



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Pittsburgh District

Headwaters Highlights



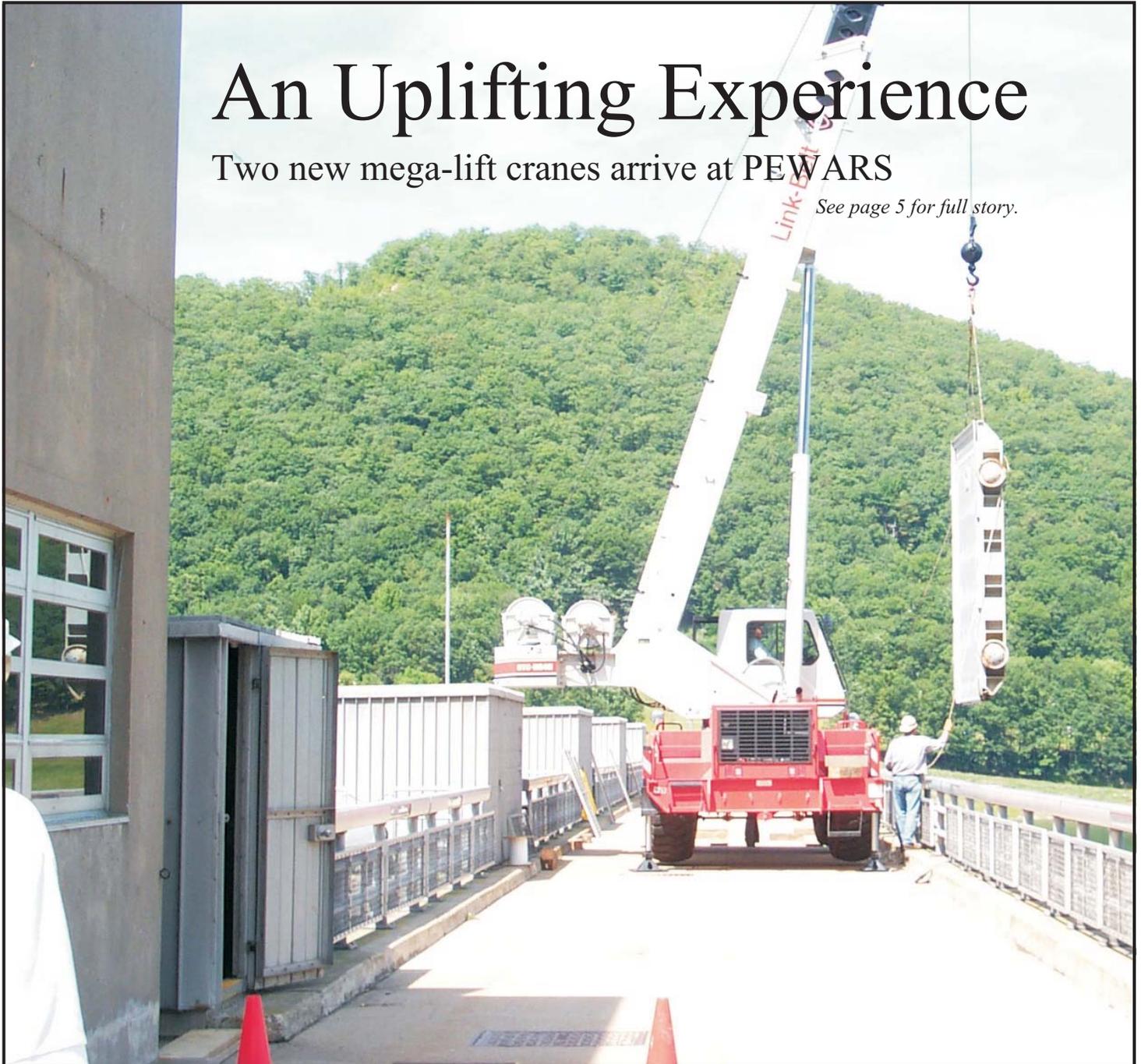
Vol 27 No 3

Summer 2003

An Uplifting Experience

Two new mega-lift cranes arrive at PEWARS

See page 5 for full story.



Members of Pittsburgh District's field maintenance crew lift an emergency bulkhead for inspection and repair at Kinzua Dam using a 40-ton mobile crane. The new crane is one of two that recently arrived at PEWARS. Photo taken by Bob Szemanski.

Up Front

with District Engineer
COL Raymond Scrocco



I want to take this opportunity to focus on the top initiatives of Pittsburgh District in each of our main mission areas. This is not an all-inclusive list, just the top five areas where we are making progress in insuring that our district remains viable and capable of supporting the nation and communities in our region.

Our four key mission areas are Flood Damage Reduction, Commercial Navigation, Environmental Infrastructure and Ecosystem Restoration.

Here are my top five initiatives in each area:

FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION

* Planning, design and construction of numerous community protection projects under the Section 581 program in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, beginning with Philippi, Belington and Parsons, W.Va. and Meyersdale and Hooversville, Pa. In most cases, the protection will be a combination of both structural works (levees and floodwalls) and non-structural measures (flood proofing structures, elevating houses or buy-outs of structures at great risk of repetitive flood damage).

* Rehabilitation projects at several of our existing dams, including automation of gate operations and meeting improved dam safety standards. Major repairs have recently taken place at Tygart and Berlin Lake, and additional work at Tygart will involve bulkhead hoist system and electrical upgrades. Alternatives to

improve dam safety at Mosquito Creek Lake are being evaluated to assure satisfactory project performance under extreme flood events.

