

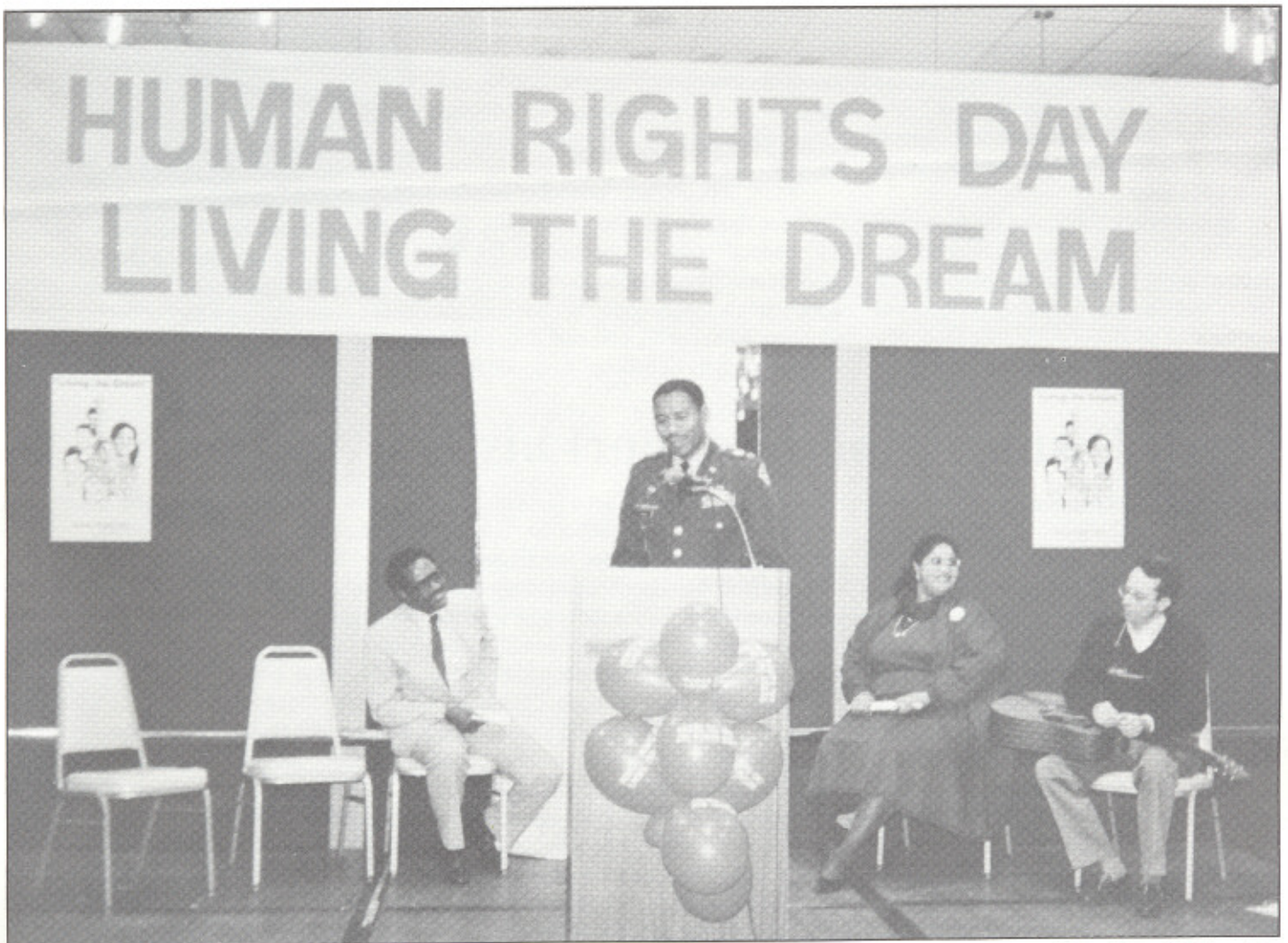


US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

Vol. 11, No. 2, February 1988

## St. Paul District holds Human Rights Day



The St. Paul District held its first Human Rights Day celebration on January 15. Dr. Earl F. Miller (left), pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, was the featured

speaker. Col. Joseph Briggs (standing, center), the district commander, and Marianne Price (center, seated), the district equal employment opportunity offi-

cer, also spoke briefly. Charlie Maguire (right), a folksinger, performed several songs during the program. (See the story on page 2.)

