



US Army Corps
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St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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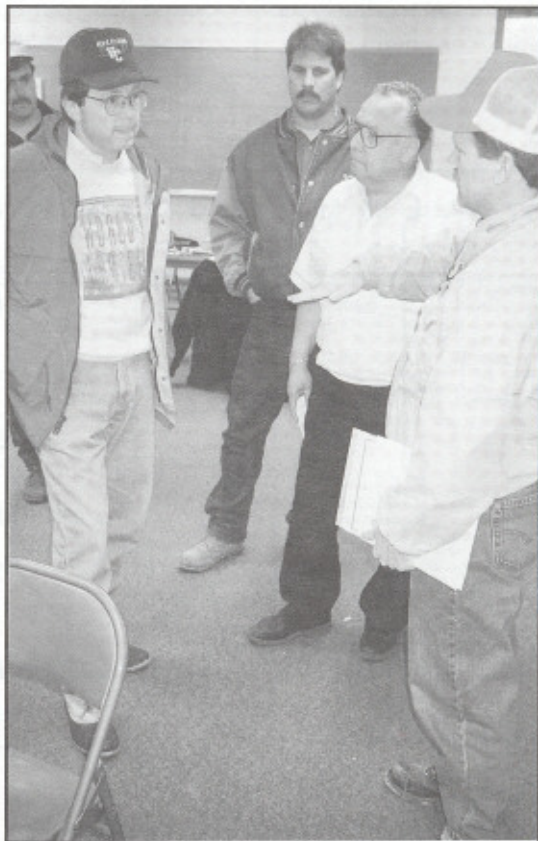
Photos by Ken Gardner

District supports local flood fights

The St. Paul District supported 16 cities and 13 counties in northwestern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota in their effort to control spring flooding, mainly along the Sheyenne River, the Red River of the North and their tributaries.

The district provided 761,000 sandbags, 34 pumps, dispatched personnel to flood hot spots to provide technical assistance and retained more than a dozen contractors build levees in flood prone areas.

In the photo at top, Tim Bertschi (left) and Tom Eidson view flooding of the Sheyenne River at the Viking Drive bridge in Valley City. Bertschi is the project manager at the Western Area Flood Control Project in Fargo, N.D. Eidson is chief of quality assurance section in Construction Branch. In photo at right, Bertschi (right) briefs U.S. Representative Pomeroy (at left) about the Corps' response to flooding in eastern North Dakota and at Valley City. Next to Bertschi are Valley City Mayor Riley Rogers and Loren Nishek, the resource manager at Baldhill Dam. More on pages 4-5.



Corps Day Awards Picnic set for June 21

Mark your calendar now for Friday, June 21 for the Corps Family Fun and Awards Presentation Day at the Eau Galle Recreation Area.

Eau Galle is located at Spring Valley, Wisconsin, about 50 miles east of St. Paul. Operated by the St. Paul District, the Eau Galle facility provides flood protection, numerous recreational opportunities and valuable habitat for native plants and animals.

If you haven't visited the Midwest's largest earthen dam, here's your chance!

There will be no vehicle entry fee this year, and Eau Galle has plenty of free parking for everyone. While there is no plan for organizing a car pooling program, car pooling is encouraged.

Lots of activities are planned this year for the young and young at heart. There will be volleyball and golf tournaments, and numerous fun activities for children. Hiking trails and horseshoe areas are available, and even though a fishing contest is not part of the program, you can still try your luck. There will be lots of door prizes and kids game prizes!

For more information about the activities you're interested in, contact: Lisa Hedin (volleyball) at 290-5431; Ferris Chamberlain (golf) at 290-5627; Annette Vogel (children's activities) at 290-5345; Dave Christenson (fishing) at 290-5204.

