



US Army Corps
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St. Paul District

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St. Paul District photo

As they pass on a path at the La Farge Project, Kenton Dean (left) a park ranger from Sandy Lake, exchanges the peace sign with one of the Rainbow people. The Rainbow family, a counter-culture group, gathered on Corps-managed land from May 30 to June 7.

St. Paul District successfully manages Rainbow event

by Peter Verstegen

"The support from St. Paul was fantastic," said Dick Otto, area resource manager at the Mississippi River Office.

"It was as if we had the district's resources at our finger tips."

When up to 500 members of a counter-culture group gathered at a suspended

Army Corps of Engineers' flood control project in the wilderness of rural Wisconsin, the St. Paul District was ready. From May 30 to June 7, the group, known as the Rainbow family,



St. Paul District photo

Nine of the St. Paul District's field employees worked out of the La Farge project office to manage a gathering of up to 500 of the Rainbow family. Front row, from left, is Dick Otto, Corrine Hodapp, Randy Ulrich. Back row, from left, is Rich Schueneman, Kevin Berg, Shelly Shafer, Kenton Dean, Robert Gossett, and Paul Machajewski.

convened at the La Farge Project to practice their alternative brand of living.

The St. Paul District oversees the La Farge Project just north of the village of La Farge, Wisconsin, population 700. The area is about 50 miles southeast of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

"Tie-died shirts and beads were commonplace, similar to the '60s," said Shelly Shafer, a park ranger from Eau Galle Reservoir. Shafer was one of nine people from the St. Paul District assigned to work the gathering. "They seem to be a close-knit family, living an alternative life-style, with no apparent leadership" she said. "It's hard to comprehend their choice to live out of tents and automobiles all the time."

"They're like a different culture," said Corrine Hodapp, a park ranger from Blackhawk Park, De Soto, Wisconsin.

Rainbows use first names or nicknames, such as Little Hawk, Cosmic Charlie, Floppy, Sloppy Joe and Granola. They gathered at the 9,000-acre site to meditate, commune with nature, barter handicrafts, conduct business, and prepare for a national gathering later in the summer in Colorado. Members favor the legalization of marijuana and other drugs.

The Rainbows picked the La Farge Project because of its remote location and to make an environmental statement.

Under present law, the Corps will eventually turn over the land to General Services Administration for disposal.

The flood control project straddles the Kickapoo River, just upstream from La Farge. The main element is a 90-foot high earthen dam. Congress authorized the project in the Flood Control Act of 1962.

The project, 39 percent complete, is now in "stand-by" status. Construction began in July 1971 and stopped in 1975. The Corps has spent about \$18.6 million on the project. The governor of Wisconsin and Wisconsin congressmen withdrew their support for the project after hearing public concerns about water quality and other environmental issues.

The District established three objectives upon learning, in early May, about the Rainbow gathering. "We wanted to protect the health and safety of Corps personnel," said Dick Otto, area resource manager at the Mississippi River Project Office. "We wanted to maintain a high level of public health and safety. Third, we wanted to protect the environmental, cultural and historical resources of the project."

Early reports estimated that the gathering could attract from 3,000 to 5,000 people.

St. Paul District representatives and law enforcement agencies began 24-hour-a-day coverage, starting May 28. Corps rangers roamed throughout the project to document and monitor Rainbow activities and their impact on the environment. Law enforcement officials conducted enforcement actions outside the project.

The Rainbows regularly assert a court-tested right to assemble on federal lands without agency authorization — usually on U.S. Forest Service land. Organizers of the event did not request a permit to use Corps-managed land.

"I have to agree that the Rainbows have a constitutional right to assembly," said Otto, "But do they have the right to disregard agency regulations intentionally? At my first meeting with the Rainbows, they stated that they would not apply for any permits, would not request permission to use public lands, and would not post a bond or purchase insurance. Such things require that an individual place his or her name on a document. This is something the Rainbows never do."

After discussions with county and local officials, district representatives met and worked with the Rainbows to minimize impacts on the natural resources at the site and to increase awareness of safety among Rainbow members.

The project office, which is leased to Stark Township as a storage building, served as headquarters for "Operation Rainbow." The Corps brought in radios, a facsimile machine, computers, video and still cameras, chairs, desks, and other office supplies.

