



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 12 No. 9, September 1989

*...NEWS FLASH...
Department of the
Interior requests
Army assistance in
park planning...
interpretation...
park protection...
natural resource
management...*

*Editor: This amazing event actually
took place back in the 1890's and in
California to boot, the land where
nothing is (or should be) a surprise ...
even an odd-ball request such as this.
Accompanying story on Page Ten.*

DO YOU KNOW?

.....about the Corps' work
in American history

by Bill Fleming

**ARMY ENGINEERS EXPLORED + ORIGINALLY MAPPED
YOSEMITE VALLEY!**

ENGINEERS ALSO SET THE
BOUNDARIES — THE ARMY
PRESERVED + PROTECTED
THE PARK UNTIL 1911...

GLACIERS CARVED THESE
MAGNIFICENT FORMATIONS...

Preservationist
JOHN MUIR
called YOSEMITE "A
GIANT UNROOFED
CATHEDRAL—"

In the Midst of
the Civil War
LINCOLN
PAUSED TO SIGN A BILL
PRESERVING YOSEMITE

Yosemite is named for U-SU-MA-TI INDIANS

B.F.-6

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Bits and Pieces

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the **Colleen Kammueler Memorial fund**. Total donations of \$258.16 were delivered to Colleen's parents on July 31st by **Nancy Sanchez, RM-FE**.

Lori McIntyre, civil engineer in the Geotechnical Design Section, Geotechnical Hydraulic and Hydrology Branch, Engineering Division, St. Paul District office (whew) has left the Corps to return to the U.S. Forest Service in Ely, Minnesota. Her new position will be Assistant Zone Engineer. Good luck, Lori.

In response to employee concerns over the security of the present parking area for district vehicles, **Real Estate (RE)** has examined several alternatives, both in the Lower-town Ramp and elsewhere.

After extensive negotiations with the management company for the Lowertown Ramp, a commitment for a new location for our vehicles has been obtained which should alleviate most of the concerns expressed by district employees.

The proposed new location is directly outside the elevators on Level P2. The spaces are right across from the elevator entrance, and are better lit and more open than our present location. The new spaces are located in two inside rows, instead of being strung along an outside wall.

Want to renew or start a **YMCA membership**? It's that time of year. Various "deals" are available, based on method of payment, whether it's an individual or family membership, etc. With a certain minimum number of employees memberships, discounts from 10-15% are available. Contact Frank Star at x327 to find out what your payments would be.

Don't forget the exercise room and showers on the top floor of the post office building. That's nice and convenient for some employees, too.

Congratulations also to **Bob Schumming** on his new job assignment. Bob had been a maintenance employee at Baldhill Dam/Lake Ashtabula in Valley City, North Dakota. He began his new job as a permanent maintenance employee at Orwell Dam in Fergus Falls on August 14th.

If you didn't catch our exhibit at the State Fair, you should make a point to see the brand new, 6-minute video "**Locking Thru**". Shot at Lock and Dam 2, it does a nice job of educating the viewer on how simple and safe it can be to lock through on the Mississippi. You might also recognize some of the "actors", as well as that big, beautiful pleasure craft graciously loaned for the occasion. I believe it locked through about six times that afternoon! Copies may be borrowed from **Public Affairs** and the **Lock and Dam Section of Project Operations**.

From a field of outstanding candidates, **Lon Meixner** has been chosen for the position of lockmaster at Lock and Dam #4 in Alma, Wisconsin. Congratulations, Lon!

Two new ten-minute videotapes on the EMP (Environmental Management Program) may be borrowed from **Planning Division** for viewing. The first, entitled "History and Background" gives a historic look at the Upper Mississippi River, the changes brought about with construction of the locks and dam system, the impact of barge and recreational river traffic and long term problems associated with sedimentation.

"Description of Program Elements" presents activities along the river that are part of EMP, such as habitat improvement projects, long term resource monitoring, commercial navigation analysis and analysis of the economics of river recreation projects.

Check with **Don Powell** (x402) or **Mary Schommer** (x282) for more information or to borrow the tapes. A video machine is available in Room 1219/20.

The **Crosscurrents** survey is coming your way this week. Please give us your thoughts on what you most (and least) enjoy and find useful.

