US Army Corps of Engineers
Pittsburgh District

Headwaters Highlights

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Looking back to the past while soaring into the future

By Liane Freedman
Public Affairs Office

The past speaks to the future with words of wisdom and learnt knowledge. It is wise to revisit the past occasionally – whether it be last year or a century ago. By learning from the past, we can prepare for the future.

In this issue of *Headwaters Highlights*, we remember what it felt like to explore an unknown world, as the Lewis and Clark exploration did 200 years ago; we discover the dreams of a young engineer as he embarks on his future, little to know 30 years hence he would help design and build an undreamt of, innovative marvel. We also look ahead as we reach beyond our expectations and explore new ideas for the district, the Corps, the nation and the world. The future awaits us with challenges and unimagined discoveries.

A new hatchling osprey breaks open its shell, grows its feathers …and when that fateful moment comes – it accepts the challenge. It spreads its wings and takes a leap of faith. The past is safe. The future is unknown. But the future has boundless possibilities waiting to be found. It's time to spread our wings…

A baby osprey is health checked and prepared to be banded for identification.

Endangered birds set records at district projects

By Liane Freedman
Public Affairs Office

Ospreys abound

"Ospreys did very well in 2003," according to Kirk Piehler, district wildlife biologist. "They set new records for number of territorial pairs, number of successful nests and number of known young."

The endangered birds nested successfully at six district reservoirs: Allegheny Reservoir, Berlin Lake, Loyalhanna Lake, Mosquito Lake, Shenango Lake and Stonewall Jackson Lake. Most of the nests were located on platforms that have been specially built through the years for the birds to use.

As he does every year, Piehler, assisted by district rangers and others, band the baby birds. That means they climb up to the 2-story high nests, ever watchful of the parent birds and place identifying bands on the hatchlings. At that time the babies are measured, weighed and their general physical condition is checked. All of the osprey banding occurred between June 19 and July 5, 2003 when the young were between 3 weeks and 7 weeks in age.

The majority of the birds were healthy. "However, below average body weights of many young and lack of fish remains in the nests compared to previous years, indicated a possible relationship with the rainy weather in spring/early summer," said

Continued on page 3

Up Front

with District Engineer
COL Raymond Scrocco

I want to wish the entire district team a happy, healthy and safe New Year!

By the time the clock chimed midnight January 1, I'm sure most of you had made a list of your New Year's resolutions. The first month of the New Year marks that time when we make (and sometimes break) those resolutions – and it's also a time to reflect on the old year and to look ahead to the new one.

Looking back, 2003 was a very busy year. Highlights include successes such as our work on the Panama Canal concept design; new leadership in key positions – chiefs of Engineering and Construction Division, Operations and Readiness Division, Programs and Project Management Branch, Planning Branch, Construction Branch, Plan Formulation Section, and the Resource Management Office, as well as Deputy District Engineer for Planning, Programs and Project Management – to name a few; and support of USACE activities overseas in the Gulf region.

In reviewing our efforts in 2003, I am very proud of our district's support to the global war on terrorism. You have responded with enthusiasm and valor in supporting the missions of the Army and the Corps of Engineers in helping to rebuild the infrastructures of Iraq and Afghanistan. I want to personally thank those individuals who have put their personal lives and concerns aside and volunteered to place themselves in harm's way to serve their country overseas. Winning the war on terrorism will require our continued support for those efforts overseas, as well as our continued vigilance on the home front – at our projects and in our communities.

So far the new year of 2004 has already proved to be a year of opportunity and challenge for the Pittsburgh District. I am proud of your efforts in keeping our programs moving forward and our various customers satisfied despite the recent series of Congressional continuing resolutions. Now that the Corps' budget has been signed, the challenge before us is to execute our programs with only eight months left in the fiscal year!

The early days of 2004 have also been a test for our people and projects. We have seen an abundance of water and the challenges that go with high river stages and flooding. I remain impressed with those throughout our district who are responsible for managing the challenges that come with excessive rainfall, high water and public concern.

Other major challenges we will face in 2004 and beyond include continued budget constraints, potential impacts of USACE 2012, competitive sourcing and the National Security Personnel System. Keeping in mind that challenge represents opportunity, the district has a tremendous opportunity to prepare ourselves to excel in the future.

Let me close by saying, the common thread in our successes has always been, and will continue to be, YOU – the team that comprises the Pittsburgh District. Every Pittsburgh District team member is an important resource to the district, the region and the nation. We accomplished some great things in 2003 and with them we learned some valuable lessons. My goal is to build on our successes and apply the knowledge gained. I expect 2004 will have its share of lessons, successes, challenges and adventures. I am confident that the Pittsburgh team will become stronger and better in our support of the customers we serve, as well as in our regional, national and global missions.

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Continued from cover

Piehler. Cloudy water caused by the rain made it harder for osprey adults to capture fish.

"One extremely emaciated osprey died shortly after banding, an unprecedented occurrence for us in the district," noted Piehler. "Even with that loss, the level of reproduction indicates a robustly expanding population," he said.

