



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Heiberg visits district, speaks to employees



Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. E. R. Heiberg visited the district on March 22. That afternoon, he addressed the district employees at the St. Paul Radisson Hotel. As Col. Briggs noted, it was "the first time that a chief of engineers addressed the district employees up close and per-

sonal." Heiberg's talk covered some of the Corps efforts around the world. He also answered questions from the audience. After his talk, Heiberg toured the Lower St. Anthony Falls area. That night, he spoke at a joint ASCE-SAME dinner meeting. (See the story on page 2.)

Photo by Norm Hildrum

Government vehicle found encased in ice

The combination of alternately warm and freezing weather over the weekend of March 12-13 created conditions that encased a government automobile in ice.

The car was parked in one of the spaces reserved for the district in the ramp along Kellogg Boulevard. Water from the upper level of the ramp seeped through the cracks and dripped onto the car.

When district employees discovered the car on Monday, March 14, a giant icicle extended from the ceiling of the ramp to the roof of the car, seeming to impale the vehicle. Much of the car was also covered by a sheet of ice formed from water that dripped down the icicle and over the car.

The result is shown in the photograph.



Photo by Marc Krumholz

Corps Calendar

- April 6 Federal Executive Board Emergency Planning Committee Meeting, Dave Christenson, 220-0204
- April 15 Federal/State Income Tax Deadline
- April 17-23 Keep America Beautiful Week
- April 24-30 National Secretaries Week
- April 26-27 Channel Maintenance Forum Meeting, Frontenac, Minn., Dan Krumholz, 608-687-3011
- April 28-29 Wisconsin Governor's Natural Disaster Conference, Dave Christenson, 220-0204
- May Savings Bond Campaign, Maj. Chuck Rogers, 220-0439
- May National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- May 1-7 Asian/Pacific Heritage Week
- May 1-8 City Celebration Week, Crosslake, Minn., Rosemarie Braatz/Jim Ruyak, 220-0316
- May 7 Keep America Beautiful Day - Cross Lake Roadside Cleanup, Rosemarie Braatz/Jim Ruyak, 220-0316
- May 10 Fargo, N.D., Employee/Household Mobilization Meeting, Suzanne Gaines, 220-0255

Evey T. repeats as first tow to reach St. Paul

For the second consecutive year, the towboat Evey T. opened the navigation season at St. Paul. This year, the Evey T. passed through Lock and Dam 2 at 7:40 a.m. on Monday, March 21. It was heading for St. Paul with about 11 empty barges. Last year, the Evey T. arrived in St. Paul on March 10.

The navigation season will last until late November or early December when the winter freezeup or the rehabilitation work at the locks and dams will shut down the system.

Buy U. S. Savings Bonds!

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*District Engineer Col. Joseph Briggs
Chief, Public Affairs Ken Gardner
Editor Joe Yanta*

Chief visits with district employees, tours St. Anthony Falls

by Joe Yanta, Public Affairs Office

The Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. E. R. Heiberg, III, visited the St. Paul District on Tuesday, March 22. Heiberg is scheduled to retire this spring. His successor has not been named.

That afternoon, he addressed the district employees at the St. Paul Radisson Hotel. As Col. Joseph Briggs noted in his introduction, it was the "first time for an opportunity like this...the first time that a chief of engineers addressed the district employees up close and personal."

Heiberg began his talk on a personal note, explaining that his great-grandfather came from Norway to Minnesota.

Most of his talk, however, concentrated on one theme: what is "going on outside of the part of the Corps of Engineers that [the district employees] see." Heiberg said that "the Corps continues to touch the rest of the world in ways that constantly amaze me."

Heiberg mentioned that when he travels overseas, he often speaks with the U.S. ambassadors to the countries he visits. He said that the ambassadors "are extremely knowledgeable" about the role of the Corps and hold it in high regard. He then discussed some of the overseas programs of the Corps: the air field construction in Israel, "a very proud chapter both for the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. private sector"; similar programs in Saudi Arabia; and the work that the Corps is doing or will be doing in

Panama, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras.

Following his talk, Heiberg answered questions from district employees, discussing possible new missions for the Corps and the Corps role in relationship between the United States and the Republic of China.

Several awards were also presented. Heiberg awarded a Certificate of Achievement from the Office of the Chief of Engineers to George Lindsay of the Mankato Resident Office for his work in the construction management of the Mankato project over the last 12 years.

