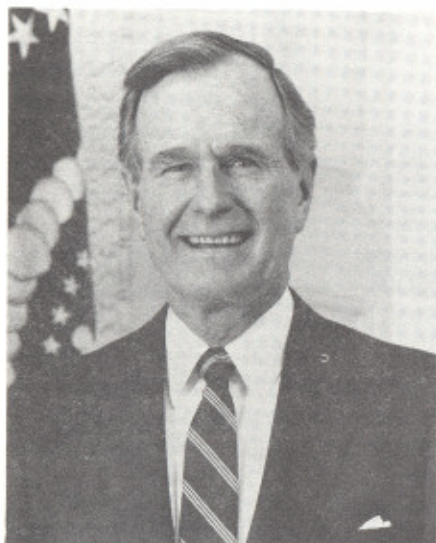




US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 12 No. 8, August 1989



Excerpts from remarks to the Senior Executive Service, February 1989.

Each of us is here because of a belief in public service as the highest and noblest calling. And each one of us, on our first day, took a solemn oath: We pledged to defend the Constitution of the United States, and that is exactly what we shall do.

Our principles are clear—that government service is a noble calling and a public trust. I learned that from my mom and dad at an early age, and I expect that that's where many of you learned it—there or in school. There is no greater privilege than to labor in government beneath the Great Seal of the United States and the American flag.

And that's why this administration is dedicated to ethics in government and the need for honorable men and women to serve in positions of trust. The guiding principle will be simply to know right from wrong; to act in accordance with what is right and to avoid even the appearance of what is wrong. Our duty is to serve, and my strong conviction is that we must do it only for the right reasons, as you do, out of a sense of service and love of country. Government should be an opportunity for public service, not private gain.

President Bush: "Government service is a noble calling and a public trust"

And I want to make sure that public service is valued and respected because I want to encourage America's young to pursue careers in government. There is nothing more fulfilling than to serve your country and your fellow citizen and to do it well. And that's what our system of self-government depends on.

And I've not known a finer group of people than those that I have worked with in government. You're men and women of knowledge, ability, and an integrity. You work hard, you sacrifice, you deserve to be recognized, rewarded, and certainly appreciated. I pledge to try to make federal jobs more challenging, more satisfying, and more fulfilling. I'm dedicated to making the system work and making it work better.

I believe that there is tremendous pent-up energy in the federal government, a powerful force for good, that needs to be released, and I want to be the President to do that, to release the federal manager from bureaucratic bondage so that together we can, as I said on the steps of the Capital, use power to serve people.

To those who work outside of Washington, I would send a special message. At times it may be frustrating when it seems that the head office is thousands of miles away and the message

is not getting through. But if I may, I'm going to issue a verbal executive order: We're going to listen. Because the heart of government is not here in Washington; it's in every county office, every town, every city across this land. Wherever the people of America are, that's where the heart of our government is.

Ours should be a nation characterized by conspicuous compassion, generosity that is overflowing and abundant. And you can help make this happen outside your workplace, in your communities and your neighborhoods, in any of the unlimited opportunities for voluntary service and charity where your help is so greatly needed.

Well, I'm honored to be with you, to work with you—you here in Washington, your colleagues in the federal service around the nation. They're some of the unsung heroes in America. The United States is the greatest nation in the world because we fulfill that mission of greatness one person at a time, as individuals dedicated to serving our country.

And as we embark on this great new chapter in our nation's history, I want to tell you, that I am proud of you and very glad that we will be working to write this chapter together.

Bits and Pieces	Page Two
Obituary	Page Two
NCO Profile of the Month	Page Three
National Fishing Week	Page Four
Water Safety Programs	Page Four
Ranger Rescues	Page Five
Words: how to use them	Pages Six & Seven
Lake Ashtabula	Pages Eight & Nine
Presidential Award	Page Nine
Around the District	Page Ten

Bits and Pieces

Four employees from Lock & Dam 10 were among those giving blood during a June 29th drive. Lockmaster **Marvin Pedretti** and co-workers **John Christianson**, **Marvin Althoff**, and **Richard Leonard** donated during the bloodmobile's stop in Guttenberg, Iowa. In addition, 30 employees from the district office gave blood July 14 at the American Red Cross Center in St. Paul.

June 23 was a beautiful day and St. Paul District personnel and friends took advantage of the weather to have an enjoyable picnic/awards ceremony at Eau Galle Lake in Spring Valley, Wisconsin.

The day started off bright and early for some at the golf tournament. Forty-five golfers strove to hit the longest drive, longest putt and closest shot to the pin. In 9 holes, **Greg Eggers** and **Georgia Stanonik** had the lowest gross scores.

