



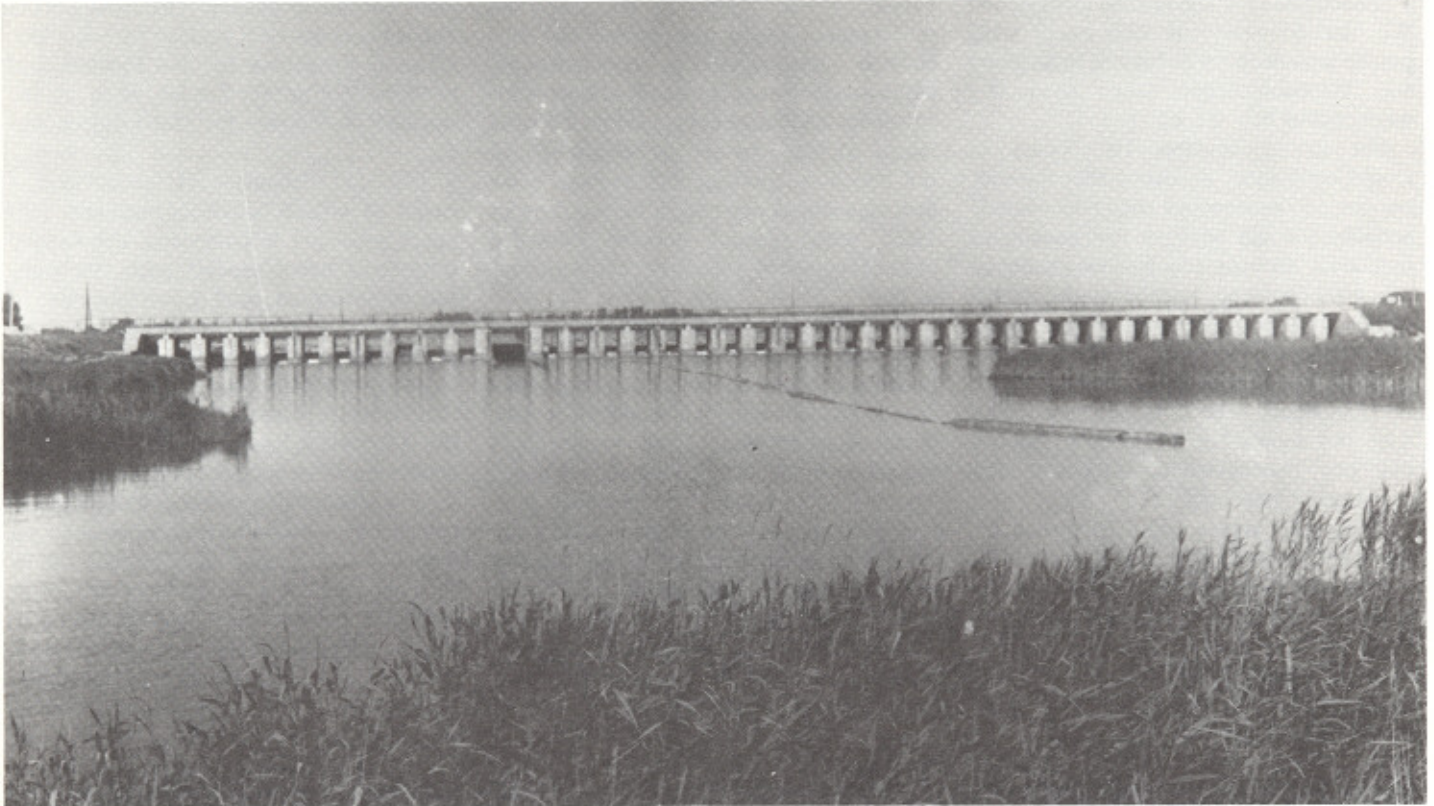
US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

Vol. 7

No. 5

July 1984



Leech Lake Dam - July 8, 1913

## Ojibway Pipe Ceremony at Federal Dam

On July 21st the Leech Lake Reservation will sponsor a pow-wow at Federal Dam to commemorate the centennial of the dams. In conjunction with the pow-wow, Mr. Bill Bobolink will perform a pipe ceremony.

