



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Tulsa District

# TULSA

## DISTRICT RECORD

Fall 1999  
Vol. 22, No. 3

# Fall River Lake Turns 50



See the fun on pages 4 and 5

# Commander's Column



**Col. Leonardo Flor**

The District has enjoyed several successes during the past several months – both corporately and individually.

The disaster response for the May 1999 Oklahoma tornadoes was a huge success, and I pass on my thanks and commendations to everyone involved. During my absence in September, Lt. Col. Norton filled in for me in recognizing significant contributions of several employees during the Town Hall meeting on Sept. 9. Receiving Achievement Medals for Civilian Service were: **Judy Barker, Pam Chronister, David Combs, Larry Dearing, Rick Hedrick, Jeff London, Michael Love, and Bob Vandegriff**. Four Commander's Awards were also presented. The recipients were **Bill Hinkle, Steve Harmon, Terry Rupe and John Wilson**. **Tom Logsdon and Pete Navesky** were also recognized during the Southwestern Division Disaster Workshop on Sept. 13. Many others received Department of Army Certificates of Achievement and letters of commendation.

Congratulations to these folks and thanks to everyone for their commitment during the disaster recovery effort – for each person who was directly involved, there were one or two others who had to pick up the slack for their teammates who responded to the recovery effort. Indeed, the success of our disaster relief and recovery effort underscores the district's outstanding team orientation!

At the July, HQUSACE Senior Leader Conference in San Francisco, **Jeff Knack**, from Eufaula Lake, received recognition as the Corp's Natural Resource Management Employee of the Year for 1998. At the same conference, **Matherly Mechanical Contractors, Inc.** out of Oklahoma City received recognition as the Corp's Contractor of the Year for 1998 for its work at Tinker Air Force Base.

Also in July, the **Oologah Area Office** was presented awards by Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Secretary Neal McCaleb for the most trash collected and for the most volunteers in its division.

On August 2, the Oklahoma Association of RC&D Councils presented the Outstanding RC&D Sponsor to Tulsa District for our participation in developing the Tenkiller Wholesale Water Treatment and Conveyance System Feasibility Study, making note of our "can-do" attitude and being an effective partner in making things happen in Oklahoma. A special thanks to **John Sparlin** who fathered this initiative and to **Phil Cline, Jan Holsomback, Charles Wilson, and Ken Lehman** who helped make the study a success.

Other district employees honored for individual contributions during the last few months include **Dan Bentley**, Tenkiller Lake Office, as the Cherokee Nation's Outstanding Supervisor for its Summer Youth Employment Program in August. Four of the seven Federal Executive Association's awards presented in August were presented to Tulsa District Engineering and Construction Division employees: **Sue Morris** – Clerical Award, **Rex Ostrander** – Supervisory/Managerial, **Bob Goranson** – Community Service Volunteer, and former district employee **Debra Wilkins** – Technical, Professional, and Administrative, GS-8 and below.

**Dennis Thomas** has been selected to an Air Force "Accelerated Cleanup Team" and will be participating in reviews of several Air Force installations and making recommendations to expedite the remedial process. This is a great tribute to the work that Dennis and project team members have been doing at Reese Air Force Base and other Air Force installations.

Another employee who has been recognized by others is **Carolyn Russell** in support to Fort Worth District for environmental support to Fort Sam Houston. Carolyn received letters of commendation from Brig. Gen. Arnold and Col. Weller. She was recognized as being a "shining star" in the partnership between Fort Worth and Tulsa Districts in the delivery of environmental services to military installations.

Realty Specialist **Pam Kelly** and former District Commander **Col. Timothy Sanford** are to be commended for their assistance to the U.S. Department of Justice in the case against Loe's Highport, Inc. and members of the Loe family. Loe's Highport operates under a concession lease agreement with the Corps at Lake Texoma. Ms. Kelly and Col. Sanford spent countless hours researching and providing information requested by the DOJ. Their efforts assisted the Justice Department in obtaining convictions against the corporation and family members on various charges against the government.

**Dana Linduff**, district realty specialist, is to be commended for his efforts in the district's outgrant compliance inspection program. We have received a letter of appreciation from the Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas, which has a quasi-public lease at Lake Texoma, recognizing Mr. Linduff for his positive efforts displayed during his recent compliance inspection visit.