* Watershed flood warning systems, building upon our successful installation of systems in the Cheat and Tygart River basins.

* A major floodplain digital mapping project in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with priority sites in our area being Ohio County, W.Va. and Butler County, Pa.

* Additional small flood damage reduction studies and projects under Section 205 of the Continuing Authorities Program, similar to those currently being evaluated at Weirton, W. Va. and West Elizabeth, Pa.

COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION

* Continue work with eventual completion in FY 2011 of the \$750 million Lower Mon Project and putting it into full operation, with a new Braddock Dam, new Charleroi locks and the safe removal of Locks and Dam 3 at Elizabeth.

* Begin the planning, design, engineering and (ultimately) construction of improvements to the Upper Ohio River locks and dams at Emsworth, Dashields and Montgomery (EDM).

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* Lock automation systems design and installation to allow more flexible operation of the locks on the Upper Allegheny and Upper Monongahela rivers.

* Development of regional inland ports and small navigation projects, under Section 107 of the Continuing Authorities Program. Expressions of interest have been received from the Columbiana County Port Authority in Ohio and the Riverlife Task Force for two projects in the downtown Pittsburgh pool.

* Rehabilitation of Emsworth dam.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

* Continued planning, design and construction of waste water treatment facilities and water supply, storage, treatment and distribution facilities, in partnership with local sponsors. Sections 313 and 219 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 authorized such work in South Central Pennsylvania and specifically named jurisdictions in Western Pennsylvania. Section 594 of WRDA 1999 authorized such work in the state of Ohio.

* With our eventual success at Parks Township, there will be opportunities for expanded FUSRAP work cleaning up hazardous wastes from former defense-related sites.

* With our success at the Duquesne RIDC site, we will pursue brownfield restoration of former industrial sites where appropriate.

* Work on the five-year Pennsylvania State Water Plan, in support of the state DEP.

* Design and build emergency streambank protection projects to protect public infrastructure under Section 14 of the Continuing Authorities Program. The district has had significant success in working with local sponsors on projects under this authority in recent years. There are currently 12 protection projects being actively planned, designed or constructed, from Salamanca, N.Y. to Friendsville, Md. to Blacksville, W. Va., with seven in the greater Pittsburgh area.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

* Acid Mine Drainage remediation projects in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania, including efforts to prevent acid mine water spills from “orphaned mines” in the Monongahela River watershed.

* Mahoning River clean-up, including the design and construction of an environmental dredging project

for the Ohio section and a related feasibility study for the Pennsylvania portion of this heavily-polluted river.

* Aquatic ecosystem restoration projects under the Ohio River Environmental Restoration Program as authorized under the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) of 2000. Prior coordination with state resource agencies has identified 16 sites in Pennsylvania and 14 sites in West Virginia that constitute prime targets for future environmental restoration work along the Ohio River under this authority.

* Restoring and re-creating naturally-functioning streams that have been impacted by generations of abuse and development, under the continuing authority established by Section 206 of WRDA 1996, for sites such as the Nine Mile Run in the city of Pittsburgh. Other streams and water bodies identified for future planning and design to achieve aquatic ecosystem restoration under Section 206 include Sheraden Park and North Shore waterfront in the city of Pittsburgh; North Park Lake in Allegheny County; Saxman Run, Westmoreland County; and additional sites in Ohio and West Virginia. Three environmental restoration projects at Corps sites under the Section 1135 authority (WRDA 1986) include Scab Run at Tygart Lake; Bone Run at Kinzua; and Shenango River Lake shoreline management.

* Watershed studies for metropolitan Pittsburgh, Wheeling Creek in Ohio and other river basins within our area of responsibility in the Headwaters District.

This list is just a part of what we are doing in Pittsburgh District to keep focused not only on today but also on the future.

Finally, in line with Lt. Gen. Flowers’ directive that we should also take some time in our lives to “have fun,” we should never lose sight of our responsibilities to provide recreation opportunities to our fellow citizens. Our rangers and project managers daily demonstrate their care and concerns for the lakes, rivers, campsites, forests and streams in our great district, helping to further enhance our reputation as good stewards of our natural resources.

Thank you all for your good works and for your faith in the future.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

Experiencing living history at Yough and beyond

By Denny Millin

Youghiogheny River Lake

Scott Mandrell, a living history re-enactor in the National 2003 – 2006 Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, arrived at the Outflow Campground at Youghiogheny Lake via horseback on Thursday, July 10, as he retraced the route and for the next three years lives the lifestyle of Meriwether Lewis, the famous explorer, during the original 1803 – 1806 expedition.

Mandrell, a National Guard reservist now on active duty, is part of the officially sanctioned Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Missouri, re-enactors group. For the first part of the journey, Mandrell – as did Lewis – rode by himself from Washington D.C. to Elizabeth, Pa. That was where Lewis came in 1803 to have a keelboat built.

Lewis stayed in Pittsburgh for six-weeks waiting for the boat to be built before continuing the historic journey westward looking for the fabled Northwest Passage. Following the historic scenario, Mandrell will take a respite as a re-enactor until August when he will again don the 18th century garb

of Army Captain Lewis. “They’re keeping it in real time and as historically accurate as possible,” said Susie Kline, Pittsburgh District’s Bicentennial representative.

Mandrell departed Washington D. C. on July 5 and followed the route, travel modes and lifestyles of the original expedition as near as practicable. He traveled by horseback between Washington

then travel by dugout canoe to his final destination, Fort Clatsop, Oregon, and the Pacific Ocean.

During his daily layovers, Mandrell will be presenting living history demonstrations and talks about the expedition and he encourages public interaction as he portrays the life of Lewis.

