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St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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St. Paul District retiree celebrates her centennial



Photo by Ken Gardner

On November 23, Bernadette Buckley, left, starts her second 100 years. COL J.M. Wonsik, right, shared a moment with her during the annual retiree reunion held in St. Paul in September 1995. Buckley retired from the Office of Administrative Services when she was 70.

by Ken Gardner
chief of Public Affairs

When she started to work for the St. Paul District, her salary was \$1,440 a year. (Yes, a year!) That was on April 6, 1942. On that day Bernadette Buckley came to the St. Paul Post Office to start her job as a junior clerk typist (CAF-2) in the Records Section.

Buckley, one of the oldest living Corps of Engineers retirees in the country, will celebrate her 100th birthday this month. A native of St.

Paul, she was born on November 23, 1895.

She joined the Corps family late in life. But it was World War II and there was a lot of job movement — some in support of the war effort, others caused by the economy, new opportunities and the impact of the war on the male work force.

By the time Buckley came to work for the district, she had already worked almost long enough to retire by today's standards. Her first job was in the private sector as a

clerk typist. That was in 1913, almost 30 years before she came to work for the Corps. In 1919, she joined the federal work force as a general office clerk at the Veteran's Hospital. She left federal service in 1926 and went to work for the St. Paul Glass Company as a general office clerk, bookkeeper and switchboard operator.

That was all before she came to the Corps and her \$1,440 a year job.

As a Corps employee, her career followed a path somewhat typical for women of that period. She became a mail and file clerk in 1947. She was promoted to GS-3 in 1949 and to GS-4 in 1957. And in 1965, Buckley retired from the Office of Administrative Services. She was 70 and had worked for the federal government for close to 30 years.

Between her two federal jobs and her non-government experience, Buckley was an active part of the work force for more than 50 years.

Today, she lives with her sister in St. Paul. She has attended several annual retiree luncheons in recent years including the reunion held this past September. And on November 23, she starts her second 100 years.

Furloughs, CFC and achievements precede the holidays

by COL J.M. Wonsik
St. Paul District Commander

As winter sets in across the district, I would like to share a couple of thoughts with you.

First, as I write this, the questions about an FY 96 appropriation and legislation to raise the federal debt ceiling remain unanswered. I know the uncertainty surrounding possible furloughs (again) is hard. It's hard on employees and its hard on our families. We realize that and we will do everything in our power to reduce the anxiety level.

In the meantime, Human Resources and Public Affairs will continue to look at the mechanics of how a furlough would work and how employees would be notified of the furlough and to return to work. We

shall share as much information with you as we can. Usually, this will be done by cc:Mail.

Now on to more positive things. We are just wrapping up this year's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and it looks like we have had another successful campaign. My thanks to Con-Ops for organizing and conducting this year's CFC. We all can feel good about the campaign. Our contributions will help people in our neighborhood, across the United States and around the world. I don't know of an easier and more cost-effective way of helping those in need.

Next, I want to recognize the accomplishments of two district people. First, Dave DePoint in Con-Ops was recently awarded the Legion of Merit, the highest

peacetime medal a soldier can receive. (See below.) That is a real achievement. Deb Foley gets double recognition. She has been named chief of the Programs Management Branch in Programs and Project Management Division, replacing Marsha Risch, who left the Corps to start a new adventure in New Mexico. Deb also deserves recognition this month for having an article published in *Civil Engineering* magazine. The article is titled "Flood Control Doesn't Have To Be Ugly" and describes the Rochester Project.

Finally, we observe two holidays this month: Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. Both holidays are times to reflect on who and where we are and to give thanks for those things that make our lives rich and meaningful. Curtiss and I wish you all enjoyable and safe holidays.

DePoint awarded Legion of Merit



Photo courtesy 88th RSC

Major General George J. Steiner, right, commander of the 88th Regional Support Command, presents Command Sergeant Major (ret.) David DePoint with the Legion of Merit as DePoint's wife, Beth (also a reservist), and their children James, Nichol and Matthew look on.

