



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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The Corps goes to the Fair

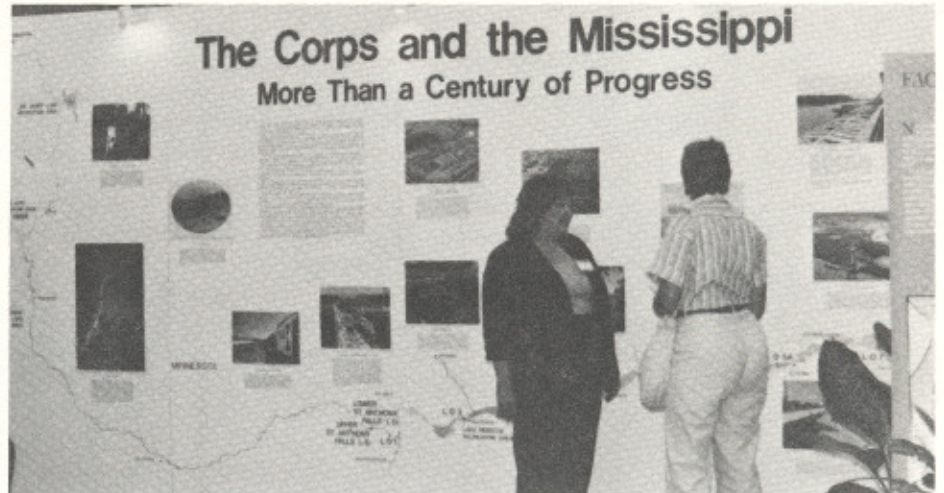
The 1986 State Fair ran from August 21st to September 1st and because of the cooler weather, there was a record turn-out. The Fair is a time of entertainment, thrilling rides and corn dogs. It is also a time for long lines, tired feet and crying children.

The major goals of the many exhibitors at the fair is to inform people about their products and/or services. For the Corps of Engineers, it is an excellent time to reach the public and increase their awareness of Corps activities. More than 400 visitors requested information brochures this year and many more stopped to ask questions.

The display, which was also used last year, depicted a map of the Mississippi River and the various accomplishments and concerns of the St. Paul District. A video tape of the Mississippi River and another on the dinosaurs that the Museum of Science barged down the river in July were also shown.

We would like to thank the employees who worked at the booth this year. They are:

Thomas Sully, ED-D; Frank Yule, L/D 2; Carl Stephan, PD-PF; Yvonne Larson, CO-RF; Dan Krumholz, CO-MA; Jim Mueller, ED-



Yvonne Larson (left) talks to a visitor at the Corps display booth during the fair. People found the map interesting

and enjoyed finding Corps facilities that they had visited.

GH; Joann Meir, AS-G; Bill Hohman, PD-ER; Terry Engel, PD-FS; Mike Kinsey, CO-CT; Bob Dempsey, ED-D; Kelsey Willis, ED-GA; Theresa Magistad, PD-FS; Jill Olson, PD-ES; Bruce Carlson, PDES; Lois Pream, PD-PS; Bob Westgate, PD-ES; Connie Blasing, CO-RF; and Rodney Webster, CO-CT.

We would like to thank the following people for their assistance: Anne Bradford from drafting for the touch-up work on the display; George Rodriguez, Fred King and Lloyd Dosh from St. Anthony Lock and Dam for transporting the display to and from the fair.

Flood Training Exercise held at Mankato

By Dave Christenson

Emergency Management Division

"Why are we training for fighting floods when it's dry. We haven't had a flood in years".

These comments arose during the recent Flood Training Exercise held August 20th in Mankato, Minnesota. Over 60 Federal, State and local flood fighters attended the exercise.

"We have to keep people prepared because it is inevitable that at some time in the future we will experience flooding. That is why this training is important," replied Ben Wopat, chief of Emergency Management Division. "It keeps us ready to respond effectively.

"As we get farther and farther away from the last major flood (1979), we become very

apathetic," said Ben. "The exercise reminds both district personnel and local officials of the tremendous effort that is required to fight floods".

The exercise included presentations on the role of the Minnesota Division of Emergency Services, the flood emergency plans of the City of Mankato, and flood fight techniques. The presentations were held in the Blue Earth County Emergency Operations Center. "Hands-on" demonstrations were conducted during the afternoon at Sibley Park East.

