

*Detroit District*  
**Soundings**  
*US Army Corps of Engineers*



*Poe Lock  
repaired...*

*—See story on page 5*

# Soundings

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On the cover: *Divers Milspaugh and Luff working in the Poe Lock*

# Happy New Year to each of you!

I hope all of you had a safe and joyous holiday season that you were able to celebrate with family and friends. As we enter 2001, I take great pride in serving as your 50th Chief of Engineers. The United States Army Corps of Engineers is vital to the Army and the nation; I am privileged to be a part of it. Our organization is world-class because of you, the outstanding men and women who make up the Corps. Remember that the Army Corps of Engineers is about people. It's about you. The Corps is 35,000 plus proud Americans who bring unique and diverse skills and talents together to do great things for this country. Hold your heads high - you have every reason to be proud of your contributions.

This year will present many challenges and opportunities for us - some known, some as yet unknown. As we have for 225 years, we will meet those challenges as dedicated professionals and concerned citizens doing an outstanding job in meeting the needs of the nation today and in the future.

I look forward to the upcoming year, to working with you, and to serving as your Chief. I'm wishing each of you, and those you care for, a safe, prosperous, and enriching year.

Essayons!

Bob Flowers



# Flint River Dedication Ceremony, Flint, Michigan

By Bill Rito, project manager for the Flint River Flood Control Project

In October, Major Scott Jackson, deputy commander Detroit District, represented the Corps at a dedication ceremony for the recently completed rehabilitation of the inflatable dam on the Flint River. The ceremony was attended by Flint Mayor Stanley and Congressman Kildee (D, MI, 9), who both praised the effective partnership between the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Flint. The rehabilitation of the inflatable dam was authorized in WRDA 96 and specifically funded by congressional add in FY 98. The new dam was manufactured by Obermeyer Hydro Inc., a Colorado firm, and installed by D. N. West Enterprises of Flint, Michigan.

The Corps replaced the mechanism used to maintain the Flint River's water levels with the removal of the "Fabridam" and installation of a new "Obermeyer" dam for \$604,000

The Obermeyer system utilizes a row of steel panels supported by inflatable air bladders. By controlling the pressure in the bladders, the upstream river water surface can be adjusted. The mechanical and electrical systems housed in the underground vault on the northern bank will also be upgraded.

If you've crossed over the Flint River on Grand Traverse Street in Downtown Flint, you may have seen what looks like two long rubber-

ized tubes across the river. It is an inflatable "Fabridam" installed back in the late 1970's under a construction contract by the Corps of Engineers,



and funded by the City of Flint.

The creation of this dam was the last of four construction contracts for building the Federal Flood Control Project along the Flint River. The City of Flint has operated the dam throughout the past twenty years to maintain water levels in the river during the summer, which helps protect property and the landscape of the downtown area.

However, because the "Fabridam" was in poor condition and required replacement, Flint officials worked with Congressman Dale Kildee, D-Flint, who sponsored legislation to provide federal authorization and funding to perform the work on this project. 

# Commander's Column

by Lt. Col. Richard J. Polo, Jr.  
District Engineer

**B**y the time most of you read this column, this year's Super Bowl will simply be a memory. Featuring a clash of two great teams, hundreds millions of people watched the game. It was the largest TV audience for the year. But the airing of the Superbowl is also witness to another interesting cultural phenomenon in our country. Namely, millions of people who do not care for football watch the broadcast to catch the nation's new commercials developed by leading companies who pay millions of dollars for 30-second ad spots. There can be few people who did not watch some of these commercials and discuss them later with friends and

colleagues.

What made some of these commercials memorable and great to watch? Some of the ingredients were originality and simplicity. In short, messages delivered cleanly, with enthusiasm, humor, and wit were the clear winners. And many of us still remember these commercials, along with the evoked feelings. To those who might say these commercials were expensive, the companies would beg to differ. They certainly feel they received their money's worth.

In the same vein, General Flowers, our Chief of Engineers, has asked each and every one of us to develop our own 30-second commercial. In other words, if a friend or neighbor came up to you and

asked "what do you at work", how would you answer?

Recently, all 41 district commanders developed their own commercials. In hearing many of them, I found that there is no standard template. Each is unique to the person, their personality, their district, and their mission focus.

Developing a commercial is tough work. Trying to pack a lot of information that is easily remembered and delivers YOUR message is more than a cursory task.

On 1 Feb in Washington DC, I had the chance to give General Flowers his first formal briefing on our District. I opened with my commercial. Excuse the grammar and syntax, I have taken poetic license in order to convey the delivery and the emphasis:



"Hi. My name is Rick Polo. Through sheer luck, I have the best Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S Army. It's because I have the privilege of leading and serving with ONE team of 500 dedicated professionals in the Corps of Engineers' Detroit District.

We are proud to be the "One Door to the Corps" to the majority of the Great Lakes Region – the entire state of Michigan and parts of 3 other states. We can provide a full range of services across the engineering spectrum that have a federal interest. But our primary mission areas are: navigation, shoreline protection, flood control, and efforts to protect the environment.

Founded in 1841, the District is the second oldest organization in the City of Detroit. Focused, engaged, and adaptive - we are still here. Because We deliver!"

Delivery is more than 50% and so I start off each day by rereading my commercial in order to be able to tell it without stumbling, bumbling, or stuttering.

I have also found that it serves another useful purpose. It keeps focus on why it is that I look forward to coming to work each and every day.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it. What's your commercial? 

## Saving a life is a life changing experience

**U**nless you're a health or public safety professional, most people don't get ready for work in the morning thinking they will save someone's life that day.

Well, a life-saving experience, bringing four people in our district together, turned an average day at work into a day of heroism.

They said, they heard coughing, choking, and then what sounded like someone taking their last breath.

"It was the one of the worst sounds that I've heard coming from someone 'just' trying to breathe," said Tenecha Bland, legal assistant from the Office of Counsel, with the look of fear as she relived the experience. "Because he was on the other side of our wall we could hear him clearly," she said, speaking of what her and co-worker Marlana Moore heard.

"I don't think I'll ever forget that sound," said Patricia Toney, EEO assistant.

Although, their offices were at opposite ends of the building, the three ladies all heard the same gasps for air, and without thinking -- just basic instinct, they all sprung to action to see if they could help.



Brig. Gen. Robert Griffin (center right), LRD commanding general, awards Marlana Moore, Tenecha Bland, and Patricia Toney, the division commander's coin and division pin for their collective heroic efforts to save Phil Kroll's life.