**Billy Banks, John Sparlin, John Wagner, and Bernd Koerber** attended the 1999 Hammer Award Luncheon in Oklahoma City. The Hammer Award recognizes federal agencies and individual teams that have contributed to Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing

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**See Commander's Column  
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# 1999 Navigation Tour a Success

Photos and article by Dan McPherson  
Robert S. Kerr Project Office

The 1999 McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System Inspection Tour was conducted on Oct. 7. About 350 people participated in the tour, which included a barge ride from the Port of Catoosa to Lock 18 and back to the port.

Participants included Southwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. Edwin Arnold, Tulsa District Commander Col. Leonardo Flor, area civic and business leaders, congressional representatives, local waterway users, educators, and U.S. Coast Guard representatives.

About 40 district employees helped with the tour by answering questions, giving tours of the "Mister Pat" tow boat, and manning display booths on the inspection barge. The Tulsa District, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Arkansas Basin Development Association, and the numerous ports, terminals, and shippers of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System jointly sponsored the inspection tour.

The annual tour is an excellent public relations tool. Through the various displays, one-on-one conversations, and the opportunity for first-hand experience riding a barge, the Corps is able to spread its message to a varied and important group of people. Throughout the day, various



**Brig. Gen. Edwin Arnold visits with an Aggie fan in front of one of the district displays.**



**Steve Chapman, center left, and Larry Prestien, both of Operations Division, visit on the barge during the annual inspection tour.**

individuals gave speeches to acquaint the participants with the navigation system and its capabilities, the Corps role in operating and maintaining the navigation system, and the economic impacts of the system on the region.

While the inspection barge was available in the district, two other barge rides were held for Corps retirees and for local industry.

On Oct. 6, an Industry Appreciation Day Ride for local industry staff who

have supported the navigation system in years past was held.

The retirees barge ride was held Oct. 5. This has been especially important for the retirees as they look forward to this outing to gather with old friends and swap stories of the "good old days." More than 100 retirees, spouses, and friends attended. Several came from as far away as western Oklahoma from Canton Project. Personnel from Operations Division provided coffee and doughnuts in the morning as well as lunch. Proceeds after expenses (\$700) were given to the Combined Federal Campaign. Many items were donated by employees to defray costs.

Junior ROTC members from Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa went along for the ride with the retirees. The Society of American Military Engineers sponsored the JROTC, providing doughnuts and soft drinks.



**Photo inside of inspection barge. Chief of Operations Division Larry Hogue and Little Rock District guests are in foreground.**

# Turning 50 Has Never Been So Much Fun

by Cleon Linton  
Fall River Project Office

Wow, 50 years old, not a negative age for the Fall River Dam and Reservoir. The birthday gathering was held with a positive outcome on September 18 with more than 1,400 visitors helping to bring the celebration to full stride. Lloyd Linton, Fall River Area Manager, Larry Hogue, Chief of Operations, and John Marnell, Chief of Natural Resources, Tulsa District, were on hand to commemorate one of the most memorable celebrations in recent years within southeast Kansas.

The 50th Year Anniversary Celebration at Fall River Lake, Kansas, along with the observance of National Hunting and Fishing Day Activities went well, with some enlightening stress factors being witnessed! The day's activities included more than 100 kids baiting up lines during the Kids Fishing Derby, some 120 kids actively involved with the youth shooting sports activities, 250 plus enjoying a guided tour of the dam structure, and kids sifting through the sand pile for coins or trying to paddle a canoe from point A to Point B.

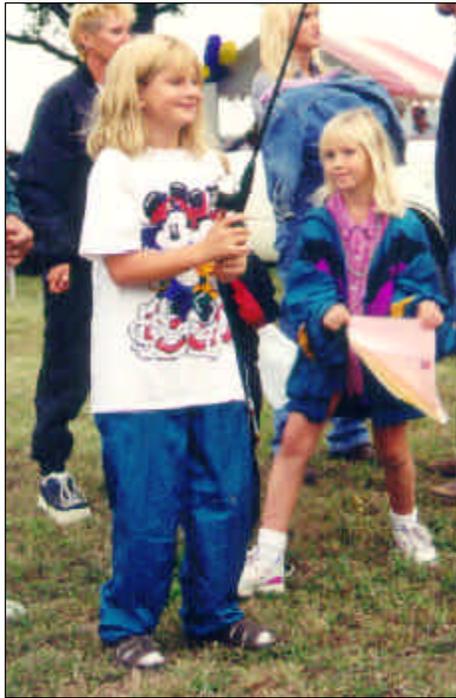
The day provided learning opportunities for everyone, with hands-on demonstrations and with numerous educational exhibits.

