



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

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## Preparing for summer swimming at Blackhawk



Photo by Ken Gardner

Larry McClellan, a laborer at Blackhawk Park, hitched the buoys that designate the swimming area at the park beach. High water on the Mississippi

River delayed the installation of buoys until mid-June. Richard Jacks, a maintenance worker, teamed up with McClellan to complete the installation.

## Onalaska spillway rehabbed

The dam was near the end of its 50-year design life

by Peter Versteegen,  
Public Affairs specialist



Photo by Ken Gardner

**Project Engineer Lisa Lund and Construction Representative Lon Mathis of the Onalaska resident office visit the Lake Onalaska dam and construction project. At left, interlocked sheet piles form a temporary cofferdam, keeping the work area dry.**

A favorite local but unauthorized fishing site, the spillway at Lake Onalaska, Wis., is undergoing a \$3.6 million rehabilitation. The project, just upstream from La Crosse, Wis., helped to create Pool 7.

"The Onalaska structure has three major components," said Dave Raasch, project manager. "It has a submersible dam protected by derrick stone, a non-overflow earthen dam embankment and a culvert spillway."

"The dam was originally constructed in 1935 on the Black River channel of the Mississippi River," said Lisa Lund, project engineer. "The dam has deteriorated since then and was near the end of its 50-year design life. The culvert spillway is disintegrating and spalling. The sluiceways are disintegrating. The derrick stone and riprap are displaced, and there is seepage on the downstream toe."

(Spalling indicates the flaking, chipping or breaking of concrete into fragments.)

To correct the deficiencies, the district awarded Edward Kraemer & Sons a \$3.1 million contract in 1994. The contractor mobilized equipment last summer and will finish this December.

**T**he district conducted a design analysis of the dam and spillway in 1991. The analysis identified seepage, erosion and spalling on the concrete of the submersible dam. The analysis also uncovered scour holes downstream of the dam and a safety issue created by a vortex at the culvert intake.

Four concrete culverts at 21.75 feet each will replace nine concrete culverts measuring 9.7 feet each.

"The 643-foot overflow embankment constructed of derrick stone is being replaced with a concrete overflow apron, spillway, and sheet pile cut-off wall," said Lund. Spur dikes go upstream on each side of the spillway. Riprap will extend 125 feet downstream of the spillway for scour protection.

Meanwhile, fishing enthusiasts wait for construction to finish. "The dam and spillway attract a variety of recreational users to the area," said Raasch. "The site attracts boat and shore fishing."

Even though the project is not officially designed or authorized for recreation, "it should continue to be a good fishing spot," said Tim Yager, fisheries biologist. "The addition of riprap and cobblestone downstream of the spillway will provide habitat for a variety of game fish."

## Student writes her own story

by Pamela Spann  
Stay-in-School Program



Flowers

"I might become a writer," said Kenya Flowers, smiling. Flowers is the new automation clerk for the travel office. Her head tilts thoughtfully to the left side. A

quiet demeanor masks the expressive writer lurking just beneath the surface. Flowers wants to be remembered for something, whether it be her writing or nursing.

Although her choice of careers remains open, she wants to leave her mark.

Flowers writes poems and short stories in her spare time. "Writing gives me a way to express myself and it's fun," she said.

One of her imaginative stories is about a man sleeping through the end of the world. The main character of the story is in a coma. When he finally wakes after sleeping for some years, the world as he knew it has ended. Flowers laughs as she retells the story. "It's crazy," she said.

Although Flowers enjoys writing, she reserves it as a private expression. She rarely shares her writing, except with close friends. Writing serves as her outlet.

Flowers is the youngest of her mother's two children—both girls. She comes from a small family, and describes herself as shy.

Shy or not, this soft spoken senior from Como Park High School recognizes that completing her

## Wonsik assumes command



File photo

### John M. (Mike) Wonsik

Col. John M. (Mike) Wonsik assumed command of the St. Paul District in an indoor ceremony at the Galtier Towers Pavilion, 172 E. 6th St., 10th floor on July 12 at 10 a.m.