Mandrell arrived at the Outflow Campground at Youghiogheny Lake at

approximately 6:30 p.m. July 10 riding his horse Sniper. Although it was raining, 53 people showed up over the course of the evening to hear Mandrell tell the story of the expedition 200 years ago and how they will re-enact it in 2003 – 2006.

The public was invited to stop by during his visit at Yough and partake of the living history. A Lewis and Clark

“Discovery Box,” a collection of artifact reproductions of Lewis & Clark items, was on display.

From Fort Necessity, Mandrell completed his travels to Elizabeth on horseback. From Elizabeth, he traveled down the Monongahela River on a Pittsburgh District boat to Pittsburgh. In Pittsburgh, he was united with Sniper again and they finished the trip to Fort Pitt.



Lewis re-enactor Scott Mandrell rides his horse Sniper into the Yough River Lake campground as he retraces the explorer’s route from Washington, D.C. to the Pacific Ocean.

D.C. and Pittsburgh, Pa. In late August, Mandrell and others from the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Missouri, will board a reproduction of the original keelboat and float down the Ohio River to the Mississippi River and St. Louis. From St. Louis, his route will follow the Missouri River upstream to the Rocky Mountains in Montana, then overland once again by foot and horseback to the headwaters of the Columbia River,

PEWARS

An Uplifting Experience

By Don Fogel

PEWARS

The two new cranes that arrived at PEWARS earlier this year are already at work lifting lock gates and other large components safely and efficiently.

Both cranes are part of Pittsburgh District's ongoing Plant Replacement and Improvement Program.

The 300-ton capacity heavy-lift crawler crane was delivered to Neville Island in January. Four months later a smaller 40-ton mobile hydraulic crane arrived. Both cranes will be used by Operations and Readiness Division's Repair Section and Field Maintenance Section for the maintenance and repair of district flood control and navigation projects.

The need for the new heavy-lift crane was identified in 1993 as part of a comprehensive study of the PEWARS dock front and related crane capabilities. After completion of an extensive evaluation of crane service alternatives, including contracting for off-site services, the new crane was approved for purchase in 2000.

Procurement of the \$2.2 million crane required congressional approval and was funded through the Revolving Fund for solicitation in fiscal year 2003.

The new 300-ton capacity crawler crane will replace one existing 30-year old, 140-ton capacity crawler crane and two

50-year old, 30-ton capacity portal cranes. Procurement was made through a "Best Value Trade-Off" Source Selection process administered by Contracting Division.

With the cab mounted 35 feet above the ground and video cameras attached to the front and rear of the crane, the operator of the new 300-ton crane has a bird's-eye view of operations at PEWARS.

The 40-ton capacity mobile hydraulic crane delivered in May 2003 replaces a 21-year old 18-ton crane that was no longer large enough to handle the majority of the lifts required by the Field Maintenance Section to efficiently perform their mission. The new hydraulic crane will be used on land and aboard the district's Repair Fleet for small lifts not accessible by the larger cranes.

The first job for the new 40-ton crane was at Lock 4 Monongahela River in July followed immediately by scheduled work at Kinzua Dam. This crane was purchased through



The mobile 40-ton crane



The 300-ton heavy lift crane

the "Heavy Equipment Procurement Plan" administered by the Defense Logistics Agency, Philadelphia, at a cost of \$257,000. Using DLA saved the district approximately 20 percent of the commercial list price of the crane, which is over \$60,000.

Unlike funding for project construction or operations and maintenance, the cost of the new crawler crane and the new mobile hydraulic crane must be repaid by the district over the 20-year economic life of each machine. This is accomplished through the use and administration of plant rental fees that are charged when the cranes service specific projects. The rental fees charged pay for the initial cost of the crane and also pay for the cost of operation (operator wages, fuel, maintenance and repair, etc.).

These new cranes will provide the Pittsburgh District with safe and reliable lift service for many years to come.

Army Suggestion Program

Making a difference with your ideas

By Mary Lee Marshman

Resource Management

The Army Suggestion Program is the system for capturing and implementing your good ideas. ASP allows you to document ideas and provides a method of recognizing those ideas that make a difference. ASP challenges you to submit ideas that increase the efficiency and productivity of the Pittsburgh District and the U.S. Army.

Implemented ideas can result in dollar savings, streamlined processes, higher quality products, faster cycle times or process improvements that save organizations time and/or money. Awards are based on the tangible and intangible first-year savings or benefits documented by the evaluator.

Your ideas can enable supervisors to find new ways to operate. All employees, including students, are eligible to participate in the program.

While you may not believe you have any ideas to contribute to the program, you may be surprised. Think about the following areas and then decide.

- Reducing the costs of fax, telephone, photocopying and Internet services.
- Eliminating duplicate efforts.
- Processing current "hard copy" paperwork or processes more efficiently by electronic means, e.g. abolishing an obsolete form.
- Reducing bills for water, gas, electricity, heating oil or solid fuels.
- Reducing the time and effort of office or workshop procedures.
- Improving the acquisition and reducing the cost of supplies, to include tools, machines and equipment.
- Maintaining and servicing equipment and facilities.
- Recycling materials previously dumped.
- Improving safety and security.
- Improving or acquiring more cost effective computer hardware and software.



- Improving and expanding employee training to make it more cost effective.

Many employees in the district have submitted ideas that resulted in considerable monetary savings. Here are just a few of our employees whose suggestions have saved the district money and the estimated amount of money saved.

