



US Army Corps  
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Tulsa District

# TULSA

## DISTRICT RECORD

December 1996  
Vol. 19, No. 12

## Runway Project a Runaway Partnering Success

Article by Peggy Massey  
Central Oklahoma Area Office

Photos courtesy of Sverdrup Civil Inc.



Sverdrup Civil Inc., workers installing new box culvert to accommodate water drainage on the northwest area of the Runway extension construction site at Tinker Air Force Base.



T.J. Campbell Construction Company employees performing excavation for storm drain piping as a part of the foundation and dirtwork required for the extension of the runway.

“**T**HE CROSSWIND RUNWAY PROJECT AT TINKER AIR FORCE BASE has been one of the best large construction projects that I’ve seen in my 28-year career. Though there were many opportunities for schedule slips which would have impacted vital flying missions, virtually every key milestone was hit dead center – a tribute to our pavement engineers, the Corps of Engineers, airfield management, Sverdrup Civil Inc. and their paving contractor, T. J. Campbell.” Those were the words of Col. Robert L. Bartlow, commander of the 72nd Civil Engineering Group at Tinker Air Force Base.

It’s true – the planes flew, flight schedules were met, a change of command bringing in brass from north, south, east and west went off without a hitch and the Stealth bomber even paid a visit. But, construction workers on the Crosswind Runway at Tinker Air Force Base kept right on schedule, with no lost-time accidents and in spite of record rainfall during the month of August. The project replaced the intersection of the Crosswind and Main Runways at Tinker, and widened and extended the Crosswind Runway.

Tinker has heavy aircraft traffic because of its mission and central location in the United States. It is an important stopping point for aircraft coming in for maintenance and refueling from west to east or north to south. The contractor and the Corps had to keep that primary mission in mind. While execution of the project was done without a glitch, John Russell, Tinker airfield manager, attributed the success at maintaining flight

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**Colonel's  
Corner**



Col. Timothy Sanford  
District Engineer

# District Pride

**F**ISCAL YEAR '97 IS OFF TO A FAST START! I am proud to see tremendous efforts across the district to meet the goals we have set for ourselves in serving customers and improving our business processes. You are aggressively attacking project execution. We also have numerous new efforts in progress such as Operation and Maintenance initiatives to stretch our resources further, a marketing campaign to build and sustain a viable workload for the district and the Corps, installation support initiatives to improve how we interact with and support our military customers, and improvements to help us take full advantage of technology.

These efforts are in perfect synch with the direction our new Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Ballard, is moving the Corps. He is focussed on improving our delivery of support to customers in every area of mission execution and in taking full advantage of all Corps resources to accomplish this support. You are leading the way in FY97. Keep up the great work!

I know you will do this by what I see and experience every day of the year. Every day, and everywhere I go in the district, I see superb mission execution. At the end of November, I spent a day at the Truscott Lake Project and was reminded of why I am so proud to be your district engineer. I saw performance that is reflective of the entire district. I saw a team of professionals who had many challenges but faced each of them with innovation, selflessness and dedication to excellence. Their pride was evident in the way they dealt with customers, in the condition of their equipment and facilities, and in the enthusiasm they reflected in their voices and smiles. I see this same spirit throughout the district. **You are the District's credentials!! Thank you for representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers so professionally in all you do.**

On the Dec. 18, I will conduct a town hall meeting and our traditional Holiday Update. In conjunction with this briefing, we

will distribute a document titled "Tulsa District, FY96 in Review." Public Affairs Office is working with each division and office to capture the many, many successes of the past fiscal year so that we can celebrate and build on them. I am anxious for you to see and appreciate what you and your fellow team members throughout the District accomplished last year. **You set and met high standards!**

*Helen and I wish you and your families a safe and wonderful holiday season.*



Everyone should be extremely proud of the district's final Combined Federal Campaign contribution of \$69,500!! I thank you for your generosity, but more importantly, many less fortunate Americans thank you. **Ed Rossman, Pam Shelton and Burgin Towe** deserve a great round of applause for their tremendous efforts in administering this year's campaign.

Our project offices at Fort Gibson, Hugo and Canton Lakes have sponsored special deer hunts for handicapped hunters this fall. These have been outstanding events which greatly benefited the hunters and the communities involved. I commend all who have been involved in these hunts for your selfless, caring service.

On Nov. 19, EPA Region VI celebrated the completion of clean-up at the Southern Shipbuilding Superfund site at Sidell, La. This site was cleaned up in a mere 18 months following its listing on the National Priority List (8 to 12 years is the norm!). This success was a direct result of a superb team effort by the New Orleans and Tulsa Districts. Many members of the district contributed, but none more than **John Weatherly and Ramona Wagner**. Well done!

Installation of the new telephone system in the district headquarters building has been a major challenge, with the expected growing pains. The operation, however, was very well organized and orchestrated. We all owe a great deal to the dedication and commitment of **Marc Masnor** and his team. Thanks for a super job!

