



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Tulsa District

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Photo by Patricia Lutz, Security and Law Enforcement Manager
Tulsa County Sheriff's Departments' Special Operations Team storm Keystone Dam Powerhouse searching for a hidden assailant during the Jan. 9 mock exercise.

Keystone Dam hosted the Tulsa County Sheriff's Department's Special Operations Team (SOT) for a Jan. 9 tour and training exercise. Morning activities included a tour of the Keystone powerhouse and dam by Park Rangers Mike Schrick and Heather Henson; maintenance manager, Stephen Chapman; lake manager, Kent Dunlap; and senior electrician, Tom Henry, with a special emphasis on potential trouble areas for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees and structures.

Following the drill, the SOT conducted a mock search of the powerhouse area for a hidden assailant. Team leaders and 19 officers were very enthusiastic and appreciative of the training opportunity and have indicated an interest in coordinating future exercises at Corps facilities. The Tulsa County Sheriff's deputies routinely conduct external patrols of the Keystone Dam and Powerhouse and were interested in learning more about the facilities.

Keystone hosts exercise

Commander's Column

SWT employees are valuable asset

Corporate citizenship in the district has never been stronger. Often lost behind the flurry of work being accomplished is the collection of individual efforts freely given by employees.

Whether through the activities mentioned below or through involvement in civil functions, parent/ teacher associations, youth sports, church groups, volunteer fire departments, or as community officials, our employees

helped to prove that the Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers, is a caring organization and a valuable

asset within their communities.

We supported the Combined Federal Campaign for 2001, and our employees in Tulsa, Fort Sill, Altus, R. S. Kerr

Powerhouse, and Chouteau Lock and Dam offices pledged over \$55,000.

The district had 100 Fair Share Givers and among them were 37 Bronze Key Givers (\$500+) and three Silver Key Givers (\$1000+). We also had a great year with our fund raising events that added \$2,667 to the campaign total.

Water safety continued to be a high priority across the district. Thousands of students received water safety messages in schools, special events, and through the media that were hosted at numerous water safety events during the year.

Other community events included participation in local parades and other special events. In

Tulsa, the Martin Luther King Day parade included a float prepared and manned by district employees that included our water safety mascot, Little Toot. Handicapped



COL Robert L. Suthard, Jr.
District Commander

hunts, school tours of facilities, and job fairs were other events that helped the district communicate that the Corps of Engineers cares about the communities in which we work, live, and play.

Employees have been participating in the Tulsa Area United Way's Day of Caring since its inception in 1991. This community-wide volunteer effort provides vital physical labor and support to the 69 member agencies of the United Way in Tulsa. Twenty-two district employees joined with 5,000 other area volunteers to donate their time to the Broken Arrow Seniors center by washing windows, cleaning storage and kitchen areas, organizing a pool tournament, and giving manicures.

Volunteers helped to boost our citizenship by helping to fill many unfunded activities at our lake offices and recreation areas. Thousands of hours are donated by members of the public and welcomed by district employees. At the end of the recreation season, volunteers are shown appreciation at Volunteer Appreciation Day ceremonies and dinners.

The goal is to demonstrate that we appreciate them and hope that they share positive stories about the benefits our agency brings to their communities.

It has been a true pleasure serving as your District Engineer. I look forward to working with you in the coming year as we all strive to provide to the citizens of our great country the best in public service.

“Volunteers helped to boost our citizenship by helping to fill many unfunded activities at our lake offices and recreation areas.”



During the Nov. 8 regional hydropower meeting in Tulsa, Brig. Gen. David Melcher, Southwestern Division Commander, presented the Commander's Award for Civilian Service to 18 SWD employees for their dedication and stellar efforts to ensure the success of the Southwest Regional Hydropower Major Rehabilitation Initiative Process Action Team. During the

presentation, Brig. Gen. Melcher cited the corporate team's accomplishments which will result in future cost savings and benefits to the nation with increased hydropower outputs from restored plants, environmental benefits, and benefits in retaining the Corps' hydropower competency. Tulsa District Operations Division recipients were Larry Harp and Ronald Jordan.

Tulsa District Record

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Partnership provides training opportunity

by Gary Sallee and Terri Broomhall,
Real Estate

The Tulsa District has developed many beneficial partnerships with federal, state and local Governmental agencies over the years. The majority of our employees recognize our relationships with the Departments of Army, Navy and Air Force, and the benefits they have to the Tulsa District. Most of us are aware of the district's need to be involved and sometimes requirement to be involved with state and local agencies as Departments of Transportation, Recreation, Wildlife, county level boards and all the offices of city government. Many of these relationships provide work and funding for the Tulsa District. These agencies bring structure, order and meaning to the way we work.

The Oklahoma National Guard is one of our oldest partners and one of our most unnoticed. At the end of World War II, the district's Real Estate Division negotiated a license with the guard for the use of Camp Gruber. At the time, Camp Gruber contained 65,000 acres; 33,000 acres were deeded to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and 32,000 acres were licensed to the guard.

Since then our relationship has prospered. In the mid 80s, the Real Estate Division purchased Midwest Christian College in Oklahoma City at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million for the Guard. The acquisition of the property provided the guard with facilities that allowed them to open the Oklahoma Military Academy.



Photos by Maj. Howard Schauer

Sections of a bridge are removed from John Pierre Chouteau hiking trail with help from the Oklahoma National Guard, a Chinook, and Black Hawk helicopters.

The campus is large enough to quarter 100 people, classrooms, a mess hall, and land for training and future expansion.

This campus is currently

and other recreation equipment are left to deteriorate on the property, causing potential safety hazards. Managers are left with the task of finding creative solutions to this dilemma.

The McClellan-Kerr Lake Office was recently faced with this challenge. "guard to the rescue!"

The John Pierre Chouteau hiking trail on the navigation channel officially closed in 1998. The trail spanned 60 miles starting at the Port of Catoosa and snaking along the river to the Old Fort Gibson Stockade. Bridges designed to allow pedestrians, and horses in some cases, to cross the streams had been strategically placed along the channel. Park Ranger Larry Fears met with Maj. Howard Schauer, military construction consultant for the guard, to discuss possible ways to remove the bridges. Maj. Schauer saw this as a good training opportunity for the soldiers out of Camp Gruber. Using helicopters and heavy cables, the soldiers were able to lift the 1,500 pounds bridges out of the area for disposal.

Who knows what the future holds for this partnership? Our partnership continues and we are ready and willing to provide support to their missions. ESSAYONS!



a regional training center for Oklahoma and surrounding states.

