# Wilmington District News

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# The Number Cruncher$

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US Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

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Volume 25, Number 2
February 2004

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***On the Cover:***
*On the cover: District economists Bob Finch and Rosemary Cohen gather economic data from Wrightsville Beach.*

*Commentary*

# What DO you people do?

When you work for an organization as big as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it's tempting to answer a question about what you do by just describing your job. After all, that's what you know the best. But how about reaching just a little bit beyond what you do, or what we do together in the Wilmington District, to pass on a little bit about what the Corps does in the nation and the world. Here are a few things you might want to share.

- The Corps is currently in more than 90 countries around the world, supporting our nation's interests abroad.
- We serve as the engineers for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Whenever needed, we provide emergency power, debris removal, ice, water and temporary housing after local, national or international disasters.
- We're assisting in restoring and repairing electrical infrastructure critical in providing electricity for all Iraqis.
- We're restoring Iraqi oil production capabilities with over 2.3 million barrels being produced each day – higher than pre-war levels. Iraq is exporting oil and has generated $7 billion in revenue for a Free Iraq since June.
- Captured Enemy Ammunition is being rounded up and destroyed – providing a safer environment for our Soldiers and the Iraqi civilians. As of February 10, 350,000 tons of captured enemy ammunition had been secured and protected from the hands of saboteurs and terrorists. Another 43,00 tons has been destroyed.
- Our environmental restoration efforts focus on restoring ecosystems that have been degraded by previous generations and controlling the potential damage that might occur from contemporary growth and development activities – just one small example is our own Wilmington District's award-winning project, the Island 13 Habitat Restoration in the Cape Fear River.
- As the nation's fourth largest provider of hydroelectric power, Corps' facilities supply power that keeps the economy running.

*– Penny Schmitt*

# *Ops Plan Update:*

## *Oregon Inlet Interagency Working Group Gets Under Way*

When the proposed project to stabilize Oregon Inlet with jetties was finally laid to rest last year by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), that didn't end the need to manage the lands and waters of the inlet. Oregon Inlet remains a primary navigation access for ocean bound and returning vessels in the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina and the surrounding region. The turbulent inlet still requires regular dredging to maintain a safe navigation channel, and the lands around the inlet still require careful management in accordance with their environmental sensitivity. In addition, the cooperating agencies have agreed to improve surveys and maintenance.

*A boat navigates a gauntlet of treacherous waves at Oregon Inlet.*

In response to the need for continued dredging and associated land management, representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and National Park Service (NPS), met in February to begin work on a long-term management plan for the federal navigation channel and the NPS and FWS lands adjacent to Oregon Inlet.

The Wilmington District is doubly pleased with this initiative, because it contributes to our own Operations Plan 2004 Objective 3.2 to develop a stakeholder partnership for the purpose of cooperatively developing alternative approaches for improving navigation in Oregon Inlet.

The agency partners aim to develop a management proposal that would result in multi-year permits to the USACE from the NPS and FWS. To date, coordination of special use permits has been required each time maintenance dredging impacted NPS land on the southern tip of Bodie Island and for the associated placement of dredged material on FWS lands. The group seeks to develop a proposal for managing the dredging and placement of dredged material that would provide for both safe navigation and protection of resources and public values of the seashore and refuge. The proposed management plan would establish standard operating procedures and adaptive management strategies to improve operational efficiencies and eliminate annual issuance of special use permits. The NPS and the FWS would continue to issue annual permits as needed until a new management proposal is finalized and implemented.

At the recent meeting, the four agencies discussed the scope of their activities and presented their legal and policy requirements as well as financial and operational considerations. The agency partners agreed it is essential to develop opportunities for public input and stakeholder involvement as planning progresses.

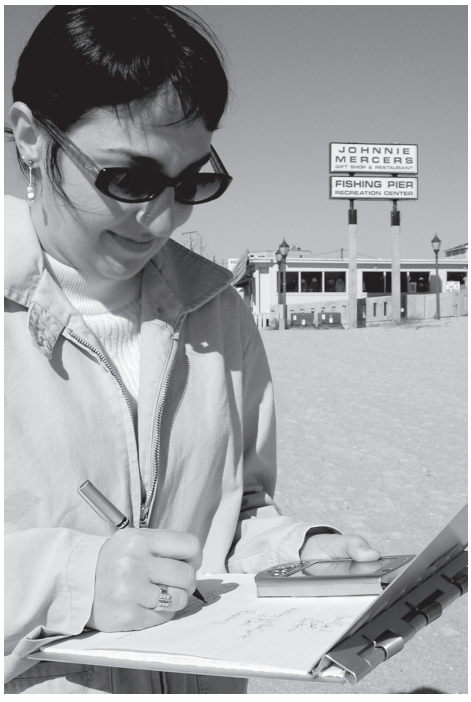
As part of the planning process, draft alternatives would be developed for the proposed management plan. These alternatives could include refinement of resource monitoring protocols, modifications to land management practices, and modified dredging techniques or schedules.

Since development of the management plan and the resulting operations are a major federal action significantly affecting the human environment, both the management proposal and permits would fall under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA requires that federal agencies develop alternatives and evaluate each one in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS process ensures full public input in the government decision process and a full evaluation of potential impacts that may result. The EIS will consider such potential impacts as those to commercial fishing vessels and boaters that use Oregon Inlet, visitors at the National Refuge and Seashore, and environmental and economic concerns.

# Corps Economists Look for the Big Picture

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTH CAROLINA SEA GRANT

*Rosemary Cohen surveys the amount of damage to this home at Cape Hatteras, a casualty of Hurricane Isabel.*




*At Wrightsville Beach Rosemary collects information on oceanfront structures.*

***Story by Hank Heusinkveld & Penny Schmitt • Photos by Hank Heusinkveld***

The rules seem simple. A US Army Corps of Engineer project is feasible if the benefits outweigh the costs. All you need is a good crystal ball and a few bookkeeping records from local sponsors, right?