Col. Jim Hickey, district engineer, Far East District, had tremendous praise for the support **Woody Bargar** is giving his district as a stand-in resident engineer. Col. Hickey was extremely complimentary of Woody's customer support focus. Thanks for a great job representing the Corps and the Tulsa District, Woody!

I also want to commend **Lanny Pricer** for an outstanding job supporting U.S. Forces in Bosnia as part of the USACE CREST Team. By the time you read this, Lanny should be home from his deployment. Well done, Lanny!

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**Tulsa District Record: Contributions of articles, graphics and photographs are encouraged. All manuscripts are subject to editing and rewriting.**

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## Fry Creeks Project Begins

# Dignitaries Dig Dirt

**Editor's note:** Most information for this article was taken from an article which appeared in the *Tulsa World* Nov. 1, "Fry Creek Projects to Begin," written by P. J. Lassek.

**C**ONSTRUCTION ON THE LONG-AWAITED \$14 MILLION FRY CREEKS PROJECT in Bixby, Okla., should begin this month, officials announced during a groundbreaking ceremony held on Oct. 31. Completion is expected within three years.

The groundbreaking was attended by federal, county and city officials including Rep. Steve Largent, Sen. Don Nickles, Bixby Mayor Joe Williams and Col. Timothy Sanford.

Tulsa District began studying the Fry Creek drainage basins in 1970 as a local flood project, but Bixby could not afford it. Following the 1974 flood, the district began studying it as a federal flood control project. It will be funded 70 percent by federal money, with the remaining cost split among Bixby, Tulsa and Tulsa County.

"This will make Bixby a better place to live," said Col. Timothy Sanford at the ceremony. "This will not only reduce flooding, but insurance costs."

The project will enlarge and realign 4.3 miles of the Fry Creek channels, diverting drainage directly into the Arkansas River instead of first dumping it into Haikey Creek and its tributary.

"We out here know all too well about flooding," said, Joe Williams, Bixby mayor. "Flood waters destroy homes, furnishings, landscaping, crops and gardens, but even worse, those waters will destroy your peace of mind. At the sight of rain, you wonder if you're going to flood this time."

The contractor, Sherwood Construction Inc. of Catoosa, Okla., plans to start moving dirt in January. More than 2.2 million cubic yards of dirt will be excavated with this project.



**U.S. Representative Steve Largent, Senator Don Nickles and Col. Timothy Sanford prepare for the groundbreaking of the long-awaited Fry Creeks Project in Bixby, Okla. Construction is scheduled to begin this month.**

## LEADing the Way

**Russell Holeman, LEAD Instructor**

**R**IDING A BICYCLE, they say, is simple; once you learn how, you never forget. The same cannot be said of management skills. Too often, the tools crucial for successful leadership become rusty when underused. The Tulsa District has developed its own solution to this problem by offering a Leadership Education and Development refresher course.

This course, developed by a district LEAD facilitator, emphasizes the key aspects of the original LEAD course, including communication, values, counseling and conflict management. The two-day session provides managers an opportunity to re-evaluate their approach to their work's never-ending challenges.

The first session was held in October, and 18 individuals participated. Response was positive, and a second session is planned for next spring, with future classes to follow.

The LEAD refresher course has been tailored for use by the Corps of Engineers, and has been reviewed and accepted by the Civilian Leadership Training Division at Fort Leavenworth. Facilitators who would like to consider this course for use at their



**Members of a LEAD Refresher Training team work together in a problem solving exercise during their two-day training. Team members include (clockwise from left): John Anthony, Texoma Project office; Jim Harris, Operations Division; Barbara Cravens, Public Affairs Office; Jim Fry, El Dorado Lake Office; Marie Buster, Hydrology & Hydraulics Branch; and Christine Roye, Resource Management Office. In this particular exercise, team members were prohibited from writing or talking as they attempted to solve the problem.**

district can get the Facilitator's Handbook from Russell Holeman (E-Mail: [Russell.K.Holeman@usace.army.mil](mailto:Russell.K.Holeman@usace.army.mil)) at Tulsa District.



**Racing against time as the storm clouds gather, the T.J. Campbell Construction Company crew places concrete for Tinker Air Force Base Runway 12/30 and Taxiway E intersection.**

## . . . Runway

from page 1

schedules to keeping the operators in the loop, giving them plenty of lead time to prepare for the down times.

The project was critical to Tinker, and needed to be started quickly. The base was one of the installations under review by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and the runway project would be a major factor in the analysis. To be considered a fully operational air field for the purposes of Air Force operations, two complete runways must exist. With the extension of the Crosswind Runway, Tinker would have that distinction and the capability of receiving any aircraft flying today, including the space shuttle.

