



VOLUME IX, NO. 4
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Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT



Ancestral graves, human remains

An unparalleled archaeological find in the Northwest and
shocking discovery for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe



FLAGSHIP

Seattle District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Volume IX, No.4

Helping Hands

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“You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself.” Harvey Firestone

Our lives are filled with many blessings and many challenges. This past year, each of you became catalysts for changes you experienced in your personal and professional lives. What impact did you have on yourself—on others in your life? Are you where you want to be or at least on a path to get there? What about those you care about? Would they say you are helping or hindering them to stay on a path they want to be on?

Recently I stood watching my daughter's Cross Country Team from Ballard finishing a race and found myself getting choked up, like one might respond during a powerful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. I found myself comparing what it was like when I grew up... recognizing the many changes, big and small, that had occurred since then to encourage and develop the potential of all children today, regardless of sex. It moved me emotionally to witness firsthand the amazing results of these many changes in the exceptionally talented and nice young women before me. I then turned to the young men on the team, equally talented and eager to excel, whose hairstyles were as varied as any in history, and yet they were clearly accepted by family and friends for who they were.

While new to Ballard this year, my daughter has been made welcome in very many ways. For example, upon making the Cross Country team, the more senior team members created hair ribbons of

the school colors with each girl's name written on the ribbon to wear at their first race. I also discovered a bag of cookies with a small note encouraging her for an upcoming race from her "Secret Pal." For the district meet, two of the team members created a colorful note card with her name on it. The front of the card said "Runners Soul – Preparing You for the Human Race." Inside the card was a thoughtful note and the quote, "Ability is what you're capable of doing, motivation determines what you do, and attitude determines how well you do it." Would it be a surprise if I told you the encouragement worked, and she ran her best race of the year by almost a minute?

We have accomplished so much as a country, as an organization, and as individuals. Yet, why does it seem many forget the very fundamentals that have made us great in all these areas? How we view the world, those around us, and the situations in which we find ourselves makes a difference. What is the best way to work with those who aren't where they should be in this regard? In my last article, I highlighted some characteristics of effective feedback (timely, descriptive, helpful and constructive, encourages choice in the other person, builds relationships and self-esteem) to encourage appropriate behavior. Often I've discovered someone's motivation is not the issue, but the timing and key message conveyed can easily undermine even the best intentions. For example, someone recently wanted to disagree with something I had done (I know... you have to stand in



Col. Debra M. Lewis, Seattle District Commander and District Engineer

line!). The topic was an important one, but afterwards I had to ask myself, "Should such a subject be broached just prior to an unrelated, extremely important event where I planned to use the remaining time to be at peak performance to best serve the district and USACE?"

What would you do at this point? At a minimum, the experience made me stop and reassess how I might avoid putting others in a similar situation. Because I am not likely the only person this has happened to, I also wanted to seek ways to improve this person's awareness of the impact of their actions on others. A Greek Proverb tells us— "Whatever is good to know is difficult to learn." No matter how difficult, we must find the courage to create a better future than we have today.

In another situation, I was returning from an extended TDY. A man who spoke little English boarded our delayed plane with a



Cover story: An archaeologist exposes the ritual offering of an adult sea otter just outside of a 400-year-old cedar plank longhouse belonging to the ancestors of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. Human remains have also been found. Nearly 1,000 graves have been uncovered and the numbers continue to rise. (Cover photo by David Rice; Col. Lewis, Seattle skyline and watermark are file photos)

Special thanks to David Harris, Associated Press guru and retired Chief of Public Affairs, for his copy-editing help!

Seattle District's greatest gifts and sacrifices

Missing the special moments and holidays with family and friends for a greater cause

COMMENTARY

Last year Iraqis were finally free to celebrate Christmas. For many Iraqi Christians, even though they encompass only a small minority of the population at 3 percent, it was their first Christmas ever in a country where it used to be a crime to not celebrate Saddam Hussein's birthday but punishable with death or torture to be recognized as an Iraqi Christian.

So it's funny to think about all the things Americans worry about when the holidays roll around. We worry about the extra pounds we'll gain from all the goodies abundant in the office and fabulous festive holiday feasts at home. We worry about hitting the malls and spending too much. And what will we get Uncle Jim for Christmas this year because he already has everything he needs?

To put things into perspective, it seems many of our holiday worries are kind of petty. I mean, imagine if we lived in a country that forced us to celebrate our president's birthday but persecuted us for singing Christmas carols and frosting our ever-green trees....

Thankfully, that's not a worry of ours because we live in a free country. And even minority populations are protected because there are so many brave soldiers and civilians paying a price to keep it that way.

This year I'd especially like to thank those who are in combat harm's way for their duty and honor as they spend the holidays away from home.

It's not easy. I know. I was there. When you're deployed, every day is a workday, and even holiday pay doesn't ever make up for missing a special day away from family and friends.

"The holidays are tough," said Jeff Qunell who spent last Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, his birthday and wedding anniversary in Iraq. But he and Seattle District's Forward Engineering Support Team (FEST-A) tried to make the best of things regardless of heightened security risks during the holidays.

Last year Bill Graney spent Thanksgiving eating his dinner in a hallway, humbled because the dining room that he frequented was destroyed when someone detonated a bomb in the facility – luckily just after dinner one night causing only minor injuries.

The Corps has deployed nearly 2,000 people to Iraq and Afghanistan. There are about 500 people currently in country. Seattle District has had more than 25 people return and has nearly 40 in country who will spend this Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan (whatever you celebrate or none at all) and New Year's there.

Maybe if you get the chance, amidst clambering to prepare for the holidays, spend a moment and think about them or better yet, send them a note of holiday cheer. Their email addresses are in your Outlook address book.

