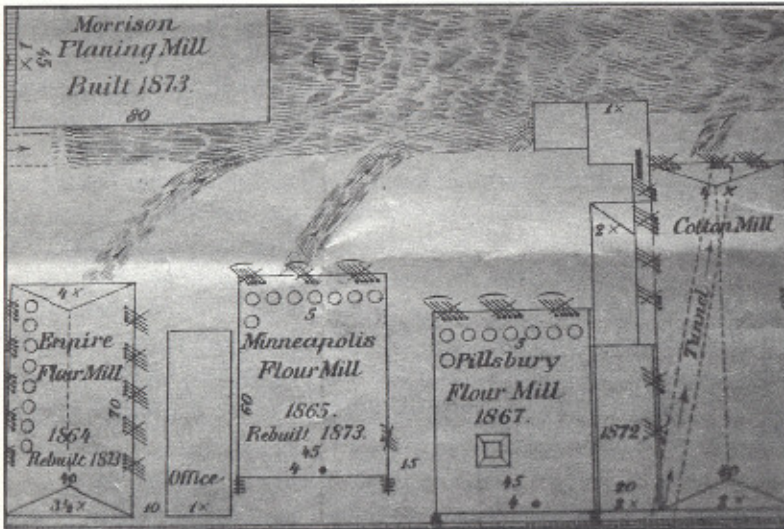




US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

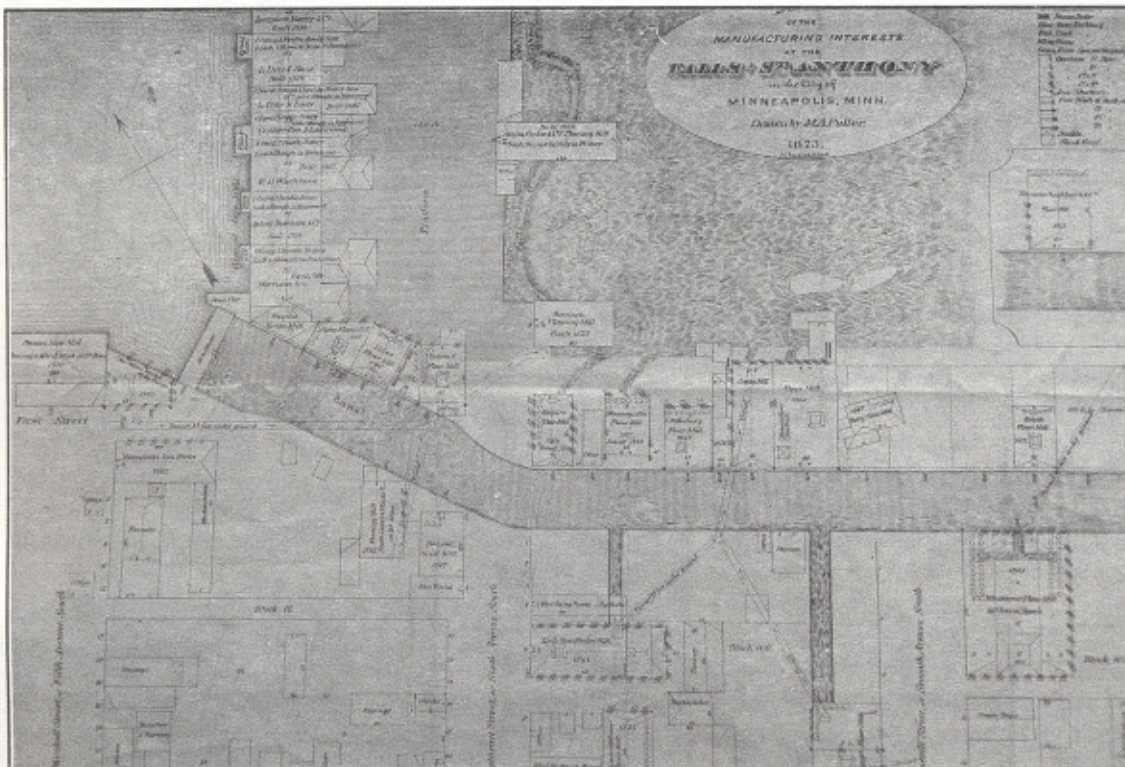
Vol. 12, No. 2, February 1989



Close-up of drawing below, showing the original site for the Pillsbury Mill, built in 1867. Note the tailraces discharging water back into the river.