In FY 2000, the Guard hired us to acquire space for a National Guard Recruiting Facility located in Tulsa's Mall 31. Since that time the Guard has requested we obtain additional recruiting facilities at Tulsa's Eastland Plaza.

As this relationship has grown, limited funds and manpower have forced the closing of many Corps recreational facilities. Lake managers are finding it difficult to dispose of the unused equipment. Most of the time picnic tables





U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo

Deer season draws eighty hunters

by Mark Cazier, Fort Supply Park Ranger

Deer gun season, with the annual bonus hunt for bucks and does, kicked off Nov. 12. Eighty hunters out of the 100 drawn showed up for the opening weekend hunt on the Fort Supply public hunting lands.

According to Eddie Wilson, local Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation area manager, 28 deer were harvested during the opening weekend hunt (24 bucks and four does). Several nice sized bucks were taken - the biggest being 170 lbs.

Fort Supply hunting area opened to general public hunting Nov. 19. "Harvest opportunities appear to be good during the remainder of gun season, as the bucks are just starting to rut," Wilson said. Hunters are required to wear a daylight fluorescent orange head covering as well as a fluorescent orange outer garment above the waistline while in the field. Only bucks may be harvested

during the remainder of gun season from the public hunting lands at Fort Supply.



Handicapped accessible sites, concrete pads and vehicle pullouts are ready for spring activities.

While quail season is closed at Fort Supply during deer gun season, hunters had the opportunity to hunt for about two and a half weeks before deer season. The unseasonably warm and dry weather we've enjoyed over the last few weeks, however, was not good news for quail

hunters. Hunters reported extremely limited success due to the warm, dry weather and the bird populations being down this year.

Next spring, campers at Fort Supply will find additional sites with concrete pads between the table and the vehicle pullout. This should make the sites a little easier to use for individuals who use wheelchairs. It also means less mud tracked into campers during the brief rainy periods between extended droughts. Ultimately, this impact zone will be present at all sites as the older campsites are renovated.

Electricity and water to the sites in North Supply Park (sites 1-23) was shut off at the end of November. Anyone camping December through February must be willing to dry camp. No camping fees are charged during these periods. Electricity and water will be turned back on Mar. 1 and all camping sites and toilets/showers will open Apr. 1.

Don't trash shooting ranges

by Ray Kunka, Fort Supply Lake Manager

Are you disappointed about some of the things people do? I know I am. The first day after Christmas, I checked the shooting range for debris because people who receive new guns from Santa usually like to try them out.

Someone had brought out quite a number of glass quart jars and shot them, obviously not bothering to pick up the glass shards. As anyone knows, broken glass is



Clean Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation area at Fort Supply.



**Photos by Ray Kunka, Fort Supply Lake Manager
Discarded targets littering an Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation area at Fort Supply.**

not biodegradable—it doesn't go away with time! This is totally irresponsible!

I can see how it is great fun to fire a shot and get the satisfaction of seeing the target disintegrate, but there are better ways.

One option is to use soda crackers or cookies

as targets. Once they are pulverized, the wild critters will love you for your target selection whether they have a sweet tooth or not.

Next option, paper targets called Bullseye #1 targets that "explode" when their center is hit.

A third option would be to get some clay pigeon targets normally used by shotgun shooters. As hits are made, the targets get smaller and more challenging.

A final option suggested by a local gun shop manager was to glue Alka Seltzer tablets to a piece of cardboard and shoot at the tablets. The one-inch diameter tablet creates a formidable target. With this option, if the wild critters over-indulge themselves on soda crackers or cookies, they can use the "Speedy" relief of Alka Seltzer.

All of these would be more preferable to trashing the shooting range. Remember, paper targets should be retrieved and placed in the trashcan. Don't "Lay that trash on Oklahoma shooting ranges" and leave thinking that you are helping the next shooter by furnishing something to shoot at.

Just think of yourself as the litterbug you are if you don't retrieve your targets. Let's hope the litterbugs have made a New Year's resolution to stop littering.

What's your 30-second commercial?

Vernon George
Office Chief
Internal Review and Audit Compliance



"The Internal Review Office is a valued member of the district team. Our objective is to provide the commander and district leadership with a full range of professional internal auditing and consulting/advisory services that are timely, and that support local decision-making, effective management and leadership. Internal Review is a management control function that evaluates risk, assesses management controls, improves quality, promotes economy and efficiency, and fosters stewardship. We are dedicated to the Army values and fully committed to supporting the district and Corps in providing excellent public engineering services to this great nation."

Tulsa District's New Deputy Commander Takes Charge

Lt. Col. Zeltner is a native of Seattle, Washington. He obtained an undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin, and spent three years operating a family business in Chetek, Wisconsin. Following 17 months as an enlisted infantryman, he attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in February 1984. In addition to his Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, he holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Troy State University and a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Oklahoma. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms Service and Staff School, the Command and General Staff Officer's Course, and the Inspector General course.

Lt. Col. Zeltner's initial assignment as an officer was with the 72nd Engineer Company, 197th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized)(Separate) at Fort Benning where he served as a Combat Engineer Platoon Leader, Assault and Obstacle Platoon Leader, Task Force Engineer, and Company Executive Officer. After graduation from EOAC, he joined the 87th Engineer Battalion, 1st Engineer Brigade, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After serving as the Battalion S1 and the MOS-12F Training Committee Chief, Lt. Col. Zeltner assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 87th Engineer Battalion in May 1989. One week out of command he volunteered for a tour as Combat Engineer Advisor for the King Abdul-Aziz Brigade of the Saudi Arabian National Guard, where he served in Northern Kuwait and Southern Iraq during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon return, he was assigned to the Corps of Engineers European District with duty at Incirlik Air Force Base, Turkey. He served as the Project Engineer and Contracting Officer's Representative for several multi-million dollar military construction projects, and provided direct support

to engineer operations in support of Operation Provide Comfort in northern Iraq.

Upon return to the United States, Lt. Col. Zeltner was assigned as the Engineer Training Officer in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff - Evaluations, Sixth U.S. Army at the Presidio of San Francisco. In 1995, he served as the advance party liaison and coordinated the move of the entire directorate to Fort Lewis following their re-flagging under the 5th U.S. Army.