Brig. Gen. Theodore Vander Els, North Central Division commander, presented Briggs and Marianne Price, district EEO officer, with the division trophy for Equal Employment Opportunity.

Briggs then gave a special award to the chief. It was made from a specially prepared concrete core section from Lock and Dam 3 to commemorate both the 50th anniversary of the 9-foot channel and Heiberg's support for the major rehabilitation program for the Mississippi River lock and dam system.

After his address to the employees, Heiberg went to the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam for a tour and a briefing on the Northern States Power hydroelectric plant failure that drained the lower pool in November.

That evening, he spoke at a joint dinner meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers.

Alan Quandt hospitalized

Alan Quandt, a programmer in the Information Management Office, suffered a stroke while having lunch in the Post Office cafeteria on March 15. He was rushed to St. Paul-Ramsey Hospital. The stroke left him partially paralyzed and unable to speak.

By late March, Alan was able to leave intensive care and had begun therapy.

Alan was still unable to speak but has made some progress and has regained some strength in his right side.

The 9-foot channel project: 50 years of delivering the goods

In 1938, the St. Paul District completed the last of the locks and dams that were authorized by the original 9-foot channel legislation.

On Saturday, June 25, the St. Paul District will formally celebrate the 50 years of service of the 9-foot navigation channel. The theme for the celebration is "Delivering the Goods!"

The primary celebration will be at Lock and Dam 7, near La Crescent, Minn. Other celebrations will also be held throughout the summer in conjunction with community celebrations along the Mississippi River, with the district's display trailer and open houses at the nearest lock and dam.

At Lock and Dam 7, the program will include a ceremonial ribbon cutting and a luncheon cruise through that area of the river to review the effects that the channel has had on the river and development along the river.

The district is also preparing a booklet on the history of the 9-foot channel.

Anyone who knows of any retirees, former employees, or concerned local organizations who might be contacted to take part in the celebrations should contact the district Public Affairs Office (612-220-0200/0201).

Bond campaign to begin

May will mark the start of this year's U. S. Savings Bond campaign. For more information, contact Major Chuck Rogers, the campaign coordinator, at 220-0439.



After Heiberg's talk, the district received the North Central Division trophy for Equal Employment Opportunity. Left to right: EEO

officer Marianne Price, Lt. Gen. Heiberg, Col. Briggs and Brig. Gen. Vander Els.

Photo by Joe Yanta

Gage Crew assumes new name, new responsibilities

by Joe Yanta, Public Affairs Office

The St. Paul District Hydrologic Instrumentation Unit, formerly known as the Gage Crew, is one of the smallest units in the district.

The new name of the unit reflects its new responsibilities better than the old name, according to Ed Eaton, chief of the Water Control Center. The unit must monitor and maintain hundreds of gages throughout the district, conduct snow surveys, install automated data collection platforms, conduct other data collection efforts and assist in flood-fighting efforts.

The gage readings and other data help with flood forecast and with the regulation and operation of the locks and dams and other reservoirs.