Volunteers from such companies as Penn Power and Ohio Edison provided many dollars worth of manpower and equipment to the banding effort at no charge to the Corps.

Additional support was provided by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Ohio Division of Wildlife, New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service.

Bald eagle sightings increase

While the number of wintering bald eagles has increased 150 percent since 2000, nesting production has decreased by 30 percent over the same period, according to a report by Piehler summarizing the bald eagle activity in the Pittsburgh District.

Mid-winter bald eagle surveys were conducted at 33 district facilities in 2003, which included all 16 reservoirs, the 14 Allegheny and Ohio River locks and three Monongahela River locks. Bald eagles were reported being seen at Allegheny River locks 7, 8, and 9; Allegheny River pool 6; Berlin Lake, Crooked Creek Lake, East Branch Lake, Kinzua Dam/Allegheny Reservoir, Loyalhanna Lake, Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir, Mosquito Lake, Shenango Lake, Tionesta Lake and Woodcock Lake.

Two young ospreys await the return of their parents and food.

Concentrations of wintering bald eagles at Allegheny Reservoir, Mosquito Lake and Shenango Lake accounted for 65 percent of the birds that were observed, according to the report. According to the report, 16 nesting pairs of bald eagles used Corps reservoirs, a 14 percent increase from 2002 when 14 pairs were present. Ten of the nests were successful, having produced at least one eaglet. There were a total of 17 young that hatched. This is five less than the 22 eaglets produced in 2002 and seven less than the 24 observed in 2001.

Pennsylvania and Ohio reservoirs counted seven and six nesting sites, respectively. In New York, three nests were documented. There were no known nests at district reservoirs in West Virginia.

Bald eagles successfully used an osprey platform at Shenango Lake for the third consecutive year, producing three eaglets. This was the only known instance within the tri-state area of eagles nesting on a human-placed nesting structure, according to Piehler.

Reoccurring winter use by bald eagles at these Corps sites indicates that required seasonal resources are present in unique combinations.

The bald eagle has federal status as a threatened species and state status as an endangered or threatened species throughout the district.

Chocoholics Unite. . .

Lisa Nites takes a dip from the chocolate fountain at Castle Co-op's 2003 Christmas Party. Party-goers acknowledged that everybody had a great time!

Mine portal re-opens local history at Nanty Glo

By Doug Meley

Construction Branch

During the first half of the 20th century the Webster 14 Mine in Nanty Glo, Pa., was one of four mines in town that supplied much of the coal used by the Johnstown, Pa., steel mills. The deep underground coal mine, tunneled under Lloyd Street extended deep into Pergrin Mountain. Mules were used to move the coal cars inside the mine and out to the surface. After finally being "worked out" in the 1950s, the mine was closed, and the entrances were sealed to prevent the escape of harmful gasses into the community and to bar unauthorized entry into the mine.

Fifty years later, the air portal to the mine has been temporarily reopened as part of the on-going Ecosystem Restoration Project on the South Branch of Blacklick Creek. This creek, which eventually flows into the Corp's Conemaugh River Lake, has been a major contributor to the high degree of acid mine drainage (AMD) within the Conemaugh Basin.

Under the current $3 million contract with Charles J. Merlo, Inc. from Mineral Point, Pa., the contractor was to expose the existing drain pipe leading from the buried air portal entrance and run a new acid-resistant polyethylene pipe through the existing pipe to the buried concrete seal. However, after finding an unexpected sinkhole in the vicinity of the seal, questions arose as to the actual condition of the drain pipe and seal.

After drilling a few exploratory holes down into the mine, the contractor discovered that the water level behind the mine seal was approximately 7 feet higher than the drain pipe, indicating blockages within the mine. This condition presented a "blowout" danger to the workers, once the mine seal was exposed, and a flooding potential from the sudden emergence of approximately 8 million gallons of mine water that had built up behind the seal.

Workers carefully unearth the air portal to the Webster 14 coal mine in Nanty Glo. The entrance has been sealed and buried for almost 50 years.

In a partnering effort between the contractor, the Corps, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Deep Mine Safety, the contractor quickly secured the necessary drilling easements and discharge permits and began pumping out the mine water from a hole drilled into the hillside above the mine entrance. After approximately 2-1/2 weeks of pumping, the water level inside the mine was lowered to a level below the existing seal.

Now that the air portal could be safely excavated "in the dry", the contractor discovered that a portion of the mine roof had collapsed upstream of the old mine seal, thereby causing the sinkhole and the backup of water into the mine. A new concrete seal was designed and joint meetings were held with the team members to establish the location of the new seal and to adjust the configuration of the new discharge pipes coming out of the mine.

According to the resident engineer, Joe Elwell, this partnering effort between all of the parties allowed the contractor to continue working and saved the government thousands of dollars in delay costs. He especially recognized his fellow team members John Pontus, Jerry Brewer, and Eric Schneider for reacting quickly to a potentially dangerous and costly situation.

The unplanned excavation of the mine portal also allowed the local residents to get one more glimpse of the entrance to one of the mines that shaped the history of their community.