Mr. Bobolink has the honor of being designated as a pipe carrier by the tribal elders. As a pipe carrier Mr. Bobolink uses the pipe to open communications with the creator. He salutes the four compass directions, the earth and sky, and the spirits that dwell there. The pipe ceremony is a call to all per-

sons to unite and respect the activity that is involved. It is a great honor that they wish to perform it at the centennial celebration.

If you have an opportunity to attend the pipe ceremony and pow-wow please do, it is a colorful spectacle. Bring your cameras for the pow-wow, but leave them in your cars for the pipe ceremony. No photographs are permitted of the pipe ceremony. Please attend and celebrate the achievement of 100 years of management excellence.

## Very Busy At 87

Carl Anderson may have retired from the Corps of Engineers as dam tender of Gull Lake and Lake Pokegama, but he didn't retire from the Andott Forest.

Carl owns and operates a tree farm and is very energetic at age 87. He grows his own vegetables, makes maple syrup, harvests edible herbs and berries, and cuts firewood. Carl also produces posts and poles from his woods, Christmas trees and boughs for wreaths.

Carl has always been interested in the wild. He was president of the Isaac Walton League in Grand Rapids, and a part owner and editor of the Braham Journal. Carl is now a member of the Farm Bureau, the Masons and the Shriners and is certified in the American Tree Farm System.

# Commander's View

by Col. Ed Rapp,  
District Engineer

This month marks the 100th anniversary of completion of three Corps dams in the Mississippi Headwaters Region. In a country which just celebrated its bicentennial a few years ago, a centennial is a significant milestone. We plan to celebrate this event with public ceremonies at Leech, Pokegama and Winnibigoshish lakes over the weekend of July 21-22.

But in celebrating 100 years of Corps operation of these three dams, we need to remember that 100 years is actually a small slice of the history of this area. Before Europeans came to this area in large numbers, the headwaters area was the land of the Sioux and Ojibwa. The rich headwaters region provided sustenance to the Indians for many years. Today, we work with the headwater's tribes to insure that our management activities support their Circle of Life.

When the white man appeared on the scene, it was first the French who spread their influence from the St. Lawrence River west to the Rockies. The British took control of French territories following the British victory over the French in both Europe and North America.

By the early 1800s, American traders, trappers and explorers, including Lt. Zebulon Pike, were traveling the lakes and rivers of this region.

Pike, who left his name on now famous Pike's Peak, also purchased the land for Ft. Snelling at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers.

With the development and urbanization of the region in the early to mid-1800s, came the need for improved transportation. Steamboats, supported in part by government contracts for mail and cargo, were a major factor in the orderly development of the country during this period. The first steamboat arrived in Ft. Snelling in 1823 with regular service carrying mail, cargo and passengers beginning in 1847.

With the increased dependence on river navigation, came the idea of improving navigation by controlling river flows. The concept of building a network of reservoirs in the headwaters region to hold back spring runoff dates back to 1852 when the idea was proposed by a civil engineer working for Congress. However, the work on the reservoirs didn't start until 1881 when construction began at Winnibigoshish. The work at Leech and Pokegama lakes was started two years later. All three were completed during 1884.

As with many Corps projects today, the benefits accrued from the headwaters projects changed somewhat from the original proposal. The 1852 report recommended a system of res-

ervoirs in the headwaters to regulate the erratic flow of the river as a means of flood control and to improve navigation. One hundred years later, Corps management is more of a conservation and recreation nature. The headwaters supports wild rice production for traditional tribal use by the Indians and now for commercial sales. It is an important cash crop for the Ojibwa Nation.

The six headwaters reservoirs—three of which were completed 100 years ago—are a symbol of the Corps' long-term involvement with the people, economics and environment of this region. It is a prime example of the permanence of our work. All too often, federal programs come into vogue and then quietly vanish. But the works of the Corps of Engineers in the headwaters and elsewhere are more lasting.

Celebrating this centennial is a good reminder of this and it should serve to urge the conception of new projects to be useful for the next century. Building today for tomorrow is one of the challenges that continues to face us as a professional engineering organization.

The centennial of the completion of Corps dams at Pokegama, Leech and Winnibigoshish is a significant event for this district. I hope that many of you will be able to attend one of the ceremonies later this month.

