



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Red River of the North Flood of '89



Dick Martig of the Rochester Resident Office (left) and Jeff McGrath, economist in Planning Division, walk the 800-foot levee under construction along Belmont Avenue in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Corps contracts for this project called for 10,000 yards of dirt to construct the 10-foot high levee, protecting a residential neighborhood. Total cost was \$48,000.

Our Contribution:

Damages Prevented - \$25,000,000
Contracts Awarded - \$1,438,698
Sandbags Provided - 1,594,000
Pumps Loaned - 56
Personnel - Red River Basin: 65
 District Emergency Operations Office: 10
 District General: 30
Communities Served: 20
Communities Contacted: 45
Hours of lost sleep: Countless

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Retiring Lt. Col. Mike Nelson Looks Back on His Four and One-Half Years with the St. Paul District



(Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Mike Nelson was assigned as the Deputy District Commander of the St. Paul District on January 15, 1985. After serving 21 years in the United States Army, including four and one-half years with the District, Nelson will begin a new phase of his life this June: the post-retirement years. He still has plenty of things he wants to do with his life including attending graduate school. Crosscurrents spoke with Nelson recently and he agreed to share some of his thoughts on the Corps and the district.

Biography:

Lt. Col. Mike Nelson graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor's degree in engineering management. He also attended the University of Alaska for two years in civil engineering and Western State College for geological engineering. Military schools that he has attended include the Command and General Staff College and the Engineering Officer Advanced Course.

During his career, Nelson has served as assistant professor of military science at Indiana Institute of Technology, as commander of an engineering company at Fort Carson, Colorado, and as a section commander with assault helicopters in Vietnam.

His military awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

On the Water Resources

Development Act of 1986: "I would say that WRDA '86 is probably one of the biggest things that has occurred in recent years. The cost sharing provisions are a major change for the Corps of Engineers. I am not sure if the end result is going to be what everybody envisioned - that of spreading budget dollars out to reach more projects. I would say that this is a function of budget. If the budget stays the same, and if you have a 25 percent cost share, then you could do 25 percent more projects. However, if the budget goes down, cost sharing will only soften the impact a little. It won't shelter the Corps from any reductions.

On the future of the Corps:

"Probably the biggest challenge that the Chief of Engineers has now is to identify where we are going in the future, and to overcome inertia to change. The more I look at the Corps, the more it seems very satisfied to remain with the status quo. I think in this time and this age, with the technology and as fast as everything is changing, you set yourself up to become a dinosaur and cease to exist if you don't change... I think there will always be a need for strong engineering and maybe it would make sense in the future to have one Federal engineering agency."

On changes in District

personnel: "I think we have made a lot of changes as far as some of our senior personnel are concerned. I think that they will do well in taking care of the District down the road... to make it competitive... One of the things that makes me most confident... is looking at some of the younger people we are bringing on board. I think very very high quality, extremely capable technically, a lot of not only book sense but common sense, good judgment type of people... So I think down the road as the present managers and leaders in the organization move toward retirement, we will be well served by (the

new employees) and the Corps and the Government will be taken care of."

On "What was fun?": "I think the whole job was fun. I say that because I can't think of one morning that I got up in four and a one-half years that I wasn't excited to come to work... there was a diversity of things going on... from day to day crises, to the drought, to the flood, to changing commanders, changing of the staff... I guess the part that made it the most fun was being able to work with a good group of people the entire time... even if you had tough decisions... there was always good information coming from the staff. We were able to draw upon this information to make our decisions. That was enjoyable... I guess when you look back over 21 years in the military, I don't think I have ever served or could have served with a better group of people than what I've been fortunate to meet up with here. I think that is what has made it so enjoyable."

On plans for his future: "As Joseph Campbell said, 'To find bliss' and I guess the bliss is finding a position that I can enjoy as much as I have enjoyed this one. Where I can enjoy getting up in the morning and... hoping... that I made some type of a contribution as I went along... this offers me a time when I can look back at some of the things that I probably wanted to do and go do them in the next couple of years... some backpacking trips I wanted to take... spend a little time going to school... I would also like to go back and visit some of my family who are getting along in years and talk some history with them... I guess, probably selfishly, just some time for myself... We are probably going to cover the entire width of the country (traveling)."

Last words: "Good people. Enjoyed every minute of it. It would have been nice to spend another 20 years here, but that is not possible. Time to move on."

