



US Army Corps
of Engineers

St. Paul District

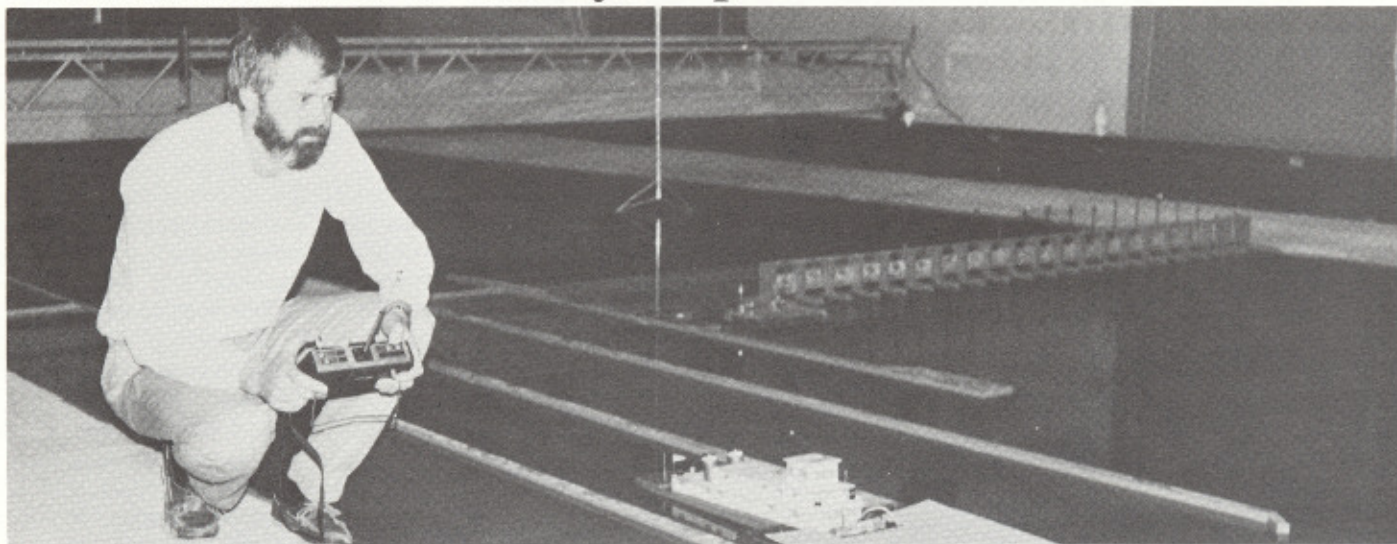
Crosscurrents

Vol. 10

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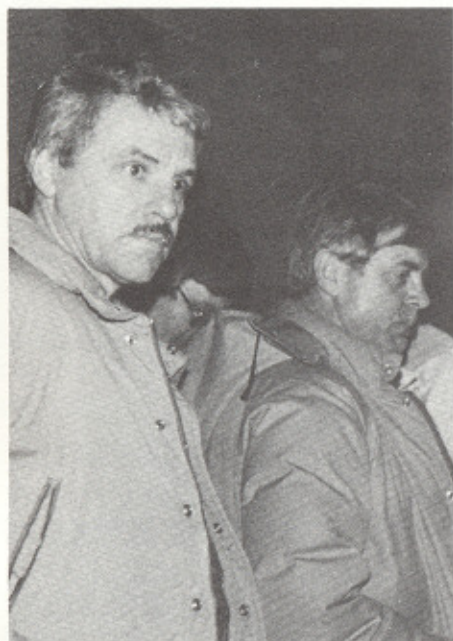
Lock model used to test hydro plant



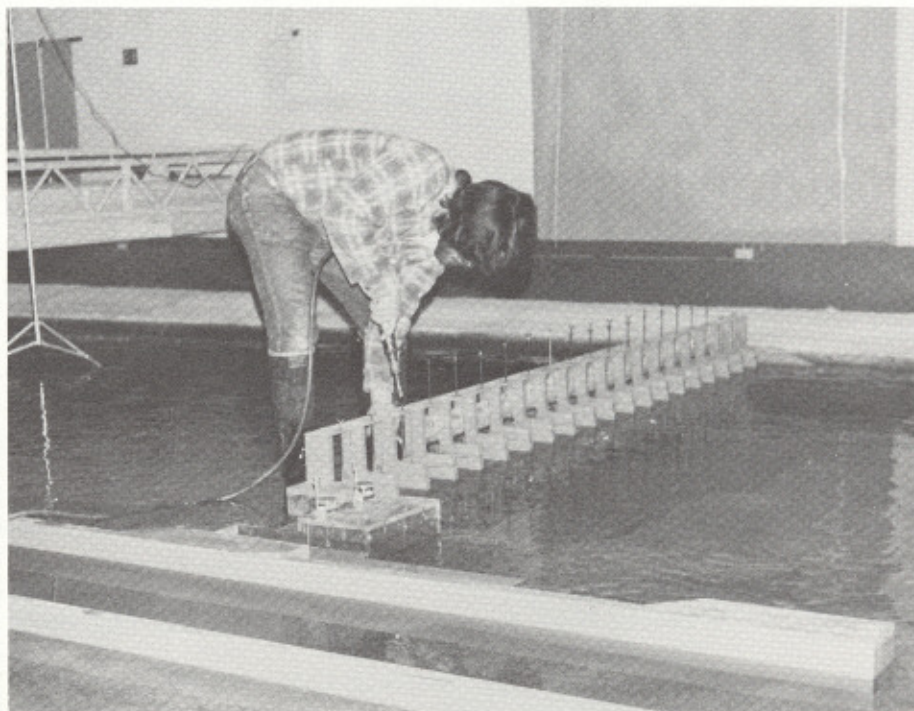
Ron Wooley, from the Corps' Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Miss., guides an eight-foot model of a barge-tow out of a scale model of Lock No. 2. Operation of the radio-controlled