"Laying sandbags seems like a simple operation, but when you add rain, cold weather, long hours, that simple task can overextend your resources," commented

Jim Ruyak, acting chief of maintenance. Jim was the coordinator for the demonstration and presented flood fight techniques. "The demonstrations show the myriad of small details that go into flood fights".

The emphasis on "realistic" training was enhanced by a rainstorm throughout the demonstration. Corps employees set up and built sandbag levees, chimneyed manhole protection, and polyethylene erosion protection. There were also pumping demonstrations during an afternoon of persistent rain.

"You don't fight floods during ideal conditions. We have had snow, rain, high

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U.S. and Vietnam working on resolving POW/MIA issue

Washington (ARNEWS)—This year's national Prisoner-of-War/Missing-in-Action Recognition Day occurs Sept. 19.

It comes at a time of an anticipated increase in cooperation on the part of Vietnamese and U.S. officials to help resolve the POW and MIA issues in southeast Asia.

After two days of what were termed "highly productive talks" with Vietnamese officials in Hanoi, U.S. officials at a press conference July 2 in Bangkok, Thailand, aired their assurance that Vietnam is pursuing its two-year plan for resolving the POW/MIA issue.

U.S. delegation leader Richard Childress of the National Security Council staff said, "we and the Vietnamese will meet at the technical level in August and again in October, confirming the agreed pattern of

at least six such meetings per year. Vietnamese officials said these meetings would be especially productive." Technical talks, which take place at the nonpolicy-making level, involve persons from both sides who deal with the mechanics of search, collection, identification and recordkeeping.

In addition to announcing the technical talks, Childress added that the latest agreements included the following points:

—Vietnamese and U.S. forensic specialists will meet in Vietnam for consultations.

—Vietnam will provide the U.S. government with the results, in writing, of its investigation of reports of live-prisoner sightings.

—Vietnam will permit U.S. experts to accompany its officials on investigations in accessible areas.

—The Vietnamese accepted a U.S. invitation for another visit to U.S. technical facilities—the Central Identification Laboratory and the Joint Casualty Resolution Center, both located in Hawaii.

"We believe our meetings in Hanoi helped clarify understandings and commitments on both sides, and we are encouraged by Vietnam's renewed pledge of cooperation," Childress said.

He reiterated the U.S. Government's intentions to lend "cooperative support" to Vietnam's two-year plan for resolving the POW/MIA issue—a plan formally set in motion in January 1986. "If at the end of two years we still have work to do, we'll continue to work," he concluded.

Brig. Gen. Pratt visits District

Ron O'Brien (left), chief of the Electronics Service Center in Hastings, explains the many aspects of the center to Gen. Pratt and Col. Briggs. The office, which used to be called the Communications Center, is located near Lock and Dam No. 2.

Photo by Aaron Fairbanks



Brig. Gen. Joseph Pratt (second from right) talks to several engineers while on an inspection tour of Lock and Dam 2. He was inspecting the construction of the hydro-power plant and the rehabilitation work on the dam. Gen. Pratt visited the St. Paul office in July substituting for General Heiberg, who was unable to make the visit because of congressional meetings on the Omnibus Water Resource Bill. The general spoke at a S.A.M.E. luncheon during his visit.

Photo by Aaron Fairbanks



Governors tour the Mississippi

By Rose Braatz

Construction Operations Branch

Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich and Wisconsin Governor Anthony Earl toured the Mississippi River on July 28 to view Corps of Engineers channel maintenance improvement activities and other environmental related projects. Bill Goetz, chief of Construction-Operations, and Dan Krumholz, river resource coordinator in Maintenance Branch, accompanied the group for a look at Corps projects at Read's Landing, Crat's Island and the Weaver Bottoms. They also viewed the Dredge Thompson operating at Fisher Island dredge cut.

According to the Minneapolis Star and Tribune report by Dean Rebuffoni, one objective was "to see the environmental good deeds of the Army Corps of Engineers, with which Minnesota and Wisconsin have had their differences."

The Governors' Mississippi River Tour was sponsored by the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission which advises the two states on matters involving the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers. The

Commission's chairman, Frederick Funk, told the tour group that they would see environmental improvement projects that "weren't believed possible in 1966," the year the Commission was founded.

"Nobody expected 20 years ago that the Corps of Engineers would dedicate so much money to such river projects," Funk was quoted as saying. He added that "nobody would have predicted that the Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the two states would work so closely on the Mississippi."

