



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Corps visits Red Wing to improve public relations

by Pam McFaden, PA

Several St. Paul District staff members went to Red Wing, Minn., on Sept. 22 in an effort to improve public relations and communications between the area residents and the Corps.

District Commander Col. William W. Badger was accompanied to Red Wing by chief of Construction Operations Division William Goetz, chief of Maintenance Branch Dennis Cin, lockmaster Eugene Schuppel of L/D 3, photographer Lyle Nicklay and assistant Pam McFaden.

Corps staff members took a 3½-hour cruise on the Mississippi River. The cruise was sponsored by the Red Wing Area Chamber of Commerce. Also on board the cruise were local officials and interest groups.

Later that evening, the Corps held a public meeting to discuss the responsibilities and activities within its jurisdiction. All Red Wing area residents were invited to attend. Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. John H. Atkinson also attended the meeting.

Many questions and concerns were discussed. One area of concern pertained to permits the City of Red Wing applied for from the Corps. Several of the permits included an addition to an existing commercial harbor, dredging of an existing small-boat harbor and maintenance of an existing levee.

Residents showed an interest in the Great Environmental Action Team Study, especially as related to the disposal of dredged material from the river channel.

The opening of back channels along the river was another concern. Cin clarified that the Corps has no authority in maintaining the back channels, only the authorized nine-foot navigation channel. Opening the



Corps staff members, local officials and interest groups discussed concerns while on a cruise. (Photo by Lyle Nicklay, AS)

back channels is under the responsibility of local authorities.

Another concern raised at the meeting was the fluctuation of the river water level. Col. Badger explained that weather is a major factor. There had been little rain earlier this year, combined with inconsistent periods of heavy rainfall causing the water level to fluctuate.

After a long day in Red Wing, Col. Badger summarized the field trip with enthusiasm, "It was a good trip with positive results."

Division chief sees district

North Central Division Commander Brig. Gen. Scott B. Smith and four staff members from North Central Division (NCD) visited the St. Paul District on Sept. 15-17 to review district projects and activities.

The staff members from NCD were Zane Goodwin, Bing Chin, Bob Neal and Daniel Sturmon.

Brig. Gen. Smith attended an Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission meeting and was briefed on various projects before departing for field tours. He traveled to the Red River of the North Basin and toured the Wild Rice River projects; Roseau River project; Grafton, N.D., project; Pembina River project; and Homme Dam, N.D.

While in Grand Forks, N.D., Brig. Gen. Smith attended a dinner meeting with local, state and regional interests of Minnesota and North Dakota to discuss Red River of the North concerns.

Brig. Gen. Smith also toured East Grand Forks, Minn.; Sheyenne River and Baldhill Dam projects; Big Stone Lake-Whetstone River project; and Marshall, Minn., project.

"There are extremely good people working in the St. Paul District office and field offices," said Brig. Gen. Smith. He is pleased with the district because of the efforts made to make projects move.

Rules kids should know

Help your children help themselves by discussing these few simple but important rules that can protect them from harm:

- * Remember...a policeman is your friend. Don't be afraid to talk to him and ask him questions.
- * Never obey a stranger who tries to get you to enter his car.
- * Don't take money, candy or gifts from strangers on the street.
- * When a stranger drives up and asks you for directions, keep a safe distance away from his car when you answer.
- * Always learn the names and telephone numbers of your friends so that your parents can call them to find you when it's necessary.
- * Don't play alone in alleys or near empty or deserted buildings.
- * Tell your teacher or a policeman about any big person whom you don't know who wants to join you in your play.
- * Tell your teacher or a policeman about anyone you don't know who keeps hanging around your school yard or follows you to or from school.
- * Remember to write down the license number of the car of any stranger who takes one of your friends for a ride. Use a crayon or stone to write the number on the sidewalk, or scratch it in the dirt with a stick.
- * Don't go into any buildings or rooms for any reason with a big person you don't know.

The next deadline for all articles to be submitted to Crosscurrents is Oct. 23.

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What really happens in a federal RIF?

by Susan Reiss and Nikki Ressler

Text from "Engineer Update," Vol. 5, No. 9, September 1981; Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, D.C.

RIF. It's one of the first acronyms most government employees learn. It stands for reduction in force, a term the Corps of Engineers is likely to become pretty familiar with in the coming year.

By now, most Corps employees know that the Office of Management and Budget has directed a reduction of 3,000 civil works spaces in the Corps by the end of September 1982. To achieve this sizable cut in its work force, the Corps almost certainly will find itself in a RIF situation.

No reduction in force should be taken lightly. But neither is it cause for alarm.

AN ORDERLY PROCESS

Robert Bonner, assistant chief of the office of personnel at the Office of the Chief of Engineers (OCE), points out that RIF is "an orderly process that takes into consideration both the needs of management and the rights of employees."

Bonner points out that, while RIFs are hardly routine events, they do happen periodically at most federal agencies as a result of changes in program, reorganization, reduced workload, lack of funds, and/or individual employees exercising reemployment rights.

In the case of the Corps, Bonner emphasizes, the elimination of 3,000 spaces does not mean that 3,000 people will be out of a job. "A good many RIFs end up with no one actually going out the door," he says.

A special task force at OCE is currently determining where the Corps will make its reduction.

Which specific positions will be eliminated will be a management decision based on the Corps' needs and missions. The identity of the individual employee in each position is not a valid consideration in that decision.

THE DETERMINATION

Once an activity (referred to as a "competitive area") is targeted for reduction, local management determines which positions within the activity will be abolished.

For example, a Corps district (competitive area) might decide to eliminate one GS-11 management analyst position. The specific individual affected by this decision will depend on the career status, veteran preference, length of service and performance rating of all employees within that particular "competitive level."

A competitive level is made up of all positions in a competitive area which are in the same grade and occupation, and which are so alike that an employee may be readily assigned from one position to another.

District staff to be reduced

St. Paul District Commander Col. William W. Badger announced on Sept. 18 of manpower reductions within the district.

The district will be reduced from a September 1981 authorized strength of 576 to a September 1982 level of 538. This reduction of 38 positions is consistent with cuts at other Corps offices nation-wide in accordance with Office of Management and Budget goals to reduce the size of the federal work force. Positions to be cut in the district are located in the district office and field offices.

Col. Badger said, "Every attempt will be made to achieve some of the required reductions through normal attrition thereby minimizing adverse effects on employees.

"Although the manpower reductions will affect some of our work force, every effort will be made to assist displaced employees in finding other acceptable employment through reassignment, transfer or placement in other federal agencies.

