



CROSSCURRENTS

Vol. 2, No. 8

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

The flood fight this spring raged from Wahpeton-Breckenridge to Minot to Valley City to Fargo-Moorhead to Grand Forks to Pembina to Devils Lake and back again to Minot. At its height 90 St. Paul District personnel were in the field supervising dike building, doing reconnaissance, manning emergency operations centers and assisting local authorities wherever possible. The flood in the Red River Valley was widely labeled the "flood of the century," no misnomer because in many locations it did prove to be a hundred-year flood.

On 13 April the District was asked to provide assistance to

Breckenridge, Minnesota. An Emergency Flood Center was opened a few days later at Fargo, with area engineer Martin McCleery taking charge. Later another EOC was established in Grand Forks, from which the Corps major flood fighting effort in the valley was directed. The Grand Forks EOC closed 5 May but the one at Fargo remained open because of a second crest expected on the Sheyenne River at West Fargo.

Jim Ruyak opened an EOC in Minot on 21 April and went to work to shore up the permanent diking system around

(Continued on page 2)



FLOOD OF THE CENTURY

May, 1979



MEMO FOR EMPLOYERS

So you have decided to hire a mentally restored worker. Perhaps you are wondering how to treat him. The only ground rule is the Golden Rule—treat him as you would wish to be treated, if you were in his place. Other “Do’s”:

DO consider him as an average human being, same as any other. If you eye him as a creature from another planet, you’re not helping in his effort to live an average life.

DO trust him to keep hold of his emotions, and let him know you trust him. He’s probably less likely to fly off the handle than most.

DO help him put his mental illness behind him. He’s been ill; he’s been helped; a chapter has ended and a new chapter has started. He is changing roles in the drama of his life—from “patient” to “worker.” Encourage the new role.

DO give him his share of work. He’ll know if you are trying to “baby” him, trying to protect him from more difficult assignments. Over-protection doesn’t help him; it slows his comeback.

DO give him thorough orientation—where he is to work, time clock, lockers, restroom, cafeteria or lunch area, drinking fountains, public transportation, clothes to wear, whom to report to, rates of pay, payroll deductions—as you would any new employee. If he has been out of the labor force any length of time, orientation may take

a bit longer than usual. He may have to adjust to a new world of work. But he will. Give him time.

DO keep in mind you will know more about this worker than about the average job applicant coming in off the street. He has been tested and probed and analyzed by any number of professionals. When they decide “this person is ready for work,” you can depend on their judgment. You can be sure you are getting a person worth his salt.

DO make him feel he’s a member of the work-a-day team, not an outsider. He will respond to human warmth and kindness from his supervisors as well as his fellow workers. Don’t we all?

DO let him know you are there if he wants to talk to you about anything, including his former mental illness (which, after all, was a major experience for him). Your “permissive” attitude of sympathetic listening will be helped, as the saying goes, by developing “big ears and a small mouth.”

DO make note of his on-the-job strong points. When he turns out to be a satisfactory employee, pass the word on to other employers that . . .

IT CAN BE GOOD BUSINESS TO HIRE MENTALLY RESTORED WORKERS.

flood

(Continued from page 1)

the city in preparation for a second crest on the Souris River, which finally arrived 10 May.

Despite wide-scale flooding along the North Dakota-Minnesota border, no lives were lost. Preliminary estimates by the District's economic section put total damages in North Dakota at \$58-million and in Minnesota at \$37-million. Emergency levees already in place along the Red and emergency work this year prevented about \$156-million in damages, according to early District calculations.

This year's flood in many respects exceeded the extent of flooding of 1969, the flood of record, in the Red River Valley. The 5-million sandbags supplied by the Corps, the nearly 1-million acres of farmland flooded in the two states, the damages sustained and damages prevented were all-time highs.

Although Corps flood fighters were only a part of a larger team made up of the Salvation Army, Red Cross, National Guard, Coast Guard, state Civil Defense units and thousands of volunteers from threatened communities, the District's role, as depicted in many media reports, was a key one carried out skillfully and tenaciously.



Representative Arlan Stangeland sports an "Isle De Sandbag" shirt presented to him during a flood inspection visit by East Grand Forks councilmen. Area Engineer Martin McCleery (right) looks on.



Mark Meyers stands by as Patti Pattison shoots videotape scenes from a levee in Grand Forks.

A back-up levee at Riverside Park in Grand Forks provides a walkway through the flooded area.



Sandbaggers frantically attempt to save homes in the Riverside area from the flood waters at Grand Forks.



Riverside Park in Grand Forks was flooded when water backed through a storm sewer, inundating four homes.

JUST BETWEEN US ..

