



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Participants at the recent "ground-breaking" for a hydroelectric plant at Lock and Dam No. 2 included Col. Joseph Briggs, district engineer,

(second from right), Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich (right), and representatives of the City of Hastings and the contractor. Golden buckets of Missis-

sippi River water were used in the ceremony instead of the traditional shovels and dirt.

photo by Lyle Nicklay

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Hastings Hydro Plant

An unique groundbreaking ceremony was held at Lock and Dam No. 2 by the city of Hastings on Nov. 13, to mark the start of construction on a new hydroelectric power plant there.

While most groundbreaking ceremonies require a shovel and dirt, the lock and dam did not prove to be a place for such a tradition. Instead, city officials decided to use gold colored buckets full of water from the Mississippi River. The water was thrown

back into the river to dedicate the site for the new power plant.

Originally, the city of Hibbing, Minn., initiated the planning for a power plant in Hastings. The community had even obtained a license to construct the plant from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

However, for economic reasons, the city dropped the plans for the power plant and aimed their efforts toward the existing coal

plant in Hibbing.

It was at this time that the city of Hastings took over the plans for the power plant. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued the city a license, good for 50 years.

However before construction of the plant could begin, a permit was needed from the Corps. Under Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act, a permit is needed from the

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Commander's Viewpoint

By Colonel Joseph Briggs

1986: Leaders In Customer Care

As we welcome in a new year, I would like to take a few moments to discuss our efforts to provide the best possible customer care.

The concept of providing customer care is not new in the St. Paul District. In some ways, many of you have been practicing the essentials of good customer care all along. For others, the concept of customer care was first introduced last year by Lt. Gen. Heiberg when he discussed the importance of providing service to our customers—both internal and external.

Today, the national climate for dealing with the federal deficit, balancing the budget, reducing paperwork, and reducing the size and power of government, makes the quality of service and care we provide our customers even more important.

We are continuing our emphasis on customer care during 1986. The Chief has announced that the Corps' theme for this year is "Leaders in Customer care." To provide this leadership we all should be reevaluating our performance in terms of customer care. As a minimum, we should be asking ourselves these questions: Do we know who our customers are? What are their concerns? Have we been open, straightforward and honest with them? Have we been giving them the best possible service? If you answer these questions, you are taking the first step toward being a Leader in Customer Care.

I can assure you that you will be hearing more about this theme as the year goes on.

I urge you to use your imagination and initiative to demonstrate the leadership needed in the area of customer care. Every district employee should be actively engaged in providing the best in service and products, in a timely, efficient and professional manner. When this happens, we will truly be "Leaders in Customer Care."

My goal for 1986 is to give our customers the best possible care and I encourage you to assist me in this endeavor. My door will remain open for any suggestions of ways to truly demonstrate that we are Leaders in Customer Care. With your help, I am confident we can make customer care more than a theme. Let's make it a reality.

Values: Army Theme for 1986

Washington (ARNEWS)—Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr. and Army Chief of Staff Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr. have announced "Values" as the Army's theme for 1986.

The following excerpts are from a proclamation issued December 30 by Army leadership explaining the new year's theme:

"Values will be the Army theme for 1986. We are proud of the progress made in the past year to strengthen leadership, the theme for 1985, throughout the total Army. Previous themes have developed into a solid flow of ideas and programs, each building on the preceding ones. As a result, we have strengthened the Army's winning spirit, physical fitness, excellence, families, and leadership.

"Now we turn to the fundamental values of our military profession. From values we draw purpose, direction, vitality, and character—the bedrock of all that we do in the total army. To the extent that we can strengthen the values of our soldiers, civilians, and families, the Army will be a stronger institution and will be far more ready to fulfill the missions entrusted to it as we face the broad spectrum of threats to our national security.

"The values to which we subscribe spring from, and even transcend, those of the society we serve. They become the framework for the lifelong professional and personal development of our soldiers, leaders, and civilians. Our profession involves matters of life and death, and

matters of public trust for the responsible care of human as well as material resources provided to us.

