





Spotlight on the District

Steve Fairbanks Operations Manager, Saylorville Lake

Story by Mark Kane

Steve Fairbanks got his start with the Corps of Engineers and the Rock Island District in 1976 after nearly accepting a job in Chicago with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

“Upon returning from the interview in Chicago, the Rock Island District called to interview me for a park ranger position at Coralville Lake, and I accepted the next day,” said Fairbanks. “The fact that I could escape a commute to downtown Chicago everyday made the decision easy.”

Fairbanks brought a good deal of education and aspiration to the Corps in 1976 after struggling to find permanent employment in the mid-’70s job market. He earned both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Biology from Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Mo.

“After I finished my master’s degree in 1975, I worked as a substitute teacher and janitor at the junior high and high schools in Clinton, Mo., because I couldn’t find a job in my field,” said Fairbanks.

Times have changed, now he is the newest operations manager for Saylorville Lake, as he was selected for the position last month. He pointed out that although the position used to carry the

maintenance of facilities and structures, and emergency operations,” said Fairbanks.

Fairbanks’ level of enthusiasm for his new job is probably apparent to most people, and it has a lot to do with his coworkers he is supervising.

When he was asked what he likes most about working for the Corps he said, “The staff of dedicated, talented and committed people that I have the privilege to lead everyday.”

When it comes to his job as a whole, Fairbanks has a much simpler take on why he takes pleasure in his livelihood.

“The fact that I can get up in the morning and look forward to going to work, because I enjoy the challenges that each day poses,” said Fairbanks.

Fairbanks is married and has two daughters.

His hobbies include studying Civil War and World War II history and reading, as well as serving on the Grimes City Council as a council member and mayor pro tem.

Fairbanks’ small town interests are not surprising given the fact that he graduated from high school in Windsor, Mo., a town with a population of 3,127, and who now lives in Grimes, Iowa, a town of 6,000 people, just short of double the size of his high school alma mater.

Maybe that’s why his advice to anyone reading this is to, “Spend time with your kids when they’re young, because that time can’t be replaced. Balance time spent at work with time spent with family, advice I didn’t heed very well myself.”



title of park manager, the person selected to the position is responsible for more than managing a park.

“The operations manager supervises all project operations, including administration, visitor assistance and visitor service programs, natural resource management,

“Spotlight Someone You Know”

The next District Spotlight employee could be working right beside you, and the only way you’ll see that person here is if you let me know it.

If you know someone who you feel is doing a good

job, setting a good example, or is just a pleasure to work around, maybe it’s time the District knew it.

Ready to tell the rest of the District, then e-mail me at:

Mark.A.Kane@usace.army.mil



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Tower Times

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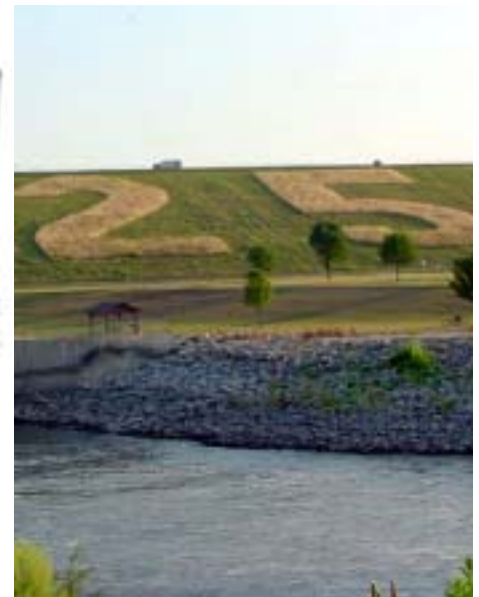
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Newest Motor Vessel**



**M/V Mississippi Steams 12
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**Embracing the 5
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On the Cover

The number 25 is clearly seen on the side of the Saylorville Dam. The number was mowed into the grass as part of the reservoir's 25th anniversary celebration. See page 9 for more.

Photo by Robert Crone, park ranger, Saylorville Lake.

Corrections and Updates

The following correction is noted from the July/August Tower Times. Page 2 - Mike Mohr's last name was spelled wrong in numerous places throughout the article.

Our Optimistic Future

By Col. William Bayles,
District engineer

Are you an optimist? I hope so. Let me tell you about a couple of optimists!

Do you remember the movie "Back to the Future II?" Hopefully you'll be able to recall just one part of it. The professor returns from the distant future with the automobile turned time machine that's been radically modified. He's really excited about what he has seen. He roots through the trash in Marty's garage to refuel the machine, which has obviously been converted using future technology to recover energy from trash instead of consuming lightning-bolt sized bursts of electricity. Through this scene, he excitedly tells Marty that the future is a wonderful place, full of hope. The professor is very anxious to return, so much so that as soon as he fills the "fuel" tank with trash, he jumps back in (with Marty and his girlfriend) and disappears, leaving Marty a little amused, yet very curious about what he might one day see with the professor's help.

Hopefully, the future is something we can be as excited about as the professor. I know I'm excited about the future -- both my own future and the future of the District. Some of you remember me saying that my success will be measured by how well the District fares in 2010. To that end, we have established some goals to move the District toward that future.

The senior leaders of the District established three major future-oriented and improvement-oriented goals. Here they are, with a brief explanation of each.

Goal 1: Improve the District's revenue-cost relationship. This goal encompasses two major actions -- first, bringing more work into the District from a variety of sources, and second, looking for ways to reduce our cost of producing products. My challenge to everyone is to be alert for opportunities to serve our neighbors, other agencies, and other districts. Next, my challenge to you is to look for



innovative ways to save us money in the way we produce our products.