(Based on Employee Benefit Fund records)

Sympathy is extended to the family of John Schultz, who died at the age of 52 on 5 May after a lengthy illness. He had retired on a disability pension on 23 April as lock and dam operator at No. 2, after almost 30 years of service. His wife, Shirley Mae, survives him at Prescott, Wisconsin.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of Leonard Katz, who died 12 May at the age of 68. He had retired in January, 1976, from Hydraulics Branch. His wife Mildred, survives him at 2756 Alabama Ave. S., Minneapolis, 55416.

Sympathy is extended to MAURICE BOWERS (ED-HF) on the death of his father.

Hospitalized recently was ROY GALEWSKI, (L/D 5).

Congratulations on the birth of a daughter to CHERYL and DAVID (ED-HF) RYDEEN on April 29. Jennifer Elizabeth weighed 9 lbs., 7 oz.

So long and good luck to GWEN SPILDE, who left the training office (EP-D) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Regional office in Minneapolis, and to TERRY CIURLEO, who left EPA for Key Leasing Co., Minneapolis.

FAREWELL LUNCHEON SLATED FOR COL GAY

A farewell luncheon for Colonel Gay, who is leaving in June for his new assignment in Washington, D. C., will be held at the St. Paul Athletic Club, 340 Cedar Street, St. Paul, on Friday, 1 June.

Sign-up sheets are being circulated in the District; retirees who wish to attend may contact Mary Rivett at 725-7501. On the menu will be yankee pot roast served with salad, potato, beverage and dessert, at a cost of \$5.00 including sales tax and gratuity. A cash bar will precede the luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

CIVIL SERVANTS OF THE YEAR

DENNIS CIN (CO-PO) AND ARNOLD WODARTZ (CO-M) have been selected Civil Servants of the Year. They will be honored, along with 75 other Federal employees, at a Civil Servant of the Year Awards luncheon to be held 23 May at the Prom Center.



Savings Bond Campaign chairman 2LT George Perantoni sells one of the first bonds to Lynn Harris, Personnel Chief.

For those who missed Henry Langer's travelogue on the Easter Islands and Galapagos Islands on 11 May, he has agreed to repeat the presentation on 22 May, at 12:30 p.m., in Room 1515.

Ed Roscoe asks that the person who sent him the photo of a former District Comptroller, through the office mail, contact him to help establish the date the Polaroid shot was taken.

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District Engineer
Public Affairs Officer
Editor

Colonel Forrest T. Guy, III
James E. Branta
Rosemarie E. Branta

Note the change of date and place ...

WATCH FOR POSTERS...

Don't miss out...

Come on out and CLOWN around ...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

To volunteer your help,
call any committee member:
Tom Montgomery
Bonnie Montgomery
Trish Opheen
Terry Jenco
Greg Frankowsky
Mike Fix



Engineer Day **PICNIC**

Monday, 18 June
1:00 P.M.
PHALEN PARK

- ★FOOD
- ★REFRESHMENTS
- ★GAMES
- ★ENTERTAINMENT
and
- ★AWARDS

PLAN TO ATTEND!

THREE GENERATIONS of Kletzkas

(This is a follow-up story on the "little black book," the St. Paul District Hand Book of 1935 sent by the family of the late Edward F. Rutt of Little Rock, Arkansas, a former St. Paul District employee. Public Affairs Officer Jim Braatz, leafing through the book, saw the name G. G. Kletzke listed as Dredge Master on the Pelee, and commented on it to George Kletzke, Jr. "That's my Dad!" said George.)

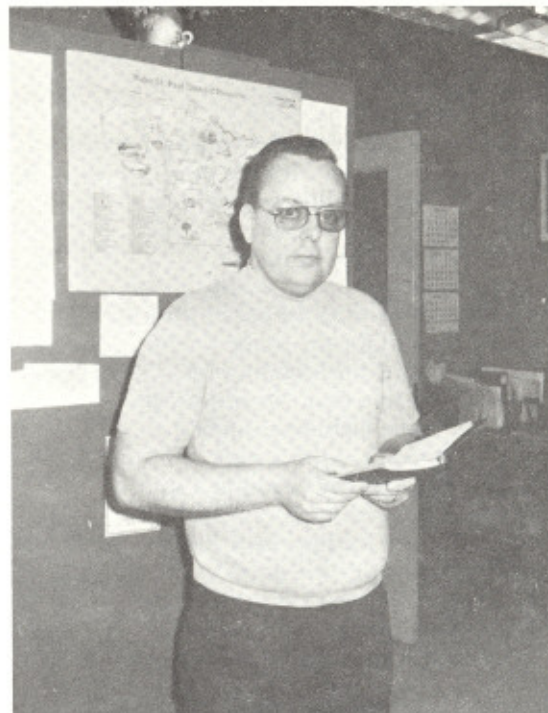
The third generation of his family to serve in the Corps of Engineers -- all in the St. Paul District -- George Kletzke "grew up in the Corps," at Fountain City, where the District's Mississippi River boatyard is located.

