



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 9 No. 2 April 1986



The towboat Itasca (at left), was still ice-bound in mid-March when this photo was taken. The Itasca, and the ocean-going tug (center) it was transporting from St. Paul last fall, sat out the winter

tied up to the lower guidewall at Lock and Dam No. 6. The Itasca, and several other towboats, encountered heavy ice conditions on their last downstream journey of the season right after Thanks-

giving and chose to winter-over in the St. Paul District. With the spring thaw, the Itasca and its ocean-going cargo have again started on their way to the Gulf of Mexico.

Senate Passes Omnibus Bill

A number of St. Paul District projects, including the Rochester Flood Control Project, moved a step closer to authorization when the Senate passed Senate Bill 1567 by unanimous consent on March 26th. The bill is also known as the Omnibus Water Projects Bill.

This is the first time since 1976 that a water resource development bill has been passed by both the House and the Senate and sent to conference. Since 1976, five water bills have been passed by the House but none were passed by the Senate. The House version of this year's water bill, House Resolution 6, was passed last November.

In the conference committee, representatives of both the House and the Senate will attempt to work out the differences in the bills they passed. While items in the bills can be deleted or modified while in committee, no new items can be added to the compromise bill by the conferees.

In addition to the Zumbro River at Rochester project, S.1567 contained Senate approval for projects on the Root River at Houston, Minn.; the Sheyenne River, N.D.; the Park River at Grafton, N.D.; the Mississippi River at St. Paul; the Wisconsin River at Portage, Wis.; and the Redwood River at Marshall, Minn.

Drunk Driving

Think the only things you can lose from drunk driving are life or limb?

Wrong. You—or your survivors—could lose your Veterans Administration benefits as well.

The dependants of service members who die on active duty, as well as veterans with anything but a dishonorable discharge, are generally entitled to a variety of VA benefits.

However, the Veterans Administration will deny these benefits if a death or injury is determined to be the result of "willful misconduct."

Continued on page 4

View From the Deputy's Desk

by Major Mike Nelson
Deputy District Commander

Anyone who has been reading or watching the news lately has more than likely heard of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act. What it means exactly to you and me as federal employees is still not clear. While the sky is not falling, it is a time of change for the St. Paul District and the Corps.

To remain strong we must be flexible and innovative in how we do our business in the future. "Business as usual" may not be what is necessary. Tough decisions will be required. The decisions are likely to set the

course for the St. Paul District for the next 10-20 years. If we wait, those tough but necessary decisions may be made by people outside of our organization. It is not going to be easy—productivity must increase, quality must remain high and costs, especially overhead costs, must remain within reason. To accomplish this, we must all work together.

I think everyone of us has seen ways to improve our operations; to make us more productive, more efficient, or more

responsive to our customers. Now is the time to get these ideas out in the open — either through the suggestion program or through everyday improvements in how we operate.

Change for the sake of change is wrong, but change that brings increased efficiencies, reduced costs and increased quality is what we want, need and should strive for.

Smoking

You smoke. Your friend never has. That means you are three times more likely than your friend to suffer a heart attack. But, according to a report in the New England Journal of Medicine, if you quit smoking today, in as little as two years your risk of having a heart attack will be exactly the same as your friend's.

Army Maj. (Dr.) James R. Baker Jr., assistant professor of medicine and surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and a specialist in pulmonary and allergic diseases at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, said the report shows that no matter what other risk factors are present, "someone who quits smoking can reduce their risk of having a heart attack substantially."

Although the study did not address the subject of lung cancer, Baker said other research has shown that quitting smoking reduces the chances of contracting lung cancer, but it takes longer to reduce the risk.

"It is well documented that a smoker's chances of getting lung cancer are 10 or 20 times higher than those who do not smoke," he said, "and the longer you smoke, the longer it takes for the risk to subside."

Baker said that it takes six to 10 years for the risk of lung cancer to normalize in people who have smoked for more than 20 years. For those who have smoked less than 20 years, it is five years.

In addition to lung cancer, Baker pointed out that smokers are five to 10 times more likely to contract cancer of the mouth and voice box and two times more likely to contract cancer of the bladder. Baker explained that because the tars and toxic substances found in cigarette smoke are excreted through the urine, cancer of the bladder could occur.