As a result of employee complaints, two **air quality problems** have been recently identified by **Ron Scott**, district safety officer. A problem in the Sibley Building will be remedied by new furnace filters and cleaning of the air ducts, at the recommendation

of an industrial hygienist. A problem on the 13th floor of the post office building is still being investigated.

Please contact Ron at x501 if you are aware of any other potential problem areas.

In the wake of the **power outage on Wednesday, August 9th**, which, along with computer terminals and air conditioning, knocked out the elevators, serious concerns were raised for those individuals who have trouble negotiating stairs. Those with physical mobility problems, pregnant women or even those with bad knees can be in serious difficulty in such a situation, particularly if there is also a fire.

The **Safety and Emergency Management Offices** are working on solutions, that may include emergency carrying chairs, standby power for one elevator and the "buddy" system. If you have any thoughts, please contact them. This is important.

To protect our computer equipment from future power problems, surge suppressors will be soon be available from **Logistics Management Office**.

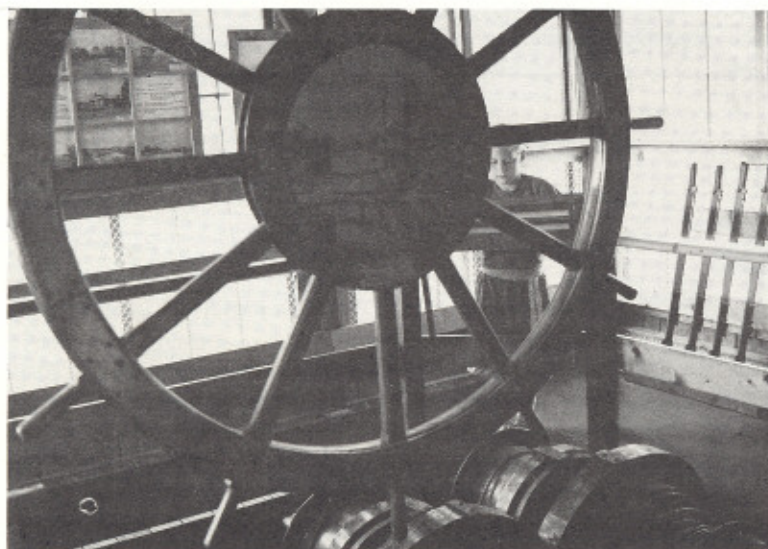
Best wishes to soon-to-be-retirees **Sid Schmidt**, chief of Contracting Division; **Carl Stephan**, study manager in Planning; and **Joe Murphy**, chief of Management and Disposal Branch in Real Estate. Happy days!

Congratulations to **Carol Jablonski, ED-D**, who married former St. Paul District employee Mike Fix on July 30th.



When it's summertime and the living is busy, as is the case for most field sites, keeping oneself available to the public can be a challenge. At Big Sandy Lake, Park Manager Don Daly uses this sign to help visitors know where to look for him.

The secret to seeing wildlife is not to be seen yourself. This can now be easily accomplished at the wildlife observation station in the North campground. Located at the end of the loop and adjacent to a marsh bordering the Sandy River, here is a prime spot to settle in for mallards, great blue herons, woodies and Canada geese. Visitors can sit, stand, prop cameras and telescopes (sorry, no guns) to while away a quiet morning with the marsh.



This old pilot's wheel from the snag boat *Oriole* dominates the interior of the small interpretive center, located in the former lockhouse. Built in 1907, the *Oriole* underwent a few name and mission changes during its lifetime. It served as passenger/cargo carrier, dredge and snag boat and a "summer resort" (floating bar with overhead rooms) on both the Mississippi River and Big Sandy Lake. The building also houses the original gears and controls that operate the lock (though not operable), as well as numerous local artifacts on loan.

Army, Corps helped protect early Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove

By Dr. Anthony Turhollow
Los Angeles District Historian

To look upon Yosemite Valley—with its glacier-carved granite walls, towering mountain peaks, mighty rock domes, and many spectacular waterfalls—is one of life's unforgettable experiences.

Along with the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers played an early role in surveying and protecting this geological wonder.

Mountain men were the first white people to see Yosemite, when the legendary Joseph Walker in 1833 led an exploration party across the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Long before any white American saw Yosemite, the Ahwahneechee Indians inhabited the area, ideal as a natural hiding place from white men. But that was not to last.

