



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Good-bye, Col. Briggs; welcome, Col. Baldwin



Photo by Ann Martin



Photo by Ann Martin



Photo by Ken Gardner

On July 11, at his farewell luncheon, Col. Joseph Briggs received a number of awards and mementos to commemorate his command in the St. Paul District. Bill Goetz (chief, Constructions-Operations Division) was one of the many who wished the outgoing commander well (upper left photo). Two days later, on July 13, the district held the first change of command ceremony that was open to all district employees. Representing the district employees, Bob Post (chief, Engineering Division) accepted the Corps flag from Col. Briggs. He then presented it to Brig. Gen. Theodore Vander Els, the North Central Division Commander, who presented the flag to the new St. Paul District Commander, Col. Roger Baldwin (upper right photo). On July 20-22, the new commander, district office and division chiefs, and the military staff participated in a transitional workshop (lower left photo; see the July Crosscurrents for more details).

District responds to request from Minnesota: will not increase release from Winnibigoshish

On August 5, Col. Roger Baldwin, the St. Paul District Commander, announced his decision not to authorize supplemental releases from the Mississippi River Headwaters reservoirs at this time.

On July 28, Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich requested that the district increase releases from Winnibigoshish Dam by 300 cubic feet per second (cfs) to supplement flows on the Mississippi River during the drought.

Lake Winnibigoshish is the second-largest (67,000 acres) of the six Mississippi Headwaters reservoirs operated by the district. This summer, it has been operating with a minimal release of 100 cfs.

The governor's request would have lowered Winnibigoshish reservoir by 5 inches over a 45-day period.

Baldwin notified Perpich of his decision on August 3. Baldwin based his decision on increased rainfall, higher present and projected river flows, and more favorable extended weather forecasts.

Baldwin and other district representatives had carefully reviewed the governor's proposal and other alternatives, and they had met with concerned state and federal agencies, Indian interests, resort owners, and others.

The St. Paul District will continue to monitor the situation and explore alternatives with federal, state and tribal governments.



Winnibigoshish Dam controls the second-largest impoundment (67,000 acres) of the Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Headwaters reservoirs.

District to celebrate Minnesota Heritage Week

As part of the program for Minnesota Heritage Week, the St. Paul District will display "New Homes: The Immigrant Experience."

This photographic exhibit that documents the experiences of some of the thousands of families immigrating to Minnesota during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The exhibit, on loan from the Minnesota Historical Society, will be on display in rooms 1219 and 1220 of the district office

from August 29 to September 2, 1988.

Moving to a new country radically transformed the lives of most immigrants.

The exhibit's 55 photographs and posters depict that transformation, showing who settled in Minnesota, what persuaded them to move, what they found when they arrived and how they adapted to their new homes.

"New Homes: The Immigrant Experience" also uses photographs of church and

club activities to illustrate the efforts of these new settlers to preserve old ways.

In addition to this exhibit from the Minnesota Historical Society, there will be a series of family histories taken within the Corps workforce, which will be displayed with family photographs.

A contest on knowledge of Minnesota immigrant history will also be held for all district employees.

Old timer's reunion September 14

The 13th annual old timer's reunion will be on September 14 at the State Capital Holiday Inn, 161 St. Anthony, in St. Paul. All past and present employees of any Corps of Engineers office or field unit, their spouses, and the spouses of former employees are invited to this event.

The event is scheduled to run from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 (which includes the gratuity and sales tax). The luncheon menu includes a choice of baked orange roughly or baked chicken strips.

Send your request for reservations to

Harry Anderson, 896 Parker Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55113 (telephone 612-489-3914). Make checks payable to Harry Anderson, treasurer.

Reservations must be in by Sept. 10. Luncheon tickets may be picked up at the Holiday Inn before lunch.

Anyone who cannot make it to the luncheon is welcome to come early or late to meet old friends.

Anyone who has any news about any past or present Corps employee that may be of general interest may send a note along with the reservation request.