Lt. Col. Zeltner served as the Engineer Training Section Chief of the 5th U.S. Army (W) Operational Readiness Evaluations Branch at Fort Lewis until September 1996. He was selected by the 191st Infantry Brigade to serve for two years as the executive officer of the 1st Engineer Battalion (Training Support). After attending the Inspector General Course in December 1998, Lt. Col. Zeltner was assigned as the Inspector General for the 98th Area Support Group in Wuerzburg, Germany 1999 through July 2001 when he became the Deputy District Engineer for the Corps of Engineers in the Tulsa District.

Lt. Col. Zeltner became the Tulsa District Deputy Commander Dec. 17, 2001.



Lt. Col. Stephen Zeltner

Lt. Col. Zeltner's awards include:

- Bronze Star
- Meritorious Service Medal (5),
- Army Commendation Medal (2),
- Army Achievement Medal (2),
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Distinguished Battle Medal

While serving in various units he also earned the Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Award, and the Superior Unit Award.

What's your 30-second commercial?

Everette Laney
Operations Division Biologist

“**T**he Corps is the nations lead agency for providing expertise in construction, maintenance, research, and development for federal projects around the world.

As a biologist for Operations Division, I provide technical support for management of the natural resources at the Tulsa District's lakes. I also serve as Operations representative to other interests concerning the district's natural resource programs.”



Canton Lake awards spirit of volunteers

by Deb Chaloupek, Canton Lake Park Ranger

Canton Lake has been involved in a volunteer program since 1994, but this year marked its fourth annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. Oct. 24, 2001, 43 people enjoyed this year's patriotic theme as part of the décor used at the Canton Community Center. As part of the entertainment, participants were drawn to play the "not-so-new" newly wed game. Certificates of Appreciation were given to each volunteer. For those volunteers who had total hours of 200 or more, special service pins were given. Jim and Lucille Stute, of Perryton, Texas, had a total of 850 hours. Don and Pat Cosper, of Hennessey, Okla, had 682.5 hours. Two other volunteers had over 500 hours for the year, and still two more had over 400 hours.

Each volunteer gives 110 percent while working in the parks and takes great pride in the finished product. For FY01, Canton

Lake had a total of 57 volunteers, a total of 5,815 volunteer hours, with the value of volunteer service worth \$69,821.89. One major difference this year was the number of hours the volunteers did as painters. The usual cost associated with painting contracts was offset with volunteer service. As an incentive, we give free camping to volunteers in exchange for a determined amount of volunteer hours worked. Even when the free camping is subtracted from the value of the volunteer services, the bottom line for FY01 is still a value of service worth \$54,000.89.

Unfortunately, the intangible benefits cannot be given a dollar value. They include positive public relations within the campground, an understanding of the Corps of Engineers

policies and regulations, which in turn, can be explained to other visitors, and in most cases, a work ethic to be envied by any employer.

One of our pet projects this year was planting, mulching, watering and pampering 100 trees that were planted in April. With the western Oklahoma drought and wind, that became quite a job in July and August. Through burn ban and drought, all of the trees survived due to the intensive desire of the volunteers to keep them alive.

Volunteers across the Tulsa

District and across this nation are doing the same types of jobs in the same professional manner as the volunteers do at Canton Lake. Canton Lake truly appreciates volunteers!



Photo by Deb Chaloupek

Waurika Lake chosen for 10-k walk

by Timothy Adkins, Waurika Lake Park Ranger

The Wandergruppe Walking club chose Waurika Lake for its 2001 Labor Day Holiday 10-kilometer walk. Approximately 90 walkers from Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, Alabama, and Mississippi participate in the 10-K event. A total of 12 events over the three-day weekend took place at Waurika Lake, Falconhead Country Club, Lake Murray State Park, Sulphur, and Pauls Valley.

A cerebral palsy sufferer, Siobhan Gann of Monument, Colo., was among the participants. Gann is pictured with Bob and Becky Shute of Colorado Springs. Bob and Becky have walked in 50 states and Gann in 32.

Those interested in participating in one of these walks can contact Al Heberlein, president of the Wandergruppe Walking Club at (405) 843-5731 or Ursula Dixon at (580) 353-3501.

Wandergruppe Walking club was formed in 1979 and was the first in Oklahoma and the 26th walking club in the U.S. at that time.

Oklahoma volkssport clubs sponsors walk year round in one-or two-day walks throughout all 77 Oklahoma counties. These events are not limited to Oklahoma as there are events such as these all over the U.S., as well as walks in foreign countries. Other walking clubs that are involved in these events are Frontier

Walkers Inc., Prairie Dog Plotters, Oklahoma Volkssports Rebels, World Wide Walkers, Tulsa Walking Club, Holy Family Walkers, and Green Country Wander Freunde Tulsa Walking Club.



Becky Shute, Siobhan Gann and Bob Shute enjoying the Labor Day 10-K walk at Waurika Lake .

Corps parks target for meth labs

by Mary Beth Hudson
Tulsa District Public Affairs Office

"Let's go to the lake!" exclaim millions of people each year. More often than not, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake is the destination. Some shoot at targets; others shoot up. Some camp out and cook fresh fish; others hide out and cook methamphetamine.

Meth producers favor rural, unpopulated areas because the activity is illegal, and the process produces toxic, explosive fumes. While meth production originally concentrated in clandestine labs throughout the western and southwestern U.S., it has spread to the central part of the country, and Tulsa District projects have become popular places for certain criminals. Those unwelcome visitors and their illegal activities have become a growing concern for project personnel, according to Mike Schrick, lead ranger at Keystone Lake.

"We're getting good at profiling," he says while telling of a recent surveillance and drug bust made possible by a park volunteer's suspicions and observations.

The district's boundaries include the southern part of Kansas, some of northern Texas, and all of Oklahoma, an area of the country dealing with an increase in this type of drug activity. Oklahoma ranks third in the nation in methamphetamine production; Kansas law enforcement had 804 meth lab busts in 2001, and Texas has seen a rise in the number of meth labs in recent years, with growth concentrated in northern Texas.

Stanley Glanz, Tulsa County sheriff, said his department uncovered just three meth labs in 1995, and more than 1,000 in both 1999 and 2000. He emphasizes that besides being illegal, methamphetamine is dangerous both to take and to make. A highly addictive drug, meth causes physiological changes in the user's brain and permanent damage to the body. It is made with common household products that, when mixed together, can become explosive and/or give off toxic fumes.

It is also an attractive drug for dealers looking for an easy buck. It is cost-effective (a \$200 investment can net a \$2,000 return), quick (batches take only a couple of hours to "cook"), and versatile (the final product can be smoked, injected, or snorted).

