

Spring Quarterly Issue 1999

Detroit District

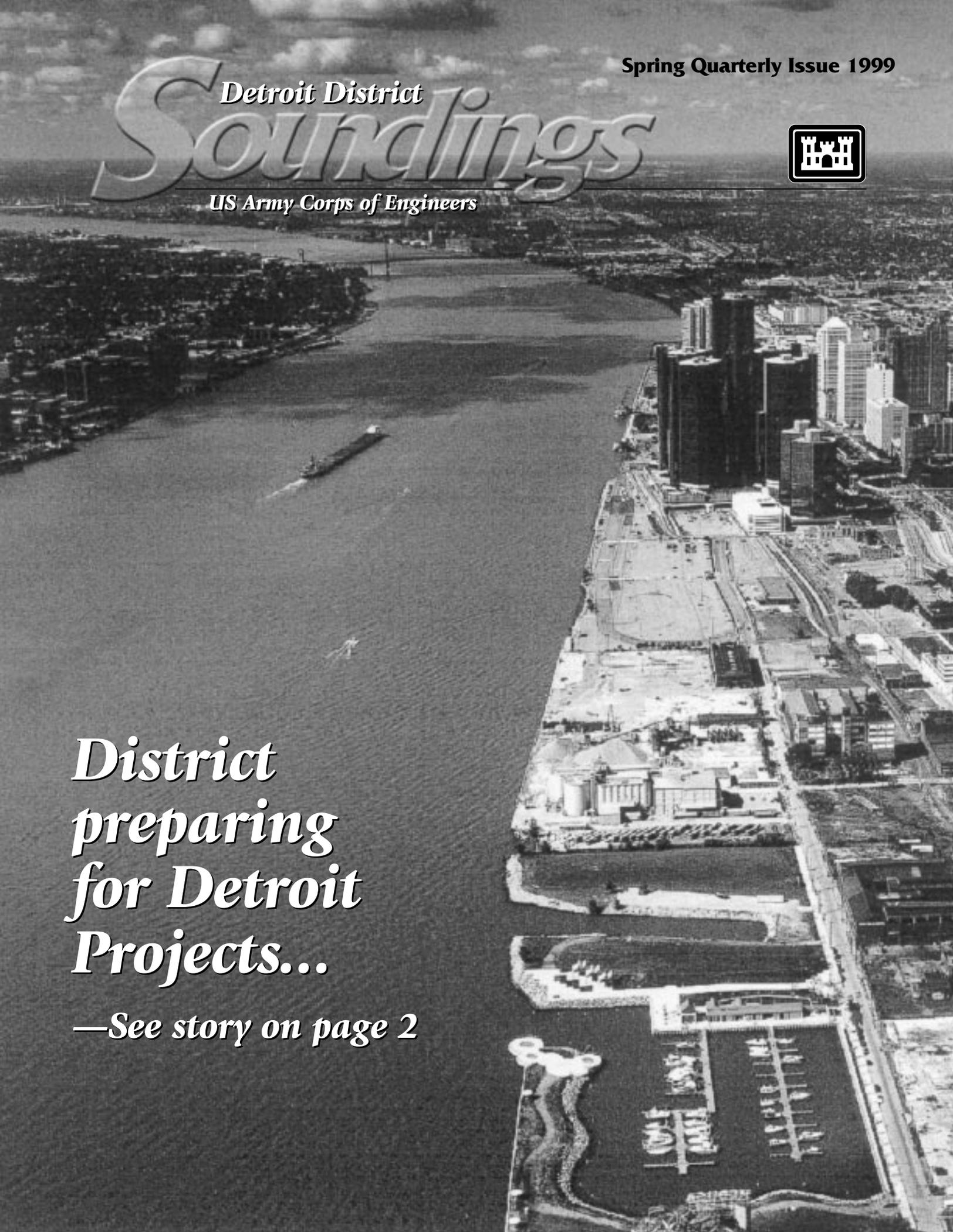
Soundings

US Army Corps of Engineers



*District
preparing
for Detroit
Projects...*

—See story on page 2



Soundings

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On the cover: Aerial view of Detroit

Corps/City Chiefs Meet

It's possible the Corps could help the city of Detroit "Redevelop the Waterfront," "Rebuild the Downtown," and "Clean Up Old Brownfields," based on the outcome of a recent meeting with Lt. Gen. Joe Ballard, Chief of Engineers, and Mayor Dennis Archer, city of Detroit.

At the formal presentation conducted by Lt. Col. Robert Davis, District Engineer, Detroit District, several ideas were documented that could be used as solutions to some of the city's concerns.



Lt. Gen. Joe Ballard,
 Chief of Engineers

Throughout the presentation, Mayor Archer and Lt. Gen. Ballard discussed details and specifics on several key issues.

Some areas of interest discussed were lead paint removal in public housing, structure demolition/rehabilitation and project management for the Planning & Development Department's 180 projects.

Archer was impressed by the breadth of support that the Corps could provide and appreciated the Corps' ability to leverage existing partnerships with EPA, HUD and MDEQ to assist the city.

In addition, Archer is interested in pursuing methods to bolster city funds with Federal funds utilizing Corps' authorities for Brownfield cleanup.

