



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

Vol. 16, No. 11

December 1993

## Blackhawk Park recovers from record summer flooding



St. Paul District photo

The Blackhawk Park staff conducted its work by boat when high water from the Mississippi River flooded the park grounds. The flood made the park maintenance

building (above) look like a marina. The park staff opened the overhead door to the service bay and floated in and docked their boat.

by Corrine Hodapp  
Blackhawk Park ranger

When the Mississippi River finally crested on June 29, 1993, it had flooded the park buildings at Blackhawk Park with 37 inches of water — a new record.

Due to the rapidly rising water, we had evacuated campers and closed the park on June 20. We had also moved office supplies, maintenance equipment and furniture to safety.

The water stayed at crest levels through July 1. The high water meant that the park staff would have to do our work by

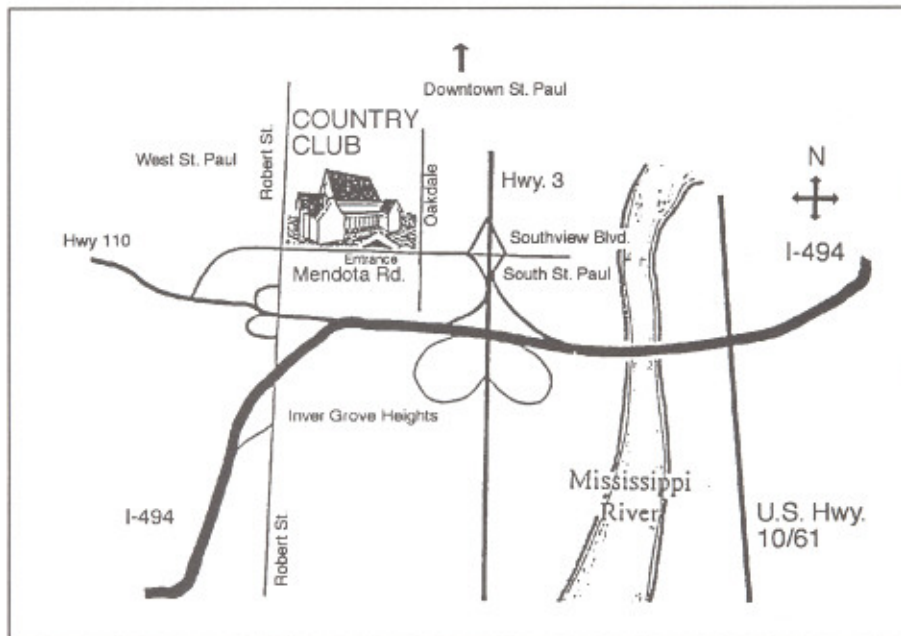
boat, floating to places we never dreamed possible. Picnic shelters became fishing shelters. The playground looked like part of an aquatic theme park. The high water had transformed the maintenance building into a marina. We even opened the overhead door to

*See park recovers on page 3*

# HOLIDAY AWARDS CEREMONY

**December 17, 1993**  
**Program 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Social Hour — Cash Bar — Buffet Luncheon  
 The Hill Murray Pioneer Performers — Awards — Door Prizes



**Southview Country Club**  
**239 E. Mendota Road, West St. Paul, MN. 55118**

**Menu:**

Baked ham, roast turkey with gravy, sliced roast beef,  
 whipped potatoes, buttered corn and salad

**Who to contact for tickets:**

- Retirees: Jan Graham, 290-5305
- 4th floor: Linda Steele, -5698; Jan Pream, -5312
- 5th floor: Angie Peterson, -5309; Joanne Lewis, -5602
- 6th floor: Vicki Fetterly, -5423; Joyce Johaneck, -5508
- 8th floor: Theresa Thury, -5755; Betty Krueger, -5419

**Price:**

**\$10.50 with meal and \$2.50 without meal**



St. Paul District photo

Flood water from the Mississippi River surrounds the entrance station to Blackhawk Park. The banks of the river are a stone's throw behind the station.

*Park recovers, continued from page 1*

the service bay, floated in and docked our boat.

With a normal boat ride on the river, people fear hitting a wing dam or a sandbar. We had to dodge picnic tables, grills and port-o-johns.

When the flood water receded on July 19, we returned to the park in our cars and pickup trucks. We prepared to clean up.