Letters



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1114 COMMERCE STREET
DALLAS, TEXAS 75242-0216

10 March 1986

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District
ATTN: Public Affairs Office
1135 USPO & Custom House
St. Paul, Mn 55101-1479

Letter To Editor of Crosscurrents:

To the men and women of St. Paul District, past, present, and future. It was with great pride and satisfaction that I congratulate Pete Fisher, your Chief of Engineering, as the Corps of Engineers' Engineer of The Year! I was not surprised because in the short year I worked in St. Paul District as the Deputy, I came to know Pete and all of you as highly professional and dedicated employees. I was so excited that I picked up the phone and called Pete and told him how proud I was to have served with him.

Then it dawned on me that what makes Pete great is all of the employees that surround him, both in his division and in other divisions and offices, both in St. Paul and in the field. Pete, I am sure would be the first to tell you that everybody is dependent on everyone else, and everyone needs mutual support. While I would stack Pete up against any Chief of Engineering, in all the Districts in the Corps, there has to be something else that makes him stand out to the point where he was recognized and selected for this truly outstanding honor. In my way of thinking, the difference is that the people who make up the District are also highly professional and gave Pete the extra boost needed.

So, the bottom line is, that while Pete Fisher was selected as Outstanding Engineer of Year, he is being recognized a district leader with high standards. Now that I have complimented Pete by telephone, I feel it important that I congratulate all of you in St. Paul District, who demand care and place tough standards on each other to do quality work for the customer.

St. Paul is truly a fine district and Pete Fisher is truly a fine Chief of Engineering. But, more important, all of you are outstanding and professional district representatives who should share in Pete's glory because without you Pete would not have been able to obtain this recognition.

John H. Atkinson
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Deputy Division Engineer

Four Corps Employees Receive Awards

WASHINGTON (ARNEWS)—Four Corps employees were among eight civilians from the Army's Senior Executive Service to receive White House recognition and cash awards for their excellent service.

The Annual Presidential Rank Awards program, authorized by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, serves as the top means by which the president recognizes senior executive service members' consistent excellence in performance. "These prestigious awards," explained personnel official Karen Robinson at the Pentagon, "require that the nominees' superior performance cover a period of at least three years." Robinson added that the senior executive service encompasses most positions formerly at grades GS-16 through GS-18.

In the top award category, Richard C. Armstrong, chief of the engineering division

at Ohio River Division in Cincinnati received a \$20,000 Distinguished Executive Award. The award cited his "sustained high level of performance in a very dynamic period with major resource cutbacks."

The following Corps' employees received the \$10,000 award of "Meritorious Executive Rank":

—Lloyd A. Duscha, deputy director of engineering and construction, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, D.C.

—Joe G. Higgs, chief of the engineering division at the U.S. Army Engineer Division in Europe.

—Achiel E. Wanket, who heads the engineering division of the Pacific Division in San Francisco.

The recipients, along with 88 of their peers, will be honored at a Washington, D.C. ceremony scheduled for later this year.

Reimbursement For Parking Fees

There seems to be some confusion recently concerning reimbursement for parking fees during official travel.

Employees will be reimbursed for necessary parking fees incurred as a transportation expense while on official business, said Fred Vogeles, chief of finance and accounting.

Reimbursement of parking fees for government-furnished vehicles include, but are not limited to the following:

—Parking meter fees on a public street if free parking is not available

—Parking fees in private facilities if street meters are not available

—Parking fees in a municipally owned parking facility if street parking is not available within a reasonable distance from place of business.

When the use of a privately owned vehicle is determined to advantageous to the government, the cost of necessary parking will be reimbursed unless restricted by the travel order or administrative determination. When official travel is performed on the basis of verbal travel orders, parking fees are reimbursable upon approval of the claim by an official authorized to approve travel claims.

Parking fees at a common carrier terminal or other parking area from which an employee departs and returns while on official business may be reimbursed as follows:

—For the period between departure and return when vehicle is used for transportation to and from the employee's place of abode or business.

—The parking fee plus allowable mileage must not exceed the cost of taxi fares to and from the terminal.

Reimbursement will not be made for parking fees incurred outside official duty hours unless the official necessity is explained and specifically approved on the voucher or authorized in the travel order.

