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of Engineers** ®
Tulsa District

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Col. Suthard Takes District Command

On July 18, Col. Robert L. Suthard Jr. was welcomed as Tulsa District's new commander at the Change of Command ceremony. Col. Suthard accepted command from Col. Leonardo Flor during the ceremony which took place at the Oklahoma State University - Tulsa auditorium.

Col. Flor's next assignment will be as the deputy division commander of the South Pacific Division in San Francisco, Calif.

Col. Suthard graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1979 and received a commission as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.

In addition to a bachelor's degree, he has earned a master's degree in engineering administration from George Washington University and a second master's in national resource strategy from the National Defense University. His military education includes the Basic and Advanced Engineer Officer Courses, Air Assault School, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

He comes to the Tulsa District from service as chief, Inaugural Support at the Pentagon. Previously he was assigned as the chief, Engineer Enlisted Personnel, U.S. Army Personnel Command, and before that as the commander of the 92nd Engineer Heavy Combat Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga. Other military assignments include deputy commander and chief of staff of Omaha District, deputy director of public works and battalion S-3 of the 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), while at Fort Campbell, Ken., as well as command and staff assignments at Fort Belvoir, Va., Fort Riley, Kan., and several assignments in Korea.

Col. Suthard and his wife, Nancy, have two children: Bobby, 20, a junior at James Madison University and Christin, 16, a senior at Jenks High School.



Lassiter & Shoemaker

By passing him the Corps flag, Southwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. Melcher, left, charges Col. Suthard with command of the Tulsa District.

Turn the page for more photos from the ceremony.

Scenes from the Change of Command

Photos by Lassiter & Shoemaker

At the reception following the Change of Command ceremony are, from left, Nancy and Col. Suthard, daughter Christin, Mr. and Mrs. (Lucile) Robert L. Suthard Sr., and Brig. Gen. David Melcher, Southwestern Division commander.



In one of the ceremonial traditions, Park Ranger Tom Benenati, Oologah Lake, presents roses to the incoming commander's wife on behalf of district employees.

Commander's Column

For a number of years, I have heard of the great reputation of the Tulsa District. This reputation is well deserved and is demonstrative of the selfless dedicated employees within the district. It is an honor to be your district commander, and I want to thank you for the gracious welcome that you have given my family and me.



Col. Robert L. Suthard Jr.
District Engineer

Col. Leo Flor and his wife, Sue, have been a tremendous command team in the Tulsa District. The superb way in which you farewelled the Flors is commendable. We wish them the very best as they move to their new post in San Francisco.

Finally, I look forward to meeting with all of you in the coming months. Your service to our great nation makes a difference, and the opportunity to work with such an outstanding group of professional and dedicated women and men is a pleasure.



Serving as hostesses at the reception were, from left, Lucy Spaulding, DeVonne McKee, Brenda Snyder, Gina Artech, Arlene Smith, Dawn Knight, Diedrie Hurd, and Cathey Williams.



One of the first expectations is to speak with the press. Here, a reporter from KRMG radio interviews Col. Suthard.

Tulsa District Record

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District Engineer	Public Affairs Officer	Editor	Technical Assistance
Col. Robert L. Suthard, Jr.	W. Ross Adkins	Mary Beth Hudson	Susan Satterfield

Tour educates on Eufaula

Susan Satterfield
Public Affairs Office

“We must think of ourselves as one big team, working together to make the most of our lake,” said James Holder, Eufaula lake manager, at the marketing bus tour of Lake Eufaula. The May 10 tour was hosted by the Eufaula Project Office to address a few of the host of issues the project deals with daily.

“We have 600 miles of shoreline. That much land can create a lot of different problems for a lot of people,” said Mike Calavan, area manager.

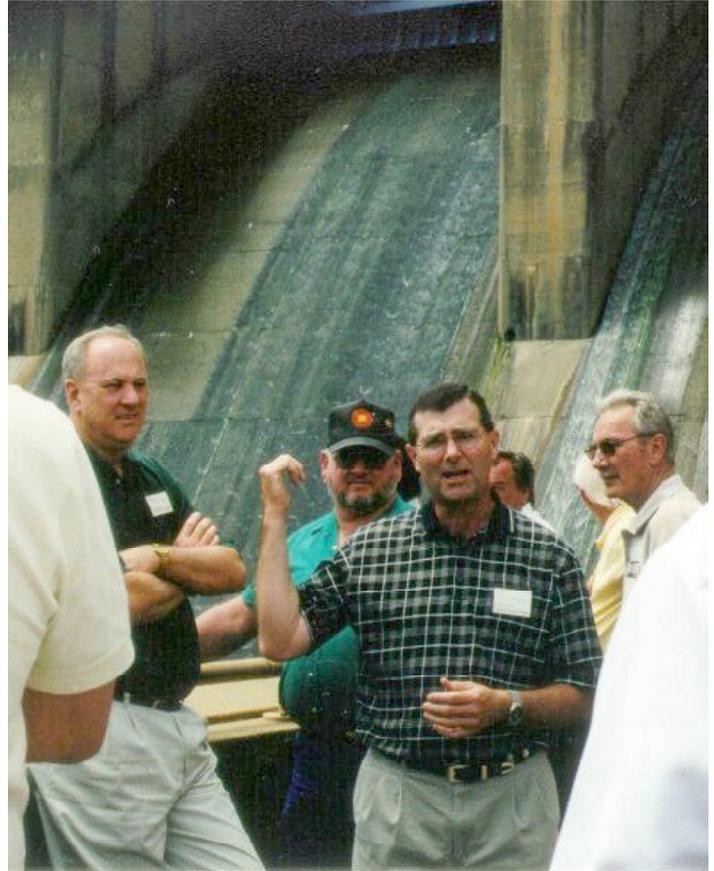
Representatives from many organizations that play a key role in the life of Oklahoma’s largest lake attended, including staffers of Senator Don Nickles and U.S. Representative Brad Carson. “I am glad that we were invited to this event,” said Sharon Keasler, eastern district director for Sen. Nickles. “It has helped shed some light on the Corps’ side of the story on several different issues.”