The short time to get the project designed and constructed dictated the need for a design-build contract. The critical nature of the project and its tight time schedule made it a perfect partnering candidate. At monthly meetings, all stakeholders in the project identified their unique requirements and concerns. Methods and management systems were established.

Design approval meetings were held at Tinker AFB so field problems could be addressed and investigated during this phase. Bob McCollum, Tulsa District's project manager, spent from September 1995 to January 1996 at Central Oklahoma Area Office. He said, "This project shows what can be accomplished with partnering on a fast track when the team players are working hard to resolve the issues as they arise."

Partnering made it possible to meet the first phase of construction and to start the northwest extension area on the double box culvert – critical to the runway's drainage – before all of the design was completed. The schedule to complete the extension was extremely tight, and there were many areas that could cause failure. Partnering met this challenge.

Jim Fulk, Sverdrup senior project manager, noted the benefits of the partnering effort. "To design and build a runway extension and upgrade project on an active airfield and maintain the

excellent safety record and schedule results speaks highly for the partnering team coordination efforts," he said.

And Tinker is a very active airfield. The AWAC and Navy TACCOMO wings are permanently based there, and planes arrive from all directions for repairs and upgrades. Partial and emergency landing facilities had to be maintained at all times during construction. The contract was phased so that the northwest extension of the Crosswind Runway would be completed to provide emergency landing capabilities during the reconstruction of the intersection of the Crosswind and Main Runways.

The rebuilding of the intersection was a critical component in the construction process. In order to keep the business of Tinker on track, there had to be close coordination of several organizations. Arrangements had to be made to park the AWAC and TACCOMO aircraft at alternate locations and to provide security for them. Landings of aircraft arriving for maintenance needed to be phased to maintain an orderly flow for the Tinker maintenance workforce.

There was also the need to replace the entire intersection on the runway in lieu of just half, as originally planned in the contract. This was necessary because the future repair of the Main Runway would necessitate closing down the air field for a second time in two years. So a modification to the contract was issued to replace 500 feet of the full width of the intersection with 12 inches of concrete paving. This created the problem of doubling the concrete placement without increasing the time allowed.

"The intersection outage was the most risky part of the project," Rex Huffman, Sverdrup vice president and manager of construction operations, said. "Coordination among the Corps of Engineers, Air Force, Sverdrup and all its subcontractors was essential; it was a real pleasure to see the entire team perform so flawlessly," he added.

The restrictions and cost to the government dictated that the runway could be closed for a maximum of 30 days. The cost for every additional day of closure would be \$93,000.00 per day. Because of the cost of moving the aircraft out and paying for parking space, it was crucial that the move be coordinated months in advance and that the contractor execute the construction of the intersection starting on August 1, and complete the work the last of August 1996. Also, before the intersection could



**Campbell crew at work – concrete finishing on a runway lane placement for the Tinker Air Force Base Runway extension.**

be closed for demolition, the extension had to be completed so aircraft emergency landings could take place.

To coordinate the intersection, a scheduling meeting was held in which an hour-by-hour and day-by-day placement plan was developed to ensure the work could be completed on time. Preparatory work, such as saw cutting the pavement to be removed in advance of the actual construction start could be done, under-pavement drains laid out, and construction material staged. The last plane would leave after being repaired and the new

**“The Crosswind Runway project at Tinker Air Force Base has been one of the best large construction projects that I’ve seen in my 28-year career. Though there were many opportunities for schedule slips which would have impacted vital flying missions, virtually every key milestone was hit dead center.”**

**– Col. Robert Bartlow**

planes needing repairs would land. The pavement breakers were then to move onto the runway and begin their work.

The morning that work was to start, there was an additional delay. The Navy TACCMO wing had a change of command, and there was a delay getting the Navy band’s plane off along with the dignitaries flown in for the ceremony.

Ultimately, on the first of August, the work began. Drainage was planned so that adverse weather would not delay the completion. During the time of construction, rainfall exceeded all previous records for the month of August and there were no delays.

“The schedule was followed and, through intensive management and 24-hour, around-the-clock operations, the intersection was completed and could have been used two days ahead of the required date,” Chris Dean, office engineer, COAO, said.

“Under any standard of the construction industry, this part of the project was a great success,” Tom Logsdon, Engineering and Construction Division assistant chief and former COAO area engineer, said. “The credit must go to the coordinated planning and the management of Sverdrup and the local paving subcontractor, T.J. Campbell Construction Company. Through effective management and by starting early and working late, they were able to perform two days of scheduled placement in one day. With the various things that can go wrong with concrete mixes, temperatures, and rain, it is common for work to have to be redone, and that was not necessary on this part of the contract,” Logsdon added.

“While each contract has its challenges, never has a large contract which could impact the base’s mission so critically gone so well,” said Carl Sparks, COAO area engineer. “It truly demonstrates the potential and benefits of the partnering process including problem solving, resolution of issues, and keeping everyone informed of the project’s current status which is so necessary in continuing the base’s mission.”