"The manpower reduction will not impact on the district's ability to provide its normal range of services to the public, but it may require additional contracting for planning and design of water resources projects."

The reduction in the district will result in an annual savings of \$850,000, said Col. Badger.

The realignment decision and manpower reductions are based on a study conducted in the North Central Division as part of a nation-wide effort of the Chief of Engineers to reduce the number of federal employees while maintaining the most efficient and effective posture of the Corps of Engineers in accomplishing its mission.

OPM gives guidance on RIF procedures & benefits

To bring federal employees up-to-date on their rights and benefits under a reduction-in-force (RIF), the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has revised its Fed Facts pamphlets dealing with the subject and has added Fed Facts 22 to the series.

Fed Facts 12 "Displaced Employee Program," which has been revised, describes the program that helps find new positions for federal employees who lose their jobs through no fault of their own.

Fed Facts 13 "Reductions In Force in Federal Agencies," (also revised) provides information about what procedures must be followed when a RIF occurs.

Fed Facts 22 "Benefits For Federal Employees During Reductions-In-Force," gives an overview of the benefits provided for employees affected by RIF.

The following are excerpts from Fed Facts 22:

SEVERANCE PAY

If you are separated from federal service by RIF after serving at least 12 continuous months in an appointment without time limitation and are not entitled to an immediate annuity, you will usually be eligible to receive severance pay to help you until you return to federal employment.

The maximum basic severance pay allowance is one week's pay at the rate received immediately before the separation for each year of federal service up to 10 years of service, plus two weeks' pay at the rate received immediately before the separation for each year of federal service over 10. For each year you are over 40 years of age, you receive an additional 10% of your basic allowance.

The total severance pay you are eligible to receive is limited to one year's salary and will be paid at the same intervals at which your salary was paid while you were an employee.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

The Department of Labor, through agreements with state governments, administers the unemployment insurance program for federal employees. The program provides a weekly income for a limited period of time to unemployed federal civilian workers who qualify, to help them meet basic needs while searching for employment.

If you become unemployed or enter a nonpay status and want to file a claim, go to the nearest state employment service office or unemployment insurance claims office to register for work and file your claim.

Your entitlement to unemployment benefits is governed by the laws of the state in which you were employed.

RETAINED GRADE OR PAY

An employee who is placed in a lower-graded position in his or her agency as a result of RIF procedures is entitled to retain his or her grade for two years.

The employee's retained grade will be treated as the grade of his or her position for the purposes of pay and pay administration, retirement, life insurance, eligibility for training, promotions and within-grade increases and for most other purposes.

Following the two-year period of grade retention the employee is entitled to indefinite pay retention. Some employees may not be eligible for retained grade, but may receive retained pay.

REEMPLOYMENT PRIORITY LIST

A reemployment priority list is established and maintained by your agency for each commuting area. Unless an employee has refused an offer that would not involve a cut in grade or salary, his or her name automatically goes on the reemployment priority list for all competitive positions in the commuting area for which he or she is qualified and available.

DISPLACED EMPLOYEE PROGRAM

A career or career-conditional employee, or an excepted service employee with competitive status, who has received a specific RIF notice is assured the broadest possible consideration for placement elsewhere in the agency or federal government.

To apply for assistance under the Displaced Employee Program, the employee should complete an SF 171, Personnel Qualifications Statement, and submit it through the agency, which will then send it to OPM.

An employee may apply for placement help as soon as he or she receives a specific RIF letter but no later than 90 days after he or she is separated or furloughed.

Federal vs. private benefits compared

From "Firstline," Vol. 5, No. 5, August-September 1981; U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Washington, D.C.

Culminating seven years of study and developing work, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has completed the first full scale comparison of private and federal employee benefits.

The study efforts began in 1974 and is now complete.

The survey shows that, as of October 1980, the federal benefits package was 4.7% ahead of average non-federal benefits. Most of the advantage came in retirement benefits, the area where the federal employee enjoys his greatest advantage over the private employee.

There are several reasons for the difference, the most important being an earlier allowable retirement age for federal workers (55 years of age after 30 years), and the fact that federal annuities are fully indexed for inflation.

In other areas, private sector employees tend to have an advantage. Life insurance benefits represent .5% of pay for the private sector worker, as opposed to .3% for the federal worker. Private firms typically pay a larger share of premium cost.

Although federal and private sector workers generally receive comparable benefits from their health insurance plans, private employers generally pay a greater share of the premium cost.

Thus, the value of health insurance coverage provided to the federal worker is \$760 per employee per year, while the private worker receives a benefit equal to \$1045 per employee per year.

Secondary benefits also favor the private sector employee, where such benefits total 5.5% of pay. This represents the combined value of such benefits as profit sharing, stock purchase plans, savings and thrift plans, bonuses, employee discounts on company products, employer-furnished autos, educational assistance, etc. For federal workers, such benefits total only .3% of pay.

Private sector workers put in slightly fewer hours on the job than federal workers, 2062 per year as against 2080. The standard federal work week is 40 hours, while some companies in private industry have 35 or 37½ hour weeks.

But federal employees get more time off (holidays, annual leave, sick leave and paid rest periods) than private workers; 367 hours per year for federal workers, 360 for private sector employees.

Congressperson visits district



Rep. Arlan Stangeland (left) of Minnesota's Seventh Congressional District, visited the St. Paul District on Sept. 3 to review district projects and activities. St. Paul District Commander Col. William W. Badger (right) and several staff members met with Rep. Stangeland for briefings.

Within the area of Rep. Stangeland's responsibility are the counties of Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Marshall, Morrison, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse, Wadena and Wilkin.

Fraud in the Corps: What is it?

by Col. Dana Kierstead

CAN WE STOP IT?

Text from "Engineer Update," Vol. 5, No. 9, September 1981; Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, D.C.

The most memorable of all crimes against the Corps of Engineers took place on a gloomy March day in 1881 on the Muscle Shoals in Tennessee when the Jesse James gang seized a \$5,240.80 Corps payroll at gunpoint.

That was 100 years ago. What kind of crime does the Corps contend with today? Actually, there are as many different forms of crime as there are people to conceive them. But, generally speaking, we have moved from robbery at gunpoint to a more "sophisticated" type of crime called fraud.

"SOPHISTICATED" CRIMES

Within the Corps, examples of fraud include falsification of documents such as time cards or purchase orders; charging personal expenses to the government; diversion of government property or funds for unauthorized uses; submission of false claims such as invoices for services not performed or materials not delivered; and intentional miscalculation of contract costs.

