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Falls Lake: A project with many purposes—Recent newspaper articles covering a single US Army Corps of Engineers Project, Falls Dam and Reservoir, highlight the complexity inherent in managing water resources. Falls, located just north of the Raleigh urban area, has hit the headlines on issues of recreation planning, flood control, and regional water supply. Like most Corps projects, the reservoir has all these purposes, plus downstream water quality and fish and wildlife enhancement. The following stories explore a few of the complex factors Corps Districts must address and balance in managing the precious water resources in our 465 lakes.

Water: does the Triangle have enough to support growth?

By Penny Schmitt

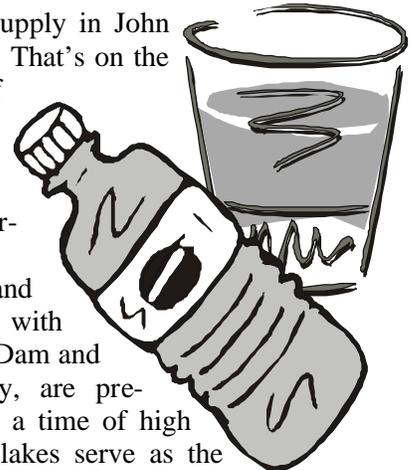
“The coming water crunch,” is described in terms of *horning in*, *getting dibs*, and *calling the shots* in a recent article about the Research Triangle region of North Carolina. Does that sound a little bit like a shootout at the old water hole? You bet.

Water supply is becoming as important an issue on the eastern seaboard as it has always been in the arid west. “We in North Carolina are getting the same rude awakening that’s come to many other communities,” said Steve Brown, Operations Manager for the Corps Falls and Jordan projects. “Water is not a limitless resource!”

“That has become painfully apparent to Cary, North Carolina, where growth has outstripped the water supply capacity, and the city presently limits new building permits,” Brown said. All over the Triangle area, cities and counties are taking action, making deals, and bidding for future water supply to support burgeoning growth. “We are seeing communities scramble to assemble proposals to buy up

remaining water supply in John H. Kerr Reservoir. That’s on the Roanoke River. If the Triangle draws water from Kerr, that would be an inter-basin transfer!”

Falls Dam and Reservoir, along with B. Everett Jordan Dam and Reservoir nearby, are precious resources in a time of high growth. The two lakes serve as the major water supply for the cities and surrounding communities. “Falls Lake is the primary water supply for the city of Raleigh,” Brown said. “When the project was built, Raleigh was a cost-sharing partner with the Corps. The city has rights to draw up



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Enough water continued

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to a peak of 100 million gallons of water per day from the facility. ” However, the safe yield of Falls Lake is about 67 million gallons per day. Jordan is also expected to supply up to 100 million gallons of water per day to regional water authorities.

Currently, Raleigh draws between 50 and 80 million gallons per day from Falls, and sells some of that water to Wake Forest, Wendell, Zebulon, Cary, Apex, Morrisville, and Fuquay-Varina. Does this mean that Raleigh has plenty of excess capacity and the region has plenty of water? “Not at all,” Brown said. “The supply is only expected to be adequate out to about 2020. That’s not far away.”

Demand for water will affect the region and the lakes dramatically over the next few years.

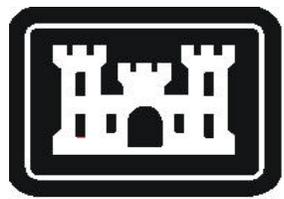
At Jordan Lake, which also has a water supply capacity of 100 million gallons per day, the Apex / Cary water authority has rights to use fifty percent of that capacity. They have recently requested that their use be measured as an annual average use of 50 million gallons per day rather than as a weekly average, to help them with demand spikes during hot, dry summer months. They are also installing a new 42-inch water line and pumps to ensure backup capability. The Orange Water and Sewer Authority also wants to install an intake on the west side of the lake to withdraw some of that remaining 50 million gallon-per-day capacity. The pressure to use every available drop of water is growing.