While leafing through a map drawer one day, district historian John Anfinson discovered a portfolio of 56 drawings on St. Anthony Falls. The paper seemed quite aged and the drawings of india ink. Then he discovered the dates...1870-1880!

Portfolio 6, destined for the archives of the COE History Center at Fort Belvoir, will be reproduced in part for potential interpretive use. John asks that if you find similarly aged materials (anything older than 50 years), please notify Al Santo in map files. These artifacts should not be left in with more recent drawings or handled improperly. It is our heritage that we are preserving.



"Map of the Manufacturing Interests at the Falls of St. Anthony in the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Drawn by M.A. Fuller, 1873" This view is of the west bank, with the Mississippi River at the top. Note the row of saw mills just upstream of the falls.

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# Computer Applicability in the Field

## "AUPS" at Cross Lake

By Joan Guilfoyle, Public Affairs

The Automated Use Permit System (AUPS), currently being tested at the Cross Lake Recreation Area, has found good favor among park rangers and the public alike. The system will eventually bring computer automation to procedural functions such as camper registration, picnic shelter reservations and other special use permit issuance at Corps lakes nationwide.

Park Ranger Ray Nelson, Cross Lake, has been working with the system since 1987, when the system was first tested at 4 lakes around the nation. Cross Lake was the only site within the North Central Division selected for the original study, which has since been expanded to 13 additional projects in other Divisions.

"We wouldn't want to go back to the old way of writing permits", Ray said. "We like it, now that we've been using it."

The system runs on a microcom-

puter, located at the campground entrance station and can be operated by rangers or gate attendants. As campers select a site, AUPS registers them, determines the amount of fees to be charged and prints the camping permit. A listing of campsites, group camping areas and picnic shelters, available on a certain date, may be generated. The system manages other information such as vehicle license plate numbers, vehicle type, mode of payment (cash or check), users of Golden Age or Golden Access Passport and the total number of campers at a site. In the event of repeat permit users, it will copy the common information from the previous permit. With over 5000 permits written at Cross Lake during 1988, the time savings are very real.

Some of AUPS' flexible features include its capacity for printing messages on the permit itself. These messages, ranging from regulations to safety tips to program announcements, reinforce Corps policies and recreational opportunities to the

camper in a direct fashion. AUPS also proves its worth regarding preparation of user fee remittance reports, which numbered over 100 at Cross Lake last year. The system compiles all the necessary data, such as permit numbers, total amount of funds collected in cash and checks and the permittees name, address and telephone numbers. The Campground Status Report and Locate-A-Visitor programs are used extensively in the day-to-day operation of recreational sites.

The Cross Lake staff, along with the other test sites, have been working with the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi, to modify the program for increased efficiency and applicability. Once field testing is complete, AUPS will be made available for use at all Corps lakes. With over \$13 million in recreation user fees generated at hundreds of Corps lakes last year, the system will have a substantial impact when it is adopted nationwide.

## "Weather Watch" at Leech Lake

By John Zahalka  
Resource Manager at Leech Lake

With approximately 190 square miles of surface water, the Leech Lake "chain" of lakes has a history of becoming quite dangerous under certain weather conditions. In 1978, 8 people lost their lives through drowning during water related recreational activities. With the dawn of the computer age at the Leech Lake Recreation Area ten years later, a "Weather Watch" system has been installed that may help save lives on the lake. Operational since July 1988, this system allows Corps employees to give boaters and other visitors current weather information direct from the National Weather Service.

Each morning, the most recent weather information for both Zone 7 (the Leech Lake Area) and the state of Minnesota is obtained through the district's Crosstalk program and posted on the Weather Watch bulletin board. Strategically located near the 3-lane boat ramp used by campers and day use visitors, the board

offers boaters the opportunity to become better informed about current and forecasted conditions before they go out on the lake. If strong winds or severe weather is in the forecast, a wind advisory sign is attached to the board warning boaters to exercise extreme caution.

In addition to these obvious safety aspects, fishermen may use the information to decide on areas to fish, type of tackle to use and species of fish to pursue. Hunters often find it useful in deciding what areas to hunt, how to set decoys, and routes to and from hunting areas.