"Phil (Kroll) was leaning against the door entrance into Office of Counsel with his head down having great difficulty breathing and blood was coming from his mouth," said Toney. I went to the Health Unit on the 11th floor for help," she said, reliving the urgency of the situation.

After checking Phil's office, Bland and Moore followed Phil's struggling sounds and resulting

(Choking continued on page 12)

# From the Chief of Engineers



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

*As the new leader of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, I have written this white paper to report on the state of the Corps and my direction. It is addressed to everyone with an interest in the Corps.*

**T**he state of the Army Corps of Engineers is sound. For 225 years the Army Corps of Engineers has honorably served the Army and the Nation. During the 20th Century the Army Corps of Engineers experienced both resounding success and bitter controversy. Today, at the dawn of the 21st Century, we are again under the microscope of public examination.

As I survey our horizon I see the Army Corps of Engineers performing vital functions. We are deployed around the globe as part of the Army's contribution to our national security strategy. Across America I see both our Military Program and Civil Works Program addressing local, regional, and national challenges. I see that our Army is transforming itself to prepare for an uncertain future. I see the Corps as critical to the success of this transformation. Additionally, I see the value that the public places on our Nation's environment remains a powerful and growing force for change in public policy and fiscal priorities. Imperatives and directions are shifting. As a result, the Army Corps of Engineers often finds itself dealing with issues involving significant and divergent interests.

The Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program is responsible for the development, management, protection, and enhancement of our nation's water and related land resources for commercial navigation, flood damage reduction, recreation, and environmental

restoration. The program provides stewardship of America's water resources infrastructure and associated natural resources, and also provides emergency services for disaster relief. The Civil Works Program supports the Army in peacetime pursuits, during national emergencies, and in times of war. It is my job, in concert with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, to act as a strong voice to the administration and the Congress for the management of our water resources. We must create environmentally sustainable systems that protect people, property and economic growth across the United States. The goal of our study process is to produce the best economic and scientific analysis available. When studies are complete, I will report results to the public, the administration, and the Congress, in order to facilitate their decision.

We will strive to improve the quality of our studies, projects, and operations, while reducing time and cost. We will seek to develop technologies to protect or restore the environment; and to create environmental benefits. We will continue to rely upon the private sector to execute the majority of our work. We know we are not and will never be perfect – we must become more agile as a learning organization filled with people willing to evolve and enable change. We rededicate ourselves to continuous improvement. I reaffirm our strong commitment to produce unbiased recommendations consistent with law, regulations, and science. The Army Corps of Engineers will continue to provide excellent service to the Army and the Nation with integrity and credibility. We are a team of dedicated military and civilian professionals with a strong ethos for service to the Nation. We do not, can not, and will not favor any special interest, nor allow any special privilege, in the execution of our

studies and projects. The public must have trust and confidence in our process as well as in those entrusted with implementing that process. Our integrity must remain beyond reproach. We will be open and responsive in working with all interested parties in the execution of our studies, projects, and in our regulatory responsibility. We will reach out to stakeholders early and actively listen to the concerns on all sides of issues. We will promote dialogue. We will seek to build consensus and always strive to do what is right. The Army Corps of Engineers is vitally important to the Nation and vital to the livelihood of most Americans – this has not changed in 225 years. I believe the Corps is a national resource that plays an indispensable role in serving the public.

The Army Corps of Engineers is also an essential part of the greatest Army in the world. We will work hard to be a vital link between the American public and its Army.

We are dedicated to operating in the interest of the American public and always in accordance with laws and regulations. Our team works with many different entities, but only for one purpose, to do what is right to enhance and protect the well being of the Army and the public. We seek to partner with stakeholders and to build relationships that serve the public interest. We work with the administration and the Congress. We work with the civilian and military authorities appointed over us. Most importantly, we work for the American public's trust and confidence.

Essayons!

LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
ROBERT B. FLOWERS  
*Commanding General*  
*United States Army Corps of Engineers* 

# Only access from Lower Great Lakes to Lake Superior continues for 1000-foot vessels during repairs to Poe Lock at the Soo Locks

By: Carmen Paris, Soo Area Office and Shelley Tule, engineer intern, district HQ office

On a cold, -6 F day, in December Detroit District divers replaced a gate quoin (pron. ~coin) block on the North lower operating gate of the Poe Lock, part of the Soo Locks on the St. Marys River in Saulte Ste. Marie, Mich.

The Poe, or second lock, is the newest of the four locks which comprise the St. Marys Falls Canal. The lock was opened to traffic in June of 1969 and is the only lock capable of transiting 1,000 foot super carriers that operate exclusively on the Great Lakes.

At the Soo Area Office, winter diving is a must. It is during the winter months, when slower ship traffic can be diverted to the other locks or the locks close, the Soo Office will complete much of its regular yearly maintenance. This poses a few problems. Since most of the work is done below the water-level, divers must be used to perform the necessary repairs in sub-zero temperatures. The icy water can induce hypothermia in minutes. While this sounds like a job that no one would want, the Detroit District Dive Team loves what they do.

Lock personnel, during an early morning in August, discovered that the quoin block had separated from its connection. Later that morning, personnel from the Soo Area Office St. Marys River Branch, with the aid of a Remotely Operated Video, (ROV) were able to view the actual extent of the quoin post movement.

Following the underwater video inspection of the area, the dive team was called in to remove and replace the damaged quoin block with a new one.

Every year the team gets called upon to suit up and go for a winter dive and they love it.

Ice diving requires special



The quoin block out of position.



Dive barge in position and the new quoin block being fitted into place.

training and equipment, technical skill, and lots of practice. But once you master these, it is a great way to spend a day. An ice dive can also be a truly beautiful and different sort of dive. According to dive team member Dave Luff, "there is nothing quite like walking on the bottom of the ice."

The Detroit District Dive Team has worked to protect navigation since 1952 and are proud to be called on to help out with a problem in a channel such as this one.

During the time the damage was discovered until repairs were completed, August to December, the intermediate lock gates were used while a new quoin block was being manufactured for the operating gate. When the damaged quoin block was removed by the dive team in September and replaced in December they took less than one day to complete each operation, so the lock was open to navigation traffic before the end of each day.

Time was of the essence when replacing the quoin block because late season ice conditions make down bound transits through the Poe Lock difficult and extremely time consuming when gates are in normal working condition, but more difficult when gates aren't working to

capacity.

When transiting the lock down bound during ice conditions, vessels sometimes push ice into the lock ahead of the bow forming a wedge of ice between the lock gates and the bow of the ship. This "ice wedge" makes it very difficult to open and close the gates. Vessels have to back out of the lock, the ice in the lock is flushed out, the lock refilled, then the vessel repeats the process of moving into the lock. Vessels locking through the narrower intermediate gate cause more ice jams slowing down the locking operations further. Therefore, replacing the quoin block was critical in getting the normal gate operations up and running.