Headwaters Personnel Assist Minnesota DNR in Massive Deer Feeding Program During 1988-89 Winter

By Timm Rennecke, Joe Green and Bob Espenson
Park Rangers, Headwaters Reservoirs Projects

After an unusually dry summer in northern and central Minnesota, the winter of 1988-89 brought too much snow, at least as far as the deer were concerned. While human residents may have had sore backs from shoveling, the deer population may yet sustain a sizeable die-off because of their inability to reach suitable food. Weather factors gathered from northern Minnesota weather stations indicated that this winter presented the fourth highest danger in the last 20 years. Deep snow forces deer to yard up in wintering grounds, where they will stay until spring breakup comes, even if adequate food is only a few yards away.

During the month of March, deer fetal development is critical. A mild winter normally results in 110 to 120 fawns per 100 surviving does. In addition to increased fawn production, a mild winter will result in



Twenty-five pound bags of deer pellets stacked up at Headwaters projects offices for distribution to local volunteers.

far fewer adult deer starving to death. By way of contrast, surveys done on Minnesota deer populations indicate that a bad winter results in as low as 65 fawns per 100 surviving does. Although the doe might survive a winter of deep snow, her fawns might be stillborn or too weak to survive.

In anticipation of the need for feeding deer during severe winters, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) researchers began working on the problem several years ago. The result was the development of a special high protein feed mix that deer can readily digest.

At the start of the DNR's statewide effort to feed deer this winter, an emergency allocation from the state legislature and funds from hunting license fees allowed the purchase of this special feed. Distributing the feed was another question altogether! The enormous amount of manpower required was possible only through donated efforts of sportsmen clubs, civic organizations and private citizens, in addition to manpower that city, county, state, and federal agencies were able to spare.

The deer feeding program of 1988-89 sought to cover the largest geographical area possible. Corps facilities in the Headwaters Lakes Project Area were ideal for assisting in this effort, due to their location and security features. As feed from the DNR began arriving at Cross

Lake, Leech Lake and Remer in early March, Corps personnel began its distribution. Local volunteers identified areas where deer had been seen herding and gave approximate numbers of deer sighted. Normally, 250 pounds of deer pellets would then be taken to each location, where regular monitoring and feed replenishment was conducted by the volunteers. In addition to keeping records of deer sightings, feed stations and quantities of feed distributed, Corps staff instructed the volunteers on proper feeding methods. Six weeks later, the Headwaters projects had assisted in the distribution of 175 tons of deer pellets!

The data gathered during the 1988-89 deer feeding program is being compiled by the DNR in order to calculate probable deer fatality figures and the overall effectiveness of the program. Certainly, the previous development of a viable feed pellet made a significant contribution. Equally important were the contributions made and lessons learned in inter-agency and public cooperation. Headwaters Area personnel who assisted in this program were Jim Ruyak, Walt Hermerding, John Zahalka, Jeff Steere, Clint Fishel, Georgene Savolainen, Bob Espenson, Timm Rennecke, Joe Green, Bob Gossett, Ray Nelson and Curt Johnson.

Bond Drive "How To's"

This year's Savings Bond campaign will be conducted during the month of May. Each office has at least one person assigned as a canvasser to provide information and administrative support for those interested in purchasing new bonds or increasing their allotments through the payroll savings plan.

This year's corporate sponsor is providing a significant incentive to buy bonds. For every new bond or increased allotment, a ticket to a Timberwolves NBA regular season game will be provided. An attempt will be made to provide the District with tickets to the same game.

So, help your family's savings goals, help your country's financial strength and help yourself to some fun at a Minnesota Timberwolves basketball game!

Questions? Call your Savings Bond canvasser or Maj. Chuck Rogers, ext. 439.

Around the District

By Ken Gardner
Public Affairs Officer

We have run several articles about the Stay-in-School program in recent years- including one last month by Public Affairs Stay-in-School Marianna Brown.

The program is intended to help keep students in school by providing part-time employment with a federal agency. Other benefits include work experience (and sometimes leading to a federal job) and help for the agency. There have been a number of success stories with this program around the district and I was pleased to see another one—this time close to home.

We recently received a graduation announcement from Marianna who is getting her Associate of Arts degree from a small private two-year college in Missouri. A special scholarship got her into Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri; her summer and holiday work with the Corps helped her to continue there. She plans to continue college in the fall.

A number of district people have been honored, selected, reorganized or left in recent weeks.

