



US Army Corps
of Engineers

St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Pumps installed; Pulaski levels go down

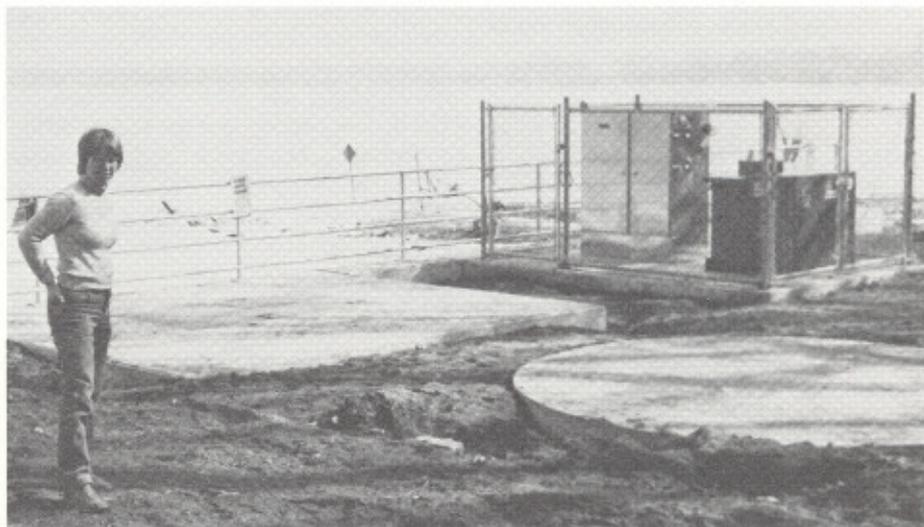


Project Manager Mary Schommer, Flood Plain Management and Small Projects Branch, points to the January 1987 high water mark (elevation 969.2) on a gage at Lake Pulaski in Wright County, Minnesota. By mid-march, pumps installed at the lake by the district as part of a Section 205 Small Projects Program had lowered the water level more than 18 inches. Pumping began in early February and is expected to continue until the level is drawn down a total of approximately three feet to the drawdown level set by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Once that level is reached, the pumps will be operated only when necessary to maintain the lake level at an elevation of 966.



More than 50 houses at Lake Pulaski have been damaged beyond repair by water which has risen more than 17 feet since 1941. While houses like this one won't be helped by the district's Section 205 project at Lake Pulaski, the owners of dozens of other Pulaski homes

threatened by high water should be resting a little easier now that the pumps are lowering the water levels. Construction on the \$1.3 million project started last November and the pumps started operating in February.



Mary Schommer, project manager for the Lake Pulaski Project, stands by the underground pump site at Griffing Park at the edge of the lake. The two underground pumps were installed in January and began pumping in early February. More than 13 million gallons of water a day are being pumped from Pulaski through a new outlet pipe to

nearby Buffalo Lake. The federal cost of the project was slightly more than \$1 million while the local sponsor, the Lake Pulaski Improvement District, contributed more than \$340,000. The pumps and electrical motors are located beneath the concrete slabs. The electrical controls for the pumps are located above ground in the fenced area.

Commander's Viewpoint

By Col. Joseph Briggs

Federal employees (civilian and military) have traditionally taken the lead in the purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds. Intimately involved as we are in the daily business of our government, we are especially conscious of the important contribution bond dollars make to the nation's economic strength and to our own guaranteed financial security.

Many of you realize that savings bonds are a liquid asset because they may be redeemed after a minimum holding period of six months. The bonds provide maximum safety. If lost, stolen or destroyed, a bond will be replaced at no charge. The built-in tax advantages are an added attraction. Federal income tax on the bond interest may be deferred until the bonds are cashed and bond interest is exempt from state and local taxes.

This year's promotion offers a fresh opportunity to sign up and start a systematic savings program through the payroll savings plan or to increase the pace of your existing savings program. Federal employees have

always set a splendid example to the American people with savings bonds. Let's all try to set an even better example during this year's promotion. If you already participate in the payroll savings plan, I encourage you to increase your savings. If you're not participating in the payroll savings plan, I ask that you see your savings bonds canvasser and sign up today.

The goals of this year's campaign are to ensure that all employees are given the opportunity to participate through personal, face-to-face contact by an assigned canvasser and to increase participation by 20 percent. This goal means to have 20 percent of those not currently buying savings bonds to enroll in the program, as well as having 20 percent of those now buying bonds to increase their allotments. These goals are realistic and attainable. I challenge you to help us surpass these levels. You and our country will benefit from your participation. If you have a question, see your savings bond representative or Maj. Chuck Rogers, EDM, ext. 5948.