“Town of Wake Forest is currently proposing to begin drawing water from the Neuse River by renovating an old Burlington Industries intake structure. When that straw goes into the river, it may affect our obligation to make releases from the lake to ensure water quality,” Brown said. He explained that currently, Falls must release enough water to keep flows of 254 cubic feet per second during the summer and fall in the Clayton area to keep healthy water conditions. “If more water is drawn out of the river, that may force us to increase our releases, and correspondingly place pressure on water supply or recreational use.” That’s not the end of new uses for the Neuse. Leisure-oriented communities on the river are also withdrawing water in order to irrigate golf courses.

“Most of us don’t think about the sources of our water—we just go to the nearest tap or drinking fountain and expect it will be there,” Brown said. “As a resident of the Triangle area, I’m personally tremendously grateful to the people who had the vision to see how much we would need these reservoirs—and I’m grateful to those in our local communities who are pushing to think and plan ahead for the next three decades. We need their vision. Meanwhile, we will be doing our best to fulfill all our missions, realizing that all those with water rights in our reservoirs and even downstream of us will affect our project in multiple ways. We must and will respond with the best balance possible.”

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Flood storage seen as top priority by downstream communities

By Penny Schmitt



Falls at normal levels (top) and full to the brink (bottom).

While water-hungry upstream communities desire a well-filled reservoir, folks downstream care more about empty space for flood storage behind Falls Dam. The fact is, the dam was designed for both needs. Falls Dam, like all other flood-control dams, was designed with flood storage capacity. But that is not its sole purpose. Though it is hard to picture boundaries and levels when you are talking about volumes of water and air, we actually design the facility in layers or building blocks to fulfill its various functions. These are:

- **The Flood Storage Pool:**

This is the top layer of the reservoir. Under normal pool conditions it is empty, because it is designed to act as flood storage for inflows that take the reservoir above levels maintained in the reservoir for conservation

- **The Conservation Pool:** This is the middle layer of the reservoir, and is used by area communities for water supply and water quality. The ‘top’ of this layer, measured in mean height above sea level, is called the ‘normal pool’ level. The water conservation layer is designed to hold enough water to meet the design level of daily water

use from the lake. In the case of the Falls Lake, that is 100 million gallons per day, 365 days per year.

- **The Sedimentation Pool:**

This bottom layer of the reservoir, is a repository for sediment entering the lake throughout the life of the project.

Since the Falls Dam began operations in 1983, water control managers have made use of that top layer, the flood storage pool to avert more than \$540 million worth of flood damages in the lower Neuse River Basin. In the past five years, during Hurricane Fran, in the El Nino floods of 1998, and during Hurricane Floyd, the dam played a major role in managing runoff from the 770-square-mile upper Neuse Basin.

“During Hurricane Floyd, we kept releases from the dam at the barest minimum for the peak period of the flooding,” said Terry Brown, water control manager for the Wilmington District. “On the worst day, 62,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) were flowing into the reservoir, and we were releasing only 100 cfs—the minimum required for fishery and water quality purposes. We used almost all of the flood storage pool below the spillway.” About five and a half inches of controlled flood storage remained in the lake, although releases over the spillway would have occurred had it been necessary to use it.

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Flood Storage continued

By Penny Schmitt

Downstream communities still experienced record flooding, primarily due to the fact that more than 70 percent of the Neuse River watershed is southeast of the dam, and thus, runoff from more than 1900 square miles of the basin is not controlled at all.

In June, Wilmington District officials visited four downstream communities in June to listen to public concerns about water control operations during flood events. The meetings were an initial step in a Corps project to review the water control operations manual for the dam. "Flood events in the past years have taught us a great deal," Brown said. "We also have new technology in place that we did not have when the reservoir was first filled in 1983. Most important are gages at Clayton, Smithfield, Goldsboro, and Kinston, that give real time readings for river levels in those areas. The Corps also has improved its ability to operate the dam with the help of more sophisticated weather reporting and river forecast programs developed by the River Forecast Center, an office of the National Weather Service.

However, the Corps' ability to predict and control nature can't enable our water controllers to do what many citizens would wish. In Raleigh, Smithfield, Goldsboro, and Kinston, Corps representatives heard the same proposal from citizens—"Release water from the dam before storms arrive."

"There are several reasons why that's not a feasible option," Brown said. "Most important, our gages show us that water released at Falls takes five to eight days to reach downstream communities like Kinston and Goldsboro. Even with

new, sophisticated methods, our ability to predict rainfall is only about accurate within about 48 hours. A "pre-release" made after a storm appears on the weather maps could put a big slug of water on top of one of those towns just as rain-generated flood waters are cresting. The result would be disastrous. We flat can't operate our projects so that they may do more harm than good."

