

Wilmington

District News

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*Hurricane
Support 2005*

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Address mail to:

U.S. Army Engineer District,
Wilmington

ATTN: CESAW-PA
P.O. Box 1890
Wilmington, N.C. 28402-1890

Telephone: (910) 251-4626

Email:

Penny.Schmitt@usace.army.mil

Commander and District Engineer:

COL John E. Pulliam, Jr.

Chief, Public Affairs:

Penelope Schmitt

Managing Editor:

Hank Heusinkveld

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On the Cover:

During Hurricane Katrina landfall on 29 August, Wilmington District team members and other USACE employees stand by for water missions. (Heusinkveld photos.)

Up Front

Farewell lesson: build the future!

These past few weeks we have said farewell to seven terrific people who have given more than 200 years of service to our nation. That's 200 years of wisdom and valuable knowledge and experience that no longer sit in the next cube from you!

Recent retiree Dianne Greene gave me a great piece of advice: "We are building the next generation of the Corps today. We should spend time imparting our hard-won knowledge to them before we leave."

And the flip side of that coin is: We hear quite a few of our smart, dedicated colleagues talking about retirement plans. If we have questions, now is the time to ask for their sage advice!

One of the most exciting things about engineers and scientists is that they solve problems both by accumulated knowledge and sudden insight. The 'new mind' of young team members combined with the wisdom of our more seasoned colleagues could result in some awesome approaches or technical achievements. In the coming weeks, I hope you veterans will intentionally put your heads together with our up-and-comers to take a fresh look at an old puzzle. Let me know what you figure out!

And I can't close this column without a THANK YOU to all those who have volunteered, for your superb efforts in response to this year's hurricane season. Your ability to save and restore lives is its own reward. And thanks, too, to those of you who have stayed in your normal roles and taken on additional duties to support those who are engaged in the emergency. All of you are doing important work, and serving your nation and your neighbors. *Essayons!*



COL John Pulliam

Kissam Sees Progress During Second Iraq Deployment

Witnessing the transformation of Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein has been a mixed blessing for Danny Kissam. A veteran of two deployments to the Gulf Region Division, he saw more improvements to Iraq's infrastructure and a little more stability security-wise this year, but at the same time work has slowed because he says it's getting harder to determine who's friend and who's foe.

"Our translator had been in Abu Ghraib prison for 12 years. He was one of the first ones to work for the Americans over there," Kissam explained. "When I got back to Baghdad I was amazed at his attitude because of the treatment that he and other Iraqis are being submitted to trying to work."

What Kissam says is happening is that security is so tight that much of a work day is spent screening people or inspecting construction materials that



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY NORRIS JONES

School girls line up for fresh, clean water at the Thawrat-Al-Hijara School in Baghdad. The school has received the first of 27 water compact units and is producing 15,000 liters of water per day. Eventually, 27 units will be in operation throughout the city offering a combined output of more than 400,000 liters daily.

must be offloaded once on an American base and then searched again. Despite what he perceived as a slight rise in animosity toward Americans from Iraqi

workers, he believes that they seem willing to put up with just about anything, even perceptions from Americans that they are potential insurgents, to get their country started on a new track.

"We made some changes, like making a contractor's village to ease the stress of them having to get on base every day. This lessens the risk of their lives being taken working for the Americans. When they had to dump out materials for inspection it created additional costs. Is there a better way? Who knows. Is that taking it a step too far security-wise? Not in the minds of the people who were getting blown up."

Kissam added that many Iraqis who work for the reconstruction effort are in danger from insurgents, but continue to do their jobs. Work is plentiful for them and the wages they receive is giving them income that they never had before and is worth the risk.

— continued on page 10



PHOTO COURTESY DANNY KISSAM

Danny Kissam, right, poses with fellow USACE volunteers Roy Lawson, left, and Marly Ranum of the St. Paul District.

Water Mission Rushes Supplies to Disaster Area

Story and photos by Penny Schmitt

Moving filthy floodwater out of New Orleans may have become the signature challenge for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' response for hurricane Katrina. But moving clean drinking water into the disaster area proved to be far more than a 'routine' Corps mission for Corps responders.