Important Constitution Bicentennial Dates

May 25, 1987 — 200th anniversary of the opening of the Constitutional Convention.

Sept. 17, 1987 — 200th anniversary of the formal signing of the Constitution and the adjournment of the Constitutional Convention.

June 21, 1988 — 200th anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution.

March 4, 1989 — 200th anniversary of the day the First Congress under the Constitution met in New York City.

April 30, 1989 — 200th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as first president of the United States under the Constitution.

Aug. 7, 1989 — 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of War.

Sept. 24, 1989 — 200th anniversary of the Federal Judiciary Act of 1789, which established the U.S. Supreme Court, 13 district courts, three circuit courts and the Office of the Attorney General.

Navigation section moves to Fountain City

The Maintenance Branch in Construction Operations not only reorganized, but one of its new sections is moving out of town.

The branch, which was formerly organized into the Mississippi River Section and the Plant Section, now has three sections: the Dredging and Structures Section, the Navigation Section and the Plant Section.

The new Navigation Section will be located at the Fountain City Service Base. "By relocating the section to a more central area, we expect a significant cost savings in travel and per diem," Harlan Johnson, Maintenance Branch Chief said. "It will also increase productivity when travel time is cut down and will help distribute the workload more evenly." The section will handle the hydrographic surveying and contract dredging. Dan Krumholz is the acting chief.

The Mississippi River Section has been renamed and is now the Dredging and Structures Section. The section is in charge of dredging operations that involve the dredges' Thompson and Dubuque, Rivers and Harbors work and any repair work on the locks. Craig Hinton is the section chief.

Paul Kosterman is the new chief of the Plant Section. The section operates the boatyard, is in charge of maintenance work the dredges and other equipment.

Take Pride in American campaign gains momentum

By Ray Nelson

Natural Resource Management

The Take Pride in America (TPA) campaign was launched by President Reagan in his 1986 State of the Union Message. Since then, TPA has developed into a national public awareness campaign of public and private organizations, committed to encouraging a sense of stewardship and responsibility in the use of America's public lands.

The week of May 17-23 has been proclaimed Take Pride in America Awareness Week across the nation and the week of September 13-19 has been designated Public Lands Workfest 1987. The awareness week offers the opportunity for all Corps employees to show their support of TPA. Employees from all field offices are especially encouraged to participate in implementing the program in their areas.

The chief's office in Washington has established a TPA awards program to recognize the fine efforts of individuals, projects, and programs that support the Take Pride in America theme. This past year, the St. Paul District received three North Central Division awards in three category areas. The Upper Mississippi River Dredging at Weaver Bottoms Restoration was a selection for the program category. Walter F. Hermerding, resource manager of the Mississippi River Headquarters Project at Cross Lake was selected in the individual category and the Bigstone-Whetstone Project earned the project category award.

The St. Paul district has organized a nomination committee that will be seeking outstanding representatives for the 1987 awards program. Additional ideas and help in determining the TPA nominations are needed and welcomed. Information on the TPA program is available from the Natural Resource Management Section office, ext. 7550.

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Rare falcon seen in St. Paul

In October 1986, a peregrine falcon was spotted on the river-side of the St. Paul Post Office building.

Why all the excitement about one bird?

The peregrine is listed as an endangered species in the United States. The young male that has been seen is one of 16 falcons that were released last year from a captive breeding program in Minneapolis and it is the only one that is known to be in St. Paul. "During the last three years that peregrines have been released, this is the first sighting of any of them in St. Paul," Bob Whiting, Environmental Branch said.

By the early 70's, the peregrine falcon population in the United States was nearly wiped out. In fact, there were none in Minnesota at all. DDT, which was used extensively as a pesticide in the 50's and 60's, almost led to their extinction in the United States. The toxin affected their shell gland, which resulted in very thin-shelled eggs that collapsed when they were incubated. Although the use of DDT has been banned, it has a very long life and continues to adversely affect the birds.

In the late 70's and early 80's, artificial propagation was started to restore the falcon's population. "The original falcons used in the breeding program came from Nova Scotia, which are genetically, very similar to Northern American strain," Bob said.

The falcon is about the size of a crow and its diet consists almost exclusively of other birds, such as pigeons and starlings. It is the fastest known, living animal and when diving, can obtain speeds in excess of 180 miles

per hour. The peregrine has acute, almost telescopic eyesight. It tends to nest on bluffs overlooking rivers or large bodies of water. Although it used to be customary for the falcon to migrate, it will remain in an area if it has shelter and a good food supply. Its only natural enemies are the great horned owl and other adult peregrine falcons, which are very territorial.