Col. Timothy Sanford, district commander, summed it up when he said, “We are delivering a top quality product to the Air Force. It was a superb example of Corps, contractor, and base CE teamwork!”

A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 11.

**Partnering Pays Off** – Many of those involved in the successful partnering effort which helped make the Tinker runway project so successful are shown here.

Photos by Janice Orvis



Some members of the Partnering team visiting the project and standing on the runway on which aircraft will land at Tinker Air Force Base are, left to right, Carl Sparks, area engineer, Central Oklahoma Area Office; Jim Fulk, Sverdrup Civil Inc.; Bryan Dean, Shirley Johnson, John Granchie and Peggy Massey, all of Central Oklahoma Area Office; and Tony Stein and Scott Beckett, both of Sverdrup Civil.



Among those attending the last partnering meeting and coordinating final details, are, clockwise, Steve Heinly, superintendent, Consolidated Electrical Contractors and Engineers Inc.; Jerry Walker, field superintendent, T.J. Campbell Construction Company; Byron Griffin, project manager, Consolidated Electrical Contractors and Engineers Inc.; Bob McCollum, project manager, Tulsa District; Mark Harbaugh, Air Force project engineer; Tom Logsdon, assistant chief, Engineering and Construction Division, and former area engineer of Central Oklahoma Area Office; Clyde Holbird, quality assurance representative, COAO; Rex Huffman, vice president, Sverdrup Civil Inc.; and John Russell, airfield manager, Tinker Air Force Base. Not pictured, but a vital member of the partnering team, is T.J. Campbell, president, T.J. Campbell Construction Company Inc.

# Fort Gibson Holds Deer Hunt for Hunters With Disabilities

Article by Barbara Cravens, Public Affairs Office  
 Photos by Jim Montgomery, Fort Gibson Project Office

**S** EVEN DISABLED HUNTERS GATHERED AT FORT GIBSON LAKE'S WHITEHORN COVE on the weekend of October 25 and 26 for the lake's first "handicap hunt." The hunters, ranging in age from their 20s to their 60s, were Jim Bracey, Steve Fisicaro, Marshall Greckler, John Lebow, Rick McLaughlin, Gene Pogue and Forrest Smittle. Oklahoma Handicapped Sportsman Association President Debbie Hayes and her husband, Jerry, and Edward Buzzard and Ken Carter, association coordinators, helped the Corps and were present for either the orientation on Friday, Oct. 25, or during the hunt on Saturday, Oct. 26.

Fort Gibson rangers Sandy Stiles and Darvin McClellan planned and coordinated the hunt with assistance from fellow rangers, Tom Heathcock, Jeff Seward and Jim Montgomery.



**Darvin McClellan and Sandy Stiles, park rangers, addressing the hunters during the pre-hunt briefing.**

Volunteers and merchants from Oklahoma communities of Pryor, Muskogee and Wagoner provided food and supplies for the hunters. Boy Scout troop 637 constructed blinds for the hunters' use.

McClellan and Stiles briefed hunters on regulations and hunting safety during Friday's orientation and registration. The hunters drew for the location of their blinds and were provided with instructions for the hunt. Fort Gibson rangers set up the blinds in food plot areas where deer have either been sighted or there had been evidence of their presence. The areas were located on land near Whitehorn Cove once leased to the Boy Scouts.

On Saturday morning, hunters gathered at Whitehorn Cove where they were greeted by Col. Sanford, and served coffee, orange juice and doughnuts. The hunters were each given a walkie-talkie and then transported by Corps rangers to their blinds. They hunted in the morning, returned to Whitehorn Cove for a chili lunch – prepared and served by Fort Gibson personnel and volunteers – then returned to their blinds until dusk.

If you measure success by the number of deer taken at Fort Gibson Project Office's first deer hunt for disabled sportsmen, then you could view this activity as a failure; no deer were taken. But if you measure success by the enjoyment had by all who planned and participated in the event, then Fort Gibson's efforts were a tremendous success.

All the hunters provided compliments for Fort Gibson's hunt. Gene Pogue, one of the hunters, said that this was the best special hunt he had attended and he had been to seven others. "Everyone – from the colonel to the rangers – did a great job," he said.

Fort Gibson plans to host the special hunt annually. Plans are also underway for a youth hunt next year.



**Hunter John LeBow in blind constructed by Boy Scout Jesse Hardcastle for his Eagle Scout Project.**

# 1997

## Holidays

XX

## Pay Days

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## End of Pay Period

XX

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### December

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# Cancer and Customer Care

From the Mail



**J**UST A FEW OF THE BLANKS on the Customer Care nomination tell most of the story:

Nominee: **John M. Weatherly Jr.**  
Period of Customer Action: **All his life, but more specifically this year**  
Customer: **Tulsa District**

What those blanks don't tell is that Weatherly has also been fighting cancer. Weatherly, a senior contracting specialist in Contracting Division, has been named Customer Care Employee for the fourth quarter, fiscal year 1996. According to the nomination, Weatherly usually works at least 60 hours per week, and more during year-end closing.

Arlene Smith, contracting specialist who works with Weatherly in awarding and working the district's HTRW contracts, was one of his nominators. She stated, "John has always been extremely dedicated. He gives the term 'driver' a meaning that few people in this world could match. He works tirelessly at a job with few rewards."

During the last year, Weatherly has undergone major surgery twice and minor surgery three times, plus chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Smith states, "He planned trips around doctors' appointments, and delayed some procedures until his office schedule permitted. He has

**No, he doesn't have to use a wheelchair – John Weatherly, Customer Care Employee, just felt comfortable in the medical surroundings afforded by the district office's first aid room. He said he was hoping a picture such as this would spark some sympathy – and possibly Christmas gifts – from those who saw it.**



always had a positive – often humorous – outlook on what he has had to go through."

Vicky Weatherly, John's wife, says that she has encouraged him to take some time off to let his body recuperate. Her pleas have fallen on deaf ears. She says he continues to report to work because his customers mean a lot to him, and their satisfaction with Contracting Division and Tulsa District is one of his top priorities.

**To Col. Sandord from Lt. Col. John Whisler, Nashville District:**

I would personally like to thank you and your staff for the warm welcome the district's CEFMS Oversight Committee received during their recent visit. My staff will be able to use the information you shared with them to be better prepared for the CEFMS transition.

Please pass along a special thanks to Lt. Col. Thomas Friendak, Jackie Goranson and Frank Simms for all their coordination and overseeing of the visit.

Thanks again, and let me know if our district can be of any service to you in the future.

**To Dorothy Gardner, Heyburn Lake, from Becky Berry, East Central Village Resource Center, Tulsa, Okla.:**

On behalf of East Central Village, I would like to thank you and Mr. Ramsey for coming to the Resource Center and providing the wildlife activity during our open house on Oct. 18. The children really enjoyed the video and displays. We appreciate your time and effort in bringing this to our community.

**To Kenny Whitehead, Fall River, from Melinda Owens, Kansas Health and Safety Extension Corps, excerpted:**

We would like to express our appreciation for your stellar performance at the Kansas State Fair. Your water safety program was very creative, entertaining and informative for all ages.

We would like to thank you for volunteering your time so unselfishly for the State Fair presentation. We realize you had to present your program under less than optimum conditions, such as the sweltering heat and uncertainty about an audience. However, you did not hesitate at the chance to get your water safety message to the public.

Also, my friend and I are still very interested in teaching some water safety programs for children. Let us know when we can start helping you out by teaching some programs in this area. Give us a call, and let us know what we can do to help.

## Personnel Notes

### October 1996

#### Hello

Teresa Edminsten, RM, F&A Branch  
Shawna Roberts, RM, F&A Branch  
Mildred Robinson, RM, F&A Branch

#### Goodbye

Harold Billings, EC, Design Branch  
Michael Corkran, PL, Environmental Analysis and Support Branch  
John Crotts, OD, Physical Support Branch  
Debbie Dick, OD, Tenkiller Project Office  
Jimmy Godwin, OD, Ft. Gibson Project Office  
Jerry Lawson, EC, HTRW Resident Office  
Susan Meites, CT, Contracts Branch  
Frank Palmieri, EC, Design Branch  
Virgil Reed, OD, Robert S. Kerr Project Office  
Mary Shepardson, RM, F&A Branch  
James Sinor, OD, Robert S. Kerr Project Office

Michael Vickers, EC, Cost Engineering Branch

#### Promotions

Donald Dixon, OD, Tenkiller Project Office  
William Dunlap, OD, Eufaula Project Office  
Kent Grimes, OD, Eufaula Project Office  
David Hays, SO  
Tom Heathcock, OD, Ft. Gibson Project Office  
Terry Holt, OD, Marion Project Office  
Lance Perdue, OD, Physical Support Branch  
Peat Robinson, OD, Chloride Control Project  
Michael Schrick, OD, Keystone Project Office  
Michael Southern, EC, Geotechnical Branch  
Sandra Stiles, OD, Fort Gibson Project Office  
James Vandergriff, OD, Texoma Project Office  
Peggy Vangorp, RM, F&A Branch  
Michael Ware, OD, Regulatory Branch  
Cheryl Wickson, RM, F&A Branch

## Safety Notes

# Accidents Don't Take Holidays

Judy Barker, Safety Office

**T**HE HOLIDAY SEASON IS A TIME OF JOY AND FUN, PRESENTS AND SURPRISES, BUT BEWARE of the extra hazards the holidays bring – more traffic accidents, home fires, falls, accidental poisonings and accidents with toys. Each December, there are about 8,000 accidental deaths.

