



CROSSCURRENTS

Vol. 1, No. 4

ST. PAUL DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Dam Safety Inspections Launched

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE

from Colonel Gay

Another holiday season is upon us. As we approach the end of 1977, we can look back on a good year for St. Paul District, a year in which we diligently and sincerely reached out to the publics we serve to meet their needs and priorities. Looking ahead, wondering at the unknown factors which will be thrust upon us in carrying out our mission, let's try to keep a perspective tempered by the feeling of good will which characterizes this season.

For now, I want to wish you all peace, happiness and fulfillment in your goals through this joyous season and in the coming year.

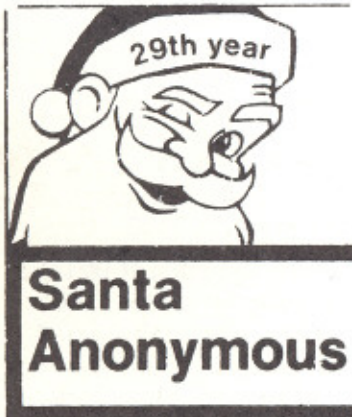
The dam safety inspection program was launched in St. Paul District on Tuesday, 13 December, at the St. Croix Falls dam, which is on the "high hazard" list of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Stan Nestingen, WDNR, met at the dam with Capt. Bill Carter who is the dam inspection program manager for the District. A team of four engineers--a hydrologist, a structural engineer, a foundations and soil mechanics engineer, and a geologist, made a visual inspection of the dam, as representatives of the media covered the event.

A similar initiation was made into the program in Minnesota, at the Hutchinson city-owned dam on the Crow River. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources representative there was Menos Katsoulis.

MG MCGINNIS PAYS BRIEF VISIT

Major General Charles T. McGinnis, Director of Civil Works, paid a surprise visit to St. Paul District on 7 December while returning to Washington D.C. from Grand Forks, where he addressed the North Dakota Water Users Association.

MG McGinnis was District Engineer in St. Paul 1969 to 71.



SANTA ANONYMOUS says "thank you" to all who contributed toys for needy children who might otherwise not have received any Christmas gifts.

Merry Christmas

December, 1977

FROM OAS

TELEPHONES INSTALLED IN CONFERENCE ROOMS - Commercial telephones have been installed in Conference Rooms 1219, 1220 & 722. Please make a note of the numbers for future reference.

Room 722 225-4696

Room 1219 225-4827

Room 1220 225-4920

When dialing from any of the above listed telephones, be sure to always dial a "9" access code. As these phones are not connected to the Government switchboard, if you wish to contact another person working in the District Office from these telephones you must dial 9-725 + the extension number.

The telephones will be controlled by Jo Banz, Records Management Branch. When you pick up your key for a conference room you may pick up the telephone at the same time.

BULLETIN BOARDS - New boards have been placed on all Corps floors at the back elevators. These boards are for unofficial notices for Corps employees only. All items will be cleared through Jo Banz, Ext 7522, Room 1136, prior to posting. Commercial advertisements will not be allowed.

ILLEGAL USE OF PHONES - Government telephones and credit cards may be used only for official government business. Using government lines for personal long distance calls, for personal business transactions, or for other unofficial purposes violates the code of conduct for Federal employees (section 735.205 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations) and may cause disciplinary action to be taken against the employee involved. Supervisors are responsible for instructing new employees in proper telephone use.



CAR POOL WANTED .. a new employee, TOM McALOON, ED-H, is looking for a ride, or car pool, from Maple Grove. His room is 1521, Ext. 7704.

JUST BETWEEN US

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED to EARL SAGSTETTER, L/D 4, on the death of his father on 19 November.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED to the families of three former lockmasters who passed away in December: GLEN KLINGER, L/D 9; EARL SCHULTZ, L/D 3; and PEARL WALKER, L/D 10.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Michael R. Monahan, CO-GR
Phone: 7714

Nancy J. Salminen, ED-H
Phone: 7585

Janice A. Stolarski, EP
Phone: 7516

Cindy L. Matiski, EP-C
Phone: 7512

Lilliann M. Casillas, EP-R
Phone: 7516

Mary E. Peters, D0-0
Phone: 7605

Roy J. Shetka, EP-D
Phone: 7517

Scott R. Bratten, ED-H
Phone: 7583

NEW OFFICE EXTENSIONS

Gerry D. Enger, ED-D...7626
Linda L. Glassing, AS-G...7507
David K. Harves, AS-RM...7522

Another note of appreciation to St. Paul District people came from the widow of BG Johns who died on 8 November, just one month after he was honored as "Father of the lock and dam system" in St. Paul District. Laura Johns, in a letter to COL Gay, writes:

"Thank you and your people there for your special part in making the past year for General Johns a great one--even to the final tribute at the locks. Somehow that seemed especially special to me."