Ballard agreed to provide more information on where and how the Corps is accomplishing similar tasks around the country.

In the future, "the District Engineer will coordinate a professionally facilitated joint conference between the city and the district to formulate and understand mutual goals and objectives," according to Ballard and Davis.

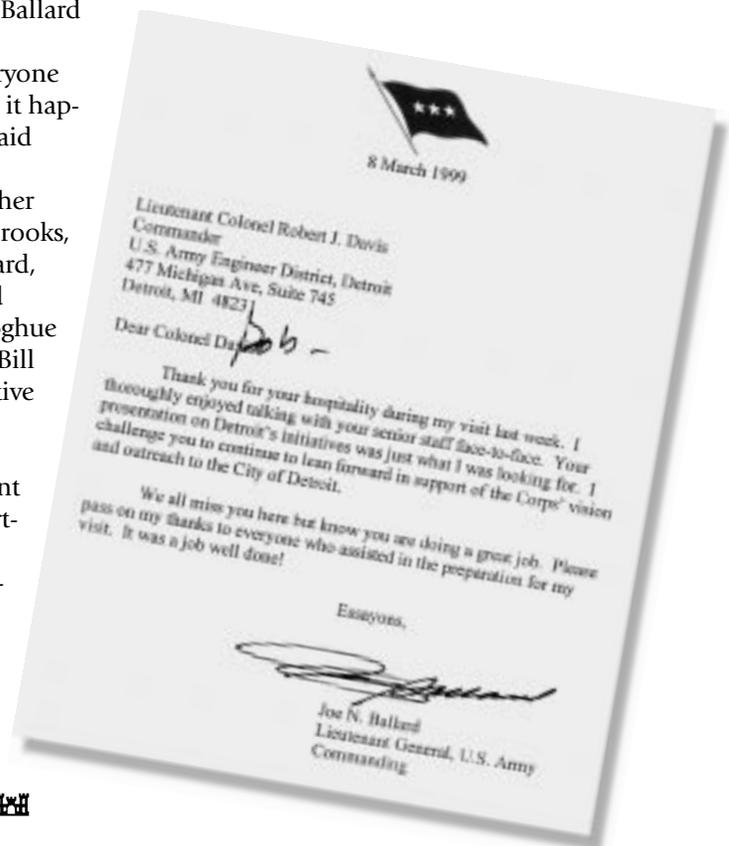
"Ms. Seabrooks, make everyone necessary available and make it happen in the next few weeks!" said Archer.

At the meeting, Mayor Archer was supported by Nettie Seabrooks, City Chief of Staff; Paul Bernard, Director of City Planning and Development; Karen O'Donoghue (Bill O'Donoghue's cousin—Bill works in Engineering), executive VP of the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation; and Lawrence Marantette, president of the Greater Downtown Partnership. Davis, Lt. Col. Powell, Scott Parker and Jeff Weiser accompanied Ballard.

Data on additional future work that are being marketed throughout the district can be found on the intranet at <http://lre42.lre.usace.army.mil/index.html> 



Dennis Archer, Detroit Mayor



Commander's Column

by Lt. Col. Robert J. Davis,
District Engineer

There are many articles in this issue of *Soundings* that are indicative of the great things that are happening throughout the district. I want to take a moment to expand upon a few of them to celebrate our successes.

Seeking Growth Opportunities

The Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Ballard, spent a few hours in the district on the 3rd of March. The primary purpose of his visit was to meet Mayor Archer of Detroit and to pledge Army Corps of Engineers support for the city. The visit was very positive and fits right into the USACE vision of seeking growth. The city has many needs and requirements that we can assist through the application of our expertise in project management, contracting, construction, and real estate support.

A major breakthrough after several years occurred this spring with the advertisement of the environmental dredging of contaminated

sediments along the Saginaw River. This work, fully funded by General Motors, is part of an out of court settlement with the State of Michigan, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others. I am very proud that we were chosen as the agency of choice to accomplish this support for others work.

Revolutionizing Effectiveness

Brig.Gen. Van Winkle and several senior members of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division visited the district in early February. The purpose of their visit was to review FY99 and FY00 projects and processes. This too, was a very positive visit. Our challenge is to continue to be aggressive in execution of our projects, to challenge roadblocks that impede execution, and to streamline our internal processes. Although we are not where we need to be, we are continuing to make progress in the full implementation of the Project Management Business Process. Your senior leaders

within the district did an excellent job in demonstrating that we "lead the way" for others to follow within the division!

One of the strengths of the Army Corps of Engineers is our ability to react to natural and manmade disasters. Late last year on a long holiday weekend, a bank failed adjacent to the federal navigation channel along the Rouge River. Through the leadership of several key members of the Construction-Operations division, we did a superb job in working with other federal agencies to quickly open up the river for navigation and in requiring the responsible parties to repair the damage.

Investing in People

A group of volunteers, under the watchful eye of our resource management team, has begun to look at many of our internal processes. This group, called the "quality council," will report to the district corporate board with recommendations on how to improve our internal processes and activities. This council has now met on several occasions and is tackling three projects:

- 1 Reviewing how we pay for using GSA vehicles,
- 2 Improving internal district communications, and
- 3 Reviewing our implementation of a suggestion program.