A briefing on the Weaver Bottoms project was given by Dan Krumholz and Rick Berry, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They explained how the project will use dredged material productively to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, reduce dredging requirements, and provide a long range channel maintenance plan for the Corps navigation project. Studies and monitoring associated with the project were also discussed.

Graduating civil engineers want to work for the Corps

The Corps of Engineers is the most favored Federal employer among graduating civil engineers, according to a recently published 1985 survey conducted by *Graduating Engineer* magazine and Deutsch, Shea & Evans, a New York City human resources consultant.

Slightly more than ten percent of the graduating civil engineers who responded to the survey listed the Army Corps of Engineers as their first choice as an employer. The Corps was second on a list of 100 top employers, including construction, engineering and design, architect-engineer firms, and government agencies named by the graduating engineers. The first place on the list was held by Bechtel Group, Inc., with nearly 24 percent of the respondents choosing that company as their preferred employer. Boeing Co., a non-construction industry company, tied with the Corps of Engineers for the number two spot on the list.

Lieutenant General E. R. Heiberg III, Chief of Engineers, was pleased with the Corps placement in the survey results. "I think the message in the survey is a very positive one," he said, "because it reconfirms the fact that, in the engineering and construction management world, the Corps of Engineers enjoys a well-earned reputation for excellence and graduating civil engineers in the survey want to be associated with such an organization."

In the 1983 results of the biennial survey, the Corps of Engineers was listed as the third favorite employer. Corps Chief of Personnel Ralph Loschialpo sees the upward movement of the Corps on the list as a plus for the Corps' recruitment effort. "The word-of-mouth advertising that the survey will stimulate among engineering students, combined with our strong college recruitment program will insure that we attract the highest quality engineer graduates," he said, "which, in turn will help the Corps to continue producing a high quality engineering product."

ment or adjusting work assignments of co-workers—to cope with the absence.

According to the OPM guidance, "responsiveness to family needs works, in the long run, to the advantage of the organization. Good morale and the retention of experienced and productive employees contributes to a healthier organization."

OPM encourages flexibility in granting leave

Washington(ARNEWS)—New guidance from the Office of Personnel Management here encourages government managers to be flexible in granting not only traditional maternity leave, but also leave for adoption, foster care and the care of sick or elderly parents.

"Traditionally, federal managers have exercised good judgment in granting annual or unpaid leave in special circumstances," OPM Director Constance Horner said in releasing the new guidance. "This guidance is designed to encourage managers to continue exercising that discretion in keeping with President Reagan's ongoing initiative to keep government policy from interfering in the indispensable business of caring for families."

Leave for parental and family responsibilities might be given from any of the three categories—annual leave, sick leave or leave without pay—depending on the circumstances, said Joyce Bridgeforth from the Army's Civilian Personnel Directorate at the Pentagon.

Because sick leave is reserved to cover time lost from work while an employee recuperates from illness, injury, childbirth, or the like, annual leave or leave without pay will apply to most family situations, Bridgeforth said.

"The Army already has sent directions to all major Army commands asking them to encourage managers to be flexible and compassionate when deciding whether to grant leave for family situations," Bridgeforth said. "The Army places great importance on being a concerned and caring employer."

Sick leave can be used by women for the period of incapacitation for delivery and recuperation. However, if they or their husbands decide to spend time "bonding" with a newborn, foster or adopted child, they usually would apply for annual leave or leave without pay.

The latter categories also would be appropriate for the care of family members with special needs, for common illnesses or routine "wellness" care of family members, and for the care of elderly or infirm family members.

Employees who must remain home because they were exposed to a contagious disease or must care for a child with such a disease should be granted sick leave, however.

Employees should request leave as far in advance as possible, especially for prolonged absences, Bridgeforth said. This gives the agency time to make necessary adjustments—such as finding a temporary replace-

Office Highlight

Surveillance Enforcement Section

In order to protect the nation's water resources, the Corps of Engineers issues permits to individuals and contractors for construction work in waters and wetlands. It would be great if that was all there was to it, but where there are rules, there are rule-breakers. There are those who misinterpret the regulations and those who downright ignore them. Then there are the ones who do not apply for a permit because they are unaware of the need to do so and there are the ones who are aware but go ahead with the work anyway.

It is the responsibility of the Surveillance Enforcement Section in the Regulations Functions Branch to deal with the rule-breakers. The section has three major responsibilities.