model was part of a study being conducted to determine if the hydroelectric plant currently under construction at Lock and Dam No. 2 will have any significant impacts on navigation. WES conducted

parts of the study under contract to the University of Minnesota which is doing the over-all study for the City of Hastings.



Frank Yule (left), lockmaster at Hastings, and Arden Duval, upper area lockmaster, were among the observers on hand at the Hydraulic Lab recently for the model towboat tests. The Lab constructed a 1:72 scale model of the lock and dam and three miles of the Mississippi River to study the impacts of the new hydroelectric powerplant on currents and commercial navigation.



An employee of the St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Lab uses an air wrench to adjust gates on the scale model of Lock and Dam No. 2. By adjusting the gates and flows, the study team can create currents similar to the real river under different conditions.

This photo shows a model of the hydroelectric plant in place below the old spillway. Tests were conducted both with the power plant in place and without it.

Photos by Ken Gardner

1987 theme announced for Army

WASHINGTON (ARNEWS)—The Constitution will be the Army theme for 1987. We are proud of the progress made in the past year to strengthen values, the theme for 1986 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, leadership and values.

Those of us in the total Army who take an oath of service have sworn to "Support and defend the Constitution of the United States." By doing so, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the framers of the constitution who mutually pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. We do this freely because it is the Constitution which gives the Army its very purpose for being. It is the Constitution which guarantees all citizens the rights and obligations which are the essence of being an American. And it is the Constitution that our comrades have, in other times and in other places, sacrificed to preserve.

The history of the Army is intertwined with the history of our Constitution. Before our young nation could even be in a position to draft a Constitution, her freedom had to be won. It was won with the courage and blood of the first American soldiers. Once our liberty was secured, these same soldiers became the citizens upon whose commitment and hard work a great nation could be built. The majority of the original signers of the Constitution had served as soldiers in the war for independence.

Throughout our nation's history, American citizens have always rallied to serve their nation when needed.

The preamble to the Constitution, that famous introduction which proudly begins, "We the People . . ." gives six statements of purpose under the constitution. All our laws and bills and every appropriation of public money must be linked directly to one or more of those duty statements. The Army is most directly charged with responsibility for one of those duties: to provide for the common defense. Those of us in, or associated with the Army speak of loyalty to the nation as well as loyalty to units and other members of the Army team. We also speak duty, integrity and sacrifice. These concepts are hollow, however, if they are not viewed within the context of meaning provided by the Constitution. To be effective citizens and members of the total Army family, we must understand the concepts of the Constitution.

This year marks the 200th Anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. Our entire nation will be celebrating the Bicentennial as we focus on stimulating an appreciation and understanding of our national heritage. We urge each of you to become a better citizen this year by reading the Constitution and finding ways to re-dedicate yourselves, your families, and your fellow professionals to the spirit of that document.

John O. Marsh Jr.
Secretary of the Army
Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr.
Army Chief of Staff

What if they held a convention and nobody came?

Editors note: Crosscurrents will be featuring articles pertaining to the Bicentennial in the upcoming months.

When Americans think of the events that brought independence from England, they immediately picture incidents taking place in New England—the Boston Tea Party, the Boston Massacre, Paul Revere's Ride, Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill. It is logical to assume, therefore, that New England also took the lead when it came time to write a Constitution for the new United States of America. Such, however, was not the case.

The 13 former colonies—now states—were not all that united in the years immediately following independence. They were bound loosely to each other by the Articles of Confederation, which read more like a trade agreement among nations than a unifying document of neighbors.

When the Constitutional Convention finally opened in May 1787, in Philadelphia, only seven of the 13 states were represented, even though all had been asked to send delegates. (In fact, Rhode Island would send no delegates at all). Three New England States—Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut—were represented by just one man, Rufus King of Massachusetts.

