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wilmington District News

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District's 2001 Operations Plan sets new regional and local goals

By Penny Schmitt

The plan is accomplished, long live the plan! As well-tuned governments transition smoothly from one regime to the next, Wilmington District took up its year 2001 Operations Plan on the same day that the millenium plan reached successful closure (see article "District TEAM nails Y2K Operations Goals" below).

Willing to take on ever more challenging assignments, the Wilmington District Operations Planning Group has put forth a set of goals for the new year that will keep our TEAM members focused and hard at work.

Wilmington District is showing the courage to jump feet first into the new world of Regional Management – and beyond.

Again, we have balanced our objectives in accordance with US Army Engineers Headquarters' Balanced Scorecard initiative. Our four areas, as in last year's plan, include Capable Workforce, Managing Technology, Business Practices, and

Corporate Outreach. This year, though, there's a new intensity of focus on our customers.

We will also be adding several objectives this year that link us firmly to the South Atlantic Division Campaign Plan, which sets goals for Corporate Outreach, Capable Workforce, and Business Practices.

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District TEAM nails Y2K Operations Goals

By Penny Schmitt



You've heard it's hard to nail jello to the wall? Well, despite some objectives that refused to gel completely this year, the Wilmington District TEAM has nailed down another year of solid accomplishment.

The team secured 86 core points (85 core points were required to achieve the bonus) and racked up an impressive 18 points in extra credit. These added earnings came from three CAP projects beyond our projected goal, \$2 million in Support for Others, and one added General Investigation study. The District's leadership earned two extra points by completing visits to our field sites, and our superb team members won national recognition with two awards.

The final scorecard for the year? 104 points. "That's a high achievement when you realize that 93 points is the overall minimum required for a bonus award," said TQM manager B.J. Suggs. "The balance was delicate, because we only just exceeded the core minimum. On the other hand, the Dis-

trict's performance in the extra credit arena was outstanding."

"Several TEAM members pushed this plan over the top by working determinedly and burning lights in the building most of the night to bring projects to fruition," Suggs said. "We owe a lot to that spirit of determination and dedication!"

"This was not a 'gimme' Operations Plan," said Wayne Wright, Chief of Regulatory Division, at the year's final Quality Steering Group meeting. "We had to fight for the points." COL DeLony and Eugene Tickner agreed. "We saw some points slip away from us because of delays in moving our Wilmington Harbor Project contracts through to the solicitation process," Tickner said. "Some of that was out of our control, because we were forced to wait for approvals from other agencies."

Another factor in this year's close call was the TEAM's missed opportunity to win the 5 points for Safety performance. An 'amber' rating in contractor lost time inci-

dents kept us from hitting the mark, and though we received a 'green' rating for federal employee safety, that still wasn't enough to put those core points on our scoreboard. (See article entitled "The right attitude toward safety" on page 4).

COL DeLony urged District TEAM supervisors to move ahead with recruitments. "The effort required to pull through our 2001 Plan is going to be equally tough, if not more so," he said. "You NEED the staff we've put in our Objective Organization plan to carry through on our promises to ourselves. Take the time required to keep those recruitments moving through the system!"

The bottom line is great news for District TEAM members who participated in making this year's plan a success. We can hope to see a bonus award in our pay before the year is out.

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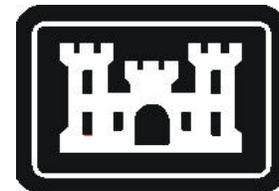
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Operations Plan new goals continued

(Continued from page 1)

Building on past success

Good ideas and successes from previous years are the foundation of the Year 2001 Operations plan. Three of our Capable Workforce objectives repeat and refine previous objectives. Again, we will build an Objective Organization Plan to cover our staffing needs for Fiscal Years 2002-2006. We will intensify our efforts to meet Corps safety targets, by implementing a risk management program. We will broaden our contacts with area colleges, and evaluate our Recruitment Strategy.

In the Managing Technology quadrant, we'll build on the spectacular achievement of the 2000 plan in the Geospatial Information Systems arena. Our GIS folks will undertake to link the three databases they built last year into an integrated corporate system, add real estate information to the database, expand the project database to include John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir, and add five new layers and data elements to our Regulatory database. More power to GIS!

What's consistent with past years in our Business Practices quadrant? Our 15-point execution objective stays right at the top of the list. There's nothing more important than accomplishing our baseline missions! We will also continue to aim for command targets in the Total Labor Multiplier, and document our business practice and process improvements.