George has been with the Corps for 16 years, beginning as a mess attendant in 1965 on the Dredge William A. Thompson after completing his Army service. He moved up to deckhand, then came to the District Office in 1966, and is now chief of the hydrographic survey unit in the Maintenance Branch.

His father, George Kletzke, who died in 1970, was master of the Dredge Pelee on the Mississippi River (in the days of steam engines, the dredges were named after volcanoes because of the smoke and steam they spouted). "Dad used to take me aboard when they were dredging in the Fountain City area," George recalls.

George, Sr., was also inspecting officer during construction of the dredges Thompson and Rock Island (which is now with Mobile District), and he retired as Chief Engineer on the Dredge Thompson in 1958.

Going back yet another generation, George mentions that his grandmother was the cook on the quarterboat which served the Steamer Elinor and Dredge Pelee. "My father first met my mother -- whose name is Eleanor -- while she was helping my grandmother peel potatoes on the quarterboat." 7



George, Jr., has been on a nostalgia trip with the "little black book," for even the train schedules remind him of visits to Fountain City by the Corps District Office friends of his father when he was a boy. He remembers each of the Corps boats vividly, even the stern-wheeler General Allen which was one of the last of its kind on the river.

(More from the "little black book" in a future issue!)

ERIE PIER CEREMONY

Colonel Gay presented plaques of appreciation to the mayors of Duluth and Superior during a brief ceremony on 17 May, his final inspection of the Erie Pier before he leaves the District. The dredge material disposal dike is nearing completion and will be used during dredging operations in the Duluth Harbor to contain polluted and unpolluted materials. Officials from Duluth and Superior were present to show support for the facility designed to protect the environment.

I'm Fine

There's nothing whatever the matter with me.

I'm just as healthy as I can be,
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I think my liver is out of whack
And a terrible pain is in my back,
My hearing is poor, my sight is dim,
Most everything seems to be out of trim,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I have arch supports for both my feet.
Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.
Sleeplessness I have night after night,
And in the morning I'm just a sight,
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin,
I'm peacefully living on aspirin.
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
The moral is, as this tale we unfold,
That for you and me who are growing old,
It's better to say, I'm fine' with a grin
Than to let them know the shape we're in.

CURRENT DEFINITIONS OF ENGINEERING TERMS

DIVERSIFICATION - an attempt to profit by betting on every horse in the race

PROJECT MANAGER - the conductor of an orchestra in which every musician is in a different union

CRITICAL PATH METHOD - a management technique for losing your shirt under perfect control

OSHA - a prospective coating made by half-baking a mixture of fine print, split hairs, red tape, and baloney - usually applied at random with a shotgun.

STRIKE - an effort to increase egg production by strangling the chicken

DELAYED PAYMENT - a tourniquet applied at the pockets

SPECIALIZATION - betting everything on the wrong horse

CONTRACTOR - a gambler who never gets to shuffle, cut or deal

BID OPENING - a poker game in which the losing hand wins

BID - a wild guess carried out to two decimal places

LOW BIDDER - a contractor who is wondering what he left out

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE - the cost of construction in Heaven

RIVER PERSONNEL EARN COAST GUARD LICENSES

by Dan Krumholz

A number of Mississippi River floating plant personnel have recently acquired U.S. Coast Guard marine licenses. Certain positions on the floating plant require that the occupant have a specific license. The requirements and testing necessary for obtaining these licenses can be quite stringent and very difficult. In many cases, promotions are dependent on the employee being able to acquire licensing.

Since the past navigation season, the following employees have either obtained original licenses or have renewed their existing licenses:

Dredge William A. Thompson

Ken Becker - Pilot, original

Lee Blank - 3rd Asst. Engr., original

Dennis Decker - Mate, original

Bill Kriesel - Motorboat Operator, original

Roger Loesel - 2nd Asst. Engr., renewal

Kevin Reese - Motorboat Operator, original

Ed Sing - Pilot, extension

Derrickbarge Hauser

Gary Constenius - Motorboat Operator, original

James Mickels - Motorboat Operator, original

REALIGNMENT MEETINGS SCHEDULED ON 25 MAY

Meetings have been scheduled on 25 May at 1:30 p.m. in both St. Paul and Duluth at which the North Central Division Engineer's recommendations on realignment will be announced. The meeting in St. Paul will be at the YWCA on Kellogg Boulevard and in Duluth, at the Radisson Hotel.

The final decision on reorganization will be made by the Chief of Engineers after he has had sufficient time to study the recommendations of division engineers nation-wide. That decision is expected to be announced in the fall.

*It was light blue.
My mother thought it
was the most beautiful car
she'd ever seen.*



Relinquishing the relic.

It was a relic. The oldest car in town. Mom prayed for a new one. But my father said, "No. This one runs like a clock."

Actually it ran like a clock that had to be constantly repaired.

