



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Why St. Paul was Chosen for Automation Activities

In December, 1983, St. Paul was selected by NCD to become a "Super Automated" district, for the following reasons:

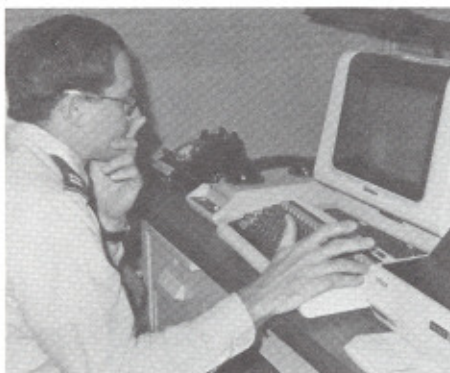
—St. Paul is an ideal location because of the accessibility to large companies which manufacture and support large main frame and micro-computer equipment. Honeywell, Control Data, IBM, AT&T, and Sperry-Univac all have corporate headquarters or major manufacturing & consulting arms within the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

—St. Paul has a nationally recognized "high tech" neighbor in the Minnesota Land Management Information Center. The State of Minnesota invested over \$10 million in developing a highly sophisticated geo-information system. The district has used this system in developing reports for GREAT I and the Land Use Allocation Plan for the Upper Mississippi River navigation system. In addition, numerous potentials exist for linking this system to our regulatory functions and water resource planning programs.

—St. Paul is recognized by the Department of the Army and the Office Chief of Engineers as having perhaps the finest training and development program in the Corps of Engineers. An

automation effort of this type will require a great deal of training and support. The Twin Cities area also contains numerous institutions of higher learning that could provide support to this effort. The University of Minnesota Institute of Technology, Brown Institute, CDC Learning Centers, and a host of small colleges represent just a few.

—St. Paul has played a leadership role in ongoing efforts to modernize the personnel administration aspects of the Corps of Engineers Management Information System, (COEMIS). The district serves as the NCD COEMIS coordinator for personnel administra-



Captain Kasprisin (ED-M) works on a database program for tracking messages during a mobilization exercise.

Photo by: Pam McFaden

tion. St. Paul also serves as a special consultant for data base management and for testing changes in personnel administration.

—St. Paul assumed a leadership role in developing and testing refinements and applications to the computerized Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP). Efforts have resulted in significant refinements in HEP software and the development of a program to increase mitigation efforts in support of the Assistant Secretary of the Army's current mitigation policy.

—St. Paul is a full service district with strong programs in all functional areas. The district has a great need to implement effective measures that will handle the vast amounts of data. This will assist the district in accomplishing the assigned missions and to produce quality products in a cost effective manner.

—St. Paul has used automation extensively in executing the district's regulatory program. It has developed a highly flexible data base on all NCS permit and enforcement actions. While dealing with the complex ecological resources found in Minnesota and Wisconsin, St. Paul has been a key factor in becoming a leader in NCD because of producing the most timely products in a cost effective manner.

See St. Paul . . . page 8

Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season

The Federal Employees Health Benefits open season will be held from 5 November through 7 December 1984. Open season is your annual opportunity to join the FEHB program if you are not enrolled. If you are enrolled, it is your opportunity to change your health plan coverage.

All employees eligible for health benefits will receive the 1985 Enroll-

ment Information Guide and Plan Comparison Chart through office mail distribution. Field sites will be provided 1985 brochures for the individual plans. These brochures will also be available in the personnel office for district office employees to review.

Any employee wishing to enroll or change enrollment should review the individual plan brochures before mak-

ing a decision, then complete form SF 2809 (Health Benefits Registration Form Revised July 1984), which is available in the personnel office or at field sites. The SF 2809 (July 1984 version) must be received in the personnel office by close of business on 7 December 1984.

Questions on the FEHB open season can be directed to the technical services branch, (612) 725-7515 or 7516

Commander's View

by Col. Edward G. Rapp
District Engineer

Computers are often depicted as space-age marvels that can educate your children, balance your household budgets, and completely organize a hectic workplace with the simple touch of a key.

Much of this approach is media hype designed to sell products. In the St. Paul District's move toward automation, we are not concerned with this type of "gee-whiz" gadgetry. Rather we are concerned with making use of modern tools and technologies so that we can do our jobs more quickly and accurately. But automation by itself doesn't help us unless there is a certain discipline that goes with it.