In the Corporate Outreach corner of our scorecard, we will continue and refine our customer responsiveness through improved survey and follow up techniques. We also will stretch our Support for Others goal another 15 percent beyond the FY 1999 baseline, and seek approval for new General Investigation studies and Continuing Authorities Program project starts.

What's new in the plan?

If this sounds like the same old plan to you, think again! The District has consistently employed the Operations Plan as a strategic tool for conquering new territory—inside and outside our doors. This plan has some features that will renew our face to our customers, our Corps colleagues, and ourselves.

Like Dorothy, in the Wizard of Oz, we know that happiness and effectiveness can start in our own back yard. The new Capable Workforce Objective this year is to complete a new space utilization plan for the District Headquarters Office. "We have talked about this for several years—putting it in the plan guarantees that we will JUST DO IT!" We can all look forward to a better, more attractive and efficient workspace for that great objective organization—that's us!

Our ambitious technology folks are not only building more GIS capability, they also plan to revive the Information Mission Area Quality Management Board to steer our way as we identify, acquire, and implement the best in new technologies to support our work. The Information Management group has also agreed to update and expand the District Website to make it compatible with the attractive new configuration of the USACE website.

When it comes to Business Practices and Corporate Outreach, the Wilmington District is showing the courage to jump feet first into the new world of Regional Management—and beyond.

- *Our 8 Imperatives of Project Management implementation will expand to include workload management procedures that are being developed for all of South Atlantic Division.*

- *We put on the table a promise to share improved business practices with the Regional Management Board.*

- *We promised ourselves and our colleagues that we will investigate, define and develop a strategy to enhance our current and potential regional competencies.*

- *We are undertaking to equip all our TEAM members to do corporate outreach.*

- *We've signed up to promote SAD capabilities Corpswide and to other agencies in coordination with the Regional Management Board—and we set acquisition of new work for other Divisions and agencies as our measurable goals.*

Ambitious? You bet. But we have learned that we are a great TEAM, part of a great Corps universe of talent and capability. We think we can win this one too!

Approach safety with the right attitude!

By Bill Harris

Last year, Wilmington District's TEAM gathered no points for safety. No, it wasn't a disastrous year. In fact, government workers had a better safety record than our contract work force, and no one suffered a serious or life-threatening injury. But 'not bad' is not good enough. A few incidents are like a couple of cockroaches in the kitchen—a sign that many more are just around the corner in the shadows of what could be about to happen. How can we 'exterminate' opportunities for serious injuries and deaths? By maintaining a vigilant attitude toward safety issues at all times. We owe it to ourselves and to our colleagues to be aware!

Take safety seriously

- Avoid incidents that can cause fires, explosions or other dangers.
- Avoid incidents that cause job-related injuries
- Avoid exposure to hazardous substances that can lead to injury or illness
- Comply with our safety manual, OSHA and other safety and health regulations..Comply with ALL work rules, policies and procedures.

A positive attitude makes the most of corporate safety tools and training

When you take safety seriously, you take advantage of the protections made available to you while you're on the job. The safety procedures, equipment, and information we provide include:

- Engineering controls like ventilation
- Work procedures like lock-out / tagout and confined space entry
- Personal protective equipment like hard hats, protective eye-wear, and safety shoes.
- Emergency planning and response programs like alarms,

evacuation plans, and eyewash facilities.

- Safety information and safety data sheets (MSDS)
- Training on how to do your job safely.

Carelessness is the most common cause of workplace incidents

Unsafe acts are often a factor in injuries and other incidents. They result from attitudes we want you to stamp out!

- **Complacency:** After performing a job many times, you may believe you are experienced enough to skip safety procedures or steps. That is exactly when incidents happen!
- **Being upset or angry:** You can't let emotions interfere with correct job performance. Distractions can be fatal!
- **Fatigue:** Tiredness slows down your physical and mental reactions, causing your mind to wander. Always get plenty of rest.
- **Recklessness:** Taking chances with tools, machinery, chemicals or work procedures is dangerous and irresponsible. Do YOU know any reckless operators?

- **Being afraid to ask questions:** Training and work procedures sometimes cover too much ground for you to remember them the first or even the fifth time. ALWAYS ask when you are not sure what to do or how to do it. Be smart enough to know what you don't know.