Some of the major stops on the tour were Arrowhead State Park, Southport residential area, and Eufaula Dam.

Arrowhead has been slowly renovating the park and adding new facilities as funding comes in. “Six years ago, we began with a rundown park,” said Rodger Cunningham, Arrowhead park manager. “Now we are proud to say that the park has been increasing revenue each year.” A new drug rehabilitation center is located at Arrowhead Lodge. Cunningham emphasized that the center is owned by a private organization separate from the park. “I was skeptical of the idea myself when it was first mentioned, but they have made improvements that were badly needed to the lodge and the surrounding area,” said Cunningham.

Southport is one of the oldest residential developments at Lake Eufaula, and time has taken its toll. The shoreline is badly eroded, and some coves are close to being completely cut off from the rest of the lake. “Houses were literally falling off the shoreline,” said Calavan. “We had to purchase the homes so they could be removed. If we don’t fix this problem, we will be buying the next row of houses.” Calavan gave a presentation showing the various techniques that have been tried to stop the erosion problem, such as vinyl sheet piling, textile mesh, and vegetation. He said the Corps has used riprap in some areas to strengthen the shoreline, but at \$200 to \$400 per linear foot, it can get very expensive.

At Eufaula Dam, Calavan talked about the work being done on the tainter gates. Each gate is being sanded and repainted with a waterproof vinyl coating. Then, representatives from the Southwestern Power Administration took the visitors inside to discuss how the power is purchased and disbursed to homeowners.



Susan Satterfield

Mike Calavan, Eufaula area manager answers questions about Eufaula Dam, one of the three main stops on the bus tour of Eufaula Lake. Larry Hogue, chief of Operations Division, is also pictured; he is to Calavan’s right, with his arms crossed.

The day was filled with many questions that gave Holder and Calavan a chance to talk about the Corps’ successes and problems at Lake Eufaula. Some visitors were just excited to see new areas of the lake. “I have learned a great deal from this trip, and I have seen parts of the lake that I have never seen before,” said Rusty Cottrell, marina operator.

“I think a lot of effort went into today,” said Jeff Jaynes, deputy district director for Brad Carson. “It has been a great opportunity to have a hands-on look at some major issues.”

More than 40 people took the tour. “I think the day was a success,” said Calavan. “Our goal was to inform everyone of some of the positive and negative issues that Eufaula deals with. We did that.”

Team has busy training, flood season

Peter Navesky
Programs and Project Management Division

Tulsa District's Emergency Power Planning and Response Team's already busy spring turned even busier thanks to Tropical Storm Allison.

Power Team members, Roger Eakle, Jan Holsomback, Patrick Beard, Kerri Stark, and Diane Cianci participated in an Outside the Continental United States joint hurricane exercise called "Makani Pahili" June 4-8. The Corps joined with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state of Hawaii in the exercise.

The exercise took the place of an annual Emergency Power PRT training class. It was set up with separate Disaster Field Office and Emergency Response and Recovery Office locations so, as in a real deployment, each member of the PRT performed their respective functions in separate, independent operations. Elements of the 249th Engineering Battalion "Prime Power" also participated in the exercise, performing needs assessments and installing generators. IAP Worldwide Services, the Advance Contracting Initiative contractor responsible for emergency power support for the Hawaiian Island, also took part, as did the Corps' Water and Ice PRTs, including Galveston District's Ice PRT.

Team members reported they learned a lot regarding PRT operations, though quite a bit of time was lost troubleshooting Englink LT, the data entry and reporting software developed for executing the emergency power mission.

While the team endured the hardship of a tropical island deployment, a tropical storm brewed in the Gulf of Mexico. Allison came ashore in the Houston and Galveston area on Tuesday, June 5, and apparently liked the area so much, she decided to stay, and stay, and stay. The area around Houston, especially the northeast sections, received up to three feet of rain from Tuesday through Saturday. Many bayous and streams overflowed, and more than 26,000 houses in the Houston area were flooded.