David DePoint, Technical Support Branch in Construction-Operations, was awarded the Legion of Merit, the highest honor bestowed upon a soldier during peacetime. Major General George J. Steiner, commander of the 88th Regional Support Command, presented the award. DePoint accepted the honor in a ceremony on October 14 at Fort Snelling in St. Paul.

"I was delighted to be recognized and put in a select group of people who have received that particular award," said DePoint. The award culminates DePoint's 27-year career in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Reserve. He retired as a command sergeant major, the highest enlisted rank possible. DePoint joined the St. Paul District in 1981.

Selected comments from Diversity Appreciation Week

“ Both workshops were thought provoking. I especially like Jane Elliott’s message.

Jane Elliott’s presentation was thought provoking, which is good, but I disagree with her method of denigrating one group (white males) to make other groups (minorities and females) feel

better. I believe it’s divisive and a form of racism itself.

Mr. Kunisawa’s presentation was far different from any I have heard. I thought his points were valid and hit home. Very good.

I personally learned a lot. It’s hard to accept and admit that we are all

prejudiced in different ways....The thing to remember is ‘it starts with me’ in order to change the thinking in this society....”

I better understand the value of both differences and similarities.

Diversity Appreciation Week offers food for thought

by Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs specialist

Diversity Appreciation Week concluded with the Diversity Food Taste in the Galtier Atrium on Oct. 12. Nearly 100 St. Paul District staff attended the event, sponsored by the EEO Office.

Ethnic foods were prepared to represent a diversity of regions, occupations, and cultures.

The food taste grew from the program objective to provide an aware and receptive environment conducive to a diverse work force.

Total Diversity Appreciation Week attendance was over 300. Events throughout the week received outstanding evaluations from those who attended.

The week combined eight EEO special observances into a one-week event. Observances are:

- Martin Luther King’s birthday;
- Black History Month;
- Women’s History Month;
- Asian-Pacific Islander Month;
- Minnesota Heritage Week;
- Hispanic Heritage Month;
- National Disability Awareness Month;
- American Indian Month.

The annual recognition opened on October 10 at the Jerome Hill Theater in First Trust. Byron Kunisawa, a nationally known consultant on diversity issues, presented the keynote address.

After his keynote, the Courage Center offered crafts created by individuals with disabilities and gospel singers entertained with vocal arrangements. Kickoff events also presented food and opportunities for networking in the Great Hall next to the theater.

Oct. 11, Jane Elliott presented an educational workshop on what it’s like to be different. Elliott, the creator of the powerful “Brown Eyes-Blue Eyes” exercise in discrimination, engaged participants in experiencing “different,” based on race, gender, age, disability and other conditions. Kirk Milhone facilitated a workshop on the tradeoffs between diversity and commonality.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

The Diversity Food Taste included district staff and extended Corps family. Checking in (left to right) are Linda Wiley and Lupe Santos from Human Resources (HR); Elize Williams, wife of Russ Williams, chief of Resource Management; and Roselyn Atkins, HR.

Fund raising par excellence

Miniature golf raises money, spoofs regulations



Photos by Peter Verstegen

At left, Rick Rothbauer, chief of Management Support Branch, concentrates on his putt on the final hole of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Grand Golf Tournament. Above left, Dave Christenson, Readiness Branch, watches Bob Silvagni, Regulatory Branch, match his skill against a dogleg-shaped fairway.

by Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs specialist

The St. Paul District designed and constructed a project for miniature golf course in less than a week.

Construction Branch worked with "off-the-shelf materials." Regulatory Branch immediately waived any wetland determination. And the project required no feasibility study or cost-benefit analysis.

The project? A six-hole golf course

constructed on the fourth-floor to green the coffers of the 1995 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

The CFC began Oct. 16 with the theme "Change Lives: Share the Spirit."

