



**As life becomes ever more complex, needs increase for recreation programs such as those provided by the Tulsa District projects. Above, clockwise from upper left: Boy Scouts enjoy an interpretative program on the Jean Pierre Chouteau Trail. Picnickers take advantage of park areas at Tenkiller. Fishing can be done from wheelchairs, too. And muzzle loaders hunt the hard way at Texoma. Below: J. Pat Clark.**

**OPERATIONS GETTING BIGGER.**

“As gigantic as our construction program has been, our operations work is becoming a bigger job every year,” Patete said. He introduced J. Pat Clark, head of the District’s far-flung Operations Division.

“Where shall I begin?” Clark said. “In Operations Division, we provide maintenance and operations, recreation, and regulatory services. Operations includes more than 50 field offices. These field people are our most important ambassadors, our front-line contact with the public.”

“Thirty-three of our lakes provide flood control,” Patete said, “and the District’s Reservoir Control Section oversees flood control operations of eight Bureau of Reclamation and two Grand River Dam Authority lakes. These projects are operated in conjunction with 20 Corps local flood protection projects. Altogether, these projects have prevented nearly \$2 billion in flood damages — an amazing record.”

“Navigation is more and more important to our region,” Clark said. “More than 3.5 million tons of major commodities were shipped on the Oklahoma portion of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Waterway last year,” he said. “We operate five of the locks and dams, which provide a lift of over 140 feet.

“Our most visible work, of course, is recreation, which is included at all our 37 projects — the largest recreation program in the Corps. Visitors spent more than 500 million hours at our projects during 1987.

“At schools, fairs, and the like, our managers present programs ranging from water safety to bird identification and hunter safety. They also maintain a free-loan audio-visual library for public use.

“Much of our project land is devoted to wildlife management. Half of it is managed by the Corps, but the other half is operated under license to state and other federal agencies.”

Twenty-nine of the lakes provide water supply, and 13 include storage to improve water quality,