For a Fact Sheet on the Nanty Glo Environmental Restoration Project visit the district's web site at www.lrp.usace.army.mil and select *Nanty Glo Environmental Restoration* from the Current Projects drop-down menu.

Task Force RIE members begin returning home

By Ed Evans

Task Force RIE Public Affairs

During September 2003, a small number of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteers began their movement to Baghdad, Iraq, to be part of Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (TF RIE). Over the next month, that Task Force eventually grew to 84 members. Each man and woman had one thought in mind, to apply their particular talent and skill to the mission of positioning Iraq to reach its Summer 2004 goal of 6000 megawatts of electricity.

Included in that team was Pittsburgh District's Will Zelina, of Engineering and Construction Division, volunteering his time in Iraq on a crash project, sometimes under fire and always under a ticking clock. The project was to end on Dec. 20th, although some members will return home earlier.

Sense of humor a must

"Working in that kind of environment can be stressful," Zelina said of his deployment in Iraq. "It's not only being in harm's way, but added to the mix is long hours and being confined. In order to counter this we had a very good group with a sense of humor. To me the sense of humor was a must. Iraq may not be for everyone, but if you want to do something different and challenging this may be for you," he said.

Each member went through a weeklong crash course in field procedures, using satellite telephones, video equipment, first aid techniques, medical examinations and a battery of vaccinations. They also received lectures on in-country procedures, Iraqi culture and customs, received an Arabic language CD and an issue of U.S. Army uniforms. For a few, it was their first time in the uniform of their country's armed forces. From there it was an intercontinental flight to Spain and finally Baghdad, Iraq, and on to the vital mission before them.

Task Force RIE was built with volunteers of specific skills such as mechanical, civil and electrical engineers; cost estimators, contractors, schedulers and a wide range of support skills. They were operating as a "team within a team" asset of the Commander, Joint Task Force-7 (CJTF-7), responding to the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) request for immediate Corps expertise in restoring electricity and launching capabilities to assist the Iraqis in rebuilding their country.

They were a short-term, high-impact task force charged with making it possible for Iraqis to restore specific areas of high-tension lines and power stations critical to long-term restoration of the nationwide electrical grid. What they were up against was 623 damaged or destroyed transmission towers and roughly 400 miles of 400KV and 132KV transmission lines lying on the ground that were needed to transmit power from deteriorating generation stations and substations to sabotaged distribution nodes.

It was into this mix the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent its very best with a "reach back" capability that brought to bear the

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

latest wisdom and technology to a country that had been in technological limbo for the past 17 years. For every wheezing thermal transfer plant with eight generators sitting in various stages of disrepair, for every critical substation limping along so badly it was taking electricity from the grid, rather than adding it, for every generating station with a polyglot of French, Russian and American generators no longer working, the team members inspected, assessed, photographed and brought in contractors with solutions.

But they had to hurry. This task force was under a 90-day deadline that closed on Dec. 20 to get people home for Christmas. With a handle on the size and extent of the problem before them, their next task was to infuse the contractors with the same sense of emergency they were working under. In the same way the Corps performs emergency recovery efforts within the U.S. after a hurricane or a flood, TF RIE was working as a responsive team within a team employing specific skills to deal with highly unusual problems on a national scale.

Soon, from all over the world, generators, parts, transmission towers, electric lines began to flow to Iraq as if drawn by a magnet. They came by ship and by plane, some civilian, some military transports. Convoys of trucks began to unload the vital materials needed, and crews went to work putting an electrical grid together that would be a foundation toward providing reliable service to all of the people of Iraq by the summer of 2004.

In the end, some projects ran past the Dec. 20th deadline and had to be handed off to the Corps of Engineers' Iraqi Division being formed in country. But Task Force RIE's mission had been met. Proudly they said goodbye to those they served so well in the new, free country of Iraq and flew back to say hello to the families and friends they left behind.

The emergency over, they went back to work in their districts all across the United States as the rebuilding in Iraq continues. They returned as important, integral members of a team that came together when their country called, and met the challenge. A job well done.

Editor's Note: Will Zelina returned to Pittsburgh in early December from his deployment to Iraq.

A special holiday surprise

Melody Stewart-Markey, RE, and her family got a special surprise this holiday season when her son, Sgt. Dan Kidder, surprised her with an unexpected return visit home from Iraq.

"Jan. 2 would have been a year since we've seen, touched, hugged my oldest son," she said. "But he gave us a gift that cannot ever be forgotten."

Kidder walked into Stewart-Markey's office, straight from the airport with his duffel bag slung over his shoulder, and totally surprised her. Her joyful screams could be heard down the hall as she hugged and hugged some more her 21-year old son.

"Dan did this on his own — 30-hours of traveling," she said. "He didn't tell anyone, but my nephew, who never told anyone." Kidder was home with his family for 15-days of R&R. He returned to his Army unit in Iraq in early January.

Stewart-Markey hugs her son as she cries for joy upon his arrival home on R&R.

Safety Notes:

!@#$!%

By Jeff Kerr
Safety Office

"For every minute you remain angry, you give up sixty seconds of peace of mind."
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Two surgeons were performing an operation on a patient at a hospital in England. Both men were experienced professionals who had been entrusted with the life of another. Yet a fist fight broke out between the surgeons before the procedure was completed when they clashed over working hours. One of the doctors had to be treated for minor injuries while a junior physician stepped in and finished the operation.