- LeeAnn Shinavski, Hydrologic Gage Database, \$30,368
- Carmen Rozzi, VE - Lower Mon Project Lock 2 Abutment, \$3,356,923
- James Kosky, Hydrograph Drawings, \$2500
- Dave Heidish and Rich Allwes, Replacement Of Existing Stone Wall at Johnstown, \$150,000
- Nancy Taylor, VE - Johnstown Borings, \$918,000
- Greg Formosa, Upgrade Of Telephone System, \$102,368
- Frank Jenne, Installing Power Factor Correction Capacitors at Our Locks to Save Money on the Electric Bill, \$17,000
- Darlene Young, Bid Openings On District Internet Page, \$586
- Steve Stolz and Rob Lesko, Johnstown Balustrade Wall Replacement, \$86,625

To learn more about the Army Suggestion Program and how to submit your suggestions, visit the ASP website on the district's intranet <https://intranet/lrp.usace.mil.rm/asp.htm> or call Mary Marshman at 412-395-7469 or Jerry Lynn at 412-395-7237.

CMU students develop smart prototype for locks

By **David Sneberger**

Ohio/Allegheny Area Office

The Pittsburgh District teamed up with the Port of Pittsburgh Commission to assist the winning team in the Carnegie Mellon Masters of Science in E-Commerce (MSEC) Practicum. The team produced a product that could revolutionize the waterways industry and save millions of dollars.

The Port of Pittsburgh Commission enlisted the help of five CMU students, along with two faculty advisors, to develop a “Smart Lock” prototype to assist tow boat pilots to gain safer access when navigating through locks on our nations waterways. This team was the unanimous choice as the practicum winner. The victorious team garnered a \$10,000 first prize for their efforts.

The practicum consists of five teams of CMU students who are commissioned by various area industries to solve complicated technical problems.

“Smart Lock” is a term used to describe the use of technology to interface communication between a lock and a towboat. This is especially useful during times of poor visibility, such as darkness, fog and heavy rain or snow. For the past 50 years, communication between a lock and a towboat was relegated to radio and whistle signals.

“Smart lock” brings us into the 21st century using the existing Corps of Engineers Electronic River Chart System coupled with Satellite Global Positioning Systems to provide a computer read out for the towboat pilot. This is a real time tool to provide precise distances and locations to the towboat pilot, which he can use, in conjunction with his radar, to provide a safer and quicker access to any lock outfitted with this equipment.

Jim McCarville, of the Port of Pittsburgh Commission, approached CMU with the task of using newly available technology to increase the speed and safety of the locking process. Along with Peter Stephaich, the liaison for the towing industry, he enlisted the Pittsburgh District for assistance in developing

this program, while using Emsworth Lock and Dam to install the prototype and proceed with the testing.

David Sneberger was chosen to lead a team of district operations and technical experts to work hand in hand with the CMU students. The Corps team consisted of Chris Johnson, Don Zeiler, Dave Turcsanyi, Tom Cecere, Jack Cicone, Greg Formosa, Joe Pettit, Steve LeBlanc and Dave Margo.

The semester-long project culminated with the successful development, installation and testing of a “Smart lock” prototype. The initial testing surpassed everyone’s expectations. The availability of the low cost technology and the user friendly ease of operation make this a very viable system.

Estimated annual savings for the towing industry nationwide could easily exceed \$100 million. The increased speed in navigation, to bring commodities to market, along with the decrease in accidents in or around locks will go a long way in deferring the ever-climbing cost of river commerce. Future predictions of an entire web-based communication system for towboats, using this technology, could revolutionize the river industry.



“Smart Lock” technology could revolutionize the waterways industry.

Digital cameras gaining popularity

By Marge Luzier

Information Management Office

Digital cameras are fast leaving the desktop and are becoming one of the most popular mediums to capture both your personal and corporate events. Here are some things to consider when using a digital camera:

•*Batteries* - Digital cameras are far more power-hungry than the traditional film cameras and using off-the-shelf alkaline batteries is not a feasible option. The worst energy-using cameras are those with a LCD display. Stick to NiMH AA rechargeable batteries whenever possible.

•*Picture size (pixel)* - Generally, picture size can be classified into 4 categories: sub-VGA, VGA, million pixels, 2 million pixels, 3 million pixels. The higher the number of pixels, the sharper the image will be. It is vital that you understand the definition of pixel. That will help to explain the relationships between image size on a computer screen and in print (on paper).

•*Picture quality (compression)* - Compression can drastically reduce the file size. Compression also makes the picture less sharp. A good compression rate is the best compromise between these two considerations. Another factor that also affects picture quality is pixels.

The smaller the picture (is scaled down), the sharper it is.

•*Digital vs. analogue film* - A 3 million pixel camera can produce picture quality to the naked eye that is almost identical to film. Some digital cameras can also record brief audio messages. Digital cameras are superior for operating in low light environment, such as for astronomy photography. Digital offers the ability to have instant view of the result, either via your computer or TV. That brings another advantage – learning photography by trial and error. Using digital is a great chance to toy with more advanced photographic features such as manipulating “white balance”, etc.

•*Printer - with/without PC* - Most digital cameras have a dedicated stand-alone printer that bypasses the need for a computer for standard-size printouts. For larger size photos, it is necessary to use a computer printer.



For more information about digital photography visit
<<http://www.techtronics.com/uk/shop/853-00-digital-still-camera-intro.html>>

Lewis and Clark activities continue...