Goal 2: Improve the District management processes. There are few people that are so good at their job that they can't do it a little better -- perhaps more efficiently, perhaps embracing newer technology, or working better as part of a team. The same goes for our teams, too. This goal is aimed at continually searching for those better ways.

Goal 3: Ensure a highly competent workforce for the future. This does not say there is anything wrong with our current workforce (us). But, we won't be around here forever. This goal centers around making our workplace a better and more exciting place to work. Moreover, it will focus us on finding ways to attract and retain new engineers, machinists, and other professionals to take us into the middle of the 21st Century.

In closing, let me tell you about another optimist -- Sir John Templeton. An investor, he borrowed money at the depth of the depression to invest in as many corporate stocks as he could. He retired a multi-millionaire and has devoted the rest of his life to philanthropic pursuits. He had to have a very optimistic outlook to take that move back in the 1930s. Moreover, throughout his life, he has remained an optimist. He wrote that there is no need to worry about the future. There will always be enough people to worry, so we don't need to. Besides, we always seem to be able to solve the future's problems.

These goals are focused on making us better and stronger. Let's rise to the challenge together. ■

“There are few people that are so good at their job that they can't do it a little better -- perhaps more efficiently, perhaps embracing newer technology, or working better as part of a team.”

By Mark Kane

The 2002 Combined Federal Campaign kicked off on Rock Island Arsenal Sept. 16, as District employees joined Arsenal personnel on the annual CFC Rally Walk, which served as the opening event for the 2002 campaign.

You now have the chance to make a difference in the lives of thousands of people in communities all over the world.

"Embracing the Needs of Others" is the theme for the 2002 Illowa Bi-State CFC campaign, an annual fund drive that covers federal and postal employees on Arsenal Island and in a 12-county region of western Illinois and eastern Iowa. The area includes Clock Tower, Locks and Dams 13, 14, 15, 16, and LeClaire Base employees.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. It continues to be the largest and most successful workplace fundraising model in the world.

The District's goal for this year's Illowa Bi-State CFC has been set at \$52,000 and 60 percent participation.

Last year, more than 57 percent of District employees in the Illowa Bi-State CFC region gave more than \$51,100.

In light of the tragic events that occurred Sept. 11 in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania, last year, many opened up their hearts and their wallets to help the victims' families, as well as many local and worldwide charities.

"Last year was an eye-opener as disaster unfolded on the television screens all over the world," said Jody Schmitz, District CFC co-chair. "Many of our employees watched those events live on televisions located around the work place. Giving to the CFC put our employ-

ees in touch first-hand with the charities they felt would make the most difference and had the most need.

"Those needs haven't gone away," said Mark Kane, District CFC co-chair.

"The core mission of the agencies that were vital in helping the victims and victims' families of Sept. 11 remains the same, to help people. Everyone who explores what agencies are accepting donations will find a great deal of background information on them. Many of the

agencies listed in the CFC brochure also list their web site, which gives plenty of information to base your decision."

Federal employees responded with great generosity to the 9-11 tragedy, pledging

Cook-off at 11 a.m., Oct. 9, on the lawn in front of the Clock Tower Annex. The event will once again feature local celebrity judges and will award the "Best Chili" winner with the traveling chili pot. Awards will also be given for second and


third place for best chili, as well as first, second and third place awards for best costumes.

The District annual CFC auction will take a different spin this year. A portion of the auction will be conducted online one week prior to the live auction, which is currently scheduled for 11 a.m., on Nov. 13, at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center

gymnasium. Details will be provided electronically to District personnel.

Questions concerning the District's CFC can be directed to Jody Schmitz, ext. 5300, or Mark Kane, ext. 5730.

For more information on the National Combined Federal Campaign see the OPM CFC web site at www.opm.gov/cfc.



Federal employees responded with great generosity to the 9-11 tragedy, pledging more than \$241 million to the CFC, as reported by the Office of Personnel Management.

Embracing the Needs of Others

more than \$241 million to the CFC, as reported by the Office of Personnel Management.

Special events have always played a part in the District's CFC campaign. The District will host the 6th annual CFC Chili



On the 'Net

www.cfctoday.org

By Mark Kane

Roger Harroun, lockmaster, Locks and Dam 14, and Cherie Black, Quad-City Times, contributed to this article.

Independence Day Heroism

The Fourth of July holiday brings images of fireworks, patriotism and family picnics; but unfortunately, it also brings increased odds of watercraft fatalities.

On that day, two of the District's lockmen prevented a teen-age boy and girl from being sucked into Dam 14.

Roger Harroun, lockmaster, Locks and Dam 14, filed detailed information concerning the incident in his report.

At 6:45 p.m., on July 4, Keith Bloomer and Joe Olinger, lockmen, Locks and Dam 14, were locking the Starfire northbound with a double lockage. As they were pulling the first cut, lockman Joe Olinger could hear and see two people in the water yelling for help above the dam. The two

teens had abandoned their personal watercraft, which had stalled, and were attempting to swim for shore.

He informed Bloomer and they both proceeded around

"If the series of events that led to their rescue went any other way it would have been a tragedy."

- Keith Bloomer

the lock toward the upper lifeboat. The mate on the first cut of the Starfire had gotten off of the barges and was

preparing the lifeboat for launching.

