



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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December 1994

District gives generously, exceeds CFC goal



Photo by Peter Verstegen

"Smile Friend," wrote Deloris Aldinger, Contracting Division, on a balloon destined for a district office employee. Aldinger spent her lunch hour transcribing a variety of maxims that district employees sent to one another for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Balloon Message Center in October. This year's CFC topped 120 percent of its goal, with pledges exceeding \$36,000. An inspirational video started the campaign with suggestions on how to live a happy and rewarding life. The CFC campaign ran through Oct. 28.

This year's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) exceeded 120 percent of the \$30,000 campaign goal, with St. Paul District employees pledging more than \$36,000 to CFC.

"The generosity of everyone in the district was overwhelming," said Denise McCarthy, CFC coordinator. "I want to personally thank each person who has donated to the CFC."

The CFC campaign began with a video on Oct. 17 which provided "Suggestions on how to live a happy and rewarding life." A Balloon Message Center provided visibility, encouraged employee participation and raised additional funds.

McCarthy raised a symbolic e-mail balloon with this adage from Edward Markham:

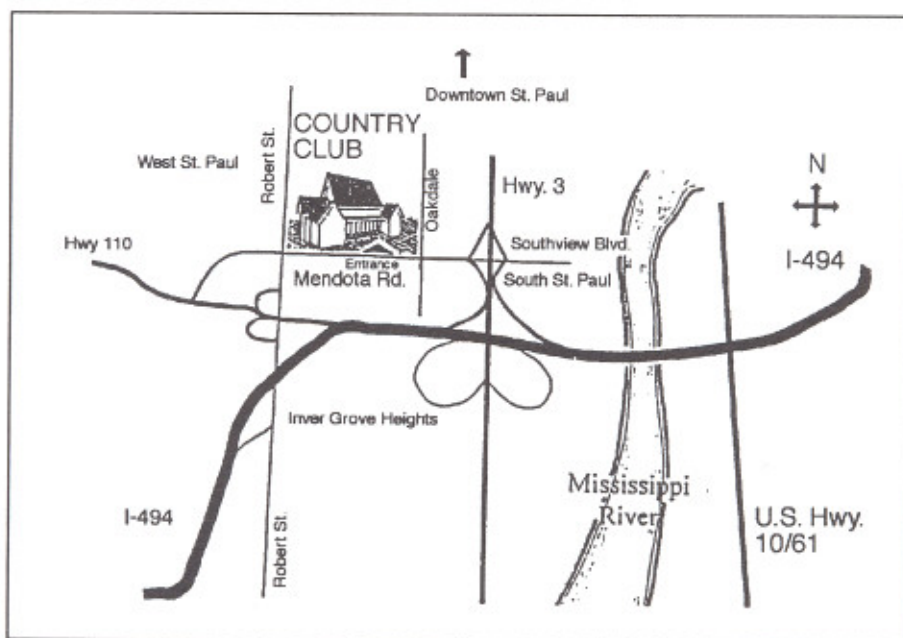
*There is a destiny that makes us
brothers,
None goes his way alone.
All that you put into the lives of
others,
Comes back into your own.*

For the complete list of the suggestions from "How to live a happy and rewarding life," contact Denise McCarthy in Contracting Division or the Public Affairs Office.

HOLIDAY AWARDS CEREMONY

December 22, 1994
Program 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Social Hour — Cash Bar — Buffet Luncheon
 Entertainment — Awards — Door Prizes



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

Menu:

Baked ham, roast turkey with gravy, tenderloin tips over noodles,
 whipped potatoes and buttered corn

Price:

\$11 with meal or \$2.50 without meal

Tickets on sale until Dec. 14. Contacts:

Retirees: Jan Graham, 290-5305

Field personnel: Jan Pream, 290-5312

4th floor: Stephanie Dupey, -5375; Rosemarie Braatz -5316

5th floor: Joanne Lewis, -5602; Vicki Fetterly, -5423

6th floor: Joyce Johaneck, -5508; Jan Graham, -5305

8th floor: Kurt Reppe, -5397; Bill McCarthy, -5386; Georgia Stanonik, -5496

Floodplain Assessment, Navigation Study Public involvement teams sponsor hearings



Photo by Ken Gardner

Floodplain Management Assessment officials held a public hearing in La Crosse, Wis. on November 15. Terry Birkenstock from the St. Paul District, at left, speaks to Bill Redding and Jonathan Ela of the Sierra Club Midwest office after the hearing.