"We usually receive tasks to move water into the affected state," said District Emergency Manager Ron Stirrat. "After Katrina, our mission rapidly became national, and the mission to purchase \$5 million worth of water ballooned to \$200 million."

Wilmington District, headquartered in Southeastern North Carolina, served as the nerve center of a mission to move thousands of trucks filled with bottled water to storm and flood victims. For a time ranging from days to weeks, disaster area residents need bottled water not just to drink, but also to prepare

food or brush their teeth until safe drinking water becomes available again.

The plastic shrink-wrapped cases of water seen in many disaster relief photos travel a complex path. "It's a big job to track all these supplies across the nation's road net and through the FOSAs," said Wilmington District Auditor, B.J. Suggs. "Our first priority is to get supplies to people to save and sustain lives. We take trouble to keep a good paper trail because, first, we must determine if people are getting what they need. Once that priority is met, we also need to ensure that proper pay-



Corps logistics workers track the movement of water and other supplies from Naval Air Station Meridian (Mississippi) to Katrina storm damage areas.



Corps auditor B.J. Suggs talks with a logistics team member about methods for tracking commodities.

ment is made to our contractor, and that taxpayer dollars are handled responsibly."

The Corps' job, through a national contractor, Lipsey, is to move water supplies to Federal Operations Supply Sites (FOSAs), where trained U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water supply team members and logistics team members log in the trucks and their loads. From these sites, it is directed to local distribution centers. The Corps collects records and reports back to Wilmington District, which compiles the records and pays the contractor based on what was delivered.

As of 9 September, the Corps had met the need for emergency distribution of water. According to a day #12 Situation Report, a total of 2,355 trucks had been

received. Each truck can carry 18,000 liter bottles of water, enough to meet the daily needs of 5,000 people. More than 1,000 additional trucks are on the move toward strategically located storage warehouses, where they will be ready for the next moment of national need.

At Maxwell AFB and Meridian Naval Air Station, two Federal Operations Support Areas rapidly set up in response to the storm, the scale of the Katrina response was apparent. Dozens of massive tractor-trailers lined up on the flight line in the early morning sun. A field shower tent had been set up and a local barbecue business afforded some comfort to truckers who had driven hundreds of miles from all over the United States. Every regional accent from a Texas drawl to a clipped Brooklyn brogue could be heard gathered around the red-shirted logistics workers—who themselves reported in from home bases like Walla Walla, Washington; Buffalo, New York; Memphis, Tennessee; and Vicksburg, Mississippi as well as Wilmington.

A variety of federal and state agencies had set up trucks, trailers, and tents, and were directing the movement of food, blankets and cots as well as the



Wilmington District Commander COL John Pulliam confers with water team members at a logistics site in Mississippi.

Corps-procured supplies of water and ice. An entry road to the installation was one long line of trucks waiting to be logged in before they moved on to another delivery destination, as the location of need changed.

“We have hundreds of dedicated folks out here, and they are doing a fine job of getting supplies to the disaster area,”

said Wilmington District Commander, Col. John E. Pulliam. “I’m proud of our folks in the field, and also of those back home. Whether you are standing out in the sun all day at a FOSA site, or sitting back at the office compiling data at oh-dark-thirty in the morning, you are playing an important part on the national response team.”



Hundreds of trucks loaded with emergency supplies check in at Naval Air Station Meridian, Mississippi on their way to relieve storm

Wilmington District Takes Lead of National Water Mission

Story and Photos by Hank Heusinkveld



END OF THE LINE Soldiers from Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Division stack bottles of precious water at a food, water and ice distribution site in New Orleans.

The Wilmington District, working around the clock, ensured that victims of Hurricane Katrina got drinking water...and lots of it. 5600 trucks laden with 18,000 liters per truck with an allotment of three liters per person had been ordered. And despite a few challenges that could have stalled delivery, the plan to get water to those who needed it came through.

"We feel good that the water's moving well," said Ken Jolly, Water Mission Manager. "Initially, roads were blocked with debris, bridges were out, etcetera. And so, the distributors were having to stage water at warehouses much further north than the target

sites. Shortly after, they were able to get much closer or fairly closer to the distribution points at Naval Air Station Meridian and Maxwell Air Force Base."