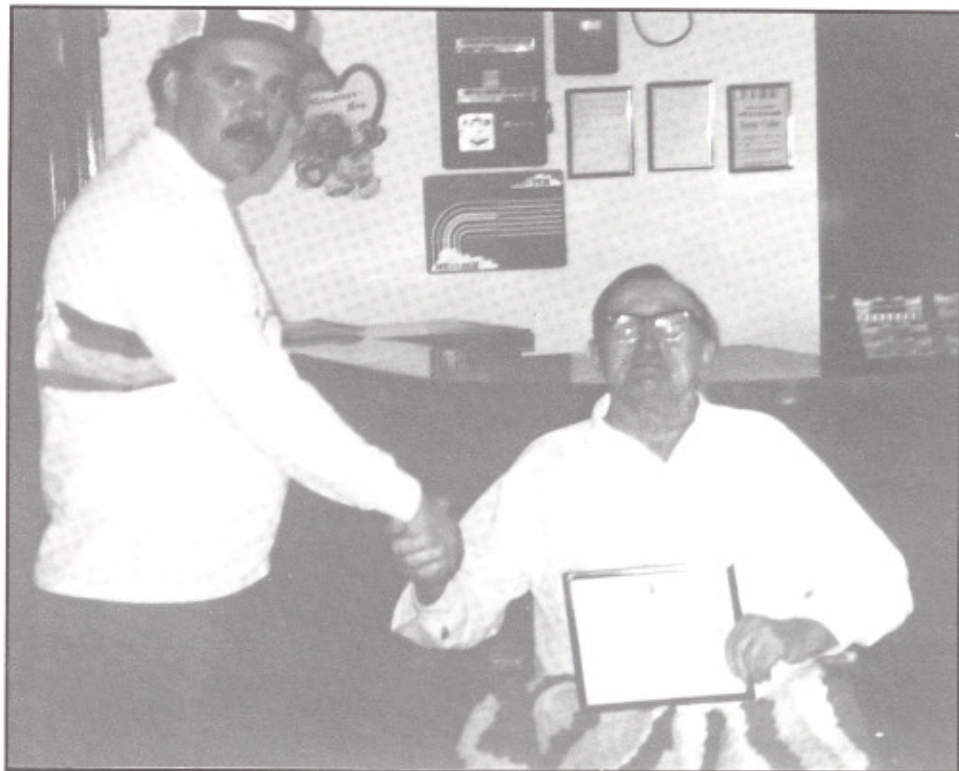
Part of the Hydrology Section's Water Control Center, the unit has only 2 full-time employees: Scott Bratten, a 10-year district employee, and Matthew Curran, a 22-year employee. "Considering the district covers 151,000 square miles with over 500 gages of various types..., Scott and Matthew do a tremendous job," Ed said. "We have a small unit for a district our size....They have had to assume new duties in recent years," he added.

The unit is based in a combination office/shop near the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam but spend much of their time traveling.

Leo Grabowski of the Water Control Center also spends about 30 percent of his time on the unit, and someone from the locks and dams is usually assigned to help during the snow surveys.

But the Hydrologic Instrumentation Unit has a job that is simply too big for two full-time and two part-time staff members. About 75 gage readers or "observers" round out the unit. Although these observers may not technically be volunteers, their service provides a significant benefit to the Corps and ultimately to the public. In return for their services, the observers receive only a nominal payment, about \$1.00 for each gage reading.

Scott noted that many of the observers have served for many years. He mentioned Anthony Doubek, who now lives in Northgate Care Center in Waukon, Ia., as an



Scott Bratten (left) recently presented Anthony Doubek with a certificate of appreciation for his long service to the district as a gage observer. Anthony began monitoring gages on the Upper Iowa River and on Bear Creek in 1936.

Photo by Matthew Curran

example. Scott presented Anthony with a certificate of appreciation in February. Anthony began monitoring gages on the Upper Iowa River, near Dorchester, Ia., and on nearby Bear Creek in 1936 and continued until recently. Scott also mentioned two other long-time observers who died within the last year: John Spinner, who read the gage at Lansing, Ia., and Charles "Casey" Jones, who read the gage at Prescott, Wis.

Some observers read and report on gages every day, some just weekly, others seasonally. Sometimes they must make extra readings because one of the automated gages fails. Scott said that the observers also keep the Water Control Center informed of river conditions and ice jams. All keep a written record of their readings.

Matthew said that the observers offer their services because they are interested in the river and because they have a sense of public service. He explained that they see it as "their river and their life": they know the importance of the river for the people who

live along it or who use it. They are not in this activity for the money or the recognition: "they are dedicated." In addition to only a nominal payment, most perform their duties with little or no recognition. Furthermore, they get up early, go out into the cold, the wind, the rain, and sometimes for their efforts they have had to deal with early-morning calls from radio stations and others who want information.

Although the observers still play an important role, their numbers have declined recently since the district has begun collecting hydrologic data using a remote sensing network that employs data collection platforms (DCP's). The district has only begun using DCP's in the last 3 or 4 years.

Scott explained that "various sensors that read water levels, precipitation, wind, water temperature can be connected to a DCP....various water quality sensors will also soon be installed at all the reservoirs." The district has about 80 DCP's in place and

Continued on the next page

eventually will have more than 120.

Scott and Matthew have received training from Synergistics International, the manufacturer of the DCP, on installing, programming and maintaining the DCP's.

