



US Army Corps
of Engineers

St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 8

No. 4

April 1985



Al Forsberg

Photo by Pam McFaden

Engineer Saves Local Community \$100,000

"I was surprised," said Alan Forsberg, civil engineer in Floodplain Management and Small Projects Branch, as he became the North Central Division nominee for the Corps' Planning Excellence Award. Al's selection as the NCD nominee was announced by Brig. Gen. Jerome B. Hilmes during the division commander's visit to the district on March 21. "This award is really for the entire district. I couldn't have done it without the help of the technical staff," Al said.

Al completed the Lake City small boat harbor project ahead of schedule and earned the local community a return of about \$100,000 in their cost-sharing construction funds. "His contributions to the goals of the Army, the Corps and North Central Division have been truly outstanding. He reflects great credit to himself and to the St. Paul District's planning division," Gen. Hilmes said.

Planning Division

"The Planning Division has the most diverse group of specialists in the St. Paul District. Ranging from engineers, landscape architects and transportation and recreation planners to economists, sociologists, biologists and archaeologists, the diversity of people and specialties makes planning an exciting and rewarding place in which to work.

This unique group of specialists are responsible for providing planning expertise to the rest of the district and for conducting the initial groundwork for most of the work that engineering and construction-operations divisions will be working on later. The division also conducts short and long range planning programs and provides technical assistance and support to Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota.

To meet our wide range of responsibilities, the planning division is organized into four branches.

Plan Formulation Branch conducts and manages congressionally-directed general investigations and develops long range strategies for basin water resources development.

Flood Plain Management and Small Projects Branch develops and manages

projects under the Continuing Authorities Program and provides technical assistance and support to communities, states and other federal agencies.

The Economic-Social-Recreation Branch serves as the district's economist and sociologist, analyzing the economic and social impacts of our proposed, in-design and existing projects. The branch is also responsible for transportation and recreation planning.

Environmental Resources Branch collects and evaluates environmental data, prepares and coordinates environmental documents and assures that the district's activities comply with environmental laws and regulations. They are also responsible for monitoring district activities to insure the preservation and protection of significant cultural resources within the district.

The division's specialists rely on essential support from a team of professional administrative people.

In all, there are 57 people assigned to Planning Division, each dedicated to providing the rest of the district and our other customers with the benefits of their expertise and professionalism."

Lou Kowalski
Chief, Planning Division

Inside: What do the four branches
in Planning do?

Results of the Weight-Off
Contest

Awards

Commander's Viewpoint

by Colonel Ed Rapp

This issue of Crosscurrents takes a look at the activities of our Planning Division.

Planning plays a key role in the St. Paul District and it has again been recognized within the Corps for its outstanding work. Last year, the Mississippi River Planning Team received the Outstanding Planning Achievement Award for North Central Division. This year, Al Forsberg, PD-FS, was named the Outstanding Planner for NCD. This is a tribute to Al and an indication of the quality of the people we have in the St. Paul Corps family.

But Planning's role in the accomplishment of our district mission is more significant than an award or two. Planning

Division is the precursor of all our future activities. What they are conceiving today—their successes or failures—directly impact the workload of the rest of the district. Right now, their successes have been many, especially in major project formulation and in the small projects program.

In the past several years we have gotten more projects successfully through the feasibility stage than any other district—St. Paul, Portage, Sheyenne, Grafton and East Grand Forks, to name a few. Our small projects program now as a que of nearly 60 projects and is probably the healthiest small projects program in the Corps.

Because of this effort, our engineering workload is on a strong upsurge. Engineering Division should hit its peak workload about three years from now. Based on our current approved workload, the district's construction program should not peak until around 1995. The best part is that there are still lots of problems out there yet to be solved. We are limited only by our ability to visualize solutions.

Planning serves not only as the point of our current efforts but also as a barometer of the future for the St. Paul District. Essayons.

Employees Lose 670 Pounds

Six hundred and seventy pounds were lost during the district's first weight-off contest. At the beginning of the contest, 16 teams weighed in at a total of more than 20,840 pounds. Although the goal of losing 1,000 pounds was not reached, the teams have a chance to try again during Part II of the Weight-Off Contest, which began March 18.