## New Deputy Chief of Engineers

The Department of the Army announced, 5 July 1984, the selection of Major General Norman G. Delbridge Jr. to become the next Deputy Commander and Deputy Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C. The assignment will be effective on September 1, 1984.

Delbridge has been serving as the Assistant Chief of Engineers at the Pentagon since September 1980, and succeeds Major General Richard M. Wells who has been the Deputy Commander since July 1983 and who will be retiring from military service on August 31, 1984.

## Is Safety "Finished?"

The title of this article does not deal with the demise of the District Safety Office, but rather with a state of mind. In a recent address LTG J.K. Bratton stated:

"It has impressed me through the years that safety is something that you can't finish, and that goes against the grain of a lot of people because we like to feel... well, now we've got safety taken care of, that's battened down; now we can go on to something else; now, you can finish your construction job; but as long as you continue to operate something or as long as you take on new construction work, safety is never finished.

We are not successful in our work if we don't have a firm and good safety

record. It's just as important—more so—than the budget or the time schedule. It's *never* worth a life to save a little bit of time on a job or a little bit of money on a job.

But I would like you to remember the sincerity with which I'm telling you, that we all just absolutely have to do our best to get behind the safety program. I wish you all the best of success. I'll be watching, as we all will, the record of safety that the Corps will compile now in this year 1984—I hope it's the finest record that we've ever come up with. It's a never-ending battle, but we'll just keep charging and fighting."

We need to always re-emphasize safety on our projects and during our routine work, since it does tend to become submerged in the many other busy activities that we all do. Remember, safety is never "finished."

## Automation Planning Conference

by L. M. Harris

How can the St. Paul District effectively manage the automation of its activities? That was the central question discussed at a Leadership Seminar held on 18 May at Camp St. Croix, Wisconsin. The District Engineer, together with 25 district employees spent the day wrestling with questions associated with the district's role as the pioneer for North Central Division in the automation area. Attendees represented a cross-section of the District workforce, from Division Chiefs to clerical personnel. The composition of the group was designed to insure that ideas from all potential users of automation technology were considered.

Colonel Rapp kicked off the session with a key-note address that highlighted the problems involved and asked the conference to consider four principal issues:

—How can we reduce the stress generated by using this new technology and avoid the dehumanizing aspects of automation?

—How can we insure that micro-computers and other automation tools are used in activities that will pay off for the District while minimizing overhead costs?

—How can we insure that "lessons learned" are communicated from one work group to another and that our

training programs address the needs of users?

—What can the senior district leadership do to develop an effective strategy and reporting system to manage the automation process?

Conference attendees broke up into four work groups to address these issues. Each group was charged with defining the major problem in that area and developing an action plan to address those problems. A summary plan is being developed for the District Engineer's review and approval. This plan, when put into effect, will be a blue print for action for district managers.



Seventh grader, Christian Schweitzer, son of Phil Schweitzer (CO-CT), is shown above with his parents at an awards luncheon at the Minneapolis Star and Tribune. Christian captured first place honors in a state-wide essay contest that was sponsored by the Education Service Department of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune on May 18, 1984. The contest was held in conjunction with classroom use of a Chemical Abuse Prevention project, entitled YOU-nique. For his achievement, Christian was presented with a Kodak Pleaser II camera by Pat Mahoney, manager of the Education Services Department.

## Civilian Long-Term Training Arnows

Army employees committed to excellence and expanded challenge on the job, have a chance to achieve both, if they qualify for the Army's Long-Term Training program.

The program is open to civilians in grades GS-12 and above. It entails the nomination of candidates for one of 117 available assignments that last more than 120 calendar days. These cover such assignments as executive or management training/education; functional/technical training or education; career program fellowships; or developmental positions.

For further information, please contact the Training & Development Branch at extension 7517.

## Toastmasters

by: John Blackstone

This summer Toastmaster clubs in downtown St. Paul are taking advantage of the low seasonal attendance syndrome. Several clubs arranged to meet jointly in a rotating system that allows one club to host and one club to visit. This is typical of Toastmasters camaraderie. Although each member has a strong allegiance to their own club, it is not uncommon for one club or individual to help another. This is a common denominator in Toastmasters, the desire to grow by assisting and supporting others. You are invited to join us.

