



Investing In Our People

Around the District

Farmdale Reservoir Hosts Training Exercise

Todd Ernenputsch, Peoria Project Office

In response to the wild fires set at Farmdale Reservoir last year, Todd Ernenputsch, Peoria Project Office, and Brian Brown, Peoria Project Office, conducted a training exercise with Northern Tazewell Fire Protection District Nov. 5.

The training was held to help NTFPD and the Corps to respond and control wild fires.

The session consisted of classroom teaching, as well as a field exercise. The training covered topics such as wild fires, wild fire suppression, back burns, flank burns, head fires and the fire triangle.

For the field exercise, a fire was set at Farmdale Reservoir. A nineteen acre section of native tall-grass prairie was set ablaze. Back burns, flanking burns and head fires were demonstrated.

The training demonstrated how effective the tactics can be when it comes to containing fire, how low the fire is in relation to a head fire and how fire can be used as a tool to help put out a wild fire.

Twelve fire fighters and five volunteers received the training.

Monoliths Placed at Devonian Gorge

Exactly seven years after the public got its first view of Devonian Age sea floors uncovered at Coralville Lake, construction began on an interpretive center that will showcase and help preserve the 375-million-year-old fossil gorge.

The fossil gorge was uncovered on Aug. 31, 1993, during the Flood of 1993, when as much as 17,000 cubic feet of water per second gushed for 28 days from Coralville Lake and washed away a road and the lower Cottonwood campground.

The center being constructed will have an elaborate-entry plaza with nine display monoliths made of Anamosa limestone. Each monolith will be 6 feet wide and 14 feet tall.

On either side of the entry plaza, there will be an overlook plaza to observe biostromes and parts of a distinctive bed of coral-rich limestone that extends 100 miles from Waterloo to Davenport.

The project is scheduled to be dedicated in June.

New flooring to be Installed in Visitor Center

Approximately 30 years of wear has taken its toll on the parquet floor of the Saylorville Lake Visitor Center.

Periodic sanding and refinishing of the parquet tiles has left an uneven surface under exhibits and thin spots in high traffic areas. Because modern composite materials available today last longer and feature more attractive surfaces that require less maintenance, new flooring is being installed.

The new flooring (shown at left) is being installed during the scheduled annual closure of the building.

District Commander's Award



By Joann Wilgenbusch, Resource Management

Paul S. Burnett, Construction Division, was recognized Nov. 1, with the District Commander's Award for September 2000, by Col. William Bayles, District commander.

Burnett was nominated for his quality assurance efforts during the contract to remodel the first and basement floors of the Clock Tower Building. The work was completed ahead of schedule and accident free - both in large part due to Burnett's quality assurance efforts.

Burnett's knowledge and understanding of construction methods, the requirements of the \$1.86 million project, his ability to effectively coordinate with others, and his diligence were instrumental in the successful completion of the project.

Robert Berns, vice president, Johnco Construction, Inc., said, "He demonstrated a sense of fairness, protecting the U.S. Government and their interests, yet coordinating with Johnco to aid us in performing at our optimum level."

Recent Retirements ...

Paul D. Soyke, Programs and Project Management, Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch, chief, Economic and Social Analysis Section, was a supervisory regional economist and retired Dec. 2, after serving 42 years in the federal government.

Noel W. St. Clair, Operations Division, Lock and Dam 19, was a Lock and Dam Repair Leader (assistant lockmaster), and will retire Dec. 29, after serving 25 years and 11 months with the federal government.



Notes from the Mississippi*

Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa

- ✓ Generator building security doors replaced.
- ✓ Machinery enclosure number 3 gate repaired.

Lock and Dam 12, Bellevue, Iowa

- ✓ Loose handrail repaired.
- ✓ Broken timber on number 2 miter gate replaced.

Lock and Dam 13, Clinton, Iowa

- ✓ Tainter gate number 4 painted.
- ✓ In process of winterizing lock equipment and grounds.