There were three categories in which teams could win. They included Total Weight Loss, Percentage Weight Loss and Average Weight Loss.

In the Total Weight Loss category, Rapp's Hammers won first place with 134 pounds lost. The Fat Old Men came in second with 109 pounds lost. Third place went to the Flabber Gasters for losing around 79 pounds. An honorable mention went to the Portly Planners for a 51-pound loss.

The Fat Old Men took first place in the Percentage Weight Loss category by losing slightly less than eight percent of their weight. Rapp's Hammers came in second with over seven percent weight loss. Third place went to the Flabber

Gasters for an almost six percent weight loss. The Portly Planners won an honorable mention for a little more than four percent weight loss.

Rapp's Hammers took first place in the Average Weight Loss category. They lost an average of more than 19 pounds per person. Second place winners were the Fat Old Men who lost slightly less than 16 pounds each. The Flabber Gasters lost more than 11 pounds each to take third place. The Portly Planners won their third honorable mention for losing an average of more than seven pounds each.

Women Tell Why They Work

"When I first began working in 1949, it was hard for a woman to find a high paying job. Those jobs were given to men because they had families to support," Hildegard Wimmer said. This comment was one of many that were given during a panel discussion held as part of Women's History Week, March 3-9. The panel of women were selected for the role they played in increasing job opportunities for women in the district.

The panel was made up of women from around the district. The panel members included Hildegard Wimmer, retired chief of Personnel and member of the St. Paul District Hall of Fame; Margaret Kincaid, retired clerk typist in the ADP

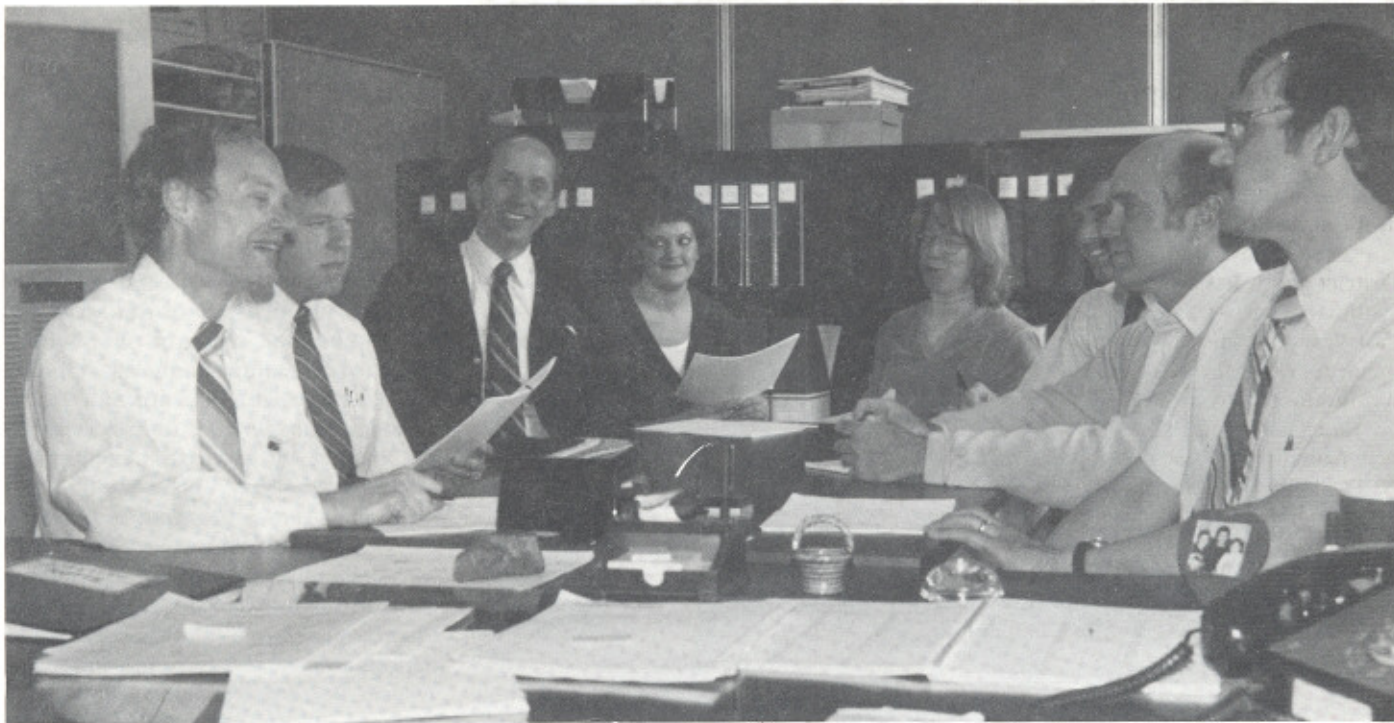
Center; Kristi Synstebly, attorney; Billie Kimler, security specialist; Jody Rooney, chief of the Economic and Social Analysis Section; and Jean Schriever, lock and dam operator at St. Anthony Falls.