Corps Calendar

August 6-7	Traveling Trailer Exhibit/Riverboat Days, Red Wing, Minn., Rosemarie Braatz, 220-0316
August 13	Traveling Trailer Exhibit/Remer Harvest Festival, Remer, Minn., Jim Ruyak, 218-566-2306
August 16-17	Channel Maintenance Forum Meeting, Fountain City (Wis.) Service Base, Dan Krumholz, 608-687-3011
August 25-September 5	Minnesota State Fair/St. Paul District Exhibit, Ken Gardner, 220-0201/Joe Yanta, 220-0200
August 29-September 2	Minnesota Heritage Week
September 10	Big Stone/Whetstone Project Dedication, Rosemarie Braatz, 220-0316
September 11	Open House, Lock and Dam 5A, Wallace Farrand, 507-542-2789
September 12-17	Hispanic Week
September 22-24	50th Anniversary Symposium and Open House, St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Laboratory, Prof. Roger E. A. Arndt, 612-627-4010
September 23	Native American Day

Obituaries

Sam Isbell, 78

Sam Isbell, age 78, died on July 3, in Stoddard, Wis. He was a long-time Corps employee. According to lockmaster LaVern Horstman, Sam was an electrician at Lock and Dam 8, retiring in about 1964 after 38 years of service. Among his other jobs with the Corps, he was also involved in the original construction of the 9-foot navigation channel project.

Sam Moore, 72

Sam Moore, age 72, died on July 11, in Kirkland, Wash., a suburb of Seattle. He retired from the Army in 1969 as a lieutenant colonel. He served in Europe during World War II, in the Korean Conflict and in Vietnam. After his military retirement, he worked in the Seattle District as safety officer for several years. He then came to St. Paul and served as this district's safety officer for 8 years, until 1980. After that, he returned to Seattle as safety officer until his retirement in 1982. He was also the father-in-law of Tom Oksness, chief of the Lock and Dam Section.

Gudrun Smedsrud, 80

Gudrun ("Goodie") Smedsrud, age 80, died May 12 in Grand Forks, N.D. She was a 29-year employee of the Corps of Engineers, working in the St. Paul Real Estate Office at the time of her retirement in 1972.

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District Engineer Col. Roger Baldwin
Chief, Public Affairs Ken Gardner
Editor Joe Yanta

Ronald L. Cloutier Recreation Area serves many visitors

by Ray N. Nelson, Park Ranger

With 117 campsites, Ronald L. Cloutier Recreation Area near the Pine River Dam is the largest and most heavily visited of the six Corps of Engineers recreation sites on the Headwaters of the Upper Mississippi River.

Built in 1886 at the outlet of the Pine River from Cross Lake, the Pine River Dam created the Whitefish Chain of Lakes, one of the six Headwaters reservoirs operated by the St. Paul District. The major lakes in this chain include Upper Whitefish Lake, Lower Whitefish Lake, Big Trout Lake and Cross Lake. These lakes, plus smaller lakes and bays, provide many fishing and boating spots. Before the dam was built, this 13,600-acre reservoir was a chain of smaller, separate bodies of water connected by creeks.

Open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis, the facilities at the recreation area offer visitors many kinds of recreational experiences.

Ronald L. Cloutier Recreation Area is often informally referred to as "Cross Lake," its name before it was redesignated in memory of the Corps employee killed in a helicopter crash in 1974 during an inspection flight. It is also sometimes called the "Pine River Dam," and some visitors associate the site with "Whitefish Lake."

The recreation area is just across Highway 3 from Crosslake, a small town near



Even in drought years, the beaches, docks and open water at the Ronald L. Cloutier Recreation Area and other Mississippi River Headwaters reservoir campgrounds offer recreational opportunities for visitors.

Brainerd in the scenic pine and birch forest of north-central Minnesota, about 3 hours from the Twin Cities and 2 hours from Duluth and Fargo-Moorhead.

The success of this site is reflected in steadily increasing visitation. In 1987, day use totaled 260,000 visitors and campers totaled almost 40,000. Another measure of success is that camping fees have made the recreation program at the site almost self-supporting.

The popularity of the site speaks well for it. At the height of the season, campers line up for hours to wait for an opening to the grounds. Many families return year after

year, even generation after generation.

This site offers visitors a wide range of facilities: boat and canoe launches, swimming beaches, and picnic and camping facilities. It also has fireplaces and firewood, barbecue units, public telephones, boat ramps, electrical hook-ups, a games area, an interpretive trail and display, beaches and a playground in addition to the shower building, restrooms and sanitary dumping station.

An interesting feature of the site is the specially designed fish-cleaning stations built for the convenience of the public.

The management at Cross Lake is particularly sensitive to the needs of handicapped visitors. Accessible facilities include a river fishing pier, camping pads and picnic spots. Handicapped-accessible camp sites may be reserved in advance by contacting the resource manager's office (218-692-4488).

