



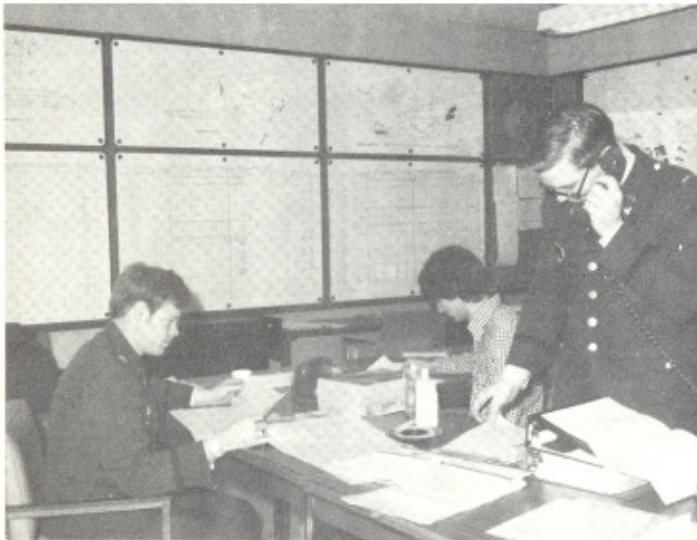
CROSSCURRENTS

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

Vol. 2, No. 7

April, 1979

DISTRICT MOBILIZES



FLOOD EMERGENCY CENTER, CPT Mike Durick, Scott Jutila, 2LT Randy Amundson

Despite earlier trends that indicated that large-scale flooding in the Red River Valley might not develop this spring, sudden high temperatures created flows in the headwaters which prompted the city of Breckenridge, Minnesota, to ask for Corps help on 13 April. The District provided 45,000 sandbags, 12 pumps, and 25 rolls of polyethylene sheeting to the community. When the crest arrived on the Red on 14 April, one foot over last year's level, damages prevented at Wahpeton, North Dakota, and Breckenridge were estimated at nearly \$900,000.

With the high water moving downstream, Fargo, North Dakota, declared a state of emergency on 14 April, requesting Corps assistance two days later. The area engineer, Martin McCleery, established an

As this issue of Crosscurrents is prepared for publication, a sudden flood emergency has developed in Minot, ND. High temperatures and rain in the area created overnight a run-off in the Souris River that threatened the homes of over 12,000 people. Corps personnel were rushed to the scene, and the situation appears to be under control.

Emergency Operations Center at the Cass County Civil Defense Office within 24 hours to conduct liaison with communities, give technical assistance, and execute emergency equipment contracts. Initially 27 District Office and field personnel were assigned to the center. As the flood moved further downstream, it was expected that the operations center would later be shifted to Grand Forks from where it would carry on the flood fight.



"THIS WILL BE YOUR CHAIR," Colonel Gay tells Colonel William W. Badger, who will become St. Paul District Engineer in June. COL Badger visited the office on 19 April. (More on page 3).

DENNIS CIN NAMED
ENGINEER OF YEAR

The Engineer Day picnic is scheduled at Como Park on Thursday, 14 June...

Don't miss the fun...watch for the posters... and if you want to help, call Tom Montgomery, ED-D, 725-7625!

NAVIGATION OPENED 1 APRIL

The 1979 navigation season opened at St. Paul with the arrival of two tows on 1 April. Both the Prairie State and the Hawkeye carried fertilizer up, and returned with loads of grain.

Dennis E. Cin, Project Operations Branch, has been selected as the St. Paul District's "Engineer of the Year for 1978." The "Engineer of the Year" award is a local award which provides honorary recognition to outstanding civilian employees in professional engineering positions.

Dennis was selected for this honorary award by the Hall of Fame Committee from among nominations submitted by District employees. His name has been forwarded to the North Central Division, where a Division-wide "Engineer of the Year" will also be chosen. Dennis will be presented with the St. Paul District award on Engineer Day.

Perfect vision.



Take stock in America.
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds.



The Headwater reservoir
campgrounds open (officially)
on May 10



"Where's the safety belt?"

A LETTER OF REMEMBRANCE... came with a small black looseleaf notebook entitled "St. Paul District Hand Book." The book is "A Condensed Tabulation of Information in the St. Paul District by Major Dwight F. Johns, C.E., District Engineer, St. Paul District."

The letter and book came from Robert T. Rutt, Outdoor Recreation Planner with the Little Rock District of the Corps. He writes: "Inclosed is a first edition copy of the St. Paul District Hand Book which my father brought with him when he came to the Little Rock District in 1937. I thought you would like to have this book as it might have some historical significance to your District. I doubt if there are many copies of this book still around."

The book has sections on personnel, plant, physical properties of the Mississippi River and tributaries, construction - locks and dams, commercial statistics, reservoir data, train schedules, datum plan information, navigation interests. The address shows that the District Office was then located at 615 Commerce Building in St. Paul (corner of 4th and Wabasha Streets).

The Major Dwight Johns who was then District Engineer was in charge of construction of much of the lock and dam system in the 1930's. He visited the District in October 1977, and was acclaimed as "the father of the lock and dam system at St. Paul District." He died the next year.

Accompanying the book and letter from Robert Rutt was a newspaper clipping about his father, Edward F. Rutt, who died on 21 January 1979 at the age of 71. The obituary mentions that Mr. Rutt won the Army's Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1970 for almost 24 years of work on the engineering of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. He retired in 1971 after 38 years with the Army Corps of Engineers, the last 15 years as Chief of the Engineering Division at Little Rock District.

"He started his career with the St. Paul District," the obituary says, "then came to Little Rock in 1937."