-Maria Or



Maria Or warming her hands over a burn bin last winter. It has been said by locals that it had been 10 years since the last snow fall in Kirkuk, Iraq. (Photo by Air Force PAO)

Currently deployed, not including those pending deployment:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Manuel Bejarano | Mike Atwell |
| Nancy Camp | Jim Hilario |
| Charlie Comer | Mike Klingman |
| Jeanie Klingman | Beth Coffey |
| Mike Greco | David McElliot |
| Dan Pearson | Mike Sangren |
| Bill Prater | James Sydnor |
| Dawn Sonju | Leibnitz Watts |
| Avril Jones | Teresa Blondin |
| Randy Hanna | Carol Hewes |
| Bill Graney | Su-Chen Chen |
| Sue Morgan | Donna Decker |
| Connie Burris | Bob Smith |
| Sara Young | Michael Peterson |
| Mark Springer | James Jones |
| CPT Darren LeMaster | LTC John Leighow |



This issue was especially prepared for John Zabukeyec who has deployed several times to help with the hurricane recovery efforts in Florida. This is also a tribute the over 50 volunteers who have also served hurricane relief duty. (Photo provided by Dennis Schwartz, Portland District fish biologist who served with John)

Flagship

- Col. Debra M. Lewis, Commander
- Melanie Reeder, Chief, Public Affairs
- Maria Or, Editor/Designer
- Andrea Takash, Contributor
- Patricia Graesser, Contributor
- Steve Cosgrove, Contributor
- Elizabeth Townsell, Admin. Contributor

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continued...Helping Hands

bag that didn't quite fit in the overhead compartment. Many of the passengers had been delayed two hours because of a previously canceled flight and were anxious. The man took his bag back from the flight attendant and tried to empty some pocket contents to help it fit better. I stood up to assist him. After our fourth attempt, it finally slid in and the cabin near us

burst into applause. While others do not always appreciate our attempts to extend a helping hand to them, experience tells me that each attempt is a powerful force to improve the future we wish to see.

Enjoy your holiday season this year with loved ones and friends, and please keep our deployees in your thoughts and prayers as they help our

Nation create a better world for us all.

"Vision is the capacity to believe in what my heart sees, what others can't see. Vision is seeing positive possibilities where others see only negative probabilities." Carl Hamerschlag

Debra M. Lewis

WILLAPA

Tackling the largest estuarine restoration project in the Northwest

A vast sodden field of grasses and brambles sits isolated from the nourishing flow of the Willapa River by two miles of neglected dikes. A multi-agency and non-profit sector team hopes to see the dikes come down and the Willapa's waters pulse new life into the area in what may be the largest single estuarine restoration project in the Northwest.

Biologists, duck hunters and engineers visualize a safer highway, estuarine habitat and waterfowl attracting ponds all in this one single Willapa River Estuary restoration project.

The project site is located along the left bank of the Willapa River, about a mile downstream from South Bend, Wash. The area targeted for restoration includes about 422 acres of diked pasturelands and 35 acres of tidelands owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. U.S. Highway 101 bisects the property.

Dikes went up 90 years ago, creating wet pastureland. In recent years the dikes have not been maintained and are likely to fail, flooding the highway more permanently where the highway is already subject to flooding.

Project partners include the Seattle District; the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service—NRCS; Washington State Department of Transportation; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Ducks Unlimited.

"The project provided an excellent partnership that maximized limited resources as well as providing an incredible range and depth of technical expertise," said Kathy Kunz, the Corps' project manager.

The project began in 1998 when a local landowner contacted NRCS about converting 400 acres of pastureland into a restored estuary environment through the Wetlands Protection Reserve program. By 1999 six landowners submitted applications and the concept of larger-scale estuary restoration project began to emerge.

In 2000 five landowners accepted NRCS offers to buy property for restoration. WDFW bought the properties, and NRCS secured wetland easements with the willing sellers. Ducks Unlimited agreed to assist NRCS. WDOT agreed to raise Highway 101 as mitigation for other work in Pacific County.

In 2000, the Corps of Engineers also became a partner in the project through Section 1135 funding. Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act authorizes the Corps to restore historic fish and wildlife resources impacted by Corps projects. Corps dredging took place in the vicinity of the project site.

If the project clears its permitting requirements, Washington DOT would raise a 1.5-mile section of U.S. 101 three feet higher and create a highway pull-off with interpretive signs to promote public access. The agencies would scoop out new channels for natural tidal flow and fish passage, build two cross dikes to protect neighboring properties from flooding, and remove approximately two

miles of dike on the Willapa River to restore 300 acres of tidal estuary. Additionally, Ducks Unlimited would help restore 100 acres of wetlands on the upland side of the site to improve freshwater habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

The project will restore tidal marsh to help recreate natural salt marsh, tidal channels, and mudflat habitat to provide rearing and refuge habitat for chinook, chum, and coho salmon, as well as cutthroat trout and other native fish. The area will also provide habitat for migratory birds that use the estuary. A highway pull-out and trail will bring public access for educational opportunities and wildlife-oriented recreation.

The project is expected to cost about \$6 million, including \$2.9 million from WSDOT, \$2.7 million from the Corps and \$290,000 from NRCS. Department of Transportation project manager Collin Newall hopes to begin work in the spring of 2005. Work on U.S. 101 would be completed in 2005 and other project elements would be complete in 2006.

While all the project partners have expressed enthusiastic support for the restoration work, some folks in the local community have raised concerns. The Willapa Harbor area has a problem with mosquitoes. There are a number of citizens who have petitioned to stop the project out of concern that it may increase the mosquito population or encourage growth of species more likely to carry West Nile virus.

Scientists generally believe that mosquitoes will be less likely to thrive once the project increases saltwater flow to the now stagnant freshwater pastureland. However, the team has responded to concerns by hiring Battelle to conduct extensive mosquito studies in the project area. Additionally, the duck ponds will be built so that they can be drained during mosquito season.

