



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

"Largest district in the North Central Division"

Vol. 14 No. 5 May 1991

Minnesota River becomes latest focus for "management through partnering"



A new era of partnership on the management of the upper Minnesota River began on May 2nd. That was the day that the St. Paul District, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency signed an agreement to work together to improve water quality and wildlife habitat on the river, while maintaining flood control capabilities for local river communities. Here, Colonel Roger Baldwin meets with (from left) Tim Scherckenback, Director of the Division of Water Quality for MPCA, Jim Gritman, Director of Region III of the USFWS, and Rod Sando, newly appointed Commissioner of the MNDNR, to formalize the occasion. The stretch of river covered by the agreement runs from Granite Falls upstream to Bigstone Lake, containing Lac Qui Parle Refuge (MNDNR), Bigstone Refuge (USFWS) and Bigstone-Wetstone Project (USACE). The MNPCA's involvement stems from its Minnesota River Assessment Project, monitoring water quality from Granite Falls to Minneapolis. Congratulations to the District's Project Operations team for bringing this vision of increased management cooperation into reality.

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Bits and Pieces

Paint-A-Thon in August!

When's the last time you saw the actual end result of your work the very same day that you started it? If it's been a while, maybe you should join the St. Paul District's Paint-A-Thon Team, swinging into action on August 10th! Vicki Fetterly has once again signed up as Team Leader for the one day event...one day when your presence can really make a difference.

About 25 people are needed to work on cleaning, scraping and painting one house. With that many hands, it makes light work and lots of fun. You start at about 7:00 a.m., work, work, work (relatively speaking) and then get to attend a **Volunteer's Thank You Picnic** that afternoon (food, entertainment and, if anyone has the energy for it, frisbee!!) The people whose homes are chosen for these projects are most grateful for the help, help that they truly cannot afford to pay for, except with their thanks.

Half-day efforts and/or loaning of painting supplies is also appreciated. (The paint is donated) Call Vicki at x206 (she's already had one meeting, so call soon) to sign up for the Corps Team. Other federal agencies have their own teams, too, so we want to show that the Corps Really Does Care!

New ASA/CW nominated

President Bush announced the nomination of Nancy Patricia Dorn of Texas to be the new Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works at the Department of Defense, succeeding Robert Page.

Ms. Dorn has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Inter-American Affairs at the U.S. Department of Defense. Prior to this, she served as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs at the White House, 1988-89; and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs at the Department of State, 1986-88. In 1986, she served as Chief of Staff and Floor Assistant for the House Republican Deputy Whip Loeffler; Press Secretary and Chief Spokesman for the Loeffler for Governor Campaign in Texas. Ms. Dorn served with Congressman Tim Loeffler as the Associate Staff designee on the Staff of the Committee on Appropriations, 1983-86; and as a Legislative Assistant, 1981-83.

Ms. Dorn was graduated from Baylor University in 1981. She was born September 18, 1958 in Lubbock, Texas and resides in Arlington, Virginia.

Marvin Pedretti, Lockmaster at Lock and Dam 10, Guttenberg, Iowa, recently received the Guttenberg Fireman of the Year Award. Marvin has served on the fire department for the last 23 year and was recently promoted to Assistant Fire Chief in January 1991.

Kudos for those involved in the recent LD 10 Dewatering Project:

Dear Folks,
Just a line to thank you folks for the wonderful project this winter. We received a notice that you would do your utmost so as not to annoy us folks in

the lock territory. We want to thank the Corps. We want you to know everything was perfect. It was a great project in all ways.

Thanks,
Butch Gilbertz, an old settler

(Ed: Mr. Gilbertz went on to say that he was in Guttenberg when the lock was built and is now 86 years old. Thank you for your kind remarks.)

Mississippi River Heritage Trips planned for 1991

The Mississippi River in northern Minnesota is a unique stream, set aside for special protection by the people who live here. The river was a highway and source of sustenance for Indian people who lived here for thousands of years. The river was also a highway for traders and voyagers who entered the region in the 17th century. Locating the river's source was a goal for many heroes of American history, including Zebulon Pike, Lewis Cass, Henry Schoolcraft, and Joseph Nicollet. The river attracted settlers and homesteaders in the early 19th century.

This year, the Mississippi Headwaters Board offers several canoe trips to acquaint people with the river and its outstanding features. These trips are designed for the novice canoeist. Some include overnight camping. All of the trips will include interpretation of significant river flora, fauna and cultural sites.

One of these trips will be on Saturday, August 10th to Sunday, August 11th from Winnie Dam to White Oak

Point. At 10 a.m. Saturday the group will put in at Winnie Dam, camp at Gambler's Point, followed by a fish fry and program at Gambler's Point, County Highway 18/Day's High Landing, or Schoolcraft State Park.

The approximate number of river miles is 19 miles from Winnie Dam to Gambler's Point; seven miles from Gambler's Point to White Oak; ten miles to Day's High Landing; four miles to Schoolcraft State Park. The approximate paddle time will be six hours on Saturday and from two to six hours on Sunday. Items of interest along the route will include Winnie Dam, Little Winnie Lake, Leech Lake Indian Reservation, bald eagles, fishing, oxbows and meandering river channel, White Oak Point, and a logging channel.

Further downstream on the Mississippi, the group is planning a trip from Sandy Lake Dam to Palisade on June 8th. The trip should take about 8 hours. Canoes and associated equipment will be available for rent.

For more information about these trips call 218/547-3300, extension 263. This information submitted by Dennis Dickson, Park Ranger at the Headwaters Project.

Obituary

Mr. Arthur R. Neumeister, of St. Paul, recently died at the age of 62. He was an employee of the St. Paul District.

