



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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May 1992

Locking through Lock and Dam No. 2 at Hastings



Photo by Peter Versteegen

"Each lockage is different," said Larry Ward (right), lock and dam operator at Lock and Dam No. 2 in Hastings. "Some crews are faster when it comes to tying and untying barges, and some pilots zip right through the lock while others seem to take hours." Ward has lived on the Mississippi River for 35 years. Here he watches a deck hand and barges loaded with grain lock through from his post at the control station. For more photos, see "A new season on the Mississippi" pages 8-9.

Award picnic and Engineers' Day set for June 26

The date for Engineers' Day awards and picnic has been set for Friday, June 26 at Como Park in St. Paul.

Everyone in the St. Paul District family (current and former employees, relatives, and friends), is invited.

More specific information on the lunch, activities, cost, and travel arrangements will be available soon. Retirees should contact Jan Graham at (612) 220-0305 for information, including ticket purchases.

The following committee members welcome your suggestions:

Food: Nan Bischoff (x426)
 Children's activities: Pat Foley (x630)
 Adult activities: Wayne Koerner (x318)
 Golf: Greg Eggers (x607)
 Volleyball: Joel Face (x656)
 Tickets: Rick Miller (x749)

Your June *Crosscurrents* will have more information, including times and a schedule of events.

You can now reserve a camp site at Lake Winnibigoshish

To increase visitation and better serve the public, the recreation area at Lake Winnibigoshish, located in Deer River, Minnesota has joined two other areas in the St. Paul District in accepting reservations for camp sites. The district began the reservation system two years ago at Eau Galle Lake, Spring Valley, Wisconsin, and Sandy Lake, McGregor, Minnesota. All three areas charge a \$2 reservation fee.

Lake Winnibigoshish will accept reservations for seven of 22 sites, all of which are open throughout the year. Facilities include bathrooms, a picnic area, a shelter, drinking water, a boat launch, a telephone, fishing, an overlook area and a dump station. For reservations, call the Lake Winnibigoshish project office at 218-246-8107.

The Sandy Lake Recreation Area accepts reservations for 20 of 49 sites. Phone 218-426-3482.



Eau Galle Lake accepts reservations for 17 of 34 sites. For reservations, call 715-778-5562.

Neither Sandy nor Winnibigoshish accept reservations by mail.

Eau Galle and Sandy Lake each offer a camp site with access for the handicapped.

EBF begins drive for membership

"I enjoy being involved and seeing the happiness in people who benefit from the Employee Benefit Fund (EBF), said Diana Tschida, EBF disbursing officer.

The EBF "collections," or membership drive, begins in late May. The EBF donates prizes for the savings bond campaign, the award events each December and June, Student Recognition Week, and Diversity Appreciation Week. The EBF recognizes significant moments in the lives of an employees by providing cash, or a plaque, or a mug for retirements, goings away, and weddings. The EBF recognizes a birth or death with a planter, flowers, or a memorial. In 1991, The EBF sent 13 memorials, 12 "Get Well" planters, and sent 10 planters to celebrate new babies. EBF began in 1950 as the Civilian Welfare Fund Council.

Making American Dreams a Reality

Current bond participants plus new savers added during the May 1992 U.S. Savings Bond Campaign will be entitled to one free Timberwolves ticket with the purchase of one or more tickets to a November or December Timberwolves game.

Win one of two \$100 bonds

One name among new savers/increased allotments will win a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

The canvasser with the highest combined percentage of new savers and increased allotments will win a U.S. Savings Bond.*

*In case of tie, a tie-breaker will be held.

"All these names came into my head..."

District employee wins Honorable Mention in FWP essay contest

"All these names came into my head from different times in history," said Rachelle Keenan, "then I wrote and wrote." When the 22-year-old Stay-in-School Program employee put down her pen, she had created the poem, *Fire Ignites "Women's" Work* (at right), which won Honorable Mention in the Twin Cities' Federal Women's Program (FWP) essay contest.



