



# CROSSCURRENTS

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

Vol. 4, No. 10

JUNE 1981

## Message to all members of the Corps of Engineers

In this 206th year of the Army Corps of Engineers--the bicentennial year of Yorktown--it is proper to pause briefly and reflect on the magnificent record of our Corps in peace and war. We have a rich heritage and a proud organization of soldiers and builders. No part of the Army, and no other Federal organization, has made more effective contributions to our national defense and our national development.

From the beginning of the American Revolution and the early days of the Republic, as the Nation developed and prospered and survived challenges from within and abroad, our Engineer soldiers have served with distinction in their primary mission of support to the other combat forces of the Army. The Corps has been equally distinguished in times of peace--prepared and ready for wartime missions while steadily adding to our Nation's strength as its foremost builder.

In important ways, our great country is challenged today as never before. We will need forceful leadership and enlightened vigilance to cope successfully with the economic, social, political, and military fragility of the world of the 1980's. Our key role is to provide combat and support engineers to the Army in deterring war; to build and maintain the facilities and housing our soldiers and their families deserve; and to exercise wise stewardship in building, operating, and maintaining the structures need to conserve our Nation's water resources and to use them effectively.

I urge all of you to take pride in our Corps--not to rest on past successes and a reputation forged by those who have gone before us, but to renew our efforts to continue to provide the Army and the Nation the soldiers and builders they deserve.

J. K. BRATTON, Lieutenant General  
Chief of Engineers



Orian Johnson is being congratulated by Colonel William W. Badger. (Photo by Don Gerlach, AS-G)

## First VRA converted to career conditional

by Richard Laddusire

Orian Johnson, Civil Engineering Technician, Design Branch, General Engineering Section, received his career-conditional status on 30 April 1981. He was the first individual hired by the District under the Veterans Readjustment Act Program (VRA). This program required him to complete a training agreement during two years of employment. He started the program 30 April 1979 and completed it on schedule 30 April 1981.

The District has 18 other veterans on this program working for their career-conditional status. Present legislation states that the authority for hiring new VRA employees will expire on 30 September 1981. This will not, however, affect individuals already hired.

# Out of the woodwork, Again?

by John Blackstone, ED-GH

You may not believe this, but I have some really crazy friends! Some of them know they are crazy (the lucky ones) and some of them don't (ignorance is bliss).

Once in a while, one of these dingbats has the unrelenting urge to call me at odd unpredictable intervals. Occasionally these incidents become so erratic that two people will actually call me on the same day; taxing my patience to wits end.

Needless to say the great oratorical skills learned in Toastmasters comes in handy during these situations, allowing me to think up a question, while listening to their profundities, so perplexing that they will be dumbfounded for sometime and maybe be reticent to repeat that unique experience.

I found myself in this invincible circumstance the other day. It seemed as if they were all coming out from behind the woodwork and I couldn't help wondering "Oh no! Why ME!"

There is some valuable information to be harvested in a situation such as this. All I have to do at the end of our conversation is hang up the phone. Those poor slobs have to go on living with themselves.

In many instances my problem pales next to theirs. The phrase "I complained I had no shoes until I met a man with no feet," never had better use but in this case, I know people who have problems that absolutely boggle my mind. How could one person in one lifetime cook up that big of a MESS. It is sometimes almost unimaginable.

I am not one to gleefully gloat on another's miseries but I do take them to heart. Seeing the suffering and problems of others does give me a more realistic view of the magnitude of my situation.

Newcomers to Toastmasters usually think that they have a real lulu on their hands. I know I did.

What many people find after the initial shock is that Toastmasters is a fun program where each can systematically build on the vast resources available within themselves. It won't happen in a day or a week, but gradually impossibility becomes possibility.

It is with great joy that many of us in Heritage Toastmasters have been allowed to see someone progress from a nervous, sweaty-palmed speaker into a reasonably confident amateur orator.

It doesn't happen without sweat and effort, but it does happen if you are willing to risk the change. Please don't misunderstand me. If you only want to visit a meeting to see what we do, you will be graciously welcomed.

Many weeks there are members of our club whose only duty during the meeting is to be a part of the audience. If after you have visited, you would like to have a professional program for changing your life, then you may become more involved at your own pace.