Please contact Joel Face at extension 5940 for information about the schedule of meetings for Heritage Toastmasters.

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District Engineer . . . . Col. Edward Rapp  
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Al-Anon is a twelve step program for families and friends of practicing or recovering alcoholics. The American Medical Association recognized alcoholism as a disease in 1955. Al-Anon was founded in 1950 to assist individuals who are affected by alcoholics. If you have an important friend or loved one who is affected by alcoholism, please attend the American Center Al-Anon group Tuesday at noon on the sixth floor of the Ramsey County Nurses office, or call 771-2208 for further information.

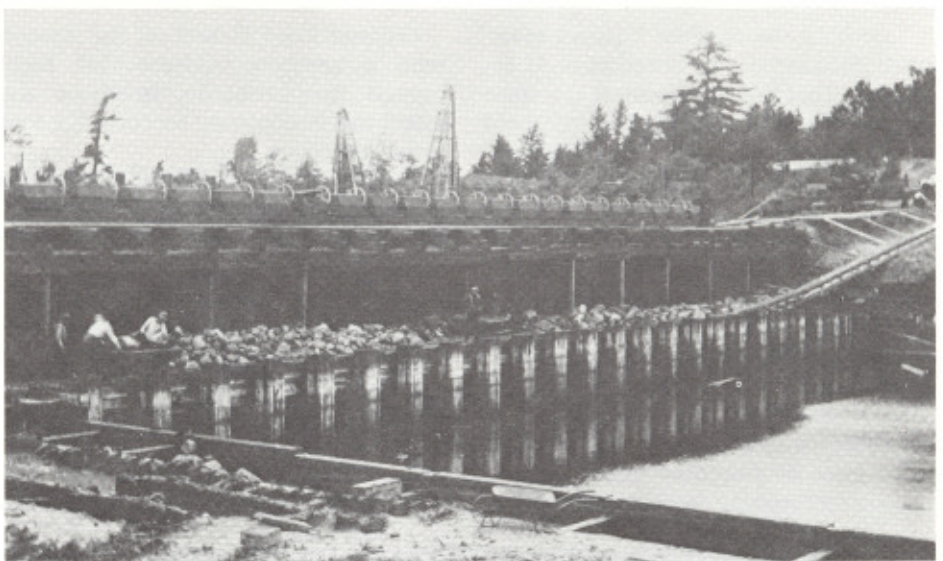
## Mississippi River Headwaters

In 1860, Major General Warren, the first St. Paul District engineer, performed field surveys in the Mississippi River headwaters region. Less than ten years later, Congress authorized a study to determine whether a series of dams and reservoirs constructed in this area could assist in stabilizing the water flow between St. Paul and Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin. As a result of these studies, the district designed a system of dams capable of raising water levels and storing annual spring runoff in six existing lake systems or reservoirs, for release when low water downstream caused hazards to navigation.

Construction of an experimental timber dam was begun at Lake Winnibigoshish in the winter of 1881, and timber dams at Pokegama Falls and Leech Lake were begun in 1883. Despite delays caused by poor transportation connections, severe weather, Indian problems and the need to work around heavy logging operations, the three dams were completed and functioning by 1884. Each dam was built by a crew of about 300 skilled and unskilled workers, with laborers being paid \$1.10 a day.

These timber dams began deteriorating and by 1900 the dam at Lake Winnibigoshish was rebuilt with concrete. The forms were removed from the concrete at Leech Lake in 1903 and in the following year the Pokegama dam was also finished.

Dam tenders were provided government living quarters adjoining each of the reservoir dams. Many of the original buildings, with some modifications, are still being used. During the early