"We have had some pretty major issues to address and work through, especially the initial strong opposition by some of the citizens in South Bend," said Kunz. "If we build the project, we probably won't be able to be able to make everybody happy. But I believe that we have put tremendous efforts into addressing public concerns. I've been impressed by the willingness of all of the project partners to tackle the tough issues and I am equally impressed with how the citizens of South Bend have taken the time and effort to be sure we hear and understand their concerns. It's the public process at its best."

- Patricia Graesser

Watermarked photo of Craig Bartlett, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, hiking on the Willapa levee. (Photo by Andrea Takash)



GRIBBLES: Real life 'goblins' eating Seawall

Deep below the surface of Puget Sound, tiny marine creatures the size of a flea creep along the seawall nibbling at the wood until their bellies are full.

These creatures, known as gribbles, have four mouths and seven pairs of legs, and they enjoy eating wood in salt water until the wood falls apart.

After years of gribbles gobbling up the seawall along Seattle's waterfront, the City of Seattle realized they needed a new seawall.

"Gribbles are our real life goblins," said Grace Crunican, Seattle Department of Transportation Director. "The damage they are causing has deteriorated the seawall to the point it can no longer withstand a major earthquake. The seawall in its current state is a threat to public safety and to the region's economy."

In August 2004, SDOT officially partnered with Seattle District in a \$9.5 million feasibility study on the Alaskan Way Seawall.

This study, which is expected to take four years, is a 50/50 cost share between the Corps and SDOT. SDOT will contribute its half through in-kind services, such as surveys, mapping engineering, design, plan formation and

project management.

U.S. Senator Patty Murray is a big supporter of the project. She acquired \$500,000 from the Senate's fiscal year 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill to help

fund the feasibility study.

"We need to act to protect the region's people and its economy. We're moving in the right direction," Murray said.

SDOT supplied the Corps with some materials necessary for the seawall review. Next, a range of alternatives from no-build to most cost effective will be considered. The alternative selected becomes the basis for calculating the amount of federal funding that could be made available.

"We look forward to any opportunity to help the state and city. With regard to this issue, we will directly partner with the city to assess what options would best safeguard the environment while protecting homes, businesses and transportation," said Col. Debra M. Lewis, Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commander.

Seattle District and the City of Seattle teamed up to educate the public on the seawall study. Representatives from both agencies visited 5th graders at Maple Elementary in Georgetown Oct. 11 to educate the class on gribbles and their destructive work on the seawall.

After a brief description of a gribble, the students used an activity sheet to draw their vision of what a gribble looks like.

"Students used their creativity to draw what they believe a four-mouthed, 14-legged gribble might look like. It was a wonderful opportunity for students with limited English skills to engage in the 'land and water' curriculum I am teaching with the benefit of understanding what is happening in their city," said Stephanie Pernod, a 5th Grade Maple Elementary teacher.

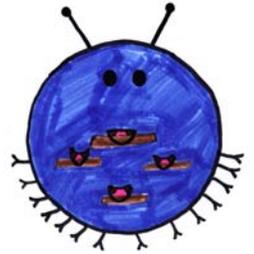
Michael Darling with the Seattle Aquarium's Exhibits and Graphics department used the students' artwork to create a banner, which was unveiled Oct. 24 along the

waterfront in front of the aquarium.

SDOT and Seattle District representatives were on hand at the unveiling to answer questions from the public about the seawall study.

"People were eager to learn about the gribbles and the damage that they have done to the seawall structure. This was a great opportunity to educate the public about the Corps' new partnership with the City of Seattle," said Becky Jahns, co-project manager. "I look forward to continuing the public outreach efforts throughout the seawall study."

-Andrea Takash



Maple Elementary 5th grade teacher explains to her students what a gribble looks like as they draw their vision of one before seeing the parasite. (Photo by Andrea Takash) Top left, enlarged photograph of gribble. (Photo from City of Seattle Website) Artistic gribble interpretations drawn by the children.

Flagship is published bi-monthly. Let us know when you're retiring so we can feature you in our next Flagship! We also want to know about professional accomplishments, speaking engagements, wedding engagements, marriages, births and

memorials. Guest features are welcome, or if you just like to write, we want to hear from you. Please contact the editor. maria.or@usace.army.mil or (206) 764-6896

Digging up the past, unco

A bittersweet discovery wrought with opportunity, hurt and distress for the

In the fall of 2003, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe received bittersweet news that artifacts from their historic Tse-whit-zen village had been unearthed. The find offered the opportunity to claim part of their heritage by their close historical connection to the site, yet there was the hurt and distress over hearing about disturbance to ancestral graves.

In August 2003 the Washington State Department of Transportation began construction at a 22-acre site at the western edge of Port Angeles harbor for a graving dock to build pontoons to replace the aging Hood Canal Bridge. Soon after construction began, an extensive and complex archaeological site was discovered about eight feet below the surface. Initially, an archaeological shell midden typical of the Northwest coastal region was unearthed, but soon the find became complicated by discovery of prehistoric house structures, occupational artifacts of bone and antler, and human remains.

Washington DOT stopped construction and consulted with the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. DOT needed to determine the significance of the find and develop a proper course of action to comply with conditions of a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

The graving dock was estimated to cost about \$19 million and is funded by the Federal Highway Administration. The Hood Canal Bridge is a key element in the commerce and economy of the Olympic Peninsula and its replacement was estimated to cost about \$256 million.

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe is a Coastal Salish Indian people with close cultural connections to other tribes across northern Puget Sound and into Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands, and Fraser River delta region. Today's Lower Elwha Tribal community is descended from a number of substantial villages that occupied Washington Harbor, Dungeness, and Port Angeles Harbor. However, after the Indian treaties of 1855, tribal members were forced to move from their homelands. Eventually a reservation was established at the mouth of the Elwha River west of Port Angeles, where nearly 400 tribal members reside.

Although the Lower Elwha Klallam people always knew that they lived in villages near the graving dock site, it came as a surprise that a village known in oral traditions as the Tse-whit-zen village had been discovered. In addition, the find carried unsettling news of a prehistoric ancestral cemetery and graves disturbed by construction.