A treat was provided to all attendees in the form of a free Buffalo Burger Feed with sides of popcorn and soda pop. The final food line count was a 1,200 enjoying lunch!

The day ended with a brilliant display of the flags, with the use of horse mounted color guard courtesy of the U.S. Army Horse 7th Calvary, Fort Riley, Kan.

## Fall River Lake Celebration Photos





## Commander's Column

Continued from Page 2

Government by specific actions that improve our government's ability to deliver services to the public. Any action or initiative that reduces red tape or saves time or tax dollars is eligible for the Hammer Award.

Congratulations to the Tulsa District's **Outreach Team for Native American Governments** for being nominated and contributing to the government's successful reform efforts.

Lest we become complacent in all these success, let me illustrate a couple of cases where success turned sour almost overnight. In June, the **Tar Creek Team** was awarded a bronze medal from EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response for its development of performance based contract requirements for the Total Environmental Restoration Contract. In July, there was much media, congressional, and public interest in the Tar Creek Superfund Project, in which we are supporting the Environmental Protection Agency in removing lead-contaminated soil from residences in Ottawa County, Okla. Issues involve cost, the priority system for remediating residences, the process for handling complaints, and our management controls, among others. At the beginning of the year, our Altus Air Force Base Real Estate acquisition effort received praises from the customer for timeliness of action. More recently, the customers questioned the same effort for cost overruns.

I bring these cases up to remind ourselves that we are the constant object of scrutiny, not just in the search for successes, but also for things we may not be doing well ourselves. Fortunately, in the words of our deputy division commander, Col. Throop, "If these issues had to come up anywhere, I'm glad they came up in Tulsa District because of the tenaciousness of the people in the district for addressing issues head on, and not letting go until they are resolved."

To all – your efforts are appreciated and do us proud!

*Essayons!*

## Commentary

### Preventative Medicine or Giant Check Box?

I've had the opportunity to experience managed medicine while in the military. I stood in line. I was asked what was wrong and how did it happen. The medical personnel took my temperature, looked in my eyes, gave me some medicine and said "go back to work." Well, today, in the age of preventative medicine, doctors are being trained to ask questions unrelated to the "reason for coming in". These unrelated questions are used to uncover needs which are not apparent to the patient. "To ask is to prevent" may be the driving words in many doctor's offices today. I say, "Hey, if it keeps the green globs of goo out of my veins and keeps me in shape to enjoy life, lets do it. I'll be glad to pay you now than pay you later if I live."

"To ask is to prevent". Let's see - can that work as well in the workplace? Let's be bold and try a "preventative question."

*Are District goals and objectives managed as a "to do" list - a grid of boxes which are checked as completed regardless of the work being performed - quality doesn't matter - quantity doesn't matter - just do enough to say you did the task?*

Okay. I'll submit to those who think that this question is not in good survey form (or politically correct). But, it seems at times that "check the box" is the day's goal. Attend a meeting - check the box. Write an article - check the box. Give an award - check the box. With the loss of nearly 500 employees, we may not have the time to put quality into everything we do. Quality expectations may have been replaced with a meet-the-deadline-so-the-box-can-be-checked management style.

Can the District care about daily product quality? Do managers expect and inspect employee work for quality? Do employees get a quality review? Are managers trained to, and expected to, deliver quality management? Does the District "manage through change" or "manage to show up for a paycheck"? Preventative workplace medicine requires us to ask these types of questions.

Soon, District employees will be asked to give their perspective on the District. Each of us will be asked to take a survey that is a key component in the Year 2000 Self Assessment. The survey, outlined by the District's Self Assessment Team and approved by the Board of Directors, provides a serious look at the District from all levels and all occupations.

The survey will be full of questions. The question that will not be asked is, "Is this questionnaire only a check box on the Board of Directors' To Do List or are the questions preventative medicine to find the health of the District and to help prescribe solutions?" We'll all be anxiously waiting for the results.

By Edward Engelke  
Public Affairs Office

*Terms used in this commentary:*

**Board of Directors** - all GS-14 and GS-15 division and office chiefs and the deputy district engineer. The BOD is lead by the district engineer.

**Self Assessment Team** - group of employees from field offices and the district office who are to assess organizational effectiveness and provide feedback (assessment results and gap analysis) for improvement using the Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC).



