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US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Corps archeologists study Oneota culture



A contract archeologist carefully removes soil from a site at the State Road Coulee Flood Control Project in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. During the last decade, archeological excavations at the project have yielded artifacts, residues of flora and fauna and human remains of the Oneota culture. Corps archeologists have discovered valuable historical information about the region, its earliest inhabitants and their extensive agricultural way of life. (Story begins on page 4.)

News and Notes

Congratulations

Rosemarie Braatz, writer-editor, Con-Ops Division, has been appointed Federal Women's Program manager for the district.

Linda Davis, Office of Counsel, left January 7 for a 90-day TDY appointment in Kuwait.

Robyn Tangeman, head operator at Lock & Dam 10, has retired after twenty years with the Corps.

Welcome

Peter Versteegen has joined the Public Affairs Office as public relations specialist (replacing Joan Guilfoyle). Originally from Iowa, Peter has worked as a free-lance writer for the *Pioneer Press* and in Senator Rudy Boschwitz's local office. More recently, he worked in corporate communications at NCR.

Good-bye

Bruce Brand, Structural Engineering Section, has accepted a position with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C.

Billy Cabe, chief of the Real Estate Division, has accepted a promotion and will transfer to the Little Rock, Arkansas office later this month.

Carol Fix has also left the Structural Engineering Section for a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region III Twin Cities office.

Brigadier General Jude W. P. Patin, commanding general of the North Central Division, will retire early this year. After his retirement, General Patin will return to his home town of Baton Rouge to become secretary of transportation for the state of Louisiana.

Thank you

The Holiday Awards Luncheon Committee would like to thank the following organizations for donating door prizes:

Awada's; Black Forest Inn; Dudley Riggs Theaters; Guthrie Theatre; Le Peep Restaurant; Minnesota Timberwolves; Minnesota Twins; Minnesota Vikings; Rudolph's Barbeque; San Antonio Grill; Science Museum of Minnesota/Omnitheater; Sytje's Pannekoeken Huis Restaurants; Theater in the Round Player's, Inc.; and Vescio's Italian Restaurant.

Obituaries

Peter Porianda of Roseville, suddenly at age 67 just after the Thanksgiving snowstorm. Pete retired about 12 years ago from Design Branch. His wife Connie also retired 12 years ago from Procurement and Supply.

Hubert Abts of Fountain City, age 83. Hubert owned and operated Abts Cafe in Fountain City for over 20 years, and later was a boat pilot for the Corps of Engineers. Prior to and during World War II, he was a pilot for a commercial barge line.

Cooking with the Corps

"Castle Cooks," a cookbook of recipes from Corps people in the Washington, D.C. area, is available from The Corps Associates, also known as TCA.

According to TCA, the book of recipes includes short historical vignettes on the Corps of Engineers and comes in a bright red and white cover. It is available from TCA for \$5.50, which includes shipping.

Proceeds of the cookbook sales support the group's programs. TCA was founded as a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. about five years ago to enhance and support the Corps of Engineers "in any private, non-government capacity within our capabilities." The group includes civilian employees, military members, families and retirees.

One of TCA's on-going programs involves supporting a library on the island of Pohnpei in Micronesia. The group has been sending books and magazines to the island's library for more than five years.

For additional information on The Corps Associates and their programs or to order the cookbook, write to The Corps Associates, Box 1709, Arlington, VA 22211.

The Chief's Line . . .

Anyone wanting to report fraud, waste or abuse in the Corps can call 1-800-328-2207, toll free, or write:

The Chief's Line
Attn: CEPM
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000





The 2nd Annual Suggestion Program Award winners were announced at the awards luncheon on December 20. As part of the Army's Ideas for Excellence program, each winner received a cash award and a plaque for their efforts from Colonel Richard Craig.

William J. Vennemann was named "Suggestor of the Year" and Mark E. Edlund was honored as "Evaluator of the Year." Dennis L. Erickson was "Implementer of the Year."

In addition, evaluators Sheryl Hurley and Rick Gorr were rewarded for their consistent timeliness in evaluating suggestions.

Commendation certificates were also presented to all who implemented suggestions during FY91: Billy Cabe, Dennis Erickson, Lt. Col. Michael Mahoney, Charles Spitzack, Kenneth Tschida and former employees Marie Niesen and Fred W. Vogel.