Also included are bribery, theft of government property, graft, conflict of interest and acceptance of gratuities.

Penalties for these crimes are more severe than most people realize. For example, according to Title 18 of the U.S. Code, filing false claims against the government carries a penalty of up to five years in prison, a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or both.

Who commits fraud in the Corps? Sometimes it's the construction worker who steals a contractor's wheelbarrow. Sometimes it's the project manager or office manager who alters a few payroll checks and makes false entries in the books. Sometimes it's the employee who "pads" the travel voucher.

How much does all this cost? Instances of fraud in the Corps have included the theft of \$234,000 bulldozer and a \$731,000 backhoe; double-billing for \$500,000 by a contractor; an inventory shortage of \$120,000 in automotive supplies; false travel claims of \$50,000; and a loss of over \$40,000 in gasoline credit card abuse.

The positive actions Corps employees can take to reduce fraud include:

- * Tightening document and computer controls.
- * Increasing the frequency of checks on procurement and receiving procedures.
- * Limiting accessibility to areas where losses have occurred.
- * Increasing the frequency of crime prevention surveys and physical security inspections.
- * Making someone accountable.

District hit by vandalism

by Lynn Cuyler, EM

The U.S. Government continues to be a target for vandals and larcenists.

The St. Paul District's field facilities and offices have experienced their share of reported incidents over the past three years, which have cost taxpayers more than \$34,000 in property losses. Since 1979, these annual losses have more than doubled.

Several of the recent occurrences were:

- * Vandalism of the erosion demonstration project at Port Wing, Wis. Building burned and instruments damaged. \$4,000 property damage.
- * Break-in of maintenance building at Pine River Dam. Pickup truck stolen and rammed through the security fence. Truck was later recovered. \$3,000 property damage.
- * Binoculars stolen from unlocked supply cabinet in the district office. \$112 property loss.
- * Broken windows and theft of pumps from a D-6 Tractor at a dredge disposal site at Crats Island, Wis. \$400 property loss and damage.
- * Five mooring lights stolen from Dredge William A. Thompson while docked at Fountain City Service Base. \$200 property loss.
- * Door kicked in, and flag and saws stolen at Eau Galle Dam. \$130 property loss.
- * Other incidents involved traffic meters damaged, screen doors slashed, light fixtures stolen, bulletin board glass broken, urinals smashed, life rings stolen and signs broken.

All Corps employees must take measures to reduce vandalism and theft. Everyone must be alert to potential opportunities to reduce crime before it happens.

Fund drive seeks donations

The Combined Federal Campaign provides an opportunity for all St. Paul District employees to participate, through Oct. 23. The annual fund drive seeks money donated voluntarily from federal employees.

Donations can be made through deductions from employees' payroll checks or made through a lump sum. Amounts of donations made can also be designated towards specific human service organizations.

The human service organizations include national health agencies such as the National Kidney Foundation; international service agencies such as Care; local non-affiliated agencies such as the Minnesota Society For the Prevention of Blindness; United Way agencies of Minneapolis such as the Bridge For Runaway Youth; United Way agencies of St. Paul such as the Guadalupe Area Project; and national service agencies such as the USO.

Last year, federal employees in the Twin Cities raised \$473,170 for the campaign.

To make your donations, contact your office canvasser.

Publication available

An inventory of American commercial shipping vessels used in ocean trade and on inland waterways is compiled and published annually in a three-part series by the Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center of the Corps of Engineers' Water Resources Support Center.

The 1980 edition of Transportation Series 3, "Transportation Lines on the Great Lakes System," consisting of 28 pages, is now available and may be purchased for \$1 from the New Orleans District, ATTN: LMNED-S, P.O. 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160.

Included in the new publication are operators and addresses, vessels, type and construction, net register tonnage, length and breadth, horsepower, carrying capacity, highest fixed superstructure, cargo-handling equipment, local operating base, date built or rebuilt, description of operations, type of service, principal commodities carried and localities served.

Corps observes Coast Guard maneuvers



The St. Paul District recently attended an emergency operation exercise sponsored by the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office on the St. Croix River at Bayport, Minn.

Emergency Management Office staff member Eunice Beran (right) observed the Coast Guard performing various maneuvers related to flood emergency rescue operations.

The Coast Guard also conducted test maneuvers of pollution cleanup operations.

(Photo by Lynn Cuyler, EM)

People

CONGRATULATIONS go to Jayne and Greg Struss, Headwaters Project Office, on the birth of daughter Anna Marie on Aug. 1, at 9 lb., 4 oz.

SINCERE SYMPATHY is extended to Chester G. Hallmark, ED, on the death of his mother recently.

FOND FAREWELL and best wishes go to John J. Wagner, L/D 2, who retired recently after approximately 23 years of federal service.

FOND FAREWELLS and good luck go to the following who left the Corps recently: Kristi L. Schaack, L/D 8; Raymond F. Kerg, Derrickborge Hauser; James P. Hentges, L/D 5A; Marilyn D. Hare, L/D 6; Patrick N. Chase, L/D 4; Judith M. Heutmaker, EP-E (transferred to the 934th Tactical Airlift Group, Fort Snelling, Minn.); Robert R. White, Fountain City Service Base; Ronald L. Wantock, Fountain City Service Base; Tim T. Tierney, Sandy Lake; Rick S. Thiel, ED-PB; Mark D. Sonderup, CO-RF; Andrew M. Soliday, Leech Lake; Janet L. Smith, L/D 7; Jacob C. Pikus, CO-PO; Susan R. Piggott, CO-PO; Catherine A. Nehotte, ED-PB; Peter J. Mumford, DO; Michael E. McKeig, Leech Lake; David R. Lopez, L/D 1 Rehabilitation Project; Martin D. Lightner, Derrickborge Hauser; Valori J. Lego, Leech Lake; Scott A. Ketelsen, AS-P; Michael J. Kennedy, Lake Ashtabula & Baldhill Dam; Tracy J. Kelling, OC; Curtis J. Johnson, Gull Lake; Teresa A. Jetter, L/D 10; Barbara Jackson, ED-ER; David L. Hentges, Fountain City Service Base; Peter J. Farmer, ED-PB; Donyel J. Erickson, ED-ER; Katherine A. Dieter, CO; Leann L. Christjaener, L/D 1 Rehabilitation Project; Hope M. Carr, ED-PB; Arden C. Busbey, Gull Lake; Theodore W. Blum, Winona Flood Control Project; Andrew J. Ahern, CO-RF; Margaret F. Tripp, ED-ER; Mardella F. Moe, Sandy Lake; Cindy I. Goodyear, Pine River Dam; Kathleen A. Bloom, L/D 1; Lisa A. Allison, L/D 3; William M. Stocker, Headwaters Project Office (transferred to the U.S. Forest Service); Mark E. Sandberg, Pine River Dam; James D. Sandberg, Pine River Dam; Julie A. Teigland, DO; Gail R. McMiller, CO-C; Keith R. Larson, Pokegama Dam; Randall M. Kidder, Orwell Lake; Janet S. Kellerman, ED-GH; Edward J. DeLaForest, ED-D; Lewis D. Cureton, ED-D; and Starr R. Alexander, ED-PB.