Wearing waders and rubber gloves, armed with shovels and scrub brushes, we opened the garage door to the maintenance building. A thick layer of pudding-like gunk covered everything we saw. The stench assaulted our noses.

We wore nose plugs as we removed and cleaned the floor and walls in the bathroom that had been completed one year earlier. We scrubbed and bleached the picnic table where we had our staff meetings and ate lunch.

As the building began to take shape, we headed out into the park. Using a flatbottom boat, we were able to find split railing and seven tables that had floated off from the park.

A recycling bin proved to be a little bit more difficult than the railing. The bin was finally discovered in a channel on the opposite side of the park from where it was supposed to be. But first, we had to persuade the beavers that had taken up residence to leave. Then we had to push and pull it off the tree in which was tangled. Finally, once on shore, we discovered bullheads and crayfish to return to the river.

Help arrived on August 6 when members of the Mississippi Steamers 4-H club from Genoa, Wisconsin, volunteered for the day. Eighteen 4-H youth from 7 to 17 and one adult volunteer spent the day painting and



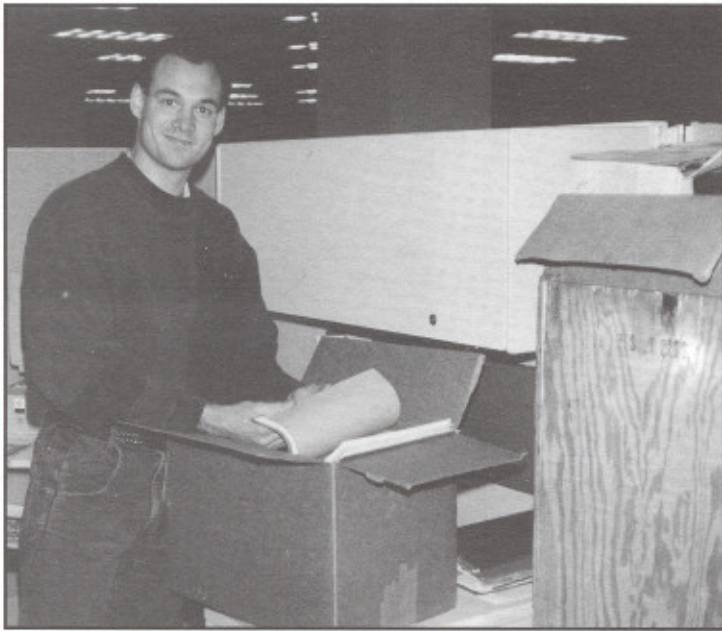
St. Paul District photo

**Nineteen members of the Mississippi Steamers 4-H club from Genoa, Wisconsin, volunteered to painting and scrubbing picnic tables and grills. They also picked up debris carried in the by flood waters.**

scrubbing picnic tables and grills. They also picked up debris carried in the by flood waters.

Girl Scout Troop No. 203 also lent a helping hand on October 2. Six girl scouts and one adult leader spent four hours washing picnic tables and picking up flood debris. The afternoon was chilly and we served hot chocolate to the troop at the end of the day.

With the help from the Mississippi Steamers, Troop No. 203, the staff of the Mississippi River Area Office and park staff, Blackhawk Park was partially opened on August 27. Cleanup and fixup continued with about one-third of the park closed due to wet conditions. With the summer flood coming to an end, thoughts have turned to next year in hopes of having an enjoyable, dry camping season.



## Con-Ops settles in with new systems furniture

Paul Machajewski, an outdoor recreation planner with Natural Resources Branch, unpacks more files as he and others in Construction-Operations settled in with their new systems furniture at the Army Corps of Engineers Centre. A contractor installed the new office furniture in Con-Ops in November.

### *Golden Age Passports and recreation fees*

## User fees okayed for Corps recreation areas

Beginning in 1994, a new law authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to collect a fee for issuing Golden Age Passports and to collect recreation user fees at many of its day use areas.

Authorization for the new fees was included in recent deficit reduction legislation, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.

The fee for the Golden Age Passports will be a one-time \$10 charge to cover the administrative costs of issuing the passports. All federal agencies which honor the passports will also begin collecting the fee on January 1.

Fees are to be returned to the Corps special account in the Treasury for later Operation and Maintenance general appropriations.

The Golden Age Passport is issued to individuals who are 62 years of age or older. It entitles the holder to free entrance at all national parks and a 50

per cent reduction in user fees at federal recreation areas.