Courtesy Waurika Project Office

**Faye and Jimmy Burris, Volunteers Extraordinaire**

## Waurika Has Stellar Volunteers

### Dee Ann Himebaugh Volunteer Coordinator

Since 1989, more than 60 capable volunteers have contributed about 12,000 hours of service to the Waurika Area Office. This past summer, we had 17 volunteers who logged in more than 1,500 hours. Volunteers of all ages and abilities – ranging from school-age children to veteran volunteers in their 70s – who have contributed countless hours to picking up litter and keeping our trees growing in our parks.

All of our volunteers have contributed immeasurably to our parks; however, two, Jimmy and Faye Burris, stand apart from the rest and deserve special recognition. Jimmy and Faye could be found picking up litter and watering trees in our parks before they became volunteers. Despite being physically disabled, they serve as if they have no limitations. Some of their contributions include serving as camp hosts, watering, grubbing, and planting trees, picking up small litter, weeding and watering flowerbeds, mowing, painting, bulletin board upkeep, and showing movies at the amphitheater in Kiowa I Park.

Jimmy and Faye love the outdoors and find a deep satisfaction in giving of themselves.

All of our volunteers make a difference at our lake, but the Burrises have inspired everyone around them because of their dedication and devotion to their job in the true spirit of volunteerism.

Waurika Lake is fortunate to have found generous people who do such remarkable work!

## Tragedy Narrowly Averted at Marion

While driving across Marion Reservoir dam one recent Friday afternoon, Mr. Fred Epperson of Eastshore noticed something in the water in the middle of the lake. He summoned Park Ranger Terry Holt who realized it was a windsurfer whose board was being blown away.

Ranger Holt and Corps employees, Francis Jirak and Mike Knak, launched the Corps patrol boat and rescued the victim. Their efforts were hampered by high waves and winds gusting to 39 mph.

Following his rescue, the surfer was taken by ambulance to St. Luke Hospital in Marion where he remained overnight. His body's core temperature was 91 degrees when he arrived at the hospital.

The victim, 60-year-old Timothy Kliewer of Hillsboro, Kan., said he entered the water to adjust the rigging of his windboard. The numbing effect of the 58-degree water, plus increasing wind velocity prevented him from getting back on the board. In time, he was unable to hold onto the board. He was in the water about 90 minutes. He was wearing a lifejacket, but not a wetsuit. His estimated remaining survival time in the cold water would have been 15 minutes or less.

## Oologah Wins Again

Congratulations to the employees and volunteers of Oologah Lake Office! For the third year in a row, they were winners in the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's TRASH-OFF contest. Oologah Lake received awards for most trash collected and most volunteers in the Corps of Engineers division.

At an awards picnic in June, Lt. Governor Mary Fallin and Secretary of Transportation Neal A. McCaleb presented Oologah Lake Park Ranger Glenda Vincent with a "hubcap" award. The picnic was held at the Harn Homestead in Oklahoma City.



Courtesy Oologah Project Office

**Left to Right, Okla. Secretary of Transportation Neal McCaleb, Okla. Secretary of Environment Brian Griffin, and Lt. Governor Mary Fallin present the 1999 TRASH-OFF Award to Oologah Park Ranger Glenda Vincent.**

# Summer Ranger Calls It Quits After 30 Years

by Paul Gray  
Lake Manager, Pat Mayse

The spring and summer of 1999 was very much like dozens of others at Pat Mayse Lake – lots of campers and boaters, last minute repairs to camping facilities, new gate attendants, and a Pat Mayse Lake fixture, summer ranger Berneil (B. N.) Brown.



**Berneil "B.N." Brown**

For the last 30 years, B. N.'s summers have been spent serving Pat Mayse customers and being a first-rate ambassador for the Corps of Engineers. Everyone knows B.N., from the kids to their parents. He is on a first-name basis with the majority of the visitors that use our parks. This summer was uneventful until B.N. advised us that at the age of 74, this would be his last season to work.