The falcon at the postal building has been seen almost every month since it was initially spotted. Tentative plans have been made to place a perch on the low roof in an effort to encourage the bird to remain in the area. The falcon currently rests on an antenna when he is in the area. If the perch proves successful, there are plans to erect a nest box next year when the falcon will be three years old and reaches breeding age.

"We hope that the box will attract a female," Bob said. "We can't predict what will happen though. We may never see the bird again. The only purpose of the perch is to encourage it to stay around and even that may not be successful."

EMAIL use encouraged

As a means to reduce paperwork, Lt. Col Mike Nelson, Deputy Commander, has urged all employees to begin using the computer EMAIL system on a regular basis. All paperwork that does not require signatures or backup copies and are one half page or less in length, should be sent by EMAIL. This should reduce the internal mail load and save time. If you have any questions about the EMAIL system, contact the Information Management Office.



National Woman's History Month celebrated

March was National Women's History Month. The St. Paul District observed the month with displays on bulletin boards and in the 12th floor display case. On March 13, a group of Corps employees shared their experiences of living in other countries. On March 18, films of Mother Teresa and Eleanor Roosevelt were shown as examples of this year's theme "Honoring Generations of Compassion, Courage and Conviction."

New EEO counselors appointed

Judy Hutton, Lock and Dam No.3 and Norma Malinowski, Project Operations, have been selected as equal employment counselors for the St. Paul District.

"The counselors play a vital role in the mission of the EEO office," Marianne Price, EEO office, said. "They serve as a bridge between the complainant and management. They are not advocates, but fact finders."

The counselors are appointed by the district commander and act for him. They work independently, providing a contact for those who do not wish to use the EEO office or are not sure who they should be talking to.

The counselors receive extensive training that includes basic and advanced EEO counselor's training and various personnel classes. "The personnel classes are important," Marianne said, "because many of the questions that the counselors will receive will be personnel-related."

Judy and Norma bring the current number of counselors to four. The other counselors are Ken Harrell, Surveillance Enforcement, and Glenn Duren, Lock and Dam no. 4.

If you are interested in becoming a counselor, contact Marianne Price at ext. 7481.

Corps Calendar

- Apr 5 Daylight Savings Time
- Apr 5-10 Asian/Pacific Islander Wk.
- Apr 9-10 Miss. River Research Consortium
LaCrosse, WI/Dan Krumholz/ext. 5898
- Apr 19 Easter
- Apr 20-24 Project Mgr Workshop
Los Angeles, Calif/Marty McCleery/ext. 5882
- Apr 22 National Secretaries Day
- Apr 22-25 National SAME Con.
San Francisco, Calif/George Fortune/ext. 5836
- Apr 23-24 Wisconsin's Governors Conf.
Madison, WI/Dave Christenson/ext. 7606
- Apr 27-29 NCD Staff Visit—St. Paul
- May 5 Dam Safety Training
St. Paul Training Center/Roger Just/ext. 5933

Basic Benefit Plan is one-third of FERS

The Basic Benefit Plan is one-third of the three-tiered Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). The Basic Plan is a pension plan similar to the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) but scaled down in light of Social Security benefits FERS retirees will receive. The other two parts of FERS include Social Security coverage and the Thrift Savings Plan, a form of government-managed, personal retirement savings account.

While the new Basic Benefit Plan is similar to the CSRS pension system in that pension contributions are automatically withheld from covered employees' checks,

there are a number of differences between FERS and CSRS. Some of the key differences include the minimum retirement age, credit for unused sick leave, deferred retirement, the formula used to calculate benefits, and deposit refunds.

Most employees hired after December 31, 1983 will come under FERS and the Basic Benefit Plan. Since FERS is a three-part retirement plan, retirees will receive retirement payments from the Basic Benefit Plan, their individual Thrift Savings Plan and from Social Security. Basic Benefit Plan offers three retirement options

Editor's Note:

The March issue of Crosscurrents featured a special section on the new Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) Thrift Savings Plan. In this issue, we will discuss the Basic Benefit Plan, another part of the three-tiered FERS system. A future issue will cover the remaining part of FERS—Social Security coverage.

Benefit plan offers three retirement options

There are three categories of retirement benefits which may be received under the FERS Basic Benefit Plan:

(1) **Immediate Retirement.** An employee is eligible to receive an immediate annuity if certain age and years of service requirements are met.