"Values are the heart and soul of a great Army. We ask each of you, as members of the total Army, to embrace these values and make them a part of your personal and professional lives. We urge you to find ways to temper them like steel. By strengthening the values of our profession, each of us in our own way can make our Army better and by so doing contribute to the health and security of our great nation."

Danger In Those Cheery Flames?

By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information Service

There's nothing more cheerful on a cold winter day than a glowing fire in the fireplace or a wood-burning stove, but the kind of wood you put in them can make a difference to your health.

The Army's Office of the Chief of

Engineers is warning its people about the danger of burning wood that has been pressure-treated with chromated copper arsenate, which turns the wood greenish-yellow to brown in color.

When burned, the wood produces poisonous smoke, fumes and ash.

Said Jerry Kostos of that organi-

zation, "Since so many people are building decks and other things out of this kind of wood, we think it is a good idea to get the word out." Chromated copper arsenate wood scraps should be disposed of in an approved landfill—not burned in a fireplace, wood stove or outside incinerator.

Ice Jams Cause Problems

Most people think of flooding in the spring when warm temperatures and heavy rains occur. However, the Emergency Management Division has already responded to several calls from local governments and residents in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Most of the callers were concerned with ice jams that were forming on the rivers in the district and raising the water levels.

Residents along the Rum River in Anoka, Minn. became distressed when water levels on the river began rising in early December because of an ice jam above the Coon Rapids Dam on the Mississippi River.

According to the Minneapolis Star & Tribune, the water level rose to within two feet of causing residents to evacuate their homes.

However, towards the middle of December the water level on the river began to decrease.

Another flood occurred along the Flambeau River near Ladysmith, Wis. According to a report by hydraulic engineer Pat Foley, an ice jam flooded three homes along the river. Two of the homes had basements flooded, while residents in the third home had to evacuate because water was in the first floor living area.

Residents reported that the river had reached about five feet above the normal water level.

The city of Granite Falls, Minn., along the Minnesota River, also experiences flooding from ice jams almost every year. However this year, the city beat the problem. The Corps was asked by the city to notify them if water flows from the Lac Qui Parle Dam exceed 1,000 cubic feet per second. The Corps was also asked to keep lower flows from the dam until after the critical period when frazil ice forms.

Frazil ice forms when an open stream or river cools rapidly. The ice then clings to anything as it floats downstream and builds up to form an ice jam. Once a layer of ice forms on the top of the river surface, the water below is kept at a warmer temperature.

The Corps is doing all it can to cooperate with the city in hopes of lessening the chance of an ice jam along the river again this year.

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them."

—Mark Twain



Holiday fun was very much in evidence when the district office held its holiday party at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. Above: The Corps Carolers entertain

with holiday songs. Below: Dave Valen, ED-D, picks up a gift from Tom Clay, CO-RE, who works seasonally for the North Pole district.



People Behind the Corps

Hard working are the words than can be used to describe John Ryan, head lock and dam operator at Lock and Dam No. 10 in Guttenburg, Iowa.

With lockages alone, John and the other lock and dam personnel keep busy. For instance during the months of March through October, there were a total of 1,308 tows and 5,336 recreational craft locked through at Lock and Dam No. 10.

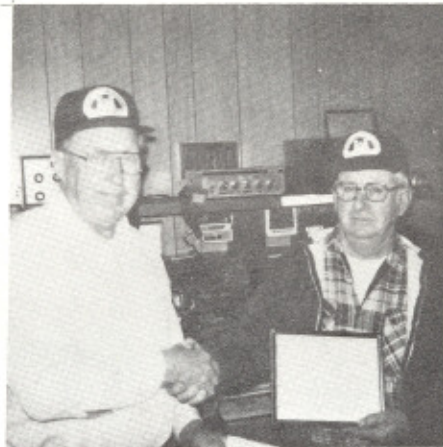
Despite the busy lock schedule, John found the time to develop a maintenance program for the gas powered equipment at the site. John maintains and repairs all the equipment at the site.