"I worked to help my husband support our family during the hard times. I never looked at it as a career," said Billie. The panel members shared their experiences and feelings about setting career goals and working in an male oriented organization. "I knew I could do the work, I just had to prove that I could do it. I believe that if you really want something and you're willing to work for it, anything is possible," Jean said.

Crosscurrents is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published monthly by offset for the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. Deadline for submitting articles is the 10th of each month preceding publication.

Address: Editor, Crosscurrents, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1135 U.S. Post Office & Custom House, St. Paul, Minn. 55101-1479.

*District Engineer Col. Eduard Rapp
Chief, Public Affairs Ken Gardner
Editor Pam McFadden*



(Left to Right) Al Forsberg, Stan Kummer, Bob Stenfors, Theresa Magistad, Mary Schommer, Terry Humbert, Terry Engel and Al Bjorquist from the Floodplain Management and Small Projects Branch attend a weekly staff meeting.

Photo by Pam McFaden

District's Small Projects Program Leads the Corps

"The cooperation between the people in Floodplain Management and Small Projects and the rest of the office has helped to increase the small projects program to a point where it is very successful," said Chuck Crist, chief, Floodplain Management and Small Projects Branch. "In 1984, our branch managed about 23 percent of the total funds available nationwide for the small projects program. The Small Projects Program plays an important part of the district's overall mission."

Forty-five studies and projects are currently underway in the Small Projects Program, also called the Continuing Authorities Program. The program provides communities with assistance to local flood control, erosion and navigation problems. "Under this program, the district funds up to \$4 million for each flood control project. For example, the Enderlin project (now under construction) costs \$4.3 million. As a result the community has to pay the extra

\$300,000," Chuck explained.

The Floodplain Management Program provides technical information and planning guidance to state and local governments on flood and floodplain issues. The branch provides support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Currently there are 10 ongoing flood insurance studies. "One of our current studies is for Scott County. Others are for floodprone communities," Chuck said.

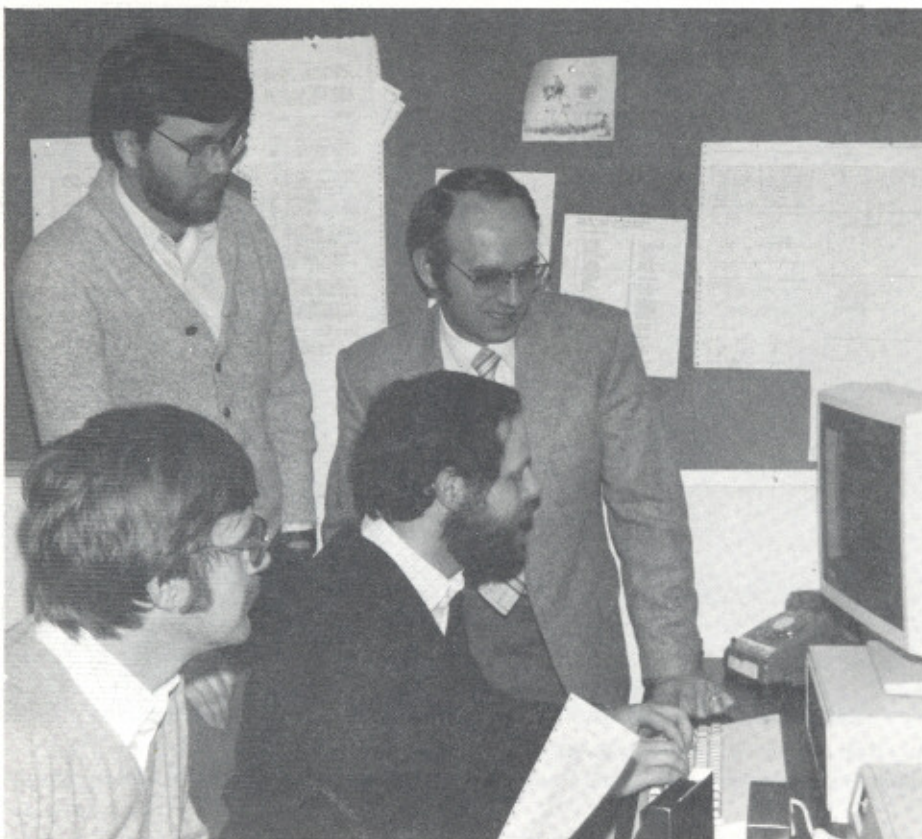
A new program in the branch is Community Assistance. This program provides assistance to communities on floodplain problems. There are six projects underway. "For one of these projects, the State of Wisconsin has asked us to review the flood profiles and developed floodways on the Wisconsin River. Our job is to see if they need to be updated and advise the state as to any recommended changes," Chuck explained.

