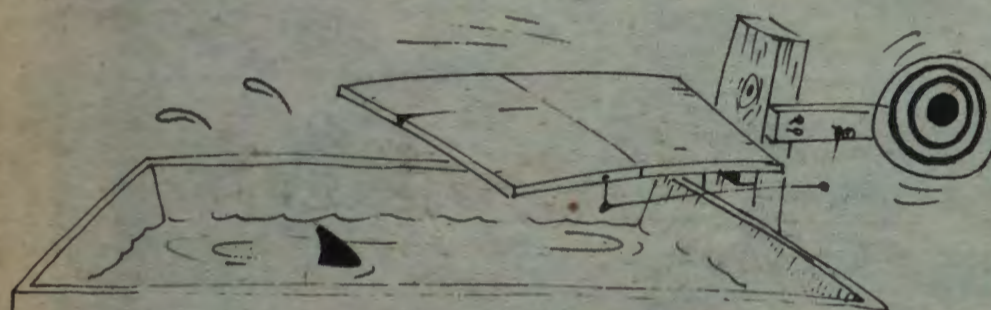
- 1918 Employment reaches a wartime peak of 13,263. Construction of Shops M and L and of the annexes between the stone buildings is completed.
- 1919 The end of the war causes employment to drop rapidly. Ammunition loading operations are discontinued. An automotive section is established for the manufacture of British Mark VIII tanks.
- 1920 Assembly of 100 Mark VIII tanks is completed at RIA. A welding section is established in Shop M.
- 1921 The RIA apprentice school is closed. RIA's Cloth and Leather Division is transferred to Jeffersonville Quartermaster Depot in Indiana. The arsenal manufactures bombs, bomb racks and torpedo parts for the Navy.
- 1923 The arsenal becomes one of the first shops in the U.S. to develop a satisfactory method of welding aluminum. RIA workers modify 400 Liberty aircraft engines.
- 1925 Average employment drops to a low of 618. The first suggestion program is established at RIA.
- 1931 The Corps of Engineers supervises the construction of Lock and Dam 15 and begins using the Clock Tower Building as district headquarters. RIA manufactures the first all-welded artillery carriage. The world's first half-track combat vehicle is constructed at RIA from a General Motors truck.
- 1933 RIA manufactures the first armored car with an all-welded turret and hull.
- 1934 The arsenal receives production orders for 18 light tanks and 40 combat cars. Employment rises to 1,173.
- 1937 The apprentice school is reestablished. Small arms manufacture resumes with an order for .30-caliber machine guns.
- 1939 An in-service training program is inaugurated to improve the skills of machine operators at RIA. Employment rises to 2,735.
- 1940 Idle facilities are reactivated and RIA goes on a six-day, 48-hour work week. A section for the assembly of recoil mechanisms is established.
- 1941 The Artillery Vehicle Department begins the largest manufacturing program ever assigned to RIA. Obsolete machines are removed and 230 new machine tools are installed. By year's end, the United States is at war and RIA's employment increases to over 10,000.
- 1942 Construction begins on a new assembly shop, now known as Bldg. 208. The new forge shop is completed. Offices are moved into the new administrative center, Bldg. 390. RIA manufactures its first rocket launcher and begins employing women in its shops. The arsenal earns the coveted Army/Navy "E" award.

- 1943 Employment reaches an alltime peak of 18,675. The Artillery Vehicle Department alone employs more than 10,000 people.
- 1944 The Post Restaurant opens its cafeteria in Bldg. 60. The manufacture of metallic belt links for .30-caliber and .50-caliber machine guns is disestablished. Bldg. 255 is constructed.
- 1945 The manufacture of .30-caliber machine guns, a major wartime project for RIA, is discontinued. The arsenal returns to a five-day, 40-hour work week. World War II ends and many arsenal shops discontinue production.
- 1946 A technical library containing approximately 200 books is established. Hundreds of former employees return from military service and are reemployed at RIA.
- 1947 RIA's employment level reaches a postwar low of 2,469.
- 1950 RIA and the Birtman Electric Co. co-produce the 3.5-inch rocket launcher, more popularly known as the bazooka. Hundreds of bazookas are airlifted from the arsenal to Korea when fighting breaks out in that Asian nation. The bazookas are credited with helping to stop North Korean tanks.
- 1951 The first project order for the Honest John truck-mounted launcher is received.
- 1952 Total employment reaches a high of 6,968. The Ordnance Engineering Training Program is established.
- 1955 The Ordnance Corps establishes the Ordnance Weapons Command, forerunner to AMCCOM, and locates command headquarters at Arsenal Island.
- 1957 The transfer of RIA's small arms mission to Springfield Armory is completed. The arsenal continues to manufacture spare parts for small arms.
- 1958 The Ordnance Management Engineering Training Program is transferred to Headquarters. Ordnance Weapons Command. The program later becomes the agency now known as AMETA. RIA becomes an alternate production facility for Nike Hercules rocket launchers.
- 1959 First numerically-controlled machines installed in the shops. RIA fabricates a cover for an experimental nuclear reactor for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- 1960 First feasible, auxiliary-propelled artillery weapon manufactured at RIA. Employment level of 4,023 is lowest in 10 years.
- 1961 RIA manufactures the prototype for the lightweight 105mm howitzer.