Well, no. For Frank Reynolds, Bob Finch, Frank Snipes and Rosemary Cohen, a crystal ball and local claims of value are not an option. These practitioners of one of the more abstract and controversial Corps functions must use a variety of sophisticated methods to learn whether or not a project is economically feasible.

*Franks Snipes scours tax records of various properties in Onslow County to help formulate an overall economic model.*

"Because the Corps is a national agency we must look at things from a national perspective," says economist Frank Reynolds. "We can't justify a project that will merely shift income from one part of the nation to another. Instead, we must focus on projects that will actually gain income for the whole nation. It's a little more complex when you are trying to evaluate what a project will produce at that level."

A common misconception about the role of Corps economists is that they focus on local economic effects to formulate the overall project benefits. Project supporters often complain that the 'real benefits' of a project to the local tax base aren't counted, while project op-

ponents tend to believe that projects are justified on the benefits to a few local property owners or stakeholders.

Reynolds points out that what he and his colleagues do is quite the opposite of what both supporters and detractors think they ought to do or are doing, especially when it comes to costs and benefits associated with shore protection projects.

"We look at damages. That is, we assess what damages would be likely to occur without the protection a project affords. The cost-savings are actually the most important benefits of these projects. Why? The costs of a major storm are costs to the Nation. We don't focus as much on development potential or regional economic benefit."

Thus, the economists' major effort in assessing a shore protection project centers on understanding and accurately estimating what kind of damage a variety of storm conditions might cause.

Reynolds explains that economists use highly detailed methodologies to glean information for assessing damage.

"In cases like Hurricane Isabel we had data from Hatteras Island and other places where you had the storm come by, you had certain frequency of occurrence, physical parameters like so much barometric pressure, so much wind velocity at a certain angle at wave heights and storm surge. These cause physical damages, so we send out economists to look at what the financial costs are to fix the structural problems caused by these types of storms." They use specific records of repairs and costs from previous storms, and actually go out on the beaches and look at all the structures there to estimate potential damages. "This is literally a house-by-house, facility-by-facility assessment of what is there, what it's worth, and what it would cost to fix damages historically caused by different strengths of storms."

*By getting precise measurements of oceanfront homes economists are able to make more accurate analyses for potential projects.*

*Bob Finch surveys the distance of a dune and berm system between houses and the beach at Wrightsville Beach.*

To get to pinpoint figures that go in a model Reynolds says he and the other economists rely on detailed information from the folks in coastal hydrology.

"An economics model has to take into account that the damage are caused by a physical phenomenon.. Our coastal engineers figure out what the physics are, how much storm pushes how much water to move how much sand to cause how much erosion damage. Then we economists look at what the impacts of those storms are in terms of structural damage. What will it cost to fix the damage from a storm of that magnitude? So, using coastal model simulates the storm impacts."

Bob Finch, who earned masters degree in economics, says it's helpful to simply look at a project in business terms. At Wrightsville Beach, for example, he looks at the overall picture as a guideline: North Carolina is valuable to the Nation because of the number of people who flock to NC beaches (like Wrightsville) to spend money that generates a hefty tax base that reaches into the national economy. The Corps of Engineers can help protect the investment if the project can pass the litmus test of benefits versus costs.

"It's almost like a regular business decision and our business backgrounds give us the tools to do that with. So, basically we're answering the questions 'Is the project worth the investment.' Sand on beach here will protect houses through beach nourishment. We would take all of the characteristics of the buildings on the beach and put them into a model, predict the damages under various storm conditions and out pop economic feasibility indicators of varying degrees of protection."

Finch says if an area like Wrightsville Beach weren't protected it would cost the Nation even more money by having to pay costs associated with storm damage.

"If you don't do something to protect structures on the beach then they will be damaged, costing millions of dollars to the Nation because either the Nation, FEMA, insurance companies or landowner will have to pay."

Of course politicians, sponsors, and others often want to comment in favor of or against the economists' findings. However, Reynolds says he and his colleagues stick closely to the playbook, asking whether the proposed project will serve national economic development.

# *J.H. Kerr Worker Helps Iraq with Power System*

***By Robert Benning***
***Article Courtesy of The News Progress Newspaper, Mecklenburg County, VA***

BOYDTON - When most people think of the local members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, they think of the rangers they often see patrolling the John H. Kerr Reservoir area.

What they don't see are the Corps members who leave their local posts for overseas missions, including one that recently helped restore power generation throughout war-torn Iraq.

Before the war started, the Iraqi government was in the process of upgrading its 440-megawatt main power system with the assistance of contractors from China.

With the onset of hostilities, those contractors left the work unfinished, and power generation slowed as operators walked away from their jobs at power plants, and looters "took anything that wasn't tied down" in an effort to make money on the black market.

"When the war ended and the mission began to help restore and improve power generation, a call went out across the nation for volunteers," said John H. Kerr Power Plant Shift Operator Buck Kallam. "People from all over the country stepped forward - people experienced in power generation, hydroelectric power, rangers, contract specialists, and all sorts of people with related skills.

"Each man and woman had one thought in mind, to apply his or her particular talent and skill to the mission of positioning Iraq to achieve stable and consistent electricity on the national grid. They were volunteering to spend three months in Iraq on a crash project, sometimes under fire, and always under a ticking clock."

The Corps recently held a special program at the dam to honor Kallam for joining those efforts, and hear of his three-month experience in Iraq with 90 other Americans who comprised part of Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (RIE) under Brigadier General Steven R.

*Buck Kallam*

Hawkins and Colonel Todd Semonite.

A retired Army reservist, Kallam was experienced in the military lifestyle, and had little trouble adapting to a week-long training mission required before the power generation teams headed off to Iraq in September to join the task force.

That training included everything from field procedures, equipment use, first aid techniques and lectures on Iraqi culture.

Once there, the task force split and set up bases in several "Green Zones" or safe areas in different areas of Iraq, and got right to work evaluating damage.

