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St. Paul District

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Wally Voss named to Hall of Fame

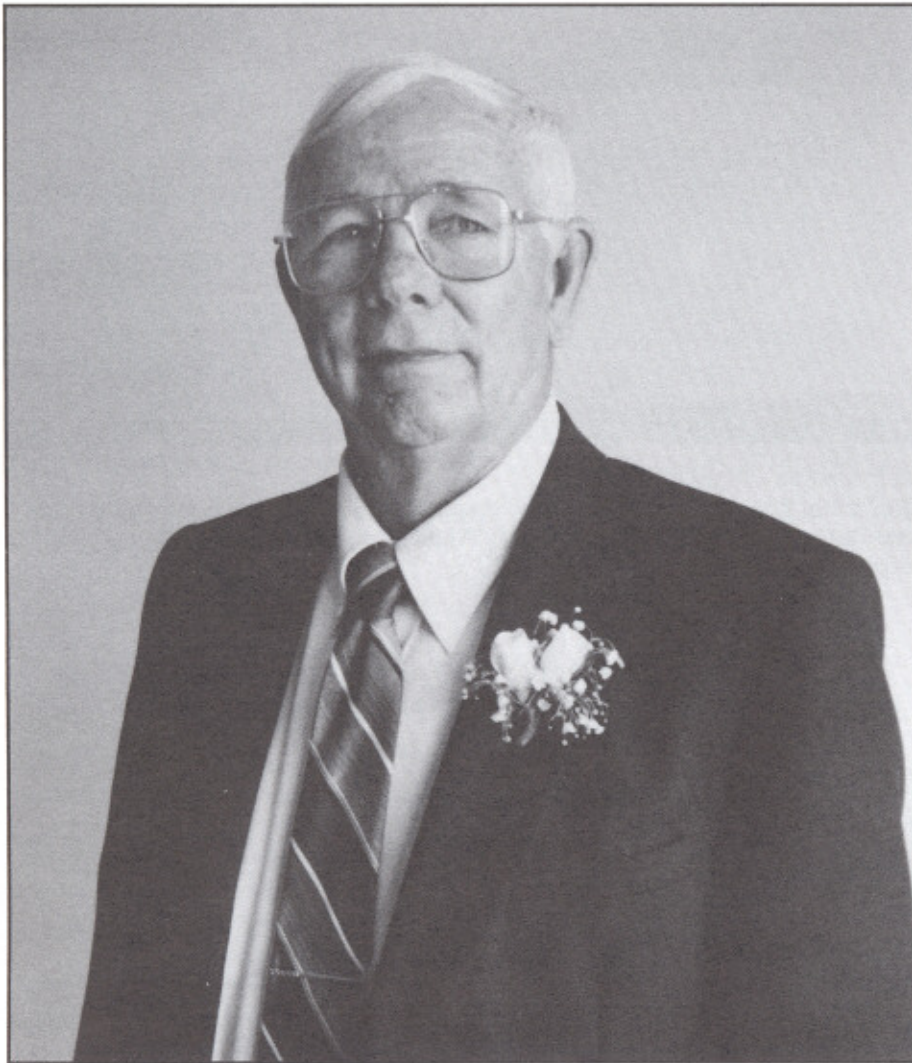


Photo by Ken Gardner

Retired Central Area Lockmaster, Wally Voss, was named to St. Paul District Hall of Fame at the 17th annual retiree's reunion in St. Paul, Thursday, September 10. Wally retired in December 1988 and lives in Winona, Minnesota. Story on page 3.

Senate confirms former St. Paul deputy as 48th Army Chief of Engineers

This August, the United States Senate confirmed Major General Arthur E. Williams, who served as deputy of the St. Paul District from July 1970 to June 1972, as the Army's 48th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and his promotion to lieutenant general. The Change of Command happened in August.

Williams is a registered professional engineer in the state of Minnesota and is a member of several national engineering and honor societies. He has also served as Assistant Director, Upper Mississippi Region.

He took command from Major General C. Ernest Edgar III, who has been acting Chief of Engineers and Commander since the retirement of Lieutenant General H. J. Hatch in early June.

Williams was Director of Civil Works in the Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a position he has held since July 1991. He will be succeeded by Brigadier General Stanley G.