Another anger story: Shortly after Frederick Warren argued with the driver of a tractor-trailer at a Maryland truck stop, he ran after the driver's slow-moving truck as it was leaving the stop and stabbed the left rear tire with a hunting knife. When the knife punctured the tire, the blade was blown directly back at Warren and stabbed him in the throat. He staggered for about 100 feet and died. The driver, apparently oblivious to what had happened, drove away.

These true accounts are not unusual examples of the damage anger causes. Whether directly from a rash action or indirectly from the biological strain it puts on their body, every day hundreds of people die from the influence of anger.

"Anger" is a general term describing a strong feeling or reaction of displeasure and antagonism. There are other words, too, that reveal the degree of anger or how it is expressed such as rage, fury, indignation and wrath.

Everyone feels anger at different times throughout their life. The problem arises when we allow the emotion to swell beyond control.

Numerous studies (and life experiences) have shown that anger is second only to fear in creating physical and mental havoc. Prolonged anger can result in real biological damage such as hypertension, intestinal distress and even stroke. In the short term, anger causes rash actions that not only start accidents, but also ruin long-standing relationships.

Though psychologists may argue about why humans have the ability to feel anger or how much heredity and social contact influence a person's propensity towards feeling the emotion, they are in unison about the force anger has to influence behavior.

It is obvious that the angrier an employee becomes, the less likely he is to make "safe" decisions. Think back on your own life, you've no doubt done and said things out of anger that you later regretted. Perhaps you even took risks which later frightened you once you calmed down and thought about your actions. The reason: emotions interfere with thinking. When we are angry, our rational mind takes a vacation.

To control anger, a person needs to be able to identify situations which cause the stress to build up in the first place. When you experience anger and before you take your next action, remember this Chinese proverb. "If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow."

Not just sorrow but lives are also saved when anger is controlled. Take the case of a carpenter who threw down his hammer in disgust over a nail which kept bending every time he hit it. The hammer bounced back, struck him in the head knocking him off a work platform 45 feet above the ground. He was dead before the EMTs arrived.

Eastern Legacy keystone of Lewis and Clark Expedition

By Susie Kline

District Lewis and Clark Coordinator

On December 12, 1803, Captain Lewis' Company stopped at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers near a small tributary known as Wood River (or River Dubois). Here they built a small fort consisting of four enlisted men's quarters at the corners of the post and a central building for the Captains, guards, and storage for supplies. They hired a woman to cook and do laundry for the men and built her a small cabin just outside the stockade. Here the expedition trained, bought supplies, and planned their journey while turning a rag-tag outfit into a well-oiled, well-disciplined, Army unit.

The Eastern Legacy of the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition ended at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers near the small tributary of Wood River on December 12, 2003.

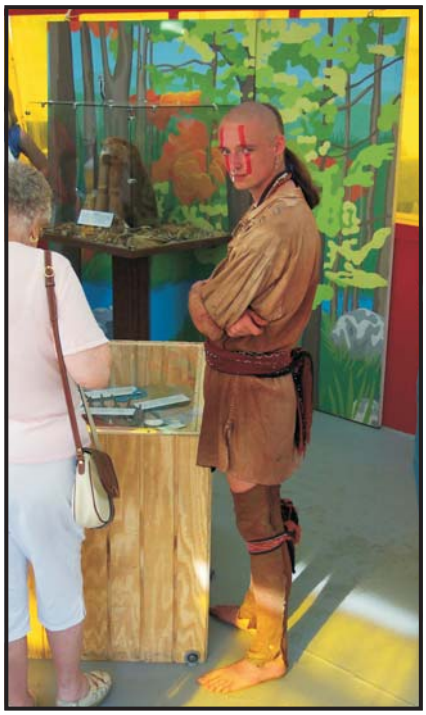
As happened 200 years earlier, members of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles Missouri and the Corps of Engineer's Captain Lewis' Company went into winter residence at Camp River Dubois. Pat Kline, from MJ Kirwan, represented the Pittsburgh District as Private John Potts from Captain Lewis' company. In the spring of 2004, the expedition will be handed off to the traditional western components of Lewis and Clark as the journey continues.

That encampment was the culmination of years of hard work by many people dedicated to getting the word out that Lewis and Clark is a national story. The Eastern Legacy of the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition was established to tell that story.

The Pittsburgh District played a major role in the Eastern Legacy's efforts to educate the public that without the preparation and recruitment in the east, the journey would not have succeeded. And we had good reason to do so. The water route that would eventually take the expedition members to the mountain stream beginnings of the muddy Missouri River begins here on the headwaters of the Ohio.

Captain Lewis first began his wonderful journals of what he experienced on the trip August 31, 1803, when he left the Monongahela River wharf. Lewis' faithful companion on the trip, Seaman the Newfoundland dog, was purchased in Pittsburgh. Finally, his keelboat was built in Elizabeth and would provide transportation to the great Mandan villages of present day North Dakota.