Jolly added some truckers were then able to bypass the storage facilities to go straight to delivery areas. In nearby Alabama he said that state had enough drinking water for its citizens, and eventually shared its excess supplies with Mississippi. One of the reasons for that, according to Jolly, was that a "saturation point" had been reached where numerous deliveries of water overlapped each other.

"You have to keep in mind that the Corps, through its contractor, is not the only game in town. The trucks are still hauling for commercial stores. So, there always is the issue of how many trucks can you physically get, how many bottles of water can you physically receive? You do run into a plateau."

Jolly said although more than enough water got to where it was needed things didn't start to gel until after minor setbacks were fixed. "There definitely was a ramp up. You just can't turn on the spicket and expect water. The number of trucks out delivering water steadily increased."



Chief of Emergency Management Ron Stirrat keeps an eye on ordered water and delivery dates.

Back in the Emergency Operations Center, Emergency Management volunteers, some from as far away as the New England District, pulled together to make the mission run smoothly. In the backs of their minds they could only imagine the enormity of Hurricane Katrina's devastating effects.

"The first three or four days we had no TV in there. So we were doing this all day long, going home at midnight and then turning on the TV to see what happened in the day."

As more and more images from Hurricane Katrina's wrath painted a horrific picture of chaos and destruction the members of the water team knew that the more effort they put into their mission the sooner the victims would get some relief.



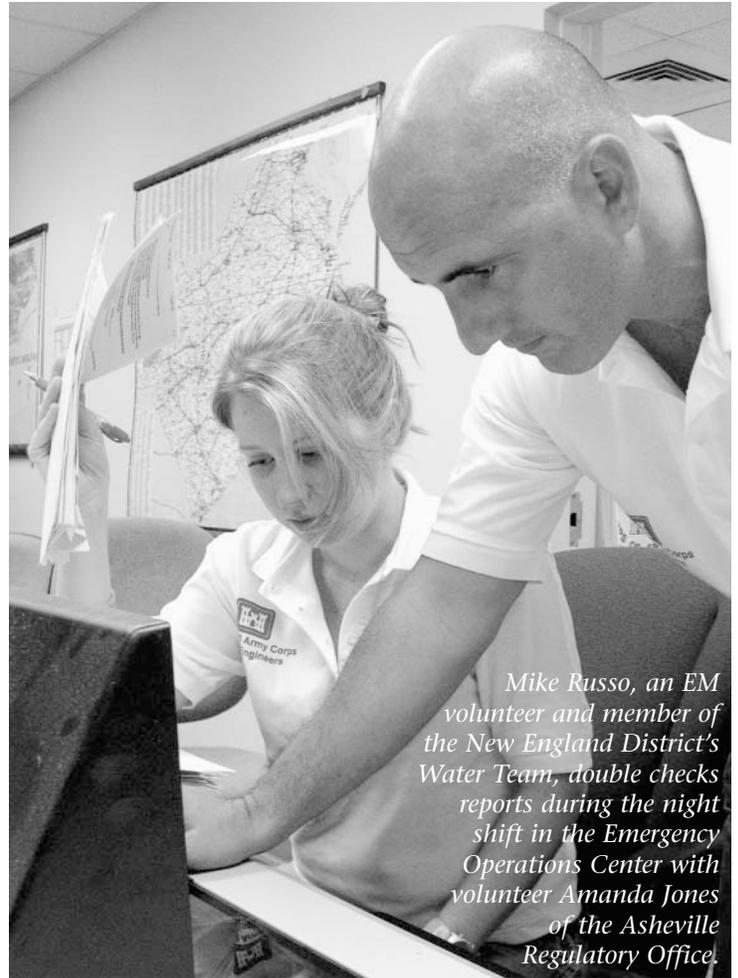
Gloria Cliff shuffles endless piles of paperwork during the initial stages of Hurricane Katrina recovery.

By working and living a selfless service attitude, Jolly said the members were able to focus on refining their duties every day to continually improve the way water shipments got from point A to point B.

"What's so nice is that there's a great team. When you get down to it everybody's pitching in to do more than their regularly assigned roles. When something needs to get done someone jumps in and does it. That's how it's been. There has been

no shortage of camaraderie, and no shortage of helping hands. The New England team came in and we meshed very well. I think that all of us in there are making a difference, that we're doing something we want to do and feel really good about it."