Other information provided on the board includes extended forecasts, allowing sportsmen and women to plan ahead and pursue those activities that are best suited for weather conditions to come; forecasts for the adjacent states of Wisconsin, Iowa and North Dakota, from which many of the visitors come; a temperature and

precipitation summary; and a regional weather roundup. This includes current temperatures, winds, barometric pressures, dew points, sky conditions, the previous day's high temperature, 12-hour low temperature and 24-hour precipitation for cities in the 4-state area. This information interests visitors, especially during periods of extreme heat, drought or heavy precipitation.

The Weather Watch Board and the computer system that "feeds" it is a visitor benefit whose time has come.



The Weather Watch board really catches the eyes of boaters.

## Is It Necessary to Itemize?

Many taxpayers who itemized their deductions in the past may find it no longer necessary to do so.

In deciding whether to itemize, taxpayers should compare their total itemized deductions with their allowable standard deduction. Taxpayers should itemize if the total of their itemized deductions exceeds the standard deduction to which they are entitled.

The table below can be used to determine an individual's standard deduction for 1988.

1988 Standard Deduction Table

**Caution:** This table does not apply to taxpayers who can be claimed as dependents. See Publication 501, "Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information," for more information on a dependent's standard deduction.

**Step 1:** Check the correct boxes below for yourself:

65 or older     Blind

Check the correct boxes below that apply to your spouse if you are claiming your spouse's exemption:

65 or older     Blind

Total number of boxes you checked \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2:** Find your standard deduction.

If your filing status is:	and number of boxes you checked in Step 1 above is:	your standard deduction is:
Single	0	\$3,000
	1	3,750
	2	4,500
Married filing jointly	0	\$5,000
	1	5,800
	2	6,200
	3	6,800
	4	7,400
Married filing separately*	0	\$2,500
	1	3,100
	2	3,700
	3	4,300
	4	4,900
Head of household	0	\$4,400
	1	\$5,150
	2	5,900
Qualifying widow(er)	0	\$5,000
	1	5,600
	2	6,200

\*If your spouse itemizes deductions on a separate return, your standard deduction is zero.

## Job Seeking Expenses

Amounts you spend for typing and printing a resume and postage for mailing copies of it to prospective employers may be claimed as miscellaneous itemized deductions when looking for a new job in your current occupation. Miscellaneous deductions are deductible only to the extent the total exceeds 2 percent of adjusted gross income.

# Tax Tips

(as April 15th Cometh...)

## Need Free Forms?

To obtain free publications and IRS forms, send the form below to the Forms Distribution Center for your state. For residents of Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota or Wisconsin, send to: PO Box 9903, Bloomington IL 61799.

Two copies of each form and one copy of each set of instructions or publications that you order will be sent. Be sure to print or type your name and address accurately on the other side. This will be the label used to return materials to you. Enclose the order blank in your own envelope and address your envelope to the IRS address above. To help reduce waste, please order only the forms and publications you think you will need to prepare your return. Use the blank spaces to order items not listed. Allow two weeks to receive your order.

## Questions? Call Toll-Free!

If the instructions to the tax forms and the toll-free publications have not answered your questions, use the toll-free number (for which you may have to pay local charges). For residents of the Twin Cities, call 291-1422. For residents elsewhere in Minnesota, or in Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota or North Dakota, call 1-800-424-1040.

If you still need additional information, check your local bank or post office for Forms 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ and Schedules A & B. The local library has a wider variety of forms and publications. OR try the FORMS ONLY toll free number, 1-800-424-FORM (3676).

## Sales Taxes

State and local income taxes, real estate taxes and personal property taxes remain fully deductible. Taxpayers may not deduct state and local sales taxes.

**Tax Tips will be a regular feature of Crosscurrents through the April issue.**

## Home Mortgage Deduction Rules

Recent changes in the tax law have affected the rules for deducting home mortgage interest. For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 1987, the deductibility of home mortgage interest may be limited, depending on when the loan was taken out.

Any home mortgage loan secured by a taxpayer's main or second home, taken out before Oct. 14, 1987, is considered acquisition debt. The interest on acquisition debt taken out before Oct. 14, 1987, is fully deductible and is not subject to any limit.

A mortgage loan taken out after Oct. 13, 1987, secured by a taxpayer's main or second home and used to buy, build or substantially improve that home, is also considered an acquisition debt. Acquisition debt taken out after Oct. 13, 1987, is limited to \$1 million (\$500,000 for married filing separately). Interest on acquisition debt that does not exceed this limit is fully deductible. Any loan secured by a main or second home that is not considered acquisition debt is considered home equity debt. Home equity debt is generally limited to \$100,000 (\$50,000 for married filing separately). Interest on home equity debt that does not exceed this limit is fully deductible.