Bayou flooding around the Texas Medical Center complex wreaked havoc. Basements were flooded in most major hospital and university facilities, inundating their distribution systems and knocking out all their electrical power and many of their generators. As a result, Texas Methodist and Hermann Memorial Hospitals, two of the areas level-one trauma centers were closed. Baylor Medical College was also closed.

On Saturday night, June 10, a call came requesting that a two-person planning cell report to the State of Texas Emergency Operations Center on Sunday to coordinate emergency power needs. As Pete Navesky and Steve Lucas were traveling to Austin, they were diverted to Houston to coordinate with the Texas Medical Center for power needs. The rest of the PRT was also activated for deployment; most found the message on their answering machines when they returned home from Hawaii on Sunday. The five redeployed to Houston on Monday,



Setting the second 500 kW generator at St. Joseph's Hospital

June 11. Soldiers of the 249th Engineering Battalion from Forts Belvoir and Lewis also deployed to the area. The ACI contract was initiated, and an advance man deployed to Houston.

To date, the USACE emergency power team consisting of the district's Power PRT, the 249th Engineering Battalion, and IAP Worldwide Services have installed eight FEMA generators at facilities in the area including Vencor Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, and Baylor Medical College. Most of the FEMA generators are not sized for the large electrical load requirements of a hospital, however. But the ones installed will need to remain in place for several weeks as many of the facilities will be closed for up to 12 weeks while their electrical distribution systems are replaced and the buildings are dried out and dehumidified. The 249th has also deployed mobile substations and control vans. These are being used to meet electrical power needs at the Hermann Memorial Hospital while its primary electrical distribution system undergoes repair and replacement.

One satisfying part of the mission was the installation of two emergency generators at St Joseph's Hospital when its only operational generator failed at 4:00 p.m. Saturday, June 16. The initial FEMA replacement was delivered, set up, fueled, and running by 10:00 that evening.

District recognized for innovative road repairs

The February edition of *Pavement Magazine* included a five-page article on Tulsa District's innovative use of microsurfacing for pavement surface repairs at Keystone, Skiatook, and Oologah lakes.

Microsurfacing is a technique that combines a cold mix slurry seal with a polymer-modified binder and 3/8 inch or less aggregate. The mixture is then spread in a slurry-type process over the road surface. Several miles of road can be resurfaced in a very short time. The system held up very well this past winter when compared with the typical double-bit surfaces on other projects.

Webbers Falls in line for multi-million-dollar powerhouse rehabilitation

Earlier this year, Tulsa District teamed with the Hydroelectric Design Center and Northwestern Division in Portland, Ore., as well as Little Rock District to produce and submit the Webbers Falls Powerhouse Rehabilitation Study Report. Although an official approval letter has not been received from Headquarters, word has filtered down from the Policy Review and Compliance Division that it will be approved without further comment. Congratulations were extended from Headquarters for producing a report not requiring additional input for approval.

The \$37.6-million project will consist of replacing turbine runners for the three slant-axis turbines, rewinding the generators, and installing new excitation systems and speed increasers. Related work will consist of rehabbing the powerhouse cranes and replacing circuit breaks along with miscellaneous piping replacements.

Funding for the rehabilitation is expected in FY-03. The project will take about four years to complete.

Approval anticipated on \$36-million dam safety project

On March 14, Tulsa District submitted the Canton Dam Safety Assurance Report to Headquarters for approval. Funding is anticipated in FY-03.

The project is to stabilize the existing spillway with an anchoring system and construct a fuse-gated spillway and channel to allow passage of the Probable Maximum Flood, thus eliminating dam overtopping should one occur.

Least Terns get expanded quarters

Tulsa District has teamed with a Southwestern Power Administration contractor to address U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerns about protecting least tern habitat below Eufaula Dam. The contractor will clear and prepare islands located at the confluence of the Canadian and Arkansas Rivers. The islands were identified through an effort involving Tulsa District, SWPA, and the USFWS.

Operations consist of clearing and preparing about 15 acres of island surface in hopes of attracting the least tern away from islands upstream closer to the dam. The upstream islands become land-bridged during periods of low flows; this allows access by many predators. The identified islands in the project will not land lock.

Operations Division's maintenance fleet provided equipment and operator service. Jerry Sturdy of Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division directed island preparation and provided oversight.

McConnell chosen for customer care

Carol McConnell has been named the Customer Care Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter, fiscal year 2001. She works in the Operations/Real Estate Section, Budget Branch, Resource Management Office. She was nominated by the field offices she supports.



**Caroll McConnell
Customer Care
Employee
2nd Quarter, FY 01**

According to the nomination, when T1 connections were down during a critical work period, McConnell took the time to run needed reports and fax them to the area, despite many other suspenses.

She was recognized for the prompt replies and individual focus she gives each area. The nomination also noted how encouraging and thorough she is.