Colonel William W. Badger (above), who will become St. Paul District Engineer in June, and Colonel Gay, met with James Harrison, Executive Director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission, on 19 April during COL. Badger's visit to St. Paul. At left, COL Badger chats with Roger Fast and Ed Roscoe at coffee.



ANNOUNCES NEW ASSIGNMENT

COL Gay has been assigned to the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, D.C., as Executive Director of the Engineer Staff. He will be leaving in June, after serving 3-1/2 years as St. Paul District Engineer.

A public meeting is scheduled on 8 May at McGregor, Iowa, by General Regulatory Branch, to discuss the proposed fleeting site on the Mississippi River, two miles south of McGregor. Because of the controversial nature of the permit applications, a second public meeting will be held later in May.

More stories from the St. Paul District Hand Book will follow; meanwhile, anyone interested in seeing the book may contact the Public Affairs Office.

Touring L/D 1

All District Office employees were given the opportunity, on 15 March, to tour the rehabilitation work at Lock and Dam No. 1.

Buses scheduled at intervals during the day carried some 106 employees to the site where the project manager, Mike Schwalbe, gave a preliminary description of the work being done. Donning hard-hats and boots, the groups proceeded to the lock for an overview, then descended by elevator to the floor of the enclosed lock chamber.

Mike led each group, explaining the "what, why, how" along the way -- speaking above the racket of drills and machines-- as people sloshed through the muddy water that covered the floor to a couple of inches.

The reaction of the office staffers to a view of field operations was summed up by a thank-you note that Personnel people sent to Mike afterward: "We would like to commend Mike on the excellent tour which we received. It was informative and enables us to relate much of what we do each day to the actual work situation. This will help us better understand the work requirements and environment of such positions and will increase our ability to to evaluate applicants."



(Photos at extreme right, of the lock and work in the lock, were taken during one of the tours, by Justine Kelly, RE).



GENERAL REGULATORY BRANCH JOINS MN/DOT ON WHIRLWIND TOUR

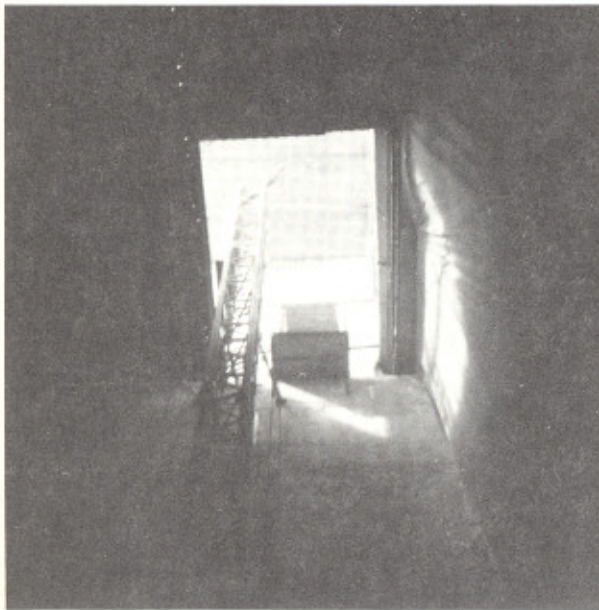
by HENRIK STRANDSKOV

During three weeks in March, General Regulatory Branch personnel joined members of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN/DOT) and other agencies on a speaking tour that covered eight cities throughout the state. At each location a member of the Surveillance and Enforcement Section explained the Corps' regulatory program to MN/DOT highway engineers and technicians as well as to representatives of county engineering departments. In all, over 500 people heard the presentations.

The tour, which had been organized by Jon Henslin of MN/DOT's Materials Engineering Section, was designed to acquaint MN/DOT employees and county personnel with two subjects that are often related - erosion control and permit requirements.

For each 8-hour session, four speakers from MN/DOT headquarters in St. Paul were joined by representatives of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Corps. The general message to the highway employees was clear: You can build good roads without harming the environment. The Corps speakers emphasized the ways in which highway construction is affected by permit requirements under both Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

According to Ben Wopat, Chief of the Surveillance and Enforcement Section and one of the speakers for the Corps, the tour was an excellent opportunity not only to publicize the regulatory program but also to enhance cooperation among all the agencies involved. It also enabled the General Regulatory Branch to develop materials that can be used in similar situations, as was the case at a recent informational session for land improvement contractors at Boscobel, Wisconsin.





Bruce Tante (ED-D), blueprints for the remodeling project tucked under his arm, comes upon a blank wall at the former entrance to the Executive Office. The detour sign directs people to an alternate entrance.

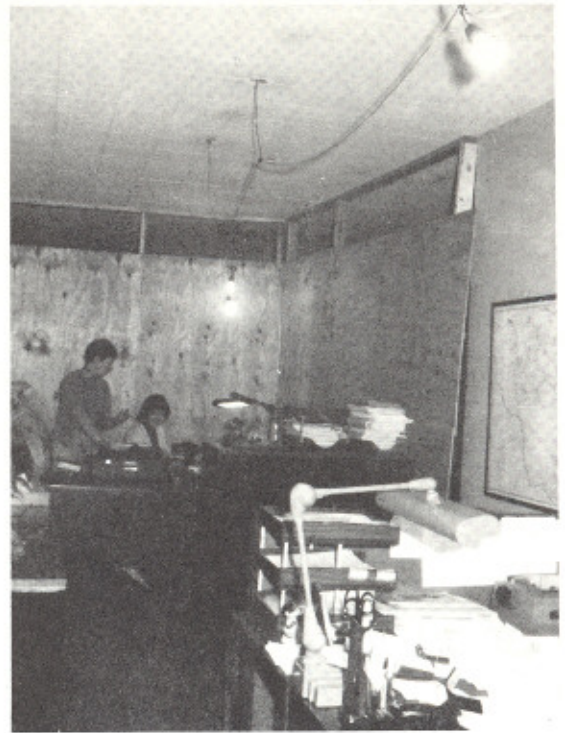
Remodeling Work Underway

The 12th floor conference rooms will be unavailable for meetings for at least 120 days during remodeling. The plans are to remove interior walls, install movable sliding room dividers, build a projection booth, and resurface wall and floor coverings. Lighting, heating and air conditioning will be updated also.