That makes the remote areas and open spaces of public lands attractive to criminals looking for spots for their mobile labs.

"There are a million acres of land and water in Tulsa District," said John Marnell, Chief of Natural Resources Branch in Operations Division. "It's a lot of area that gives a lot of people a lot of opportunities to do a lot of things."

And the criminals are doing their thing throughout the district. There were 26 drug incidents reported on Tulsa District projects in 2000, and 37 in 2001. Reports came from Keystone, Texoma, Pat Mayse, Fort Supply, El Dorado, Canton, Eufaula, Heyburn, John Redmond, Kaw, Sardis, Council Grove, Big Hill, and Fort Gibson lakes.

What is being done to address the problem?

"Our big focus has been on education," said Marnell.

Employees, contractors, and volunteers get training to know what to look for, and what to do should they find something – as they often do.

"There's paraphernalia all over the place; they find bits and pieces all the time," said Patricia Lutz, Tulsa District's Chief of Security and Law Enforcement, who emphasizes the importance of knowledge. "Our people need to be better educated and trained because we have the environment the criminal is looking for."

She emphasizes that drugs and weapons often go hand-in-hand, and she's not the only one concerned.

"Our big question is, 'What do we do if we stumble onto one in operation?'" asked Mike Buchanan, park ranger at Lake Texoma. "Run like hell, I guess. If we ever get those bullet-proof vests, maybe we need the trauma plate in the back!"

Even that might not be enough. Lutz said it's not unusual for drug areas to be booby-trapped, so the danger remains even after the criminals have gone. Shane Charlson, environmental specialist with the Keystone Area Office, said the dangers remain whether the area is booby-trapped or not. Examples abound of law enforcement personnel permanently injured from toxic fumes and chemical residue after just short exposure during investigations.

Charlson provides training and makes sure it's continually reemphasized and reinforced. It's given to everyone working at field projects, both paid and unpaid, since volunteers are often the ones who discover the remains of the portable labs and need to know what to do (and what not to).

The situation is not only dangerous, it's costly. Buchanan said Texoma Project has dealt with several sites during the past few years. One in the early '90s cost \$15,000 to clean up; recent, smaller ones have run from \$800 to \$1,500.

In a lake setting, a mobile meth lab can easily be mistaken for a family on an outing, right down to the children. According to "Clandestine Laboratory Response Training" prepared by the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, cooks often have youngsters at their sites. The same material emphasizes the dangerous, explosive nature of the chemicals, and that the people involved in methamphetamine production are highly motivated to keep their activities secret, which makes them dangerous.

Those who may come in contact with either are cautioned to



Photos by Mike Buchanan, Lake Texoma Park Ranger U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes are becoming dumping grounds for Methamphetamine producers.

call the proper authorities, and that's what Corps park rangers (who carry no weapons and have no arrest authority) do.

Some efforts are being made to give Corps rangers more protection. Pepper spray self-defense training is currently underway in Fort Worth District, and Tulsa rangers are watching the outcome closely, according to Schrick of Keystone Lake. That project's proximity to Tulsa makes it a particular favorite of drug cookers, and the state park cabins there have often been used as labs.

That is a "good news/bad news" situation because the problems have worked to the Corps' advantage. The state ranger, James Butler, is now a trained Drug Enforcement Agency responder, and a valuable resource used by Keystone area.

Throughout the district, project personnel look for signs, listen for clues of meth production, and work with local law enforcement. Neal Whitaker, park ranger at Marion Reservoir, said those clues can include batteries that have been peeled open, Sudafed packages, and blue-tinged valves or frost on propane bottles.

Other materials found at mobile meth labs can sound rather innocuous. They include rubber hoses, coffee filters, battery cases, match boxes, spoons, plastic jugs, canning jars, pop bottles, plastic cups, kitchen utensils, rock salt, aluminum foil, and over-the-counter cold and allergy medications.

But then the list get dangerous — sodium acetate, starting

fluid spray, drain opener, and denatured alcohol. Then include anhydrous ammonia, ephedrine, red phosphorous, iodine, lithium metal, hydrochloric gas, sulfuric acid, ethyl ether, muriatic acid, and potassium chlorate.

As the recipes are followed and ingredients combined, the mixtures can become dangerous, toxic, explosive, and deadly.

Lutz feels that rangers should be provided body armor and pepper spray to feel secure doing their job. "I see them as being the most vulnerable," she said. "Protecting the force is my concern, and they can find themselves in the middle before they know it."

Rangers' lives have been changed in several ways, according to Whitaker. They carry first responder resource guides in each patrol vehicle, give areas of known drug activity additional scrutiny and patrol, and keep volunteer groups away from areas with a history of drug activity.

Whitaker said, "We now approach an RV, a pickup with a camper shell, a tent, or even a car in a primitive area with extreme caution. Not only may they be involved with illegal drug production, they may also be meth heads that are cranked out."

Whether cranked out or just starting to cook, the meth cookers and the drug-users they attract are of no benefit to Corps projects. Tulsa District staff and volunteers alike work hard to preserve the recreational experience for those who legitimately say, "Let's go to the lake!"

A Glimpse into the USACE Emerging Leader Program

by Cynthia Kitchens, Environmental Scientist

Hopefully with the growth and maturity of the Emerging Leader Program many of you have heard of it. The purpose of the ELP is to provide Corps employees that have exhibited leadership potential at the GS-09 through GS-12, WG-09 and above, and company-grade level officers, the opportunity to further develop and refine their leadership skills. Additionally, ELP participants have the opportunity to observe the leadership styles of their peers and the Corps senior leadership.

It's not as time consuming as some of the district leadership development programs which makes it inviting to many. Those selected at the SWD level participate in the program for five years or until they become a GS-13. Participation includes attendance to an annual SWD conference, class project and competition for selection to the USACE program. Participation in the USACE program involves attending the annual Senior Leaders/Emerging Leaders Conference and the opportunity to serve on HQ committees, surveys, and more.

The EL program provided some incredible opportunities for me, exposure to decision-making and policy discussions at the very highest level of the Corps and invitations to social functions and national award ceremonies.

As a class of 2000 EL, I felt honored when asked to return as a team leader to the 2001 Emerging Leaders Conference. Although some speculated that I was slow and needed further review of leadership principles, I was thrilled.

During this seven-day conference Gen. Flowers discussed his vision and explained that it was up to the leaders in the audience to achieve his vision.