The Suggestion Review Committee included Chuck Crist, Lynn Harris, Norm Hildrum, Stan Kampala, Marianne Price and Russ Williams.

District staff give generously

Patricia Simons, Public Affairs Office

In this year of economic hardship, district employees responded generously by donating dozens of toys to the Santa Anonymous gift drive.

Each year, the Santa Anonymous program supplies gifts to needy families. Often these toys are the only gifts that many area children receive.

In the weeks before the holidays, collection "sleighs" in district offices quickly filled with new, unwrapped dolls, trucks, books, games and other toys. Even after the entire Minneapolis and St. Paul project reached its goal of 100,000 toys by December 16, additional presents continued to pile up during the week before Christmas. Santa Anonymous collection "elves" made their last pickup even as the district awards luncheon was beginning on Friday afternoon, December 20.

This year individual donations were supplemented by monies from several department coffee funds. Chief of Engineering Dale Mazur also helped by donating the reward money he received for returning an envelope of money he found in front of the post office.

Santa Anonymous coordinator Dave Berwick, chief of Cultural Resources, thanks everyone who looked beyond the needs of their own friends and family members and shared the holiday spirit with those who are less fortunate. Because of their generosity, thousands of needy children woke up to unexpected gifts underneath their Christmas trees.

Santa Anonymous collection "elves" made their last pickup even as the district awards luncheon was beginning on Friday afternoon, December 20.



"Thanks again to all those who participated in making this a memorable holiday for many young children. As in past years, the quality of your gifts and the care you took in their selection was evidence of your goodwill to others during this holiday season."

Dave Berwick, Santa Anonymous program manager

Corps project yields valuable evidence of ancient culture

Patricia Simons, Public Affairs Office

Because of a flood control project at State Road Coulee, chief of Cultural Resources Dave Berwick and other archeologists have had the unique opportunity to study four separate archeological field sites. During the last decade the project has yielded artifacts, residues of flora and fauna and human remains of the Oneota culture, providing valuable historical information about the region and its earliest inhabitants.

State Road Coulee is a 3.5-mile-long flood control project on the south end of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Scheduled for completion in 1993, the project will eliminate flash flooding by deepening and enlarging Pammel Creek, a tributary of the Mississippi River.

Authorized in 1968, actual construction on the site began in 1988 when the Local Cooperation Agreement with the City of LaCrosse was signed. A three-stage project, the first stage of construction was completed in 1990. Total cost for the project is estimated at \$30 million.



When completed in 1993, the project will feature 13,600 feet of concrete channel, an inlet structure, a stilling basin, three bridge replacements and a terminus structure.

Although prehistoric sites have been known in the LaCrosse area since its early settlement, little archeological fieldwork was done until 1971 when Dr. James Stotlin of UW - Madison excavated the Overhead Archeological Site adjacent to the project site. For decades local collectors had taken artifacts such as arrowheads, bone scrapers and other tools from the site.

In 1974, Congress passed the Moss-Bennett amendments to the 1960 Reservoir Salvage Act. The amendments required the Corps and other federal agencies to conduct archeological investigations of all federal construction projects. In preparation of the project's environmental impact statement, UW - LaCrosse conducted the first walkover survey in the spring of 1975. However, nothing was found and no mention was made of a nearby Oneota village site where archeologists had been working since the early 70s.

In 1980, Berwick and other Corps

personnel surveyed the area adjacent to Pammel Creek. They also found evidence of another site in a city park. Later the Corps began testing the new Pammel Creek site, but also surveyed the upstream area to see whether other sites were missed in the 1975 walkover. Once prehistoric human remains were discovered by a Corps-sponsored excavation, UW-LaCrosse sponsored a field school to further investigate the site. In 1984, State Road Coulee was found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and an upstream survey resulted in the location of another site - State Road Coulee II.

"During the 80s we found many more relics and artifacts in the new field sites that gave us a broader knowledge of the Oneota culture," Berwick said. "Though the sites were all in a small location, each dig seemed to be a separate site, possibly from a different settlement time."