"He's just an outstanding small engine mechanic," Burnell Reinitz, lockmaster, said. "We never have to worry about the equipment not working, because through the maintenance program, John has prolonged the life of each piece of equipment."

In recognition of John's performance, he was given a Sustained Superior Performance Award on November 14.

John began working for the Corps in 1961 as a lock and dam operator at Lock and Dam No. 10. Before this time, he worked on his father's farm.

Now a head lock and dam operator, John



John Ryan (right) accepts a Sustained Superior Performance Award from Lockmaster Burnell Reinitz.

usually supervises the night and week-end shifts.

During the winter months, John repairs and maintains the equipment at the site to prepare for the next navigation season. He must also make sure that the roller gates are free of ice and operational.

During his free time, John enjoys working in his garage at home, fixing old pick-up trucks.

Ice On Mississippi Strands 130 Barges

Early freezing temperatures froze the Mississippi River two weeks early, stranding 130 barges in the St. Paul District.

However, three towboats didn't quit without a struggle.

The tug boat Itasca continued pushing its cargo, an ocean-going tug, downstream until it reached pool six where the ice became too much.

According to Coast Guard Lt. Greg Adams, the ocean tug had too deep a draft to navigate the river by itself. It is also too heavy for the Itasca to move through the ice-filled channel.

For awhile, the L.J. Sullivan and the Sunflower pushed their tows ahead of the Itasca in an attempt to help break-up the ice.

Unfortunately, the cold temperatures continued to make the ice thicker. The L.J. Sullivan and the Sunflower decided that they would fleet their barges at LaCrosse, Wis. for the rest of the winter.

The Itasca, left on its own to battle the ice, decided to return to Lock and Dam No. 6 where it will sit out the winter tied to the lower guidewall.

Stridders Take First by Walking 2,289 Miles

The Stridders took first place in the second annual walking and jogging contest that ended on September 28. Contest winners were selected by the total number of miles walked or jogged during the 20 weeks of the contest.

The Stridders walked a total of 2,289 miles, an average of more than 228 miles for each team member. The team included captain James Muegge, Al Malkis, Bob Dempsey, Tom Sully, Dick Schreifels, Bob Penniman, Tom Gundon, Fred Vogele, LaVane Dempsey and Winston Riedesel.

Second place went to Teri's Terrapins who walked a total of 929 miles with an average of more than 61 miles per person.

The Awesome Ambulators came in third place with a total of 877 miles. Each team member averaged more than 125 miles.

An honorable mention was given to the Road Runners who walked a total of 583 miles. Each team member averaged more than 64 miles.

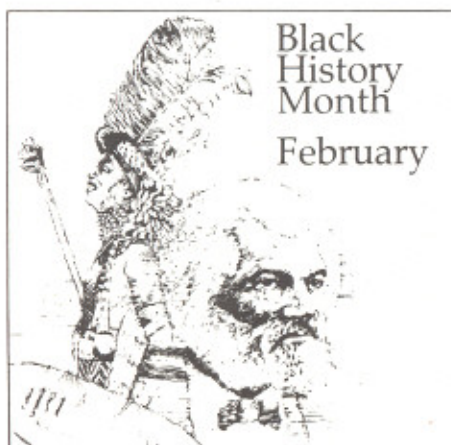
Among the six teams entered into the contest a total of 5,037 miles were walked, averaging more than 102 miles per person.

Over Drafts Win by 19 Pounds

The Over Drafts lost 39 pounds in 18 weeks, winning first place in the third weight-off contest. Each team member lost an average of more than four pounds. Led by captain Giovanni Orbita the team members included Bill Vennemann, Dave Swanson, Steve St. George, Kris Meshner, Pete Casillas, Paul French, Jan Lassen, Ann Bradford and Gail Anderson.

Second place went to the Overfeds with a total of 20 pounds lost.

The Rifers took third place with a total loss of four pounds.



Slow Down!