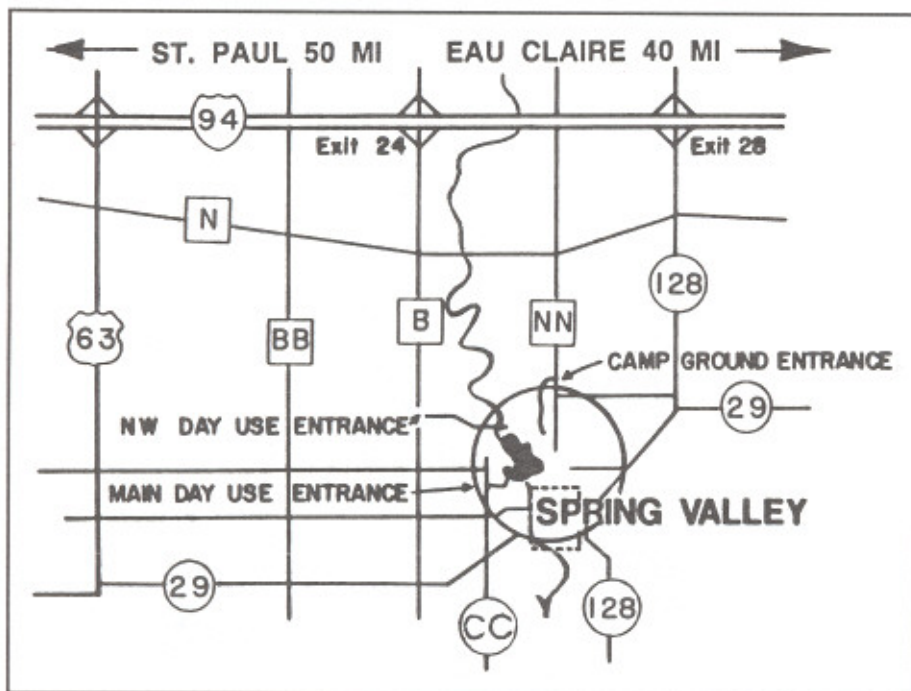
Ticket prices vary. A meal ticket for children under 11 will be \$3; for anyone 11 and older the meal ticket will be \$6. A non-meal ticket for those 11 and older will be \$2. There is no charge for those under 11 not purchasing a meal ticket. Keep in mind that your ticket entitles you to qualify for the many door prizes that will be available.

Tickets will be going on sale right after Memorial Day. Watch your cc:Mail and bulletin boards for more information. Retirees, contact Jan Graham at (612) 290-5305, and field personnel contact Jan Pream at (612) 290-5312 to arrange for tickets.

For those individuals requiring special accommodations or arrangements, contact Cindy Haagensen at (612) 290-5666 before May 24. This year's menu includes brats, hotdogs and hamburgers (2 meat choices with an adult ticket, 1 with a child's ticket), beans, vegetable tray, relishes and chips. As always, pop, popcorn and sno-cones will be provided for everyone.

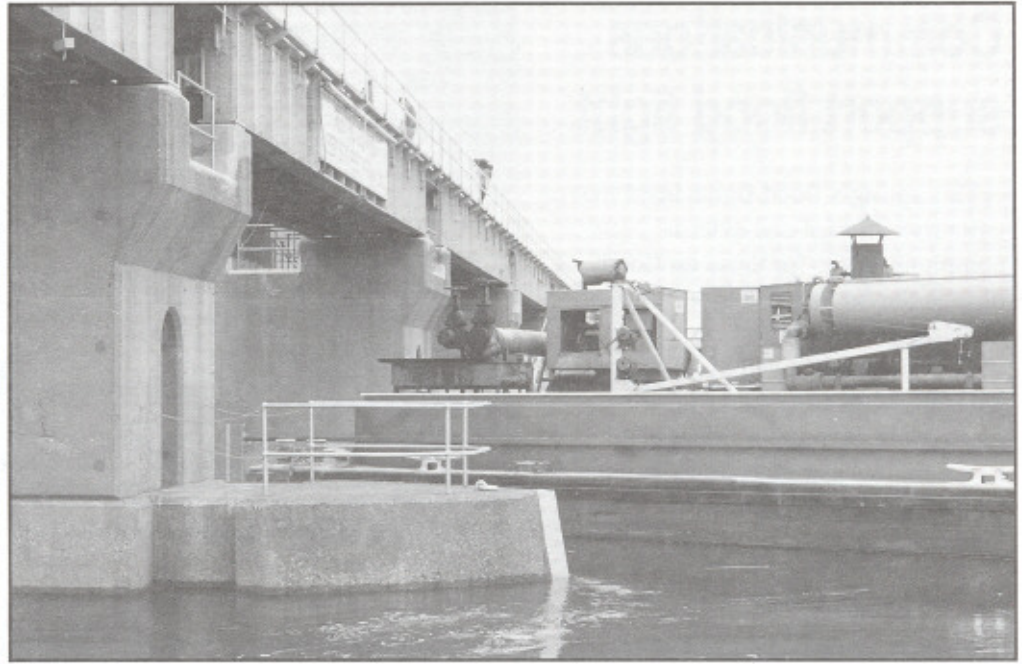
Back this year by popular demand is the dessert contest! Prizes will be given in both youth and adult categories. Anyone may enter by bringing in a dessert—any kind will do. Watch your cc:Mail and bulletin boards for more information. All entries, after the judging, will become the property of the picnic ticket holders. We all get to eat all those cakes, cookies, bars, and pies! So start planning what dessert you will bring and get your baking hats on!