Wonsik succeeds Col. James Scott who has commanded the St. Paul District since July 1993. Scott will become commander of the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research

Laboratories (CERL) in Champaign, Illinois.

Before St. Paul, Wonsik served as Special Assistant to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Wonsik has commanded the 23rd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Armor Division. His assignments include four overseas tours with combat tours in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. He has also served with the Walla Walla District.

Wonsik is a registered professional engineer in Texas and Washington.

He attended the University of Texas where he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in civil engineering. Wonsik received his Corps of Engineers commission in May 1970 and entered active duty in April 1971.

He is married to the former Curtiss Bridges of New Braunfels, Texas.

education is one of the greatest achievements of her life. But what she is proudest of is graduating without running into some of the real problems associated with the high school years—issues such as drug abuse, gang violence and teen pregnancy.

With these major personal accomplishments in her life story, Flowers feels a sense of pride for making good decisions in her personal life.

Academically, Flowers has maintained straight A's in science and biology. This fall, she will start Lakewood Community College and enroll in the two-year nursing program.

Flowers plans to continue her training beyond community college—maybe even applying to medical school—to become a pediatrician. She knows that by setting goals for herself and working hard to achieve them, she can write her own life's story.

# District gathers for awards ceremony and picnic

More than 400 attended the Corps Day Awards Ceremony and Picnic at Lake Elmo Park Reserve on June 22, 1995. District Commander Col. James Scott presented 31 length of service awards and 10 awards to recognize the district's first honorable mention in the Army Communities of Excellence program.

Children's games, golf, volleyball, fishing, hiking, horseshoes and baseball provided opportunities for team building.



Visual Information photo

**Melanie, age 4, and Roselyn Atkins, a secretary in Human Resources.**

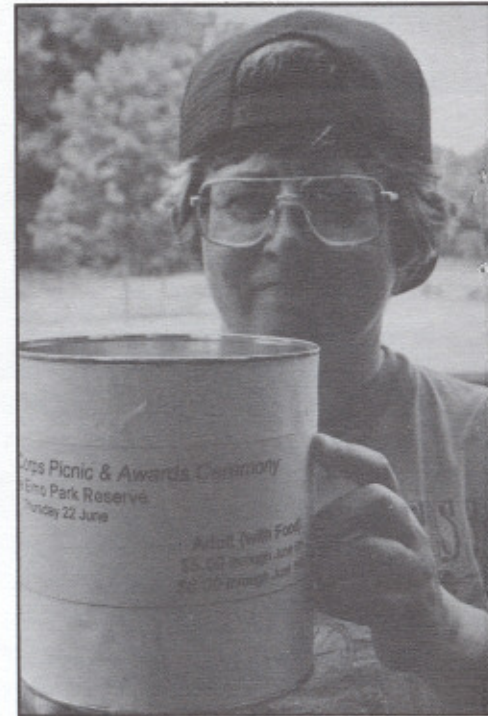


Photo by Peter

**Virginia Gnabasik, Management and Evaluation Branch, was sentry for the meal**



Visual Information photo

**At left, Peter Fasbender serves sno-cones. Terry Birkenstock and retiree Wayne Knott look on. All are from Management and Evaluation Branch.**



**Gordon Heitzman cooks hot dogs and another man works in Hydraulics and Hydrology.**

# at Lake Elmo Park Reserve



Verstegen  
Evaluat-  
tickets.



Visual Information photo

**Nikeshia Jones, age 2, played on the jungle gym set. She is the daughter of Kim Jones, budget officer in Resource Management.**



Photo by Peter Verstegen

**Neil Helming, Management and Evaluation Branch, tops the net during volleyball.**



Visual Information photo  
nd chicken. Heitz-  
logy Branch (PE-H).