*Photo by Joe Yantis*

# Problems, solutions outlined at Human Rights Day

by Joe Yanta, Public Affairs Office

Blacks today face a "dilemma" because, despite their history of slavery, segregation and deprivation, society expects them to "be as productive, as resourceful and as responsible as people who never had this experience," according to Dr. Earl F. Miller, pastor of the Pilgrim Baptist Church in St. Paul. Rather than a deterrent, however, Miller said that this "dilemma" should be seen as a "challenge...to be the best you can be."

Miller was the featured speaker at the St. Paul District's first Human Rights Day program. He spoke on "Our Commitment to Individual Human Rights and Dignity." Folksinger-composer Charlie Maguire of Minneapolis also performed during the program.

Held on January 15, the program was in the main ballroom of the Town Square Holiday Inn in downtown St. Paul. An informal reception followed the formal program. The program was taped for viewing at field sites.

Miller briefly reviewed the history of blacks in America, noting that they arrived as slaves in 1619, endured 244 years of legal slavery and then faced another 100 years of another kind of slavery—segregation, discriminatory laws and oppressive hatred.

Although the situation has generally improved in the last 25 years, because of the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, America still has a long way to go, Miller said, for American society is not yet free of racism.

He noted that blacks are often expected to be better than others just to earn the same respect and gain the same opportunities, even though many blacks may have had many personal disadvantages and even though as a people blacks have had a history of discrimination and deprivation. Miller quoted King: "He who gets behind in a race must forever run twice as fast."

Miller raised the question, "where do we go from here?" He said that blacks and other minorities can take one of two approaches: to "look at the overwhelming odds" and essentially give up, perhaps turning to drugs, crime or other self-destructive means of escape; or to "look at the odds and see them as a great challenge...to mobilize all our resources and make a creative contribution to our nation."

He said that blacks and other minorities must develop "a sense of dignity and self respect"; prepare themselves for the tasks ahead through "education" and "hard work" so that they can "be the best of whatever [they] are"; and rise above hate and bitterness by following "a way as old as

the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and as modern as the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr....love your enemies."

By embracing love, by accepting all people as worthy of respect, Americans can overcome injustice in the United States, Miller said. "I don't know how long" it will take, he added, but "we shall overcome someday."



After the Human Rights Day program, Charlie Maguire and Marianne Price were among those who stayed for discussion.

Photo by Ken Gardner

## Black History Month: a short history

### American Forces Information Service

This February, members of the U.S. armed forces and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees will be learning more about the role black Americans played in making the United States strong and free. The theme for 1988's observance of Black History Month is "The Constitutional Status of Afro-Americans into the 21st Century."

According to DoD's deputy director for military equal opportunity, Marine Corps Maj. Merle Schneider, the idea of this year's theme is to increase awareness of the constitutional rights guaranteed Americans regardless of race, creed or sex, as well as the duty of all Americans to defend these rights.

Credit for the idea of setting aside a time for Americans to learn about black contributions to society belongs to the late

historian and educator Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard PH.D. who founded the Association of Afro-American Life and History.

In 1926, Woodson's association initiated Negro History Week during the week in February containing the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and abolitionist and black leader Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14). Woodson hoped that a togetherness in the United States' racial groups would develop out of a mutual respect for their diverse backgrounds.

The popularity of the week continued to grow until it became national in scope. During the country's Bicentennial celebration in 1976, Americans everywhere had a heightened interest in learning about the people from all ethnic groups who built this nation. Therefore, the association expanded the week's celebration to the entire month to provide more time for programs, obser-

vances and celebrations. The observance has been a full month ever since.

The Department of Defense observes Black History Month every year in a variety of ways, from educational exhibits and newspaper articles and radio and television spots about black's contributions to the nation's defense, science, business and culture—to musical celebrations and the serving of "soul food" in the dining halls.

This year's observance in the Pentagon includes a kickoff celebration Feb. 10 supported by Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci. A principal guest speaker will be the country's only black four-star general, Gen. Bernard P. Randolph, commander, Air Force Systems Command.