ICE CLOSES RIVER

The sudden bitter cold which began on Thanksgiving has closed navigation on the Upper Mississippi River for the season. The last of the tows are still trying to move barges through river ice in the La Crosse to Guttenberg stretch, and icing is reported to be a problem as far south as Hannibal, MO.

Iced in for the winter in St. Paul District are 6 barges at Alma, Wis., 5 at Homer Light and 25 at Winona, Minn., since the locks from Lock and Dam 7 north have frozen out of operation.

There were some 40 tows in the Twin Cities area when the cold front settled in, and conditions for the tows grew increasingly worse as they slowly plowed through ever-thickening ice. Before the last of the tows was out of the district, they were encountering windchill of 80° below zero. As the river froze to nearly 8 inches thick, the jumbled ice floes formed narrow ice gorges which had to be laboriously rammed through.

Barges became coated with several inches of ice and snow, and thick accumulations of ice on the bottoms of the barges grounded them in places and complicated lockages.

As the towboats crashed through the ice, smashing into ice floes, it required in some cases two to three towboats to wrestle a single barge through the rapidly constricting channel. Tows rammed empty barges through ice jams and ice dams to break a path for the cargo-carrying barges that followed.

Lockages that normally would take one-half hour were taking two to six hours. Ice build-ups in the locks, as well as on the barges, forced towboat captains to cut the number of barges they moved through to only four or six at a time. In one case, two towboats worked 15 barges through the lock one at a time.

Lockmasters were in the spotlight, as reporters and cameramen flocked to the river to get eye-witness accounts of a possible catas-



St. Paul District's Deputy District Engineer is now Lieutenant Colonel Walter L. Heme, effective 1 December. LTC Heme exchanged his gold leaves for silver leaves in a surprise ceremony during which he was promoted by BG Moore and COL Gay at the District Engineer conference at Ft. Sheridan.

trophe. Burton Morris, at Lock and Dam 7, was filmed on WCCO-TV, which also carried an aerial filming of the tows hemmed in by ice floes. Burnell Reinitz, at Lock and Dam 10, was also extensively quoted in regard to the severe ice problems which developed there, including a five-mile long, eight-foot thick ice gorge which closed in on some 10 towboats and 70 barges just above Guttenberg. The gorge was formed by broken chunks of ice compacted into an iceberg-like mass by the barge traffic and river currents.

"The harder the towboats push into it, the thicker it gets," Reinitz explained.

Lock personnel in some cases were chipping ice from the lock walls by hand from small work boats in an effort to keep the locks operating until all the barges above the lock were brought through.

INSPECTION TEAM AT DAM

The St. Paul District's dam safety inspection program was initiated on 13 December at the hydroelectric dam at St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. Representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Northern States Power Company, owner of the dam, met with the Corps inspection team. The event was covered by several television stations and Twin Cities newspapers.

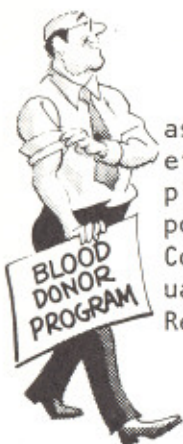
Surveying the base of the ice-coated dam, from left to right, are NSP hydroplant superintendent Loren Borgwardt, Eau Claire; Project Man-

ager Captain Bill Carter; and Corps inspection team members Marlin Munter (structural engineer), Sam Stansbury (geologist), and Jim Murphy (hydraulic engineer). Team member Doug Spaulding (foundations and materials engineer) was not pictured here.

The members of a second inspection team, which initiated the program in Minnesota at Hutchinson on 14 Dec., are Gary Smith (structural engineer), Bob Engelstad (hydraulic engineer), and Roger Just (foundations and materials engineer).



Photo courtesy of Dewey Berscheid, St. Paul Pioneer Press



Blood Drive Scheduled

The St. Paul District has been asked to participate in the Red Cross effort to obtain adequate blood supplies to meet the needs of the metropolitan community. This year the Corps effort is to be held on 6 January 1978 at the St. Paul Chapter Red Cross Building on Robert Street.

PICNIC COMMITTEE FORMED

The Engineer Day picnic committee has been formed and met on 15 December. Anyone interested in serving on the committee or who has suggestions for the picnic is asked to contact Dave Christenson, Ext. 5902. The committee has been formed with new employees, as it was last year.

Public Affairs Office is short a few copies of the November issue of Crosscurrents and would appreciate the return of any extra copies.

LOCK REPAIR WORK UNDERWAY AT SAF

The Upper St. Anthony lock chamber will undergo major repairs during this year's non-navigation season. After the lock, located in Minneapolis, is dewatered, this week or next, eroded concrete along the lock's floor will be repaired along with the sandblasting and painting of the gates and lock mechanisms. These repairs will be finished and the lock in operating condition by the opening of the '78 navigation season next March.

