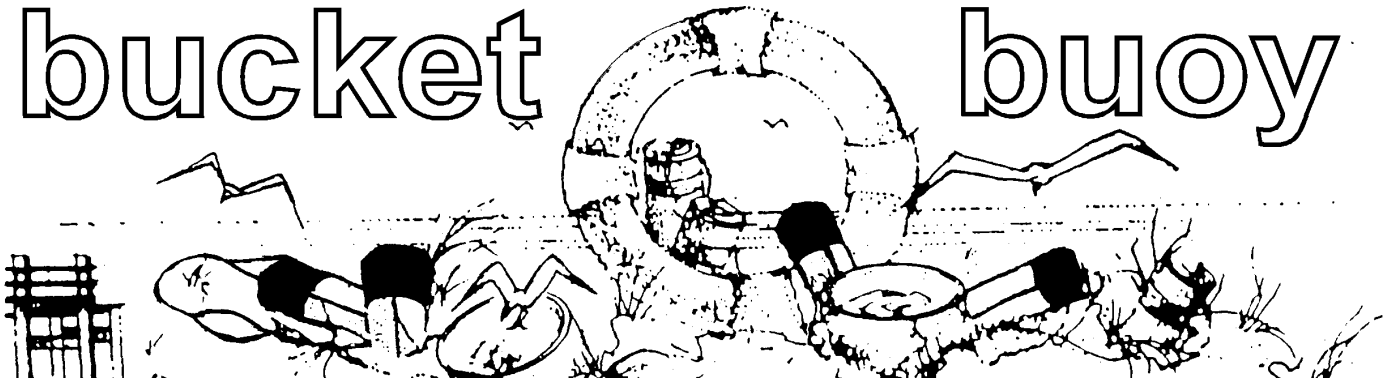


bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

June 20, 1999

This week's lead story, about the WEII's water supply, is much more than a story about water pipes. It is a story about the things that can be achieved when management and labor work with a spirit of cooperation. Although we still find much room for improvement on the way that the State treats Lifeguards, it is only fair to give credit where credit is due. It has been a cardinal rule of human society that the combined effort always renders more than the sum of individual efforts. It is good to see that the State is beginning to realize that, and is cooperating when it comes to improving work conditions for lifeguards.

On another note, along with more kudos to the State, it should be noted that recently Albany informed the local management that the new promotions can not be paid in rate until a new pay period. This would mean that although the new promotions take effect on the 24th, the higher pay would not take effect until the 1st of July. On the other hand, anyone dropping down would receive their lower pay as of the 17th of June (the start of the new pay period).

Frank Kollar, (a man we kid about having the ability to make the buffalo on a nickel scream from being pinched so hard) went out of his way to make sure that Albany started paying those promoted their higher rate from the 17th of June (a full week early) and those stepping down in rank their old higher rate to July 1st (a full week later). (Who says the buffalo is an endangered species?) Thank you Frank, we appreciate it.



Frank and Ed cut the ribbon(?) to the new shower

ALL THIS FOR A SHOWER

Anyone who has kids knows the great extents that they will go through not to have to take a shower. I can't help but wonder what the parents of today's WEII lifeguards would have thought back then if they knew what there kids would grow up to do.

Last week, the WEII lifeguards, under the direction of their Captain, Ed Peters, decided that they had had enough of dragging down barrels of water for their solar heated shower. The only problem was that the nearest running water was about 1/3rd of a mile away, up by the concession. Having watched last year as RM3 laid enough PVC piping to rival the Alaskan Pipeline just to get water, the WEII'ers started thinking, "We can do that too." The only trouble was that WEII's shack was almost three times the distance from running water as was RM3's. Other than that small consideration, there was also a 4 foot deep solid concrete barrier that had to be dug under so that a pipe could be connected in a vault like hole with enough width only for a small child.

A lesser field would have done a reality check and figured that dragging down barrels of water really isn't that bad. But not the WEII'ers (home of the famous Jetty Rescue Team). "Hell,"

they said, "it's either this or Ed will make us workout again." So off they went to conquer all obstacles in their path.

The first step was procuring 1800 feet of PVC piping. Ed Peters went to Frank Kollar and explained his idea. Frank, when he finished laughing, figured that if they are crazy enough to do this, they might as well be given the chance. So suddenly Ed found himself with a couple of thousand feet of piping and badly in need of a 1800 foot long, three foot deep ditch to put it in.

Enter Mike Trunkes, digging entrepreneur extraordinary. Mike organized a digging team to rival the Panama Canal crew. 27,000 shovels later, a ditch had been dug from the beach front shack to the water connection. Now only two obstacles remained in the way. A concrete patio that went down 4 feet into the sand and a tiny little space 4 feet into the ground where the pipe had to be connected.

Bob Adler was the one who figured out how to get under the patio. He dug a HUGE hole on the edge of the patio that actually went lower than the concrete. From that vantage point he hammered a PVC straight pipe under the patio until it stuck out of the vault space where the water connection was. The last huddle was to get the water connection hooked up 4 feet down this very narrow hole. (Picture a hole in the concrete roughly the size of a manhole cover going straight down for 4 feet - at the bottom was the valve to hook into the water.)

The solution was to hang Mike Trunkes upside down by his feet and have him do the connecting. (That is one picture I wish I had been there for.) That done, Tommy Weber finished up the plumbing and, viola, running water.

While there is no question this was one on the most amazing feats of Lifeguard engineering I have ever heard about, I have just one concern. What will they think of next? (No Ed, the jetty is just fine where it is!)



The 1999 Rookie Crew and their relentless trainers

BRAND NEW ROOKIES!!!

For the next week WEII will be the site of the training of the 1999 new lifeguard class. This year, for the first time in a long time, the rookies will be assigned to their beaches at full opening. This will go a long way towards relieving the initial shortage most beaches feel in the first week of full opening.

Ed Peters and his training crew (Mario, Mike, Tommy and others who I forgot) have been doing a spectacular job of getting this crew ready. I went down to watch them in action yesterday and have to admit, was very impressed. (This is from a guy who was trained 32 years ago by Commander Cody, himself.) Rescues, runs and beach flags were all part of the day's routine.

There were 56 Lifeguards hired and we're still short on the easterly beaches. On Monday, June 28, we will be giving a test on the East-end (North fork) to try to fill these spots. If you happen to know anyone who is interested let them know. Campsites will be available for those in need. What a way to spend the summer!!