Four from Construction-Operations Division (CO) shared the spirit by constructing and managing Grand Golf Tournament-1 (GGT-1) to raise money for CFC. They were Phil Schweitzer, Construction Branch; Dennis Erickson and Dana Werner, Technical Support Branch; and Dave

Christenson, Readiness Branch.

Jan Pream, CO, chaired this year's CFC. CFC initiatives to raise participation and awareness, in addition to miniature golf, were a bake sale, a balloon message center and a book sale. Door prizes included food, billiards and bowling.

The campaign ended Oct. 27. Employees exceeded their 1995 CFC goal of \$27,000 by pledging and contributing more than \$32,000. Of that total, miniature golf raised about \$132.



Photo by Peter Versteegen

Get your word's worth with Heritage Toastmasters

Heritage Toastmasters, which meets weekly on Tuesdays during the lunch hour, promotes creative thinking, listening and speaking. At left, Todd Howard, meeting toastmaster, thanks Julie Shin from the toastmaster club at Minnesota Mutual Insurance Company. Shin was the meeting evaluator. Heritage and other downtown toastmaster clubs periodically gather for joint meetings — a source for networking opportunities. Howard, Management and Evaluation Branch, is vice president-education for Heritage.

PAT streamlines purchases

by Tom Heyerman
TAQ Coordinator

It started with four days of training in February 1995 and ended with an oral presentation to the Quality Council in October 1995. In between was a whole lot of work, sweat and meetings. The work by the Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) Process Action Team (PAT) resulted in numerous intangible benefits plus \$128,000 first-year savings. Successive year savings would be \$142,000 annually.



Photo by Peter Versteegen

PAT leader Ann Marie Scheie presented District Commander COL J.M. Wonsik a ceremonial check representing the savings from the streamlined purchase process. "The BPA PAT will be the benchmark for future PATs," said Wonsik. The presentation was Oct. 2.

Major improvements include:

- eliminating 75 percent of existing BPAs;
- eliminating use of 3953s for purchases under \$2500 and converting to credit card purchases;
- reducing the frequency of Miscellaneous Obligor Documents (MODs) actions and renewals;
- eliminating Logistics Management Office (LM) coordination for service and maintenance items;
- streamlining the acquisition of drawing reproductions;
- creating an electronic log for purchases.

"The PAT process was a very positive experience for me," said Ann Marie Scheie, the BPA PAT leader. The Quality Council empowered our team to make necessary changes. This enabled us to move freely and comfortably throughout all levels of the organization. We received excellent cooperation and advice from the Quality Council members during our study, especially from Pat Johnson, chief of Contracting Division; Olivia Vavreck, chief of LM; and Bob Post, chief of Engineering and Planning Division (PE). We also received the same degree of excellence from all other district personnel during the course of our study."

The BPA PAT is the first of six district PATs to complete its study. In addition to Scheie, other team members are Dave Berwick and Don Peterson from PE; Maria Roherty from Construction-Operations; Bruce Stephenson from Contracting Division and the PAT facilitator, Al Geisen from Engineering and Planning (PE).

Bits and Pieces

Foley heads Programs Management Branch

Deborah Foley is the new chief of Programs Management Branch, replacing Marsha Risch who moved to New Mexico. Foley has managed the Rochester, Portage, and Crookston flood control projects and the Environmental Management Program (EMP). She has been a project manager with the district since 1989. Foley began with the district in 1981.

Civil Engineering magazine features Foley article

The November 1995 issue of *Civil Engineering* magazine featured an article by Deborah Foley about the district's recently completed Rochester Flood Control Project. The article is titled "Flood control doesn't have to be ugly." A copy of the November issue is available in the district's technical library.

Pedersen named branch chief

Bernard Pedersen, a supervisory computer specialist, was named chief of Planning and Implementation Branch in Information Management (IM-1). The position was previously held by Jean Turcotte, who retired. Pedersen has been with the district since 1984.