The district headquarters in St. Paul received daily situation reports on the operation.

Ron O'Brien and Dave Wright of the St. Paul District's Electronic Service Center, set up a comprehensive communications network for inter-agency communications. A special frequency, code-named "Rainbow," allowed district people in vehicles and out in the project to talk to the base station and to a variety of enforcement agencies.

The sheriff's department, La Farge Police, Wisconsin State Highway Patrol, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assisted the Corps. The district coordinated communications with each agency.

Next, the Corps alerted area fire departments and emergency medical



Photo by Ken Gardner

The canine patrol from Spring Green, Wisconsin supported law enforcement at the Rainbow gathering. The dogs sniffed for illegal drugs.

units. The district staff documented archaeological sites on the top of bluffs in the area. Park rangers took water samples for analysis of bacteria by the La Crosse County Health Lab. Two

hundred riders from an area horse club rode through the project on May 30. Corps personnel briefed the riders about the Rainbow gathering.



St. Paul District photo

The Rainbow gathering at the La Farge Project attracted widespread media interest, including a television crew from La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Rainbow family members insisted that Corps representatives and the media ask permission to take pictures.

District park rangers worked to educate members of the gathering about the flash flooding potential along the Kickapoo River.

After consulting with the Corps, the Rainbows located their main camp among the tall pine trees at Olson's Hollow, deep inside the project. The Kickapoo Kitchen, a makeshift hospital to provide massages and herbal remedies, the Agape Tea Camp, and a council meeting area clustered near there. Everybody's Kitchen and a Kiddie Camp ringed the edges. Some Rainbow family members tied long hair with headbands and strapped sandals on their feet — wearing nothing else under the hot, cloudless sky.

Outside the camp, the sheriff's department made a number of drug-related arrests. Law enforcement agencies used specially trained dogs to sniff out drugs.

Inside the camp, Corps staffers kept an open dialog between the Corps and the Rainbow Family. For example, they discussed where to park cars and busses. Corps people prevented Rainbow bivouacs in areas subject to flooding.

"The people inside the camps were very friendly," said Otto. "They welcomed us in the camp each time we went in."

When the gathering ended, the Rainbow people cleaned up camping areas. They

separated recyclable glass, aluminum and paper.

To date, estimates of the district's direct expenditures start at \$40,000 including \$13,000 for law enforcement. Vernon County estimated it would spend an additional \$25,000.

"We had an excellent Corps of Engineers team and very good relations with the local law enforcement officials," said Otto. "The event happened without any major problems."

"It's rewarding how different agencies can work well together," concluded Hodapp.

au natural

by Peter Verstegen

A topless woman from the Rainbow family had just walked over and hugged me. Two Corps rangers and I were standing in the Corps' La Farge Project — in the middle of the Wisconsin wilderness. Nearby, 20 other Rainbows in various states of dress casually organized their camp kitchen.

I wore a camera vest like an ammunition belt. It bulged with canisters of fresh film. Maybe she was doing some personal G2 — counting the rolls of film she felt. Perhaps that would explain why the hug lingered.

"Welcome Home, brother," she announced.

Home? Was this unfamiliar woman a metaphor for mother nature?

When I left my real home at 7 that morning, I crept through crawl-and-stall freeway traffic in the Twin Cities' smog. Four hours later, when I reached the Kickapoo River Valley, southeast of La Crosse, lush green hills and sweet air gave me a hug of their own.

For the next nine springtime days, this was "home" for the Rainbow family, a variegated group whose life-style echoes the 60s — frayed jeans, bare feet, communal kitchens, long hair, and funny smelling cigarettes with twisted ends. They gathered to commune with nature, meditate, and trade handicrafts.

Everyone here was "Brother," or "Sister." The Rainbow had christened their Midwest gathering, "Welcome Home."

The Rainbows picked this place for its isolation and to make an environmental statement.

Kevin Berg from Blackhawk Park, Wisconsin, and Rich Schueneman, from Baldhill/Lake Ashtabula, North Dakota,

and I ventured in from the operations center.

Our Jeep bumped wildly over the access road. Schueneman jockeyed the steering wheel to dodge banks of dirt and culverts. The wheels splashed through rivulets that flowed over our path.