Brown emphasized that the dam's flood storage pool is the space specifically designed to work with in a flood. "Water control managers make the best possible use of every cubic foot of "empty air" between the lake surface and the crest of the spillway to hold water and time releases to add the least water possible to a flooding river," he said.

Over the past five years, the District's water controllers have gained both knowledge and technological support to help them run a longer, slower pattern of releases after floods. Better prediction of rainfall by the National Weather Service and better river forecasts by the River Forecast Center, real-time reading from gages set at the major downstream communities, and reports from community authorities all help to make decisions more effective.

"The information we're gathering enables us to wait until downstream flood water clears out of the river basin before we begin making major releases," Brown said. "We are working closely with commu-



nity authorities to learn exactly what river levels cause damage, and we do our best to set releases so that they do not cause the river to meet or exceed those damage levels at any point."

Asked about a more gradual, season-long approach to the pre-release concept, Brown pointed to another, equally vital project use for the Falls reservoir. "We are required as part of our project mission to be able to supply Raleigh with 100 million gallons of water per day. We can't endanger that required capacity—which is one of our project's original and essential purposes—by drawing down the reservoir below the water supply pool as a preventive measure."

"Further, we must also maintain a conservation pool in the lake to ensure adequate water quality during periods of low flow and drought on the Neuse River. Again, we can't lower the pool so much that we'll endanger our critical water quality mission."

"It's a balancing act, both within the lake itself, and all along the river basin," Brown said. "Our job in a flood event is to use all the information we find to create the balance that will not only avoid harm, but do the most possible good for communities downstream of the dam."

Recreational users voice strong opinions

By Penny Schmitt

A trip to the beach is just a short commute for many Raleigh citizens who see Falls Lake more as a recreation destination or as a vacation home than as a reservoir. Campers, swimmers, boaters, fishermen, picnickers, people who own property near the shoreline and many others enjoy the natural beauty of the lake and its surrounding lands.

“Falls and Jordan represent 53 percent of all the open, green space left in the Triangle area,” said Steve Brown, Operations Manager for the Falls-Jordan complex. “We are an extremely precious resource in an increasingly urban and suburban environment.”

Recreation, along with flood control, water supply and water quality, and fish and wildlife enhancement, is an important purpose for the lake. While lives and property may not be as heavily involved with this project purpose, some of the hottest debates and strongest feelings swirl around recreational uses of the lake.

“When we are in a drought situation, and the lake level begins to fall,” Brown said, “we get many phone calls from boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts who are unhappy with the lake level because it

is too low for them to swim or put boats in the water.”

The fact is, meeting water supply and water quality missions may mean that some outflows must continue, even when little rain is falling in the lake’s basin. “Fortunately, we are not experiencing extreme drought this year, as are some of our sister districts in the southeast. However, we have experienced low water in the lake before, and no doubt we will at times in the future,” Brown said.

“When we are using more of our flood storage capacity, we receive complaints for the opposite reason—beaches, picnic areas or boat ramps may be inundated and unusable at such times. All we can ask the public is that they recognize we are doing our best to protect lives and properties downstream, and that we will alleviate the situation as soon as possible. Obviously, protecting people and their homes has to come first.”

Not only do recreational users of



Falls and other Corps lakes have to be aware that they share the lake with other missions. They must also share the lake’s resources with one another.

Recently, the Wilmington District received draft reports on the Boater Recreation Studies commissioned from Colorado State University. The study surveyed people who use Falls or Jordan lakes or live in the Triangle area to learn their opinions and observations about lake use. It also incorporates other data about the amounts and kinds of recreational uses on the lakes.

The draft studies have been featured in local news stories, since several issues are currently being debated by agencies involved in managing the lake, as well as the public. These issues include:

- Is there enough room on the water for more boats?
- Should the Corps permit another marina to be built at Peninsula Point?
- Can no-wake quiet coves be created on the lake to protect swimmers and fishermen from high-speed boat and personal watercraft (PWC) traffic?
- And what about PWCs? Should they be banned, subject to more or different rules than other watercraft?