Photo by Ken Gardner

Kevin Bluhm, who coordinates public involvement on the Navigation Study, addressed over 215 people in La Crosse, Wis. on Nov. 15. Members of the public and interest groups stayed until 12:30 a.m. to convey passionate views about the use of the Mississippi River and the study.

Diversity Appreciation Week opens hearts and minds



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Marcia McCloskey (left to right), Ann Allen and Kim Jones were among 470 people who attended Diversity Appreciation Week (DAW) activities. "Diversity Games" was one part of the Nov. 1 kickoff at the district office. McCloskey is in Real Estate; Allen and Jones work in Resource Management. The EEO Office sponsored DAW, which ran until Nov. 4.

District represents Corps at national parks conference



Photo by Ken Gardner

Mary Kay Larson (left), park ranger at Gull Lake, helped represent the Corps of Engineers at the National Recreation and Parks Association national convention in Minneapolis Oct. 12-15. The conference provides training and education for members.

Tunnel undermines 19th century St. Anthony Falls

First of a series on the history of the district and Corps of Engineers

by Jane Carroll, historian

The U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, has played an important role in the history of St. Anthony Falls. In the 19th century, the Corps was responsible for saving the waterfall from destruction. In the 20th century, the Corps designed and constructed the Upper Harbor Project, which extended the Mississippi River's navigation channel over the falls by way of the Lower and Upper St. Anthony Falls locks.

The Eastman Tunnel collapses in 1869

The water power companies that controlled the mills at the edge of St. Anthony Falls had forgotten to secure title to Nicollet Island, located a short distance upstream. As a result, in 1865, William Eastman and John Merriam acquired the island. The new owners quickly sued the St. Anthony Company to force the removal of the east-side mills, claiming that the installations infringed on their water rights.

In 1867, the St. Anthony Company and the Nicollet Island owners compromised. The company was allowed flowage, dam and boom privileges on the island's shore, while Eastman and Merriam were

allowed to draw enough water to create two hundred horse power for use at their own mills.

Unfortunately, the agreement also allowed Eastman and Merriam to excavate a tunnel under Nicollet and Hennepin islands for their tailrace. (A tailrace is the channel below a water wheel through which spent water flows.)

In September 1868, Eastman, Merriam and two additional partners began excavating the tailrace. The plans called for a 6-foot by 6-foot tunnel cut through 2,500 feet of sandstone. Workers began digging at the downstream end of Hennepin Island and by October 4, 1869, they had tunneled through 2,000 feet of sandstone, bringing them as far as the toe of Nicollet Island. That day, however, workers discovered water

leaking, and then rushing, into the upper end of the tunnel.

Large whirlpool forms in river

Early the next morning, the river broke through the limestone at the upper end of the project, forming a large whirlpool that sucked everything nearby into the tunnel. The water quickly scoured out the 6-by-6-foot tailrace, enlarging its width as much as 90 feet and increasing its depth to 16 1/2 feet. As the roof of the tunnel fell in, Hennepin Island began to sink and the falls were in danger of collapsing.

Almost immediately word spread through Minneapolis and St. Anthony that the falls were going out. Quickly, citizens dropped what they were doing to hurry to the river's edge and view the disaster for

see Tunnel collapse, page 5

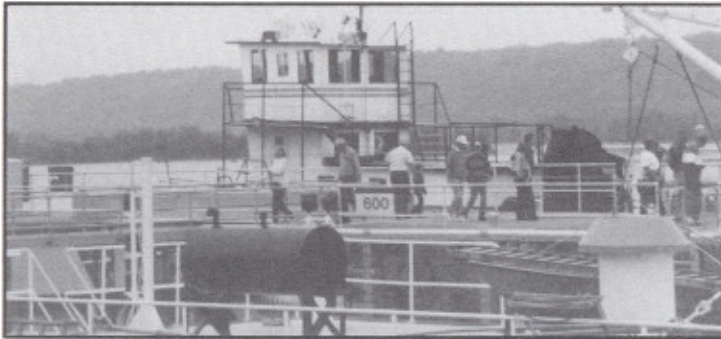
"Quality: 'It's simple, but it ain't easy'"

"Quality: It's simple, but it ain't easy," said Al Geisen, the district's Total Army Quality (TAQ) coordinator. Geisen was ending his October 5 town-hall meeting presentations with Tom Berry's quote from his book, *Managing the Total Quality Transformation*.

