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wilmington District News

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Traffic on Fairfield the bridge is just months away

by Penny Schmitt



Epoxy-coated rebar shown at the edge of the bridge, will protect the structure from corrosion.
(Photo by Bud Davis)

Despite floods and the challenges of working at a remote site, Fairfield Bridge will likely open for traffic before its scheduled April, 2001 completion date. "At the current rate of progress, we anticipate that the bridge will be completed by December," said Resident Engineer Jim Mullins. "Our contractor is shooting for an even earlier date."

Steve Cross, site supervisor for Tidewater Construction, Inc., of Norfolk, Virginia, confirmed

that. "We want to wrap this project up as soon as we can," he said. "I am doubling the number of people on the job, and aiming to get done by fall." Asked if he was responding to any type of incentive in the contract, he said: "The incentive is to cut our overhead and our home office costs, and free our bonds so that we can bid on new work." Cross has increased the number of workers on site from 17 to 28, and will raise that number to 35 as the pace of laying deck materials and completing concrete pours accelerates.

It's hard to imagine that crew of fewer than 50 peo-

ple can be responsible for the impressive swath of steel and concrete towering over the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW). The 600-foot center span of the bridge hangs 65 feet above the waterway, and will afford free passage to boats and traffic. The entire structure is three-fourths of a mile long, dwarfing the original swing-span bridge that will continue to carry traffic until the new bridge opens.

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What's an Objective Organization?

Suppose that you were pretty sure that in three years, your most important task in life would be to create a garden . . . what might you do to prepare? Read up on perennials, learn about soils, get in shape for digging and weeding, clear the area you intend to plant, and hold off acquiring plants, materials and tools until the time is right to start work.

Creating an Objective Organization for the Wilmington District is like that. We take a careful look at what we think our missions will be next year, and two, three or five years from now. Then we decide what skills and strengths our organization should have, work toward being ready for the jobs we will have to do, and take action to hire new staff members as the planned missions become realities.

Eugene Tickner, the District's Deputy for Programs and Project Management, is the champion for our Year 2000 Annual Operations Plan goal to create an Objective

Organization out to the year 2005.

By the end of March, as Operations Plan milestones predicted, Tickner presented the Quality Steering Group with a hefty manual depicting the evolving district staffing plan out to the year 2005. Sarah Tingley had assembled the numerous wiring diagrams and proposed TDA documents for QSG review.

In a lively discussion that lasted from eight in the morning well into the afternoon, QSG members reviewed the Objective Organization planned for the year 2001. In the process, all learned more about how different parts of our organization work and what our staffing needs will be. The group quickly agreed to some proposed staffing changes, and decided to scrap others. They also identified issues requiring further study. The group plans to meet again in late April.

"It's a great characteristic of the Wilmington District that we hear from many people before we

reach a decision," said Tickner. "The meeting gave us a chance to share information about matters that varied from state-of-the-art hydrographic survey to the right mix of full-time and student positions or the best way to do project management in the district. I know I learned a lot during that meeting, and I think others did as well. I'm confident that we will emerge from this process with a plan that will help us to meet future missions very effectively."

Colonel Jim DeLony, District Commander, pointed out that our District was still to some degree a "legacy organization," following a period of Reductions in Force that recently concluded with a restructuring of the work force at our projects. "That's history," he said. "We have done our missions right, and we have taken care of people. Now we have a good opportunity to plan for a future of the right kind of positions and skills to meet a healthy and growing mission."

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Fairfield Bridge continued

(Continued from page 1)

“I’ve worked on four bridge projects,” Cross said. “I’ll tell you, this is a beautifully designed bridge. I would compare it to the Talmadge Bridge in Savannah for aesthetic quality. It has two horizontal curves and a vertical curve, and it’s massive, massive.”

The substructure is designed for longevity. “The North Carolina State Department of Transportation (NCDOT), the Corps’ customer for this project, can look forward to this durability, Mullins said. “The long process of building five new bridges over the AIWW was initiated to get the Corps of Engineers out of the bridge operation business. We currently operate and maintain this swing span bridge on a 24-hour a day basis year round, by contracting for the services. The bridge is in a remote area. It’s a challenge to keep this old equipment going. When we turn the new bridge over to the state, they will have a solid facility that minimizes the need for maintenance.”