An integral part of taking investing in people is a solid safety program. We



must always remain diligent in being safe. There have been several recent terrible accidents within the Corps. The basic lessons learned from these incidents are:

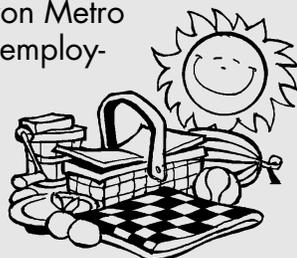
- 1 Leaders must perform an activity hazard analysis to ensure that as many safety risks are mitigated as possible,
- 2 Everyone must enforce safety standards and correct safety violations,
- 3 Stop the activity if safety risks are too high, and
- 4 The chain of command must be quickly notified of accidents.

I am very proud of our great safety record within the district, but we've had a high number of recent slips, trips and falls. Leader involvement, care, awareness, and use of proper clothing and equipment are the keys to minimize this hazard.

Overall, I am very pleased with the direction that the district is moving. We are embracing the Army Corps of Engineers vision every day and it shows. Our excellent reputation is crystallizing throughout the Corps and with our customers. Keep up the great work! 

Engineers Day, Corps Picnic 1999

We will combine the Engineers Day Awards ceremony and district picnic again this year, July 9th at Lower Huron Metro Park. Retirees and former employees interested in attending should contact Rosa Thomas at 313-226-4551 after June 1. 



Living the Vision...

"Revolutionize Effectiveness"

Detroit District responds quickly to navigation emergency

On Friday night of Labor Day weekend, 4 September 1998, Jerry Doline, Chief Readiness Branch, received an emergency phone call from the Detroit Office of the U.S. Coast Guard alerting that a portion of the north bank of the Rouge River, just upstream from the Detroit River, had collapsed into the river, blocking the commercial navigation channel. The failure site was adjacent to the Detroit Marine Terminal at a location where Edward C. Levy Co. had recently unloaded stone.

The Acting Area Engineer, Roger Vogler, and a 2-man hydrographic survey crew from the Detroit Area Office, Fred Leech and Bob Manns, were dispatched over the weekend to survey the channel bottom.

Approximately 30-35,000 cubic yards of bank had slid into the river channel. Concurrently, the Coast Guard closed the navigation channel to all but shallow draft barge traffic. The Detroit Marine Terminal immedi-

ately energized their marine contractor, Faust Marine, to initiate dredging operations to clear the obstructed channel. After 2-3 days of dredging and a plea from the industry affected along the river, additional dredging resources were brought in by Lake Michigan Contractors. Partial restoration of the channel to enable a 24-foot vessel draft was achieved six days later on September 11.

Through excellent cooperation between the Detroit District, U.S. Coast Guard, Detroit Marine Terminal, E. Levy Company, Faust Marine, Lake Michigan Contractors, and the shipping industry, channel restoration to enable the desired 27-foot vessel draft was achieved 18 days later on September 23.

Following the channel restoration, the Lake Carriers' Association, representing the Great Lakes shipping industry, expressed its appreciation for the rapid response which enabled them to service their customers along the Rouge River. Over the winter, repair work has been underway to stabilize the failed bank area with a steel sheet pile wall. 



Location of navigation channel emergency, along the north bank of the Rouge River.



Left to Right: Lt. Col. Davis, Rick Arpan, Bob Manns, Fred Leech, Mike O'Bryan, Don Reinke, Arnie Rybak, Wayne Schloop, Doug Zande
Not pictured: Pam Horner, Paul Baxter, Dave Bowman

Quality Council formed in Detroit District

The Detroit District has formed a Quality Council to look at ways we can improve our processes. The district was canvassed for volunteers to serve on the council, and fourteen district employees stepped forward. Council membership includes: Dave Kurty, Eleanor Tucker, Doug Sass, Carla Fisher, Ron Erickson, Matthew Markley, Dave Schweiger, Nancy Salisbury, Russ Cuthrell, Dave Gesl, Steve Jones, Marilyn Hill, Charmaine Howell and Dale Williams.

At the first meeting, the council discussed the charter and formed teams to begin work on the first three projects. At the second meeting with Lt. Col. Davis and the Corporate Board, the role of the council was discussed to ensure understanding. The first three projects under review are: GSA vehicles, the Suggestion Program and improving communication within the district. The council will report to the Corporate Board periodically to discuss their findings and recommendations.

The Quality Council is a vehicle to effect change; it will enjoy wide latitude and have the total support of the Commander. The council will reach out to the district as they examine various processes; so, if you wish to be heard — step up! 

Safety AHA!

by Ron G. Barkley

In the past three years, we have made tremendous progress in reducing the number of accidents involving our employees and contractors in the Detroit District. However, over the past few months the Division has experienced two fatal accidents and one serious accident. Two of the accidents involved contractor employees and the third a Corps employee.

All of the above accidents involved experienced and trained employees. The lessons learned from the above mentioned accidents is that we cannot afford to become complacent when dealing with safety. Two ways to continue awareness and rejuvenate our safety program is by using our Risk Management and Activity Hazard Analysis (AHA) Programs.

Our Corps Safety Manual requires that an AHA shall be prepared and documented for each USACE activity as warranted by the hazards associated with the activity. Generally, an AHA shall be prepared for all field operations. In developing the analysis for a particular activity, supervisors should draw upon the knowledge and experience of employees in that activity and the safety and occupational health office.