DEEP SORROW is felt on the recent death of former Corps employee George A. Rohleder, age 69, of Minneapolis, Minn. He is survived by his wife Eulalia, three daughters, one son and five grandchildren. George worked in the Geotechnical, Hydraulics & Hydrologic Engineering Branch.

Around the district

AT LAKE ASHTABULA AND BALDHILL DAM, N.D., several classes of elementary students participated in the 4th Annual Corps of Engineers Eco Expo (Ecology Exposition) held Sept. 16-17. The Eco Expo program give students an opportunity to explore the environment in relation to the Corps. Corps staff members presented many activities to the students such as tree and leaf identification, fish identification and dam operation.

AT WHITE ROCK DAM on Lake Traverse, Minn., elementary students also participated in the Corps sponsored Eco Expo, held in early September.

Invitation open to all

Former Corps employee Earl L. Fenton is going to become "75 years young" on Nov. 15. All friends are invited to attend an open house on that day in celebration of his birthday.

The open house is sponsored by Earl's daughter Dawn Schramm and her family. It will be held from 2 to 5 p.m., at Hope Lutheran Church, 5728 Cedar Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn.

Earl joined the St. Paul District in April 1949 and retired in January 1974 as chief of the Locks and Dams Section.

Your presence would be the best gift which Earl could receive.

Around the Corps

OFF THE COAST OF the Isle Royale National Park, Lake Superior, Corps employee Patrick Labadie is working with the National Park Service in the identification of shipwrecks. Labadie is curator of the Canal Park Marine Museum in Duluth, Minn. The underwater, archaeological expedition will provide much historical knowledge to the museum.

AT FORT A.P. HILL, VA., the U.S. Army, the Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies helped sponsor the 10th National Scout Jamboree in late July. About 30,000 Boy Scouts and their leaders attended. The military and federal agencies constructed an outdoor amphitheater large enough to seat 60,000 people, installed 18 miles of underground water pipe and 2½ miles of overhead electric power lines, surveyed all Scout campsites, cut footpaths through the woods and conducted guided walks along nature trails marked with conservation exhibits.

IN NORFOLK, VA., the Norfolk District is nearing completion on the construction of their new, four-story solar energy office building for its employees. The \$5.7 million building will use both active and passive solar energy for heating and cooling.

Holiday party, already?

by Gary Beck, ED-D

Have you hung your stockings with care yet? Or strung popcorn for the tree? Or put the wreath and lights up? Or bought any presents yet?

Well if you haven't, you're way behind in the jolly St. Nick spirit. Remember, there are only about 85 more shopping days until Christmas.

It also means that we have to wait only about 79 more days until the fantastic 1981 Annual St. Paul District Holiday Party. This year, the party is scheduled to be on Dec. 18, in the afternoon, at The Inn, located in downtown St. Paul.

All district employees, retirees and their families are invited to join the party.

The Holiday Party Committee is putting their utmost effort into making this a successful party. However, the only problem is that I'm the only member of the committee and I need volunteers to help coordinate the party. No references will be needed and you can contact me at 725-5836.

Watch for more news articles and flyers about the party. Remember...the holidays are just a few short weeks away. Make plans to celebrate the festive holidays with your friends, family and co-workers.

Corps participates in boat show



With recreational boats moored for viewing in King's Cove, Hastings, Minn., the first annual Twin Cities In-Water Boat Show was held on Sept. 10-13.

The St. Paul District participated in the exhibition with a display booth. Hundreds of visitors stopped at the booth to obtain information on the Corps of Engineers' responsibilities and activities. Of special interest to the visitors were navigation and maintenance of the Upper Mississippi River for recreational purposes. *(Photo by James E. Braatz, PA)*

Corps reunion enjoyed

The sixth annual Reunion of St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers Employees, Past and Present was held at the University Club in St. Paul on Sept. 9, with many attendees.

Attendees started arriving before 11:30 a.m. and the buzz of voices grew steadily in volume, interspersed with squeals of delight as old-time friends met, until lunch was served around 1 p.m.

After lunch, the gathering was called to order by Merlin Berg, the master of ceremonies. The names of retirees who died in the past one to two years were read and a moment of silence followed in respect for them.

Berg noted that the main function of the Corps has been the control of water. He read an excerpt of history wherein an Army commander was able to enter a walled city and conquer its inhabitants by damming up the river above the city. The commander's troops were sent into the city via the dried-up river bed.

Col. Badger, district commander, related a story about Army commanders and their choices of clothing worn in battle.

Col. Badger updated the audience on work in the district and changes in organization. He also announced Roger Fast's election to the St. Paul District Hall of Fame.

Bob Calton, who after 42 years with the

Corps, retired last year and was later stricken with cancer from which he has made major strides to recovery. He was "honored" with a bottle of muddy water from the Red River of the North.

Wilfred (Bill) Darling and his wife, from Hawaii, were awarded a glass of "pure" water for traveling the farthest to attend the reunion. They won over four who came from Florida.

Berna Buckley won honors as the senior retiree in attendance, winning over Lester Mericle. Mericle was serenaded with "Old Man's Prayer" by Henry Harich, while Buckley was given a hug and bouquet by Dale Lynch.

Acknowledgement goes to the members of the reunion committee for their fine efforts: Joan Quitter, Florence Felix, Marguerite Gable, Catherine Haltner, Henry Harich, Jo and Wes Walters.

Appreciation is extended to Lois Harich who furnished flowers for the dining room tables.

Henry Harich, who will be chairperson of the reunion committee in 1982, emphasizes the importance of former Corps employees to take a more active role in molding public decisions through more active participation in public meetings on water-related problems.

