



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

"Proud of our past;
Working for a
better tomorrow"

130 Years

1866 - 1996

"130 years," pages 4-5

Crosscurrents

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July 1996

Umbrellas become newest 'water diversion projects' for Corps awards day at Eau Galle



Photo by Jon Lyman

Dennis Erickson, picnic co-chair for the Corps Awards Day, and Shelly Shafer, a park ranger at the Eau Galle Lake project, carried their own 'water diversion projects' to protect against sporadic

downpours which occurred throughout the morning on Friday, June 21. Nearly 400 district employees and their families attended the ceremony in Spring Valley, Wis. More on page 2.

Wet to the Corps, district gathers for awards



Photo by Jon Lyman

Omar Williams (left), Jon Lyman's stepson, and Fred Mitchell from Contracting Division are as patient for the rain to let up as they are for the fish to bite. Lyman is with Visual Information.

Nearly 400 employees and their families gathered on a rainy June 21 at the Eau Galle Lake project in Spring Valley, Wis., for awards and team-building events. Although wet weather halted outdoor events early in the day, shelters and tents kept people dry for the awards.

George Fortune was the recipient of the first U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Design Engineer of the Year Award. (See page 6.) The award honored his contributions to the success of the Rochester Flood Control Project. The awards program also acknowledged the Rochester Project's Award of Excellence—the Corps' highest honor for a civil works project in the biennial USACE awards program.

The program recognized the individuals who worked on the Lock & Dam No. 4 control building in Alma, Wis. and the Floodplain Management Assessment of the Flood of 1993. These two project received Merit Awards this year in competition in the civil works category.

COL Wonsik presented the 1996 Spring Flood Awards to 24 individuals and recognized four people for work outside the district in the 1995 hurricanes. The presentation included 106 Length of Service Awards, recognizing individuals from 10 years to 35 years of service with the Corps.

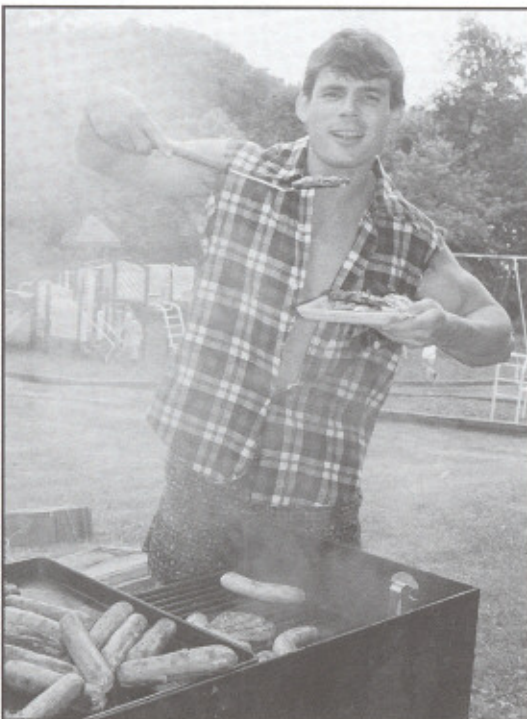


Photo by Jon Lyman

The rain abated by meal time. Pictured is Keith McFarlin, a personnel management specialist in Human Resources.



Photo by Georgia Stanonick

Joe Skupa, Construction Branch brought his nieces and nephews to Corps Day. From the left are Neil, John, Monica, Alicia, Jessica and Joe Skupa. Right of Skupa are Sheryl Hurley, Management Support Branch and Liz Sackett of Human Resources.

Corps strives to draw fair line in the sand

by Kelly Cahalan
Public Affairs volunteer

Encroaching on your neighbor's property is normally the beginning of a lot of telephone calls and legal-work, especially if your neighbor happens to be an agency of the federal government.

Encroachment occurs when something is built—something even as small as a flagpole or a water line—beyond legal property lines.

In 1993, the St. Paul District surveyed federal land along the Mississippi in southern Minnesota and Wisconsin for the first time since the 1930s. Surveyors noted 25 individual encroachments on federal land around pools 3 and 4 along the Mississippi River between Red Wing and Wabasha. The cases were on both sides of the river.

The survey showed encroachments involving utility sheds, stairways, water lines, fences, gardens, portions of decks and even part of an above-ground swimming pool.