"Eau Galle is located at Spring Valley, Wisconsin, about 50 miles east of St. Paul. Operated by the St. Paul District, the Eau Galle facility provides flood protection, numerous recreational opportunities and valuable habitat for native plants and animals."

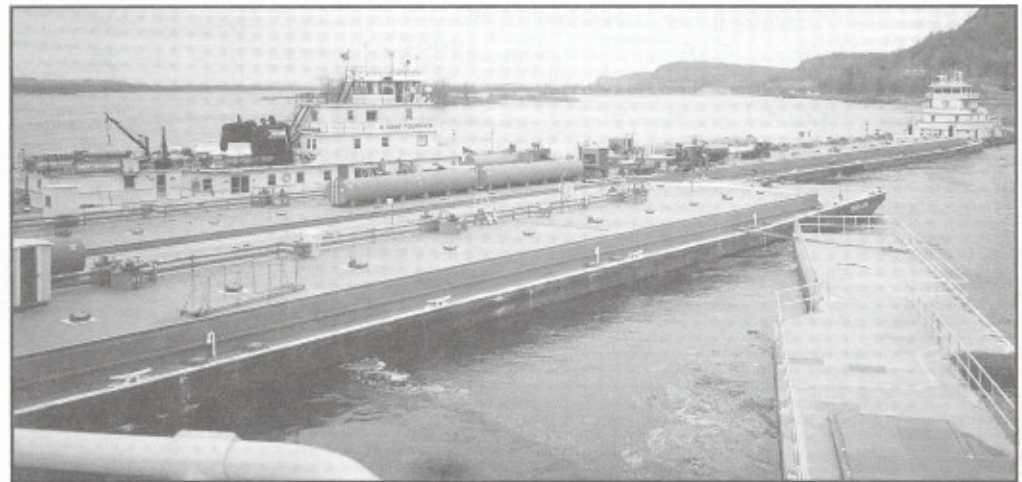


Barges “tap” dam at Alma

At right, one of three loaded petroleum barges rests against a concrete pier at Lock & Dam No. 4, Alma, Wis. The barge, one of three attached to southbound tow, broke loose while approaching the lock chamber on Monday, April 22. The barge rolled on an I-wall and tapped against pier point number three. Below, two tows work together to pull the barges away from the dam. Head Lock and Dam Operator Fred Maule closed the roller gates near the barge to reduce the rapid flow of the current. The action prevented damages and made recovery efforts easier for the tows. There were no injuries, only minor damage and no oil spill.



Photos by Ken Gardner



Toastmasters hear call to “Play Ball!”

Accompanied by the icons of baseball, and lunching on peanuts, pop, popcorn, and hotdogs, Heritage Toastmasters and guests heard the call to “Play Ball!” when the club hosted a meeting on April 16 around a baseball theme and invited representatives from the St. Paul Saints to speak.

The Heritage club hosted the meeting to celebrate baseball and to introduce potential members to the benefits of public speaking. The Toastmaster was Rick Carlson, PE-M. Kim Jones, RM, handed out door prizes. Kevin Bluhm, PE-M, and Lois Pream, CT, won free tickets to a St. Paul Saints game. Bob Dempsey, PE-M; Joe Yanta, CO-R; John Miller, LM; and Steve Mottl, PE-D, won Saints posters autographed by Wayne Terwilliger, currently a coach for the Saints. Terwilliger is a retired major-league player and a retired Twins coach.



Photo by John Blackstone

Communications support flood fight

This spring's flood fights involved extensive internal and external communications for those on flood duty in the St. Paul District. District officials communicated with contractors, exchanged hydrologic data, met with city officials, held press conferences, and assessed up-to-the minute status reports about the spring flooding in northwestern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota.