Many additional recreational opportunities are available in the scenic area around the site, including fishing, boating, camping, water skiing, swimming, playgrounds, organized and informal games, hunting, canoeing, hiking, nature and wildlife trails, auto races, golf and evening entertainment.

The neighboring community of Crosslake offers visitors restaurants, gift shops, a laundromat, and service stations. Also just across the highway is the Cross Lake Area Historical Society Museum, which features artifacts and historic photographs of the area.



Many families return year after year to the Ronald L. Cloutier Recreation Area near Crosslake, Minn. This site has 117 campsites, the most of any of the district's Headwaters campgrounds.

Old lock house helps unlock past at Sandy Lake

by Terry Ladd, Park Ranger

(Editor's note: The Sandy Lake Dam and Recreation Area are on the northwest corner of Big Sandy Lake in north-central Minnesota. Like the five other Mississippi River Headwaters reservoir recreation areas, Sandy Lake offers visitors a variety of activities: camping, picnicking, boating, canoeing, fishing, swimming, games and playground activities. But it also has the Sandy Lake visitor center, which offers something that is not duplicated elsewhere.)

The Sandy Lake visitor center, located in the old lock control house at the dam, offers the public a unique opportunity to gain a better understanding about the historic and cultural resources of the area. The self-guided tour at this center offers the visiting public a cultural and historic view of the people and area to go along with the outdoor experience available at this site.

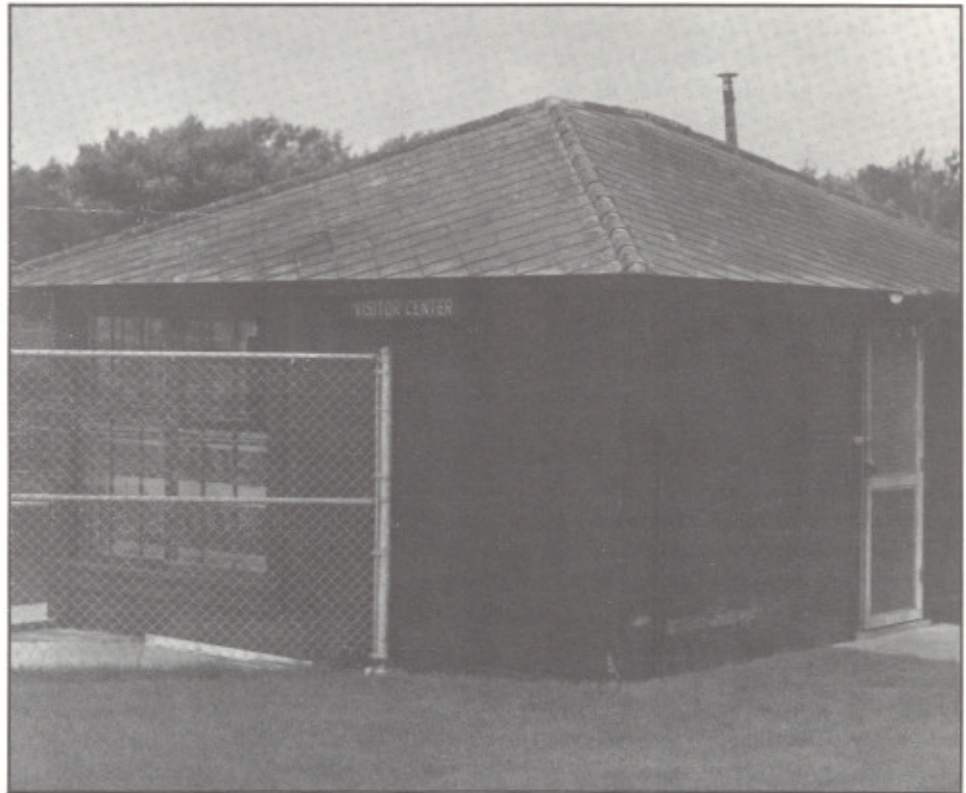
The building still contains the original machinery for locking through boats plus the pilot wheel of the steamboat *Oriole*, old pictures of the dam and buildings, and a 1,000-item artifact display.

The pilot wheel that hangs in the center of the building is all that remains of the sternwheeler *Oriole*, which was in operation between Aitkin and Grand Rapids in 1908 and 1909. It was sold to the Corps of Engineers and refitted for channel maintenance. By 1918, the hull became unserviceable, and the Corps sold it to a resort owner on Big Sandy Lake. It was dragged up on the beach, renamed the *Ark* and used as a summer hotel until it was demolished in 1941. Fact sheets with a more complete history and photos are in the visitor center.