Do yourself and us a big favor, "Come out of the woodwork," next Thursday noon to visit us in the 6th floor, P.E.D.C.

## Notice the Corps reunion

by Wes Walters

Make plans now to attend the 6th annual Corps of Engineers reunion, Sept. 9-11, 1981.

A notice giving all details will be presented in the July issue, along with a reservation form.

# The next deadline for Crosscurrents is June 26.

CROSSCURRENTS is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of the AR 360-81, published monthly by offset press for employees of the St. Paul District. Views and Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Address mail to: CROSSCURRENTS, ATTN: Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, 1135 U.S. Post Office and Custom House, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101. Phone: (612) 725-7505.

District Engineer  
Public Affairs Office  
Editor

Col. William W. Badger  
James E. Braatz  
Pamela J. McFaden

# Turkey tale!



John Muench of Guttenberg displays the 39½ pound turkey he shot Friday morning, April 24, in the Sny Magill area.

## Letter received

Dear Mr. Nicklay,

What a wonderful surprise to receive your fantastic 8 x 10 color photo of our home and our neighbors' homes being dredged. It was framed and hanging in a place of honor within minutes of its arrival and it's something I am very proud to display and own. Although I never forget for a moment how fortunate I am to live where I do, the picture is a wonderful reminder of just how lucky we are.

How nice that your photographic skills can make someone so happy.

Thanks again.

Barbara and Jim Conway  
Milepost 600

John Muench, of Lock and Dam #10, recently created something of a local sensation and mystery, as reported by the Guttenberg Press, by bagging a 39½ pound turkey during the spring shooting. While a wild turkey of this size would be a record-breaker, certain features and markings indicated that the big bird might have been a domestic turkey gone wild or a hybrid.

According to the news account, Gary Ackerman of Guttenberg, who is a fishery biologist with the Iowa Conservation Commission, learned from Iowa conservation officials that the sharply-pointed breast bone of the Muench turkey, and its white-tipped feathers, were not characteristic of the true wild turkey.

John, who did not report to Crosscurrents on the taste test, was asked, however, to save the breastbone for later examination.

## New association formed

*by Richard Laddusire, EP-E*

The Minnesota Cooperative Education Association was formed at the Minnesota Conference on Cooperative Education in early March at Red Wing, Minn. A Constitution and a set of By-laws were adopted and officers were elected. The purpose of the association is to promote the cooperative education program in Minnesota.

Persons elected to serve as officers during the association's first year are: president--Richard Laddusire, supervisory personnel staffing specialist, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers; president-elect--Roger Spilde, professor, Economics and Business Administration, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.; secretary/treasurer--Ruth Rounds, cooperative education coordinator, College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.

The elected directors-at-large are: Bette Garske, cooperative education associate director, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota; and Paul Magnus, coordinator of the Twin City Area Urban Corps, Minneapolis, Minn.

If you are interested in becoming a charter member, applications are available from May 15 to June 30 by contacting Richard Laddusire at 725-7514. Dues are \$10 per year.

# New information on alcohol use and effects

by G.M. Cartwright

Text from the "Station Break," Vol. 4, No. 5, May 1981. Waterways Experiment Station.

Information from the forthcoming Fourth Special Report to the Congress on Alcohol and Health further supports the evidence that alcohol use and abuse in the United States is a major problem.

While the quantity of alcohol consumed by an individual is no basis for determining the presence or absence of an alcohol problem, the more an individual drinks the greater likelihood he or she has of becoming dependent on the effects of alcohol or of becoming a problem drinker.

Special Report findings which show how alcohol misuse can lead to problems include findings that:

- \* Brief drinking sprees by healthy individuals can result in premature heartbeats.
- \* High blood pressure is highly associated with moderate to heavy alcohol consumption.
- \* Heavy social drinking may result in brain atrophy (damage).
- \* Moderate to heavy alcohol consumption can result in lowered testosterone levels leading to loss of sexual drive, impotence, and breast enlargement in males.

In addition to the possible health risks of regular heavy consumption of alcohol, the additional side effects of increased accident rates, financial problems, marital and family problems, and work performance problems further suggest that irresponsible use of alcohol is not without inherent costs and risks.