"When we arrived, we learned that approximately 623 transmission line towers were down across the country, and 620 miles of 400kv and 123kv transmission lines were lying on the ground," Kallam explained. "About 100 had been brought down as a direct result of fighting during the war, but the remaining 500 had been knocked down by looters."

While it may seem hard to believe that looters would risk their lives doing such acts, the teams discovered that the looters were stealing copper and all sorts of equipment to sell on the black market.

In addition to downed transmission towers, officials found deteriorating generation stations, sabotaged substations and power plant operators that had literally "shut out the lights" and walked away from their jobs during the war.

"The power plant operators were very intelligent and were very capable of doing their jobs, the problem was that after the war started, they did not have the supplies and equipment they needed to keep plants operating," Kallam said. "There was little they could do but walk away.

"But once those operators left, looters took just about everything that wasn't nailed down - including equipment, doors, windows and anything else that could be sold for money."

It didn't take long for the task force to determine that several obstacles must be crossed to restore electric service to the country.

First the looters had to be dealt with, then necessary equipment needed to be located for power plant and transmission line repair, and an overall repair and equipment transportation plan needed to be developed to get full power back on line.

"The Army Captain in charge of our area decided to hire the looters to serve as security," Kallam said. "It may seem kind of strange to do something like that, but the few dollars a day those people were paid for that service, was more than they would make stealing parts and selling them on the black market."

After the looting problem was solved, the task force assessed the damage, and organized contractors and Iraqi citizens to begin repairing power stations and transmission lines, and locating and transferring needed equipment from neighboring Jordan and Kuwait.

According to Kallam, generators, parts, and transmission towers began to flow into Iraq by ship, plane and truck.

Convoys of over 100 trucks traveled constantly to Jordan, in an effort to bring even more supplies that had been sitting waiting for transport for years.

*– continued on back page*

# *Task Force RIE: Short Term, High Impact*

***Story and photo by Ed Evans, TAC***

During September 2003, a small number of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteers began their movement to Baghdad, Iraq, to be part of Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (TF RIE). That Task Force eventually grew to 90 members.

Each man and woman had one thought in mind, to apply his or her particular talent and skill to the mission of positioning Iraq to achieving stable and consistent electricity on the national grid. They were volunteering to spend three months in Iraq on a crash project, sometimes under fire, and always under a ticking clock.

The Task Force was commanded by Brigadier General (Promotable) Steven R. Hawkins, with Colonel Todd Semonite as his action-oriented Deputy. The General had been there twice before. First he was deployed from Dec 2002 to Apr 2003 for Iraqi Freedom under CENTCOM where he commanded Combined Joint Task Force-4, the forerunner of today's Combined Joint Task Force-7. Then from Apr - Jul 2003 he commanded Task Force Fajr.

Under BG(P) Hawkins, Task Force RIE took the 26 hardest projects and worked them so well that even as the team was headed out the door to go home in December, the Ministry of Electricity was asking for more. In the end, 55 went home on schedule, but 35 volunteered to remain behind to take on longer range projects, folding into the new Gulf Region Division that was stood up in Iraq on Feb. 25, 2004. At that point all Corps of Engineers missions in Iraq became part of the new Division. For all practical purposes, Task Force RIE completed its activities on Feb. 25th.

But before their initial arrival, each member went through a weeklong crash course at the Transatlantic Command in Winchester, Va., on field procedures, using satellite telephones, video equipment, first aid techniques, medical examinations, and a battery of vaccinations. They also received lectures on in-country procedures, Iraqi culture and customs, an Arabic language CD, and an issue of U.S. Army uniforms. For a few, it was their first time in the uniform of their country's armed forces. From there it was an intercontinental flight to Spain and finally Baghdad, Iraq, and on to the vital mission before them.

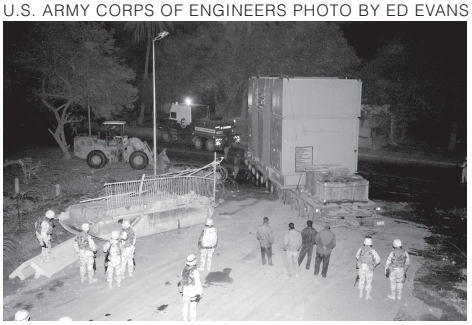
Task Force RIE was built with volunteers of specific skills such as mechanical, civil and electrical engineers; cost estimators, contractors, schedulers, and a wide range of support skills. They were operating as a "team within a team" asset of the U.S. Central Command, in response to the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) request for immediate Corps expertise in restoring electricity and launching capabilities to assist the Iraqis in rebuilding their country.

They were a short-term, high-impact task force charged with making it possible for Iraqis to restore specific areas of high-tension lines and power stations critical to long-term restoration of the nationwide electrical grid. What they were up against was 623 damaged or destroyed transmission towers and roughly 620 miles of 400KV and 132KV transmission lines lying on the ground that were needed to transmit power from deteriorating generation stations and substations to sabotaged distribution nodes.

It was into this mix the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent its very best with a "reach back" capability that brought to bear the latest wisdom and technology to a country that had been in technological limbo for the past 17 years. For every wheezing thermal transfer plant with eight generators sitting in various stages of disrepair, for every critical substation limping along so badly it was taking electricity from the grid, rather than adding it, for every generating station with a polyglot of French, Russian and American generators no longer working, the team members inspected, assessed, photographed, and brought in contractors with solutions.

But they had to hurry, for theirs was a short-term, high-impact mission. With a handle on the size and extent of the problem before them, their next task was to infuse the contractors with the same sense of emergency they were working under. In the same way the Corps performs emergency recovery efforts within the U.S. after a hurricane or a flood, TF RIE was working as a responsive team within a team employing specific skills to deal with highly unusual problems on a national scale.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO BY ED EVANS



*As the 198-ton generator and carrier roll off the bridge, at the other end its 220-ton turbine and carrier are beginning to cross the Tigris River in Baghdad, Jan. 26, 2003.*

Soon, from all over the world, generators, parts, transmission towers, electric lines began to flow to Iraq like it was a magnet. They came by ship and by plane, some civilian, some military transports. Convoys of trucks began to unload the vital materials needed, and crews went to work putting an electrical grid together that would provide reliable service to all of the people of Iraq.