Even after the Convention met for the first time, and had chosen George Washington of Virginia as presiding officer, King alone was present from New England. He quickly dispatched a note (or as quickly as travel conditions of the time would permit) to Jeremiah Wadsworth—a good friend in Connecticut—saying the situation was quite embarrassing and urging other New England delegates to hasten to Philadelphia.

Eventually, others would arrive from New England and elsewhere. But for the time being, the chagrined King was the only delegate from the "Cradle of Democracy."

Corps calendar

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar 4 | Newcomer's Orientation District Office, Rm. 1220, at 1400 Charles Foye/ ext. 7511 |
| Mar 4 | Yellow Medicine-Public Meeting Minneota, MN Ed Fick/ ext. 7565 |
| Mar 4-6 | Minnesota Governor's Conference Minneapolis Dave Christenson/ ext. 7511 |
| Mar 6 | MN. Amer. Society of Landscape Arch. (MALSA) Annual Banquet St. Paul College Club MALSA/ 339-0797 |
| Mar 10-12 | Upper Miss. River Conservation Committee Annual Mtg. Winona, Minn. |
| Mar 12 | Civil Servant Awards Ceremony Prom Center Ballroom Lee Toedter/ ext. 7551 |
| Mar 16-17 | Channel Maint. Forum/quarterly mtg. Room 1219, Dist. Office Dan Krumholz/ ext. 5898 |
| Mar 18 | Annual Corps/USCG/Navigation Conf. St. Louis, Missouri Dennis Cin/ ext. 7561 |
| Mar 18,19 | Public Meeting Water Control on Miss. River LaCrosse, Wis. (18) Prescott, Wis. (19) Dan Krumholz/ ext. 5898 |

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Address: Editor, Crosscurrents, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1135 U.S. Post Office and Custom House, St. Paul, Minn. 55101-1479.
District Engineer Col. Joseph Briggs
Chief, Public Affairs Ken Gardner
Editor Denise Yale

Three employees receive civil servant awards

Charleen Hauger, Larry L. LaPoint and Mary Jane Trcka have been selected by the district for the 1987 Civil Servant of the Year Awards. The award ceremony will be held on March 12, 1987 at the Prom Center Ballroom in St. Paul.

The recipient of the executive award category is Charleen Hauger from the Permit Evaluation Section. She was acting



Larry LaPoint

Regulatory Functions branch chief for four months and was cited as "the mainstay and continuity of the branch. Her enthusiasm for her work insures that the highest standard of customer care is reached." Char was selected as a nationwide representative from Regulatory Functions to attend the swearing in ceremony for Robert Dawson, assistant secretary of the Army for civil works.

Larry L. LaPoint is the resident engineer for the Mankato Resident Office and will receive an award in the professional category. Larry's nomination states that his "...dedicated efforts in serving his community and his effective and professional service as the Mankato Resident Engineer epitomize the Corps concern for customer care." He was named "Head Coach of the Year" by the Mankato Area Youth Athletic Association and has served as secretary on the board of directors of the association for the past five years.

Mary Jane Trcka, who will receive the service category award, has worked in the Finance and Accounting Branch since October 1980. She assisted in coordinating the

changes in the district's time and attendance system and was cited for meeting "payroll deadlines despite computer breakdowns and many other adverse conditions." Mary Jane was also nominated for "...demonstrating superior performance in the area of initiative, coordination, and communication during periods of extremely heavy workload in her section."



Mary Jane Trcka and Char Hauger.

Photo by William Hutchinson

Flood season is getting close

Along with spring comes the flood season. "The district has been involved in preparing for flood emergency operations throughout the year," Dave Christenson, natural disaster planner said. "This preparation involves Corps personnel, local and state officials." The district has also been developing flood emergency plans coordinating with the state emergency services in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

"In the event of a minor flood, the area engineers will contact the communities that are being threatened by flood waters. The area engineer provides the community with technical assistance," Dave explained. Upon request, the district will temporarily loan pumps to communities in need. Sandbags and other materials are also provided on a reimbursable basis.

"The water control section is constantly

observing weather conditions and changes in water levels," Dave explained. "The close monitoring of conditions helps the district to be prepared and alerted to any possible threat."

The emergency management division also maintains contact with the state emergency management services. "This way the district will be aware of any possible problem areas," Dave said.

As flooding increases, North Central Division and the Office of the Chief of Engineers are contacted. "This insures the availability of emergency funds," Dave said. "The district begins obtaining supplies and equipment. Personnel are then contacted to prepare themselves for the possibility of a major flood."

"When it is apparent that there is a major flood threat, the district commander will consult with the flood executive of-

ficer, emergency management division and water control. He will then decide whether or not emergency operation centers should be established in local communities," Dave said. "Space for centers is usually provided to the district by the county. For example, during the 1978 and 1979 flood on the Red River of the North, Cass County provided us communications in the emergency center at Fargo, North Dakota."