In 1851, a battalion of California militia from the Mariposa region pursued a band of Indians—the U-zu-ma-ti (Yosemite)—to punish them for raids on Mariposa settlers. After raids, the Yosemite Indians would retreat into the protective confines of the valley.

As was customary for those days, government authorities rounded up the band and moved the Indians out of their paradise and onto a reservation on land considered undesirable by the settlers.

The first tourists arrived in Yosemite Valley five years later, guided by a transplanted Englishman, James M. Hutchings. He had aroused interest in the scenic beauty of the valley by publishing several articles of Yosemite.

During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill granting to the state of California tracts of land including the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant redwood trees, to preserve them for posterity.

Fourteen years later, Lt. Montgomery Meigs Macomb of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers led a party which included members of the U.S. Geological Survey. Their exploration and



Editor:
Pop Quiz: An upcoming story in Crosscurrents, I swore I wouldn't steal their thunder...but I didn't promise not to print a picture! Can you guess where and what this is? (get specific, now)
Answer in December.

survey work yielded data for the map of the Yosemite region that was in use for many years.

Meanwhile, the noted conservationist John Muir settled in Yosemite when he began his study of the area. Through articles in Century Magazine, he told the American people the problems that threatened the preservation of Yosemite from developers.

Reinforced by other conservationists, Muir persuaded Congress in 1890 to declare a national park in the region surrounding Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove. It would be under the joint control of California and the federal government.

The Department of the Interior asked the Army to take administrative charge of the park. During that time, army officers and cavalry units not only policed the park, but also laid our trails, produced a map for tourists, and preserved the fauna and flora from destruction by tourist and private owners of land in the park.

To reduce administrative difficulties between park authorities and private landowners, a special commission was

appointed with Major Hiram M. Chittenden as chairman. He was an Army engineer, who had helped preserve the natural wonders of Yellowstone for enjoyment of visitors, published Yellowstone National Park, the first book-length study, and also performed duties on rivers and harbors and service.

Already familiar with the problems of California, he was the correct choice for the task of overseeing the new park. Based on recommendations from his commission, boundary revisions lopped off tracts of land on the east, west and southwest of the 1200 square-miles that became the Yosemite National Park we know today.

In 1906, California returned jurisdiction to the sole control of the federal government. At this time, President Theodore Roosevelt led conservationists in establishing five national parks, 16 national monuments, and 148 millions acres of national forest.

In 1916 Congress created the National Park Service. Although Army assistance ended in 1911, it had a crucial role in the preservation of one of the world wonders of nature—Yosemite.



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Crosscurrents

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District Engineer COL Roger Baldwin
Public Affairs Officer Kennon Gardner
Editor Joan Guilfoyle

WANTED: Families willing to homestead on 20 acres of cattail marsh and gently sloping grassland, Sheyenne River Valley, southeastern North Dakota.

QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY: prefer those with strong family bonds; willingness to mate for life essential; able to travel long distances bi-annually in long strings or V-formation; prefer musically inclined, (honking or barking); mandatory markings: black head and stocking with white chinstrap; racial background: *Branta canadensis*; common name: Canada goose.

Editor: If such an ad existed, it would have been answered in July by the thirty goslings and five adult birds, recently introduced to the Karnak Wildlife Management Area at Lake Ashtabula. Due to the efforts of Park Ranger Barb LaPierre, chances are now pretty good that Karnak will become a happy home to a resident population of Canada Geese.

Goose Movement

By Barb LaPierre, Park Ranger, Lake Ashtabula

The Corps of Engineers at Baldhill Dam was invited to attend the 8th Goose Relocation Drive sponsored by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Baldhill Dam's application to receive geese was accepted and the trapping date was scheduled to take place July 5th and 6th. A driver from Baldhill Dam was needed to help trap, band and relocate the geese.

I drove to Garrison, North Dakota, to meet with the staff from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Other agencies receiving geese were the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, various wildlife clubs from around North Dakota and the North Dakota Audubon Society.

On July 6th, all systems were go as the group divided up and set out to four different trap sites. A helicopter and boats were used to corral the geese to each trap site where a large net was strung out in a V shape, with a holding pen at its point. As soon as the geese were channeled through the net and safely secured in the holding pen, the helicopter and boats proceeded to the next trap site.