A new glass doorway entry into the executive offices will provide an open-office concept. The entire plan was designed to permit full utilization of the space.

"Every effort will be made to accommodate your room needs during this period," says Chief of OAS, Delores Sudeith. "Schedule your meetings well in advance to be certain rooms are available elsewhere."

The United States Savings Bond Campaign is underway in St. Paul District... watch for the posters!



No, it's not a construction shed, it's the entrance to the Executive Offices, with remodeling underway. Mary Rivett and Peggy Peterson have their backs to the wall...

JUST BETWEEN US ..

(Based on Employee Benefit Fund records)

Congratulations on the birth of a baby boy on 13 March to BONNIE and DENNIS (ED-HF) HOLME. He weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz., and has been named Kevin Edward.

Congratulations on the birth of a baby girl, Kimberly Ann, to ROSEMARY and DICK (AS-RM) SCHREIFELS, on 11 April. She weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz.

Sick during the past month were LAURA ARNESON, (RE), GENE KORHONEN, (SP), and CHUCK BRIDGER, (CO-M).

Our sympathy to LEONARD GLOEB, on the death of his mother.

Congratulations on the marriage of BARB ADAMS (SP-P) and MARK HAIDER, on 21 April; of PAUL BLAIR (ED-PB) and DEBBI BARTLETT, on 21 April; of DON POWELL (ED-PB) and JANET FELLMAN, on 7 April.

'GOING PUBLIC'



Dennis Erickson gave a presentation on 6 April to the Minnetonka Power Squadron at the Minnesota Federal Building. About 45 members saw his program of slides showing the river as a resource, the movie "Not By a Dam Site," and slides showing lock operations and procedures.

Bill Spychalla addressed a group of some 40 University of Wisconsin graduate students in Water Resources Management at Madison, Wisconsin, last month. Speaking on a theme of "Is the Corps Becoming Interdisciplinary?," Bill discussed how the mission of the Corps and the planning process increasingly mingle engineering and numerous other professions.

Wayne Knott, of the GREAT team, spoke to some 30 Boy Scout leaders of the Mustang Council at Hopkins regarding the environmental concerns stressed in Corps projects and planning.

At Mankato State University, on 19 April, Valorie Burlingame, of Recreation Resources Management Section, participated in two classes at an Environmental Studies seminar. She discussed pertinent issues in her work, particularly those which deal with environmental considerations. That evening, at the Women's Studies seminar on exploring careers, she reviewed her experiences as a woman in the working world... how she embarked on her career, important qualities required in her work, and tips about education and job hunting.

A letter last month thanking Walt Hermerding, Park Manager at Cross Lake, for addressing the Rotary Club in Brainerd stated: "I have heard a lot of good



A couple of the timekeepers who will be responsible for sales of U.S. Savings Bonds in the District Office, Virginia Bentley (ED-ER) and Jean Wieser (ED-PB), view the display on the 12th floor which announces the start of the annual campaign.

comments about the program that you put on, and I can assure you that the discussions that you put forth were of interest to all of us. There are so many people who live in this area who were not aware of the great job that you and your staff are doing in running the park."

Burton J. Huneke of Lock and Dam No. 3 addressed a group of Red Wing, Minnesota, medical and hospital personnel at the Armory Restaurant the evening of 21 March. He showed the Corps slide cassette "Locking Thru" and some of his own slides of the 1978 flood at Rochester, Cannon River at Red Wing and Wells Creek at Frontenac, to the 25 persons in attendance. He also talked about Lock and Dam No. 3 locking procedures, flood time experiences and answered questions from the audience.

Arden Duval, of Locks and Dams Section, addressed Coast Guard Auxiliaries recently concerning boating safety at locks and dams and locking procedures. He spoke to 40 officers of various flotillas in Rochester, and again to a group of 30 at St. Anthony Falls

"Par For The Corps"

A young woman called the Information Line to ask what the inscription "USCE" could mean on a "very old" compass among her family possessions. It was a pocket-type compass, she said, which could have dated back to the early 1900's. What's more, there was a formula written on a piece of paper stuck on the inside cover . . . E to $C = (F-32) \times 5/9$ ths - C F to $R = (F-32) \times 4/9$ ths = R .

Apparently, she thought the Corps of Engineers could solve any problem. And she was right . . . Fred Henry, in the Hydraulics-Foundations Survey unit, deciphered the code at a glance... a formula, he said, that a long-ago surveyor might have jotted down to help him convert temperatures between Celsius and Fahrenheit.

Brian Flesche's car underwent a drastic realignment several weeks ago, while Brian was enroute to the airport, on Shepard Road, to carry the District's realignment studies to Chicago. A car charged off a side road and stopped suddenly across the highway. Brian couldn't avoid the crash, which totalled his Volkswagen.

Miraculously, Brian wasn't hurt, and after a delay with the accident report, police, and tow trucks, he took a taxicab to the airport and continued his trip.