Some of their accomplishments include:

- Installed telecommunications (internet) connectivity at eight critical command and control nodes throughout Iraq. For the first time, the Ministry of Electricity is sending reports and transmission/distribution information via e-mail, greatly improving their ability to manage their efforts and improve transmission and distribution of electricity.
- Provided 1,500 Power Police, complete with vehicles, weapons, and uniforms, to protect transmission lines and other electrical infrastructure from further looting and sabotage.

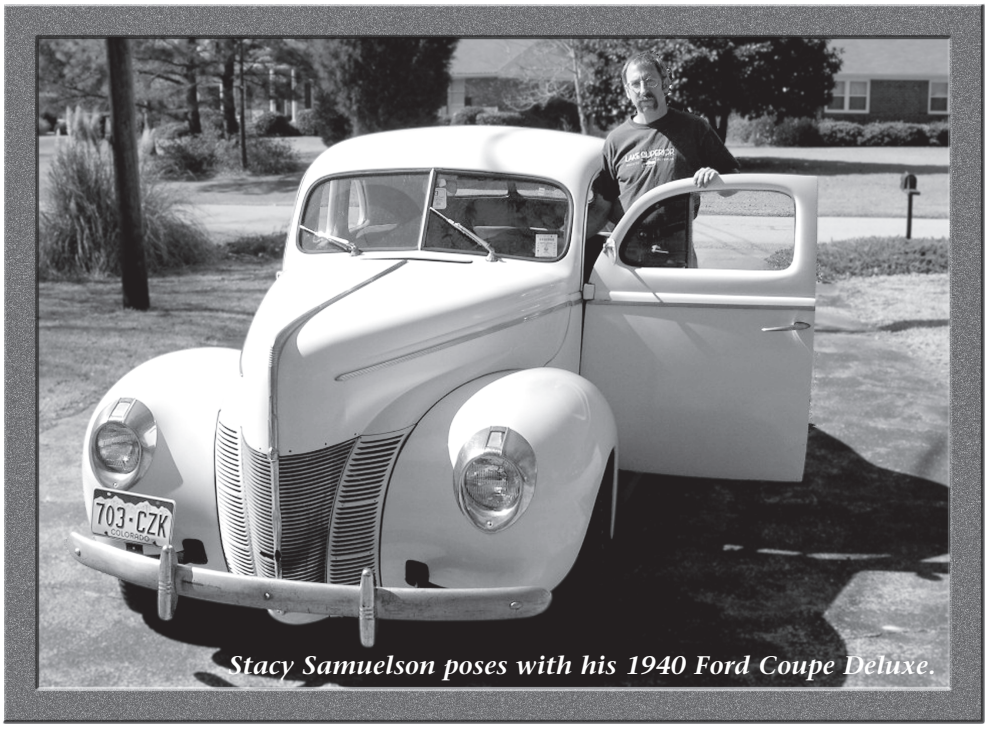
In the end, they achieved a great deal and then handed off the Iraqi electrical mission to the new Gulf Region Division (Provisional), which was activated in Iraq Feb. 25, 2004. Task Force RIE's mission had been met and was the genus of the new Electric Directorate in the Division. Proudly they said goodbye to those they served so well in the new, free country of Iraq, and flew back to say hello to the families and friends they left behind. The emergency over, they went back to work in their Districts all across the United States; important, integral members of a team that came together when their country called, and met the challenge.

# *Environmental's Stacy Samuelson, The Keeper of "Dad's Car"*

The 1940 Ford Coupe Deluxe sits most of the time in the garage continuing to age. However, it still has a fresh look, it still runs well despite a six volt battery that occasionally is uncooperative, and is dutifully cared for by a son who is determined to keep his father's legacy going.

Stacy Samuelson opens the hood of the car and takes a look at the oil and water. The engine, a flathead V8, is not the original, but it does the job. He casually observes the slight blemishes that are hardly noticeable to anyone else.

"There are some chrome and stainless pieces that I can replace," he says. "And there are some dings in some places where Dad dropped stuff on it where it chipped the paint."



*Stacy Samuelson poses with his 1940 Ford Coupe Deluxe.*

Samuelson inherited the car after his Dad passed away in Colorado five years ago. He had it shipped to Wilmington a few months later. His mother didn't want it because she never learned to drive a standard automobile. According to Samuelson, his Dad bought the car in 1955 when he left the Army. He and his new bride went on their honeymoon in the by then 15-year-old Ford, and it was used extensively for family trips and everyday use until newer cars came along. It soon became a part of the family, something to drive on the weekend or for special occasions. Decades later the legacy continues on the streets of Wilmington. For Samuelson it's a part of his own family history and a semi-living memorial. He considers it an honor to be its keeper and simply because it's a very unique car.

"I think because it was Dad's car and it's just fun to drive because people do notice it because it is so different. It's a lot of fun to cruise around in. People wave and give you a thumbs up, so it is fun to drive."

Samuelson knows enough of the basics of car care to keep it running

*A sleek hood ornament adds flare to the hood.*

*The unmistakable logo of Ford adorns the horn.*

and he's got access to information to keep up maintenance.

"I've got catalogues. There are a lot of antique Ford part suppliers that I can get virtually every part for. It's just pricey and they know you're going to pay for it so they gouge you pretty good."

When driving the car Samuelson says it's very comfortable. It's heavier than today's cars and takes a while to get rolling, but he says it's a smooth ride because of the excess weight. But sometimes that extra weight can make driving it bit frightful, especially in New Hanover County.