Once inside, Berg transmitted our status via portable radio. Shelly Shafer, a ranger, acknowledged from the base station.

The family broadcast our coming arrival on their own citizen's band radio. They insisted that Corps representatives and the media ask permission to take pictures.

The Jeep's doors opened on to Everybody's Kitchen. About two miles farther inside the project, the Rainbows set up a Kickapoo Kitchen and Agape Tea Camp. The Kickapoo River meandered between us and the camps inside.

The scent of burning wood rose slowly from a fire pit into the still air. A huge black cauldron hung from the apex of a makeshift wooden tripod. The dark liquid in it simmered. Flames crackled underneath the pot.

Ten feet away, a canvas canopy swung out from the top of a camper. Under it,

protected from the afternoon sun, women chopped vegetables on a plank of bare plywood. A pair of fuzzy-sounding speakers inside the camper strained with the beat of rock music.

This is where the Rainbow woman embraced me with "the hug."

Since members of the Rainbow Family go by informal or first names, Corps employees dealt with people they knew only as Sloppy Joe, Little Hawk, Phillippe, Cosmic Charlie, and Dianne.

Back in the parking lot at the main gate, a patina of rust ate away the edges of faded "Dead Head" stickers on the bumpers of some cars. (At the peak of the event, Corps rangers counted 105 vehicles, including a few battered micro-busses, converted school busses, and assorted jalopies.)

When it was over, a spade full of dirt snuffed out the ashes in the kitchen hearth. The gathering passed without a major mishap. Corps representatives advised the Rainbows how to clean up and to restore impacted trails and camping areas. They urged Rainbows to separate glass, aluminum, and recyclable paper for pick-up. District representatives oversaw burial of organic waste, restoration of trails and re-seeding of impacted land. Quiet had returned the La Farge Project.



St. Paul District photo

Dick Otto (left), area resource manager at the Mississippi River Office, frequently met with Rainbow people to listen to their concerns and educate them about Corps policies. Here he meets with "Little Hawk," a gatekeeper stationed at the entrance to the camp.

Explorer Joseph Nicollet searched Whitefish-Pine River for trade route

by Ray Nelson and Dean Skalback

"We set out at twelve minutes past 3 on the circular lake called Kawa-we-e'Gamag, the round lake of the Chippewa. It is a cheerful and charming lake, where one may be at peace and rest, or meditate and study, or dream and love. In the surrounding of Paris or London, the hills embracing it would sell for about 100,000 francs per fifty square feet."

So wrote Joseph N. Nicollet in his journal, August 13, 1836. The early explorer described what today is Upper Hay Lake, near Jenkins, in north central Minnesota.

Nicollet and his crew were searching for a trading route to Leech Lake, 35 miles north.

Nicollet and early fur traders/explorers were prominent reasons this land opened up for the loggers, railroads, hunters, and anglers.

Although the Pine River Dam changed the topography of the Whitefish area, people today are still drawn to the area for many of the same reasons as were the early explorers: the fish, the wildlife, the breathtaking scenery, and serenity.

Emigrating from France, where he was trained as an astronomer and a cartographer, Nicollet travelled to the Whitefish-Pine River area. Ojibwa guides helped him map the waterways and travel routes.

When Nicollet came, the area was largely unknown and unexplored except by the Indians and a few early fur traders. Nicollet's journal describes the pristine wilderness 50 years before the building of the Pine River Dam.

"This pleasing little lake is fed by a river flowing in from the northwest, called by natives Manito Sibi Ouissen (Manito River, now Hay Creek). One can reach Pine River from the lake by taking either one of two routes. The shortest starts with a portage of two and a half miles heading north and leading to Hay Lake, Kamuskusi Wa Gemag (Deer Lake). The lake is crossed in a matter of minutes to be followed by another portage, three quarters of a mile long, at the end of which is Pine River. The other way is longer but there are no such tedious portages."

A thick blanket of green surrounded what is now Hay Creek.