Bob Fletcher, chief of Design Branch, retired the end of April after too many years of federal service to count. More than 170 people gathered to honor him at a retirement luncheon held at the St. Paul Athletic Club. If that is not a record for attendance, it sure ought to be close.

Another recent departee was Di-

ane Burris, computer operator in Information Management, who moved to St. Cloud last month. In her absence, Ron Rodgers will be pulling double duty as computer operator and equipment installer/fixer.

In the reorganization arena, the old Comptroller Office is now the Resource Management Office (office symbol RM). As part of that name change, Russ Williams and his staff have acquired responsibility for the district's manpower function, which used to be in Personnel. This change follows similar reorganizations at NCD and OCE.

Another happening on the 12th floor needs to be noted. Norma Malinowski, who normally is an outdoor recreation planner in Project Operations Branch (CO-PO)- but who was on a developmental assignment to the Public Use Planning Section of Planning Division last fall when she was selected for a four month detail to OCE- has returned to the district office from Washington, D.C.

Finally, Dave Haumersen, who filled some of this column a couple of months ago when he was named the first permanent deputy district engineer for project management, has announced the names of the three engineers who will be project managers working for Dave under the Life Cycle Project Management (LCPM) program. They are Deb Foley, John Bailen and Bill Spychalla. Deb and John are from Project Management Branch (ED-M) while Bill works in Plan Formulation Branch (PD-PF).

And that's what's happening around the District this month.

PHONE FRAUD continued from pg. 3

"...local newspapers. The calls cost \$2 or more.

Many phone companies, such as New York Telephone, have little-publicized "forgiveness" policies for consumers who complain about abusive charges. In most cases, the phone company wipes out a charge once, regardless of its size. After that, consumers are on their own. Most telephone companies can block your telephone lines to prevent them from connecting with certain exchanges. Thankfully, that service generally is free."

The following is an excerpt from the Minneapolis US West telephone directory, consumer guidelines section: "With 1+976 and 1+960, private information companies use a special US West Communications network to provide information such as sports, weather, stock quotes and talklines. There is a charge for each call to these numbers... Long distance charges may also apply. Customers, whether they are parents, singles or businesses, may choose to block calling to information services from their lines. US West ...offers ...blocking service free of charge the first time you request it... The price of the call and the content of the information is the responsibility of the company providing the program. It is US West... policy not to allow illegal or sexually explicit materials on these special prefixes. If you have a complaint about one of the programs, call your service representative."

Nominations Sought for Outstanding Student Workers

The Equal Employment Office is sponsoring a Student Recognition Week from May 29 to June 3, 1989. This program seeks to highlight both the significant contributions made by student workers in the St. Paul District and to select one student as "Student of the Year".

Supervisors are asked to submit a short written narrative that addresses the selection criteria of dependability, quality of work, initiative, attitude and leadership. Nominations should be submitted to Joanne Meier of the EEO office by May

15th. An Ad Hoc Review Committee will review the nomination forms and make the selection. The winner will receive an EEO Certificate of Appreciation, a Customer Care cup and be highlighted in *Crosscurrents*.

The awards presentation will be held June 1, 1989 in Rooms 1219/1220 at 1400 hours. All students, supervisors and interested parties are invited to attend. The 12th floor display case will feature a biography and photograph of all nominees during the week of May 26 to June 2.

Once again now, how do you get free tickets to Timberwolves basketball games?...

Come on, sports fans, (hee hee), sign up for U.S. Savings Bonds today!

Phone Calls That Could Cost You (and the District) Plenty...

(Editor's Note: The following article was taken from US News and World Report, April 24, 1989, and brought to the our attention by Mary Rivett, RM-B. Several of these solicitous telephone calls have been received in district offices. As there is a charge for the return call, it will show up on your office's telephone bill! For your further information, we've quoted the "Guidelines" that US West Telephone Company's phone book offers on this issue.)

"Not so long ago, telephone numbers with prefixes such as 976, 900 and 540 dispensed mainly time, weather, horoscopes and sports scores. Today, they may be dishing out real-estate or job listings, or advice on making a fast buck. And instead of being charged 30 cents or so, you may wind up paying \$1.50 to more than \$50 if you return prerecorded invitations to call a certain number for information about a free Hawaiian vacation or a premium credit card. Although some states require "kill messages" that disclose the call's cost and can give you the time to hang up without being billed, there are loopholes. In New York, for instance, warnings are not required for calls costing \$3.50 or less.

