

Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume I, Issue IV

December 2010/January 2011

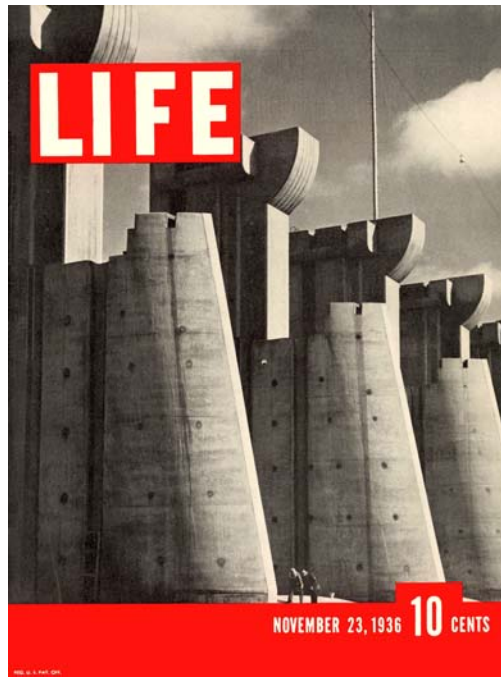
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Corps of Engineer Project Featured on First Cover of *Life* Magazine

In 1936 Capt. Claude H. Chorpening had responsibility for public affairs at the Corps' massive Fort Peck Dam project on the Missouri River in Montana. One of his tasks was to escort world-famous photographer Margaret Bourke-White (1904-1971) on assignment to photograph the project and surrounding activities for magazine publisher Henry R. Luce. Bourke-White spent several days photographing the dam, spillway, and life in the surrounding workers' towns. While the results weren't so pleasing to Chorpening—he thought she spent too much time on the towns, which weren't Corps responsibility, and not enough on the project—Bourke-White did produce several stunning photos of the project itself, including one that graced the cover of the first issue



of *LIFE* magazine, published in 1936. Although Bourke-White titled the photo, "New Deal, Montana: Fort Peck Dam," it is actually a photo of the spillway located three miles east of the dam.

First LIFE magazine cover from 1936 with logo and photo of Fort Peck Dam's spillway by Margaret Bourke-White (© Margaret Bourke-White/TIMEPIX)

"Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected - through the years and across the miles."



**Roz Riley
President**

The Gavel ...a note from our President

Our wonderful President is in the process of moving off post as this issue goes to press. So we are giving her a break and letting her completely focus on the move and all that moving entails. I know you all can relate!!

But she wishes you a wonderful Holiday season and a Blessed New Year!!!

See you all in 2011!!!!

Your 2010-2011 AESC Board wishes you a joyous holiday season full of family, friends, and memorable moments. As always, please continue to keep our troops at home and deployed in your thoughts and prayers. May your New Year be full of blessings!



If you see a fat man ... Who's jolly and cute,
wearing a beard and a red flannel suit,
and if he is chuckling and laughing away,
while flying around in a miniature sleigh
with eight tiny reindeer to pull him along,
then lets face it...

Your eggnog's too strong!



Greetings from Sunny Kabul...

Dear Friends, Family, Colleagues --

Here are some personal moments I have reflected on:

Earlier in September, we held a "Qalaa House's Got Talent" show. I entered, and among the young talent doing rap, rock and country, I was definitely the senior citizen. In fact, the MC's introduction was almost an apology, and went something like this: "So, any of you remember the Broadway musical, 'South Pacific'? Yeah, me neither...Well, the star of that show had the name 'Nelly Forbush' --Yeah, I kid you not...And she apparently sang this song called 'Honey Bun,'...Yeah, I know: LAME...But we have this nice lady backstage whose going to come out and sing it, so let's give her a big hand now." I came out, started singing, and SHUT DOWN THE HOUSE - HAH!!! Nice old lady my left foot! And I won 2nd place in the Talent Show (right behind a rock group that imitated "KISS"... what can I say? They wore WIGS! And makeup!). Now, I am now in charge of the upcoming "Qalaa House Cabaret Night". I've approached everyone with a good set of pipes from the Talent Show, and when I've explained we're doing something along the lines of Cole Porter, Frank Sinatra, etc., they are all buying into the concept -- even the soldiers who normally rap "Baby Got Butt!" It will be a classy night.

