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St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Lt. Col. Breyfogle assumes command of district



Photo by Ken Gardner

From the left are Maj. Gen. Russell Fuhrman, director of Civil Works for the Army Corps of Engineers; Cynthia Breyfogle, wife of Lt. Col. William Breyfogle; and Lt. Col. Breyfogle. Fuhrman has previously visited St. Paul when he commanded the old North Central Division in Chicago, Ill. They are shown talking after the change of command ceremony in St. Paul on Jan. 21.



Photo by Jon Lyman

Lt. Col. William Breyfogle (right) became the 57th commander and district engineer of the St. Paul District during the change of command on Jan. 21. Left to right are outgoing Commander Col. J. M. Wonsik; Chuck Crist, deputy district engineer for Project Management; and Maj. Gen. Phillip Anderson, commander of the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD). Crist represented the district's civilian employees.

The Change of Command tradition

The purpose of a change of command ceremony is to emphasize the continuity of leadership and unit identity despite changes in individual authority. The ceremony also symbolizes the transfer of command responsibility from one individual to another. This transfer is physically represented by passing the command flag from the old commander to the new. The next senior commander traditionally performs this transfer.

• Invest in people

Getting misty eyed about computers

by Ron Scott, Safety Office

We should be getting misty eyed over correctly placed computer monitors.

So say Japanese researchers on the ergonomics of computer usage.

With most of us receiving new or upgraded computers, or workstations in our new cubes, it is appropriate to continue to look at this area.

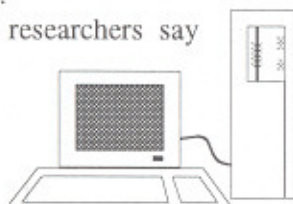
Japanese researchers say computer monitors correctly placed should bring tears to the eyes of users.

This is not because computer users have been emotionally overcome by CEFMS (Corps of Engineers Financial Management System) or other software.

This is because the researchers found that when desktop monitors are placed directly in front of users, the volume of tears produced was less than when the monitor was placed slightly downward, at a natural reading angle.

Tears help protect the eyes, and the researchers believe that a drop in tear volume can cause eye irritation.

The researchers recommended that workstations be designed to lower users gaze angles and thus increase their tear volume. The action would fit right in with other benefits, such as improved focusing and neck comfort.



Lt. Col. Breyfogle highlights 'substantial challenges' ahead

by Lt. Col. William Breyfogle, St. Paul District Commander

The challenges on our plate right now are substantial and I don't see the load getting any lighter in the near future.

Last year's challenges — the flood of '97, Devils Lake flooding, CEFMS, flood recovery and restructuring have been replaced by the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks project, continuation of the levee raise and outlet project at Devils Lake, consolidation or regionalization of two of our primary support functions, HR (Human Resources) and RM (Resource Management), and of course, our relocation of offices in this building.

It sounds like a lot — and it is. But I have every confidence in the ability of the St. Paul District to meet these challenges. You have done it before and you can do it again.

Given these challenges, I urge you to take care of yourselves and your people. Long hours, working to meet the always present deadlines, with little letup, can be very stressful. And stress over a period of time can wear down the strongest, healthiest person's resistance and stamina. As I said at the change of command, mission is number one. People are always. Again, take care of yourself. Take care of your people.

'Build team, reshape culture'

Editor's note: St. Paul District Commander, Lt. Col. William Breyfogle, made the following remarks at the town hall meeting on Feb. 3, 1998.

This town hall presents a double pleasure for me.

First, this is my first opportunity since the change of command to speak with you in a town hall setting. I assure you that this is a special experience for me.

Secondly, we are fortunate to have Maj. Gen. Phillip R. Anderson, commander of the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), here today for his first appearance at a St. Paul town hall. We are always pleased to have our division commander share his perspective on the issues facing the Corps, the division and our district.

Our gathering for this meeting reflects two of the seven sub-strategies in the Vision. One is "Build the team. The other is "Reshape the Culture." Along those lines, let me introduce two recent additions to the front office. Dave Koepsell, formerly in Resource Management, is now serving as executive assistant. Our new deputy district engineer until the change of command this summer is Judy DesHarnais, on loan from Engineering and Planning. I welcome both of these people to the front office team. I want to stress teamwork. Look upon Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) as a team asset.

MVD commander convenes town hall meeting



Photos by Jon Lyman

Maj. Gen. Phillip Anderson, commander of the Mississippi Valley Division, presented Brent Johnson of Programs Management an award during the Feb. 3 town hall meeting for a suggestion he made.



Lt. Col. William Breyfogle, left, presents a t-shirt to Maj. Gen. Phillip Anderson. The presentation was a reminder of the temperature differences between St. Paul and MVD in Vicksburg, Miss. The shirt has the average annual temperature for selected cities throughout Minnesota.