Larry Spisak, Point Marion Lock, fiddled his way through jigs and reels dressed as a 19th century adventurer, at the Corps II's *Tent of Many Voices* at Hannibal Locks and Dam. While Spisak discussed the first fiddler of the Lewis and Clark Expedition — George Gibson, Pat Kline of M.J. Kirwan and Sam Smith of Planning Branch, presented programs on other aspects of the expedition. The Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service traveling exhibit was at Hannibal from July 16-20.



Hydrologists measure water flows

By **Jim Kosky**

Engineering and Construction Division

Hydrologists are measuring the flow of water every 15 minutes on Saxman Run and Crabtree Creek in western Pennsylvania. They are part of the Saxman Run, Pennsylvania, Section 206 Project. Measurements are then provided to the local sponsor, the Loyalhanna Watershed Association.

Three sites, two on Saxman Run and one on Crabtree Creek, have data loggers installed. Every month one of the Hydraulics and Hydrology Section's hydrologic technicians — Jeff Liggett, Dennis McCune or Frank Campbell — retrieves the data logger information and electronically sends it to the district office. The data is then processed and sent to the sponsor's website.

The flow information is not only used by the sponsor but will also be used by the design team to

restore the aquatic ecosystem of Saxman Run, which has been affected by abandoned mine drainage.

This work is not new to the H&H Section. They have used data loggers throughout the district and at other places such as the Panama Canal; McAlpine Locks Dam in Louisville, Kentucky; Fall Run, Ohio; and in the Tygart and Cheat River basins.



Jeff Liggett (left) and Dennis McCune, from the Hydraulics and Hydrology Section, install a weir and data logger on Saxman Run near Latrobe, Pa.

George Evanick



Peck's captain true inspiration

George Evanick, master of the M/V Raymond C. Peck, passed away July 14. He began working in the Pittsburgh District in March 1979 as a towboat pilot. He was promoted to towboat master and captain of the Peck in May 1989 where he served in that capacity until his death.

Mr. Evanick was a 4-year World War II Navy veteran and had worked as a towboat captain for Jones & Laughlin Steel Company for nearly 35 years before being hired by the Pittsburgh District. "George spent 58 years aboard ships and on inland river towboats," said Don Fogel, PEWARS. "His knowledge and passion for his work was a true inspiration and will be sorely missed by everyone he touched."

Alohaaaa. . .

Getting a respite from wintery Pittsburgh

By Donna Goldstrom
Chief, Real Estate Division

On January 13 I left snowy, cold Pittsburgh to begin a 60-day detail as the chief of Pacific Ocean Division's Real Estate Division in sunny, warm Honolulu, Hawaii.

This was my first assignment in a division real estate office, and my experience with military real estate was somewhat limited, so I knew that my work would be challenging. And it was.

As a one-person real estate office at Fort Shafter on the

sun-drenched island of Oahu, I reviewed documents and answered questions involving all real estate functional areas — acquisition, management and disposal, planning and control, and even appraisal. Luckily I had a good network of real estate experts at Headquarters, other divisions and districts to advise me on the tough issues.

I was engaged in organizing the real estate portions of upcoming command staff inspections in Honolulu and Alaska districts. I met regularly with the Honolulu real estate chief and his staff and even

spent some time with several Alaska District folks who were there on training. I also had the opportunity to participate in partnering sessions with key military customers.

In my view, the most important task I had (and the most rewarding) was my active participation in the selection process for the new division chief of Real Estate in POD. This included writing screening criteria, KSAs, interview questions and TAPES performance standards. Our selection panel reviewed and ranked the resumes of 41 applicants, interviewed several and selected the new chief.

On a more personnel level I found the people of POD and Honolulu District to be very warm and welcoming and very proud of their beautiful state, which is truly a paradise. They included me in many social events including lunches, dinners, beach picnics, and of course, "Aloha Fridays".

For "Aloha Fridays" all POD employees wear Hawaiian garb to work— flowered shirts and dresses. They often bring in food from the many cultures that comprise the Corps population – Japanese, Chinese, Korean and native Hawaiian.

My detail in POD was a wonderful experience in every way, and I have grown personally and professionally as a result of this opportunity.



The Pittsburgh District Real Estate team had an "Aloha" party for Goldstrom before she left for Hawaii, complete with leis, grass skirt and Hawaiian music.

Is it my job or my career?

By Lisa Eberly

Chief, CPAC

Have you ever been asked the question “What is your career?” When you explain to someone what you do at work do you define it as “My job is ...” or do you say, “My career is ...” What do you have — a career or a job?

“Career” is defined by Webster’s dictionary as: a field for or pursuit of consecutive progressive achievement especially in public, professional, or business life, or a profession for which one trains and which is undertaken as a permanent calling. “Job” is defined as: applying to a piece of work voluntarily performed; it may sometimes suggest difficulty or importance or something that has to be done.

It is up to you how you choose to define what you do. Most likely you will be a member of the workforce for at least 20 years, possibly longer. If you are new to the workforce a question you might ask yourself is, “Where do I want to be in my career or job five, 10 or 15 years from now and how do I get there?”

An evaluation of the existing opportunities in your current career

field within the Pittsburgh District may not match your career goals, which then require you to ask the question “Am I mobile?” To achieve the grade level, type of work desired as an end state may require several moves throughout your working years.

If possible seek temporary duty assignments outside of the district to gain diversified work experience. If you are not mobile, which is a personal choice made by you, seek out local opportunities to enhance your marketability in the workforce. What does this mean?

Pursue self-development opportunities such as volunteering for “extra” assignments to assist with a temporary increase in workload; educational/training initiatives on your own such as college/vo-tech courses or the multitude of free correspondence courses available on the internet, ask for short term developmental opportunities to gain experience/knowledge in an area outside of your current position or apply for the locally- sponsored Leadership Development Program (LDP).