Locks and Dam 14, Le Claire, Iowa

- ✓ Speed reducer for roller gate number 6 repaired, seals and shaft replaced.
- ✓ Grating clips for anchor bar pits and bulkhead slots on turbine tunnel welded.

Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill.

- ✓ Filters and lubrication on dam and bulkhead crane completed.
- ✓ Small bubbler on number 4 gate replaced.

Lock and Dam 16, Muscatine, Iowa

- ✓ Thermostat in upper-haulage unit installed.
- ✓ Tool board in welding room painted.

Lock and Dam 17, New Boston, Ill.

- ✓ Pinion shaft bolts checked and tightened.
- ✓ Number 3 gate and valve machinery painted.

Lock and Dam 18, Burlington, Iowa

- ✓ All four miter-gate lower bearings had water drained.
- ✓ New safety blocks made for broken safety blocks, then replaced.

Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Iowa

- ✓ Broken windows in upper-land control building replaced.
- ✓ Bad bricks in the lower-stairwell entrance replaced.

Lock and Dam 20, Canton, Mo.

- ✓ All gate and valve motors serviced.
- ✓ Additional grease lines on each miter-gate gudgeon pin installed.

Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Ill.

- ✓ DC drive on tugger scooter replaced.
- ✓ Manholes and backflow preventers drained.

Lock and Dam 22, Saverton, Mo.

- ✓ Safety lines and check posts around haulage units painted.
- ✓ Brackets on miter-gate recess number 2 placed to protect vertical bubbler system pipes.

*This is a small sample of work completed at District locks and dams throughout the month.

Speakers Bureau

By Justine Barati, Public Affairs

Two students from Annawan High School in Annawan, Ill., learned more about architecture and information management when they visited the Clock Tower building for job shadowing experiences on Oct. 31. One student shadowed various members of the information management staff, while the other student worked with **Ron Mott**, from Engineering Division.

Karen Hagerty, from Programs and Project Management Division, and **Mark Clark**, from Engineering Division, worked with the Duck Creek Watershed Partners on Nov. 2 at St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa. The Watershed Partners are a group of more than 30 members of the local community who are working together to restore and improve the area.

Also on Nov. 2, **Ron Deiss**, from Programs and Project Management Division, talked with members of the Rock Island County Historical Society about the Henry Bosse photos. More than 100 people attended the presentation at the Black Hawk Lodge in Rock Island, Ill.

First- and fourth-grade students at Holy Family in Davenport, Iowa, learned about the river when **John Behrens** and **Brent Anderson**, both from Engineering Division, and **Heather Wiese**, from Programs and Project Management Division, demonstrated the lock and dam model to the students on Nov. 3.

Justine Barati and **Mark Kane**, both from Public Affairs, demonstrated the lock and dam model to more than 100 eighth-grade students at West Middle School in Muscatine, Iowa, on Nov. 8.

Roger Perk, from Engineering Division, spoke with more than 40 people on Nov. 16 at the joint meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers Quad Cities Chapter and the Iowa Engineering Society, Muscatine Chapter. The meeting took place at the Holiday Inn in Muscatine, Iowa, and the topic of discussion was drainage and levees in Muscatine.

Jodi Staebell, from Programs and Project Management Division, spoke with 20 members of the Sierra Club on Nov. 20. The meeting took place at the Bettendorf Public Library in Bettendorf, Iowa; the topic of her speech was the Rock River.

Two students job shadowed **Kayla Eckert**, from Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division, on Nov. 21. One student was from Pleasant Valley High School in Bettendorf, Iowa, and the other student was from the Western Illinois University Regional Center in Moline, Ill. Both students were interested in a career in marketing. Eckert also spoke with a class of students at the Western Illinois University Regional Center about her career on Nov. 22.

Conflict resolution was the topic of discussion when **Gayla Pacheco**, from the Equal Employment Office, spoke with 20 student-peer mediators at Central High School in Davenport, Iowa, on Nov. 22.

History of navigation on the river was the topic **Barati** discussed at the Nov. 30 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Davenport at the Blackhawk Hotel in Davenport, Iowa. More than 30 members of the club attended the meeting. 📷