

Construction of Lockport Lock Access

On May 5, the Rock Island District hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Lockport Lock Access Bridge located in Lockport, Ill. Rep. Judy Biggert, R-Ill., District 13, was the keynote speaker.

The Corps demolished the 16th Street Bridge in preparation for construction of the new bridge.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago requested the Corps to demolish the 16th Street Bridge before it became a hazard to the public. In order to accomplish this, the MWRD made a lump sum payment of \$550,000 to the Corps to be used toward the demolition and replacement of the bridge. The Corps will construct a new bridge to replace the demolished bridge and will maintain the bridge and the approach road leading to the bridge.

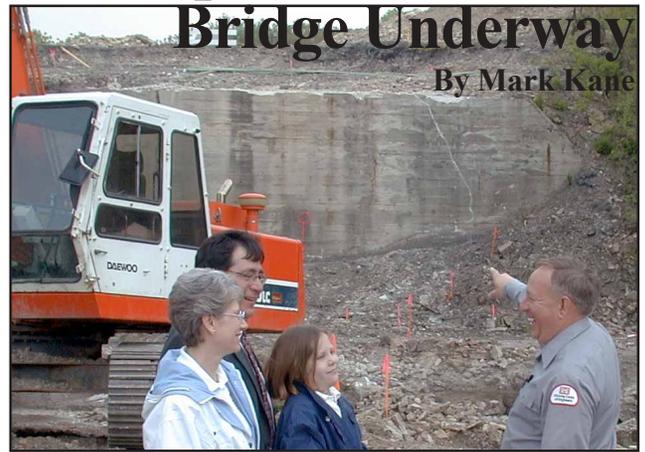
The total cost of the project will be \$3.6 million.

Until its recent destruction, the 16th Street Bridge had load restrictions and

was reduced to one lane. There were several structural members of the bridge that were severely deteriorated, and the bridge was quickly becoming dangerous and unsafe. The bridge served its purpose and reached the end of its useful life.

The city of Lockport, as well as cultural and historical interests, will allow the use of the historic 9th Street Stone Arch Bridge for temporary access to the lock during construction of the new bridge. The Stone Arch Bridge is not a reliable and reasonable option for long-term access.

The new 16th Street Bridge, being built by the Corps of Engineers with a substantial contribution from the



Bridge Underway

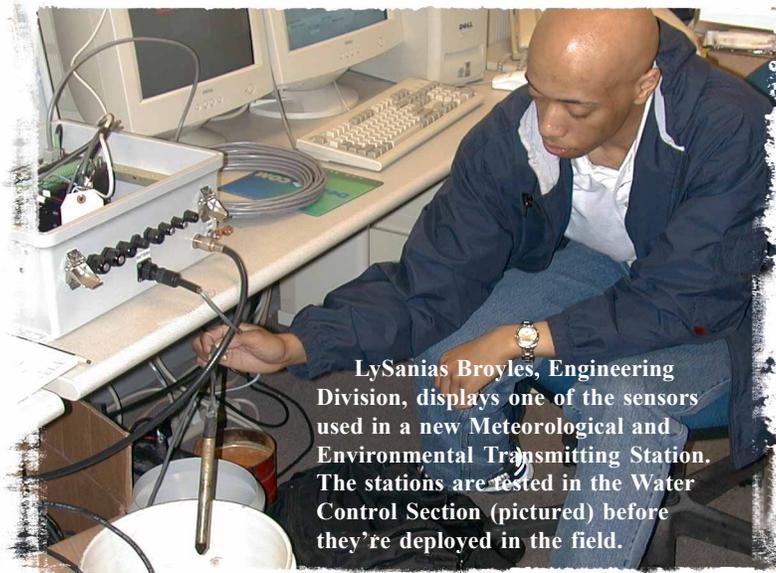
By Mark Kane

Photo by Justine Barati, Public Affairs

Lockmaster Patrick Wharry, Lockport Lock, describes where the future Lockport Lock Access Bridge will be constructed to Rick Granados, Illinois Waterway Project Office, Granados' daughter, and Sue Simmons, Programs and Project Management.

Water Reclamation District, will provide reliable and long-term access to the Lockport Lock and Dam.

Construction of the bridge is scheduled to be completed in September 2001.



LySanias Broyles, Engineering Division, displays one of the sensors used in a new Meteorological and Environmental Transmitting Station. The stations are tested in the Water Control Section (pictured) before they're deployed in the field.

Story and photo by Mark Kane

The Rock Island District recently deployed the Corps' first Meteorological and Environmental Transmitting Station at Locks and Dam 15, May 3. The unit is used to sense pool and tail stage, air temperature, water temperature, precipitation, wind speed, direction and gust.

Until the deployment of the MET station, the District relied upon analog strip charts for water level information. Analog strip charts, while very reliable, are hard to use for digital applications

and bulky to store. The strip chart components are made of 1940 analog technology and resemble the readouts of a seismograph.