The district site plans will also be implemented during the time of a major flood. "These plans are designed to protect each individual site during high water. For example, during the 1965 flood on the Mississippi River, crews at all of the lock and dam sites constructed temporary sandbags dikes to prevent floodwaters from overtopping the dam. They also placed sandbags around the buildings to hold back floodwaters," Dave explained.

March is National Women's History Month

Contact Judy Allaire, Federal Women's Program Manager,
ext. 7625, for more information.

Open to all employees

New retirement system offers voluntary savings plan

A new Federal Employees Retirement System went into effect on January 1, 1987. Called FERS, the new plan covers most of the employees hired after December 31, 1983.

The Personnel Office will be conducting classes on the new retirement system for employees presently covered under the old Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) beginning in April and continuing through June.

According to Jan Wallace, chief of the Technical Services Branch in Personnel, the briefings for CSRS employees are being held for two reasons. First, employees currently covered by the old Civil Service Retirement System will have an opportunity to switch to the new system (FERS) during an open season to be held July through December 1987. Secondly, Jan explained, employees covered under CSRS who choose not to switch to FERS will be able to participate in one part of the new retirement plan—a modified form of the thrift or individual savings plan. Because of this, information on the FERS Thrift Savings Plan is potentially important to all employees covered by either CSRS and FERS, Jan said.

Unlike CSRS, which relies on a single retirement annuity based on contributions by the employee and the federal government, FERS is based on a three part retirement program. Under FERS, employees will have Social Security and a small amount for a retirement annuity automatically withheld from their paychecks. In addition, employees will be able to make voluntary contributions to an individual Thrift Savings Plan. An employee's contributions to the Thrift Plan will be treated much like an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) has been in the past, Jan said.

Contributions made by an employee covered by FERS will be matched by the government up to 5 percent of the employees salary. While CSRS employees will be able to make contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan, their contributions will not be matched by the government.

Following retirement, FERS employees will receive retirement payments from Social Security, their retirement annuity and their individual Thrift Savings Plan.



Thrift Plan adds new dimension to federal retirement program

The Thrift Savings Plan, a part of the new Federal Employees Retirement System, is a departure from the previous federal retirement program. The Thrift Savings Plan is a tax-deferred plan similar to an Individual Retirement Account but is operated and managed by the federal government.

With the Thrift Savings Plan, employees covered by FERS will have an opportunity to save some of their pay for their retirement years. As a reward or incentive, the government will match each employee's contributions for up to 5 percent of the employee's salary. Only employees covered by FERS will be eligible for the matching contribution.

Like many private investment programs, there will be different funds with different investment objectives available in the Thrift

Plan. FERS employees will be able to designate which fund or funds they want to manage their contributions. Employees will be able to make adjustments in their choice of funds during open seasons held every six months.

All Federal employees covered by FERS on January 1, 1987 are eligible to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan. Employees hired after that date will be required to wait until the next open season to participate in the plan. Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) also may participate, but under different rules.

FERS offers immediate ownership of contributions

Employees have immediate rights to contributions they make to the savings plan account. FERS employees also have immediate rights to the government's contributions, except for the 1 percent automatic government contribution. Career civilian employees own the one percent government contribution after 3 years of service.

Editor's note

This special section of Crosscurrents was prepared by Technical Services Branch of Personnel and Public Affairs. It is the first of a series of articles on the new Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).

Since open season on the Thrift Savings Plan started in February, we felt that this needed to be covered in the first FERS article. Next month's article will deal with the Basic Benefit Plan, the second part of FERS. Social Security coverage, the third part or tier of FERS will be covered in a later article.

Any questions about the Thrift Savings Plan should be directed to Jan Wallace or Vicki Demo in Technical Services, ext. 7515.

Thrift Savings Plan includes investment options

Initially, only one investment option will be available for Thrift Savings Plan participants. Called the Government Securities Fund, this fund will consist of special Treasury-issued securities guaranteed by the U.S. Government which reflect the average yield of government securities with maturities of more than four years.

This is a risk-free investment which officials say will provide a competitive rate of return.

Any contributions not designated for a particular fund will be invested in this fund. In addition, participation in the Thrift Plan by CSRS employees will be limited to the Government Securities fund.

Later, private sector investment options will be added to the Thrift Savings Plan. These include a Fixed Income Investment Fund and a Common Stock Index Investment Fund.

Fixed Income Investment Fund

The Fixed Income Investment Fund is

designed to emphasize protection of your savings while providing a more attractive rate of return. Money put into this fund will be invested in Guaranteed Investment Contracts, bank certificates of deposit or other private sector securities which meet the investment objectives. Generally, these types of investments provide a fixed rate of return for a specified period of time.