According to realty technician Bill McCarthy, very few individuals contested the results of the survey. "We sent out letters explaining the situation after we were sure it was a case of encroachment," he said. "Most of the individuals have been very cooperative. They want to resolve the situation as much as we do."

The federal government has several options for property owners who have built on public land. The preferred option is to have the encroacher move the fixture.

Another option is a five-year, renewable license that allows private individuals to continue to use public

land for a fee. However, the Corps reserves the right to revoke the license at any time for any reason. Licenses were sufficient in most of the cases around pools 3 and 4.

Some cases can not be resolved by simply moving the fixture or obtaining a license. Under certain conditions, individuals may be eligible to purchase the land. Four cases with houses or large outbuildings fell into this category.

"Selling land to cure an encroachment is the last option," said McCarthy, "and is proposed only after the case has been screened through a battery of tests to ensure compliance with our regulations." He explained that each property is reviewed for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and screened for potential contamination by the district Environmental Review Guide for Operations (ERGO) coordinator.

After the encroacher has proven that the encroachment was unintentional, the case is evaluated to ensure that the property is not essential to government operations.

With the tests complete, the encroacher must survey the property and coordinate it with the district's Real Estate Division (RE). The survey is approved by Engineering and Planning Division.

To date, the district has made tentative offers to sell land to two individuals. Personnel in RE are still evaluating the remaining two cases. One individual, who is expected to buy approximately 2,800 square feet of land at pool 3, constructed the majority of three permanent structures on federal property. "The buildings were constructed about 30 years ago when there were no clearly defined property lines marked on the ground," said McCarthy.

Line, cont. on page 6



Photo by Kurt Feppe

The deck and inside corner of this cabin near Welch, Minn., are encroaching on federal property. The owner is expected to purchase the land to cure the encroachment.

130 years of significant firsts by the St. Paul District

Since its founding in July, 1866, the St. Paul District has been involved in a number of significant projects and "firsts." These include:

1866: Congress directed Corps to prepare a report on the construction of railroad bridges over the Mississippi River. The report, prepared by Major Gouverneur K. Warren, district engineer in St. Paul, establishes the federal policy that steamboat needs take priority over railroad needs in the design and placement of railroad bridges.

1870-1885: Designed and built timber apron to save St. Anthony Falls from further collapse following disastrous effort by milling interests to construct a tunnel near the falls. Completed permanent project at the falls, including a new apron, two low dams above the falls and a log sluiceway.

1883-1894: Laid out and developed the road network in the nation's first national park —Yellowstone. The first officer in charge of this project at

Yellowstone was Dan C. Kingman, who became Chief of Engineers in 1913.

1884: Leech, Winnibigoshish, Pokegama reservoirs completed; first major reservoir system in the Corps of Engineers.

1910-1917: Designed and built Lock and Dam No. 1, first dam in the Corps of Engineers to incorporate an hydroelectric power plant. The power plant, still in operation today, is owned and operated by Ford Motor Company as part of its St. Paul assembly plant.

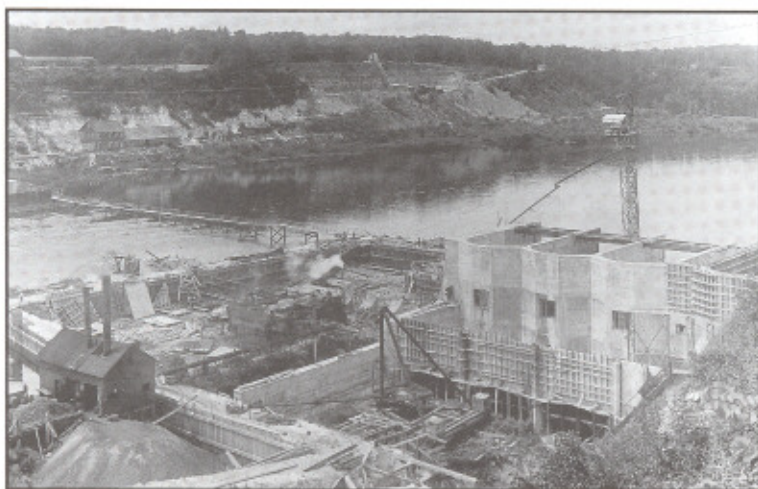
1970-1980s: First major non-structural flood control project in Corps was completed at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. With cooperation from the city, state and other federal agencies, more than 100 families and approximately 12 businesses were relocated from low-lying St. Feriote Island.