Fairfield Bridge is the final structure in a 30-year process of replacing five federally-owned and operated bridges across the AIWW with structures that accommodate boats without stopping road traffic. All the new bridges were authorized under the River and Harbor Act of 1970. All have been turned over to the state of North Carolina on completion.

“The Fairfield Bridge is a jewel in the crown for Wilmington District,” said Director of Technical Services Ben Wood. “Since I recently arrived in the district, I can’t claim credit. But I can certainly testify that we have top quality design, engineering, and project management capabilities here in Wilmington—for bridges or any large vertical structure.”

Fairfield is the final project in the set of bridges, including the Wilkerson Creek, Coinjock, Walter B. Jones, and Hobucken Bridges. The Gene A. Potter bridge at Hobucken, completed by Wilmington District in 1997, won a design award from the Chief of Engineers in 1998.

The Wilmington District and Tidewater Construction, along with NCDOT, have worked in close partnership throughout the project, which began in March 1998. “We are working under a formal agreement, and we hold regular meetings to keep everyone informed of our progress and to resolve problems together expeditiously,” Mullins said. The Corps’ Resident Office and Tidewater’s construction office are housed side-by-side in trailers near the growing bridge. Mullins and Cross work together almost moment-by-moment to ensure the project stays on track.

Chris Frabotta, of Dames and Moore-NC, Inc., serves as Project Engineer, and adds his expertise as



The steel span of the new bridge soars over the old swing-span structure it will replace. (Photo by Bud Davis)

the project’s Quality Assurance contractor. “The job is going to accelerate from here out,” he said. “At the beginning, there were multiple tasks going on. Workers were driving piles, building detour roads, getting structural steel into place. Now the decking has begun, and the other activities have been completed, just about all of our efforts are focused.” Standing on the “first pour,” a 160-foot stretch of flawless concrete, Frabotta surveyed the second pour—still swaddled in plastic blankets to protect it during a week-long curing process. “The first and second pours have been about two weeks apart, and the third a month later due to temperature constraints. With the added manpower and equipment Tidewater is planning to bring on, they will double the pace, and we will accelerate the deck pours accordingly.

Swift work subtracts nothing from safety or quality, Mullins emphasized. Workers laying steel deck materials wear safety harnesses to secure them while they work on the high structure. “We constantly review and emphasize safety practices with Tidewater and the work force,” Mullins said. Materials in the bridge have been selected for high quality and in consultation with NCDOT. “The epoxy-coated rebar, for example, was chosen with NCDOT’s input,” Mullins said. “The material will resist the potential for corrosion from slightly brackish water of the waterway and wetlands around the bridge.”

“Top quality, ahead of schedule, and in budget—that’s what I want to be able to say when this is done,” said Tidewater’s Steve Cross. The Corps saw the award-winning Hobucken Bridge come in under budget and a year early. It’s not the impossible dream!

Kerr –

Buggs Island Safety Council Loans Life Jackets

By Kevin Salvilla

The idea of promoting safety on Kerr Lake (also known as Buggs Island Lake) to prevent accidents and deaths originated with the US Army Corps of Engineers in the 1970s. Local Corps officials at Kerr recognized the need for involvement well beyond the Corps of Engineers. The Kerr-Buggs Island Safety Council was formed when Corps members, local agencies, and the general public joined forces to promote safety on the lake. Participants over the years have included The Corps, local sheriff's departments, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, North Carolina and Virginia State Parks, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and rescue squads. Private citizens have been actively involved since the beginning of the council and represent a very important element of support.

The Life Jacket Loaner Program is modeled on a similar Vir-

ginia Game and Inland Fisheries program. The concept? Provide boaters with extra life jackets when Game Wardens find boaters in violation of vessel requirements. The boater is given a life jacket and instructed how to return it at any Corps of Engineers campground or day-use area on the lake.

The safety council proposed that the Corps adopt a similar loan program, but expand use of the life jacket loans to swimmers. The council accepted donations from community members and businesses, and implemented the program during the 1999 recreation season. The program was tested at the North Bend and Rudd's Creek Day-Use areas. Within the first month, the 24 available life jackets were loaned out more than 1,200 times!