The Individual Development Plan (IDP) is an excellent tool to use for identifying your short and

long-term goals. Take advantage of the district’s mentor program which is available to all employees by seeking out a higher graded individual to provide you guidance, coaching and mentoring in making decisions about your future direction in the workforce.

Don’t sit back and ask “What can you do for me?” but rather change it around and ask, “How can I improve myself or my opportunities?”

Career management is crucial for any employee. Knowing where you fit in the workplace now and where you want to be in the future enables you to have a clearly defined plan to achieve your goal. Ask yourself “Am I satisfied in the position I currently occupy and do not actively wish to seek a different job or position?” Whether you answer you want to be chief of a division in five to 10 years or you are happy in the position you currently occupy, neither answer is the wrong answer. The choice is yours! If you decide to plan a career or have a job, whichever choice you make it is a personal choice. It is up to you to take the initiative to succeed.

Volunteers needed for Pioneer Crafts Day

The 25th annual Pioneer Crafts Day at Tionesta Lake is coming up on August 17, from noon until 5 p.m. in the area adjacent to the Information Center.

Pioneer Crafts Day was initiated in 1979 to provide an opportunity for all visitors to sample a bit of what life was like during the 1800’s and early 1900’s, and to re-learn the lost arts necessary for daily

pioneer living. It has grown since 1979 to attract approximately 3000 visitors!

Plans are underway for this year’s event...and HELP is needed. For more information or to volunteer email Amy Keitzer-Wallace at Tionesta or call 814-755-3512.

Excellence in Government Awards

District members honored at FEB award ceremony

Twenty-two Pittsburgh District individuals and teams were presented FEB's annual *Excellence in Government Awards* May 30 at a ceremony at the Westin Convention Center in Pittsburgh. One Gold, six Silver and 14 Bronze awards were presented to the following individuals and teams:

Gold Award Winner:

Kirk Piehler -- Outstanding Contribution to Science (Non-Med)

As the district wildlife biologist, Piehler initiated a highly successful and widely acclaimed osprey nesting program and expanded the district's participation in the annual mid-winter bald eagle survey.

Silver Award Winners:

William Harkness -- Outstanding Professional Employee (All other)

He has played a key role in three major district projects, including the new Braddock Dam and Charleroi Locks. Harkness provided outstanding technical leadership in helping to resolve numerous complex design issues on these two projects. His most significant contribution was as the technical leader for the Concept Design Study for the Panama Canal Third Lane. His team developed a comprehensive plan for the new project with Harkness personally designing several major features.

Katherine Astleford -- Outstanding Administrative Employee

She is one of the very limited number of professionals who has achieved the rating of *Certified Administrative Professional*, holding the *Certified Professional Secretary* rating since May 1985. Astleford truly embodies the position of "Program Assistant" playing a critical role in assisting the technical staff of Design Branch and various project teams.

David Sneberger -- Outstanding Supervisor/Manager in a Tech Series

Serving as the assistant manager of the Ohio/Allegheny Rivers Area Office, Sneberger has lent his technical and managerial expertise to enhancing the performance of the locks and dams and increasing the efficiency of the navigation system on numerous occasions.

Marsha King — Outstanding Clerical Employee

She plays a critical role in the efficient operation of the Geotechnical and Water Resources Engineering branches and is instrumental in their successful mission accomplishments. She constantly recognizes inefficiencies, develops improvements and implements changes to enhance the effectiveness of clerical operations. She is self-motivated to make things change for the better. The status quo is never good enough for her.

Panama Canal Concept Design Team -- Outstanding Team

After 90 years of continuous service, the canal system is in the midst of a much needed expansion

program, which may rival the scope of the original project. Although the U.S. no longer operates the canal, the Panama Canal Authority asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prepare a concept design for this expansion project. The Pittsburgh District provides technical leadership for the 75-member Corps-wide team. The team has approached and continues to approach challenges with a unified effort and a "can do" attitude

Kevin Nogroski —Community Service Award

The Youghiogheny Lake ranger serves in many capacities as a volunteer. He is an emergency medical technician, cave rescuer, underwater rescue/search and recovery diver, etc. for his local Confluence ambulance company. Over the years, Nogroski has donated over nine gallons of his blood in local drives. He also has served on disaster duty with the district.

Bronze Award Winners:

Kirk McWilliams — Outstanding Professional Employee (All other)

Frank Zovack — Outstanding Supervisor/Manager in a Prof Series

Gregory Burns — Outstanding Administrative Employee

Gregory Formosa — Outstanding Supervisor/Manager in an Admin. Series

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Safety tops the day at Berlin Lake

By Mike Pickut
Ranger, Berlin Lake

A Stat Medical Life Flight helicopter, Coast Guard boats and two diving teams were just some of the highlights at this year's Berlin Reservoir Safety Day on July 12.

The event at Mill Creek Recreation Day Use Area drew approximately 560 visitors with eight agencies and 44 individuals participating.

The Stat Medical Life Flight Helicopter landed in the Mill Creek area around 10 a.m. Two emergency medical technicians on board, along with the helicopter pilot, answered questions as visitors took a look inside the helicopter at the medical equipment and how patients are airlifted during emergencies to nearby hospitals.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary displayed two Coast Guard boats and gave tips on how to make sure their recreational boats are safe. In addition they provided visitors with various pamphlets on water and boating safety. Members of the auxiliary answered questions on boats, life jackets and other boating safety issues.

The Berlin Fire Department displayed a fire truck and an EMT ambulance and visitors were show how they operated. In addition, visitors got a chance to throw a life ring to a simulated person in distress.