1970s: St. Paul District was involved in the first joint-agency, interdisciplinary approach to

environmental design in the Great River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) study on the Mississippi River. In this process, the district developed close working relationships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies. The success of the GREAT Study established the benefits of interagency and interdisciplinary cooperation. This set the stage for later cooperative efforts at Weaver Bottoms, the Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and a number of partnerships between the district, other agencies and private organizations.

1989: The district earned the Chief's Award of Excellence for the Weaver Channel Maintenance/Environmental Restoration Project. This was the first time the top award had gone to an project entered only in the environmental category.

1996: Rochester Flood Control Project earns the Chief's Award of Excellence in the Corps-wide Design and Engineering Competition.



St. Paul District archives photo

Hydroelectric power comes to St. Paul

From 1910-1917, the district designed and built Lock & Dam No. 1 (at left), the first dam in the Corps of Engineers to incorporate a hydroelectric power plant. The photo of Lock & Dam No. 1 was taken on July 18, 1913. The power plant, still in operation today, is owned and operated by Ford Motor Company as part of its St. Paul assembly plant.

Navigation earliest mission of St. Paul District

by Lisa Robertson
Student in Public Affairs

St. Paul began its identity as a district in July 1866, when the Chief of Engineers General Andrew Humphreys assigned Major Gouverneur Kemble Warren to St. Paul. Humphreys directed Warren to open a district office for engineers in which he would serve as the first district engineer and develop the navigation potential of the Mississippi River.

The decision to open a new St. Paul district was based on Congress' passage of the River and Harbors Act on June 23, 1866. The act authorized funding for surveys of the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries.

Warren's abilities were probably first noticed by Humphreys when they worked together in surveying the Mississippi Delta. Because of

Warren's experience, dedication, and leadership skills, Humphreys chose him to fill the position of district engineer. Warren was intelligent and experienced in surveying and mapping. He had been salutorian at West Point in 1850, one of the first training facilities for engineers.

Warren was also a Civil War hero. In the battle of Gettysburg he observed the Confederates sneaking toward a strategic hill, Little Round Top, which was undefended. He quickly gathered more than two brigades of infantry and artillery on the hill, just in time to repulse the Confederate attack. Warren's leadership at Little Round Top helped turn the battle of Gettysburg into a victory.

In St. Paul, Warren's orders were to examine the Mississippi River and its principal tributaries above the Rock Island Rapids. From there he

was to formulate a method of bridging St. Paul and St. Louis with little obstruction to navigation. He was also tasked with deciding how to establish a four-foot channel between St. Louis and the falls at St. Anthony.

After opening the district on July 31, 1866, Warren immediately started on his task. His assistants surveyed the river's tributaries while he began his own inspection above Rock Island, "making careful surveys in 14 different places involving 74 miles of survey." The surveys inspected Mississippi waterways for sandbars, islands, currents, and other obstacles that could impede river transportation. From this research, the Corps of Engineers began to make the first river improvements in 1870, in which the river channel was deepened to make the river a reliable mode of transportation.

1866 through 1989: Notable events

1866: Major Gouverneur Kemble Warren opens government engineers office in St. Paul.

1870: Reconstruction of the falls at St. Anthony started under Major Warren's direction.

1883: District Engineer Dan Kingman sent to oversee development of roads and bridges in Yellowstone Park.

1884: Experimental timber dams at Lake Winnibigoshish, Pokegama Falls and Leech Lake completed.

1899: Congress authorizes construction of Lock & Dam No. 1.

1907: Congress authorizes construction of the six-foot channel on the Mississippi River.

1913: License issued to operate a public boat landing at Leech Lake Reservoir. Area later developed as Corps recreation area.

1927: Congress authorizes feasibility study for nine-foot navigation channel. St. Croix River channel deepened to six feet.

1930: Congress authorizes nine-foot channel construction and a series of locks and dams on the Mississippi River. Construction of Lock & Dam No. 2 at Hastings completed.

1936: National Flood Control act empowers the Corps of improve waterways for flood control purposes.

1937: Dredge William Thompson begins service.

1951: Major flooding along the Mississippi River and its tributaries, and again the following season.

1958: Work begins on the St. Paul Flood Control Project.

1959: Lower St. Anthony Falls Project completed.