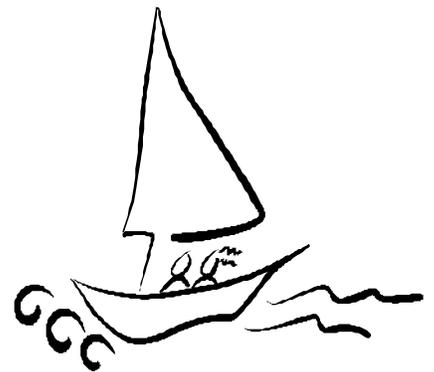
How does it work? The contract gate attendants at Corps day-use areas ask park patrons if they

will be swimming, and offer them a day-long free loan of a life jacket. Visitors who accept the loan are asked to fill out some basic information, and instructed how to return the life jacket when they leave the park. The life jackets come in various sizes, and all are US Coast Guard approved.

The 2000 recreation season holds great things for the Life Jacket Loaner Program and for visitors to John H. Kerr Reservoir. The Kerr-Buggs Island Safety Council, with donations from the Roanoke River Basin Association and through grants from BoatUS, will equip the Corps with life jackets to support a loan program at all the project's designated swimming areas. We hope to reach thousands of visitors and continue to strengthen our efforts to prevent drownings project-wide.

Falls Lake hosts boating course

In another effort to promote safety on the water, Falls Lake will host a public boating course to be taught by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 9-10. The auxiliary will teach three sessions of the course throughout the spring and summer months. Each session offers five evening classes. It's part of the Falls Lake vision to make the Corps facility an education resource and training center for the Lake's many recreational users. **For more information, contact Tom Freeman at (919) 846-9332.**



District Water Safety Team is a winner!

After just a year of increased effort, the Wilmington District's Water Safety Team is making a big impact on the public. "For a long time, each project worked hard to make water safety a priority," said team coordinator Paula Carper, "then we decided that we could do more if we pooled our efforts."

"More" is something of an understatement. In the past year, the team has staffed booths at the Virginia State Fair and a variety of North Carolina boat shows. The big highlight of their Corps Ranger-led information presentations is a brief ceremony to "swear in" kids as water safety rangers. "When those children raise their hand and swear to always obey their mom and dad and to always be safe on the water, you should see their big eyes!" Carper said. "Then our rangers present them with a shiny, metallic, stick on badge and they go home with a message I'm sure they won't forget," she added.

Recently, the team set up a booth at the Wilmington Azalea Festival, an event that draws thou-



sands of people to the Port City. "We handed out hundreds of water safety coloring books, swore in bunches of kids, and let people know about all our projects," said Kevin Salvilla, who worked with Heather Campbell on a windy Saturday during the festival.

The team also plans to increase its efforts and skill level at a Water Safety Forum to be held at W. Kerr Scott Lake in late May.

For their enthusiastic outreach, the team received a Regional Award from the National Water Safety Congress during their annual meeting in Las Vegas. They're all proud to have earned bonus points for the District's annual TEAM award—but they're prouder still that their efforts for safety are getting the word to hundreds of people across our District. Go TEAM!

2nd Quarter Safety Slogan:

"Safety seasons: Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall"

Submitted by **Rick Carroll** of the John H. Kerr Powerhouse. Submit your winning slogan to Bill Harris by June 16th and take a chance on winning a Corps carrying bag.

Manage risks to make work safer, Army trainers say

by Penny Schmitt

Wilmington District team members received several days of intensive training in Risk Management from the U.S. Army Safety Center at Fort Rucker. Although the course instructors were steeped in stories of mishaps with tracked vehicles, helicopters, and HEMTT transports, they emphasized that the worst safety hazards often center around the commonest activities. “Driving is the most hazardous activity for people on and off duty,” said George Greenauer, of the Center’s training staff.

Greenauer and his colleague Robert Brooks spoke to Wilmington District leadership about the imperatives that rule a good risk management program. “The Commander sets the standard,” they said. “And that standard must be enforced, or the reality is that there are NO standards at all.”