Under CSRS an employee may retire as early as age 55 with 30 years of service. Under FERS, this Minimum Retirement Age (MRA) moves gradually from age 55 to age 57 based on an employee's date of birth, as follows:

MINIMUM RETIREMENT AGE

If employee was born...	Employee's MRA is...
Before 1948	55
In 1948	55 and 2 months
In 1949	55 and 4 months
In 1950	55 and 6 months
In 1951	55 and 8 months
In 1952	55 and 10 months
In 1953-1964	56
In 1965	56 and 2 months
In 1966	56 and 4 months
In 1967	56 and 6 months
In 1968	56 and 8 months
In 1969	56 and 10 months
In 1970	57
	and after 57

Considering the "sliding" Minimum Retirement Age (MRA) under FERS, the age and service requirements for FERS employees are as follows:

AGE	YEARS OF SERVICE
62	5
60	20
Minimum Retirement Age (MRA)	30
MRA	10*

Reduced benefit of 5 percent per year for each year the employee is under age 62.

2) **Early Retirement.** This retirement benefit is available in certain involuntary separation situations as well as in cases of voluntary separations during a major reorganization or reduction-in-force. To be eligible for an early retirement under the above circumstances, an employee must be age 50 with 20 years of service or any age with 25 years of service.

(3) **Deferred Retirement.** Employees who are vested in FERS and who leave Federal service may choose a deferred annuity to be drawn once they meet the same age and years of service requirements as for an immediate annuity. This is different from CSRS rules, where an employee cannot draw a deferred annuity until age 62.



Disability Benefits

To receive disability benefits under FERS, an employee must be unable to perform useful and efficient service in his/her position because of disease or injury and must have at least 18 months of creditable civilian service. The disability benefits employees receive under FERS are as follows:

The first year:

60 percent of Hi-3 average pay minus 100 percent of any Social Security Disability Benefits to which entitled.

After the first year and until age 62, if the employee is disabled for the job and does not qualify for Social Security disability benefits, the benefit will be 40 percent of the employee's Hi-3 average pay. If an employee does qualify for Social Security Benefits, the disability benefit will be reduced by 60 percent of the initial Social Security Benefit to which entitled. The resulting total benefit will be equal to at least 40 percent of the Hi-3 salary plus 40 percent of the Social Security Disability Benefits.

Disability retirees may be required to provide periodic proof that they have not recovered from their disability. In addition, the disability benefits under FERS will be discontinued if a disability retiree earns more than 80 percent of the current pay level of their former job.

Deposit refunds OK; redeposits prohibited

FERS employees may take a refund of their retirement contributions if they leave government service. However, unlike the Civil Service Retirement System, the amount refunded may not be redeposited at a later date.

Deposits for post-1956 military service must be made under FERS in order for the

military service to be creditable for annuity computation purposes. The rules are similar to CSRS rules but a 3 percent (rather than a 7 percent) deposit is required and interest does not begin to accrue until 1 January 1989 or two years after the employee first becomes covered under FERS.

Benefit formula considers age and service

As with CSRS, there are two main factors used to calculate retirement benefits under FERS. These are (1) length of service and (2) High three years average pay (Hi-3). Unlike CSRS, however, no credit is given for unused sick leave. Military service that is creditable under CSRS is also creditable under FERS, except that all post-1956 military service must be covered by a deposit to receive credit for annuity purposes.

CSRS and FERS use different percentages to calculate retirement benefits. CSRS uses a fluctuating formula to determine an employee's basic annuity: 1½ percent for the first 5 years of service times Hi-3; 1¾ percent for the next 5 years of service times Hi-3; and 2 percent for all service over 10 years times Hi-3. Under FERS, however, a simple 1 percent of Hi-3 average salary is used for each year of service for employees who are under age 62. Employees who retire at age 62 or older with at least 20 years of service receive a benefit equal to 1.1 percent times their Hi-3 average pay times their years of service. Based on the above, a CSRS employee with 30 years of Federal service would receive a benefit of 56.25 percent of Hi-3 pay. Under FERS, this percentage would be 30 percent for employees under age 62 with 30 years of service and 33 percent for those over age 62 with 30 years of service.

Another major difference between CSRS and FERS benefit entitlements is in the area of Cost-of-Living Allowances (COLAS). Unlike CSRS employees who receive COLAS equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), FERS retirees

FERS includes alternative pay-outs

The Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986 included a new option for retiring employees called Alternative Forms of Annuities (AFA). Under this provision, certain retiring employees may elect to withdraw their retirement contributions and receive a reduced annuity. Eligibility for AFA is limited to non-disability annuitants. Also ineligible are any employees who have a former spouse entitled by court order to receive a portion of the employee's annuity or a survivor annuity.