Photos by Ken Gardner except where indicated

Mapping the flood

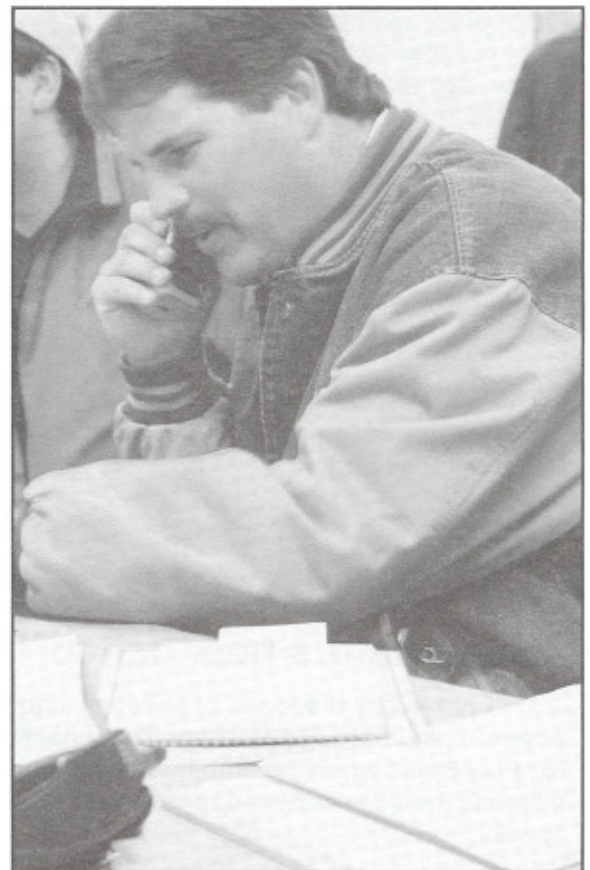
Steve Odegaard, Western Flood Control Project Office, reviews a U.S. Geological Survey quadrant map of Kindred, N.D. to examine where the Sheyenne River has broken out of its banks. Odegaard spent hours on the phone with state and county officials to ensure they had sandbags and pumps.

Directly supporting the district's emergency operations in the field were Tim Bertschi, CO-WF; Mike Dahlquist, PE-D; Tom Eidson, CO-C; Roland Hamborg, CO-TS; Lisa Hedin, PE-M; Neil Helming, PE-M; Lon Mathis, CO-EL; Richard Pomerleau, PE-H; Neil Schwanz, PE-D; Darrell Morey, PE-D; Tom Oksness, CO-MR-M; Dick Sundberg, CO-W-SH; and Terry Zien, PE-H. Field personnel from Baldhill Dam, the Fargo office, Lake Traverse and the Orwell Lake Flood Control Project were heavily involved.



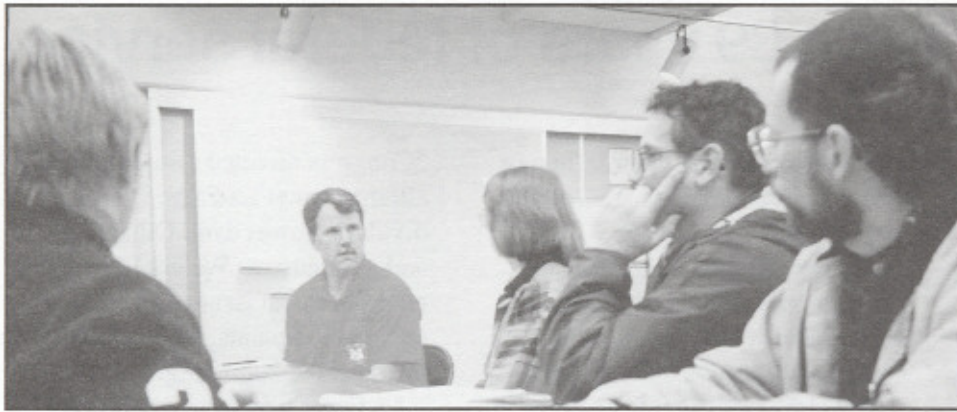
Working with contractors

Lon Mathis, a construction representative at the resident office in La Crosse, Wis., supervised the construction of emergency levees at Valley City, ND. The district retained nearly a dozen contractors and established \$700,000 in obligated authority through the end of April to help communities in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota fight seasonal floods.