At 10 minutes after midnight Sherrie Storm, a volunteer from John H. Kerr Reservoir, goes over facts and figures before the early morning release of the situation report.



Mike Russo, an EM volunteer and member of the New England District's Water Team, double checks reports during the night shift in the Emergency Operations Center with volunteer Amanda Jones of the Asheville Regulatory Office.



Wilmington District Man Serves as Katrina First Responder

Photos by Rolando Serrano



Rolando Serrano

“Little did I know that my Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) training the second week of August would immediately be followed by an on the job test!” said Wilmington District team member Rolando Serrano. “Just a week after training ended, I was activated to the largest hurricane to hit the Gulf coast since hurricane Camille, over three decades ago.”

By Sunday, August 28th, Serrano was en route to join a team in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, arriving just before the local airport closed. A Department of Homeland Security Blackhawk helicopter airlifted Rolando and his team to Jackson, Mississippi.

His team included people who specialized in fire fighting, urban search & rescue, medical, disease control, and other emergency response functions. Once in Jackson, they joined a growing group of Federal and Mississippi State agency leaders preparing for Katrina’s landfall. Tuesday morning, as winds diminished to 35 mph, the team traveled to the Gulf coast of Mississippi to survey Mississippi’s southernmost six counties.



The houses in this cul de sac were flattened by Katrina.

Unlike a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) that determines the amount of assistance required by an affected State, the RNA is conducted immediately after a major disaster to determine the immediate needs of the affected area so that decisions can be made quickly to get the resource pipeline activated.

A Rapid Needs Assessment team gathers information that helps emergency managers decide what emergency response activities are most critical. The team finds the problems that pose the greatest response challenge to the affected state government. These include immediate community needs like food, water, medical, shelter, incident management capability, and impacts to infrastructure, like utilities, communications, transportation. The data is reported to the Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC), the State Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and Federal Managers who must decide how to respond.

“Our first stop was the community of Waveland, Hancock County, MS. The devastation was unlike any I have seen, the loss of property and life was overwhelming,” Serrano said.

From there, the team continued to visit and or fly over the impact area and report up the chain. They visited each county’s Emergency Operations Center, many hospitals, Police / Sheriff / Fire Departments, and some shelters and points of distribution. They coordinated the drop off of ice/water/supplies to isolated areas. By the time they completed their duties, they saw commodities and resources were already arriving onsite and being distributed.

“While the road ahead is long, especially for those who lost so much, it is encouraging to seeing that progress was being made,’ Serrano said.



Despite the loss of their building which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina county employees raised their flags as a symbol of resilience.

“Just a week after training ended, I was activated to the largest hurricane to hit the Gulf coast since hurricane Camille, over three decades ago.”

– Rolando Serrano

Goodbye, Sweet Papa Jim

Our friend and colleague James Patrick Butler, known to his family and friends as “Papa Jim”, passed away after a long battle with cancer on the morning of 8 September 2005 at the Lower Cape Fear Hospice & Life Care Center in Wilmington, NC. Born 12 December 1942 to John and Loretta Butler, he is survived by his son Jim Jr, daughter Kristine Butler Mejia, son-in-law Pedro Mejia, grandchildren Samuel and Emma Mejia, sisters Patricia Albert and Loretta Vanover, and brothers John and Francis Butler.

Jim’s career began in 1966, when, after graduating from Drexel University with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, he served two years of active duty in the U.S. Army. From there, he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Marine Design Center in Philadelphia, where he provided mechanical, electrical, and machinery support to the Army Corps of Engineers dredge fleet. His many accomplishments there included designing and improving performance of the hopper dredges Biddle and Markham. As lead project engineer, he held primary responsibility for the Design Center’s hull work on the 20,000 HP hopper dredge Wheeler, the largest

seagoing hopper dredge in the United States, and one of the Corps’ few dredges available for world-wide operations.