## Special Rules for Child Exemption

Divorced or separated parents must use special rules to decide whether they or their former spouses can claim the exemption for their child when they file their tax returns. The special rules for divorced or separated parents apply only if:

- 1) The parents are divorced or legally separated under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance, are separated under a written separation agreement or lived apart at all times during the last six months of the year; and
- 2) One or both parents provide more than half the child's total support for the calendar year; and
- 3) One or both parents have custody of the child for more than half the calendar year.

Although there are some exceptions, the parent who has custody of the child for most of the year is usually treated as the parent who provides more than half the child's support. It does not matter whether the parent with custody has been actually providing more than half of the child's support.

A non-custodial parent may claim the exemption for the child if either (1) the custodial parent signs a written declaration that he or she will not claim the exemption for the child and the non-custodial parent attaches this written declaration to his or her return, or (2) a decree or agreement executed before 1985 provides that the non-custodial parent is entitled to the exemption and he or she provides at least \$600 for the child's support during the year, unless the pre-1985 decree or agreement is modified after 1984 to specify that this provision will not apply.

## Around the District

By Ken Gardner  
Public Affairs

Last month I mentioned that several people, including me, were moving into new offices. With those moves completed, I can now admit that they were small potatoes and only a glimpse of what is to come.

All of Con-Ops is scheduled to move out of the Post Office in early February.....maybe even as you read this. They will be moving to the Sibley (NAL-PAK) Building one block away at the corner of 4th and Sibley streets. Those making this latest move will be joining earlier adventurers from EPA Treatment Works Section of Construction Branch (CO-CT), and the Surveillance and Enforcement Section of Regulatory Branch (CO-R). Those two sections were the first to leave the Post Office last year.

Speaking of Regulatory Branch, they have undergone an internal transformation that somehow has not been previously discussed in this space.

The old Surveillance Section is now the Compliance Section. The Research and Analysis Section has been combined with Permit Analysis and now broken down into a Minnesota Section and a Wisconsin Section. Finally, the branch's former Administrative Unit has been promoted to Section status.

There is some other moving going on in Con-Ops but its the people kind, not offices and organization charts.



At Fountain City, Wally Voss, Central Area Lockmaster, has retired. Wally was suitably honored for his decades and decades of service at the lockmaster's conference held in LaCrosse recently.



By the way, the new Central Area Lockmaster is Ed Helmueller, former lockmaster at Lock 5.

There is an old adage that goes "If you don't like the weather in Minnesota, just wait a minute, it'll change." And change it did. While the folks in the northern part of Minnesota were just getting used to cold,

more cold and upwards of 3 feet of snow, the Corps family in the district office was trying to settle down to work in a building (the Post Office) where the inadequate heating prompted people to bring in blankets, snuggle bags (a kind of a fancy, zip-up-the-front sleeping bag for lounging) and gloves with the end of the fingers cut out to permit typing and computer use. That was early January.

Then the infamous January thaw hit. The weather got so warm around the Twin Cities that we were opening the windows in the district office to warm up the building. For more than two weeks, the temperatures lolled around in the 30s and even the 40s occasionally. Talk over coffee turned to spring fishing, lawn mowers, and vacations instead of ice fishing, snow blowers, and road salt.

It has been amazing. And nice. But I worry about the future. Already hydrologists are starting to talk about the possibilities of flooding. And do you really think that Mother Nature is going to let us off with a warm January? I doubt it. But I am reluctant to think about the possibilities too much because Ma Nature has such a wide variety of really awful weather "tricks" (like

the -50 real temperature in Fairbanks, Alaska, this week) at her disposal. Minus 50! hmmm. Gives new meaning to the concept of inadequate building heat and the term Frozen Northland.

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



Jill Kubina snuggles up with a blanket at her computer. "Brrrrr", she says.



District retirees John Forsberg, Roger Fast and Pete Fischer visit with Tom Larson, formerly of the district office of counsel, following a Society of American Military Engineers luncheon meeting at the St. Paul Athletic Club. Larson addressed the Minneapolis-St. Paul post on the subject of "Environmental Concerns", reviewing statutory and regulatory framework, construction practices and contracts and risk allocation. He is now with the law firm of Briggs and Morgan.