(cont. on page 4)



RIA's leather and cloth shop as seen in 1940.



Dunk tank lineup

Capt. Jerry De LaCruz, SMCRI-HD	11 a.m.
Ross Holmes, SMCRI-PCC	11:15 a.m.
Don Lathrop, AMSMC-DR	11:30 a.m.
Pat Broderick, SMCRI-PC	11:45 a.m.
Col. John Cowings, SMCRI-CO	Noon
Dave Linn, SMCRI-AO	12:15 p.m.
Maj. Harry Evans, SMCRI-CT	12:30 p.m.
Col. George Murray, AMSMC-AS	12:45 p.m.
Becky Diehn, SMCRI-PCC	1 p.m.
Les Black, SMCRI-DL	1:15 p.m.
Lonnie Elliott, SMCRI-DL	1:30 p.m.
Jesse Eslick, AMSMC-MG	1:45 p.m.
Ron Sikorski, SMCRI-AP	2 p.m.
Dave Block, SMCRI-APP	2:15 p.m.
Stephen Robinson, SMCRI-APR	2:30 p.m.
Tom Slattery, AMSMC-HO	2:45 p.m.
Gary Speaker, SMCRI-AOC	3 p.m.
Maj. James Welch, AMSMC-GS	3:15 p.m.
Capt. Francis Murphy, SMCRI-AP	3:30 p.m.
Dave Webb, SMCRI-AO	3:45 p.m.

Schedule of events

RIA's 125th Anniversary Picnic • July 11, 1987

Event	Time
Team games begin	9 a.m.
Beverage sales	9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Food sales	10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Train, carnival rides begin	10 a.m.
Dunk tank (see lineup)	11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Chordbusters barbershop quartet	11 a.m.-noon
Pie eating contest	11 a.m.
Night Breeze variety band	Noon-4 p.m.
Watermelon eating contest	1 p.m.
Period costume judging	2 p.m.
Dixieland band	4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Civil War encampment	All day

Chronological history

(cont. from page 3)

- 1962** RIA celebrates its centennial year with a gala ball at the Davenport Coliseum Ballroom and a luncheon emceed by Arthur Godfrey. The mission of assembling tool sets is transferred to RIA from Rosford Ordnance Depot. The arsenal also begins its mission of developing, manufacturing and maintaining gun mounts and recoil mechanisms for anti-aircraft guns, field guns, and howitzers.
- 1965** The great Mississippi River flood in April peaks with a crest of 22.48 feet. Employees volunteer to fill sandbags and build dikes to help protect the arsenal from the floodwaters.
- 1966** The National Match Program is transferred from Springfield Armory to RIA. Included in the program is the pistol and rifle overhaul and rebuild mission and training programs for marksmanship.
- 1968** RIA develops the prototype for the M198 towed howitzer.
- 1969** Arsenal Island is placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1973** The RIA Weapons Laboratory is renamed the Rodman Laboratory in honor of the "father of RIA."
- 1977** The U.S. Armament Command splits into two elements, the Armament Research and Development Command and the Armament Materiel Readiness Command. The reorganization results in the transfer of Rodman Laboratory to Dover, N.J.
- 1978** A ceremony celebrates the completion of the first two M198 howitzers fabricated at RIA.
- 1980** The first woman graduates from the machinist apprentice program. RIA is named Employer of the Year by the Iowa chapter of the National Federation of the Blind.
- 1982** A Bradley Fighting Vehicle takes a run on the RIA test track. The arsenal is awarded a \$38.9 million contract for the production of M45 recoil mechanisms.
- 1984** A ground breaking ceremony attended by Secretary of the Army John Marsh is held for Project REARM. "Project DISARM" protestors fail in their attempt to shut down Arsenal Island.
- 1986** The second phase of construction on Project REARM begins. RIA responds to an emergency request to produce 31,500 bolts for the M16A2 rifle.
- 1987** The first robot goes into operation in the arsenal's shops. The apprentice program graduates its 1,000th machinist. The Maj. Charles P. Kingsbury Manufacturing Center is dedicated.



