

By Col. William Bayles, District Engineer

Some of you will remember the town hall meeting back in July when I outlined a few thoughts about the topics of Purpose, People and Professionalism. After some reflection on what these topics mean in the context of Rock Island District, I want to share some observations with you.

Purpose

The purpose of our organization remains firmly set in my mind. We do things for our nation that no one else can do. The Corps of Engineers has a unique set of authorities as well as a responsibility to serve our fellow citizens. We create a better quality of life for our neighbors and our children, while preserving our environment for future generations. We have always done, and always will do, good things for America -- and we will always do them well.

People

The key to doing these good things for our country rests with you. Your positive attitude, hard work and enthusiasm are what make this organization successful. In fact, people are our organization. As I visit our work sites, I'm inspired by the good ideas and enthusiasm I encounter, and although I haven't visited everyone

yet, I intend to complete at least one visit to every site soon.

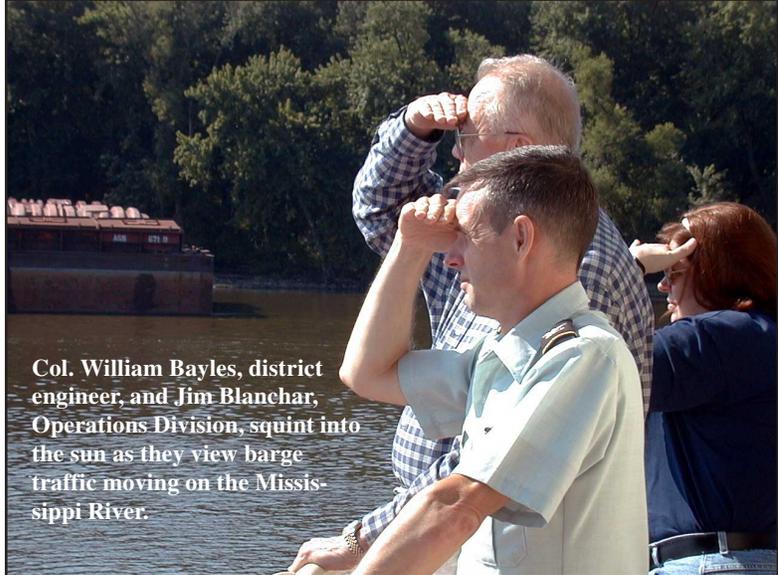
I've learned a lot from talking with people.

I also learned a lot from the Organizational Climate Survey you completed in August. This survey indicates we can do better in providing developmental training and educational opportunities for our people. I believe it's important that we keep our employees current in their fields of expertise and in expanding their abilities. I intend to address these concerns in two ways.

In the coming weeks, I'll be reviewing our progress on the training plans we outlined in July, and I'll be meeting with members of the staff to create a leader development program. These efforts are essential to develop the Corps leaders of tomorrow and to enhance our professionalism today.

Professionalism

You have displayed your professionalism by proudly maintaining your facilities,

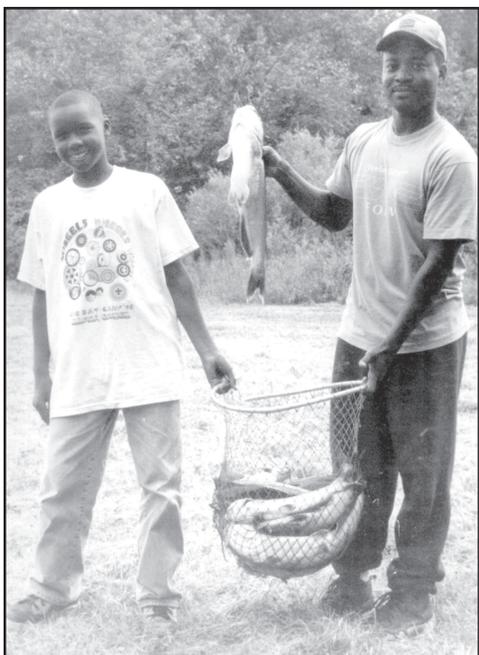


Col. William Bayles, district engineer, and Jim Blanchar, Operations Division, squint into the sun as they view barge traffic moving on the Mississippi River.

by diligently attending to the details of the projects you have helped to create, and by the services you provide our nation. Every facility I have seen looks first rate. Keep up the good work!