Eligible applicants may obtain a Golden Age Passport at most Corps of Engineers offices upon showing proof of age. The passport will continue to be issued free of charge until January 1.

Corps headquarters announced in October that recreation user fees will be collected at many of its day use areas during the 1994 recreation season.

The fees will be charged for the use of beaches, picnic areas, boat launching ramps and other day-use areas. They will not be charged at wayside exhibits, overlook areas, toilet facilities or general visitor information areas.

The legislation authorizes fees of up to \$3 per day for non-commercial vehicles transporting not more than eight persons (including the driver). The legislation also eliminates a previous requirement to have a free camping area at Corps-operated campgrounds.

Currently, the Corps is identifying recreation areas where fees will be charged and is developing administrative guidelines.

The St. Paul District operates 27 day use areas in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. Most of these areas are picnic areas, beaches, boat launch ramps and public access around Corps-managed lakes and along the Mississippi River. District officials are studying the new policy and have not determined which day use facilities will have user fees.

The Corps already charges camping fees and special use fees for group picnic shelters and other group facilities, and for the issuance of special event permits. Current revenue nationwide is \$19 million per year.

The Corps estimates that it will collect an additional \$18 million annually from day use fees. The funds will be used to offset costs of the Corps recreation program.

## Corps of Engineers bridge dedication takes the cake

by Russ Snyder, engineer manager

The Third Avenue Bridge in Rochester, Minnesota was dedicated with an official ribbon cutting on November 8. The bridge was constructed as part of stage 2a of the Rochester Flood Control Project. The stage is the first part of the \$17 million stage that has been completed and is open to the public. The remainder of the stage, which includes a railroad bridge, pedestrian bridge and another street bridge will be complete by the end of 1994.

The photo of the Third Avenue cake is from a reception held after the ribbon cutting. Left to right are Curt Taylor, retired superintendent of Parks and Recreation for Rochester, Resident Engineer Leon Mucha, Mayor Chuck Hazama; and John Hunziker, a member of the city council.



Photo by John Bailen

## Costanzo departs Corps of Engineers for Agriculture

"It's hard to leave a place which has people I like and respect," said Dave Costanzo. November 24 was Costanzo's last day as chief of Employee Relations and Development Branch. He began work the following Monday at the Department of Agriculture in Minneapolis. Over 50 district friends and colleagues took the opportunity to say good-bye at a farewell ceremony in the third floor Training Center. Costanzo worked for the Corps for a total of 11 years. Left to right are Costanzo, Mary Hendrickson, personnel management specialist; Al Santo, library technician; and Kurt Hendrickson, a supply clerk.