The Pittsburgh District was the first Corps of Engineers district to play a prominent role in the Eastern Legacy. From Captain Lewis' arrival at Youghiogheny Lake July 10, until his departure with 10 others through Hannibal Lock Sept. 9, we were heavily involved with activities relating to Lewis and Clark. The district hosted Lewis and Clark events at nine different venues within the district. Over 12,000 visitors participated in these events. We also provided planning and staffing support to the division's effort at the Ohio State Fair where visitation was over 20,000. Add to that the many local Lewis and Clark programs provided at the reservoirs or off-site by district rangers and visitation soars to over 15,000.



A Shawnee warrior visits the Corps barge in Wheeling.

And that wasn't the end of it. Armed with a request from a partnership between the navigation industry and Great Lakes and Ohio River Division headquarters, the Pittsburgh District put together one of the finest Lewis and Clark displays found in the Eastern Legacy. We were asked to turn our "regatta" barge into a floating museum for Lewis and Clark that would accompany the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles Missouri re-enactors to Cairo, Illinois.

The division's Eastern Legacy coordinator sketched plans on what was wanted on the barge and Pittsburgh District went to work. A concerted effort of the crew at PEWARS and folks helping with MIPRs, PRCs and AV work put together a top notch display that left Pittsburgh Aug. 31 and ended its tour Nov. 19. The barge became a center point of Lewis and Clark activities at communities along the Ohio River with over 100,000 people visiting the barge. The navigation industry provided the tows that moved the barge. They also invited the public to tour the tow boats when the Corps barge was open thus providing an avenue to learn more about the navigation industry.

Not inclined to stay just in the Pittsburgh District, we branched out to provide support to others. The second of 15 National Signature Events was held in Louisville, Kentucky, this past October. The Pittsburgh District had four team members staffing the Louisville event.

Larry Spisak (right, in frontier clothes), Dave Walters, Hannibal Lock (upper left) and Paige Cruz, Division Lewis and Clark Coordinator (center), welcome school children aboard the barge in Wheeling.

Kline and Larry Spisak, Point Marion, were selected to represent the military aspect of Captain Lewis's company. Kline again portrayed Private John Potts and Larry was George Gibson, one of the nine young men from Kentucky and the first fiddler of the expedition. Kline and Spisak wore 1803 military uniforms with all of the accouterments. They set up camp at Louisville in the same manner as Captain Lewis would have 200 years ago. Mike Estock, Tygart Lake, and I staffed the other Corps venues at the signature event.

In addition to Kline and Spisak, who will continue to play their military re-enactor roles, Estock, Gene Herrmann, of PEWARS, and I will continue staffing signature events across the United States until 2006. The Pittsburgh District's presence will extend far beyond our official boundary line at Hannibal Lock.

Larry Spisak as George Gibson in Louisville.

The Lewis and Clark activities have been truly a district effort. So many different elements came together to make all of these events a success. The field sites that hosted activities really went out of their way to make sure the projects looked nice and that the events were well received.

In 1999, I was asked to be the Lewis and Clark coordinator for the Pittsburgh District. I thought this would mean just keeping a file because Lewis and Clark were St. Louis and west. Nothing happened here. Then my own expedition commenced.

By 2003, it became all Lewis and Clark all the time for me. I ate, slept and traveled Lewis and Clark. My 4-year-old daughter can tell you about the dog, the keelboat and Captains Lewis and Clark. The idea of Lewis and Clark activities being non-existent in our area became a realization and education that so much did happen here. I've had the privilege of going to many different Lewis and Clark sites and meeting many wonderful people. My personal journey of Lewis and Clark has been a long, strange trip at times – and one I wouldn't have missed for the world.

And we proceeded on…

Looking back with pride

By Dr. Edward J. Smith

Retiree

A career can be referred to as a lengthy "middle chapter" in one's life. In my case, that middle chapter was spent in its entirety with the Pittsburgh District. To sum up my feelings as I begin life's third chapter, I will always look back at my Corps career with pride in service to our country and in my accomplishments.

Thanks to good fortune, persistence and my 30-year run with the district, I have realized many of my personal goals both on- and off-the-job. Just a few of the off-the-job accomplishments were marrying my beautiful wife, helping to bring our two wonderful children into the world and earning a doctorate in environmental health.

The Corps was undergoing a major transition when I began my career in July 1973. Enactment of the National Environmental Policy Act necessitated that the Corps recruit environmental specialists to objectively assess the impacts of its new and existing projects and other major actions on the environment, such as permit applications. My first job after being reassigned to Planning Branch in October 1974 was to develop guidelines for assessing the environmental impact of actively operating sand and gravel dredges in Allegheny and Ohio River navigation systems.

Within seven years, I had managed the completion of two NEPA compliance documents (Environmental Impact Statements) on commercial sand and gravel dredging in Pittsburgh and Huntington districts and two additional EISs on the operation and maintenance of Allegheny and Monongahela River navigation systems. Within the same time frame, I served on a task force that completed an EIS on the operation and maintenance of the 981-mile Ohio River Navigation Project. The pace of Corps environmental compliance work was certainly intense in NEPA's first decade!