# Potential Rec Area Closures in FY 90

By Ken Gardner,  
Public Affairs Officer

*Editor's Note: The process for the FY 90 Budget is somewhat more complicated than usual because of the change in administrations. The first budget proposal was prepared and submitted to Congress by the out-going administration on Jan 9. We understand from news reports that the new administration will be submitting their budget proposal in mid-February. This article was written based on the Reagan Administration's budget proposal for FY 90.*

The Reagan Administration budget proposal for FY 90 included reductions in several programs which affect the St. Paul and most other districts in the Corps. The budget recommendations were released in early January.

The primary impact on the St. Paul District comes in the form of a reduction in recreation operations and maintenance (O&M) funding. The reduction totaled about \$380,000 which is approximately 25 percent of the O&M funding needed to operate all recreation facilities in the district at current levels. Corps-wide, the reduction totaled \$34 million. However, the budget proposal still includes some \$130 million for operation and maintenance of Corps recreation facilities nation-wide.

The second activity impacted by the proposed reductions is dredging and maintenance of recreational boat harbors and smaller, low tonnage commercial harbors. The proposed FY 90 budget did not include any funding for maintenance of small boat harbors or commercial harbors handling less than 25,000 tons annually. Corps-wide, the cuts in non-critical main-

tenance work will save an estimated \$46 million in FY 90.

The proposed reductions in recreation O&M and harbor maintenance funding reflects the Reagan Administration's efforts to reduce the federal deficit and to use limited funding resources where the needs are greatest.

According to Harlan Johnson, chief of Maintenance Branch (CO-M), the proposed funding changes for harbor maintenance will have only slight affect on the St. Paul District. The funding reductions apply to small boat harbors and low tonnage commercial harbors, not to the 9-Foot Channel and the higher tonnage ports along the Mississippi River, he said.

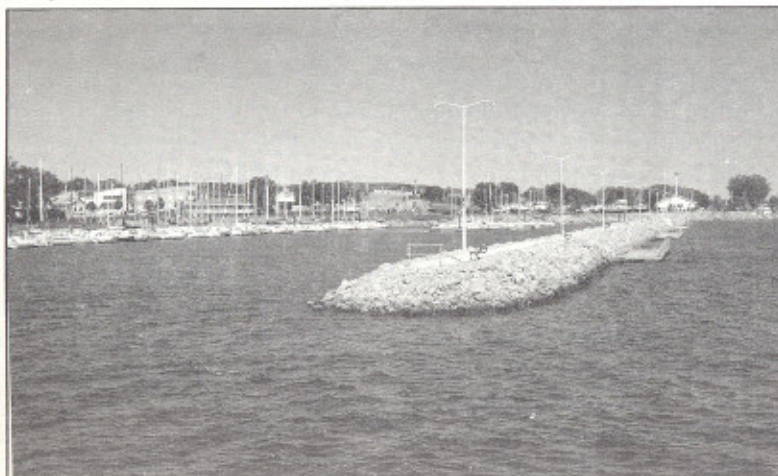
"Our dredging and maintenance plan for FY 90 did not include dredging at rec harbors and smaller, low tonnage commercial harbors. As we understand it,

the real impact of the funding reductions would occur if any of those recreation or smaller commercial harbors required dredging during FY 90. If that should happen, we would have to respond with emergency dredging or maintenance, if it was approved by higher authority," Harlan explained. There are approximately 16 small boat harbors and low-tonnage commercial harbors in the St. Paul District.

Dennis Cin, chief of Project Operations Branch (CO-PO), said that most recreation sites would see some reduction in O&M activities as a result of the proposed funding reduction in FY 90. However, to operate within the reduced funding levels proposed for FY 90, Dennis and his Natural Resources Management staff have identified 17 recreation sites around the district which might have to be closed or partially closed in FY 90.



Baldhill Dam's Old Highway 26 campground may be closed.



Small boat harbors like Lake City may be on the list.

*Crosscurrents is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published monthly by offset for the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Editorial views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. Deadline for submitting articles is the 10th of each month preceding publication.*

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District Engineer ..... Col. Roger Baldwin  
Chief, Public Affairs ..... Ken Gardner  
Editor ..... Joan Guilfoyle

## FWP Committee Sets Goals for 1989

by Jill Kubina, FWP Manager

The Federal Women's Program (FWP) was established in 1967 as a result of Executive Order 11375 to assure equal opportunity for women in all phases of Government employment and programs. Although the FWP has existed in our district for many years, it has just recently been "reborn" and is going ahead at full speed. As the FWP manager, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the FWP Committee and to familiarize "Crosscurrents" readers with the goals and objectives of the FWP.