When Bloomer and Olinger arrived at the lifeboat, Bloomer jumped in the boat and prepared it for getting under-

way, while Olinger prepared it for hoisting and lowering into water.

After the craft was water-

borne Bloomer removed the jib-crane hook and the Starfire mate jumped in to assist with the rescue.

Bloomer immediately got underway to roller-gate number five and maneuvered the craft to recover the two people in the water with no time to spare. As Bloomer maneuvered, the Starfire mate, Lloyd Weitkamp, grabbed the lifejackets of both people in the water and Bloomer idled the craft upstream about 150 feet above the dam where they assisted both people into the boat.

"It was a real close call," Bloomer said. "Another second and it would have been a recovery mission, not a rescue."

Bloomer said both teens wore inadequate lifejackets



The teenagers' personal watercraft involved in the incident at Locks and Dam 14 is towed in after being salvaged below Dam 14. The PWC's trip through the dam badly damaged the cowling and cracked the hull. The seat of the PWC is missing as well.

Most of the accidents on the river can be attributed to four things:

Inexperience - Many boaters who are stopped for violations are either first-time operators borrowing a friend's PWC, or they have just purchased their boat and have not learned boating laws.

Inattention - It is just like the highway. If you do not pay attention to everything, all the time, you will eventually be involved in an accident.

Without a centerline (like on the highway) on the water, helping you know where you (and others) should be, it is easy to wander into the path of other boaters.

Intoxication - It is even more serious on the water than on the highway. It is not illegal to drink and boat, so boaters often cross the line to intoxication without realizing it. Operating under the influence is illegal and dangerous on the water!

Fatigue - Sun, wind and wave action create what is called "boaters intoxication." Even without drinking, many of the symptoms show up by the end of an alcohol-free day on the water. The largest percent of accidents are on clear, sunny and calm days late in the day as boaters head for home; because they are tired and not paying attention!

that were no match for the current.

"If the series of events that led to their rescue went any other way it would have been a tragedy," Bloomer said.

While the victims were being rescued, their personal watercraft was pulled under the number five roller, but was later recovered a quarter mile downstream by District park rangers Eldon Bird and Steve Vacek.

After the teenagers were rescued, they were returned to lock wall where Olinger took them to the auxiliary lock to their uncle's boat. They were not hurt, but very tired.

In phone conversation with the male victim, he explained that he was giving his girlfriend a ride and hit a wave, and she fell in the river in the

area near the rock piles. He shut the PWC down, while she tried to get back on the craft with no luck. As she tried to board, the PWC drifted downstream toward the dam. When he was approximately 200 to 250 feet above the dam, he decided to restart the PWC and tow the girl upstream away from the dam. The PWC did not start and continued to drift toward the dam. When they were a few feet away from roller gate number five, the Corps rescue boat retrieved them and took them to safety.

The damaged PWC was later turned over to the family.

"I hope they have a strong memory of what happened," said Harroun. "This shows that if anything gets too close, it can easily get sucked back into the dam."

Harroun says while people out on the river should stay away from dams altogether, they need to always maintain a safe distance from the dam. The closer people get, the less response time the lockmen have in case of a rescue.

The restriction for boats upstream is 600 feet and downstream the restriction is 150 feet. There are flashing red lights on either side, which indicate restricted area. Safety lines hang on the upstream side, these can be used as life lines when getting too close.

Harroun reminds boaters to follow common-sense safety precautions such as wearing a lifejacket, do not drink and drive, and avoid being in the hot sun all day where fatigue can lead to bad judgment. ■

Donald Barbole, park ranger, Mississippi River Visitor Center



Dennis Hamilton, Loves Park project manager, speaks with a reporter from WTVO in Rockford, Ill., about the details concerning the Loves Park Project.

Groundbreaking Held for Loves Park Project

Story and photo by Mark Kane

A small creek, known as Loves Park Creek, is usually a calm site to the residents of Loves Park, Ill., unless you talk to someone in the area that remembers when the creek overtops its banks. Their memories of flooding on the creek in 1971, 1973, 1975, and 1978 are not pleasant, but the District and the City of Loves Park are putting those worries to rest.

On Aug. 15, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to mark the beginning of the final stage of the Loves Park Creek Flood Protection Project designed to protect industrial and residential areas from recurrent flooding.

The ceremony included remarks by Rep. Donald Manzullo, R-Ill.; Darryl F. Lindberg, mayor, Loves Park; Col. William J. Bayles, commanding officer, Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers; John Pruitt, Loves Park Second Ward Alderman; as well as a representative from Rockford Blacktop Construction Company, the contractor for the final stage of the project.

"I congratulate the City of Loves Park and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their hard work over the last several years to solve this problem," said Rep. Manzullo. "Once completed, residents of Loves Park will no longer have to worry every time it rains. In addition, they will save a lot of money in flood insurance premiums that will no longer be necessary when this project is completed."

To complete the final stage of the Loves Park Creek project, Rockford Blacktop will construct concrete-channel lining improvements on the north branch channel upstream of Alpine

Road to Forest Hills Road, the south branch channel upstream to Forest Hills Road, and on Loves Park Creek immediately downstream of Material Avenue. They will also install flood-flow diversion structures on the north and south branch channels with culverts leading to Windsor and South Lakes. They will connect Windsor Lake to the South Lake; install a gravity outlet from the South Lake to release detained floodwaters back into Loves Park Creek; and construct pedestrian trails and bridges with landscaping adjacent to Windsor Road between Windsor and South Lakes.

The contract was awarded to Rockford Blacktop on June 26 for \$7,594,660.