The job you've been working on still isn't finished and time is running out. You begin taking short-cuts. Unfortunately you become careless and hurt yourself, so the job never gets completed.

More than two million people are disabled every year from rushing headlong to get the job done. And more than 12,000 are killed every year. This means one person every 15 seconds has a disabling accident, because of not slowing down to get the job done, safely.

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View From the Deputy's Desk

by Major Mike Nelson
Deputy District Commander

Editor's Note: This is the first installment of a new column written by Major Mike Nelson, deputy district commander, to explore issues, concerns and other items of interest to the employees of the St. Paul District. Major Nelson has indicated that he will periodically discuss issues, concerns or questions that have a wide application to the St. Paul family. Readers having questions which they think would be of interest to other employees should send those questions to Major Nelson, ATTN: DDE.

As we move into the New Year, I would like to address a very important issue that involves all of us—SAFETY. We all take it for granted at one time or another—maybe its our feeling of immortality, complacency or just ignorance of the danger.

There is no one person in this district who can make safety happen. It requires an effort by all of us every day. We have

recently had two tragic accidents—one a death (contractor employee) and one a severe disabling accident (Corps employee). Hindsight, which is always 20-20, says that we could have done something different to prevent both of these accidents; however, this approach helps neither of the people involved in those accidents.

We must all—management and union, employee and supervisor—review our everyday activities to identify and correct safety problems. And while you are thinking about safety, don't stop with the work site. Run a safety check at home also.

I ask all employees to start their own personal safety program today by conscientiously wearing seat belts and requiring their family members to also wear them.

Safety doesn't just happen—it requires a concerted effort from all employees. Let's make 1986 a safe year at work and at home.

Accident Kills 248 Soldiers

Note from the Editor: The following letter is from Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh Jr. and Chief of Staff Gen. John A. Wickham Jr. expressing their sympathy to the total Army Family.

"A tragic aircraft accident occurred December 12, taking the lives of 248 soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division. To the families and friends they have left behind, we extend our heartfelt sympathy out to you in this tragic time.

This sad event touches each soldier, civilian and family member of the Total Army. We grieve for these brave men and women who served so selflessly for the country they loved. They were American soldiers and peacekeepers, coming home from the successful completion of a difficult

and vitally important mission with the multinational force and observers. They endured cheerfully the hardship and sacrifices of isolation and family separation because they knew their presence in the Sinai made a difference to peace. Their distinguished service and sacrifice adds luster to the history of the United States Army, the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell, Ky.

In this special season of the year, we may take consolation in the knowledge that they gave their lives so that others might enjoy peace on earth. This is, after all, the greatest gift a soldier can give. With this gift, we all inherit the obligation to carry on what they have advanced with honor. We pray that God blesses them."

In Memoriam

Pamela Banks, public affairs office, passed away on Wednesday, January 8, while in Texas for a training session. She had collapsed on Monday during class. She was 31.

According to hospital reports, Pam suffered an aneurysm near the brain.

Pam had worked in public affairs for two years. In her job as public affairs assistant and editor of *Crosscurrents*, she had visited most of the field sites and was known throughout the district. Prior to joining the district, she had worked for the Veteran's Administration in the Twin Cities.

She is survived by her husband, Bill, her three children, her parents and two brothers and two sisters. Funeral services were held in Lake City, Minn.

Dawson Confirmed as Assistant Secretary

Robert K. Dawson has been confirmed by the United States Senate as the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). The confirmation on December 3, followed his nomination for the post by President Reagan.

Dawson will be responsible for formulating, developing and implementing Administration policies with respect to the civil works activities of the Department of the Army. He will oversee and analyze critical elements of the Corps of Engineers' civil works program for water resources and its regulatory program. As the Secretary of the Army's representative, Dawson will also present testimony before Congress.

Dawson praised the Corps of Engineers as one of the finest, most productive agencies in government. "...staffed by true professionals and dedicated public servants."

