



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Red River recovery mission nearly completed

by Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs specialist

"The total for recovery missions will be between \$20-22 million," said Bruce Boldon, recovery manager.

"The district achieved a number of major objectives in its recovery efforts for the Grand Forks area," said Boldon. Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn., were among the communities most ravaged by the Flood of '97 on the Red River of the North last spring.

"One objective was providing temporary housing for the hundreds of people who were displaced by the flood. A second was quite visible--the pickup of debris off the streets of Grand Forks. The third was the cleaning of the sanitary and storm sewers in Grand Forks."

"Demolition was a fairly major mission, too," said Rick Tillman, New Orleans District. "We took down 150 residential buildings that were determined to pose an immediate threat to health and safety."

"There are a number of details still in the pipeline that need to be closed out before we get a final number," Boldon continued. "The Pembina demolition project is an

example. We were waiting for local sponsor approval. The contract has been advertized."

Five major missions grew out of a total of 21 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) missions the district conducted in communities hit by the Flood of '97 on the Red River of the North. North Dakota had 12 and Minnesota had nine.

The missions were authorized by the FEMA under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance (PL 93-288)

Major missions included debris removal, demolition, temporary housing, storm sewer cleaning and inspecting structures.

"Dollar wise, the single biggest mission was debris removal," said

Recovery, cont. on page 4



Photo by Burch Communications

Rick Tillman (right), New Orleans District, visits contractor personnel as they operate equipment designed to clean out sewers in Grand Forks, N.D. Sewer cleaning was one of the major recovery missions.

District demonstrates superlative performance, overcomes Herculean challenges

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

Superlatives simply fail to describe the district's accomplishments this fiscal year. You did an absolutely outstanding job throughout the year in overcoming a number of Herculean challenges.

The year began with the planning and preparations for the introduction of a totally new financial management system--CEFMS. More about that in a minute. The year closed out with your achieving super execution results, surpassing both Corps-wide goals and goals set for the district.

In-between, you successfully fielded and mastered CEFMS, fought major floods in three river basins, then jumped into recovery efforts. Along with recovery, the communities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks called for support to develop a flood control project to protect them from future flooding. And oh, by the way, Devils Lake rose to record levels. I don't need to remind you that the challenges presented by these events happened in the same year. You excelled through each challenge. Here are some highlights.

• **Execution:** The district achieved an execution rate of 99 percent in General Investigations (GI) against goal of 95 percent. The Corps-wide actual accomplishment for GI was 91 percent. GI provides for the variety of studies we conduct as part of our mission. In

Construction General (CG), the district's execution rate was 100.1 percent against the goal of 95 percent. The Corps' actual here was 87 percent. Our new construction projects are an example of CG. The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) execution rate was 100.5 percent against a goal of 96 percent. Measured against civil funds, O&M achieved 96.5 percent. It's results like these that give us recognition at headquarters and division.

• **CEFMS:** The Corps' first experiences with CEFMS produced many horror stories. But in this district, the teams fielding CEFMS successfully introduced this totally new financial management system. Yes, I admit there was quite a learning curve that presented challenges. And more are ahead. But this district successfully introduced CEFMS and mastered it. The result has improved funds control.

• **Floods:** You know the story by now. The district responded admirably to record-flooding in multiple basins this spring -- floods of record in the Red River Valley. Flooding in the Minnesota and the Mississippi rivers. Great response. The flood fight and recovery operations constitute an unprogrammed 30 percent-plus increase in our overall program that was successfully completed.

• **Recovery:** The district led a Corps-wide effort in responding to community needs. When the floods receded and the satellite media

trucks left flood-stricken communities, you were there helping citizens get their lives back in order with debris removal, water, sewer, and housing.

• **Grand Forks-East Grand Forks:** The district has worked closely with local, state and congressional interests to provide needed long-term flood protection for these communities. A Partnering Workshop in Grand Forks this September continued the dialog to enrich the partnership. The partners came away with a commitment to make everything work.

The district has a February deadline to complete a draft Report to Congress. This report will allow Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to include initial appropriations in the Water Resources Development Act of 1998 (WRDA 98) for permanent flood control at Grand Forks and East Grand Forks.