One slick operator bombarded Manhattan phone lines at offices of brokerage houses, the Wall Street Journal and even the state attorney general with prerecorded messages offering a "gold" credit card to callers who dialed 540-GOLD. Those who made the call, however, were not informed about a credit card at all but urged instead to buy goods from a catalog. Callers who stayed on the line more than 15 seconds also got slapped with a \$50 charge. Consumers dialing one 976 number in Texas were charged \$20 to listen to job listings taken directly from newspapers and other public sources. And in northern California, "For Rent" signs posted by telephone profiteers near attractive homes, which may or may not be for rent, are directing people to dial 976 numbers that list rental properties, again culled from..."

(PHONE FRAUD continued on page 8)

Awards, Awards and More Awards!

(and there'll be even more in next month's *Crosscurrents*)

For quality assurance in construction projects:

George Lindsay, construction representative at the Mankato Resident Office, is the North Central Division recipient of the "Hard Hat Award", a recognition program administered by the Office of the Chief of Engineers. The program recognizes individual construction representatives or quality assurance personnel at grade GS-11 or below, whose work performance has promoted quality in construction projects. Each field office throughout the agency submits a nomination, with only one winner per division being finally selected.

Lindsay's supervisor, Larry LePointe, stated that George was nominated "based on the good work he's done in the last few years".



George Lindsay

For Cross Lake:

A Certificate of Commendation has been awarded to the St. Paul District by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the Cross Lake wastewater treatment facility. Presented to Resource Manager Walt Hermerding and his staff, the award states: "In recognition of exemplary effort expended for the year 1988 in complying with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Permit Program and therefore protecting and preserving the waters of Minnesota."

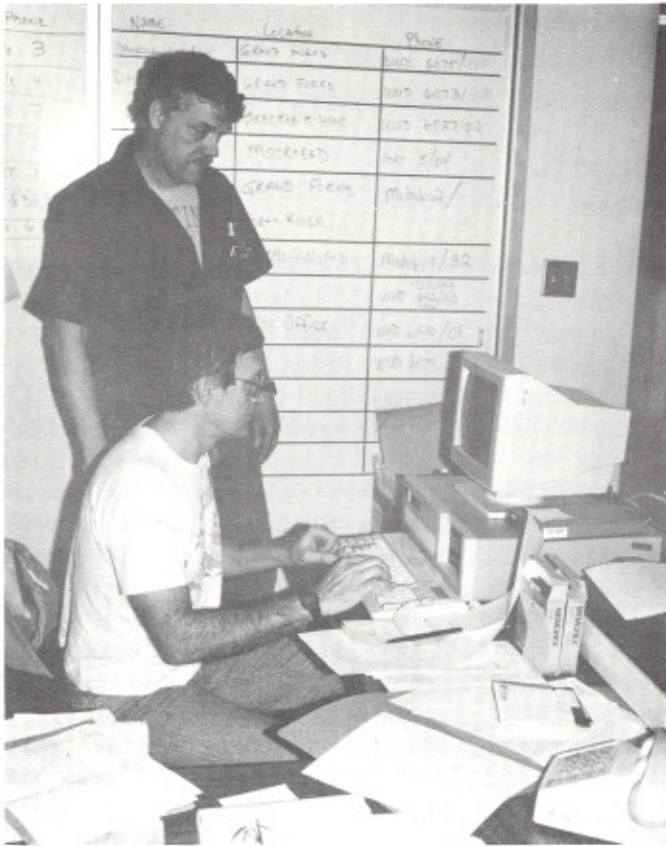
"He's firm with the contractors, but he's also fair. Our local projects, once they're done, are turned over to the local sponsors. George instructs them on how to operate and maintain flood control projects."

LePointe further commented that the safety record of "3 years, going on 4", with no lost time accidents at Mankato, was a contributing factor in Lindsay's nomination. Lindsay also shares his knowledge of construction site operation with engineer trainees during the temporary training periods, is involved in the quality management process at the start of a project, reviews plans and specifications to assure contractor compliance and prepares daily QA reports. Lindsay's career with the Corps spans more than 37 years, with numerous Outstanding and Sustained Superior Performance Ratings and a Quality Step Increase. He also received a Quality Performance Certificate from the Chief of Engineers in 1988.

Lindsay will travel to the International Chief of Construction Conference in Orlando, Florida this May to receive this latest award. He has no plans to visit Disney World.