District works with Native American governments

John Sparlin
Programs and Project Management Division

In the four years since Tulsa District's Intergovernmental Support Team was organized, agreements have been forged with 26 of the 36 federally-recognized Native American tribes in Oklahoma. These Memorandums of Agreement recognize each party as a government and concur in general provisions should the parties work together. The MOAs are not binding agreements and do not obligate either party to do anything. They do, however, set up terms for a Support Agreement in the eventuality that a project does arise.

The tribes have access to grant programs from several federal agencies such as Indian Health Services, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Departments of Health and Human Services, of Housing and Urban Development, and of Agriculture. Most compete for funding in the annual grant program cycle of HUD's Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs.

Lacking on-board technical support, HUD has been eager for the Corps to participate in executing projects they are funding. The district takes on a role similar to a temporary Public Works Department for the tribe – temporary in that it's for the purpose of a particular project. All design and construction work is done by the private sector, while the district furnishes inherently governmental services. These typically include assistance in locating and negotiating with an architect/engineer firm, in developing a scope of work, and in negotiating fees and costs as well as reviewing contractors' plans and specifications and completing quality assurance and construction inspection.

How does it all come together? Tribal governments first decide if they want the Corps' assistance. If so, a Support Agreement is signed outlining what the Corps will do and how much the tribe's financial reimbursement will be since all of the Corps' services are reimbursable. These funds can come from the grant, from tribal funds, or both.

In the program to date, about \$25 million dollars have been spent with Corps' oversight on projects including a child development center, a drug rehabilitation center, multi-purpose buildings, fire stations, police stations, water and sewage treatment plants, sewage lagoons, truck stops and plazas, wellness centers, and master plans.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2000 established a new Tribal Partnership Program. In it, the Secretary of the Army, in cooperation with the Indian tribes and the heads of other federal agencies, is authorized to study and determine the feasibility of carrying out projects of substantial benefit to Indian tribes.

The act authorizes \$5 million for each fiscal year through 2006. This broad legislative mandate allows tribes to collaborate with the Corps in new and important ways. The new authority emphasizes the Corps' ability to partner with tribes as local sponsors – not only in the traditional civil works arena but also in projects such as cultural preservation and natural resources. Maj. Gen. Hans VanWinkle, director of civil works, recently said the new program “will be an effective means of fostering government-to-government relations with Indian Tribes and offer opportunities to protect, preserve, restore, and develop vital tribal trust resources.”

In a fast response to the new Act, the Thlopthlocco Creek Town and the Sac and Fox, Delaware, Modoc, Miami, and Keetoowah Cherokee tribes have submitted projects to their respective congressmen. Tulsa District's Intergovernmental Support Team stands ready to help should the projects be approved.

From the Mailbox



Keystone Project and Tulsa District Office donated 24 computers to Mannford High School. The following is from Elaine Clay, English teacher:

... For years, I have had to go either to the computer lab or library in order to access a computer, which I use for many purposes. ... Now, with a computer in my room, I can allow students to test during class time when they've completed their assignments. This is a big improvement. ... Finally, I can now type tests, quizzes, and other necessary assignments right in my own room without having to lug various texts and other supplies with me to other areas of the school. I plan, in the future, to purchase computer programs with vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and other curriculum-related games and activities, which will aid my students in my classroom. I plan also to use my computer as an incentive and reward for students who finish assignments early or earn special time playing curriculum-related games.

Thank you again for supporting Mannford High School education and its teachers and staff by donating these computers to our school system. I am one teacher who is ecstatic over the many options it has brought into my classroom.



From Security Office

Overseas Travel

If you are planning a duty trip outside of the continental United States, notify the Security and Law Enforcement Office. As a Force Protection requirement, mandatory foreign travel briefings are provided before departure.

Occasionally world situations turn dangerous; the office will provide updated travel cautions and specific security measures to take when abroad to employees and family members.

Seasonal plans help wildlife

Everett Laney, Biologist,
Operations Division

More than 20 years ago, the Tulsa District began working with state wildlife resource agencies to see how we could use fluctuating lake levels to enhance wildlife benefits. We recognized that if a lake rose while fish were spawning in the spring, eggs would be stranded on land when we lowered the lake level back to conservation pool elevation. Also, in the fall, elevations directly influenced the number of waterfowl using the lakes.

Since state and local economies were affected by the way the resources were managed, the public was very interested in seasonal pool plans. Coordination was started among federal and state wildlife agencies, state water resource agencies, hydropower authorities, and local interests. Using historic in-flows and pool elevations, we worked to develop wildlife-friendly plans.

We found that by holding levels above conservation pool, to a tolerable degree, we can increase spawning success in the spring. Then, by mid August, the lakes can be drawn down and the exposed mudflats seeded with Japanese millet. In the fall, lake levels are allowed to rise and flood the mature millet in time for waterfowl migration. Then, they are dropped back to conservation pool.

Only eight of the 38 lakes in Tulsa District have seasonal pool plans. For a plan to be beneficial, a lake needs to have potential for wildlife benefits and enough inflow to allow manipulation of water levels. Also, all eight plans are not able to be executed each year. Mother Nature is the biggest determining factor.