Photos of the lock and dam and buildings from the 1930's are on display with information cards for each photo. The photos show the officers' quarters, the dam structure, barn, blacksmith shop and other maintenance buildings on the site at that time. Of all those buildings, only the dwelling and visitor center (lock house) remain.

The artifact displays along with the pilot wheel were contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zink. This collection contains about 1,000 items, most found in the immediate area.

These artifacts date from as early as



Although the old lock control house at Sandy Lake Dam is no longer used for its original purpose, it now serves as the visitor center for the Sandy Lake Dam

Recreation Area. It contains an important collection of artifacts that helps visitors gain a better understanding of the history and culture of the area.

4,000 B.C. up to the mid-19th century. They are displayed in glass-enclosed panels and are labeled to inform the public of their history and use.

The first panels in the display contain artifacts the Indians used prior to the coming of European settlers. They contain such items as arrowheads, drills, scrapers and stone axes. Three of the artifacts are old copper points that date as early as 4,000 B.C. and one arrow point made from an antler.

The display of pottery fragments are from the Middle and Late Woodland Culture peoples who inhabited the area from 100 B.C. until the early 17th century.

The next panels contain implements from the fur trade. Some items displayed are saws, files, horseshoes, knifeblades, padlocks, nail makers and fish spears. One of the panels is devoted entirely to a flintlock trade gun made in Birmingham, England. The individual parts of the gun are labeled for ease of identification. Flints

from England and France along with ball shot are displayed next to the trade gun. Most of these items date from 1795 to the 1840's and were found at the site of the blacksmith shop on Brown's Point where the Northwest Company established a post in 1793.

The rest of the displays center on the people who lived in the area and their belongings. These include jewelry, games, toys, household items, and clay pipes from the voyageurs and Indians. Some more interesting of unusual items are a bale tag to identify furs, and medicine bag, wampum, small silver crosses, a wooden doll, and vermilion and ocher used for warpaint.

A 13-page text prepared by the Zink family provides greater detail about each item and its history. This text is available in the visitor center.

Paintings by Jean Thurmer (district illustrator, now retired) located above the displays illustrate the history and people of the area.

Leech Lake campground host program first in district

by Gregg Struss, Resource Manager

During the past 10 years, visitation at Leech Lake Recreation Area has increased dramatically while the number of Corps employees at that site has decreased significantly. Because of this imbalance, a central contact point where visitors could obtain basic information seemed a necessity. Thus, in early May, Leech Lake Recreation Area initiated a volunteer campground host program to provide the required service without increasing manpower or costs.

Campground hosts, who are used extensively by the U. S. Forest Service and other Corps divisions, are not intended to replace Corps personnel but rather to assist them with common daily duties, providing rangers additional time to perform more professional duties such as visitor assistance and interpretation.

After researching the program with other districts and agencies currently utilizing campground hosts, the St. Paul District compiled a list of specifications for the volunteer campground host program at Leech Lake.

Campground hosts are the principal contact point for all visitors at the recreation area and are expected to provide information regarding rules and regulations, facilities and their use, safety and other pertinent information.

They will answer questions; distribute literature; and report visitor complaints, acts of vandalism, poor behavior and unsafe situations to the manager or rangers. Hosts never enforce rules and regulations or become involved in any domestic disputes, however. Hosts administer minor first aid, distribute emergency phone numbers and call for ambulance service, if required.

They also perform some minor maintenance work such as changing light bulbs, refilling toilet tissue holders and soap dispensers, picking up litter and cleaning small dirty spots in the restrooms.

During this trial year, hosts will be appointed for approximately a third of the recreation season. They will occupy a central well-marked camp pad free of charge and wear a government-furnished windbreaker, cap and name tag that identifies them as a campground host. A radio providing direct communication



Leo and Betty Gwin were the first volunteer campground hosts in the St. Paul District. They served during the first third

of this year's recreation season at the Leech Lake Recreation Area.

with Corps personnel, a first aid kit, keys to a storage room and dispensers along with handouts and brochures will be issued to facilitate proper performance of their duties.

Leo and Betty Gwin of Bovey, Minn., performed the campground hosts duties during the first and busiest third of the recreation season at Leech Lake Recreation Area.

Visitors comments on the hosts have all been favorable, with upwards of 30 groups stopping daily at their site request-

ing information.