Just as throwing money or manpower at a problem doesn't automatically solve it, automation without discipline is not a cure-all.

You often hear references to having the right person for the right job at the right time. But you also have to have the right information at the right time in the right amounts. Too much or too little information or information on Friday that was needed on Tuesday adds to our inefficiency. And we can't afford inefficiency and still remain competitive in today's world.

Our most important automation need at present is providing support to our managers and technical staff so that they may better project workloads and accomplish their assigned tasks more efficiently.

In order to determine what kind and how much information we need in the St. Paul District, we are going through an information analysis study. First, we have to decide what the product or

service is which we want to produce. That is, "What are we trying to accomplish?" Then we will look at the critical decisions that are required for us to accomplish that objective. Finally, we will determine what types of information are critical in making those decisions. We will also look at the associated costs of managing that information.

With this information in hand, we can make intelligent decisions about how we should organize our workforce and what resources should be committed toward managing our valuable storehouse of information in a disciplined and responsible way.

Remember, the task of managing automation is not the exclusive mission of ADP. They are our technical experts, operators and advisors. However, managing automation is the mission of all our operational managers. They must be disciplined information managers.

If we do this right, we can reduce our overhead, gain efficiency and get more work done for the dollars we are getting.

Finally, we need to remember that not all efforts require automation. Some things still need "to be documented the old fashioned" way with paper and pencil.



Col. Rapp & Hildegard Wimmer

Photo by: Lyle Nickay

Hall of Fame

Hildegard L. Wimmer was selected to the St. Paul District Hall of Fame on September 12, 1984. Ms. Wimmer worked for the district from 1937 to 1976. She began working as a GS-2 clerk-stenographer and finished her career as a personnel director, GS-13. This accomplishment is noteworthy because it came at a time when no other woman occupied management level positions and very few women functioned in supervisory roles in the district. Ms. Wimmer developed various specialized branches within the personnel office creating the concept of a total personnel program. Her achievements, dedication, and personal qualities make her an outstanding member of the Hall of Fame.

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District Engineer Col. Edward Rapp
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New Regulations for Corps Permits

by Jacqueline Petersen (CO-RF)

Nationwide (blanket-type) permits for placing fill material in headwaters streams and in isolated water bodies, such as prairie potholes, will be more restrictive as a result of regulations that were issued in October.

Under the new regulations, projects that will affect more than ten acres may require a full public interest review. The regulatory branch will be taking a closer look at those that will affect one to ten acres in headwaters and isolated water bodies. This includes streams with a flow of less than five cubic feet per second and lakes that are not connected to navigable waters. To tailor the program to state resources and regulatory authority, conditions are being worked out with state agencies to protect waters and wetlands such as trout streams, trout lakes, federal wild and scenic rivers and their tributaries and calcareous fens.

The activities affected by the recent change are: outfall and intake structures; fills for small hydropower projects; fills associated with surface coal mining; projects of federal agencies; and discharges into headwaters or isolated water-bodies.

What Kind of Hardware Will We Get?

An extensive process to identify available microcomputer equipment to meet the needs of district employees has been completed. Based on the evaluation of 27 proposals, AT&T Information Systems was selected to supply the St. Paul District with microcomputers.

Two types of microcomputers will be acquired. The AT&T PC 6300, which is a 16-bit machine, will become the workhorse of many offices. These machines would run Lotus 1-2-3, dBase II, and Wordstar at the time of purchase. The reason being that machines running these software package would also be capable of running thousands of others.

The AT&T 3B2/300, 32-bit microcomputer is geared to handle the complicated engineering applications and other applications which require high speed and large data bases. This 32-bit machine uses UNIX V as an operating system and will be capable of running FORTRAN-77 programs.

Printers selected for district automation activities include the Diablo Model 620 for letter quality work, the Okidata Microline 84 (132 column) dot matrix printer for near letter quality and the Hewlett Packard HP7475 6-pen plotter for graphics.

Within the next few weeks, the equipment described above will begin appearing in various district offices. Around Christmas, more equipment is scheduled to arrive.



Letter

Editors note: The following is part of a letter that was received from **Vernon M. Moen**.

Dear Col. Rapp:

On Monday, August 13, while going downstream through Lock and Dam No. 4, my wife accidentally fell overboard from our houseboat and was rescued by the quick action of Lyle C. Micheals and William C. Mountin.