"The simple part is the tools and the techniques," said Geisen, to nearly 300 people who attended the town meetings. "The difficult part is the cultural change, the empowerment, the emphatic listening, and putting the district first. These are more challenging."

With the exploratory and planning phases complete, the district stands prepared to implement TAQ. A handbook is ready for release and *Crosscurrents* will publish the results of a district cultural climate survey early in 1995. The shift to a new phase also means a changing of the guard. This January, Tom Heyerman begins as the district's quality coordinator and value engineer and Geisen returns to his job as chief of Specifications and Estimating Section.

"Four to six initial business processes, along with a process action team (PAT)
see Quality, page 5



St. Paul District photo

More than 500 people endured rainy weather to visit the open house at Lock and Dam No. 10 in Guttenberg, Iowa, in late September. The open house was held in conjunction with Guttenberg's German Fest. "We gave tours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.," said Lockmaster Marvin Pedretti. "We displayed construction pictures in the central control station, handed out brochures about the lock and dam and about the Mississippi River." The Guttenberg Historical Society sponsored German Fest.

Commander's holiday message

by Col. James T. Scott, commander

We all have a lot to be thankful for this time of the year and that goes doubly for me. I have the enjoyment of working with the finest group of professionals in the Corps of Engineers, while at the same time raising a family that consistently makes me proud. And I get to do both, while living in the greatest area of the nation—the upper Midwest. Many times in the past years as I have travelled the world with my Army career, I passed through the Twin Cities on my way to family visits in the Dakotas. And every time I passed through, I wished I could stay right here. Well now I'm here and I love it. The unselfish attitude of the district members and the people of this area is one of the most impressive features. When you combine this with the beauty of the surroundings and the unmatched climate, there is not much more that you could ask for.

We have been faced with lots of challenges over the past year, as the restructuring movement continued to roll and the calls for reducing government employees remained strong. A number of our friends and associates have left the district, but throughout, our commitment to quality service has never faltered. We have a long, proud history of responding to the needs of the people in our area and we remain committed to ensuring that we are able to continue to do that in the future.

I hope all of you will spend time with loved ones, friends and relatives during this holiday season. Reflect on what makes life so meaningful for you and celebrate the successes of this past year. The coming year will have its challenges and I look forward to facing them with you.

My family and I wish you and yours a happy holiday and wonderful new year.

Quality, cont. from page 4

to investigate each business process, will be selected by January," said Geisen. "The PATs will receive training in February and begin their investigations in March."

"After having worked in two other districts, I have learned the strength of our district is in its people," said Geisen. "That tells me this district is up to the challenge. So let's meet this challenge, have some fun doing it, and make TAQ happen."

Tunnel collapse, cont. from page 4

themselves. One witness of the scene recalled that "proprietors of stores hastened to the falls, taking their clerks with them; bakers deserted their ovens, lumbermen were ordered from the mills, barbers left their customers unshorn; mechanics dropped their tools; lawyers shut up their books or stopped pleading in the courts; physicians abandoned their offices."

Responding to the emergency, citizens of St. Anthony and Minneapolis worked together to build large rafts of timber, which they floated over the whirlpool and filled with dirt, rocks and other debris until they sank into the hole. Once this break was plugged, however, another hole appeared.

River swallows rafts

Throughout the day volunteers built rafts to fill the river where the limestone bedrock had collapsed. By the afternoon, workers and spectators were walking across a network of rafts that had apparently succeeded in preventing further erosion. Then suddenly, the rafts lurched, and as people scrambled to safety, the river swallowed all of their efforts in one massive gulp. *Next month: Mills and businesses fall into the river.*

Bits and Pieces

Comment boxes find home in break rooms

Logistics Management set up Comment boxes for all district employees in 5th and 8th floor break rooms. Both signed and anonymous comments are welcome. Field personnel may send comments to the Public Affairs Office for referral.

L&D No. 3 sets record

Lock & Dam No. 3, just north of Red Wing, set a record to become the first lock on the Upper Mississippi River to lock through more than 20,100 recreational craft in one season. Through October, recreational lockages in the district totaled more than 123,000, with Lock No. 3 accounting for one of every eight recreational lockages.

Wopat family member granted scholarship

Ben Wopat's son, Zachary Wopat of Hudson, Wis., received a \$500 scholarship this fall from the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA). Wopat is chief of the Regulatory Branch. Zachary was from one of eight families from the Corps to receive a scholarship. About 500 applicants were federal employees, and 58 of them received scholarships. The remaining 264 winners were children of federal workers.