Other DoD offices will also be celebrating Black History Month.

Activities in the St. Paul District will be announced later.

# Corps Calendar

- Feb Black History Month, Joann Meier, 220-0383 (725-7481)
- Feb National Children's Dental Health Month
- Feb American Heart Month
- Feb Corps Golf League organization, Bruce Boldon, 220-0438 (725-7592)
- Feb 7-13 National Crime Prevention Week
- Feb 10 Federal Executive Board Emergency Planning Committee Meeting, David Christenson, 220-0204 (725-7606)
- Feb 12 Consulting Engineers Council of Minnesota 1988 Engineering Excellence Awards, Deb Foley, 220-0430 (725-5933)
- Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb 15 President's Day/Washington's Birthday, Federal Holiday
- Feb 21-27 National Engineer's Week
- Feb 22 Washington's Birthday
- Mar National Women's History Month
- Mar National Nutrition Month
- Mar National Red Cross Month
- Mar 16 Establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., 1802
- Mar 16 Reestablishment of a separate Corps of Engineers, 1802

## Black History Month: a trivia quiz

1. What does the African word "jazz" mean?
2. Who was the first person to die for the cause of American freedom?
3. What black woman obtained the rank of Brigadier General in the Army Nurse Corps?
4. Who was the first person to shed blood in the Civil War?
5. What was considered an African love potion: onions or okra?
6. Who was the first black lawyer admitted to practice before the Supreme Court?
7. Name the nightclub in Kansas City made famous by Count Basie?
8. What African country was founded by freed slaves from the United States?
9. Who defeated Jimmy Connors in 1975 at Wimbledon?
10. "I'm going to be on you like white on rice" is signifying or playing the dozens?
11. Who was American's first black astronaut?
12. Who was the first African pope of the Catholic Church?
13. Who was the first black graduate of West Point?
14. Who was the first black to win the Medal of Honor?
15. Who holds the major league record for most career home runs? Who holds the National League record?

Answers: 1. Hurry up, 2. Crispus Attucks, black American patriot (died March 5, 1770), 3. Hazel W. Johnson, 4. Nicholas Biddle, black Union soldier (April 18, 1861), 5. Okra, 6. John S. Rock (Feb. 1, 1865), 7. The Reno Club, 8. Liberia, 9. Arthur Ashe, 10. Signifying, 11. Guiton S. Bluford, 12. Pope Victor, AD 189, 13. Henry Ossian Flipper (1877), 14. William H. Carey (1863), 15. Hank Aaron (755); Hank Aaron (733).

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District Engineer ..... Col. Joseph Briggs  
 Chief, Public Affairs ..... Ken Gardner  
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## March is National Women's History Month

March is National Women's History Month.

Various activities will be held in the district office throughout the month.

Information on these activities will be distributed to all employees.

# IMO reorganizes

by Joe Yanta, Public Affairs Office

The Information Management Office (IMO) is a relatively new organization. It only came into existence on July 1, 1986, as a consolidation of the elements in the former Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Center and the Office of Administrative Services (OAS) that dealt with information—written, electronic and visual.

Despite its newness, however, IMO has recently undergone considerable reorganization. Norm Hildrum, the chief of IMO, explained that the fiscal year full-time equivalent (FTE) target for the office was reduced by two FTE's, more than a 10 percent reduction in staff. As a result, IMO had only 17 people, including 5 supervisors,

and 3 branches.

To streamline its organization, IMO eliminated one of its branches, the Customer Assistance Branch and divided the functions of that branch among the two remaining branches, the Planning and Implementation Branch and the Support Services Branch. It also changed the mail room operation (see the story on that change in this issue).

The visual information, library and records management functions are now part of the Planning and Implementation Branch. This branch continues to be responsible for the programming and systems analysis functions in the district. Rick Gorr is the acting chief of this branch.

The printing, reproduction, mail, se-

cure communications and other communications are part of the Support Services Branch. This branch is also responsible for customer support on computer hardware and software and for operation of the Harris computer. John Welch is the chief of this branch.