Talking by cellular

Loren Nishek, the resource manager at Baldhill Dam, visited the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Valley City, N.D. The cell phone aided coordination with Water Control, various contractors, the district's EOC and his office.



Meeting with city officials

Tim Bertshi met with the mayor of Kindred, members of the city council and their consulting engineer to coordinate the flood fight and levee construction on the Sheyenne River.



Viewing with a hand level

Darrell Morey, Design Branch, peers through a hand level to check the elevation of the Red River of the North. Morey stands atop a city levee at Grand Forks, N.D. The city levee protects a golf course. The elevation numbers helped the city and the Corps determine construction priority for a back-up levee between the golf course and a residential area.

Photo by Mike Dahlquist



Conveying and evaluating crucial information

Participating in the Commander's Flood Briefing in the Emergency Operations Center are, from left, Ed Eaton, PE-H; Bud Johnson, PE-H; Bob Engelstad, PE-H; LTC William Breyfogle, deputy district commander; Dave Haumersen, chief of CO; and Bob Post, chief of PE. The briefing offered a system-wide view of flooding.

Kowalski reflects on 39 years of federal service

by Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs specialist

In 1974, Lou Kowalski left the St. Paul District as an engineer and returned 12 years later as planner. Upon his retirement this April, he was the highest ranking civilian in the St. Paul District, holding dual titles of Deputy District Engineer for Project Management (DDPM) and Chief of the Programs and Project Management Division.

"After a few years, I discovered there was life after engineering. There was more than the design of flood walls. I learned that at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) when I got into planning. It was challenging and interesting."

There were high points and low points in a career that lasted more than 39 years of federal service. They included two years active military duty as an Army engineer, 12 years with the FWS and a lengthy period with the St. Paul District.

"I have enjoyed engineering," said Kowalski. Casually dressed and relaxed on his second day of retirement, the former DDPM choreographed his words by occasionally tapping his feet, spreading or waving his arms, raising up the palms of his hands, or tightly curling in his fingers to accent his words.

Family, friends and education provided a solid foundation for Kowalski's career. "My father was good at math. I was good at math," he said. "One of my high school teachers encouraged me to develop

my math skills. The other influence was a high school class advisor and family friend who always encouraged me to change courses into something harder. It was my oldest sister who encouraged me to go on to college."

Kowalski graduated from high school in Waukesha, Wis., west of Milwaukee, and entered Marquette University where he graduated in 1957 with a B.S. in civil engineering. At graduation, he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Army through ROTC. After graduation, Kowalski worked for the Maintenance Branch at the St. Paul District. That October, he accepted a commission as a Second Lieutenant engineering officer.

He served two years active duty in an engineer construction company and an engineer group headquarters and returned to the district in 1959 as a structural engineer in the Design Branch.

In 1962, he transferred to the FWS at Ft. Snelling. At FWS he worked in both Design and Planning Branches and rose to become chief of Planning Branch. As a result of a FWS nationwide reorganization, he declined a promotion and transfer to Denver and returned to the Corps in 1974.

Returning to the Corps in 1974, he was promoted to chief of Planning Branch after five years.

The controversial La Farge Project immediately challenged Kowalski upon his return to the district.

"Congress directed a study of the alternatives at La Farge," he said. "A dry dam. A wet dam. Other choices and alternatives. We got involved in environmental issues and rare and endangered plants. And I was thrown into it at the beginning."

La Farge was a proposed flood control reservoir on the Kickapoo River southeast of La Crosse, Wis. The 1962 Flood Control Act authorized the project and Congress appropriated funds in 1964. The district suspended construction in 1975 due to alleged water quality problems and lack of support by the governor and U.S. Representatives from Wisconsin. "The last three to four years, there has been a push to de-authorize the project and turn it back to the state," said Kowalski. "La Farge will be eligible in fiscal year 1996 for consideration for de-authorization."

Partially as a result of the La Farge Project, Kowalski was named Civil Servant of the Year in 1977. By 1990, he had been Chief of Planning Branch and, upon reorganization, became Chief of the new Planning Division.