• **Devils Lake:** The USACE Planning Achievement Award to the Devils Lake Planning Team confirms the superlative performance accomplished on the contingency plan and the emergency outlet plan. The lake rose five feet this summer to a record 1442.97. The levee raise is an ongoing challenge as we try to stay ahead of the rising water. Congress has approved \$5 million for engineering and design of an emergency outlet at Devils Lake. The outlet continues to

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
HOLIDAY AWARDS CEREMONY

PLACE:

**Ft. Snelling Club, Bldg 89
St. Paul Minnesota 55111**

**DATE: Thursday, 18 December 1997
1200-1230 hr. - Social**

DOOR PRIZES

**Tickets will be on sale from 10 November through 10 December 1997.
No tickets will be sold at the door.**

See your ticket seller at the below listed locations:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 4th Floor: | Stephanie Dupey | x5375 |
| | Linda Steele | x5698 |
| | Theresa Thury | x5224 |
| 5th Floor: | Carol Olson | x5602 |
| | Jenny Yager | x5309 |
| 6th Floor: | Jan Graham | x5305 |
| | Joyce Johaneck | x5508 |
| 8th Floor: | Luanne Bartuah | x5730 |
| | Mary Clarkson | x5235 |
| | Sarah Super | x5419 |

POC for RETIREES: Jan Graham - (612) 290-5305

POC for FIELD PERSONNEL: Jan Pream - (612) 290-5312

LUNCHEON CHOICES AND TICKET PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 8 oz. BALL TIP STEAK | 10.00 |
| 1/4 BROASTED CHICKEN | 9.00 |
| CHEF SALAD | 8.00 |
| NON- FOOD TICKETS | 3.00 |

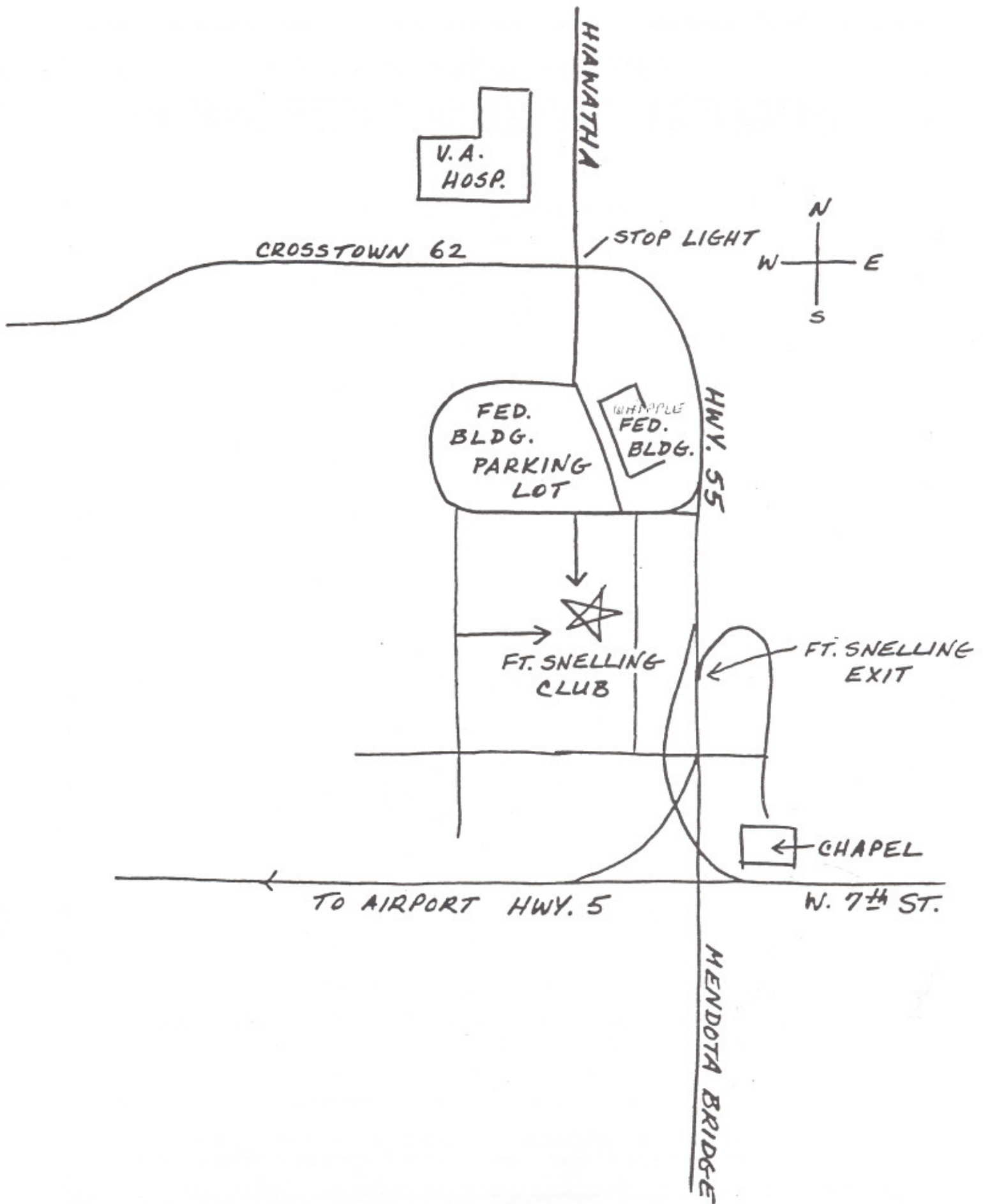
ALL TICKETS INCLUDE DESSERT AND BEVERAGE