The purpose of the quoin block is to act as a seal to prevent water leakage when the gate is in a closed position. The piece that was damaged and subsequently replaced is 21 feet-7 inches in length. The weight of the quoin block is about 2,250 pounds. It is secured to the operating gate by 21 1-inch diameter bolts. The face of the quoin block is rounded -- convex, and fits into a rounded -- concave, quoin post which is anchored into the concrete recess of the gate -- similar to your shoulder's ball and socket joint.

The current dive team has

many years of experience between them. They are quick to point out that the safety of all the team members is the key to a good dive and that takes good planning. Working on the deck of a tug or a barge in cold weather can be very difficult especially when divers are getting out of the water and dripping everywhere. As soon as the water hits the deck it turns to ice and becomes a slipping hazard for the topside personnel.

"The Soo personnel have been great to work with," says Ken Zmikly, supervisor/diver "Whenever we are working there, they have buckets of sand for the deck and buckets of hot water to pour on our hands as we are climbing out of the water. As soon as you grab the ladder, your gloves will freeze to it."

After a particularly tough dive last year, even the youngest diver, Harry Michalik, said "I'm getting too old for this!" But, the team is always looking for new members. There is no doubt that the job can be mentally and physically demanding, but as one diver said "we aren't in this for the money, we just love to dive."

If this is something you'd like to try, call Arnie Rybak at (313) 554-1674 or Dave Luff at (313) 226-3190. They would be glad to give you more information. 

# Detroit District helps alleviate possibility of future devastation in Fort Wayne, Ind.

By Gary O'Keefe, Project Manager for Fort Wayne Flood Control Project

The Detroit District completes a \$49 million flood control project in early 2001, in downtown Fort Wayne, Indiana, the primary result of a 20-year partnership between the Detroit District, the City of Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana.

This partnership started when the Detroit District assisted with flood-fighting efforts during the devastating flood of 1982. That event served as the basis for what would turn out to be a close relationship between the City of Fort Wayne and the Detroit District.

This project, in physical terms, provides 54,000 feet of new or upgraded levees and floodwalls, along with road closure structures, streambank protection and hiking/biking trails. But the success of this project rests in the protection and security it brings to the residents in that area.

It provides a 100-year level of protection, and relieves flooding at over 4,000 residential and commercial structures. These areas will be removed from the flood insurance program, saving homeowners hundreds of dollars annually and eliminating restrictions on improvements to their properties.

Open communication was a key element early in developing a close relationship with the city. City leaders and Allen County were kept up-to-date on all activities, and were included in all decision-making through out the process. Some of these decisions included how to address issues and concerns by the residents affected



*This "stone-like" formation in the concrete flood wall is an example of innovative techniques used by the Corps to help beautify the appearance of our projects.*

most by this project. Ultimately the "Partners" were able to alleviate concerns of revenue loss by local businesses, issues about safety along trails on the levees and floodwalls, and concerns of how the project would impact the parks and open areas aesthetically.

By resolving issues in a timely manner, the city and the Detroit District were able to maintain good public relations with the many citizens adversely affected by the ongoing construction. This effort was helped immensely by the public relations efforts of the two contractors, E.S. Wagner Company; who held the first three contracts, and Kiewit Western Company; who was awarded the fourth contract. The contractors consistently kept the neighborhoods informed of activities, and acted aggressively to address any concerns raised

by residents.

The district worked with the city and county to develop public relations plans and attend local meetings to assure communication with neighborhood associations, environmental groups, media, etc. was both timely and consistent.

These plans explained how constructing the levees and floodwalls in densely populated residential neighborhoods--in backyards or directly across the street from homes along the river, in many cases replacing older tree-covered levees and streambanks would drastically change the appearance of the neighborhood.

To the credit of everyone involved problems were anticipated, and were met with a concerted partnership effort not only with city and county representatives, but with the two prime construction contractors,

the design engineering company; Earth Tech, neighborhood representatives, state and local agencies, utility companies and other affected parties.

Corps personnel from various offices within the district also formed teams to handle many concerns that arose through out the project's life-cycle.

Corps real estate, project management, and design personnel tackled real estate issues by working regularly with the city to ease the process of acquiring the real estate needed to complete the project, or by revising the design to alleviate concerns.

For example, according to a group of rental property owners the levee proposed for the site would eliminate most of the available parking, affecting the ability for the property owners to rent their units. The design



*Biking/walking trail along the river makes functional use of the Fort Wayne Flood Control Project.*

was changed at this location to provide for a floodwall, resolving the parking problem, and avoiding several costly condemnation hearings.

The project included construction of biking/hiking trails along the river, usually alongside the floodwalls or on top of the levees. The Corps addressed aesthetic and safety issues by using various solutions including: putting trails at the bottom of the levee, by designing the levee to allow grass side slopes, by adding a greater right-of-way near roadways, by adding a wall at the base of the levee, or by adding rails along the pathway.

The Detroit District addressed the project's aesthetic impacts by applying several suggested enhancements as well as project design changes that lessened the impact of the project on the area. For instance, a stone-like appearance was added to the flood walls in areas of high visibility, vines were planted to cover the rock-faced side slopes, and project features were designed with decorative facings on walls with trees and shrubs added to mini-

mize the impact on the park.

Located in northeastern Indiana in the Maumee River Basin, Fort Wayne's downtown is where the St. Mary's River and the St. Joseph River merge to form the headwaters of the Maumee River, which then flows on through northern Ohio where it empties into Lake Erie at Toledo, Ohio.

As the city grew during the 1800s, the region along the rivers became a densely settled urban industrial area. As a result, flooding on the rivers has had a devastating impact.

The most severe of all floods occurred in March 1913, which caused six deaths, 15,000 people were evacuated, 5,500 homes and businesses damaged, water supply and electrical power were disrupted, and rail traffic was temporarily halted. Total damage due to this flood was \$4.8 million, more than \$80 million in current dollars.

A combination of above normal rainfall, snowfall and frozen ground conditions, in March 1982, resulted in another extended period of severe

flooding in the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

After suffering through this event, in April 1982, the City of Fort Wayne requested the Detroit District undertake a study for flood control within the Fort Wayne metropolitan area. A reconnaissance study was completed in 1984 and a feasibility study initiated in 1985.

The open communication, and a trusting relationship developed with the city, was vital in successfully completing the feasibility study.