Keenan, the daughter of Georgia Stanonik, Information Management, is a clerk-typist in Logistics Management. Her major is English, with a minor in Women's Studies, at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

"I wrote the poem to commemorate Women's History Month," said Keenan. The contest theme centered on "A Patchwork of Many Lives." Keenan said that she has written other poems, but not on specific themes.

"We appreciate your creative efforts and your significant contribution to advancing the awareness of women's history," said Dawn M. Selwyn, chairperson of Twin Cities' Federal Executive Board/FWP.

"I was really glad when I won something, but winning wasn't necessary," said Keenan. "I enjoyed the creative expression."

FIRE IGNITES "WOMEN'S" WORK
 the textbooks should have read,
 Jumping out of windows
 March 25, 1911: In 18 Minutes,
 146 employees, mostly Women, are Dead.
 The "Triangle" factory fire opened a can of worms
 Which should have been done before They burned.
 Exposing ten-hour work days
 Seven days a week,
 Never a vacation, lunch break or "sick" day
 Not even time to sleep.
 No school for the children
 What can a mother do?
 So little money coming in
 "You'll have to help me 'make do'."
 After this Tragedy occurred,
 the slave-like conditions were spurned.
 Meetings,
 Conventions,
 and Boycotts appeared
 Workforce Women shouted
 WE WANT RIGHTS!
 NOT RULES AND FEAR!

Eighty-one years later
 Lives have come and gone.
 Women of every Color,
 and Origin,
 Continually fight to become
 more than a workforce pawn.
 To Abigail Adams who wrote a letter
 to her President husband,
 Make Women's lives better;
 "Include them in the Constitution, Dear
 or They will eventually rally, I fear."

To Betsy Ross who sewed the flag
 to show our country's pride,
 and Rosa Parks' determination
 to take an unfriendly bus ride.

To Medical world contributors like
 Clara Barton and Margaret Sander,
 Two women sometimes unknown,
 One created the Red Cross
 the other distributed Birth Control.
 To Gloria Steinem
 the founder and editor of *Ms.*
 and Sandra Day O'Connor
 who holds a seat of Justice.

From Barbara Walters
 to Coretta Scott King,
 A Women's place in the Workforce
 Now means an opportunity to accomplish anything.

Work rights today are taken for granted,
 forgetting our Foremothers once Raved and Ranted.
 To strengthen the Future...
 Remember the Past,
 While thinking in the Present
 Makes the "Women's" Work heritage Last.

Fire Ignites "Women's" Work

by
 Rachelle L. Keenan

Home of Leech Lake Dam Town of Federal Dam offers hint of history along with recreation

by the Leech Lake Recreation Area staff.

The town of Federal Dam presently supplies the recreation area with most of the necessities to insure a modern comfortable vacation. The town contains a general store/post office and gas station, two cafes, and a tavern with on and off sale liquors. Two international muskie festivals are held annually in the Leech Lake area, one having its official headquarters and weigh-in station at the Federal Dam Sportsman Club in Federal Dam. The club sponsors various walleye, northern and muskie tournaments each year, along with other outdoor sporting activities.

