



US Army Corps
of Engineers

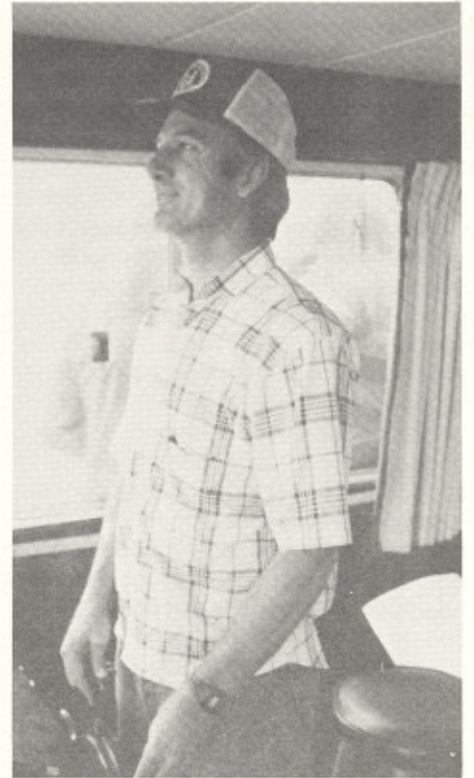
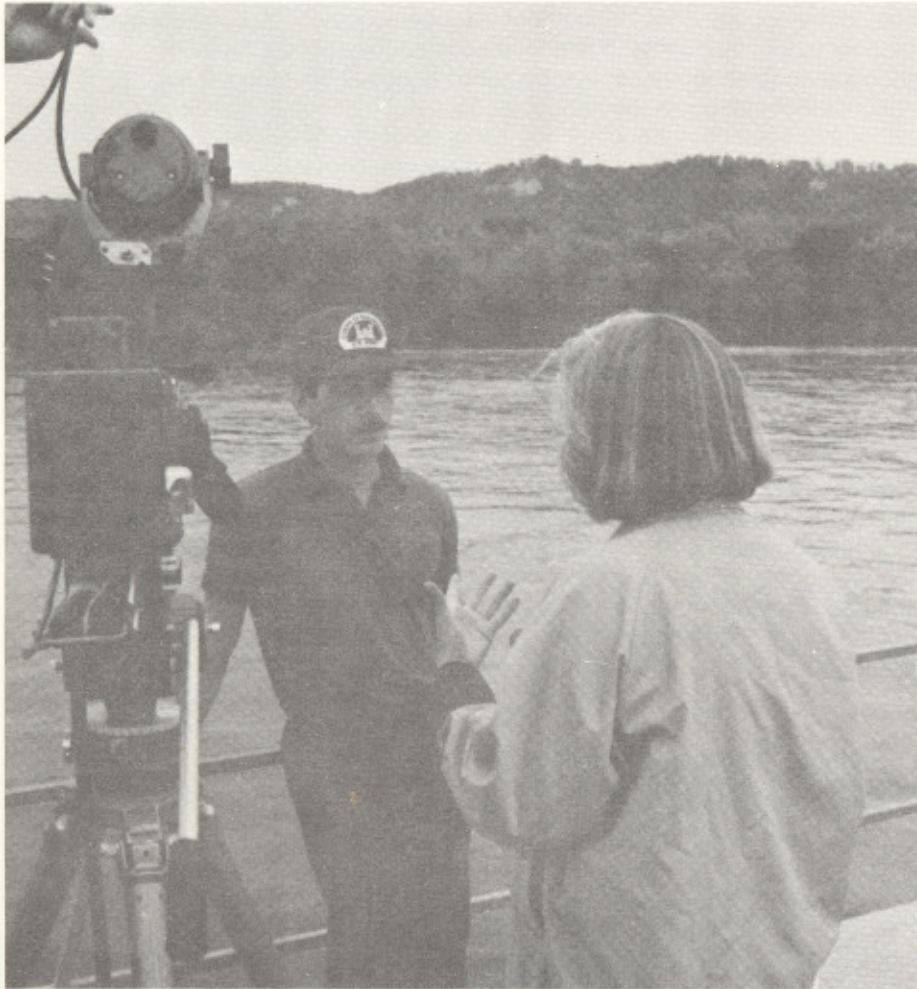
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 9