Many of the DCP's are in U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) gaging stations and are set to record data for both the Corps and the USGS. The DCP's beam a signal to a satellite, which relays it to a National Weather Service (NWS) ground receiving station at Wallops Island, Maryland. The NWS transmits the data back to the district through ground communications.

Scott mentioned that the USGS is very interested in the DCP network and helps the district maintain many of its DCP's. He has also taught a number of DCP training classes to USGS and Corps employees.

In addition to their other duties, the unit also conducts snow surveys in concert with the NWS. These surveys help both the NWS and the Corps estimate spring flood potential.

The unit also also monitors frost gages to determine the extent of frost in the ground, which is another element to consider in flood forecasts.

The unit also works on special projects. For instance, they recently installed



Matthew Curran (left) and Scott Bratten have designed a new wire weight gage that is in

use throughout the St. Paul District.

Photo by Joe Yanta

several staff gages to monitor water levels at the Lake Pulaski flood control project to make certain that the outlet at that lake does not create other problems at Buffalo Lake and Deer Lake.

They have also been designing new

equipment, including a frost gage and a wire weight gage that are now in use throughout the district.

Even with the DCP's, USGS assistance and an extensive network of observers, Scott and Matthew still stay quite busy maintaining existing gages and DCP's, installing new ones, monitoring the accuracy of the equipment, conducting snow surveys and making emergency repairs. As Scott said, "It's a lot of work for two people." They estimate that they spend 50 to 60 percent of their time traveling and that they cover about 25,000 miles each year.



The St. Paul District has about 500 gages of various types scattered throughout its 151,000 square miles (each pin in the map represents a gage). Matthew Curran (left) and

Scott Bratten are responsible for maintaining these gages in satisfactory operating condition.

Photo by Joe Yanta

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Leech Lake Dam: a family recreation area

by John Zahalka, Resource Manager

Day use and campground visitation at Leech Lake Dam leveled out in the early 1980's, increasing only a small percentage annually. When fishing (by far the area's major activity) was good, visitation was extremely high, often exceeding the area's carrying capacity. As hot summer days reduced fishing success, visitation declined dramatically. Although the recreation area already offered an ultra-modern campground, picnic areas, boat ramps, playground equipment and other facilities, it needed more activities that appealed to visitors other than fishermen, especially activities that appealed to retired couples, family groups and the physically handicapped.

In 1985, a game area was developed in the recreation area. This game area included horseshoe pits; badminton court, shuffleboard, and volleyball courts; a large castle-shaped sandbox; and a 7-foot kids' basketball hoop and a regulation 10-foot basketball hoop. The addition of picnic facilities, parking lot and additional trees completed the improvements for the year. Equipment required to enjoy the facilities is available from 7 a.m. through 10 p.m. on a loan-and-return honor system.

The installation of an area for younger



The improvements at Leech Lake Dam have made the area more attractive to children. But local children also helped make some of the improvements. Left to right: ranger Curt Kottmeyer, an unidentified local volunteer and John Zahalka.

children this spring will complete the game area and should improve the family focus at Leech Lake.

Tailwater picnic and fishing areas were also developed in 1985. Landscaped stairways, ramps and walkway bridges increased accessibility, especially for the handicapped, the very young and the elderly. A screened handicapped-accessible

fish-cleaning facility with water and electricity was constructed. Picnic tables, grills and benches were added on the north shore of Leech River, where currents are less swift, footing much more stable and fishing much easier. Plantings of sapling trees completed the improvements.

Two paved handicapped camp pads were added to help handicapped visitors enjoy the area. The extra-large pads include special picnic tables, grills and fireplaces, paved walkways to the comfort station, and safety kickboards around the camp pads and walkways. A group camp site was constructed for groups that desire to camp together. The group site is centrally located near the comfort station and reserved for groups only.

The improvements showed almost instant results. Visitation increased a whopping 17 percent in 1986 and 9 percent in 1987. More families, both local and non-local, were using game area facilities. The number of filled camp sites increased 30 percent in 1987, primarily because of the increase in campground use by retired couples.

Always regarded as a fisherman's park, Leech Lake Dam has become a more diverse recreation area, providing better service to a wider range of customers.



The game area at Leech Lake Dam offers visitors the opportunity to play horseshoes, badminton, shuffleboard, volleyball and basketball. Equipment is also available for loan.