As one of the first studies to implement the Corps' feasibility cost sharing program, it was also one of the first in the nation to have an executed agreement, and made the transition from non-cost sharing to cost sharing smoothly, without any delays in the work effort. Even before the reconnaissance phase was initiated, the local sponsors were informed that feasibility cost sharing was likely to be implemented, and preparations were made to make the transition when needed.

The Corps suggested construction of new or upgraded levees and floodwalls, which satisfied the local sponsors plan to divert a portion of the floodwaters in order to reduce flows through the flood prone portions of the city. The Corps also initiated other actions that would ultimately supplement the federal flood control project.

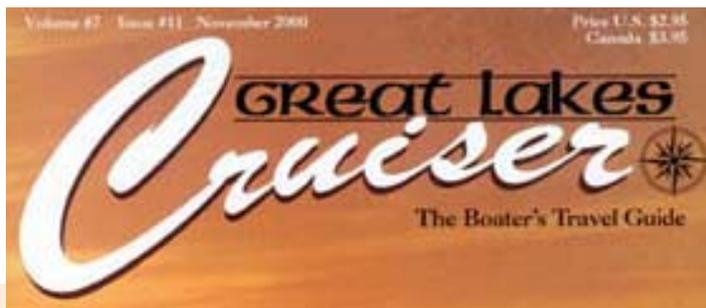
For example, Allen County widened the Maumee River downstream of the project area, which reduced levee heights and in turn reduced the cost of the overall project. Fort Wayne purchased homes in the flood plain and converted the area to parkland, which indirectly helped the project by eliminating induced damage areas.

Overall, the residents were extremely supportive and there are many stories where the "Partners" were complimented by the residents even in situations that would cause them great inconvenience.

This spring, when construction is completed, Fort Wayne and its residents will have a project that is not only functional as a flood reduction project, but one that adds to the quality of many neighborhoods.

The Fort Wayne project will be recorded in Detroit District history as an important example of how the local community and the federal government can work together as partners through out the changing process that has defined the Corps throughout the past 20 years.

This relationship, vital to the success of the project, will likely carry forward in to future joint endeavors. A project of this nature is bound to have difficulties, and the level of trust developed between the parties involved helped move things forward smoothly. 



## Getting Squared Away Aboard USNSCS *Gray Fox*

Text by Michael Heintzman

Photos by Karl Wierzibicki

(This article reprinted from Great Lakes Cruiser, November 2000)

The bridge looms as we glide swiftly up river. If the 17-year-old is nervous he doesn't show it as he steers the 178-ton vessel through the narrow river entrance. Preston Maloney's shoulders are braced, his hands resting lightly on the wheel. He veers a bit too far to port, as he fights a blinding glare through the wheelhouse. Tension mounts, but the youngster corrects his course and in a moment the ship is safely through. USNSCS *Gray Fox* has arrived in Bay City.

Captain Robert Kerr prowls the bridge like a watchdog. A retired fire-fighter and ex-navyman, he captains the tug *Forney* for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Detroit, dredging high spots from commercial shipping routes when he's not being coerced by Barnhardt into piloting *Gray Fox*. "He uses my knowledge, I use his,



Captain Kerr spends time with the cadets as they rotate through the duty stations.

and we try to help the kids a little," he says in a grandfatherly voice that commands respect. Mulling over the chart table, he will teach cadets such as 17-year-old Jennifer Gonzalez the fundamentals of navigation, plotting their course with rulers and dividers.

Taking the helm on her first trip underway, Gonzalez can barely see beyond the binnacle to the white-caps slapping the hull beneath the sharply raked hull. "It feels really good. It feels great," she blurts out with a grin, eyes constantly darting between the com-

pass and horizon. "It's a little nerve-wracking at first, but it's a lot of fun when you get the hang of it." Each course correction requires a counter turn of the wheel to prevent over-correction—not an easy trick, but soon picked up by most of the cadets. "You don't want to over-correct, jokes Kerr, his eye on the compass, or the ship may end up in Canada. But Gonzalez, who has already completed the Sea Cadet's two-week boot camp, is holding her course. "She's doing outstanding," says Barnhardt, pointing out the wheelhouse to the tell-

tale straight-as-an-arrow wake.

The cadets rotate through one-hour watches, taking stations on the bridge and aft deck, reporting the movements of pleasure boats and commercial traffic. "You can never tell what pleasure boats are going to do," warns Kerr. Gonzalez is relieved by 17-year-old Preston Maloney with the standard Navy protocol. "My course is 3-5-7 and I am steering 3-5-7," she says, turning over the helm. "I'm a little bit nervous at first," says Maloney, who was at the helm of a Coast Guard vessel earlier this year, "but I got used to it." The experience gave him confidence, and it doesn't go unnoticed.

Kerr plots a course change at Pte. Aux Barques, turning west for the run to Saginaw Bay. The rollers kick up, sending the ship and some stomachs reeling as *Gray Fox* begins to take the waves on her starboard shoulder. The ship is heeling five to seven degrees as we pass Port Austin Reef Light. Kerr keeps us a safe half-mile off Gravelly Shoal as we sail past its 100-foot navigation beacon. 

# Scholarships – a Word of Experience

by Jeff Weiser

Your son or daughter, or even you, may soon be looking for scholarship money to help pay the high cost of college education — this year \$14,000+ at U Of M. “After trying to gain scholarships for my two sons, I have learned a lot about the do’s and don’ts of scholarships.”

The good news is that there are millions of dollars in scholarships available around the country. The bad news is that it usually takes a lot of work to win scholarship money. Honestly, your child should treat the scholarship hunt as a part time job, with a potential payoff of thousands of dollars. Scholarships can be based

upon financial need, GPA, community involvement, ethnicity, religion and/or groups family members belong to.

So how do you find scholarships you have a chance to win? DO NOT pay a service to find scholarships for you to apply to. They charge anywhere from \$150 and up for this service. They say they guarantee you \$1,000 in scholarships, but unless you apply to ALL of the listings they provide, this guarantee is void, and they may give you a list that is much too long to apply to all of them. There are other options. [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) is a free site that will do the same search based upon a

series of questions the student responds to. In addition, this site provides guidance on getting started with the process, creating your application and an essay workshop. Other great sources are [www.winscholarships.com](http://www.winscholarships.com) and [www.capital44.net/search.htm](http://www.capital44.net/search.htm).

Yes, many scholarships require an essay. These should not be taken lightly. Many times, this is the main information the committee will use to decide on its winners. For instance, the Detroit Federal Employee Credit Union (DFECU) selected its winners using submitted essays to decide. This year, Detroit District employee’s children won three of the five top \$1,000 awards. Another scholarship available to Federal employees is the Federal Employee Education & Assistance (FEEA) Funds, which awarded over \$250,000 last year nationwide. More information can be obtained at [www.feea.org](http://www.feea.org).

