



Castle Courier



A Publication of the U.S. Army Engineer Museum

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The past two months have been a very active. The Museum said good-bye to Ms. Janet Fisher, the Museum's Curator, who retired at the end of April. The 815th was the first unit to hold their reunion at the Engineer Museum in 2015. After a visit to the Fort Leonard Wood Museum, the 815th Alumni visited the Engineer Museum and held their banquet in the Engineer Regimental Room. The 815th had nearly 100 people attend, and voted to have their 2017 reunion at the Museum.

At the Army Engineer Association April board meeting, the board voted to provide \$6,000.00 in additional funding to the Engineer Museum for the purchase of historic painting. The Museum got a new motor pool, which will allow us to house most of our vehicles indoors, until the Museum expansion is complete in 2020.

ESSAYONS!

Troy

What is That?



Answer on page two

Janet Fisher Retires.

Janet Fisher was affiliated with the Engineer History Program for over 20 years. She worked in the Engineer School History Office as an archivist for 15 years before moving over to the Engineer Museum as curator in May, 2009.

Ms. Fisher managed the complete reorganization of the Engineer Museum's artifacts storage plan. This four year project greatly enhanced the care and stability of artifacts within the collection. During her six years as curator, Ms. Fisher processed, over 500 artifacts into the collection, the transfer of almost 4,000 artifacts to other Army facilities, completed the biannual inventory of over 10,000 artifacts, and conducted research to support exhibits, professional writing, and requests for information.

Ms. Fisher is remaining in the Fort Leonard Wood area, with her husband Ted. They hope to spend more time with their children and grandchildren. The Museum Staff (now just Steve Wells and I), hope she returns as a member of the Museum's volunteer program.



Engineer Museum Curator, Janet Fisher, explains to Engineer Basic Officer Leadership Course students how the Curta Mechanical Calculator works.

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Answer

If you guessed a Cracker Jack prize; then you are correct. During World War Two, Cracker Jack included these metal disks of the Army branches as prizes.

AEA Purchases Key Artifact for Engineer Museum.

The most glaring weakness in the Museum's collection is in pre-Civil War artifacts. Although this period makes up almost ten percent of the Museum's gallery space, the Engineer Museum's collection contains less than two dozen artifacts from this period, and only three with provenance. Artifacts from this period are difficult to find, expensive to buy, and can only be displayed for short periods, because of their age and fragile state. The Museum staff spends a lot of time looking for pre-Civil War artifacts.

Last year, the Engineer Museum staff queried



collectors and dealers. A collector agreed to sell a painting from his personal collection. If the Museum used federal money, the purchase amount would require a government contract. This collector had no desire to complete the enormous amount of paperwork required to execute this sale by government contract.

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The Museum Staff asked AEA to assist with the purchase. AEA contributes money every year to the Engineer Museum. This funding allows for the purchase of artifacts and support to programs, for which the Museum cannot use Federal monies.

In April, the AEA board agreed to provide \$6,000.00, in addition to the normal annual funding, to purchase the painting. The entire Museum Staff wishes to extend our sincerest appreciation to the AEA for this act.

290M Restoration Update

The 290M restoration project is progressing well. With the warmer weather, we have begun replacing damaged parts and installing missing parts. We hope to be able to move the 290M to our new motorpool and inside one of the buildings in June. There we will install the remaining parts, before it goes off to the paint shop.

Fundraising efforts for the scraper are also going well. The 815th Engineer Battalion Association donated \$1,000.00, during their reunion at Fort Leonard Wood. Also contributing to the fundraiser since the last update were; EBOLC Classes 02-15 and 04-15, Robert Adamski, Larry Poe, Mark Potter, Kurt Ingold, David Cotts, and Czeslaw Urbanek. Special thanks to all who provided support on this project. To date, \$4177.00 has been raised toward the 15K purchase price; making us 29% of the way to our goal.



Museum volunteer John Griffin, replaces the instrument panel on the 290M. John had to assemble components from three different instrument panels to make one good panel.