

District Commander's Award

By Joann Wilgenbusch, Resource Management

Tom Minear, Office of Counsel, and **Robert Lazenby**, Real Estate, were recognized Feb. 28, with the **District Commander's Award for December 2000**, by Col. William Bayles, District Commander.

Minear and Lazenby were nominated for the award for their professionalism and outstanding contributions to the award of the Lockport Lock and Dam Access Bridge construction contract.

For the last five years, this project has

had numerous legal and real estate hurdles that have delayed the award of this badly needed bridge construction contract.

Minear and Lazenby endured long negotiations, difficult wording requests, detailed changes, as well as Division and Headquarters briefings.

Their perseverance, attention to detail, and the ability to shrug off the disappointment of delays and changes, were the key to the two necessary real estate leases and Memorandum of Agreement that would

allow the award of the construction contract. 🏠



Speakers Bureau

By Justine Barati, Public Affairs

During the month of February, **Tom Heinold**, Engineering Division, assisted students from Alleman High School, Rock Island, Ill., with a bridge-building project. He visited the class three times to discuss bridges, evaluate their draft-to-scale drawings, and judge their final project. Each bridge was graded, checked to meet specifications, weighed, and loaded until it failed. The strongest bridge held 101 pounds.

Karen Hagerty, Programs and Project Management Division, and **Mark Clark**, Engineering Division, met with the Partners of Scott County Watersheds on Feb. 1 at the Davenport Public Works office in Davenport, Iowa. Topics of discussion included how to familiarize the area city councils and county board of supervisors with the group.

Mark Hoague, Engineering Division, and **Damon Barati**, Information Management, spoke with more than 50 local high school students at Black Hawk College in Moline, Ill., on Feb. 2. They spoke about their careers at the Corps.

John Fleischman, **Tom Mack**, **James Bohall**, and **Cory DeLong**, Engineering Division, judged the Aldrin Junior High School Science Fair on Feb. 16 in Barstow, Ill. More than 80 students competed in the fair.

Tom Minear, Office of Counsel, discussed the Freedom of Information Act with six members of the Bi-State Regional Commission on Feb. 20 at the Rock Island County building in Rock Island, Ill.

Mike Schwar, Engineering Division, spoke with more than 50 members of the American Society for Civil Engineers in Bloomington, Ill., on Feb. 21. The topic of his discussion was the comparison of hydrologic techniques for detention design.

Also on Feb. 21, **Laura Abney**, Programs and Project Management Division, and **Rick Nickel**, Engineering Division, assisted Bettendorf High School students with a lesson on interviews at Bettendorf High School in Bettendorf, Iowa. Abney and Nickel

interviewed students to prepare them for future interviews in the working world.

Joe Raoul, Engineering Division, was the keynote speaker at the Quad City Scholars meeting at Black Hawk College, Moline, Ill., on Feb. 21. He spoke with more than 200 students about his career in the government. The Quad City Scholars promotes the need for education to high school students.

On Feb. 24, members of the District's Explorer Post participated in a tour of the construction site at Lock and Dam 12 in Bellevue, Iowa. The students learned more about the major rehabilitation and toured the project. The purpose of the Post is to assist students in learning more about careers in science and engineering. **Joe Lundh**, Operations Division, **Dennis Shannon**, **Tom Gambucci**, and **Jim Bartek**, Engineering Division, and **Justine Barati**, Public Affairs, organized and participated in the activity.

Larry Jones, Executive Office, spoke with members of the High 12 club at Bishop's Cafeteria in Bettendorf, Iowa, on Feb. 27. He presented an overview of the District to more than forty members of the club.

Bob Riebe, Engineering Division, spoke with more than 70 students from Carbon Cliff-Barstow Junior High at Carbon Cliff Methodist Church in Carbon Cliff, Ill., on Feb. 28. The topic of discussion was the recent flooding in the area.

More than 30 members of Iowa Masonic Health Facilities were entertained by Steve Vacek's eagle talk on Feb. 28 at the nursing home in Bettendorf, Iowa. Vacek is a member of Operations Division.

The Speakers Bureau is an outreach program where employees work to foster positive relations between the community and the Corps. Contact with the public provides an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the District's role in our communities, the Midwest and the nation. District employees interested in Speakers Bureau opportunities should contact Justine Barati, x5204. 🏠

Notes from the Mississippi*

Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa

- ✓ Traveling keel bearing replaced.
- ✓ Engine hoist cleaned and painted.
- ✓ Bubbler system air lines installed.

