



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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River Partnering Agreement Signed

"For the good of the river" is how representatives of 13 federal and state agencies characterized their cooperative efforts as they signed a Mississippi River partnering agreement recently.

Held in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, the signing ceremony formalized the spirit of cooperation, coordination and assistance that has become the standard, rather than the exception, when the agencies deal with a wide range of issues along the Upper

Mississippi River.

The agreement covers activities of the 13 agencies along 243 miles of the Mississippi River between St. Paul, Minnesota, and Guttenberg, Iowa.

Federal agencies signing the partnering agreement included the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and Soil Conservation Service. Colonel Richard

W. Craig, district engineer in St. Paul, signed the agreement for the Corps.

State agencies included the departments of natural resources and departments of transportation for Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa plus the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

In signing the agreement, the 13 agencies acknowledged "the multiple uses and benefits provided by this diverse ecosystem" and affirmed their commitment "to work together as a trusting, cooperative team to manage the river from a resource balanced approach in the best interest of the public." These state and federal agencies first came together to address river issues in the mid-1970s during the Great River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) study. The GREAT study was authorized by Congress to identify and assess problems associated with multi-purpose use of the Upper Mississippi River and to develop recommendations for improvement of the river.

When the GREAT study was completed in 1980, this coalition of river resource agencies formed the Channel



District engineer Colonel Richard W. Craig joins other agency representatives in signing a partnering agreement on management of the Upper Mississippi River. Shown are (left to right): Ron Sando, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, C.D. "Buzz" Besadny, commissioner of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Colonel Craig, Captain Robert Luchun, U.S. Coast Guard, St. Louis, Missouri and Rick Berry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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News of District Staff

Congratulations

Bruce Brand, district Federal Women's Program manager, was recognized by the Twin Cities Federal Women's Program for his outstanding achievement as a FWPM.

Joanne Dufek has been promoted to procurement analyst, Contracting Division.

Susan Quinn, computer specialist, and **Charles Sedgwick**, computer programmer analyst, have both been appointed to permanent positions in the Information Management Office.

Vern Reiter has a new position within Regulatory. He is now responsible for the implementation of RAMS - Regulatory Automated Management System.

Ken Tschida, formerly Projects Operations Branch, has been appointed lockmaster of Lock & Dam 2.

Welcome

Doug Crum started work in the Geotechnical Section in September. Previously a geotechnical engineer for STS Consultants and the Bureau of Mines, he is a graduate of the University of Minnesota.

Gary Knapton, formerly of the Regulatory Field Office in Kaukana, recently transferred to the Green Bay Regulatory Field Office.

Mary Marx, a former district employee, is now working part-time in the LaCrosse Regulatory Field Office.

Pat Simons is new in the Public Affairs Office, working as a temporary public affairs clerk.

Lynn Stebe is newly transferred to Engineering Management as a contract specialist. She was formerly a legal technician in the Office of Counsel.

Linda Steel is the new secretary, Information Management office, transferring from the Arizona Area office, Los Angeles District.

Good-bye

William Heid, civil engineer, is leaving Information Management Office for a position in the private sector.

Norm Hildrum, chief of Information Management Office, has left for a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in LaCrosse.

Marita Roherty has left Regulatory for Washington D.C. where her husband has taken a new position with the office of State Budget Managers.

Frank Yule, lockmaster at Lock & Dam 2, retired the first of November.

Mark Zeimer has left Hydrology for a new position at the National Weather Service River Forecast Center.

Speaker's bureau

John Anfinson, district historian, was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Upper Mississippi Waterways Association.

Deb Foley, Project Management Branch, and **Pat Foley**, Geotechnical Hydraulic and Hydrology Branch, gave a special presentation to their daughter's 1st grade class on what engineers do. Deb's hard hat and construction boots reportedly drew the biggest response from the children.

Dan Ford and **Gerard Schuster**, Design Branch, staffed a booth explaining Corps activities at a job fair for deaf students in Faribault.

Ken Gardner, chief of Public Affairs, recently gave a presentation to the metro area Association of Emergency Management Officers.

Kevin Kleithermes, Cost Engineering Branch, and **Tom Sully**, Design Branch, gave a slide presentation on the St. Paul District to an engineering fraternity at the University of Minnesota.

Joe Yanta, Regulatory Branch, participated on behalf of the district in an environmental awareness fair, held recently in Crystal.