When traveling on official orders with a DD form 1610, the amount of the parking fees should be entered in block 5 (reimbursable expenses) of DD form 1351-2, travel voucher or subvoucher.

For those on official business in the district office, but not on official travel orders, a SF 1164, claim for reimbursement for expenditures on official business, should be used and sent directly to the examination section, DC-FE.

For those traveling outside the district office on official business but not on official travel orders, you should use the SF 1164 plus an ENG form 4480. These two forms will be sent to the examination section in the district office.

If there are any questions concerning parking fees, please contact a representative in the examination section in room 1425 or call 725-7126.

Adopt-A-School Program.

WASHINGTON (ARNEWS)—The number of schools that have been "adopted" by the Army under the Department of Defense's (DOD) Adopt-A-School Program has increased nearly 100 percent since the end of the 1984-85 school year.

Since the program's inception in 1984, the program has grown to include 228 post and civilian schools, with 117 Army installations and agencies participating.

The Adopt-A-School Program grew out of President Reagan's declaration of the 1983-84 school year as the "Year of Partnership in Education," and was created to improve the quality of education in community schools, according to Charles Walker, Chief of the Army Community and Family Support Center's Dependents Education Branch.

"Army support to schools varies widely, depending on the needs and interests of nearby schools and the skills available at the Installation or Agency," said Walker, who drafted the Army's version of the program. Services usually offered include career and vocational counseling, tutoring, computer and industrial arts training, citizenship training, and English help for foreign-born students.

Any Army installation or agency can adopt a public or private community school or a post school, and there is no limit to the number of schools that may be adopted. Any smaller Army group may adopt a school with the installation commander's consent, Walker said.

"The optimist thinks that this is the best of all possible worlds and the pessimist knows it."

—J. Robert Oppenheimer, physicist

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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 Denise Yale*

Drug Testing Set For Army Civilians

WASHINGTON—Army civilians occupying such critical areas as law enforcement, aviation operations and nuclear and chemical surety are to begin this summer undergoing the same kind of drug abuse testing currently in force for soldiers.

This new policy, along with a full list of the affected job categories and specific jobs, recently received the Defense Department's approval and is being published in a forthcoming change to Army Regulation 600-85.

"The testing program," said Ross Deck of the Army's Alcohol and Drug Policy Branch in the Pentagon, "will rely on urinalysis to identify drug abusers within critical job areas. Its operation is intended not so much to punish abusers as to direct them toward available counseling and

rehabilitation services. Of course, it will act as a deterrent as well as help the Army reduce the potential for disrupted operations, destruction of property, threats to on-the-job safety, and drug-related blackmail in matters affecting security," Deck said.

Deck pointed out that the program is expected to cover 10,000 to 12,000 persons Army-wide. He said that in addition to the jobs specifically cited by the policy, the program also gives the local commander the latitude to recommend other critical jobs that should be included in the local testing. In such cases, command approval from the pertinent Major Army Command, as well as from HQDA and the Defense Department, is required. Most of the affected employees work in aircraft flight operations or guard and police positions.

New Publications Listed For Division/District

(WES-Vicksburg,MS)—Using the ON-TYME mail system, the U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station (WES) now provides each Corps' division and district with a complete listing of technical reports distributed each month. This service will provide a fast method for engineers and other problem-solvers to check on new publications about WES research.

This system should be especially helpful in quickly transferring technology to all Corps' divisions and districts. It provides a quick method to obtain information about new engineering and construction techniques, major projects of interest, and other

items as they are printed in reports.

To access the listing on the ON-TYME system, please use the following instructions:

ID: CORPS.WES/REPORTS

KEY: 1-WES CARES

The Technical Reports Distribution Section of the WES Technical Information Center will keep the listing current with updates as reports are distributed. Each listing will show a "current as of" date.

For more information about the list, call WES Technical Reports Distribution Section at FTS 542-2571 or 542-2696 or commercial (601) 634-2571 or 634-2996.

Scholarship Fund Announced

Applications are now available for the 1986 Coors Veterans' Memorial Scholarship Fund which provides more than \$500,000 to the sons and daughters of American veterans. Deadline for completed applications and materials is July 1, 1986.