Ft. Snelling staff will serve your meal based on the color of your entrance ticket.

You will present your ticket to the wait-staff at the time of service.

No one without a ticket will be served.

A map to the Ft. Snelling facility is on the back of this flyer. Bus service is available through Metro Transit (373-3333). Route 9 from downtown St. Paul services the Whipple Bldg.



be a key program and I foresee more effort on a tight schedule.

The Corps-wide award for planning achievement for Devils Lake is the formal recognition that your efforts and accomplishments are widely recognized and lauded. The proof of this praise comes from the highest level of the Corps -- from Chief of Engineers LTG Joe N. Ballard at the town hall meeting in August. He was genuinely impressed and he said so during his visit.

- **Quality Management:** This past year the Chief of Engineer's Strategic Vision and the St. Paul Districts Operation Plan were developed and introduced to the district. Our Total Army Quality (TAQ) program has been expanded to embrace these initiatives and our Quality Management Boards (QMB) will continue these efforts this year. A TAQ guidebook is also being developed to combine these elements with our current TAQ handbook and will be made available for reference when complete.

- **Office relocations:** We will be moving offices to eliminate excess, costly rented space in the district headquarters. This will reduce our overhead costs and improve our competitive position. Next spring we will move to occupy half of fourth floor, and all of fifth and sixth floors. Last year, CEFMS collided with the record spring floods. This coming spring, office relocations will present a challenge.

Thanks to everyone who worked long and hard in meeting and overcoming these Herculean challenges.

Melrose project completed



Photos by Lisa Lund

The above photo shows the serious erosion along the streambank of the Black River near Melrose, Wis. The erosion threatened to undercut Hwy. 54 which serves as a major route between Black River Falls and Winona, Minn. The district, working with the state and Jackson County, awarded a \$190,000 construction contract in March 1997 .



The above photo shows the completed Melrose project. The project is part of the Section 14 Continuing Authorities Program. One of the program's purposes is to protect any public facility that is in danger from erosion. Such facilities include roads, bridges, water supply intakes, waste water treatment plants, public buildings, historical Indian mounds and cemeteries. A small business contractor completed the Melrose project Sept. 30. Shelley Hoff is the Section 14 program manager for the St. Paul District.