In 1990, Jim left Philadelphia to assume a leadership position as Chief of Operations in the Wilmington District. His competence and proactive management philosophy gained wide appreciation and respect from colleagues and customers alike. Under Jim’s direction, the Corps’ hydrographic survey capabilities gained national recognition, conditions of public recreational facilities had been markedly improved, and the entire fleet of dredges, debris and survey boats increased in versatility with operations extending throughout the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Jim took great pride in the achievements of his team, and was especially proud of the work he did along with his project operations management staff members to create an orderly process for evaluating proposed changes in land use on public lands. The process is proving a model for land-use decisions throughout the Corps, and earned Jim recognition from Native American or-



Jim Butler was well known inside and outside of the Wilmington District as a respected project engineer and a talented, charismatic performer who gave new meaning to team building.

ganizations in Virginia, who had his name placed on the honor wall of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Perhaps even more significantly, Jim was widely acclaimed for his communications skills in both word and song. His performances were a delight to those in the District, where he won fans for his witty and personal songs dedicated to numerous retirees. The high point among these was probably “Only DeLony” as sung by “Jim & the Jimettes” to the tune of “Only the Lonely.” Jim also had considerable talent as a stand-up comic. Many Wilmingtonians would recognize his Karaoke rendition of “Seven Spanish Angels” captured on local TV ads for Martha’s Lounge. His fame reached even as far as Corps headquarters, where he both trained and entertained incoming District Commanders.

Jim also offered his talents as a devoted member of the Guitar Choir, first for Saint Dorothy’s Catholic Church in



On board the Dredge Wheeler, Jim Butler (right) lends his expertise to colleagues.

FILE PHOTO



Kissam Sees Progress During Second Iraq Deployment (continued from page 3)

"A salary for people like our translators, a thousand dollars a month, women included, that's the most money they've seen in their whole life," he stated. "They're able to take that money and feed their family members who aren't able to work. These people are always under threat. Some of our guys move six or seven times, guys who I have worked with before. It's unbelievable. They never sleep in the same place. The money they were receiving they were sending to Jordan. One guy moved his whole family out of Iraq. I mean these guys are trying to make a living."

One thing that didn't change from Kissam's last deployment to Iraq a year ago was the workload. He still found himself working seven days a week trying to keep up with contractual work.

"You have to realize that about five o'clock in the morning until about 9:30 or 10 o'clock you're doing a lot of contracting work, working on CEFMS, etc. Then the contractors start rolling in. They always had to stop at our office because they were so familiar with me and my co-worker. It was constant until about four in the afternoon."

All of the work that Kissam is involved with is on-base construction that will be eventually turned over to the Iraqi people. Buildings are being reconstructed with basic amenities like running water, bathrooms and air conditioning. He says he was able to see some positive results of reconstruction efforts.

"There are a whole lot of good things going on. Seeing a kid go sit down and actually have a classroom to go into...policemen have buildings to go to, people can get a simple glass of water, use a bathroom...things we take for granted. It has the tendency to bring up the self esteem of the people that you're dealing with."

Kissam says he sympathizes with the hardships the Iraqi people must endure. He believes their commitment to a new Iraq outweighs the motives of the insurgents. And he says the Iraqis he met are tired of attacks from the insurgents and the innocent people caught in their path.

"Two of our cleaning ladies didn't come in one day and we were real worried. But the next day we found out their father, who was a garbage collector, was picking up garbage when they set off a vehicle bomb and his foot was injured, damn near blown off. So, what does that have to do with Iraq? Not a thing. It wasn't near any American outpost, it was just right in the middle of a suburban area, supposedly near a police station or a school. Did anyone get killed? No. It's difficult to make sense of it all."

When it comes to loyalty and dedication to the USACE mission in Iraq Kissam is unwavering. Having completed two deployments he says he sees progress, but feels a lot of lessons are being learned that can improve USACE operations still further. Would he go back a third time to see if the Iraq mission will have progressed even more?

"I said I wouldn't go back the last time, but the good Lord made a liar out of me! If it comes up and I have to go back for some reason....I never say never."

Drexel Hill, PA, and then for Saint Mary's in Wilmington. Moreover, he brought family and friends tremendous joy and closeness with his music, guidance, and love of life.

Near the end of his career in Wilmington, Jim suffered a bout of pneumonia complicated by effects on major organ systems that nearly killed him. His courageous fight to recover from that illness inspired all of his coworkers, and his attitude of gratitude and enjoyment of life in the all-too-brief time left to him did much to show us all the power love, friendship and appreciation of all that is good could have to make even a tough situation precious every day.