The flexibility of flexitime was demonstrated recently when Rosalind Dawson, (CO-GR), left the office before noon and came back after noon as Rosalind Artison-Koenning.

She and her fiance, a German student at the University of Minnesota, had the license and decided impulsively not to wait a day longer... So, during her morning break, Rosalind called a judge and arranged to meet at City Hall (only five blocks away) at noon. Among the wedding party were several friends, and co-workers Frank Mazurkiewicz (who

was best man), Ken Kadlac, Mary Marx and Terry Vander Pol. They met the judge on schedule for the 10-minute ceremony, and had time to enjoy a wedding luncheon at the nearby Castle Royal before returning to the office at 1:30 p.m. Since they had all come in early, they simply made up the time at the end of the day.

Jeff Galush, a Civil Engineering student at the University of Minnesota who works afternoons in Planning Branch, had an unnerving morning recently when he left his house to find that his van parked on the street in front had been damaged by a hit-and-run during the night.

As he walked to his bus stop, he rounded a corner to see a young man lying injured in the street. He had been run over by the wheel of the bus he was running alongside, trying to stop by pounding on the door-- and the driver, not aware of him, had turned into him at the corner. A woman motorist had stopped and had run out with a blanket as Jeff was removing his coat to cover the youth, who was shivering in shock.

Jeff ran to a nearby bank to phone for an ambulance, then tried to comfort the victim until the ambulance arrived. He then helped lift the man, who was bleeding and bruised and had a badly injured leg, onto the stretcher. In all the time, Jeff noted, only two other persons had stopped to offer aid. The whole busload of passengers had disembarked for another vehicle, but none paid any attention to the fellow lying there. "People just seemed quite indifferent," he says.

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District Engineer
Public Affairs Officer
Editor

Colonel Forrest T. Gay, III
James E. Braatz
Rosemarie E. Braatz



OLD TIMER'S CORNER

The next reunion of Corps of Engineers employees is scheduled at Holiday Inn, Roseville, on 5 September 1979. In planning your summer, be sure to mark the date on your calendar!

Our sympathy is with the family of Mrs. Henry (Florence) Dart, who died 8 March 1979 in Mesa, Arizona. Her husband, a retiree, was in construction at Lock & Dam No. 3, and later was damtender at Sandy and Leech Lake dams.

We have just learned of the death of a '58 retiree, Juston E. (Jack) Schradle, who died at the age of 71 on 2 February 1978. He had lived at Austin, Minnesota, since his retirement and was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by aunts and cousins. Jack Schradle had worked in the Duluth, Milwaukee and St. Paul offices of the Corps as Chief of the Military Branch.

George Dillon, a mechanical engineer formerly employed in Design Branch, suffered a severe stroke on 28 February, we hear. He is now receiving therapy in St. John's Hospital, St. Paul.

A letter from retiree Mike Semeja sends regards to all, especially the Design Branch. . . "I enjoy 'Crosscurrents'," he says, "the Christmas holiday pictures made me feel we have missed much."

Mike enclosed a section of the "Missoulian" newspaper dealing with hydroelectric power development in western Montana, particularly the Corps Libby Dam (which anyone interested may see at the Public Affairs Office). "From my travels through this area, I find there is much the people can benefit by on Corps of Engineers projects. There has to be a swing to use of all available sources of hydroelectric power. The recent failure and problems at 3 Mile

Project of the Month...

ANOTHER LANGER TRAVEL TREAT

Another travelogue treat by Henry Langer, the traveling retiree from Planning Branch, is scheduled on 11 May, in Room 1033. This time, the slides cover his most recent journey to the Easter Islands and Galapagos Islands.

Brown-baggers are welcome, as the time is 12:30 to 1:30.... personnel may come and go as the schedule permits. Retirees are cordially invited to attend for as long as Henry's slides last!

MEETINGS HELD ON REALIGNMENT

Two public meetings have been held on the District realignment study, on 16 April in St. Paul, and on 17 April in Duluth. Comment in response to some 4,000 notices sent out by St. Paul District are being received, and will be considered, along with testimony at the public meetings, in the final determinations. Another public meeting will be held on 25 May 1979 at which announcement will be made of realignment plans.

Effective 1 March, annuitants received a raise of 3.9% on their checks.

FORMER CHIEF HOSPITALIZED

Lieutenant General William Gribble, former Chief of Engineers, has been reported hospitalized at Ft. Belvoir with an inoperable malignancy in the chest. He will undergo chemotherapy treatment at Walter Reed Hospital.

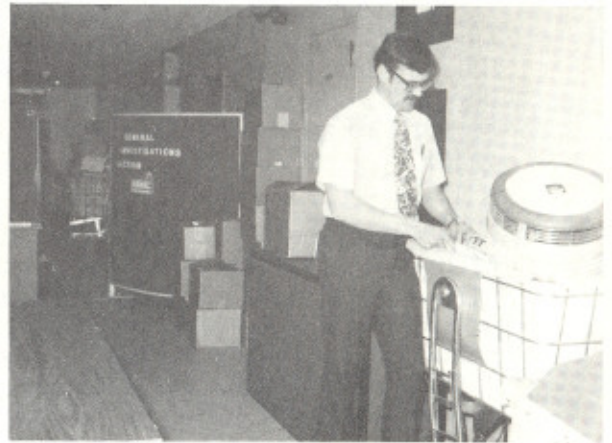
Island near Harrisburg of a nuclear power plant will bring about some serious thinking."

He closes with, "Our weather here is unpredictable but the air is fresh and invigorating. This gives one a healthy appetite plus too many pounds added to the weight."