Boldon and Haumersen receive Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service

by Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs specialist

Bruce A. Boldon and David J. Haumersen each received the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service at a town hall meeting on January 20. The award recognized their "distinguished service during the Spring 1997 Flood Recovery Operation to restore the lives and property of citizens in the Red River of the North."

Boldon was the flood recovery area engineer and managed the completion of 18 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) missions through \$16.5 million in contracts after the flooding. The efforts helped restore water, power and provide shelter to residents along the river.



Photo by Jon Lyman

Bruce Boldon, acting chief of Contracting Division, left; and Dave Haumersen, chief of Construction Operations Division.

Haumersen, chief of Construction-Operations Division, supported and directed the district's effort to prevent \$100

million in damages through various response operations. He also oversaw the FEMA recovery missions for the district.

Lock 5A undergoes major maintenance

Dewatering reveals major infestation of zebra mussels

by Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs specialist

"There has been an explosion of zebra mussels," said Gerry Cohen, lead engineer for \$626,000 Stage 1 rehab at Lock 5A in Fountain City, Wis. Cohen works in Engineering and Planning Division.

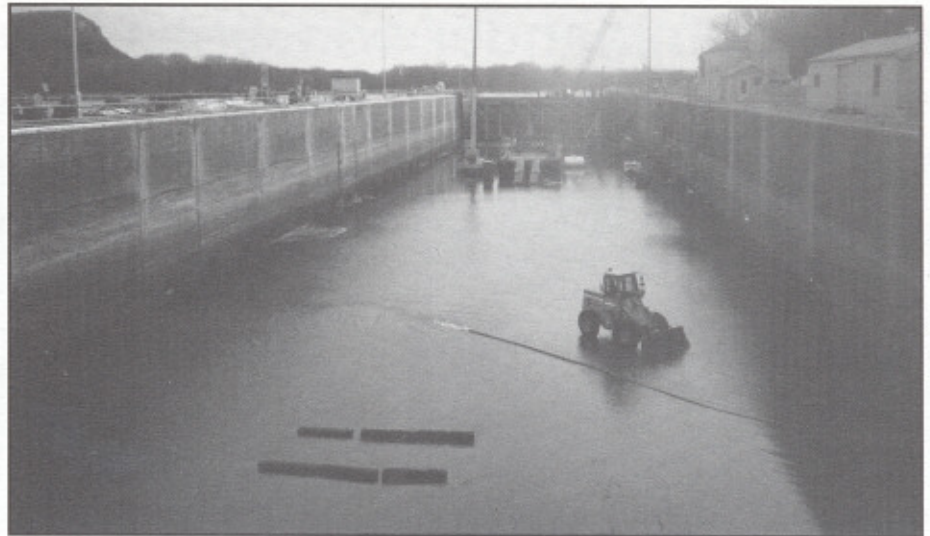
The explosion that Cohen refers to is the proliferation of zebra mussels an average of two inches thick on the chamber walls.

"They extend from the floor to five-feet three-inches above the floor. This limit is due to barges rubbing on the walls above this elevation and removing the zebra mussels from the walls," said Cohen.

The mussels coated everything up to the prevailing water level. The ladder recesses behind the miter gates. The interior of the filling and emptying culverts. The miter gates. The steel below the prevailing water level.

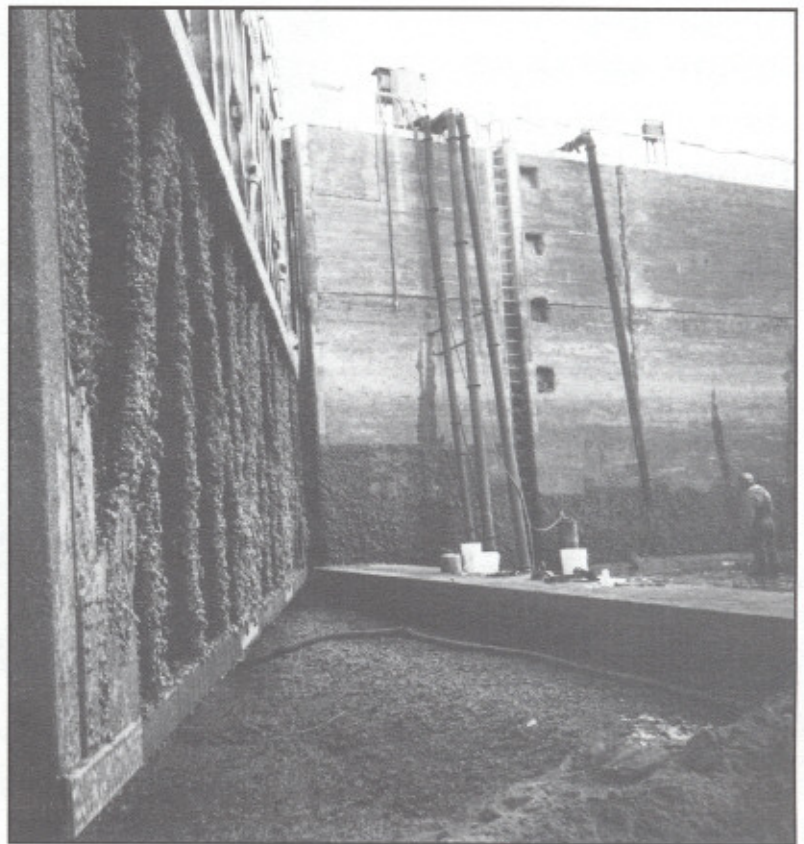
The zebra mussels died when the water was drained from the lock chamber in December and they were exposed to below-freezing temperatures.