The Tribe requested to be consulted regarding the disposition of their former village site and the physical remains of their ancestors. During the fall and winter of 2003 the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe met many times with DOT, Federal Highway Administration, the Corps, and the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to work out a solution.

After seven months of negotiation with construction shut down, the parties finally signed a Memorandum of Agreement in March. DOT issued a contract to Larson Archaeological/Anthropological Services Limited for \$4.5 million, and archaeological data recovery and construction began in April 2004. Washington DOT also secured \$3.4 million in state funds for a settlement agreement with the Tribe to resolve impacts to the tribe and related mitigation issues. The summer archaeological investigations revealed that the cultural deposits at the graving dock were larger and more complex than envisioned. Also, the number of Indian graves rose sharply from 25 then to nearly 1,000.

These developments prompted the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe to make letter requests to DOT and Federal Highway Administration to temporarily stop work and renew their commitment to remove all of the Indian graves at the site. In addition, the findings grew dramatically to include as many as six cedar plank longhouses, ritual offerings of mature adult sea otters, extensive food processing areas; stone mauls, unique etched pebbles and many other significant findings. These finds document three major periods of prehistoric human occupation dating back 1,700 years and extending to early historical times. The quality, diversity, and preservation of the archaeological material distinguish the Tse-whit-zen village site as among the most significant ever found in Northwest prehistory. But most of all, the human remains continue to be found almost every day. This situation presents a spiritual crisis for the Lower Elwha Indian Tribe. The fate of the construction project lies in the balance, as the Tribe wants full recovery for its ancestors at the site.

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe has retained Coastal



Col. Debra Lewis, District Engineer and Francis Charles, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Chair, discuss the project impacts to the burial grounds while attorneys Anna Dudek (Corps), Russ Busch (Tribe) and Siri Nelson (Corps) confer in the background. (Photo provided by David Rice)

overs human remains

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Salish spiritual advisors from British Columbia, and tribal elders from Canada have begun to interpret the archaeological findings from a traditional cultural viewpoint. So far burials of shamans, family graves, and the full range of prehistoric society are represented. The Lower Elwha Tribe provides spiritual protection for its members through ritual use of red ochre pigment, cedar bough branches, and herbal broth for individuals working at the site. Every professional archaeologist working at the site is shadowed between by tribal interns and technicians. Spiritual advisors provide oversight for tribal members, and contacts with distant relatives and stories from visiting tribal elders are restoring a long lost cultural knowledge.

About half of the more than 100 archaeological workers at the construction site are tribal. Huge water-screening and belt-driven mechanical sifters are being used to recover six disturbed human remains and process 17 cubic yards of material each work day. The work is monumental in scope, and unique aspects of the site appear anywhere new construction excavation is made.

No one knows the future of this project. So far, it is one of the most expensive archaeological data recovery projects in the United States. The scientific and technical results are unparalleled in the region. However, in recent decades, no federally funded construction project has



An archaeologist is carefully exposing house post-molds that signify where cedar plank houses once stood as representatives from the Corps inspect the findings. (Photo provided by David Rice)

been allowed to continue work within what has proven to be a Native American cemetery. In a traditional culture where beliefs of the spiritual world exceed the past and include the future there is growing anxiety about consequences for the living tribal community.

At the Point Elliott Treaty Council with Territorial Governor Stevens in 1854 Chief Seattle made an oration which mirrors a special concern held by all tribes in the region. One excerpt from his speech is quoted as saying:

"We will ponder your proposition (for a treaty and reservation) and when we decide we will let you know. But should we accept it, I HERE AND NOW MAKE THIS CONDITION that we will not be denied the privilege without moles-

tation of visiting at any time the tombs of our ancestors, friends and children. Every part of this soil is sacred in the estimation of my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove, has been hallowed by some sad or happy event in days long vanished. Even the rocks, which seem to be dumb and dead as they swelter in the sun along the silent shore, thrill with memories of stirring events connected with the lives of my people, and the very dust upon which you now stand responds more lovingly to their footsteps than yours, because it is rich with the blood of our ancestors, and our bare feet are conscious of the sympathetic touch."

-David Rice, District Archaeologist

Watermarked photo of a raised platform that serves as a huge water screen for sifting bags of archaeological hand-excavated materials. The water screen can sift through 16 cubic yards of collected soils and sediments a day. (Photo provided by David Rice)



An archaeologist carefully excavates a house post using a mason's trowel, paintbrushes and toothbrushes. (Photo provided by David Rice)

Keeping the fish in the river and the people dry

Emergency flood control projects protecting nearly \$3 billion in property were completed just in time for flood season this year by Seattle District's Emergency Management team.

The projects were finished right before several Western Washington rivers started to reach flood stage in the beginning of November.

The waters receded, however, before the new rehabilitated levees could be tested in the Nooksack, Skagit and Nisqually river basins.

If this year is anything like last year's October floods that submerged the city of Hamilton, threatened the towns of Burlington, Mount Vernon and surrounding areas within the Skagit River basin, these levees will hold up, said Eric Winters, a construction manager who oversaw the levee work in Skagit County this past summer and fall.

Seattle District's motto this year was coined by Winters when he said, "We will be working to keep the fish in the river and people dry."

In addition to levee rehabilitations, the team is ready to flood-fight at a moment's notice.

Most of the flood engineers who are volun-

teers around the District have their flood gear packed and ready to go.

Other winter basins within the district's jurisdiction include Snohomish, Stilliguamish, Sammamish, Cedar, Green, Puyallup, Olympic Peninsula, and Chehalis.

Annual flood exercises to prepare for flood fights are coordinated by designated flood engineers to familiarize new flood team members with the basins. They also work with communities and determine hotspots to watch for when the rivers rise.

Winters, who is also a flood engineer, conducted an exercise on the Skagit River in conjunction with the Skagit County sponsored flood awareness week.

