



US Army Corps
of Engineers

St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 8

No. 8

August 1985

Gen. Heiberg Visits District



Photo by Lyle Nicklay

Maj. Gen. E.R. Heiberg III, Chief of Engineers, visited the St. Paul District on July 23. A helicopter tour of the Winona Flood Control Project and of the Reads Landing and Weaver Bottoms projects highlighted the day.

After arriving back in Winona, Gen. Heiberg addressed district employees at Levee Park and answered various questions made by the media.

Melissa Morris-Shortridge, project engineer at Winona, (shown in photo) speaks to Gen. Heiberg, Gen. Hilmes and Col. Briggs during a tour of the Winona project.

Brig. Gen. Hilmes Gives Farewell Address

Brig. Gen. Jerome Hilmes, commander of North Central Division has been assigned as commander of the Southwestern Division in Dallas, Tx. Gen. Hilmes, who came to North Central Division in July 1983, left for Dallas in August. He has been nominated by the President for promotion to major general.

"When I think of the St. Paul District, I think of my most professional group," said Gen. Hilmes during his farewell address to the district on August 1. "The St. Paul

District has blazed the way in emergency relocation sites, macro analysis and evaluation systems."

Gen. Hilmes added that the district has engineering and design awards "way above its proportionate share" and has always stayed within time and cost-control goals.

Col. Joseph Pratt, from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., has been named as the new commander of North Central Division. Col. Pratt has been nominated by the President for promotion to brigadier general.

New Project Office Opens

On June 1, the district opened a new project office at Velva, N.D. Mark Schumaker is the project engineer who will be responsible for the Velva Flood Control Project.

Mark, who was a civil engineer at the Fargo Project Office, will be the acting contract officer in charge of making any necessary changes that may arise in the contract. "I will also be the onsite inspector, assuring that the Corps and the City of Velva receives the product intended. To do this, I make sure the contractor follows the designs and specifications of the project," Mark explained.



Anita Gomez-Bennett (right), the new command equal employment opportunity officer in Washington, D.C., recently visited the St. Paul District. She was briefed on district programs by Marianne Price (left), St. Paul equal

employment opportunity officer, during her visit.

Ms. Gomez-Bennett said the district is heading in the right direction with the Equal Employment Opportunity Program, according to Marianne.

Photo by Pam Banks

New U.S. Savings Bonds Make Good Investment

For many years, buying savings bonds was considered a patriotic gesture only—not much of a money-making venture. Even in the 1970s and early 1980s, the low-yield bonds couldn't compete with other types of investments that could keep up with high and volatile interest rates.

But all that has changed since the Treasury overhauled the savings bond program and created the Series EE bond in 1982.

According to an Associated Press article appearing recently in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, more and more people are purchasing the new bonds as a serious investment. Many savers and investors are attracted to the zero-coupon, tax-favored bonds, which currently pay about 9.5 percent interest and are available at no commission charge.

The basic features of savings bonds are familiar to most people: The highly safe bonds are fully guaranteed by the federal government and are easy to buy in small amounts.

Like other zero-coupon investments, Series EE bonds pay no current interest. Instead, they are sold at a price lower than their face value and appreciate over time as the government's interest obligations on them accumulate.

Since Nov. 1, 1982, Series EE bonds have offered a floating return calculated twice

a year at 85 percent of the going yield on five-year Treasury notes—provided that you hold the bonds for at least five years. If you cash them in before that, you get a lower return.

In the first five interest periods since Nov. 1, 1982, the interest rate on the bonds averaged 10 percent. Now it is at about 9.49 percent.

As with other government securities, interest earned on Series EE bonds is exempt from state and local income taxes, and no federal tax liability is incurred on EE bonds until they are cashed. As a result, the new Series EE bond is an attractive investment for people with long-term savings goals, the article pointed out.

Quoting the United Business Service, a Boston advisory firm, the article stated that "buying savings bonds does make sense for some investors, particularly those who will be in lower tax brackets when the bonds mature."