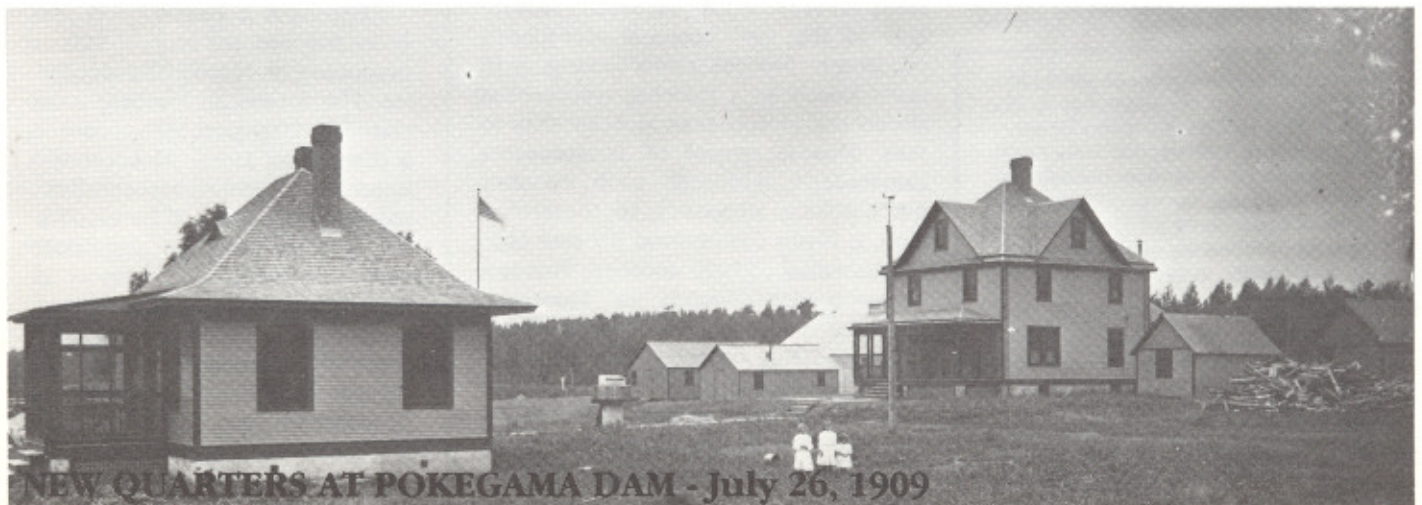
part of the twentieth century these residences were isolated outposts, accessible by team and wagon only when the roads were passable. Without adequate roads, most of the travel between reservoirs was done by railroad before World War I.

Although the primary purpose for the reservoir system was to aid in navigation below St. Anthony Falls, they also aided the lumbermen by providing a constant water supply on which to transport logs. Sluiceways for the logs were built in the dams; dam tenders would open them to accommodate lumbermen whenever they needed water to float logs downstream. Major Shunk summarized the attitude of the St. Paul office in 1909 when he reported to the Chief of Engineers that, "the movement of logs... is the most important form of navigation on this part of the river." In

1905, over two-billion feet of lumber were processed in the State of Minnesota. In one single year, the lumber industry processed enough wood to form a solid plank road 15-feet wide stretching all the way around the world—25,000 miles. During that peak year of 1905, 491 million feet of logs were floated out of the reservoir area to the big log booms at Brainerd.

There are now six dams in the headwaters area that are capable of raising water levels and storing annual spring runoff. These include Gull Lake, Leech Lake, Sandy Lake, Winnibigoshish Lake, Pokegama Lake and Pine River dams.

The headwaters reservoirs no longer serve the original purpose for which they were constructed, but do provide flood control and storage for additional water during periods of drought, and offer outstanding oppor-



tunities for water-based recreation activities. In addition, the lakes support major populations of fish, and provide habitat for a number of furbearing mammals. The forests, marshes, and wetlands also furnish a haven for many species of wildlife and waterfowl.

The Mississippi River headwaters area is recognized nationwide for its natural beauty, abundant fish and wildlife, and unsurpassed, four-season leisure activities: swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, snowmobiling, hunting, cross country skiing and ice fishing, to name only a few.

Make plans now to join the Corps family on July 21 and 22 in the celebration of the Centennial of Lake Winnibigoshish, Pokegama Lake and Leech Lake.