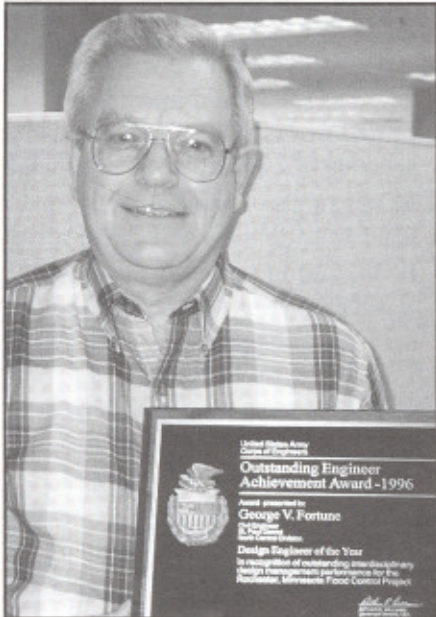
1960: Flood Control Act authorizes the Corps of assist local governments in planning flood control projects.

1965: Flood of record on the Mississippi River.

1980: Civil works jurisdiction for Lake Superior drainage basins in Minnesota and Wisconsin reassigned from St. Paul to Detroit District.

1989: Flood fight along Red River of the North. Mankato Flood Control Project dedicated

George Fortune named Corps 1st outstanding design engineer



George Fortune (above), a civil engineer in design branch, accepted the Corps' first Outstanding Engineer Achievement Award at the district's awards ceremony at the Eau Galle Lake project on June 21. The award honored his contributions to the success of the award-winning Rochester Flood Control Project.

The award commended his outstanding interdisciplinary design management performance on the project.

Fortune provided continuity through four different project managers and guided the project's technical quality. Throughout his 18 years on the project, his key contributions in the feasibility stage, the project design, plans and specifications, and construction contributed to the project's success.

Line, cont. from page 3

In each of the cases, the builders and property owners did not use a private surveyor to establish actual property lines.

Estimating the location of a property line can be risky. In one case, the property owner's abstract indicated his property extended 122 feet from the road bordering one end of his land. The owner measured back 122 feet from the road and built a house. Unfortunately, the owner was unaware that the abstract had not been updated to indicate that the original road had been moved.

CREST prepares Frawley for duty on foreign real estate

by Kelly Cahalan
Public Affairs volunteer



After he returned from Vietnam in 1972, Martin Frawley never thought he would volunteer to go back into a battlefield.

Things change.

In May, Frawley completed a two-week military course which could send him to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Frawley, acquisition chief in the St. Paul District's Real Estate Division, is a member of the Army Corps of Engineers' Contingency Real Estate Support Team (CREST). CREST is a group of about 60 volunteer Corps real estate specialists who are trained to rapidly deploy to areas where U.S. troops are operating. They are among the first people in, and the last people out.

CREST came into existence in 1993. When Frawley read about the

Today, about eight feet of the house and all of a deck sit on federal land.

Encroachments, while usually unintentional, can involve significant costs to the encroacher.

Costs include payment of fair market value for the land, administrative fees and additional survey charges.

"It is a painful and expensive process for these folks," said McCarthy. "However, when all is said and done, I think these people will breathe a sigh of relief. Without this solution, they would be facing much bigger problems if they ever wanted to sell their property or use it to secure a loan."

program last year, he saw the opportunity to do something—for the Corps, the U.S., the horrible situation in Bosnia, and himself—rather than just push papers. "It's encouraging to know that little guys, like me, can do something that may have positive effects on a situation," he said.

In May, he completed a ten-day training course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Frawley explained that the training, which needs to be repeated every year, was almost like a mini-basic training. CREST trainees went through several confidence courses, qualified on both the M16 and the Beretta 9mm, passed military physical training requirements, studied map reading and land navigation as well as combat-situation real estate training.

He explained the necessity of such training, "Because we work directly with the four military branches in field conditions, we have to be able to pass all of their standards. We can't be a burden on them."

CREST, cont. on page 7

Raasch uses exercise to waist away

by Mary Street of Human Resources and Lisa Robertson, student in Public Affairs

Dave Raasch, a project manager in the Programs and Project Management Division, exercises regularly to maintain strength, flexibility, and a stable weight level. In 1987, after eight years with the Corps, Dave quit smoking and began to exercise regularly to avoid the weight gain that often follows quitting.

"Exercise gave me the ability to replace one habit with another—one that wouldn't make me end up as wide as I am tall," Dave said.

Dave's goal is to live a long, healthy and happy life with his wife, Mary Jean, and their four children. He is exercising to make this ambition a reality.