Take a positive attitude toward safety

- Take personal responsibility for your own safety and that of your fellow TEAM members. The next time you admire yourself in the mirror, remember that you are LOOKING at the person most responsible for your safety.
- Pay attention to training.
- Follow every step in every job every time

- Know and follow all safety rules
- Use required protective personal equipment
- Give work your full attention
- Keep an eye out for hazards. Always ask yourself, and others, 'what could go wrong here?'

Conduct a risk assessment to identify what could go wrong in the tasks you plan to do.

- Put your emotions and problems aside when you are working. (This may be hard, but it's vital!)
- Urge your fellow TEAM members to follow safety rules. If you are a supervisor, insist on and enforce the rules!
- Know what to do in an emergency
- Ask questions about any procedure or precaution that isn't clear
- Report any safety hazards that you cannot fix
- Save fooling around for your personal time.

Look for opportunities to improve workplace safety

- Volunteer for safety committees. The District has a Safety Council
- Take an active role in safety meetings and training
- Propose safety improvements through the suggestion system
- Cooperate with safety inspections and monitoring
- Set an example for others with your GREAT safety attitude.

A positive safety attitude can prevent accidents, injuries, illnesses, and death. When you take safety and your responsibility seriously, you protect yourself and others from accidents on the job. *Essays!—and this year, let's earn those safety points!*

Team leadership, customer focus, are imperatives for Corps Project Managers

By Eugene Tickner

The Corps of Engineers follows the **Project Management Business Process (PMBP)**. It is the process we adopted in 1998 as a uniform approach to accomplishing our missions. **Eight imperatives** define the major tenets of the process. This article continues our series discussing the eight PMBP imperatives, and speaks specifically to imperatives number 3 and number 4.

Imperative # 3: The project manager is the team leader. The power of that simple statement comes from two givens. First it is given that an appropriate team of professionals has come together with a common purpose. Second it is given that the project manager leading that team has the interpersonal skills, managerial skills, and technical background necessary to lead effectively. Take away either of those two “givens” and we only have words.

The Engineer Inspector General (EIG) studied project delivery teams and teamwork. His report documented three types of teams at work in Corps’ Districts: *Teams in name only*, *Developing teams*, and *High performing teams*. Districts that provide an environment of strong corporate support to teamwork and close interaction among team members and team leaders also tend to deliver high performing teams.

Where you think we stand ?

The EIG found that in Districts with high performing project delivery teams, corporate support

came from the senior leaders who set the example by working as a leadership team, and who gave project delivery teams the “double edged sword” of empowerment and accountability.

Where you think we stand ? Are our project delivery teams made up of cooperating professionals led by competent project managers, all operating in a supportive corporate environment? What can we do better ?

What can we do better ?

Imperative number 4: The project manager is the primary point of contact with the customer. This imperative is easily illustrated with an example. Lately, Chuck Wilson is in touch with State and Federal environmental resource representatives discussing Dare County Beaches, seven days a week. He is doing an outstanding job as a cooperating environmental professional on the Dare County Beaches Project Delivery Team, a high performing team led by Sharon Haggett. Recognizing that Sharon is the team leader and the primary point of contact with the customer, Chuck keeps her informed of his discussions so she can ensure that no conflicts arise in project delivery.

Let me know what you think.

Simple! But does it work for you? Let me know what you think.

Stoplog closes the gap in Princeville Dike

*By Penny Schmitt,
photos by
Nancy Williams*

In the soon-to-be legendary flood following Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the Tar River swept over the top of Princeville Dike and inundated the historic black community—the first in the nation founded by freed slaves. The worst damage to the dike occurred at a low point where the CSX Railroad crosses the earthwork. Sandbaggers working against time had to abandon their efforts and flee last September as waters rose.

Starting in February, the US Army Corps of Engineers and our small business contractor, Lanier, Inc., repaired the dike to its original configuration. There's just one major change . . .

If another big flood should come, closing the railroad gap will be an easier task, thanks to a stoplog closure designed and incorporated into the dike. Instead of dozens of people furiously loading sandbags, a few strong arms can quickly move the structure from its nearby storage building and place it across the railroad within a short time—the initial practice run took just one hour.



A small concrete block building houses the stoplog structure.

These photos tell the story from start to finish.



The structure's parts can be loaded easily into a pickup truck



The stoplogs can be lifted into place by two men.



Workers bolt the structure securely into place.



James Mercer (*in vest*) Edgecombe County Emergency Manager, Bobby Hopkins (*white shirt*) Princeville Recovery Manager and Doug Greene (*far right*) Corps project manager, survey the completed structure.