No. 7

November 1986



News media tour Weaver project

More than a dozen reporters and photographers from regional television stations and newspapers saw the Weaver Bottoms and Island 42 projects during a media tour held in late September. The event was sponsored by Wisconsin and Minnesota departments of natural resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the St. Paul District. Media representatives were briefed on the two projects by Dan Krumholz, river resources coordinator in Maintenance Branch, then taken on a houseboat ride for a first-hand look at the projects. During the three-hour boat ride, reporters talked with and interviewed representatives of the four agencies sponsoring the Weaver Bottoms. Above: Dan Krumholz is interviewed by one of the six television stations attending the tour. Upper right: Cliff Schlueter, hydraulic engineer in ED-GH, helped pilot the houseboat used for the tour. Right: Melissa Shortridge, resident engineer at Winona, talks with reporters during the tour.

Photos by Ken Gardner

Commander's Viewpoint

By Col. Joseph Briggs

The Corps of Engineers has long had a tradition of service—service to our communities, service to the Army, and service to the Nation.

As federal employees and as members of the Corps, we once again have an opportunity to serve our communities, our Nation, and the peoples of the world. This is all possible through the annual Combined Federal Campaign program which is now under way in the St. Paul District. The theme of this year's campaign is "Let your head lead your heart."

I am certain that most of us have been touched by at least one of the thousands of agencies and programs that are now supported by the CFC. Your donations support medical research, provide needed assistance to the ill and their families, and have directly helped young people, the elderly and the troubled.

There are hundreds of agencies—many right in your own neighborhood—providing needed services to your neighbors and even your own families. It doesn't take much searching to find people helping people in your neighborhood or community.

And the CFC provides an easy and cost effective way for us to support those worthwhile programs. By combining payroll de-

duction and designated giving, the CFC makes charity giving easy and insures that your charity dollars reach the agencies and programs you want to support without being diluted by high overhead or unreasonable fund raising costs.

Whether you work in the district office or one of our more than 40 field sites, the CFC can put your contribution to work right where you want it—in local programs in your community or in state, national or international activities. Current CFC regulations give you the option of designating your contribution to any charitable organization. Whether you want to support your local youth center or an international aid program, the CFC can do it for you quickly and easily. Just fill out the pledge card and return it to your office or unit CFC coordinator. That's all there is to it. It just takes a couple of minutes to make a one-time cash donation or to set up a payroll deduction plan to spread your contribution out over the entire year.

Remember, "Let your head lead your heart." I have completed my pledge card. Won't you join me and be part of this year's successful Combined Federal Campaign? A great many people are counting on our support.

Combined Federal Campaign under way

By Capt. Bruce Boldon, ED-GH
District CFC Coordinator

When the problems of today's society seem overwhelming, it's nice to know you have a way to make a difference. Through the 1987 Combined Federal Campaign, you have the opportunity to contribute to a wide range of services which benefit the community, nation and world.

Who can you give to? Any agency organized and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under provision 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3) is eligible for a contribution. This includes agencies listed in the booklets provided, as well as many unlisted agencies such as local churches, youth groups, scholarship funds and many others. If you want to give, but do not know whether any organization is eligible, ask the organization. They can tell you if they are a 501(c)(3) group. All gifts are tax deductible and with payroll deduction, you will probably not even miss your contribution from each paycheck.

If you have not been contacted by a CFC coordinator, call Captain Bruce Boldon at ext. 7592. While we can't promise that your CFC contribution will end the suffering of child abuse, cancer, alcoholism, divorce, aging or stress, we can promise you a way to make it easier for the thousands of people who face difficult situations every day.

Congress passes Omnibus water bill

The St. Paul District had a number of key projects in the Omnibus Water Projects Bill passed by Congress and sent to the White House for President Reagan's signature in mid-October.

According to the legislation that came out of the joint House-Senate conference committee, the Omnibus Bill included authorizations for seven key projects and several smaller projects in the St. Paul District.

(Editor's Note: As this issue of Crosscurrents went to the printer, the president had not signed the Omnibus Water Bill and the district had not received a copy of the final legislation. The following information is based on newspaper articles on the legislation as passed by the House and sent to the Senate.)