Near the end of September, the Jewish High Holy Days occurred: Rosh Hashanah, the New Year, and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. We have a small (repeat: very, very small) Jewish community here that meets for Shabbat (Sabbath) services on Friday nights, and that nucleus swelled to about 18 or so for the High Holy Days. In a burst of optimism, I had volunteered to chant the leading Yom Kippur prayer (the "Kol Nidre" -- "All My Vows") on the night of Yom Kippur. My offer was readily accepted and then there was no choice but to follow thru. So, at the end of my 10-12 hour days, I spent many evenings learning to chant this prayer, and practicing till I had it down. My first impression was, "um....This prayer is about 10 times longer than I remember..." My second impression was, "This melody is unfathomable....". But a promise is a promise!! And besides, if I were stateside in any Jewish congregation, the closest I would ever get to chanting Kol Nidre for the congregation would be absolutely "slim to nil," as this honor would go to (1) the rabbi, (2) the cantor, (3) the synagogue president, (4) a major synagogue scholar. So -- I had to deploy to Kabul to have merit the precious opportunity to chant Kol Nidre for a congregation, and in the end, it was indeed a sweet and singular moment I will never, ever forget. Another distinctive memory: The shofar (ram's horn) was piercingly blown by a strapping young man who has a sort of facial tick that resembles a wince; another member of our tiny congregation asked this fellow if he was upset by something she had said and he responded, very matter of fact, "Oh no -- that expression you see on my face? Every now and then? It's what's left over from an IED explosion."

In December: I am planning my first "R&R" (rest and recuperation) trip to see family! Hooooahh. I don't know yet if I'm flying to Cincinnati to be with Guenther and the girls, or if they are going to fly somewhere to meet me -- but we are DEFINITELY going to be together for two weeks in December!!

Do good work! Be proud of yourselves! Warm regards --

-- Devorah



**Devorah
Wasche**

"In December: I am planning my first "R&R" (rest and recuperation) trip to see family!"

A Look at the 249th Prime Power Battalion

Did you know that the Corps of Engineers has it's own active duty battalion that it uses for support? It's the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power).

The 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) is a unique U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asset that the Corps often deploys in response to large natural and manmade disasters and in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, like those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In disaster responses, the Soldiers of Prime Power assess critical electrical needs and manage the installation of generators to provide power that keeps key community facilities like hospitals, water and sewer treatment plants and law enforcement facilities operable until the power companies can restore the commercial power distribution network.

Key points about the Prime Power Battalion:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), is regularly called to action throughout the United States and the world to supply its expertise in quickly providing emergency power to critical public facilities and in support of military operations.

Recent domestic examples of deployments for the 249th include Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, the 2009 ice storms in Kentucky, earthquake and tsunami in American Samoa, and the earthquake in Haiti.

Overseas, Prime Power continues to support Overseas Contingency Operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan helping provide power to coalition operating bases and critical facilities, such as wastewater treatment plants, dams and a wide range of other necessary public works, to help the local people. They also directly support Soldiers overseas in the same power providing capacity.

During emergency power response activities, priorities ultimately are determined by state and/or local officials and are normally prioritized in the following way:

- (1) life saving (911 centers, police and fire stations and medical facilities)
- (2) life sustaining (shelters, water and wastewater treatment and pumping facilities)
- (3) other municipal facilities to reinstitute local command and control and post-event recovery

The 249th Engineer Battalion is based out of Fort Belvoir, Va., and is made up of four active duty companies and one reserve company. Company A is based out of Schofield Barracks, HI; Company B is at Fort Bragg, NC; Company C, like the Headquarters & Headquarters Company, is based out of Fort Belvoir, VA; and the reserve company, D Company, is based out of Cranston, RI. The Battalion Commander of the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) is also the Commandant of the U.S. Army Prime Power School located at Fort Belvoir, VA. The Prime Power School trains Prime Power Production Specialist (MOS 52E) through a rigorous, year-long program including courses in math, physics, engineering, and power plant operations and maintenance. The training program is open to Active and Reserve soldiers, and Navy Seabees.

“Recent domestic examples of deployments for the 249th include Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, the 2009 ice storms in Kentucky, earthquake and tsunami in American Samoa, and the earthquake in Haiti”.



Birthdays.....

Janice Smith	Dec 4
Devorah Waesch	Dec 6
Shelley Hatch	Dec 7
Jenny Offringa	Dec 10
Isabel C Stevens	Dec 15
Nancy Donahue	Dec 19
Heather Wagenaar	Dec 23
Martha Lavion Soo	Dec 24
Jill McCoy	Dec 26
Joyce Rebh	Jan 5
Priscilla V. S. Noah	Jan 6
Julie Strock	Jan 16
Sheila Hancock	Jan 21
Paula Van Antwerp	Jan 25
Sandra (Sandy) Morris	Jan 27
Jackie Gunter	Jan 29



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND NEWS

On 22 October, Bobby Buxbaum, Sandra Loew, and Dani, & Gene Villiva volunteered their time to pass out T-Shirts to Army Ten Miler participants picking up their race packets. This is an annual volunteer event supported by AESC and many other organizations in the Northern Capitol Region. Volunteers are rewarded with T-Shirts of their own. The pace is quick and the crowds are huge when handing out shirts. It is always fun to meet the race participants, especially when they are Engineer Spouses. We were lucky to be present when Paula Van Antwerp stopped by to pick up her shirt. We subsequently discovered Paula averaged 8.19 minute miles according to the official clock. Dani also ran the race along with Lacey Villiva. It was only Lacey's second race ever. They averaged 9.8 minute miles. Michelle Tyler had an 8.28 minute average. Matt Tyler, Michelle's husband and Commander of the 249th, had a smoking pace of 6.11 minute miles. Hope you can join us next year.



COUPLES' WINE TASTING

February Program

Sat, Feb 12 7pm

This year's couples wine tasting program will be combination wine tasting and wine class scheduled for:

Saturday February 12 at 7:00pm at the
Total Wine Store, Greenbriar Town Center, Chantilly, VA.
Cost is \$20 per person.

The wine tasting will include both red & white wines. We'll have a wine expert & receive handouts. Cheese & crackers will be provided by the store. Please bring an appetizer to share..

The approximate length of the wine tasting is 2 hrs. At the end of the session everyone will receive a discount on any purchase of wine.

Please RSVP by Feb. 2nd. There will be no Castle Gram in January so this is your only reminder!!! So RSVP today!!



Reservation Information

Last Names
beginning in

A-M Pat O'Neill
(703) 378-3624
pponeill6@aol.com

N-Z Sarah Pearce
(703) 815-7365
pearcesall@cox.net

RSVP BY
FEB 2

Driving Directions

From I-495 (north or south)
Take exit 49 I-66 West. Go about 7 miles to exit 57B - Rt. 50 (Fair Oaks - West); After Fairfax Co Parkway, go to 4th light; turn left onto Plaza Drive (past Greenbriar Shopping Center sign); turn left into Shopping Center.

From Rt 28 (north or south) to Rt 50 East Go about 2 1/2 miles to Greenbriar Shopping Center; turn right onto Plaza Drive; turn left into Shopping Center.

Fairfax Co. Parkway (north or south) to Rt. 50 West At the 4th light turn left onto Plaza Drive (past Greenbriar Shopping Center sign); turn left into Shopping Center



Sneak Peek at This Year's Planned Programs for the DC Area

December - White House Tour & Lunch (see below)

January - No program

February 12 - Couples' Wine Tasting

March 9 - Knollwood Bake Sale

April - Mt. Vernon National Treasure Tour & Lunch at Mt. Vernon or a possible tour of the new hospital at Ft. Belvoir

May - AESC Awards Brunch

More details will be provided in future issues of the Castle Gram about each of our programs, to include RSVP deadlines and any costs.