The Federal Women's Program Committee (FWPC) consists of 12 members who represent the district's workforce. They include males and females, supervisors, clerical, technical, and professional people. These individuals were nominated by their division or office chiefs to serve as a representative on the FWPC. These committee members are Harold Taggatz, Tom Oksness, Kim Pack, Jan Graham, Edith Pang, Pat Foley, Dale Brintnall, Marie Niesen, Marilyn Aird and Chuck Workman. Sheryl Hurley serves as the FWPC's personnel advisor.

The FWPC is working to achieve a multitude of goals and objectives within the next year. Foremost among them is an increased awareness of the Federal Women's Program throughout the district. We hope to accomplish this through observing special emphasis days, holding brown bag "lunch and learn" sessions, and posting articles on the EEO bulletin boards. In addition, we have outlined five other important tasks:



Committee members (left to right) are Tom Oksness, Sheryl Hurley, Jan Graham, Chuck Workman, Marie Niesen, Dale Brintnall, Jill Kubina, Marilyn Aird, Harold Taggatz and Marianne Price. Not pictured are Kim Pack, Edith Pang and Pat Foley.

1. To eliminate barriers to the professional advancement of women through informational and educational activities. Primarily aimed at managers and supervisors, these will include training sessions, task force reports and staff meetings.

2. To provide assistance to women in identifying and developing their knowledge, skills and abilities.

3. To suggest methods to overcome perceptual and attitudinal practices which adversely affect women.

4. To recognize those employees in the District who have achieved outstanding and noteworthy performance in regard to achieving the goals of the FWP.

5. To provide leadership to assure equal opportunity for employees regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or age.

The Committee has recently established four subcommittees. The Career Enhancement and Development Subcommittee (Taggatz, Oksness, Pack, Graham) will examine the various factors that contribute to career development. These include training, upward mobility, job announcement restrictions and barriers, ca-

reer counseling mentors, rating panels (scoring element and screen-out element) and job restructuring to make available more technician positions, just to name a few. The Child Care and Working Parent's Issues Subcommittee (Pang, Foley) will explore child care facilities in the workplace and other issues faced by working parents. The Goals and Objectives Subcommittee (Brintnall, Niesen) will evaluate the effectiveness and accomplishments of the FWPC and provide an annual report. The Publicity Subcommittee (Aird, Workman, Niesen) is responsible for communicating the programs and activities of the FWPC to the people it serves.

The FWPC would be interested in any comments, suggestions or questions that district employees may have regarding the FWP. Please contact any of the committee members or myself and we would be glad to talk with you. Remember, this is your program.

**Remember that March is Women's History Month! Watch for announcements of upcoming events.**

## Regulatory Branch Opens LaCrosse Office

By Joan Guilfoyle, Public Affairs

A new field office has opened in LaCrosse, Wis. to better administer responsibilities of the Regulatory Branch in southwestern Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota. Under authority derived from Section 404 of The Clean Water Act and Section 10 of The River and Harbors Act, this office administers the DOA Permit Program pro-

tecting navigable waters and wetlands from unregulated filling, construction or dredging.

Wisconsin counties served by this office include Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson, Monroe, LaCrosse, Juneau, Adams, Vernon, Crawford, Richland, Sauk, Columbia, Dane, Iowa, Grant, Lafayette, Green and Rock, along with the Minnesota counties of Houston, Winona, Wabasha and Goodhue. Previously, residents, landowners and contractors needing a permit had to contact the district office for assistance.

The new office will make it easier for the public to apply for permits.

The Environmental Protection Specialist staffing the office is Mary Marx, who has worked with the permit program in the district office for 10 years. The new location will enable Mary, who recently moved to LaCrosse, to give more personal and direct attention to individuals seeking federal permits for wetland or navigable waterway activities. The address is Room 219, US Post Office Building, LaCrosse, Wis. 54601, 608/784-8236.