"The Manito River exit is to the northeast of the lake, thick with obstructions composed of rushes and reeds," he wrote. "We had travelled only some hundred yards when a path of flowers and a garden of greenery opened before us. The surface of the water was completely concealed by the large round leaves of the water lilies crowned with their striking flowers, the size and brilliance of which vie with those of the *grandiflora magnolia*. A

curtain of green trees bordering the left bank projected its jagged shadows across the wide ribbon of green and white. I was so hypnotized myself by the scene that I forgot I had a compass before me and that I was supposed to chart the direction of the river. I was quite startled when, an hour after having left Round Lake, I heard more cries next to me announcing our entry into Manito (Lower Hay) Lake."

"It (Lower Hay Lake) is twice as big as the other, its high banks following upon each other less regularly but nevertheless forming a circle. ... We expected to encounter great difficulties descending this river, which after one-third of a mile, vanishes into Whitefish Lake. We ran into trouble making our entry into the lake. The impetuous wind would drive us back into the forest, and the waves wanted no part of us. Finally my crew mastered the raging waters, and we set up camp near the mouth of Pine River which we have to ascend."

August 15, 1836, Nicollet and his crew headed across Whitefish Lake.

"The shape of the lake as a whole is very unusual. It is composed of two sections connected by a channel four or five hundred yards wide, partly obstructed by reeds and other plants of



"We had travelled only some hundred yards when a path of flowers and a garden of greenery opened before us." From the journal entry describing the Pine River region, dated August 13, 1836, by the explorer Joseph N. Nicollet.

same style by hills, forests, and varied hues makes the comparisons all the more beautiful. ...Its name indicates the predominant species of fish haunting its depths."

"As we leave the lake we sail along Pine River for eight miles in a very strong current. The river in some places is a hundred feet wide and two feet deep. Then we enter into a small lake [Rush Lake] from which we make a prompt exit among thick rushes and reeds, leaving aside on our left a pretty little bay with a smooth surface and a high, picturesque shoreline.

"The entrance into Lake Travers (Crosslake) is cut off by a point composed of an accumulation of enormous rolled stones. We stopped on it for lunch. Lake Travers is oval shaped with a four-mile-long perimeter. Its long axis runs North and South. ...The shores on this one furnished the geologist with samples of every variety of rock that has contributed to the formation of the sands and rolled pebbles composing the great deposit recalled so many times.

"The natives give this name (Travers) to any lake that cuts off their natural path over land or water. I come across them every day, as well as Otter Lakes, and Turtle Lakes. There is no end to them. This confusion must be dissipated....Therefore, this lake shall be Lake Davenport, named after that brave

colonel (Colonel William Davenport), lover of sciences, now in command of Fort Snelling."

Nicollet and his crew next ventured "into a stream (Daggett Brook) that should be considered one of the main tributaries of Pine River," he wrote. "In the course of the first four miles we travel on this branch of the middle section oriented east-north-east, two other lakes make their appearance one after the other, both charming to the eyes. (Most likely Nicollet was talking about Daggett and Little Pine Lakes, now virtually one due to the raised water level from the Pine River Dam.) Their waters are as transparent and pure as crystal. Stripped, no doubt, of their sheltering soils washed off as alluvium, the abandoned quartz, talc, and steatite that now coat the bottom of the river bed dazzle us with their pearly, unctuous, and delightful radiance. Chagobay now stands on the tip of the canoe, and his first strike today brings in a five or six pound pike, also a golden carp weighing one and a half pounds." (Chagobay and his son were Nicollet's Indian guides during this journey to Leech Lake) Nicollet commented earlier in his journal that "it is odd that he [Chagobay] should not miss a single one when spearing from the canoe in motion and that he should have no success today when ever we stopped paddling so as to enable him to aim."

Pike camped at White Fish Lake in winter

by Ray Nelson and Dean Skalback

Zebulon Pike, on orders from President Jefferson, came to the area in 1805 to lay claim to the Louisiana Purchase.

On February 22 during his trip home he crossed the frozen Whitefish Chain, writing in his diary, "Our course a little to the S. of E. (of Leech Lake), through woods not very thick. Arrived at White Fish Lake at eleven o'clock, and took an observation. My party crossed this lake and encamped between two lakes. They may be called the source of the Pine River. At this place one of the Northwest Company's establishments at the N.E. and S. side. It is a square stockade of about 50 feet, but at this time nearly all consumed by fire. Also one (another post) standing over the point on the E. side."