Some other notable actions that found their way to my desk included Army permit decision-making for the proposed Davis, West Virginia, pumped-storage hydroelectric project and for the proposed segment of the Southern Tier Expressway project from Olean to Salamanca in western New York. Each project was controversial and involved fills in substantial wetland acreage and in other waters of the United States. Because of the potential loss of more than 3,000 acres of unique boreal bog wetlands in Canaan Valley, a permit denial was issued for the Davis project by the district. After an administrative appeal by the applicant, the denial was upheld by the Secretary of the Army. Extensive redesign of the Southern Tier expressway for mitigation of environmental impact enabled the district to issue the necessary permit to complete this project.

Another adventure with my name on it involved substantial fall-winter losses of walleye and other fish through the bottom sluices of Kinzua Dam. Explosive decompression was the fatal outcome for thousands of adult walleye that were caught in the drawdown into the sluices on the upstream side of the dam. During the five-year study, tests were run with underwater sound generating equipment borrowed from the Naval Research Laboratory to determine if the walleyes would exhibit a fright response when subjected to different sound frequencies. As often happens with research, a secondary discovery was made that solved the problem. The winter pool of Allegheny Reservoir was being held at a higher level (to provide flows for ice jam breakup downstream) during some of the field experiments. The higher winter pool allowed the walleye schools to move upward in the water column, which greatly reduced the losses.

Smith with his pride and joy at his retirement luncheon.

As a planner, one rarely remains on the job long enough to see their project advance through every phase. I have had the pleasure of witnessing the Webster Mine ecosystem restoration project at

Continued on page 14

It's been an adventure

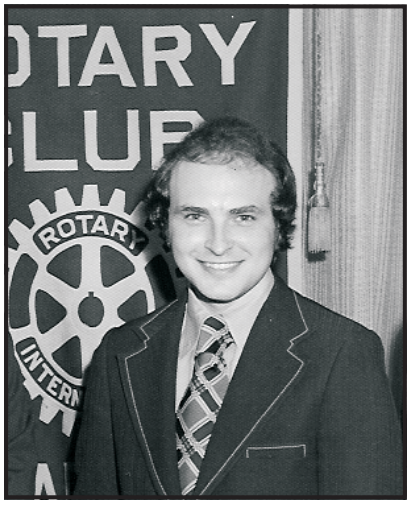
By Hank Edwardo
Retiree

It's been more than a job, it's been an adventure! (I didn't even have to do any-push ups.) *[Editor's Note: Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Bob Flowers' requires those not knowing the answer to his questions to do push-ups.]*

In 1968, my fellow Penn State engineering students and I boarded buses and were taken to see the Hannibal Locks construction work by, of all people, the U.S. Army. The actual construction tour was overwhelming, but more impressive was the conversation I overheard between the two Corps of Engineers guys sitting behind me. It was inspirational - the right kind of stuff - and I wondered if some day I could be like those guys. I jumped at the opportunity to interview on campus with the Corps the following year, and also Dravo and the Los Angeles County Department of Engineering. It really wasn't too hard of a choice to reject Dravo's $10,500 salary and a job in Benghazi, Libya, or the same money to relocate to California in favor of a job at home, for the Corps of Engineers at the grand salary of $8,030. And I rate that decision a 10. Not coincidently, as I retire, the number 10 applies to other things: more salary – 10 times, more waist - 10 inches, more exposed forehead - 10 square inches (each side), more weight – half of 10 stones…oh well, you get the idea.

A younger Edwardo with then-district Engineer Col. Wayne Nichols.

Over the last five years, I've often started a public speech by saying "I'm the luckiest project manager working for the Corps of Engineers." The Braddock Dam made me that way, you know. But, more than that, after 34 years with the Corps, my glass is still half full, but not with scotch anymore. Now if we could only get some more money.



Edwardo at a Rotary Club function early in his career.

From my roots in Flood Plain Management through today, I've given a lot of speeches in front of a lot people. Most times, I came away believing that the public has a basic respect for the Corps. I also came away personally and professionally better because of those experiences. I will miss doing that. I will also miss a lot of people, but I will not miss working! Illness and fatigue caught up with me – I got sick and tired of rescheduling the Lower Mon Project! *(I'll say most anything for a laugh).*

Edwardo with Sal Patitucci, both of whom have joined the ranks of the retired.

PAO was gracious to give me print space to offer thoughts on my retirement. Assuming this makes it past the editors; I do want to say thanks to all of you who

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

helped make my career as successful as it could be, for friendship, for mentoring, for understanding, for all the reasons why my glass is still half full. As you might imagine, the list to thank is too long for this forum.

But at the top of that list is Herm Lardieri, my first boss, and those two guys on the bus. A big section of that list also includes all of the Lower Mon Team, past and present, that I worked with to make the Braddock Dam a reality and who allowed me to be their spokesman. The Braddock Dam will forever be my fondest remembrance and the achievement I'd like to be associated with in our district history. And if some day, someone mentions my name and they say, "Oh yeah, that guy who used to play the accordion at Christmas", that will be OK too.