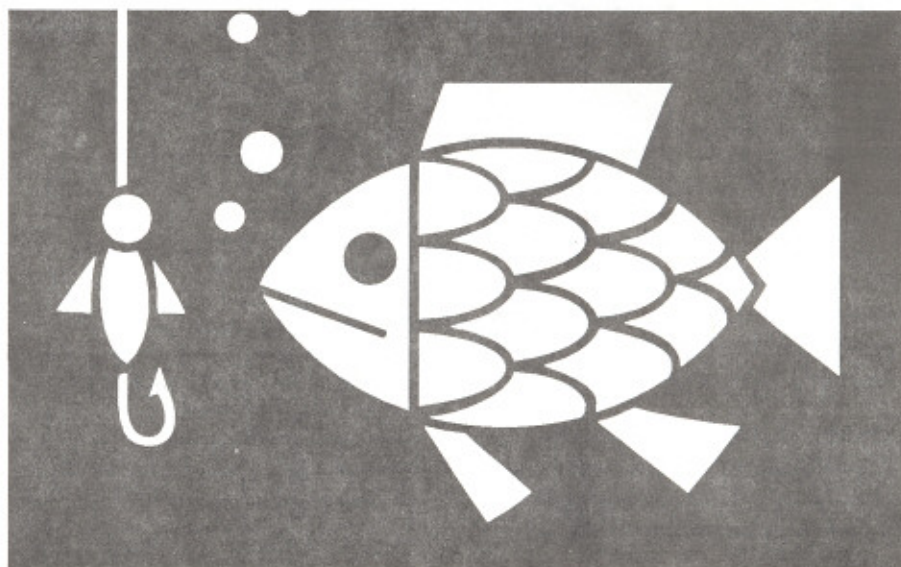
The Soo Line Railroad, which was completed at Federal Dam in 1911, had a repair shop and an eight-stall roundhouse which employed 100 men, 24 hours a day, in three shifts. The Federal Dam Depot scheduled two passenger and two freight trains daily, along with many seasonal freights. Around the depot was a water tower and an ice house where 900-pound chunks of ice, hauled from Leech Lake, were stored during the winter for the year-round needs of refrigerator cars. There was also a stockyard where livestock was loaded and unloaded.

By 1920, 500 people inhabited Federal Dam, which boasted two grocery stores, two churches, a theater, dance hall, poolroom, bank, meat market, restaurant, blacksmith shop, post office, saloon, barber shop, feed store, lumber company, its own doctor and two hotels (one of which was considered the finest

in northern Minnesota). Logs were brought to town by horse-drawn sled and then, either railed to the sawmills at Cass Lake and surrounding towns, or floated downstream to the Mississippi. Loggers in the early part of the 20th century used a series of pilings and piers to position the logs on the reservoir side of the dam in single file. This prevented log jams and allowed orderly passage of the timber through the sluiceways. On calm days, when water quality is fairly good, remains of the log piling shoots can still be seen today.

Some of the oak logs were as large as five feet in diameter.

As the train system dwindled, so did Federal Dam. Most of the buildings which housed the town's business — including the roundhouse in the early 1960s — were torn down or burned to the ground. Now only a fraction of the population remains, which exists primarily off Leech Lake's tourism. The town remains the home of many proud, hardy old-timers whose roots go back to Federal Dam's earliest days.



Winning on the battlefield and in trading

Native American commerce benefits the historic Town of Federal Dam

Federal Dam is a quiet community with a long proud history. Since about 1819 the area has been known as Gould Township. It was inhabited by a few homesteaders — those who tended the dam — and the Chippewa Indians. The Chippewa, formerly the Ojibwa, befriended their white brothers from the start and, ironically, would be the last Indian foe to face the United States soldiers in battle. The battle with Chief Bug-O-Ney-Ge-Shig and his Bear Island Chippewas took place in October of 1898 on Sugar Point and was a decisive victory for the Indians. In 1902 Congress passed a law which guaranteed proper payment for all Indian products. When Chief Bug-O-Ney-Ge-Shig died in 1918, he had seen his tribe supplying the white men with cleaned fish and maple syrup, saw his braves fight side-by-side with the white men in World War I and was one of the most honored and respected men of the area.

New members serve in Federal Women's Program for '92

Members of the Federal Women's Program (FWP) committee at the St. Paul District elected new officers. Effective April 8, Mary Muraski, Real Estate (RE), succeeded to chairwoman from vice-chairwoman; John Miller, Logistics Management (LM), was elected as vice-chairman and Jane Carroll, Planning Division (PD), was elected recorder.

Rosemarie Braatz, Construction-Operations (C-O), Sheryl Hurley, Human Resources (HR), and Marianne Price, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) continue as advisory members of the FWP.

Other FWP committee members are Edwin Bankston, Office of Consul (OC); Dennis Cin, Janet Schwalbe, and Michelle Shafer of C-O; Claire Freilinger, Allen Geisen and Patricia Westfall from Engineering Division (ED); Debra Miller, Resource Management (RM); and Gary Nelson, PD.