Lock and Dam 1, down river from St. Anthony Falls, is undergoing more extensive renovation that will take three years to complete. Work this winter will include extension of sheet piling on the upper guide wall.

The Derrickbarge Hauser is stationed at L/D 5 this winter where it is participating in the dewatering and maintenance of Lock 5.

DREDGE THOMPSON STAYS "SOUTH" FOR THE WINTER

The dredge William A. Thompson stayed late to do its work for Chicago District on the Illinois Riverway, and when it started up the Mississippi Riverway it encountered the severe weather that wreaked havoc on river traffic all along the Upper Mississippi. The Thompson finally pulled into Keokuk, Iowa, on 5 December, when the windchill reached 41° below zero, and that is where it has been decided she will spend this winter.

According to Dennis Cin, CO-MA, a crew of about 10 men will be stationed aboard the Thompson to do winter maintenance work on the vessel. A bus was chartered to bring the rest of the 66-man crew home.

The Booster Barge Mullen was working in Rock Island District. Just before Thanksgiving a crew of four men went down with the Tender Lyon from Fountain City to tow the Mullen and attendant plant upriver. The tow made it to Lock and Dam 13 when the cold snap hit them, and ice floes stopped progress on 26 November. The procession started out again on 30 November but became stuck in an ice jam in Pool 10 on 4 December.

The crew was very uncomfortably stranded for about four hours until MV Arrowhead, a large commercial towboat passing by, freed the tow and helped Mullen get back to Lock and Dam 10...where she will winter. The attendant plant--barges, piping, and such--had earlier been left at Lock and Dam 13.



REGULATION PROTECTS WETLANDS

The Section 404 permit program for protecting wetlands, administered by the St. Paul District, denies few permits but has resulted in the modification or abandonment of many wetland projects, according to a survey made by the District.

One of the strong points of the program, the survey indicates, is that it requires anyone planning an activity which involves the placement of fill or dredged material in a wetland to determine first if there isn't an alternate method of accomplishing the same thing by doing work in a non-wetland. When it is agreed that a project can be completed without infringing on a wetland or waterway, it is usually modified, so that no Federal permit is necessary.

The District estimates that there are 9-million acres of wetlands in its jurisdiction covered by Section 404 of the Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. Of that total, 5-million acres are in Minnesota, 2.8-million in Wisconsin and most of the remainder in North Dakota and Michigan.

During the past 2-1/2 years of administering Section 404, the District has processed some 620 permits involving 10,040 acres of wetlands. Of these more than 400 permits were issued while the rest were resolved in other ways. Only a handful of applications were turned down outright. In addition, some 300 projects involving many thousands of acres of

wetlands were permitted through a simplified "nationwide" permit procedure. Combining all types of 404 permits with Section 10 permits, which cover placement of structures in navigable waters, the District has processed more than 1200 permit applications since July 1975. Decision on about 300 applications involving 34,000 acres still are pending, the survey shows.

The 404 survey also reveals that the Corps routinely offers assistance and advice to scores of people planning work in or near a wetland and that this help often results in the selection of methods or projects not requiring a Federal permit.

Using statistics supplied by the states, the Corps estimates that projects affecting 1.8-million acres of wetlands and waterways within the District are illegal because they were not authorized by Federal permits. General Regulatory Branch staff points out that the ratio of unauthorized versus authorized projects is diminishing rapidly because of growing public awareness of the 404 permit program for protecting wetlands and an intensified enforcement program.

The survey estimates that about half of all small projects carried out in wetlands are in violation of Federal law because no permit was requested. But it is believed most major projects, those which could significantly affect water quality in wetlands, are now regulated by the 404 program.



Major E.J. Grabert was awarded the Army Commendation Medal on 19 December "for outstanding service as a civil engineer and project officer" during the period of 8 January 1975 to 15 December 1977.

COL Gay presented the medal and award which cited MAJ Grabert's work in Permits Branch, the Minot, ND, Flood Control Project and the emergency water supply program in Duluth, MN, area.

MAJ Grabert has been reassigned to Heidelberg, Germany.

Some 60 persons attended the 1 December luncheon honoring Merlin Berg on his retirement. Present at the party at Awada's Restaurant were representatives not only of St. Paul District, but of other NCD district offices, the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Merlin's co-worker in the Floodplain Management office, Jim Jacques, served as MC, and presented an entertaining skit with Tom Mathison, USGS, as co-star.

'GOING PUBLIC'



Colonel Gay recently received this letter from Robert M. Struckhoff, of the Struckhoff general contracting firm in St. Louis:

"I recently had the good fortune to take a trip on one of the Federal Barge Line Boats from St. Louis to St. Paul.

"Needless to say, the trip was one of wonder for me, and I was very impressed with the very efficient and courteous way most of the men manning the locks were. They were eager to answer any questions that were put to them and went out of their way to show me how things worked.