## Mississippi Headwaters Centennial Celebrations Schedule of Events 21-22 July 1984

### Lake Winnibigoshish

Saturday, 21 July 1984

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Open House  
Dam Tours  
Movie  
Slide Show

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Centennial Ceremony  
Guest Speakers

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Local Special Events

Sunday, 22 July 1984

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Open House  
Tours  
Movie  
Slide Show

### Leech Lake

Saturday, 21 July 1984

10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Open House  
Dam Tours  
Movie  
Indian Pipe Ceremony  
Pow Wow

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Local Special Events

Centennial Ceremony  
Guest Speakers

Sunday, 22 July 1984

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Open House  
Tours  
Movie  
Slide Show

### Pokegama Lake

Saturday, 21 July 1984

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Open House  
Dam Tours  
Movie  
Slide Show

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Local Special Events  
Guest Speakers

Sunday, 22 July 1984

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Open House  
Tours  
Movie

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Centennial Ceremony  
Guest Speakers

## Eau Galle Experiments

The Corps of Engineers Eau Galle Recreation Area at Spring Valley, Wisconsin is conducting an experiment in picnicking.

Since a large percentage of its visitation is for picnicking, the Eau Galle project directs much of its maintenance and development toward the local day user.

The experiment consists of permitting advance reservations for a fee of either shelter with electrical power. Only one shelter may be used in reservation for any given day; and each shelter is available for free use without power when not reserved.

If this experiment proves popular at Eau Galle, other Corps projects may consider instituting similar arrangements.



*A second picnic shelter was added to the main day use area at the Eau Galle Recreation Area in May. The new pitched-roof wood structure shelters eight picnic tables and is immediately accessible from the main parking lot by a handicap ramp. This new shelter and the original nine-table wooden arch shelter are now equipped with electrical outlets.*

## New Program For Corps

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the DoD Execution agent for implementation of the Environmental Restoration Defense Account (ERDA). ERDA covers both active installations and formerly used DoD properties. The St. Paul District will survey 31 sites out of the 80 sites in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

ERDA is a congressionally directed (P.L. 98-212) account to provide visibility for an expanded effort in environmental restoration. It emphasizes the identification, investigation, and prompt cleanup of contamination from hazardous substances and wastes; correction of other environmental damage, such as unexploded ordnance detection and disposal; demolition and removal of unsafe and unsightly buildings and structures; debris removal; and improvements in DoD's hazardous waste operations.

The Huntsville Division is responsible for the overall inventory phase, as well as the engineering phase for ordnance and explosive waste removal. The Missouri River Division is responsible for the engineering phase for hazardous and toxic waste disposal. The local geographical Civil Works Districts are responsible for the engineering phase for building demolition and debris removal.

Construction contracts will be awarded by the organization responsible for the engineering, i.e., Huntsville Division for ordnance and explosive wastes, Missouri River Division for hazardous and toxic wastes, and local Civil Works Districts for building demolition and debris removal. Local Corps Districts will monitor construction.

## People

**Newcomers:** The St. Paul District welcomes the following new employees: David Kitzman; Jack Hare; James Auer; Robert Brown; Robert Baumgartner; Lawrence Becwar; Leon Bowman; James Hastings; Otis Jacobson; Dennis Johnson; Robert Kaczorowski; John Rahle; Clark Moser; Darrel Oldenburg; Robert Seeling; Celeste Baines; John Bock; Sherry Foss; Scott Gahnz; Michael Gee; Rojean Meyer; Curtis Johnson; Douglas Johnson; Jeffrey Larson; Jane Lissick; Patrick Longtin; Robert Lucey; Eric Mickelson; Camie Misener; Jacob Pikus; Ann Prochowicz; Troy Rian; Charles Speltz; Troy Thompson; Brian Tobeck; Michael Turnock; Deneen Vignald; Christine Vonkreuzhof; Paul Wiczorek; Gary Wiersgalla; Barbara Lapierre; and Diane Utech.

**Departures:** Farewell and good luck to the following employees who have left the St. Paul District: Joseph Salas; Geri Plahn; Shari Grutner; and Luann Oolman.

**Retirements:** Congratulations and good luck to the employees who have retired from the St. Paul District. They are: Therese Gaspard and Fremont Jewell.

**Promotions / Positions Changes - May 1984:** Congratulations to the following St. Paul District employees who have either received a promotion, position change or both: Juliana Herdandez; Myrna Jinks; Billie Kimler; James Ryan; Janis Thomsen; Janice Wallace; Ann Marie Wright; Anthony Chelowski; Leo Hentges; Alan Seipel; David Kriesel; and Stanley Peterson Jr.

## Everybody, Somebody, Nobody, Anybody?

Submitted by: Jim Adams

Once upon a time there were four people named Everybody, Somebody, Nobody, and Anybody. When there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized Nobody would do it.