See Williams, page 3

History takes on concrete meaning in Rochester floodwall



Photo courtesy Ann Scott Plummer

Anne Scott Plummer, assistant professor of Art at Winona State University, displays a model of the floodwall art that she designed for the Rochester Project. Her design is a part of the Rochester Project Local Cooperation Agreement between the City of Rochester and the Corps of Engineers.

by Peter Verstegen

Frontier images of Conestoga wagons, bison, a ceremonial pipe and the original Mayo Clinic building are among the historic icons that will rise out of the concrete as part of the Zumbro River flood wall at Rochester, Minnesota.

"The underlying theme of the design is the growth, change, and progress of Rochester over time," said its creator, Anne Scott Plummer, assistant professor of art, Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota.

The floodwall design is part of the Rochester Project Local Cooperation Agreement between the City of Rochester and the Corps of Engineers. "The mural is included in Stage 2A of the Rochester project," said Deb Foley, project manager. The contract for this stage was awarded August 24.

The eight-foot high 19-foot long mural will be repeated on four sections of the floodwall. Corn stalks will sprout on a five-foot auxiliary panel. The mural blends Native American and contemporary symbols as part of the concrete retaining wall in the downtown segment of the flood control project.

The segment includes 1.3 miles of biking and pedestrian trails.

"The images are important to the history and geography of Rochester," said Plummer, who was awarded the commission for the design in a competition judged by a committee of volunteers in July 1991. This June, Plummer completed her wooden master mold, which is now being transformed through a series of processes into a wall of concrete.

The Rochester flood control project is scheduled for completion in 1995.

Williams, continued from page 1

Genega, who is currently Commander and Division Engineer for the Corps' South Atlantic Division in Atlanta.

As Commander of the Corps of Engineers, Williams will direct a wide range of Corps missions, including military facilities construction for the Army and Air Force; environmental restoration of current and former defense installations; and the Army's civil works program, which includes planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of projects for flood control, navigation and other purposes nationwide. The Corps of Engineers also provides engineering assistance in the wake of natural disasters, regulates work in the nation's waterways and wetlands, conducts research and development, serves as the Army and Air Force real estate agent, and provides engineering services to 30 other Federal agencies.

The Chief of Engineers is also the senior staff engineer for the Army, supervising the Army's worldwide facilities engineering and environmental activities and providing advice on combat and topographic engineering.

Williams is a 1960 graduate of St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., where he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics. In addition, he holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., and a master's degree in civil engineering/economic planning from Stanford University in Stanford, Calif.

Williams is also a graduate of the Engineer Basic and Advanced Officers Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Naval War College, and the JFK School of Government, Harvard University. Other Corps of Engineer assignments General Williams has held include Commanding General and Division

Engineer for the Corps' Lower Mississippi Valley Division and president of the Mississippi River Commission; Commanding General and Division Engineer, Pacific Ocean Division; Chief of Staff, Headquarters; Commander and District Engineer, Sacramento District.

Other key command and staff positions he has held include Personnel Assignment Officer and, later, Chief, Assignment Branch, Colonels Assignment Division, Officer Personnel Management Directorate, U.S. Army Military Personnel Center; Chief of Plans and Operations Branch, United Nations Command/U.S. Forces, Korea/8th Army, Korea; and Commander, 44th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Engineer Group, United Nations Command/U.S. Forces, Korea/8th Army, Korea. Williams also served two tours in

Vietnam. He was a company commander in the 87th Engineer Battalion from December 1965 to January 1967 and operations officer (S-3) of the 577th Engineer Battalion from June 1969 to July 1970."

Among Williams' military decorations are the Legion of Merit (five awards), the Bronze Star Medal (two awards) the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

Williams is a native of Watertown, N.Y., and is married to the former Carole Waite of Watertown. They have three children, Scott, Christina, and Cheryl.

Wally Voss named to Hall of Fame

"The flood of 1965 was more memorable than anything," said Wally Voss of his 37 years with the Corps of Engineers. Wally, a retired central area lockmaster, spoke to a group of 100 Corps employees, retirees and spouses at the 17th annual retiree's reunion in St. Paul, Thursday, September 10. "We spent a lot of 24-hour days fighting that flood."

District Engineer COL Richard Craig announced Wally's induction to the St. Paul District Hall of Fame during the reunion.

The 1965 flood, a 100-year event, affected large urban areas along the Mississippi River including Minneapolis, St. Paul, South St. Paul, Winona, Minnesota and points south. "I was the lockmaster at Lock and Dam No. 5A in Fountain City during the food," said Wally. "We placed 170,000 sandbags in 72 hours on the 3,600 foot-long spillway dike at 5A. In Minnesota City, we sandbagged a dike three miles long and 10 feet across and raised it two feet."