The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2004.

When completed, the Loves Park Creek Flood Protection Project will consist of approximately 18,000 lineal-feet of improved channels and 236 acre-feet of storm water runoff flood storage in the Windsor Lake system.

The overall project cost including all planning, design, construction contracts, rights-of-way, and road and utility relocations is approximately \$32,200,000. The project is cost-shared between the Federal government (75 percent) and the City of Loves Park (25 percent). ■

On the 'Net

www.loves-park.il.us/floodproject.htm



Saylorville Lake Marks 25 With a Bang

By Mark Kane

Brianna Blake, Des Moines Register, contributed to this article.

This summer, Saylorville Lake hit the quarter-century mark since opening the reservoir to public recreation in 1977.

On Labor Day weekend, the lake capped off their 25-year anniversary celebration with the glare of fireworks.

"We're celebrating 25 years of fun in the sun at Saylorville Lake," said Kelly Ulrick-Blackledge, park ranger, Saylorville Lake.

Built in 1977, mainly to shield Des Moines residents and others downstream from the dangerous floodwaters that plagued them for years, the lake also serves as a wildlife mecca and recreation hot spot.

Saylorville Lake has had a significant impact on the area in a number of ways over the past 25 years, said Steve Fairbanks, operations manager for the lake.

"Visitors come from all over the Midwest to recreate here," said Fairbanks. "They buy food, gas for their boats, and propane for their campers. All of that helps the local economy."

Not only is the lake one of a few federal lands in Iowa allowing recreational use, it also provides a home for thousands of plant and animal species.

Lake activities, as well as an

adjacent 26-mile recreational trail, have attracted a number of homebuyers and developers to the area.

"People like the idea of living five minutes away from the Neal Smith Trail and the lake," said Fairbanks.

Events in support of the Lake's 25-year celebration kicked off in May with a spring team breakfast for the 150 staff, volunteers and contractors who work at the reservoir.

The 25-year celebration came to a crescendo during Labor Day weekend with a plethora of events that topped off the summer anniversary honoring the lake's history of flood protection, recreation, and wildlife preservation.

"We couldn't have asked for a better day for the 25th Anniversary celebration of Saylorville Lake," said Ulrick-Blackledge. "The big '25' on the dam stood tall and welcomed thousands throughout the day. Each of the special programs and tours in the morning had a good turnout of visitors. There were about 800 people that headed to the Oak Grove Beach area for a big beach party."

Ulrick-Blackledge said that 29 teams registered for the sandcastle contest on a day that also featured free ice cream and soda samples.

"Local radio stations Star 102.5 and Lazer 103.3 rocked the beach with music, while folks sampled salsa, snow cones, and sand art you could eat," she said. "A

train 'the little toot express' stayed busy through the day hauling visitors from one of the campgrounds down to the beach. More than 100 campers enjoyed scrumptious samples from the campfire cooking demonstrations in Cherry Glen and Prairie Flower campgrounds during the evening.

"At night, a parade of boats made a spectacular impression – more boats than we've ever seen on the lake. The fireworks display at the end of the parade was the best we've seen over the lake, and the visitor turnout to watch them was just as outstanding," she said.

Ulrick-Blackledge said their best estimates set attendance at approximately 6,000 people for the parade of boats and the fireworks.

"The crowds were large, but behaved safely and fairly orderly," said Ulrick-Blackledge. ■

On the 'Net

General:

www.mvr.usace.army.mil/saylor/

Fishing:

www.state.ia.us/fish/fishing/lakes/say77s.htm

Wild Flowers:

www.drake.edu/artsci/biology/Wacha/guide_to_wildflowers.html

A group of children put the finishing touches on their sandcastle tribute to Saylorville Lake's 25-year anniversary.

Photo by Kelly Ulrick-Blackledge, park ranger, Saylorville Lake.



By Shannan Walsten, Public Affairs

AS TEARS UNITED FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF EDWARD “ED” HOLLING, HIS SISTER, JUDY LINVILLE, REMINDED THOSE CLOSEST TO HIM THAT ALTHOUGH HOLLING WOULD NOT BE SAILING WITH THE MOTOR VESSEL HOLLING IN THE YEARS TO COME, “HIS SPIRIT WILL BE SAILING WITH IT INSTEAD.”

On July 25, the District’s newest vessel was introduced and christened during a very special and unique ceremony. A threat of rain was in the air as numerous Corps employees and close relatives of Holling including siblings, children, parents, and cousins crowded around the ceremony tent. Nancy Holling, Programs and Project Management, and sister-in-law to the late Ed Holling was present as well.

“The dedication ceremony of the M/V Holling was a wonderful tribute to Ed’s memory,” Holling said. “The entire family was touched by all the thought and care that went into arranging that special day.”

Among the speakers that morning were, Kenn Shoemaker, Chaplain (Maj.) Priscilla Mondt, Col. William Bayles, Kenneth “Kenny” Brenner and Linville. Remarks were made regarding the vessel and in remembrance of the late Holling, then framed pictures of the M/V Holling were presented to selected family members as a special gift. Following the christening, family members and the public were allowed aboard the M/V Holling for a tour.

The M/V Holling was named in memory of Holling, a former Corps employee who is still deeply remembered and missed by many friends at the Corps today. Smaller vessels, such as the Holling, are named by the employees that work on them, and because this vessel is assigned to the Channel Maintenance Section, Operations Division, employees from that section received the honor of naming her. In 1992, they decided the next survey vessel they purchased would be named in Holling’s memory.