(Photos by Dale Lynch, ED-D)



by many people



(See page 12)

Reunion party

(From page 11)



Impossible dream becomes reality

by Philip Campbell, EE

How often does the impossible dream become a reality? For Ronald E. Tuura, the dream was to enter the engineering profession. After several hardworking years with the St. Paul District, Tuura achieved many goals and received several awards as a civil engineer.

IT WASN'T EASY

It wasn't easy for Tuura. At age 13, Muscular Dystrophy dropped Tuura into a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Today, though a quadriplegic, he maintains the same positive, aggressive outlook that carried him over the hurdles of his school years and rehabilitation training.

"I have known some wonderful people over those years," he recalls.

He graduated from Northwestern High School at Maple, Wis. Undergraduate work was accomplished at the University of Wisconsin at Superior, with a B.A. in math and concentrated studies in German and Geology.

Tuura completed his B.S. in structural engineering at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Tuura's first job after graduation was as a structural designer with an engineering firm in Duluth, Minn. He finished an estimated year's work in nine months, only to be laid off during a work slowdown caused by sagging economy and the energy crisis.

BRIGHT CHANGES

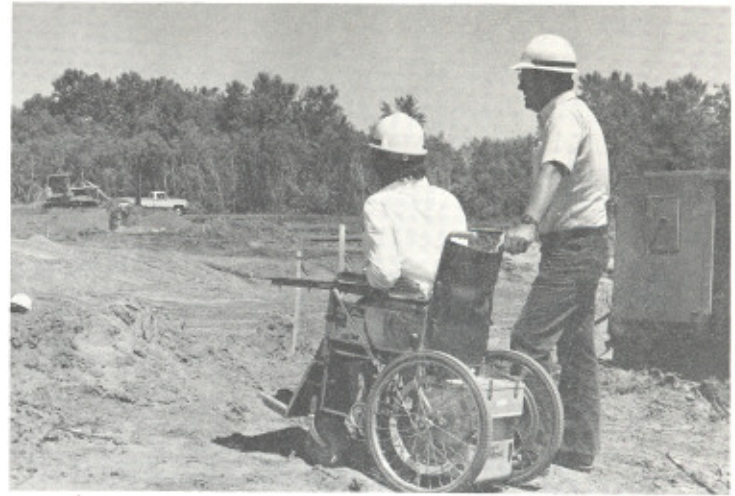
In 1976, Tuura learned of the Courage Center Residence in Golden Valley, Minn. "I went there to learn as many independent living skills as I could," he explains.

While living at the residence, he was rejected in more than 20 engineering interviews in 19 months. Still, he applied for job after job, never giving up.

"I knew I would find a job sooner or later because I knew I was qualified for many of those I applied for," says Tuura.

In October 1977, Tuura's life brightened. He received a year's grant from the Comprehensive Education and Training Act to be the handicapped resource coordinator for the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

During that same year, he also married Nancy Howes.



Ron Tuura and co-worker Jim Gagnon inspect a construction site. (Photo by George Fortune, ED-D)

WITH THE CORPS

In July 1978, Tuura was hired by the district under the 700-hour hiring authority for the handicapped as a GS-5. After successfully completing his trial-temporary appointment, he was converted to a permanent excepted GS-7 on a career ladder, which he rapidly advanced to a GS-9.

In June 1980, he was officially recognized by the North Central Division as the "Outstanding Handicapped Employee of the Year."

Last March, Tuura achieved a grade of GS-11.

Tuura performs all of the duties of a civil engineer with distinction, including necessary inspection field trips to check progress at construction sites. Currently, he is working on the Winona Flood Control Project.

MORE HONORS

This year, in observance of the International Year of the Disabled Person, the Federal Executive Board of the Twin Cities is honoring Tuura along with several other severely handicapped federal employees. He will receive the "Outstanding Handicapped Employee of 1981" award on Oct. 7.

Tuura is also honored with the annual Phillips Award from the Courage Center, along with five other recipients. He will receive the "Outstanding Handicapped Employee in Industry" award on Oct. 16.

Congratulations go to Tuura for his work, his dedication and his perseverance.

Undertows

by Henrik Strandkov, CO-RF

At this time of year, a young child's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of witches, black cats, jack-o-lanterns and candy. Yes, Halloween is almost here. It's generally a happy occasion for the kids, but it can be a terrible time for adults.

Take last year, for instance. Arriving home one evening about a week before Halloween, I discovered my wife surrounded by piles of fabric scraps, busily snipping and sewing.

"Building a hang glider?" I queried.

"No I'm making our costumes for the party," she replied cheerfully.

A wave of foreboding passed through me.

"What party might that be?"

"The Petersons' party."

"Petersons having a party, are they?"

"Don't you remember? Two weeks ago we got that cute invitation inviting us to a Halloween costume party." She continued to snip away industriously.

"I thought that was a flyer advertising a new horror movie," I said hopefully.

"No, silly. Don't you remember that clever little poem? 'Here comes a party for goblins and ghosts;/ The Petersons will be the hosts./ So come to our house on Halloween/ And dress in a way to make us scream./ Put on a costume, put on a mask;/ Be a good sport and bring your own flask,'" she recited.

"They're not only bad poets," I mumbled, "They're cheap, too."

"What did you say, dear?"

"Nothing. Ah, what kind of costumes are we going to wear?"

"Oh, they're wonderful! I found the patterns in a book at the library."

My terror was mounting. "But what exactly are we going to be dressed as," I asked.

"I'm going to be an opera singer. See, I put this aluminum foil on this cardboard helmet, and then I glue on these cute little horns."

"That's nice," I said quietly. "Ah...do I have to wear a costume too?"

"Of course you do! And it's just darling!"

I looked at the green and brown cloth she was snipping and I shuddered.

"Is that my costume there?" I asked.

"Yes," she held up a shapeless tube of

cloth for me to admire. "How do you like it?"

"Ah...fine, but I'm not sure what it's supposed to be."

She looked hurt. "Can't you tell?"

"Is it a stick costume?" I hazarded.

"No, no. You're going to the party as a tadpole!" she said proudly.

It was worse than I had feared. I had to think fast.

"That's just great, dear," I said. "But, ah, I hate to make you do all that work.

Hey! I've got a good idea. Why don't I go as a businessman! That way, I could just wear a coat and tie and you wouldn't have to do any..."

"Don't be silly," she cut me off happily. "I'm almost finished. All I have to do is put these light bulbs on for the eyes and then these pieces of nylon material to make it look slimy."

"Well," I said in defeat. "I guess it wouldn't be much of a tadpole costume if it weren't slimy."