Among alcohol treatment center reports, the most frequent alcoholic beverage consumed by diagnosed alcoholics was beer.

Employed women have a higher rate of problem drinking and employed married women have significantly higher rates of both problem drinking and heavy drinking than either single working women or housewives. Women who live with heavy drinkers have an above-average chance of developing their own alcohol related problems. The effects of alcohol misuse on both marriages and families have consistently been shown to be detrimental in-

cluding child abuse, family violence, and divorce.

In the early stages of alcohol misuse the most common "reason" offered is that "I like the taste," even though alcohol has no taste. Other "reasons" include it relaxes me, pep me up, warms me up, calms me down, or cools me off.

Use of large amounts of alcohol (6 drinks or more) has the paradoxical effect of actually increasing a person's anxiety, elevating blood pressure, and producing guilt and remorse over things said or done. As time progresses, however, the regular use of alcohol creates a tolerance to its effects--this means that it takes more alcohol for the same effect. At this stage of use the reason people drink changes from one of choice to one of either habit or need. That is the beginning of a drinking problem.

If you do use alcohol, the moderate and responsible use of the drug can have positive effects when its user is informed instead of it becoming a habit or ritual. Just as people kill people with guns, people kill themselves and others with alcohol.

For a free copy of the Fourth Special Report to Congress on Alcohol and Health write: National Clearinghouse for Alcohol Information, P.O. Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20852.

## Notice to retirees

by Wes Walters

It is possible retirees who pay income taxes in Minnesota have a refund coming.

A recent decision of the tax court involving the reduction of Minnesota taxable income in the years 1978, 1979 and/or 1980, by the amount of contributions tax payers contributed to his/her federal pension.

This involves filing an Amended Minnesota Income Tax Return form number M-1X, for one or the years noted above. This may result in a substantial refund.



# Don Kohler wins big!

After a lengthy struggle of 6 months a winner of the 1980-81 St. Paul District Corps of Engineers chess tournament has emerged.

This years encounters took place among 2 groups of players. The winner of group "A" was Steve Larson with a decisive 6½ points over Ken Harrell's 5½ points. In group "B" there was a 3-way tie for first place with Don Kohler, Al Ellingson, and Konstantin Morhun each with 5½ points.

In the group "B" playoff Don Kohler emerged as victor to be paired against Steve Larson for the final best 2 out of 3. In the finals Don Kohler won 2 straight and the right to hold the trophy. Congratulations Don.

Next years tournament will be getting underway early in October, after the completion of the Summer Classic, so all who are interested, give me a call at ext. 7628.

Clyde Giaquinto

## The un-spoken

by John Blackstone, ED-GH

If you've heard of the Un-Boston Marathon then you will quickly understand the idea for the Area 9 Novice Speech Contest. The Un-Boston's backward by laws has been parlayed into an Un-Spoken Speech Contest.

To qualify for the Novice Speech Contest a participant cannot have been a Toastmaster for more than one year or have given more than six manual speeches.

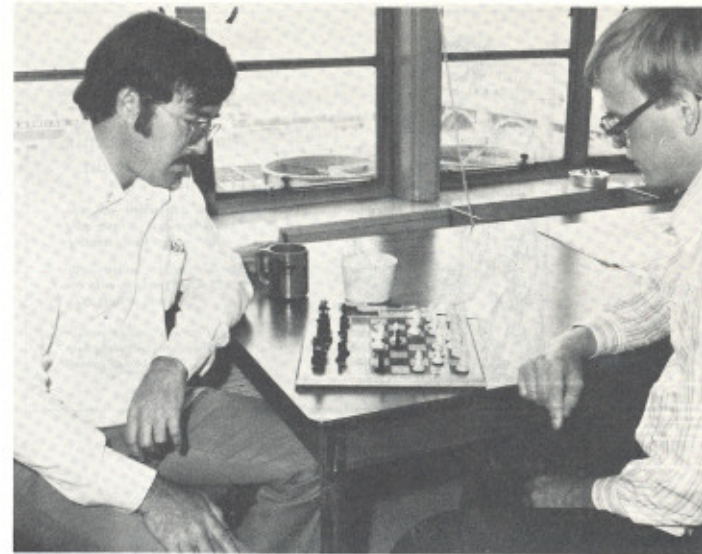
Heritage Toastmasters has inducted eight new members in the past three months. This will be an opportunity for these new Toastmasters to show Their Stuff.