Emphasizing that there are no shortcuts to a safe work place, the two outlined the basics of risk management for some staff members, and delved into the specifics of implementation with technical staff. They explained that risk management is a cyclical, five-part process. It goes like this:

- *Identify hazards or hazardous components of common tasks*
- *Assess hazards. Consider the probability of a loss occurring and the severity of that potential loss.*

Identifying hazards is the first step, and requires input from team members who do the work being assessed. “It a long way from the front office to the line worker performing the task,” Greenauer said. The Commander must lead, with a strong emphasis on safety and a willingness to demand that workers avoid shortcuts and do the job the right way. However workers are the people who know the every day reality of the job, the risks that others might not notice, and the situations at the work site or equipment conditions

that others might not be aware of.

A good brainstorming session to identify hazards and assess the points of highest risk can be the key to safety. “The truth is, the causes of most accidents are in place and could be identified and addressed days or months ahead of the incident that injures or kills. Your aim must be to break the chain of events that leads to an accident.” He cited an incident in which all the participants but one knew of a road hazard on a bridge—that one person who wasn’t informed drove right off the bridge in the darkness. Thus, thinking along the whole path of a journey, or the move-by-move procedure of doing a job can be the key to identifying the danger point.

- *Make decisions by balancing the benefits against the risk. Eliminate unnecessary risks and reduce the magnitude of mission-essential risks by applying controls.*
- *Implement controls: Controls should be integrated into plans, SOPs and training.*
- *Supervise: Determine the effectiveness of risk controls by supervising and enforcing controls and standards.*

That’s just one step in an effective safety process. Deciding what to do to control hazards, and putting an implementation procedure in place are critical too. Those are the steps that ensure workers new to the situation understand the hazards, and workers who may not be careful to pay attention are held accountable. Evaluating the process and scrutinizing any incidents to find improvements for the work process give the organization a way to continuously improve and refine safety procedures.

Ladies lunch – *with impact!*

By Susan Dwyer

On Thursday, March 23, the Wilmington District members of the Federal Women's Program had a luncheon to celebrate Women in History Month. About 40 attended, including five TEAM members from the John H. Kerr Project office, and to the delight of everyone, six gentlemen joined: Blair Boyd, Jim Butler, Tom Corder (a FWP board member) and Lou Smith, as well as MAJ John Jacobs and MAJ G. Thatch Shepard.

Usually we celebrate Women in History month by talking about women in the Civil War or women

who were active in the Suffrage movement. This year, FWP board members came up with the idea of having a panel of our peers tell their own success stories. The five women who shared their career history were:

Sherry Bassili-Phillips: Sherry was born into a military family and married a military man. Her two sons are both on active duty. She began her military career by handing out boots and skivvies as a supply clerk. She paid attention and made the right choices for herself, including moves to jobs in Europe. Now she is a procurement analyst in the Contracting Division.

B.J. Suggs: B.J. has had a lot of careers, including law. She first studied Voice in Wichita, Kansas. Then she switched to a business major with an undergraduate degree in accounting, and went on to take a law degree and practiced law. She started working for the Corps at Omaha District, and later moved to the Millington, Tennessee Finance Center before coming to Wilmington. She took several steps to move up, beginning as a payroll clerk, then moving to accounting, and management analyst. Suggs believes in making good choices, too. "Nobody is going to manage your career but you!" she said.

Lisa Bordeaux: Lisa told of starting work as a cashier at a Scotchman convenience store. She was perfectly happy there, until her husband put it in her mind that she could do more. She enrolled at Cape Fear Community College and received her Associates Degree in Accounting. She then went on to Shaw



Ranger Sherry Storm, far right is cheered on by her colleagues from Kerr Lake, Joyce Taylor, Mary Wells, Rose Sullivan, Peggy Conner, Beth Huggins.

University and studied business management. She was hired as a student aide working in the Wilmington District Personnel Office. Since then she has moved on through the Logistics, Contracting, and Finance offices. "Your work ethic is better when you're excited. You're more productive," she said.

Sherry Storm: Sherry is now the Chief Ranger of Parks at the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir. "You've got to be your own cheerleader!" she said of her career. Sherry went to school at East Carolina University, and graduated with a degree in Biology in 1974. She began working as a naturalist for the North Carolina State Parks. "I like the uniform," she said. "I never have to decide what I'm going to wear to work!" Sherry has since traded her state ranger uniform for the Corps uniform.