A minimum of 100 scholarships, with a maximum value of \$5,000 each, will be awarded to eligible students. The scholarships will allow students to complete the final three years of undergraduate studies.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must have completed at least one year of college, have a cumulative grade-point

average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale and be under 22 years of age as of July 1, 1986. Applicants must be dependents of honorably discharged American service personnel or dependents of American service personnel killed in action, missing in action or died in the line duty. The student may reside anywhere worldwide, but must be enrolled full-time in an accredited four-year institution of higher education in the United States.

Applications can be obtained by writing Coors Veterans' Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 7529, Wheeling, Ill., 60090, or by calling toll-free to 1-800-492-6677.

Copier Capabilities Listed

You're in the district office from one of the field sites and need to make a quick copy of an over-sized document. Don't worry. The district office has a number of copiers which can handle over-sized originals and make enlargements, reductions or same size copies.

Most of the copiers in the district office routinely handle both standard letter and legal sized paper. Here is a summary of the special capabilities of the copiers located around the district office.

—9th floor, room 906: Enlarge to 128 percent; reduce to 77 percent or 65 percent. Can reduce from 11"x 17" originals and enlarge to 11"x 17" paper.

—11th floor, room 1115: Zoom reduction down to 64 percent.

—12th floor, room 1227: No reduction. Can make 11"x 17" copies.

—13th floor, room 1321A: Reduction to 98 percent, 74 percent and 65 percent.

—13th floor, room 1305: Enlarge to 130 percent and 154 percent; reduce to 65 percent. Can handle originals and copies to 11"x 17".

—14th floor, room 1410: Zoom reduction down to 64 percent.

—14th floor, room 1423: Enlarge to 115 percent and reduce to 65 percent.

—15th floor, room 1516: Zoom enlargement and reduction between 65 percent and 154 percent. Can handle 11"x 17" paper. Can print in either black or red.

Driving From page 1

The VA defines "willful misconduct" as an action taken with full knowledge of the risks involved, or with a "wanton and reckless disregard of its probable consequence."

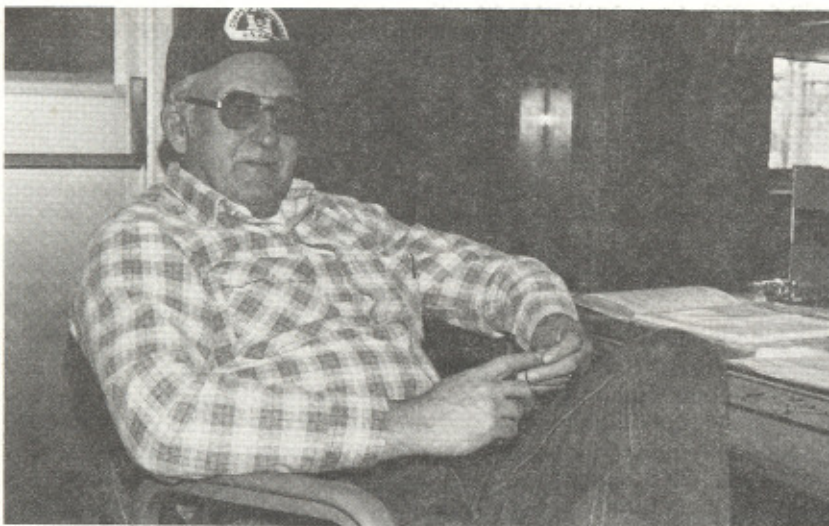
This, according to VA regulations, includes a death or disabling injury caused by drunk driving.

"The willingness to achieve a drunken state and while in this condition to undertake tasks for which unqualified physically and mentally by alcohol is willful misconduct," the VA regulation states.

The VA usually bases a "willful misconduct" determination on police and hospital reports, as well as the line of duty report prepared by the appropriate service. The line of duty report details events leading up to—but not the cause of—the death or serious injury.

Crosscurrents Visits Lock and Dam No. 6

Chuck Keilholtz (light jacket), discusses dam gate adjustments with Lloyd Maas on a cold, gray day in mid-March. Orders for changes in the dam gate positions originate in Water Control at the district office. The changes are made in response to changing water flows and levels along the Upper Mississippi River. Both Chuck and Lloyd are head lock and dam operators at Lock and Dam No. 6.



Jim Weyant, head lock and dam operator, relaxes after recording dam gate changes recieved over the radio.