When we *are* able to put the plans into action, they work, and the benefits are amazing. Significant increases in fish and waterfowl populations are documented. For example, since 1985 when a seasonal pool plan was first implemented there, conditions at Eufaula Lake have only allowed it to be used about every third year. But, the lake's largemouth bass population has doubled.

New employees introduced to district

Maria Wegner, Planning Branch
Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

What's a "kid" like me doing in a place like this? Many new student employees coming to work for the district may not know what kind of place it is. On June 25, those in the student employee and co-op program gathered to meet with Col. Flor and Lt. Col. Norton, as well as division representatives. The meeting provided an opportunity for students to learn what each of the divisions do and how the Corps operates, as well as to meet one another.

In addition to the former district engineer and deputy district engineer, speakers included John Roberts, Programs and Project Management Division; John Marnell, Operations Division; Richard Freeman, Real Estate Division; David Steele, Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division; Rick Hedrick, Contracting Division; Larry Dearing, Engineering and Construction Division; Ross Adkins, Public Affairs Office; and Ed Rossman, Planning Branch.

The orientation provided an overview of Tulsa District's diverse missions, large geographic area, and major impact on the lives of those living in its boundaries. Individual speakers addressed the work done in their offices and divisions. Students were encouraged to maintain their energy and idealism and to consider the Corps as a career option.

Col. Flor expressed his thanks to all who supported the meeting and to the attendees. The group enjoyed pizza, cookies, and soft drinks after the presentations.

Those attending said they enjoyed the informal interaction with other students and the division representatives.

Many found the gathering to be very informative, and said they'd like to have more opportunities to meet and learn what other students are doing.



Retiree Barge Ride

Monday, October 1 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on board

Retirees on the mailing list and living within 150 miles of Tulsa will receive a letter in September with details. If you are not on the list or live further away and would like to attend, call Cathey Williams at 918-669-7383.

RSVPs are necessary and will be taken until Sept. 21.

Fort Supply Files Fishy Accident Report

Ray Kunka
Fort Supply Lake Office

Several years ago, we heard about the walking catfish in Florida. Has this creature evolved to the point where it is now flying? That seemed to be the case at Fort Supply Lake recently. Just ask Karl Hunter, the facilities maintenance inspector there.

Karl was driving his government pickup in Supply Park when a four-pound catfish suddenly came flying out of nowhere to slam into the pavement in front of his vehicle. There was no cover from which some prankster could have thrown the fish in his direction. He claimed he was not drinking on the job and doesn't do hallucinogenic drugs. His version of the story is that he looked around and saw an eagle flying away. Apparently, the bird was flying overhead and had lost its grip on a fish it had caught. Either that, or the eagle had been spooked into releasing it, narrowly missing Karl's truck with the falling fish.



Imagine if you will the accident report Tulsa District Safety Officer Bob Vandergriff would have demanded had Karl been a few feet further along and our flying fish slammed through the windshield of a governmental vehicle. The following questions on the ENG 3394, Accident Investigation Report, would give me cause for concern:

Block 7b. Type of collision –
“Head on?” Or was the fish turned away so that it would be a “rear-end?”

Block 11a. What were the causal factors?
Fish falls from Heaven Yes No

Block 11b. Was a written Job/Activity Hazards Analysis completed for task being performed at time of accident?

Block 12. Training
Where would we get preventive training? When?

Block 12. Fully Explain what allowed or caused the accident.
Direct Cause – *Eagle improperly secured cargo???*
Indirect Causes – *Inspector driving down road at wrong time???*

Block 14. Action(s) taken, anticipated, or recommended to eliminate causes(s)
What should we say? “When eagles are flying, all persons are to remain out of the area?” Perhaps we should establish a course, “Defensive Driving Where Eagles Dare to Fly.”

I don't know about you but in my role of supervisor, I have decided upon a course of action should this type of aquatic aerodynamic accident happen in the future. I shall delegate accident report submittal to the employee failing to practice defensive driving and allowing it to occur.

Obviously, the ENG form 3394 is a dated document that needs to be modified or amended to cover the type of accidents our employees are likely to encounter on the everyday job. Mr. Vandergriff, you are on notice to see that appropriate changes are made to the form.

Normally, I would not recommend telling a story like this unless I was entered in a “liars' club contest” or had a witness to verify the facts. In this case, the cleaning contractor corroborated Karl's story. It's a fish tale, all right, but a true one.

Girl pilots boat to save life

Neal Whitaker, park ranger
Marion Reservoir

On Saturday, May 26, ten-year-old Jenny Lee was fishing with her brother-in-law, Chris Hronek, and four-year-old niece, Misty. The trio, from Augusta, Kan., were in an isolated area well up in the French Creek arm of Marion Reservoir.

Hronek suffered a diabetic reaction which rendered him unconscious. Jenny piloted their boat down French Creek and across Marion Reservoir, a distance of five miles, to the family's campsite at Cottonwood Point. Chris received medical attention from a Marion County ambulance and fully recovered.