## New area park manager assigned

by Thomas Oksness, CO-PO

Dick Otto has been reassigned to the position of area park manager, Mississippi River Project Office.

Any questions pertaining to recreation-resource management on the Mississippi River, Eau Galle Lake and Dam and the La Farge project can be directed to Dick at Box 207, La Crescent, Minn., 55947, (507) 895-6341; or contact the Recreation-Resource Management Section at 725-7563.



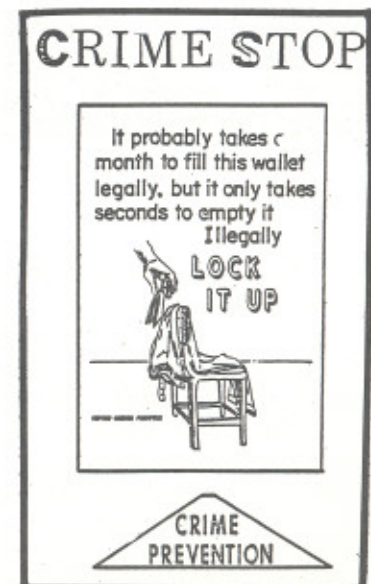
CONTEMPLATING THEIR NEXT STRATEGIC MOVES were Steve Larson, ED-D (right), and Don Kohler, CO-RF (left). They were playing in the final round of the annual St. Paul District Chess Tournament for the championship. (Photo by Blanche Hom, PA)

## Picnic games


REMEMBER: Games for summer picnic require teams. Get your volleyball, tug-of-war and horseshoe teams together and turn the rosters to Dave Tschida or John Kliethermes, by 5 June 1981.

Teams shall be coed both volleyball and tug-of-war. This based on feedback from last issue.

(Apologies to those who may have been offended by any phrases that were included in the previous announcement).



# Savings bonds interest rates increased



**Paying freedom's price again**

*Keeping the freedom we won costs more these days. It costs more just to keep things running.*

*So take stock in America. Buy U.S. Savings Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan.*

*That's the way to pitch in now. Help your country and help yourself as well.*

Secretary of the Treasury Donald T. Regan has announced a new one-percent rise in the interest rate for U.S. Savings Bonds and Savings Notes, effective Friday, May 1, 1981.

The interest rate on Series EE Bonds purchased beginning May 1 is being increased from 8 percent to 9 percent, compounded semi-annually, when the bonds are held to original maturity. The term to maturity is being shortened from 9 to 8 years.

The interest rate on Series HH Savings Bonds purchased beginning May 1, is being increased from 7-½ percent to 8-½ percent to their original maturity, which remains at 10 years. Interest on these bonds is paid semi-annually by check.

The action will also increase the yield to maturity on outstanding Savings Bonds and Savings Notes. Approximately \$70 billion in bonds and notes is presently held by 23 million American households.

In announcing the higher interest rates, Treasury Secretary Regan said: "The billions of dollars in Savings Bonds held by Americans in the Savings Bonds Program are extremely important to our government; they help finance the enormous national debt in a relatively stable, cost-effective and less inflationary manner. Savings Bonds are important to our citizens because, through payroll savings, they provide an easy and convenient way to put money aside regularly and save for the future. I am pleased to announce this yield improvement and hope that today's action will inspire Americans to purchase more bonds, particularly through the popular Payroll Savings Plan."



Fred Kelley (1980 President, right) and Leonard Gloeb (1980 Secretary, left) of the International Club 3676, proudly displays the Distinguished Club Banner that was presented at the 1981 District 6, Spring Convention and Speech Contest for outstanding club achievement in 1980. (Photo and article by John Blackstone)



**Security Check List**

- S**ecure your home with good locks on doors and windows. Don't give the thief any help in his break-in effort.
- T**ake care of your keys; don't give others a chance to duplicate them.
- O**utside, don't let your house look unoccupied. Keep things from piling up . . . have your lawn mowed and snow shoveled while you're gone.
- P**ut a light on while you're away . . . preferably one with an automatic timing device.
- T**hink twice before letting strangers know when you'll be away from home, or before letting one in.
- H**ave police and a trusted neighbor check your home while you're away for more than a few days.
- I**nsure your possessions and keep an up-to-date inventory of them.
- E**tch an identifying number on items a thief might steal. Keep valuables in a safe deposit box.
- E**nd out about burglar alarm systems and install one.