Portraits of two 19th century women: National Women's History Month programs



A literary scholar and a former college teacher, Dr. Jane Curry began performing as Samantha Smith Allen in 1981. Since then, she has toured the country and performed in

Israel. Curry has also edited an anthology of the writings of Marietta Holley, Samantha's creator.

Photo by Joe Yanta

Samantha Smith Allen

"If God had meant wimmen should be nothin' but men's shadders, he would have made gots and fantoms of 'em at once," according to Samantha Smith Allen, a late 19th and early 20th century literary creation of Marietta Holley. Holley (1836-1926) was a humorist whose writings focused on society's attitude towards women.

St. Paul District employees heard Samantha expound and "episode" on various topics during a performance by Dr. Jane Curry at the Town Square Holiday Inn on March 8. Entitled "Samantha 'Rastles' the Woman Question," this performance gave district employees a different perspective on women's rights as part of the district's National Women's History Month celebration.

Samantha gave a glimpse into the life of a 19th century American woman. She told of her husband Josiah, a confirmed chauvinist who believes that women only one basic right—"the right to marry." They "don't need to vote," Josiah thinks, because they would only be "drug down, demeaned, and unwomanly." Women, he feels, should be on a pedestal.

Samantha noted that she does not agree with Josiah about everything, even

though she is bound to him by "cast iron affection." In fact, she noted later in the program that she does not "think one sex ought to be set up over the other" in any way, either on a pedestal or in a position of control. In regard to pedestals, she commented that it is "too tuckerin' to be on a pedestal" because she has to get "up and down" so often to do all her chores.

Although relatively little known today, Samantha was once a popular literary creation. She appeared in more than 20 books that Holley wrote between 1873 and 1914. During her lifetime, Holley was compared to Mark Twain.

After the performance, Samantha answered questions and engaged in some spirited but good natured discussion with members of the audience.

Underlying her humor was the recurring theme that "all we're really talking about is things being fair."

Susie Moberly

Like Samantha Smith Allen, Susie Moberly is a late 19th, early 20th century literary figure whom many district employees have learned about during National Women's History Month. Unlike Samantha, however, Susie was a real woman.

On March 15, Holly Jorgensen, a his-

torical storyteller and singer, and her accompanist, Shirley Mauch, performed in the district office. Several years ago, Jorgensen discovered a diary that Susie began when she was 17. Since then, Jorgensen has researched Susie and her family, met Susie's now 91-year old daughter, and come to know Susie "intimately." Jorgensen read and commented on excerpts from the diary, showed slides from that period, and performed several original songs that underscored some of the themes in the readings.

Written in 1890-1891, the diary recorded the thoughts and feelings of an intelligent, educated young woman. Jorgensen pointed out that Susie was more than just an observer. She "thought about what she saw" and her diary reflects her concern for others and her thoughts about life.

Jorgensen noted that Susie always retained love of nature, of song, and of poetry, however, and her writings show her ability to find happiness: "Happiness is not found in any object. it is a light that shines upon objects from an unknown source....Life is so full of grand and glorious things, even the shady side of it." She published a book of poems, *The Lucky Lady*, in 1915.



As part of the program on Susie Moberly, Holly Jorgensen and Shirley Mauch performed several songs to express the thoughts in Susie's diary.

Photo by Joe Yanta

Around the district

by Ken Gardner

We have some people changes and an opportunity for all you aspiring artists and closet philatelists. If you're confused now, just wait until you read more.

First, the opportunity. As some of you know (maybe), July 5 will mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Topographic Engineers as a separate organization. OCE is planning on a big celebration with all of the appropriate hoopla.

As part of the celebration, they are working with the Engineer Museum Historical Foundation and the Postal Service on a special commemorative stamp cachet envelope consisting of an envelope, an appropriate topo illustration (such as a woodcut of a surveyor), an appropriate stamp, and a specially-designed cancellation. That is where you come in. OCE is looking for original designs for the cancellation.

Call me if you think you want to enter a design or need additional details. But you need to act fast since all designs are due at OCE by April 15.

The Historical Museum Foundation is financing the cachet project and will eventually sell the cachets with the proceeds going to support museum activities.