"The crew at Lock No. 3 was about the best that I talked to out of about fifteen lock crews, and it was there I obtained the attached pamphlet. Would it be possible to obtain such a pamphlet for each of the dams and locks so the presentation that I may make on my tour, using slides etc, will contain all the information possible.

"If it is not too much trouble, please let me know where they are available."

Note: We sent Mr. Struckhoff the materials he requested.



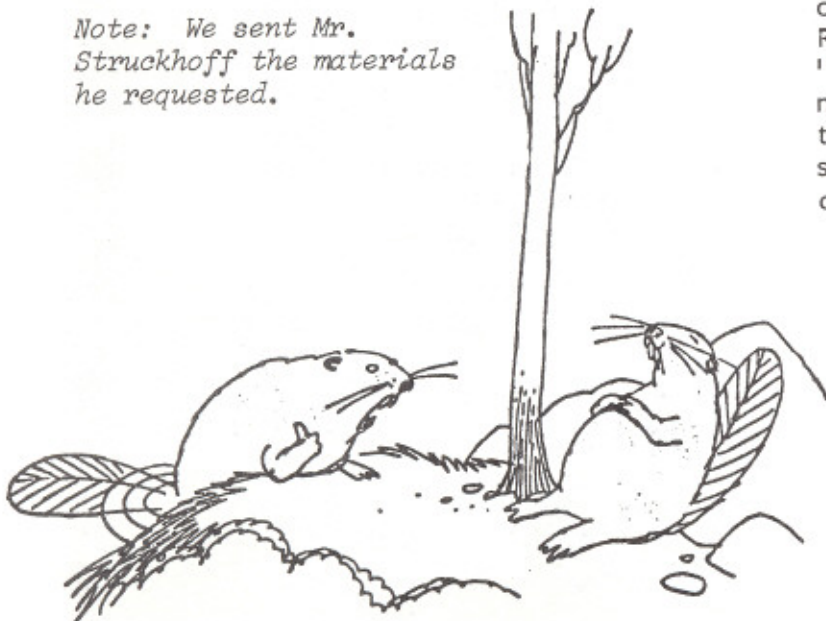
Canal Park and the Aerial Lift Bridge are still the top recreational attractions for convention delegates in Duluth, according to a study made by the UMD Economics Club for the Duluth Convention & Visitors Bureau.

47 percent of those conventioners surveyed visited Canal Park, the largest percentage of delegates to visit any one particular attraction. The ore docks pulled 35 percent of those surveyed, Skyline Drive 32 percent, the Depot 31 percent and the North Shore Drive 27 percent.

Spirit Mountain also proved to be a big attraction for conventioners.

SANTA ANONYMOUS drive was again sponsored in St. Paul District by the Federal Women's Program committee of the Federal Executive Board. The program is aimed at providing toys for needy children, children who might otherwise not have a gift on Christmas. The deadline at the collection point in the post office lobby was 16 December.

CARL BORASH, ED-PB, addressed a class of high school students at the Blake school in Minneapolis on 13 December. Illustrating his talk with slides, he spoke regarding the Corps role in water resources development, particularly examining the Rochester project. Carl notes that "the date was the 13th, the license number on the car assigned for the trip was 013, it was 13 miles to the school, and there were 13 students on hand" when he first arrived.



"... Oh No!, ... You build the dam and I'll tidy up the bank! ..."

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by Howard Epstein

**GREAT LIBRARY GIVEAWAY:
A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!!!**

Those of you who attended the "GLG" are aware of the absolutely invaluable items made available to all who are "scroungers-at-heart." The duplicate, obsolete and "ephemeral" material was of no value to the library; discarding them eases our over-crowded condition and improves our response-time to requests-- and some of you got reading material of interest.

Watch for "GLG II": it will be happening early next summer and will include more hardbound books and reports.

"Recent Additions to the Library"

A two-page listing of new books, reports, and periodical subscriptions available in the District Technical Library was distributed to all staff and field offices in November. Every couple of months another list will be compiled. I must stress that materials included are only a select few of what is received in your library. Most of the more technical reports are routed directly to offices involved in those activities; in "Recent Addition..." I will include publications of broader and more general interest to personnel. Stop down to Room 1120 (or phone ext. 5921) with your requests!

Reminder--please return all borrowed slides!

I will be sending out individual overdue notices shortly; avoid the hassle for everyone and return slides now to the District Technical Library. A four or five-digit number on the top border of the slide identifies it as part of the District's collection.

LOAN PERIODS FOR LIBRARY MATERIALS

New loan policies have been put into effect in the Technical Library.

Their purpose is to allow everyone equal access to books and periodicals and yet enable staff to retain needed materials for research or constant use.

Reference Material - does not circulate.