**Holiday traffic is terrible!** When driving make safety your #1 job. Be courteous, respect the rights of other drivers and pedestrians, and expect the unexpected from pedestrians who have “holidays” on their mind.

**Be sure your car is holiday safe!** Brakes should be adjusted. Lights should all be working properly. Wipers and defrosters should be in top shape. The exhaust system should be checked for leaks. Tires should have enough tread to bite into snow, although chains give best control on snow-covered roads. The battery and ignition system should be in A-1 condition for rugged winter starts.

**Holidays bring a dangerous combination – drinking and driving.** More than half the automobile accidents that occur during the holidays involve people who have been drinking. If you do drink alcohol during the holidays, choose a designated driver.

**Giving a party? Be a friend first, then a host.** Provide non-alcoholic drinks for your guests who may not want alcohol. Plan to “close the bar” at least one hour before the end of the party.

**Homes are America's #1 fire hazard (especially during the holiday season).** The cold weather of the holiday season puts extra demands on your heating system. Check your furnace, portable heaters, chimney and fireplaces. Don't burn gift wrappings, tissue or evergreens in fireplace.

**Outdoor lighting can cause fires.** Use lights approved for outdoors, check for Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Make sure circuits are not overloaded.

**Christmas trees are hazards.** An eight-foot pine can burn completely in just 27 seconds and create tremendous heat. If you buy your tree early, keep it in a cool place as long as possible. Check lights; look for loose sockets and broken or frayed wires. Turn lights off when you leave home. **SPECIAL TIP** – Never use glass wool (angel hair) in combination with spray-on flocking snow; the combination is highly combustible.

**Make your home “fall-free” for the holidays.** Outside steps, sidewalks and driveways should be kept free of ice and snow; spread sand, kitty litter or salt to prevent slips. Inside stairways should be kept clear for walking; hand rails should be kept free of decorations. Ladders – not stools or chairs – should be used for those out-of-reach decorating jobs. Toys, boxes, paper, etc., become tripping hazards when left on floors.

**The holiday season also means special care should be taken to prevent accidental poisonings.** Plants and greens, used for decoration, may be poisonous, such as Jerusalem cherry and poinsettia plants. Foreign-made toys may be painted with lead-based paint. Chemistry sets and science kits often contain chemicals which may be harmful if ingested.

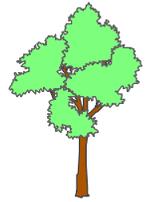
**Children need special protection from holiday hazards.** Toys which are intended to bring pleasure can bring injury and death. Select toys to suit the age, abilities and temperament of the child. Infants and toddlers should have toys too large to be swallowed; no sharp edges, hidden pins or wires should be on them. Toys that shoot projectiles or that are sharp should be reserved for older children. Electrical toys should have UL label. Check all toys (especially imported ones) to be certain they are non-flammable.

**Don't let an accident mar your holiday season.**

**THINK SAFETY all the time.**

**Have a safe and merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year!**

## Recycling Results



October 1996 Savings  
KWHs of energy 24,139

Gallons of water 41,213  
Cubic yards of landfill 19.43  
Pounds of air pollution 353

Month	Trees Saved	Tons of Paper	Amount Made
Jan.	97	5.7	\$143.00
Feb.	109	6.4	160.34
March	135	7.9	158.74
April	136	8.0	151.96
May	118	6.9	115.31
June	130	7.6	128.09
July	107	6.3	108.37
August	186	10.9	199.74
Sept.	113	6.6	108.89
Oct.	100	5.9	100.25
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1231</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>\$1,374.69</b>

## . . . Pride

from page 2

I'll end this month's column with an excerpt from a letter received recently from Ron Barnett, director of Environmental Quality at Fort Sill. It, too, is an example of why I'm so proud to be your district engineer.

The staff of the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers have proven through their performance, attitude, and professionalism that customer satisfaction is much more than “lip service.” . . .

Obviously it is a “team effort” on their part and you have an excellent team. However, I would like to specifically recognize **Ms. Elizabeth Joyner** for her superb support of the Fort Sill DEQ mission as our project manager.

Another individual who must be recognized is **Mr. Hal Capshaw**, who agreed to take on the mission of Environmental Coordinator and numerous other duties at Fort Chaffee. He has an impossible task and has done a great job.

*Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!*

# Tulsa Family

## Family additions

**Adam Lee Flenniken, born Oct. 26** – son of Larry and Mindy Flenniken and brother of Joseph. Larry is a hydraulic engineer in H&H Branch, Engineering and Construction Division.

**Dillon Ray Chaloupek, born Nov. 7** – brother of Dusty and son of Jim and Debbie Chaloupek. Debbie is a park ranger at Canton Project Office.