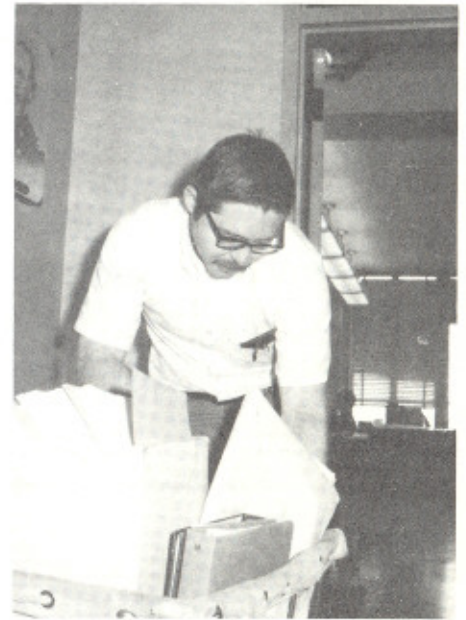
The Great PLANNING



These were the results when Planning Branch recently underwent the office painting ritual... which meant that papers, books, records, equipment --everything-- be stashed in bins and boxes in the 12th floor corridor "for the duration."



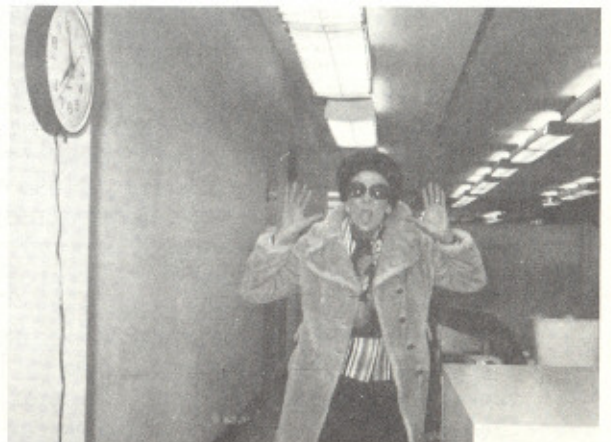
But the work had to go on ...



The economics section plots the cost-benefit ratio...

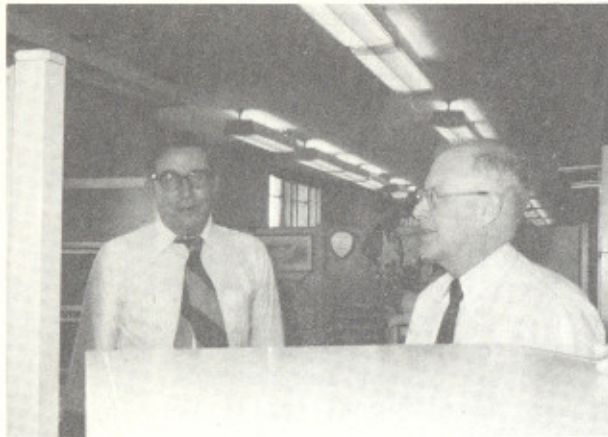


and even as the painting was finished



it was necessary to return everything

Branch



routine...
the
with
on
carried
some
Still,



cabinets...
file
displaced
over

Important conferences were held

trying to ignore the confusion.



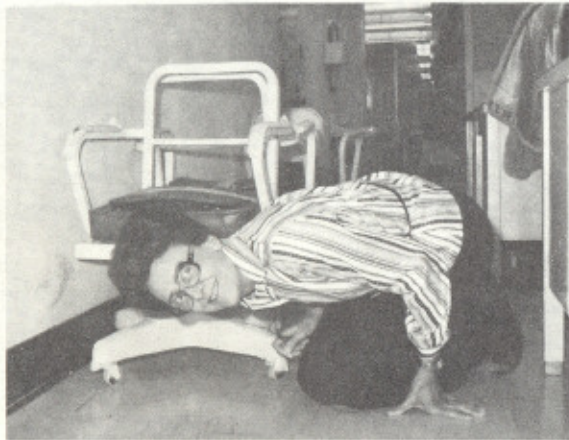
But where are chairs
for the typists?

There was a big
clean-up
chore.



Hoping things
will fall back
into place
before he gets
back...

Mr. Calton heads for the Division Office.



disappeared.
to have
seemed
things
some
and



to its proper place ...

Chuck Adams, at Orwell Lake Dam, sent the clip below from the Fergus Falls Journal last month to Arlee Keys, Park Manager, with this note: "I know that we are not supposed to have livestock on Corps property, but these are hungry strays. I will see that they are disposed of (or should that be dispersed?) before recreation season opens. The big one in the center had about 8 points before he lost his rack."

Arlee forwarded the clip to the Recreation Resource Management Office with this note to Tom Oksness: "We don't know how to record this visitation in our RRMS (the tallying system). Do we divide by 2 or multiply by 4?"

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION... came to the District Office this week from Lorayn and Victor Miller of Lafayette, Indiana:

"Last year we camped at Leech Lake and enjoyed our stay so much that we want to repeat in May, 1979. We caught some walleyes... The camp is one of the nicest we ever were in. A sheltered inlet where we can pull our 17' boat up to the shore... Sites that accommodate our truck camper on the flat. Best comfort-shower houses we ever saw. Your personnel are such nice fellows... helpful. It is a good use of our tax dollars, with your recreational facilities, besides the flood control."



DINING DEER — As many as 60 deer have been congregating near Orwell Dam most of the winter to feast on corn provided

by the Department of Natural Resources.