The government also saves money by selling savings bonds, rather than having to borrow at market rates.

Corps employees can purchase U.S. Savings Bonds through payroll deduction and can contact 1st Lt. Kelly Rupp at ext. 7620 for more information. Banks and savings institutions also sell and redeem EE bonds, usually without any fee.

Flood Fight Exercises Held in Minot

The district participated in two joint flood fight exercises with state and city officials at Minot, N.D.

The Emergency Operations Exercise was the first exercise to be held with the City of Minot on July 31. The next day, August 1, a Flood Training Exercise was held with the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management.

"The exercises keep Corps personnel updated on flood emergency measures. It also allows the Corps an opportunity to become acquainted with state, county and local officials and their flood fight procedures and organization," Dave Christenson, natural disaster planner, said.

The Emergency Operations Exercise was based on the scenario of the 1976 flood at Minot where the Souris River rose more than seven-feet above flood stage, causing approximately \$39 million in damages. "This exercise enabled the participants to assess how well they followed the appropriate established procedures and how the Plans of Action compared to the actual emergency operation," Dave said. The highlight of the day was the construction of a 50-100 foot long emergency levee.

During the Flood Training Exercise on the following day, the Corps and the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management reviewed the roles of the federal, state and local agencies and the techniques used in flood fighting operations. A hands-on demonstration was given by Corps personnel in the afternoon. The demonstration included sandbag levee construction, levee evaluation, pumping techniques and dealing with sewer lines.

Crosscurrents is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 350-81. 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. Joseph Briggs
 Chief, Public Affairs Ken Gardner
 Editor Pam Banks*

Construction Underway at Velva

As the Souris River rises, the water spreads across the mile-wide valley in which the City of Velva, N.D. is located. During the flood of 1969, temporary levees were constructed around the entire city for protection. However, since that time, five more floods have flowed down through the valley. Along with each flood, the levees had to be stabilized or raised higher.

"Velva, part of the Lake Darling Project, has been authorized by Congress as a separate new start since the cost sharing for the Lake Darling Project has not been agreed upon," Dave Loss, project manager said.

The project was divided into two stages. "The community couldn't acquire all the land needed at one time for the project," Dave explained.

Velva Stage I work was awarded in January 1985 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of this fiscal year. During Stage I

the river channel under the Highway 41 Bridge was widened to 50-feet. "The wider channel will allow large flows caused from heavy rains or a rapid snow melt to be less restrained by the bridge," Dave said. Stage I also included the construction of structures in the hills, north of the river, to provide for drainage.

On July 16, bids for the construction of the Velva Stage II project were opened. Bechtol Excavating from Minot, N.D. came in with an apparent low bid of almost \$4 million. Construction is planned to begin by the end of August. "The total cost of the project is estimated at more than \$5 million in which the city's share will be around \$400,000," Dave said.

Construction of a permanent levee around the entire city will be part of the Stage II project at Velva. "These levees will be of a higher standard than the levees already there and will not require stabil-

ization every time it floods," Dave explained. Other construction included in Stage II will be a diversion channel, a pumping station, ditches and riprapping.

"A diversion channel to be constructed upstream routes the flow of water away from the natural channel during high flows," Dave said. "The natural channel will then be used as a ponding area for runoff from the hills. As the water runs into the ponding area, it will be pumped into the main river channel."

However, during a low flow of water, a weir (also planned in Stage II) will stop the water from continuing to follow the diversion channel but to flow down the natural channel. A weir is a dam that diverts the flow of water.

According to Mark Schumaker, project engineer at Velva, the entire project is scheduled to be completed by December, 1986.

Construction Doesn't Stop Visitors

Submitted by Dan Jopp, Eau Galle

Ah . . . July! The time of year when northcountry folks are convinced that winter is indeed over. It is also the time of year when folks head for the Corps' Eau Galle Recreation Area at Spring Valley, Wis.