The annual volleyball tournament began at mid-morning with a barrage of bumping and spiking. When all was said and done, **Spike Force One**, captained by **Lisa Hedin**, came out victorious with the **Total Recs (Bruce Carlson as captain)** a close second.

The first Mini-Volksmarch and children's games were also well attended.

At noon everyone "pigged" out on pork and beans and potato chips. Who would have believed so much food could go so fast and still have plenty left over?

The afternoon awards ceremony, emceed by **DE Col. Roger Baldwin**, rewarded some of the best and brightest

of the district, with special appreciation going to those who helped in the Red River of the North Floodfight of 1989. Other awards were on-the-spot awards, special act awards, performance awards, and service awards.

Overall, the picnic was a great success. Thanks to committee members **Jenny Sjobeck**, **John Roach**, **Ron Scott**, **Dave Christiansen**, **Carl Vierck**, **Charlie Malmer**, **Billy Cabe** and **Diana Tschida** for their efforts. Additional thanks to all others who sold tickets, served food, organized events, prepared flyers, etc. ...too numerous to mention. Thanks for everything!

Because many people had so much fun playing volleyball at the awards ceremony/picnic at Eau Galle, some interested district employees suggested an **informal volleyball group** to play weekly. The word got around and the games have begun. Any interested players and friends are welcome to join in the fun. Play is every Wednesday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Harriet Island by the pavilion. All you have to do is call **Marianna** or **Joan** on Tuesdays at x200, to make sure we have enough players to go to the trouble of setting up the net. Come on, it will be fun...social, physical and sometimes psychological exercise!

Sneak Previews... coming soon to an in-box near you... a **Crosscurrents** readership survey! Tell us what you think about the newsletter. We want to know (really) what

you like and what needs improving. Please fill it out when it comes your way and return it to the Public Affairs Office in a timely manner. Thanks a lot.

This year's savings bond drive, organized by **Major Chuck Rogers**, has come to a successful closure. The district's goal of 170 bonds issued was reached and passed with 122 new bonds and 49 increased allotments. This is the highest total since 1986. During the drive each office had one canvasser, some of whom reached 75% participation or more of their assigned area. These successful canvassers are **Linda Davis**, **Mark Schumaker**, **Sherolyn Bahl** and **Bill Spychalla**.

Recent changes have been made by the Treasury Department in the bond program. Savings bonds of denominations of less than \$100 are no longer available to new subscribers or as an upgrade. Those who currently have \$50 or \$75 subscriptions can continue at those levels, but no new bonds at those denominations will be issued through the payroll deduction program. \$50 and \$75 bonds will still be available over the counter at banks, however.

The St. Paul District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is proud to congratulate the city of **Fountain City** on its **150th anniversary**. To help celebrate, the Corps has made its display trailer available for the festivities and will also host an open house at the Boatyard August 12-13. There will be guided tours of the boatyard from 9:00 a.m.

to 12:00 noon each day. The tour will include repair facilities, the machine shop, welding house, office areas, cranes, floating plant and a survey launch.

A mural highlighting district facilities, such as the district office, the lock and dam system, an earthen dam, the dredge **Thompson**, survey boats and the Service Base will be unveiled.

A historical photo display of the Service Base dating to the 1930's will be on display, as well. All Corps employees and retirees are invited to stop by and check out the other locally-sponsored activities.