The scholarship program for the 1995-96 school year begins in January. For more information, send a self-addressed stamped business-

size envelope to FEEA, 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Ste. 200, Littleton, Colo. 80123-3245.

TROA offers loans for undergraduate study

The Retired Officers Association (TROA) is offering up to \$10,000 in an interest-free loan to unmarried students, under the age of 24, who are dependent children of active-duty, reserve and retired service personnel and their surviving spouses. The loan is for five years of study, with loan repayment after graduation. Students are selected on their scholastic ability, extracurricular and community activities, and financial need. For the 1994-95 school year, some 2,000 students competed for 250 openings. Request applications before Feb. 15, 1995. For applications and more information, write to TROA Educational Assistance Program Administrator, (09D), 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314-2539 or call 1-800-245-8762, ext. 169.

January deadline for TSP open season

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season started November 15 and will continue through January 31. During open season, employees may begin contributing to TSP, change the amount of contribution, or change account allocation among the three investment funds—the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment

(C) Fund; and the Fixed Income Investment (F) Fund. All permanent employees hired on or before June 30, 1994 are eligible to participate in this open season. Call Robin Carruth in Human Resources at 290-5487 for details.

Health benefits open season ends Dec. 12

This year's health benefits open season will be held from November 14 through December 12. Due to the limited quantity of brochures and comparison charts, they will be sent out upon request only. Please share booklets and comparison charts when possible and return them to the Human Resources Division when you have finished reviewing them.

If you have questions or would like to request a comparison chart, specific plan brochure or form, call Robin Carruth at (612) 290-5487, leave a message on voice mail or send a CC:Mail message. Enrollment changes will be effective on January 8, 1995.

Apparel Awards prove popular

District employees are wearing new clothes, thanks to the newly approved Apparel Awards. Baseball caps, t-shirts, sweat shirts, and light-weight jackets, all embroidered with the Corps' and district's names, are available for awards. Rugby-style jerseys are expected to be available in January 1995.

More Bits and Pieces, page 8

Hello: September

Construction-Operations

Lisa M. Tomczak, student trainee

Good-bye

Construction-Operations Division

Dean W. Birnstengel, lock and dam operator
 Dennis H. Boardman, deckhand
 Daniel J. Boone, laborer
 John J. Brunet, laborer
 William C. Burrows, lock and dam operator
 Raymond O. Burt, Jr., lock and dam operator
 Travis J. Carico, summer aid
 Larry A. Cedar, laborer
 James C. Crosby, lock and dam operator
 James L. Erickson, laborer
 Roger W. Gilman, deckhand
 Douglas A. Grimsted, deckhand
 Jeffrey J. Gunness, laborer
 George M. Hahn, lock and dam operator
 Richard S. Heitman, administrative coordinator
 Kenneth L. Hovell, lock and dam operator
 Scott D. Hutchins, laborer
 Scott R. Iverson, summer aid
 Thomas M. Johnson, laborer
 Frederick L. Kann, laborer
 Charles C. Keilholtz, lock and dam operator
 Curtis Knospe, deckhand
 Neal L. Knutson, lock and dam operator
 Chad S. Konickson, student trainee

Philip H. Kramer, laborer
 Joseph J. Kupietz, Jr., deckhand
 Darrel D. LaFleur, laborer
 Joseph D. Losinski, lock and dam equipment mechanic
 Norman A. Mallory, laborer
 Larry D. McClellan, laborer
 Kenneth W. Mertes, laborer
 Thomas P. Mikrut, lock and dam operator
 Michael A. Muehlberg, lock and dam operator
 Donald J. Olson, environmental protection technician
 Gerald E. Orlikowski, laborer
 Paul M. Rasmussen, summer aid
 Richard G. Sandell, laborer
 Shawn M. Schneider, laborer
 Allen L. Servais, summer aid
 Jeremiah J. Sienko, summer aid
 Kenneth C. Stewart, laborer
 Trent L. Timm, summer aid
 John M. Welch, laborer
 Randy L. Wheeler, laborer

Engineering and Planning Division

Wally J. Widlund, civil engineering technician

Information Management Office

Timothy J. Hobson, office automation clerk

Office of Counsel

Sally Ann Lunsford, legal technician

Resource Management Office

Carl S. Vierck, staff accountant (retired)