TEAM work gives GILLETTE new life

By Luis Ramos

The Wilmington District survey vessel GILLETTE has a brand new heart and brains following a complete retrofit. The soul? Well that's the team who recreated her. Slated to be the lead district survey vessel serving the Wilmington Harbor deepening project, the GILLETTE has gone from well-worn work-horse to sophisticated lady.

How has she been transformed?

Careful planning began the comprehensive operation, carried out with attention to risk management and teamwork by district floating plant team members and contractors. The district arranged for CAT and Twin Disk companies to provide technical assistance, and contracted with a local machine shop to build new shaft couplings to match the transmission drive.

Under the direction of Ken Bailey, the project got under way about June 26th. First, the crew gutted the GILLETTE's engine room, pilot house control panel, steering and electrical systems. Once the engines and decking were removed, contractors came aboard to pressure clean the entire engine room.

Next, the new CAT generator had to be adapted to fit GILLETTE perfectly. Adapting, fabricating, welding, and grinding, contractors and crew designed and installed a new generator support foundation.

Under the direction of Eddie Reese, the able team of Wayne Sprye, William Westmoreland, Stephan Vithalani, and Dirk Swart designed and built a new 220 volt, 20 Kilowatt control panel. The switchboard includes gages, key-switch and interlocking switching gears—all Eddie Reese's innovative ideas.

He continued to install new wiring, and redesigned the pilothouse control panel, controls, steering systems, wipers and toilet. He replaced all 32-volt power supply



with 12 volt systems to supply power to the toilet, navigation systems, spotlights, general lighting, auto pilot, wipers, DC distribution systems, gages and LEDs. He also pulled out and replaced the 32-volt wiring harness and replaced it with a 24-volt system, plus new battery leads. That's not all! He installed a new disconnect for the existing boat launch and winch, and built new raceways to accommodate new cables. He fabricated plate and vibration dampers for the new twin disk control module.

With Wayne's help, he cut and installed a new midship engine control and replaced the engineer room's incandescent lighting with florescent lights.

Ken Bailey provided the leadership and directed the project from start to finish. His able team included Daryl Kruse, Keith Fearon and the GILLETTE crew, as well as Glenn Davis, a man who can weld anything except the crack of dawn.

Bailey redesigned and reinforced the main engine foundation, placing emphasis on the proper engine alignment and safety. He and Davies redesigned and manufactured

new engine mounting brackets to accommodate the new base configuration. Bailey also doubled as crane operator, and transported the new CAT generators to and from the machine shop many times for precise measurement.

When the foundation was complete, Ron McBride helped to position and correctly bolt and align the engines.

Thanks to the GILLETTE crew, the vessel's decking is hugely improved. Still more, the team installed a new improved water control exhaust on the engine exhaust systems. Last of all, electrical, fuel, hydraulic and flexible connections were completed.

Throughout the project, Penny Mahaffey, Ron McBride, and Bill Stahl gave the continuous administrative and logistical support that kept the team cooking.

After an August 25th test firing, the GILLETTE was taken out of her berth at Baker Marine and fitted with new props. As she headed to her home berth, we found that her speed had improved from 22 to 24 knots without vibration.

Great team! Great work! Great GILLETTE! *Sail on!*

Captain Joe Williams Retires

By Fred Lehman

Joe Williams, Master of the sidecasting Dredge **SCHWEIZER**, retired from the Wilmington District on September 1, 2000. "Captain Joe," as he was known aboard District vessels, began his US Army Corps of Engineers

career in 1979, as Assistant Master of the Dredge **CURRITUCK**, where he eventually rose to the position of Master. He also sailed twice as the Master of the Dredge **MERRITT** and spent 14 years as Master of the **SCHWEIZER**—the largest vessel of its type in the nation.

As master of the **SCHWEIZER**, Captain Williams kept Oregon Inlet and other inlets open and safe for commercial fishermen and recreational vessels. Oregon Inlet, the northernmost inlet on North Carolina's Outer Banks near the confluence of Pamlico, Roanoke and Croatan Sounds, is the largest and most treacherous ocean access on the East Coast. It is noted for dangerous currents of up to six knots, lethal shoals and extreme weather.

When he wasn't battling the opposing forces and geographic dynamics of Oregon Inlet, Captain Joe and the Dredge **SCHWEIZER** ranged as far as Cape May, New Jersey, Chincoteague, Virginia, and McClellansville, South Carolina to perform maintenance dredging.