1. To inspect the construction phase of a permit that has been issued and make sure that the work is done correctly.

2. Investigate reported violations of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

3. To inform the public about the permit program.

Violations of the permit program are found by various means. They can be spotted by surveillance field investigators or other Corps employees, the Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or concerned citizens and neighbors.

When a violation is reported, there are several steps taken. The investigators check the numerous aerial photos of the Mississippi and the wetlands as a guide to see if there is a possible violation. They check to see if a permit has been issued for the project. They then go out and make a site inspection, take pictures and talk to contractors or land owners. Based on this information, they determine if a permit is needed. If the work is in progress, they issue a cease and desist order until a permit is issued.

If the work is already completed, there are several things that can be done.

1. The Corps can ask for voluntary restoration of the area in question.

2. The Corps can take legal action that can involve civil and criminal penalties. Civil penalties can involve fines up to \$10,000 per day of work that has been done and under criminal action, fines can go as high as \$25,000 per day.

3. The offender can go through an after-the-fact permit process to see if the project can remain.

"We don't like to stop construction projects," said Bruce Norton, acting chief of the section. "We'd just as soon that there weren't any violations." This is where the section's public awareness work comes in. They contact local officials and conduct information meetings to explain the permit program.

Surveillance Enforcement is one of three sections under the Regulatory Functions Branch. The other two are the Permit Evaluation Section and Research and Analysis Section. Unlike the civil works boundaries of the district which covers parts of five states, the Regulatory Functions area of responsibility follows the state boundaries of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Since the branch has to work very closely with local county, city and state officials, it's easier to set up good working relationships with two whole states than it is with bits and pieces of five.

"If someone violates one of our regulations," said Bruce, "chances are that they may be violating state and county regulations. You get to know the local officials and have the chance to form good working relationships."

There are six field investigators employed in the section. They include: Bruce Nelson in Duluth, Dale Pfeifle in Waukesha, Wis., Don Olson in Green Bay, Wis., Gary Knapton in Kaukauna, Minn., Rich Howard and Ken Harrell in the Twin Cities area.



Bruce Norton

"There are two investigators in the twin cities," said Ken Harrell, "because the metro area tends to be where most of the activity is. It is a seven county area that contains the majority of the states population and therefore, the majority of the construction work."

There will always be those who break the rules, either knowingly or unknowingly, but the Surveillance Enforcement Section is working hard to keep those infractions to a minimum.



Checking one of the many aerial photos in the office are (from left to right): Marlowe Hutchins (summer hire), Ken

Harrell and Rich Howard.

Photo by Denise Yale

Blackhawk Park rehabilitation continues

By Tim Bertschi

Park Manager, Blackhawk Park

Since the Corps of Engineers assumed operation of Blackhawk Recreation Area, many changes have taken place. The Blackhawk Recreation Area is a 75 acre recreation facility, located 20 miles south of LaCrosse, Wis. on the main channel of Mississippi River Pool 9. The St. Paul District has operated the area since the 1980 recreation season when Vernon County, Wis. terminated its lease on the area.

During the first year under Corps operation, a 14'x24' maintenance building was transferred from Baldhill Dam and erected on an elevated pad with an adjacent security yard to provide storage and a base to operate from. Enough tools & supplies were purchased to operate the first year and equipment to maintain the area was scrounged wherever it was available. The electric hookups were rehabilitated to include ground faulting. Camp sites were designated in certain areas and eight pit toilets were removed and replaced temporarily with portable units. A sanitary dump station was constructed for use by self-contained units. The permanent buildings and grounds were refurbished as much as possible to improve the condition of the area as a whole.

In 1981 new vault privies were erected to replace the temporary units. As part of this construction, concern was raised over the disruption of cultural resources that might have been present due to the significant historical background of the area and its relation to the Blackhawk Indian War of 1832. A complete archaeological reconnaissance was performed on the area to circumvent any future problems in this area.

The crew from the Derrick Barge Hauser installed 23 rock groins for shoreline protection at the southern end of the area. Most of the material used for this project had been stockpiled in the recreation area for a number of years. A new park entrance building was constructed which allowed park personnel a control point for collecting camping fees and visitor contact.

In the summer of 1982, the storage and maintenance capacity of the area was greatly expanded with the construction of a 40'x60' maintenance building. The building, like everything else at Blackhawk, was built on an elevated pad and included a heated work area.