Wally has been involved with water ever since the Navy, where he trained and worked as a diver. He first applied his diving skills for the Corps at Lock and Dam No. 5 at Minnesota City, Minnesota. After organizing the district's diving team, he served as a diver and as a diving supervisor. He was the district's diving coordinator for more than 25 years. He worked for four years as assistant lockmaster at Lock and Dam No. 4 in Alma, Wisconsin and worked for 24 years as lockmaster at Lock and Dam No. 5A. He became the first central area lockmaster in 1985.

"You don't receive these awards by yourself," said Wally. "Quite a number of other people share in this. I'd like to thank them as well."

Wally retired in December 1988 and lives in Winona, Minnesota.

Hatch Act reminder

A guide to the politically correct for Corps employees in partisan elections

In 1939 Congress approved the Hatch Act, which limits political activities of most Federal civilian employees.

With very few exceptions, all employees in the executive branch of the Federal Government, including part-time or temporaries, are subject to the political activity provisions of the act. Intermittent or occasional employees, such as consultants, are covered only during the 20-hour period of any day in which they are employed.

A partial exemption exists for Federal employees who live in the vicinity of Washington, D.C., and in other communities where the majority of voters are employed by the Federal Government.

You may not use your official authority or influence to interfere or affect the results of an election. Nor may you engage in any political activity which interferes with the efficient performance of your official duties, or creates a conflict or apparent conflict of interests.

Here's what you may do:

Register and vote as you choose.

Assist in voter registration drives.

Express opinions about candidates and issues.

Participate in campaigns where none of the candidates represent a political party that received electoral votes in the preceding presidential election.

Contribute money to political organizations or attend political fund-raising functions.

Wear or display political badges, buttons, or stickers.

Attend political rallies and meetings.

Join political clubs or parties.

Sign nominating petitions.

Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, and municipal ordinances.

Here's what you may not do:

Be candidates for public office in partisan elections.

Campaign for or against a candidate or slate of candidates in partisan elections. A partisan election is any election for public office in which any of the candidates represents a political party that received electoral votes in the preceding presidential election.

Make campaign speeches or engage in other campaign activities to elect partisan candidates.

Collect contributions or sell tickets to political fund-raising functions.

Distribute campaign material in partisan elections.

Organize or manage political rallies or meetings.

Hold office in political clubs or parties.

Circulate nominating petitions.

Work to register voters for one party only.

Events fill Diversity Appreciation Week

"What is the cost for ignoring diversity and who's going to pay" is the theme for the district's fourth annual Diversity Appreciation Week, October 5 through 9.

Jim Nicholson, chief of Construction-Operations Division, hosts the opening session October 5 in room 1033 at 10 a.m.

Here's the schedule of events, followed by the time and room number. SCR denotes Sibley Conference Room.

Monday, October 5

- What's the "Right" Way? 1-3 p.m., 1033;

Tuesday, October 6

- Valuing and Respecting Differences, 9-11 a.m., 1033;
- Diversity Bingo, 9-11 a.m., SCR;
- Racism: A Personal Perspective, 9-11 a.m., 1219-1220;
- Assumptions and Diversity, 1-3 p.m., 1033;
- Drums of Africa, 1-3, SCR;
- Hispanic Cultural Fair, 1-3, 1219-1220.

Wednesday, October 7

- Preparing a SF-171, 8-noon, room 1033;
- The Magic of Attitudes and Perception, 9-11 a.m., 1219-1220;
- Diversity Bingo, 1-3 p.m., room 1033;
- Chinese Lion Dance, 1-3 p.m., SCR;
- The Voyagers, 1-3 p.m., 1219-1220.

Thursday, October 8

- Peacemakers, 9-11 a.m., 1033;
- Why Did We Leave Our Homeland? 9-11, 1219-1220;
- Who's in Charge of Your Life?, 1-3 p.m., 1033;
- Valuing Our Identity, 1-3 p.m., SCR;
- The Underground Railroad, 1-3 p.m., 1219-1220;

Friday, October 9

- Ethnic Food Taste, 9-11 a.m., 1219-1220;
- No Other People, 1-3 p.m., 1219-1220.

The environment

District economist contributes to spotted owl ruling

Last May, a front-page headline in the Minneapolis Star Tribune said, "Environmental showdown is set: Panel orders strict limits on logging; Bush moves to weaken owl protection."