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PMBP: *Getting it right from the start*

By Wayne Bissette

“A project is a project, why would you have to define it?—just DO it!” might describe the way projects were once done in the Corps. The people who “just did it” belonged to the study process, or the planning stovepipe, or the design shop, or construction branch. The project passed through their hands on the way to the next stage, coming to through and leaving in hands that might not know or have much part in the work they were receiving until it arrived in their office for review or development. Along the way, a project belonged in turn to successive stovepipes and managers. Features or directions intended by one stovepipe’s set of experts might not be fully understood or well served by the next.

“**Consistent Project Definition**” is one of the hallmarks of the

Corps current way of doing business, the Project Management Business Process (PMBP). The process is intended to ensure that we begin with a clearly-defined end in mind, and that all who work on a project contribute to an enterprise that is seen whole and stays whole from the beginning. The focus stays on end results—execution of projects and programs, and customer satisfaction.

“Projects” as seen under PMBP, are not just traditional design, build, maintain efforts. They include high visibility missions like the plan to update our water control plan for Falls Dam (*see article on page 3*).

Each project is assigned a project manager who is responsible for overall coordination of the project throughout its life cycle, which be-

gins with reconnaissance and ends with operations and maintenance functions (*see figure 1*).

With consistent oversight by the project manager and participation of all the lead elements in the project team from beginning to end, it is possible to start, continue, and finish work on a project with the end clearly in mind. Teamwork is a vital feature of the process, ensuring that each element in the cycle has an opportunity to participate in decisions that will affect its work later on, and ultimately may affect the operability and maintainability of the finished project.

Consistent Project Definition is just one way PMBP is improving the Corps’ ability to deliver customers what they want, in a timely, efficient way.

New survey equipment pictures subsurface objects in detail

By Penny Schmitt

The US Coast Guard calls on the Corps to help in after-storm hydrographic surveys, but fair-weather incidents can also call for a look under the surface. When two barges sunk in the Cape Fear River this June, the Coast Guard called for survey’s help to locate the vessel.

“We were literally out testing our just-acquired side-scan sonar equipment for the first time when the Coast Guard called,” said Marc Reavis, of the District’s Operations section. “We were glad to have an opportunity to test it. Our new side-scanner has what’s called multi-beam sonic capability.”

One scan proved the new equipment to be a major advance over the dot scans earlier generation scanners yield. “This scanner emits sonic beams from many different directions,” Reavis explained. “The result is an image almost like a photograph of the underwater object.”

LT Cari Field, of the Marine Safety Office, Wilmington, agreed. “The scan was extremely helpful,” she said. “In fact it’s the best data we’ve ever gotten here. The scanner shows where the object is, its exact orientation, and exactly where it is in or out of the channel. I have seen this equipment used by port police in other cities where

I’ve worked,” she added. “It’s so sensitive it is actually able to give you an image of a body lying on the sea floor with a gun in its hand.”

Within a week, the Coast Guard called on the Corps a second time, this for a barge that had sunk in the Northeast Cape Fear River turning basin near the Isabella Holmes Bridge.

“We are really happy that we will be able to offer the Coast Guard this capability,” Reavis said. “After a hurricane or major storm, precise information on obstacles in the channel is exactly what we all want.”

Bissette named Wilmington District Employee of the Year

By Susan Dwyer

At the District's June Corps Day festivities, Wayne Bissette was named Wilmington District Employee of the Year.

Both as Chief, Project Management Branch, and as Project Manager of the Wilmington Port Project Delivery Team, he is known in the community, the District and the Division for his leadership.

The District's Deputy for Program and Project Management, Eugene Tickner said "Wayne has been thorough and energetic in implementing the Corps Project Management Business Process in the District. He has turned in a superlative performance in bringing the Wilmington Harbor Project delivery team together, and has provided a model for other teams. He masterminded a comprehensive organization of in-house subject matter experts, con-

tract subject matter experts, local interests, sponsor representatives, river pilots, resource agencies, and others. He orchestrates all these activities in a way that makes the most of each individual's contribution to the project. More, he helps provide a robust examination of issues and opportunities through productive conflict."

Bissette was also recognized for his personal and professional commitment. He earned a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from NC State, and has taken key human resources and project management courses. Further, he is active in professional associations and youth programs in the community and has given generously of time and financial support over the past eight years.