African Relief Appeal

The American Red Cross once again has made a commitment to the universal family of nations to provide disaster relief to the millions of people in Africa. They are starving to death because of a severe and prolonged drought that has caused the worst famine in this century.

A world-wide goal of \$62 million has been set with the American Red Cross pledged to raise five million dollars. The target is to aid the most vulnerable: nursing mothers, children and the elderly. Contributions to the Red Cross will be used to provide food, medical supplies, vehicles and airlift services to transport goods into Africa.

Both Secretary of Defense Casper Wienberger and Secretary of the Army John Marsh, Jr. have issued memos encouraging both military and civilian employees to consider the need of the African people and give to this deserving cause.



(Clockwise from top left) Dick Beatty, Bob Anfang, Wayne Knott and Dave Berwick use the computer to review environmental data.

Photo by Pam McFaden

Branch Serves as Environmental Watchdog

"We're responsible for all natural and cultural resource matters for existing and proposed Corps projects," said Wayne Knott, chief of the Environmental Resources Branch. The branch assures that the district follows all environmental laws and regulations. The branch's responsibilities include collecting and evaluating environmental data and preparing and coordinating environmental documents.

The branch biologists and archaeologists work closely with project managers from planning, engineering and construction-operations divisions. "We support the divisions on a project from

the time it enters the planning stage to the completion of construction. This insures that the project designs will be environmentally sound," Wayne explained. "In addition to evaluating available environmental data, the assigned project biologist also coordinates with other offices in the district and with Federal and State natural resources agencies. For instance, on each study that the district conducts, we are required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to transfer funds to the Fish and Wildlife Service for a report. In this report the service explains what they believe the

impacts of the proposed project is on fish and wildlife resources. The service will then suggest measures that can be taken to reduce those impacts."

Environmental planning for the operation, maintenance and improvement of existing district projects also is done by this branch. "For example, we assist the Maintenance Branch in planning dredging and dredge material placement operations for maintenance of the Mississippi River nine-foot channel. We monitor water and sediment quality, conduct mussel surveys for endangered species, complete habitat inventories and predict the effects of proposed maintenance actions on the river," Wayne said.

Dredging is not the only concern for the branch along the river. The branch biologists and archaeologists also work on plans to implement GREAT (Great River Environmental Action Team) recommendations, such as the rehabilitation of Weaver Bottoms in Pool 5. They participate in master planning for district reservoir projects by preparing fish and wildlife management plans.

The branch is also involved in programs of national significance. It is nationally recognized for its expertise in developing computer software for implementing the Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) and for providing planning assistance to the states.

HEP involves evaluating the impacts of proposed projects on fish and wildlife habitat and preparing mitigation plans. "For example, if a proposed project will impact on wildlife habitat, we would use HEP to develop a plan to minimize the impact on that habitat or identify areas that can be enhanced to compensate for the loss," Wayne explained. The branch provided assistance to the ADP Center in developing several HEP software programs that are being used by Corps and Fish and Wildlife Service offices nationwide.