Once in the holding pen, the geese were sexed, banded and placed into cages. All information collected was recorded. Baldhill Dam was awarded 30 goslings and 5 adults. Overall, it was estimated that 600 geese were captured and relocated throughout North Dakota. After the geese were loaded, it was important to get to the relocation site as soon as possible to avoid overheating of the birds and prevent injury due to trampling. The geese collected for relocation were released in the Karnak Wildlife Management Area at Lake Ashtabula.

Karnak is a superior site for geese relocation, according to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, who reviewed all the applications. Upon reaching the release site, one adult to 6 goslings were released at a time. This procedure was done to insure that the goslings would follow the adult out into the water, preventing the goslings from scattering and getting lost in the tall grasses located along the shoreline of Lake Ashtabula.

Thus far, the geese are still in the Karnak Wildlife Area. It is anticipated that they will remain there throughout the summer, hopefully imprinting the release site into their memories and returning to it next year during the nesting season.

Editor: In celebration of September 15th, POW/MIA Recognition Day, we offer this actual account of one POW's five year ordeal during the Vietnam War. If you or anyone you know has a POW or MIA story that they would like to share, for next year's story, please contact me. Wouldn't it be a fine thing if POW/MIA's weren't an issue next year... if the matter was settled by then.

Donald J. Rander was homesick. Two months in war-torn South Vietnam had created in him a fierce desire to see the wife and children he left behind (in the United States). So he re-enlisted in January 1968 to get a free 30-day round trip home.

But a twist of fate delayed the Army staff sergeant's trip more than five years. North Vietnamese soldiers captured him three days before his scheduled flight.

Rander and his fellow prisoners of war, those who came home and those still missing in action, will be honored for their sacrifices during POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 15th.

"I was half packed, with Christmas presents and all, when the attack came," said Rander, now a retired warrant officer working for the Army's Foreign Counterintelligence Activity at Fort Meade, Md. "I was supposed to leave on February 4, 1968, but I was captured on the first."

All his efforts to evade capture by enemy forces were futile. Enemy rockets and mortar rounds exploded around the villa Rander and his four intelligence-gathering counterparts occupied. They peeped out of windows as enemy troops whisked past the house. Low on ammunition and seriously outnumbered, the five beleaguered Americans crept next door to consolidate their small force with four civilians.

Rander's small group survived a night filled with shelling and sporadic gunfire, although he was knocked unconscious and another soldier was seriously injured when a rocket slammed through the roof during the night. "It was like Custer's last stand the next morning; all the North Vietnamese in the world seemed to be outside the door," he said. "We were out of ammunition, surrounded by the enemy and two men were dead; so we went downstairs and surrendered."

Hopes of visiting his family thwarted, Rander's greatest desire became survival.

With their hands tied behind their

Prisoner of War Missing in Action

Remember them on September 15th

**Story & photos
by Sgt. Maj.
Rudi Williams,
USA,
American
Forces
Information
Service**



Former POW Donald Rander views the statue of three soldiers at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., with his daughter Page, 23. She was 20 months old when her father left for Vietnam.

backs with telephone wire, the Americans were taken across backyards and over fences to a house down the street. Six of the remaining seven men were forced into a small shower stall; the wounded man was placed on a table. Rander cut his ankle on some barbed wire while helping to carry the wounded soldier. The cut became infected during the long trek over mountainous terrain and through the leech-infested jungle.

After two days, the enemy soldiers headed north with their prisoners, leaving the wounded man behind. When American infantrymen retook the town about two weeks later, they rescued him.

Four reached North Vietnam about three months later; two had escaped on the trail north, Rander explained.

Hairy times plagued the route to North

Vietnam. That's when enemy soldiers protected them from other enemies, such as the villagers who demanded the prisoners be beheaded.

"Initially, the North Vietnamese were not brutal," said Rander. "I think they wanted to take prisoners. There were some threatening gestures — 'lie still,' while pointing a gun at you and that sort of thing."

But that changed when they reached a camp near the Laotian border. That's when the interrogation began.