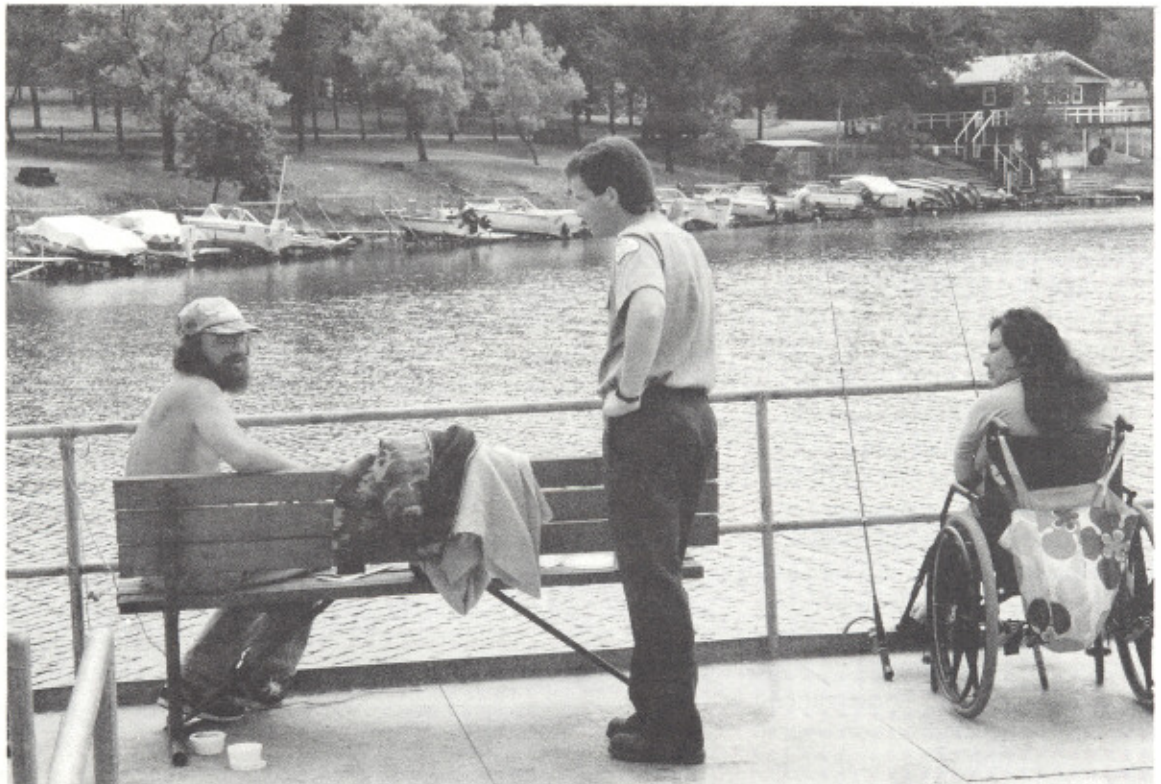
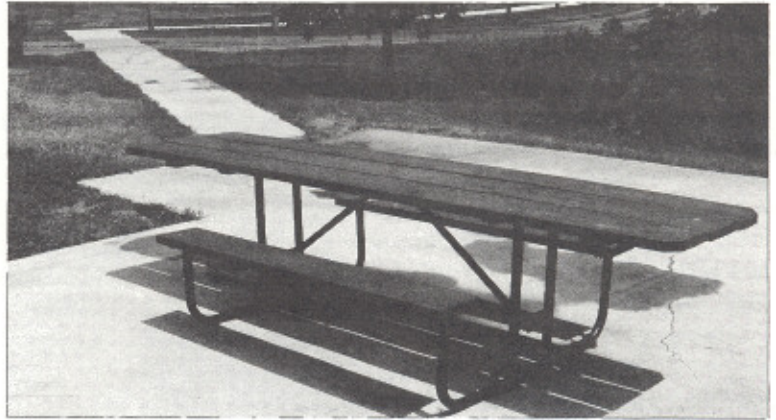
The **1989 North Dakota centennial celebration at Lake Ashtabula** on July 15th drew an estimated crowd of 2,000. The day was full of parades, speeches, good food, music and fun. Congratulations to site manager **Steve Odegaard** and his staff for an outstanding job!

Obituary

Eugene "Sparky" Hoffman of Onalaska, Wisconsin, died on July 9, 1989 at the age of 86. Mr. Hoffman, the first person employed at Lock & Dam 7 when it opened in 1936, served earlier on the Dredge **Thompson** as well as working in the construction of wing dams. Mr. Hoffman had suffered a stroke approximately one month after attending the Lock and Dam 50th Anniversary in 1988. He celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary last December.

Wheelchair-bound visitors needs met at Eggert's Landing, Baldhill Dam

Try rolling a wheelchair on loose gravel for a weekend and camping loses some of the 'relaxation' element. At this campsite, however, it's a breeze to move from picnic table to parking lot to fishing pier to bathrooms. The table has extended ends that keep you from having to eat meals with outstretched arms! The fishing off the dock seemed to be as good as anywhere, according to these visitors chatting with Park Ranger Rich Schueneman.



Lake Andrusia Project wins Presidential award

By Ken Gardner, Public Affairs Officer

Colonel Roger L. Baldwin, St. Paul's District Engineer, represented the district at the President's Take Pride in America Awards ceremony on July 24th. Baldwin was one of several representatives from federal, state, and local agencies and organizations in Minnesota invited to the White House ceremony to honor out-

standing examples of cooperation in managing natural and cultural resources. The District was invited to the ceremony because a district project earned a runner-up award at the National Take Pride in America contest.

Called the Lake Andrusia project, the award-winning site is on the Mississippi

River about five miles north of the city of Cass Lake in Beltrami County. The streambank stabilization project involved placing rock along 450 feet of the river bank where erosion was exposing prehistoric human remains and artifacts. The

Andrusia -- Page Ten

Andrusia -- from page 9

site, known as Mission Point, is considered by archaeologists and historians to be an important prehistoric burial site and an historic habitation site.