Lock and Dam 12, Bellevue, Iowa

- ✓ Lower lifeboat floor replaced.
- ✓ Rehab. project web cam installed.

Lock and Dam 13, Clinton, Iowa

- ✓ Auxiliary gate grate replaced.
- ✓ Ceiling and fan installed in upstairs restroom.

Locks and Dam 14, Le Claire, Iowa

- ✓ Clutch friction pads replaced on valves three and four.
- ✓ Auxiliary lock small boat lines spliced.
- ✓ Lock machinery maintained.

Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill.

- ✓ Twenty-four timbers replaced on main lock gates.
- ✓ Pillow blocks replaced on number two, three and four gates.

Lock and Dam 16, Muscatine, Iowa

- ✓ Hot water circulating brackets installed in the basement.
- ✓ Lock sign installed on I-wall.

Lock and Dam 17, New Boston, Ill.

- ✓ Quoin end of number four gate sealed.
- ✓ Eighteen timbers replaced on gates one, two and four.

Lock and Dam 18, Burlington, Iowa

- ✓ Lock-valve gearbox oil changed.
- ✓ Wood-storage rack constructed and installed.

Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Iowa

- ✓ Frame and door installed at lower land gallery access.
- ✓ Pilot valves installed on service gate brake valves.

Lock and Dam 20, Canton, Mo.

- ✓ Strobe lights installed on number two and four gate gearboxes.
- ✓ Ring-buoy holders repainted.

Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Ill.

- ✓ Lock wall signs repaired.
- ✓ Overhead-door pulley replaced.

Lock and Dam 22, Saverton, Mo.

- ✓ Number three miter gate speed-reducer camshaft seal replaced.
- ✓ New 480-volt heater mounted in north bay of shop.

*This is a small sample of work completed at District locks and dams throughout the month.

Recent Retirements ...

John J. Copeland, Engineering Division, was the acting assistant-chief and will retire March 30, after serving 33 years and nine months in the federal government.

Recently, Copeland was assigned as acting-assistant chief, Engineering Division. Prior to this assignment, he worked at the District in the Design Branch of Engineering Division and in the Program and Project Management Division. While in the Design Branch, he worked on building renovation, utility relocation, flood control, and lock and dam major rehabilitation projects.

Copeland is a registered professional engineer in the state of Illinois and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of Military Engineers. He has received numerous awards, including the Army Commendation Medal for active duty, the Rock Island Post Paul Norton Award and Certificate of Performance during the Great Flood of 1993. He served as president of the Rock Island Post of the Society of American Military Engineers in 1997 and was president of the Quad City Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1977. He was the chairperson of the Great Lakes Regional Conference held in Rock Island, Ill. in 1993.

Copeland left the District with the following remarks.

"After my retirement, I will continue to remain active in the ASCE, SAME and the Propeller Club. I enjoy engineering very much and am very proud of my years with the District and look forward to staying involved in my profession for many more years. I would also like to thank the people who helped plan my retirement party and spoke at the party. It was really a nice send off for me, and my family enjoyed it very much."

Copeland lives with his wife and daughter. He has two grown children.

William H. Koellner, Engineering Division, Hydrology & Hydraulics Branch, Water Control Section, was supervisory hydraulic-engineer and retired March 2, after serving 36 years and two months with the federal government.

Koellner has more than 36 years working with Mississippi River and Illinois River navigation projects and the flood control reservoirs in Iowa. His duties included the regulation of the Mississippi River navigation dams, collection of meteorological and hydrological data and the regulation of the Corps' three flood control reservoirs in Iowa. He used space-age technology to secure critical data for project operations and has also supervised water control personnel and activities.

Koellner is a registered professional engineer in the state of Wisconsin and a registered professional hydrologist. The Quad-Cities Engineer and Science Council selected him as "Engineer of the Year" in 1981.

Koellner has received several awards for his involvement in community activities. He is chairman of the Muscatine General Hospital Board of Trustees, president of the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency school board, president of West Liberty Retirement Community, West Liberty Heritage Foundation, West Liberty Depot Restoration Project, West Liberty Development Corporation, and West Liberty Rotary.

He served on Iowa Governor Vilsack's Drought Advisory Council. He is a member of several committees and professional organizations. He also was involved with the Department of Commerce and Interior committees on long-range planning and improvement of products to customers. He has written and published several technical articles and books on weather and river issues.