"The zebra mussels are not affecting the contracted-portion of the work," said Steve Brossart, resident engineer on the project. "But they have impeded work by government crew from the Rivers and Harbors Unit at Fountain City. They have had to scrape the miter gates and dispose of the

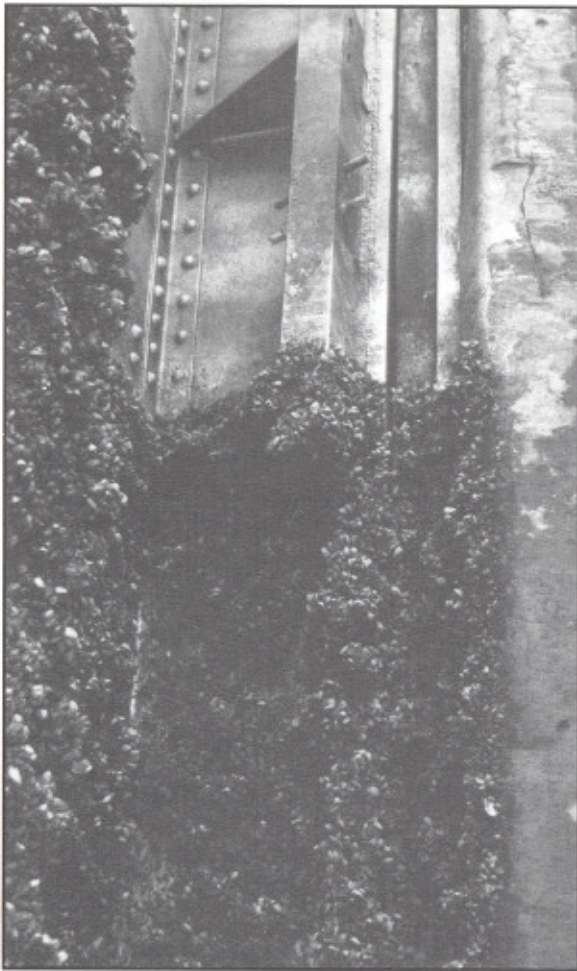


Photos by Gerry Cohen

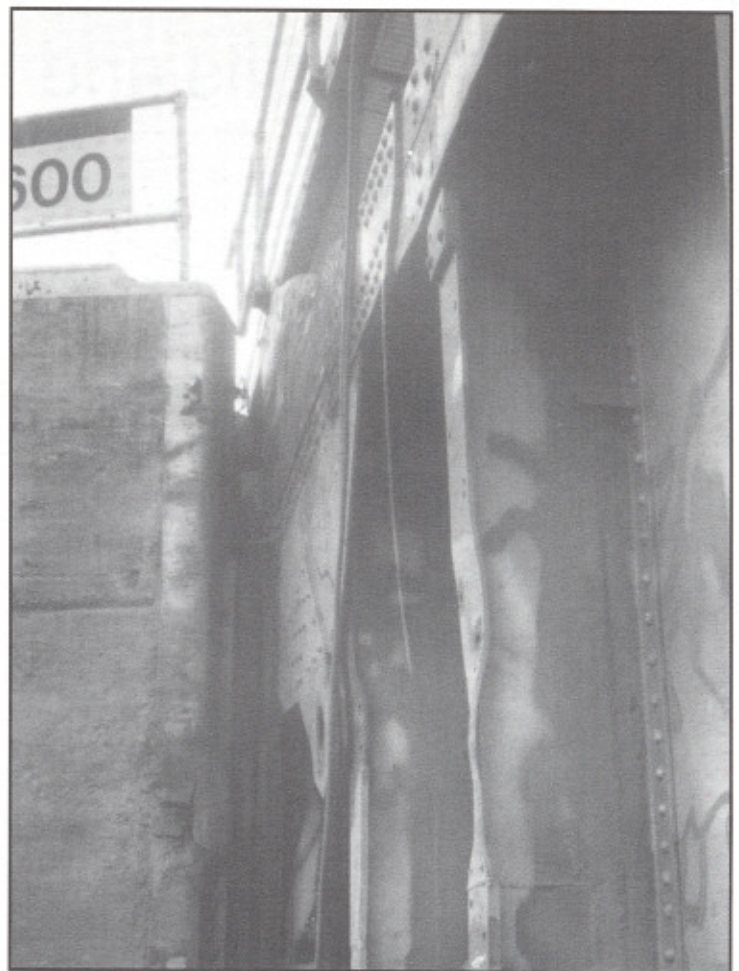
The above photo from the upstream miter gate shows an overview of the dewatered lock chamber at Lock 5A. For dewatering, "8.5 million gallons of water were drained from low pool level to the bottom of the chamber," said Steve Brossart, resident engineer on the project.