An activity hazard analysis:

- Identifies the principal steps involved and the sequence of work activities;
- Analyzes each principal step for potential hazards;
- Develops specific controls for each potential hazard;

- Lists equipment to be used in the work activities;
- Lists inspection requirements for the work activities; and
- Lists training requirements.

An example of the AHA form is found on page 4 of our EM 385-1-1, US Army Corps of Engineers Safety and Health Requirements Manual, dated 3 September 1996.

Lets take the time NOW to review and update your AHA, brief your employees on the operations involved in the AHA, make sure your employees are using the required and proper equipment, and are following the step by step process laid out in the activity hazard analysis.

Safety is everyone's responsibility! 

Regional Management Board

by David Kurty

The Chief of Engineers directed the establishment of Regional Management Boards in each of the Divisions that make up the Corps of Engineers. The Regional Management Board (RMB) for LRD was organized on March 27, 1998.

The purpose of the RMB is to assist the Division Commander in operating LRD as a Regional Business Center. The goal is to create a customer focused organization, manage Division resources, increase efficiency and effectiveness, ensure consistent business and charging practices and look at workload and resources

from a regional or corporate perspective.

The meetings are chaired by the Division Deputy for Project Management with the Division Resource Manager as the Co-Chair. Other members are the Deputy for Project Management and Resource Managers from each of the LRD Districts and selected technical representatives from Construction, Operations, Engineering, Planning and Real Estate.

The RMB meets about every six weeks in various locations and publishes minutes on the LRD website. 

Safety Bulletin:

Protect those you love

You never know when an emergency or accident will happen. That's why it's vital to have the knowledge needed to act quickly and correctly.

- Take steps to prevent accidents and emergencies by making good health and safety the focus of every day.
- Place first aid kits in easy-to-reach places, close to where they may be needed (i.e., kitchen, garage and car).
- Learn basic lifesaving techniques like the Heimlich maneuver, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, and CPR. First aid for broken bones, burns, open wounds, and poisonings is also important. Call your local Red Cross for classes on these valuable skills.
- Know the fastest route to the closest 24-hour emergency medical facility.
- Make sure your smoke detectors are working properly.
- Make a fire escape plan for your family and select a designated meeting place. Then hold family fire drills.
- Teach everyone to STOP, DROP, and ROLL if their clothes catch on fire.
- Post phone numbers of the nearest Poison Control Center and Emergency Medical Service. Have everyone in the family learn when and how to call these numbers

Remember: Your best bet for protecting those you love is being prepared. 

LRD Contractor of the Year



Pier reconstruction on White Lake.

Roen Salvage Company, a small business from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, was recently selected from nominations throughout the seven districts in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for the 1998 LRD Construction Contractor of the Year. The company's commitment to partnering and its contract management efforts enabled Roen to complete the project six months ahead of schedule without any lost time accidents.

Roen's exemplary work was recognized on the \$4.2 Million White Lake Harbor repair project. The project was to reconstruct the North Pier (701 lineal feet), the South Pier (867 lineal feet) and to construct a 200 foot long wave attenuator pocket—a rock rubble mound structure designed to dissipate waves entering the channel—at the shore. Work consisted of encasing structures with steel sheet piling (SSP) and capping with a reinforced concrete.

Project Details

The construction work started with Roen removing the top 24 inches of concrete from the existing structure, while excavating along the existing structure to facilitate driving of SSP. The driving line was cleared of stone and then SSP was driven, a waler was installed, and tie rods were installed to hold SSP walls in their required position. Stone fill was placed inside the structure and an 18-inch structural reinforced concrete cap was placed between the SSP walls for the entire length of the piers. The existing North Pier Lighthouse was removed and temporary lighting was installed. Upon completion of the concrete in that section, the lighthouse was reinstalled. The wave attenuator was constructed with H-piles being driven to support a concrete access way placed over armor stone.

A total of 198,500 square feet of cold rolled SSP, 3540 cubic yards of concrete, 28,000 metric tons of fill

stone, 2,800 metric tons of armor stone, and 1000 metric tons of splash stone were incorporated to form the final structure. Existing material equivalent to bedding and intermediate stone was salvaged and reused in the wave attenuator, which decreased the contract amount.

Winning Ways

The most intricate part of this project was scheduling to get mass quantities of concrete to the structures in a timely manner. Roen achieved this by loading four concrete trucks at a time onto their barge and transporting them to the placement area. The barge positioned close to the derrick for off-loading of the concrete. Concrete was transferred into 3-yard buckets and placed into the structure. All four trucks were emptied; the barge returned to the ramp and the trucks were off-loaded in time to load four new truck loads of concrete.

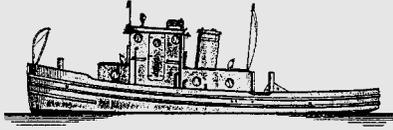
This process had to be timed perfectly so cold joints would not be created in the concrete.