With utter disregard for his own safety, Lyle Michaels jumped into the water between our boat and the lock wall to grab my wife and prevent her from being crushed between the boat and the wall of the lock and drowning. With the assistance of William Mountin, they were able to get her back aboard the houseboat.

We are eternally grateful to these two gentlemen for their act of courage.

Jean Turcotte (DO) assists in the installation of the microcomputers. The microcomputers arrived in the District November 1.

Photo by Pam MaFaden

Confessions of a Computer User.

I'll admit it! I'm a computer user. I started out small with taking a few courses at the university, and then I began to use the Harris computer. Then the micros started appearing around the district, so I took more classes. It wasn't long before I was hooked. I would like to tell you about some of the lessons that I have learned so that you may not make the same mistakes I have made.

Don't be afraid to use it. It's very difficult to damage the machines. If you lose some of your work when you first starting out, don't let that discourage you! In fact, one of the best ways to learn about how to get the most out of your machine is to experiment. For example, a student in one of my classes pushed every key to see what it would do, and it didn't hurt the computer or the software one bit!

Be sure to read and reread the various manuals on the computer or

software packages that you're going to be using. When you're ready to give it a try, don't let the little messages that appear, on those rare occasions when something does go wrong, upset you. Once you understand what's happening, the error messages do make sense. It is frustrating, but by reviewing the manuals you will begin to make sense of it and everything will become more clear. You will become less afraid to try different things to solve a problem and before you know it you will be an expert. It's all trial and error and sooner or later you're bound to hit the right keys in the proper order.

Probably the most important thing to remember is to ask questions! Everybody has their own way of doing things, and you can learn from their mistakes and triumphs. But don't think the computer can do all your work. It is simply a tool to let you work more effectively.

Flood Fighters Bag Success at Crookston

District flood fighters recently constructed a sandbag levee on the banks of the Red Lake River. Also, protection for a flooding manhole was constructed, emergency pumps were installed, and polyethylene was laid to provide bank protection. These projects were part of the Joint Corps of Engineers/Disaster Emergency Service flood training exercises (FTX) that were held October 4 at Crookston, Minnesota. Over ninety federal, state and local officials from Minnesota and North Dakota participated in the FTX.

By constructing the projects, it gave the participants a "hands-on" demonstration of techniques used during an actual flood. "With this training, the Corps flood organization can better respond to emergencies," emphasized Ben Wopat, chief, emergency management division. "We must continue to be prepared to fill our traditional role of providing flood fight expertise and guidance to communities in need."

The FTX started with discussions on the North Dakota and Minnesota emergency service organizations. Corps assistance during a flood, emergency flood measures, and neighborhood flood planning and operation were then discussed.

Dr. Stanley Sahlstrom, University of Minnesota - Crookston, was a Corps of Engineer Officer during World War II. Dr. Sahlstrom emphasized the need for training to prepare for emergencies, encouraging all participants to be actively involved in the exercise.

James Ruyak (CO-PO) led the demonstrations that were conducted by twenty district employees. "This is the second regional FTX that the district has sponsored," stated Ruyak. "The opportunity to meet and work with local officials in their areas are very worthwhile. Along with the chance to train, the exchange of ideas and techniques between Corps, state and local flood fighters made the FTX a success." Ruyak stressed, "When flooding occurs in this area, the total emergency response will be more effective."

Although only Corps personnel were involved in the "hands-on" work, other participants were able to observe the demonstrations. The demos showed the proper construction technique, the manpower required, and the amount of time it takes to construct the measures. Craig Hinton (CO-M) directed the sandbag levee construction; Bruce Nelson (CO-RF)

directed the placement of poly sheeting; Lon Meixner, (CO-M) directed the Crisafulli and Flygt pump demonstration and coordinated the sewer plug installation demonstration; Thomas Oksness (CO-PO) directed the construction of a chimneyed manhole protection; and William Spychalla (PD-PF) coordinated the tour of emergency levees. Other district personnel who participated were: Curtis Hanson, (CO-PO); Dale Mazar, (ED-M); Joel Rogers, (CO-CT); Bruce Ragan, (CO-CT); Herb Nelson, (PD-PF); Tom Heyerman (ED-D); Barry Drazkowski (PD-ER); Howard Ecklund (CO-RF); ILT Mark Eitrem (EM); Ken Gardner (PA); and Lyle Nicklay (AS-P).

"One of the objectives of the demonstrations is to show how much effort it takes to construct emergency measures," remarked David Christenson, district natural disaster planner. "The Corps flood fighters put a lot of effort into this exercise. They were enthusiastic and worked hard."