"The low point in my career came in 1990 when I learned that they were planning to close the St. Paul district," he said. "My first reaction was disbelief. My second was how to work to get that plan changed and come up with something more acceptable to St. Paul." He worked closely with Congressman Bruce Vento to inform and educate other members of the Minnesota

Continued on page 8

District employee takes steps for fitness

by Lisa Robertson,
Student in Public Affairs

Editor's Note: With society's increasing awareness of the benefits from health and fitness, "Crosscurrents" will periodically profile district employees who follow an active and physically fit lifestyle.

For Teri Alberico, a biologist in the Environmental Resources section, using her spare time to actively participate in fitness is fun and rewarding. Fitness allows her the opportunity to set goals for herself and accomplish them while relieving stress and keeping healthy. Teri's advice for those who want to become involved in fitness is, "A 10,000-mile journey begins with a single step—take it!"

One step she takes to keep fit and maintain high energy is free climbing, a method of rock climbing using ropes for safety. The ropes are often set before the climb begins, but sometimes she follows a lead climber who sets the ropes as they climb. Teri learned how to free climb after joining the Rovers Outdoors Club in 1990. The experience has kept her fit and has allowed her to climb in Boulder, Colo.; Kalispell, Mont.; and Devil's Tower, Wyo.

In addition to rock-climbing, Teri stays fit by scuba diving, mountain biking, and canoeing. She teaches basic sailing, and is charter-certified to sail on Lake Superior. She has also taught Red Cross sailing classes at Lake Phalen for the past four



Photo by Cheryl Kirchner

Teri Alberico reaches for the top in her free-climb near Kalispell, Mont.

summers.

Teri became interested in fitness in high school, where she participated in softball and touch football. In college, her interests expanded to cross-country skiing, biking, and downhill skiing.

"At age 30," she said, "I was inspired by others who were my age but much more accomplished in athletics than I." Teri decided on a goal—to compete in the AAA Triathlon in Duluth. To date, she has participated in the Triathlon in four of the five past years,

completing one long course, one short course and participating in two just for fun. In the the long race she swam one mile, peddled a bicycle 29 miles, and ran 6.2-miles. The short race was about one-third as long.

Teri said that the most exciting part of any of the sports she takes part in is watching the enthusiasm of others flourish as she helps them to become interested in living a healthy lifestyle.

(Mary Street of Human Resources also contributed to this article.)

In Memoriam

Mary Ann Marx, 41, an environmental protection specialist in the La Crosse, Wis., Regulatory Office, died at home from cancer on Monday, April 29, 1996. She was born in Eau Claire on June 27, 1954 and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, in 1979. She married former Corps employee Barry

Drazkowski, now a biologist with the National Biological Service, on June 11, 1983. They have three daughters.

Weston 'Wes' Sampson, who retired in 1980 as Head Lock and Dam Operator at Lock & Dam No. 9, died Sunday, March 31 of a heart attack at age 76. He graduated high school in Decorah, Iowa, and attended Luther College.



St. Paul District photo

At the awards ceremony honoring his retirement, Lou Kowalski, right, received the Silver de Fleury Medal from COL J.M. Wonsik on behalf of the Army Engineer Association. Kowalski also received the U.S. Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award. The ceremony, to honor more than 39 years of federal service, was held in St. Paul on April 15.

Kowalski, cont. from page 6

congressional delegation, district employees and the public "about what was faulty with the plan."

"From the standpoint of my job, the high point was the Souris River Project," said Kowalski. The international nature of the Souris River basin required diplomatic skills and close coordination among federal agencies, including the Corps, with officials from North Dakota and Canada.

Kowalski coordinated international negotiations and worked through environmental challenges associated with the construction of Rafferty and Alameda Flood Control dams in Canada as part of the Souris River Project.

The agreement between the U.S. and Canada he helped negotiate allowed the U.S. to purchase flood control storage in the two dams being planned by Saskatchewan Power Co. As a result of the agreement, the power company designed additional capacity into the two dams and agreed to operate them at certain times for flood control storage. "It was quite an educational and rewarding experience dealing with the U.S. State Department, provincial governments, the Canadian federal government and U.S. federal agencies," said Kowalski.

When asked what he had learned about himself through his work, Kowalski sighed, tapped his feet on the floor, swiveled back and forth in his chair and then paused. His face broke into a big grin and he asked, "What's printable?"



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Crosscurrents

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