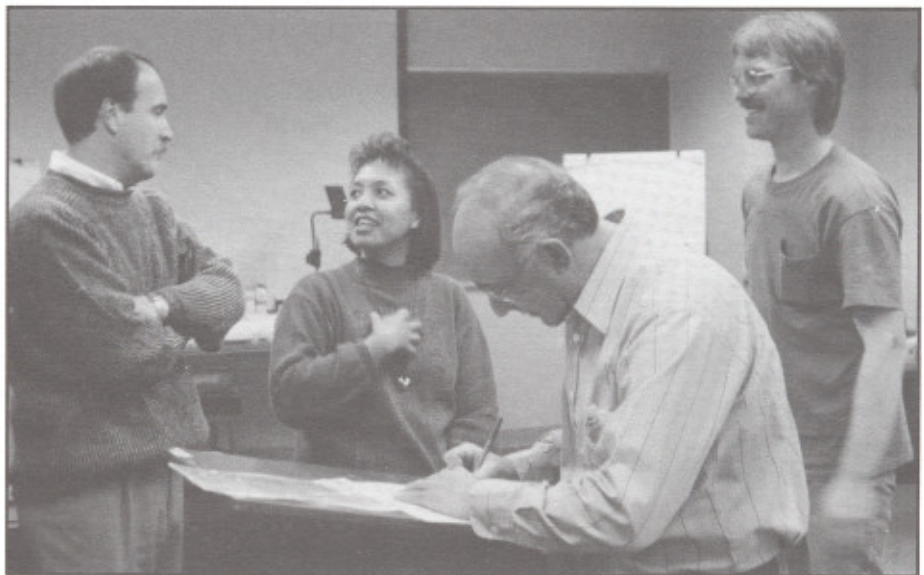


Photo by Pam Spann

## Honors and Awards

### On-the-Spot Awards

#### Contracting Division

Dawn Linder

#### Engineering Division

Edmond C. Williamson III

#### Geotech Hydr & Hydro Branch

Grant Riddick

#### Human Resources Division

Mary Hendrickson

Jill Kubina

#### Information Management Office

Jeffrey Bailey

Timothy Hobson

Jon Lyman

Charles Sedgwick

Georgia Stanonik

Linda Steele

#### Real Estate Division

Amy Hennen

LuAnn Hoff

#### Construction-Operations Division

#### Natural Resource Management

Larry Albrightson

David Casey

Deborah Griffith

Corrine Hodapp

Richard Jacks

Chad Konickson

Larry McClellan

Thomas Novak

#### Navigation Branch

Larry Gilbertson

Thomas Langreck

Thomas Precious

Duane Putz

Robert Schmidt

#### Maintenance Section

Robert Gross

Christy Neises

Richard Princko

Jay E. Taverna

Keith Traynor

#### Regulatory Branch

James Knowles

### Special Act Awards

#### Construction-Operations

#### Navigation Branch

Arden L. Duval

Dennis Erickson

David Hawkenson

Judy Hutton

James Jordon

Joseph Lechner

John McQuiston

William Neeley

Karen Randall

Daniel Schmidt

Robert Stone

Bruce Young

#### Administration Branch

Allen Rosenberg

#### Natural Resource Management

Thomas Oksness

#### Human Resources Division

Robin Carruth

Jan Chapman

Clare Friedmann

#### Public Affairs

Kennon Gardner

### Quality Step Increase

#### Engineering Division

#### Design Branch

Christine Schmitz

### Achievement Medal For Civilian Service

#### Construction-Operations

#### Administration Branch

Rosemarie Braatz

#### Eastern Area Office

Dean Peterson

### Flood Awards - Special Acts

#### Engineering Division

Robert Post

#### Geotech Hydr & Hydro Branch

Ed Eaton

Robert Engelstad

Gordon Heitzman

Helmer Johnson

Daniel Reinartz

Kelsey Willis

#### Planning Division

#### Environmental Resources Branch

Richard Beatty

Teri Sardinas

#### Construction-Operations

#### Natural Resource Management

Timothy Bertschi

Steven Odegaard

#### Emergency Management Office

David Christenson

#### Maintenance Branch

John Grossell

#### Eastern Area Office

Dean Peterson

#### Planning Division

#### Water Resources Study Branch

Thomas Crump

#### Public Affairs Office

Kennon Gardner

Peter Versteegen

## Bits and Pieces

### Berwick appointed to Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board

Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson has appointed Dave Berwick, chief of Cultural Resources, to the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board. The board is composed of 15 members appointed by the governor for staggered, three-year terms. Berwick is one of nine members who was chosen for his professional qualifications. Among other things, the board reviews nominations for the National Register of Historic Places and approves grants for historic preservation.

### Annals of Iowa publishes Anfinson article

The Fall 1993 issue of Annals of Iowa published "Commerce and Conservation on the Upper Mississippi River" by John Anfinson, a historian in Environmental Resources Branch.

Anfinson describes how the nine-foot channel project in the 1930s forced two competing interests — commerce and conservation — into an uneven compromise. The result shaped the Upper Mississippi River into what it is today.

The journal's cover photo features Lock and Dam No. 10 in Guttenberg, Iowa, as it was in 1936. The photo was taken near the time when construction on the lock and dam was complete.

### Santa Anonymous kicks off 45th year

The Santa Anonymous kicked off its 45th year Friday, November 26. Dave Berwick, chief of Cultural Resources, is again heading the campaign for the district.

Here's what you can do to help. Buy a toy for a boy or girl, infant to age 16. If the toy needs batteries, please include them. Gifts need not be wrapped. If you prefer to give money, rather than a gift, please make your check payable to the Santa Anonymous Fund and mail it to the Federal Executive Board, 1 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling MN 55111-4007. All gifts are tax deductible. The deadline for delivery of all gifts to Santa Anonymous is December 15.

For more information, call Berwick at 290-5261.

### Goodies and handicrafts offered at holiday boutique and bake sale

Baked goods, handicrafts and holiday trims will decorate the tables of the third floor training room for the 1993 Boutique and Bake Sale this month. The sale is open to Corps employees, their families and retirees and runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 13 and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 14. The Employee Benefit Fund sponsors the annual event. For further information, contact Lupe Santos at 290-5485; Debbie Peterson at 290-5408; or Lois Pream at 290-5420.