(Journal photo by Harley Oyle)

1979 Command Goals and Objectives



Support the Total Army



- Award 90% of Construction by 30 September 1979
- Perfect "One Stop" Service to Facilities Engineers
- Promote "Engineer-Family"

Support the Nation



- Complete Surveys in Four Years or Less
- Develop Public Feedback System
- Improve Sensitivity to Public Concerns
- Increase Minority Business Awards

Develop the Corps Workforce



- Develop Workforce Through Training
- Execute FY 79 Equal Employment Opportunity Plan
- Increase Certification/Registration
- Increase Employee Merit Recognition by 1%

Manage Corps Resources



- Accomplish Workload in Appropriation Year
- Improve Property Accountability and Supply Management
- Assure Consistent Implementation of Corps' Programs

Produce a Quality Product



- Implement Warranty Program
- Reduce Slippage of Original Contract Dates
- Achieve Targets for Construction Costs

POCKET- GO-FORS WIN

The Pocket-Go-Fors won the championship in the Corps of Engineers bowling league on 12 April by a solid 77 pins. The exciting contest with Team 6, the first half champs, began with the Go-Fors winning the first game by 21 pins; Team 6 won the second game by 63, and they were neck-in-neck until the sixth frame of the third game when one Gopher had four strikes and two others turkey-ed out.

The Pocket-Go-Fors are Barb Adams, captain; Mark Haider, Chuck Bridger, Beverly Kueffer, Al Ellingson, and Bill Vennemann. Team 6 is Dave Christenson, captain; Charles Malmer, Kathy Voigt, Terry Engel, and Marv Hrdlicka.

Trophies were presented to the teams at the bowling banquet at Hafners on 19 April. Individual trophies also went to:

MEN

- 1st High Series (Scratch)
Jerry Cohen - 612
- 1st High Game (Scratch)
John Johnson - 235
- 1st High Series (Handicap)
Cliff Schlueter - 692
- 1st High Game (Handicap)
Marv Hrdlicka - 264

WOMEN

- 1st High Series (Scratch)
Betty Moore - 488
- 1st High Game (Scratch)
Debbie Murphy - 201
- 1st High Series (Handicap)
Bev Kueffer - 656
- 1st High Game (Handicap)
Kay Hanson - 263

Corps of Engineers softball teams are being organized by Gary Palesh, Ext. 5935. Anyone interested is asked to contact him now.



"COUNTING COFFEE AND LUNCH BREAKS YOU'VE BEEN LATE THREE TIMES TODAY!"

Savings on Paper

Next year the Federal Government will shift to standard size 8½ by 11 inch paper, up from the 8 by 10½ inch size it now uses. The slightly larger paper is the standard size used in private industry.

The General Services Administration (GSA) estimates that the size change will increase Government paper costs by about \$1 million annually. The larger sheets will allow more to be typed on a single page, however, and GSA expects the number of sheets used to drop 5 percent. This should lead to savings in clerical processing and storage costs of between \$10 and \$15 million annually.

CHESS TOURNAMENT

by Clyde Giaquinto

Mike Downs was again first place trophy winner in this winter's chess tournament. Mike scored 6½ points out of a possible 7 points.

Tied for second place were Steve Larson and Clyde Giaquinto, each with 4½ points.

Let's all look forward to next year's tournament.

Heritage Toastmasters

by Annabelle Allen

Since the club received its charter in November, 1978, we have added three new members, Randy Amundson and John Blackstone of the COE and Tom Twyman of the U.S. Postal Service. Several other people have expressed an interest in joining the club and plan to do so at a later date.

Each regular weekly meeting has a business portion, which is presided over by the president of the club. The business portion is run according to the rules of parliamentary procedure. As most of the members of the club are not experts in parliamentary procedure, it is a learning process for us as well as the correct way to conduct official business.

The club has received a great deal of help and advice from Harold Masem, a member of Centennial Toastmasters, who is acting as Heritage's mentor. Correct parliamentary procedure can be very simple or very complicated according to the issues involved. It is an enjoyable as well as an educational process for the members and guests.

Next month's column will be on speeches, both manual and practice.

FROM OAS

All personnel should be reminded that telephone monitoring, taping of conversations and use of speaker telephones without knowledge and consent of all parties to a telephone conversation is prohibited by AR 190-53 and HQDA message dated August 1974. Many of these violations occur in innocent context. For example, when an individual receives a telephone call and fails to inform the caller that the conversation is being taped or that another party is listening to the conversation, a complaint could be filed alleging unauthorized monitoring and cause a serious incident report to DA and a subsequent AR 15-6 investigation.

Several suggestions have been received from FOAs recommending the use of P.E. (Professional Engineer) and R.A. (Registered Architect) in the signature block of civilian personnel, but the suggestions were not adopted. The use of these abbreviations in the signature block of civilian personnel is contrary to DA policy.

Paragraph 9-16, AR 340-15, 1 Jan 79, states: "The official signature block of civilian personnel will consist of the name and title. Instructions contained in paragraphs 9-11 and 9-12 apply. Abbreviations such as Ph.D., B.Sc., Ph.B., etc., may be used in civilian signature blocks when dealing with foreign and high-level officials outside Department of Defense, or when their use would be of benefit to DA rather than to publicize or advertise the academic status of the individual. Abbreviations as outlined in AR 310-5 apply."

A talk about his job at the Corps of Engineers to his son Bill's junior high school class last month brought a nice packet of thank you notes to ART NEUMEISTER, AS-RM. Parents of the students in the Battle Creek School were asked to discuss their work with the youngsters, to broaden their career interests. Art's talk about the Corps of Engineers and his work brought forth some enthusiastic responses, for instance: "Dear Mr. Neumeister, Thank you for coming and thank-you for the map too. Your speech was very interesting, I enjoyed it. You are a good speaker. Hope you come back some day. I don't know if I would want to do your job but I'll think about it. Have a Good Day...."