Photo by Peter Verstegen

**On the first tee at Oak Glen (from left) are Georgia Stanonik, Office of Counsel; Neil Schwanz, Design Branch (PE-D); Mike Leshner, Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch (PE-H); Mark Meyers, PE-D; and Brian Johnson, PE-D.**

## District provides emergency assistance to Devils Lake area



Photos by Dave Christenson

In photo at left, sandbags surround Project Manager Dave Raasch at the City of Minnewaukan, N.D. The above photo shows over 300 bales of hay and a raised road protecting against erosion. At this point, flood water had stretched eight miles beyond the shores of Devils Lake.

by Peter Verstegen  
Public Affairs specialist

The St. Paul District is providing emergency assistance to state and local governments to combat record flooding at Devils Lake, North Dakota. The State of North Dakota, Ramsey County, and the cities of Devils Lake, Lawton, Minnewaukan and Camp Grafton have received some form of emergency help.

The emergency assistance began in late March. The district has assisted by protecting community sewage lagoons on the lake, providing information to property owners on how to protect their property and assessing potential problem areas.

Devils Lake, like a shallow sink without a drain, is a closed basin in northeastern North Dakota prairie. Drainage occurs mainly through slow evaporation into the atmosphere.

Water from snow melt and spring rains have continued to pour into the lake. Since mid-March, water has risen over four feet, washing over the flat terrain. Flooding has threatened municipal drinking water, sewer service, roads, recreation, private property and agriculture in the area.

The prairie wind has swept across the flat landscape to whip up the waves on Devils Lake. As a consequence, erosion has eaten into the extended shoreline.

In addition to emergency assistance, district officials have held meetings to inform and educate the public. District Engineer Col. Scott and the district's Emergency Management personnel have listened to the concerns from public representatives and private property owners. Representatives from the district, Camp Grafton and the City

of Minnewaukan worked together on strategies to raise a lagoon embankment, conduct sandbagging and develop a pumping plan.

Under the Advance Measures Authority, the district constructed a protective berm along Minnewaukan's sewage lagoon. Also, the district moved to protect Ramsey County utility lift stations located around the lake.

Under Public Law 84-99, the Corps may help protect public property, give technical assistance to private individuals, and support county operations. Public property includes sewage lagoons, roads and public structures. At a county's request, the Corps may give technical advice to private individuals on how to protect their property. Finally, the county may ask the Corps to provide and transport sandbags and pumps.

## Bits and Pieces

### District recognizes Students of the Year

Student of the Year honors went to Jerry Drexler of Information Management in a June 29 ceremony at the Army Corps of Engineers Centre.

The district also recognized Selena Hotchkiss, Human Resources (HR); Loren Danson, Construction-Operations (CO); Elaine Hill, Engineering and Planning (PE); Raegan Pederson (HR); Brandi Seman, Office of Counsel (OC); Amy Hennen, Real Estate (RE); Julia Washenberger (RE); Melanie Gezel-Rangel (RE); and Dawn Kaluza, Gull Lake Dam.

Nearly 40 attended the ceremony.

### EEO achievement

The district recognized five employees for outstanding achievement in EEO. Receiving the Commander's Award were Judy DesHarnais, Engineering and Planning (PE); Al Geisen, PE; Marianne Price, EEO; Doris Sullivan, PE; and Linda Wiley, Human Resources (HR).

Construction-Operations Division earned the Commander's trophy for outstanding achievement in EEO in an April ceremony.

*More Bits and Pieces, page 8*

### March

#### Hello

##### Construction-Operations

Dean W. Birnstengel, lock & dam operator

##### Logistics Management Office

Kenya K. Flowers, office automation clerk

##### Real Estate Division

Mark W. Nelson, realty officer

#### Good-bye

##### Engineering and Planning Division

Bobby D. Rieck, drill rig operator

##### Information Management Office

James P. Honkomp, computer clerk  
Antonio Reynero, office automation clerk

##### Real Estate Division

S. John Roach, attorney-adviser

##### Resource Management Office

Marilyn L. Campbell, staff accountant

### April

#### Hello

##### Construction-Operations

Larry P. Albrightson, lock & dam operator  
Daniel J. Boone, lock & dam operator  
William C. Burrows, lock & dam operator  
Larry A. Cedar, lock & dam operator  
Alan G. Cole, student trainee