**Marci Lynae Howerton, born Sept. 23** – daughter of Rick and Dixene Howerton. Dixene is administrative clerk Canton Project Office.



Some “Corps Connected” runners were, left to right, front row, Mickey Blackwell, Ed Rossman, Janet McCormick, Carol Roadifer, Hal Capshaw, Randy Bratcher. Second row, Gene Lilly and Charles Wilson. Top row, A. W. Gibson, Capt. Ed King, Lt. Col. Frendak, John Horn, Col. Timothy Sanford and Kathleen Rossman.

## Happy Birthday!

To Larura Cravens who turned 100 years old on November 21. She is the grandmother of Barbara Cravens, Public Affairs Office.

## Condolences

To family and friends of Robert William Whitley, retiree, who passed away Sept. 29. He worked for the Corps for 37 years, and retired in 1975 from Contracting Division.

To Penny Huston, Contract Administration Branch, on the Oct. 24 death of her mother, Ruby Broyles.

To family and friends of James Melson, retiree, who died Nov. 7.

To Johnnie Dudley, park ranger at Canton Lake, on the Nov. 16 death of her mother, Dosa Dudley.

To Margaret Johanning on the death of her father, Earl Flanagan. Margaret works in Planning Division and is currently detailed to Operations Division.

To Barbara Cravens, Public Affairs Office, on the Nov. 27 death of her grandmother, Ellen Dunegan.

## Ready, Set, Run!!

**T**HE CORPS FAMILY WAS WELL REPRESENTED IN THE ANNUAL TULSA RUN, held this year on October 26. The 15-kilometer road race saw 24 runners who were employees, retirees, family members, etc.

### Some “bragging rights” from the race:

J. D. Stigall placed in the top 100 of the Female Masters division;

Steve Siegele finished 121st out of 3,768 finishers, in under 60 minutes, and in the top 25 of his age group;

Hal Capshaw placed in the top 25 of his age group and in the top 25 of his weight group;

Wayne Morgan placed in the top 25 of his age group; and

They ALL finished the race!!!!

## Congratulations

To Don Hatfield, retiree, who recently received an award for a suggestion made while working for the Corps at Lac Que Parle Project, St. Paul District, in 1991/1992.



Dec. 10-12	Marketing Class, Tulsa & Little Rock Districts
Dec. 11	Ribbon Cutting, Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant
Dec. 13	Holiday Dinner/Dance
Dec. 16	Retirement Ceremony
Dec. 18	Holiday Update
Dec. 25	Christmas
Jan. 30	Prayer Breakfast

Questions for the Human Resources Office in Fort Worth?

1-800-453-8907



# Retiree Responses

**Editor's note: We recently asked retirees to share news of their lives now or memories of their time in the district with readers. Here are some of their responses. More will be printed in future issues.**

As your records will show, I am one of the few remaining that started Tulsa District (1939). Many before you have cleared the line that others might see. A lifetime of memories is dwarfed by the collective accomplishments, and that of the Tulsa District has been outstanding. I am humble and proud to have been a part of it.

For the past few years, I've been in the ranching business – quarter horses and cattle.

**Lawrence Martin (colonizer)  
Cleveland, Okla.**

Mr. Collins is blind and unable to read the Tulsa District Record himself but I (his daughter) or his granddaughter will read any news to him because, in spite of his handicap, he is always interested in all events that are relative to him. He shares his memories of working in Tulsa, and often wonders where someone with whom he worked is now.

**Elaine Horton (James Collins' daughter)  
Abilene, Texas**

I was pleased to read the new dredge boat was named Mr. Pat. He was a great person. I worked under W. L. Boland and Mr. Pat at Robert S. Kerr and W. D. Mayo Dams.

I attend Presbyterian Church, Masonic Lodge, Men's Garden Club, Senior Men's Club of Arlington, NARFE, AARP, Tarrant County Senior Citizens Alliance and other duties as assigned.

**Harold W. Chandler (colonizer)  
Arlington, Texas**

Janice and I sold our Tulsa home and for six months have been building our new home southwest of Stillwater. We just finished it and are ready to relax for awhile. We did the plumbing, electrical and HVAC ourselves (with the help of friends and family). A plumber's wife

told me any fool can do plumbing with PVC, so with that encouragement, I jumped in and did it. She was right.

**Marvin Fly, Stillwater, Okla.**

I don't like to be the bearer of sad news, but my wife, Ruby Lee, is dying in a nursing home from Parkinson's disease and strokes. Her doctors believe she will die in 3-6 months. Many retirees knew us while I was in Tulsa from its beginning in 1939 until 1961. I'd like to hear from some of them. My address is 5840 Meletio Lane, Dallas, Texas 75230.