*This door handle could almost pass as sterling silverware.*

"It's scary with people running the lights and because it is a lot heavier than the newer cars it takes a little bit to get it going and stopping it. People tailgating is the worst thing. I had a guy on Market Street who wasn't paying any attention and he locked his brakes up behind me. I'll I heard behind me was a screech!"

Every so often Samuelson says people inquire about how much he would sell it for. In a random internet search a car like his could fetch between $10,000 for just the body and up to $40,000 fully restored. But it's not for sale.

"They have come up to me, but it's always, 'No thanks.' It has sentimental value because Dad had it for so long that it's definitely not for sale."

*Part of the appeal of older cars...an artistic speedometer.*

Owning a car like this makes Samuelson proud. Sometimes he'll see an old magazine advertisement or watch an old film with a car like his.

"Oh yeah, anything from the '40s on and through the '50s. In some of the older movies you'll see this type of car or comparable to it. It's neat to see it."

Samuelson says the car is in good or very good condition, according to values set by antique car dealers. Eventually he'll try to spruce it up with more chrome when he has the time and the money. But would his Dad be impressed by his efforts?

"He'd be glad I'm running it once and a while. If he were still alive he'd be driving it around once in a while, too!"

*Samuelson tinkers with the engine to keep it running smoothly.*

# *District Bids Farewell to Distinguished Engineer*

*On January 2nd the Wilmington District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers bid farewell to a scholar and a gentleman of the truest fashion, Mr. Eugene Tickner. With his retirement goes 43 years of not only engineering expertise, but exceptional people skills and a willingness to give his all for the Corps. Tickner briefly reflects on his distinguished career and takes a look at the Corps now and hopes for its future.*

**You got your start as a civil engineer in 1965 after a two-year hitch as a combat engineer officer in the Army. What was it like for you in the beginning?**

"There were the physical tools and then there were the intellectual tools as well. When I was going through the Citadel we had as part of our physics laboratory, we had the use of the slide rule and we had to become competent in use of the slide rule. When I was working for the Pine Bluff Resident Office on Lock and Dam 4 and 5 in Arkansas we actually used the old rotary calculators to do average end area methods of fill and cut. And when I got to New Orleans we were still using those types of desktop calculators."

**These days people have their own computers and take them for granted. What was it like when computers first started coming to the Corps?**

"It's been interesting to see the evolution of those kinds of tools. The first desktop computer we had was a Wang. You could run so many desktop units off the CPU, but I remember in structural design there were four desks pushed together against one wall and there were two desks pushed against the other wall and we had like 60 people in a bullpen, all structural engineers and technicians working in that environment. The two desks against the wall had one telephone in one slave unit, and the four desks against the wall had two telephones and two slave units. So, when the phone rang you handed it to your desk mate, or when he needed to do a calculation he used the Wang, so we shared phones and we shared this "new" desktop computer."

**There's a new generation of people who are changing the face of the Corps with fresh ideas. Will the Corps be in good hands when they take the helm?**

ODBERG PHOTO

*Eugene Tickner receives a tie from Col. Mark Held, South Atlantic Division Deputy Commander, during his retirement ceremony.*

"I had the good fortune to be in Iraq with some of them and they're just wonderful young people. They have a lot to learn, but they're so smart and they're so better educated than my peers were when we came to the job. I think the future of the Corps of Engineers is very secure."

**The Corps has moved very well into the environmental arena. Was it initially an easy move?**

"When the regulatory function was taken up by the Corps of Engineers it was forced on us and the Corps did not want it. When I went for my masters program (at the University of Washington) I was ostracized by the other students in the program, first because I was with the Corps of Engineers and second because I spoke slowly so therefore I must be ignorant, but mainly because I was with the Corps of Engineers. They were arch environmentalists. Eventually the Corps started hiring botanists, biologists, and there were lots of conflicts. People stopped bowling together, stopped drinking together because of these issues. They'd get in a quarrel in meetings! But things eventually started to smooth out and we're now fully committed to helping the environment."

**What've been the biggest lessons you've learned in your career?**

" The biggest lessons I've learned are not technical, they're more people things. I've found that the closer the individual is to the customer or stakeholder the more inclined that individual is to try to make things work, try to take advantage of a gray area of what they want. The further you get back into the office, back up to the division or the headquarters, the more inclined the individual is to go by the book and give the book solution, particularly in the instances where the individual responding is the champion for that thing. Something I've tried to do in the office is get people to lighten up and recognize that ultimately it's the stakeholder and not the printed page that we're trying to serve. It's a big balancing act and I always preferred, after I discovered this, to err on the side of the stakeholder and beg forgiveness instead of asking permission."

**What kind of advice do you have that will keep the Corps functioning at a high standard despite numerous obstacles?**

"The things that folks need to ensure is that we maintain the cadre of real excellence in the Corps of Engineers; people who know what they were doing, how to work with people, and no matter how small the number need to maintain that and not give up against the day when America wakes up and acknowledges the poor state of our infrastructure and is ready and willing to be dedicated to fixing it."

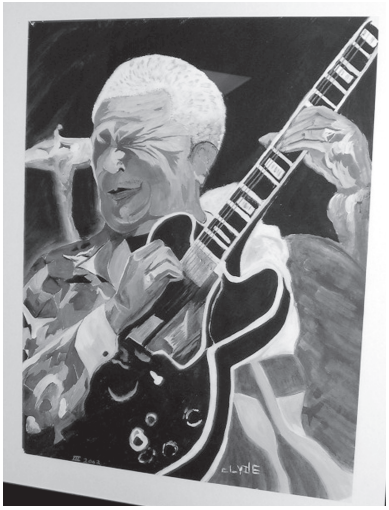
# *District Family Member Makes Canvas Come to Life*

***Story and photos by Hank Heusinkveld***

Clyde Hemingway always knew he had a hidden passion in himself.

The self-taught artist and husband of Regulatory's Thelma Hemmingway was born and raised in Whiteville, North Carolina. He began his career in high school by sketching various subjects. After graduating from high school he spent a year in Vietnam with the 26th Infantry Division as an infantryman and didn't sketch again for another year after that. Eventually he returned to his favorite passion that blossomed into a love affair of having a talented eye, a steady hand and an artistic nature.