Priority missions for the Chief include: MILCON execution, Fort Future, Support for Installations, Missile Defense, and Civil Works planning. No doubt 9-11 changed these priorities a bit.

In Civil Works planning he wants broader input at an earlier stage. Regarding environmental operating principles he wants us to implement strategy, finish and communicate our efforts. We must publicize the good things we do and he challenged all of

us to "set the example."

The Corps of Engineers is doing what private industry strives to do. We are truly preparing tomorrow's leaders today. If you're a supervisor, do all you can to support this program. Find the best and brightest and encourage their participation. If you're a GS-12 or below and think you might be interested in the program, talk to an Emerging Leader.

Priority missions for the Chief include: MILCON execution, Fort Future, Support for Installations, Missile Defense, and Civil Works planning.



How do you spell G.I.S?

How about F-U-N?

by Jim Leach, Geospatial Data & Systems Manager

Tulsa District celebrated Geographical Information Systems Day 2001 Tuesday, Nov. 13 at the Tulsa District Office. The day's activities were inspired by the worldwide GIS Day 2001 activities held on Nov. 14.

Folks from all over the district attended the opening "town hall" session and one or more of the various GIS workshop demonstrations later that day. Workshop demonstrators from the Tulsa District included Russ Wyckoff of H&H Branch, Bob Coleman of PER Division, Jim Leach of GD&S, Darvin McClellan and Jonathon Polk of Fort. Gibson Lake, and Bryon Haney from the Fort Worth District. The workshops featured different examples of how GIS is used throughout the district and other Corps of Engineers offices.

"Just what is Geographical Information Systems?" you ask. GIS stores information about the world as a collection of thematic layers that can be linked together by geography. Also, a GIS links spatial and database information that enables a person to visualize patterns, relationships, and trends.

Why is GIS technology so important to the Tulsa District? GIS can save enormous amounts of time in collecting, managing,

manipulating, and querying spatial information. GIS also allows us to associate one type of spatial information easily with another. Our internal and external customers are becoming increasingly more sophisticated in their desire for more detailed information, and GIS allows us to deliver a better, more detailed product or service.

Tulsa District is using GIS for projects like the Arkansas River Navigation Feasibility Study, the John Redmond Lake Pool Reallocation Study, Fort Gibson Lake Facilities Management, Kansas Local Flood Protection Project, and other projects.

Geospatial information has been acquired from a variety of sources to be used in any GIS project. The acquired geospatial information includes; digital USGS quad maps, digital elevation models, USGS digital orthophoto quarter quads, national wetlands inventory data, Environmental Protection Agency information, Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplains, and land use data. This information is accessible by all District personnel, but a little practice and experience in using it is needed. Currently, Operations Division field personnel are spending up to a month in the district office in H&H Branch to gain practical experience using the GIS software and data. These experiences can then be shared back at the project offices.

Hopefully, in the not too distant future, the district's geospatial information will be available for all to use in easy to use applications via the intranet and internet.

Baldrige criteria defines success

by Margaret Johanning
Strategic Planner and Total Quality Coordinator

Mike Strong



Retired United States Air Force COL Mike Strong, executive director of the Oklahoma Quality Award Foundation, spoke at the district's Corporate Board

meeting Jan. 18. He explained how organizations use Baldrige criteria to define success and develop a roadmap for continuous performance improvement.

The Baldrige criterion used to prepare a self-assessment provides the external validation that we are on the right path. A quality award submittal based on that assessment receives extensive examination from a panel of experts that prepare a feedback report for the organization. The feedback report provides the "business health audit" that identifies the organization's strengths and weaknesses. Baldrige award winners describe the winning of the award as secondary to the improvements in business results achieved from the alignment of goals and performance improvements.

COL Suthard presented a Certificate of Appreciation to COL Strong at the conclusion of the meeting. Members of the Total Quality Self-Assessment Team and Class 6 of the Leadership Development Program attended the meeting.

Challenges with the opportunity to excel

by Walter Garner, Project Manager

Tulsa District has successfully filled a critical role in helping our military installations meet their facilities and infrastructure challenges and in many cases offered the installations choices or end products that in-fact provide an opportunity to excel in both the mission support and quality of life areas.

Case in point; recently the flying training mission at Altus Air Force Base,

Altus, Okla, changed to include a new cargo aircraft, the C-17. The installation faced many challenges in regards to ramp parking space, ramp hydrant fueling capability, hangar space, billeting space and the need to see all portions of the airfield and runway from the aircraft control tower. This especially became an issue with the completed construction of an aircraft assault landing strip and a new outside runway designed for the C-17.

The air traffic controllers could not see the end of the new runway from the existing tower.

The installation, Major Command and HQ Air Force programmed and petitioned congress for a new control tower at Altus. With tremendous coordinated effort, the Corps of Engineers prepared preliminary estimates and design concepts to support this program action. As a result, HQ Air Force and congress approved/funded a

new control tower for Altus. The tower was approved as one of five for the Major Command, Air Education and Training Command. Each tower would be designed and managed by a different Corps district.

The tower at Altus was number three in priority for funding and design, thus started late. It was to use a modified "site adapt" design from tower number one under design from another installation and district. Tower numbers one and two were besieged by design and construction problems that caused them to fall far behind the original schedule and the cost to soar above the original programmed amount. Tulsa District's dedicated Project Delivery Team met this challenge head on. The Altus tower was completed and accepted for beneficial occupancy and placed in use in advance of towers number one or number two.

The exceptional customer service effort by the Corps of Engineers not only helped the installation build and modify all the projects and requirements listed above, but this sustained level of effort also ensured early completion of the design and construction of the new air traffic control tower. Early beneficial occupancy of the new tower was a key ingredient that allowed Altus to meet its aircrew training challenge head on. It provided Altus the opportunity to excel in safe aircrew production that is so critical to our nation's defense. This is one example of how the Corps plays a dynamic role in helping our military installations fulfill their challenges.

IRS Extended Hours



Tuesdays & Thursdays

Jan. 29- Apr 11

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Monday April 15

4:30-6:30 p.m.



Dave Jones, Tulsa District, team leader and Vernon Lawless, Savannah District, chief appraiser and team leader of a six-member CREST unit receive SWD coins from Brig. Gen. Melcher during his visit to Kuwait.

Real Estate Operations Abroad

by Tracy White, Realty Specialist

Contingency Real Estate Team (CREST) is a team of Real Estate personnel who must be prepared to deploy at any time, usually within 24 hours, to wherever their mission takes them. Once deployed, those who participate must stay with the mission until it is complete.