Employees who elect AFA will receive (1) payment of their lump-sum credit consisting of all unrefunded retirement deductions, and (2) a monthly benefit. The present value of the combined lump-sum credit and the annuity payable under AFA must be "actuarially equivalent" to the present value of the annuity otherwise payable to the retiree under FERS.

receive a COLA equal to the Consumer Price Index minus one percent for any CPI increase of 3 percent or greater. This COLA does not begin until the FERS retiree reaches age 62, but is provided at all ages for survivors and disabled annuitants.

Social Security also plays an important role in FERS annuities, but employees are not eligible to receive Social Security Retirement Benefits until they reach age 62. Therefore, employees who retire before age 62 receive a special FERS Supplement which is paid at the Minimum Retirement Age with 30 years of service, age 60 with 20 years of service, or upon involuntary retirement. This Supplement approximates the Social Security Benefit earned under the employees' FERS service and is paid as an annuity until the employee reaches age 62.

Contribution rate decreases over next three years

Employees covered by FERS will contribute 1.3 percent of their gross pay to the Basic Benefit Plan in 1987. This includes employees covered by CSRS or the combined Social Security and CSRS system who choose to transfer to FERS during the open season to be held from July 1 through December 31, 1987. In 1988-89, this contribution will decrease to 0.94 percent and after 1989 to 0.8 percent. This amount represents the difference between 7 percent of employees' basic pay and the Social Security OASDI (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) tax rate. These retire-



ment contributions, combined with the Social Security OASDI tax is the same percentage withheld from CSRS employees.

Five years key to Basic Plan vesting

Employees under FERS must have at least five years of civilian service to be eligible to receive retirement benefits from the Basic Benefit Plan even if they leave Federal service before retiring. Survivor and disability benefits are available after 18 months of service.

FERS includes survivor benefits

The FERS Basic Benefit Plan also provides benefits for survivors of Federal employees and retirees. If an employee dies while working for the Federal government, is married and has 18 months of service under FERS, the surviving spouse will receive:

- a. A lump sum payment of \$15,000 (indexed to the Cost-of-Living Adjustment for annuitants); plus
- b. the higher of 50 percent of the employees annual salary at the time of retirement or one-half of the employees Hi-3 average pay.

If an employee has 10 years of service, a spouse will also receive an annuity equaling 50 percent of the employee's accrued basic retirement benefit. These benefits are paid in addition to any Social Security benefits the survivor may receive.

When married employees retire, their annuity is automatically reduced to provide a spouse survivor benefit, unless those benefits are jointly waived in writing by the

retiree and the spouse before retirement. The retirees annuity is reduced 10 percent in order to provide a maximum spouse survivor annuity of 50 percent of the retirees unreduced pension. In addition, the surviving spouse will receive a special supplement until age 60 if the spouse is not eligible for Social Security survivors benefits until age 60.

Survivor benefits may also be payable to children of an employee who has at least 18 months of civilian service. The benefit under FERS is payable as a flat annuity rate depending on whether or not the children are left orphaned and is payable to each unmarried child:

1. Up to age 18;
2. Up to age 22 if a full-time student;
3. At any age if the child becomes disabled before age 18.

The flat annuity rate benefit under FERS will be reduced dollar for dollar if a Social Security children's benefit entitlement exists.

Field site

Sedimentation Project serves worldwide customers

Customer Care is more than a catchy phrase for two St. Paul District employees.

Mechanical engineer Don Benson and machinist Luverne Fanjoy deal with real customers from all over the world. And their customers are customers in the traditional sense—they order merchandise, pay their bills, and expect good service when ordering and returning equipment for repair.

If sales are any indication of customer satisfaction, then Don and Luverne must truly be leaders in customer care. They handle some \$200,000 worth of orders each year out of their offices at the St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Lab, located on the bank of the Mississippi River in downtown Minneapolis.