The Motor Vessel Holling, the District’s newest motor vessel, sits peacefully in the waters of the Mississippi River near Locks and Dam 14. (Inset) - Ed Holling



DISTRICT NEWEST

“I have been told that Ed Holling was an exemplary employee who loved the river and was dedicated to the Corps’ mission,” said Bayles.

Holling was a man who greatly appreciated his work along the river during his time with the Corps. Because of his love for the river, he decided to leave his job in chiropractics and join the Corps of Engineers team in March 1984 as a hydrological technician with the Water Quality and Sedimentation and Regulations Sections of the Hydraulics Branch in the Engineering Division.

“You can judge a lot about the relationship and friendship you have with someone by how they handle the job with professionalism and sometimes humor,” close friend and co-worker, Brenner said.

Ten years after his death on July 6, 1992, Holling’s lasting impression remains evident as was seen through the tears and roar of applause by friends and family as his daughter, Jennifer Osborne, christened the M/V Holling.



CHRISTENING MOTOR VESSEL

The act of christening a boat is a custom traced back throughout the years to ensure good luck for the vessel and her crew. Upon request of family and friends, there was a break in the custom during this particular boat christening. Custom dictates that a bottle of Champaign traditionally be broken over the boat, but on July 25, a bottle of beer was used instead. Close friends and family insisted that Holling would not have had it any other way.

The M/V Holling is one of the Corps most modern, unique and sophisticated hydro-survey equipped boats in the country today. It was built by SeaArk Marine, Inc. of Monticello, Ark., and was outfitted for hydrographic surveying by Ross Laboratories, Inc. of Seattle, Wash. After five months of extensive construction and building, the M/V Holling was completed with a total cost of \$621,000.

During the motor vessel's lifetime, it is estimated the vessel will be in operation approximately 200 days per year and involved in hundreds of surveys collecting data for channel maintenance,

lock and dam periodic inspections, Environmental Management Program projects, and other engineering and environmental projects.

Powering the 35-foot-long Holling with a draft of two-and-a-half feet are twin 185-horsepower Volvo Penta diesels, giving the vessel 360 horsepower at the outdrives. A 12-kilowatt generator is also located within the vessel. The sounding system contains ten sounding elements and two 20-foot booms. These booms enable the motor vessel to survey an area 50-feet wide. With this state-of-the-art system, the Holling can survey a two-mile-long section of the river from bank to bank in just three hours, which is 10 times faster than vessels used before the Holling.

Other distinct features of the M/V Holling include a gyrocompass and two high-resolution monitors with separate displays for the surveyor and the helmsman. The vessel type and design are the ideas of Brenner. Weiss Devos and Mike Smith from Operations Division helped design the innovative hydro-survey package used on the Holling. ■

M/V Mississippi Steams Through District



- M/V Mississippi
- (Inset) Vicki Stoller addresses the Mississippi River Commission in Davenport, Iowa.

The nation's largest towboat, the Motor Vessel Mississippi, steamed through the District in August, as a part of Mississippi River Commission's annual "low-water" inspection trip on the Mississippi River, August 11 through the 23.

The low-water inspection trip included seven public meetings aboard the M/V Mississippi in selected towns along the river so that the seven-person commission could meet with local residents and hear their concerns, ideas and issues.

Three committee members are Corps officers, three are civilians, and one works for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Two of the civilians are civil engineers.

All the meetings were open to the public and topics discussed varied from matters affecting the water resources infrastructure needs in the Mississippi Valley, to recreation, and navigation.

The public hearing process is unique to the Mississippi River Commission and the Corps. The benefits of hearing first hand the issues and concerns through the public hearing process are invaluable to the commission and the Corps. Also, the interaction with congressional, federal and state interests, local boards and non-government organizations, and the public is crucial to the decision making process of the commission.

Brig. Gen. Edwin J. Arnold, commission president, said the commission was looking for input and that the speakers will receive written replies to their concerns.

"We are here to hear what should be done or not done to make the Mississippi Valley a great place to live," he said.

Vicki Stoller was one of the first to speak to the commission during the public meeting held in Davenport, Iowa, on August 13. She spoke on behalf of flood control and lock expansion, saying flood control was important with the recent arrival of West Nile virus. River residents need to look forward, she said, rather than back to the days of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

"Do we want to go back to that experience?" she said.

Brig. Gen. Arnold, on his last tour as commission president, said the Corps recognizes that a balance must be struck.

"We are about sustainability, economically and environmentally," he said.

After years of hearing divisive comments, he said he was pleased with what he heard as he leaves the commission.

"If nothing is done, the river will decline," he said. "That the valley needs a collaborative effort has come home to everyone who lives, works and plays on the river."

Prior to the start of the commission's low-water trip, the M/V Mississippi featured three stops for public open houses in

Quincy, Ill., as well as Davenport and Dubuque, Iowa, held Aug. 4 through the 6. The open houses featured displays focusing on the Corps' mission to apply engineering expertise to provide for navigation, flood protection, environmental restoration, emergency response, and to operate facilities and lands for the public good.

The crew of the 52-foot tall vessel also provided brief presentations about their daily duties.

The M/V Mississippi is primarily a working towboat that weights 2,600 tons and is powered by three Caterpillar 3,606 diesel engines and three generators. The vessel is 241 feet long and holds 80,235 gallons of fuel. It visits the Upper Mississippi River once a year. Its homeport is Memphis, Tenn.