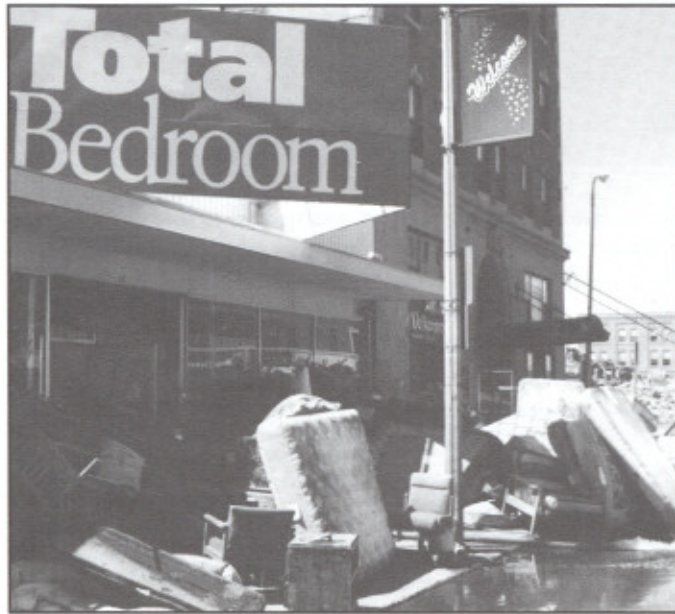
Recovery, cont. from page 1

Tillman. "There were three big debris removal contracts."

"About \$8 million has been obligated for debris removal," added Boldon.

The district has obligated more than \$6.2 million to develop sites for mobile homes for residents displaced by the flood. FEMA provided the mobile homes.

At the peak of efforts, 84 people worked recovery missions, "plus four or five providing support from the district office," said Boldon. "Altogether, between 130 and 140 people rotated in and out."



Photos by Burch Communications

Above, contract personnel work to remove debris from a residential neighborhood in Grand Forks. The photo at left shows debris removal mission in the business district of Grand Forks.

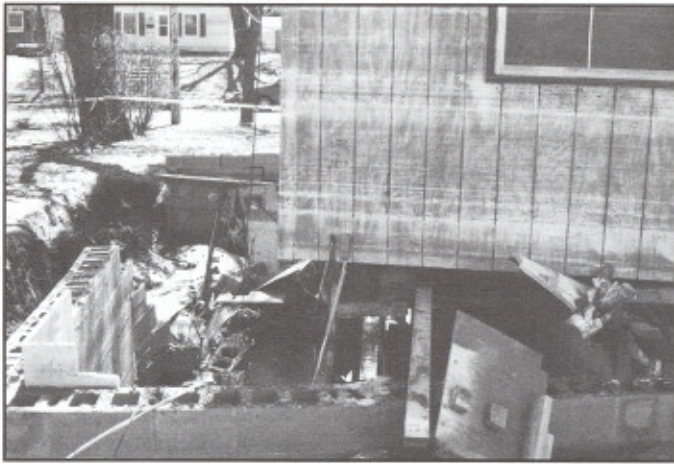


Above is an aerial view of one of the FEMA housing sites for residents displaced by the Flood of '97. The district designed the site and contracted to

install water and sewer service for the community. The district has obligated more than \$6.2 million to develop temporary housing.

Debris removal mission

Debris simply hauled off to landfill for burial



Photos by Burch Communications

The Red River flood rocked houses in Grand Forks off their foundations. Inspection of buildings for health and safety was a major mission. The demolition of structures such as the one above was also a Corps mission. Contractors working for the district demolished 150 residential buildings among the many that were determined to pose an immediate threat to health and safety.



Debris covered by flood water from the Red River is now covered by dirt at the above landfill. Contractors for the district hauled 38,750 truckloads or about 75,000 tons of debris to the landfill. At the peak, the debris removal mission occupied an estimated 140 trucks.



Melvin Cundiff, St. Louis District (left), meets with a Corps' landfill management contractor at the Grand Forks landfill.

Student employment programs benefit Corps, students

by Jessica L. Shallow
Student in Public Affairs

"Student employees are very important to the Corps and our mission," said Kathy Freese, student employment coordinator in the Human Resources (HR) division. Everyday there are students doing work throughout the district. Why are they here? What do they study in school? What mutual benefits do the student programs provide?

Students are hired under two different types of programs, the Temporary Student Employment Program and the Career Student Employment Program. Each program is uniquely designed to benefit the individual student and the Corps. Freese said, "It's a great program for the district and the students. Their jobs here show them what real work is, what to expect from a job, the importance of attendance, and what discipline, dependability, and professionalism are."