From active military duty, through establishing a career and family in Philadelphia, to becoming an accomplished leader in Wilmington, Jim's successes have been punctuated not only with awards and commendations, but with love and appreciation from the many people whose lives he has touched. His many enduring accomplishments will stand in testimony to the dedication and creative talent he applied throughout his distinguished career with the Corps of Engineers. The spirit of his love, strength, and kindness will continue to live and thrive in the hearts of his friends and family. We were all so fortunate to enjoy his leadership, love, and commitment.



Jim and the Jimettes perform one of his most witty renditions called "Only DeLony".

New Lives Beckon Seven

Rocking chairs? No, this is not what seven retiring District Team Members have in mind. Unless you count Boyd Alig's planned time rocking the grandbabies – three of them! – expected to arrive within the next few months. Our prime-of-life crop of fall retirees are headed into a sunset where they will be active and contributing plenty to their communities. Bobby Willis is mulling over the idea of taking his wife on a long-dreamed-of trip to Hawaii before settling down to his new life. Eric Farr, no question about it, will be on the golf course for even more hours, perfecting his swing and his putt. Diane Greene has such a big family and so many community ties and volunteer goals, she'll probably be even busier now. Gloria Harris was heard muttering resolutions about the gym and some part-time work. Annie Scott said we could all check in and get a package wrapped by her at the mall this Christmas. Caroline Struthers has moved to a new community, Asheville, and started a whole second career with the Buncombe County Mediation Center. Together, this outstanding group of Wilmington District folks have contributed well over 200 years of service to our nation helping to control floods, manage and record data concerning water flows, protect dams, analyze and catalogue soil samples, carry out contracting efforts, and take care of the legal aspects of our work. We will miss them all, but look forward to following their example and pursue high-quality work and leisure in a future life!



Gloria Harris

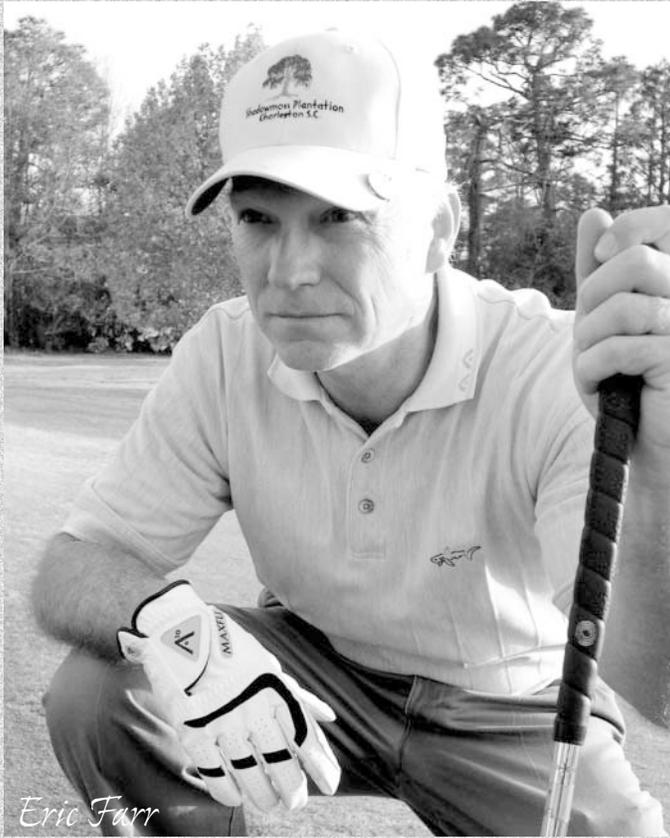


Diane Greene



Bobby Willis

District Careerists!