Remains of the Oneota (approximately

AD 1200-1600) have been found in varied sites throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. Because there is no written record from them nor from the Europeans who displaced them, excavation of archeological sites has furnished their only history. Remnants of the Oneota agricultural and hunting life-style have been found along with evidence of active trading with other tribes. Remains of copper from the Great Lakes, Knife River flint from North Dakota, pipe stone from southwestern Minnesota and even marine shells from the Gulf of Mexico have been found in the State Road Coulee sites.

Excavation of refuse middens (dumps) yielded ceramic pots and vessels along with evidence of an extensive agricultural way of life. The Oneota cultivated corn, beans, wild rice, squash and other vegetables in their fields. Bones of white-tailed deer, antelope, and an occasional bear or bison have been unearthed along with an abundance of the fish remains that were the main staple of their diets. Remnants of cultivated tobacco were also found.

When the Corps began large-scale excavations at the Pammel Creek site

in 1988 as mitigation for the State Road project, archeological diggings were slowed by the discovery of more human remains. Because of a change in the 1985 Wisconsin state law that once forbade removal of human remains from public land, the remains were removed before construction began and reburied. In reburial, the Corps worked with the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Association (NAGPRA) so that proper care was given to the laws and customs of Native Americans.

In 1989, State Road Coulee II site became eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. That same year, the Corps also began preliminary survey work in another section, the Trane Disposal Area.

The following year, the Trane site also became eligible for the National Register. Excavation work eventually revealed some of the earliest materials - artifacts dated as early as 9000 BC. Archeologists also positively identified 30 human burials and 15 possible burial sites. The burials were only excavated; no remains were removed from the site.

The Trane Cemetery Site was surveyed



and subsequently filled. Excavation was then begun on both the State Road Coulee and State Coulee II sites. Though many of the 1991 digs produced remains and artifacts that had been catalogued previously - ceramics, bone scrapers, harpoons, carved bird bone whistles and shell fish lures - the first bone needles still in the fabrication stage were found.

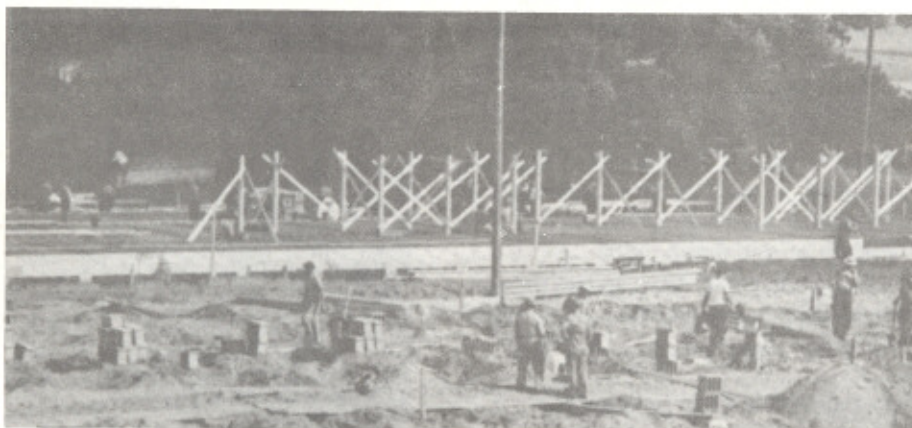
In the past eight years, the work at State Road Coulee has given Berwick, other Corps archeologists and their contract workers a better understanding of the past. These four uniquely different field sites along the Mississippi floodplain - State Coulee I and II, Pammel Creek and the Trane Cemetery - have proven that even the smallest area may be rich in information about its former residents.

Yet for all the knowledge that has been found, examined and catalogued in almost a decade of work, questions about the Oneota remain. When did these people leave the area and where did they go? Were they the ancestors of the Ojibwe, Dakota or other tribes that now claim these same lands as their home, their heritage? Perhaps these questions will be answered through the work of Corps archeologists as they uncover and excavate new field sites in the years to come.



Excavated material is monitored for archeological evidence at one of the disposal areas for the State Road Coulee Flood Control Project.

District gets military construction mission



Jacki Bedworth, Public Affairs Office

Although the December spotlight was on remembrances of Pearl Harbor, a separate, yet significant 50th anniversary was observed by the Corps of Engineers.