Common Stock Index

The third fund in the Thrift Savings Plan will be the Common Stock Index Investment Fund. This fund consists of equity investments made in proportion to a diversified common stock index. The investment vehicle is a portfolio of stocks similar in content and diversification to a recognized index such as Standard and Poors 500.

The Common Stock Investment Fund is designed for long-term growth. Since it is a stock fund, the rate of return will vary.



Thrift Plan has several distribution options

Employees may not withdraw their funds from the savings plan while employed by the federal government. However, employees who retire, become disabled, die or leave federal service after being vested (i.e., have 5 years covered employment under FERS or CSRS) in the FERS Basic Benefit Plan, may receive their savings account in the following forms:

- (a) Immediate or deferred savings plan annuity
- (b) Lump sum payment
- (c) Rollover to IRA or other qualified plan

This also applies to an employee's beneficiary.

Employees who are entitled to a deferred pension have the following options:

- (a) Immediate or deferred savings plan annuity
- (b) Lump sum when pension begins
- (c) Rollover to IRA or other qualified plan

Employees who leave federal service before becoming entitled to a deferred pension can only withdraw their savings account by rolling it over into an IRA or other qualified account.

Loan program included in Thrift Plan

A loan program will be established as part of the Thrift Savings Plan on January 1, 1988. At that time, employees will be able to borrow up to the full amount of their contributions from their savings plan account for serious financial needs, such as:

- (1) Purchase of primary residence
- (2) Medical expenses not covered by health insurance
- (3) Educational expenses for employee or dependents
- (4) Financial hardship

Contributions key to Thrift Savings

In the Thrift Savings Plan, the rules governing contributions and matching government contributions are different for employees covered by FERS and CSRS.

Employees covered by FERS may contribute up to 10 percent of pay to the Savings Plan through payroll deductions. The government will automatically contribute 1 percent of pay into each FERS employee's account, even if the employee contributes nothing. In addition, the government will match part of the employee's contributions, as follows: dollar-for-dollar for the first 3 percent, and 50 cents for each dollar of the second 2 percent, for a total matching contribution of 5 percent, including the 1 percent automatic contribution.

Because start-up of the Plan was delayed from January 1 to April 1, 1987, the government contribution to the FERS employees' accounts during the period April 1 - June 30 will be higher than what the law provides: \$2 for every \$1 for the first 3 percent of pay an employee contributes to the plan, and \$1 for the next 2 percent. FERS employees can invest 15 percent instead of the normal 10 percent from April 1 to September 30 in order to get a full year's worth of contributions.

Employees who choose to remain under CSRS may contribute up to 5 percent of their pay, with no government match. CSRS employees may invest only in the Government Securities Fund. As with

FERS employees, employees who remain under CSRS may compensate for the start-up delay by contributing 7.5 percent during the period April 1 to September 30 rather than the normal 5 percent.