"My priorities include getting worthy new water projects underway in a manner that both recognizes our present severe budgetary constraints and is sensitive to environmental concerns," he added. "Also, I want to conclude the Administration's initial positive steps toward reform of the Corps' regulatory program."

"Penetrating so many secrets, we cease to believe in the unknowable. But there it sits nevertheless, calmly licking its chops."

—H. L. Mencken, American essayist

Local Area Network Expands District's Capabilities

The district has expanded its computer capabilities by the installation of the AT&T Local Area Network (LAN) in January. The network provides users with the capability of transmitting information at high speed from one computer to another.

Acting as a "traffic cop," the network connects an individual microcomputer or terminal to the Harris minicomputer or to different computers inhouse or outside of the district. The network also provides the district with a means of using inhouse electronic mail.

Over the last few months, cables have been installed, hard wiring computers directly into the network on the 14th floor, allowing one central location for individuals to gain access to other computer equipment.

So far, 102 ports have been installed, connecting computers or terminals directly to the network. These ports can be expanded to 204 without additional wiring. By the end of summer, it is anticipated that 35 more ports will be connected to the network.

The network replaces the CODEX port selector, which is now hooked directly into the Harris. According to Bob Stackowiak, chief of the Programming Branch, the CODEX has caused significant communications problems in the past. With the new Local Area Network in operation, information can be transmitted at high speed more efficiently and with greater reliability.

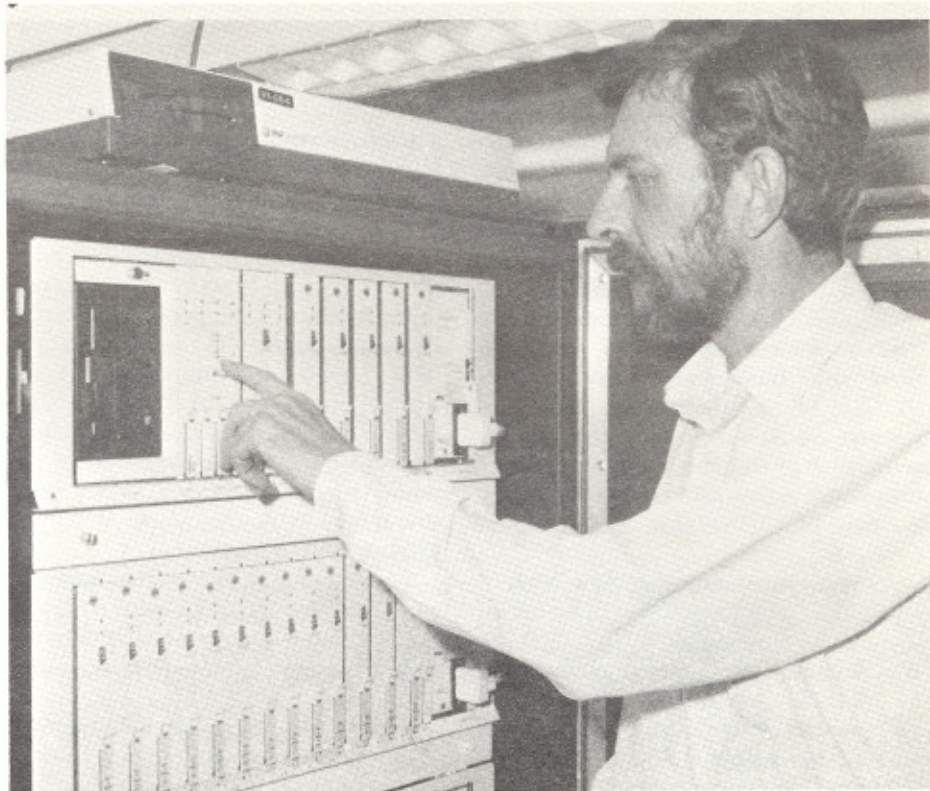
"Also the use of modems which now allow the individual to dial to other computers will eventually be eliminated. The network is equipped with 20 modems and can be expanded as the need arises," Bob said.