All Michigan students that pass the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests will receive \$2,500 toward college. This is a one-time award, as are the DFECU and FEEA scholarships. However, you can apply every year to the latter two.

You should develop a scholarship game plan:

- Plan to apply for as many scholarships as possible
- Develop a suite of generic reusable materials (bio,

letters from teachers/community, etc.)

- Leverage schoolwork and class time (combine scholarship requirements with school requirements)
- Learn from past scholarship winners.

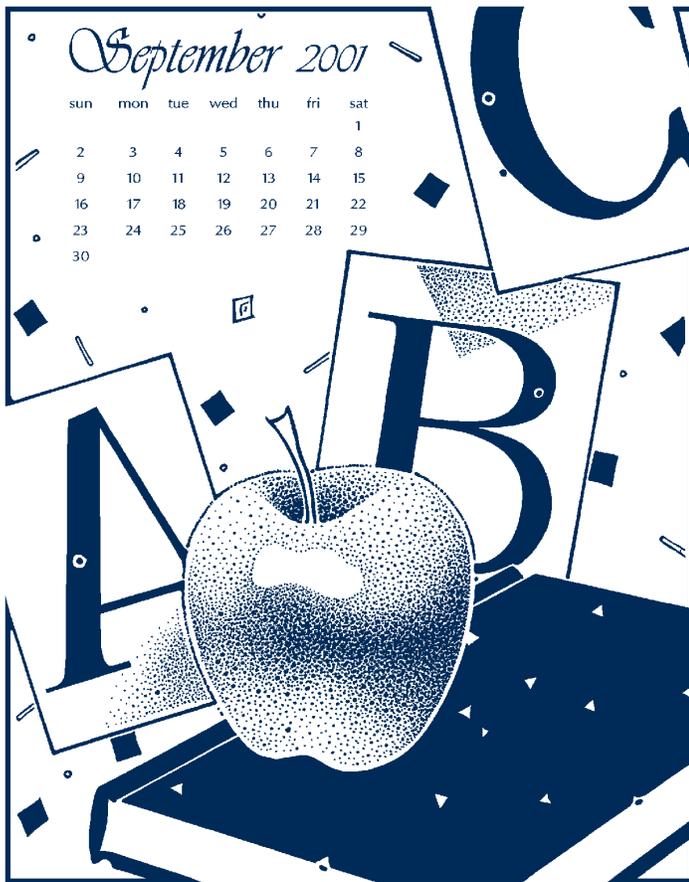
Other financial resource information is available at [www.nelliemae.org](http://www.nelliemae.org), [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org), and [www.MIStudentaid.org](http://www.MIStudentaid.org).

Make sure you file the free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) before the February deadline. Although you may not qualify for financial aid, most scholarship groups require your FAFSA information to complete their process. In addition, check with your high school, church, clubs and organizations.

If you are not sure what college you want to attend, check out the following sites:

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org);  
[www.collegeedge.com](http://www.collegeedge.com);  
[www.jayi.com/jayi/](http://www.jayi.com/jayi/);  
[www.sourcepath.com](http://www.sourcepath.com)  
[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com);  
[www.ctown.com](http://www.ctown.com); [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com); [www.collegeexpress.com](http://www.collegeexpress.com)  
[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com);  
[www.review.com/undergr/bst\\_schools\\_form.html](http://www.review.com/undergr/bst_schools_form.html)  
[www.usmall.com/college/index.html](http://www.usmall.com/college/index.html)

Good Luck, I hope this helps! 



# Recycling Continues from Duluth CDF

by Thom Holden, Duluth Area Office

**B**illington Construction dredged approximately 86,000 cubic yards of sandy material from the channels in Duluth-Superior Harbor in FY2000 during a routine maintenance dredging contract with the Corps. That material was taken to Erie Pier confined disposal facility on the St. Louis River where it is washed and stockpiled for beneficial reuse. The stockpiled material is made available through sealed bids by the Duluth Seaway Port Authority. Material prices ranged from \$1.00 per cubic yard for sand to \$4.00 for topsoil.

A significant amount of fill material was needed this fall to facilitate development of Bayfront Festival Park on the Duluth waterfront, a joint effort of the City of Duluth and the Duluth Economic Development Authority (DEDA). North-

land Constructors brought in about 100,000 cubic yards of washed dredge material from Erie Pier for the city-owned portion of the development and Billmans Construction brought in another 38,000 cubic yards for the DEDA portion of the park. Also recycled from Erie Pier CDF was an additional 15,000 cubic yards of sand sold to Minnesota Aggregates of Duluth for use in other area construction projects.

Continuous recycling of washed materials from Erie Pier and raising the original dike have more than doubled the expected life of this CDF. The original 82-acre facility was authorized under Public Law 91-611, the River and Harbor Act of 1970, and the site completed in 1979 with a 10-year life expectancy. 

*Reclaiming sandy dredged material for waterfront park*



## **Detroit LCD X!!! Conference held**

Three people representing the Detroit district recently completed the LCD X!!! conference held at Louisville. Participating were, Don Goltz, Duluth Area Office, Tomas O'bryan, Grand Haven and Robert Meyer, Kewaunee Area Office. The theme of this years group was to,

- 1) Learn from the Past
- 2) Experience the Present
- 3) Anticipate the Future

Five breakout groups were formed to brainstorm and develop a consensus to real corps issues. The 5 groups had 10-12 members and talked the issues. Diversity, team work, creativity and finding all of these hidden talents were the outcome of the group. Then on Thursday we had to develop one plan that we would present to the Louisville Senior Exutive Council. SEC. A group representative was chosen and a sixth breakout group worked until 1130 preparing the presentation.

As expected the presentation went well. We representing the Detroit District want to give a special thanks to the Louisville District for inviting us, and enjoyed and learned from LCD X!!!.

This LCD conference was the last in this format, but redefined the spirit of the Corps, through diversity, partnering, and the feeling that the Corps is really "investing in people." 