Hello: October

Construction-Operations

Tammy J. Wick, office automation clerk

EEO Office

Sheraye D. Battle, office automation clerk

Good-bye

Construction-Operations Division

Garold D. Bohall, park ranger
 John A. Evanger, park ranger
 Daniel J. Kumlin, lock and dam operator
 Judith M. Lueck, administrative assistant
 James H. Schroeder, maintenance worker
 Richard J. Schueneman, park ranger

Engineering and Planning Division

Michael G. Evenson, structural engineer
 Francis R. Metzger, mechanical engineer
 Bryan G. Radtke, electrical engineer

Office of Counsel

Karin A. Greeman, general attorney

Programs and Project Management Division

James E. Kursu, program analysis officer (retired)

Obituaries

Harley Akers, 64, of Guttenberg, Iowa, on November 20. He retired in May 1986 as head lock and dam operator, Lock & Dam No. 10.

Robert M. "Mert" Cowan, Sr., age 82, on November 6, 1994. He was chief of Hydraulics Branch from 1950 until 1967, when he began a three-year tour at the Pacific Ocean Division. He retired in 1971 and lived in Honolulu for

the past 21 years, were he volunteered at the Honolulu Zoo's Chimpanzee exhibit. (*Richard Leonard, retired chief of Engineering Division, contributed to this article.*)

Betty J. Novak, age 73, on Sept. 25. She worked in Cost Accounting during the early 1950s. She was the wife of Harry Novak, who retired in 1983 from Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch.

Emil Silverman, who retired in 1970 as chief of Construction Division, on Nov. 29 at age 94. He was inducted into the district's Hall of Fame when he retired and was a respected negotiator, instructor, and manager with extensive knowledge of construction contracting. He managed construction of the lower lock and dam at St. Anthony Falls and a number of military construction projects.

Bits and Pieces, cont. from page 6

Similar to the On-the-Spot award, nominations for Apparel Awards must be approved by a higher-level supervisor. Nominations must be made within 14 calendar days after the act and include a short description of the achievement. Use DA form 1256 and where block 6.a says "Other," specify Apparel Award and which item should be awarded.

District Pin approved

David Haumersen, chief of Construction-Operations Division, announced on Nov. 21 that a design for the District Pin has been chosen. The final choice features a snowflake with a centered Corps Castle. "There were about 30 design submittals," Haumersen said, "and we thank each one of you who took time to participate in this effort."

A committee screened the designs to five, which retiree Jean Thurmer drew to scale and colored. (Thurmer retired in 1983 as a graphic artist from Engineering Division.) Anyone interested in seeing the final five may stop by Rose Braatz's area on fourth floor in CO. When manufactured, the pin will be given as an incentive award.

Student exhibit wins history award

The Minnesota Historical Society Member News for September 1994 reported that Kirsan Rostad of Fridley High School placed second at the National History Day competition with her project "Dams and Damages: The Army Corps of Engineers and the Ojibway of the Upper Mississippi." The exhibit illustrates the impact of dams at lakes Leech and Winnibigoshish on the Ojibway culture.

Individual Development Plan assists careers

Editor's note: The following is a summary of an article written for clerical employees by Linda Wiley, Design Branch. The Federal Women's Program (FWP) plans to release the full text to clerical employees and their supervisors this month.

For those of you who work in clerical positions, you know that down-sizing and automation have changed your jobs. There's hope of modest growth in private sector positions for receptionists and information clerks, spurred by expanding industries such as business services. You can improve your potential to advance by

acquiring additional computer, office machine and interpersonal skills.

Viewing your occupation as a job, as a career, or as work is primarily a matter of attitude. A variety of resources are available to help you establish your goals. The bottom line is that you have to develop your own career.

An Individual Development Plan (IDP) can help you establish your own road map for career development within the Corps. The training office, the EEO office, and mentoring programs are available to support you in completing your IDP.

Santa Anonymous

"As part of this seasonal tradition, we look toward district employees to support the Santa Anonymous Program," said Dave Berwick, Santa Anonymous coordinator and senior archaeologist in Management and Evaluation Branch.

"Please keep in mind the small, individual contribution of time and money that is necessary for Santa Anonymous to be a success and a child's happiness to be realized during the holidays," he said.

"Bring your gift before Dec. 21 to put under the Christmas tree in the executive office again this year," said Berwick.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

St. Paul District

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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
Assistant Pamela Spann