Women's Army Corps celebrates 50th anniversary

Editor's note: Both General Gordon R. Sullivan, chief of staff, and Secretary of the Army M.P.W. Stone signed the following tribute.

Women have contributed to the mission and professional competence of the United States Army from the nation's birth. Fifty years ago this long-standing relationship was formalized with the establishment of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the first milestone in the integration of the women into the Army. This year we pause to commemorate that milestone and reflect on the accomplishments of the past 50 years.

The Army has come a long way since those early days when women could comprise no more than two percent of the force and could not aspire to serve as a general officer. Through legislative and policy changes, promotion restrictions have been removed and assignment opportunities are vastly expanded. Today, women serve in over 90 percent of the Army's career fields and several women have served with distinction as general officers. Army women continue to progress as commanders, first sergeants, and command sergeants major in increasing numbers, excelling in both war and in peace.

The Army will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Women's Army Corps from May 13 through May 16, 1992, at the Corps historic home station, Fort McClellan, Alabama. During this period, we pause to salute Army women who today serve the nation proudly and to pay tribute to their predecessors who first opened the doors of opportunity by their professionalism and perseverance.

Hello

Construction-Operations:

Larry P. Albrightson*, Barb Bellefy, Mark L. Hillyer*, James P. Hurley*, Daniel T. Oles and Robert Serene*.

James E. Chartrand, Information-Management; Larry R. Joachim and Marcia McCloskey, Real Estate; Michelle J. Kirchner and Steven Larson, Engineering.

Good-bye

Construction-Operations:

Dennis H. Boardman*, Charles J. Brion*, Roger W. Gilman*, Robert C. Hanson*, Dennis J. Kupietz*, Romaine Nielson, Neil A. Rieck*, Georgene Savolainen, Robert A. Wildeisen*, Marlene R. Fernholz, Kevin J. Sommerland, Roger A. Urbik, and James O. Weyant.

Sandra J. Stenlund, Human Resources; Mark W. Lisney, Planning Division; and James R. Eley, Contracting Division.

Promotions

Construction-Operations:

Eugene E. Alm, Lloyd Dosh, James R. Ebersold, Robert W. Gross, David A. Hill, Richard A. Jacks, Otis J. Jacobson, Jr., Leonard L. Lettner, Jr., Arley C. Martin III, Steven J. Muller, Gene H. Nesler, Charles E. Schultz, Leslie R. Trowbridge.

* Seasonal employee

Obituaries

Former district employee Mildred E. Newton died on April 19 in McAllen, Texas. According to retiree Wes Walters, Mildred lived in White Bear Lake and had worked in Procurement from 1952-1972.

Aurelia F. Halverson, a cook, Dredge William A. Thompson, Construction-Operations Division, died March 19. She recently worked as a seasonal employee and has worked for the District for almost 14 years. Her residence was Arcadia, WI.

District readies for spring with flood control exercise

by Rosemarie Braatz

With the mission of flood control foremost among his priorities, District Engineer Colonel Richard Craig alerted Construction-Operations Division (C-O) to prepare a spring flood exercise.

It was then up to Dean Peterson, the Red River Valley area flood engineer, to achieve the district's objectives with a plan to harness the rampaging Red River of the North.

The scenario for the exercise would be the April 1989 flood, when the Red River of the North spilled over its banks into Minnesota and North Dakota.

"We built into this exercise the element of contract negotiations for construction of a levee along the Red River of the North," said Peterson, "as well as deploying personnel to the site, and setting up communication between the field and offices."

Peterson, Tim Bertschi of the Western Flood Control Area, and Jerry Lee from the Mississippi River Area Office planned, organized, and executed a March 17 exercise.

They set up a command triangle—a control room at C-O in the Sibley Building, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Post Office Building, and a field post in Fargo, North Dakota, location of Sub-Area Engineer Dick Sundberg. Randy Melby, Baldhill Dam, assisted Sundberg.