Dredged material, which had been removed from the river and stockpiled in the southern end of the area, was leveled

off, covered with topsoil and sodded to provide additional usable area for visitors.

In 1983 the comfort station that was built by Vernon County in the early 1970's was rehabilitated to include handicap accessibility, a completely new interior, electrical service, and many aesthetic improvements.

The Corps' hired labor crew returned in 1984 to begin construction on three backwater flow enhancement projects. The largest of these involved cleaning and digging a 2200' channel and installing a large steel culvert and concrete intake structure housing a controlled sluice gate. Due to poor weather conditions and emergency dredging needs this project was postponed after 75% complete and finished in 1985. In the southern end of the area a 24" pipe was installed with a gate to allow for flow to be shut off during periods of high sediment transport. A 300' channel was constructed and the backwater serviced by the flow was separate from the larger project. The third project involved placing a 48" culvert under a road where no additional work was necessary. Fisheries personnel from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have monitored this work and its effects on water quality and fishing in the area and have been extremely happy with the results to date.

In May 1984 the St. Paul District made a decision to close Blackhawk Recreation Area due to the deterioration of the secondary county road which provides access and because it was discovered that the railroad crossing used by the visitors was not a public crossing. After considerable negotiation and coordination by a number of agencies, the road maintenance and crossing issues were resolved and the area re-opened. Improvements, including turn lanes, were made from highway 35 to the railroad crossing and the crossing itself was widened, improved, and safety gates and lights installed in 1985.

On 28 July 1986 work began on rehabilitation of the access road. This will include some raising, widening and laying an asphalt surface, installation of concrete shoulders, and placing rip rap on both the upstream and downstream sides. Work is scheduled for completion in September of this year. Also as part of this project, larger culverts will be placed at designated sites and will serve as part of an Environmental Management Program project for backwater

enhancement that will be completed in 1987.

Each year from 1980 until present, a number of improvements of less magnitude have and continue to be undertaken. Projects such as installation of a split rail fence, playground equipment, and landscape projects are accomplished almost routinely and although they seem to be minor projects, they catch the user's eye and are greatly appreciated.

Major improvements in the future at Blackhawk Recreation Area are directly related to the Channel Maintenance Plan for Upper Pool 9. On June 23, 1986 the Channel Maintenance Forum approved the Upper Pool 9 Plan which includes plans for using dredge spoil as fill for up to 68.5 acres and implementation of a park development plan that has been completed by Planning Division's Public Use Planning section as part of the Mississippi River Master Plan. A brief summary of the improvements called for in this plan include: 1) Realignment of the circulation roads for safer access and travel through the area and allowing for more pedestrian use and enjoyment of the riverfront. 2) Separation of day use and camping activities. 3) Development of a number of new facilities including swimming beach, handicap facilities such as camp sites, fishing piers etc., construction of picnic shelters, well houses, and restroom, shower and change house facilities.

Proposed chess club seeks members

Would you like to improve your chess game? Do you have some tips about the game that you would like to pass along?

On Tuesday, September 23rd, a meeting will be held in room 1219 at noon to determine if there is enough interest to begin a chess club. Players of all skill levels are invited to attend. If you are interested in a chess club but cannot make it to the meeting, or if you have any questions, contact Greg Courteau, ext. 5991 or Al Ellingson, ext. 7591.

"The man who can smile when things go wrong has thought of someone he can blame it on."

—Arthur Bloch, author

Around the district

By Ken Gardner

Public Affairs

St. Paul people pop up in the craziest places. I was watching the Twins play in Seattle recently on TV when the Minnesota announcers acknowledged several notes sent to the press box by Seattle fans. The announcers passed along a greeting from Earl Christofferson, who was attending the Twins-Mariners game. Earl left Accounting and Finance in July for a job with Seattle District.

Last month, I tried to list all of the assignment changes around the district. An impossible task, you say. You're right. Not only did I miss a couple of changes, but the district is a living, breathing (and changing organization) and keeping up with people changes is more than one person can reasonably handle.

One of those changes which was unintentionally overlooked involves Vicki Demos, who is now working in Technical Services Branch in Personnel. Vicki is still responsible for manpower activities in addition to her new Technical Services duties. Also in personnel, Ed Dahlin, chief of the Position Management and Classification Branch, has returned to work part-time following his recent surgery.