The project earned a Take Pride In America Award as an outstanding example of interagency coordination at the local, state and federal level to prevent further damage to an important natural and cultural resource. The project site was on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation and within the boundaries of the Chippewa National Forest. An important element of the project was the extensive coordination by more than a dozen local, state and federal agencies and organizations needed to make the project a reality.

The district provided design and engineering support and contracted for the rock placement and other construction work, as well as providing 75 percent of the funding for the project. The remaining funds were provided by the Leech Lake Indian Reservation and the Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Construction contracts for the work were awarded in early December 1987 and the project was completed in March 1988, at a cost of \$81,800, of which \$61,350 were federal funds provided through the Corps of Engineers. The project was dedicated on July 22, 1988.

The project and its local sponsor, the Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation Board, were nominated for the Take Pride in America Award by the Bemidji office of the Soil Conservation Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

In addition to the Soil Conservation Service, Corps and Conservation District, the cooperative effort involved the following organizations and agencies: Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development Association, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Leech Lake Reservation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota State Archaeologists Office, Beltrami County, Mississippi Headwaters Board, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Tenlakes Township.

Around the District

By Ken Gardner
Public Affairs Officer

There have been a number of people changes around the district in recent weeks.

First, LTC Mike Mahoney, the new district deputy commander, has arrived in the Twin Cities from Washington, D.C. Originally from Sturgis, S.D., he graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology with a bachelor's (1972) and masters (1978) degree in civil engineering. In addition, he earned a second masters degree in management from the University of LaVerne (Calif.) while stationed in Anchorage, Alaska.

Mike is no stranger to district life. He spent four years (1979-83) with Alaska District where he worked as a contracting officer's representative (COR), in Permits working the North Slope oil development, and as resident engineer at Fort Richardson near Anchorage.

While in Washington, D.C., he was assistant commander of the Facilities Engineering Support Agency (now called the Engineering and Housing Support Center) at Fort Belvoir, worked on the plans for the new USACE headquarters building at Belvoir, and most recently, was the Assistant Chief of Staff at OCE.

He and his wife, Cindy, have two boys — Shawn, 15, and Brian, 13. They are settling into their new home in Burnsville along with their two dogs and pet(?) albino corn snake.

In other people news, Judy Parnell, property specialist in Logistics, has left

the district for similar position with the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant. Tom Raster, transportation planner in Economics-Social-Recreation Analysis Branch of Planning has moved down the hall a bit and is now working in Small Projects and Floodplain Management. Ed McNally, formerly of PD-ES, is now a study manager in Plan Formulation Branch.

Speaking of changes in Planning, once again it is hard to tell the players without a program. Lou Kowalski announced the newest line-up of branch chiefs as follows: Chuck Crist is assistant division chief, Bob Northrup is the new chief of Small Projects and Floodplain Management, Chuck Workman has moved to Plan Formulation Branch while Wayne Knot has taken over Economics-Social-Recreation Analysis Branch. As of this writing, Dave Berwick, district archaeologist, is filling the Environmental Branch chief position on a detail until that position is filled permanently.

And in Public Affairs, Joan Guilfoyle has been selected to fill the new public affairs specialist position. Joan has been editor of *Crosscurrents* since last fall when she joined the office as a temporary public affairs assistant.

Finally, all things must come to an end. This is the last "Around the District" column I plan to write. A new *Crosscurrents*' feature called "Bits and Pieces" will cover much of the same information. So if you have any news for *Crosscurrents*, call, mail, visit, email, or fax it to Joan in Room 1217, ext. 201, email address: pa.

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



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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District Engineer COL Roger Baldwin
Public Affairs Officer Kennon Gardner
Editor Joan Guilfoyle

NCO Profile of the Month: Dave DePoint

By Jerry Cadwell, Public Affairs Office



Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Reserve and Mobilization Planner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Editor's Note: Continuing with our series of articles on district employees who are also non-commissioned officers in the guard or reserve, this month we cover the story of Dave DePoint. 1989 has been declared the "Year of the NCO."

A sense of pride in his country's preparedness, an appreciation for the professional commitment shown by the Corps of Engineers, and the support of his family are three of the most important things David J. DePoint, Mobilization Planner in Emergency Management, has realized as an NCO with the United States Army Reserve.