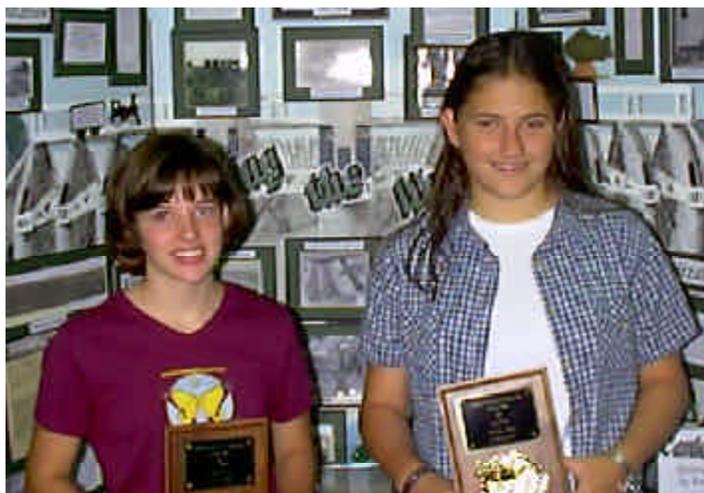
B. N. was born in Arkansas in 1925, where he attended public schools and graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He was a school teacher in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas for many years and served as principal at Geneva Bailey Middle School in Paris, Texas, until his retirement in 1990.

In 1969, when the parks at Pat Mayse were first opened for public use, B. N. began his summer ranger career while working for the late Herb Smith. Over the years, he has worked with and helped train many of the park rangers and lake and area managers over the Tulsa District – Mike Wingfield, Ron Jordan, Tom Heathcock, Larry Casey, James Holder, Loyd Isley, Mike McCoy, and the late Herb Smith are just a few who come to mind.

B. N. and his wife, Perlita, who is also a retired school principal, reside in Arthur City, Texas, just a few miles from the lake. They plan to take life easy and stay at home for a while. While B. N. was working as a summer ranger, he and Perlita would use his summer earnings and take trips to places such as New Zealand, Australia, Alaska, and the Caribbean Islands.

B. N. has had a great career as a summer ranger. His talent of communicating with the public has served him and the Corps well. He believes that the majority of visitors who use our lakes are good people and there's one bit of advice that he wants to leave the new rangers today – always listen. B. N. says, "The key to good communication is listening. If you're a good listener, you can handle any situation."

B. N. will be sorely missed, not just at Pat Mayse Lake, but all over the Tulsa District. His ready smile and positive attitude are irreplaceable. We hope B. N. and Perlita have a great retirement and don't forget their old friends with the Corps.



Courtesy of Canton Project Office

**Kortne Nelson and Jackie Haub, History Day winners, did research on Canton Lake for their winning projects.**

## Canton Lake Provides Topic for Award Winners

Two Canton Junior High students chose Canton Lake as their theme for this year's annual History Day regional competition. Kortne Nelson and Jackie Haub included information obtained from the Canton Area Office as part of their research. The two seventh graders both won first place in the Junior Division with their projects.

Kortne's project, entitled "Taming the Waters," presented a historical display of the construction of Canton Dam. Her project was voted best in the Individual Exhibits Category and is currently on display in the lobby of Tulsa District's headquarters building in Tulsa.

Jackie won first in the Individual Media Category with her video entitled "Canton Dam and Canton Lake."

Their achievements helped their school win the over-all sweepstakes award in the Junior High Division at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Congratulations to both girls for jobs well done!



**Visit  
Tulsa  
District's  
web  
site**

**<http://www.swt.usace.army.mil>**

# Information Center Complex and Summer Student Are Big Hits at Waurika Lake

by Tim Adkins  
Park Ranger  
Waurika Area Office

The Waurika Lake Information Center in Kiowa Park I is generating positive feedback with new “camper oriented” hours and friendly personnel. We felt that this facility, which is located next to our amphitheater and playground, should be better directed towards meeting the needs of our customers. This past summer, we enlisted the help of Holly Kimbrough, a college student from the University of Oklahoma, to operate the center and perform some other activities on weekends for the 1999 camping season.

We chose Holly to fill the contracted labor position of recreation specialist because of her pleasant personality. We were looking for an outgoing, innovative, and creative college student who could develop and expand this program with minimal assistance. Judging from the work we have seen and the positive feedback that we have received from some of our customers, Holly more than met our expectations.

Each Friday and Saturday night during the recreation season, families can enjoy movies at the outdoor amphitheater. In addition to these nightly features, many educational mini-information sessions and contests for kids help make a weekend at the lake even more enjoyable.

We are planning bigger and better things for our information center. One



Courtesy of Waurika Area Office

**The former laundry and current information center at Waurika Lake has proven to be a big hit with visitors to Kiowa Park I.**

idea includes developing of a nature center. We would like to display fish and wildlife mounts of plants and animals that are native to the region. This would allow discussion of topics such as fish and wildlife identification, management, and conservation, and would provide another avenue of education for our visitors.

We feel that with a little effort and persistence, this program will continue to evolve into a better service for all lake visitors.