Please don't frighten the horses

Traffic rules on Arsenal Island have certainly changed a lot over the years, as indicated by these orders signed by the RIA commander and dated June 15, 1909.

The orders stated that the speed limit on the island would be 15 miles per hour and "that limit must not be exceeded except in an emergency."

According to the orders, drivers "must have their machines at all times under perfect control; must be watchful to avoid any accident, and

to avoid frightening horses. Whenever a horse shall become frightened at an automobile the machine will be stopped at once and wait until such horse has passed the machine, or until the fright is over."

All this concern about frightening horses might now seem quaint, but one statement in the orders applies as well today as it did then: "Simply sounding a warning horn does not give an automobile driver more right than others to the roadway."

Arsenal offers in-home child care

Nowadays, it seems that the only place you can find the traditional American family, where Dad works and Mom stays home, is on "Leave it to Beaver" re-runs.

Families where both parents work, and families with a single, working parent, now far outnumber the traditional model. This has led to a growing demand for quality day care for children too young to take care of themselves.

Arsenal Island employees who have searched far and wide for quality child care may not know that they can find it right here on the island, in the homes of families who live in the arsenal's military housing area.

In-home child care has been available at Arsenal Island since 1984. Presently, ten homes take part in the program. The in-home care is available to all civilian and military employees at a price that ranges from \$40 to \$55 per week per child.

To accommodate virtually all working hours, home child care is available between 5:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Some child care providers can take children overnight while their parents are on temporary duty, a service not found at most day care centers.

The arsenal's child care homes are basically divided into two categories — infant homes, which take care of children between the ages of one month and two years, and toddler homes, which care for children from two to six years old.

According to Judie Micklewright, Family Child Care Director for the arsenal, the children cared for in the military homes receive plenty of personal attention regardless of their ages.

"We control the size of the groups in each home, so each child can receive individual care," Micklewright said. "And we gear the activities in the homes to the needs of the children."



Child care provider Ursula Lovell plays blocks with three of the infants she cares for in her home in the arsenal's military housing area. RIA's child care program places emphasis on learning and having fun at the same time, and providers use both their own resources and resources available in a lending library to achieve this goal.

Micklewright noted that children in the homes remain very active. Their hours are filled with educational games, arts and crafts, and music.

"The emphasis is always on learning and having fun at the same time," Micklewright said. She added that the children are only allowed to watch educational programs, such as

Sesame Street on television, and are restricted to one and a half hours of viewing a day. Soap operas and game shows are forbidden.

Weather and parents permitting, the children are brought outside at least once a day to use the playground equipment available in the housing area, to splash around in the little wading pools which some child care providers have, or just to run around and burn off excess energy. The children are closely supervised at all times both inside and out, Micklewright said.

Providers looking for more new and interesting activities for their young charges can go to the child care lending library. The library contains not just books but a wide variety of educational games and toys, crayons and paints, playpens, baby swings, strollers, and other items.

"With the lending library, and the resources available in the providers' homes, we feel we can successfully take care of any child," Micklewright said.

Child care provider Ursula Lovell agreed and added, "There are always new and different toys, games and puzzles available in the library, which help to keep the children interested in learning."

When mealtime comes, the children are fed following the U.S. Department of Agriculture's food program. The USDA program reimburses the providers for two meals and one snack a day, and requires that the children be given a balanced, healthful diet.

According to Micklewright, all providers are required to submit meal plans in order to assure that they are within USDA guidelines.

Because so much emphasis is placed on providing good food and filling children's needs, the USDA reimbursements don't always cover the cost of meals and snacks. "When children are hungry, you must feed them," said Cynthia Bump, one of the more experienced child care providers. "But you try to feed them something good rather than just giving them cookies all the time."

Child care providers learn about food and nutrition, and a full range of other topics, at monthly two-hour seminars. The providers are required to attend 24 hours of these educational seminars every year, the topics of which are sometimes suggested by the providers themselves.

The arsenal now also employs Nancy Schadle, an educational specialist who will provide in-home and classroom training for the providers.

Before military homes can be used for child care, they must undergo health, fire, safety, and preventive medicine inspections. Providers are then required to have their homes inspected periodically and to have fire drills at least once a month.

All of this adds up to a lot of regulations for the providers to follow and a fair amount of paperwork for them to fill out. Despite that, the providers agree that giving in-home child care is fulfilling and rewarding, and a good way to earn some extra money at home.

"We all work, yet we can be right there when our families need us," said provider Ana Torres. "I'd highly recommend it for any military wife."

"Being a child care provider has been a beautiful experience," she added. "I've learned almost as much from the children as they've learned from me."



Child care provider Cynthia Bump gives one of her young charges a boost on the swing in the military housing area's playground. Weather permitting, children in the in-home day care program are brought outside to play at least once a day.

RIA commander Col. John S. Cowings uses a Civil War-era saber to cut a cake during Monday's dedication ceremony for the Maj. Charles P. Kingsbury Manufacturing Center. The cake stole the show at the ceremony when it came out on one of the remotely guided robot vehicles which will be used to move supplies through the arsenal's new production facilities. The dedication ceremony kicked off a week-long celebration of RIA's 125th anniversary. Other events in the celebration include a wreath laying at the site of the Confederate prison camp and the unveiling of a time capsule today, and an old-fashioned company picnic tomorrow at Memorial Field. All Arsenal Island employees and retirees are welcome at the picnic, which begins at 9 a.m.



Art training pays off for mural's creator

All those years of art training finally paid off for Bill Ingeneri, creator of the mural adorning the entrance of Bldg. 212 which was unveiled during Monday's dedication ceremony for the Maj. Charles P. Kingsbury Manufacturing Center.

Ingeneri spent five years as Rock Island Arsenal's audiovisual manager before taking a new assignment in the REARM Project Office earlier this year.

"I hadn't picked up a paint brush in five years when I started working on the mural," Ingeneri said. "I'd spent that time doing administrative work as AV manager."

Ingeneri, who always drew as a child and who took about four years of formal art training in schools in New York and California, began planning the mural in March.

"I wanted to show people at their jobs," Ingeneri said, "and I wanted to show how people rely on each other to get their jobs done."

Ingeneri did this by making drawings of arsenal people at work based on photographs. He made transparencies of the illustrations and projected them onto the industrial-grade vinyl wallpaper used for the mural. The projections were then traced and painted in.

It took Ingeneri two months to complete the mural. He painted it in six different sections, with the final product measuring 15 feet high and 27 feet wide.

The mural depicts some historical scenes and some current scenes which trace the steps needed to build the carriage for an M198 howitzer.



Bill Ingeneri puts the finishing touches on some of the illustrations on the mural now hanging in the lobby of Bldg. 212. The mural, which was unveiled during Monday's

dedication ceremonies for the Maj. Charles P. Kingsbury Manufacturing Center, measures 15 feet high and 27 feet wide.

Standing at either end of the mural are two ghost-like figures of soldiers, one dressed in a Civil War uniform and one decked out in modern military gear.

"The soldiers frame the mural and stand behind it," Ingeneri said, "because they represent

why the arsenal is here and who it is that we're working for.

"I was very satisfied with the way the mural turned out," he added. "Because it is a permanent public display, it will probably be seen by more people than anything else I ever painted."

Car pools

Car pools

Galva, 212 S.E. 1st Ave. to Commissary, 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Pat Duytschauer, DALO-TAM, Ext. 2-4798.

Geneseo, Route 2, Box 52C, to Bldg. 350, 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Craig Patterson, AMSMC-DSP, Ext. 2-4162.

Ride wanted

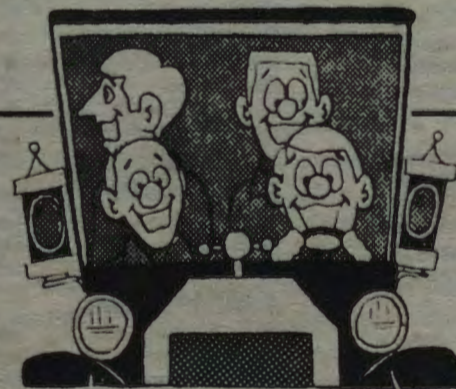
Clinton, 916 N. 3rd St. to Bldg. 350, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Sylvia Just, AMSMC-POM, Ext. 2-3912.

Davenport, 5727 Oakbrook Road to Bldg. 62, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., flexitime, Brian Henneberry, AMSMC-QAS, Ext. 2-7125(369).

Davenport, 2130 Emerald Drive to Bldg. 350, 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., flexitime, Jewel Hicks, AMSMC-PCS, Ext. 2-5556.

Geneseo, 222 Geneseo Hills to Bldg. 350, 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., flexitime, Gail Jones, AMSMC-PCA, Ext. 2-5159.

Rock Island, 834 21st St. to Bldg. 350, 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., James Love, AMSMC-MMW, Ext. 2-4285.



CIRCLE ONE: RIDE WANTED CAR POOL RIDERS NEEDED

town _____ address _____

to _____

building _____ hours-note flexitime _____

name _____

office symbol _____ phone no. or ext. _____

Mail to AMSMC-IN (R)