Other advantages of the new network is the opportunity for the user to use various specialty printers and plotters (for computer generated graphs) throughout the district.

The network system can expand to handle up to 1,920 separate pieces of computer equipment as the needs of the district grow.

"In the long run, the network will save the district money," Bob said. "Since the user now has access to a larger variety of computer equipment, separate equipment for each office may not have to be purchased."

The total cost for the installation of the network was approximately \$74,900.

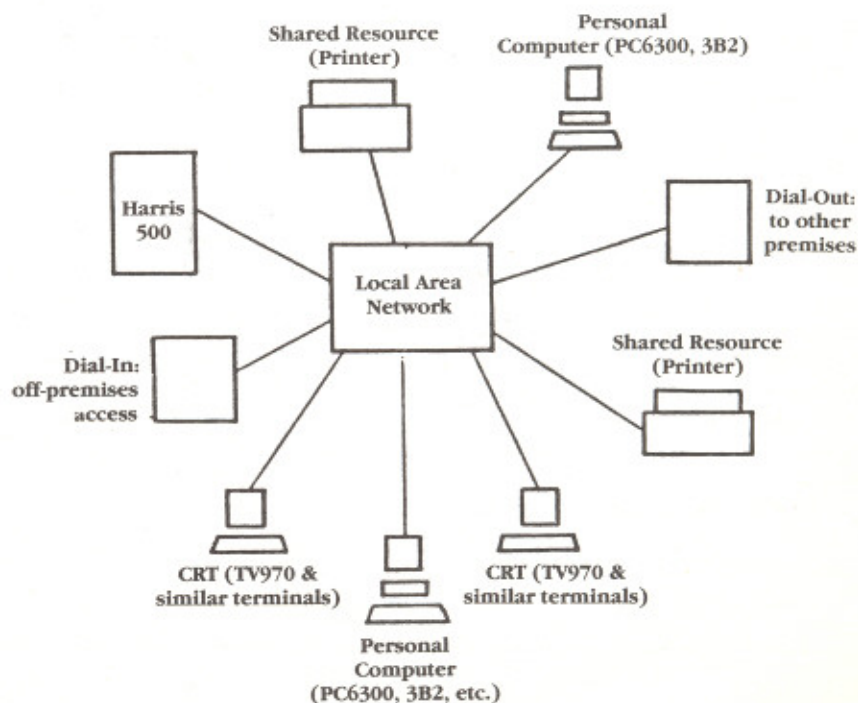


Ron Rogers, ADP operations, makes an adjustment to the information systems network—the brain of the Local Access Network—located in the ADP Center on the 14th floor. The LAN will improve

computer operations in the district office by connecting individual pieces of computer equipment through a central switchboard.

photo by Ken Gardner

LOCAL AREA NETWORK DESIGN CONCEPT



"Nothing, of course, begins at the time you think it did."

—Lillian Hellman, playwright

VDTs—A Pain in the Neck?

by Donna Bolinger, American Forces Information Services

Video display terminals, or VDTs, have become as familiar in the office environment as typewriters and file cabinets.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health estimates that more than seven million Americans use these television-like devices in their work.

Video display terminal popularity has hit the Defense Department as well. Defense officials estimate that nearly 200,000 are used by service members and DoD civilians.

But just as quickly as the number of video display terminals has increased, so have the number of complaints that the devices can be a "sight for sore eyes"—and a real pain in the neck. Workers who spend a lot of time in front of video display terminals frequently complain of eyestrain, double vision, itching and burning eyes, color perception difficulties or flickering sensations in their eyes, according to Dr. Harold Coleman, chairman of the American Optometric Association's Environmental and Occupational Vision Task Force.

Others complain of stiffness of the neck, upper back, arms and shoulders, as well as physical or emotional stress.

A two-year study by the American Academy of Ophthalmology recently confirmed that video display terminals can cause discomfort and fatigue, but found no evidence that they damage workers' vision.