Roen worked over 24,200 man-hours during 1997 and 1998. There were many potential safety hazards associated with the marine and land work. They did an outstanding job of identifying the hazards ahead of time, discussing the activity hazard analysis at the preparatory phase, and taking precautionary measures to avoid accidents. The contractor accomplished this by having key personnel fully integrated into the Corps of Engineers three-phase inspection system, ensuring all necessary safety-related materials were on hand prior to beginning work, covering safety issues with construction workers during daily and weekly toolbox meetings, and constantly supervising ongoing construction. Roen did an excellent job of clearly marking and preventing public access to open excavations and other potentially hazardous work and storage areas during non-work periods, and keeping "interested observers" at a safe distance during construction in a professional manner.

Roen was always concerned with a quality product. The three-phase inspection process was one of the tools Roen utilized the entire time to assure a quality project. If there was a problem with materials or workmanship, they would notify the Corps ahead of time about the problem and provide a solution. Then they would correct the

(continued on next page)

Tug Bayfield puts down roots



The Corps of Engineers' tug Bayfield was lifted into a permanent berth in front of the Visitors Center in Duluth's popular Canal Park. It was an event anxiously awaited by Center staff and friends since announcement of the plan two years ago. The 45-year-old tug is an important addition to the center's outdoor interpretive exhibits.

Bayfield was built in 1955 for the Army Transportation Corps and was used to tend dredge scows, among other things, for some 40 years. Although she's a mundane tugboat, it's her very "averageness" that makes her so perfect a candidate for preservation in Canal Park and so perfect an icon for the Corps of Engineers. Many of her type served the Corps on the Great Lakes.

She was employed principally shuttling mud scows between the dipper dredge Gaillard and disposal sites in the various harbors served by the Corps on Lake Superior, but she also assisted various mud scows and derrick barges and ferried Corps personnel around the harbors.

She will be completely restored during the winter and prepared for permanent display. She will grow old gracefully in the loving care of Visitors Center staff and Association volunteers, forever honoring the men and women—and ships—of the Corps of Engineers who keep our rivers and harbors working. 

(Excerpted from Nor'Easter, the Journal of the Lake Superior Marine Museum Association.)

problem without any interference to the project.

This contract was formally partnered, which was a factor to the outstanding performance and cooperation for the project. The contractor did not submit any claims related to the project, but did submit a "Value Engineering Proposal" that was accepted and approved. Resident Management System (RMS) was utilized by Roen Salvage Company for documentation of their daily activities. The Superintendent had never even used a computer before but did manage to use RMS QC module to record all QC activities.

Roen worked as a team with their employees and the USACE. They received noteworthy praise and compliments for their efforts from numerous local government representatives in the townships of Fruitland and White Lake, and the cities of Montague and Whitehall. They have not had an unsatisfactory interim or final performance evaluation in the past three years. Roen received an outstanding evaluation for the White Lake Phase I contract and is truly deserving of the Contractor of the Year Award.

POC is Scott Babcock, (616) 842-5510, ext. 18, or Thomas W. O'Bryan, (616) 842-5510, ext. 23. 

District employees help Scout Rockhounds

by Pat Olk

This past Fall, Ron Erickson's country cottage near Lexington, Michigan was the destination for the members of Boy Scout Troop 1111 from Dearborn. The Scout Troop, headed up by Scoutmaster Pat Olk, came for a day of field work as a requirement for the Geology Merit Badge.

Erickson gave the Scouts an overview of the geology of Michigan and showed them many samples of rocks from his extensive collection. Then it was off to a local sand and gravel operation for a tour and a chance to look for the many interesting specimens to be found in the glacial overburden that is typical of the

area. Also present were seams of grey stiff clay, which the Scouts found to be a whole lot of fun to form and mold into shapes. They also discovered that mixing the clay with water results in a mess that is not easily cleaned up!

Later on, the group returned to their camp at Lakeport State Park and scoured the shoreline of Lake Huron in search of Petoskey Stones. The boys arrived for dinner with pockets bulging of newfound treasures and a different outlook on rocks. The next time they pick up a nice flat stone for skipping across the water, they may just pause a few moments to take a closer look at it. 



Ron Erickson, foreground, shows Scouts his extensive geological finds.

Corps Speaks...

Nanette Noorbakhsh did presentations and demonstrations on the power of water — hydropower — to all the 2nd grade classes at Violet Elementary School, St. Clair Shores on March 1st. 

Don Reinke gave talks on February 19th to the four 5th grade classes at Guyton Elementary School in Detroit. He spoke to the students about taxonomy, ecosystems, and the hydrologic cycle. 

Gary A. Bailey gave a talk to Divine Child High School in Dearborn. This talk is part of the Boy Scouts of America Explorer's Career Development program. The subject was civil engineering as a career with emphasis on civil engineers with COE. 

(Photo by Harold Weaver, Ritz Camera Centers)

Reporting from the Soo Area on events in February...

Feb. 9 Trudi Britz, Construction Branch, gave a presentation to the Michigan Iron Industry Museums Youth Group at Negaunee, MI on the History of the Soo Locks.

Feb. 23 Stan Jacek, Area Engineer, gave the same presentation to the Lions Club at Drummond Island, MI.

Feb. 25 Kevin Sprague, SMR Branch, gave the presentation to the Etienne Brule Public School in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. 