A new muffler every year. Unending trouble with the transmission. The brake linings. The carburetor. Even the upholstery was shot. My sister Ginny called it "Clarke's Clunker."

A new car. It seemed possible only in the far distant future. Because Dad had six kids and a house to take care of. But without saying a word about it, he joined the Payroll Savings Plan at work. And started buying United States Savings Bonds every week.

Then one morning in the fall, he got up early and left without saying where he was going. We were still around the breakfast table when he came back in the door. Smiling.

"How'd you all like to go for a ride in a brand-new car?" he said.

It was light blue. My mother thought it was the most beautiful car she'd ever seen. And it was

the first one they'd ever owned brand new from the factory. She polished it every chance she had. And was forever bragging to the neighbors about all the options, even though she didn't understand half of them.

That was ten years ago and Dad is still driving it today. One of the oldest cars in town. But this one shines and drives like new. Dad has saved enough Bonds to put most of us through school and still buy another car, but Mom won't hear of it.

The way she sees it, "They just don't make 'em like that anymore."

Whether you're saving for a new car, or even a new home, U.S. Savings Bonds can make it happen. Buy Bonds. They're the dependable way to save.



**Take
stock
in America.**

Mental Health Month

by Charles Walton

May is Mental Health Month, sponsored by the National Association for Mental Health. Its purpose is to promote good mental health through education and expansion of treatment services.

What is good mental health, and conversely, what is mental illness? Good mental health is a positive, coping approach to the problems of everyday living. The mentally healthy person

- Rules his/her emotions and isn't overcome by them. Her/his emotional response is appropriate to the cause.
- Delights in simple, everyday pleasures.
- Feels there's a workable solution to meet problems and recognizes that some problems can't be solved
- Likes and trusts others and is confident that others trust and like him/her.
- Has satisfying relationships with a variety of persons.
- Does the best job possible, whatever the task, and enjoys the challenge.
- Learns to cope with stress and common "life crises" (divorce, death, job change, retirement, etc.).

How can you tell if a person is becoming mentally ill? The Mental Health Association has devised the following list of warning signs:

- Sudden change in dress, mood, or work habits.
- Irrational, excessive fear, including exaggerated fear of open spaces and strange surroundings.
- Prolonged anxiety with no important cause.

- Poor work performance, or discrepancy between performance and potential.
- Physical complaints with no organic cause.
- Compulsive ways of doing things.

These lists represent ideals and extremes of behavior. They are not infallible guides. Mental health/illness is a continuum, and a person is never entirely or always at one end or the other. For example, it's normal to have the "blues" or get angry over trivia. The problem comes when our negative emotional responses and thinking are of long duration or extreme intensity, or when they severely disrupt our day-to-day functioning.

What can you do? If someone close to you becomes mentally ill, you can help her/him by:

- Informing yourself of the danger signals of mental illness and knowing what to do (be understanding and non-judgemental).
- Being aware of the treatment resources available. The Corps Employee Assistance Program provides free initial counseling and referral to appropriate services. Local mental health associations and centers (look under "mental health" in the telephone directory) provide information on mental health/mental illness and referrals. Your family doctor and clergyman/woman are other good initial contacts.
- Avoiding such labels as "crazy," "weird," "nutty" for persons or behavior. These words hurt. Normal behavior has a wide range. Admit broader limits of acceptable behavior.
- Being in touch with your own fears and attitudes toward mental illness. For many of us, mental illness is unknown territory and hence, scary.
- Assuring your own mental health.

My knees shook and I stumbled over my words as I made the presentation.



How Boom Boom Willis got his name.

I scrawled on the blackboard as big as I could: "Good-bye, Mrs. Willis," taking care to dot all the i's. My best penmanship for my favorite teacher. Mrs. Willis was quitting to have a baby.

When I told my Dad we wanted to give the baby a present, he suggested a U.S. Savings Bond. Said it would be a lot better than any blanket we could buy. So we took up a collection for our Savings Bond baby.

My knees shook and I stumbled over my words as I made the presentation. I thought the Bond would make Mrs. Willis very happy, but she looked like she was going to cry any minute. She finally got control of herself, though.

Then Mrs. Willis let us all come up and listen to the baby's heartbeat through a stethoscope she'd brought. There it was: Boom... boom... boom. You never saw such a bunch of

excited kids. And right then and there is how we gave poor Boom Boom Willis the nickname he is known by to this day.

Saw Boom Boom last week. All 6 feet 2 of him. Sure seems like he grew up fast. Taking off for college this fall. Paying for it with the collection of Savings Bonds we started for him when we were kids. Just think. Not only did we give him his nickname. We got him started on an education, too. It's enough to make you proud!

U.S. Savings Bonds are safe, steady and dependable. And they grow right along with you. There's no better way to get a good start on the future. Buy Bonds.



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in America.**

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