*In his den at home Clyde adds paint to a sketch of a scene that reminded him of going to church with his mother.*



*Center- Blues great B.B. King by Claude Hemmingway.*

"Art is everywhere," he says matter of factly. "All you have to do is have the eye to see it, the ability to see the invisible. A lot of people see it, but they can't bring it back and put it on paper or canvas."

Fast-forwarding to 1999 Clyde found himself in Durham, a city rich with culture that he found intoxicating. He visited museums, art galleries and local exhibitions in city parks, anything to enrich and entice his slowly awakening natural talent. After a few years of soaking it all in with hundreds of sketches he decided the time was right to use paint. So, last year he bought an easel and awakened that part of himself which will never sleep again.

His art soon became noticed by friends and colleagues and he now dedicates all of his free time exploring, studying and simply enjoying his long love of putting thoughts and images on canvas. One of his best works that was recently displayed at a District Black History Month exhibition is of blues legend B.B. King. What makes the portrait striking is the facial expression of the blues man and the use of vibrant colors as accents.

"I like to use bright colors because they speak to you. I know it does for me. I let the people pull whatever they want from the painting, whether it makes them happy or sad, or whether it helps them think or relax."

Whether the good reviews he received from his exhibition served as a barometer for things to come is open to debate. Ultimately, Hemmingway hopes that he can profit from his works that highlight his love of nature, people and unique images.

*Carolyn Greer shares a laugh with Clyde (right) and his coworker, John Aikens.*

# *Educational Bookstore Open at W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir*

***By Jory Shepherd***

A new opportunity awaits reservoir visitors at the W. Kerr Scott Visitor Assistance Center located on Reservoir Road near the W. Kerr Scott Dam. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers formed an association with Eastern National early in 2003 to supply books and educational items for a bookstore at W. Kerr Scott Lake which opened last year on May 14. Engineer Regulations allow this type of association to help offset budget shortfalls.

Ranger Jory Shepherd said, "The purpose of the bookstore is to promote environmental education and to further the outreach goals of W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. In fact, a percentage of all sales are returned to the W. Kerr Scott Lake to be used toward environmental and interpretive activities. These returned funds would help offset the construction of an environmental education center to be located in the Visitor Assistance Center within the next five years. The sales for 2003 totaled $3558.60.

Visitors to the store will find a wide assortment of educational items to include maps, books, postcards, music, plant and animal guides, wildlife calls, rock/gem collection, handcrafted soap, educational games and toys and many other items. Map products include local trail guides, road maps and topographic maps.

> *"The purpose of the bookstore is to promote environmental education..."*

*Shepard with one of dozens of interesting books at the store.*

A very nice display item sold includes 2 ft x 3 ft. raised relief USGS topographic maps that cover areas from Winston Salem to the Tennessee line. Operations Manager Terry Ramsey said, "People love this item because the terrain and mountains just stand right up on the map." Also of interest are trail guides such the one covering trails in the nearby Pisgah National Forest.

Books were selected to cover a wide range of topics to include local history and outdoor interest such as campground guides, mountain heritage, revolutionary war military history, cookbooks, fishing books, and children's books. Nature guides are also popular and you can find nature guides to southeastern states, wildflowers, and birds. The best selling book for 2003 was the "Corps of Engineers Campground Guide" that listed campground features for all Corps campgrounds in the nation.

Unique items abound. A unique item for bird lovers is a hand held player that utilizes special cards that when inserted plays bird calls. Another unique item for the spring bird nest building season is a "bird wreath" filled stuffed with all kinds of goodies that birds use for nest building. When placed outside it allows birds to rob the wreath and utilize the items in their nest.

Please support the reservoir's efforts to return a portion of the sales to further outdoor education and outreach. Visit the Visitor Assistance Center any weekday and on weekends April - October. You can also find a mobile version of the bookstore each year set up at the W. Kerr Scott info booths located at Merlefest, Heritage Festival, and at the Brushy Mountain Apple Festival. Call Ranger Jory Shepherd for bookstore information at 336-921-3390. Bookstore items can be viewed on the W. Kerr Scott Website at http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wkscott/index.htm.

# *Mail Room Hoopster Delivers On, Off the Court*

***Story and Photo by Hank Heusinkveld***

Every day Mike Rivers diligently treks through the hallways of the District headquarters building delivering mail and urgent messages. But during his off time he heads to the court and delivers the ball to the hoop, earning him the same nickname of NBA great Karl "The Mailman" Malone, known to "always deliver."

However, Rivers didn't grow up playing basketball in the states. While stationed in the Army in Germany nearly 14 years ago he found he had too much time on his hands and decided to give the sport a try.

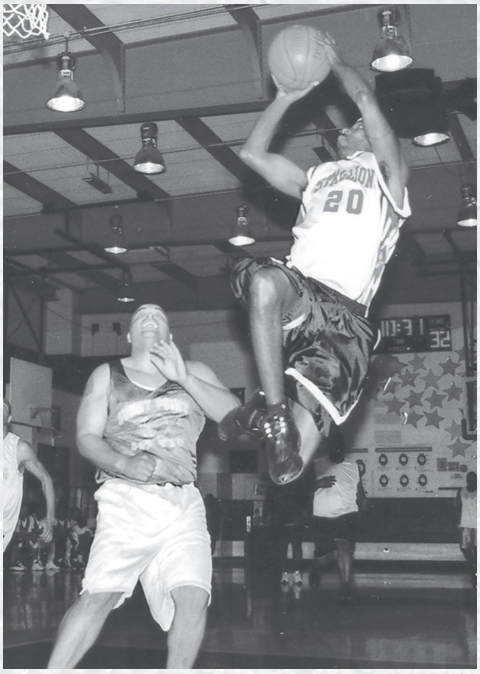
"Sports wise there wasn't a lot to do on base," he says, "so I picked up on the game in a total of about six years. I spent lots of hours playing by myself shootin' around. It was fun."