In December 1941, the whole mission of the Corps and the St. Paul District changed dramatically. On December 1 President Roosevelt signed a bill authorizing the transfer of military construction to the Corps. A week later, the attack on Pearl Harbor transformed the Twin Cities Ordnance Plant construction project into a vital war industry for the district. And on December 15, district engineer Colonel John W. Moreland was put in charge of all military construction in the district.

How the district got its military construction mission is a study in wartime pragmatism.

During 1940, the Corps had replaced the Quartermasters as construction agents for the Army Air Corps. The program gave the Corps confidence with an unfamiliar mission, and by the summer of 1941 Air Corps projects had increased to consume up to 80 percent of Corps resources.

As the war moved closer, the size of the construction tasks ahead became

apparent and questions emerged about the Quartermasters' ability to carry out the program.

President Roosevelt, accepting the claim that the Corps had enough construction experience and were "a going concern," signed the authorization bill on December 1, 1941. The change was implemented on December 15, eight days after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The chief construction engineer at the ordnance plant construction project, Captain Lynn C. Barnes, was immediately reassigned to the Corps of Engineers as area engineer.

Barely a month before, on November 12, 1941, Captain Barnes had assumed field direction of the entire ordnance plant construction project. Not a typical military engineer, Barnes had evidently established himself as a competent construction foreman whose crews worked ahead of projected deadlines.

After his transfer to the Corps, Barnes again proved himself a practical, tough-minded construction boss. Barnes apparently thrived under the pressure of emergency conditions. Only four and a half months after residents were moved off the property, the first shipments of ammunition were on their way to England.

Five months after being transferred to the Corps, Barnes was promoted to major, and in October 1942, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. In January 1943, when Colonel Moreland was reassigned to Alaska, Barnes became district engineer.

Later in 1943, the 39-year-old Barnes was promoted to colonel, reportedly one of the youngest colonels in the U.S. Army at the time.

Success in their new military mission brought both the district and Barnes a reputation for flexibility. Barnes' accomplishment became standard in a complex industry infamous for not completing work on time. As other districts took over Quartermaster projects and completed them successfully, they proved over and over that the decision to assign military construction to the Corps was sound.

Editor's Note: This article, third in a series, describes another aspect of the district's involvement in World War II.



Before becoming District Engineer, Colonel Barnes oversaw construction of the \$86 million Twin City Ordnance Plant in New Brighton.

Wetlands delineation manual being revised

In September, the administration announced that changes might be made to the 1989 "Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands." To evaluate what these changes might mean, 52 interagency teams of biologists, ecologists and other scientists visited 450 field sites throughout the country.

The teams were primarily made up from the four agencies that authored the manual - the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Corps of Engineers. The teams were charged with testing currently delineated bogs, marshes and other wetland sites to determine what changes in status would result if the new definitions were adopted.

In October the findings from the field sites were presented to the administration for evaluation. The Environmental Protection Agency has extended the public comment period on the proposed revisions of the new wetlands definitions to January 21.



District ecologist Steve Eggers was a member of a wetlands survey team that traveled over 2,100 miles in Minnesota and Wisconsin.



Lockmaster's house to become museum

The last lockmaster's dwelling remaining on federal property along the upper Mississippi River, at Lock & Dam 10 in Guttenberg, Iowa will be a museum under a lease agreement signed in November between the district and the Guttenberg Heritage Society.

In the 1980s, the district developed a master plan for the upper Mississippi River. During the planning process, the community of Guttenberg was asked for input concerning the lock facility. The idea of using the lockmaster's house for a museum and community heritage center was developed then.

In the Fall of 1991, after many months of planning, the Guttenberg Heritage Society was formed to oversee the development and management of the museum. According to newly-elected president of the society, Angie Lawson, their purpose is to preserve the heritage of the community through promotion and education. "We firmly believe that such activities will add significantly to the quality of life for the citizens and visitors of Guttenberg," said Lawson.