Sally Lunsford takes Second Place in Federal Women's Program Essay Contest

Real Women: Nurturing Tradition, Fostering Change

By Sally Lunsford



Life in the desert southwest gave me a real appreciation for our forebears who were, indeed, real women. Just driving across the desert in my little air conditioned car from El Paso, Texas to Las Cruces, New Mexico, a trip which took about an hour, I was amazed that people used to make that trip in covered wagons. Women of that day and life were not soft, but women of great strength. They were women who worked right alongside the men breaking ground for pioneer homes and gardens (not exactly homes that would be seen in today's House and Garden magazine). Their lives were an example for us all in many ways. They passed some wonderful traditions on to their daughters. They also passed along values that encouraged generations to be daring, to work to make things better for their daughters.

But don't we have women in our current times who display that kind of strength? Don't we have memories of our own mothers or friends who have established some traditions of their own, who have shown by their example what is good and valuable? Haven't there been many women in still-living generations who have been daring and encouraged us to be the same?

One of my own personal heroes was a woman whose name I will never know. A military wife, who, when faced with her own death, and her husband's, in a plane going down in a storm over the Atlantic, could say to him, "It's been a good life. She didn't know they would both survive. She could have come unglued and spent that time in regret for what should have been. But, obviously, her life had not been lived in such a way as to have any great regrets. I am not saying I believe for one minute she wasn't scared to death for the unknown that was in the minutes and hours ahead, but I believe she had a tremendous inner peace that her life had not been wasted. A goal we would all do well to establish. If, when I face my maker, I can feel my life has not been wasted - that maybe I had made a difference to someone, somewhere - then I could ask no more.

There are many women who could be considered modern heroes. Women who for one reason or another have had to raise their families alone and can look proudly at their grown children and know they did a good job. Women who could have sat back and let "the system" take care of them but who chose to do everything in their own power to make a better life for themselves and their families. There are women whose own life is good and who acknowledge a responsibility to those in this world who need help. Women who spend much of their own life working with the poor, the sick, the deserted children. There are women who encourage younger women to get an education, to live their lives to their fullest potential. There are women whose example says you are never too old to do more or to learn more and that you can do it, too.

Pioneer is a word that seems to imply olden times when there weren't any luxuries such as dishwashers, automatic laundries, and so forth. A pioneer also is a person who is a trail blazer. A trail blazer among women - one who not only makes changes in her own life but encourages her daughters (other younger women in general) to take risks and make changes in their lives. But she doesn't tell them to turn away from what is good in their lives just for the sake of change. No, she tells them to cling to those values and traditions that are good and worthwhile and also to work for change, to encourage growth and to live a life of love for this world we share.

Civil Servants of the Year for 1991 combined hard work, leadership ability & civic responsibility for winning combinations

Mary Schommer Civil Engineer, Planning Division

Mary recently managed a \$5.7 million planning effort that included six projects under the Continuing Authorities Program and 11 under the Environmental Management Program. Under her direction, three projects were constructed and ten reports completed. Since becoming an Environmental Management Program manager in 1988, she has been at the forefront of the field-level effort to forge a viable partnership among the divergent interests and users of the upper Mississippi River in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. As a team leader, Mary promotes direct involvement with other federal and state agencies, local organizations and private individuals to ensure their needs are incorporated into her water resource planning efforts. She is also the District's Indian Tribal Coordinator. In October 1990, she was selected as the District and Division's nominee for the Federal Engineer of the Year Award sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers. She also does volunteer fund raising for the Diabetes Foundation and Minnesota Public Radio.

Norman Hildrum Chief, Information Management Office

As a member of the Relocation Task Force, Norm helped formulate plans for relocation of the District to a new facility. He developed evaluation criteria and a rating system for site selection, generated the project path for the relocation system, developed maps for an employee survey and aided the GSA designer in defining critical specifications for data/telecommunications for the new office space. In 1990, Norm served as chairman of the Savings Bond Campaign and as an Emergency Operations Center team leader. He was also selected by the Fish and Wildlife Service to establish the Information Management Office for the Environmental Management Technical Center in La-Crosse, Wisconsin. Norm is active in community affairs, having started a Men's Club at his church, which supports a local food shelf and outreach program for families in crisis. He also started a youth soccer and junior hockey program, and teaches landscape architecture at the University of Minnesota.

Natalie Siok, Office Manager, Eastern Area Construction Field Office

Natalie coordinates contract administration and personnel activities for four separate remote Resident Offices. She is responsible for the paperwork on over \$65 millionworth of contracts and for ensuring that all procedures are performed properly and in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulations. Natalie's responsibilities have grown along with the Eastern Area Office's growth. She has handled her duties masterfully, earning Exceptional Performance Ratings for both of the last two rating periods. She is always willing to take on new challenges. Natalie maintains a pleasant, professional attitude at all times, creating comfortable working relationships

Charles Crist, Branch Chief, Projects and Programs Management Division

Until April 1991, Chuck served as Assistant Chief of Planning Division, where he superbly represented the District at public and agency meetings, provided creative leadership for the Environmental Management Program and made sound decisions in the absence of the Planning Division Chief. He maintained excellent working relationships with his counterparts in other state and federal agencies and played a key role in developing state water resource plans. He has a strong commitment to accomplishing the Corps mission through teamwork and is persistent in pursuing established goals. Chuck is a strong advocate for a workplace where all employees are treated with respect and dignity, as displayed by his supportive, professional and caring attitude toward others. He was recently selected as the first Chief of Projects Management Branch, Projects and Programs Management Division. Chuck also volunteers his time coaching girls and boys basketball.



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