The passage down French Creek involved avoiding many snags and areas of shallow water. Once on the main lake, Jenny was able to navigate directly to Cottonwood Point, a feat that sometimes baffles far older and more experienced boaters.



Courtesy of Marion Reservoir

Ten-year-old Jenny and her brother-in-law, Chris Hronek, display her Certificate of Excellence. Jenny was commended for bravely and skillfully piloting their boat when Hronek fell into unconsciousness. She got them and her four-year-old niece safely back to their campsite several miles away.

To recognize her courage and skills, the Corps of Engineers at Marion Reservoir awarded Jenny a Certificate of Excellence at the family's campsite the next day.



Condolences

Tom Robertson, retiree, passed away July 7, at the age of 81. He was a long-time employee at both Fall River and Elk City Project Offices. At the time of his retirement, he was the Operations and Maintenance work leader at the Elk City Project Office.

John Robert Schiller, retiree, died July 11.

Virgil Morse died June 3. He was the husband of Olga Walstad Morse, retiree, who worked in Finance and Accounting for 22 years and retired in 1981.

George Raymond Lempera, 84-year-old retiree, died May 28. He was a cartographic draftsman for 28 years.

David Kendall, retiree, passed away May 14. He was the former chief of Recreation Section in Operations Division. He retired in 1990.

Ted Hammons, twin brother of Tom Hammons, passed away July 12, after battling cancer for most of the past year. Tom is the chief of Mods and Claims Section, Construction Branch, Engineering and Construction Division.

Kenneth Raymond Yarger, retired personnel officer, died July 10.

Condolences to family and friends of John Schiller, retired electrical engineer.

Condolences to Mike Nance, Tulsa Resident Office, on the death of his father, Robert Singletary.

Larry Efaw, retired operations and maintenance leader at Pine Creek Lake, died July 17, after a battle with cancer.

Orion Flaming, retired geologist, died Saturday, May 12.

Mike McFeeters was killed in a May 19 auto accident in Colorado. He was 35 years old and the son of Jim McFeeters, retired civil engineer for Western Area.

More condolences on page 11

Tenkiller artist is overall winner

Dean Roberts
Tenkiller Lake Office

Stephanie Carson, daughter of Jim and Pam Carson, of Stilwell, Okla., was chosen as the overall fifth-grade winner of the Tulsa District's Water Safety Poster Contest. Stephanie attends Zion School in Stilwell.

She was chosen fifth-grade winner from schools participating in the contest from the Lake Tenkiller area. Her poster was then submitted to compete against winners from all other Corps' lakes in the district.

As overall winner, Miss Carson was presented a Kawasaki lifejacket, a certificate from the Tenkiller Lake Office, and a plaque from the Tulsa District Office honoring her accomplishments.



Courtesy of Tenkiller Lake Office

Shown from left is Tenkiller Lake Lead Ranger Don Dixon, Stephanie Carson, safety poster contest winner, and Water Safety Committee Chairman Arlyn Hendricks.

“Crazy” singer takes on Nashville

Susan Satterfield
Public Affairs Office

On May 27, Cheri Ferguson, Resource Management Office, traveled to Nashville, Tenn., where she competed against hundreds of singers in hopes of winning a singing contract. “This was the first competition I ever entered,” said Ferguson. “I wasn’t certain about going at first, but my parents gave me a lot of support and encouraged me to give it a shot. I think it went well.”

Ferguson had to first compete in a preliminary competition in Stillwater, Okla.

She has had plenty of experience performing – at Oktoberfest in Vinita, with the Bartlesville Choral Society, and in church – but admits that she still gets a little nervous. “The first time I ever sang in front of a group, I forgot the words to the song,” said Ferguson. “So now, I

Cheri Ferguson sings at the Nashville contest. The photo was taken from a video of the competition.



always have a fear of maybe forgetting the song.”

Ferguson started singing at a young age and was influenced greatly by old classics. “I grew up singing Christian songs and the great country oldies – Patsy Cline, Ricky Shelton, and of course, Elvis,” said Fowler. “I actually got to record one song at Sun Studio in Memphis, where Elvis got his start.”

Ferguson, who sang Patsy Cline’s “Crazy” said she learned a few things from the competition. Three producers were present to sit down one-on-one with each performer and critique their performance. “The producer said that he was impressed with how well I sang Patsy Cline, since she is so difficult to sing,” said Fowler. “He said I should smile more though.”

Although she did not land a contract, Ferguson enjoyed her trip and plans on entering the Jimmy Dean Singing Competition in Coffeyville, Kan. next year. She is also hoping to get a spot on KOTV’s “Six In the Morning” show.

“The trip went very fast, and I was pretty tired,” said Fowler. “But the opportunity was very exciting.”

Mystery child identified – On the back cover of the May/June *Tulsa District Record*, an early day picture of “Huckett’s Alleys,” the district bowling team ran. All team members were identified, but there was one youngster peering out from the side of the group. We asked if anyone could identify the child, and Richard Bilinski of Programs and Project Management Division responded. He thought it was Larry Redford, a Corps employee for nearly 30 years. Larry served as chief of the Civil Works Branch, PPMD, and was a project manager of the Mingo Creek Project until his untimely death in August 1993. The detention site west of the district office building is named in his honor.