Periodicals

- current issue-available on overnight loans only. (due 9 a.m. next working day)

- older issues-two weeks.

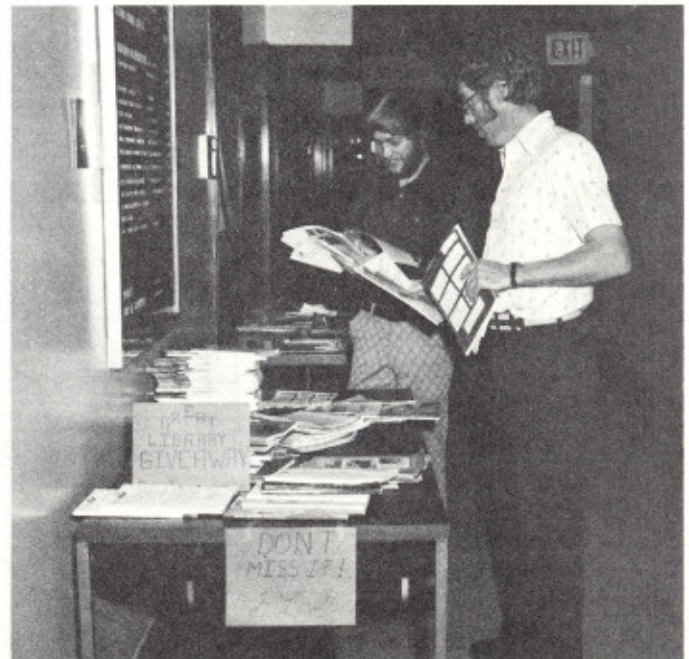
Reports and Books

- One month (some high-demand items may be recalled after two weeks if requested by others)

- "Indefinite Loans"-publications required for continuous use by an individual or office may be checked out "indefinitely." Approximately every six months or so I will request return of the items to verify their location, to ensure it is an up-to-date edition, and to maintain accurate records. A current date will be stamped on each book and they will be returned in the next mail run.

Renewals - renewal of library materials is as easy as dialing 5921

We are glad to assist you!



A couple of satisfied customers, Dave Valen and Jerry Blomker, choosing from the literary offerings at the Great Library Giveaway.

Barrels "Raised" Again

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) citizen board last week said they would request that the Corps retrieve barrels that were dumped in Lake Superior between 1959 and 1962. They want a barrel raised from each of six dump sites, they said, to alleviate fears of area residents that they contain harmful materials.

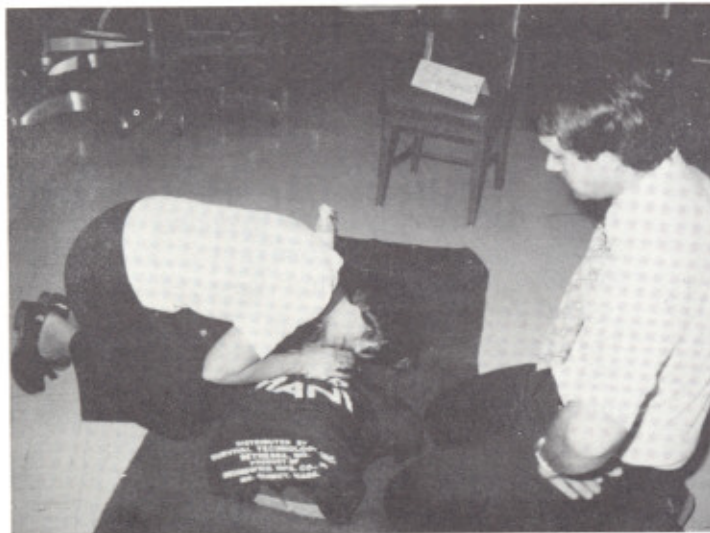
The U.S. Army Armaments Materiel Readiness Command in Rock Island, Ill., said that the Army will respond when it receives the request. The command is responsible for the barrel issue, and last June conducted an expedition which failed to locate any of the barrels. The barrels contain scrap metal from production, under an Army contract with Honeywell, Inc., of classified weapons. Corps vessels at Duluth were used to dump the containers almost two decades ago.

CHESS TOURNAMENT PLAYERS TO MEET

The Corps of Engineers Chess Tournament Players meeting is scheduled for 4 January, 1978 at 11:45 a.m. in Room 1219. Discussion will center on tournament rules. Games are to be played during lunch periods. A routing sheet will be circulated to all branches for sign-up. For more information, contact Clyde Giaquinto, ext. 7625, or Howard Epstein, ext. 5921.