Major projects authorized by the bill include flood control projects on the Zumbro River at Rochester, Minn.; the Redwood River at Marshall, Minn.; the Root River, Minn.; and the Mississippi River at St. Paul.

The bill also authorizes the Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Plan, a potential \$191 million program along the Upper Mississippi River to improve fish and wildlife habitat, improve recreation access, collect data on commercial navigation, and to study the economic impact of recreation along the river.

In North Dakota, the Omnibus Bill contained authorization for the Sheyenne River project and for the Park River flood control project at Grafton. The bill also included the flood control project for the Wisconsin River at Portage.

Smaller projects contained in the bill include authorization for an erosion control project on the Red Lake River at Gentilly, Minn., levees at Noyes, Minn., and levees at Gays Mills, Wis.

More detailed information on the contents of the Omnibus Bill will be available later.

This is the first water resources bill to be passed by Congress since 1976.

Editor's Note

Starting with this issue, Crosscurrents will be distributed the first week of the month. The deadline for submitting articles is the 10th of the preceding month.

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 1st of each month preceding publication.

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District Engineer Col. Joseph Briggs
Chief, Public Affairs Ken Gardner
Editor Denise Yale

St. Paul District receives record rainfall

"Why are you keeping the water level so high for so long?"

This is a common question and comes from people who are concerned about high water levels and what it is doing or may do to their property.

There is a simple explanation for the high water levels. Its called rain. We had record rainfall in September and in several places the river registered the highest flow in 95 years. The whole year has been at or above normal in precipitation with some months reaching record levels.

"The long-term viewpoint is that we're in a wet trend and that it will continue," said Ed Eaton, chief of Water Control Center in Engineering. "There is a hydro-

logical persistence that wet years tend to follow wet years and dry years tend to follow dry years."

The river peaked at Lock and Dam 10 in Guttenburg on October 5th at 209,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The average monthly flow for September at the lock is normally 32,500 cfs. McGregor, Iowa, reached its highest September river stage since 1938.

During the last week of September, all the dam gates were pulled except for Lock and Dam no. 2. Several locks in the Rock Island District below Guttenburg were closed temporarily because of high water in October.



The high water along the Mississippi River was very evident in late September at Red Wing. Levee Park, normally a center for recreational activities at Red Wing, was completed under water. Higher than usual precipitation this spring and summer kept water levels on the St. Croix, Minnesota

and Mississippi rivers usually high from spring into fall. Based on average accumulated flows recorded on the Mississippi at St. Paul, the flows for the 12-month period ending September 30, 1986, was the highest on record.

Photo by Ken Gardner

Two former chiefs honored

Two former chiefs of engineers were honored in September by the National Rivers Hall of Fame in Dubuque, Iowa. Retired General Jack Morris and the late General Walter K. "Weary" Wilson were recognized with Honorary Achievement Awards by the Hall of Fame for their achievements on the inland waters of America.

The awards were announced at the National Waterways Conference held in New

Orleans in late September.

Wilson was commander of the St. Paul District from 1946 to 1949 and was appointed chief of engineers in 1961. He retired in 1965.

Morris served as chief of engineers from 1976 to 1980 and is now head of the National Waterways Foundation.

The honorary achievement awards recognize achievements on America's rivers, canals and lakes.

Steve Eggers nominated by NCD for award

Steve Eggers, an ecologist in the Regulatory Branch was the NCD nominee for the Don Lawyer Outstanding Regulatory Award.

Steve's duties include environmental analysis on proposed projects that involve placing fill in wetlands, field investigations including determinations of whether a particular site is a wetland, reviewing environmental impact statements and representing the Corps when meeting with citizens and agencies in evaluating proposed projects. Steve's territory covers a 22-county area of Southern Wisconsin.

In nominating Steve, NCD cited his efforts in preparing numerous technically complex environmental assessments for permit proposals on some of the most controversial regulatory projects processed by the St. Paul District. He has also been involved in the district's regulation of Minnesota's Savage fen wetland complex and the Chiwaukee Prairie, one of the most important wetland areas in Wisconsin, the nomination said.