Richard recalled a conversation with Larry’s mother about their son always being at Corps events. He knew that John Redford, Larry’s father, was a colonizer, one of the original members of the Tulsa District, and that Larry would have been about the right age to be the child in the photo. He went a step further and provided supporting quotes from John Redford printed in the *TDR* of March 1994 marking the dedication of the detention site. They ended with the words, “Larry literally grew up with the Tulsa District.”

Public Affairs Office contacted John Redford who retired from Southwestern Division and lives in Dallas. He replied, “Richard Bilinski is correct. That is Larry, standing next to Armando Elias. Larry was two years old. Larry always went with my wife and myself to the bowling alley. Tulsa District officially became a district 1 July 1939. This picture was made either fall 1939 or spring 1940 . . . ”

Our sincere thanks to both Richard Bilinski and John Redford.

If you have an old photo to share, please call PAO at 918-669-7366.



Family Additions



Seth Andrew Johnson, born May 25 — son of Chris and Lori Kruse Johnson. Lori works in HTRW Design Center. Her father and Seth’s grandfather, Ray Long, works in Resource Management Office.



Drives scheduled

August 24

October 19

January 25, 2002

Condolences

Dale Wierimaa, Eufaula Lake park ranger passed away Sunday, June 3. He had been stricken with cancer, first diagnosed earlier this year, and had returned to Duluth, Minn., about two weeks before his death to spend time with his mother and brother.

Kenny Whitehead, Fall River lake manager, passed away June 6, following a heart attack and stroke.

Retiree Roundup

Editor's Note: Public Affairs Office conducted a mailing list update and asked retirees to tell us about their current activities or share memories of their time with the district. Here are some of their responses:

Hi!!! I got the mailing list update in the mail and YES OF COURSE I want to remain on the mailing list. I will let you all know when I die so then you can take me off of it. If you ever go strictly electronic let me know . . .

My address is the same and will not change. My wife and I read it cover to cover and I will email you to contribute if the need ever arises.

Thanks again and keep up the good work. Say hi to all.

*Lt. Col. Thomas M. Frendak
Forest Hill, Md*

Since I've retired, I go to Senior Citizens Center, go fishing, read, and mow the lawn. I'm very sad to see some of the parks closing. I remember how much work it took to make all the parks look good and have good facilities.

During my years at the Corps, I and my family spent lots of time camping in the parks and enjoying them very much.

George Coleman, Terlton, Okla.

Am working parttime with my son (who owns Thrifty Nickel). Have two Corps retirees working with me, Bob Freeman and Bill Austin. We're having a great time!

James Laster, Tulsa

Even though we have been retired all these years, we still enjoy the *Tulsa District Record*. Thanks for keeping us posted! Keep the good word coming!

Bill and Paula Stewart, Tulsa

I do appreciate so much receiving the *TDR*. Our son always says, when we visit one of the dams, "Well, mom, dad left his mark here and on other dams in the district."

He was disappointed when he had to retire, due to health reasons, after 32 years.

Mrs. Louis Stalnaker, Muskogee, Okla.

I especially enjoy articles about completed projects in *TDR* – Mingo, etc.

Nancy Buchanan, Mannford, Okla.

. . . Enjoying my retirement. Keeping very busy, but always glad to see some of my former co-workers.

Earnest Nero, Fort Gibson, Okla.

Thank you for writing. I'm staying with my daughter and son-in-law in Saint Louis, Mo. We enjoy weekends when we go to watch the barges on the Mississippi River. It reminds me of the reason the Corps built the Eufaula Dam – barges and other marine traffic could now easily go up and down the river.

My husband, Ben Davis, worked for the Corps for 56 years and got an award for outstanding service in purchasing the land for the Eufaula Dam. We spent many enjoyable times fishing and boating on the lake. I appreciate hearing from you.

Mary Lou Davis, Saint Louis, Mo.

. . . I have been retired since 1972 so I know practically no one there but I still enjoy reading the news. Thanks.

Bob Rychel, Tulsa

This is my 87th year. I am an original member of the credit union; Joe Schwartz had a cigar box, and we started with that.

Kenneth Scott, Rose, Okla.

Hope this finds you in great health and high spirits. I think of you all often and hope that the great team in the Tulsa District is continuing to get all the great fortune and credit you have so richly earned.

F. Lee Smith, Idaho Falls, ID

Please keep me on your mailing list for the *Tulsa District Record* and other mailings. After seven years in retirement and a good many changes in personnel, I see fewer and fewer names I recognize, but I still like to know a little bit about what is going on in the district.

Van Thornton, Tulsa

Thanks for the *Tulsa District Record*. It's nice to be informed. I would like to say hello to the Hydraulics Branch and Res. Reg. I'm really enjoying the lakes while fishing with my grandkids.

Don Blevins, Cleveland, Okla.