Elaine Hayes: Elaine reports that she has been with the Corps for 26 years and one month "but who's counting?" She started out in the surveying department when all the other employees were men. "They were all good guys, and I've outlasted every one of them," she said. She arrived in the District as a student aide, and has since become a team leader in Navigation. "Learn everything you can, and that grade will come along," she advised.

The "ladies lunch" turned into an inspiring event as these five women we work with every day told us how a little determination can take you a long way—no matter what field you're in.

Eagle aspirant soars for Corps

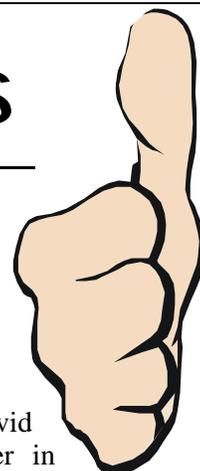
By Mike Large

Big achievements are built on some pretty humble tasks. In David Goodman’s case, the achievement is work toward his Eagle Scout Award as a member of Troop 93 in Pittsboro, North Carolina. The not-so-humble task was designing and building stands to hold trash receptacles at Jordan Lake.

Goodman came up with a simple, practical design, and worked with materials the Corps purchased to support his volunteer effort. Between January and

March this year, Goodman supervised volunteers and fellow scouters to build 50 stands at the project. The \$19.76 each stand cost was about half the price of a similar item purchased through GSA.

The Jordan Staff commends David Goodman for the organized manner in which he accomplished the project. His dedication to seeing the task through is greatly appreciated.



• **Gloria Jacobs-Price** congratulates her daughter, **Angela Michelle Jacobs**, who will graduate on May 13, 2000 from North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount with a B.S. in Computer Science and Business Administration.

• **Tom Freeman** thanks all who have been praying for and encouraging his son, who is now recovering well from a leg injury.

• **Susan Dwyer** is the happy grandmother of a new baby grandson, **Corey Evan**, born on Sunday, April 9th.

Speaking Out

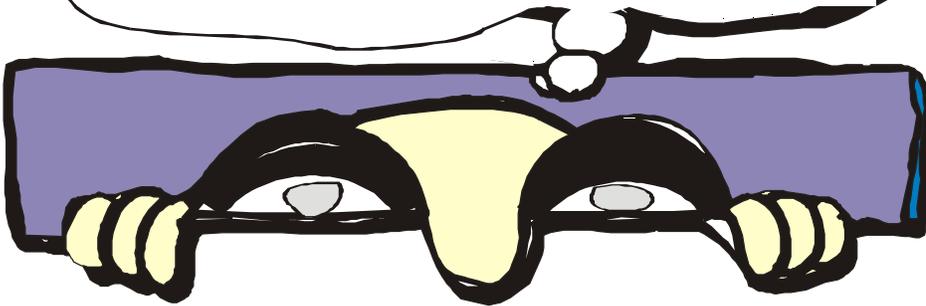
- **Tom Jarrett**—Tom presented a briefing called “Beach Renourishment Works!” at the “Briefings on the Beach” event held at Oak Island on April 8th.
- **Penny Schmitt & Robin Hall** – Assisted TV reporter and fish specialist Bill Hitchcock, as he filmed Sea Grant and State Fisheries scientists tag dozens and dozens of American White Shad traveling up the Cape Fear River to Spawn. The Shad run has been improving every season since new methods for locking the fish up river began to be used several years ago. Hitchcock’s show will air on

UNC TV in August, and may also be picked up by Time Warner Cable. Lock and Dam #1 on the Cape Fear was also featured in the Spring issue of **Coastwatch** magazine.

- **Ernie Jahnke**: Ernie spoke to the Environmental Law class at the Cape Fear Community College on the Corps’ regulatory program on April 19th.
- **Tom Corder**: Tom spoke about Corps activities in the Cape Fear to the General Electric Retirees Association on 20 April.

Brother Billy Is watching!

By Susan Dwyer



Maybe he's not "Big Brother," but Billy Lee, Wilmington's Chief of Security, is watching the District Office more thoroughly than ever before these days. Billy invites employees to visit and see how the new, state-of-the-art equipment works.

"Bring your own popcorn," he advises. That's if you want to watch the on-screen surveillance

of the District office. The system involves 9 CCTV cameras set up in and around the district office. They are monitored from Lee's office. The cameras survey the parking lots and entrances to the building. A new intrusion detection system has been installed in the main office. Motion detectors monitor the windows. The building has a new, codified, zoning

system. In case of a security breach, an alarm will sound and the security office will know what zone of the building has been breached. Mr. Lee will then notify the appropriate personnel.