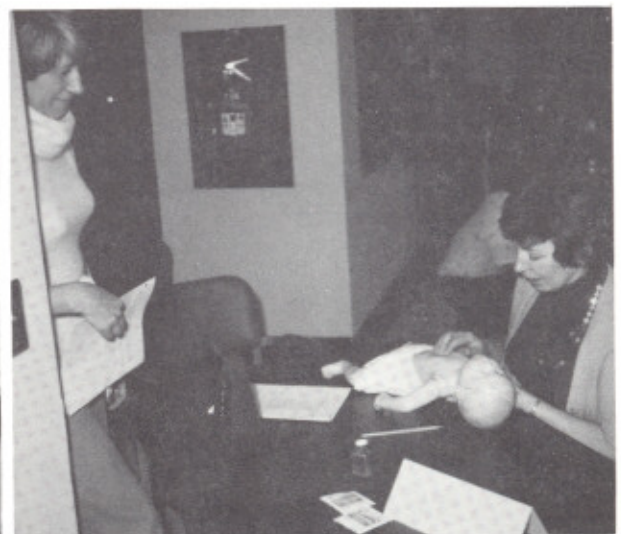
A reminder -- Aetna insurance claim forms are available from Joan Quitter, EP-R.

A rubber stamp which may be of use to people taking materials to public meetings is now available from OAS..."DISPLAY COPY--DO NOT REMOVE."



A Red Cross class on Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was taught by certified instructors Leonard Gloeb, Sharon Brown and Pat Blaskowski on 13 December. Eleven employees of the St. Paul District attended the class which consisted of lectures, workbook questions and simulated experiences.

Booklets, lectures and hand-viewers gave an introduction and detailed procedure to be followed



in CPR. A series of five stations were set for experience in artificial ventilation, chest compression and delayed and immediate care in both adult and child. Pairs of students studied each station and were checked for correct technique by one of the instructors.

The final written exam at the session's end gave certification by the Red Cross if 85% or more of the test questions were correct.

RELOCATION... A NON-STRUCTURAL ALTERNATIVE

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN PROJECT STATUS

In March 1974 Congress authorized a flood damage reduction project at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, consisting mainly of the removal of properties from the floodplain and the floodproofing of others. As such the project was one of the first nonstructural alternatives to flood control to be authorized. In this kind of approach, man adapts his use of the floodplain to the forces of nature rather than altering the character of the floodplain by damming, diverting, or otherwise controlling the flow of water.

Phase I General Design work was completed in the summer of 1977 with NCD approval of the Phase I GDM coming in the fall. The result of the Phase I studies was essentially a reaffirmation of the authorized project with modifications made to react to the changed circumstances since the feasibility studies were done in 1970.



The selected plan calls for evacuating 130 structures from the lowest portions of the floodplain and offering technical floodproofing assistance to floodplain property owners whose structures will not be acquired. All persons moved from their residences will be given assistance in relocating in similar or improved

dwelling outside the floodplain.

While the District continues with preconstruction planning (Phase II design work is scheduled to be completed this winter) the city of Prairie du Chien has received \$500,000 in a Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which it can legally use as part of its local matching funds for the project. The city is thus beginning the implementation of the project with these funds before Corps preconstruction planning has been finished. A recent canvass found 35 out of some 60-70 eligible resident homeowners volunteering to be moved as soon as possible. Since the funds will not move that many, the city has selected those families with persons over 65, those with major disabilities, and those with dependent children as those eligible for the first stage of evacuation.

Since the city would be the agency responsible for property acquisition if the overall project receives funding from Congress, the limited amount of funds from the Block Grant allows the city to begin a sort of test run to prepare for later years of the project. It is hoped to move as many families as possible before next spring, with its annual threat of high water. The current schedule calls for the overall project to be ready for construction funding in FY 79. With luck such funding can be smoothly spliced on to the program which the city has now underway and which should terminate in the fall of 1978 when the funds are exhausted.

Floodplain information is an important aspect of this project since it will not affect the normal course of flooding. For this reason, the District and the city have designed a small (3'X5") metal sign in color which will be placed on 50 to 100 utility poles in the floodplain to indicate the height reached by the record flood of 1965.



CO-OP EDUCATION

by Kim Evenson

It is not uncommon these days to hear people in the halls or elevators talking about reports and papers to advisors, university credits and the experience of working for the Corps of Engineers.

Cooperative Education, a national program which places undergraduate students from all majors in field assignments related to their academic and occupation goals, was introduced to the St. Paul District in 1973. Under this program, students spend a least two separate academic periods at a field assignment.

After completing one term at a field assignment earning four to fifteen credits, depending upon the university, the student returns to study at the university. If the student has not graduated, he or she is eligible for another term in the field. For many students these field assignments provide a start in business contacts, salary and post graduation employment. "The employers also benefit by having the opportunity to hire a graduate who is experienced and skilled," says Al Kraft, Training Officer.

The St. Paul District's affiliation with the program began with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in 1974 with one student. Since that time four other universities have become actively involved at the Corps. In 1975 Mankato State University and the University of Minnesota, Institute of Technology, entered the program. In 1976 the University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts, and Michigan Technological University joined in, and the University of Northern Iowa came on board just this year.