Under the Planning Assistance to the States Program, branch biologists have developed a joint Wetlands Evaluation Methodology for Minnesota and Wisconsin and an Instream Flow Incremental Methodology for Minnesota. These two methods evaluate comparative values of fish and wildlife habitat in wetlands and streams.

"Our branch forester has also been recognized for developing a method to assess the effects of inundation on vegetation," Wayne said.

Minnesota, Red Rivers Keep Branch Busy

The Plan Formulation Branch recently completed feasibility studies on the Sheyenne River Basin, Rochester, Minn., Portage, Wis., and Grafton. These studies are authorized by Congress for reducing flood damages. "We're continuing studies for the Red River of the North, Minnesota, Souris and St. Croix rivers over the next several years," said Dave Haumersen, chief of the Plan Formulation Branch.

A fairly new program in the district is the Aquatic Plant Control Program for North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. This program provides federal assistance in areas where water uses become severely restricted by aquatic plant growth. Currently, the branch is conducting a study at Buffalo Lake, Wis. "The lake has been choaked with weeds for the last few years and the resorts around the lake are dying out. Even the people who live around the lake can't use it," Dave said. "The only acceptable solution is harvesting the weeds. It's like mowing your grass and will require a regular maintenance program."

The branch is also responsible for Urban Studies. These studies review all of the water-related activities in a community and provide recommendations. The branch has also completed studies for Duluth-Superior and Grand Forks-East Grand Forks. The study for Fargo-Moorhead is scheduled to be completed in April. "We are waiting for Congress to fund the Mankato study, the last Urban Study on our schedule," Dave said. These studies provide recommendations in the areas of water supply, water conservation, waste water treatment, energy conservation, storm water removal systems and recycling.



(Left to Right) Ed Fick and Dave Haumersen from the Plan Formulation Branch select slides for a presentation.

Photo by Ken Gardner

Tom Raster, a staff member of the branch, represents the district engineer on the Foreign Trade Zone Board. "The board examines applications from foreign countries who would like to bring raw materials into the country to be manufactured into goods. For example, an application received from Canada asked that a foreign trade zone be established at Grand Forks. By doing so, the Canadians could bring raw materials into the U.S. to be manufactured into goods without paying import taxes. When the goods are ready for market, they are then taxed, saving the company money," Tom explained. "There are also federal trade zones in the Twin Cities area."

In 1984, the branch developed long-range strategy reports for each major river

basin in the district. These reports give an overview of flood problems and what the district is doing in each basin. The commander uses these reports as a sounding board when meeting with Congress and the governors in the district.

"This year the study team headed by Martin McCleery was named the Planning Team of the Year in the district. They recently completed the flood control study at East Grand Forks. Although our group is smaller than in the past, we have maintained our quality. Each member is recognized for their high performance in the district," Dave said. "They are often selected for special assignments such as S.A.M.E. conferences and preparing presentations for the commander on various projects."



**Consumers
should
know**

**NATIONAL CONSUMERS WEEK
APRIL 22-28, 1985**



(Left to Right) Jill Olson, Jim Forsyth, Jody Rooney, Frank Star and Chuck Workman from the Economic-Social-Recreation Branch discuss the social impacts of a flood control project.

Photo by Pam McFaden

Variety of Work Keeps Branch Moving at Fast Pace

The Economic-Social-Recreation Branch provides the district with professional services in the area of economic and recreation analyses, social impact assessment, and land use planning. The diverse group of specialists in the branch provides the district with a broad range of capabilities. "This is an interesting place to work because of the people, variety of work and the fast pace," said Chuck Workman, chief, Economic-Social-Recreation Branch.

The branch recently evaluated the alternatives of the economic benefits for the East Grand Forks and Souris River basin flood control projects. "By analyzing social impacts, economic feasibility and recreation potentials, we provide the essential information that is outside of the realm of straight engineering. Much of what we do deals with the social or human aspect of a project," Chuck said. "Sometimes our efforts not only provide needed information to district project managers but can help build support for a project in the local community. This was the case at East Grand Forks, where the branch staff developed a look at the future that described what the community would look like with and without the project. This "future look" helped some East Grand Forks residents make up their minds to support the Corps' proposal.