Using the analog technology, float sensors driving the strip charts "top out" (hit the top of the float well) before reaching major flood stage, and at that point, the District managers must rely on manually read staff gages at the locks for information.

MET stations will serve as digital strip charts and will feed data into a corporate database and supplement the existing analog data. Unlike the analog data, which is updated every two hours, the digital strip charts will provide data at "near real-time speeds."

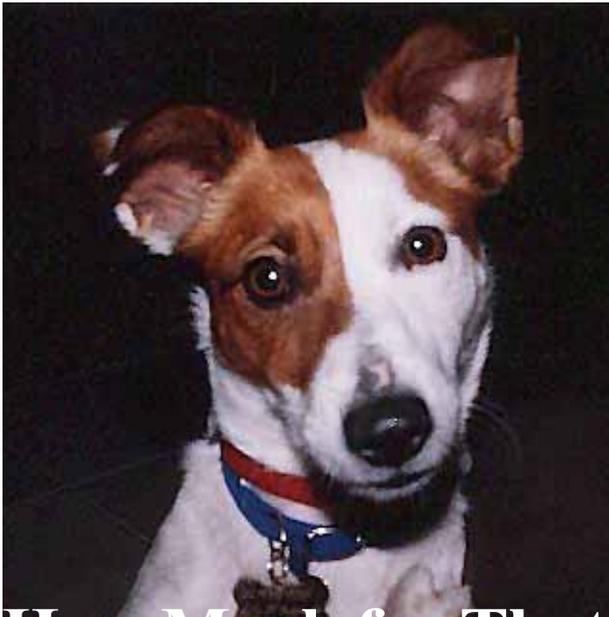
This is the first application in the Corps of a networked Data Collection Platform collecting and displaying "near real-time" data. The information is exact to 1/100th of a foot.

"Our goal is to have the 'real time' information available on the Internet by the end of the summer so the public can see it," said Rich Engstrom, Engineering Division. "The initial idea for the project was born back in September. At first, the information was just going to be displayed at the locks, but we thought it out, researched the possibilities, and now we're shooting for the 'net.'"

Jack Merten, Engineering Division, developed the software used to display the MET station information.

The MET project is an on-going project involving elements of the Rock Island District's Operations, Information Management and Engineering divisions.

A Corps First



How Much for That Doggie in the Window?

By Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan, Tripler Army Medical Center

They're cute and cuddly, frisky and furry ... what's not to like about a little doggie or kitty? It's this attitude that persuades most people to bring home a puppy or kitten from the local pet store or pound. Sounds sweet, right?

While most people have the best intentions at heart, it isn't until months later when the puppy is 50 pounds heavier and has an uncontrollable craving for expensive shoes, that some owners realize what's involved in owning a pet.

Unfortunately, the Humane Society of the United States estimates that more than 12 million dogs and cats find themselves behind the cage doors of the local animal shelter every year. And for more than 60 percent of the tenants, this will be their last memory before being carted down a long hallway into a room they will never emerge from.

Well, we can weep about the sad fate of these animals, or we can do something about it. There are still millions of animals out there that can be saved from this unnecessary end.

While many people tend to go over the top when fighting for a cause, it's the little things that really make a difference. Education is the key, and more people need to do their homework before rushing out to "rescue" a pet.

Here are a few things to consider before getting a pet:

Do you have time for a pet? According to the HSUS, dogs need lots of social interaction. If not, they may find other ways to keep themselves entertained such as playing "101 things to bury in the backyard."

Do you have small children? OK, so kids and small animals are cute, but kids can also be downright mean. How would you like to be poked, kicked, grabbed, and thrown around the house?

Can you afford a pet? Let's face it, pets mean money. First, they have to get their shots; then there's food and accessories, not to mention emergency trips to the vet when they are sick or injured. In addition, we can't forget about travel costs. Most

individuals won't be in one place for their pet's entire lifespan unless it's a hamster or other rodents.

If you already have a cuddly creature at home, you're not home free either. Here are a few additional things to keep in mind.

The number one thing, if you haven't done it yet, is to spay or neuter your pets. There are no excuses. Having a litter is not going to make them a better pet and neutering won't affect a pet's basic personality. Find out the facts by asking your veterinarian. The HSUS estimates that a fertile cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats over seven years. That's more than the population of some small countries.

If you're getting ready to move and know you can't take your pet, start looking for a home months in advance. Don't wait to the last minute and end up dropping off at the pound. Worse yet, never "free" the animal to fend for itself in your neighborhood.

These are just a few things to keep in mind. As government employees who may need to move often, we should especially take the time to think over the decision to bring home a pet. Sure, we can always pick up another one at our next location, but your pet isn't as likely to pick up a new family. 🐾

Animal Cruelty Prevention on the 'Net

April marked Animal Cruelty Prevention Month, sponsored by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The ASPCA was founded on April 10, 1866, to help alleviate pain, fear and suffering in animals.

Check out ASPCA on the Internet where you can view your next pet at a local humane society online at: www.asPCA.org