# Corps teams win two, lose two

by Stanley Sweatsock

The Capitol Hills Softball League open play on the 18th of May and two out of the four Corps softball teams opened victorious. Corps I and III recorded victories while Corps II and IV fell to perennially strong teams.

Corps I 16 Metro Council 8

Timely hitting and a porous Metro Council defense paved the way for an opening win for Corps I. John Nosek and Dennis Anderson paced Corp I's 15-hit attack with three hits apiece. Bruce Norton and Gary Palesh homered for Corps I.

State Planning 10 Corps II 0

The inability to come up with the key hit with runners on base spelled doom for Corps II in their opening loss. Al Bjorkquist and Steve Eggers each had a couple of hits for Corps II.

Corps III 11 Legislative Audit 4

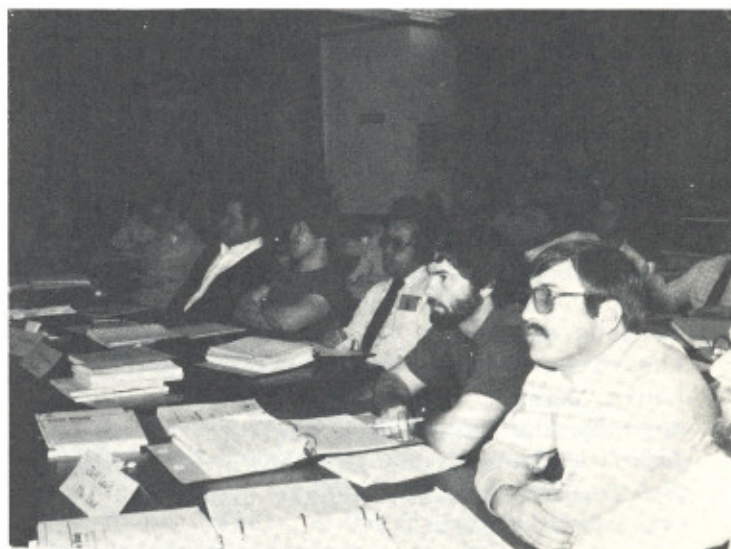
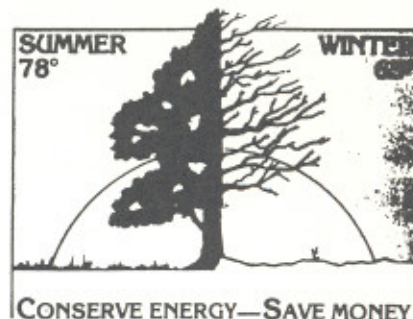
Corps III used a tight defense including two late-inning double plays to down Legislative Audit. Jim Bednar's three-run home run paced a balanced Corps III hitting attack.

Health 13 Corps IV 0

Defensive lapses hurt Corps IV in an opening loss to always strong Health. No one on Corps IV had over one hit in the game.

## Trivia for the Month

1. Who pitched a perfect game against the Twins in the late 1960's?
2. Name the starting outfield for the Milwaukee Braves in their pennant years 1957-58.
3. Which team is the worst in the major leagues this year, the Twins or the Cubs?

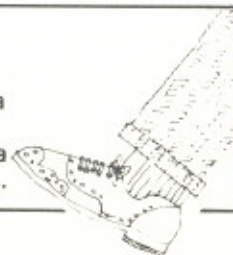


REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS federal and state agencies in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin attended a three-day seminar in late April, sponsored by the St. Paul District. The purpose of the seminar was to educate the participants in the basics of hydraulic and hydrologic concepts and computational procedures. The speakers included Helmer (Bud) Johnson, Bob Engestad, Harry Novak, Kent Pederson, Mark Ziemer, Gordon Heitzman, Dan Reinartz, John Blackstone, Stuart Dobberpuhl, Pat Foley, Rich Pomerleau and Tom McAloon.  
*(Photo by Blanche Hom, PA)*

# Recreational vehicle.

## It's a Fact:

Walking is recreational. Go for a walk instead of a drive. It's relaxing, invigorating, and it gives you a chance to smell the roses.