Radio and facsimile communications linked all locations, while computers at the EOC tracked all related costs.

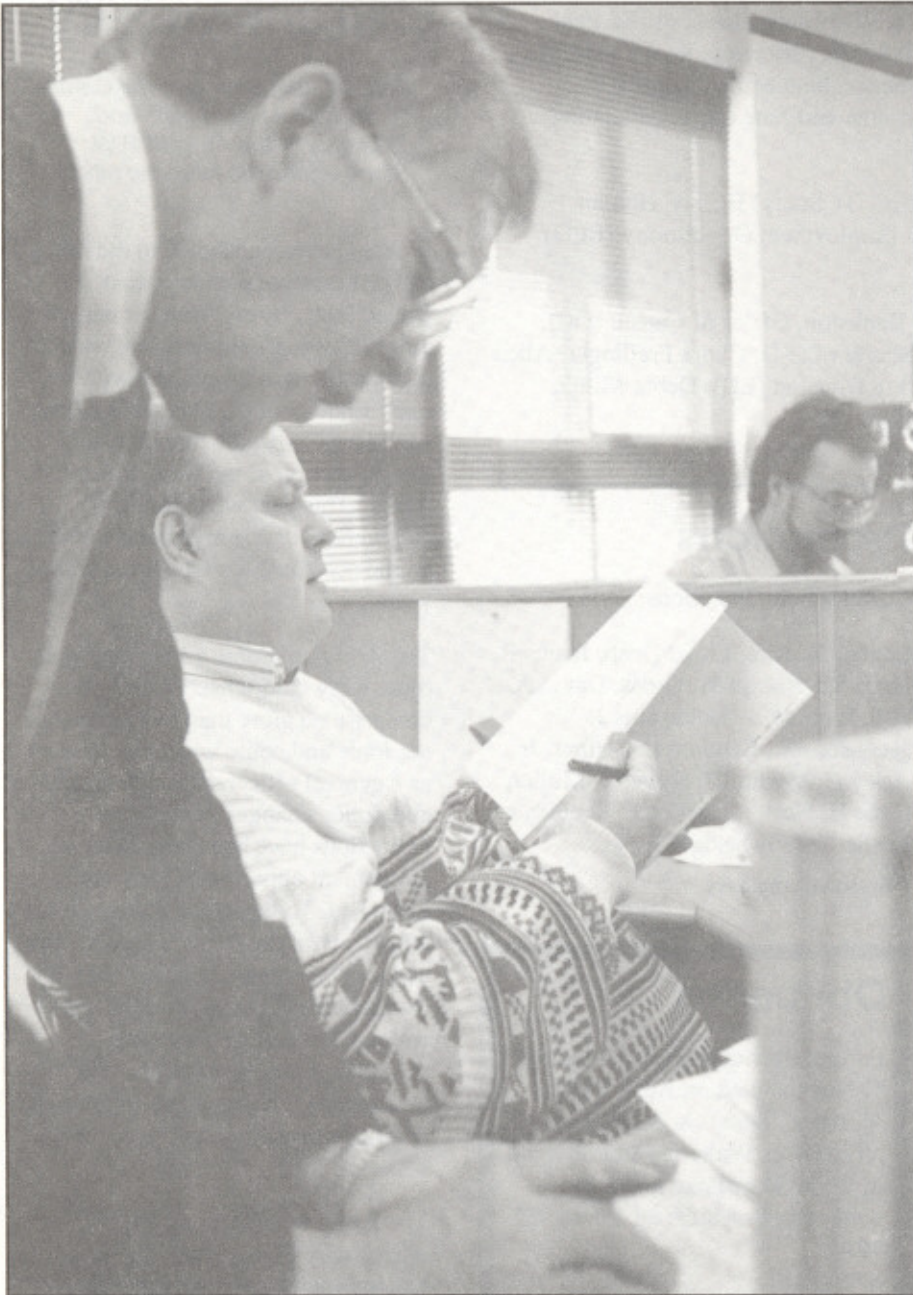


Photo by Peter Verstegen

Stan Kummer (left) acted as contract coordinator during the flood exercise. Frank Star (center) looked for pumps, sandbags, and polyethylene sheets in his role as a materials coordinator. Terry Birkenstock (right) recruited flood fighters, and monitored overtime and labor costs. Both previous players and new participants learned to work as a team to support field efforts to control flood waters.