The winds of change blow on our military types also. Major George Hazel, Project Management, has been named the new deputy district commander for Chicago

District. He is scheduled to report in December to the Windy City. Meanwhile, Captain Mike Kinsey, who was at the Winona Project Office and recently joined Treatment Works Section in Construction Branch, has been alerted for an assignment to El Salvador as a resident engineer for military construction.

A Corps employee recently helped the Immigration Service with one of their cases. Parveen Vij, Treatment Works Section, assisted immigration officers in questioning illegal immigrants from India who were apprehended at the Minneapolis Airport. The Indians only spoke Punjabi, India's state language and Parveen was asked to translate.

Finally, it is nice to see hard work and effort pay off for a district employee. Some employees are satisfied to wait for an opportunity to come knocking. Others are out there making those opportunities happen. Jill Olsen, secretary in Economics-Social-Recreation Branch (PD-ES), volunteered for a developmental assignment filling in as secretary to the chief of Engineering Division last year for 6 weeks. Good experience in the form of exposure to a different part of the district and to the executive office. Now, a year later, her efforts have paid off. Jill has been selected to replace Peggy Peterson as secretary to the chief of Engineering Division.

Task forces assigned to study barriers to women

The Federal Women's Program sponsored a recent meeting of district employees to identify and address perceived barriers to the advancement of women in the St. Paul District. The FWP's objective is to address the employment concerns of all women in the district's civilian work force. Some of these concerns include career growth, training needs and equal opportunity.

There were 15 perceived barriers identified during the June 25th meeting and four task force groups were formed to work on them. The groups were asked to determine if the perceived barrier is an actuality, identify behaviors which authenticate the barrier and recommend employee/managerial actions that could eliminate the barrier.

Some of the barriers that they will be studying are:

1. No access to, or knowledge of, relevant job training.
2. Manager's stereotypical view of a

woman's "role"

3. Built in female biases/stereotypes when describing duties.
4. Perceived role of "engineer" traditionally excludes women.
5. Concerns of employees more than 40 years old, such as discrimination, retraining, promotions, awards, etc.

Task force members include the following: Martha Lang, PD-ES; Marianne Hageman, ED-D; Lupe Santos, EP-D; Karen Nagengast, PD-ES; Patricia Westfall, EDD; Mary Kay Linder, EO; Connie Blasing, PD-ES; Jean Schmidt, AS-L; Ann Wright, EP-S; Deborah Foley, ED-M; Fran Berthiaume, CO-RF; Jody Rooney, PD-ES and Nanette Spindler, ED-GH.

Each group will be assigned a specific time frame in which to complete their determinations. If you have any questions or would like to become involved in the groups, contact Marianne Price at ext. 7481.

Flood from page 1

winds and cold weather during my flood emergency duty," Arne Thomsen, Construction Operations, emphasized. Arne, who has fought several floods in North Dakota and Minnesota, conducted a demonstration of the Chrisafulli pump, which is a high-volume irrigation pump.

The following Corps employees participated in the exercise:

James Ruyak, CO-M; Craig Hinton, CO-M; Larry LaPoint, Mankato Project Office; George Lindsay, Mankato Project Office; Susan Stedtfeld, Mankato Project office; Lon Earney, FCSB; Bruce Nelson, CO-RF (Duluth); Arne Thomsen, CO-C; Herb Nelson, PD-PF; Sheldon Edd, CO-CT; Dave Rydeen, ED-GH; Tom Peters, ED-D; Dean Peterson ED-GH; Melissa Shortridge, Winona Project Office; Natalie Siok, Winona Project Office; Terry Olson, Winona Project Office; Mike Schwalbe, CO-C; Tom Heyerman, ED-M; Roger Just, EDM; Bob Pennimann, ED-M; Teri Sandinas, CO-RF.

"We plan to continue these exercises," Ben stated. "They provide a look at what flood fighting involves for new District employees and new community leaders; and remind the experienced flood fighter of what it takes to fight a flood".

Any employee interested in more information on the exercise program or flood fighting, should contact Dave Christenson, Emergency Management Division, ext. 7511.

Death reported

Henry J. Manger, a former district engineer with the St. Paul District, died on August 23 at the age of 89. Henry worked in the district from 1928 to 1951. He worked initially in the Real Estate Office and then as financial officer before becoming the district engineer between Oct. 1945 and May 1946. He retired from federal service on July 28, 1960.

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