Williams was raised on a farm near Newport in Carteret County, North Carolina, and began his seagoing career while still in his teens,



working on fishing trawlers in the Newport River. Enlisting in the U. S. Coast Guard in 1957, Seaman Joe Williams 'came up the hawsepipe' through the ranks, achieving the rate of Senior Chief Quartermaster (E-8), a navigation and shiphandling specialist, by the time retired in 1978.

While in the Coast Guard, Joe Williams served aboard various "weather cutters", from near-polar regions to the subtropical areas of the Atlantic. This hazardous duty was essential to the safety of transatlantic shipping and aircraft, to which the cutters provided weather data and sea condition information. Williams's 21-year Coast Guard career included some dramatic moments. During the Cuban Crisis, Joe patrolled nearby waters and witnessed the mass exodus of Cuban refugees to this country. In 1963, when the most severe earthquake and tidal wave ever to assault the United States shoreline hit Alaska, Williams was stationed as a Buoy Tender out of Ketchikan.

When Williams retired from the Coast Guard, he taught business mathematics and business law at East Carteret high School, until, in 1979, he came up the gangway

with his Merchant Marine Masters license and joined our District Dredging fleet. During a second 21 productive years as a US Army Corps of Engineers dredge Master, he developed many techniques unique to the sidecast dredge industry. Captain Joe was well known and highly regarded for his willingness to communicate and cooperate with the commercial fishing fleet, our customers. He is also known as a tactful, efficient dredgeboater, who always treated his customers and his crew fairly.

After his long, honorable seagoing career, Captain Joe Williams plans to make good use of his season tickets for the East Carolina home games, and his motor home sojourns to many football and basketball games around and about. He also looks forward to time spent with his family, which includes four grandchildren and two adult daughters, of whom one is an orthodontist's assistant in Washington, D.C. and the other is a teacher in the Carteret County school system. He also plans to take up the 'sport of kings,' golf.

Captain Joe Williams, "You Done Good." Enjoy your retirement to the fullest!

Hendrix: *Gone with the wind?*

By Nancy Williams

On 19 September District folks gathered to say good bye to Joel Hendrix, his wife Beth, and children Lois, Leanna, and Charlie. Joel accepted the position of Chief, Emergency Management Division in Honolulu District, Pacific Ocean Division. The move is a promotion.

Hendrix began his career in the Corps as Wilmington District's National Disaster Program Manager in 1988. On Bob Swart's 1993 retirement as Division Chief, Hendrix succeeded him. Since then he has overseen a revolution in the Corps' approach to emergency operations.

The primary focus of emergency response is now the Advanced Contracting Initiative (ACI). Wilmington District holds the emergency water mission for the South Atlantic Division, and for the nation on a rotational basis. Hendrix was instrumental in implementing this initiative, not only in Wilmington District and SAD but throughout the Corps. He has served as the Action Officer on the Wilmington District Water Planning and Response Team (PRT) since its inception, and is considered throughout the Corps of Engineers as the subject matter expert.

Hendrix has handled numerous disaster responses since becoming chief. These include Hurricanes Bertha, Fran, Bonnie, Georges, Dennis, Floyd and other close calls.



"Joel Hendrix, wife Beth and son Charlie enjoy Aloha party."

Honolulu District is headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. It may be the largest Corps District in surface area, reaching into all four hemispheres and split by both the equator and the international dateline. The area covering Hawaii, American Samoa, and Guam is several times the size of the Continental United States. The District not only has a national disaster mission, but a military contingency support mission. No doubt our own Joel Hendrix will again be a busy man!

This assignment is for three years with options to extend for two more years. We hope Joel will return to Wilmington District with even greater knowledge and expertise in disaster response!

A project management plan for every project:

PMBP imperative #5

By Glenn McIntosh

Have you ever been driving down the road towards your destination when you suddenly realized you were not certain of the route? What do you do? Most would stop and ask directions, or pull out the old road map.

This holds true for project development. We must know where we are going in order to get there, and thus we need a map—the Project Management Plan (PMP). The plan is a living document that guides the project delivery team in their development and execution of the project.

The project manager must pull together the various parts of the plan and compile the finished product. However, this document is developed by the Project Delivery TEAM, with emphasis on TEAM. The PMP includes narratives from each discipline describing how they will accomplish their parts of the project.