LeVon Olson, former temporary student in Information Management (IM) who recently graduated from Hamline University, said, "Without a doubt this is an ideal job as an undergraduate with all the flexibility. You couldn't ask for a better job."

Students employed in the Temporary Student Employment Program work between 16-20 hours a week, up to full-time in the summer, with maximum flexibility in their scheduling. "We realize that school comes first and it should come first," said Freese, commenting on the flexibility the

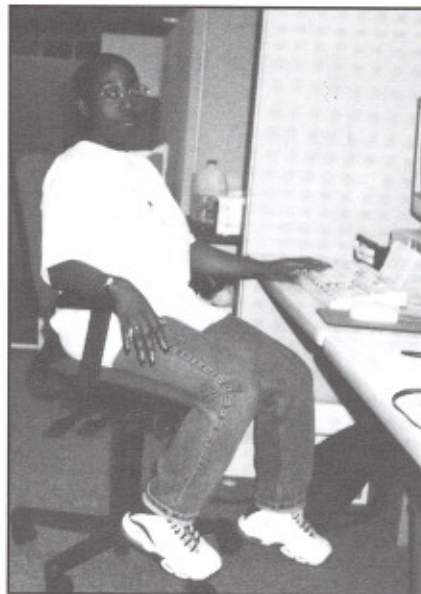


Photo by Jessica Shallow

Carla Phillips, Resource Management (RM), graduated from Como Park High School this past spring. She helps in RM with auditing, filing, and data entry as she continues her education at Minneapolis Community College and pursues a degree in criminal justice.

students receive in determining their schedules.

To apply as a student employee, students must be enrolled or have been accepted for enrollment in either high school, vocational/technical college, or college. They also have to be registered for at least half-time status and be in good academic standing, which they must maintain while they are employed by the Corps of Engineers. Finally, a student employee must be a U.S. citizen and be at least 16 years old.

Students are appointed as a temporary student employees in one-year increments as long as they are a student or are registered for classes. Time may be taken off

from school for one semester during which a student can work full-time, but they must be registered at that time for the following semester. Students in these positions come from a variety of educational backgrounds and may be appointed to positions that do not directly tie into their major field of study.

Students employed in the Career Student Employment Program must have completed at least 640 hours of career-related work before or with their course requirements. This program has been designed to enhance the student's educational goals with work experience that deals directly with their major field of study and their future career. If there is a position existing and the student meets the qualifications, the program may offer permanent employment when the student graduates.

Holly Zillmer, computer specialist in IM, read a brochure about an internship through the Career Student Program. She then sent in her resume, which resulted in a year-long internship and now a full-time position.

Zillmer said, "I couldn't recommend this enough to anyone. With them (the Corps) school comes first." Zillmer went full-time after she graduated from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls with a major in computer science.

Freese was also here as a student. She worked in IM as a temporary student before being hired for her present full-time position. "The students are valuable. In HR, there is a lot of work to be done that we

Students, continued on next page

CFC Bake, Book and Craft Sale a success

"The CFC Bake, Book and Craft Sale was a great success," said Linda Steele, CFC coordinator. CFC stands for Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), an event held annually to promote charitable giving by federal employees. This year's CFC goal for the St. Paul District is \$30,000.

"But the CFC Garage Sale scheduled for Oct. 24-28 was canceled," said Steele. "And we are thousands of dollars away from our goal," said Steele. "If you have not returned your contribution card please think of those in need."

"We've had a number of events



Photo by Jessica Shallow

Donna Zappa (left) and Jan Pream browse among the many books donated for the Bake, Book and Craft sale Oct. 15. Both work in Construction-Operations.

going on during the month to raise money for the CFC," said Steele. "The proceeds from the sale of candy sale goes to CFC. The books that were left over were donated to Goodwill and the Salvation Army," said Steele.

CFC also held a fund-raising raffle for both the district office and field. "To encourage participation by people in the field offices, a donor contributed \$50 for a separate raffle for people who work outside the district office," Steele said.

Raffle tickets for those who work in the central office sold for 50 cents each. Prizes included tee-shirts, food and merchandise gift certificates, and sports memorabilia.

need the help of the students for," she said.