James C. Crosby, lock & dam operator

Michael E. Derusha, lock & dam operator

Lori L. Eggert, student trainee

Kenneth L. Fleshner, lock & dam operator

Roger W. Gilman, deckhand

Nathan F. Gregor, student trainee

Jason A. Hauser, student trainee

Brett R. Johnson, laborer

Steve W. Johnson, student trainee

Steven W. Jones, student trainee

Neal L. Knutson, lock & dam operator

Joseph J. Kupietz, Jr., sandblaster

Norman A. Mallory, laborer

Larry D. McClellan, laborer

Blane R. Neher, student trainee

Renee M. Nyborg, student trainee

David B. Reynolds, student trainee

Brian S. Schwartz, student trainee

Elmer F. Yeoman, lock & dam equipment mechanic

Megan M. Zander, student trainee

#### Good-bye

##### Construction-Operations

David C. Casey, student trainee  
Marvin L. Pedretti (retired), lockmaster

##### Engineering and Planning Division

Annette M. Wolf, secretary

##### Human Resources

Clare E. Friedmann, personnel assistant

##### Information Management Office

Larry C. Stephens, computer assistant

##### Real Estate Division

Maureen J. Sullivan, office automation clerk

## Minnesota History features Anfinson article on locks, dams

The Summer 1995 issue of Minnesota History magazine featured "The Secret History of the Mississippi's Earliest Locks and Dams" by John Anfinson, district historian. The article examines how the earliest locks and dams were affected by the development of hydroelectric power. The Minnesota State Historical Society publishes Minnesota History.

## Retirees reunion scheduled for Sept. 7

Corps of Engineers employees, past and present, will gather for their 20th "Old Timers Reunion" at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul on Sept. 7. For more information, contact Peggy Peterson at 776-8740.

## McAlister defends golf title

George McAlister, chief of Accounts Payable, will defend his

title as state champ in the Physically Limited Golfers Association (PLGA) this July in Duluth. This is the third year he has played in state PLGA competition.

In the first national PLGA tournament, June 17-18, McAlister's low gross won a trophy and jacket in a round at the Minnewaska Country Club in Glenwood. "A low gross is whatever you shoot, the raw number," he said. McAlister competes in the systems division for people who have had arthritis, spinal injuries, strokes or heart attacks. The national tournament offered prizes in excess of \$20,000.

## Gurnoe honored

Dominique (Jodi) Gurnoe, a Co-op Program student in Logistics Management, was one of five students honored in the 1995 Children's Defense Fund/Pillsbury "Beat the Odds" project. "I'm lucky to be representative of disadvantaged and troubled youth who have made significant changes in their lives," said Gurnoe. Project judges selected Gurnoe based on her essay and an interview. The project recognizes

outstanding achievements of young people who have improved their lives and lives of others.

## Carroll presents Headwaters history

Jane Carroll, a district historian, gave a talk and slide show on the history of the Mississippi Headwaters dams and their impact on Ojibwe as part of Minnesota Archaeological Week. The presentation was held at the Corps' Leech Lake dam office on Friday, May 5.

## Wolf new lockmaster

William Wolf has recently been selected as the new lockmaster at Lock & Dam No. 10, Guttenberg, Iowa. He replaces Marvin Pedretti, who retired after 38 years with the Corps of Engineers. Wolf has been at Lock & Dam No. 10 for 27 years. He was previously head operator.

## Obituary

Henry J. Langer of St. Paul died on May 13, 1995. He worked on the nine-foot channel project and on navigation charts in the former Planning Division. He was with the Corps more than 30 years. He was born in Duluth, June 4, 1909.



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St. Paul District

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# Crosscurrents

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**The St. Paul  
District  
awarded 15  
small business  
construction  
contracts  
totaling more  
than \$11  
million in FY  
1994.**

Source: Contracting Division