The towboat, built in 1993, is the fifth Corps vessel carrying the M/V Mississippi name. The first, built for the Mississippi River Commission in 1882, was a steamer. The fourth was the first diesel-powered vessel to carry the name.

The current Mississippi has a crew of 37 and works about eight months a year. ■

On the 'Net

www.mvd.usace.army.mil/mrc/index.html

www.mvm.usace.army.mil/navigation/revetment/motor_vessel_mississippi.htm



Investing In Our People

Around the District

District Women's Equality Day Luncheon

By Gail Clingerman, federal women's project manager, Special Emphasis Program Committee

The purpose of the Women's Equality Day luncheon each year is to celebrate the anniversary of the 19th amendment, which granted women the right to vote. The best way to do that is to get together to learn and discuss ways that we can help ourselves, our children, our friends, and our fellow community members to achieve all of our goals, which is really what equality is all about.

Dr. Kim Armstrong, the Assistant to the President for Intercultural and Community Affairs at Black Hawk College, spoke to us Aug. 1, at the Rock Island Arsenal Club, about encouraging women and girls to pursue science and engineering careers. She stressed the need for more role models to show young people the diversity of careers available for them to choose from, including the many career fields available at the Corps of Engineers.

Dr. Armstrong also discussed mentoring of young people to educate them that science and engineering is an option for everyone; and that the best way to do this is to make it fun and interesting at a very young age.

Individuals at the District can do this by becoming involved with the Junior Achievement program, either by volunteering to teach for an hour a week at a local public school or by volunteering for the Groundhog Shadow Day.

There are many community-based volunteer organizations, such as Big

Brothers/Big Sisters, who always need more role models for young boys and girls. The District needs to get more involved with the community if we want to recruit and maintain a diverse workforce of dedicated professionals.

Dr. Armstrong's presentation served as an inspirational reminder of all the options available to us as we go about it.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Champion of the Year awards were also presented during the Women's Equality Day Program. Joseph Raoul, Engineering Division, received the Supervisory award, and Cliff Artis, Engineering Division, received the Employee award.

The purpose of the awards are to recognize District employees who have made outstanding contributions to the District's EEO program and to serve as a model for supervisors, managers, and other personnel for support of the overall goals and purpose of EEO programs.

All District personnel are eligible for this award, or many nominate a candidate for this award. Raoul and Artis both received a plaque and a monetary award. Past recipients include: 2001 -- Jeanne Elliott, Information Management; 2000 -- Mike Bunch, Resource Management; and 1999 -- Barb Carlock, Resource Management. ■

Hard Hat of the Year

Jim Farris, Eastern Area Office, was recently awarded the Army Corps of Engineers' Hard Hat of the Year award. Brig. Gen. Edwin Arnold, commander, Mississippi Valley Division, presented Farris with the award Aug. 14, during a luncheon at the Pier restaurant in Quincy, Ill.

Farris received the award for his continued leadership and flood-fighting support to the Quincy area, as well as his work on Mississippi and Illinois Rivers environmental restoration projects such as the Gardner Division Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project located at Pool 21 in Adams County. Farris coordinated the project, which involved protecting eroding islands in the Mississippi River that were constantly changing due to river flows. He was able to adjust to varying field conditions and, through his coordination, keep the project on course.

"Jim is always professional in all his relationships and continually earns the much-deserved respect of those he works with," said Arnold. "His professionalism is always apparent in all his endeavors and he is a terrific representative for the Corps of Engineers."

The Mississippi Valley Division award is given out annually to outstanding Corps construction inspectors, construction representatives, civil-engineering technicians, or engineers.

Farris has served more than 30 years with the federal government. ■

Lincoln Foundation for Business Excellence

By Kelly Gilhooly, Executive Office

Recently, the District submitted our 2002 Lincoln Foundation for Business Excellence application. The Lincoln quality award is a state level award and is based on the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria, which is used worldwide by ☺

more than 50 countries to improve business performance.

Our most recent application can be viewed, by category, from the "Baldrige Information" public bulletin board. Please take the time to read the various sections. I have a few hard copies of the document. They can be obtained by contacting me at extension 5438.

Answers to criteria related questions (the questions the application attempts to answer) can be found in the 2002 Baldrige Criteria book at www.quality.nist.gov.

The ultimate result of our application will be a feedback report that we should receive sometime in October. The feedback report provides a verification of our key strengths and an identification of our key opportunities for improvement. We'll be able to use this information in our strategic planning process for the District.

A Lincoln Examiner team is currently reviewing our application. This review will culminate in a site visit that will finalize the feedback report. The main purpose of the site visit is to verify and clarify any questions the examiners have about the written application. This year's site visit has been scheduled for the week of Oct. 7 through the 11. Please note these dates on your calendars as many of you may be called for an interview or focus group session with one or more of the examiners. One of the issues examiners attempt to clarify is the extent to which employees' participation in managing processes is optimized.

As additional information about the site visit becomes available I will post it to the Baldrige Information bulletin board. Please let any member of your Baldrige Team know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the application or the site visit. Members of your Baldrige Team include: Lt. Col. Torkild Brunso, Larry Jones, Ron Fournier, Mike O'Keefe, and Kelly Gilhooly. Thanks for taking the time to read the 2002 application.■

New Site Offers Free On-line Courses For Federal Workers

Federal workers can take free on-line courses on about 30 subjects ranging from project management to coping with stress through a government-sponsored Web site that debuted July 24.

The Office of Personnel Management and Office of Management and Budget unveiled the Gov On-line Learning Center at www.golearn.gov.