Lockmaster Cy Diamond (left) discusses activities at Lock and Dam No. 6 with Wally Voss, central area lockmaster, during a walk around the site.



EEO Cares . . . Let's Give It A Shot

By Marianne Price

Now that the commander has issued his action plan to implement the "Leaders in Customer Care" program, I'd like to direct your attention to customer care and how it relates to the Equal Employment Opportunity program. Simply stated, all the employees in the St. Paul District are our customers.

Many people believe that EEO exists for, and because of, outside sources and influences. While to some extent this is true, considering recruitment and community relations activity, the majority of our efforts goes towards establishing an EEO program that meets the need of our customers, i.e., St. Paul District employees.

The EEO program doesn't belong to any one person alone, be it myself, Colonel Briggs, your manager/supervisor, or to any particular group of employees. It belongs to all of us, each of us owning a part of

it. Like anything else you own, you want it to be the best it can possibly be.

That is the reason why we continually solicit your ideas and suggestions. I consider no employee comment or suggestion for improvement too trivial or unacceptable. At times we might have to put an idea on hold for a more apropos time or incorporate it into a larger action, but I guarantee that our customers' ideas/comments are not only considered, but are welcome. That's not because we want to make somebody feel important or we're trying to please everybody, it's because that's what it takes to build an EEO program that will excel.

There are no federal guidelines which provide step-by-step instructions for a total EEO program, so we're left to do the job ourselves. Together, we can build a program that gives meaning, not just rhetoric, to the words Equal Employment Opportunity. In

order to accomplish this, we need employee/manager input. Without it, we end up with a program that operates within a vacuum and is totally ineffective. You as customers have already bought the EEO program, so let us ensure together that you're getting your money's worth.

For those of you we have not heard from, now's the time to raise your voice; and for those of you we have heard from, keep those ideas and comments coming. Help us to make the words "Leaders in Customer Care" a reality. Remember—EEO CARES . . . LET'S 'ALL' GIVE IT A SHOT.

"Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please."

—Mark Twain

Are U.S. Savings Bonds For You

by CPT. George Hazel

How do you save for a rainy day? Do you stuff money into a mattress like my Aunt Edna? Or do you take what's left over after your monthly living expenses and put it into passbook savings, a money market, a mutual fund, certificate of deposit, or . . . ?

If you're like most of us, chances are you don't do what Aunt Edna did, because mattresses don't pay interest. And you might also find that after you pay everyone else (mortgager, NSP, GMAC, NW Bell, the State of Minnesota, etc.), there's nothing left!

The perfect solution is U.S. Savings Bonds. You can have a small amount deducted automatically from your paycheck; you won't miss money you don't see in the first place. And you'll be paid current market interest rates. By buying Savings Bonds through payroll savings, you are paying yourself first, investing in your future and that of your country, before the bill collectors come knocking at your door.

But why U.S. Savings Bonds? There are so many advantages that Savings Bonds just make good sense:

—The current interest rate is 8.36%. How much are you making on your passbook account? And the Government guarantees at least 7½% (com-

pounded semiannually) paid on bonds held to maturity.

—The interest is tax deferred until the bonds are cashed. This is not the case with most savings plans.

—No state or municipality can tax the interest. This should be of interest to those living in Minnesota.

—Lost, stolen, or destroyed bonds are replaced at no charge.

You will also be helping out with the Federal deficit. Each year, the amount of interest paid on the debt is staggering. By

The conference focused on emergency services and disaster preparedness. Herb made a presentation on the emergency water supply program during the conference.



Herb Nelson, Plan Formulation Branch (center), and Dave Christenson, Emergency Management (left), talk with David Lundberg, Minnesota Office of Emergency Services during the Minnesota Governor's Conference held in March.

buying Savings Bonds, you are lending money to the Treasury at a fair cost to help finance our Government. The Government pays you 8.36%, but would have to pay more if the money were borrowed from a financial institution. You win and so does Uncle Sam.

My Aunt Edna may have been able to save \$100,000 in a mattress. Are you counting on your Aunt Edna to save for your rainy day? If you don't want to save with Uncle Sam, at least get in the habit of putting a small amount aside in some savings plan each pay check. You'll be amazed at how fast it adds up!