Courtesy of Waurika Area Office

**Holly Kimbrough and the program she developed were big hits with the campers at Waurika Lake this past summer.**

## Rare Rotor Repair at Texoma Powerhouse



**Rotor being lifted from Main Unit No. 1. The rotor weighs 443,000 pounds.**

On May 29th at approximately 4:22 p.m., Main Generating Unit No. 1 at the Denison Powerplant shutdown due to an insulation failure of the machine’s stationary winding. Repair of the failure required major disassembly of the machine which had not been performed since 1959.

The unit was disassembled, repaired, and returned to service on the June 11.

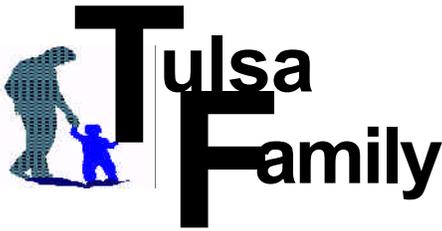
The main units at the Denison Powerplant provide more than \$10 million in benefits for the Federal Government each year.

Web Link -- See more photos of this story online at -- [www.swt.usace.army.mil/tdr/1999/rotor/repair.htm](http://www.swt.usace.army.mil/tdr/1999/rotor/repair.htm)



**Personnel involved in repair:**

**Front Row: Cecil Japhet, Ray Andrews, Justin Boyles, Bill Johnson, Jeff Miller. Back Row: Jim Petit, Doug Wilson, Perry Crupper, Tom Henry, Bill Brady, Bruce Smith, and Sherman Jones. Not Pictured: Jerry Leatherwood, Barry Tudor, John Anthony**



## Family Additions



**Emma Rose Vandegriff** was born March 19 in Chandler, Ariz. Her parents are **Aaron and Jennifer Vandegriff** and her grandparents are **Bob and Joan Vandegriff**. Bob is the chief of Safety and Occupational Health Office.

**Allysa Dawne Ware** was born June 2. Her parents are **Marcus and Niani Ware**. Marcus works as a park ranger at the Skiatook Project Office.

**Ally Michelle Jennings** was born Sept. 6. Her parents are **Lisa and Cary Jennings**. Lisa is the administrative support assistant at Kaw Lake.

**Matthew Allen Henderson** was born Sept. 12. His parents are **Scott and Jeannine Henderson**. Scott works as a hydraulic engineer in Hydrology & Hydraulics Branch.

## Condolences

To the family and friends of Tulsa District retiree, **Merle K. Langdon**, who died May 14 in Wichita, Kan. He was 89.

To **Keith Butterfield**, Operations Division, and his family on the death of his father, **Keith Butterfield Sr.** Mr. Butterfield died May 22.

To **Aaron Miller**, Robert S. Kerr Powerhouse, and his family on the death of his father, **Andrew Miller** who died May 26. Mr. Miller worked at Tenkiller and Webbers Falls Lock and Dam before his retirement.

To **Lee Wall Jr.**, Robert S. Kerr Area Office, and his family on the death of his sister, **Erica**, who died June 3.

To **Jan Morris**, Real Estate Division, and her family on the death of her father, **Allen A. Maddox**, who died June 4.

To **Peter Gibson**, former Tulsa District assistant chief of operations, and his family on the death of his mother who died June 18.

To Tulsa District retiree Stanley Sandles and his family on the death of his daughter, **Renita Moore**. She died June 24.

To the family and friends of **Ed Zink** who died July 7. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Zink worked in Finance and Accounting.

To **Lou Patton**, Real Estate Division, and her family on the death of her father, **Arthur Thompson**. Mr. Thompson died July 21.

To the family, friends, and co-workers of **Joyce Thomas**, Logistics Management Office. Joyce died August 5.

To **Dave Harder**, A-E Contracts and Documents, and his family on the death of his mother who died August 10.

To the family and friends of **Robert "Highpockets" Williams** who died October 11. Mr. Williams worked as a river and harbor maintenance worker prior to his retirement from the Robert S. Kerr Marine Terminal in 1993.

To **Christine Roye**, Resource Management Office, and her family on the death of her father **Herbert Murphy** who died October 12, at the age of 89.

To Tulsa District retiree **John "Jack" O. Thisler** on the death of his wife **Sue** who died October 13 in Tulsa. She was 82.

To the family and friends of Tulsa District Real Estate Division retiree **Emerson "Rowdy" Rowden** who died October 21.