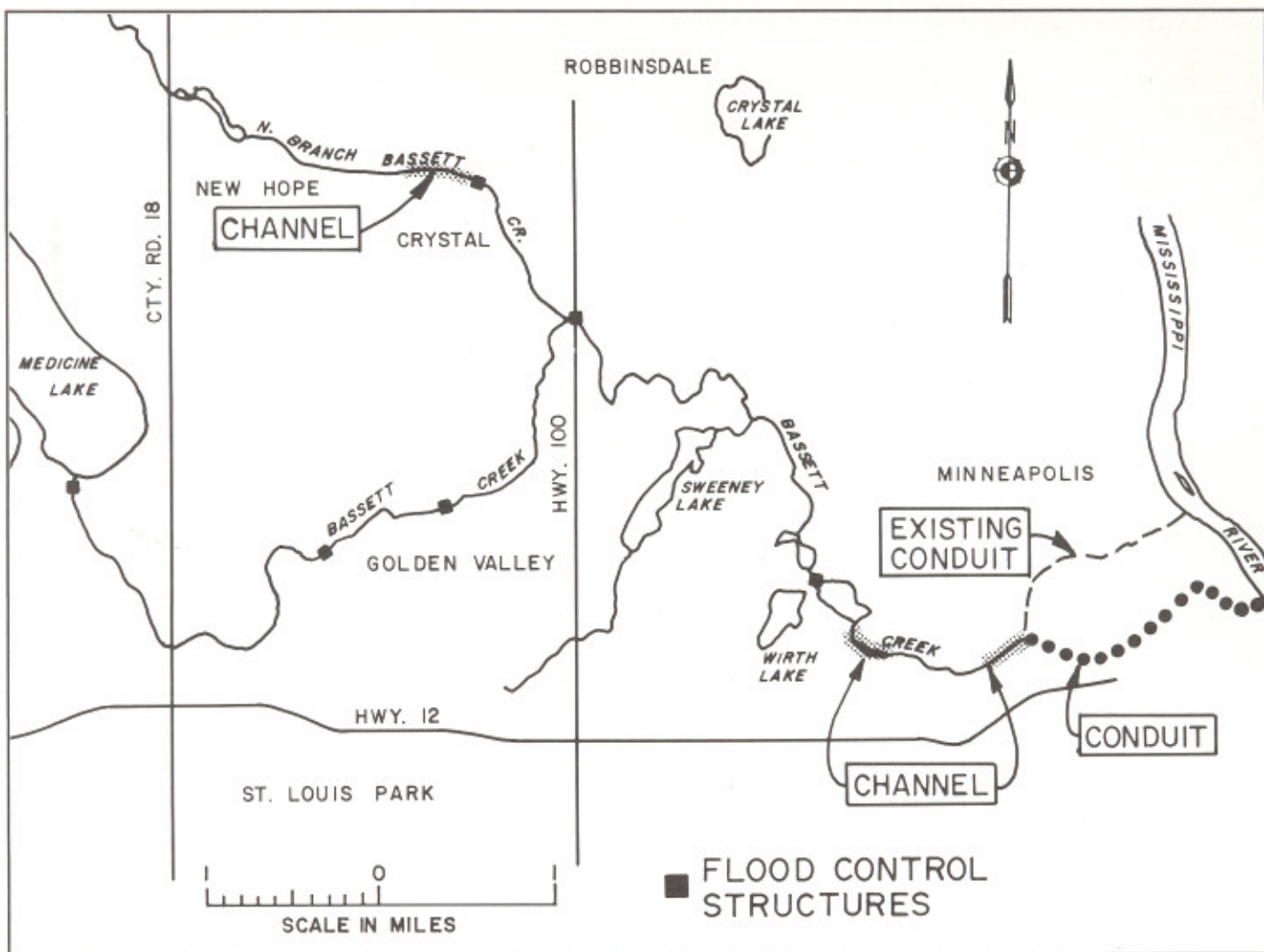
Two open seasons scheduled each year

Two open seasons for the Thrift Savings Plan will be held each year. During each open season, employees may begin or change employee contributions. FERS employees may also adjust investment choices from one fund to another. Employees may discontinue participation in the plan at any time but must wait to rejoin at a later open season. The open season schedule during 1987 includes three open seasons as follows:

1st OPEN SEASON, February 15 - April 30: Distribution of Thrift Savings Plan information and employee registration. Deductions for contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan begin the first pay period after March 31, 1987.

2nd OPEN SEASON, May 15 - July 31: Deductions begin first pay period after June 30, 1987.

3rd OPEN SEASON, November 15 - January 31, 1988: Deductions begin first pay period after December 31, 1987.



Project update

Bassett Creek

Bassett Creek, which flows through Minneapolis and several western suburbs has had flooding problems for many years. Residential areas in the upper watershed are subject to frequent flooding, but it is the lower portion that has caused the most concern. The last two miles of the creek flows through an old and crumbling tunnel under downtown Minneapolis.

"The tunnel is a cross-section of different materials and construction styles, including sandstone blocks, concrete and stones," Dave Raasch, project manager said. "Some of the sections are very old and are deteriorating. If the tunnel should fail during a 100-year flood, it's estimated that there would be over \$27 million in damages to the downtown Minneapolis area."

Bassett Creek is a tributary of the Mississippi River and its drainage area, which covers 43 square miles, is located in Hennipen County. As the city of Minneapolis began to grow around it in the early 1900's, the creek became little more than an open sewer which had a tendency to

flood every spring, Dave explained. Several solutions were investigated over the years to solve the problem. These included diverting it, cleaning it or straightening the creek and turning it into a concrete drainage ditch. None of these solutions came about though because of various political, economic and physical problems.

The solution that gradually prevailed was to hide the last two miles of the creek underneath pavement and buildings. This process began in 1905 and was nearly completed by 1912. Bassett Creek then became an underground storm sewer, hidden from sight and mind.

As years passed, the city became concerned that portions of the tunnel might collapse. The Corps began to study the Bassett Creek problem in 1960. Severe flooding occurred in 1974, 1975 and 1978. The project was authorized in 1976 and later funded as a new start construction project in 1985.

The project involves constructing a number of flood control structures up-

stream to provide temporary flood storage in golf courses, parks and open spaces throughout the watershed. The major portion of the \$35 million project will be construction of a new tunnel under downtown Minneapolis.

"The new tunnel will be between 50 to 80 feet under ground to keep it below existing utilities," Dave said. "It will have a 13 foot diameter, which is designed for the flow that would go through it during a 100-year flood."

Although part of the new tunnel will be dug in sandstone, the majority of it will go through soft ground. "The project is unique and involves complex engineering. There is very little experience in the Corps nationwide with soft-ground tunneling," Dave said.