The motor pool has a new electric gate. It opens with an electronic code, which will be given to TEAM members who need access to the motor pool. See Nancy Cox in the Logistics Management Office for information and instructions.

The warehouse has also been fitted with an intrusion detection system. To get into the warehouse on weekends or after hours, please contact Logistics or IM.

What's next on Billy Lee's agenda for making the District more secure: Our projects. Lee is on the lookout for your good ideas. So stop by with or without popcorn to see the system and share ideas for improved project security.

Graffiti brigade keeps Philpott clean

By Bill Maydian

When it gets to be thousands of years old, graffiti scrawled on cave walls can become an archaeological treasure. But present-day graffiti is too often an ugly nuisance that blights the beauty of our parks with demeaning messages, offensive images and the appearance of decay.

Philpott Lake, like other Corps projects nationwide, has been the repeated target of graffiti artists' felt tip markers and spray paint. During the first quarter of the current fiscal year, this kind of vandalism cost taxpayers four man-days and more than \$1,000 in ma-

terials and labor to remove. What can we do to stop it?

Members of the public can help by immediately reporting any incidents they see. The Corps can respond with security measures like extra illumination with floodlights and spotlights, visible use of surveillance cameras, and the presence of rangers, security guards or police. Publicity about arrests, and requirements that the offenders remove their work as a penalty are also effective deterrents.

The best remedy, however, is good maintenance. Graffiti left in place attracts more of the same.

Prompt removal of graffiti at times when no one can observe the hard work of scrubbing it away eventually discourages offenders. Yes, we hope that graffiti artists will come to respect public property. We hope that everyone will help to prevent this irritating and expensive form of vandalism. Meanwhile, our hats are off to maintenance staff members who work early and late to make the effects of graffiti invisible. They ensure our facilities present a clean, attractive face to the world.

District updates EEO training

By Penny Schmitt

This March, Wilmington District had some EEO training and ‘spring cleaning’ to sweep up outdated information and become familiar with the latest in Equal Employment Opportunity procedures. Irene Tackett, who provided the training, was a long-time Corps member at the Baltimore District. Her seasoned wisdom and experience of many cases were very helpful to training EEO Counselors and supervisory staff members.

Counselors emerged from their training with in-depth knowledge of the rules and procedures for handling complaints. Supervisors became well-acquainted with the rules, though unlike the EEO Counselors they didn’t have to pass a test. Instead, they were pre-tested with the same test given to EEO Counselors, and after a day of training and discussion, gained a healthy respect for the knowledge and effort required of our counselors.

The basics everyone should know? Unequal treatment in the work place based on race, religion, sex or gender, age, national origin, color, or physical or mental disability is a basis for an EEO complaint. Other types of complaints must be handled through the grievance system. A person who feels that he or she has been discriminated against because of one of the factors mentioned above, you must bring your complaint to the EEO office or an EEO Counselor within 45 days of the incident. Our EEO Counselors all have been trained to work with the complaint from that point onward.

The biggest change in the program, Tackett explained, is that the Alternative Dispute Resolution process is no longer a totally “in-house” process. Now a trained, certified neutral third party from outside our agency serves as the mediator. Fragmentation of the process and lengthy or multiple disputes arising from a single incident can now more easily be avoided.

In addition to the experience and wisdom Tackett offered the training participants, Wilmington district EEO Counselors had some words of wisdom that they felt were worth repeating for all our TEAM members.

COL Jim DeLony said: “These pointers are a reminder that we need to pay attention to how we treat people. We need to treat each other right—all the time. It counts all the time! These are great pointers that show how we can lead each other toward our best performance.”



Irene Tackett explains new EEO processes to District TEAM members.