Presently keeping house and yard, going to softball games, traveling some, reading.

Finas Doolin, Braggs, Okla.

I enjoyed working at Big Hill Reservoir and miss the people I worked with. God bless you all.

Gene Carlton, Mound Valley, Kan.

I'm still enjoying retirement. Been at it 21 years. Making plans to summer in Colorado, winter in Florida, be in Oklahoma during football season and spring football.

Raymond Glasco, Skiatook, Okla.

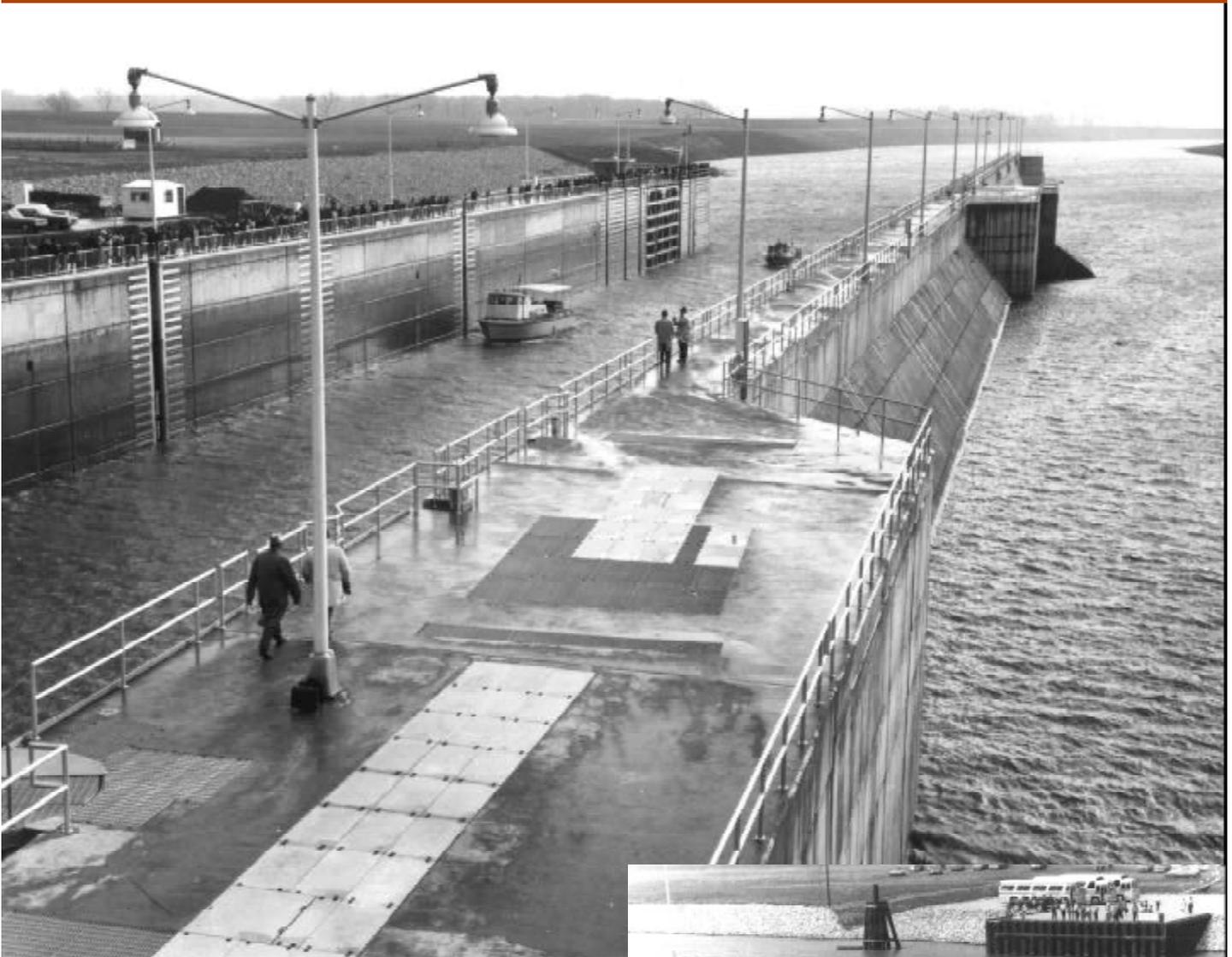
Time passes fast. It has been 26 years since I retired. Stay busy working in the yard, gardening, doing craft work, and some fishing. Loved working for the Corps. Travel occasionally.

William Swanger, Denison, Texas

. . . I enjoy reading the *TDR* very much. It keeps me in touch with what is happening with a great organization and the people I grew to love very much.

. . . pass along my best to everyone.

Otis Williams, St. Louis, Mo.



Flash from the Past

Thanks to Water Stone, retiree, who provided these photos of the Newt Graham Lock and Dam dedication in December 1970.

If you have old photos to share, please call 669-7366. The prints will be returned quickly.

Editor's Note: See page 10 for an update on the mystery child in last issue's bowling team photo.