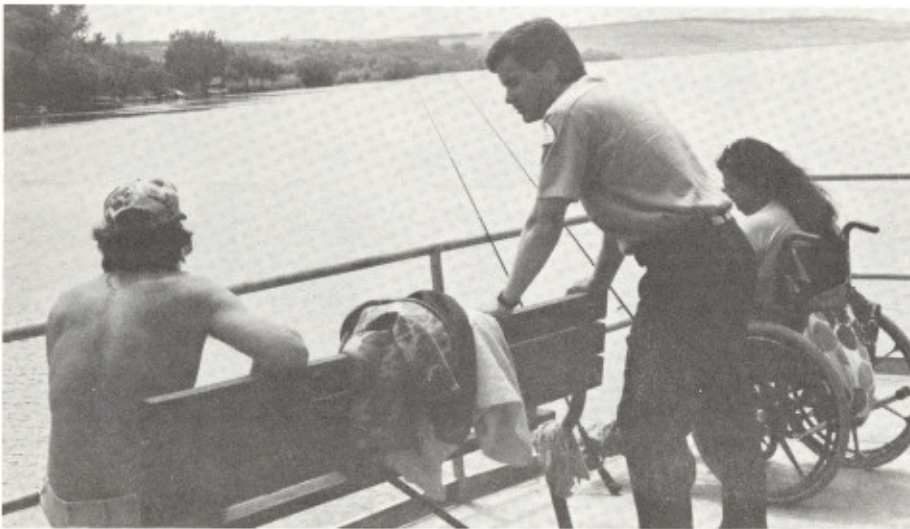
First established as a fur trading post by the French in the late 17th century, the area that became Guttenberg was

purchased in 1845 by the Western Settlement Society of Cincinnati, Ohio. Their goal was to create settlements in the New World that would sustain German culture and offer safe havens for revolutionaries immigrating from Germany at that time. Guttenberg was incorporated as a city in 1851. The German immigrants eventually erected a small city of limestone buildings of unique architectural styles on the banks of the Mississippi River. Centered around the lock, the city retains much of its historic charm. Many of the area's oldest buildings are preserved in Guttenberg's downtown.

In mid-October, the Guttenberg Heritage Society helped organize the city's first German Fest. As their inaugural exhibit, the society asked the Corps to install copies of 29 historic Bosse photographs of the Mississippi River. According to the Guttenberg Press, the exhibit was "a highlight of the German Fest celebration." On the weekend of the festival, more than 700 people toured the museum and viewed the photographs.

As Angie Lawson said, "The museum is truly an asset to our community and will be treasured and promoted for years to come."

Campground rangers have busy season



Fishing is always popular at Corps recreation areas and the Eggert's Landing fishing pier on Lake Ashtabula is a popular spot for angling. Last summer, campers also had a chance to participate in ranger-led interpretive programs on water safety and various environmental topics.

Corrine Hodapp
Blackhawk Park ranger

In addition to fishing, hiking or just sitting on the beach, visitors to Blackhawk Park in De Soto, Wisconsin this past summer had the opportunity to participate in several interpretive programs offered by the rangers.

Ranger Brian Bigaouette presented a program on the earth's ozone layer. The discussion and slide presentation focused on both recycling and the use of stack "scrubbers" at electric power generation plants to prevent further degradation of the ozone layer.

Ranger Rich Weber took visitors on a journey to the 1830s, recreating the time of the Blackhawk Wars. Highlights included slides of the nearby Bad Axe massacre site and descriptions of the life of the Sauk and Fox Indian tribes.

Ranger Corrine Hodapp presented a program about birds of prey. She was

assisted by Bryant Tarr, assistant director of the Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center and a master falconer. Tarr brought along a peregrine falcon, a screech owl and an American kestrel on his visit.

Ranger Hodapp also gave presentations on water safety during two environmental field days held at Sidie Hollow County Park. The annual field

day programs are sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Extension Service to allow local students to participate in a variety of different nature and outdoor safety-related activities.

The rangers at Lake Ashtabula recreation area in North Dakota were equally busy last camping season.

Ranger Mike Morris spent some time fishing with residents of a nearby head injury facility. Although the lake is known for producing respectable-sized walleyes, unstable weather contributed to a disappointing catch. Ranger Morris reported that the group remained optimistic throughout and were excited even with their meager catch. The one fish of the day was caught on a fishing rod loaned by a nearby bible camp and with bait donated by a nearby resort.



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YEARS
1866-1991



Crosscurrents

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