The plan includes discussions of resources, including manpower, Corps assets, contracts, and other government agencies. It describes what's needed to develop separate project products. The PMP includes several reports, including

- Expedited Reconnaissance Report
- Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement
- Planning Engineering and Design cost sharing agreement
- Plans and specifications
- Project cooperation agreement
- Construction contracts
- Operations and maintenance manuals.

The PMP also includes the project development schedule and estimated costs from reconnaissance through final turnover of the project to its sponsor.

George Kingsley, former District counsel

George M. Kingsley, District Counsel for the Baltimore District and former Attorney in the Wilmington District, died in June of melanoma. He was 55. Kingsley began his career with the Corps in Wilmington in 1974, and held positions in Winchester, Virginia and Saudi Arabia.

Born in Hicksville, New York, Kingsley earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University and his law degree from Duke University Law School.

In recognition of his distinguished career and for his dedicated service to community and church, Kingsley was awarded the Corps' Bert P. Pettinato Award for Pride in Public Service.

Most of his legal career focused on litigation and contract law. He tried high profile cases, and was also involved in activities that supported US forces in hazardous situations and while they conducted humanitarian operations. He volunteered for duty in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield, advised on contract support to the nation's humanitarian efforts in Somalia, and served as counsel to the Al Batin and Riyadh Districts.

In private life, Kingsley also devoted himself to public needs. He served on the vestry of his Episcopal parishes in Virginia and Maryland and coached YMCA basketball. In Winchester, he served as President of the Winchester Board for the Association of Retarded Citizens, on the board of United Way, President and Chairman of the Council on Alcoholism and Chairman of the Special Education Advisory Committee for Winchester City Schools.

Somehow, he also found time to participate in cycling, fishing, and photography and to enjoy a rich family life with his wife, Sally, and their three children, George, Stephen and Elizabeth. All who knew George when he was in Wilmington remember him as a person who gave his all to life. We regret that he had to leave us so soon.

RETIREE

NEWS



By Bob Swart

A small crowd of 17 gathered for this month's retiree luncheon. We were glad to see: Jean and Dan Grimsley, Bettye and Bob Swart, Edith and Jim Vithalani, Gloria and Paul Woodbury, Betty and Eric Matzke, Sylvia and Rex Phillips, Dick Higgins, Max Grimes, Louise and Maurice Ruddle, and Erma Ingram. Take note of the last three names on the list. It was great to have three folks from Philpott Reservoir with us this month. Maurice, for those who can't remember that far back, was the Philpott Reservoir Manager for a long time. Erma was the secretary in that office for 42 years. She went to the Philpott Project when the Corps was in the process of purchasing the property, before construction began!

Louise and Maurice have been traveling, going to Memphis to visit with their daughter Lisa and her husband David. Irma indicated that she has been frittering away her retirement with three trips to California to visit with her sisters, as well as several trips to Holden Beach. She spends her time reading and working crossword puzzles, saying that she is too old to do too much. Jean and Dan Grimsley went to Colorado in September seeing the Rockies (AWESOME!), Pikes Peak, and Air Force Academy while enjoying wonderful weather. Betty and Eric Matzke attended their niece's wedding in Denver, and also took a drive further west to Eagle, Colorado, to visit an old friend. One highlight of their trip was seeing a buffalo. They did not say whether it was out in the wild or in a zoo.

Jim Vithalani's trip to India is still on schedule, however, there has been a change in the plan. Since Edith hasn't been sworn in as a US citizen, Jim's son Eric will be going along. We certainly hoped those comments about Edith having to stay in India if she is not a sworn-in citizen affected her decision about going. Jim did state

some concern about an acceptable explanation to his family for not bringing her with him!

Paul Woodbury had some arthroscopic surgery on his knee in September and is doing well. It's hard to keep these college students from abusing themselves. He is still on the G.I. bill until November 30th. He is in the process of writing two books. Asked about his progress, the comment was 'the blockhead has writer's block.' Gloria said that he was doing enough on the books to keep up with his school assignments.

Our condolences and prayers go to Carol Danford and family. This goes both for the death of Jere on Tuesday, September 19th and of his mother Mrs. Ruby Danford, on Friday, October 6th.

For those of you who would like to get in touch, the addresses for Maurice and Irma are: Mr & Mrs Maurice Ruddle, 235 Dyer St., Bassett, VA 24055; Ms. Erma Ingram, P.O. Box 142, Bassett, VA 24055.

If YOU are in town, drop in on the luncheon some time. It would be great to see you. Our November lunch date is Thursday the 2nd!

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**Wilmington
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