The Gwins have been an asset in assisting Corps personnel in the performance of their duties, especially during periods of peak use such as the fishing opener and the Memorial Day weekend.

Leo and Betty have conducted themselves in a very friendly, courteous and professional manner at all times, have provided the service the Corps required and have showed that a well-executed volunteer campground host program is an asset to a Corps of Engineers recreation area.

Wildlife management at Baldhill Dam

by Steve Tapp, Ranger

Since last winter, the staff at Baldhill Dam (Lake Ashtabula) has been very busy with the Wildlife Management Plan.

In early January, they began driving 10-foot sections of 2-inch pipe through the ice for waterfowl nests. These pipes served as anchors for the nests, which were placed in some of the bays after the ice was off the lake. A total of 15 nests were placed, for both ducks and geese. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department said that they might be able to release some half-grown geese in one of the wildlife management areas at Lake Ashtabula. These geese would be tagged and hopefully return to the area each year to nest.

The staff at Baldhill has also been busy with putting up wood duck houses around the lake. A total of 9 have been put up, with more scheduled to go up this summer. Because wood ducks were seen in the area while the nest structures were put up, the staff anticipates a high percentage of use.

A new management technique began in April on the 9-acre island at the north end of the lake. Five members of the Corps staff along with two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees and a trapper from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department went through the island to eliminate unwanted mammalian predators.



As part of the Wildlife Management Plan, ranger Steve Tapp put up a waterfowl

nest at the Old Highway 26 Wildlife Management Area on Lake Ashtabula.

Photo by John Knoble

The following day, traps were set on the island for those predators that were left behind. The Game and Fish Department said that an island of that size could hold up to 100 duck nests. In the past, nest counts showed less than 10 nests with hatching success from 0 to 5 percent. With the predators off the island, the staff hopes to increase the number of nests on the island and the success of the hatch.

In addition to the work on the Wildlife Management Plan at the project, some of the rangers have been helping the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with collection of eggs

from spawning fish for use at the Federal Hatchery. This spring, rangers Barb LaPierre and Steve Tapp volunteered their time to help the Federal Fishery from Valley City with their northern pike spawning. Five nets were checked for one week at the north end of Lake Ashtabula. Some male pike were taken for fertilization but the females were needed for egg collection. Approximately 9 million eggs were collected, which is below average for this lake. The largest pike weighed in at 25 1/2 pounds, with quite a few in the 15- to 20-pound range.

St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Lab celebrates 50 years

The St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Laboratory of the Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering, University of Minnesota, will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a symposium and open house.

The symposium, "The Role of the Hydraulic Laboratory in the 21st Century," will be held on September 22 and 23, 1988.

Representatives from the international research and industrial communities will be featured at this symposium, including the following:

Dr. P. N. Lin, Director of the Water Conservancy and Electric Power Institute, Peking, China.

Dr. Donald R. F. Harleman, Ford

Professor of Civil Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Erich Plate, Professor and Director, Water Resources Institute, University of Karlsruhe, Germany.

Dr. Ron Adrian, Professor of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, University of Illinois.

On Friday, September 23, at 11:45 a.m., Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich will preside over the Anniversary Ceremony and dedicate the new boundary layer wind tunnel at the laboratory.

The open house will be held on Saturday, September 24.

The laboratory opened 50 years ago with an emphasis on hydraulic structures, naval hydrodynamics, river mechanics and instrumentation.

More recently, its research has expanded into environmental hydraulics, water quality, stochastic surface water and ground-water hydrology, hydraulic machinery and wind engineering. The symposium will discuss the future research role of hydraulic laboratories in education and research.

For more information, contact Professor Roger E. A. Arndt, Director, St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Laboratory, Mississippi River at Third Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414, 612-627-4010.

John Mena helps young wrestlers become winners

by Joe Yanta, Public Affairs Office

Many people participate in sports when they are young. Some win championships. A few go on to train and coach young people. Some of those help others become champions.

John Mena of the Logistics Management Office has accomplished all of these things.

For the past 3 years, John has been coaching young wrestlers. He began by helping his nephew, Matt Samwebber. Matt belonged to the White Bear Wrestling Club.

From working with his nephew and taking him to practice and tournaments, John became an assistant coach for the wrestling club. After the club ended its season that year, John took part of the team (8 or 9 wrestlers) to the West Seventh Salvation Army so that they could continue competing. He coached them through the State tournament.