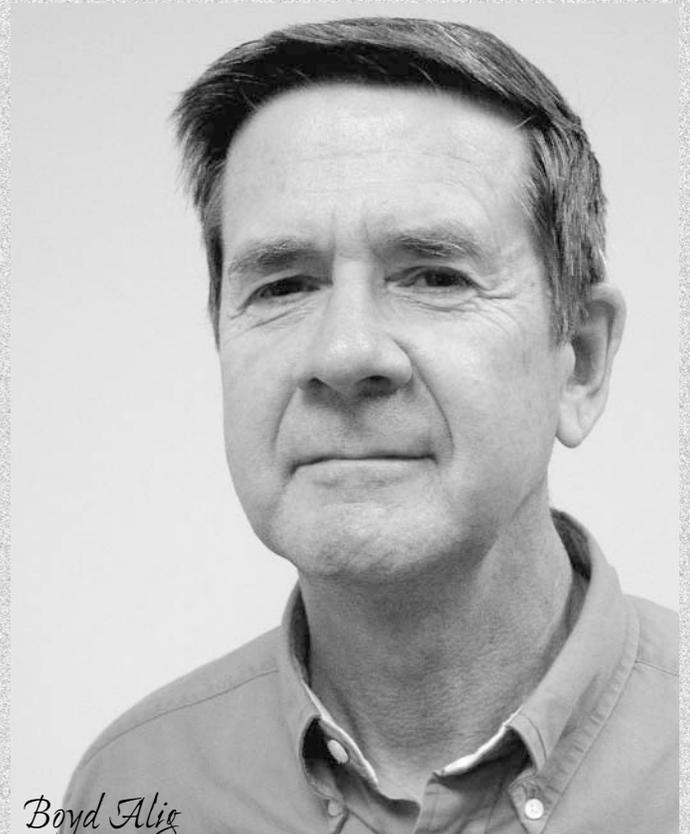
Eric Farr



*Caroline
Struthers*



Annie Scott



Boyd Alig

USACE Office Circa 1945 Preserved in Boydton, VA

Story and photo by Sherrie Storm, Park Ranger JHK

Tucked away in the dusty, window-filled corner of the upstairs of the Boydton, Virginia Town Hall stands the original workspace used by the “War Department, Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District” during the procurement process for lands that would be eventually inundated by the waters of John H. Kerr Reservoir.

During a recent visit with Boydton Mayor Charlie Reamy Kerr Operations Manager Tim Rainey and Park Ranger Sherrie Storm were treated to a tour of this historic but long-forgotten space. Still spread across seven feet of wall at the top of the solid heart-of-pine stairway is an original map of the Roanoke River Basin. The map, brown and mottled with age, shows the proposed locations of eleven conceptual reservoirs. These were recommended to Congress by the Corps of Engineers in the 1930’s to provide flood control to the Lower Roanoke River Valley. The map includes the one known as the “Buggs Island Project”, the original name for Kerr Dam and Reservoir.

“The town of Boydton made welcome the Corps of Engineers, and walled off this one end of the meeting hall for their offices,” said Mayor Reamy. “They took everything with them when they left, except for the map on the wall.”

The brick Town Hall was built in 1905, with the interior wood construction mostly of heart-of-pine. “You can tell that this is extremely solid construction,” pointed out Reamy “because when we came up those back stairs nothing creaked.”

The upstairs was used as a public meeting hall complete with removable seating, and a stage. “The townspeople used it for a variety of events including public hearings, graduation ceremonies, parties as well as solemn



Boydton Mayor Charlie Reamy, right, and John H. Kerr Operations Manager Tim Rainey tour the historic room.

occasions,” explained Reamy. “The most enjoyable activities, however, were the dances.”

Standing in the old, spacious hall overlooking the little town (population 477) that is the Seat of the County of Mecklenburg, one can imagine the sounds of fiddles and guitars and hear the shuffling and tapping of the leather soles across the pine dance floor.

“We have completed the restoration of the downstairs,” said Reamy “and hope to someday be able to finish the building.”

Mayor Reamy, a resident of Boydton since 1959, has been instrumental in renovation projects in the town. Various grants from state and federal programs as well as support from local citizens, businesses, and county governments have enabled the town to remove unsafe, decayed structures, renovate old buildings, and bring in

new businesses. The result is a lovely, quaint and quiet little town with the Courthouse standing in the middle.

‘Historic Boydton Renaissance, Inc.’ is a not-for-profit organization working to restore the historic appeal of the town while bringing in new retail businesses.

“Boydton was part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Kerr Dam in 2002,” remembered Reamy, “when one of our fundraisers was the sale of historic replicas of Kerr Dam. And your Colonel Alexander honored us by being our Grand Marshall in the annual Boydton Day Parade.”