## Activities Planned For Black History Month

By Joan Guilfoyle, Public Affairs

Plans for the Black History Month observance continue to develop. Ken Harrell, Black Employment Program manager for the district, has been hard at work designing activities that will bring together all the multi-racial and cultural elements in the district. Here's the plan:

During one week of Black History Month, "balloon bunches" will be placed near the display cases on each floor. Each balloon will contain a surprise within it. (Ken calls these "Fortune Balloons".) The surprise strip of paper could reveal a piece of black history trivia or it could reveal that you are the winner of a prize! All you have to do is pick the right balloon! You may pick one or two or twenty balloons, whatever your inclination.

February 8th marks the date for Part II of the Black History Trilogy series from the Playwright's Theatre. The story of the Flower family, as introduced in "Rainbows Wrapped Around My Shoulders" last year, continues with "The Time of the Gingham Rooster". In this episode, Montgomery Marcus Garvey Flowers comes across a diary and a magical honey-suckle flower. Suddenly, his great grandfather's ghost appears and takes Monty back to 1895, where he learns about

## Two Projects Receive NCD's "Take Pride In America" Awards

The Mud Lake Management Group and Cub Scout Pack #86 of Deer River, Minnesota are the recipients of the 1988 Take Pride in America (TPIA) competition sponsored by NCD.

Initiated by former President Reagan in 1986, the program is designed to increase public involvement and awareness in caring for public lands. Those individuals or groups who demonstrate this commitment in a tangible manner, such as work projects, are nominated by local public agencies. Winners go on to compete at progressively higher levels, from district to division to OCE. There, OCE winners compete with other agencies for the national awards. In the Event Category, the Mud Lake Management Group was recognized

the Buffalo soldiers and the Harlem Renaissance. The performance will be at 10:00 a.m. at the Jerome Hill Theatre and lasts approximately 90 minutes.

The final activity for Black History Month will be a luncheon, held on February 22nd at 11:30 a.m. in Room 1033. A feast of genuine BAR-B-Q, chicken, potatoe salad, baked beans and dessert will be served. A limited number of tickets are available, so watch the bulletin boards for names of ticket sellers. Following the luncheon, Charles Foye will speak on the role of Afro-American churches in economics and political and social development at home and abroad. Employees need not partake in the luncheon in order to hear the speaker. Charles currently works as a Labor Relations Specialist with the Immigration and Naturalization Service at Fort Snelling. He previously served as the chief of Employee and Labor Relations Branch in the St. Paul District until November 1988.

Exhibits highlighting various aspects of black history will be placed on all Corps floors and will rotate throughout the month. So join in, stop by the displays and be prepared for a little cultural enlightenment and entertainment. See you there!

for its outstanding work in restoring wildlife habitat at the Lake Traverse Project.

Cub Scout Pack #86 of Deer River, Minnesota, won in the Youth Group Category for its work in cleaning up a section of the Mississippi River within the Leech Lake Indian Reservation.

Both award winners from St. Paul are "good examples of the use of volunteers, special interest groups, and agency personnel to enhance natural resource values and to promote a positive public lands ethic", states the congratulatory letter from NCD.

"The Cub Scout pack is the first youth group awarded this honor by NCD," said Frank Star, of Natural Resources Management (NRM) Section, who coordinated the submissions. "Division tells us that the recognition of youth group activities is now a permanent part of the NCD TPIA program," added Frank.

## Reserve duty leads to career move

By Joan Guilfoyle, Public Affairs

A lot of things can happen in eighteen years...babies grow into college students, saplings support tree houses and a sleepy town is transformed into the St. Paul many of us know and love today.

That is how Jerry Bahn, who recently joined Design Branch, remembers St. Paul when he left 19 years ago. "More traffic and growth, but the people are still friendly for the most part", he said. "It's nice to be home in Minnesota after such a long absence."

A native of Echo, Minnesota, Jerry left the state upon joining the Army in 1969. Five years of active duty took him to Vietnam and Alaska. Upon earning a civil engineering degree at the University of Washington, he worked for a civil consulting firm in Seattle and, subsequently, overseas and in California. He received a masters degree in construction management at Stanford University.

When Jerry joined the Army Reserve, he received an assignment as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee here in St. Paul and returned for three 2-week stints during 1986. It was largely this



Jerry Bahn

exposure to the District that sparked his interest in working for the Corps full-time. "Through my association with the Corps as an IMA, I got to know a number of individuals.

I recognized a high degree of professionalism and camaraderie among Corps employees.

When I heard that the Corps was hiring engineers, I eagerly applied.", Jerry said of his decision to leave a career in the private sector for a job with the Corps.