Olson, who just completed his bachelor's degree at Hamline University, has been employed by the Corps for the last two years and continued his job through the summer. Part of Olson's job in IM's technical library is to check library materials in and out, help users find information, and instruct people on how to use the computer CD-ROM (compact disk-read only memory) and the Internet. Now that he has graduated, he plans to devote his time to pursuing a degree in medicine.

Carla Phillips, Resource Management (RM), graduated from Como Park High School this past spring. She is going to continue to work in RM, helping with auditing, filing, and data entry as she continues her education at Minneapolis Community College and pursues a degree in criminal justice.

Phillips heard about this job from

her on-the-job training teacher and said, "I put in my application because my sister used to work here and I thought it would be fun."

When asked what she thought about her job, Phillips said, "I like working here; I'm used to it and I really like the people. It gives me good working experience."

Many students hear about student employment openings at the Corps from counselors and career development centers at their schools. Freese said, "The Corps is known by schools to be a good employer. At times they call us with good students who want to work and at times we call them and ask them if they have any interested students."

When hiring students, Freese waits for an office to put in a request for a student and then reviews their resumes.

Some managers are reluctant to

hire student employees due to previous bad experiences that they have had. "It's two-way street. Managers and students have to take time to explain and to learn in order to have a good experience," said Freese.

Olson found that he has been able to benefit greatly from his position. "It taught me a lot about how to do good literature research. For the future, if I go into research medicine, I can always use the research skills I learned here," he said.

It is not only the students who benefit from the program -- many offices and managers depend heavily on their students. "A lot of offices would not be able to succeed without students," said Freese.

But for students the opportunity is equally important. "School is one thing and work is another. But with work you learn what the real world is like," Zillmer said.

Bits and Pieces

Holiday Award Ceremony set for Fort Snelling Club

The St. Paul District Holiday Awards Ceremony is set for Dec. 18 at a new location this year -- the Fort Snelling Club (Building 89) across from the Fort Snelling Federal Building.

The event begins at noon. Luncheon choices include an eight oz. tip steak, one-quarter broasted chicken or a chef salad. Food prices are expected to be \$10 or less, including gratuity. Door prizes will be given away.

Mary Clarkson of Resource Management is coordinating this year's event. Retirees may contact Jan Graham for tickets at 290-5305; field personnel may contact Jan Pream at 290-5312.

Bus service (Minneapolis 7; St. Paul 9E and 9B from 6th St.) is available to Fort Snelling. Visit the Transit Authority store in the skyway for details.

Diversity Awareness Week begins Nov. 18

Peggy Riley will keynote this year's Diversity Awareness Week (DAW) at 10 a.m. on Nov. 18. Her keynote will be at the Jerome Hill Theater in the First Trust Building.

Riley is the chief executive officer and founder of Diversity Dynamics International, a national and international multi-cultural diversity consulting and training firm. She advises President Bill Clinton on race relations.

Mixed Blood Theater Company will perform shows at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 19 in the Jerome Hill Theatre.

"Their show, 'We are Family,' takes a playful look at diversity in the St. Paul District," said Linda Wiley, EEO specialist.

Wiley said that there will be an assortment of workshops. Topics include humor, tribal culture and sovereignty and other issues. A management consulting firm will present 'My Whiteness, Myself'

and 'Guess Who I Am' on Nov. 20. A panel of district employees will discuss "Being Different: At Home and Abroad." A film festival, Treasure Chest prizes and a floor-by-floor contest for creating a diverse community are scheduled throughout the week. Most of the workshops will take place in the former CEFMS training rooms on fourth floor. "The culmination of the week will be our ever popular ethnic food taste," said Wiley.

"The program is a diverse, informative and entertaining example of diversity at its best," said Marianne Price, EEO program manager.

District receives award for contracting

The St. Paul District awarded nearly \$69.7 million in contract obligations, with \$54.3 million going to small and disadvantaged businesses. The Federal Executive Board of the Twin Cities honored this achievement by presenting the district the Award for 1997 Excellence in Federal Contracting this October.

"We exceeded our goals in spite of the flood," said Pat Johnson, chief of Contracting Division. "The district's goal was 35 percent of obligations. The district achieved 78 percent."

The award recognized the district's continued support and dedication to the Small Business Administration's Section 8(a) Program.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

St. Paul District

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Crosscurrents

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