The former chief of Customer Assistance, Dale Lynch, has been reassigned as the chief of the Logistics Management Office.

Norm said that the reorganization of IMO should ultimately prove "less confusing because people will have only two branches to deal with," but he noted that the change may cause some confusion at first. He suggested that people contact him or the branch chiefs if they have any questions.

## Mail room procedures to change

by Joe Yanta, Public Affairs Office

An era is passing. Although "1135 U. S. Post Office and Custom House" is still the official mailing address for the St. Paul District, the mail room has moved, temporarily, from room 1135 to next door, in room 1134. Sometime in February it will move, more permanently, to room 1421.

When it moves again, some of the ways the district conducts its daily business will change also. Norm Hildrum, the chief of the Information Management Office, explained that "A reduction in the FTE target for the Information Management Office has required an office reorganization and modification of mail services. The reorganization has resulted in several personnel changes."

The mail room is now part of the Information Support Services Branch. John Welch is the branch chief.

The mail room will be staffed by Chuck Cloutier and Carmen Mundale. They will be assisted by James Andrews, a Stay-in-School Student employee.

Under the new system, mail delivery to each office will cease. Each office will be responsible for picking up its own incoming mail and delivering its outgoing mail to room 1421.

The mail room staff will sort all incoming mail directly into the mail boxes in room 1421. Each office in the district will collect its mail from an assigned locked box



Carmen Mundale (left) and Chuck Cloutier (right) will be the full-time mail room staff. James Andrews (not shown),

a Stay-in-School Student employee, will assist them.

Photo by Joe Yanta

between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. each day during the work week.

Each office must also deliver its own mail to the "outgoing mail" or "internal mail" boxes in the mail room.

Many procedures will remain essentially the same. The mail room staff will still assist other offices with packaging boxes and oversized items that need to be mailed.

They will also help with bulk mailings, daily mailings to field sites, registered mail, Express Mail, Federal Express and United Parcel Service shipments.

The mail room will continue to pro-

vide offices in the district with carts and other equipment necessary to transport bulky packages or large amounts of mail.

Facsimile machine messages will be received in and transmitted from the mail room. Offices will be contacted by telephone when they receive facsimile messages.

The Information Management Office staff will continue to maintain mailing lists and produce mailing labels and to assemble and distribute the district reading file of correspondence.

# District office to get new phone system and numbers

by Joe Yanta, Public Affairs Office

Giant spools of cable in the hallway, holes in the ceilings and strange people in the office have been common sights throughout the St. Paul District office the last several months.

By mid-February, the district plans to have an entirely new phone system installed in its main office. In addition, the district office will have a new long distance service.

Norm Hildrum, chief of the Information Management Office, explained the reasons for these changes. "About 1 1/2 years ago, GSA decided to replace the old telephone switch on the 16th floor. Because their proposal seemed costly, we decided to look at other options....Most were cheaper than the GSA service....The new system will be 40 percent cheaper. It's Northwestern Bell's CENTRON service, a modern central office system that uses a telephone switch in Northwestern Bell's central office....Many large customers, such as 3M, Control Data, the Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools, Hennepin County and Ramsey County, use this system."

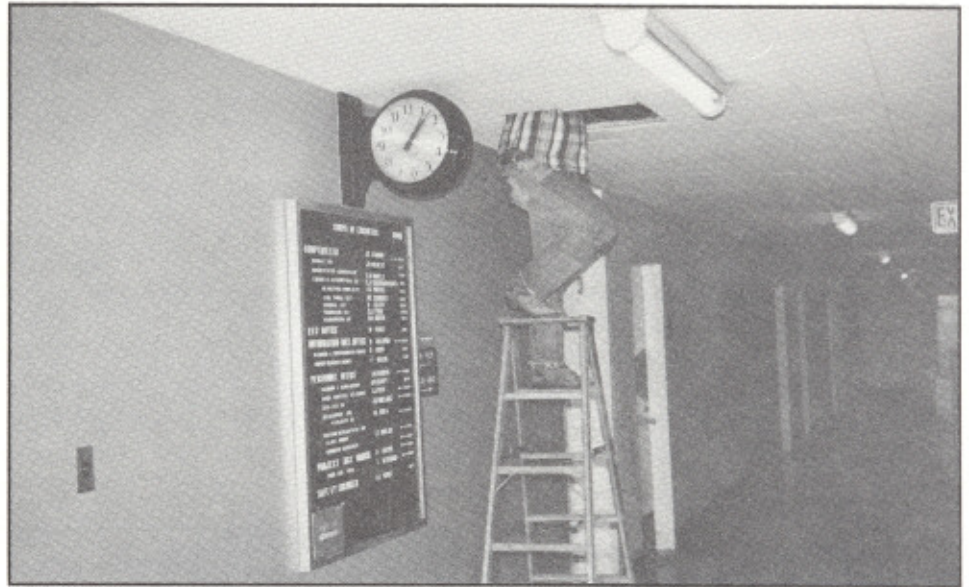
Before the system is activated, every telephone in the district office will be replaced with a touch-tone telephone. "The old phones were leased from ATT," Norm said. "The new ones will be owned by the St. Paul District....Compared to the cost of leasing, the purchase price will be paid for in less than 4 months."