## AOC/SPAC Workshop

The Corps of Engineers participated in the Michigan Areas of Concern (AOC), Statewide Public Advisory Council's (SPAC) workshop entitled: Empowering Community Leaders to Address Contaminated Sediments, on 3 November 2000. Corps presentations included:

- Ms. Pam Horner (Detroit District): Status report on efforts to address contaminated sediments in the Great Lakes
- Ms. Colette Luff (Detroit District): Corps assistance in contaminated sediment remediation
- Dr. Michael Palermo (WES): Options for remediating contaminated sediments & evaluation issues

Attendees included representatives of Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois AOCs, several Michigan DEQ divisions, EPA, IJC, Office of the Great Lakes, the Great Lakes Commission, local governments, academia, public interest groups, private citizens, consultants, and local newspaper and radio. Congressional interests in attendance included: Office of Congressman Ehlers and Hoekstra. State of Michigan interests in attendance included: Office of State Rep Gerald Van Woerkom (MI Rep) and State Senator Leon Stille (advocate for White Lake). 

# Block Party and Job Fair a Tremendous Success

For the first time, as far as anyone can remember, in Detroit District history the district teamed-up with other agencies in the McNamara Building to bring together folks for a festive celebration outdoors in the East Side Plaza next to the HQ building.

The Hispanic Heritage Month Block Party and Job Fair hosted food vendors, dancers, a Mariachi band, a DJ, federal agencies with information booths, and many people from through out the building and the surrounding business district area for interacting, networking, and to have a good time during the lunch hour.

"We've come to party to some great music by live bands and the D-J, to talk to the different agencies here about federal jobs, and to hear from the Honorable Judge Maria Louisa Oxholm, but most of all we're here to celebrate the heritage of

Hispanic people across the nation, highlighting this year's theme - 'Children, our Hope for the Future,'" according to Lt. Col. Richard J. Polo, district engineer.

He went on to reflect the sentiments of everyone who enjoyed the atmosphere and energy created by this event, "... we hope this is the beginning of an annual event. An event that will continue to grow and contribute to the well-being of our Hispanic community, making this a better community as a whole."

In conjunction with this event many projects, Hispanic community fact sheets, and a Halloween costume contest were hosted through out the observance month, by Patricia Fatherree, Hispanic-American program manager, and the Hispanic Program committee.



The Mariachi Band kicked-off the program filling the air with foot-stomping music.



This dancing couple burned-up the floor and gave a few lessons also.



Kids dancing to The Mariachi Band.



Above: Young dancers from the local community display many Hispanic dances in bright and festive costumes.



Left: People from all around enjoying the food court and information booths.

# Online Technology Courses Are Free

by Joe Burlas

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Nov. 8, 2000)

Active-duty and reserve soldiers, and Department of Army civilians can continue to take free online information technology courses thanks to a recently renewed contract between the Army and SmartForce, a commercial computer-based training company.

Since the Army first started offering the service in 1998, the course catalog has grown to offer training on more than 1,100 technical subjects.

"Rather than send people away from their jobs to half a dozen places for training, why not save time and money by having them sign up for online courses," said Lt. Col. Tom Loper, the program's project manager. "We opted to offer

this education to both the civilian and soldier workforce. In an increasingly technology-based Army, these classes not only make students smarter at their jobs but give them more marketable skills for future jobs -- inside or out of the military."

The program is offered at [www.armycbt.army.mil](http://www.armycbt.army.mil) on the web. The classes range from how to use word-processor, database and spreadsheet programs for beginner through advanced users to 70 certification-preparation courses for systems administrators and computer programmers.

While all the classes are free for registered users, the program does not offer actual certifications. Arrangements for cer-

tification testing and associated testing fees - often costing several hundred dollars -- must be made through commercial vendors. Links to those vendors are posted on the Army CBT web page.

Additionally, many of the offered courses may qualify for college credit. Loper recommended those interested in getting college credit for SmartForce classes check with their local Army Education Services office to determine which qualify and what costs may be involved through a college or university.

Currently, the instruction is primarily text-based with some graphics and photos. SmartForce plans to offer streaming

video for instructor lectures in the future when available bandwidth is large enough, Loper said. Online mentoring service is also offered on a limited basis.

To date, 70,000-plus registered Army users have used the SmartForce instruction.

To register or view the course catalog, visit the Army CBT web site. Registration must be made on a computer tied into an Army wide-area network using a military domain address. However, once the registration is complete, students may log on with a student number and password at home, a local library or on any other computer connected to the Internet. 

(Choking continued from page 3)

commotion through the hall.

Bland said, "We both then ran down the hall where he was at the water fountain bending over. It appeared that Phil was trying to get a drink of water. We both asked if he was o.k. he shook his head no, and then responded in a very difficult manner 'I can't breathe.'"

Their quick action was critical in helping Phil through the situation. While the other two went for help, Moore stayed with Kroll to help resolve his situation.

"I asked him if he was having chest pains, he shook his head no. I then asked if he was choking, he shook his head yes. I then asked if he wanted me to do the Heimlich on him, he shook his head yes. I then proceeded to do the Heimlich on him once, it did not work, so I asked Phil if he wanted me to do it again, and he shook his head yes, so I proceeded to do it twice more until he held his hand up and said I could stop," said Moore, student-aide with the Office of Counsel.

Although your first instinct would be to call "911" in the McNamara Building the most effective solution to an emergency situation is to contact the building nurse and/or the federal police, because they are trained to handle these crises and are quicker to the scene.

By the time she got to the nurse Pat was already there, said Bland. "Tenecha and I explained to the nurse that there was an emergency situation on the 6th floor with an employee who was having great difficulty breathing and that blood was coming from his mouth. The nurse asked what agency we were with and who the employee was. We answered, the Corps of Engineers and the employee is Phil

Kroll, our Security Officer. The nurse said that she knew Phil and to give her a minute to get her medical supplies," said Toney.

She then followed the ladies from the 11th floor to the scene on the 6th floor where they found he was doing much better because Marlana already dislodged the obstruction preventing him from breathing.

When they got there "the nurse began asking questions and wanted to check his vitals, so they both went to Phil's office to do so. Shortly after the nurse left, Phil went to the hospital," said Bland.

"I was grateful that these young ladies kept their heads about them and were able to assist me. I'm sure they saved my life," said Chief of Security and Law Enforcement for the district Phil Kroll, with sincere emotion and a glimmer of a tear in his eye.

"I feel absolutely great that I was here to help Mr. Kroll out. I am grateful that I was able to apply my knowledge to make a

difference in someone's life. It gives me a warm heart to know that not only did Phil appreciate my actions, but everyone else did as well. It would not make a difference who the person was, if they needed help I would gladly give it. All I think about in situations like this is, 'if this was my family member, I would want someone to help them,' so I help, knowing this is someone's family member that they hold very dear to them and would be detrimental to lose them. I am truly glad that I was able to help and I am especially thankful that Phil is OK," said Moore.

Learning CPR and other first-aid techniques, for whatever the reason, can come in handy when you least expect it.