Awards Ceremony set for Dec. 21

The St. Paul District Holiday Awards Ceremony will be held Thursday, Dec. 21, 1995 at the Southview Country Club, 239 E. Mendota Road, West St. Paul. Jim Mosner, Engineering and Planning, is coordinator for the ceremony. Tickets will be sold from mid-November to mid-December. The menu and prices are expected to be comparable to last year. (Meal tickets in 1994 were \$11. Non-food tickets were \$2.50.) Retirees may contact Jan Graham for tickets at 290-5305; field personnel may contact Jan Pream at 612-290-5312. Mosner's phone is 290-5512.

District awards habitat contract for Trempealeau refuge

The St. Paul District has awarded a \$3.7 million contract to a La Crosse, Wis., company to construct a habitat rehabilitation and enhancement project at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. The work will be done on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi north of Trempealeau, Wis. and south of Winona, Minn.

The goal of the project is to preserve, restore, and enhance plant and animal habitat and to provide breeding, resting, and feeding habitat for migratory birds and marsh wildlife on the refuge.

The district, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources cooperated in the project's development.

Corps holds public meetings on navigation study

Three Corps of Engineers districts will hold five open houses to give the public a progress report on the Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System (UMR-IWW) Navigation Study. The study identifies small- and large-scale measures to reduce lock congestion. The open houses will also provide an opportunity for public feedback on the UMR-IWW study. Two of the five open houses are scheduled for the St. Paul District.

The study investigates the feasibility of navigation improvements to the UMR-IWW system. The study area includes the entire Upper Mississippi River from Minneapolis to the mouth of the Ohio River and the Illinois Waterway from Chicago to the Mississippi River. The navigation system has about 1,200 miles of navigation channel that is maintained to a minimum depth of nine feet and 37 lock and dam sites.

Open houses in the St. Paul District are scheduled for November 30 in Bloomington at the Radisson Hotel South, 7800 Normandale Drive and December 4 in Prairie du Chien, Wis., at Huckleberry's, 1916 Marquette Road South.

Two divisions and three districts are participating in the study.

They are NCD and Lower Mississippi Valley Division (LMVD). Participating districts include Rock Island, St. Paul and St. Louis.

August**Hello****Construction-Operations Division**

Scott M. Althoff, deckhand
Victor Callahan, welder
Erin F. O'Connor, office automation clerk
Tony R. Weilandt, deckhand
Kin A. Wenger, welder

Information Management Office

Edmund G. Farnham, student trainee

Logistics Management Office

Antonio S. Hollamon, supply clerk

Real Estate Division

Nelson I. Aguilar, realty clerk

Good-bye**Construction-Operations Division**

David G. Becker, welder
Ilyana M. Cortez, office automation clerk
Kathy M. Dobrunz, laborer
Terrance C. Hogan, laborer
Olivia M. Kruger, office automation clerk
James E. Lantgen, deckhand
Susan T. McGarity, office automation clerk
Brian D. Pont, laborer