But Rivers decided he wanted to put his newly found skills to work. With just enough practical and cultural knowledge of the game, he joined an off base German basketball club. And that meant he had to adapt to the European way of playing basketball. In German rules each team is allowed one foreigner. He made the cut as the sole foreigner and was immediately a subject matter expert just for being an American. Rivers says that at the time soccer was Germany's sport of choice and basketball was looked at as a novelty sport.

"The team that I played on in the beginning, it was a little slow for me. But then after a while, because I was one of the better players and one of the fastest players, they started playing to my pace and therefore we had a much better team because we played a lot faster than the other teams did."

Again, because he was "the American" he was given the difficult assignments.

"I always had to guard the toughest guy on the opposing team because I knew the most. That's the way it was, put the American guy on the toughest opponent."



*Mike Rivers gets airborne for two in a game against Sunny Point.*

Rivers says those opponents were sometimes very tough. He says there were several players from the former Yugoslavia who held German passports and weren't considered foreigners.

"Yeah, they were great. We had a lot of them on our team. They're very good."

These days, Rivers plays the game with just as much enthusiasm as when he hit the court in Germany. Just recently he helped his Over 30 League come from an embarrassing second from the bottom regular season finish to winning five out of six games in the end of season tournament. He loves to play, but he also has his eyes on coaching. And he has some inside information about a group of players who actually like to listen to the coach.

"I really enjoy coaching, especially women. They're very easy to coach, they listen and they're very disciplined. Guys can do spectacular moves and all that, but women really listen and I have fun coaching them."

Chances are that you can find Rivers on a court in Wilmington just about any time. He admits he's slowing down a bit, but he still has the drive to keep up with the younger guys.

"I'm 35, but I play like I'm 25! Probably because of all of the German coffee over the years!"

## *In For the Kill ...*

PHOTO BY HANK HEUSINKVELD

*Dan Emerson nails one against Bill Dennis during a game of Wallyball at the local YMCA. The game is similar to the traditional volleyball except you can use the walls to help get the ball across the net into the opposing team's area.*

# WebsiteHighlights@janwutkowski.wdn

*Websites with huge searchable databases are included in this edition of Website Highlights. Find sites that help identify over 26,000 prescription drugs, offer 2900+ National Academy books (for free!), and browse an excellent site of over 16,000 delicious recipes. These are just a few of the sites you or your family can discover on the Internet. Speaking of that, did you know that Google now indexes over 3 billion (with a b!) webpages? And to come full circle, I've included a website that helps you navigate Google's enormous database.*

**The National Academies [pdf]**
***http://www.national-academies.org/***

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1863, the National Academies were designed to provide guidance to the United States government in the numerous fields of scientific endeavor. Over the past one hundred and forty years, the Academies expanded to include the National Research Council, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. First-time visitors will want to browse the news section on the homepage, which brings together important findings from the Academies, along with an area titled Science in the Headlines. Visitors will want to visit the National Academies Press area, where over 2900 books can be viewed (in their entirety) for free.

*** Drugs.com Adds PDR to Their Database**
***http://www.drugs.com***

Drugs.com has added the Physicians Desk Reference to their drugs database, with over 26,000 drugs and medications listed. From the front page you may browse alphabetically or search by keyword. Don't forget to check the other search options across the top of the Drugs.com homepage, including an interactions checker, pill identifier, and an image search.

**Virginia State Climatology Office [gif]**
***http://climate.virginia.edu/***

A constituent of the University of Virginia, the Virginia State Climatology Office provides information on the atmospheric environment and analyzes the effects weather and climate have on the economic and ecologic systems. Researchers can find information on how to obtain climate and weather data and can view meteorological maps as well as links to various radar and satellite images. Virginia residents will value the site for its forecasts and advisories.

***National Geographic: Stone Skipping Gets Scientific***
***http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/01/0107_040108_stoneskipping.html#ma***

This article in National Geographic tells us how and why the magic angle of 20 degrees allows for the most number of skips when skipping stones. How does the author know this? Well, a French scientist constructed a stone-skipping machine to find out the optimal speed, spin, and angle for the maximum number of bounces. Learn more about the physics of stone skipping in this article.

**Soople Offers Several Different Google Interfaces**
***http://www.soople.com/soople_int.php***

One good thing about Google is that they have a very simple interface, which keeps three billion pages from being too intimidating. On the other hand that simple interface disguises a lot of advanced searching options. Soople brings them to light with a nicely-done set of alternate interfaces. Soople does not offer its own search engine; instead it offers several different interfaces that take advantage of the Google search engine. Here you can search several different sites at once, search by filetypes specified by radio-button, do stock searches or image searches, and search for definitions. Use the links at the top of the page to find more in-depth search forms for calculators, a translator, phone number search.

## One For Fun!!

**Epicurious: The World's Greatest Recipe Collection [RealOne Player]**
***http://eat.epicurious.com/***

Produced by CondeNet, this collection of culinary delights contains an archive of over 16,000 recipes. The database may be searched through the use of keywords, or through a number of more elaborate specifications, such as looking for recipes that are kid-friendly, low-fat, or meatless. Visitors can create their own customized online recipe box, view a list of the most popular recipes, and look through a list of the newest recipes added to the site. One of the most helpful parts of the site is a collection of technique videos provided for the novice cook. View demonstration videos of such culinary skills as how to poach eggs properly, how to baste a turkey, and how to boil a lobster. A good resource for both experienced and beginning cooks.

***Have a website you'd like me to review for a future column? Send an email with a link to the site.***

# *Reaching Out*

**Ray Livermore** gave a presentation on January 20 at the City of Raleigh Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) Workshop. The workshop was hosted by the City of Raleigh Office of Planning. His presentation covered what the Corps is, the engineering services provided by the Corps, assistance the Corps provides for the Brownfields program, what responsibilities the Corps performs as the Site Manager, and what specific tasks the Corps performs as the Site Manager for a BCRLF non-time critical removal action.