Speaking of historical hoopla, keep your eye on June 25 and Lock and Dam No. 7. That will be the site of the celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the completion of locks and dams 3 through 9, the eight dams within the St. Paul District originally authorized by Congress as part of the 9-foot channel project. But what about the rest of the locks and dams, you ask? Well, those of you around the district (no pun intended) in the 1930s will remember that Lock and Dam 1 was already in existence (built in 1917); Lock and Dam 2 was begun as part of the 6-foot channel project (completed 1930) but was built to accommodate vessels with a 9-foot draft; the locks at St. Anthony Falls did not exist at all then (they were constructed later in the 50s and 60s); and Lock and Dam 10 was built by Rock Island District.

Now for some people news. **Jim Simms**, chief of Real Estate Division, has accepted a job with Kansas City District. **Martin Frawley** has joined the Real Estate Division as a realty specialist in the Acquisition Branch. He came to us from the

Omaha District Field Office at the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant. **Marsha Risch** has returned to the district in Project Management. She has been in Germany for the last five years or so.

It is nice to see deserving people advance their careers. And this reinforces that old adage that "You can't hold a good person down" and that "The cream always rises to the top." We have several branch secretaries who have taken the leap to non-secretarial jobs. **Myrna Jinks**, formerly branch secretary in Design Branch, is the new A/E support assistant in Design Branch. She replaces **Dave Ekstrand**, who changed to an engineering tech job several weeks ago. **Theresa Thury**, former branch secretary in Small Projects Branch, has moved to Project Management as the A/E support assistant there.

Finally, **Lois Pream** has left her old job as branch secretary in Plan Formulation for a new position as procurement clerk in Contracting Division.

And that is what's happening around the district this month.

Bowling banquet

The Corps of Engineers Bowling League Banquet on March 18, at Minnehaha Lanes in St. Paul featured awards for both team and individual accomplishments.

The Head Pins won the team championship. Team members Kevin Kliethermes, Mark Koenig, Mark Angelo, Jami Kliethermes, John Kliethermes, Linda Koenig, and Don Miller received plaques. Maj. Chuck Rogers received a special plaque as a frequent substitute for the champions. The Pin Busters received the second place award.

Neil Schwanz and Sue Cardinal received trophies for the high scratch series. Mark Koenig and Liz Sackett received trophies for high scratch game. Kevin Kliethermes and Juanita Herbert had high series with handicap. Jim Mosner and Mickey Eckstrand had high game with handicap.

Neil Schwanz and Mickey Eckstrand won the high average awards. Dave Swanson and Mickey Eckstrand received the most improved bowler awards. Various other special awards were distributed.

League President Bob Dempsey also asked the bowlers to recruit new members: "It's a good family competition and a good way to get to know the people you work with."

For more bowling information, contact Bob at 220-0443.

Exercise, exercise, ...why should I exercise?

by Kathy Thompson

Our bodies do not wear out. Our bodies respond to physical stress by adapting and growing stronger.

There are many reasons why we should exercise. It can improve our lives in many areas. After the age of 20, the body gets lazy. It processes about 1 percent less oxygen every year. The body begins to suffocate with less oxygen. Remaining active will keep the oxygen going and the body stronger.

The heart and lungs are muscles that don't get tired: they just get lazy. Exercise will keep them strong. The bones are living tissue. They get stressed with exercise and respond by getting thicker, denser and stronger. The skin acquires oxygen from exercise. The exercise makes it thicker and more elastic.

Exercise strengthens nerve tissue in the body. The increased blood flow from exercise helps to protect overall health and the central nervous system. Exercise can help us to live better and longer.

Regular exercise will lower the resting pulse rate; thus the heart will pump slower, which is very relaxing. It will also make for better sleep. With quality sleep, you will need less sleep, which will give you more time to do the things you want (begin an exercise program?). Exercise improves cholesterol levels, body fat, blood pressure, heart rate, body weight and oxygen intake.

Exercise regularly and vary your program. Do different types of exercise on different days. A complete program will include exercises for strength, endurance and flexibility. Aerobics increase heart rate, respiration and metabolism. Jogging, swimming, biking, and cross-country skiing are included. Calisthenics are systematic types of body exercises, including yoga. Isometrics include exercises that pit muscles against each other or against an object. They tone and build skeletal muscles. Isotonics use exercise with movement, such as weight training. Isokinetics use exercises with controlled resistance (exercise machines).

Exercise should be considered a staple, just as food and drink are. You can make it interesting, just as you vary and balance your diet to make it more enjoyable.