Engineering and Planning Division

Aaron W. Buesing, hydraulics engineer
Lonnie J. Mundell, electrical engineer

Public Affairs Office

Pamela Spann, office automation clerk

September**Hello****Construction-Operations Division**

William J. Chelmowski, deckhand
Kimberly S. Wilkinson, office automation clerk

Human Resources Division

Phillip E. Hart, office automation clerk

Resource Management

Wendi J. Schwartz, office automation clerk

Good-bye***Construction-Operations Division**

Dennis H. Boardman, deckhand
John J. Brunet, laborer
William C. Burrows, lock and dam operator
Jeremy W. Caya, laborer
Larry A. Cedar, lock and dam operator
Robert D. Ducharme, laborer
Scott H. Ehnstrom, laborer
Delmar R. Ellingboe, laborer
Kenneth L. Fleshner, Jr., laborer
Douglas A. Grimsled, deckhand
Kenneth O. Hammer, laborer
Paul C. Hansen, laborer
Milton J. Hauptert, laborer
Donna R. Heyer, laborer
Kenneth L. Hovell, lock and dam operator
Bradley O. Jacobs, laborer
John M. Jacobson, Sr., laborer
Larry D. Johnson, lock and dam operator
Raymond W. Kahnk, laborer
John C. Klein, laborer
Neal L. Knutson, lock and dam operator
William S. LaRose, laborer
Raymond T. Larson, laborer
Steven W. Malsam, laborer
Shannon L. McGuine, laborer
Thomas P. Mikrut, lock and dam operator
Gerald E. Orlikowski, laborer
Bruce G. Ragan, supervisory civil engineer (retired)
Mark A. Roycraft, park ranger
John S. Sares, laborer
Shawn M. Schneider, laborer
Donald L. Sprague, lock and dam operator
Kenneth C. Stewart, laborer
John P. Thiese, laborer
Richard J. Trausch, laborer
John M. Turnis, laborer
Randy L. Varo, laborer
John M. Welch, lock and dam operator

Michael T. Wright, civil engineer
Edward M. Yankuns, laborer

Contracting Division

Betty L. Krueger, procurement clerk (retired)

Equal Employment Opportunity Office

Erika D. Whitaker, office automation clerk

Engineering and Planning Division

C. Fred Beauvais, supervisory civil engineer (retired)
Roger D. Christiansen, civil engineering technician
Matthew C. Curran, hydrologic technician (retired)
Myrna Y. Jinks, program support assistant (retired)

Human Resources

Selena M. Hotchkiss, office automation clerk

Information Management Office

Charles R. Cloutier, management assistant (retired)

Office of Counsel

Brandi L. Seman, office automation clerk

Programs and Project Management Division

Bruce C. Heide, landscape architect

Real Estate Division

Amy L. Hennen, student trainee
Scott A. McCrady, realty clerk
Angela J. Silvagni, realty clerk

Resource Management Office

Annabelle K. Allen, chief, Budget, Manpower and Management Analysis Branch (retired)
Leticia Cordova, office automation clerk
Demesha L. Tatum, office automation clerk

*Includes many seasonal workers

Updated channel maintenance plan subject of public meetings



Photo by Ken Gardner

An interagency panel at the Winona High School gym answered questions from the public about the updated Mississippi River channel maintenance plan. From left are Dan Krumholz from the Fountain City Service Base; Terry Moe, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Dean Peterson, Mississippi River Project manager; Steve Johnson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; and Jim Harrison, Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission.

Updating the objectives of the channel maintenance plan for the Mississippi River's nine-foot navigation channel was the topic at three public meetings held in October.

The St. Paul District and other river management agencies held meetings October 23, 25 and 26 in communities along the river. The meetings were at Prescott, Wis.; Winona, Minn.; and Lansing, Iowa.

Federal and state agency officials presented detailed information on techniques for dredging and

disposing of dredged material. Officials also reserved time for comments from citizens.

The updated plan is designed to:

- avoid adverse environmental impacts;
- provide dredged material for beneficial uses;
- protect or improve selected fish and wildlife habitat and recreational use areas.

These updated objectives grew from the interagency Great River Environmental Action Team (GREAT), which produced the first

cooperative channel maintenance plan for this area in 1980.

The area covered by the plan includes 243 miles of the Mississippi River from the upper harbor at Minneapolis to Lock & Dam No. 10 at Guttenberg, Iowa. The plan also covers channel maintenance on three navigable tributaries: 22 miles of the Minnesota River; 25 miles of the St. Croix River and 1.5 miles of the Black River.

The plan under consideration includes many of the GREAT study recommendations and updates others based on experience, new information and interagency consultation through the River Resources Forum, a group of federal and state natural resource management agencies.

Agencies participating in the public meetings include the Corps, which maintains the navigation channel, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the departments of natural resources for Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.



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