Approximately 65 students from these schools have been a part of the St. Paul District's work force

as a field assignment since the program was initiated here. Students with majors or minors in engineering, geography, biology, library science, economics, journalism and computer science have been employed in Planning Branch, General Regulatory, Technical Library, Public Affairs, Design, ADP, GREAT and Hydraulics.

During the past academic term, twenty students have been with the St. Paul District through the Cooperative Education Program. Gary Rogers, a biology student from the University of Northern Iowa, is employed in General Regulatory as an environmental resources planner. He is the first student from the university to be involved with the Corps. Seven civil engineering students from the UM are presently at the Corps. Robert Vetter is with ED-PB, Greg Frankosky is in Urban Studies, Rodney Miller is with Design and Mark Zimmer, Mark Slaughter, Stan Synowczycki and Greg Hanson are working in Hydrology.

Twelve students from the UW-La Crosse are at the St. Paul District this term. Working in CO-GR are political science majors Mary Marx, Joan Karis and Kathy Emery. Jody McGuire, a biology student, and Tim Fell, who is studying history, are also in this branch. Bill Braunschweig, a geography student, and Barb Thornton, a political science major, are working on GREAT. Mary Boland, an elementary education major - library science minor, is in AS-L, and Kim Evenson, a mass communications major, is in PAO. ED-PB employs Dan Brudos, a business major, and Paul Blair, a geography student. Jerry Clusen, a computer science major, is working in ADP. With the academic term coming to a close, reports and papers to advisors are in the writing stage and apartments are in the disaster state of moving-out time. Those who are planning to be back for another term in the summer say, thank-you and see you soon. Those who will not be back say, good-bye and thank-you for some of the best experiences in our college education.

MILT ROPPE, Park Manager, sent in this article, which has appeared in other publications, suggesting it would be of interest to *Crosscurrents* readers:

TIME TO GROW UP

The Police Chief of a small city in the Middle West is an unassuming man, who goes about his job quietly and efficiently. He avoids the limelight whenever possible. Asked to address the local PTA on teenage problems, he declined. However, he sent the Committee the following "Letter to a Teenager."

"Always we hear the plaintive cry of teenagers: 'What can we do? Where can we go?'

"The answer is--'go home.'

"Hang the storm windows, paint the woodwork, rake the leaves. Mow the lawn, shovel the walk, wash the car. Learn to cook, scrub some floors. Repair the sink, build a boat, get a job!

"Help the minister, priest or rabbi, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army. Visit the sick, assist the poor. Study your lessons. And then when you are through--and not too tired--read a book.

"Your parents do not owe you entertainment. Your village does not owe you recreation facilities. The world does not owe you a living.

"You owe the world something. You owe it your time and energy, and your talents so that no one will be at war, or in poverty, sick or lonely again.

"In plain, simple words, 'Grow Up.' Quit being a cry-baby. Get out of your dream world...and start acting like a man or a lady."



OLD TIMER'S CORNER

A letter from "old-timer"
Milton E. Schmidt:

December 6, 1977
4513 E. 8th Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74112

Many thanks for the continuing receipt of the monthly publication and for the party who so thoughtfully arranged the initial mailing to me about two years ago.

More than forty years has passed since my employment on Lock and Dam 5A and in the District Office during May 1934 through February 1936. Some of the writings in the past publications were concerned with the headwater reservoirs and these strike a responsive chord in my memory of Pine, Sandy, Gull, Pokegama, Winnibigoshish and Leech, since considerable time in 1935 and 1936 was spent in the probable comparative hydrologic wanderings of reservoir in-flow with the corresponding sunspot numbers under Denny-Walters-Lyons.* Subsequently and before retirement in December 1964 the time was spent with the Corps at Conchas Dam, New Mexico; Denison, Texas; and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Schmidt, formerly Alice Greenfield of Minneapolis, and I reside in Tulsa, America's most beautiful city. We have three daughters, one in Wisconsin and the other two in Texas.

My regards to all with the hope of attending a District social gathering in the future.

*We asked Pete Fischer about this, and he presumes Mr. Schmidt is referring to a drought-cycle study.

Word has been received of the death of MARTIN MUENCH, retired from the Fountain City boatyard, who suffered a heart attack while hunting in Wyoming on 3 October.

Headwater Notes

In 1901, just 25 years after the invention of the telephone, rates were already a concern of the people. Two dollars a month may seem to be a reasonable sum; however, a change in this proposed rate fell under question.

November 29, 1901

B.C. Finnegan
Dam Tender

Pokegama Falls Dam, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 27th instant on telephone line between Grand Rapids and Pokegama Falls Dam is received.