So it ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.

## St. Paul Pondering

by Kennon Gardner

Like a weary traveler, it came to rest on my desk. It had made the rounds and no one wanted it. Rejected at every turn.

With a non-caring initial, an unfeeling line and the quick addition of another routing number, the package had been sent on its way. The NEXT office would undoubtedly take care of it. Like an orphan sent from relative to relative.

The process appeared to be done quickly—almost as if the routers were embarrassed by the act of forwarding the package to another office.

Or maybe the act of "passing the buck" was done quickly in fear that anyone pondering the package a little too long might get stuck with an unwanted project.

Whatever the feelings of the "faceless" routers, the orphan had made its lonely way slowly through the bureaucracy and past the sign stating "The Corps Cares." From the mail room to an office on 15; then down to 12; back to 14; and finally to Public Affairs.

The package, containing an invention patent for a former district employee and a letter from the Chief of Engineers, was holding up well under the stress of travel and rejection. Just a coffee stain on the envelope and a few finger smudges on the Chief's letter.

However, the story of this package's travels and where the trip ended (Whiteman AFB, Knobnoster, MO) is not the important thing. More significant is how we, as an organization, re-

spond to the challenge of directing a package to the correct destination.

Do we care enough to take the time and effort to find out which office really handles a certain subject? Or are we "Buck passers?" If it was your letter (either to you or from you) would you want it bounced from in-box to in-box in the hope that eventually it would find its way to the correct desk?

If it was my letter, I would want someone to care enough to help direct it to the right office. Not just by adding another number on the routing slip but by getting involved. By making a quick phone call to determine which office handles this matter.

That's what I would want to happen if it were my letter. What would you want to happen if it was your letter?

## Donald Duck Retires

Arnews

After 43 years of honorable service, Donald Fauntleroy Duck has been retired from the active Army.

The Walt Disney character was promoted to the rank of sergeant E-5, then retired during an Armed Forces parade in Torrance, California May 19, 1984. Lt. Gen. Arthur E. Brown, Jr., director of the Army staff and Grand Marshal for the parade, performed the promotion and retirement honors.

Donald was inducted March 24, 1941, in a film called "Donald Gets Drafted." He served throughout World War II as a soldier in several other films. His likeness, also, was used as a symbol on ships, airplanes and unit insignias.

Donald's retirement coincides with his 50th anniversary in show business. The parade focused public attention on the 40th anniversary commemorations of the Normandy invasion and other allied victories that brought an end to World War II.

## Astronaut to Keynote Engineers' Conference

Astronaut, George "Pinky" Nelson, member of NASA's recent 41-Charlie crew dispatched to rescue the ailing Solar Max satellite, will be the keynote speaker for the first MIDWEST ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE set for October 24-26, 1984, at the Minneapolis auditorium. Nelson will share his "Buck Rogers" style experience at a luncheon for conference registrants on Wednesday, October 24.

Additional highlights of the conference include a major trade exhibition featuring products and services of interest to a broad range of engineering disciplinarians.

The professional development portion of the program will include nearly a dozen seminars and workshops on topics including economic forecasting, computer usage in both public and private industry sectors, rebuilding the infrastructure, marketing, management and the legal responsibilities of engineering.

Registration forms may be obtained by contacting the conference manager, Bigelow and Associates, 1421 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404, or call (612) 333-6655.

## Army Selects Two Astronauts

An Army officer and an Army civilian employee are on the most recent list of astronaut candidates chosen by the National Astronautics and Space Administration.

Maj. James C. Adamson and physicist Kathryn C. Thornton will report to NASA's Johnson Space Center this summer to begin a year-long training program with hopes of being selected for future space shuttle flight crews.

Adamson, 38, is a flight controller with the Systems Division at the Space Center. He is a native of Warsaw, New York and holds a Master of Science degree in Aeronautics and Mechanical Engineering from Princeton University.

Thornton, 32, from Montgomery, Alabama works at the Army Foreign Science and Technology Center in Charlottesville, Virginia. She holds a Doctorate in Physics from the University of Virginia.

The two were chosen from almost 5,000 applications submitted for 17 astronaut nominee positions.

# MAP OF HEADWATERS AREA