Norm Skjelbreia and his assistant flood engineer Noel Gilbrough recently led a group up to Snohomish and Stilliguamish river basins to discuss emergency procedures and at the same time consider environmental impacts.

In order to save lives and property, it is often necessary to reinforce failing levee slopes with riprap and/or construction seepage berms on landward slopes.

The problem is, sometimes the environmental impacts of dumping rock can be devastating to the river and habitat, but that is why the Corps has enlisted the help of their own and other county environmental specialists to be involved with flood fights.

"Often, the only solution available to fight floods in order to save lives and property is by using rock. What we're doing now is using that rock in an environmentally conscious way," said Jim Jacobson, Corps environmental coordinator and wildlife biologist.

Seattle District is one of the few districts to conduct rehabilitations and flood fights hands-on, acting as the prime contractor versus contracting everything out to private companies.

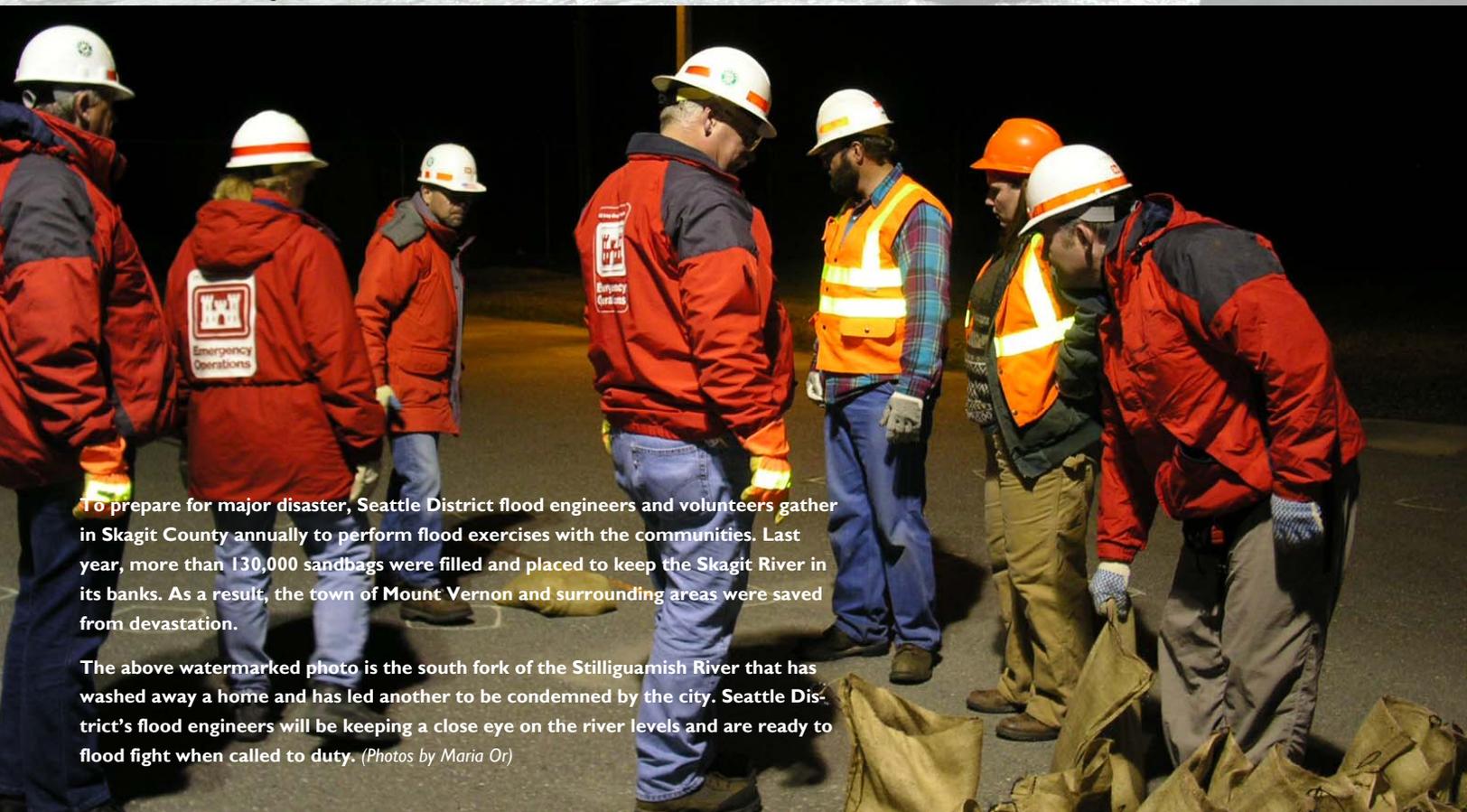
The district has been doing it this way for almost 40 years and has developed incredibly efficient and cost effective ways to manage such disasters.

"We do it, and we do it well," said Elaine Ebert, the lead contracting specialist for emergency flood work.

And perhaps one of the more compelling reasons why the district is so good is because of the good working relationships it has forged with the basin communities over the years.

"Just ask the counties," said Monte Kaiser, a flood engineer for the Yakima basin who also volunteers to help with other basins.

-Maria Or



To prepare for major disaster, Seattle District flood engineers and volunteers gather in Skagit County annually to perform flood exercises with the communities. Last year, more than 130,000 sandbags were filled and placed to keep the Skagit River in its banks. As a result, the town of Mount Vernon and surrounding areas were saved from devastation.

The above watermarked photo is the south fork of the Stilliguamish River that has washed away a home and has led another to be condemned by the city. Seattle District's flood engineers will be keeping a close eye on the river levels and are ready to flood fight when called to duty. (Photos by Maria Or)

Powwow at the new Native American corner

To celebrate the grand opening of the American Indian section in the district library Nov. 16, Diane Lake, tribal coordinator, encouraged employees to look at art objects, books on the opening of the Indian Museum on the Mall in Washington D.C., and meet and talk to Native American employees from around the district.