Zebra mussels coat an open miter gate in Lock 5A. Friction from barges has scraped part of the wall clean of the mussels.



Zebra mussels stuck to the smooth rubber gate seal at the end of the miter gate.



Above is the upper landward leaf of a damaged miter gate. A tow damaged the gate in 1996. The lock operated for part of the 1996 and all of the 1997 navigation season with the damaged gate. The gate weighs 75.5 tons and is 27 feet high.

zebra mussels."

"We scrapped off about two-and-a-half barge loads of zebra mussels," said Arne Wodarz, maintenance foreman of the unit. "We had about 20 people scraping those things. They were froze and were three to four inches thick in places. We used ice scrapers to get them off. It was the shell and the meat and boy, they had a putrid smell."

The district and Waterways Experiment Station are discussing a study that documents the

problems encountered by the district as a result of zebra mussels during lock dewatering. Discussions include studying the extent to which zebra mussels impact levels of dissolved oxygen in the water and documenting the problems associated with disposing of large quantities of dead zebra mussels.

The Stage 1 dewatering maintenance and repairs are a prelude to the Stage 2 project that includes a new control station for

Lock and Dam 5A. The Stage 2 project is part of a larger \$300 million major maintenance and rehabilitation program of locks and dams 2 through 10 on the Mississippi River.

The program objective is to minimize failure of electrical and mechanical components, repair structural deterioration and reduce or minimize earth dike overtopping. The total project is scheduled to be completed in 2006.

Bits and Pieces

Spychalla honored for N.D. water resource management

Project Manager Bill Spychalla has received the North Dakota Water Wheel Award. The award recognizes his "distinctive leadership and perseverance in motivating development of the state's water resources...."

The award was presented in December 1997 by the North Dakota Water Users Association and the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association.

Spychalla has been involved with North Dakota water projects for more than 26 years. Projects he has managed include Sheyenne River, West Fargo and Horace diversions, Baldhill Dam Safety, and the Devils Lake Project.

He has conducted studies of the Pembina River Basin, Kindred Reservoir, Grafton, Grand Forks, and Devils Lake.

He is now the project manager of the Devils Lake Project, including the levee raise at the City of Devils Lake and the Devils Lake outlet.

Engineers Week celebrated Feb. 18

"The district's Engineers Week celebration is rapidly approaching," said Ann Banitt, a hydraulic engineer in Engineering and Planning Division.

A ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Feb. 18 in the third floor Airye Condominium Party Room at Galtier Plaza.

Kathy French, professor and associate head of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Minnesota, will be the guest speaker. She has been on the faculty since 1984 and instructed many engineers who presently work in the district.

"As in the past, the Order of the Engineer Induction ceremony will be part of the Engineers Week

celebration. Any new engineer, or engineers who have not been able to participate in the past are invited to become a member of the Order of the Engineer," said Bob Post, chief of Engineering and Planning.

"The ceremony is for anyone who wants to celebrate the engineering profession," said Banitt. National Engineers Week is scheduled for Feb. 22-28 nationwide. The district chose an earlier date due to schedule conflicts.

Lock 5 dedication set for late May

The dedication of the new \$6 million central control station site and controls at Lock and Dam 5 in Minnesota City, Minn., has been scheduled for late May. Steve Brossart was the resident engineer on the project and Eric Johnson has been the district's on-site quality assurance representative. Bruce Tamte is project manager.

Significant firsts by the St. Paul District

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

1910-1917: The district designed and built the first dam in the Corps of Engineers with a hydraulic plant. It was Lock and Dam No. 1 at Minneapolis.



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Crosscurrents

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