In addition to the change in the office phone system, the district no longer uses the GSA-administered Federal Telecommunications System (FTS) for long distance calls. Instead, the district will use MCI. Norm explained that the Army is dropping FTS because "the costs are too high, about 43 cents a minute....Our new vendor will provide better than 50 percent savings."

Besides saving considerable money, the new phone system will offer employees in the district office many new features. "You can't even transfer a call now," Norm said, "but the new system not only lets you transfer calls but also offers 3-way calls, calls, speed dialing and call forwarding."

Every phone in each office will have access to a 30-number speed dialing group plus 6 other numbers chosen for that particular phone, Norm said.

Anyone who is expecting an important



St. Paul District employees are used to many visitors. Until recently, however, few visitors disappeared into or came out of the ceilings. The workmen who are

installing the new phone system must sometimes go above the ceiling so that they can string the cable or do other work. call can have the call transferred or forwarded automatically to a conference room or other location in the district office. "People will only be limited by their imaginations—it's such a flexible system," Norm said.

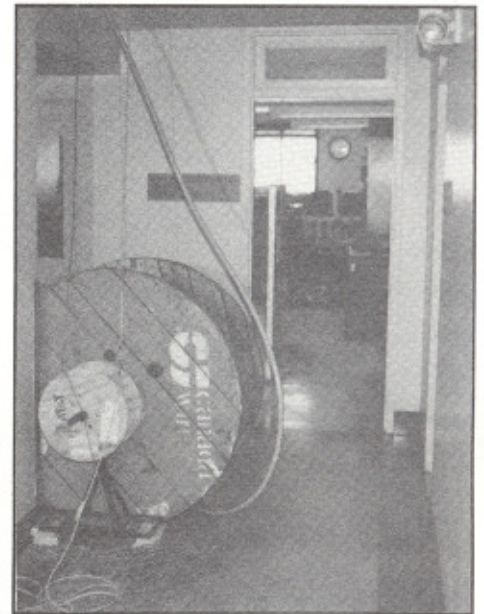
To dial other telephones on the system, employees will only have to use three buttons, the last three digits in the telephone number, Norm said.

To help employees adjust to the new system, the new desk phones will have a decal that provides simple directions. Norm noted that the switchover may cause some problems, primarily for outside callers who do not know the new number of the person they wish to reach. "The 30 most-frequently-called numbers will have intercept messages, informing the caller of the new number. Other numbers will have a message stating that the number has been disconnected," he said. Those callers can obtain the numbers they need by dialing the general information number for the district (612-220-0200, formerly 725-7506); this number will have an intercept message for anyone dialing the old listing.

No telephone will be disconnected before a new one is activated. The new system is scheduled to be installed by February 12 and activated by February 16. Only after it is activated will the old phones be

disconnected.

Anyone with problems or questions about the new system should contact the Support Services Branch of the Information Management Office.



The new phone system requires lots of cable! Giant wooden spools such as this one have appeared throughout the office.

Photos by Joe Yanta

# A time for giving

by Joe Yanta, Public Affairs Office

This past holiday season, many St. Paul District employees demonstrated that "Christmas is a time for giving" and that "Corps employees care."