Photo by Peter Versteegen

Lynn Stebe, administrative assistant, Engineering Management (ED-M), acts as a message controller. She ensured the flow of information in and out of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Post Office building and provided support for all members of the EOC team.

Peterson, Bertschi, and Lee, as record keeper, began working on the exercise plan at the end of January, writing scenarios that might occur during a flood on the Red River of the North. They explored various conditions and how to respond.

"We based our plan on what happened there during the 1989 flood, when river stages reached record elevations at Wahpeton-Breckenridge," said Bertschi.

"That flood reached a stage of 17.8 feet, which is 7.8 feet above flood stage—the point at which the river escapes its banks," said Dave Christenson, chief, Emergency Management (EM).

"It wasn't until February that the team met with Jim Nicholson, chief of C-O, at the District office," Peterson said. "We then gave EM the first indication of when this flood was going to occur. On March 11 we gave the affected

offices the general scenario, and set the plan in motion by having Christenson call me, as area engineer in charge of the flood fight, to move to the scene.

The team alerted local authorities, including the cities of Fargo and West Fargo, and the Cass County flood emergency coordinators, of the exercise.

The exercise required the EOC to support operations in the field. Sources of sandbags, pumps, and poly were found. Action to transport the material to the basin was initiated.

Construction of emergency works required involvement by district estimators and people from Contracting. Mark Paulus, Estimating, Marilyn Aird and Joanne Dufek, Contracting, participated in testing the procedures to arrange emergency contracts quickly. In addition, the EOC had approval authority on the rates that Sundberg had negotiated with the "contractors."

Mike Schwalbe and Arne Thomsen acted as contractors with whom Sundberg negotiated for construction and equipment to control the staged flood. "Those two, with their extensive contracting and flood-fighting experience, gave Sundberg a tough time," said Nicholson. "Mike wouldn't settle on a figure for the needed dump trucks until the last minute. Dick threatened to find a competing supplier before Mike gave in."

"Under emergency conditions, a contract must sometimes be closed in a matter of hours, whereas normally, several weeks would be required," said Christenson. "The exercise provided a refresher for experienced staff, and training for new staffers," continued Christenson. "Our capability to provide support for emergency operations was tested 'under fire' by this exercise. This type of exercise will probably now be carried out on an annual basis."

In the EOC, Stan Kumpula functioned as the acting Flood Executive Officer. "The exercise verified that we have a competent district staff that can adjust to a new situation. It also helped to iron out some of the kinks that can slip in when time goes by without activation of the emergency organization," said Kumpula.

Christenson and Dave DePoint led a team that included Dick Beatty, Frank Star, Terry Birkenstock, Teri Sardinas, Damien Yerbich, John Blackstone, Al Kean, Susan Quinn, Virginia Gnasik, Lynn Stebe, John Anfinson and Stan Kummer.

The EOC also coordinated with Water Control, Hydrology, and Construction Branch.

"This exercise was a great example of teamwork, drawing on diverse elements of our district in meeting the challenge of a potential disaster," concluded Nicholson.



Photo by Peter Verstegen



Photo by Ken Gardner



Photo by Peter Verstegen

A new season on the Mississippi

The pace and place for work in the St. Paul District changes when ice along the Mississippi River melts. At Lock and Dam No. 3 (page 8, top left), Mark Hillyer, temporary lock and dam operator (left), and Roger Stewart, head lock and dam operator, prepare for the season as they discuss the proper ratio to mix gas and oil for a two-cycle outboard engine.

Upper and Lower St. Anthony Falls now has a new kitchen sink and cabinets (page 8, top right). Terry Schneider, lock and dam operator, assists Robert Schmidt, lock and dam operator, while Assistant Lockmaster Steve Lenhart looks on.