One of the initial flood control structures will be constructed this summer and work on the tunnel may begin this fall. The tentative completion date for the project is 1991.

Maj. Gen. Withers named deputy chief of engineers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The department of the Army has announced the selection of Major General George K. Withers Jr. to become the next Deputy Commander and Deputy Chief of Engineers of the Army Corps of Engineers in the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, D.C. The assignment became effective on February 2, 1987.

Withers had been serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application at the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. since November 1984. He succeeds Major General Norman G. Delbridge Jr., who retired from military service last October.

Withers is a 1956 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He also holds master of science degrees in civil engineering and nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institutes of Technology; a master of science degree in international relations from George Washington Univer-

sity; and a master of military arts and science degree in military science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. His military education includes completion of the Engineer School, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the National War College.

As the new Deputy Commander and Deputy Chief of Engineers, Withers will be the principal assistant and advisor to the Chief of Engineers. He will also assist in management of the military engineering and construction programs for both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force in the United States and overseas.

He has held a wide variety of command and staff positions including division engineer, of the Corps' European Division, and deputy assistant chief of engineers (facilities engineering and family housing), Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, D.C.

National Guard technicians may receive retirement credit

Any employee who has worked as a National Guard technician prior to January 1, 1969 may now receive credit for that service under the Civil Service Retirement Systems (CSRS). This change was implemented on November 14, 1986 with Public law 99-661.

To have this time credited, employees must make a deposit into the CSRS retirement fund equal to the retirement fund contribution they would have made if they were regular civilian employees under CSRS. The special deposit for National Guard technicians is similar to deposits other employees have to make in order to get retirement credit for military service performed after 1956. To receive retirement

credit for that time period you must:

1. Apply to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) using SF-2803, "Application to Make Deposit or Redeposit," no later than January 14, 1988;
2. Be employed (other than as a re-employed retiree who is still receiving retirement benefits) by the federal government in a position subject to CSRS at the time the SF-2803 is being filed; and
3. Make a deposit for the service before separating under retirement.

Employees may obtain copies of the SF-2803 and instructions from the Technical Services Branch of the Personnel Office.

Make money while you sleep

By Maj. Chuck Rogers

Did that get your attention? If you're like most of us, it did. We'd all like to earn extra money in a painless, safe, and legal way. It would be even better if it took full advantage of the tax laws and deferred federal income tax on the earnings and if the earnings were totally exempt from any state and local taxes. I know you're already interested, but what if it was also hassle-free with no need to stand in any lines, read the "Wall Street Journal," or call any banks or investment agents?

There is a tried and true method to make money while you sleep with all of the advantages mentioned above. Many generations of Americans have already chosen this method to invest for their futures. Have you figured it out? That's right—it's U.S. Savings Bonds.

It's that time of year when you will be encouraged to join the millions of Americans who already buy bonds through payroll deductions. Last year, almost 200 employees from the St. Paul District joined the 169 others who were already enrolled in the plan. In addition, 29 employees increased the size of their bond allotments. That means 36.3 percent of the St. Paul District employees already know how easy it is to save through Savings Bonds.

What about you? During the remainder of the month, someone from your office will be making you an offer you shouldn't refuse. By buying U.S. Savings Bonds, you will see how easy it is to invest for your future—to make money while you sleep. It may even help you sleep a little easier.

For more information, contact your office canvasser or Maj. Chuck Rogers, campaign coordinator, at ext. 5948.

Corps employees give presentations

By Jacqueline Peterson
Regulatory Branch

Dock builders, Girl Scouts and fifth-graders are some of the groups that have been hearing from the Corps lately about the regulatory program.

Henrik Strandkov, Regulatory Branch, gave two presentations to salespeople and customers of a local company that sells concrete-decked boat docks. The two groups, one in Dinkytown and the other in Shakopee, had asked about Corps permits

regarding docks and Henrik gave a brief explanation of the regulatory program.

Steve Eggers and Yvonne Larson, Regulatory Branch and Ray Nelson, Project Operations, spoke to 125 members of the St. Croix Valley Girl Scouts on January 24 in Apple Valley. Subjects that were covered included wetlands, wildlife, energy use and pollution control.

Yvonne also talked to fifth-graders at Southwest Elementary School about wetlands and endangered species.

Buy U.S.
Savings Bonds

Your surest, safest,
and easiest way
to save!



Around the district

by **Ken Gardner**
Public Affairs Office

An acquaintance once told me that the three most important things necessary for success in retail business were location, location, and location. Since then, I have applied that philosophy to the public affairs business and determined that the three most important things in public affairs are accuracy, accuracy, and accuracy.

Another concept I picked up in journalism school was the importance of a person's name. "When you fool around with someone's name, you are dealing with that person's most prized possession," my old professor told us.

With that introduction, let's start off by apologizing to **Jim Simms**, the new chief of Real Estate Division. In last month's column I managed to spell Jim's name wrong. It's Simms (with two m's).