### Hello

#### Construction-Operations Division

Keith A. Graham, deckhand  
William H. Loomis, deckhand

### Good-bye

#### Resource Management Office

Theodore B. Anderson, Jr., voucher examiner

#### Office of Counsel

Alanna B. Keto, office automation clerk  
Linda R. Kirts, general attorney

#### Human Resources Division

Alan W. Kraft (retired), employee development

#### Planning Division

Gregory A. Johnson, landscape architect  
Charles R. Stigen, student trainee

#### Construction-Operations

Raymond R. Flock, supervisory construction engineer  
Douglas A. Grimsled, deckhand  
Kenneth Harrell (retired), environmental protection specialist  
Dennis J. Kupietz, deckhand  
Sven G. Telander, lock and dam operator  
Robert A. Wildeisen, deckhand

#### Real Estate Division

Jacalynn M. Hudalla, office automation clerk  
Latrice D. Jackson, office automation clerk

#### Contracting Division

Millie Henderson, procurement assistant

### ASA(CW) nominated

Mr. Robert A. Peck will soon be nominated as the new Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)). Peck is vice president for the American Institute of Architects, a lawyer and worked as Sen. Moynihan's chief of staff.

## District recommends merger of Planning into Engineering

District Commander Col. James T. Scott has requested approval of a plan to consolidate the district's Planning and Engineering Divisions. Under the proposal, Planning Division will be reconstituted as a branch in the newly named Engineering and Planning Division.

Planning Division branches will revert to sections with no immediate changes in mission or manpower. All sub-organizations in the sections will be eliminated.

The request responds to decreases in workload and to continued pressures to reduce the number of GS 13-15 positions. It is consistent with the Corps' efforts to flatten organizations to achieve greater flexibility and efficiency in work. The district commander also requested additional authority for Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VSIP) to support the consolidation and streamline operations.

"I want to very clearly state that no involuntary reductions in staff or downgrades are envisioned at this time as a result of these planned changes," said Scott.

## Thrift Savings Plan open season deadline is Jan. 31

To enroll or make changes in your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), be sure to submit a completed "Election for TSP-1" form to Human Resource Division by close of business on January 31, 1994. The TSP open season, which began Nov. 15, ends January 31.

During an open season, you may begin contributing to the TSP, change the amount of your TSP contributions, or re-allocate current TSP contributions to your account among three investment funds.

All permanent employees hired on or before June 30, 1993 are eligible to participate in this open season.

The TSP is a retirement savings plan for both FERS (Federal Employees Retirement System) and CSRS (Civil Service Retirement System) employees.

If you have any questions, contact Jan Chapman at 290-5489.

## Chief of Engineers sends holiday message

The holiday season is a time to reflect over the past year and to start thinking about the future.

This past year has been one of changes, opportunities, natural disasters, and a host of other challenges for the Corps of Engineers family. But regardless of the challenges, you responded to the call. I'm extremely proud of your contributions, sacrifices, and successes.

The Corps has been in the headlines many times this past year. Corps assistance during the Midwest floods certainly was an example of Corps capability, responsiveness, professionalism, compassion, and service to the nation. We had more Corps volunteers than we could use and, from the engineers to clerks and drivers, your efforts were superb.

Although some Corps families lost their homes early in the disaster, they selflessly continued helping others fight the flood. I was also touched by the outpouring of financial help for Corps families who were devastated by the floods. Your charity makes the phrase "the Corps takes care of their own" take on true meaning. These are just a few examples of the caring and giving that is the hallmark of the Corps of Engineers. I salute each of you.

As we prepare for the challenges of the New Year, please keep in mind the importance of our families, our health, and our service to the nation.

My family joins me in wishing you and yours a healthy and happy holiday season.

/s/ Lt. Gen. Arthur E. Williams  
Commander, USACE



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

St. Paul District

*Crosscurrents* is an unofficial publication, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published monthly by offset for the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Editorial views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers, nor of the Department of the Army.

# Crosscurrents

Address all inquiries to:

Editor, *Crosscurrents*  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Army Corps of Engineers Centre  
190 Fifth Street East  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

District Engineer COL James T. Scott  
Public Affairs Officer Kennon Gardner  
Editor Peter Versteegen