At the Electronic Service Center next to Lock and Dam No. 2, Donna Zappa, radio operator, monitors her radio console. "I talk to Corps people on radio or telephone in their vehicles, boats, at the St. Paul District offices, and at field locations," she said.

At Lock and Dam No. 2, Clerk-typist Colleen Horsch (above right) watches Lockmaster Ken Tschida access the district's electronic mail system.

Gary Nelson, (standing, photo at bottom), a sociologist in Planning, traveled with a team from St. Paul to Prairie du Chien to convene a series of meetings, held April 20, on the environmental impact of an expanded barge terminal in the East Channel of the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien.

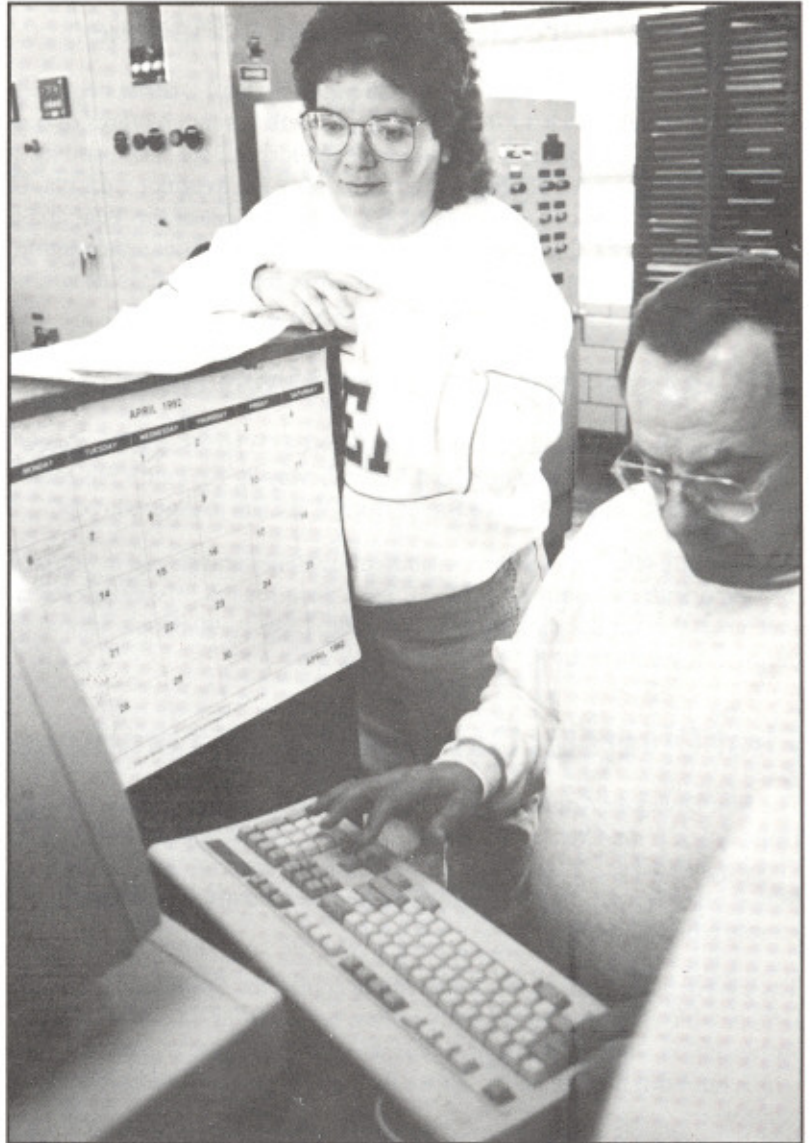


Photo by Peter Versteegen

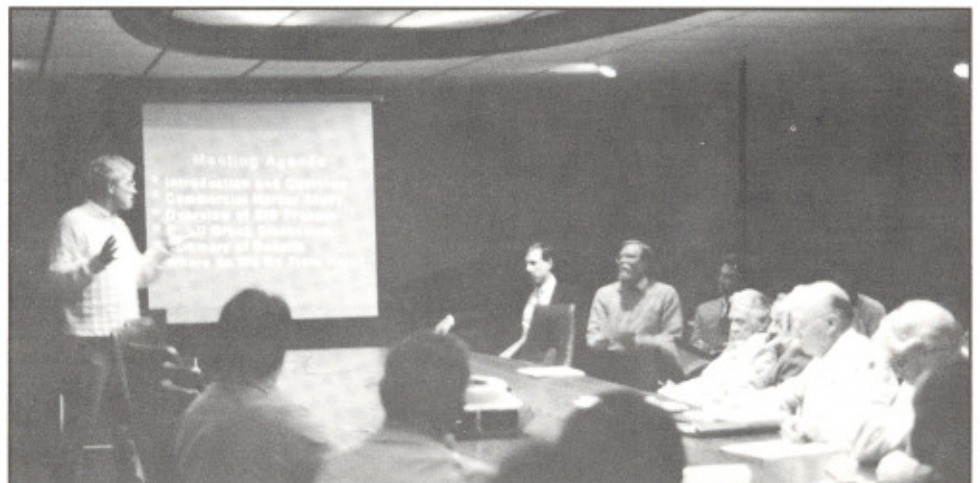


Photo by Kevin Bluhm

Student Appreciation Week scheduled

Student Appreciation Week will be held in the St. Paul District beginning May 18. During that week, the 12th floor display case will contain pictures of our students. Supervisors have nominated candidates for Student of the Year, and an awards ceremony will be held Thursday afternoon, May 21, to honor students. Colonel Richard Craig, district engineer, will honor the Student of the Year and present awards. All district employees are invited to attend to show appreciation to the students for their contribution to the Corps mission. Refreshments will be served courtesy of the Employee Benefit Fund (EBF).

EEO sponsors Cinco de Mayo display

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) sponsored the Corps' display trailer at the annual Cinco de Mayo festival, May 2. St. Paul's Hispanic community hosted the festival on Concord Street from Wabasha to Anita Streets.

The district's Hispanic employees staffed the trailer and shared their knowledge of the Corps with the community. The display featured the Mississippi River with a special section on flooding on the West Side. Over 1,500 people visited the display during last year's festival.

First Diversity Day held for field employees