On February 26, **Dave Schweiger** of H&H gave a presentation on the uses of the Great Lakes' waters to a group of 350 students at Morgan Elementary School in Shelby Township. After the presentation, Dave visited several individual classrooms to answer numerous questions from inquisitive students. The presentation fit right in with the students' current study of the Great Lakes. They had already viewed the award-winning video published by H&H, "Living on the Edge," and certainly were an attentive audience with thought-provoking questions. The theme that Dave put forth was one of remembering that the Great Lakes and their shorelines were here long before man set foot here, and that we should try to live with the lakes rather than change them to fit our needs. The hope is that these students will remember this lesson as they grow up and become protectors of this majestic system. 



The Detroit District produced another successful exhibit at the **41st Annual Detroit Boat Show** held in the Cobo Center in February. (See photo at left.) The Kids Clinic was a big hit with the young and old alike. Many kids left with a new "science fair" project idea sparked from the wetlands hands-on experience. The photos, brochures and informational materials were a big hit with the almost 117,000 people attending this year's event. Volunteers from various offices throughout the district worked diligently to distribute water safety materials, wetlands and district brochures, while gaining subscribers to the Monthly Great Lakes Levels bulletin. 

Boy Scouts Learn CADD Skills

by Pat Olk

Nine Scouts from Troop 1111 in Dearborn came to the district Office the day after Thanksgiving. They utilized the Engineering & Planning Divisions CADD equipment in order to complete a requirement for the Drafting Merit Badge. Pat Olk of Design Branch, who is the Scoutmaster of Troop 1111, arranged the field trip. Among the participants were Greg Olk and Charlie Bissel, son of Flo Bissel of EAB. Charlie is with Troop 702 in Woodhaven.

To earn the Drafting Merit Badge, the Scouts not only had to complete a drawing using CADD, they were also required to submit drawings prepared by using traditional drafting tools — pencil, drafting vellum, T-squares, triangles and scales. Assisting in the effort was Gary Bailey, who gave some one-on-one help to a couple of Scouts that were a bit lost. "One thing that the Scouts learned was that using a computer doesn't always guarantee that creat-

ing a drawing will be easier," stated Olk. With timely help from Intergraph liaison Carl Jarrett, several bugs had to be fixed in the computers in order for the Scouts to complete their drawings. Once things were running smoothly, it did not take long for the Scouts to navigate their way around using the CADD program. Each Scout was able to plot his drawing and print it in



Pat Olk demonstrates the finer points of CADD drawing to drafting badge seeking Scouts.

color as a remembrance of their experience at the Corps Office. 

 **Kudos!**

Corps effort opens way for cruise ships in Detroit

Congratulations to the Detroit District for their instrumental help in conducting the Detroit River soundings. The efforts of the Army Corps of Engineers made possible the visit of the M.S. Columbus cruise ship to the City of Detroit on October 3rd.

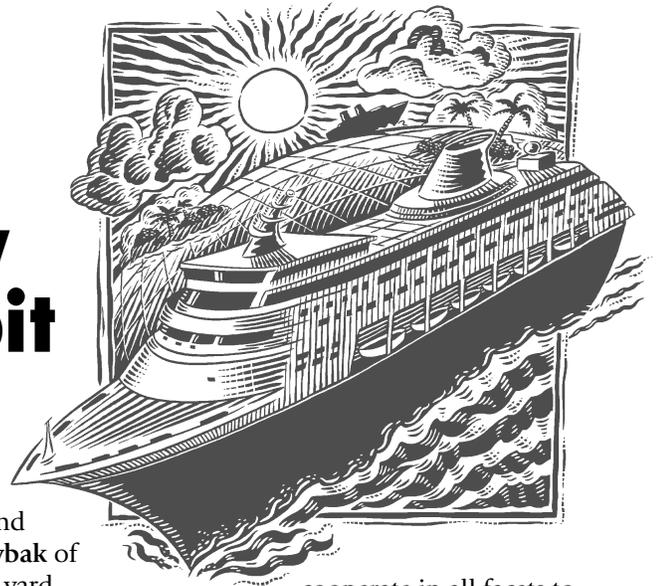
Detroit had not had a cruise ship visit their port since 1967. All that changed when the long-

awaited M.S. Columbus arrived and docked at Hart Plaza for nearly nine hours. Over 400 excited spectators, curious reporters and enthusiastic officials turned out in support of the ship. They were granted tours inside the vessel and had the opportunity to pick up cruise information. Passengers also boarded Columbus for a nine-day cruise.

Involved from Detroit

District were **Rick Arpan** and **Arnie Rybak** of the boat yard, who completed the sounding; **Doug Zande**, technical coordinator; and **Jeff Weiser**, financial coordinator. The unit's quick responsiveness in providing expertise on the project, combined with their willingness to

cooperate in all facets to completion, helped make the event the success that it was. This outstanding effort may make it possible for future work to allow cruise ships to dock at the Detroit River on a continual basis.