Another example was the survey we conducted in Pembina and Walsh counties that showed that the farmers supported and were interested in the farmstead levee protection plan."

The branch not only develops economic analyses for flood control studies but also does them for other studies and projects, and for the operation and maintenance activities for the entire district. There are several projects along the Mississippi River that the branch is involved in. The branch is in the process of developing a navigation system benefit model. The model will determine what the benefits will be for any changes made on the river. "For example, if a lock and dam were to be rehabilitated, the model could tell you how it will benefit navigation," Chuck said.

The branch is also updating the Master Plan for the Upper Mississippi River from Guttenberg to Minneapolis. The Land Use Allocation Plan (LUAP), a part of that Master Plan update, has become recognized throughout the Corps. The planning team—James Holloran, Edward McNally, Thomas Oksness, Gary Palesh and Russel Snyder—was selected as the Planning Team of the Year in 1983. The team then received the Outstanding Planning Achievements Award from Washington. "The Land Use Allocation Plan has also

received a Merit Award from the Minnesota Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects," Chuck said. The plan was developed by the branch's Public Use Planning Section which is responsible for recreation master planning, land use planning, recreation benefit evaluations and general outdoor recreation planning. Another project was the Lake Rebecca at Hastings, which received a Landscape Architectural Design Award from OCE in 1983.

Other significant efforts of the branch include the Information Systems Plan (ISP), the district Microcomputer purchase contract and the Macro Analysis for mobilization planning.

The ISP is a special study that the branch has been working on since July 1984. This plan examines the types of information we use, the need for information, and what the costs are of managing it. It is complex and comprehensive and covers most of the information costs for the district.

The district's Microcomputer purchase contract was coordinated by the branch. Included in this effort was the identification of different types of software and hardware that would best fit the needs of individual offices and the district. The

Continued on page 7

People

Career Conditional: David Swanson (ED-D)

Separations: Don Gilliland (L/D 5A); Eric Johnson (Winona Office); Steven Nelson (St. Anthony Falls); Beck Nies (DE); Jean Anderson (EP-E); James Langenfeld (DC); and Maureen Sullivan (EEO).

Retirements: Raymond Blank (Lake Traverse Office); Gerald Ducharme (L/D 1); and Elmer Schmidtkecht (ED-GH).

Conversions: John McQuiston (L/D 3); Joseph Aquirre (L/D 1); Jeffrey Anderson (St. Anthony Falls); Timothy Davis (PD-ES); Donyel Erickson (ADP); Cassandra

Jiles (OAS); Doreen Pevestozl (OAS); and Patricia Volker (PD-ES).

Promotions: John Calhaun (PD); Thomas Caya (L/D 9); Mark Folund (CO-M); Wallace Farrand (L/D 5A); Charles Hiam (L/D 9); Jeff Huseby (Baldhill Dam Office); Lee Kochendorfer (L/D 2); Gerald Lee (Baldhill Dam Office); Stanley Peterson (DC); Paul Richert (CO-RF); Robert Schimming (Baldhill Dam Office); Mary Schommer (PD-FS); Mark Schumaker (Fargo Office); Allan Scipel (ED-GH); Leona Taffe (CO-PO); Orville Vogele (ED-GH); and Roger Worth (L/D 1).



Theresa Magistad

Photo by Pam McFaden

Awards

October 1984—March 1985

Exceptional Performance Ratings—Janet R. Oakleaf (ED-GH); Marvin L. Peclretti (L/D 10); Clinton L. Skoog (Gull Lake Project); James Ruyak (CO-OP); Barry Drazkowski (PD-ER); Eunice B. Beran (ED-D); Roseann M. Christoffersen (DC); Dmald C. Wolfe (Dredge Thompson); Jan Pream (CO-OP); Ann Marie Schele (ADP); Robert C. Stackowiak (ADP); Robert Anfang (PD-ER); Michelle A. Walsh (PD-ER); LeRoy Campbell (Leech Lake Dam); Alan Forsberg (PD-FS); Margaret Peterson (ED); William Spychalla (PD-PF); Jack D. Irwin (L/D 9); Terry Engel (PD-FS); Robert Stenfors (PD-FS); Jan Lassen (ED-D); Allen Geisen (ED-D); Norman Hildrum (PD-ES); Robert Espenson (Gull Lake); Thomas Raster (PD-PF); Patrick Foley (ED-GH); Kent Pederson (ED-GH); and Robbin Blackman (PD-ER).