Presently, Steve is co-authoring a wetland manual that will be published by the St. Paul District. Steve has accumulated a 5,000-slide collection of wetland photos of the Upper Midwest during his seven years with the district. He is an active member of the Society of Wetland Scientists, the Minnesota Native Plant Society and the Audubon Society.

Steve graduated from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in biology. Steve began working for the Corps as a co-op student and became a permanent employee of the Regulatory Branch in 1979.



Crosscurrents visits the headwaters



BIG SANDY

Don Daly, park manager at Big Sandy Dam, is shown in the old lock control house at the park. The lock building contains the original steam-powered equipment used at the early lock. In addition to the lock equipment, the building has nature and historical displays for park visitors.



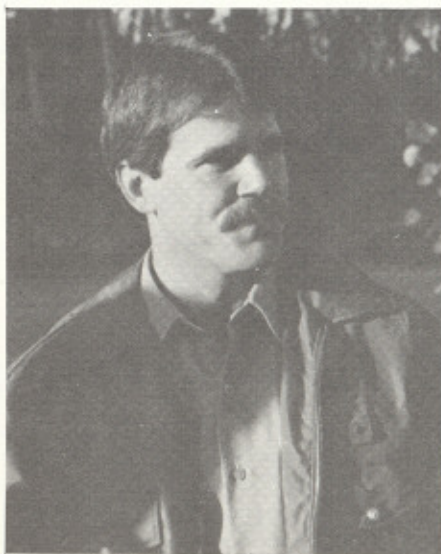
Ranger Greg Struss and Park Manager Walt Hermerding discuss handicap facilities at Pine River Dam with Ross

North Central Division. The three are standing on a fishing dock designed to accommodate wheelchair visitors. The Pine River Dam is in the background.



Rangers Timm Rennecke and Bob Espenson walk along the access road to the new

launch ramp and day use area at Government Point at Gull Lake.



Tim Bertschi, normally assigned to the Mississippi River Project Office in LaCrescent, Minn., has been on a detail to Gull Lake as park manager.

Photos by Ken Gardner



Members of the Hall of Fame that attended the luncheon are from left to right: Elmer Christenson, Henry Harich, Roger Fast, Hildegard Wimmer, Sheldon Fox and the 1986 recipient, Dick Lindberg.

Old Timer's luncheon held in September

The 11th annual Old Timer's Luncheon was held at the Prom Center in St. Paul on September 10th. In spite of the inclement weather, 101 former and present employees attended.

Col. Briggs addressed the group and talked about the present organization of office personnel, current projects under construction, studies and rehabilitation projects as well as prospects for the district in the future. He also awarded Richard L. Lindberg, former chief of procurement branch, the 1986 Hall of Fame award.

Harry Carlson was the master of ceremonies with Esther Kerfoot as treasurer. Catherine Gillespie and Dolores Schuster were at the entrance to greet the attendees. Attendees included:

Carol Anthony; Pat Anderson; Harry & Gladiwa Andersen; Otto & Harriet Benz; Harry Bock; Col. Joseph Briggs; Carl Cable; Harry & Irene Carlson; Bing Chin; Elmer Christenson; Edwin Chun; Frank & Dorothy Daly; John & Elenore DeFord; Myron & Joyce Erickson; Peg Erickson;

Earl & Ruth Evans; Milton & Marcia Evenson; Roger & Betty Fast; Florence Felix; John & Vivian Forsberg; Sheldon & Ida Fox; Marguerite Gabel; Catherine Gillespie; Bill Goetz; Zane Goodwin; Raymond & Gladys Grossell; Velva Guesmer; Catherine Haltiner; Henry & Lois Harich; Elmer Harris; Delores Hauser; Lois Hawkinson; Fredric Henry; Julia Herl; Pearl Hooper; Bud Johnson; Roger Johnson; Melvin Jordahl; Irving Kendall; Esther Kerfoot; Margaret Kincaid; Lou Kowalski; Jim Kursu; Henry & Anne Langer; Rita Langley; Smokie Leier; Richard Lindberg; Donald Ludwig; Dale Lynch; Constance McGinley; Lester Merville; Patricia Morrow; Bob Northrup; William and Bernice Pagel; Lois Paskett; Chester & Marilyn Pederson; Arthur Pera; Bob Post; Brig. Gen. Joseph Pratt; Joan Quitter; Mary Rivett; Al Rosenberg; Ed Sandelin; Sylvester Schaefer; Arthur Schollmeier; William & Helen Schultz; Dolores Schuster; Evelyn Schwartz; Emil Silverman; Doris Skramstad; Gretchen

Sobolewski; Walt Stadelman; Muriel Tait; Jean Thurmer; Ann Vaidich; Wesley & Jo Walters; John Wiede; Hildegard Wimmer.