# Take a trip downriver

by Pam McFaden, PA

"...No created thing has power to produce an effect any otherwise than by virtue of the laws of nature." (By Jonathan Edwards; from "Impressions," November 1978, EP360-1-14)

For those of you interested in the area of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, come with me as I take you on a look through the eons of time. As Mother Nature molded the Upper Mississippi Valley, she endowed it with "The Father of Waters" and gifted it with creatures and she provided an area of great recreation potential as well as a remarkable means of transportation.

When Mother Nature needed a little help in protecting her land we decided to give her a hand. The lands purchased by the Corps of Engineers for the navigation project have been combined with lands acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to form the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge and the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge.

These recreational areas consist of over 200,000 acres of wooded islands, waters and marshes extending 560 miles southward along the river bottoms from Wabasha, Minn. to St. Louis, Miss. Other wildland tracts are managed by the respective states. These wildlife/wildlands, the last pristine areas of the region, remain largely unscathed by modern civilization.

Here, one also finds unsurpassed opportunities for sightseeing, outdoor recreation and nature study. The recreational use of the river wildlife areas is regulated to maintain a balance between human enjoyment of the area's natural resources and the rights of wildlife.

In the summer months, boating is particularly popular. Some may be enjoying just a brief outing while others may be bound for the Gulf of Mexico or north to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul or even some may be going on fishing trips.

Fishing for crappies, bass, catfish, walleyes and many other species is excellent at varied locations in the pools and backwaters. Fishing is especially good immediately below the locks and dams. Rental boats, bait and other necessities for fishing, including advice, can be had at many



(Photo by Lyle Nicklay)

**Forest fires  
burn more  
than trees.**



*continued on page 9*



# Downriver

points on the river. For the hardy anglers, fishing is available year-round, especially in the northern reaches of the river where ice fishing has become popular. There is also commercial fishing, which plays an important part in the river economy; but the valley contributes to the well-being and spirit of millions of Americans--hence, more than just economic support.

For those who don't use the waterways, there is a system of highways designated as the Great River Road that closely follows the upper Mississippi River. Along the way, you'll find the river valley rich in historical lore. Traces of ancient mound-building tribes are found along the bluffs and bottomlands. Adventure is waiting. The features are well marked and signs lead visitors to sites of old Indian battlegrounds, villages, forts, trading posts and the routes of early explorers. Names like Marquette and Dubuque recall early French settlement and influence in the valley.

Modern campgrounds are available adja-

cent to both sides of the river at various state, municipal and commercial parks. Primitive camping on the Upper Mississippi Refuge beaches is permitted for periods not exceeding 14 days.

Much of the river is open to hunting during state seasons. Specially designated areas at intervals along the river are closed for the protection of migratory waterfowl during the migrating season.

The bald eagle, our national symbol, winters in numbers in the Upper Mississippi Refuge. Eagles concentrate below the dams or near the mouths of tributaries where fish provide a ready food supply.

Spectacular migrations of other birds are noted during spring and fall when hordes of warblers, vireos, thrushes and sparrows drift through the trees and shrubs of the river islands and bluffs.

There is something for everyone. So let's go! I'm sure you will find pleasure as you go through the Upper Mississippi Valley. Hope to see you somewhere along the way!

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## Crosscurrents mailing list update

If you are leaving the St. Paul District and would like to continue to receive future editions of the employee newspaper, Crosscurrents, complete and send the form on this page to the Public Affairs Office.

Crosscurrents is a good way to keep in contact with what is happening with district activities and your former co-workers.

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### CROSSCURRENTS MAILING LIST

Please add my name to the mailing list.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will no longer be working with the district because I am retiring.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will no longer be working with district because I am leaving for other reasons.