Fur traders opened early trade posts

by Ray Nelson and Dean Skalback

Prior to Nicollet's account, other fur traders had come to the Whitefish area, to search for fur bearing animals. Often these fur traders followed the transportation routes so well known to the Dakotas and Ojibwa for centuries.

A fur trade clerk, Jean Baptiste Perrault, and his independent partner, Alexis Reaume, set up trade posts yearly in the late 1700's.

In 1790, Perrault wrote, "Mr. Alexis Reaume, the same year that I wintered at l'aile du corbeau (Crow Wing Island nine miles south of present day Brainerd), had wintered at lac du Poisson Blanc (Whitefish Lake) on the riviere aux pins (Pine River)."

Reaume is credited with building the first trading post on Whitefish Lake.

Elwin Yoder named Real Estate Chief



Elwin Yoder, formerly chief of Appraisal Branch for the Omaha District, has been named Chief of Real Estate Division for the St. Paul District. Yoder is responsible for four branches: Appraisal, Acquisition, Management and Disposal, and Planning and Control. He spent six years with the Omaha District and two years with Rock Island District.

Hello

Constructions-Operations welcomes:

Dean M. Birmstengel, Dennis H. Boardman, Cory L. Breitung, Charles J. Brion, Shelley M. Dow, Roger W. Gilman, Douglas A. Grimsled, Jay S. Grimsled, Steve J. Halvorson, Jackson W. Hoffman, Frank P. Hopp, Kenneth L. Hovell, Philip L. Huisken, Marlene E. Jacquart, Kenneth R. Jostad, John C. Klein, Neal L. Knutson, John K. Kochendorfer, Dennis J. Kupietz, Bradley G. Larson, Judith M. Lueck, Richard W. Mattson, Thomas P. Mikrut, Michael S. Ott, Curtis W. Palmer, Wayne E. Piper, April M. Pream, Donald D. Schroeder, Timothy T. Tabbert, Robert A. Wildeisen, Gregory L. Yale.

Contracting Division welcomes:

Patricia M. Johnson, Fredrick J. Mitchell.

Engineering Division welcomes:

Connie J. Fenna.

Information Management welcomes:

Amy J. Brossart, Steven E. Crist.

Real Estate Division welcomes:

Elwin A. Yoder.

Good-Bye

Construction-Operations Division bids farewell to:

Paul M. Breutzman, Cari A. Giroir, Conrad K. Hauff, Michael P. Morris, Lori R. Odermann.

Engineering Division bids farewell to:

Kevin F. Bittner, Marcus L. Hopfinger, Tonnie M. Lund, Curtis E. Schmillen.

Planning Division bids farewell to:

Connie J. Blasing.

Fiscal integrity is in its 10th year

by Carl Vierck, staff accountant

A decade ago our 97th Congress enacted the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982, simply known as the Integrity Act. Today, the St. Paul District remains committed to execute the intent of the law.

Briefly, the Integrity Act amends the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950 and the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 to ensure their viability throughout the Federal government. Its wording is specific. Its intent is to sustain effective and efficient financial operations and requires upward reporting to the President and Congress.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provides guidance in Circular A-123, "Internal Control Systems," and AR 11-2, "Internal Management Control." Office of primary concern include the Comptroller General, Inspector General, Auditor General, Army Audit Agency, Resource Management, and Internal Review.

At the district level, the Integrity Act is executed by the separation of duties. For example, the act says "Key duties such as authorizing, approving, and recording transactions, issuing or

receiving assets; making payments; preparing checks and check signing; and reviewing or auditing are to be assigned to separate individuals to minimize the risk of loss to the Government. Internal control depends largely on the reduced opportunities to make and conceal errors or to engage in or conceal irregularities. This, in turn, depends on the assignment of work so that no one individual controls all phases of an activity or transaction, thereby creating a situation that permits errors or irregularities to go undetected."

Other applications of the Integrity Act may include but are not limited to preparing and executing the district's budget, completing and complying with checklists, time and attendance reporting, discharging fiscal responsibilities, and fiscal accountability. Thus, each member in the Corps' family has a supportive role to enhance the St. Paul District's efficiency and optimize productivity within budget restraints.

Finally, follow-up programs are necessary to validate compliance.



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