Another study, conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, also ruled out fears that video display terminals emit dangerous radiation levels. This study showed that radiation levels of such terminals are actually below those of fluorescent lights.

"The VDT itself is not some sort of evil monster," said Bob Stout, industrial hygienist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Safety and Occupational Health Division. "Studies show any highly repetitive job will have the same results."

The American Academy of Ophthalmology's study showed that many problems blamed on video display terminals are actually caused by job frustration, cramped or inadequate work space design, or the failure of some terminal operators to wear eyeglasses if they need them.

"Conscience is the inner voice that warns us that someone might be looking."

—H. L. Mencken, essayist



An adult doe frantically tries to find an escape route after swimming upstream the Eau Galle River and into the conduit of the dam.

photo by Tom Novak

Doe Spends Night Inside Eau Galle Dam

by Dan Jopp, Park Ranger

An adult doe spent the night inside the Eau Galle Dam in Spring Valley, Wis., on Sunday, November 17.

Sometime during the evening, a doe swam up the Eau Galle River and into the dam's outlet conduit. The conduit is 700-foot-long and nine-feet in diameter and allows water to flow under the dam.

With a normal flow going through the conduit, the doe had plenty of head room.

Since water enters from the reservoir at the upper end of the conduit, the only way out for the doe was downstream; the way she came in.

However, climbing down the slippery concrete ramp with the current to the river is much harder than climbing up.

The doe, not knowing how to get out of the conduit, decided to spend the night.

On Monday morning, Corps employees noticed the doe. To assist the doe out of the conduit, the dam gates were opened just enough to increase the water level.

As the water level increased inside the conduit, the doe decided to brave the slippery ramp.

Scrambling down the ramp, the doe swam to shore and bounded off into the woods.

Hydro From page 1

Corps before putting any structure or doing any other work in navigable waters of the United States.

Since the new power plant would be built at a federal lock and dam site, the Corps was required to review the designs and specifications for the plant to assure that the new structure would not interfere with navigation and the stability of the dam structure.

Construction was started on November 14 after the contractor received the Section 10 permit and approval from the district for cofferdam work. The company plans to have the plant completed by August 1987 at an estimated cost of about \$9.5 million.

The hydroelectric power plant will be built downstream of the existing Boule overflow dam, between the inactive river-

ward lock and the tainter gate spillway.

Since no vehicles can reach the construction site, a barge and crane will be used to transport the heavy equipment to the work location.

"The only time the Corps will become involved during the construction is to conduct inspections at various stages to assure that the power plant is not interfering with the stability or integrity of the existing structure," Dave Raasch, project manager, said.

According to the Minnesota Department of Energy and Economic Development, the power generated by the Hastings plant will save an equivalent of 60,000 barrels of oil annually.

When completed, the power plant will generate about 4,000 kilowatts.

Lake Superior—Mississippi River Barge Canal

by Franklin J. Ryder, P.E.

Editors Note: Throughout 1986, Cross-currents will be featuring several articles of historical interest by retiree Franklin Ryder (CO).

Within the recent past, two damaged bridges across the St. Lawrence River and the temporary closures of the Welland Locks halted the movement of ocean-going vessels from as far inland as Duluth.

Over the years, alternative commercial water routes from the Great Lakes to the sea were developed.

The Erie Canal, which was the first to be completed in 1825, connected Lake Erie to the Hudson River. The Illinois Ship Canal connects Lake Michigan at Chicago, Ill., with the Mississippi River near Grafton, Ill. However, these two routes were designed for barge traffic rather than for ocean going vessels and ore boats on the Great Lakes.

The third route for commercial navigation to be considered, but never completed, was between Lake Superior and the Mississippi River.

In 1895, 1899, 1909 and 1912, the Corps was authorized by congressional river and

harbor acts to survey, examine and study the feasibility of constructing a barge canal between Lake Superior and the Mississippi.

The Corps recommended three routes.