DePoint, an employee of the St. Paul District since 1981, is a command sergeant major (CSM) with the 147th Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Snelling. The 147th has a troop strength of approximately 500 soldiers. A reservist for 19 years, he is primarily responsible for "advising and initiating recommendations to the commander and the staff in matters concerning enlisted personnel." A command sergeant major is the senior noncommissioned officer position at battalion or higher level and serves as a member of the commander's advisory staff.

As is the case with many NCOs within the St. Paul District, DePoint gives far more to his reserve duties than the required 2 days each month. "There is no way I can do my reserve job in one weekend a month," he says. "Many times my work will take all four weekends or several evenings each month." In addition, as his length of service increases, DePoint participates in numerous reserve courses and confer-

ences, as well as putting in two weeks of training each year.

Prior to joining the Army Reserve in 1970, DePoint spent three years on active duty, including a tour in Vietnam from December 1967 to December 1968. He was a member of the Americal Division stationed at Chu Lai. As an active duty soldier, DePoint received five Vietnam campaign awards, the Vietnam Service Medal and the National Defense Medal. In the Army Reserve, DePoint has earned the Meritorious Service Award and three awards each of the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. He was also presented with the Humanitarian Award for his work in the 1980 Cuban Refugee Resettlement Program. Next summer, DePoint will graduate from the Sergeant Major's Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

DePoint says what appeals to him most as an NCO in the Army Reserve is the service and citizenship characteristics of his duties and how they relate to his work for the Corps of Engineers. This sense of service and DePoint's national security training tie directly with his responsibilities with the Corps' Emergency Management Program.

As the district's mobilization planner, DePoint is responsible for planning how the district would respond to a national military mobilization, and insuring that

district employees have the training they need to work effectively during a mobilization. A major mobilization would thrust the St. Paul District into a heavily military-oriented environment—supporting construction at Fort McCoy, Wis., Camp Ripley, Mn., and the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant in New Brighton.

According to DePoint, "The Corps is in 'sync' with the complete Army picture." He views the formalization of the Corps' mobilization plan as an accomplishment with which he is particularly proud to have been associated. "I've been privileged to watch the birthing and growing of a viable mobilization program, and be involved with its training and selling," he says. He looks back to the importance of the 1987 Corps Employee Awareness Program which dealt with educating district employees and their families on the mobilization process. According to DePoint, St. Paul is the first Corps district to have such a program.

A 1980 graduate of the Twin Cities' Metropolitan State University, DePoint holds a B.A. degree in Business Administration. In addition, he has taken communication classes at the University of Minnesota. Originally from upstate New York, military duties took him to Minnesota where Dave met his wife, Beth. With their four children, they reside in Fridley. The DePoints count outdoor sports, music, church and community work as regular family activities. They are beginning preparation for college for the kids and one day hope to have a cabin on a special lake somewhere in the upper midwest.

DePoint acknowledges he is an active and busy man with his reserve duties, work with the Corps and family activities. But, he says, none of it would be possible without the support of his family. And he is grateful for the cooperation he receives within the Corps which allows him to successfully blend his Corps career with his responsibilities as a citizen soldier—an NCO in the Army Reserve.

Summer means interpretive programs at Cross Lake and Blackhawk Park

National Fishing Week

By Erik Petersen
Park Ranger, Pine River Dam



National Fishing Week (NFW) was celebrated June 5-11th at the Ronald Louis Cloutier Recreation Area near Pine River Dam in Crosslake, Minnesota. NFW is recognized by the president and Congress, and supported by many agencies and organizations including the Corps of Engineers. In addition to providing an excellent opportunity to increase public appreciation and family participation in sport angling, NFW can also draw attention to conservation issues such as catch and release angling and stewardship of aquatic resources. And, NFW is fun!

Activities at the Pine River Dam celebration started with evening showings of informative fishing videotapes with Ranger Erik Petersen leading discussions following each tape. The enthusiasm of parents and children continually grew during the week, as they shared learning the various aspects of angling. NFW activities peaked on Saturday with a "Fishing Derby" for kids. This was truly the highlight of the week with nearly 65 children and their families participating. The largest fish caught was a 2+ pound sucker landed by 12 year old Zack Hemphill. From the smallest bullhead to the largest walleye, it was obvious that each child was excited about his or her catch. Parents were also bursting with pride when the kids came in to get their fish weighed. Petersen was the master of ceremonies following the weigh-in, where each child received a small prize for participating. Larger prizes were awarded to individuals placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd with catches of any species. Local Crosslake businesses donated prizes ranging from ice cream coupons to fishing lures. All kids received a junior ranger certificate.

From the information on angling

skills to the interpretation of fish biology to the fishing derby, the week was deemed a great success by participants, Corps of Engineers staff and area residents. Happier faces hadn't been seen in this area since the downpour that "ended" the drought of '88!