The teams are comprised of a volunteer pool of real estate experts and professionals who are ready to offer their expertise in acquisition, disposal, real estate law, resource management, negotiations and planning. They periodically train in battlefield survival skills to include first aid, nuclear-biological-radiation, map reading, land navigation, military customs and the use of basic weapons.

Real Estate personnel initially coordinate with the U. S. Department of State at embassies, consulates and mission offices for assistance. During coordination, it is important to put everything in writing to avoid future problems and to facilitate mission

"handover" to others.

Throughout the duration of the mission, the real estate team will be busy leasing, managing, disposing, paying rents and damages, handling claims and preparing records and reports. Proper administrative recording of these activities is very important to the mission.

Dave left us on Nov. 24 to serve on the Corps of Engineers CREST.

Currently Tulsa District's Dave Jones is deployed to Kuwait conducting work in Afghanistan's neighboring countries. Dave and his fellow team members have left family members and friends behind for up to six months.

Not to worry - we understand that Dave and his comrades have some of the same amenities that we have here at home! Nonetheless, the Real Estate Division misses Dave very much. But, we know he is making us proud by serving in such a distinguished position.



Operations and Maintenance Notes

by Johnny Bell



Continuing Contracts

Work continues on the Eufaula Lake tainter gate rehabilitation project. Contract completion date is April 2002.

Contract closeout has begun on the Keystone tainter gate rehabilitation project.

Upcoming O&M Contracts

Several FY02 projects will get underway as a result of funding received for ice damages that occurred in the winter of FY01.

Eufaula Project Office Rehabilitation:

Opening bid was held Jan. 29. The apparent low bidder is Cooley Construction. For those that may recall, the Hartford Levee repair job was completed by this contractor.

Waurika/Fort Supply Road Repairs:

Project is being advertised at this time. Opening bid is scheduled for March 12. Roadwork at Waurika includes patching and surfacing of the embankment road, repairing a slide area on the downstream crest of the embankment and installation of at least three turnout areas for parking on the embankment. Roadwork at Fort Supply will include patching and surfacing the embankment toe road.

Texoma Road Repairs:

Final plans and specifications are underway. Opening bid is scheduled for March 26. Various roadwork items will be executed at several public use areas around Texoma Lake, including the dam site, and asphaltting the recently constructed six-lane boat ramp parking area, which currently has a gravel surface.

Robert S. Kerr/Eufaula Misc. Road Repairs:

Final plans and specifications are being prepared. Opening bids will be accepted March 26.

Oologah Project Office Roof:

Project is being advertised at this time. Opening bid is scheduled for Feb. 12. Project consists of replacing the existing built-up roof with a truss-roof system. Roadwork will start at Spaniard Creek, Afton Landing, Cowlington Point and Short Mountain Cove public use areas in the Robert S. Kerr area. Roadwork at Eufaula will consist of totally rebuilding the dam access road north and if funding allows, Oak Ridge and Broken Cove public use areas will receive patching and surface treatments.

Skiatook Lake Road Repairs:

Plans and specifications are underway for completing roadwork items in the Skiatook Twin Points public use area. The road leading into this public use area is experiencing severe erosion and undermining near one of its culvert areas, threatening the loss of the road and posing a safety hazard. The roadwork will address this item in addition to other patching and surfacing work throughout the public use area.

Hydropower Related Projects

R.S. Kerr Powerhouse

Work is underway for replacement of the Robert S. Kerr excitation system. Primarily manufacturing of the system will occur in FY02 with installation starting in FY03.

Evaluation of proposals for the R.S. Kerr gantry crane equipment control replacement started Jan. 15. A request for clarification was sent to the potential contractors. Final evaluation will begin Feb. 7. We anticipate awarding the contract by March 7.

Webbers Falls/Keystone Powerhouse:

Proposal evaluation for replacement of the excitation systems at these two powerhouses started Jan. 24. Request of additional information has been forwarded to the potential contractors. Final evaluation should start Feb. 10. Contract award is scheduled for mid-March.

Texoma, Fort Gibson, Eufaula Powerhouses:

Final plans and specifications for rehabilitation of the power intake gates at each of these powerhouses was delivered to Contracting Division. Opening bid is scheduled for March 14.

Replacement of Tenkiller Powerhouse 15kV circuit breakers:

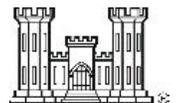
A purchase order request has been made, and awarding of the contract is scheduled for mid-March.

Replacement of Broken Bow Powerhouse 13.8 kV circuit breakers:

After two unsuccessful attempts at advertising this project, plans and specifications have been revised for using the purchase order process to complete the work. Contract award is scheduled for late March.

Webbers Falls Powerhouse Rehabilitation:

Design effort is underway by the Hydroelectric Design Center. The design effort for FY02 will consist of preparing plans and specifications for the powerhouse crane rehabilitation, generator rewind, and replacement of transformers. Final plans and specifications are underway for the turbine replacement. The design for the critical path work will be completed in FY02. Upon receipt of funding in FY04, construction will begin.



CPAC joins Tulsa Team



The CPAC Team available to help with your questions are Duane Braxton- Labor/Management-Employee Relations Issues - 817-886-1186; Georgeanna Wilson-Tulsa CPAC Team Leader, 817-886-1181; Jeff Hair-Staffing Issues, 817-886-1187; Jorge Clavell - Position Management/Classification Issues, 187-886-1179. Not pictured but ready to assist are Kim Glenn - OWCP Issues- 817-886-1180 and Rena Whitlock - Benefits - 817-886-1194.

by Margaret Johanning
Strategic Planner and Total Quality Coordinator

In his first town hall address to the district, COL Suthard paraphrased the district perspective that there was “no human in human resources” in fact, with the rationalization of the Army personnel system in 1995, the districts within the Southwestern Division have been nearly six years without on-site human resource services. COL Suthard expressed his belief that having human resource services in the district would improve his operations. He brought the situation to the attention of Southwestern Division and since Jan. 2002, a representative of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at Fort Worth has attended both the district’s Corporate Board meetings and Board of Directors meetings.

The new face for personnel assistance belongs to Georgeanna Wilson, personnel management specialist and the CPAC team Leader for the district. She’s available for appointments with employees Thursday before the Corporate Board meetings. She will notify all employees by e-mail approximately 10 days before she will be in the district. Her Tulsa office is on the first floor, room 182, across from the mailroom.