Pictures from past luncheons drew the attention of many of the retirees who attended this year's luncheon.

Photos by Dale Lynch

Hunting safety can save lives

On October 2, a hunter in La Crosse, Wis. shot and killed his hunting partner. He said that he thought it was a squirrel. On the same day in another part of the state, another man shot and killed his partner. He thought he was shooting at a groundhog.

There is one rule that can prevent most hunting accidents: if you can't see it, don't shoot it.

Wait until you are absolutely sure of your target—and what's beyond it—before you pull the trigger. To keep yourself from becoming a target—wear bright clothing.

SAVE MONEY & TIME, REUTILIZE



USE DECLARED EXCESS PROPERTY

For additional information, contact Paul French Logistics Office, 725-7505

Remember, excess is the first source of supply.

Maintaining the nine-foot channel

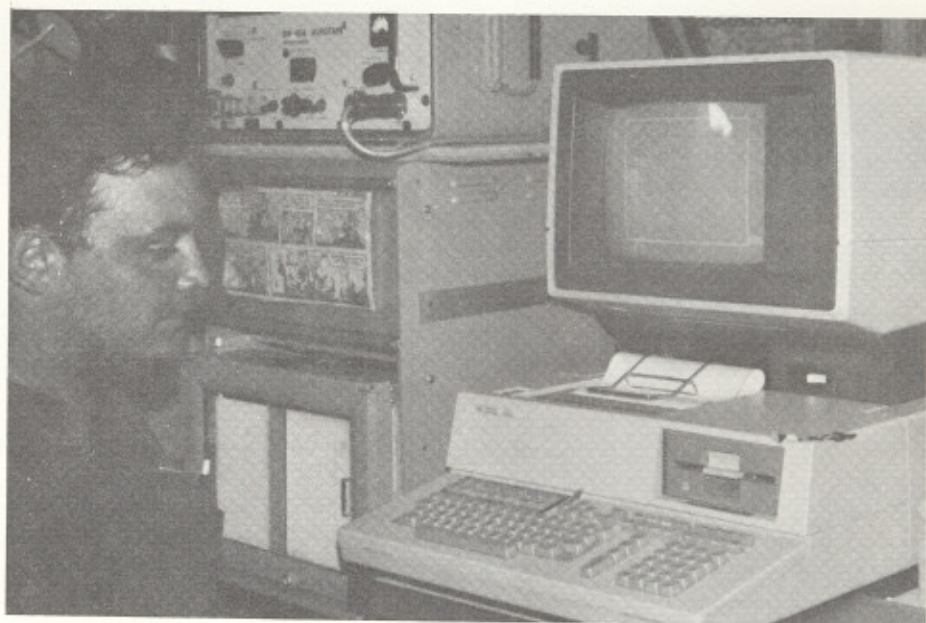
Every spring, the Mississippi River's nine-foot channel is in danger of becoming a less than nine-foot channel. In some cases, it appears that the river is desperately trying to return to its original state. The river works hard at replacing the material that was dredged from the channel. She never grows tired of letting us know that she is really in charge and merely tolerates our presence. She also lets us know what she thinks of our nine-foot channel by dumping tons of material into it and then sits back and laughs as we work to dredge it back out.

After the ice breaks up in the spring, district crews take to the river and the yearly task of maintaining the channel begins.

SURVEY BOATS

This spring, two of the district's three survey boats were equipped with new computer equipment. The new system is faster, more accurate and can closely monitor changing bottom conditions. It has a graph plotter on board that will print different elevations in different colors. It can also do volume calculations of material above any elevation.

"In addition to better surveys of the river," said Craig Hinton, Mississippi River section, "it will also be useful to the hydraulics section. They can analyze wing dam structures and see how they are functioning."