District Receives Hispanic Heritage Award

The Twin Cities Federal Executive Board presented the St. Paul District with its Hispanic Achievement Award, during its September board meeting. The district was recognized for its promotion and selections of Hispanic employees and its outreach activities to the local Hispanic community. Special recognition was also made of the district's activities at this year's Cinco de Mayo festival in St. Paul. District Hispanic employees set up and staffed the Corps exhibit trailer.

Marianne Price, district EEO officer, accepted the award on behalf of the district.

Partnering

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Maintenance Forum to continue the spirit of interagency coordination and cooperation as the study recommendations were implemented. Initially this advisory group concentrated on channel maintenance and related issues. But in recent years, it has worked on a broader range of river issues that now include recreation and the Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program (EMP), authorized by Congress in 1986. To reflect this broader scope of involvement, the name of this group was changed to the River Resources Forum in December 1990.

Following the agreement signing, the agencies announced the beginning of an major interagency effort to study recreation issues along the river. The study will result in the preparation of a Recreation Management Plan which will attempt to balance water and land surface recreational uses with other designated or recognized river uses, including commercial navigation and biological resources. In addition to the 13 agencies, the study effort will include the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission and will provide opportunities for involvement by individuals and groups interested in river resource management.

Diversity Appreciation Week Observed

Patricia Simons,
Public Affairs Office

Over 650 district employees participated in a wide range of workshops and activities during Diversity Appreciation Week, October 21-25.

Designed to help employees become familiar with backgrounds and cultures different from their own, Diversity Appreciation Week began in 1989 as an experimental program to replace separate diversity observances throughout the year.

Since employee participation varied so much, the EEO office, as sponsor, looked into incorporating all programs into one week of workshops and activities that touched all issues. "We needed to have a more effectively balanced program," EEO Officer Marianne Price explained, "and we needed a way to sensitize employees on issues of race, cultures, gender and ability."

Since the first Diversity Appreciation Week, Price and EEO assistant Joanne Meier spend a considerable portion of each year planning the week's activities and workshops. Their emphasis is on increasing employee

attendance, sharing newly learned strategies and increasing diversity awareness and appreciation.

The success of the week is evident; participant responses and feedback has been positive. Other agencies, corporations and local government offices have recognized the program's originality and have adopted ideas for their own observances.

This year's observance opened with Ramsey County Attorney Tom Foley speaking on "Hate Crimes and Their Impact on the Workforce." While many workshops touched on cultural diversity, others addressed the issues of men and women in the workplace.

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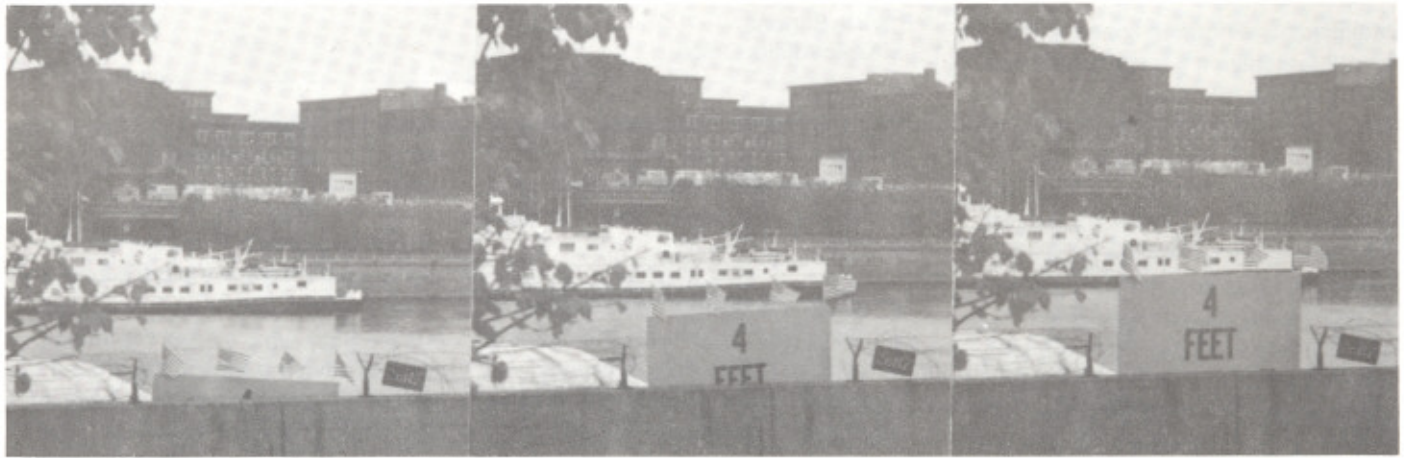
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Retiree Mary Rivett demonstrates the traditional Japanese art of ikebana, or flower arranging.