A second fire department from Deerfield, Ohio, demonstrated how to put out a wood fire using a type I

fire extinguisher. They also showed how to put out electrical, wood, gas, oil and chemical fires using the appropriate fire extinguishers.

The Canton Fire Department dive team and the Mahoning County Sheriff dive team demonstrated how they recover bodies and submerged objects. The dive teams also demonstrated how to operate oxygen diving tanks and how to properly put on a wetsuit.

Visitors got a chance to see the effects of being physical impaired through the lens of drunk goggles. Officers from the Portage County Sheriff Department evaluated the participants on how they performed using the goggles.

To round out the exhibits for the day, Berlin Lake had a display of North American mammals and giant insects from around the world. The mammal display consisted of several species of animals native to the area. Berlin Lake rangers explained the natural history of these mammals and insects. An information booth with literature about Berlin Reservoir, lake maps, camping and water safety coloring books were also available.

Berlin campground hosts and a Kent State University volunteer also participated in the day-long event by assisting the various agencies with their demonstrations.

Park Ranger Mike Pickut and John Morris, president of the Berlin Reservoir Water Safety Council, coordinated the safety day.

FEB Awards from page 12

Marie McCullough — Outstanding Supervisor/Manager in an Admin. Series

Susan Kline - Bronze - Outstanding Tech Employee

Kimberly Poling - Bronze - Outstanding Tech Employee

Jean Yeager - Bronze - Outstanding Clerical Employee

Leetsdale, PA, Archaeological Data Recovery Team — Outstanding Team

Deborah Duda — Community Service Award

Jon Zatezalo — Rookie of the Year

Dilip Kothari — Outstanding

Service to the Public

David Schwab — Outstanding Service to the Public

Donald Fogel — Chairman's Award

Kenneth Palmer — Chairman's Award



A Right to Search

Butch was employed by the maintenance department of Ace Manufacturing Co. Seven months ago in response to the disappearance of some hand tools, the company instituted a policy whereby on certain unspecified dates, all employees leaving company property at the end of their work shifts were required to open their lunch buckets for inspection by security personnel for tools and other company property.

Pursuant to this policy, Butch was asked to open his lunch bucket as he left work one day. He refused and walked past the security guard. The next day, Butch was called into the plant manager's office about the incident. Butch said that he resented this intrusion of his privacy and that the requested inspection was an unlawful search under both our federal and state constitutions. Two weeks later, after he again refused to open his lunch bucket for inspection, he was fired for insubordination. His application for unemployment compensation was denied by the referee on the basis of willful misconduct. Butch's timely appeal is now before us for review.

The term "willful misconduct" is not defined by statute. However, our state's Supreme Court has defined it as an act of wanton or willful disregard of the employer's interest, a deliberate violation of the employer's rules and standards of conduct which the employer has a right to expect of an employee; or negligence indicating an intentional disregard of the employer's interest or the employee's duties and responsibilities to the employer.

An employee's direct refusal to comply with an employer's request can constitute willful misconduct.

However, before we can make that determination, we must evaluate the reasonableness of the employer's request under the circumstances and the employee's reason for noncompliance; was it justified.

Butch argues that such a search would violate his constitutional rights against an unreasonable search.

Case law has established that such constitutional protections apply only to actions of governmental authorities, and are not applicable to the conduct of private parties, such as Ace.

Here, Butch refused to cooperate with Ace by failing to comply with a known work-related security measure

designed to protect his employer's property. It was not often used and was not directed against any particular employee. All he was required to do was to open his lunch bucket as he walked through the company exit gate. When we compare the employer's interest in having a policy to protect its property with the degree of burden placed upon the employees, we conclude that the employer's request for

cooperation was reasonable under the circumstances. Therefore, the employee had an implied obligation to cooperate. Here, Butch tried to justify his refusal by relying on legal concepts that do not apply to the request that Ace made of him. Accordingly, Butch has failed to establish "good cause" for his refusal to comply.

The decision of the referee to deny unemployment compensation to Butch based upon his willful misconduct, his intentional violation of Ace's reasonable work rules, is affirmed.

Editor's note: This article does not consider the issue of bargaining with the employees' union concerning instituting such a search policy, which would alter the employees' terms and conditions of employment.



Safety Notes

Sun is not fun when you burn

By Jeff Kerr

Chief, Safety

(Don't get me wrong I like getting a good tan, too! Still, I shake my head at how and why we take risks.)

Despite our association of sunburn with fun in the sun, sunburn is, to quote U.S. Army dermatologist Col. John R. Cook, nothing more than an "injury to the skin caused by exposure to ultraviolet radiation." But why does the skin turn red? A whole series of events causes the erythema (reddening), after a prolonged exposure to the sun:

1. The initial blush is primarily due to the heat, with blood going through the skin in an effort to radiate the excess heat to the outside, reducing the core temperature of our body. This initial reaction is not the burn itself. In most cases, the peak burn is reached 15 to 24 hours after exposure.

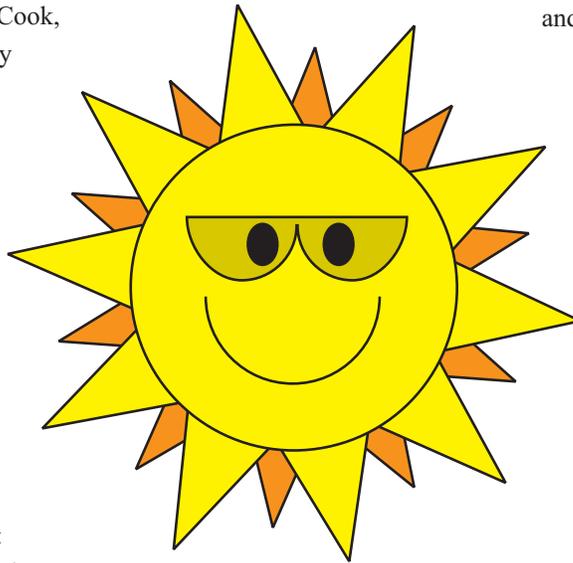
2. In an attempt to repair damaged cells, vessels widen in order to rush blood to the surface of the skin. As biophysicist Joe Doyle puts it, "The redness we see is not actually the burn, but rather the blood that has come to repair the cells that have burned." This process, called vasodilation, is prompted by the release of one or more chemicals, such as kinins, serotonin, and histamines.

3. Capillaries break down and slowly leak blood.

4. More melanin is produced and the skin thickens in preparation for any further exposure. (This thickening is what causes the skin to peel.)

5. Prostaglandins, fatty acid compounds, are released after cells are damaged by the sun, and play some role in the delay of sunburns, but researchers don't know yet exactly how this works.

Logical conclusion: use sun screen if you expose your skin to the sun for more than a few minutes.



Panama team wins engineering excellence award

The Panama Concept Design Team earned more recognition for its outstanding work when it was awarded the LRD Engineering Excellence Award in July. The team has previously garnered a silver in the Federal Executive Board's Excellence in Government award ceremony in May.

The team is comprised of nearly 30 people within the Pittsburgh District Engineering & Construction Division.

The team provided design and technical leadership for innovative features for adding an extra lane to the current lock and dam system on the Atlantic side of the Panama Canal. The extra lane will allow future large ships to pass thru the

canal in both directions while saving water through a concept of recycling. This design encompassed all aspects of the Engineering & Construction Division. With overall COE team members in 10 other divisions and a customer in another country, the team overcame communications and cultural challenges.

Marciniak named LRD Outstanding Technician

Dolores J. Marciniak, civil engineering technician, Engineering and Construction Division, was recently named LRD's Outstanding Technician of the Year. She received the division award at the Engineer's Day picnic on June 27.

As a senior civil engineering technician in the Mapping Unit, Surveying and Mapping Section, Geotechnical Branch, she is highly recognized for her CADD skills. Marciniak has been with the district since March 1993.

Recently, she was chosen for a temporary higher grade position as the lead civil engineering technician on the district's Charleroi Locks project. Her job is to coordinate the production of in-house drawings and

provides guidance and quality control of in-house and A-E drawings to ensure they are properly organized and all CADD standards are followed.



She also worked on the Panama Canal Concept Design Study. With the study's extremely tight schedule

it was recognized early on that state-of-the-art design and drafting tools would be required to efficiently generate and modify drawings as the design progressed. Her CADD skills proved invaluable to the Panama Canal design team.

"It has been her involvement in special assignments that has set Ms. Marciniak aside as an outstanding employee and provided her most significant contributions to the district," the awards nomination stated. "Her outstanding knowledge of the District's CADD system and exceptional dedication to quality have resulted in significant improvements to the production of drawings for the District's projects," it stated.

Engineer Day Celebration

Sun and fun make day a success

This year's Engineer Day Celebration on June 27 at Kennywood was again a great success besides a perfect sunny, warm day filled with family, friends, fun and amusement rides, the district honored its award winners.

Team of the Year – Leetsdale, Pa., Archeological Data Recovery Team

(The 12 members of the team are: Hank Edwardo, Deborah Campbell, Conrad Weiser, Roger Wood, Teri Tallow-West, Mike Iagnemma, Joe Thomas, Donna Y. Metz, Liane Freedman, Lori Frye, Dr. Kurt Carr and Chan Funk.)

Supervisor of the Year – Albert Rogalla, Regulatory Branch

— Wayne Lutz, Ohio/Allegheny Area Office

Team Leader of the Year – Marvin Dillon, New Cumberland Lock

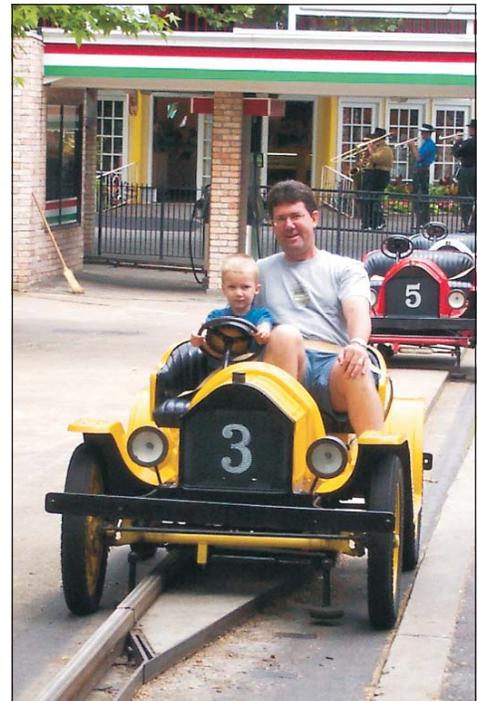
Employee of the Year – Sean McCann, Information Management

— John Kolodziejcki – Kinzua Dam

Ambassador of the Year – William Karaffa, Engineering/Construction Division

— David Schwab, Information Management

— Susan Kline, Operations and Readiness Division



Mike Rattay, PM, and his son Luke take a joy ride at Kennywood.