Steve Sing, a survey crewmember on Survey Launch 16, operates the new computer system. The system was installed this

spring and provides faster and more accurate surveys.

The district plans on getting a duplicate system installed in the office that will take data from the boat and process it here. This will save time as the boat will not have to stop the survey job that it is working on to plot the data. Emergency jobs will continue to be plotted on board though.

In the spring, the survey boats do a channel run to see if any areas look bad and they also look at historic trouble spots such as Read's landing and Crats Island. "The sur-

vey crews have been on the river so long that they have a good feel for what areas are going to be bad," said Craig.

The boats are kept busy in the winter time doing work for other sections like engineering. Some of their jobs include scour surveys below the dams and lock and dam structure monitoring.

DREDGING

The Dredge Thompson divides its time between the St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis districts. The dredge winters in St. Louis and comes north when the ice begins to break up and heads back down during October or November, depending on the weather.

The Thompson dredged more than 680,000 cubic yards (CY) of material from the river bottom this year. Two major operations were at Fisher Island in pool 5 with 142,928 CY dredged and Crats Island in pool 4 with 183,322 CY. Crats Island was the site of a seven-day channel closure that was the result of a grounding in June.

The Dubuque has been working on the Ohio River for the last three years, but came back to the district on September 8th. Since its return, it has done work in pools 8 and 10. It will spend the winter in Fountain City where it will be overhauled.

The Hauser, a mechanical dredge, is used mostly for structure repair work now instead of dredging.



Dredge material is pumped from the Thompson to a disposal area where

bulldozers work 24 hours a day moving it away from the discharge pipe.

September 22, 1986

Department of the Army
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers
1135 US Post Office & Custom House
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1479

Attn: Mr. Bill Goetz

Sir:

About two years ago when the new lights were put up along the Locks and Dams, I told a Lanesboro Park Board member to write a letter to the District Engineer in St. Paul requesting some of the old light standards, if they would be available. After some jockeying around the City of Lanesboro got 19 old light standards that were on the Lock & Dams on the Mississippi River.

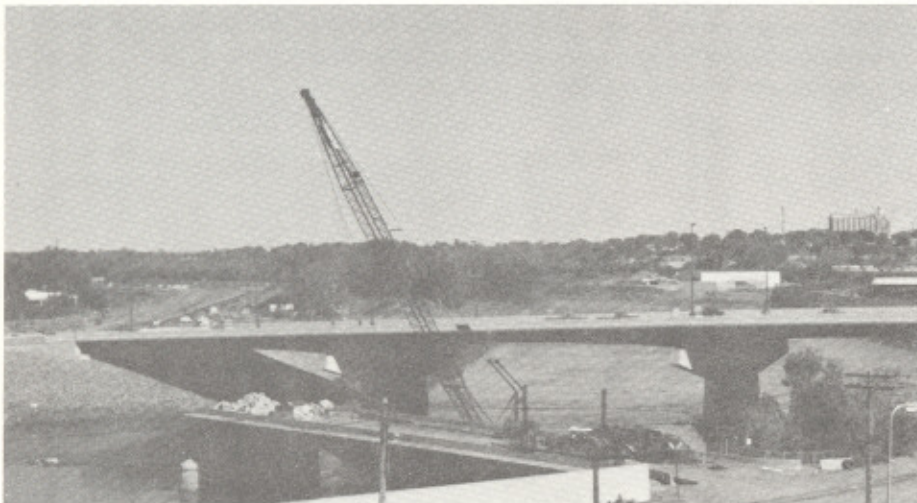
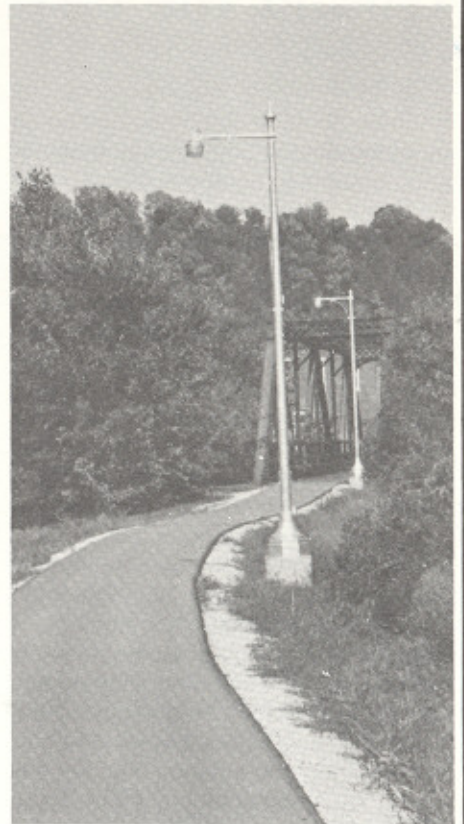
The City asked me, if I would make arrangements to go and get them at Trempealeau. I made arrangements with a farm machinery hauler to get them, and the City of Trempealeau loaded them on a semi-trailer. I got them delivered to the City of Lanesboro at no cost to the City. The City with financial help from the Minnesota DNR installed them along the Root River trail which is in the National Historical District in Lanesboro. Enclosed are pictures of the lights as they appear in public use today.