The first route went from Lake Superior, upstream along the St. Louis and Savanna rivers, onward to Big Sandy Lake and down the Mississippi. In the second suggested route, the navigation channel followed the Nemadji and Kettle rivers in Wisconsin to the St. Croix River down to the Mississippi.

However, the most favored route suggested that a canal from the Duluth-Superior Harbor along the Brule River, across the basin divide, downstream on the St. Croix and finally into the Mississippi River.

This last route was estimated to be about 210 miles and would involve a total lift of 767 feet to be overcome by 24 hydraulic lifts. The canal was to be 59 feet wide at the bottom, 80 feet wide at the water surface with sloping sides and seven feet deep. The total estimated cost for the route in 1895 was more than \$7 million.

However, all of the studies indicated a questionable cost-benefit ratio and the

water supply available at the basin divide between Lake Superior and the Mississippi was insufficient for operation of the barge canal. The project proved to be infeasible.

At that time, the public greatly supported the idea of a new canal without giving much thought to the affects it would have on the environment, recreation and water sports.

After 1916, the dream of a barge canal linking Lake Superior and the Mississippi laid dormant.

Then in 1967, an energetic Duluth industrialist, along with the governor of Minnesota, started a campaign to attract attention to the possibilities of a commercial waterway from the cities of Duluth and Superior to the Mississippi.

In 1968, Congress once again authorized the Corps to conduct another feasibility study, but funds were never appropriated and the project was not started.

Later that year, a Wild-Scenic Rivers Bill was passed protecting the Brule and St. Croix rivers from any development.

February Is Black History Month

February will mark the 60th observance of Black History Month. The theme for this year—"The Afro-American Experience: International Connection"—focuses on the international influence of blacks on science, literature, sports and other areas.

The district observance will be highlighted by a talk by Prof. Mahmoud El-Kati, a recognized authority on black history, on Wednesday, February 12 at 1000 in conference rooms 1219 and 1220. Professor El-Kati is on the faculty of the history department at Macalaster College.

According to Marianne Price, EEO, a number of activities are being scheduled during Black History Month including films and displays. District activities will focus on world apartheid and its relationship to American black history, she said.

“The greatest leader in the world could never win a campaign unless he understood the men he had to lead.”

—Gen. Omar N. Bradley

Middle East Division Reassigned as a District

Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh Jr. announced on December 5 that the Corps' Middle East Division will become a district level element of the South Atlantic Division in December of 1986.

The Middle East Division manages programs in several Middle East and African countries. The largest single program, in Saudi Arabia, is nearing completion.

In August 1985, Lt. Gen. E.R. Heiberg III,

ordered an organizational realignment study to examine alternatives for the division. Based on the results of the study, Lt. Gen. Heiberg announced that the Middle East Division's office will remain in Winchester, Va. as a district under SAD.

It is anticipated that the majority of the personnel in the Middle East Division will remain at Winchester after the reorganization.

District Holds Fraud Seminar

The New Focus on White Collar Crime was the topic at a seminar held at the St. Paul Radisson on December 3. The one-day program was hosted by the St. Paul District for representatives of local, state and federal agencies.

Senior Trial Attorney Peter H. Goldberg, in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., spoke about the wide-spread abuse of the competitive process in government contracting. One common example of contractors abusing the process is the rotating of bids. Contractors will sometimes rotate government contracts among themselves by agreeing who would be the low bidder and then prepare the bids accordingly.

It is important that the staff in the field refer and raise any suspicions of bid rigging

or other abuses so that the Department of Justice can investigate, Goldberg emphasized.

Since these crimes are usually difficult to prove, the department is actively interested in referrals of all suspicious crimes, he said.

Judy Walley, chief of the Antitrust Division in Chicago, provided the group with a handout that summarized the laws applicable to the competitive process in government contracting. The handout provides examples of actions and statements to arouse and focus the suspicions of field staff, who are at the forefront in spotting and ultimately correcting these abuses, she said.

All suspicious bids or other abuses should be reported to the Office of Counsel, Lee Toedter, chief of the Office of Counsel, said.