Federal employees can take the free courses, which take from two hours to eight hours to complete.

The learning center is one of the 24 major initiatives that the Bush administration is sponsoring as part of its e-government strategy.■

Recent Retirements ...

E. Florence Taets, Realty Specialist, Acquisition Branch, Real Estate Division, retired Aug. 31, after dedicating 24 years and six months to the federal government.

Robert W. Shaw, Marine Machinery Mechanic, Structures Maintenance Unit, Maintenance Section, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired Sept. 2, after dedicating 15 years and seven months to the federal government.

Sympathy ...

Russell Roth, 81, of Bellevue, Iowa, died Sept. 5, at his home after an extended illness. He worked for the District at Lock and Dam 12 in Bellevue and retired in 1975. During World War II, he served in the Navy.



Frederick Hansen, 95, of Rock Island, Ill., died Aug. 31, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island. Hansen worked as a civil engineer with the District from 1933 until his retirement as chief of the

Construction Branch in 1973. In 1975, he was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees. He was a World War II Navy veteran, serving as a lieutenant in ordnance from 1943 to 1946. Hansen was also a former member of the Army and Navy reserves.

Wilma Vosper, 80, of Davenport, Iowa, passed away Aug. 16, at her home. She worked for the District in the Engineering Division at the Clock Tower Building and retired Sept. 21, 1979.



Michael Gardner, Sr., 54, of Des Plaines, Ill., formerly of Davenport, Iowa, unexpectedly passed away Aug. 3, at Baptist DeSoto Hospital, Southaven, Miss. He worked for the District as a carpenter in the Clock Tower and at the Peoria Project Office for 15 years. Gardner was a Vietnam-era Air Force veteran.

"Just Did It" Awards

Col. William Bayles, District engineer, recognized **Kevin Carlock**, Operations Division, **Matt Jefferson**, Information Management, and **Chad Sperry**, Operations Division, with the District's "Just Did It" Award compasses.

The three individuals earned the awards for the initial posting of geo-spatial data on the District's Enterprise Geographic Information System. Implementing the EGIS involved a significant amount of planning and discussion in an attempt to establish and maintain what is hoped to be an effective District resource. Both Carlock and Jefferson provided the necessary work to prepare the data set into a form that satisfied the objective, resulting in a valuable data set now readily available to the rest of the District.

Jefferson played an instrumental role in designing the scheme for the server and devising the method to post the data. His work satisfied District users and caretakers of the data, as well as providing a procedure to post future geo-spatial data to the EGIS.■

Notes from the Mississippi*

Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa

- ✓ Storage yard lighting repaired.
- ✓ Main lockwall jib crane painted.
- ✓ Lower-tow sheave cleaned and painted.

Lock and Dam 12, Bellevue, Iowa

- ✓ Sprinkler system repaired.
- ✓ Gas-dispensing pump sanded, masked and painted.
- ✓ Airline regulators installed.

Lock and Dam 13, Fulton, Ill.

- ✓ Outboard motor installed on pontoon.
- ✓ Baseboard heaters installed on control stands.

Locks and Dam 14, Le Claire, Iowa

- ✓ Speed-reducer oil filtered.
- ✓ Number three gate-control switch repaired in lower-control stand.

Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill.

- ✓ Wire rope on upper haulage unit changed.
- ✓ Number four valve's outer brake-bearing block replaced.

Lock and Dam 16, Muscatine, Iowa

- ✓ Gate pans washed, primed and painted.
- ✓ Rainwater pumped from fuel vault.

Lock and Dam 17, New Boston, Ill.

- ✓ Handrail painted.
- ✓ Cabinets and tables painted.
- ✓ Bulkhead hoist serviced.
- ✓ Scooters' tires replaced.

Lock and Dam 18, Gladstone, Ill.

- ✓ Strut-arm limit switches installed.
- ✓ Number two miter-gate grating anchored down.

Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Iowa

- ✓ Valve-access door hand railing fabricated.
- ✓ Bow and stern lockers installed on boats.

Lock and Dam 20, Canton, Mo.

- ✓ Auxiliary miter gates and walkway power washed and painted.
- ✓ Ladder recesses in lock chamber and elevation gate painted.

Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Ill.

- ✓ Manhole pits pumped out.
- ✓ Water-fountain leak repaired.

Lock and Dam 22, Saverton, Mo.

- ✓ Number one miter-gate cam limit switches reset.
- ✓ Toe boards in shop lofts and pier house number seven painted.

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

District Commander's Award

Wayne E. Johanson, realty specialist, Real Estate, received the District Commander's Award for August, from Col. William Bayles, District engineer.

Johanson earned the award for his focused and diligent work with the 19 concession leases that he administers at Coralville Lake, Lake Red Rock, Saylorville Lake, and the Mississippi River Project. Johanson displayed superior diplomacy and tact in collecting more than \$33,000 in past due debts.

Kelly Ulrick-Blackledge, program manager, Interpretive Services and Outreach Program, Saylorville Lake, received the District Commander's Award for July, from Col. William Bayles, District engineer.

Ulrick-Blackledge earned the award for successfully coordinating the Junior Ranger program for disadvantaged youths from the Des Moines' Boys and Girls Club from July 29 through August 1.

The Junior Ranger program allows inner-city youth, about half of which are minorities, to be exposed to the Corps and the park ranger profession. The program also provides opportunities that are not usually available to the youth.