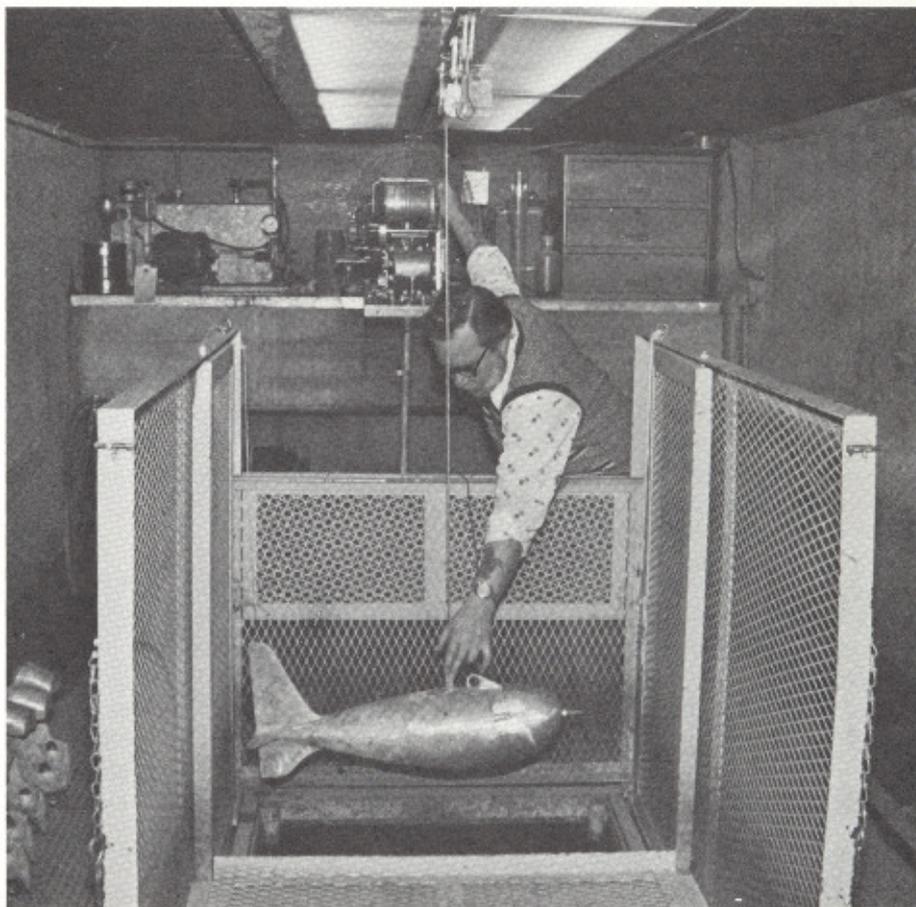
Don and Luverne make up the entire Corps staff of an inter-agency Sedimentation Project. Other staffing is provided by the U. S. Geological Survey. In addition, a number of other federal agencies support the Sedimentation Project with funding but not staffing, Don said.

The project was started in 1948 at the University of Iowa at Ames. Former St. Paul employee Martin Nelson represented the St. Paul District in the project in the early years and was instrumental in getting the project moved to Minneapolis, Don said. The two-person project is part of St. Paul's Engineering Division and is assigned to Geotechnical, Hydraulics and Hydrologic Engineering Branch.

According to Don, a key factor in getting the project moved to the Twin Cities was the "outstanding lab facility" at St. Anthony Falls operated by the University of Minnesota civil engineering department. "The reason we are at the St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Lab, instead of some other research facility," Don explained, "is the facility itself. The Hydraulics Lab has a flow-through channel inside the building that we use to check calibration of our sedimentation sampling equipment. We check each sampler and can reject and return a sampler to the contractor if the calibration is off."

Today, the Sedimentation Project has two main thrusts—producing and marketing sedimentation samplers to agencies around the world and research and development of new equipment.

According to Don, the project is the primary source of calibrated sedimentation samplers in the United States and supplies sampling equipment to many different state and federal agencies. To satisfy different customer needs, the project now markets three types of sampling equipment—suspended sediment samplers, bed material



Luverne Fanjoy lowers a sedimentation sampler into the flow-through channel at the St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Lab. The flow-through channel brings flows

from the Mississippi River into the lab allowing Luverne and Don to field test and calibrate samplers in a realistic setting without leaving the lab.

samplers and bed-load samplers. They also supply a line of laboratory analyzing equipment.

As the name implies, suspended sediment samplers collect water samples so that the amount of suspended materials in the water can be analyzed and measured. The other two types of samplers collect material from the bottom of the river. Bed material consists of the finer sands and gravels found on the river bottom while bed-load material is the heavier materials such as large gravel and rocks which slowly move along the river bottom.

Made of bronze or aluminum and shaped like a bomb or fish, the samplers range in size from five to 300 pounds and cost from \$135 to \$4,000.

To better serve their world-wide customers, the project publishes a catalog of equipment and supplies available from the project. While most orders come from government agencies in the U.S., Don says that they occasionally get orders from other countries. Over the years, the project has



Don Benson, mechanical engineer at the Sedimentation Project, inspects part of a automatic sediment sampler being developed by the Project. When marketed, the sampler would take individual water samples at set intervals or at predetermined water stages.