"I was immediately singled out and told by one of the English-speaking cadre that Martin Luther King, Jr. had been assassinated by (former President Lyndon B.) Johnson and the CIA," said Rander, the only black in that camp. He later used the North Vietnamese's impressions of

**John R. Berger, Jr.
Cook, U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers
and
Sergeant,
Minnesota Army
National Guard**

It's not often we come across a soldier who can take out enemy artillery with the same degree of skill he takes sweet rolls and cookies out of the oven. Well, the Corps has one such individual on board the U.S. dredge *William A. Thompson*.

When not tending to his cooking duties on the *Thompson* (or fishing), Sgt. John R. Berger Jr., is with Combat Support Company 1, 1st Battalion, Minnesota Army National Guard based in Winona.

Berger joined the Guard in 1972, became a non-commissioned officer four months later and has since been involved in several challenging assignments including strikes, floods and riot control. He has also received extensive training in ground surveillance and anti-tank combat.

Berger, accomplished and active in his NCO duties as a cook, is very supportive of the Reserve program, particularly the advantages of the G.I. Bill. "Young kids can join right now...they can go in in the summer of their junior year (in high school) and take part in the training, get paid for it, then take their final training after their senior year," says Berger, "plus they get money to go to school." He also likes the medical insurance, retirement and pay benefits he receives as an NCO in the Guard.

It's obvious Berger is very professional in his support duties within his Guard unit. Among several commendations, he has earned the Army Achievement Medal and the Minnesota Army National Guard Service Medal. This past June, he received the State Command Sgt. Major's Medal. Berger also is a past commander of Winona American Legion Post #9, the first Vietnam veteran to be elected to that position.

Berger's military career began in

1968 when he signed on with the U.S. Marines for two years. Active duty took him to Vietnam where he served as team leader and squad leader during a one-year tour ending in February 1970. Highly-decorated in the Marines, he received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Navy Achievement with Combat V for Valor, Presidential Unit Citation and several Vietnam Service Medals.

Berger is relatively new to the Corps of Engineers, having joined the *Thompson's* cooking staff in 1984. His versatility is evident in that he initially applied to the St. Paul District as a carpenter.

The dredge's heavy summer schedule has required Berger to adapt to a variety of shifts and duties. As part of a three-

plenty of vegetables, ice cold milk and lots of coffee. On Wednesday, "steak day," the cooks will prepare about two dozen sirloins or T-bones. In addition they'll serve baked potatoes, salad and several varieties of pie or cake. Berger says he is also kept busy preparing different kinds of snacks for the crew. Favorites include cream puffs, sweet rolls, long johns, several kinds of cookies, banana bread, pumpkin bars and cherry nut bread.

His other galley duties center around cleaning, buying groceries and stocking the pantry. Usually the cooks and the Captain will decide on the weekly menu. In a typical month, the *Thompson's* crew will go through a hundred or so steaks, 100 pounds of potatoes, 90 gallons of milk and about 150 pounds of coffee.



John Berger stands on the deck of the dredge *W.A. Thompson* with the river that he loves so well as backdrop.

person staff, his responsibilities are many and varied. There's no room for error when it comes to providing chow for some 60 hungry, hard-workin' crew members on a river dredge!

According to Berger, he and his staff usually serve about 30 breakfasts a day. This feeds the night crew coming off work and the morning bunch getting ready to start their shifts. The noon meal is one of the biggest meals of the day - mounds of spaghetti with home-made sauce, perhaps. Sometimes the crew will fix chicken, mashed potatoes,

Despite the varied schedules, inconsistent work shifts and demands that go with Berger's profession, he welcomes the challenge and enjoys the work. What he really likes is the river.

"I wish I could have got on it (the dredge) a lot sooner," says Berger. "I enjoy the river. I've got a pontoon, plus a flat-bottom for fishing and I'm usually on the river in my spare time."

A bachelor, Berger lives in Winona where he has the opportunity to pursue his love of hunting, fishing and, of course, the river.

What does 'NCO' mean, anyway?

In response to the Army's declaration of 1989 as "Year of the NCO," *Crosscurrents* has been featuring articles on St. Paul District employees who also serve as noncommissioned officers (NCO) in units of the Reserve or National Guard. For the non-military among us, perhaps a brief explanation of what an NCO is will provide some insight into the responsibilities these individuals hold and how they attain their positions. District employees who serve as NCO's represent reserve units in the Army, National Guard, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Webster's Dictionary describes a non-commissioned officer as "an enlisted person of any various grades in the armed forces, as, in the U.S. Army, from corporal to sergeant major inclusive."