Mari K. Fournier, workforce development specialist, Resource Management, received the District Commander's Award for June, from Col. William Bayles, District engineer.

Fournier earned the award for her assistance in support of the District Training Plan.

She provided training support "far outside the scope of her duties" to District training coordinators in meeting short suspense dates to implement the new Automated Training Management Program.

Connie L. Duffy, procurement analyst, Contracting Division; and **Rhonda M. Johanson**, contract specialist, Contracting Division; received the District Commander's Award for May, from Col. William Bayles, District engineer.

Duffy and Johanson earned the award for their assistance to the Technical Support Branch, Operations Division on May 22. Their diligence in expediting the completion of OD's purchase request resulted in the early completion of the contracting process and ensured that the needed equipment was delivered within two days.

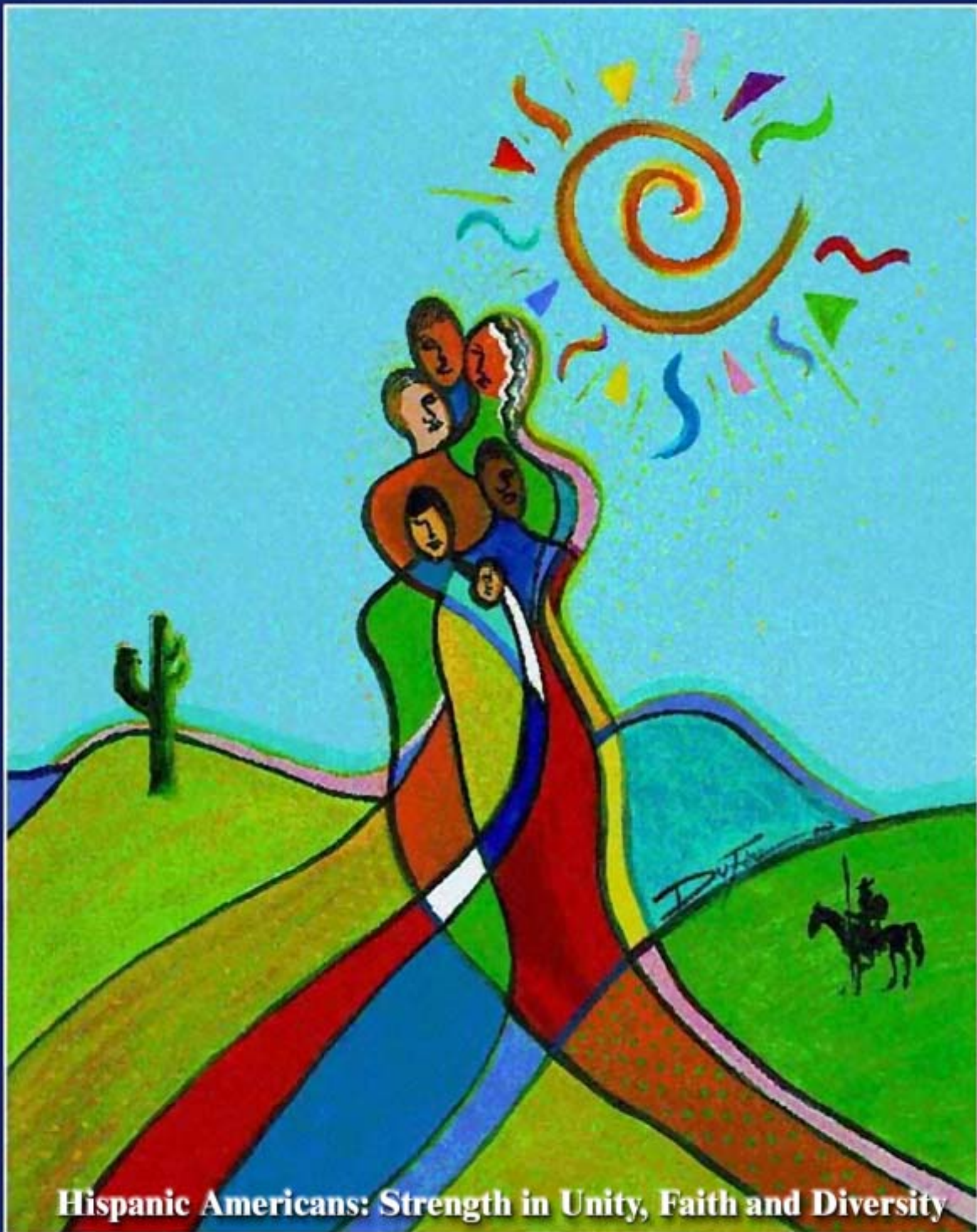
Speakers Bureau By Shannan Walsten, Public Affairs

The Corps' role in the World Trade Center recovery was the topic of discussion when **Justine Barati**, Public Affairs, spoke with six campers at Shady Creek on July 13.

On July 30, **Joe Lundh**, Operations Division, spoke with more than 30 members of the Bettendorf Kiwanis at The Lodge in Bettendorf, Iowa. The topic of his speech was forestry on the river.

Charles Trodick, Jr., a senior at Pleasant Valley High School, job shadowed **Ron Deiss**, Programs and Project Management, on Aug. 1.

The Speakers Bureau is part of the District's outreach program. Through these programs, employees work to foster positive relations between the community and the Corps. Contact with our public provides an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the District's role in our communities, the Midwest and the nation. District employees interested in these outreach opportunities should contact Justine Barati. ■



Hispanic Americans: Strength in Unity, Faith and Diversity

September 15 - October 15, 2002