"Oh, I just knew you'd like it," she said. "You'll be the nicest, plump, little tadpole anyone ever saw!"

And I suppose she was right, although not too many people saw me. I spent most of the party in the Petersons' basement watching reruns through my lightbulb eyes. But I guess things could have been worse. My neighbor Fred Chumley came to the party dressed as an anchovy pizza.

Dock areas restricted

All Corps of Engineers employees are restricted from entering or leaving the U.S. Post Office & Custom House building through the dock areas.

All employees must use the main entrance on Kellogg Blvd.

The dock areas are used for official business only for purposes of loading and unloading vehicles.

Entertainment planned

by Sharon Brown, EE

Mark your calendars now to see an outstanding group of entertainers present a special performance on Oct. 20, in the 5th floor cafeteria. All employees are invited to attend.

In honor of the 1981 International Year of the Disabled, the St. Paul District Handicap Committee asked the group of performers sponsored by the Sister Kenny Institute to present "Hey, Mr. Ziegfeld, Are You Ready For Us?"

The performers are Dale Lundren, vocalist; Steen Seestedt, musician; Maureen Pranghofer, vocalist; Chuck Anderson and Sandi Gordon, disco dancers. They recently performed in national competition in Dallas, Texas.

The program will begin at 12 noon and will last approximately one hour.

Chess tourney begins soon

by Clyde Graquinto, ED-D

The 1981-82 Annual St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers Chess Tournament will commence soon.

This year's games are expected to take place over a 5-month period, ending in March.

Two separate round robin style tournaments will take place. One group will comprise of those players who feel they play well enough to handle more experienced gamers.

The other group will comprise of those players who are less serious-minded about the game, but nevertheless have the tough competitive spirit. There is no room for hustlers in this group.

So, come on all of you chess enthusiasts and those a little less enthused to a meeting on Oct. 21 at 11:45 a.m. in Room 1219.

Game and tournament rules will be discussed, so please attend and bring a friend.

Skill development offered

by John Blackstone, ED-GH

"Is it right or wrong?" I ask myself, pausing.

Sometimes I find myself trying to solve situations using tunnel vision. I limit the choices that might be available and focus on one predetermined answer. When I do this, I am locked into a course of action, blinded to all other possibilities.

If I am willing to consider many possible alternatives, then I am free to select the solution for the problem that is most realistic.

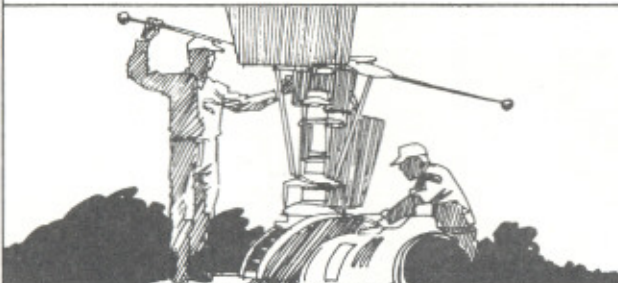
One way I became more receptive to this process was to develop my ability to communicate between myself and others. If I can effectively assimilate information, I can proceed through the puzzle of life in a systematic way.

Toastmasters Club is interested in helping you develop skills to solve life's problems. The club believes that communication is the key to the door of life and that everyone can be an expert.

Toastmasters does not have all the answers, but everyone has some of the answers. You are invited to join the club for its next meeting on Thursday, 12 noon, in the sixth floor PEDC rooms.

TURN YOUR MILITARY EXPERIENCE INTO AN EXTRA INCOME.

As a veteran of any armed service, you can earn extra monthly income in the Army Reserve, without going through the usual initial training. Work one weekend a month and two weeks a year in your community. Join within 30 months of your discharge, and you may get back your old rank.



ARMY RESERVE. BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

Corps speaks to the public

by Sharon Brown, EE

Many of the St. Paul District employees are respected by other agencies for their expertise on various subjects.

For the past two years, Richard Laddusire, EP-E, has been invited by the Federal Executive Board to present Upward Mobility Program workshops to other federal agencies with less progressive programs.

Most recently, Laddusire spoke to a group of managers with the Postal Data Center. He is also scheduled to present another workshop in October with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Lynn Harris, EP, recently accepted an invitation to speak at a Federal Women's Program meeting with the 934th Tactical Airlift Group on the subject of "Interviewing Techniques."

Recognition of Corps employees for their efforts to reach out to the public demonstrates their dedication and professionalism.