All the historical minded people of the City of Lanesboro and I want to thank the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers for the old light standards that were put to use to help make Lanesboro become a more historical city.

Yours,

Donald V. Ward

Enclosures:
Pictures

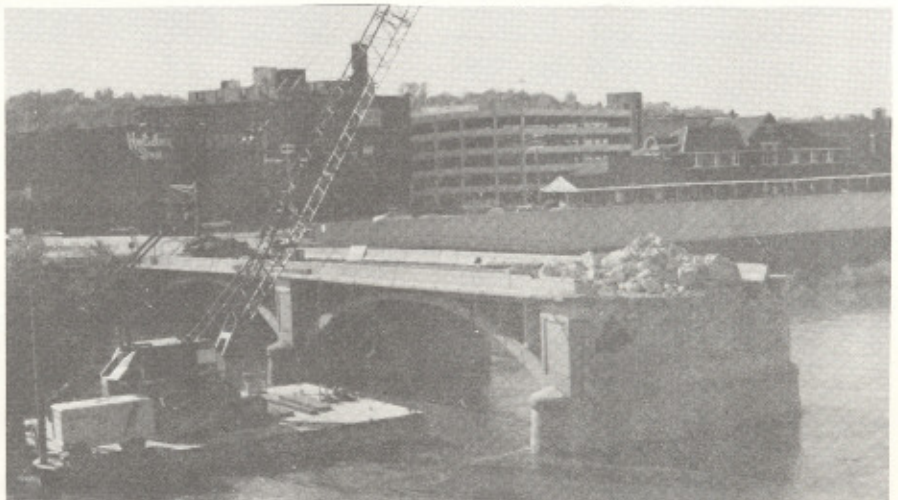


Photos by Ken Gardner

The new Main Street Bridge (left) in Mankato opened to limited traffic in early October while demolition of the old bridge over the Minnesota River continued (right). The new bridge is part of the \$100 million Mankato Flood Control Project. With the opening of the Main Street Bridge, the flood control project is one more step nearer completion. Remaining work includes completion of the Highway 169 bridge over the Blue Earth River, construction of a railroad bridge, and construction of one small section of floodwall. Larry La-Point is the resident engineer at Mankato. The project manager is Bob Penniman.

"The complete Murphy's law:
(1) Nothing is as easy as it looks;
(2) Everything takes longer than you think;
(3) If anything can go wrong, it will; and
(4) An open-face peanut butter and jelly sandwich, if dropped, always lands jelly side down."

—James J. Kilpatrick,
columnist



Around the district

By Ken Gardner
Public Affairs

As I mentioned in a previous column, keeping up with all the people changes may be (is) more than one person can handle. Keeping that in mind and remembering that no one is perfect, I'll start by correcting earlier omissions.

Frank Starr, recreation planner and self-taught micro computer expert, has been working on a developmental assignment in Information Management since July. This is one of those news items that are nearly O.B.E. (Overcome By Events) since I understand that Frank will be returning to PD-ES in early November.