Ellis Poquette, (right foreground), of the St. Paul District hydrographic survey unit based at Fountain City, is one of 16 Corps technicians attending a three-week training course at the Waterways Experiment Station (WES) in hydrography.

"One of rare breed at Ashtabula --
a female engineer"

--from the Fargo Forum,
Sunday, 4 March 1979

By SYB GULLICKSON
Family Editor

Sometimes she is the project engineer, sometimes the office engineer, but always she is a novelty. Melissia Morris, 23, is the rare female civil engineer.

Morris is in North Dakota two days a week to work as project engineer in charge of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' shore-stabilization program at Lake Ashtabula.

Based in St. Paul, Minn., she spends the rest of the time in the office or in Winona, Minn., where she is the office engineer on a city flood prevention project.

Explaining why she went with the federal government after graduating from Purdue University (Ind.), Morris said, "With the federal government, I don't get any special favors. I don't feel I have to apologize." She said many companies holding federal contracts must employ a certain percentage of women. "I got some offers just because I'm a woman, not because of qualifications."

She says she hasn't had any real problems yet, although there is teasing, "less working for the government." On being young, she said, "On one of my first jobs the inspector was taking me around and the contractor said, 'This must be your daughter.' In all seriousness!"

Of the job at Ashtabula, she said "It's pretty straightforward. There is not much engineering done." She added, "Not too much can go wrong."

Holen Construction has the contract to put in rock rip-rap to stabilize 20 miles of the eroding shoreline. Morris represents the government in seeing that the work is done to specifications.

To do this she gets up at 6:30 one morning and flies into Fargo where she rents a car and drives to Sibley. There she changes into jeans, steel-toed boots, hard-hat and jacket.

She inspects the rock pile and the shoreline. "I look over the work and make sure it is acceptable, make sure the equipment is operating, check safety measures." Sometimes she does this alone; sometimes with Howard Dittmer, quality assurance inspector for the government; and often with one of the Holens; "They don't ask my opinion. They ask if they are allowed to do something, not which is the better way to do it."

She may point out that they are using too many rocks the same size, but she doesn't have the authorization to tell them to change. Instead she goes back to St. Paul and makes the recommendation that Holen's not be paid until the correction is made. In the office she also goes over their payroll.



Melissa Morris, civil engineer.

The two days on the site means that she stays overnight in Valley City. "I always bring a book along." She also watches TV and tats after supper. "I've eaten in all the restaurants in Valley City," during the eight weeks they have worked. Lunches are eaten at a cafe in LaVerne, "They serve only one thing daily."

After a morning on the site, she again drives to Fargo and flies home. Asked how/why she got this job she said, "I'm the youngest in the office. Most people don't like to come to North Dakota."

She doesn't much either. From Silver Springs, Md., she has found this North Dakota winter difficult. She is the daughter of an engineer for the government. However, she said she wanted to be an architect. But what she wanted even more than that was to go to Purdue University and they didn't have an architecture program, so she took engineering. "After the first semester, struggling through, I knew for sure I wasn't going to give up."

As the weather warms her job will change and she will spend more and more time in Winona and less in Sibley. There, "I'll be doing more engineering. The office engineer goes out on the job and does all the modifications."

Last summer she did the final inspection on a flood control project in Ada, Minn. "When you work in the construction division you go where the job is. I don't mind traveling but sometimes I get kind of tired not seeing my apartment."

She enjoys the work in construction, although when she graduated in civil engineering in 1977 she was sure she'd have an office job. She's glad it turned out this way. "You can't sit in the office and design until you see how to build things. You get a feel for what can be done." While admitting that she doesn't like sitting in the office 40 hours a week, she said, "At some point in time I will work in the office all the time. I'll be better after working in the field than if I worked in the engineering division right off."

NEW EMPLOYEES

Raymond T. Larson, CO-PO
Phone: 612-269-6303

Steven A. Pearson, DO
Phone: 7605

Dale C. Gross, ED-PB
Phone: 7601

Vera Matich, ED-HF
Phone: 7584

Bonnie J. Cote, ED-D
Phone: 7629

Donald Brown, CO-CTT
Phone: 5823

John Hall, CO-GR
Phone: 7977

Bruce J. Brand, ED-D
Phone: 7629

Gregory Schroeder, ED-PB
Phone: 5980

Patricia S. Opheen, ED-PB
Phone: 7517

NEW OFFICE EXTENSIONS

- Daniel J. Krumholz, CO-MA....5898
- Donna Knittel, SP-P.....7080
- James Ruyak, CO-PO...218-566-2306
- Ken Kadlec, CO-GR.....7714
- Blanche Hom, ED-PB.....7575
- Joel A. Rogers, CO-CT.....5991
- Winnie L. Gamble, CO-CTT.....5823
- Richard A. Peterson, CO-CTT.....5823
- William R. Gray, CO-MA.....5898
- Dennis E. Cin, CO-PO.....7561
- Carollee L. Dunaski, ED-PB.....7572
- Tim Fell, CO-GR.....7714
- Mark E. Koenig, CO-C.....7066
- Sheldon Edd, CO-CC.....7036
- Michael Schwalbe, CO-CC.....7604
- Arne B. Thomsen, CO-CC.....7036

Secretaries Week

By official proclamation of Federal, State, and municipal governments, April 22-28 has been designated Secretaries Week, and Wednesday, April 25, Secretaries Day.