“We are very proud to have one of our historic links be to the US Army Corps of Engineers,” said Reamy.

The town was established in 1812. For more information please visit their website at www.boydton.org/.

Corps Family News

Catch and Really Release!

When you pass by Blair Boyd's office in Resource Management you'll see proudly displayed this photo of Blair, (center) his late father Richard B. Boyd Jr., (left) and brother Frank posing with a fish that wasn't supposed to be caught. In his own word's Blair explains the story behind the picture.



"Each year we would go to Kure Beach, just south of the Kure Beach pier with an assortment of rods, reels, my dad's deluxe stainless steel home made rod holders and an abundance of anticipation. The red drum fishing was never too serious as we always enjoyed the bright clear autumn days while doing more talking than fishing with the idea that maybe the fish wouldn't bother us. When we did bait the hooks, the drum fishing consisted of laying half a spot in the ocean slough and patiently waiting and enjoying the fine company. One fall day in November 1998 we hooked a very large fish. Each of us took turns at fighting this fish for more than two and a half hours. The fish stripped nearly all the line off the reel and dragged us 1/2 mile up and down the beach several times. Over this span of time, a crowd of 70 - 75 curious onlookers followed us. We finally got the fish in over the outer sand bar and saw it was a large shark. We continued to fight and finally got this large shark into the shore break. We estimated the fish to be seven and half feet long with a girth of 45 inches. We learned from Wilmington District marine biologist Chuck Wilson this was a bull shark. Have relived that special day shared with two extraordinary people thousands of times, each time just as dearly cherished as the first. That's my fish story and I'm stickin to it!"

We bid a fond farewell to Sarah Tingley...

who leaves Wilmington for her new assignment with the Charleston District as Budget Officer for the Resource Management Office.
Good luck, Sarah!



AFGE Local 406 hosted a luncheon 22 September 2005 for three long time members honoring them on their retirement. Each is an original member and has held an officer's position.

Gloria Harris

- Vice President
(Two 2-year terms)
- LMPC
- Participant in the original contract negotiations with Management

Ann Scott

- Sgt. Of Arms

Diane Greene

- President, 2000-2002
- LMPC

Reaching Out



Regulatory's Tom Farrell (left) casts his vote as an invited judge during the 7th Castles and Scoops Sand Castle Building contest at Wrightsville Beach. Sponsored by the Wilmington Children's Museum the event benefits children by providing them and their

families a rich learning environment to stimulate their imagination, curiosity and love of learning.

Phil Edge, Lockmaster at Huske Lock and Dam, helped provide shade and get water for 125 hot, tired horse riders during their third straight Black Trail Riders Event. Riders from as far away as Florida, New York and Tennessee participated. It's hosted annually by locals Beebe and Bryan Blackwell who let the riders camp at their farm for the weekend. Huske Lock is located at the end of a one-point-five mile long dead end road, so Lockmaster Phil Edge allows the riders to loop through the upper area of the project back out to the state road. Clean water for the horses is provided and the riders took advantage of the many shade trees to cool off in the steamy summer heat.

Triathlon Held at W. Kerr Scott Project

Bandit's Challenge Triathlon

By R.G. Absher

The annual Wilkes Family YMCA Bandit's Challenge Triathlon drew more than 200 participants recently and several hundred spectators held at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir on August 13.

During the two to four hour race, depending on finishing times of the participants, the race participants, participated in a three way competition including biking, running and swimming. The fastest overall time was completed by the race winner, Trent Clark of Charlotte, who finished the entire race course in 2 hours, 19 minutes and 52 seconds.

Proceeds from the Bandit's Challenge Triathlon contribute to programs such as Partnership for Youth Campaign, and for financial aid for youths needing assistance to participate in programs such as summer day camp through the YMCA locally.



Over 17 agencies participated and included the Corps of Engineers, the NC Wildlife Commission, the NC Highway Patrol, The Wilkes County Sheriff's Department, rescue agencies, volunteer

fire departments, and non-profit organizations. Life guards and spotting safety boats were stationed to assure a safe swimming event.

Department of the Army
US Army Engineer District
Wilmington Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 1890
Wilmington, NC 28402-1890

OFFICIAL BUSINESS