Lake, David Rice, district archaeologist, Tom Mueller, Ann Uhrich, and Susan Powell, of

Regulatory Branch were recognized recently by receiving a Best Practices award from the Lummi Nation for their consultation on an Orcas Island permit.

The permit area, although privately owned, contained a Traditional Cultural Property of the Lummi Nation. The consultation was a success because the Lummi Nation and Corps worked to consult, coordinate and meet for mutual understanding and action.

Smoke Signals

The first of a series of Smoke Signals Brown Bags to discuss American Indian history was held Nov. 15. The topic was the Treaty Period.

The second Smoke Signals will be held Dec. 14 from 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. The topic will be the Allotment and Assimilation Period.

Some History

In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, formally approved a plan to adopt an American Indian day. It directed its president, the Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. He issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

In 1995, President Clinton issued a proclamation designating November as National Indian Heritage Month. (November 2004, Region 10 Tribal Newsletter)

-Maria Or



Left to Right: Ann Uhrich, Regulatory, Diane Lake, tribal liaison, David Rice, archaeologist, Tom Mueller chief of Regulatory, met to look at all the new books the library has to offer on Native American resources and history. (Photo by Maria Or)

Holiday party awaits you at the Locks, December 13

More joy, Federal Center South party, December 16



Fred Goetz and his wife pose with Santa at a holiday party. (Photo by Patricia Graesser)

The resonant voices of an alto chorus rise from the gleaming white boat deck and reverberate off the dark, wet concrete of the large lock chamber as hundreds of families beneath umbrellas and glistening ponchos look on. It's the annual voyage of the "Christmas Ships" through the Chittenden Locks – a Seattle tradition since 1984.

Employees, retirees and their families have enjoyed decades of holiday celebrations at the Chittenden Locks in Seattle. Each year in December, the Locks has opened its doors to help host the district commander's holiday reception.

The night's top feature has always been the Argosy Cruise Lines "Christmas Ships" that lock through with a local choral group aboard. In the past decade, Santa has made an appearance as well, bringing gift bags and candy canes for Corps children. In the 1980s, employees gathered in the old visitor center to sing carols led by one or two of the district's more capable singers. In the '90s, a Ballard-style accordion band featuring district talent entertained the crowds.

Each year the natural resources staff at the Locks and the current commander work to provide a pleasant evening as an opportunity to see old friends, meet each others' families and break into the holiday spirit. One year the staff tried luminaries lighting the main walk. Unfortunately, early December in Seattle is nearly always wet and windy. The candles were blown out in a blink, and the bags turned into sodden lumps of sand that had to be scraped off the sidewalk by diligent garden staff. Another year, the evening featured two musical groups. There was great entertainment, but no time to talk and too little time for one of the performers.

Last year's party featured the Overman Family, a popular group made up of Mr. and Mrs. Overman and their half dozen children singing traditional carols in perfect harmony. They were such a hit that this year they will sing at the district's party at the Federal Center South on Dec. 16.

This year in an effort to include more children and employees, Col. Lewis suggested the district also hold a party at the Federal Center South in addition to the Dec. 13 reception at the Locks. This year Santa and the Overmans will be at the district Dec. 16, and the Christmas Ships and cookies and cider will be at the Locks the Monday prior. The Seattle Children's Choir will perform aboard the main Christmas Ship.

If you come to one or both parties, holiday spirit and employee enthusiasm await you.

-Patricia Graesser

Paralyzed Veterans Moose Hunting

“Here moosey, moosey...”

I was fortunate to be invited back to Alaska District’s Chena Rivers Flood Control Project, just outside North Pole, Alaska, to assist the district park ranger field team in providing visitor and customer assistance to the Paralyzed Veterans of America – PVA – for their annual moose hunting event.

My family has been a personal supporter of PVA for over 10 years, and now that I’ve been working with the Corps’ and PVA moose hunting partnership, PVA has become even more important to my family.

I have made many good friends through PVA outdoor and hunting activities from Alaska District, other Corps districts, and the Fairbanks and North Pole communities. Everyone is really great!

The visitors, volunteers and employees’ support has offered a wonderful opportunity to those who have lost the freedom of motion through paralysis or war injuries.

It has been an honor and a positive experience to be of service and to be a part of this hunting team, which the Corps has been involved with these past couple years.

This year’s moose hunt was another successful partnering event for PVA and Chena River Flood Control Project. The weather was perfect and, to our surprise, the air was clear of the smoke that had resulted from Alaska’s extensive forest fire season this past summer, with over six million acres burned.

The event kicked off with a picnic on top of the project dam. It also featured a wild game dinner and fundraiser with an art and gun auction hosted by Alaska Hunting Clubs for PVA.

The Corps had some very dedicated volunteers from the hunting communities and the Outdoor Show’s television film crew, as well as volunteers from the Army, the Bureau of Land Management, and local community organizations that participated with time and service for this event.

General Joe Pearson from Edwards Air Force Base was one of the new volunteers to join this year’s PVA hunt. He was in the field every day before returning to California to plan his retirement party.

Everyone involved in the hunt arrived at the project office before sunrise each morning. The Corps team and volunteers transported all of the PVA hunters to their locations and set them

up in the specific blinds for the daily hunts before 5 a.m.

The blinds were a combination of pop-up camouflage tents with viewing and shooting windows – an outdoor equipment vendor’s donation – and some tree and brush blinds for closer to water access made by Chena Park Ranger Tim Feavel and a local hunter and volunteer named Ken.

Another addition this year were duck hunting blinds with concrete pads that were put together and donated by a local Eagle Scout working with his dad and Feavel. Every one of the hunters enjoyed the blinds and locations for positioning, camouflaging and viewing.

The PVA hunters had daily glorious sightings of moose, mostly cows and calves.

The largest count was 36 moose during one morning on top of the dam. The hunters were able to catch a few glimpses of sneaky young bulls strategically darting in and out between the tree lines throughout the week. These bull sightings always got the hunters’ adrenaline going, fueling stories and excitement about the trophy they might get a chance to share.