Product Improvement through Suggestion

January 1999 - March 1999

Suggestor	Suggestion
Carla Fisher Construction-Operations Division	Distribute guidance and policy about the Army Ideas for Excellence Program to suggestion evaluators. The benefits of this suggestion will improve evaluations, increase communications, and develop knowledgeable evaluators.
Carla Fisher Construction-Operations Division	Periodically disseminate Army Ideas for Excellence Program information. The suggestion program flyers and memorandums posted to bulletin boards to promote the program. The benefits of this suggestion promoted awareness for new hires and creates interest among all employees
Carletta Degroat Resource Management Office	Automate ENG Form 2438. The automated plant card will speed up the preparation and execution of Plant Cards. The benefits of the suggestion are time and money savings, and effective productivity.
Tarsus Moore Resource Management Office	Dive Account and Facility Distribution. Develop an automated method (CRONJOB, SQL, or other) to pull information from CEFMS. The benefits of the suggestion are time and money savings, and increased efficiency
Collette Luff Engineering & Planning Division	Electronically mail DA Form 1045 to Program Coordinator. The Benefits of the suggestion are time and money savings.

Savings – \$8,300.00 • 10% of savings awarded to Suggestors

Submit your ideas via E-mail on DA Form 1045 to Suggestion, LRE 

Kudos!

"Delight the Customer"

Recently the Detroit District headquarters and Grand Haven Area Office received two Kudo's from U.S. EPA Project Manager, John Fagiolo, related to the Otts/Story and Bofors/Nobel Superfund Projects.

During the Ott/Story project the district team of the Project Manager Bob Erwin from PPM, Patricia Fatherree from Real Estate, Don Erwin in Real Estate, and Vic Kotwicki, Chief of Real-estate, resolved a real estate acquisition problem by accomplishing a tremendous amount of coordination and leg work to acquire 13 parcels from reluctant property owners. This allowed the last major item of work, effluent line, which enabled the groundwater treatment plant to operate at full capacity.

John Fagiolo acknowledged the district team for

how it handled the "whole real estate issue."

"EPA has thus been left free to pursue other 'big picture' project management aspects of this and other Superfund projects . . .

Grand Haven and Detroit have come through with flying colors," said Fagiolo

Carl Platz at the Grand Haven Area Office, on behalf of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, MDEQ and United States Environmental Protection, USEPA, volunteered his services to facilitate an on-site pre-bid walk through by potential contractors on upcoming work. John Fagiolo expressed that this was "a pivotal meeting regarding the potential 'take-over' of the site ground water treatment plant."

It is this repeated professionalism and exceptional unflinching acceptance of the inherent responsibility. 

 For the fifth consecutive year, GHAO is again sponsoring two events in the West Michigan Science Festival, 17-25 April. This year's events are "Hazardous Waste Really 'Bugs' Me!" co-sponsored by Sverdrup Environmental, Inc., and "Don't keep Dredging THAT Up!" With dozens of events sponsored by Southwest Michigan businesses, the festival provides "real life" examples of practical applications of science to students and parents of all ages. Last year, almost 60 people participated, and there is a large interest again this year. 

 Scott Babcock received the Division 4th Quarter, FY98 Quality Performance Certificate. 

 Tom O'Bryan, Jim Hop, and Chris Schropp volunteered to be judges for the St. Mary's 5th through 8th grade Science Fair on 28 January. Although students learned about their own projects, there were other objectives of the science fair as well: kids learned how to make presentations with confidence, they learned about the scientific method of inquiry, and they learned how to put on a presentation. 

 Jan Ellsworth, GHAO Office Services Assistant, became a grandmother (again!): Derick Ron Ellsworth was born on 26 January and was 7 lbs., 13 oz. and 21-1/2" long. 

 Tom O'Bryan was selected for LRD's Construction Manager of Excellence award. This past year in the Civil Works Program, the Grand Haven Area Office (GHAO) Construction Section executed approximately \$13 million of construction involving ten active, separate contracts at 13 different harbors spread along 300 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline — including three major structure rehabilitation projects, each valued at well over \$3 million. Tom O'Bryan was the COR on each of the contracts.

In addition to coordinating hydrographic prior and after dredging surveys, Tom's survey crew was responsible for condition surveys at each of our 21 federally authorized projects (harbors). When Detroit District indicated they would not be able to meet expenditure requirements due to slippages, GHAO was called on to assist. Tom adjusted work schedules, etc., to allow for obligation of over \$600,000

for previously unfunded maintenance requirements to include the expedited handling of the capping of the Harbor Island Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) to turn it over to the community as a recreation area.

GHAO took an emergency Section 14 project at New Buffalo, MI, from the local community's request for assistance to completion in less than nine months, thereby preventing loss of an important water pumping station.

Tom managed these projects with nine personnel.

All major projects were formally partnered and were executed with no litigation. All minor projects received the benefit of Tom's informal partnering process. Our customers, who are local city officials at each harbor and state natural resource personnel, have expressed satisfaction with GHAO. Our contractors also routinely praised us in the district's first-ever APIC survey this past summer. Tom is forward thinking, hard working, and gives



Tom O'Bryan

Retirees' Corner

Eugene K. Hartl retired January 1, 1999 from the Kewaunee Area Office where he held various positions in the Operations and Maintenance Section in the past 34 years. Gene started with the Corps in 1964 as a Deckhand, worked as a Marine Oiler, Boiler Plant Operator, Marine Equipment Operator, Operator, Marine Derrick, and retired as a Master, Derrickbarge. He maintained an excellent safety record aboard the Cranebarge Manitowoc, and received numerous commendations during his tenure, most recently being selected as the Outstanding Operator/Maintainer of the Year for 1998. His knowledge and expertise will be missed by the Kewaunee Area Office and the Detroit District.