Other members of her team that we may see from time to time are Jeff Hair, Duane Braxton, Jorge Clavell, and Rena Whitlock or Kimberley Glenn. Rena and Kimberley are handling benefit and worker’s compensation issues on a temporary basis pending a vacancy being filled. Welcome to the district, Georgeanna!

Fourth Quarter Customer Care Award Winner

Neal A. Whitaker

Park Ranger, Operations Division
Marion Project

Neal Whitaker, a Marion Project Office park ranger in Kansas, is the Fourth Quarter Customer Care Award winner. He received this award for his tireless planning and dedication to Marion’s Annual Deer Hunt for Persons with Disabilities. Each morning, Neal arrived at 4 a.m. to set up the day’s hunt and activities and was involved in five evening hunts. The hunters in this event ranged from 15 to 80 years of age. Neal was responsible for the Marion Lake Association, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks deer hunt and recruited over 120 volunteers to serve during the event. The hunters said, “Neal went above and beyond the call of duty to make this enjoyable for them.” Neal has been a Federal employee since 1985.



The African American Legacy: Contributions and Service in America’s Defense



African American History Month
February 28 - 9:30 a.m.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Tulsa District
Conference Room 210
1645 South 101st East Avenue, Tulsa, OK.

What’s your 30-second commercial?

Kathy Riggle Support Assistant Equal Employment Opportunity Office



“As an EEO Assistant, I assist the EEO manager, EEO specialist, and support assistant in carrying out EEO’s mission. I perform a variety of duties in support of the Equal Employment Opportunity Program and the Special Emphasis Programs. I also prepare the budget and CEFMS documents. Our office is small, but the work we each do is very exciting. Each individual in our office is a valued member of ‘our team’ and each one of us complements the other.”

Safety

Winter Driving Tips

Compiled by Judy Baker, Safety Office

You shouldn't expect your car to adjust to winter weather without some help. A complete pre-season tune-up is a must, including a check of the starter, ignition, fluids, hoses, fan belts, and spark plugs. Make sure the brakes, battery, lights, and exhaust and heating systems are in top shape. Consider early replacement of any vital parts that aren't in good condition; it is better to replace them now than in the middle of a winter storm when they might be in short supply. The same goes for tires; always make sure your tires are the best possible tires for hazardous road conditions. Good, well-maintained equipment can make a big difference if you run into trouble out on the roads.

10 Tips for Safe Winter Driving from the National Safety Council

Defuse road rage

One-fourth of drivers in a recent AAA survey admitted they have expressed anger at other drivers. To avoid becoming a road-rage statistic, leave more room between yourself and other drivers. Stay out of the left lane if you are going slow, and don't play games on the road. Stay calm, do not make threatening gestures or yell at other drivers.

Wear your safety belts

You have to be protected, no matter what the season is. Make it a rule: Everyone must be buckled up before the vehicle moves.

Be ready for changing conditions

Make sure you have good all-season tires that can handle different types of weather. Check with your auto mechanic or a professional at a tire store to discuss your options. In heavy snow and ice areas, you may need more than all-season tires.

Respect the winter weather

Plan extra time for a trip in the winter. A trip that might take 30 minutes in May could take 45 minutes or an hour in the winter.

Know how to react to trouble

If you have antilock brakes, don't pump them. Press them down as hard as you can. If you go into a skid, turn the steering wheel in the direction you want the front of the car to go; that will keep the vehicle from skidding out of control, then prepare to counter-steer 2 or 3 times.

Don't get SUV overconfident

The bigger the vehicle, the tougher it is to stop. While a sport-utility vehicle might get through some tough conditions, it won't stop more quickly, and it may roll over if you turn too fast.

Inspect your vehicle

Check the antifreeze. Make sure you have proper tires to handle the weather. Be sure you have enough gas for each trip. Wipers must be in good shape to handle snow and ice. Remember the wipers may be frozen to the glass.

Leave some space

Follow the three-second rule. After the vehicle in front of you passes a stationary object, you should be able to count for three-seconds before your vehicle passes the same object. Add one more second for each driving condition that deteriorates.

Winterize your vehicles' safety kit

The kit should include some special additions such as gloves, blankets, a small shovel to dig out snow, sand or kitty litter to help get traction if needed, a flashlight, a first aid kit, jumper cables, ice scraper/brush, flares or reflective triangles, extra automotive fluids, candles and waterproof matches, non-perishable snacks and drinking water, extra medication if you have regular daily medications, lock deicer, and a cell phone to make emergency calls.

Don't drink and drive

Approximately 30 percent of winter driving crashes that lead to visits in the emergency room involve alcohol. Remember when drinking alcohol, you have less reaction time. In hazardous conditions, this could be a disaster.

Was it you who saved my life?

Every minute of every day, donated blood saves lives.
Please give blood.
Call today to make an appointment.
1-800-GIVE LIFE

American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life
1-800-GIVE LIFE | www.redcross.org

Jan. 25, 2002 - Blood Drive Results

52-Number of donors presenting
2-First time donors
47-Units collected

Big Thank You to all of our great volunteers for a fantastic blood drive!
The Red Cross was behind last month on the number of units collected and expect to be again this month, however going above our goal really helps them and those that are needing our gift.

Thanks a bunch
Helen Williams
Wellness Committee Member

Next Drive
April 19

THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT IS FOR DRY, SAFE, NORMAL ROAD CONDITIONS ONLY

What's your 30-second commercial?

Heather Henson Park Ranger Keystone Lake



“As a Park Ranger for the Corps of Engineers, I have many duties, which include visitor assistance, maintaining wildlife habitat, shuffling through paperwork, and spending time outdoors. I have the opportunity to manage public land for the people who own it, the citizens of America. In that, I take great pride. Everyday, I pinch myself because I can't believe they pay me to do this.”

Tulsa District



Family News

New Employee



Welcome to **Karen Lichtenberg**, support assistant, Hazardous, Toxic, and Radiological Waste Design Center. Karen has excellent administrative skills and experience. Her talents will be put to use providing quality administrative support to the design center.

Karen Lichtenberg

Congratulations

Scott and Geannine Henderson on the arrival of their baby girl, born Dec. 13 at

7:35 a.m. Her name is Kayley Renae and she weighed 7 lbs 11 oz and was 19 1/2" long at birth with a head full of dark curly hair.