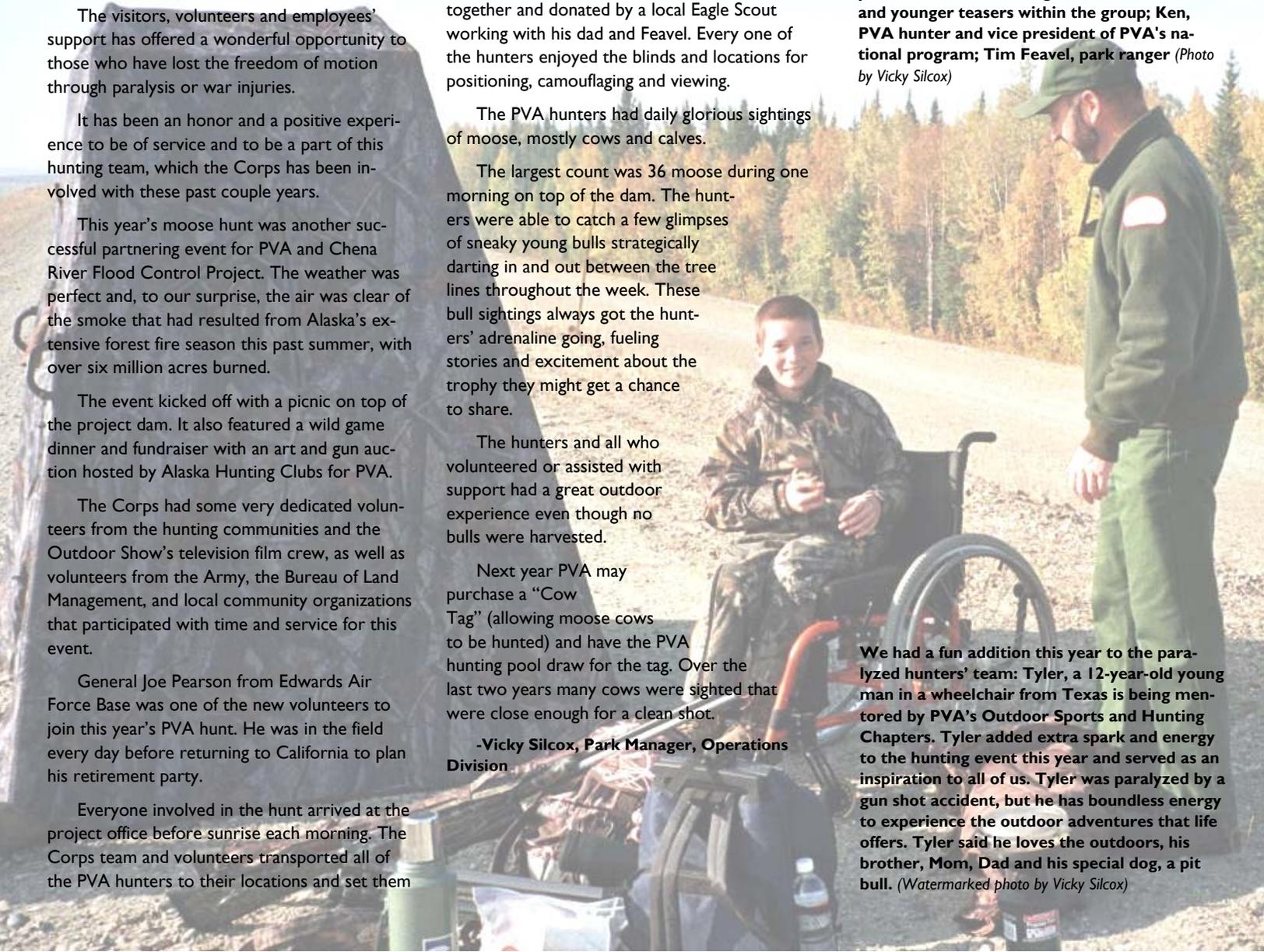
The hunters and all who volunteered or assisted with support had a great outdoor experience even though no bulls were harvested.

Next year PVA may purchase a “Cow Tag” (allowing moose cows to be hunted) and have the PVA hunting pool draw for the tag. Over the last two years many cows were sighted that were close enough for a clean shot.

–Vicky Silcox, Park Manager, Operations Division



Left to right: Ken, local Alaska volunteer sportsman and assistant; Andy, Outdoor TV show cameraman, who was not only taking pictures, but one of the great morale boosters and younger teasers within the group; Ken, PVA hunter and vice president of PVA’s national program; Tim Feavel, park ranger (Photo by Vicky Silcox)



We had a fun addition this year to the paralyzed hunters’ team: Tyler, a 12-year-old young man in a wheelchair from Texas is being mentored by PVA’s Outdoor Sports and Hunting Chapters. Tyler added extra spark and energy to the hunting event this year and served as an inspiration to all of us. Tyler was paralyzed by a gun shot accident, but he has boundless energy to experience the outdoor adventures that life offers. Tyler said he loves the outdoors, his brother, Mom, Dad and his special dog, a pit bull. (Watermarked photo by Vicky Silcox)

Around the District

Speaking Outreach

Stephen Pierce hosted South Korean visitors at Mud Mountain Dam June 1. The visitors have worked with the Corps of Engineers on Far East District navigation and hydropower development projects in Korea.

Michael Padilla and **Mamie Brouwer** hosted a Society of American Engineers field trip at the Howard Hanson Dam to discuss fish habitat restoration projects for the Additional Water Supply Project. The group was also treated to a tour of the newly constructed Tacoma fish passage facility July 21.

Mamie Brouwer was interviewed Sept. 8 by Steve Krueger, environment reporter for KPLU, on the fish habitat construction recently completed in the Green River below the Tacoma Diversion Dam.