Performance Standards:

- Have a planned, private, face-to-face session with each employee
- Mid-year reviews are not just a good idea—they’re required
- Ask employees for their input on their accomplishments
- Provide active guidance in developing Individual Development Plans

Communication:

- Always show respect
- Refrain from making sarcastic or belittling remarks about employees to or in front of others
- Listen! Be open to suggestions and constructive ideas whether you agree or not.
- Don’t divulge information or intentions prematurely—regarding awards, promotions or vacant positions
- Make sure discussions of a personal nature are conducted in privacy from other eyes AND ears

Accountability/Responsibility:

- Be aware of employee conduct and address inappropriate or annoying habits promptly
- Be aware of the whole person—not just the function that person performs
- Make sure employees are performing; don’t ignore unproductive behavior
- Apply rules uniformly

District TEAM members complete L.E.A.D. Training

By Susan Dwyer

The L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Education and Development) course is applicable to any job, in any field. Whether you're at an entry level position or in upper management, you can benefit from the course. The lessons apply to your personal life too.

Attendees leave their grade, status, or seniority at the door. Everyone is equal. The class adheres to a rule of anonymity. "Nothing said in this room leaves this room!" Billie Burnett said.

At the most recent week-long LEAD seminar, Billie Burnett and Richard Lewis served as facilitators. The students split into three groups and received a scenario involving a fictitious company. That's when the training began.

To be a good leader, you must first be a good communicator. Communication goes both ways. You must be able to get your point across, and you must be able to hear points made by others. The course included listening exercises, speaking exercises, team development and effective group element exercises.

Teamwork! This course doesn't work without it!



Richard Lewis (left) and Billie Burnett (right) flank LEAD course grads (from left) Daniel Brown, John Edge, Susan Dwyer, Eric Farr, Olivia Hall, Heather Campbell, Eddie Reese, Bill Harris, Stacy Samuelson, Mamie Anderson, Doug Ward, Scott Williams, David Strain, Tom Stevenson, John Snoddy and Glenda Ashford.

Each person, in each group, takes charge at some point. Trainees learn to motivate others, extract ideas, and geth your team thinking.

LEAD training teaches you how to organize, execute and share in the accomplishment that comes from developing a product. That product could be a bouquet of balloons . . . or enhanced self confidence!

RETIREE

NEWS



A fine group of 22 attended this month's luncheon. Those attending were: Gloria and Paul Woodbury, Kay and Buddy Johnson, Edith and Jim Vithalini, Dan Grimsley, Bettye and Bob Swart, Max Grimes, Virginia Uzzell, her sister Ida Mae and husband Roger Paulson, Sylvia and Rex Phillips, Joe Lewis, Bob Doetsch, Dick Higgins, Lawrence Crawley, Eric Matzke, Audrey Sanderson; and to our surprise (just kidding!) Penny Schmitt, current District PAO. It was great to have these guests with us and for Audrey to be able to schedule her visit from her home in Asheville to be with us.

There was a lot of chit-chat going around the tables, but the one I really picked up on was Joe Lewis's comments on the Census 2000 form, the long one, I mean. It seems that there were too many questions which Joe wasn't so sure he wanted to discuss with them. Yes, you guessed it, those questions were about money, if you know Joe. Bob and Bettye have been working with the Census since the end of February, and it looks like there will be some more activity very soon. Rex is even considering getting involved.

(Continued on page 12)

Retiree News continued

(Continued from page 11)

Speaking of Joe and his money, he was telling us that he and Mary Ann had received an invitation to the celebration of Bill Thomas's 50th wedding anniversary. It just so happened that this was the same day that he and Mary Ann were married. Mary Ann has never had such a lavish party for her anniversary. One would wonder if Mary Ann had even seen that invitation to the Thomas party.

Eric state that the first trip he and Betty made to Florida did not cover all of the fun sites; therefore, another trip was required to visit Universal Studios, Cypress Gardens, and Sea World. If they keep going down there they may be required to take up citizenship. Bettye and Bob will be attending the three-day

ministers retreat at Calabash as per the last several years.

Gloria Woodbury said that it is tough having the permanent student around the house all of the time, but it appears that she has acquired another troublemaker, a four month old Brittany Spaniel, which proceeded to chew the electrical cord from the vacuum cleaner. She threatened to make the pup go play in the street. Just a word of warning to Paul!

We learned that Pat Tyndall's mother had a heart attack last week but is doing well. We hope and pray that she will continue to improve.

All you retirees mark your calendars for the first Thursday of every month as the day to gather at Pier 20 for a very pleasant lunch and sharing time.

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT,
WILMINGTON
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