Raising of St. Paul Floodwall Celebrated



District commander, Colonel Richard W. Craig, was recently joined by Congressman Bruce Vento, St. Paul Mayor Jim Scheibel, members of the City Council and other invited guests in celebrating the beginning of construction of the first phase of the St. Paul Flood Control Project.

Located on the south side of the Mississippi River, directly opposite the district offices and downtown St. Paul, the new project will raise the existing 3-mile flood wall and levee system 4 feet. The new project will largely follow the alignment of the existing flood barrier, running from the St. Paul Downtown Airport (Holman Field) to the west end of Harriet Island.

The low-lying area on the south side of the river has flooded numerous times, including the 1952 flood of record. In 1958, the Flood Control Act authorized the Corps to design and build a flood control project to protect the area. The project included construction of nearly three miles of flood barrier, three pumping stations, and about 7,000 feet of interceptor and storm water sewers and thirteen closure structures where roads and railroad tracks passed through the levees and floodwalls. The project was completed in 1964.

After significant flood events occurred in 1965 and 1969, the project design was reevaluated. While the 1965 flood was a new flood of record and

exceeded the design level of the barrier, it did not overtop the barrier. In 1981, the Corps determined that an additional four feet of flood protection was needed. Raising the existing barrier by four feet will provide protection against a design flood of 210,000 cubic feet per second, a 588-year flood event.

Authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Acts of 1989 and 1990, the project will cost \$20.5 million. Marsha Risch, Programs and Projects Division, is project manager and Nan Bischoff, Engineering Division, is engineer manager for the project. Mike Schwalbe is area engineer and Mark Koenig is resident engineer. The project will be managed from the Bassett Creek office by Capt. Norm Boeman and Capt. Mark Miller.

Set to be completed in 1994, this project will be the cornerstone for future riverfront development planned by the city of St. Paul. During the ceremony, Mayor Jim Scheibel described the city's plans for the area, much of which is now vacant land. He outlined planned housing, commercial, industrial and recreational development for the 315-acre area between the river and the bluffs to the south that will be protected by the project.



Above: As the finale to the recent celebration, a four-foot tall plywood panel was raised by city workers to demonstrate the height of the new St. Paul Flood Control Project barriers.

Left: Colonel Richard W. Craig addresses invited guests while St. Paul Mayor Jim Scheibel looks on.

Using the project as an opportunity to enhance the design of the city's central riverfront, the city's Riverfront Commission has worked closely with the Corps on the design of the flood wall and levee. The proposed design incorporates a pedestrian riverwalk and bikeway.

In his remarks, Colonel Craig concluded, "The Corps of Engineers has been a part of St. Paul for the past 125 years. We are proud to be partners with the city on this project, and to have a role in the bright future of the riverfront in St. Paul."



As part of the celebration marking the initiation of the St. Paul Flood Control Project, guests were treated to a guided tour of the riverfront from a flatdeck barge. Tour guides were Nan Bischoff, Engineering Management Branch, and Patricia James, St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development. The barge and towboat were provided by Upper River Services, Inc.

Busy Days at Lock & Dam 1



Visitors at the Lock & Dam 1 Open House held in late September look at displays set up in the maintenance building. The open house was held to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Corps office in St. Paul and the re-opening of the lock's visitor observation area, which had been closed since March because of falling rock. An estimated 1,800 people toured the lock, watched barges and recreational craft lock through, viewed the displays and watched videotapes during the one-day open house.



The Acadiana, a 57-foot research boat supporting a U.S. Geological Survey effort to measure water quality along the entire length of the Mississippi River, is shown moored at Lock & Dam 1. The boat visited the lock in early October as it began its Minneapolis-to-the-Gulf water sampling trip.