Tim and Heather Murphy, proud parents of Madeleine Elsie, born Dec. 15 at 11:17 a.m. Congratulations also to Jeffrey and Paige Smith on the arrival of their 8 lbs, 6 oz baby girl, Marguerite Joy, born Jan. 18. Madeleine, Marguerite, their parents and grandparents, Arlene and Terry Smith, are all doing great.

MAJ Daniel and wife Melinda Snead, the very proud parents of Ethan Courtney, born Dec. 24 at 12:02 p.m. He weighed 9 lbs 2 oz and was 21 1/2 inches long at birth. Ethan has blue eyes and has a little bit less hair than Dad.

Jan Morris is proud to announce the birth of her first grandson, Luke Allyn Kirk, born Jan 30. Luke was 6 lb. 11 oz and 18" long at birth. Jimmy, Kim, and Luke are all doing well.

Condolences

Norman Keath, Tulsa District retiree, passed away Nov. 3. Norman Keath, father of James Keath, Wage Leader, Fall River Lake Office worked from 1966 to 1985 at Hulah and Elk City Lakes. Condolences may be sent to Cynthia Keath and family - James R. Keath at RR 4, Fredonia, Kans 66736.

Bonnie Schwab passed away Dec. Please keep her family in your prayers as they go through this difficult time. Services were held Dec. 7 at Nick A. Reynolds Funeral Service Chapel, 1916 South Sheridan, Tulsa, Okla.

Mabel (**Babe**) M. Cardey Gerhard, retired administrative clerk at Canton Lake, passed away Dec. 14. Babe worked for the Corps of Engineers at Canton Lake for 11 years and five months before retiring June 30, 1988. Cards may be sent to Alvin Gerhard, 5801 N. Oakwood, Enid, Okla. 73701

Max Dixon passed away Jan. 9, 2002. Services were held January 12, at the Council Grove Christian Church, Council Grove, Kans. Max began his career with the Tulsa District in April 1962 as a surveyor during the construction of Council Grove Lake and transferred to the Keystone Resident Office and later to the Cleveland Project Office in 1964.

Max returned to Council Grove as a Operations and Maintenance worker in 1965. 1967 Max became the first park ranger at Council Grove Lake, a position he held until he retired Oct. 1991. Cards may be sent to Max's wife Jane at 1434 W. Main, Council Grove, Kans. 66846.

Carol D. Peters, mother of Alan Peters, maintenance inspector at John Redmond Project Office, passed away Jan. 8.

Stan Henzler passed away Jan 15. He retired from the Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch of E&C Division in 1996. Services were held Jan. 17 at the St. Andrews Methodist Church, Claremore, Okla 74017.

Harold Altendorf, father of Christine Altendorf, Chief of Civil Works passed away Feb 6. Services were held Feb. 8 at the St. Francis Assisi Catholic Church, Oklahoma City, Okla. Cards may be sent to Mary Kathryn Altendorf, 2812 Tudor Road, Oklahoma City, Okla 73127.

Helen Mary Myers, mother of Jocelyn Ashcraft, cartographic technician, Operations Division passed away Feb 9. Services were held Feb. 11 at Floral Haven Cemetery, Broken Arrow, Okla. Cards may be sent to Jocelyn Ashcraft, 1101 N Aster Ave, Broken Arrow, Okla 74012.

Ruins still standing at Keystone Lake

by Paul Roberts, Keystone Park Ranger

Even if you know the history of the 1906 ruins at Keystone Lake, you can't help but be taken back by the house as it comes into view.

It must have been the largest and grandest in the region; a show place with a towering pentagon shaped front façade and a wrap-around porch. The old walls speak of sophistication, wealth and worldliness and they tell of the skill and sweat of master craftsmen from a bygone era.

Creek Freedwoman Lizzie Redmond built the house to face the morning sun above the big bend on the Cimarron River in the Northwest District of the Creek Nation. Just a few miles down stream lies the confluence of the Cimarron with the Arkansas and what was once the little town of Keystone. Further downstream on the Arkansas, Tulsa's banks were flush with oil money and streets full of roughnecks and fortune hunters.

Elizzie Davis ne Redmond, known locally as Lizzie Redmond, was born around 1865 near North Fork Town, OK. She was the daughter of Mose Redmouth, owned by Alex Redmouth of Arkansas, and Annie Martin, owned by George Stidham, a Creek plantation owner and businessman - presumably the namesake of Stidham, Okla. In 1890 Elizzie was enrolled in the Creek Tribe at the age of 25. Lizzie had four children, two sons Eddie and Jesse; and two daughters, Elzora and Vera.

Stories abound to this day that Lizzie was friendly to outlaws and made whiskey for the illegal Tulsa market. Outlaws on the run were often generous benefactors to those who provided home cooking, a warm place to sleep and kept their silence. Lizzie's place was strategically located near the boundary of Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory with outlaw caves and hideouts all over the region. Just a mile south of Lizzie's was a sandstone overhang with the names of Bob and Emmett Dalton inscribed in it. Bob and Grat Dalton were killed and Emmett was wounded at Coffeyville Kans in 1892 while attempting the infamous two-bank holdup. The Dalton gang, the Doolin-Dalton gang and the Doolin "Wild Bunch" were probably the most notorious of the time.



Photo by Paul Roberts, Keystone Park Ranger
Ruins of Freedwoman Lizzie Redmond's home remain as a ghostly reminder of a Keystone's past.

During the pre-statehood days the eastern part of Oklahoma assigned to the five civilized tribes was by Federal law dry. In reality, the lands were never dry and moonshine flowed like water. In fact it floated in barrels down the Arkansas during the oil boom days.

There's no evidence to prove Lizzie ran whiskey or harbored outlaws. However, visitors to the stone house in latter years stated that one of the interior walls was in fact a double wall that was accessible through a small door easily concealed by furniture. There was room sufficient to hide a person or a clandestine stash of booze and money.

As the oil boom grew, land grabs were the order of the day. Property owners mysteriously died and their lands were scooped up. Court appointed estate administrators or custodians of underage Creek children took over allotments and sold the land in short order. In other cases, false deeds with forged signatures were filed.

Lizzie died May 12, 1909, one year and a day after filing for a mortgage on her allotment. The mortgage holder sold the debt to a local bank that appointed an estate administrator, who filed for foreclosure.

Once her children discovered the foreclosure, they filed suit to stop the action and to remove the administrator. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers acquired the property in 1962.

Little did her family know the walls would still be standing into the next millennium. Those thick walls of Lizzie's grand two-story house still grace the hillside a stone's throw from the high water mark of Keystone Lake.