Water Safety

By Kevin Berg, Park Ranger, Blackhawk Park

In an effort to increase safety on our district's waterways, the staff at Blackhawk Park has been busy promoting water safety. Helping the public better understand the importance of thinking "safety" while on the water is a major objective of these programs.

Beginning in late March and running through mid-May, "Water Safety" programs were presented by Ranger Kevin Berg to two high school classes, one

junior high class and a Coast Guard adult education class. 200 elementary students visited Blackhawk park and viewed safety demonstrations done by park staff. Many of the activities encourage group participation, enabling the students to model a PFD (personal flotation device) for proper fit and practice staying afloat in the water. The Blackhawk staff also helped the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conduct a

Boating Safety Class at the park, and Tom Votteler, a student trainee from Mankato State University, has continued to conduct water safety programs once a week.

Blackhawk park personnel have been happy with the variety of age groups that they've been able to reach this year. Plans are to continue with the water safety programming in hopes of reaching more people who spend time recreating in or near our nation's waterways.

- #1. Correctly used to describe persons with limited or different speech patterns.
- #2. Disorder in the ability to learn effectively in respect to one's own potential when presented with an appropriate, regular instructional environment. The term is preferred over the more general term "learning disability" because it emphasizes that the disability affects only one or two areas of learning.
- #3. Incorrectly used to describe that which is different or uncommon about any person. However, when citing laws or regulations, it is considered condescending to use this term to describe persons with disability in general..
- #4. Any mental or physical disability incurred before age 22 that is likely to continue indefinitely and result in substantial function limitations in combination of life activities that will require individualized care and treatment of lifelong duration. This term includes individuals with mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, sensory impairments, birth injuries, traumatic accidents or other disease processes that begin prior to age 22.
- #5. Correctly used to describe a person with a total hearing loss. It is not considered appropriate for describing a person with partial hearing. Such persons are more accurately described as having a partial or severe hearing loss or a hearing impairment (impaired).
- #6. The correct term for describing a disability that existed since birth. The often-used term "birth-defect" is considered inappropriate when used to describe human beings.
- #7. The preferred term for describing persons without disabilities. The word "normal" is often used as
- a synonym for "able-bodies." However, this term should be used only to refer to statistical norms and averages.
- #8. Correctly used to describe a person with a total loss of vision. It is not considered appropriate for describing persons with partial vision. Such persons are more accurately described as "partially sighted" or "with partial vision".
- #9. Preferred over "handicap(ped)" to describe a permanent, physical condition that interferes with a person's ability to do something independently - walk, see, hear, talk, dress, learn, lift, work, etc. Terms such as "cripple(d)", "deformed", "victim", "sufferer", "invalid", and "spastic" are considered negative and demeaning and should not be used.
- #10. Preferred over "mongolism(oid)" to describe a form of mental retardation involving improper chromosomal division at conception.
- #11. Often used as a synonym for "disability (disabled)." However, except when citing laws or regulation, it is the less preferred term for describing a person's physical condition. It is better used to describe environmental conditions such as stairs, attitudes or laws that inhibit a person's ability to function independently. For example, it would be correct to say, "The stairs are a handicap for her" but incorrect to say, "The handicapped child could not use the stairs."
- #12. Correctly used to describe a person who has lost the social or vocational skills necessary to function independently. Negative, demeaning terms such as "mentally deranged", "deviant", "maniac", "crazy", "lunatic" and "mad" are considered inappropriate and should be used only in direct quotations. Terms such as "neurotic", "psychotic", "psychopathic", and "schizophrenic" (describing behavior, but not people) are not appropriate since these terms describe conditions people may have, not the people themselves. For example, use "an individual with schizophrenia", not "a schizophrenic".
- #13. Preferred term when describing a person, who from birth, has developed at a rate significantly below average. Terms such as "idiot", "moron", "mentally deficient/defective", "imbecile" and "feeble-minded" are considered derogatory and should be used only in direct quotations when essential.
- #14. Preferred term for describing a person who is unable to speak at all. Terms such as "deaf-mute" and "deaf and dumb" are considered degrading and imply that persons without speech are also deaf, which may not necessarily be true.
- #15. Correctly used to describe an involuntary muscular contraction symptomatic of the brain disorder epilepsy. The term "convulsion" should be reserved for the more dramatic type of seizure involving contractions of the entire body. Although the term "fit" can be found in the dictionary and may be commonly used by the medical profession in other countries, it is considered inappropriate because it connotes mental derangement, willful emotional outbursts or loss of emotional control.
- #16. Correctly used to describe a muscle with sudden involuntary spasms. It is not appropriate for describing a person with cerebral palsy - muscles are spastic, not people.