Throughout his career, Edwardo (left) was renowned for playing the accordion.

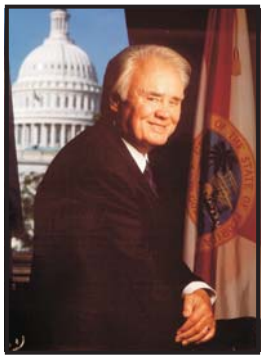
Edwardo shows off the new Braddock Dam to his grandson.

In the early 1970s, Edwardo (left) poses with Buzz Stevenson, EC, and then-Pittsburgh District engineer Col. Norman G. Delbridge.

Lock 3, Allegheny renamed for senior Congressman

Lock 3, Allegheny River was recently renamed the C.W. Bill Young Lock and Dam after the Congressman who was born and grew up near the dam in Harmarville, Pa. He moved to the St. Petersburg, Florida, area when he was 15 years old.

Young is serving his 17th term in Congress as a representative of Florida's 10th Congressional District, located in Pinellas County on Florida's Gulf Coast. He also chairs the House Appropriations Committee.



The designation was included in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for 2004 which President Bush signed into law Dec. 1.

Lock 3 is located at Cheswick, Pa., river mile 14.5. It was built between 1932–1934 and placed in operation in October 1934. It consists of a fixed crest dam and one 56-foot by 360-foot lock. It replaced the original Lock 3 which was located at Springdale, Pa. The old Lock 3 was built between 1897–1904 and placed in operation in November 1904.

Corner Counselor:

By Camillus

Wright was wrong

Joe was recently laid off from his full time position as a salesman-cashier for Ace Sporting Goods Co. A few weeks later, he found a part time position with Jones Bar and Grille. No full time work was available with Jones or elsewhere. Joe also applied for and received partial unemployment compensation benefits as a result of his layoff by Ace. About six weeks later, Mr. Wright, his supervisor at Jones, told him that his (Jones') people were not going to continue to fill out all of the forms submitted by our state's Bureau of Unemployment Compensation for his benefits concerning his former employment at Ace. He was told that if he wanted to continue working part time at Jones, which he was welcome to do, he would have to dismiss his workmen's compensation claim concerning his work at Ace. When Joe refused, he was fired. He has filed a claim for wrongful discharge, which is now before us for resolution.

Generally, a cause of action for the wrongful discharge of an at-will employee cannot be maintained. He can be fired for any reason or no reason at all. The exceptions recognized are only in the most limited of circumstances where such a discharge would violate a clear mandate of public policy. An employer's liability for a wrongful discharge depends upon whether a well-recognized phase of public policy is at issue, a policy which is at the heart of a person's social rights and responsibilities. This public policy exception is a narrow or limited one. It is based upon an appreciation of the fact that an employer's interest in operating his business in an efficient and profitable manner, although important, is not absolute. It must, at times, yield to other interests, including the employee's interest in earning a living and the public interest in seeing that an employer does not act in an abusive and arbitrary manner. We must balance and preserve the interests of both.

An employee's right to receive unemployment compensation is a benefit granted by our state. Our unemployment compensation law was enacted to alleviate the hardships of becoming unemployed. Economic insecurity brought on by unemployment is a serious problem to one's health, welfare and morals. The laws of our state direct that no agreement by an employee to waive, release or reduce his rights to such compensation can be upheld. Where a state law expresses a public policy designed to alleviate such a stressful condition, no private agreement, regardless of however valid between the parties, can be upheld as such a waiver.

We therefore hold that Jones' discharge of Joe because he had filed a claim for unemployment compensation is violative of the public policy of our state and cannot be validated.

Blues reign continues

By Dave Heidish

The Corps' Blues softball team captured their third straight Greater Pittsburgh Engineering Softball League playoff championship by defeating PENNDOT in the finals of a best of three series by taking the deciding game 12 to 2. It was also the Blues sixth championship in the last seven years. The Blues final season record was 19 wins and 5 losses.

The Blues were led in batting average by Jack Cicone with a .656 average and Bob Hanlon led the team with 11 wins. Steve Fritz had a solid season by batting .580 and playing gold glove defense in the outfield.

Members of the championship team are: (first row, left to right) Ed Wehner, John Nites, Jack Cicone, Craig Carney, Bob Hanlon; (second row) Bob Bonazza, Dave Heidish, Steve Kratchovil, Dave Caroleo, Steve Fritz, JR Phillips; (not shown) Ed McDaniel, Greg King, and Mike Little.

Stonewall Jackson Lake draws record crowd

By R. Matthew Slezak

Park Ranger, Stonewall Jackson Lake

Approximately 11,000 visitors from the Lewis County, West Virginia, area and beyond converged at the Stonewall Resort at Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park in late September to enjoy their annual National Hunting & Fishing Days. The two-day event, Sept. 27-28, gave visitors the opportunity to experience the great outdoors through responsible hunting and fishing practices and procedures.

The Stonewall Resort became fully operational in the spring of 2003 and provided National Hunting & Fishing Day guests the opportunity to enjoy an Arnold Palmer signature golf course, fully equipped lakeside rental cabins, a luxurious 198-room lodge and a 374-slip marina.