Special Act Awards—Maureen Sullivan (EEO); Dale Gross (Winona Office); Duane Duellman (L/D 5); Gregory Eggers (ED-GH); David Raasch (ED-M); Alan Forsberg (PD-FS); Albert Bjorkquist (PD-FS); Herbert Nelson (PD-FS); Martin McCleery (PD-FS); Roy Shetka (CO-PO); John Blackstone (ED-M); John Bailen (ED-M); Dave Christenson (EM); James Johnson (ED-D); Mary Marx (CO-RF); Daniel Jopp (Eau Galle); Charles

Foye (EP-S); Maurice Geiken (Communication Center); Arthur Ettl (Communication Center); Ronald O'Brian (Communication Center); Thomas Clay (Communication Center); Norman Hildrum (PD-ES); and Michelle Walsh (PD-ER).

Sustained Superior Performance Awards—Richard Beatty (PD-ER); Joyce Morris (La Crescent Office); David Robertson (CO-CT); Joseph Skupa (CO-CT); Lloyd Mathiesen (Eau Galle); Marvini Pedretti (L/D 10); Stephen Sandquist (CO-CT); Clinton Skoog (Gull Lake); Anthony Helmueller (L/D 4); James Ruyak (CO-OP); Waldemar Thiele (L/D 5A); Ronald Tuura (ED-D); Scott Voss (CO-OP); Norma Malinowski (CO-OP); Eunice Beran (ED-D); Barry Drazkowski (PD-ER); Ralph Berger (ED-D); David Tschida (ED-D); Richard Rothbauer (CO-OP); Robert Stenfors (PD-FS); David Duellman (L/D 6); Thomas Raster (PD-PF); Roy Tetter (L/D 10); Kent Pederson (ED-GH); and Fredrick Maule (Dredge Thompson).

Quality Step Increase—Jan Pream (CO-OP)

Certificate of Achievements/Appreciation—William C. Mountin (L/D 4).

Honorary Awards/Certificates of Achievement—Lyle Michaels (L/D 4).

Variety

effort has allowed us to acquire micro-computers quickly for the entire district said Chuck.

The branch assisted in developing the macro analysis for mobilization planning. This plan will be used throughout the Corps. "Since we were the first district to have completed the macro analysis, we

have been asked by other districts and divisions to assist them in getting theirs started," Chuck said. The macro analysis for our district gives an overall view of the resources this region has for mobilization, what the requirements would be for a mobilization and identifies constraints.