With the Festival of Nations again coming up on 4, 5 and 6 May at the St. Paul Civic Center, two District Office employees, Dolores Schuster (SP-P) and Ruth Hageman (CO-GR) are enthusiastically planning, preparing and proclaiming the word. (And selling tickets to all who are interested!)

Dolores, wearing her Austrian outfit, and Ruth, in her Norwegian costume, have participated for years in Minnesota's largest ethnic celebration, sponsored by the International Institute of Minnesota. (Dolores, in fact, started at the age of 12 to take part in the dances and processions.)



Dave Parsons, CO-GR, would like to hear from people interested in forming a car pool from/to the Champlin-Anoka area.

A rider is wanted from/to Twin City Army Ammunition Plant, by 2nd LT George Perantoni, ED-ER, 5936.

A ride wanted, from/to Lexington, near Blaine and Circle Pines. Can flex. Becky Quistad, ED-PB, 7572.

Plans are already underway for the second annual Arts & Crafts Holiday Boutique, sponsored by the Employees Benefit Fund. This is advance word to those who wish to enter handicrafts, like the array of knitting, sewing, crocheting, ceramics, embroidering and art work that appeared last fall. The event is set for 5, 6 and 7 November, but Donna Knittel, at Ext. 7611, would appreciate hearing in advance from anyone wishing to enter "goods" or "goodies" in the Boutique.

SOCIETY AIMS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNIQUES

by CHARLES W. WALTON

The Society for Technical Communications (STC) is an international organization of engineers, scientists, writers/editors, information specialists, and researchers with the goal of improving communications techniques. It holds meetings, seminars, and annual conferences, and publishes a quarterly journal and a bi-monthly newsletter.

The local (Twin Cities) chapter of STC meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Golden Valley House (Highways 55 East and 100) for an "Attitude Adjustment Hour" (5 p.m.), dinner (6 p.m.), and a meeting (7 p.m.). Nonmembers are welcomed.

If you are interested in learning about or in becoming a member of STC, contact:

Society for Technical Communications
1010 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

or

Society for Technical Communication
7832 Idaho Lane
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55455



Merlin Heinemann (right) retired on 23 February as Lock and Dam Operator at No. 4, after 26 years of service. Owen Wanek, Lockmaster at No. 4, presented him with the retirement certificate in a brief ceremony on his last day at work.

This letter from COL Gay appeared in the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine of March-April 1979, in response to an earlier article which challenged the Corps of Engineers to rebuild the Nation's railroad system...

The Corps of Engineers is the largest engineering organization in the world and its tasks have ranged from mapping the frontier to building space program facilities. A new mission, such as rebuilding the railroads as you suggested in your editorial, could be handled just as well.

However, it would not be cheap or simple. Extensive planning, manpower, economic and environmental impact projections, public support and legislative approval would be needed. If the people of the United States want the railroads rebuilt, they should let their representatives in Congress know. Likewise, if they want the Corps to have that mission once it is authorized, tell Congress. The Corps will respond to any new challenge — railroad or otherwise — as it has during 203 years of service. COL. FORREST T. GAY, III, District Engineer; St. Paul, Minnesota.



from personnel office

Incentive Awards

Effective 1 January 1979, Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) regulations were amended to permit options that were not possible previously.

1. An eligible employee covered under the FEHB enrollment of another is now permitted to enroll in the program within 31 days after the cancellation of the covering enrollment. The employee must, however, enroll in the same plan and option as that from which the coverage was lost, unless specifically excluded from enrolling in that plan. If excluded from enrolling in the plan (the employee who is not eligible to join the employee organization plan sponsoring the covering enrollment or enroll in the comprehensive plan from which coverage is lost), the employee may enroll in the same option of any available plan.

2. For employees who are eligible for benefits under the Social Security Act, the regulations have been amended to allow enrollees who are enrolled in plans which have no low option to change to the low option of any available plan after becoming eligible for Medicare.

3. A new section has been added to allow individuals to enroll in the FEHB Program within 31 days after the termination of coverage under Medicaid (State program of medical assistance for the needy).

4. Another change permits an employee or annuitant to change enrollment from self only to self and family within 31 days after his or her eligible children lose FEHB coverage because of a cancellation or change of the covering enrollment to self only on the part of a divorced spouse.

5. It is now possible to include under the self and family enrollment a child under or over age 22 who is divorced or widowed and incapable of self support because of a physical or mental incapacity which existed prior to age 22.

Quality Step Increase

Theodore D. Ondler, ED-ER
Robert A. Anfang, ED-ER

Outstanding Performance Rating

Lynn M. Harris, EP-S
James E. Kursu, ED-P

Outstanding and Sustained Superior Performance

Margaret M. Reilly, AS-G

Sustained Superior Performance

Gary R. Smith, ED-D
Konstantine Morhun, ED-D
Sheryl L. Wold, EP-E

Suggestion Award

Norman W. Hildrum, ED-ER
For a adopted suggestion which proposed that an information brochure be prepared which would inform the general public and employees of the current mission, responsibilities, history and geographic area of the St. Paul District.

Recently, several requests for verification of employment have been sent to field sites. We wish to remind employees that such requests from commercial interests for information necessary for loans, charge cards, etc. should be sent to the Personnel Office. The following address may be given to businesses desiring such verifications:

Personnel Office (EP-R)
Department of the Army
St. Paul District Corps of Engineers
1135 US Post Office & Custom House
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

The library staff requests that anyone preparing to terminate employment in the St. Paul District check with them to be sure that all materials have been returned to the library.