**Robert Buffington**

I joined the Tulsa District when the first District Engineer was assigned, and I think I was there 1940 to 1972. I worked under W. L. Boland about 20-25 years, and really enjoyed the work. I do not know anyone that I can remember still working in the Tulsa District. I am 94 years of age, and love to get the *Tulsa Record*.

**Roy Long, Anderson, Ind.**

I am 82 years old now. A policeman told me to stop driving. He said I had lived a long time, and he'd like to see me live a lot longer, and the best way to do that would be to quit driving. So, I wonder how he would like to beg the neighbors for rides. I think it's going to shorten my life more than driving would. If I could, I'd move back to Kansas (state, that is).

**Veda Milner, Tulsa, Okla.**

At present, I am learning to cook, wash, pack and carry, etc. Anna Frances, my wife of 47 years, slipped on a gravel drive in Sand Springs Oct. 5, 1996, at 10 p.m. I met her in emergency at St. Francis. A horrible x-ray photo, bad weekend, five screws and three days later, I took her home and found out she had learned to boss. Hard cast on Oct. 19, 1996, four more weeks with foot and cast elevated. Then she gets a walking cast. I can't wait. I am getting sympathy from lots of people but they laugh when I cry.

**Jack White, Bristow, Okla.**

Since retiring in 1983, I have done some traveling, fished some, fought several brush fires, presided at monthly town meetings as mayor. Built an addition on my daughter's house in Wichita Falls,

Texas. In between all of these things, we raised a good garden, took care of our animals and poultry. Help the neighbors when asked. Be my wife's chauffeur in her ceramic business. Keep up with my Masonic activities. Had the Morton Building Company put a new roof on my cabin. Went on a couple of float trips with the Corps barge.

While at the Corps of Engineers since 1956, there were many good times and a few rough times, but as I've always said, "The Corps is a good place to work."

**Joe Thompson, Beggs, Okla.**

Floyd is in a nursing home. He had a stroke 8 1/2 years ago. He still thinks he is at the dam working. He does enjoy anything pertaining to his work and fellow employees who worked with him.

**Mrs. Floyd Nix, Denison, Texas**

After retiring almost seven years ago, I began a tour operator company, taking Americans to the Austrian Alps for winter sports. During summer months, I brought Europeans to the U.S. for tours of our great American west. I have recently closed the tour business to concentrate on restoring and selling my car collection. Next stop, British Virgin Islands.

**George Starch, Tulsa**

Lost my wife, Christine, of 43 years, to Lou Gehrig's disease June 26, 1995. Have moved to a mountain home above the Ouchita River in Arkansas. Peaceful, quiet, satisfying. Rafting river, fishing and plenty of hiking.

**Walter Wails, Mt Ida, Ark.**

My father, a colonizer of Tulsa District, was the resident engineer for construction of Camp Gruber, the first RE at Tinker and Pantex, as well as RE for construction of Wister, Tenkiller, Eufaula, R.S. Kerr and W. D. Mayo Dams. He and my mother are both in nursing homes now. The Tulsa District was a major part of their lives.

**Webster Boland Jr., Sanger, Tex.**

I am enjoying retirement very much. I do miss the people that I would see every day while working. Still playing golf and keeping busy traveling. I would recommend retirement to anyone considering it.

**Douglas Melton, Tulsa**

*Our Vision: Be the Corps standard in customer care and professionalism.*



**Smoke Gets in Your Eyes** – E&C employees, Jeris Sample, Steve Rous and Tom Hensley, cook hamburgers, hot dogs and bratwurst for the fiscal-year-end picnic held in October. The picnic was paid for with money raised from recycling efforts.



**Bob McCollum, PPMD, and Norma Brewer, retiree, do the Volksmarch at the year-end picnic.**

## Picnic Pics

## It's a Great State Fair

Article and photos by Terry Holt, Marion Project Office



**Park Ranger Kenny Whitehead talks to visitors to the Corps booth at the Kansas State Fair. Other rangers working the exhibit include Marty Ramirez, Terry Lyons, Steve Lesslie and Terry Holt. Kansas City District representatives were Mike Carey and Gary Foster.**

**T**ULSA AND KANSAS CITY DISTRICTS COMBINE FORCES EACH YEAR TO SPREAD THE CORPS WATER SAFETY MESSAGE TO people attending the Kansas State Fair. Park rangers from the Kansas area of the Tulsa District and personnel from the Kansas City District set up and staff a water safety exhibit at the annual 10-day fair.

More than 22,000 fair goers visited the Corps exhibit this year. That is an average of 200 people per hour who stopped by to either chat or pick up water safety information. Nearly 15,000 water safety promotional items were distributed.

Many water safety demonstrations were also given as rangers participated in the fair's "Kansas' Largest Outdoor Classroom" exhibit. There, scouts and school children were taught to wear life jackets and how to make rescue throw-line bags from milk jugs.

The Kansas State Fair continues to be a major opportunity for the Corps to reach thousands of people with our water safety message.