If you live in the DC area or are visiting—plan to join us!!

December's program will still be a tour of the White House though the date and time are still to be determined. The RSVP list is closed and all the spots are filled. More information will be sent to those on the RSVP list as soon as we are notified. Thanks to everyone for being so flexible.



Arrival of the official White House Christmas tree at the North Portico of the White House, Nov. 26, 2010.



THE CAPITOL CONNECT



**Kathy Candido
Services Chairman
(aka the Castle
Boutique Manager)**

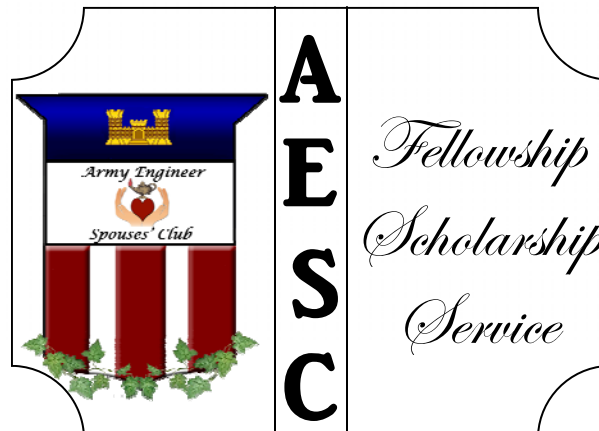
Shopping in the Castle Boutique

Get an early start on your Holiday shopping!! Here are some items from our Castle Boutique that would make wonderful gifts. Go online and check them out!! We even have ornaments!!



We have many other unique items in the Castle Boutique. To view the Boutique online, go to our website armyengineerspouses.com and click on the Castle Boutique link. You can order online using your credit card (through the Pay Pal gateway) or you can download the order form and pay by check through the mail.

“Get an early start on your holiday shopping!”



AESC 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club welcomes membership from spouses and family members over 18 years of age of the following U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees: military grades E-7 and above and civilian grades GS-07 and above, whether active, retired or deceased; and with approval of the Executive Board, other persons who have been associated with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

PRINT NAME as you want to be listed in the Castle Directory (Redbook)

Last _____ First _____

Nickname _____

If you are in the military, provide rank & job title _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-mail _____

The Castle Gram (in color) is sent to you via email. If you do not have email, a black and white copy will be sent to your home address.

Your Birthday (month/day only) _____ Anniversary Date _____

Preferred method of contact:

E-mail Home phone Cell phone Do not contact me

Check one:

New member - I was invited by _____

Returning member

Eligibility Information:

Spouse's Name _____

Is Spouse: Active Retired Deceased

Spouse's Rank or Title _____

Spouse's Assignment or job title: _____

If active duty, use official abbreviation. If retired, use current firm, if any.

AESC 2010-2011 Membership Application

By sending this application, you agree to have the above information placed in the Castle Directory and/or Castle Gram --our monthly newsletter. Membership runs from July 1, 2010 until June 30, 2011. Applicant information received by September 15, 2010 will be included in the 2010-2011 Castle Directory. After that date, new members will be announced in the Castle Gram. Thank you.

Annual dues + 1 copy of the Castle Directory \$25 _____

Additional Castle Directory(ies) : \$5.00 each _____

Total: _____

Please make check payable to AESC and mail to:

AESC MEMBERSHIP

P.O. Box 6332

Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

You may also print the application online at armyengineerspouses.com.



Sandra Lowe
Membership
Chairman

Dues: \$25.00

Benefits:

Castle Gram monthly;
one copy of the
Castle Directory;
10% discount in the
Castle Boutique; &
being a part of the
only Engineer network
for spouses.

**“Join today
and invite a friend!”**



AEOWC
P.O. Box 6332
Alexandria, VA 22306
armyengineerspouses.com