All of Wayne's TEAM-mates,



who know the intense work and coordination, the sometimes-difficult process of meeting many community needs, and the sheer complexity that make up the Wilmington Harbor Project. And we know that this project, big as it is, is only one of many duties. We're proud of you Wayne!



(Continued from page 5)

Staff from the Wilmington District office and the Falls, B. Everett Jordan, and John H. Kerr Lakes met on June 13 with other agencies, to discuss the draft reports from the studies. Attending were members of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, Wildlife Resources Commission, Department of Environmental Health, City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation, and Wake County Parks and Recreation.

Recreational opinions continued

The session took the form of a workshop, with small groups brainstorming potential actions based on the study's findings that the public had four primary areas of interest and concern:

- Preserving low density / low development conditions
- Crowding and conflict issues
- Personal watercraft
- Potential facility improvements

Some actions identified by the work groups included establishing quiet coves, or "no wake" zones, making improvements to services and facilities at existing boat ramps, and protecting the natural appearance of the shorelines.

Public workshops on these and other possible actions based on the study's findings will take place this fall. The final report is sure to reflect a need to balance water quality in the lake with a number of other public needs and desires.

"Balancing a variety of missions and interests, some of which appear to be in direct conflict or opposition to one another, is a very typical challenge for the US Army Corps of Engineers," Steve Brown said. "Because we are problem solvers, working in a real world with facilities that matter deeply and vitally to all kinds of people, we will always find ourselves at an exciting center of interest and controversy. It's just our job!"



Bost is named Suggester of the Year

Raymond R. Bost was selected by the Incentive Awards Committee as the 1999 Suggester of the Year for the Wilmington District. He received the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the District's Army Ideas for Excellence Program.

Ray is a Chief Engineer on the Dredge CURRITUCK. He submitted four good ideas that were adopted in 1999 and resulted in improved safety and operations aboard the vessels. His proposals were:

Provide Internet and email service for use by the vessel COR to

contact vendors, contractors, and district office. This access would reduce long distance phone calls and faxes to communicate with the outside world.

Create an inspection checklist that is vessel specific and would prompt the contractor to inspect relevant contract items that may require optional work, thus avoiding the possibility that they may be overlooked.

Include a specific checklist of items to shipyard contracts that would aid the COR and contractor in being aware of technical data applicable to the contract.

Install and connect new deck line to port sealing water pump to use for general service and auxiliary fire pump. The new line gives the crew added support as a backup to the main fire pump system.

Ray has worked 35 years in Fed-

eral Service, much of it operating heavy and sophisticated equipment. He served three years in Vietnam as a heavy equipment operator, and then went on to six years with the Army Nuclear Power Program at Fort Belvoir, VA. From 1974 to 1979, he worked as Chief Engineer of Army floating craft at Fort Eustis. He then left the Army to work for the Panama Canal Commission as a Chief Engineer, floating equipment. Ray has been with the Wilmington District since 1990, first as the Chief of the Engineer Yard, and now as Chief Engineer on the Currituck.

Ray's suggestions touch several phases of life on our vessels, and improve all—from communication to effective management to all-important crew and vessel safety.

Our hat is off to you, Ray!

Keep love bugs and other viruses out of our computers!

By Larry Mitchell

Monday morning, you bring up your email and find that 38 messages are waiting for you. And none of them are from people you know. And all of them want to send you LOVE or something else appealing. Even if you haven't had your third cup of coffee, try not to be fooled!

Virus-infected emails are occurring more and more rapidly. Even

though Information Management does daily checks for updates to virus detection software for our email system, we are not going to catch every virus. The only thing that will hold back the spread of new viruses is increased awareness and prevention among email users.