In your letter on the subject dated July 4 last, you reported that the Company had removed the government poles in Grand Rapids by mistake and would replace them, "but before doing so would make a proposition to put the government wire from here to Grand Rapids on their poles and furnish an instrument at this end for \$2 a month and keep the line in repair." I am at a loss to understand why you did not refer to that letter and explain why the rate now proposed is so much in excess of their former proposition. As the government already has a wire on its own poles, the only expense to the Company (apart from making good the damage caused by them in taking down the government poles and wires in Grand Rapids), in making a connection with their system would be the installment of a new instrument, provided they would prefer to do that rather than use the one belonging to the government.

Information is desired as to the rates proposed to be charged the general public.

Very Respectfully

R.L. Hoxie

Major, Corps of Engineers

DISTRICT OFFICE FISHERMEN*
PUT YOUR FISH ON THE LINE

by Gary Palesh



For the past two years, we in the Environmental Resources Branch have held a Branch fishing contest and have put our fish up for display and public scrutiny. People who have seen our contest entries are constantly telling us about the fish they have caught that are "much larger" than what we have caught. This is particularly true of our next-door neighbors in Planning Branch.

We are proposing to hold a District Office fishing contest. The Environmental Resources Branch would administer the contest and publish standings, results, rules, etc. in the *CROSSCURRENTS*. The rules would be basically the same as those used in previous years. These can be seen posted on the bulletin board in Room 1209.

The contest will be held if enough interest is shown between now and 1 January 1978. Come on and see how you "scale" up against other District fishermen. Please contact Norm Hildrum (7574) or Gary Palesh (5935) in ED-ER if you are interested.

* "Fishermen" as used herein applies to both men and women!

Effective 5 December, George Skene is designated Acting Chief, Flood Plain Management Services Section, Planning Branch, in addition to his assignment as Chief, General Investigations Section, Planning Branch. This dual assignment is not to exceed 30 days.

New Chief of Budget Branch is RON WOLNEY, who has been with Program Development for three years.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Winter Driving

Driving in winter calls for caution, and special car care.

Here are hints that may help.

- Before winter arrives, you should have thought about tune ups, snow tires, and checking your battery.

- After the car is winterized, everything depends on the driver and his attitude.

- When you're late in getting the car started on a frigid morning, "cool your temper." Drive defensively, not offensively.

- Get out there early, and let that car warm up and clear the windows of fog before rolling off.

- Your car windows should be completely clear of frost, snow or ice before starting off.

- And that also includes your headlights and tail lights!

- Studded tires are permitted after Nov. 1.

- Don't drive trying to see



through a small "hole" scraped in the ice on your windshield.

- Match your driving to conditions. Particularly, when it's icy, leave plenty of space to stop. Watch those intersections in icy weather, too.

- If you do begin to skid on the ice . . . tap the brakes intermittently and you'll stop better.

- After you stop, check oncoming cars before you pull out.

- If you ever find yourself sliding, **TURN THE STEERING WHEEL IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS THE SLIDE.**



"Ask a technical question, and you get . . ." Planning Branch economist JODY ROONEY called engineer TOM HEYERMAN to ask "What's the life of a drainfield?"

His technical reply was "Dull, very dull."



12 UNNATURAL LAWS

Have you ever received a phone call the minute you stepped outside and locked your door? Has the bus you were waiting for appeared from behind a parked truck the instant you lit up a cigarette?

Certain astute individuals have noticed that such events are not the exception but, rather, the rule. Men like Murphy, Peter and Parkinson have made it their lifework to ferret out the operating principles—the laws—that govern the frustrating lives we mortals live.

1. **MURPHY'S LAW:** If anything can go wrong, it will.

2. **O'TOOLE'S COMMENTARY ON MURPHY'S LAW:** Murphy was an optimist.

3. **THE UNSPEAKABLE LAW:** As soon as you mention something, if it's good, it goes away; if it's bad, it happens.

4. **NONRECIPROCAL LAWS OF EXPECTATIONS:** Negative expectations yield negative results. Positive expectations yield negative results.

5. **HOWE'S LAW:** Every man has a scheme that will not work.

6. **ZYMURGY'S FIRST LAW OF EVOLVING SYSTEMS DYNAMICS:** Once you open a can of worms, the only way to recan them is to use a larger can.

7. **ETORRE'S OBSERVATION:** The other line moves faster.

8. **LAW OF SELECTIVE GRAVITY:** An object will fall so as to do the most damage.

8A. **JENNINGS' COROLLARY:** The chance of bread falling with the buttered side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.

9. **MAIER'S LAW:** If the facts do not conform to the theory, they must be disposed of.

10. **HOARE'S LAW OF LARGER PROBLEMS:** Inside every large problem is a small problem struggling to get out.

11. **BOREN'S FIRST LAW:** When in doubt, mumble.

12. **THE GOLDEN RULE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:** Whoever has the gold makes the rules.

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