**Michael Womack** spoke to the Kerr Lake Board of Realtors in Oxford, NC on Wednesday the 4th of February. He discussed Shoreline Management, boundary line, fee and easement property, lake levels, and overall Project Operations.

**Lillette Granade** was a guest speaker for UNCW's Environmental Law and Environmental Forensics classes on Jan. 27th. She spoke about the Regulatory Program and how it relates to the above. Granade also encourage students to volunteer and seek co-op positions with the Corps as well as other agencies and companies to help them get a leg up on other graduating students getting ready to enter the job world.

On 17 Jan 04, **Carol Banaitis** presented information to the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Greenways Advisory Board regarding Forest Ridge, an area at Falls Lake that Raleigh has proposed to sublease for a new city park. The presentation included an overview of existing recreation facilities at Falls as well as natural resource and existing use information about the Forest Ridge site.

On 8 January, B. Everett Jordan Lake Assistant Operations Manager **R. C. Duckson** presented a program about Jordan Lake and water safety to 50 members of the Sanford Kiwanis Club.

**Robert Finch** addressed the Carteret County Commissioner's at their 20 January 2004 meeting. The topic was an update on the Newport River Section 107 Study.

On 27 January, **Doug Piatkowski** spoke in an environmental science class at UNCW. He talked about the Corp's policies in beach nourishment, focusing on assessments of potential environmental impacts (ie. sea turtles), mitigation (Island 13), and Section 206 ecosystem restoration projects. The class contained about 40 junior and senior level college students. This is the second time he has given a presentation to this class and will plan on presenting again next semester.

**Terry Brown**, **Ashley Hatchell**, **Bobby Willis and Dan Emerson** traveled JH Kerr Reservoir to make a quarterly 'Face-to Face' meeting for the stakeholders in the Roanoke River Basin. These meetings are held to inform the stake holders/public of current operations, future weather conditions, project status and also a recent addition is to have a guest speaker/topic in regards to the project.

**Shane Jones** volunteered at MATHCOUNTS at UNCW on Feb 7th.

# *Corps Family News*

Kemp Burdette, a 2003 UNCW graduate and son of retiree **Wilkes Burdette**, received a Fulbright scholarship to study in Canada. He'll study maritime history at Memorial University, located near the port city of St. John's in Newfoundland. Burdette is the ninth UNCW student awarded the prestigious scholarship.

## – Retiree News –

Fourteen in attendance; Kay and Buddy Johnson, Sylvia and rex Phillips, Bettye and Bob Swart, Dan Grimelsy, Max Grimes, Eric Matzke, Doris and Ken Old, Ruth and Bob Edwards and Lawrence Crawley.

This being the first meeting at the newly established time, we had a nice group in attendance. Everyone seemed to be pleased with arrangements.

We were very happy to see that Ruth and Bob Edwards braved snowy weather as they came out of Southern pines to be with us. We hope that they will be able to make this a regular thing, but not to have to travel in snow, though.

Betty and Eric Matzke will be traveling to Florida on 1 March to spend a few days with old high school friends. During this spring break, Sylvia and Rex's granddaughter, Lauren, will be taking her first airplane ride to Disney World with her dad. Alice Lewis is presently at Britthaven, North Chase, going through some rehab following a hip break. She is doing very well.

*– continued from page 6*

Because the mission included plans to train Iraqi citizens and provide needed jobs, much of the work included Iraqi operators, engineers and civilians who were trained to assist in the overall operation and eventually take over all power generation systems.

Within months, 400 transmission towers were erected, and continue to be built at a rate of up to 10 per day, with transmission lines helping to stabilize the power grid in Baghdad and other areas of the country.

The task force continued to lead efforts on a magnitude of repairs at numerous power stations, and oversaw the start of construction on several new generation stations.

Part of that work included construction of water and fuel lines needed to operate those facilities.

While the task force's mission is now complete, and most of its members back in the states, ongoing work continues in Iraq under the newly formed Gulf Region Division and Iraq's Ministry of Electricity - who now "follow through" with the plans and construction strategy set up by task force volunteers.

Along with the power generation work, Kallam and task force members had a chance to see "all sides" of Iraq during their three-month stay.

With the U.S. Military utilizing Saddam Hussein's palaces and compounds for offices and bases, they saw first hand the incredible splendor of Hussein's properties.

Marble floors and ceilings graced bathrooms with gold fixtures and gold accented toilets. Gold chairs and chandeliers decorated halls and bedrooms, and painted murals covered main hall ceilings.

Without a doubt, those loyal to Hussein and his party lived in luxury, while the rest of the country lived in poverty.

During Thursday's program, Kallam showed pictures taken of Iraqi civilians living in grass and mud huts, and children running barefoot in the streets - right outside the wealthy neighborhoods.

Contrary to what some Americans may perceive from news reports, most Iraqi's welcome America's assistance, and work side by side with Americans every day.

On many occasions, task force members spoke with Iraqi's who voiced their hatred at Hussein and the former leadership that controlled the nation.

They also learned that prior to the war, Iraqi civilians who entered Hussein's loyalist areas were shot and killed.

Now, with the war behind them, Kallam said most Iraqi's are looking forward to a better way of life.

"Signs of that life are popping up everywhere in the country," he said. "Under Saddam's rule, no one was allowed to have satellite televisions. Now, you see them popping up on every house. We don't know where they are getting them from, but they are getting them and other things that used to be forbidden."

Of the unwelcome sights seen, Kallam pointed out that a task force parking lot in a safe zone was mortared one night, and several vehicles were destroyed, luckily no one was injured.

All in all, Kallam said that the trip was an incredibly rewarding journey, and that he and other task force members were proud to have served the United States during the restoration efforts.

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**US Army Engineer District**
**Wilmington Corps of Engineers**
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