Connie Blasing, former branch secretary in Reg Functions, has been working in Economics-Social-Recreation Branch of Planning for several months as a social science technician. In another key change in PD-ES, **Rhonda Petschen** has moved up from the 11th floor (Reg Functions) to be branch secretary.

On the additional duty roster, pencil in **Judith Allaire** as the district's new Federal Women's Program Manager. Judith will continue with her primary job as a structural engineer in Design Branch while running the FWP in her spare time. She replaces **Barbara Lemire-Higley**, who has transferred from EEO to Engineering as an A-E contracting clerk.

On the home front, things were pretty exciting around Planner **Marty McCleery's** home recently. Marty's wife Judy was named Minnesota Teacher of the Year by the Minnesota Education Association and will compete for the 1987 National Teacher of the Year honor. Judy teaches high school in Roseville.

October not only brought the beginning of a new fiscal year, but signaled a couple of key organizational changes which have been waiting in the wings for some time. The district now officially has a Logistics Office headed by **Mary Rivett**. In addition to travel (**Joann Meier**) and supply (**John Mena**), Logistics includes property activities (**Judy Parnell**) and surplus property disposal (**Paul French**). Paul transferred to Logistics from Procurement and Supply while Judy was formerly part of the Comptroller Office.

Speaking of Procurement and Supply, there isn't one. It is now Contracting Division (office symbol CT). **Sid Schmidt** is chief of CT.

Questions we shouldn't ask (or maybe shouldn't answer): If planners work in Planning Division and engineers work in Engineering Division, why don't we call

people who work in Contracting Division "contractors?"

October 1 also saw the NCD Real Estate office headed by **Gary Ditch** become part of the St. Paul District under a division-wide de-centralization of the real estate function. Regardless of the organizational realignment in real estate, Gary's connection with Chicago will continue. He has accepted a position at NCD and will be leaving St. Paul shortly.

Meanwhile, just to keep those folks who keep telephone directories on their toes, here is one more change. **Ben Wopat**, formerly chief of Emergency Management, has taken charge of Reg Functions. **Dave Christianson** is acting chief of EM.

Now that we have covered all of the major organizational and key personnel changes, let's look at some other actions around the district which make it difficult to find people.

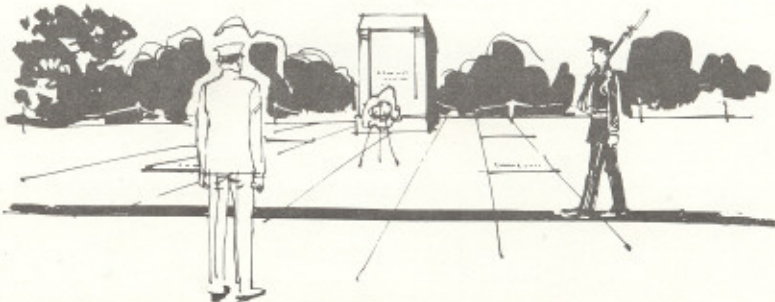
Terry Sardinias, Reg Functions, is on a developmental assignment to Environmental Resources (PD-ER) while **Barry Drazkowski** is on long term training at the University of Minnesota.

While visiting Gull Lake in early Octo-

ber, I was surprised to run into **Tim Bertschi**, who normally works out of the Mississippi River Project Office at LaCrescent, Minn. Tim was on a short-term detail there helping out until a decision is made on filling the park manager position vacated when **Marty Ehrhardt** retired earlier this year.

Everyone likes to receive money so it should be noted that one of our favorite money givers, **Florence D'Heilly**, has left the district to get married. As disbursing clerk in Finance and Accounting, Florence had contact with much of the district as she cut checks and distributed travel advances and travel payments. **Carol Johnson** is handling the disbursing duties until a permanent replacement can be named.

Finally, I received a phone call while I was writing this column from **Bill Venne-man** from drafting. Except that he wasn't calling from drafting. Rather, Bill was calling from the 9th floor in his new capacity as a cartographer in Real Estate. Bill is currently working on the space allocation plan for the district office. (Ah, Bill, I'll take a corner office with a view of the river and the sun setting over St. Paul).



VETERANS DAY • Nov. 11

Remember the District Office
HOLIDAY PARTY

More information to follow