For a number of years, district employees have participated in Santa Anonymous, a toy collection program for needy children organized by the Star Tribune newspaper.

A Santa Anonymous cart was out in the district office for less than 6 working days, but employees filled it several times with toys of almost every kind, although stuffed animals and construction vehicles seemed to be among the most common items.

This generosity helped the program overcome a projected shortfall and meet its goal.

District employees have also participated in other programs to help the needy.

The Economic-Social Analysis-Recreation Branch, for instance, has participated in the Adopt-A-Family program of Catholic Charities (612-222-3001) in previous years, and this past year made a donation to a food shelf.

Two other groups of employees participated in the Santa Claus Club of the St. Paul Post Office (612-293-3011). One needy family received presents from the Personnel Office and some of the employees in the Comptroller's Office. Another family received presents collected by the Regulatory Functions Branch and other employees in Construction-Operations Division.

Anyone who wishes to give to a needy family or to donate time, money or goods can contact many organizations in addition to the ones listed above.

The Minnesota Foodbank Network (612-228-9831) can provide information about local food shelves throughout the state.

County social service agencies, private social service agencies, United Way offices, local churches and synagogues, religious organizations and secular charities can also help. Many are listed in local telephone books; others are listed in the brochures distributed during the Combined Federal Campaign each fall.

Most of these organizations are also open for business all year long and will accept donations during any season, holiday or not.



District employees filled the Santa Anonymous cart several times with stuffed animals, toy construction vehicles, and many other toys.



Mary Street, Amy Bretoi, Val Yarbrogh, Patrice Thornton, Vicki Demo, Jan Wallace, Sue Kean, and Lupe Santos (left to right) were some of the employees from the Personnel Office and the Comptroller's Office who gave presents to a needy family. Other participants are not shown.



Employees from Construction-Operations Division who gave presents to another needy family included Denise Blackwell-Kraft, Judy Kolb, Gary Elftmann, Howard Ecklund, Paul Terrio, Char Hauger, Yvonne Larson and Marita Roherty (left to right). Other participants are not shown.

Photos by Joe Yanta

# Peter Victorov retires at age 80

by Joe Yanta, Public Affairs Office

Most federal employees retire by the age of 65. Peter Victorov, however, began his career in federal service at that age. Now, more than 16 years later he is retiring from the Geotechnical, Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch of Engineering Division. His entire career spans more than 60 years. His last day on the job was January 19.

Born in 1907, in St. Petersburg, Russia (now Leningrad in the Soviet Union), Peter graduated from an agricultural college in 1928 and received an engineering degree in 1939.

Before World War II, he worked in conservation, combining his agricultural and engineering backgrounds to work on projects such as fish stocking in reservoirs and fish ladders in hydropower dams.

In 1941, Peter was drafted into the Soviet Army. Shortly afterward, he was taken prisoner by the Germans and confined to a prisoner-of-war camp until he was liberated by the American Army.

After the war, Peter could not return to his native land because Stalin declared all captured Soviet soldiers traitors. Many were executed and many others were imprisoned.

Peter spent several years in a United Nations camp for displaced persons. He spent the next 40 years taking on new challenges, learning new languages and adapting to new cultures.