Another part of professionalism is organizational culture. I believe you have done an excellent job of creating an effective organizational culture--a high-performance organization that does well at goal setting, implements business processes to meet these goals, and finally, values the contributions of all employees. I'm even prouder to be part of the team now that I have seen what this team does on a daily basis!

Purpose, People and Professionalism--that's why we are still the world's premier engineering organization!



Catfish Tournament Lures 'em In

By Bob Groene, staff outdoors writer, Rock Island Argus/Dispatch

The seventh annual Catfish Tournament, sponsored and conducted by the Valley Inn of Pleasant Valley as a tremendous success.

Sixty-one two-angler teams fished from 6 a.m. until noon in Pool 15 of the Mississippi River trying to catch the heaviest tournament limits of 20 channel and/or blue catfish.

When the final whisker fish was tallied, the father and son team of Rodney and 11-year-old Tyler Blackwell, son of Adrienne Blackwell, Real Estate Division, were this year's champs.

The pair had caught 16 catfish that tipped volunteer weigh-master Ron

Peeters' scales at a whopping 42 pounds even.

"We worked real hard for these fish, and could have caught more, but we ran out of bait," the elder Blackwell said. "We used skip-jacks for bait," he explained, "and it worked so well that we had to quit fishing at 11:30 a.m. because our bait was gone."

Blackwell explained that he and his son caught the skip-jacks — a type of shad — in the Mississippi River on Friday using crickets for bait.

For their victory the Blackwells won \$489 — \$275 for the heaviest stringer and \$214 for big fish.

Mmmm, Chili Goood

Story and photos by Public Affairs

Local celebrities lent a helping hand as they judged the annual Corps of Engineers' Combined Federal Campaign Chili Cook-Off. Barb Arland-Fye, Quad-City Times;

Hugo Proulx of the Quad-City Mallards; Frank Haege, head coach offensive coordinator of the Quad-City Steamwheelers; and Brian Eggers, vice-president of concessions for the Quad-City River Bandits, put their taste buds to the test and chose the best chili among a field of hot competitors. Lt. Col. Torkild Brunso, Corps of Engineers deputy district engineer, was the master of ceremonies.

The Chili Cook-Off is an annual event at the Corps where Corps employees and guests enter their chili to be judged by the celebrity

judges. Many employees also wear costumes appropriate to their themed chili. Prizes were awarded for first, second and third place for "Best Chili" and "Best Costume."

First Place winner for "Best Chili" will have their name added to the traveling "Best Tasting Chili" pot.

The event is part of the month-long drive for the Combined Federal Campaign at the Corps of Engineers. The annual campaign is the only authorized charitable fundraising activity for federal employees, benefiting over 1,000 non-profit charitable agencies locally and nationwide.

Winners for best costume were, Terry Riddle, third place (cowboy); Katie Malone, second place (angel); and Beth Anderson, first place (Hannibal Lecter's wife). Winners for best chili were, Joe Kellett and Paul Holcomb, third place; Nancy Pierce, second place; and Dan Johnson, first place.



Brian Eggers, vice-president of concessions for the Quad-City River Bandits, eyes up an unusual spoon full of chili before devouring the sample. Eggers was one of four chili judges that determined the winner of the cook-off.



Beth Anderson, Contracting, stirs her bowl of "Hannibal Lecter" chili while Paula Sands, KWQC-TV, Channel 6, ponders how cornbread fingers may taste. Anderson won first place for Best Costume.