District Helps Cargill War Effort

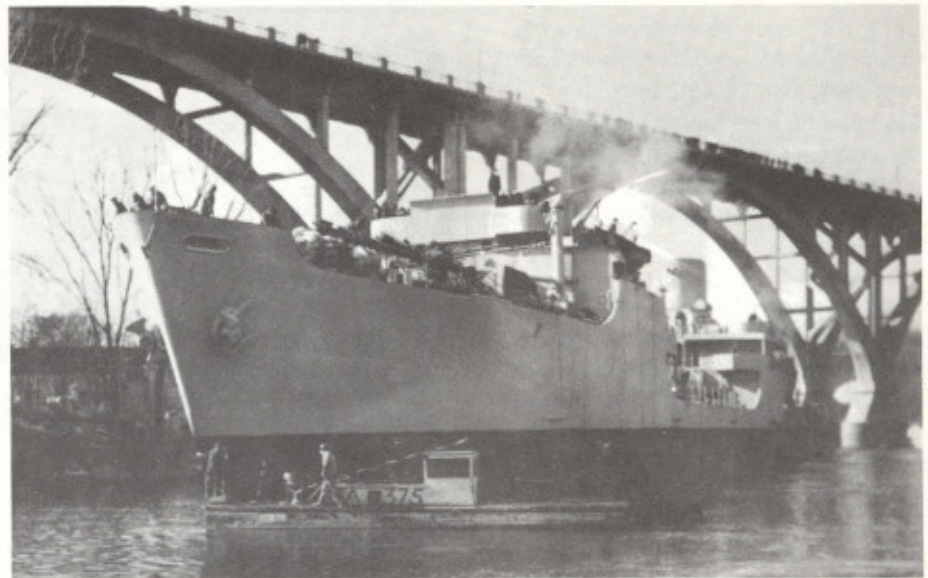
Frank Ryder, retiree

Editor's Note: December marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of World War II. This article, first in a series, describes one contribution made by the St. Paul District to the war effort.

The St. Paul District helped Cargill Inc. make an unusual contribution to World War II. Between May 1943 and June 1945, Cargill built 18 ocean-going auxiliary oil and gasoline tankers for the U.S. Navy. These tankers were ultimately used in the Pacific to deliver oil, gasoline or water to the U.S. fleet.

Each vessel was 310 feet, 9 inches long, with a beam of 48 1/2 feet, accommodations for 8-11 officers and 116-126 enlisted men and a capacity of 60,000 gallons. They were given Native American names of lesser-known waterways throughout the United States.

"Port Cargill" was located on the south bank of the Minnesota River, approximately 13 river miles upstream



Agawam moving downstream on the Minnesota River at the Mendota Bridge.

from its mouth at Savage, Minnesota. Before the tankers were constructed, the river's navigation channel had to be deepened from 4 1/2 feet to 9 feet. Local interests paid for the St. Paul District to dredge the river to a width of 100 feet. The channel deepening extended from the river's mouth upstream to Savage.

After the hulls of the vessels had been completed at Port Cargill, they were floated down river, without stacks, antenna or operating equipment, to

New Orleans where they were completely outfitted for service.

Of the eighteen tankers built by Cargill, two came to abrupt ends. The Chehalis, named for a river in northwest Washington, exploded in October 1949 in American Samoa and sank. Later the hulk was salvaged and sold to the government of American Samoa. The Wascissa, named after a river in Florida, was severely damaged in December 1963 and sold for scrap. The remaining tankers were either transferred to other federal agencies or to other nations. In 1963, the twenty-year old Tombigee participated in "Operation Deepfreeze" by carrying supplies and equipment from New Zealand to Antarctica for that international scientific project.

At the same time they constructed the tankers, Cargill also built several towboats under contract with the Corps of Engineers. The Military Production Branch, St. Paul District, supervised construction of the towboats. The district expedited the procurement of critical and scarce materials necessary not only for the fabrication of the towboats but for the tankers as well.



The tanker Agawam on the Mississippi River at St. Paul. Note the Post Office building, district headquarters, in the background at right.

Bits and Pieces



District historian John Anfinson describes the artistic and historic merits of the Henry Bosse photographs to Dr. and Mrs. Heinz Wirtz, Consul for Economic and Cultural Affairs of the Chicago area German Consulate. The photographs were on display in the former lockmaster's house at Lock & Dam 10, Guttenberg, Iowa, as part of the city's first German Fest celebration.



Jacki Bedworth, public affairs specialist, cleans Bosse photographs prior to the reception at the former lockmaster's house in Guttenberg, Iowa. The Corps and the Guttenberg Heritage Society are working on an agreement to lease the house as a museum for historical river data and photographs.

Mark your calendars!