Some email cautions to live by—or to keep your computer from dy-

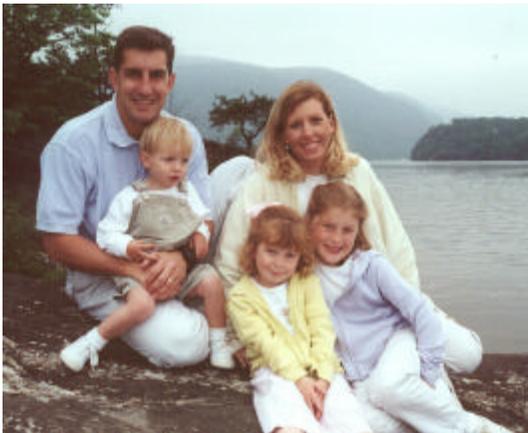
ing by!—are as follows: Watch out for—

- **Email from strangers.** If a message is from outside the District and from someone you do not know and have confidence in, and it has an attachment . . . ***Don't open the attachment!***



(Continued on page 9)

Shepard assumes duty as District Deputy Commander



MAJ Shepard with his wife Jennie and children (from left) Thatcher, Mollie, and Samantha.

Major George T. Shepard took up his duties as Deputy Commander of the Wilmington District at the beginning of July. MAJ Shepard comes to us from the US Military Academy at West Point, where he served as an Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering. "I taught water resources management," he said. "So I am pleased to be part of a District that faces the many challenges we are

seeing at our Dam and Reservoir Projects."

Major Shepard's duties here in Wilmington will be varied and demanding. "I'm rapidly learning the basics of North Carolina and Federal Emergency Management procedures, and getting smart on our Quality Steering Group process here in the District. I'm also studying up on our Objective Organization plan. The Colonel has also given me the lead on Risk Management for our Dis-

trict, and asked me to champion our Customer Satisfaction survey process. I had quite a bit of experience working with surveys in my past assignments."

Major Shepard's crash course in Wilmington includes getting settled in a new home. He and his wife Jennie have bought a house, and are busy exploring the community with their children Samantha (8), Mollie (4) and Thatcher (2).

"I am an Army brat, born in Munich, Germany," Shepard said, "and Jennie is from Kansas. But I think of myself as being from the southeast." After graduating from West Point in 1986 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Shepard completed Engineer Officer Basic and has held assignments as a Platoon Leader, Aide-de-Camp, and Company Executive Officer with the 1st Engineer Battalion (Combat) and 1st Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Riley, Kansas. From 1991 to 1993 he served in Hawaii as the Assistant S3 of the 84th Engineer Battalion and Commander of A Company of the 84th Engineer Battalion. From 1994-1995, he served as Deputy Chief of the Regulatory Functions Branch in New Orleans District, and then completed a M.E. degree in Environmental Engineering at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Then Major Shepard went on to West Point from 1997 until his present assignment in Wilmington.

Love bugs and viruses continued

(Continued from page 8)

- **Extensions can be red flags.** Even if your source is trusted, check the final, three-letter extension of the attachment's filename, those three letters that follow the "." If you see an extension that reads *.bat*, *.exe*, *.com*, *.vbs*, or *.shs*, don't do anything with the file unless you are expecting the sender to send you an executable (program) file. Why? Even programs that will do cool things can contain a virus that will damage files on your computer, or even worse, our network.

- **View, don't Launch.** Once you decide that you do need to look at an attachment, use *view* instead of *launch*. While this isn't foolproof, the *view* function is safer for

the computer and the network than the *launch* function. The only safe way to edit an attachment is to *detach* it, then run virus scan on it, and then open the application for the attachment—that is, WORD, EXCEL and so forth.

- **Update virus scan often.** At least twice a month, update the antivirus software data file (*.dat*) on your PC, using the instructions in the IMO Information Bulletin Board. We receive updates from the vendors every seven to ten days.

It's an unfortunate fact—the next email message you receive could have a virus that blows away your files.

Whenever a new virus arrives on the scene, it takes antivirus soft-

ware companies a few hours to develop routines that can capture and delete the new virus. We will get that update, and have it protecting our network as soon as it is available. However, in those few vulnerable hours a lot of email can come onto the system.

It's your responsibility to exercise caution. Just as friendly telephone solicitations can be ugly scams, a friendly email can be a Trojan Horse full of nasty viruses. If a message seems in any way suspicious, err on the side of caution. If you have a question about an email message, call our Customer Assistance Center (CAC) at extension 4651 before you do anything with the message.

District TEAM members build homes in Honduras

By Penny Schmitt



Phil Payonk takes a break.

While the “official” US Army Corps of Engineers is working hard to help Honduras recover from Hurricane Mitch, Wilmington District also contributed manpower to a different kind of team—rebuilding the country one home at a time. Ernie Jahnke, Coleman Long, Phil Payonk, and Joe Sutton (husband of Sharon Sutton, IM) recently traveled to Honduras to help the long term recovery effort in the flood-ravaged country by building new homes. Jahnke, Long, and Sutton are all members of Wilmington’s First Baptist Church, and Phil Payonk is a member of the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church. The men were on a Mission Trip sponsored by the North Carolina Baptist Men’s Association.

From June 6 through 15, the four served as part of a dozen-man team from Wilmington, and built three simple concrete block homes. “We got up at about five and ate breakfast, then drove out to the work site and worked harder than I have ever worked before until about five or six. We turned out the lights by 8:30 and then got up to do it again the next day,” Long said.

“There was no trouble sleeping!” Payonk said.



Coleman Long and Ernie Jahnke help raise the walls

The homes are part of a new “Colonia” being built above the city of Tegucigalpa, well out of range of the flooding that took so many lives after Hurricane Mitch lingered over the country nearly two years ago. Each home consists of four concrete block walls, with openings for a two doors and four windows.

“The people who were going to live in the homes told us where they wanted the windows and the doors,” Jahnke said. “Otherwise, all the houses were the same: four walls and a dirt floor.” Roofs will be added later.

“Construction methods are nothing like ours,” Long said. “And improvements or different methods were not to be tried. We just did the projects the way the local community wanted us to—mixing cement by hand, and following less sound construction methods than would be required here in the states.” The buildings were erected one wall at a time, and the walls were ‘tied’ at the corners, rather than designed to interlock. Concrete was mixed with shovels on the bare ground, using water from a nearby creek. “One woman from the village kept up carrying five-gallon buckets of water to us all day,” Long said. “I did that about once—it would have been too much for me!”

Other members of the team had extensive experience as construction contractors. “They helped us get the work done as efficiently as we could,” Payonk said. “We broke up into two teams, and each made one house. Then we all joined together and made the third.”

“I think we did that one in a day!” Jahnke said.

As each house is roughed in and the mission team’s work is complete, the group held a small blessing ceremony and read scripture. By the end of the year, the community hopes to see other delegations on mission trips swell the number of new homes to 595.

“It is going to another world,” Jahnke said. “You certainly appreciate what we have in the way of clean water, good roads—and rules of the road!—waste disposal and sewage treatment and all that we take for granted.”

Their happiest observation? “The children were wonderful!” Long said. “They are cheerful, friendly, helpful—just a delight. One little girl worked right with us, picking up concrete blocks. All of the children were spotless when they were ready to go to school.” Since laundry in the village has to be done in a nearby creek, with shallow, none-too-clean water, the sight of children immaculately dressed made a big impression on all the team members.



Community members worked alongside mission volunteers.

Tourist time was limited to one afternoon of shopping at the Valley of the Angels, a community outside the city of Tegucigalpa. But this team came with work in mind, and had no regrets about their vacation without leisure. “We enjoyed the opportunity to work together, to make friends and be ambassadors, and to share fellowship,” Jahnke said. “The people who will live in the homes worked side-by-side with us.” Though all had at least a day of illness, all agreed that when future trips come up—they’ll be eager to go.



Susan Rhett (CPAC) married Cliff Dixon on July 8th at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Wilmington. Best wishes for a lovely life together!

Jocelyn Gaines (IM) and Roger Collins, Jr. were married on July

15th. After honeymooning in Cancun, Mexico, they will continue to live in Wilmington until Jocelyn finishes graduate school in December 2001. Much happiness to both!

Angela Jacobs, daughter of **Gloria Price**, recently began duties as an Information Management assistant with the Emergency Management Organization in Raleigh. Angela is a recent graduate of NC Wesleyan College.

Maria Blair Serrano, four-year-old daughter of Rolando and Susan Serrano, won first place in Wilmington's Fourth of July Scholarship Pageant in the Tiny Miss Category.

Rolando works in the Technical Services Division, Construction Management Section.

McNeill children shine! Lauren and Bryan McNeill, children of Renita McNeill (IMO) have really done a lot to make their family and teachers proud this year.

Lauren, who will be going into the 8th grade, received scholastic achievement awards for maintaining all A+ and A grades this year. She also received a trophy for most outstanding student in Language Arts, turned in perfect attendance at Myrtle Grove Middle School, received a 1st place trophy in AIM for Scholastic Motivation, and received 1st place in singing talent, sponsored by the Brigade Boys and Girls Club. Lauren has also been first chair clarinet for the past two years.

Bryan, who will be entering the 5th grade, also had an outstanding year. He Received 1st place trophy as the number one Accelerated Reader of the entire 4th grade class at Bellamy Elementary School. He also received 2nd place in singing talent from the Brigade Boys and Girls Club, and was a member of the 1st place softball team, Tracy's EXXON. Way to go McNeill team!

Mike Penny, a retired member of the Wilmington District staff, is making a name for himself as an artist. According to museum publicity, his "highly detailed photorealistic wildlife paintings focus on Nature's more obscure creatures. Mike strives to capture not only the light, color, and details of a scene, but also the character and personality of each animal he portrays. The Nature Gallery exhibition is the first regional showing of this award-winning artist's work. From Friday, July 7 through August 13, Mike's wildlife art will be on display at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC.

S.A.M.E. scholarship awarded to Alan Michael Marks



Lou Smith (right) presents scholarship to Alan Marks.

Alan Michael Marks, Jr., a recent graduate of New Hanover High School, received an \$800 scholarship from the Society of American Military Engineers Cape Fear Post.

Alan is the son of Deborah and Michael Marks of Wilmington. He will attend North Carolina State University. He plans to major in Civil Engineering, with the goal of attaining a Master's Degree. In his senior year, Marks had the opportunity to shadow a professional in a field that interested him. He chose to follow the work of Herb McKim, a civil engineer, and president of McKim & Creed, Inc. It comes as no surprise, that now Marks' career objective is "to own a civil engineering firm."

The S.A.M.E. scholarship committee was chaired by Louis Smith, assisted by Ray Batchelor, Bobby Willis, and Marilyn Knowlton.

New arrivals to Wilmington District TEAM



Welcome **Lillette Moore**, a senior at UNCW, who is working in the **Wilmington Regulatory Office**.

Welcome **Kelly Caldwell**, who is working in **Geotech** this summer.

RETIREE

NEWS



By Bob Swart

There were 15 gathered this month for the retiree luncheon. These summer days seem to make it hard for our folks to get out, or maybe they are still lounging around the pool! We had an opportunity to hear from the District Deputy for Project Management, Eugene Tickner, as well as the PAO, Penny Schmitt. Those who were not there missed out on a chance to get an overall picture of what is happening at the old work place. Mr. Tickner indicated that the District is thriving, with a lot of things happening over the next few years.

We were certainly glad to have the following retirees, spouses, and guests: Kay and Buddy Johnson, Bettye and Bob Swart, Edith and Jim Vithalani, Dorothy K. Everett, Joe Lewis, Joe Spahr, Sylvia and Rex Phillips and their granddaughter Lauren, Henry Jerome, Rebecca and Earle Merrill, and special guests from the working world Eugene Tickner and Penny Schmitt.

It was certainly great to have Earle and Rebecca with us for a little while. Rebecca said she makes this journey down here to get her hair fixed. Earl says he likes to schedule this visit to the beauty salon with the first Thursday in the month to coincide with the retiree gathering. Joe Spahr doesn't get to be with us very often—something about that 14-mile drive from Hampstead. We are glad he made it this time.

Joe Spahr has been in Kentucky from March 19 until June 15 with Julie Ann. She had a heart attack

March 9 and a stroke on May 15. She is doing much better now. She can drive, but the doctors won't let her travel yet Joe expects her back home in August or September. Dorothy Everette recently had eye surgery and said she would be able to see us better. Buddy and Kay visited friends in Morehead City recently, and yes, he did take that pain in the neck with him. It seems that Lauren Phillips is having a lot of fun this summer, playing basketball and diving in the deep end of the swimming pool.

Edith did it! She passed the citizenship exam with flying colors: red, white, and blue, of course. As Jim proudly stated it, "she maxed, with a 100 percent score!" We are happy for Edith and congratulate her. Jim said she still has to be sworn in sometime in August or September, if they can find a judge who will do it (*just kidding, Edith!*)

Everybody have an enjoyable summer and don't get too far from the air conditioners!

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**Wilmington
District News**