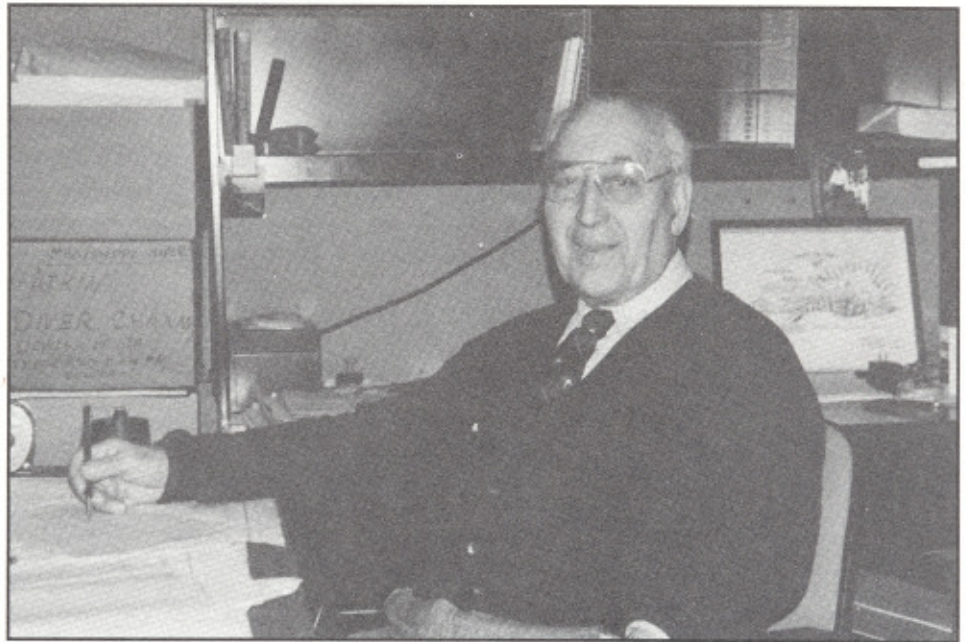
From 1947 to 1958, Peter worked for the French Department of Public Works in French Morocco on municipal water supply and irrigation projects. After French Morocco became an independent nation, he came to the United States.

He said that he is glad he came to United States: "I am very happy working with Americans....They are very helpful....I like this country."

Peter took a job as a steel detailer for the St. Paul Foundry and Manufacturing Company. In 1962, he moved to Toledo, Ohio, to work for Jones, Henry and Williams Consulting Engineering Company. He returned to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area in 1965 to work for Barr Engineering.

In 1971, Peter began working for the St. Paul District. He has worked as an engineer in both the Hydrology and Hydraulics Sections. He is registered as a professional engineer in Ohio.

Peter is looking forward to his retire-



On one of his last days on the job, Peter Victorov paused for a while to reminisce

about his career and his friends at the district.

Photo by Joe Yanta

ment, but said that he leaves the district with some regret: "I feel as though the people here are my family. I am sorry to leave them."

But Peter plans to have an active retirement. He hopes to do some reading and writing. He is interested in religious and scientific philosophy, and he hopes to continue working on a book about his experiences.

He is president of St. Penteleimon Russian Orthodox Church in Minneapolis and is active in parish affairs. Peter enjoys working with young people in the church's Saturday school, scout camp and other programs.

Peter also suspects that his wife has some plans for him. He expects to keep busy doing repairs around the house, working in the garden and perhaps remodeling the basement.

## Obituary: Ernest G. Landsberger

Ernest G. Landsberger died on Jan. 4, 1988, in Hastings, Minn. He was 90 years old. During his career with the Corps, he held a variety of positions, including assistant lockmaster at Lock and Dam 2.

## Five Corps employees receive presidential rank awards

President Reagan has selected five Corps employees to receive the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive. The Corps recipients are Jack E. Kiper, chief, Construction-Operations Division, Ohio River Division; John J. Blake, chief, Construction Division, Europe Division; William R. Murden, chief, Dredging Division, Water Resources Support Center; Dr. Robert W. Whalin, technical director, Waterways Experiment Station; and Dr. Bory Steinberg, chief, Policy, Review, and Initiatives Division, HQUSACE.

The president may award this rank to government executives for sustained accomplishment. The rank carries with it a lump sum payment of \$10,000.

Within the Department of the Army, nominations for this award must be based on sustained accomplishment by an executive that resulted in significant improvements in efficiency, productivity and quality of work or service; increased cost efficiency; improvements in timeliness; or other indications of effectiveness leading to improvements in governmental operations.

Of all government career senior executives, only 5 percent receive this rank.

## Around the district

by Ken Gardner  
Public Affairs Office

I have occasionally bemoaned the fact key personnel assignments seem to be announced right after Crosscurrents has gone to the printer, making it "old news" by the time the next issue is on the street. That's the perennial problem encountered by those who are forced to practice their "stop-the-presses" style of journalism on a monthly basis.

This month I get to try once again to run a "scoop." And hopefully, I'll be more successful than the Vikings on recent goal line drives. So here it goes from the one yard line.