Humor contest held

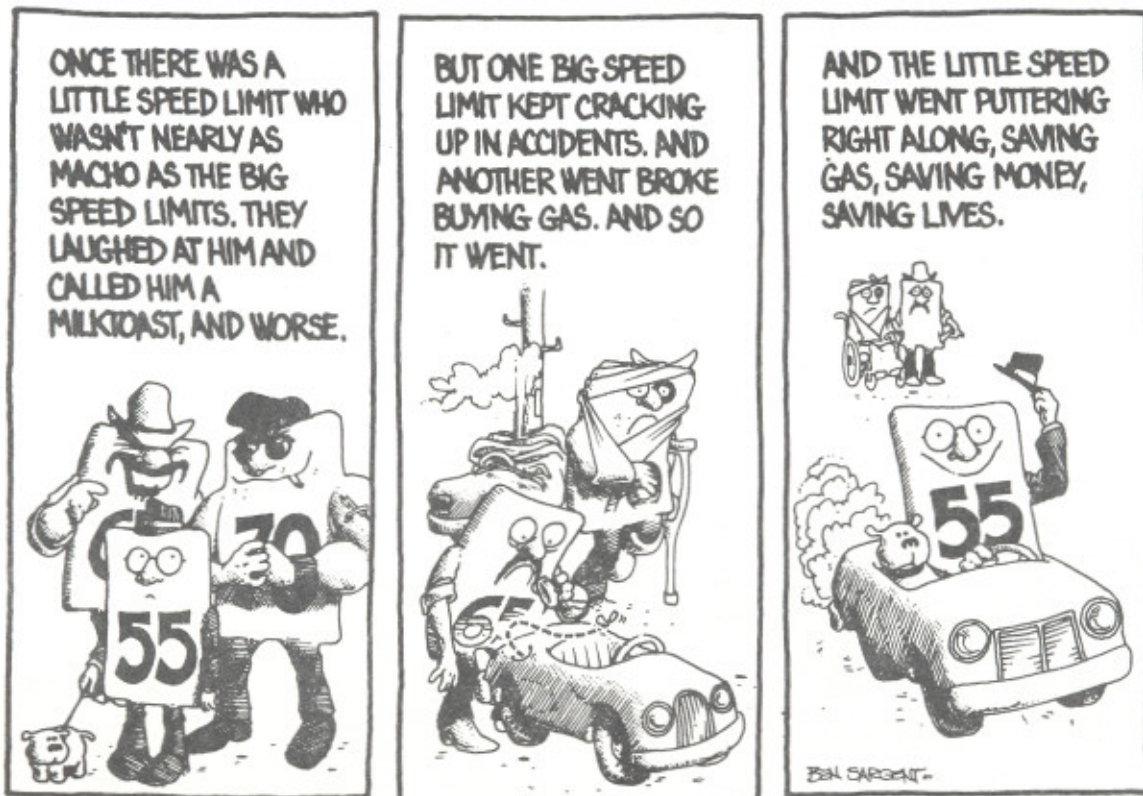
by John Blackstone, ED-GR

One way to increase the ability to perform is to enter a contest.

Recently, the Toastmasters Area 11 Humorous Speech Contest was held on Sept. 25 in St. Paul.

The Toastmasters Club sent veteran contestant David Christenson, ED-PB, to speak about his pet cow, Flossie. Many children have pets, but Christenson had a pet cow who could lay on its back and play dead. The cow also rode in the back of a '46 Plymouth.

Christenson gave an exemplary performance, however he was outdone by another contestant. Better luck next year, David!



Conservation tips can save energy

If everyone raised air-conditioning temperatures 6 degrees, we would save the equivalent of 190,000 barrels of oil every day. When you use air-conditioning:

SET your thermostat at 78° F, a reasonably comfortable and energy-efficient indoor temperature.

CLEAN or replace air-conditioning filters at least once a month. When the filter is dirty, the fan has to run longer to move the same amount of air, and this takes more electricity.

TURN off your window air conditioners when you leave a room for several hours. You'll use less energy cooling the room down later than if you had left the unit running.

DON'T place lamps or TV sets near your air-conditioning thermostat. Heat from these appliances is sensed by the thermostat and could cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

KEEP lights low or off. Electric lights generate heat and add to the load on your air conditioner.

DO your cooking and use other heat-generating appliances in the early morning and late evening hours whenever possible.

HEATING

If every household in the United States lowered its average heating temperatures 6 degrees over a 24-hour period, we would save more than 570,000 barrels of oil per day.

When heating:

KEEP draperies and shades open in sunny windows; close them at night.

USE the best insulation of all, wear clothing, for comfort in cooler indoor temperatures. A light long-sleeved sweater adds almost 2 degrees in warmth. A heavy long-sleeved sweater adds 3.7 degrees. Two lightweight sweaters add about 5 degrees in warmth because the air between them serves as insulation to keep in body heat.

WEATHER-STRIP doors and windows and caulk openings around electric, plumbing and light fixtures. Up to 18% of home heat loss can be due to these openings.

BOTH HEATING AND COOLING

During both heating and cooling seasons:

CLOSE off unoccupied rooms and shut their heat or air-conditioning vents; or turn off room air conditioners. This does not apply if you have a heat pump system. Shutting vents could harm a heat pump.

USE kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans sparingly. In just one hour these fans can blow away a houseful of warmed or cooled air. Turn them off just as soon as they have done their job.

KEEP your fireplace damper closed unless you have a fire going. An open damper in a 48-inch square fireplace can let up to 8% of your heat out the chimney.

Army Energy Awareness Week

Oct. 25-31, 1981



"Save Army Energy"

Escape to the Southwest

by Pam McFaden, PA

Don't you think it's time to take a break and get away from things? A place to enjoy mountains, desert blossoms, Indian pueblos, lakes and prairies. A place to enjoy the mild climate year-round. If so, come with me as I take you through the Southwest.

Beginning in Arizona, there is the beautiful Lake Alamo, with the Bill Williams River Basin of early historical interest. For "rock hounds," the Painted Rock Dam located near the Painted Rock State Historical Park is famous for its rock treasures.

New Mexico is an area of ageless relics. At the Abiquiu Dam, reptile fossils 200 million years old have been found. Conchas Lake show early cultures by the rock carvings. On the Rio Grande, Cochiti Lake is located; there you can enjoy hunting for waterfowl, small game and deer.

In Oklahoma, you will find Hugo Lake on the Kiamichi River where you can go hunting. Wildlife includes waterfowl, whitetail deer, bobwhite quail, dove, fox, mink and beaver. Tenkiller Ferry Lake is a beautiful, clear lake where you will find an authentic recreation of a Cherokee village, of the 1700s. An Army post on Canton Lake was deactivated in 1882; then it served as a Mennonite school for Indians.

The spiciness of Texas will thrill you. At Benbrook Lake, you will be able to enjoy the stock shows, indoor rodeo and botanical gardens. On Grapevine Lake, several "theme" amusement parks are in the area to provide varied family entertainment. Houston Ship Channel is convenient to the San Jacinto Battleground, the space center and many other attractions. Navarro Mills Lake has a ghost town nearby and the Battle Creek Massacre Burial Ground.

So, whether you prefer primitive or developed campsites, the Southwest is sure to fulfill your needs. At most of the lakes, you can enjoy swimming, waterskiing, fishing, boating, picnicking and hunting. The possibilities are unlimited. So come on, let's go have some fun!

Fishing contest nears finish

by Wilbur Walleye

Only two and one-half months of fishing remain in the 1981 Annual St. Paul District Fishing Contest. The current standings based on entries dated Sept. 21, are located in this issue of Crosscurrents.

Planning Branch lead the standings with 204 1/3 points, followed by Design Branch with 146, Environmental Resources Branch with 138 1/3, Regulatory Functions with 137 and Office of Administrative Services with 27.

Dave Haumersen has the lead in the fisherman of the year contest and game fish category. Margaret Reilly leads in the pan-fish category. Dale Mazar leads in the trout category and Don Kohler leads in the all other category.

HAVE YOU HEARD...

* "Big" trout and salmon can be found in Lake Michigan. Dave Haumersen, Carl Stephan, Bill Spychalla, Wayne Koerner and Martin McCleery fished the lake in August to check out the rumors. Fishing was great, but be prepared for seasickness. Isn't that right, Carl and Bill? Carl found out that Dramamine is not the only cure; catching a big rainbow trout sure helps.