The comments on the FTX were very favorable. The North Dakota Disaster Emergency Service indicated an interest in supporting a joint FTX in North Dakota.

"These regional exercises will continue in Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota as long as we have support from the states and district people and the exercises result in improving our response effectiveness," said Wopat.

Any comments or suggestions on the exercises, should be directed to David Christenson at 725-7511.

Listen to Your Body

No matter what your age, walking is a practice that can make you healthier and happier. However, it is important to listen to your body when walking. If you develop dizziness, pain, nausea, or any other unusual symptom, slow down or stop. If the problem persists, see your physician before walking again.

The main objective in walking should be to steadily improve your performance, not to walk further or faster than someone else. Even individuals of similar age and build vary widely in their capacity for exercise.



Corps employees place sandbags and poly-sheeting around a CMP to demonstrate protection from a flooding manhole.

Photo by: Lyle Nicklay

Software — What Will it Do for Me?

Software, also called programs, make the computer do what the user wants it to do. While there are many different types of software packages designed to perform various computer operations, district employees destined to use the new micro-processors will more than likely be using only three or four general types of programs. These include word processing, database and spreadsheet programs.

The district has adopted Wordstar as the standard package for word processing. Word processing packages makes the mechanics of reports, memos, and writing easier. Wordstar has an optional speller, Spellstar. Other spelling packages such as The Word Plus are also available. Even though these packages have as many as 60,000 words in their dictionaries, they can only tell you if the word you used was spelled right or wrong. For example, a typical typo might be "tot he" instead of "to the." The speller would not detect such errors.

Lotus 1-2-3, Multiplan, Visi-Calc, and Super-Calc are examples of spreadsheet software packages. Spreadsheet programs are used when you need to work with tables of figures and perform arithmetic computations. With a spreadsheet package, you enter the data, tell the computer what functions to perform on what data and where to display the answers. The real time savings comes when you have to change a number or two. The computer will automatically recalculate the answers.

So far, the district has been using spreadsheet sheets to track project funding, workloads and construction/contractor progress. Even the evaluation and scoring process used in the procure-

ment of our new micros was done on a spreadsheet. Any task that requires numbers to be manipulated is a good candidate for a spreadsheet. The district is also purchasing a number of desk-top plotters that will draw the graphs in color, which are created by the spreadsheet programs.

Database management systems typically are used to handle the information normally written on file cards. Actually, those software packages can be used for much more. A popular database package, one the district is buying, is dBase II. This package includes its own programming language and has been the basis for various accounting programs, library programs, inventory control, as well as mailing lists. Once the list is created the user can have the list rearranged alphabetically or numerically. The entire file can be quickly searched for individual entries meeting certain criteria such as addresses in a specific zip code or names beginning with a specific letter.

The major uses of databases so far in the district has been for mailing lists. A database program was also used for logging and tracking messages during a recent mobilization exercise. As more people become familiar with databases and begin experimenting with possible uses, overall database use will increase.

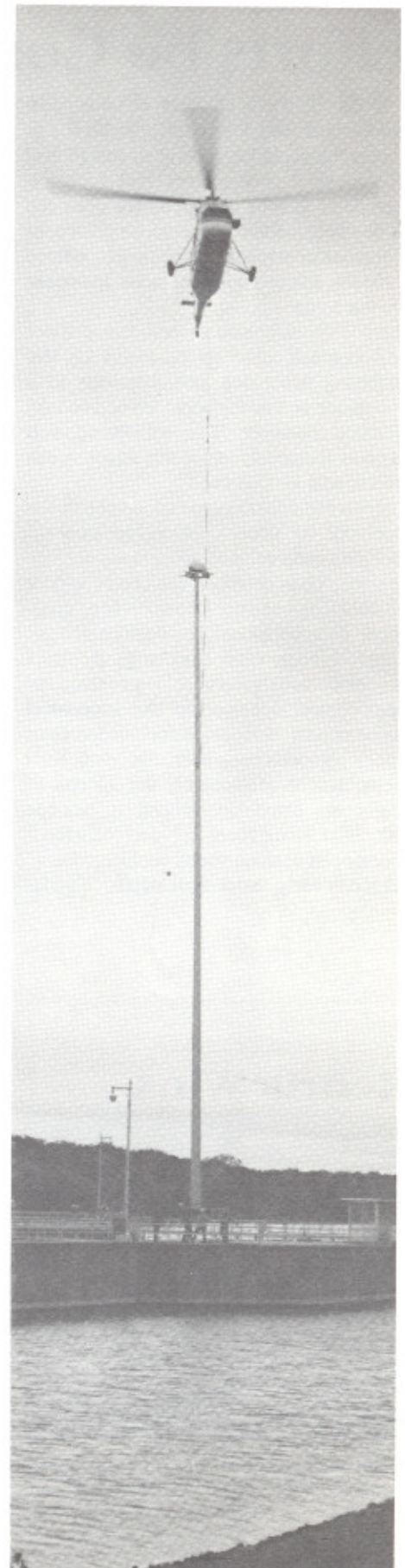
One new area of software that is just beginning to be used is the integrated software such as Lotus's Symphony and Ashton-Tate's Framework. Con-Ops recently purchased Symphony