The chief of engineers has announced that **Col. Roger L. Baldwin** will be St. Paul's next district engineer, replacing **Col. Joe Briggs**. Col. Baldwin is currently assigned to OCE in Engineering and Construction Division. The change of command ceremony has not been scheduled yet but will likely be in June or July since Col. Briggs is scheduled to leave sometime during the summer.

We expect Col. Baldwin to visit the district this spring for an initial district orientation and project briefings. Crosscurrents will carry more on this fast-breaking news story as additional information becomes available. Film at 10.

Well, announcing a new DE is a hard act to follow but I'll try anyway (because if I don't, the column ends right here and there will be a big blank spot on page eight). How about an award?

According to **Deb Foley** in Project Management, the Weaver Bottoms Project (Phase 1) has just been selected for the Grand Award by the Minnesota Consulting Engineers Council. The project will now compete on the national level with projects from across the U.S.

Let's talk about help for a minute. Elsewhere in this issue is an article about district people helping others with donations of food, gifts, and toys during the holiday season. Sharing our bounty during the holidays is a great way to help those who are less fortunate at a time of the year when a little help can bring great amounts of joy.

However, there are other ways to help people in our day-to-day routines. For instance:

—One of our district office employees

found herself stranded in the parking lot at 5 p.m. during that super cold spell we had in January. Dead battery. Cold and dark with a dead battery can be pretty lonely. Even more lonely when she asked several people for help in jumping her car and they refused. She finally found someone who would help for five minutes and she made it home. A few minutes of help can brighten a lonely parking lot on a cold and dark night and renew faith of the goodness of humankind.

—Walking on a brisk 10 degree morning after our car broke down, we tried to hail a ride from a half dozen passing motorists. With toes starting to alternate between numb and pain, we were very happy to have a woman notice our plight and offer a ride to the service station.

—Later during the same incident, we were attempting to push a broken car off the highway into a parking lot but were hampered by poor traction. A young man driving by noticed our situation and stopped to offer assistance.

Winters in this area can be harsh and can take their toll on both machines and people. You can help. Look for the situation where an offer of assistance can show a person that they are not alone in their battle against the elements and unreliable modern

machines.

Now off the soap box and on to people things.

**Tom Novak**, park manager at Blackhawk Park on the Mississippi River near DeSoto, Wis., was in the district office on a two-week detail working in Natural Resources Management.

Speaking of Natural Resources Management, there have other changes I should mention. **Norma Malinowski**, outdoor recreation planner there has changed jobs with **Frank Star**, recreation planner in Economic, Social, Recreation Analysis Branch of Planning. This is a one year developmental rotation for Norma and Frank.

Also in Planning, Cultural Resources Unit chief **Dave Berwick** has announced that a former co-op student is returning to the district in February. **Dr. Laurie Lucking** worked in the district in 1979 and 1980. She now returns as a full-fledged archaeologist.

Finally, retiree **Pete Fischer** is the new local contact for the Corps of Engineers Historical Foundation. He replaces **Lyle Larson** as the Foundation representative in St. Paul.

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

## National Engineers Week

Engineers: Turning Ideas into Reality" is the theme for National Engineers Week, February 21-27.

The annual celebration is sponsored by the National Engineers Week Committee, the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and SAE Inc., with support for the National Academy of Engineering.

NSPE first sponsored National Engineers Week in 1951. The purpose of the celebration is to make the engineering profession more visible.

The celebration is always held during the week of Washington's birthday because he was a notable military engineer and land surveyor as well as the nation's first president. He was also responsible for establishing the country's first engineering school at Valley Forge, Pa., which later became the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Local events planned by the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) include the 11th Annual Legislative Reception, in the Capitol Rotunda, on February 17. This reception will allow engineers and legislators to meet.

The 24th Annual MSPE Awards and Recognition Banquet will be at the Women's Club of Minnesota February 26.

This banquet will honor young engineers, present scholarships and give awards to engineering firms.

Local chapters of MSPE will also hold their annual Math Counts competitions for junior high students during this time.

For more information on the national events, contact the National Engineers Week Committee at 703-684-2800.

For more information on MSPE events or for reservations, call Joan at 612-292-8860.

For more information on the Math Counts, contact John Blackstone at 612-220-0429 (612-725-5949).