"I am interested in first aid and medicine, so I bought myself a few first-aid books and read them, and one of the things they taught was the Heimlich Maneuver. Also, a few years ago my mother put up a poster, on the inside of one of our cabinet doors, with step by

step directions along and a picture that shows you how to give the Heimlich Maneuver. Also, my mother had the same experience that Phil had and I had to do the maneuver on her in the past. So, not only have I seen it, I've actually had to apply it to help my mother as well. I am now in an official first-aid class and at the end of May I will be certified by the 'National Safety Association' in first-aid and CPR," said Moore.

"My advice would be for everyone to get some kind of first-aid training -- either from a class or reading a book. Everyone needs to know how to help their fellow man, because as proven, we would most likely use this knowledge on those that we are closest to, whether it is our family, close friends, or co-workers." 

**Nurse's station phone:**  
**226-7697**

**Federal Police phone:**  
**226-4117**

## Festival Time in Marquette

The 2nd Annual Conservation Festival was held on Friday, 22 September 2000, at the Marquette County Conservation District Office in Marquette, Michigan.

Richard Gutleber of the Marquette Regulatory Field Office and Robert Tucker, Chief, Enforcement Branch, Regulatory Office provided a display and Corps' handouts, while answering questions regarding the Corps' Regulatory Program, the permitting process, and wetlands during the day long event. Approximately 300, 5th and 6th

grade students, teachers, college students, and interested public visited the Festival. Other displays dealt with such topics as insects, live reptiles, groundwater flow, soil erosion, tree identification, GIS mapping information, and watershed management.

The Festival allowed visitors an opportunity to see and experience the parts that make up our ecosystem and how humans can and do influence the environment.

The Corps' Marquette Regulatory Field Office is located in the Marquette County Conservation District Office building at 1030 Wright Street, Marquette, Michigan.

  
(Photograph by Robert Tucker)





# Corps Speaks...

In December, **Sue Bright** and **Edward Arthur** of the Sault Ste. Marie Field Office, Enforcement Branch, Regulatory Office were panelists for an informational meeting hosted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in Cedarville, Michigan. The meeting presented current information on the State of Michigan and the Corps of Engineers regulatory programs. The Corps panelists discussed issues under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the River and Harbors Act. Since a portion of the Corps' Authority under the Clean Water Act (Section 404) to regulate fill activities in Waters of the United States has been granted to the State of Michigan it is vitally important for the regulatory programs of both agencies to work closely together. Subjects included the proposed new Joint Application between the State of Michigan and the Corps, the recently released Corps Nationwide permits and the Corps new Administrative Appeals program. Discussions revolved around these topics as well as the contractors concerns regarding the current low water levels within the Great Lakes and connecting channels and the current dredge sediment testing requirements in Michigan. Both panelists and contractors agreed that the information presented and the open discussion should help to expedite the both the application and permit processes.

On November 16, 2000 **Joyce Henderson**, Ch, Administration Br. at the Soo Area Office gave a briefing to the Natural Sciences class at Lake Superior State University on careers in the Federal government.

**Gregory Molchan** of the South Bend Field Office was featured speaker at the monthly meeting of the Lake of the Woods Property Owners Association on Saturday 4 November. Mr. Molchan addressed approximately 40 members to discuss the Section 404 program, Corps jurisdiction and application procedures, and Best Management Practices in permitted activities. A lively question and answer session following the presentation covered

water quality issues, fluctuating lake levels, wetland preservation, private property rights, unauthorized activities, state and federal agency coordination, and political influence on permit decisions. A tour of the Lake with officers of the Association followed the meeting to identify "hot spots" and discuss upcoming projects.

On November 21, 2000 **Carl Woodruff** attended a breakfast meeting of the Southfield Opti-

mist International organization and made a presentation on the Great Lakes (about 20 minutes) covering current conditions and the factors influencing the lakes. A Q&A session was held afterward. Many were interested in the environmental factors affecting the Great Lakes (development, pollution, etc.)

About 25 people attended the meeting held at the Excalibur Restaurant in Southfield, MI at 7:30 AM.

Before speaking to the Duluth Chapter of the Propeller Clubs of America on November 30, 2000, Detroit District Commander **LTC Richard Polo, Jr.** (right) made a special presentation to **C. Patrick Labadie** (left), director of the Corps' Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center in Duluth from 1973 to 2000. The presentation was the American Recreation Coalition's prestigious Legend Award for 2000. His remarks echoed those of Brigadier General Robert H. Griffin, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Engineer, and Mr. Charles Hess, Chief of Operations, Office of Deputy



Commanding General for Civil Works. Mr. Labadie was nominated for this award by the Division to recognize the exceptional con-

tributions he made during his 27 years of service in the Corps and at the Visitor Center. Don Goltz photo, Duluth Area Office. 

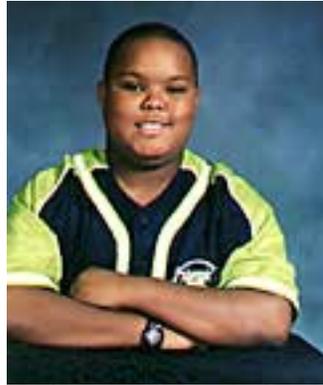
On November 21st, **Cadet SGT Mariann Hop** spoke to members of the Grand Haven Area Office about her experiences at West Point and opportunities available to high school graduates. Mariann is a "cow" (a junior) at the United States Military Academy, and on behalf of the Cadet Public Relations Council took a couple of days from her fall academic schedule to return to southwest Michigan to "spread the word." Mariann is the daughter of Jim & Tena Hop. Jim is a Construction Representative at the Grand Haven Area Office. 



(Corps Speaks continues on next page)

# Kudos!

 Fourth grader, **Kendall Butler**, son of proud mom **Deborah Butler**, Contracting Divn., has been selected to be student of the month at Clarence B. Sabbath School. This award represents more than academic success. Students are also evaluated for their good citizenship in the school including the lunchroom, playground, classroom, restroom, and hallways. In addition, student must complete their homework assignments and be respectful to all adults and other students. The student of the month must have good attendance. 



## Dave Dulong Selected

 Congratulations David! You were selected as MSPE/ACEC Outstanding Engineer of the year in Government! There will be an awards ceremony at the Tiger Club at Comerica Park on Sat, February 24, 2001. Hope you can make it. You will get more details from Maura at the MSPE headquarters. 



 **Ms Carole Bell** was recently selected for an Accountant Trainee position in the Financial Operations Branch of Resource Management. Ms Bell is a long-time Detroit employee whose current assignment was in the Management Support Office of Engineering and Technical Services. Congratulations Carole. 