An NCO in the Navy and Coast Guard is a petty officer, while Air Force NCO's range from Sergeant to Chief Master. NCO's are ranked E-4 through E-9, depending on time in service and in grade, specialty and leadership role. For example, an E-1 is the new enlistee, an untrained soldier. An NCO promotion will probably come to the corporal (E-4) who has received advanced individual training, has excelled in his/her specialty and shows strong leadership qualities. A sergeant (E-5) has proven technical and tactical skills. The highest-ranked Army NCO (E-9) is generally a sergeant-major, or a command sergeant-major. In the Navy, an E-9 is a chief petty officer while in the Air Force, an E-9 is a chief master sergeant.

NCOs provide the day-to-day leadership to the enlisted force. They ensure that individuals attain and maintain required standards of proficiency and link performance to unit missions. It is the NCO who must be certain of the soldier, sailor or airman's ability to succeed in combat.

In the words of John O. Marsh, Jr., former Secretary of the Army, "The NCO is both leader and role model."

It's almost the old Tom Sawyer trick, except we only provide the tools; they use their own technique. Several Headwaters lakes hang loan rakes and shovels in the campgrounds. It works, too!



Scenes of Sandy

In the July issue of *Crosscurrents*, we featured a story by Park Ranger Terry Ladd on new developments at Big Sandy Lake. Now you can see those improvements for yourself.



The new boat launch in the South area gives boaters access to the Sandy River and, a half-mile downstream, the Mississippi. It should experience a lot of use this fall, when the river level rises again.

how blacks were treated in America to his advantage.

Rander, afraid of revealing two classified projects he had been working on before his capture, agreed to talk; but he didn't disclose anything about the two classified projects. "When they asked me the names of commanders and stuff like that, I used names from the roster of the 1951 World Series Dodgers; all the infielders were officers - lieutenant colonel and above - and all the outfielders were NCOs."

When the North Vietnamese couldn't get the answers they wanted, tormenting interrogations ensued. Yelling and screaming echoed across the compound from prisoners being tortured. When Rander refused to answer questions, his torture was kneeling.

"Try kneeling on the ground for six hours in 95-degree weather with sweat dripping out of your eyelids," said Rander. "I'd eventually keel over, and they'd start beating me. I'd cover up enough to protect my head, my kidneys and my privates and just let them beat on me. When I had enough of that and had the circulation back in my legs, I'd let them put me back on my knees. This went on for about three days. At night, they would put my feet in stocks and harass me all night."

While kneeling in the blistering hot sun, Rander made up a story that eventually got him off the hook. When "Rat Face", his interrogator, started questioning him again, Rander looked up and said, "Don't you realize that I'm just a black soldier and the white man don't tell me nothing?"

"I threw the propaganda back to him," Rander laughed. "He just looked at me, and I laid it on thick: 'The white guys go out and do all that important stuff. They wouldn't let me do anything like that.'"

The interrogator, with a smirk on his face, looked at him and said, "Get up."

"I couldn't stand up," Rander said. "So he told me to sit on the stool. I pulled up onto it."

"I didn't have any more problems with Rat Face," Rander laughed.

During captivity, a heavy, doughy French loaf-type bread made from poor grade flour spiced with rocks, insects, rat feces and other impurities was one of Rander's main staples. That and a bland

vegetable soup, three months of cabbage soup and three months of pumpkin soup rounded out his menu. "Not the diet you'd try to live off of unless you were trying to lose weight," Rander mused.

Rander, who spent several months in solitary confinement, said he went from 190 pounds down to about 125, but his captors fattened him up to 148 pounds before his release on March 27, 1973. "I saw more meat in the two months before our release than I did in five years," he said.

Rander, like most prisoners in his group, fared much better on holidays—May Day, Ho Chi Minh's birthday, Tet (the North Vietnamese New Year) and the American Christmas day. "They'd really go all out on those days," Rander said. "We'd get turkey buzzard—a good portion of meat. On Tet, they'd give us traditional North Vietnamese foods, which was a special meal for us. We'd get a little more meat and something they called 'Bahn Tet,' a rice cake with a little pork fat in the middle. It's really tasty.