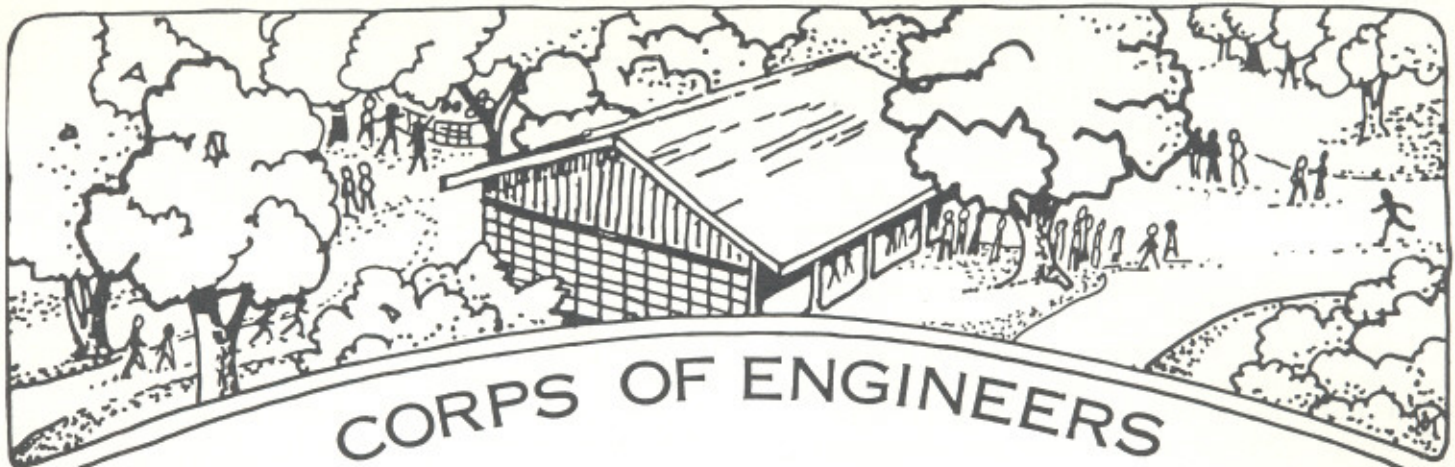
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Effective date \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the form and send through the inhouse mail system to Public Affairs Office.

# TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!!



CORPS OF ENGINEERS

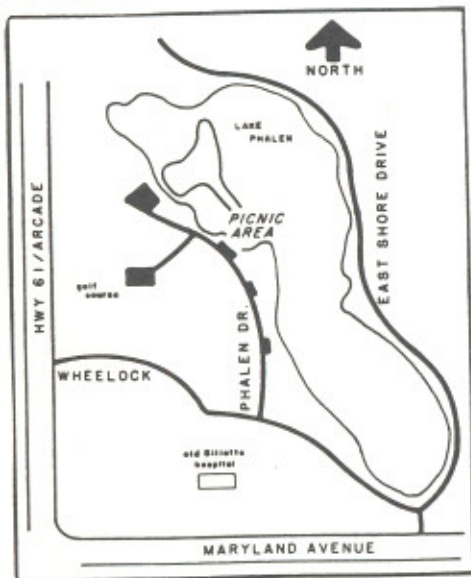
## SUMMER PICNIC

PLACE: Lake Phalen Park, St. Paul

DATE: Friday, 19 June 1981 - 12 NOON

### PICNIC MENU

- Deep Fried Chicken
- Swedish Meatballs
- Baked Beans
- Whipped Potatoes and Gravy
- Jello - Cole Slaw - Potato Salad
- Italian Salad
- Cake or Brownie
- Coffee or Punch
- Food Service begins at 2 p.m.
- Served Buffet Style, Adults . . . . . \$4.00
- Children Under 12. . . . . 2.50
- Glass of Beer/Can of Pop . . . . . .25



Tickets are available during business hours from:

15th Floor	Sue Johnson	Room 1504	Ext. 7592
14th Floor	Amy Gabbert	Room 1416	Ext. 7581
"	Jan Oakleaf	"	"
"	Jan Graham	"	"
13th Floor	Debbie Peterson	Room 1315	Ext. 7957
12th Floor	Marilyn Kruchten	Room 1225	Ext. 7997
"	Mary Kay Linder	Room 1209	Ext. 7632
11th Floor	Jan Pream	Room 1109	Ext. 7047
9th Floor	Chris Kroll	Room 905	Ext. 5991

PLEASE PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BY NOON ON 18 JUNE 1981

Games start at Noon, and the Awards Ceremony is at 1:30 p.m.