Lost in the controversy were the contributions by an economist for the St. Paul District, Jody Rooney. Jody was assigned to support Secretary of the Army Michael Stone, one of seven panel members. She devoted nearly four months to the assignment, part of it in Washington, D.C. Jody had just completed a graduate degree in applied

economics when headquarters invited her to send in her resume to the Secretary of the Army for consideration.

The cabinet-level panel, popularly known as the God Squad, is the Endangered Species Committee. The panel has the power to allow action that may lead to the extinction of a species—in this case the northern spotted owl. The owl was declared a threatened species on 1990. An estimated 3,000 breeding pairs exist. Their main nesting area is old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest.

The panel heard from loggers, the administration, economists and environmentalists concerning the environmental and economic impact of logging old-growth forests.

"The affected counties in Oregon had been receiving substantial revenues from recent timber sales," said Jody.

"The numbers by themselves looked big. But in the context of a bigger regional picture, they turned out to be small," she said. "My job was to read through the economic data and organize the records for an economics perspective. Then I wrote a summary for the Secretary of the Army."

Jody also evaluated the methods that the Department of Interior used to weigh the costs and benefits of granting an exemption, i.e. permitting logging. She drafted three sections of the Department of Interior's report evaluating testimony on the definitions of region, recreation benefits, and silvaculture. "I looked at counties with chronic unemployment, the demand for timber, the state of timber technology, timber sales, and other factors," said Jody. "The speed and pace of the assignment was incredibly fast. We had a lot of re-writing."

Lock and dam is in the hands of an experienced operator

(Part of a continuing series about lock and dam operators in the Upward Mobility Program.)

by Rosemarie Braatz

Kim Grapp has held the occupational title "operator" ever since high school—although in different places and in different jobs.

Her journey began when she worked as a telephone operator in St. Paul after high school.

She later enlisted in the Army for four years. "I was stationed mainly at Fort Story, Virginia, where I operated amphibious craft on Chesapeake Bay, for training exercises," Kim said.

After the service, Kim moved to Honolulu where she learned to operate word processing software. She returned to Minnesota in 1989, and worked as a word processor for an insurance company before coming to the Corps.



Photo by Rosemarie Braatz

Kim Grapp recently became a lock and dam operator at Lock and Dam No. 2 in Hastings, Minnesota.

About a year ago, Kim began work as a clerk-typist for the Corps of Engineers at the Western Area Construction Office at Mendota Heights.

Kim's knowledge of the boats and the river eased her transition from operating a keyboard to lock and dam operator.

She was born and raised in Cottage Grove, Minnesota, on the Mississippi River, a few miles north of Hastings.

"I'd had lots of experience operating boats and motors, and boating on the river with my family," Kim said. "My family always had boats, ranging from 18 feet to a 47-footer."

When she heard about the lock and dam operator opening, she applied for the upward mobility position, and was found qualified to become a lock and dam operator. "It's nice to be back on the river," she comments.

Cross Lake facilities are very accessible

The 42-acre Pine River Recreation Area, Cross Lake, Minnesota, offers a comfort station, a fishing dock and a lake access ramp that are easily accessible to the handicapped. Ray Nelson, manager, demonstrates the wheelchair-friendly shower and changing room. The shower head detaches from the wall and is on a hose to provide flexibility for the user. A wheelchair accessible fishing dock is constructed below the dam, and the wheelchair ramp bridges the sand on the beach for access to the lake. Cross Lake hosts a total of 250,000 day-use visitors and campers yearly.