* Dale Mazar has the magic touch for Lake Michigan fishing. Out of 16 days of fishing, his group caught over 70 trout and salmon. The biggest weighed 28 lbs., with the others averaging 10 to 12 lbs. Dale's prowess moved him into third place in the fisherman of the year contest and first place in the trout category.

* Bob Northrup caught a fish.

* Dale Mazar caught a tiger trout (cross between a male brook and female brown trout), weighing 14 lbs., 3 oz. Dale is almost sure to win the local contest at Mac Sport Shop in Sturgeon Bay, Wis. The state record is 20-plus lbs.

* The Environmental Branch says they're giving up fishing for hunting for the rest of the year. Beware of slings and arrows from Planning Branch.

* Bruce Norton caught grayling in Yellowstone National Park.

STATUS REPORT : ST. PAUL DISTRICT FISHING CONTEST

as of 21 SEPT 1988

DISTRICT FISHERMAN RANKINGS	
(name)	(points)
1) DAVE HAUMERSEN	101 1/3
2) DON KOHLER	65
3) DALE MAZAR	60
4) WAYNE KOERNER	49
5) BRUCE NORTON	42

BRANCH RANKINGS	
(branch)	(points)
1) PLANNING BRANCH	204 1/3
2) DESIGN BRANCH	146
3) ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	138 1/3
4) REGULATORY FUNCTIONS	137
5) OFFICE OF ADMIN SERVICES	27

category

leaders

GAME FISH			
(name)	(pts)	(br)	
1) Dave Haumersen	42	PB	
2) John Nosek	18	ER	
3) Steve Schwager	15	PB	
4) Wayne Koerner	14	PB	
Tom Heyerman	14	D	

PANFISH			
(name)	(pts)	(br)	
1) Margaret Reilly	25	AS	
2) Dave Haumersen	23 1/3	PB	
3) Gary Palesh	23 1/3	ER	
4) 3 Tied	15		

TROUT			
(name)	(pts)	(br)	
1) Dale Mazar	50	D	
2) Bruce Norton	42	RF	
3) Don Kohler	18	RF	
4) Al Geisen	12	ER	
Dan Wilcox	12	ER	

OTHER			
(name)	(pts)	(br)	
1) Don Kohler	45	RF	
2) Dave Haumersen	36	PB	
3) Wayne Koerner	35	PB	
4) Tom Heyerman	23	D	

SPECIES

RANKINGS

(name)	(size)	(pts)	(br)
MUSKELLUNGE:			
1) Dave Haumersen	31 1/2	10	PB
2)			
3)			
NORTHERN PIKE:			
1) Steve Schwager	37	15	PB
2) Tom Heyerman	32 1/4	7	D
3) Curt Kloss	30	5	CO
WALLEYE:			
1) Dave Haumersen	28 3/4	15	PB
2) Wayne Koerner	26 1/4	12	PB
3) Fred Whebbe	25 1/2	10	D
LARGEMOUTH BASS:			
1) John Nosek	19 1/2	15	ER
2) Dave Haumersen	19 1/4	17	PB
3) Stan Kumpala	17 3/8	5	GH
SMALLMOUTH BASS:			
1) Dale Mazar	16 3/8	10	D
2) John Nosek	15 1/2	7	ER
3) Scott Fryklund	15	5	RF

(name)	(size)	(pts)	(br)
CRAPPIE:			
1) Fred Whebbe	14 7/8	15	D
2) Bob Post	14 1/2	12	ER
3) Dave Haumersen	14 1/8	10	PB
BLUEGILL:			
1) Margaret Reilly	10 1/2	25	AS
2) Gary Palesh	9 3/8	7	ER
3) Dennis Anderson	9 1/2	5	ER
PUMPKINSEED:			
1) Gary Palesh	8 3/4	15	ER
2) Dave Haumersen	8 3/8	12	PB
3) Ed DeLaForest	8 3/8	5	D
YELLOW PERCH:			
1) Micheal O'keefe	12 1/4	15	ER
2) Scott Fryklund	12	12	RF
3) Robbin Blackman	11 1/2	3	ER
ROCK BASS:			
1) Diana Tschida	18 3/8	15	F+A
2) Craig Callison	12	7	D
3) Chuck Crist	11	20	PB

(name)	(size)	(pts)	(br)
RAINBOW TROUT:			
1) Don Kohler	18	15	RF
2) Bruce Norton	17	7	RF
3) Grey Eggers	13 1/2	5	GH
BROWN TROUT:			
1) Bruce Norton	20	20	RF
2) Dan Wilcox	19 1/2	12	ER
3) Dave Ballman	15	5	RF
BROOK TROUT:			
1) Bruce Norton	12 1/2	10	RF
2) Jerry Smith	11	7	ER
3) Richard Beatty	10 1/2	5	ER
SALMON:			
1) Dale Mazar	39 1/2	25	D
2) Al Geisen	38	12	D
3) Dave Rydeen	33	10	GH
LAKE TROUT:			
1) Dale Mazar	32 1/2	25	D
2) Carl Stephan	27 1/2	7	PB
3) Bruce Norton	27	5	RF

(name)	(size)	(pts)	(br)
BULLHEAD:			
1) Wayne Koerner	14 3/4	25	PB
2) Dave Haumersen	14 3/8	17	PB
3) John Nosek	14	5	ER
CATFISH:			
1) Don Kohler	20 1/4	15	RF
2) John Nosek	19 3/4	6	ER
3) Dan Wilcox	19 1/4	6	ER
SAUGER:			
1) Tom Heyerman	19 1/2	15	D
2) Wayne Koerner	16 1/4	7	PB
3) Herb Nelson	15	4	PB
WHITE BASS:			
1) Don Kohler	15 3/8	20	RF
2) Dave Haumersen	15 1/8	12	PB
3) Howard Ecklund	14 3/4	5	RF
OTHER:			
1) Don Kohler (Eel)	29 1/4	10	RF
2) Tom Heyerman (Carp)	26 1/2	7	D
3) 3 Tied	24	3	



Past, Present and Future.

*Last Christmas, she got her dog. In fact, she got most of what she wanted.
But did she get what she needed?*

*This Christmas, why not give her a present with a future? Give her U.S. Savings Bonds.
'Cause kids need security.*

*Oh, she may not turn cartwheels over a Bond on Christmas morning, but she'll appreciate their
special security when she's ready for college, honeymoon or home.
That's when Savings Bonds will say more than Merry Christmas. They'll say: "We believe in all
your dreams. We're with you dear, whatever you become."*