"On your birthday, you'd be given a couple extra cigarettes and maybe some

extra food," said Rander, adding that cigarettes were important and scarce. "We were given three cigarettes a day, and I would steal paper from them and make six cigarettes out of each one. It was part of surviving—I was beating them at something by stealing their paper."

When he returned to the United States in 1973, the changes that had taken place in the world dumbfounded him. He had missed the Afro hairstyles, black power and women's liberation movements, and a host of other things. Rander received a warrant officer appointment in March 1974. He retired on Sept. 1, 1983.

His days as a prisoner of war changed his attitude about life. "I took a good, long look at Don Rander, and I didn't like what I saw," he said. "I think I'm now more honest with myself and with other people. I don't sweat the small stuff; most people get all upset about money. They can't do this or that, or this is blocking their way. That doesn't bother me anymore. That's all trivial, material stuff."



Retired Army WO3 Donald Rander, who spent more than five years as a POW, shows his daughter Page the name enscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., of a soldier who died in his arms shortly before he was captured.

NCO Profiles: Two from the dredge

Continuing with our salute to district Non-Commissioned Officers in 1989 Year of the NCO.

James Gallup
Engineer, U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers
and
Petty Officer 1st Class
U.S. Naval Reserve



Engineer James Gallup steps outside the engine room for a brief respite from the roar of the *Thompson's* engine room.

"It's the best part-time job a guy could ask for." That's how James Gallup, engineer on the U.S. dredge *William A. Thompson*, most simply describes his duties as a non-commissioned officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Gallup joined the Naval Reserve in 1974 and serves as Petty Officer 1st Class with a side loading warping tug (SLWT) based in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Among other duties, Gallup is charged with maintaining engines of tugs that assist LST'S (landing ship tank) in the unloading of troops on beachheads. The formation of his unit, Phib CB-1, Detachment (DET) 116, was initiated as a result of the 1983 Grenada invasion.

Gallup's interest in the reserve program is generated by the Navy's continual training program, which he feels is an integral ingredient in his military success. He enjoys his unit's two week training period each year, and he likes the exceptional travel opportunities offered through the reserve. "Today, I have the option to go to the East Coast, West Coast or overseas," says Gallup. A Coast Guard certified engineer, he likes to work on troubleshooting and rebuilding engines. Among other accomplishments, Gallup has completely taken apart and rebuilt one of the Navy's V-12 water/jet propelled tug

engines.

Prominent among awards earned while serving the Naval Reserve is "Sailor of the Quarter" by the Minnesota Naval Readiness Command for the period December 1986 to March 1987. Gallup has also received three Reserve Achievement Awards for his work within DET 116.

Gallup says the Naval Reserve offers excellent educational benefits and retirement programs. The pay is good; for weekend duty, he earns \$211, which represents typical earnings for any Naval Reserve NCO in Gallup's position.

Prior to joining the Naval Reserve, he saw active duty with the U.S. Navy where his travels in two years alone took him to 27 countries. Gallup was an engineer aboard the *U.S.S. Truckee* which serviced ships of America's 6th Fleet during the 1974 Israeli War.

An employee of the St. Paul District for 11 years, Gallup is a member of the *Thompson's* 11-man engineering crew. It's his job to operate, maintain and repair the six-cylinder, 1800-horsepower, Fairbanks-Morris engine that powers the *Thompson*. During the winter, when the *Thompson* is in drydock in St. Louis, Gallup works on overhauling and rebuilding the engine. Although

work is centered around the *Thompson's* dredging mission, life can get exciting on the boat. Gallup recalls the time the *Thompson* assisted in "rounding up" 12 barges that broke loose from their tug. Another time, the dredge aided in picking up crew members in the water after their tug had struck a buoy and sunk. Like many other Corps employees, Gallup has received extensive training in CPR and first aid.

Originally from Syracuse, New York, Gallup and his wife, Donna Jean, claim Onalaska, Wisconsin, as their home. The parents of three children, they spend family time with 4-H, canoeing and travel. In 1988, the Gallup's hosted an exchange student from Japan.

In years ahead, he looks forward to traveling across America and to Europe. And, although he will complete 20 years with the Naval Reserve next year, Gallup says that will not end his attachment to the Navy. "I hope to keep up with the Reserve's training programs," he says. "It's been an important part of my life."

Stories & Photos by Jerry Cadwell,
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