 **Jim and Darci Selegan** are the proud parents of a new son, Graham Rutherford Selegan, born Saturday Oct 28 at 11:14 am. He weighed in at 7 lb 8 oz. Everyone is doing fine. He joins big brother Kelvin who will be 2 in a few weeks. Congratulations!! Jim works in Hydraulics Engineering. 

 **Carl and Jayne Platz** had a new baby girl 2:00 AM Saturday morning. Grace Elaine was 8 lbs. - 2 ozs. and mom and baby are doing fine. 

 **Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Sprague**, the Chief of Lock Operations at the Soo Locks, have a welcome new addition in their new baby, Selina. She was born on Thursday, Oct 19. Congratulations from all of us! 

 **Daminya Allison** (of Design Branch) welcomed her new baby girl, Kalyn Autumn, into the world on November 25, 2000 at 12:20 P.M. She weighed in at 7lbs., 1 oz, 19 inches long. Mother and daughter are both doing well at home. 

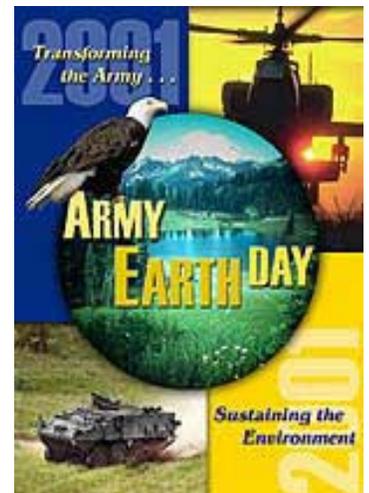
 Congratulations to **Michelle**, who works in the Planning Branch of PPPM, and **Pat Thrift** on the birth of their daughter, Victoria. She was welcomed in at 1:50p.m. today weighing 7lbs 7oz and measuring 19 1/2" long. All, including older sister Jacqueline, are doing fine. 

## Corps Speaks (continued)



**O**n a snowy December 13, remember that big storm we had, **Arvis Freimuts**, drove to Lansing to speak to a sizeable audience at the Environmental Issues Program, a seminar for environmental groups and local governments sponsored by the US Attorney's Offices for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, and the office of the Michigan Attorney General. The Michigan Attorney General, Jennifer Granholm, opened the program. Other agencies represented were the FBI, EPA, Customs Service, Coast Guard, and the MDEQ.

Freimuts, After the meeting, Freimuts, drove home in that nasty snowstorm.



# Halloween 2000!



The Corps always has the best candy...



...the best dressed kids!



Grim Reaper...  
the creepiest  
costume



Cereal Killer...the funniest costume



...the best decorations and...



Jack-o-Lantern...  
the cutest costume

## Halloween Contest Winners



 The contestants were asked to play out their roles, and let me tell you, they were excellent!

*First Place:*  
Frankenstein's Wife:  
Carletta DeGroat

*Second Place:*  
The Grim Reaper:  
Bob Deroche

*Third Place:*  
The Cereal Killer:  
Nancy Peterson

(Thank you, Mary Anderson for taking the group photo!)  
...And thanks to all the participants!! 

## Employees of the Month

SEPTEMBER

Mondolyn Rucker

Office of Counsel



**M**ONDOLYN RUCKER, currently the co-chairperson for the CFC campaign, recently successfully completed a developmental assignment in the Office of Counsel. While in Counsel, which had a critical staffing shortage, Ms. Rucker ensured activities flowed smoothly and important operations continued. She is commended for her initiative and willingness to leave the comfort zone behind in order to more fully serve the agency and the public. 

## Retirees' Corner

Dear Colonel,

In your summer edition of hiSounding~~~ you asked to hear from your retirees.

I started working for the Detroit District on May 15, 1935 and retired on December 30, 1965.

My pay was \$1,600.00 P.A., paid in equal installments on the 15th and last working day of each month. There were no deductions at that time.

I retired as a G.S. 13 @ 10, 130 P.A. and there were many deductions. My retirement check was \$579.00 per month.

My first job with the Corps was on the lower Detroit River, deepening the Livingstone Channell and building the needed compensating works.

My last work for the Corp was a dual project.

(1) In partnership with Canada we established a new datum on the Great Lake Basin. It was known as "International Great Lakes Datum—1955"

(2) Working with the U.S.

Weather Bureau we studied many procedures to forecast water levels. This resulted in a monthly publication — still being published today.

For several years I had been teaching part time at local colleges and I started full time in January, 1966

When I reached 65, the teachers' union said I was too old to teach full time. I retired as a full professor and moved to Port Sanilac, Michigan, where I was appointed to the Village Council as local road commissioner. I was elected to mayor in the next election.

While in Port Sanilac, I was treasurer of the Lions Club and financial secretary of the local church.

In 1979 I moved back to the city and became active in volunteer work at Presbyterian Village in Redford, which is a retirement home for senior citizens of all faiths.

I drove a 40 pass. bus taking residents on day trips and worked with the Men's Club. In

OCTOBER

Mary Ann Lee

Hydraulics & Hydrology Office



**M**ARY ANN LEE, demonstrated outstanding personal attention towards the Districts customer base particularly with local shoreline property owners and Great Lakes boaters during the recent period of lower water levels. She fielded numerous phone inquiries and letter requests for additional information with tact and professionalism. She has represented the Corps to the public at large in an outstanding manner. 

DECEMBER

Charles Rogers

SOO Area Office



**M**r. Rogers volunteered for temporary duty when the original inspector for the Manistique Breakwater Repair Project, unexpectedly became ill. Mr. Rogers "hit the ground running" with no transition and very little preparation. With over 200 ft of the breakwater demolished and winter weather imminent, Mr. Rogers' knowledge and practical experience with concrete were invaluable in working with the contractor to successfully close the breakwater for the winter.

Mr. Rogers' positive "can do" attitude and enthusiasm for taking on new tasks is a credit to the Soo Area Office and the Corps of Engineers. 

1981 I moved into a duplex having two bedrooms and attached garage. It is my home today. I get up at 6 AM seven days a week, get my own breakfast, and spend about 2 hours each day helping in the Village P.O. sorting and delivering mail

I did some interesting traveling in the 70's and 80's, crossing from coast to coast several times — by car, tour bus, train, air and once by cruise ship via the Panama Canal.

I went north to well above the arctic circle and south to the far tip of Australia. I cruised the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, the Oronoco to see Angel Falls; one thousand miles up the Amazon, up the Danube to head of navigation, over the divide by canals and locks. Then down the Rhine to the coast.

**Gilbert E. Ropes** 