Jerry, his wife Donna and their three children are enjoying living back in the Midwest, where he feels there is more emphasis on family and recreation. His hobbies are active ones, including cross country skiing and running.

## Engineers Week set for Feb. 19-25

Engineers nationwide will celebrate National Engineers Week from February 19-25. "Turning Ideas Into Reality" is the theme of the week dedicated to honoring the engineer as innovator and problem-solver.

"As we approach the 21st century, all of us hope for a better world," said National Engineers Week Chairman Robert E. Hogan. "One of National Engineers Week's greatest missions is to help non-engineers gain a better understanding of our profession's challenges and rewards."

A recent study contracted by the National Science Foundation and the National Academy of Science confirms

fears that the United States faces a severe shortage of engineers. Programs such as National Engineers Week help to promote the profession as a career to talented young students.

Many of the programs planned for the 1989 event focus on high school and college students—the nation's future engineers. Engineers will take their message to students and the general public by speaking at local civic events, participating in television and radio public service announcements and visiting the nation's schools.

The American Consulting Engineers Council is the chairing organization for National Engineers Week this year. National sponsors of the week are the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), the American Society of

Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the National Academy of Engineering, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, the American Society of Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigerating Engineers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the American Association of Engineering Societies.

Last year's celebration was the first time that sponsors helped support the event, which was initiated by NSPE (National Society of Professional Engineers) in 1951.

According to Hogan, "This cooperative spirit enhances our ability to spread our message throughout the country. We all know the importance of increasing public awareness of the engineering profession and intriguing students. Working together, we can make it happen."

## USATHAMA joins Corps mission

by Lori E. Simmers, USATHAMA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is adding to its fold an agency experienced in toxic waste cleanups in a move that will consolidate environmental management of Army properties nationwide.

Beginning Oct. 1, the Army's Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency, located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., formally became a field operating agency of the Corps, reporting to the Assistant Chief of Engineers, who has been designated the Army's Program Manager for the Environment.

USATHAMA formerly reported to Headquarters, U.S. Army Materiel Command.

Maj. Gen. Peter J. Offringa, assistant chief of engineers, feels the transition will benefit both organizations as well as the Army in general. "The people at USATHAMA are a unique source of expertise, capabilities, and professionalism," he said.

With an authorized staff of 88, USATHAMA has been the forerunner in hazardous waste cleanup efforts on Army properties for more than 13 years. USATHAMA was involved in cleanup efforts at Army facilities more than five years before Congress passed the initial Super-

fund legislation.

USATHAMA's two-fold mission includes the Installation Restoration Program, which is the Army's equivalent to the Superfund Program, and the research and development of new technologies to abate or permanently treat hazardous waste.

The IRP addresses Army properties throughout the United States that may have been contaminated by past waste disposal practices. These previous disposal methods were acceptable procedures in both the military and civilian sectors before the environmental movement's surge in the early and mid-1970s.

USATHAMA's technology mission places the agency on the leading edge of hazardous waste management through development of innovative ways to detect, monitor, evaluate, and treat many different types of contamination. The agency's contributions to the Army's Hazardous Waste Minimization program seek to prevent future environmental problems by evaluating manufacturing and disposal processes in an effort to reduce the volume and/or toxicity of industrial wastes generated at Army facilities.

In its transition from AMC to the Corps, USATHAMA assumes two new missions. USATHAMA is now responsible for providing oversight on environmental compliance of current operations at Army installations, a mission expected to fully streamline and integrate the entire environ-

mental program. USATHAMA has also assumed responsibility for developing and implementing an Armywide environmental training program.

Col. J. Harold Mashburn, USATHAMA commander, feels the transition will result in the most effective and efficient management of the Army's environmental program.

"This transition marks the first time the principal environmental organizations will be working as an integrated element to address the total environmental requirements. We'll now have one unified mission, which is to clean up and preserve the environment," Mashburn said. "Resources can be used to address the total spectrum of environmental situations: resolving past problems, satisfying current operational needs, and projecting future requirements."

This move will allow USATHAMA the opportunity to best support the post commanders—the ones who are ultimately responsible for the installation's environmental welfare."

### Obituary

Earl Porter of Cambridge MN died December 30, 1988 at the age of 89. Earl retired as Chief of Specifications in 1969 after 35 years of service. He worked on lock and dam construction during the 1930's.