Improvements made at East Ashtabula Crossing, Baldhill Dam

Editor's Note: During my recent trip to the Western Flood Control Projects under the direction of Area Manager Tim Bertschi, I dragged the camera along to shoot what I could see. Among other things, I was impressed with the landscape along Lake Ashtabula: rolling hills studded with dark green trees, mild faced cattle, waves of grain, gunracks in pick-up trucks. As I was reminded by my guide, "This is the west!"..and it shore is pretty...



Beach erosion has become a problem at the East Ashtabula Crossing Recreation Area, only one of two beaches at Baldhill Dam. Here, Park Rangers Randy Melby, Jeff Kaupun and Rich Scheuneman get ready to pour some concrete, thus stabilizing the beachhead. At left, a new bath and shower house has been completed. Though yet unlandscaped and signed, it boasts what may be the first of its kind in any Corps recreation area: a shower room for the disabled. It's large inside, private and actually could also solve the age-old dilemma of parents everywhere: how to clean up those kids of the opposite sex who are really too old to go in the "wrong" bathroom.

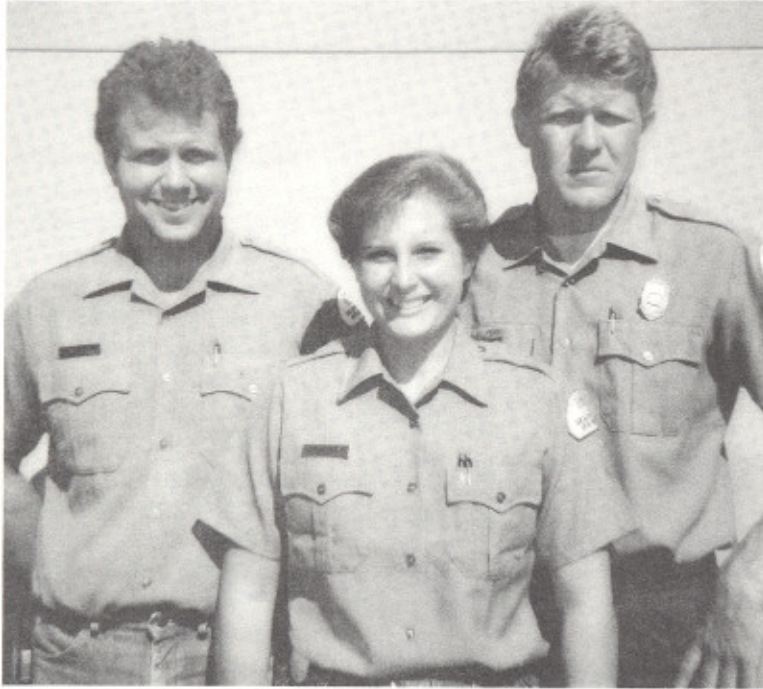


All of us have probably seen the heavily concreted boat launches characteristic of most Corps recreation areas. I was pleased to find one that had retained a little of its own personality. Looking westward across the lake to (yes) West Ashtabula Crossing, doesn't this placid, little spot make you want to get out onto the water? It also sports one of the new signs recently authorized. Nice.



A Tale of Two Rescues

By John Zahalka, Resource Manager
Leech Lake



Editor's Note: Park Rangers Clint Fishel, Corrine Hodapp and Jeff Steere, pictured at left, were involved in two separate rescue operations during the second week of Minnesota game fishing at Leech Lake. Both situations were potentially life-threatening, and from the accounts that follow, had endings that were by no means certain at the outset. It's stories like these, and those on the previous page, that make you appreciate the training and expertise of the park rangers at our recreation areas.

Date: May 26, 1989

Time: 11:30 p.m.

Weather conditions: Winds gusting to 40 mph, rapid temperature drop to 40 degrees, heavy rain and seas.

At 11:30 p.m. on Friday May 26th, a worried camper reported that her husband had not returned from his fishing trip on Leech Lake. Everyone feared the worst, with deteriorating weather conditions. Park Ranger Jeff Steere, an experienced and skillful boat handler, managed to slowly navigate the narrow winding mile of river channel with assistance from Park Ranger Clint Fishel. As they entered Portage Bay, the large waves warranted following the east shoreline, in hopes that the west wind had blown the man to shore. About a mile from the river, they spotted a light and headed the Corps boat into the heavy seas. A half mile later, they found the lost fisherman anchored with his motor out. The bilge pump in his 18' runabout was operating properly and his boat was relatively dry. However, he was not properly dressed for the weather and was using garbage bags in an effort to keep his feet dry. His thin rain coat and summer attire were not adequate to repel the rain or retain body heat. Had he been stranded the entire night, hypothermia might have become a serious threat. Although willing to abandon his boat and head for safety, Steere and Fishel convinced the man to board the patrol boat, and then towed the stranded boat back to the landing. The now "happy" camper was reunited with his relieved and grateful family at approximately 2:15 a.m.