The first Diversity Appreciation Day for field employees was held on May 6 at the Holiday Inn in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The program included presentations from the Playwright Center, Professional Development Group and Rob Chalmers doing the Magic of Attitudes and Perception. Field employees also had an opportunity to sample ethnic foods.

The Playwright Center is located in Minneapolis; the Professional Development Group, which consults on diversity issues, is located in Edina. This Diversity Appreciation Day for field employees was an experiment to see how the program, which has been held annually in the District Office, could be extended to field employees.

Weaver Bottoms project misses final round, earns achievement award

The St. Paul District's Weaver Bottoms Rehabilitation missed being among the eight finalists selected by an awards jury this March in the National Endowment for the Arts Presidential Award for Design Excellence.

However, the project reached the top 12 percent in the awards competition. Only 57 of the 487 entries received a design achievement award.

In a letter to Karen Nagengast, the contact person for the St. Paul District's Design Awards Committee, Program Manager Thomas Grooms said, "While I know this news is disappointing, you should be extremely proud of your Federal Design Achievement Award and the contribution you have made to raising federal design standards. We hope you will continue these efforts and submit your current federal design work in the next round of the Presidential Design Awards."

The project is located in Pool 5, 20 miles north of Winona, Minnesota.

District employees attend NFFE meeting

Two St. Paul District employees were among 175 delegates from 400 union locals who attended the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) 13th annual Lobby Week in Washington, D.C. in early March. John W. Christenson, Lock and Dam No. 9, and Joseph Aguirre, Lock and Dam No. 1, met with congressional delegations from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa to discuss reformation of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program, the federal labor relations process, the Equal Opportunity (EEOC) complaint process, and Department of Defense downsizing.



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