Machinist Luverne Fanjoy opens one of the bronze sediment samplers built under contract for the Sedimentation Project. The project markets samplers similar to this one ranging in weight from 5 to 300 pounds and costing between \$135 and \$4,000.

received orders from such far-away places as Japan, China, Africa, and South America.

One of the more unique orders, Don recalled, came from South America where the Brazilian government was conducting research on the Amazon River. "The river is so deep in places that we had to modify the sampler and provide pressurized air bottles so that the equipment would properly take samples under the increased pressure found in deep sections of the river," he said.

Another special customer need was satisfied when the project developed specialized sampling equipment for work at Mt. St. Helens. "We had two problems to overcome there following the eruption of the volcano in May, 1980. First, there was the problem of extremely high water velocities. Our samplers rely on their weight to keep them stable in the water and to carry them down to the proper water depth for sampling. The water velocity was so great that our samplers would not go down to the depth required for proper sampling," Don said. Secondly, the water was carrying very high concentrations of fine volcanic dust. "This sediment was much more dense and concentrated. We almost had rolling mud," Don explained. As a result of the special conditions at Mt. St. Helens, the Sedimentation

Project designed bigger and heavier samplers for use by the U.S. Geological Survey.

In the research arena, Don and Luverne are working on a number of specialized samplers including automatic samplers and a continuous suspended sediment monitor using remote sensing technology.

Don said the automatic samplers can take water samples at predetermined intervals or times. They could also take samples at certain water stages determined in advance, he added.

The remote sensing sediment monitor eliminates the need for an operator to be on-site. Instead of taking actual samples of the water periodically, this system would have water running through the monitor continuously. It would measure changes in the amount of sediments suspended in the water running through the monitor and relay the information to a data collector via satellite. Remote sensing automates the sampling operation and eliminates the need for someone to visit the collection site, Don said.

Don has been at the project since 1972. He previously worked at Northern Pump as a hydraulic engineer and at 3M as a design

engineer. Luverne retired from the U.S. Navy and later worked as a machinist at the Navy Shipyard at Norfolk, Virginia, before joining the Sedimentation Project in 1981. As the project machinist, Luverne plays a key role the project's operations.

"Everything we make is designed in our own shop. Luverne makes the prototypes," Don explained. "And almost as important, he does all the repair work on samplers broken while being used around the world." As part of the repair process, each sampler is rechecked to make sure that it is working properly and is still properly calibrated. "That is why on-site field repair is not possible. A sampler out of calibration would provide bad sampling data. We check each sampler completely before it is put back into service," Don said.

Providing a unique product and quality service to real customers around the world is the goal of the Sedimentation Project. As the Corps' representatives at the Sedimentation Project, Don Benson and Luverne Fanjoy are helping make that goal a reality. They are truly "leaders in customer care."



Don Benson examines the vibrating sensor on a sampler being developed by the Sedimentation Project. The new sampler would use vibrations to measure the amount of suspended materials in water flowing through a tube in the monitor.

Real-time changes in the amount of suspended materials would be measured and the information transmitted to a data collector via satellite.

Around the district

By Ken Gardner

Public Affairs Office

We have several people changes, a Golden Anniversary and a new executive director making the news this month.

Heading the list of people changes, **John Plump**, chief of Project Management in Engineering (and acting assistant chief of ED) has accepted a position with Portland District as assistant chief of Engineering. In addition to a milder climate and more rain, John will have to get used to high lift locks and high head dams (100 foot-plus) on the Columbia River, coastal projects, massive hydroelectric operations, and considering the impacts of projects on salmon and steelhead runs.

In the Accuracy, Accuracy, Accuracy Department, my apologies to **Ron Wolney**, former budget officer in the Comptroller Office. Contrary to what I reported in last month's Crosscurrents, Ron is the new chief of the Planning and Control Branch in Real Estate. **Jim Gilbert**, Finance and Accounting Branch, will move up to replace Ron as budget officer. While we are talking about Comptroller Office changes, I should mention that **Sandy Breheim** has signed on as disbursing clerk and will soon occupy the cashier's cage on the 14th floor. Sandy has been working in Treatment Works Section of Construction Branch on the 9th floor.

While Sandy is moving from the 9th floor up to 14, **Paul Kosterman**, mechanical engineer in Design Branch, is moving from the 13th floor down to the 11th as the chief of the Plant Section in Maintenance Branch.