For Volunteer Efforts:

The St. Paul District Corps of Engineers is the recipient of a special award from the 1986 St. Paul Winter Carnival Committee "for enthusiastic leadership and support in creating the Centennial Ice Palace. The dedicated voluntary effort exhibited by employees was essential in realizing this glowing symbol of community spirit." The 1986 Ice Palace was the world's tallest at 128'9", constructed with 10,000 700 pound ice blocks, 450 yards of concrete, 4.5 miles of electrical wiring and 1200 colored lights. The palace was seen by 1,500,000 visitors.



Floodfight Snapshots

Left: Ron O'Brien (standing) of the Electronic Service Center in Hastings and Tom Raster, Planning Division, test the computer equipment at the Fargo Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The development of high technology in the last decade made a significant difference in communications and record keeping operations from the floods of '78 and '79. Various software programs, computer hardware and radio set-ups greatly assisted in our efficiency and capabilities.

Right: The Grand Forks Emergency Operations Center provided considerably less space to work in than Fargo, but everyone seemed to find a corner or table end from which to operate. Marsha Gilliland of Construction-Operations Division held down the phones, the overtime reports, the hotel listings and a myriad of other responsibilities amid constant traffic, randomly strewn equipment hookups and fast food wrappings.



Left: As director of the entire flood fighting operations in the field, Dean Peterson of the Winona Resident Office frequently fielded questions from the press. Daily press conferences at the Fargo EOC provided a medium for status and activity reports from all involved agencies, as well as the opportunity for direct questions to the appropriate agency.



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Address: Editor, Crosscurrents, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1421 U.S. Post Office and Custom House, St. Paul, Minn. 55101-1479.

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

Above: Large quantities of standing and frozen water in the fields near Grand Forks created a threat to the town if "Mother Nature" brought a sudden warm spell. The English Coolee River diversion channel, part of an ongoing project, was opened at the request of town officials and the governor of North Dakota to divert up to 1/2 of the expected flow. Here, Craig Hinton, of Construction-Operations Division (Con-Ops) (right) discusses the project with Randy Gjestvang of the State Water Commission as the heavy equipment arrives. The \$20,000 project was completed within two days.



Below: With as many as twenty emergency contracts, of all kinds and at various stages of completion, going on at the same time, contract inspection and accurate monitoring was crucial. Counting truckloads and estimating tonnages was often round the clock, as seen here in the "Point" area of East Grand Forks.



Above: The Fargo EOC was often a busy place, with up to 50 people reporting in at all hours of the day and night. From the left are Dean Peterson, Area Engineer; Colonel Baldwin, District Engineer; Bill Goetz, Chief of Con-Ops Division and Tim Bertschi, Fargo Area Manager. Ron O'Brien is in the background, adjacent to the message center, xerox and fax machines, telephones and computer set-ups.

Photos by Ken Gardner and Joan Guilfoyle, Public Affairs.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1421 U.S. POST OFFICE & CUSTOM HOUSE
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101-1479

To All District Employees:

Federal employees (civilian and military) have traditionally taken the lead in the purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds. Intimately involved as we are in the daily business of our Government, we are especially conscious of the important contribution bond dollars make to the nation's economic strength and to our own guaranteed financial security.

Many of you realize that savings bonds are a liquid asset because they may be redeemed after a minimum holding period of six months. The bonds provide maximum safety. If lost, stolen, or destroyed, a bond will be replaced at no charge. The built-in tax advantage is an added attraction. The interest is exempt from state or local taxes and the federal taxes on the bond interest may be deferred until the bonds are cashed.

This year's savings bond campaign offers a fresh opportunity to sign up and start a systematic savings program through payroll deductions or to increase the pace at which you are currently saving. The campaign goals are: to ensure all employees are given the opportunity to participate through personal, face-to-face contact by an assigned canvasser, and to increase participation by 20%. In other words, our goal is to have 20% of those not currently buying savings bonds to enroll in the program, as well as having 20% of those currently buying bonds through payroll deductions to increase their allotments. These goals are realistic and attainable.

If you are already buying bonds, you probably realize how easy it is to save and how fast they accumulate. Now is a good time to take steps to see that they accumulate even faster. For those not buying bonds, I encourage you to talk to those of us that are. We're already "sold on the program." Find out how we have used our little "nest eggs" over the years. You would be amazed at how a small deduction each pay period can yield a Hawaiian vacation, an RV camper, or a down payment on a house.

Roger L. Baldwin
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer