



CROSSCURRENTS

ST. PAUL DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Vol. 2, No. 5

January, 1979

Corps Reorganization Study Underway

An announcement released 23 January by the Office of the Chief of Engineers revealed that a number of engineer divisions have launched studies which could lead to realignment and adjustment of workload of a number of Corps districts and the possible closure of others.

North Central Division because of a decreasing workload would probably be one of the most affected divisions if these studies result in reorganization.

According to the OCE statement, transfer of responsibilities from the Buffalo District and closure of the Chicago and Rock Island districts will be specific study actions. The feasibility of placing the St. Louis District in NCD will also be looked at.

District Engineer Colonel Forrest T. Gay in a briefing of District Office personnel stated that while the St. Paul District would probably feel less impact of any reorganization than some other districts, its workload could be adjusted and its boundaries realigned.

One objective of the nationwide studies is to consider establishing Corps liaison offices in states where there are no district or division offices. In conjunction with the OCE release, a statement from Major General Richard L. Harris, North Central Division Engineer, pointed out that the goal is to provide the "best service to the taxpayer in the most cost effective manner."

In a letter to all Corps employees, Chief of Engineers Lieutenant General John W. Morris said that gradual adjustments throughout Corps offices could no longer cope with many new demands and conditions and that more rapid adjustment of the Corps organization is necessary. General Morris stated, however, that it was his "personal aim" to minimize and, if possible, avoid adverse effects upon Corps personnel.

Other specific study actions will include the possibility of transferring to adjacent districts some responsibilities from Philadelphia, Albuquerque and Little Rock districts and the closure also of district offices at San Francisco and Charleston.

AWARD PRESENTATION SET

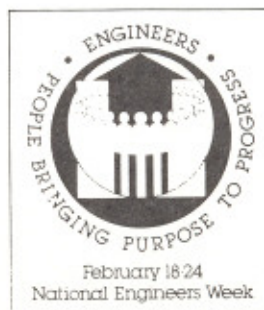
The St. Paul District, 1979 winner of the National Society of Professional Engineers award, will be honored during Engineers Week at a luncheon meeting of the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers. The meeting will be held at the Capitol Holiday Inn on Friday, February 23. Reservations for the luncheon, at a cost of \$5.00, can be made with Gwen Spilde, 725-7517, by 16 February.

Colonel Gay, who accepted the bronze plaque award at the National Society of Professional Engineers' meeting in Oklahoma City on 26 January, says, "I heartily encourage all interested District employees and retirees to attend the luncheon meeting to share in this recognition of the St. Paul District's engineering competence."

Also to be honored are two winners of the Industrial Seven Wonders Award given by the national society to outstanding engineering projects.

Presiding at the luncheon will be Brigadier General Donald Weinert, Ret., Executive Director of the National Society of Professional Engineers, who retired last fall from the Corps of Engineers.

The Chief of Engineers, LTG Morris, has been invited to attend.





Row, Row, Row

Three Corps of Engineers employees are now mainstays of the Minnesota Boat Club rowing team. Pictured above are Doug Holmberg, a veteran oarsmen, and Russ Marcks and Byron Nelson, both first year oarsmen.

The Minnesota Boat Club, founded in 1870, is the oldest athletic organization in Minnesota. The club, 150 members strong, is devoted solely to recreational and competitive rowing. Approximately 50 member men and women row May through October, and compete throughout the United States and Canada.

Doug Holmberg, who is in Construction Branch, currently assigned to the Lock and Dam No. 1 renovation, is the club's secretary and also a member of the Board of Directors. Doug rows in heavy-weight 4-man and 8-man shells which have chalked up impressive victories in the last two years, including first place finishes at the Midwestern United States and Canada Rowing Championships.

Russ Marcks is a civil engineering Co-op student from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville. For obvious reasons, Russ rows in the light weight (155 lbs. or less) events. Russ grasped the sport extremely fast, considering he was a novice oarsman. By summer's end, with 300 river miles logged, he was chosen to stroke the club's light-weight eight. His eight man shell rowed to a remarkable second place finish at the Midwest Rowing Championships. (The stroke position is the first seat in any shell given to the most consistently strong oarsman in the boat.)

Heritage Toastmasters

Heritage Toastmasters is a member club of Toastmasters International. At the present time, T.I. has over 3,000 member clubs scattered throughout the world. The purpose of these clubs is to help members develop skills in communication and leadership. This is done by practice in speech organizing, writing and making, running meetings in an orderly, timely manner as well as practicing parliamentary procedure, vocabulary building, impromptu response to timely questions and meaningful, honest evaluation and criticism of the speeches of the members as well as all of the facets of the whole meeting. Each regular meeting follows an outline and has the same basic routine.

In spite of all of this, TM meetings are filled with fun, humor and wit, proving once again that learning doesn't have to be dry or boring. Next month's column will concern two parts of the typical TM meeting, the "Word for the Day" and "Table Topics".

A new 1-1/2 hour newscast, "CBS Sunday Morning News," premiering on Sunday, 4 February, 9 to 10:30, on WCCO-TV will feature an interview with the Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General John W. Morris.

Byron Nelson, who is in Design Branch, rows in a heavy weight 4-man and 8-man shell. He rowed in regattas at Minneapolis, Duluth and the Midwest Rowing Championships at Thunder Bay, Canada. His 4- and 8-man shells took High Honored third and fourth place finishes, respectively, at the Midwest Rowing Championships. Byron comments that rowing was solely responsible for his losing 10-plus pounds and two inches off his waist.

Doug says rowing has added a new dimension to his life. He adds, "Not only is rowing exhilarating for the mind and body but it's an excellent conditioning sport, and above all, fun."

By the way, the Minnesota Boat Club is the most active and successful rowing club in the Midwestern United States and Canada. The club has won the coveted Sir Thomas Lipton Rowing Cup at the Midwest Rowing Championships 17 times in the last 20 years.

Anyone interested in taking up the sport of rowing is invited to contact Doug Holmberg at 633-9361.

'78 ROCHESTER FLOOD DISCUSSED AT ASCE

On 10 January, Colonel Gay joined with Larry Seymour, Director of the Division of Waters, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in presenting the "1978 Flood at Rochester" story to the Minnesota section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The meeting was a technical night for three of the divisions of ASCE with concurrent presentations being given after the dinner in each division.

COL Gay addressed members interested in the water resources division, while the construction division and the geotechnical division members received presentations on the "Bidding and Building of A Segmental Bridge" and "What's New in Vibraflotation" respectively.

Attendance at the meeting at the Thunderbird Motel in Bloomington was about 150 engineers and guests, with forty attending the Rochester flood presentation, an indication of the high

level of interest in the flood problems of Rochester outside of the Corps office.

The 1978 Flood was the flood of record in Rochester and caused damages estimated at \$60 million dollars.

COL Gay discussed the setting for the flood, past flood history, the meteorological aspects of the storm, and the hydrological and hydraulic aspects of the flood. Mr. Seymour covered the evacuation procedures, the damages sustained, and flood warning, floodproofing, and floodplain regulation relationships to the flood.

COL Gay closed the presentation with a discussion of the proposed Corps and SCS permanent flood control for Rochester.

METRO COUNCIL SLIDES SLATED FOR 5 FEBRUARY

A 13-minute slide show which illustrates what the Metropolitan Council is and does has been scheduled for a showing on 5 February, at 12:30, in Room 1515. Any Corps employees interested in learning more about the Metropolitan Council are welcome to attend; brown-baggers are welcome.

from 16 Dec 78 Minneapolis Tribune

After the boat ride, the trip was all uphill



Karl Twedt and Doug^{*} Holmberg went boating Friday on the Mississippi River off Harriet Island in St. Paul. In the aerial photo at right, they are the white speck in the center just offshore. Shortly after they rowed away from the Minnesota Boat Club on Harriet Island, ice moved in and covered the dock. They landed the boat south of the dock and pulled it up a steep embankment. Holmberg, left photo, is secretary of the boat club.



^{*} Doug Holmberg is an engineer trainee, currently assigned to Construction, at Lock and Dam No. 1.

TELL IT TO THE PUBLIC

In the popular mind, the Corps of Engineers has been closely associated with waterway transportation. Certainly navigation improvements have long been a major part of the Corps' civil works functions. The Corps has also played a significant role in railroad development. For example, it surveyed and laid track for the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, performed railroad explorations in the trans-Mississippi west, and played a part in the building of the Alaska Railroad. But few people realized that the Corps helped to build and maintain the first interstate highway in the United States.

In 1806, Congress authorized the building of a National Road west from Cumberland, Maryland. Until 1824 the Treasury Department supervised construction; then the Corps of Engineers assumed responsibility. Between 1824 and 1838, military engineers made surveys, located the right of way, and inspected the construction being done on the road west of the Ohio River. While much of the work on the road was torturous, backbreaking, and painfully slow, progress was steady. The road eventually was extended as far as Vandalia in south central Illinois, and soon became a bustling artery of east-west travel and commerce.

By the time the engineers took over supervision of the turnpike, the portion east of the Ohio River was almost impassable. In his Annual Report for 1831, Secretary of War Lewis Cass of Michigan expressed the fear that unless the road from Cumberland to the Ohio River was repaired promptly "expensive and useful work will be ruined." Between 1832 and 1835, Chief of Engineers General Charles Gratiot assigned Lt. Joseph K. F. Mansfield and Capt. Richard Delafield to oversee the repairs. In many places the old road bed was so bad that the engineers had to start from scratch. Stone had to be crushed by hand, drainage culverts dug, and trees removed. But by the end of 1835, the road was in fine shape. The states through which the highway passed assumed responsibility for its management, including the collection of tolls to provide funds to keep it in proper repair.

The building and repair of the Cumberland Road through rugged mountainous country was a tremendous feat for the Corps of Engineers. The roadway connected the Atlantic coast to the hinterland. After World War II, the federal government incorporated the Cumberland Road into U.S. Route 40 to form an ocean-to-ocean highway.

Now you know...tell it to the public.

Jetter Receives Boy Scouting's Silver Beaver Award

The Silver Beaver Award, the highest recognition that the Boy Scouts of America can bestow on a volunteer leader, was presented to Roy Jetter at a Scout Leader dinner in Dubuque Nov. 30.

Jetter was among three selected from over 1,800 volunteers in the Northeast Iowa Council to receive this award. He started his career in scouting in California as a Cub Scout Pack committeeman. Since then he has served scouting and his community in many capacities, including organizing and re-organizing Cub Scout Packs and Scout troops.

He was previously honored by the district with the Award of Merit and by the American Legion with the District Scout Award. Jetter has served as scoutmaster, as-

sistant district commissioner, district commissioner, district chairman, and on the activities and training committees.

Jetter has served St. John Lutheran Church in Guttenberg as an usher and as a member of the church council. In 1975 he was honored with the Lamb Award, the highest award the Lutheran church can bestow on a volunteer leader for distinguished service to youth. He is currently serving as the treasurer of the benevolent fund.

Jetter is employed by the Army Corps of Engineers at Lock and Dam 10. He is president of the Employer Association, is a volunteer fireman, is active in the American Legion and is a member of the El Kahir Shrine Temple in Cedar Rapids.

(Roy Jetter is the equipment repairman at

Lock and Dam No. 10).

Headwater Notes

(Excerpts from Headwaters ledgers)

February 2, 1898

Mr. B. C. Finnegan
Grand Rapids, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Your pay roll for January shows the rate of pay intended for you by circular #2 after you have disposed of it. If you have not disposed of it, the rate on the pay roll should be \$85. per month.

By order of Captain Frederic V. Abbot:

Very respectfully,
Archibald Johnson
Assistant Engineer

JUST BETWEEN US ..

(Based on Employee Benefit Fund records)

SYMPATHY is extended to HAROLD TAGGATZ, CO-PO, on the death of his father; to DONNA KNITTEL, SP-P, on the death of her father; and to ROY GALEWSKI, L/D 5, on the death of his father.

SORRY you were ill to DAVE LOSS, ED-D, and KATHY VOIGT, ED-PB.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS to YVONNE ZAHN, CO-GR, who will be married on 3 February to Gary Larson.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BIRTH of daughters to two District Office employees: Michelle Louise, 8 lbs., was born 4 January to KATHRYN and ALAN, (ED-PB) FORSBERG; and on Christmas Day, Jennifer Christine, 6 lbs., 7 oz., was born to MARILYN and ED, (ED-H) EATON; Congratulations also to CHRISTINE and JIM (ED-H) MUEGGE on their new son, Matthew James, 7 lb. 12 oz., born 27 Jan.

BEST WISHES to these people who have left the District during the past month: JIM PETERSON, ED-P, who transferred to Jacksonville (Florida) District; and KAREN MILTON, DC-PC, who left to become a housewife and next month, a mother.

HAPPY RETIREMENT to JIM LACY, AS-R, who left early January after 37 years' service; and to URLIN STREU, Lake Superior Office, who retired also after 37 years' service.

DREDGING SEMINAR SET AT RADISSON

The Great River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) study project and the Western Dredging Association are co-sponsors with the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission of a two-day working seminar on dredging the Mississippi.

"Dredging: the Challenge, the Technology, the Opportunity" is being held at the Radisson Hotel in St. Paul 31 January through 1 February.

District Engineer Colonel Forrest T. Gay, III, is among the many feature speakers at the seminar. Government officials, industry leaders and environmentalists are taking part in six concurrent work sessions. The seminar, the first of its kind, is designed to provide valuable input for the GREAT study.

HENRY LANGER RETURNS WITH SIBERIA SLIDES

Henry Langer, since his retirement from planning branch several years ago, continues to make annual trips to fascinating places around the world, and brings back superb slide presentations of these places. He has agreed to return to the District Office on 22 February to show slides of Siberian Russia in Room 1515, starting at 12:30. All employees are invited to attend; brown-baggers are welcome.

SAME FEATURES EPA DISCUSSION BY RUYAK

The Corps of Engineers Construction Grants Program Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency was the topic at the S.A.M.E. noon luncheon meeting at Mr. Pedro's on 25 January. Jim Ruyak, Chief of Construction, presented and discussed aspects of the Corps involvement in the program for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities.

par for the corps...

Some mysterious hand from the past, perhaps, can be blamed for the strange appearance in the last Crosscurrents listing of several "new employees" who had actually retired several years ago from the Corps! Likewise, the listing of an old phone number for Al Klein, at the Lake Superior Office (the correct number is (218) 783-9263).

Super-sleuthing led to the source of the misinformation, the NCS Form 727, which had meanwhile been routed on to ADP for entry onto the computer listing. Sure enough, there were the guilty forms, but where they came from nobody knows.

Speculation has it that they might have been "lost" for years, and had just been jogged into the system.

SANTA SAYS "THANKS"

Santa Anonymous thanks all who donated gifts to brighten the Christmas of needy children. The collection box in the post office lobby contained a total of 78 gifts for Santa Anonymous to deliver. Of 18 pickup points in the Twin Cities, this one was second only to the Minneapolis Post Office box which held 83 gifts.

The overall total was 647 gifts plus \$940.97.

TEAM 6 TOPS FIRST HALF

Team 6 took 5 points during position night (Dec 21) to capture top spot of the season's first half in the Corps Bowling League.

Led by an improving Terry Engel, ED-PB, and consistant Charlie Malmer, ED-P, Team 6 took two games and total pins from the Pocket-Go-Fors, who remained in second place.

The first place team of the first half of the season will play the first place team of the second half of the season, in April to determine the League's champions.

The first half standings were:

- 1st Place - Team 6
- 2nd Place - Pocket-Go-Fors
- 3rd Place - Alley Cats
- 4th Place - Corpathetics
- 5th Place - Cellar Dwellers
- 6th Place - Turkeys
- 7th Place - High Balls
- 8th Place - Kids

The Pocket-Go-Fors currently lead the League in both high series and high game for scratch and handicap categories, with a 1963 scratch and 2488 handicap series and a 711 scratch and 886 handicap games.

The second half of the season began December 28 and will continue into April. The League bowls every Thursday night at 7 p.m. at the All-American Bowling Alley.

Come out and enjoy the competition.

From Supply & Procurement ...