Attention golfers! If you are interested in golfing with the district league, contact **Bob Whartman**, ED-GHH, at ext 7595.

I received a notice from Betty White, public affairs officer for the Omaha District, that they are planning a big Golden Anniversary celebration at Fort Peck Dam, Montana, next August. They are looking for anybody who worked on the construction of the dam in the 30s. If you did and haven't been contacted, let Betty know at this address:

Betty White
Public Affairs Office
Omaha District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
215 N. 17th Street
Omaha, NE 68102

And even if you weren't involved in the Fort Peck project, Betty will send you a special commemorative publication they are putting together if you will send her your mailing address. Free.

Some of you may remember Colonel William B. Stewart. He was district engineer

at Chicago District a few years back. He is the new executive director of the Corps of Engineers Historical Foundation at Ft. Belvoir. Speaking of the Historical Foundation, the preliminary design for their new museum has been completed and they have provided the funds for the final design to Baltimore District. Target date for design completion is July 1987.

Out on the Mississippi River, we understand that **Ed Sing**, pilot on the Dredge William A. Thompson, will be assisting the Coast Guard when they check navigation aids this spring. Ed will be put aboard the Coast Guard buoy-tender Wyconda when it comes into the St. Paul District to repair navigation aids and relocate errant buoys along the Nine-Foot Channel. The Wyconda's crew will rely on Ed's experience and knowledge of the Upper Mississippi during their stay in the St. Paul District.

Finally, a couple of tips of the hat to district employees. As a result of the quick thinking of **Judy Parnell**, property officer in Logistics, and **Joann Meier**, EEO, two fourth grade classes from St. Pascal's Elementary School in St. Paul were able to attend a free performance of Rumpelstiltskin put on by the Children's Theater. Seems that Judy's daughter works at the Children's Theater and learned that the day before the performance, there was a cancellation for a large block of seats. Judy mentioned the cancellation to several people at the district office including Joann. Seeing an opportunity, they contacted St. Pascal's. Sixty students got to enjoy a free performance and the theater group played to a full house. All through the efforts of district employees who cared. Maybe that's customer care at its finest.

Another Logistics employee is also showing that he cares. **John Mena** has single-handedly formed a youth wrestling program for boys in the West Seventh Avenue area of St. Paul. He has 35 to 40 boys participating in his wrestling program where he teaches them wrestling rules, techniques, and sportsmanship. John has seen a need in his local community and has taken action to satisfy that need. Caring is what it is all about.

That's what's happening around the district this month.

"The trouble with this country is that there are too many people going about saying, 'The trouble with this country is . . .'"

—Sinclair Lewis,
American author

Date set for Engineer's Day

The date for the Engineer's Day award's ceremony and picnic has been set for Friday, June 26.

It will be held at a new site this year—the new Lake Elmo Regional Park Reserve, in Washington County. The site is easy to reach by car. It's only a 15 minute drive from St. Paul. Simply go east on I-94, take I-694 north, and then go east on Highway 70 (Minnehaha Avenue) to the park.

Everyone in the St. Paul District family (current and former employees, relatives, and friends) is invited.

More specific information on the lunch, the activities, the cost, and how to get there will be available soon.

If you want to be on any of the picnic committees, want to make suggestions, or want information, contact the appropriate committee chairperson:

Location—Mary Schommer (7494)

Food—Bruce Carlson (7079)

Volleyball—Karen Nagengast (7233)

Kid's Activities—Suzanne Gaines (7577)

Adult Activities—Chuck Crist (7559)

Photos—Bruce Heide (7575)

Publicity/Tickets—Joe Yanta (5997)

Bingo—Denise Yale (7505)

Overall Coordinator—Dave Haumersen (7070)

EDITORS NOTE: Volunteers are especially needed to provide ideas for kid and adult activities. Contact Dave Haumersen or one of the above employees if you can help.

Winners of word find contest announced

By Joann Meier

Equal Employment Opportunity

Jan Pream, Construction Operations, won first prize in the Black History Word Find Contest held during February. She won a two quart bag of cheese popcorn, a five quart bag of regular popcorn and a 12-pack of pop. Keith Traynor of Rivers and Harbors won second prize and Ruth Hageman, Regulatory Functions, won third. The contest was popular with all employees including the locks and dams and field sites. We hope you had fun and that the contest helped you to become aware of black history and affirmative action.

Death reported

William Lincoln of Fergus Falls, Minn., died on February 12 at the age of 80. He was the construction engineer that supervised the Orwell-Baldhill-Homme flood control dams in the late 1940's and early 1950's.