How To "Lose" With Diet Pills

You may be losing more than you want to when you use diet pills or formulas and it's usually not pounds. What you do risk is your health and your bank balance. The following is a list of popular diet aids, that may or may not be effective and their possible hazards:

—"Lose weight while you sleep" pills contain Arginine and Ornithine. These amino acids supposedly stimulate human growth hormone to burn fat. The Food and Drug Administration has received no data to support this claim. If these pills do what the manufacturers claim, they could be dangerous because, in the process, they would stimulate other hormones, altering insulin levels and carbohydrate metabolism, among other things.

—Amphetamines are prescription-only appetite suppressants. Their use has diminished over the years because they are highly addictive and have adverse reactions on the heart and central nervous system.

—Glucomannan is called the "Oriental weight-loss secret" and is simply a source of fiber. Apples, whole grains, carrots and sprouts provide the same thing and they cost less. Use of the product may cause bowel obstruction if you do not drink a sufficient amount of water.

—Starch Blocker pills are supposed to block the absorption of carbohydrates, therefore canceling out calories from starchy foods. They have been declared illegal by several federal courts because they are unapproved new drugs. The drug's claims have never been proven and there have been reports of adverse effects, most of them gastrointestinal.

—Benzocaine is the active ingredient in many diet gums and candies. It numbs the tongue, reducing the taste.

—Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG) and Dehydroandrosterone (DHEA) are both drugs that are derived from human urine and other sources. There is no data to substantiate claims of weight-loss and it is not known what the effect might be of putting this concentrated hormonal breakdown product that people normally excrete back into the body.

—Phenylpropanolamine (PPA) is the active ingredient in many over-the-counter diet pills. The FDA advised that although it seems to be safe and effective, it should not be taken by everyone, especially those with high blood pressure, diabetes, or thyroid or kidney problems. The safety data on this product is currently being reviewed.

—Spirulina is an algae derivative that is classified as a food, as long as it's not contaminated or adulterated. Its effectiveness has not been proven.

Almost all of the above drugs are currently being studied by the FDA for possible health hazards and effectiveness in a weight-loss program. About the only thing that manufacturers of diet pills can guarantee is that there will be a lot of people willing to spend money on unproven weight-loss gimmicks.

If you are interested in getting rid of more money you can buy some devices that "will take off and keep off unwanted pounds". These include electrical muscle stimulators, sauna wraps and garments. Claims of weight-loss from these items are unproven. However, there have been some reports of injuries from these types of items. The newest fad is appetite suppressing eye-glasses with colored lenses that are supposed to project an image to the retina that dampens the desire to eat.

There is one product that is guaranteed safe and effective though and that is "common sense". A well-balanced diet and exercise program will give you results every time and any money that you spend in pursuit of this will be an investment not a rip-off.

Treasury Issues New Checks

WASHINGTON (ARNEWS)—A new pastel-colored paper check is replacing the familiar green punched-card checks that have been issued by the Treasury Department for the past 40 years.

The Army plans to introduce the new check in April with the expectation of completing the Army-wide conversion by December, said Gary Olson, public affairs officer at the Finance and Accounting Center, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. Army finance offices will convert to the new checks as paper stock is available and modernized equipment is installed. Conversion to the new check is expected to go smoothly. Since 75 percent of all soldiers are enrolled in sure-pay and civilian employees are also opting for electronic pay transfer, many personnel probably won't even know when the conversion begins at their installation.

The government's decision to convert to paper checks was announced in November by Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III. "We're changing the checks because the punched-card technology is obsolete," he

said "and we also wanted a more secure check—one that is more difficult to alter or counterfeit."

The new check features more than a dozen security features, most of them encompassed in the ink, paper and design, said Paula Cleggett, a financial management official with the Treasury Department in Washington, D.C.

These features include the word "VOID" that appears when the check is photocopied and the letters "USA" that disappear. Also, a telltale stain will appear if someone tries to alter the check by writing or erasing in the name or amount sections. A less obvious feature allows the authenticity of a check to be verified by holding it under a black light—the authentic check will become fluorescent.

By converting to the new checks, the federal government expects to save \$6 million each year, Cleggett said. The start-up cost for the change is estimated at about \$5 million. Less expensive paper stock and storage of the thinner checks account for much of the savings.

Need Help Getting Published?