Eugene K. Hartl

Gene enjoys snowmobiling and spending time at his cottage in northern Wisconsin. Our best to Gene on a well-deserved retirement! 

Detroit District retiree Chester L. Smelser has not stopped working since his retirement on 28 February 1976. Ever since he and his wife moved to Sun City, California in May 1976, Chester has been active in his community, driving a crime watch car and medical bus and serving as a hospital volunteer. He served on the board of directors for his neighborhood crime watch, the Cherry Hills Golf Club, and his billiard club, where he was also a monitor.

Fun and recreation has not been omitted from Chester's retirement, though. He finds the time to enjoy golfing three days a week and shooting pool nearly every day. Traveling east is a regular event each year, with him even catching the Annual Corps of Engineers Picnic one year.

This year, Chester and his wife look forward to their grandson's April wedding in New Orleans and their 60th wedding anniversary trip in July on the Columbia River, traveling from the Pacific Ocean to Idaho.

Chester's 35 years of service with the Corps of Engineers has seen many major projects in the Great Lakes area. Thank you, Chester, for keeping in touch, and we hope to see you at the next picnic! 

To Detroit District retirees: We need to hear from you! We're looking for information about your everyday lives and special events, but mostly, we would like to know what you're doing now.

Kudos! (continued)

110%. Tom's hands-off approach is true leadership, allowing his subordinates to make mistakes in the process of learning. By giving them the freedom to fail, Tom has given his employees the freedom to succeed. 

 In November, in conjunction with Veteran's Day, **Pat Klever**, GHAO O&M Team Leader, donned his US Army Reserve uniform. Maj. Klever provided a presentation to 3rd and 4th graders at Rosy Mound School on respect for the flag, flag history and trivia, what freedom means to soldiers, and why we should respect veterans. The children also enjoyed participating in a formal flag folding ceremony. 

 Last year, **Pat Klever**, LGHAO O&M Team Leader, was an engineer mentor for the Engineers Week Future Cities competition. This year, Pat provided the impetus for **Jimmie Glover**, **Colette Luff**, **Tom O'Bryan**, and **Carl Platz** to get involved as mentors. Pat coordinated with the local middle schools, assisted ESD (Engineering Society, Detroit) in arrangements on the west side of the state, and got Tom and Carl to be mentors. Jimmie and Colette became involved with schools in the Detroit area. 

 **Larry Van Oordt** would especially like to thank everyone for their help, prayers, and support through his wife's illness. Sue Van Oordt passed

away on March 1st from brain cancer. Contributions can be made to Hospice of North Ottawa, c/o North

Ottawa Community Hospital, Grand Haven, MI, 49417. 

 **Lisa Parker**, Daughter of **Scott Parker** in PPM, has been chosen as one of the "Prep Stars in Sports" by the *Detroit Free Press*. Lisa plays volleyball at Southfield Franklin Road Christian School, where she is senior class president with a GPA of 3.3. Her volleyball accolades include 12 kills and eight aces in playing only the second game of a 15-13, 15-6 win over Taylor Baptist Park. She currently also plays for USA Michigan volleyball and has signed to play with Purdue University.



When asked about her team and love for the game, Lisa described how close her team is this year and what a great job they're doing. She's trying to get more support for volleyball in her school before she makes the move to college. "Signing with Purdue really got me pumped for the spring season," says Lisa. "It's going to make the transition easier."

Lisa cites her father and club coach as her role models. She plans to pursue a career in sports medicine. 

Employees of the Month

FEBRUARY

Brian Bouwhuis Grand Haven Area Office

(Photo not available)

Brian is an office engineer working on the Ott/Story Cordova Groundwater Treatment Facility. He has kept the Muskegon Sub Office and Grand Haven Area Office of all the changes that occurred (300). With all the heavy detail involved with this project Brian kept it rolling between the contractor and the Corps. Also, Brian took on the oversight of the Thermo-Chem Superfund site for Phases II and III. These projects were vital in convincing the EPA to send more work to the Detroit District as their construction manager of choice.

Well done in providing customer service with a high quality! 

MARCH

Joe Kimmel Cost & General Engineering Section within the Engineering Division



Joe has helped the Fort Wayne Resident Office with eight separate estimates, totaling approximately \$2.5 million, in an effort to get modifications on the \$50 million Fort Wayne Flood Control Project out in a timely manner.

Joe's efforts epitomize the "Partnering Spirit." He has also worked on estimates for all three Superfund projects—where he was also a critical player in accomplishing change orders—and civil work projects with the Grand Haven Area Office.

When you think of Joe Kimmel, you think of customer service! 

APRIL

Pam Horner Environmental Analysis Branch



Congratulations goes out to Pam Horner, physical scientist in the Environmental Analysis Branch. Pam has shown customer service as an outstanding key person for keeping our navigation channels dredged. Her professionalism was key in the testing of the Saginaw River sediments in regard to the GM environmental lawsuit. She works with A/E's, assisting in meeting the Engineering and Planning Private Sector Contracting goals.

The continued dedication in customer service is shown through her service as the Secretary, Detroit Post, Society of American Military Engineers.

Much success to Pam! 

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