Almost immediately after he quit smoking, his energy and endurance levels increased. The energy boost helped at the time because his daughter, like all curious toddlers, liked to get into everything. With a laugh, Dave said "I had to quit smoking because I had a three year old at home who had started eating



Photo by Mary Street

Mirrors line the wall of the weight room at the YMCA where Dave Raasch works out. Raasch is a project manager in Programs and Project Management,

cigarette butts."

Dave exercises six days a week, alternating his routine among weights, stretches, and stair-climbing equipment. He also does aerobic activities such as racquetball and running in addition to his regular workout. Dave's hard work has paid off and it shows. He has maintained the same weight and a 32-inch waist for the last 10 years. His enthusiastic attitude toward exercise encourages others also to pursue their personal level of health and fitness, "Don't be reluctant to

join and use the YMCA," he said. "Some people say 'I haven't been in a locker room setting since high school.' Once you get over the initial shock of starting a new activity, it becomes routine."

Editor's note: The cost of YMCA membership is dramatically discounted under the Corporate Membership Program for Corps employees. There will be a membership drive in October. Crosscurrents will update you with final details about the program.

CREST, cont. from page 6

Today, seven CREST members are actively supporting Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia. They have also participated in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Vigilant Warrior in Kuwait in 1994.

CREST members are expected to be among the first U.S. personnel in the country. When deployed, first

they scope out all real estate interests our military might need, from airstrips to warehouses, then they begin negotiations with the host country to lease land and facilities which best fit those needs.

When the military operation has been completed, the CREST representative terminates all the leasing agreements.

To date, 14 CREST members have served in Bosnia, with rotations taking place every 60-90 days. Frawley is still not sure if he will be called. It will depend on how long American troops stay in the country. CREST members must be ready to deploy anywhere within 24 hours notice. "I'm ready to go as soon as they need me," said Frawley.

Bits and Pieces

Corps Headquarters features Bosse

John Anfinson, historian for the St. Paul District, opened an exhibit featuring historic photography by Henry P. Bosse at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington, D.C. this June.

The exhibit features 45 of Bosse's prints and has 20 panels

depicting the Corps' work on the Mississippi River from St. Anthony Falls, Minnesota to Fort Madison, Iowa.

Anfinson wrote "Henry Bosse's Views of the Upper Mississippi River" for the exhibit. "The brochure examines the discovery of Bosse's photos, their rising value in the art world and their significance to the Corps and Mississippi River history," said Anfinson. The 24-page brochure is available from Public Affairs (290-5202) in limited quantities.

Bosse was a draftsman with the Corps during the late 1800s. The

Bosse photos have become collectors items and are prized for their exceptional composition.

The exhibit will run through at least the end of December.

Retirees gather Sept. 5

Corps of Engineers employees will gather for the 21st St. Paul District retirees' reunion on Thursday, Sept. 5 at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul. For more information, contact Peggy Peterson at 776-8740 or Jim Kursu at 224-0053.

CFC recognizes St. Paul District

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) recognized the St. Paul District for exceeding its campaign goal during the 1995 fund drive. Jan Pream, who chaired the fund drive, accepted the "Distinguished Leadership Award" on behalf of the district at a Federal Executive Board

ceremony on June 12. The district's goal was \$27,000. Employees pledged more than \$32,000 to CFC.

Pream is an administrative support assistant in Construction-Operations Division (CO). CO is responsible for the next CFC fund drive, scheduled for this October. Dave Haumersen, CO chief, accompanied Pream.

Lenhart named Upper St. Anthony Falls lockmaster

Steven C. Lenhart, former assistant lockmaster for the combined Upper/Lower St. Anthony Falls, is the new lockmaster at Upper St. Anthony Falls lock and dam. Lockmaster Robert Stall remains lockmaster for Lower St. Anthony Falls. Lenhart has been assistant lockmaster for the past five years and has been with the Corps since December 1977. The appointment was effective June 9.

FWP readies for Take Your Child to Work

The Federal Women's Program (FWP) is sponsoring Take Your Child to Work Day on August 20. Activities include locking through Lock & Dam No. 1 on the Jonathan Paddleford, an excursion boat. The cost per child is \$10. Corps professionals will explain how the lock works, how it was built, and will highlight the Corps' role in the history of the Mississippi River. Contact the EEO office at 290-5383 for details.



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St. Paul District

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Crosscurrents

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