The next year, John returned as a coach. His team had a successful season wrestling as an independent club, the West Seventh Street Marauders (next year, the team's name will change to the West Seventh Street Axmen). They participated in many open tournaments (each wrestler on the team has an opportunity to wrestle) and won many trophies. Several wrestlers on the team placed in the regional and state tournaments.

One team member in the 14 and under group, in the 130-pound classification, placed in a national tournament (the Junior Olympics). He finished second in the Greco-Roman competition (Greco-Roman wrestling allows only holds above the waist) and third in the freestyle competition. In the freestyle competition, he twice defeated the Greco-Roman champion in his weight class.

One wrestler in the Junior group (10th-11th-12th grades), finished sixth in the national competition.

This past year, John again coached the Salvation Army team. Dave Swanson of Design Branch served as assistant coach and driver.

Both John and Dave were pleased with the team's success. Between 35 and 40 wrestlers were on the team, and everyone had plenty of opportunities to wrestle in each tournament. By the end of the season,

the team members had won many trophies.

Several of John's and Dave's wrestlers won state and national (Junior Olympic) championships.

But John stressed that wrestling is not just about winning championships. He said that, unlike most school leagues, wrestling teams like the one he coaches allow all team members to wrestle in open tournaments, even if several members are in the same weight class.

The wrestlers also benefit in many ways, John said. Not the least is travel. "The kids get a chance to travel and meet many other kids," he said. This year, for example, the team traveled to weekend tournaments in Minnetonka, Forest Lake, Faribault, Edina, Waterville, Owatonna, St. Francis, and Blaine, Minn., and Boyceville, Wis. The wrestlers who competed in the Junior Olympics went to Lincoln, Neb.

Wrestling may also help keep some kids off drugs and out of trouble, and it can help some others obtain scholarships, John added, but it also helps every participant.

"Wrestling is very basic for every kid....Kids enjoy it. If you watch young kids, you see that they wrestle a lot....It's something natural. It's also basic to many other sports. Once you learn how to control your body in wrestling, you can go into other sports and be more successful."

"Almost every culture has had some form of wrestling," he said. "It's one of the oldest organized sports."

For his part, John says that he likes working with young people. "I like working with a young man, showing him a skill, and having him go out and use it." John was particularly pleased during the Junior Olympics this year when his wrestlers were able to use a new maneuver that he showed them. In fact, he said it was this maneuver that helped one of his wrestlers break a 6-6 tie with about 5 seconds remaining in his Junior Olympic 185-pound championship match and win 9-6 over an opponent (the defending champion) who had beaten him three times previously.

John recommends wrestling as a sport for young people. Girls as well as boys can now participate in the younger age groups (5-12).

Not only does wrestling help young people build strength, endurance, coordination, skills and confidence, it also has

another major advantage over many sports: cost. It is far less expensive than many activities. "Our wrestlers only need to buy their shoes and reversible singlet" (a wrestling uniform that is blue on one side and red on the other; it reverses so that each wrestler can be clearly distinguished during a match), John said.

John himself was a successful wrestler. At Monroe High School in St. Paul, he began wrestling in the 8th grade, finishing third in the St. Paul City Conference. In the 9th through 12th grades, he was first in his weight class (112 and 120 pounds) in the city. His junior year, he finished fourth in the state tournament.

After high school, John wrestled while he was in the Navy, although reassignments limited his wrestling opportunities. He placed third in the 11th Naval District Tournament in 1972. In 1973, after a year of "all-out training," John was shipped overseas on the nuclear carrier U.S.S. Long Beach 2 weeks before the district tournament. That made it impossible to advance to a larger Naval tournament. He did, however, win another tournament championship aboard the carrier.

John plans to continue his coaching at the Salvation Army and elsewhere. This past year, for example, he also coached the Region 3 Star of the North team. That team included members from Edina, Minneapolis and St. Paul. Out of 15 weight classes, the team won three gold, three silver and three bronze medals at the Star of the North-Minnesota Games competition in St. Cloud. Next year, he may also be an assistant coach at St. Paul Academy, a private school in St. Paul.

If anyone is interested in working with John or in becoming involved in other youth wrestling clubs, they may contact John for more information.

John said that about 4,000 youth wrestlers (boys and girls) and 90 wrestling clubs belong to the U.S.A. Wrestling Federation in Minnesota, so there are many opportunities for both young people and adults to get involved in youth wrestling.

These programs generally run between January and June, he said. Wrestlers who participate on a school team may also participate in these programs, although they may have to wait until their school's wrestling season ends (usually in February).