Holiday Party

Friday afternoon,
December 20

Union Depot

Buffet luncheon by LeeAnn Chin

All employees invited,
past and present

Holiday Boutique Bazaar

Monday and Tuesday,
November 18 and 19, 1991
9 am to 4 pm
Room 1033

handicrafts, baked goods,
holiday trimmings,
and all sorts of nice things.
Anyone interested in participating
should call
Lois Pream, x420

Sponsored by the Employee Benefit Fund

Diversity Appreciation Week Observed

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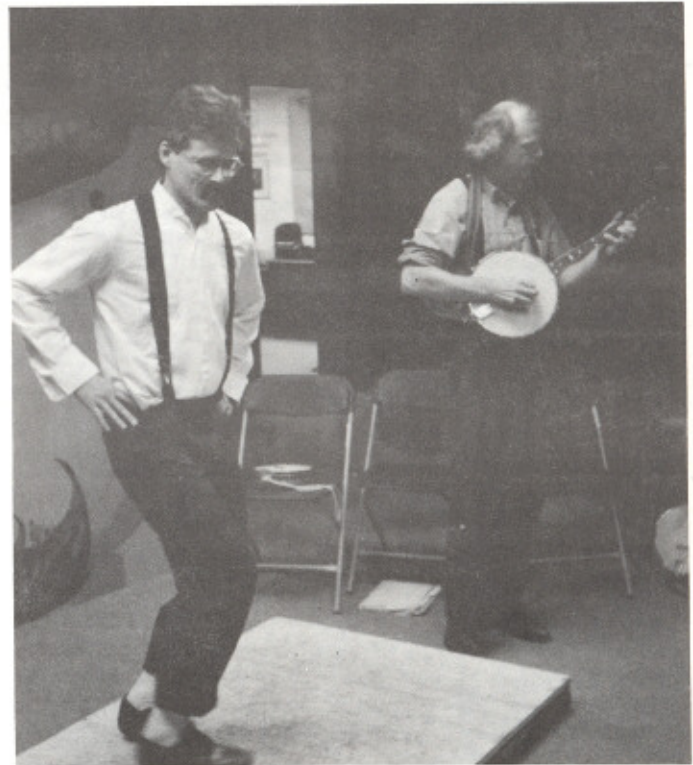
During the "Transitional Workplace: Traditional vs Emerging" workshop, participants were asked to define roles of both traditional and emerging men and women and to seek ways that they could work with others within their own value systems.

The workshop, "The History of Women and How It Shapes Who They Are Today" explored changes in the role of women from pre-history to the present day, while giving both reason and scope to understanding women's issues.

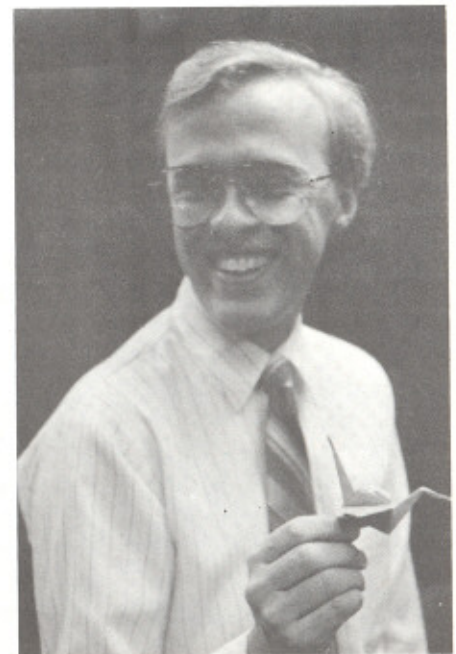
Events that addressed cultural diversity included "Building Professional Competence in a Diverse Society," emphasizing positive communication skills and problem-solving strategies, and a play "This Really Happened," presented by Playwrights Center, about American women of color.

Other activities during the week ranged from "American Heritage," by Banjo Dancer that featured banjo playing, clog dancing, songs and games, to an authentic Chinese Lion Dance by Master Gin Foon Mark. In addition, a Disability Awareness Fair was held in the Post Office lobby to familiarize district employees with experiences that disabled people contend with daily.

"We hope that the week's programs and activities took a nick out the walls of bias," Price said. "We know that there is still backlash over varied problems in our communities and neighborhoods that follow us into our workplaces. We hope Diversity Appreciation Week activities will have an ongoing effect on these issues."



Dancing and music were used by "Banjo Dancer" to tell the story of the rich cultural and ethnic background of what is now America.



Jeff Hansen, Engineering, holds his origami "bird of peace" made during a workshop about traditional Japanese culture.

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Crosscurrents

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