See Software . . . page 8

New Lights

In the photo to the right a helicopter lowers a 100-foot long high mass light onto Lock & Dam No. 2. This is the first time this type of a project has been done in the district. Two high mass lights were placed at each lock and dam from Lock & Dam No. 2 through No. 10. It took the helicopter 15-20 minutes to set each light in place. The project was completed in a day and a half.

Photo by: Lyle Nicklay



Notice

Found in government vehicle . . . one roll of 126 color film, photos of scour repair at Lock and Dam No. 5. Pictures may be claimed at the motor vehicle desk at 725-7552.

Where Will Automation Efforts be Concentrated?

If the St. Paul District is to remain competent and a trusted "Federal Engineer," it must be willing to install and use present procedures and technology. That is why the primary concern of the district is to direct the efforts of automation toward those areas where positive measurements can increase productivity.

By becoming automated, the district will remain able to respond to the changing priorities and missions in a professional, timely, cost effective and efficient manner. The following will explain the areas in which automation efforts will be directed.

Corporate Management — Automation will be used to develop easy-to-use procedures and programs to improve the methods for work scheduling, study monitoring, program development, budget management, manpower leveling, project monitoring and periodic reporting requirements. Because of the increased involvement of non-federal interests in water resources planning, development, and management, the Corps of Engineers must be willing to accept the introduction of automation changes in management techniques.

Engineering and Scientific Appli-

cations — Increased support will be provided to the engineering and scientific professionals by acquiring and using microcomputer technology. The Corps, like other federal agencies, is faced with the challenge of accomplishing an expanded mission with a decrease in manpower levels. The only way this challenge will be met is by increasing the productivity of its remaining work force through increasing the use of microcomputer technology and automation. Specific areas of emphasis will include economic analysis, futures, cost estimating, specifications, scientific calculations and statistical analysis.

Database Management Systems — Methods and procedures used to collect, store, analyze, and display information will be automated and modernized. This will enable the district to effectively accomplish its assigned missions. Information is a valuable and often costly resource. Mishandling it or inadvertently destroying it is unacceptable from a corporate management viewpoint. Therefore, methods and procedures will be developed to insure that only needed information is collected. Once collected, it must be properly stored and made readily ac-

cessible to everyone that has need to use it.

Word Processing — The district will accelerate in acquiring and using automated word processing systems. If the Corps could operate totally within an automated environment, it would still be faced with responding quickly and efficiently to its principle customer . . . the public. The proper use of word processing equipment linked with retrievable data from an available data base would provide the district with a future capability of responding to the public in a timely manner.

Corporate Communications — The St. Paul District will work toward developing an automated system of corporate communications for all key of-fice personnel.

Remote Sensing — As time and funding permit, an automated geographic data collection, storage, analysis, and display capability will be developed by acquiring an Image Processing System (IPS). Such a system would have the capability to process and display digital format remote sensing data, convert aerial photography and map products into digital format, and store, process, and display such information.

Don't Let Your Body Get the Best of You

Henrik Wins



John Blackstone (ED-M) hands Henrik Strandskov (CO-RF) a trophy for winning an area Humorous Speech Contest that was held on October 9. Henrik is a member of the Heritage Toastmasters.

Photo by: Pam McFaden

The bones of men and women after age 35 tend to become soft, thin and brittle. This process known as osteoporosis, is due to a decrease in calcium intake. Because women have a smaller bone mass than men, the aging process is accelerated after menopause by 45 percent compared to 25 percent in men.

To prevent osteoporosis, a high calcium diet and exercise is needed to regain some of the bone mass in adults.