National Hunting & Fishing Days have been held at Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park for the past six years. The number of visitors to the event has skyrocketed from 3,800 in 1996 to 11,000 visitors in 2003.

Once again the careful planning of Marshall Snedegar, special projects coordinator, West Virginia Wildlife Resources Department; Sam England, state park superintendent and his staff; representatives from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources; volunteers; and many others showed what great results can be achieved through proper planning and successful programming.

During the two-day event, visitors sampled expertly prepared wild foods, as well as participated in a variety of competitions. Some event highlights were shooting sporting clays, archery, attending professional shooting demonstrations, learning to fly fish and participating in the outdoor youth sports challenge. Visitors took boat rides on Stonewall Jackson Lake and had the opportunity to speak with Corps personnel. Door prizes were awarded and more than 100 exhibitors displayed their wares at West Virginia's largest state park event.

Park Ranger Jeff Toler, of Huntington District's Burnsville Lake, and I staffed the Corps exhibit. Eric Miller, resource manager, Stonewall Jackson Lake; Jack Campbell, maintenance mechanic, Stonewall Jackson Lake; and Mike Estock, park ranger, Tygart Lake staffed the district's pontoon boat.

Plans are already underway to make this year's National Hunting & Fishing Days even bigger and better. We hope to see you there at one of West Virginia's premier events for fishing and hunting enthusiasts!

Three young visitors enjoy Hunting & Fishing Days at Stonewall.

Continued from page 10

Nanty Glo, Pa., which I initiated in 1991, enter construction in 2003. When completed, this project will underscore the important role the Corps has in restoring Appalachian streams that have been ravaged by the acidic drainage from abandoned coal mines. The world is watching; we have to build it!

Essayons and thanks to all my fellow team members for helping me complete an enjoyable and fulfilling career.

Formosa earns graduate degree

Formosa was official commended by Col. Scrocco for earning his master's degree under the Army's Long-Term Training Program.

Greg Formosa, IM, received his master's degree in public management, focusing on information systems, from the Heinz School at Carnegie Mellon University in December. He completed all requirements for his degree under the long-term training (LTT) program sponsored by the Department of Army. He attended and completed 13 courses, including numerous assignments, at night and on weekends. He achieved a grade point average of 4.1 and graduated with "highest distinction".

During this educational experience, Formosa worked with private industry, such as the Three Rivers Rowing Association and Alcoa Corporation. He had the opportunity to tell those organizations the Corps' story while learning from their experiences and strategies. "The master's degree program has contributed significantly towards increasing Greg's leadership and technical skills," said Jack Cicone, chief, Information Management.

Pilot program to deter crime

By Paul F. Toman

Operations and Readiness Division

Pittsburgh District will serve as the pilot district for *Corps Watch*, a neighborhood crime-watch deterrence program. This USACE program is being developed to reduce vandalism, larceny, arson, and environmental and cultural degradation of government property at water resource development projects.

All district locks and reservoirs will be test areas for *Corps Watch* starting in 2004. A toll-free hotline is available to anyone who observes or has knowledge of theft, vandalism, or any other threat or suspicious activity occurring on or against Corps property.

This property protection program includes a provision to provide cash rewards of $100-$1,000 to individuals for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of offenders. Reporting and notification procedures are currently being finalized.

Corps Watch's Project Delivery Team members are: Steve Davidson, D. Russ Moore, Pat Kline, Doug Krider, Jim Shusko, John Anderson, Sam Wagner, and Mike Cummings. State and local police and magistrates are currently being briefed on the program by field team members.

Corps Watch posters will be posted at Corps facilities and in local communities.

Following this test period and review, Pittsburgh District will provide recommendations to Headquarters for possible national implementation.

Dam good news!

The Braddock Dam Project has been selected as one of seven finalists for the 2004 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award. Established in 1960, this prestigious award honors the project that best illustrates superior civil engineering skills and represents a significant contribution to civil engineering progress and society. The winner will be announced at the ASCE Outstanding Project and Leaders gala in May.

Reaching beyond in FY 2004

By Maggie Gates
Planning Branch

"We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them."
—Albert Einstein

If in fact his statement is true, it becomes the duty of the Pittsburgh District to reach out, with innovative thinking and goals, beyond the existing boundaries of the status quo. And that's exactly what the district has done by recently implementing the Outreach Communication and Information Program.

So what is this new program all about? First, as the program's name implies, we will reach out to other governmental agencies and organizations to determine if they are interested in becoming potential sponsors of district projects. With that information, we will create a customer point-of- contact database. That's one of our goals for fiscal year 2004. Another goal is to publish a customer electronic newsletter that keeps interested parties updated on our projects and activities.

Under the other title to the project, outreach information, our goal is to improve information on district programs and missions and get the information out to both our internal and external partners. We plan to do this by updating district brochures and handouts. We will also customize a district PowerPoint briefing, coordinate our outreach efforts with other Great Lakes and Ohio River Division districts and use the district's website to update district accomplishments.