The Corps of Engineers Public Affairs Office is looking for stories to market to non-Corps publications through the Corps of Engineers Writers Assistance Program. If you have an idea for a story or if you have written an article that you think would be suitable for publication and need help getting that idea or story into print, you can get editorial, photographic, and placement assistance from the HQUSACE Public Affairs Office. The story may be highly technical, purely human interest or somewhere in between, as long as it has a Corps of Engineers connection. Whatever the story, it is almost certain that somewhere there is a productive market for it. You can get additional information on the Writer's Assistance Program by contacting Ken Gardner, Public Affairs, ext. 7505.

People Behind the Corps



Mary Street

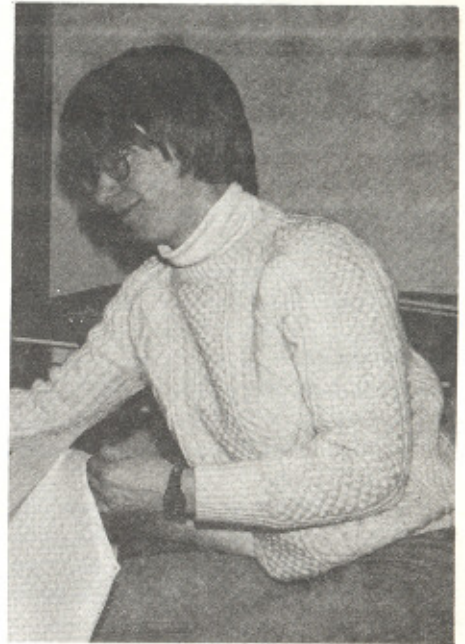
Mary Street marked her first year as a staffing clerk in the personnel office on March 24.

Mary worked at the V.A. Hospital as a medical records technician and ward clerk for eight years before she came here. During that time, she was assigned temporarily to the personnel office for three months and decided that she liked it enough to pursue it further.

"Although most of my duties are clerical at this time," she said, "I hope to be taking a more active role in recruiting for temporary summer help under the summer aid program."

Mary currently attends night classes at Metropolitan State University, where she is working toward a bachelor's degree.

Mary was born and raised in St. Paul. During her free time, she and her family enjoy camping and biking.



Mary Schommers

The woman in the cage on the 14th floor is Florence D'Heilly. As the district teller, she handles all of the money that comes in and goes out of the St. Paul District.

Florence started working at the Corps five years ago in the exam section. Before that, she worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. She received two outstanding and sustained performance awards while in the exam section. Her career goal is to move into the accounting section.

When asked about how it feels to handle all that money, she said, "I used to see those large checks and get kind of nervous, but now they're just numbers that have to balance out at the end of the month."

Florence was born and raised in Minneapolis and now lives in St. Paul. Her free time activities include cooking, sewing and bike riding.



Florence D'Heilly

Mary Schommers of the Floodplain Management and Small Projects Branch is a great example of what a person can achieve on the upward mobility program. She has also proven that a person can make a successful career change to a completely different field. This success is shown in her recent nomination by both the district and North Central Division for a national Planning Excellence Award.

Mary started out with a bachelor's degree in biology and a job as a medical technician. After taking a series of aptitude tests, she found that her strengths were in math and science and her counselor advised her to go into engineering. "I like the engineering field," she says. "I planned my career change very carefully and I worked full time while attending school."

Mary began her career with the Corps seven years ago as an engineering technician and worked her way up to project manager. She has a degree in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota and recently received her professional engineering registration.

Mary was born in Brainerd, Minnesota and now lives in Minneapolis. In her free time, she plays squash and tennis, enjoys cross-country skiing, playing the piano and reading.

Heritage Toastmasters

If you feel panic rising whenever you are asked to speak before a group, you may want to attend the next meeting of Heritage Toastmasters. Through Toastmasters, you can build your public speaking confidence and learn to give effective and interesting speeches. The next meeting is on May 1, 1986 at 12:00 p.m. in room 629. For more information, call Ann Allen at ext. 7533.

Death Reported

According to a recent item in the Waterways Journal, Lt. General Walter K. "Weary" Wilson, Jr. died on December 6, 1985. General Wilson was the 37th District Engineer in the St. Paul district and was here from 1946 to 1949.

"No one tests the depth of a river with both feet."

—African proverb