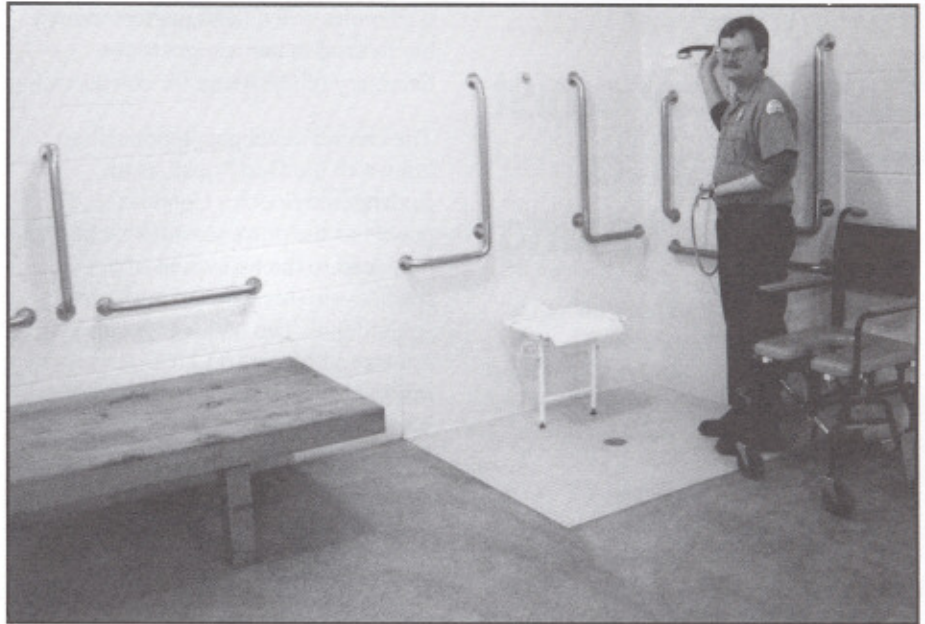


Photo by Peter Verstegen

Campsites weather their popularity

Chad Conneckson, a coop student, explains fees, regulations and the location of firewood to a group of campers at Gull Lake, Brainerd, Minnesota. Gull Lake hosts about 120,000 visitors each year. Campers can hike through 43 acres of pine and oak wilderness on trails planted with clover. Visitors like the safe, clean, well maintained campsites. Conneckson, a forestry major, worked at Gull Lake from June to September.



Photo by Gregg Struss

Sandy Lake staff designs and remodels office



Photo by Peter Versteegen

A new public reception room greets the public at the Corps' Sandy Lake Recreation Area. Interpretative displays and campground information are available to the public on the rack at the left.

by Terry Ladd

Last fall, a computer, copier, and fax machine sat on a wood-working bench out in the shop at the Corps' Sandy Lake office near McGregor, Minnesota. The shop was the only space left for office equipment.

Something had to be done. Obviously, office equipment was not designed for wood working.

To remedy this, the staff at Sandy Lake designed and constructed two new offices and a reception area. The results were improved office efficiency and a new public reception room.

The project started last fall with the replacement of the old windows. It ended in March when the last piece of trim was put up. Jeff Steere supervised the project. Kenton Dean and Terry Ladd assisted.

As the snow blew outside, sawdust and woodchips flew inside. The visitor's reception area was completely gutted and given a new look with native white ash paneling, new flooring, ceiling and lights, and a counter with a stained ash inlay of the Corps castle.

Interpretive displays and campground information now greet the public in the reception area.

Native birch panels, new floors and ceilings line the walls of the two new offices beyond the reception room.

The extra space allows the staff to separate managerial and ranger duties. Sending a fax, computing and paperwork are done on desks in a professional office environment.

The shop area is currently being moved to the other end of the building where the work benches will again be utilized for what they were intended.

Corps reaches out to "Campvention"



Photo by Peter Versteegen

Thirty one people from the St. Paul District represented the Army Corps of Engineers at the National Camping and Hiking Association "Campvention," held in Brainerd, Minnesota, July 9-15. The three above are, from left, Paul Machajewski, St. Paul; Jeff Kapaun, Baldhill/Lake Ashtabula, Valley City, North Dakota; and Jerry Lee, La Crescent, Minnesota.



**US Army Corps
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St. Paul District

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Crosscurrents

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Hello

The St. Paul District welcomes the following people in these divisions.

Construction-Operations Division:

Blair C. Greybull, laborer
Kathy A. Halverson, clerk-typist
Anthony G. Kling, clerk-typist
Robyn G. Macklin, laborer
Michelle A. Mancl, clerk-typist
Anton J.E. Stack, maintenance worker
Robert E. Volk, laborer
John A. Wolsky, clerk-typist

Contracting Division:

Anthony M. Foster, contract specialist

Real Estate Division:

Luann Hoff, realty specialist

Resource Management Office:

Heather L. Gomez, summer aid

Good-bye

Farewell to the people in these areas.

Construction Operations:

Shelley M. Dow, clerk-typist
Robert D. Shanahan, laborer
Roger A. Varo, laborer
Brian L. Watson, env. protection spec.

Contracting Division:

Richard L. Schreifels, contract specialist

Engineering Division:

Marina P. Grabowski, structural engineer
Charles A. Johnson, civil engineer

Information Management:

Nicholas G. Houle, clerk-typist

Planning Division:

Shannon M. Scibilia, student-trainee

Resource Management:

Jennifer L. Lorenz, student-trainee