Mamie Brouwer, Michael Padilla, and Andrea Takash hosted a public information meeting Sept. 8, to discuss the woody debris

fish habitat measures that were implemented in the upper Green River this year. The meeting was attended by 11 interested citizens, including recreational river users and fishing organizations.

Jeff Qunell and **Sid Jones** spoke to the Seattle District Retirees Association at a luncheon Oct. 5 about their deployment experiences to Iraq.

Michael Lamprecht, chief of Enforcement Section, spoke about regulatory enforcement at a "Wetlands in Washington: Regulation and Development" conference Oct. 25 in Seattle.

Hiram Arden with Landau associates presented "Collaboration Pays, Beneficial Use of Squalicum Waterway Dredged Material, Bellingham Bay, Washington", at the 2004 Western Dredging Association Pacific Chapter annual meeting, Oct. 29.

Kudos

The Seattle District Hydroelectric Power Plant Training Program congratulates Operator

Trainee **Alan Eastridge** upon his graduation from Perry Technical Institute, Yakima Wash., Oct. 21. He graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree in instrumentation/ industrial automation technology with honors in the top 10 percent of his graduating class. Eastridge is currently assigned to Chief Joseph Dam project and is in his second phase of hydro-power operations training.

In Memory

James H. Conway, retired as an Army Corps of Engineers lieutenant colonel and WW II Veteran. He had graduated from Washington State University in Civil Engineering, his lifelong profession.

Dwayne A. Detamore, retired Chief of Former Programs and Development Office.

Henry Engdal, worked in Seattle District for three decades as a civilian clerk.

Cameron Ghavamian, Contract Network Administrator and friend to many at the district.

Remembering Cameron

Cameron Ghavamian, a network administrator in the Information Management Office, was a wonderful person to know and work with. His meticulous attention to technical detail and his dedication to his duties was inspiring. Many at the District had the good fortune of knowing Cameron and will miss his sly, subtle humor, and his elegant and gentlemanly manner.

He passed away of a massive heart attack Sept. 19. Cameron worked for the Corps of Engineers as a contractor for 3 years. He was a professional example, reliable co-worker, loyal husband and strong caring father of two children.

Special thanks to all who contributed donations to the American Heart Association at the request of Cameron's family.

-Eulogy and photo provided by the Information Management Office



LASTING TRIBUTE

It's hard to find the words to say
When that special someone has gone away.
To be with Him, he's gone it's true.
But his spirit lives on
Through me and you.

As we reminisce of days gone by,
The times we laughed, the times we cried.
Remember when ...
Ah yes, I do.
Those cherished memories will see us through.

At times like these
It is comforting to know.
All God's children have a place to go.
It's there we'll meet again someday
This I know and this I pray.

So as we go from day to day,
Through good times, bad times - come what may.
May you rest in peace
I know you will.
You left us knowing
We love you ... still.

- Jacquelyn Hopkins, friend and co-worker

WELCOME to the District Family



Howard Swims
Chief, Budget and Mgt.



Edward Morente
Civil Engineer, Mt.
Home Resident Office



Melissa Tucker
DA Intern, HR



Mary Nolting
Office Automation
Assistant, Eviron. Mgt.



Olton Swanson
Chief, Design Branch



Donnetta Curren-Cook
Budget Technician, Civil
Programs Unit



Courtney Wright
Office Automation
Clerk, HR



Makai Naoki Takasaki
Son: 8+ lbs
Kym Takasaki



Lucy Sazara and Tom Garity
(Capt. of Shoalhunter)
Married: 1 May 04



Yvonne Blasko (Mud Mt. Dam)
and Bob Kaiser (Capt. of Puget)
Married: 1 May 04



Alana Kirkpatrick (Libby Dam) and Dean
Mesenbrink (Libby Dam)
Married: 11 Sept 04

Not Pictured:

Angelito Arcamo
Peggy Bellmann
Dennis Fitzpatrick
Gregory Gammon
Evan Lauterbach
Paul Merkel
Joy Roelofsz
Anthony Slamin
Luke Wold

Seattle District's very own SCROOGE

When Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, he probably never envisioned a 6-foot-3-inch man playing the part of Tiny Tim in 2005.

But when Steve Miller, Project Management Business Process implementation project manager, auditioned for the part of Tiny Tim in the play *The Five Ghosts of Ebenezer Scrooge*, he said he was surprised he didn't get the part, even though he stands 6-feet-3-inches tall, weighs 230 pounds, and is not a 10-year-old boy.



Steve Miller rehearses in costume for his up-coming stage performance.

(Photo provided by Chad Hill, co-producer)

"I can only offer two theories why I didn't get the part of Tiny Tim. Either I failed to project a convincing image of youthful charm and innocence, or Bob Cratchit didn't want to carry me on his shoulder," Steve said.

Instead, the director asked him to play Scrooge.

Both Steve and his son Adam auditioned for the part of Tiny Tim in the play, which is

sponsored by the All Saints Theatrical Repertoire Association.

Adam Miller also doesn't get to play Tiny Tim, but he will have several important parts. He will be a caroler, villager, party guest and Fred's guest.

This isn't Steve's first theatrical experience. He served in minor roles on the cast and as a "gopher" for the head cook during ASTRA's rendition of *The Sound of Music*.

"I helped wherever I was needed during *The Sound of Music*," Steve explained.

The play will premier at the All Saints Catholic Church in Puyallup, Wash., in the beginning of January. ASTRA scheduled four dinner shows and two matinees.

The dinner shows will take place Jan. 7, 8, 14 and 15 from 7 to 10 p.m. The matinees will take place Jan. 9 and 16 from 1:15 to 4 p.m.

"Our goal is to make this an affordable community event, not make a profit," Steve said.

Steve encourages people to purchase their tickets early. He expects this show to sell out fast due to the good reputation that ASTRA achieved with its production of *The Sound of Music* in August 2004.

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.astramusical.com.

- Andrea Takash

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