To **Susan Killgore**, Contracting Division, and her family on the death of her husband, Tulsa District retiree **Ronnie Killgore**, who died October 25.

To family and friends of **Odell Wesson**, former General Services Administration custodian, who passed away Nov. 4. He had been in a Veterans Administration Nursing Home at Talihina for several years.

To **Carolyn and Doug Russell** and family on the death of **Philip Foreman**, Carolyn's father.

To family, friends, and co-workers of **Joe Engelbert**, Resource Management Office, who died of an apparent heart attack at his home in Broken Arrow, Okla., Nov 13.

## From the Mailbox



To the Corps Family,

I want to thank you for your kindness to Ronnie during his illness. Your cards, telephone calls and flowers helped to comfort and give him hope during this time. Your expressions of love and caring, your presence at his service, gifts of food and flowers, words of comfort and the many, many cards that our family and I have received since his death have helped greatly to comfort and ease our loss. The employees of the Tulsa District are the best and words cannot express how much your care and support has meant to us. You define the true meaning of the words "The Corps Cares" through your actions as you care for fellow employees and their families.

Again thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your kindness and continued support.

*Susan M. Killgore*  
Contracting Division

To David Manning, Regulatory Branch,

GPM ANADARKO GATHERING COMPANY had a pipeline project that crossed the Cimarron River in Beaver County, Okla. In the course of bringing the project to its conclusion, an unexpected turn of events changed the project from the planned directional bore across the river to having to trench and backfill across the river. The change in the project therefore required GPM to permit the crossing with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The change also meant that our project became time

**See Mailbox  
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# Personnel Notes

## Hellos

### May

Sarah J. Painter, H&H Branch

### June

David H. Kollars, Design Branch  
George S. Lumley, Fort Sill Resident Office

Ryan T. McKaskle, Central Okla. Resident Office

### July

No hellos reported

### August

Albert Candelaria, RMO  
Anthony J. Condi, Fort Gibson Project Office

Hank N. Farley, Kerr Project  
Wesley R. Tyler, Kerr Project

### September

Aaron T. Goldner, Tulsa Resident Office  
Wesley R. Tyler, Kerr Area Office

### October

Lisa C. Brannin, H&H Branch  
Richard B. McCanlies, Chloride Control Project Office  
Andrea N. Minnick, Real Estate

## Goodbyes

### May

Robert J. Coats, PER

### June

Karen P. Eppinette, Keystone Area Office

Amanda Jean, HTRW Design Center

Loretta J. Turner, HTRW Design Center

### July

Elizabeth N. Herman, HTRW Design Center

Ernest E. Howze, Hugo Project

Jerry G. Leatherwood, Texoma Area Office

Andrew J. Miller, H&H Branch

### August

No goodbyes reported

### September

Charles L. Hurst, Keystone Project  
Bertie R. Sherrell, Jr., Design Branch

Michael W. Southern, Design Branch

Debra K. Wilkins, Design Branch

### October

Timothy K. Boyd, RMO

Laura J. McLaughlin, PPMD

**To reach Human Resources Office, call 817-978-2200**

## Promotions

### May

Patrick Beard, E&C  
Ron Bell, H&H Branch  
Larry H. Prestien, Ops  
Brande Serner, Texoma Area

### June

Robert B. Booker, Ops  
Colin C. Clark, Ops  
Bobby G. Perryman, Ops  
Frances Arlene Smith, Contracting  
Phillip L. Weger, Ops

### July

No promotions reported

### August

Judy A. Barker, Safety & Occupational Health Office

Cheri J. Fowler, Ops  
L. Sheron Hardesty, PER  
David C. Hays, Jr., Safety & Occupational Health Office

Gloria A. Lowe, RMO

Patricia Lutz, PPMD  
Tommy A. Mannon, Fort Gibson Project Office

Stanley A. Robison, Keystone Project Office

Roy G. Rutland, Hugo Project

Eva S. Sloan, Texoma Project

Jeffrey L. Waldie, Design Branch

Michael A. Ware, PER  
Everette W. Woodham III, Central Okla. Resident Office

### September

Angela J. Chavez, Office of Counsel

Louis W. Holstead II, Waurika Project Office

Traci M. Huddle, Marion Project

Mary Beth Hudson, Public Affairs

Charlene S. Morris, E&C Division

Ruth Norris, Executive Office

Mitzi A. Sturdevant, Altus Resident Office

Ramona E. Wagner, Design Br.