Date: May 23, 1989

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Weather conditions: unforecasted strong, northeasterly winds

A fishing launch radioed in that a small boat was adrift in the water and the occupants were bailing as fast as possible. It was predicted that the northeast wind would push the boat into the largest portion of Leech Lake, where the majority of drownings had occurred in the past. Park Ranger Jeff Steere and Student Trainee Corrine Hodapp headed out in the Corps 19' patrol boat onto the extremely rough lake. They located the 16' runabout approximately five miles south of the Recreation Area, filled with water and stranded in very shallow water. The two retired couples were wet, cold and frightened, but unharmed. Their motor had failed as they attempted to beat the storm to shore and the waves had swamped their boat. Fortunately, it remained upright and drifted crosswind towards shore instead of southwest into dangerous open water as predicted. Steere anchored the Corps boat and waded in to help the boaters. The boat was bailed out and was pushed into deeper water. After freeing the boat's prop of tangled ski rope, four wet, cold and grateful campers headed back to the Leech Lake Recreation Area campground.

What's in a name?

or: Don't be a moron with words

As an amateur genealogist (translation: keeper of family photo shoeboxes, crinkling 8mm home movies and hair samples), on occasion I find myself in obtuse conversations with serious genealogists that go something like this..."and discovered that my great-great grandfather's second cousin, once removed, was really George Benard, without an r, the third, not the fourth, who married great-aunt Annabelle Beatrice, from the Holsome side of the family, with whom he begat 12 children, one of whom, G.B. the fifth, got lost during the fighting at Cabber's Creek, etc., etc., etc., etc." *Yawn, yawn, try to look interested, search for graceful escape...*" Why, I can hardly believe it, I think that is my old high school gym teacher standing over there by the water fountain...imagine that...will you excuse..."

I do remember one conversation, though, where a friend told me that, in searching for family records in a census book dated 1890, he came across this entry: *Smith, John, aged 46, idiot*. We laughed (even if it was his relative) and thought "how funny", meaning odd. Census entries list the person's profession, like farmer, merchant, cowhand, etc. or whatever was most notable about them (of course, women were lucky if they got a mention as a real person, not just the "property" of their husband...but we'll leave that story for another day.)

Apparently, what was most notable about this poor fellow Smith was that he was what would be phrased today as mentally retarded, or someone who had developed, from birth, at a rate significantly below average. Yet, he undoubtedly spent his whole life labeled, quite legally, and down into the historical record, an idiot. And it is conceivable that he was not even that. Maybe he only had a learning disability that could have been recognized and treated, or perhaps he was subject to spastic seizures that frightened people, or maybe he was just deaf, and like Helen Keller, had special needs that, in his case, weren't recognized. What power words ~~had~~ have.

Which brings us to the treatise of this article: many of us may know someone with a disability, but may not really know the terminology. That may mean that we do not know enough. In documents, in conversations, in brochures, we need to be careful with words, particularly when they refer to human beings. People are not their disabilities, they only have them.

What follows is a matching quiz with which to test your language skills in this realm. Give it a whirl. I certainly learned a few things. Maybe you will, too. The moral of this story is, I guess: Don't only mean what you're saying; know what you're saying.

Match the definitions on the next page with the preferred terms, listed below. The answers are at the bottom of this page.

- A. Developmental disability
- B. Congenital disability
- C. Special
- D. Blind
- E. Down's syndrome
- F. Mentally ill/mental disorder
- G. Specific learning disability
- H. Able-bodied
- I. Speech impaired
- J. Person who cannot speak
- K. Spastic
- L. Mentally retarded
- M. Deaf
- N. Seizure
- O. Disability/physically disabled
- P. Handicap(ped)

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|-------|-------|
| 8. D | 1. I |
| 7. H | 2. G |
| 6. B | 3. C |
| 5. M | 4. A |
| 4. J | 5. M |
| 3. L | 6. B |
| 2. F | 7. H |
| 1. P | 8. D |
| 10. E | 9. O |
| 11. P | 10. E |
| 12. F | 11. P |
| 13. L | 12. F |
| 14. J | 13. L |
| 15. N | 14. J |
| 16. K | 15. N |

Note: The booklet "Responding to Disability: A Question of Attitude" is a good little eye-opener, or rather mind-opener, on this issue. It's available from EEO, room 1124.

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