If the body loses more calcium than it takes in, it will take from the bones to power the muscles and nerve cells and over a 25 year period the body can consume one-third of the human skeleton. Sources of calcium can be found in milk, hard cheeses, red salmon, nuts and green leafy vegetables.

Not only is diet important, but exercising bones and joints in a full range of

movement at least three times a week will also help slow down the process of osteoporosis. Corps employees have the opportunity to use the exercising facility on the 16th floor and attend a variety of programs. The facility is open Monday through Friday and can be used individually or with group support. Mary Marx leads an advanced aerobic class from 12:00 to 12:45, and Jean Schmidt conducts a beginning class for women only from 12:45 to 1:00.

For further information on osteoporosis there is the Melopomene Report: A Journal for Women's Health Research, volume three, "Controlling Osteoporosis with Exercise, Diet & Hormone Therapy;" and Your Good Health, volume two, "How to Stay in Calcium & Prevent Osteoporosis."

People

New Employees, Transfers, Promotions: Kathryn Jahr, personnel staffing specialist (EP-E); Barbara Larson, budget analyst (CO-OP); Marianne Price, equal employment manager (EEO); and Leo Greer, supervisory computer specialist (ADP).

Departures: Jane Anton, personnel staffing specialist (EP-E); and David Costanzo, supervisory personnel staffing specialist (EP-E).

Conversions: Steven Engler, deckhand (Dredge Thompson); Tim Fuller, deckhand (Dredge Thompson); Scott Ressie, deckhand (Dredge Thompson); and Jay Taverna, deckhand (Derrick Barge Hauser).

Promotions: James Flis, clerk-typist (ADP); Jeffery Hanson, civil engineer (ED-GHH); James Johnson, engineering draftsman (ED-D); Thomas Peters, civil engineer (ED-D); David Rydeen, civil engineer (ED-GHH); and Ann Marie Sheie, computer operator (ADP).

Reassignments: Judy Parnell, accounting technical-industrial property management specialist (F&A).

Births: Congratulations to Kathleen & Brent Johnson (PO) on the birth of their son Christopher Brian, on October 10. Christopher who weighed 9 lbs. 7 oz. has one brother, Joshua, and one sister, Jennifer.

Retirement: Robert Voshart, lock and dam mechanic foreman assistant (L/D #7); and Eugene Schuppel, lock and dam mechanic foreman (L/D #3).

Memoriam: Earl L. Fenton, age 77, passed away October 4. Earl was chief of the lock and dam section for the St. Paul District before he retired.



Jean Schmidt

Photo by: Pam McFaden

"The library is a resource center for problem-solving," states Jean Schmidt, librarian for the St. Paul District. Jean started working for the Corps in 1980 after providing reference service on pending legislation at the Minnesota State Senate.

"With the library becoming more and more automated, it enables me to assist the district in many different ways. I can access over 100 databases representing many disciplines through the Dialog Information Service. Most data bases available on Dialog emphasize science and technology, although the subject range is diversifying continually." Jean went on to say, "It is now an everyday occurrence to search Dialog's millions of articles, reports and patents and have results within six or seven minutes."

"I like to work independently with people so I can become acquainted with the kinds of information they need on a sustained basis, not merely the book or report that is needed at a particular moment. The complicating factor is the image people have of a librarian as book conservator, rather than a computer-user and information resource."

Jean belongs to the Special Library Association, which is a professional organization of librarians with specialized collections, serving specific interests. She is also a representative for special libraries in MetroNet, state-wide consortium of multi-type libraries.

After spending so much time indoors, Jean enjoys getting outdoors to ride her horse in search of mushrooms, gardening and trying to catch a new state record walleye.

People Behind the Corps



Leo Greer

Photo by: Pam McFaden

"This is one of the most pleasant places I have worked," stated Leo Greer, chief of the Automatic Data Processing Center. Leo came to the St. Paul District on September 1 from Fort Meade, Maryland, where he was employed as chief of the program analyst section.

While Leo has set many goals for the ADP center, his number one target is supporting the customer. "I believe that without customers, we wouldn't have a job. We will try to answer any question the customer has. We won't leave them high and dry."

"I also plan on making this ADP center the best in the Corps. It won't happen overnight, but I feel I have a knowledgeable staff here and will succeed. Although in order for us to succeed completely, we need input from the customers on their needs and problems so that we can increase our productivity."