It has been said the northcountry has two seasons: winter and road construction. Here at Eau Galle, this saying has come true. The main use area roads and the parking lots are torn up for paving and expansion. However, the construction hasn't stopped visitors from using the picnic and beach areas. There were two record breaking days in July: the 4th with 2,000 visitors and the 14th with 2,100 visitors.

But then, such attendance is no accident. The new beach waterslide and floating dock have nearly doubled the beach use. The second volleyball court has twice as many people up in the air (or down in the sand). The second picnic area and expanded area view of the lake has also helped to increase visitations.



The waterslide at the Eau Galle Recreation Area beach provides enjoyment to many of the visitors.

Photo by Daniel Jopp

Even Camp EGRA (Camp Eau Galle Recreation Area) has been busy with about 80 Brownie scouts enjoying an overnigher of crafts and stories. Visitors from Germany, Alaska and New Zealand have also spent a

few nights in the campground.

It's no longer a question of "What's going on?" but "Where's it going on?" And there is only one answer: At the Eau Galle Recreation Area.

People Behind the Corps



Carol Nelson

Photo by Pam Banks

Carol Nelson says her new landscape architecture job with the Corps allows her to do a little bit of everything she likes.

"Landscape architecture appeals to me because it involves so many things, art, design, working with people and the environment. The range of projects that the Corps is involved in offers us a lot of possibility for variety," she said.

Carol, who graduated last year from the University of Minnesota's five-year professional program in landscape architecture, joined the district in June.

Already, she's worked on a variety of projects, including Blackhawk Park, Wis. and Phase III of the Mississippi River Master Plan.

Although many people think landscape architects work only with plants, Carol said there's a lot more to it than that.

"We design spaces for people to use, and that involves working with plants, land-forms, technology and aesthetics. The most fun for me is master planning a few hundred acres, deciding how to achieve excellent land use, preserve special qualities of the area and at the same time accommodate people's activities and evaluate their experience. It's like putting a puzzle together," she said.

Originally from Miami, Carol moved to Minnesota 16 years ago. She said she spent most of that time living in rural areas and raising her son, Peter, who's now 15.

Peter, she said, shares her love of landscape architecture and design, and together, they like to explore the city—particularly spots that you just don't find out in the country. Appropriately, they now live in St. Anthony Park, which, says Carol, "was laid out by one of the early great landscape architects."

Marilyn Aird became the new chief of the Procurement Branch last April. "There is a greater diversity of work here compared to the other places I have worked. It's certainly challenging," Marilyn said. She has been employed by the government for about eleven years.

Marilyn received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Commerce from St. Louis University in Missouri. She began her career as a contract specialist at the Army Aviation Systems Command in St. Louis. Later, Marilyn became a price analyst for the Defense Contracts Administration Services in Dallas, Tx.



Marilyn Aird

Photo by Pam Banks

After taking a seven year break from work to raise her daughter, Marilyn entered into the working world as a purchasing agent for the Veterans Administration in Dallas. When her husband was transferred to Minneapolis, Marilyn came to work for the St. Paul District.

In Marilyn's spare time, she keeps herself busy with household chores and her family. "I have also enjoyed cake decorating and working for historic preservation," Marilyn said.

Lockmaster Named Commodore

Burton Morris, lockmaster at Lock and Dam No. 7, was recently named Commodore of the 1985 Riverfest in LaCrosse, Wis. The title is given to a "river person" who will represent the Riverfest and the community as a "Good Will Ambassador." According to his wife, Burton was selected because of his contributions to the community and the media in the area over the last 20 years as lockmaster at Lock and Dam No. 7.

"It was quite an honor. Being Commodore, gave me the opportunity to meet many new people and to do some public relations for the Corps," Burton said.

Burton began working for the St. Paul District in 1947 as a temporary employee on the Hired Labor Crew. In 1957, he became a permanent employee on the lock and dam system.



Joyce and Burton Morris stand in front of the Corps' traveling trailer during the La Crosse Riverfest Days. Burton was named commodore of the Riverfest.

Photo by Rosemarie Braatz