I am always pleased to see successful battles being waged in the War Against Red-tape and Paperwork (WARP). Our own Comptroller shop conducted a test last fall that resulted in the elimination of the requirement to attach a 4480 when submitting travel vouchers. During the test, Comptroller **Joe Lemons** and his staff determined that a minor change in how employees complete their travel orders

would eliminate the need for a 4480 to accompany the voucher. Based on the trial period, the Comptroller Office moved quickly and made the necessary changes to implement the improved procedures. Chalk up one WARP victory for the entire Comptroller staff.

We get calls and we get calls. Two calls come to mind.

I recently received a call from retiree **Frank Ryder**, who reports that he is recovering nicely from a stroke he had last fall.

Frank has written several historical articles for Crosscurrents. His first article was published last year and looked at old boats used by the Corps in this area. That article was republished this winter by OCE in Engineer Update. That brings me to the second call.

Nina Cronin, who lives in Louisiana and whose husband worked for the New Orleans District, saw Frank's article on the boats in Engineer Update. It seems that her father, Arie C. Bellaart, was chief engineer on the General John Newton back in the 1930s. The Newton was one of the old Corps steamboats highlighted in Frank's article. She called to say that she was thrilled to see the article, which brought back many fond memories of life on the Upper Mississippi. It is sometimes amazing how

far the St. Paul District family extends.

Speaking of the district family, we have some new members, some congratulations for jobs well done, and a promotion to announce.

Bill Eichler is the new face seen around the district office pushing the mail cart. Bill comes to the district from Seattle where he was a fireman.

This issue of Crosscurrents should be printed and distributed about the time that **Carol Rueff** arrives for work in Real Estate on March 2. Carol is the new chief of the Planning and Control Branch. She comes to St. Paul from Denver where she worked for Fish and Wildlife Service.

Now for some pats on the back for St. Paul people. Chief of Training **Al Kraft** recently received a plaque naming him "Trainer Extraordinaire" for his continued outstanding efforts as program manager of the world-wide Corps training conference in January. Meanwhile, **Lee Stenerson**, lower area lockmaster, was honored by the 1,000-member Falling Rock Walleye Club. The club presented a plaque to Lee for his efforts and support in developing handicapped fishing facilities at the locks and dams in his area of the district.

Another Con-Ops employee was honored recently with a letter of appreciation from Brig. Gen. Pratt. **Dennis Erickson** was singled out by the NCD commander for this efforts in making a recent NCD Natural Resources Management Conference a success. Dennis is chief of the Natural Resources Branch.

Capt. Bruce Boldon, ED-GH, was recently recognized by the Combined Federal Campaign for his efforts in running the CFC for the district. Under Bruce's guidance, the number of district employees participating in the annual campaign increased over the previous year. Total contributions were also up.

Finally, all district employees having the Corps-sponsored Diner's Club card for official travel were given a pat on the back by Joe Lemons, district comptroller. Seems a recent report showed a significant number of delinquent Diner's Club accounts around the Corps. An exception was the in St. Paul District. Joe says thanks for keeping your accounts current and St. Paul District's record shining.

In the promotion department, **Bruce Heide**, landscape architect and project manager in ED-M, has been named the new chief of the Public Use Planning Section in Economics, Social, Recreation Branch. He fills the position vacated when **Norm Hildrum** moved up to Information Management last year.

That's what's happening around the district this month.

National Engineers week held Feb. 22-28

ALEXANDRIA, VA—During the week of Feb. 22-28 engineers from Washington, D.C. to Alaska celebrated the 37th National Engineers Week. The week focused on the theme, "Engineers: Turning Ideas into Reality."

Hundreds of National Engineers Week activities across the country ranged from professional conferences to student toothpick bridge-building contests.

President Reagan sent a message to the nation's engineers saying, "Our Nation will

continue to count on your talent and technological skill to help achieve continued domestic prosperity, national security, and a strong competitive position in world markets."

The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) initiated National Engineers Week in 1951 to bring public attention to the contributions of engineers. The week's theme highlighted the image of the engineer as an innovator.

February was Black History month

by **Joann Meier**
Equal Employment Opportunity Office

The St. Paul District observed Black History Month in February and the Equal Employment Opportunities Office offered several ways to celebrate it.

This year's theme was "The Afro-American and the Constitution—Colonial Times to the Present." To carry out this theme, a display was set up on the 12th floor depicting the black congressional record. It showed a list of blacks to hold

office—from the first to the present—along with a copy of the Constitution. Bulletin boards were set up on all floors with the same theme. There were two film showings: one an edited version of a ABC After School Special called "War Between the Classes" and "Black history, Lost, Stolen or Strayed" narrated by Bill Cosby. There also was a word search contest on black history and affirmative action. Prizes of pop corn and pop were given to the top three winners.