Leo doesn't seem to ever tire of the computer world. When he goes home, he relaxes to a good computer book or takes time to work with his own home computer.

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Office Expose

by Deep Tech

I remember our first encounter with its green light blinking at me. It seemed to be saying "use me" but something held me back. It wasn't really fear but some vague uneasiness, and I wouldn't accept its invitation until I was ready to make the first move on my own terms.

However, forces beyond my control dictated that our involvement could not wait until I was ready. So with my nerves steeled and my emotions guarded, I approached it. It calmly winked as if to reassure me and began making small talk about the date and time. I hesitated and answered with my confidence growing. I expected a discussion about the weather next, but it looked at me blankly as if to say, "I'm yours to command; you have but to ask."

I didn't know where to begin, so I decided to make a simple request. It responded immediately, doing exactly as I had asked. Feeling slightly bolder, I made another request. Again, I was

gratified. As we got to know each other better, we were like two children playing games of cat and mouse. Then it happened! Suddenly there was music in the air and I let myself go. The time flew by and soon it was time to part, but I looked forward to our next meeting.

The next day was cool and calm and we started with small talk again with it responding to me in its eager fashion. Then instead of a silent answer to my request, I was met with a loud authoritative "BEEP." I was shocked, hurt, and angry. How dare it treat me this way! After all, hadn't it promised to do my bidding? I felt betrayed.

I tried again and this time my request was obeyed. But when I tried again, I received another "BEEP." What was it trying to do to me? After awhile I learned that it would only do some of the things I asked, and only if I asked them in a certain manner. It was not my slave, and I was determined not

to be its slave. So we began the process of understanding each other's wants and needs.

It wasn't easy because we were constantly testing each other; trying to find out what the other's limits were. The room was often filled with beeps and muttered sounds. Then one day, I was aware of a strange silence. Had we finally worked things out between us or was this a lull before an even more severe storm? We would soon find out.

Then all of a sudden another problem arose, but this time we would have to solve it together. As we each contributed our areas of strength, we saw progress toward our goal. We confronted the problem and solved it in less time than anyone expected. We were now a team!

It's still not a bed of roses, with its occasional beeps, but it does come to my rescue when I'm pressed for time. I always keep in mind, that I know what makes it tick and I know how to make it stop ticking.

Mississippi River — Revival

by Dianne K. Forrest

The Mississippi River Revival organization is dedicated to the preservation and clean-up of the Mississippi River. It does not only remove visible garbage but also toxic and possible cancer causing substances that are being dumped into the river.

As federal agencies involved with the Mississippi River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service banded together to create a joint display to show people the roles of these two agencies in the life of the river. During the past two summers, the display has been seen at

river revivals from Hastings, Minnesota, to McGregor, Iowa.

Through these festivals the organization uses education to help people better understand the river, the benefits offered, and the problems it faces. People are provided with the river's ecology, history, and future as presented by various governmental, environmental, commercial or recreational groups. From a single festival held in Minneapolis in 1981, the Mississippi River Revival organization has grown to 13 festivals, held from the source of the Mississippi river at Lake Itasca, Minnesota, to Bellevue, Iowa.

Software . . .

and is beginning to get used to its features. Integrated software usually includes word processing, spread sheet, and database packages in one package that allows you to move between them with ease. We'll be seeing more of these packages in the future.

After that very brief description of what some of the various types of packages do, are you still unsure as to which would be the best for your particular use? Don't feel that you're the only one! Despite what all the ads, brochures, commercials, and sales

people want you to believe, no one package can do everything for everybody everytime. Some packages work better in certain situations than others. Then there is personal preference. My recommendation is to read any and all Reviews and test reports you can find on the software you're interested in. Ask others who are using that particular software what they like/dislike about it. If possible, try it out. One thing to remember about ordering software—once you open it and use the disks, you can't return it.

St. Paul . . .

—St. Paul assumed a lead role in updating and streamlining the water supply demand projection program which was developed by the Institute for Water Resources. These efforts have resulted in a more efficient program that can be run on existing Corps hardware.

—St. Paul installed a number of IBM microcomputers in the construction division to assist the district office and field sites in accomplishing its construction management responsibilities. The placement of needed microcomputer equipment reinforces St. Paul's commitment in providing support to the field engineer.

—St. Paul was a pioneer in the development of automated data bases for use in planning. As far back as 1976, the Environmental Resource Information and Analysis System provided biological species information to Corps biologists for use in the preparation of environmental impact statements.