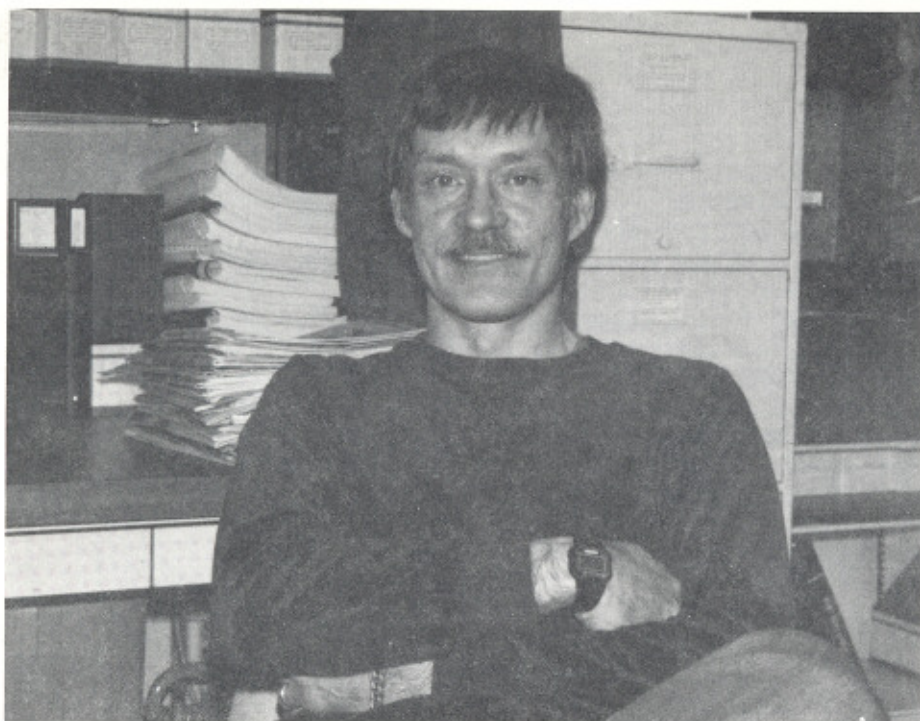
People Behind the Corps

"I began with the Corps two years ago as a temporary. I have worked my way from being a file clerk to a permanent position as a branch secretary," said Theresa Magistad, Floodplain Management and Small Projects Branch in the Planning Division.

"I think the stay-in-school program is excellent for students. It gives the students a chance to work in a professional world. Also, the hours are flexible to fit their tight schedules," Theresa said. She is the supervisor for one student who is in the program.

"I am really busy, but the people I work with are really nice and easy to get along with," Theresa said. "I also have learned my job well enough to know what has to be done."

During the summer months, Theresa enjoys camping. "I have also signed up for a softball league that begins this spring. Since I haven't played ball since third grade, it should be very interesting," Theresa said.



Tom Raster

Photo by Pam McFadden

Corps Employee Participates in International Sailboat Contest

Tom Raster, from the Planning Formulation Branch, has accepted an invitation to participate in the 16th Sunfish World Championship races. A total of nine races will be held in Riccione, Italy on the Adriatic Sea during June 14-20. The

contestants will race on an olympic-sized course, which is about seven miles long. Tom says that he is nervous because he has never raced with so many people and on an open sea.



find out what

Macro Analysis is

Where: Room 1033

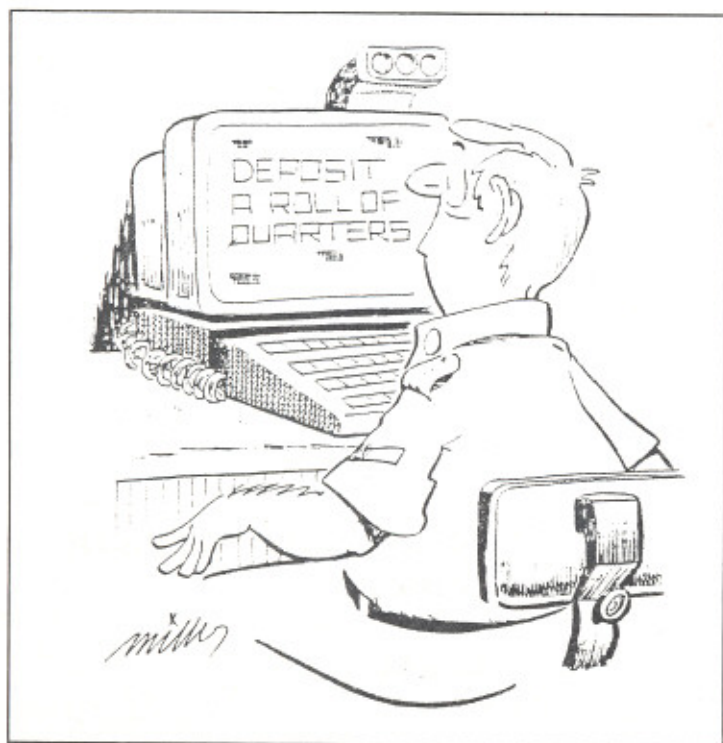
When: April 30

Time: 1130

Speaker:

Gary Nelson

Bring a bag lunch



Hop on the Band Wagon

"The purchase of bonds reduces the cost of debt financing and enables the treasury more easily to manage the public debt. As members of the Federal government, we ought to set the standard for the rest of the country regarding such an important national concern," said Caspar W. Weinberger, secretary of defense.

The U.S. Savings Bond campaign, which started this month, will run through June. The campaign serves to promote a deficit reduction effort and also to remind everyone of the various benefits from owning bonds.