Connie White, Ops

Kenny R. Whitehead, Fall River Project Office

### October

Timothy J. Adkins, Waurika Project

Rebecca M. Buster, RMO

Margaret J. Eberhardt, PPMD

Natalia E. Pope, Fall River Project

Patricia A. Smith, Canton Project

Latrete Y. Stout, Waurika Project

Jackie K. Wilfong, Logistics Management Office

Joan M. Winter, Marion Project

Joyce M. Yarbrough, PPMD

*Holiday Update Briefing  
and  
Tulsa's Family Gathering*

*Tulsa District Employees, Retirees, and Family Members –  
You are cordially invited to attend*

*Wednesday, December 8  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Tulsa District Headquarters Building, Room 210*

- \* Door prizes (a canned food donation entitles you to a chance for a door prize)
- \* Face painting, activity books, and Santa Claus for the kids
- \* Trivia Sheets for the adults
- \* Refreshments

## Mailbox

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sensitive and potentially economically prohibitive if it could not be done within a reasonable time.

I immediately began talking with Helen Williams in regards to determining how, and, or if this crossing could be accomplished within regulatory guidelines of a Nationwide Status Permit and within the time constraints put on the project.

Ms. Williams was exemplary in her attitude, extremely helpful in her guidance through the permitting process, responsive to all questions and in general a delight to work with.

I greatly appreciated dealing with a professional of her caliber and I am very grateful for all the hard work she did in bringing this project to its successful conclusion.

GPM continuously promotes the idea that each of their employees should add value to their work. I believe that Ms. Williams is a prime example of this principle. The Corps is very lucky to have an employee like Ms. Williams on their staff.

*Steven K. Mefford*

Real Estate & Claims Representative

To Col. Flor,

Thank you so much for the invitation to attend the fish fry and barge ride last week. After several years of schedule conflicts, I was finally able to attend, and had a great time visiting with old "river rat" friends and meeting new ones.

What a great asset our *Waterway to the World* is to our state! We at The State Chamber will be working to make sure the world learns more about it in the months to come.

Thanks again for the invitation and for your hospitality.

*Ron W. Cupp*

Senior Vice President  
The State Chamber

# Tulsa District Looks at Itself

by Julie McCollough  
 Total Army Quality Coordinator

**Self** is defined by The American Heritage Dictionary as “an individual’s consciousness of his own being or identity.” The same source defines **assessment** as the act of assessing, which is further defined as “to set or determine...” something.

Tulsa District has begun the process to determine how we (self) measure up against a set of standard criteria. The criteria that we are using are the Army Performance Improvement Criteria, or APIC. An employee survey, information and data gathering, reviewing organizational measurements, and customer and leadership interviews are all used in conducting a self-assessment.

## What is APIC?

The Army Performance Improvement Criteria is the Army’s strategic framework for leading change. It is based on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Criteria for Performance Excellence and the Presidential Quality Award Criteria.

This set of seven criteria enhances Total Army Quality in three specific ways. It serves as a working tool for strategic planning, organizational assessment, and training. It raises the organization’s performance expectations and standards, and finally it establishes common performance criteria to improve communication and information sharing among Army organizations, other federal agencies, and private industry.

## Why do we need to do an organizational self-assessment?

The future will bring many changes in who our customers are and what those customers will require. Before we can effectively meet those changing requirements, we must know that we have effective business processes in place that will allow us to manage those changes. The self-assessment will also tell us how effectively we measure and use information that we currently collect and how we use that information to plan for the future.

## Who participates?

Each employee in the district will have the opportunity to participate by way of an employee survey in early December. Others will have an opportunity to provide information to the Self-Assessment Team. It is up to each of us to help ensure that the district has the most reliable information possible to plan for our future.

## Who is conducting the self-assessment?

A Self-Assessment Team has been assembled. The employees who make up the team and are available to answer any questions about the self assessment.

Self-Assessment Team	
James Fry, OD	316-321-9974
Burgin Towe, PP	918-669-7485
Ronald Jordan, OD	903-465-4990
Terry Rice, EC	918-669-7527
Preston Hunter, OD	918-396-3170
Steve Lucas, EC	918-669-7028
Nick Osier, LO	918-669-7471
Mary Beth Hudson, PAO	918-669-7361
Beth Sauls, RE	918-669-7699
Bonnie Moore, RM	918-669-7555
Ruth Norris, DE	918-669-7201
Margaret Johanning, PER	918-669-7199
Capt. Terry Orange, CT	918-669-7467
Julie McCollough, IR	918-669-7584