Receiving reports resulting from DD Form 1155 purchase and delivery orders, DD Form 1149 Requisition Documents, SF-344 Multiuse Standard Requisition Documents, Optional Form 170 Training Documents, GSA Form 1348 Fedstrip Requisition Forms and Procurements by formal contracts with ENG Form 4480 attached, if required, will be routed as follows: (1) Property Accounting Section, (2) Examination Section.

Receiving reports resulting from SF-44 Purchase Orders and Government Bills of Lading with ENG Form 4480 attached will continue to be routed as follows: (1) Authorized Approving Official, (2) Procurement and Supply Division, (3) Property Accounting Section, (4) Examination Section.

The above information is published in an effort to expedite processing of procurement documents and to reduce the number of lost discounts. It is extremely important that receiving reports are prepared withing one workday after receipt of supplies and services, as directed in ER-735-2-1.

Ordering Officers are reminded that no items of foreign origin may be purchased in the field since a determination of non-availability must be prepared by the Contracting Officer for approval by the District Engineer prior to purchase of a foreign made item. Requirements for foreign made items are to be submitted to the District Office on NCD Form 318 purchase requisition and processed in accordance with paragraph 1-15 of the Field Procurement Memorandum.

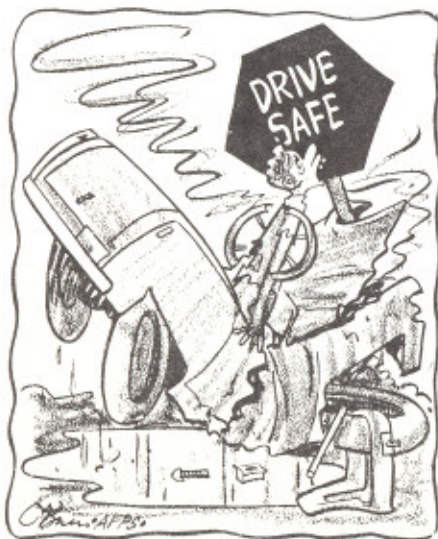
From Reproduction...

Change in office copier starting time - the xerox copier in Room 1416A will be placed in-service daily at 7:45 a.m. For flexitime users the xerox copier in Room 1321A (Reproduction Branch) will continue to be operable at 6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

The workload on the two offset presses is extremely heavy and will continue to be so for the next two to three months with construction specifications and regulatory permits constituting the bulk of the priority work. It would be helpful if anyone with regular offset printing jobs extend deadlines to the maximum so reasonable scheduling of press work and collating may be established and maintained by reproduction personnel. Cooperation of all involved would be greatly appreciated.

L. L. Lorinser
Chief, AS-R

The First Resolution



Down a Ladder...

EMPLOYEE ESCAPES FROM BURNING HOTEL

Rescue from a hotel fire was one aspect of a training trip to Baltimore that Charles Foye, Personnel Office, doesn't really want to dwell upon, except as he says, "to thank God for answering my prayers to get out of that room."

Charles was staying at the Lord Baltimore Hotel in mid-December when arsonists apparently were at work in the building. At 11 one night, the 400 guests (including Carol Channing whose "Hello, Dolly" was featured at a nearby theater) were evacuated when fire broke out on the 11th floor, and they were not allowed back to their rooms until about 3 a.m. Consequently, Charles got a late start the next morning, and was just about to leave for the personnel training class at 8:30 when the commotion of fire engines pulling up outside the hotel alerted him to another fire.

This time, unknown to him, the fire was in an unoccupied room across the hall from his 6th floor room. When Charles opened his door he was engulfed by thick black smoke, and absolute darkness in the corridor. He started to grope his way along the wall, but was forced back to the room by the smoke and the realization that he had no idea where the exits were. "Luckily, I hadn't locked the door behind me." He stuffed towels into the crack under the door, and tried to call the hotel desk, but got only a busy signal. "That's when I did some praying," he recalls.

From his window, he looked down to the lobby roof two flights below, but all the fire fighting equipment was on the other side of the building. He prayed some more...and started stuffing clothes into his bags thinking that if he had to jump he could use them as cushions.

After a few minutes, Charles looked down from his window to see a lone fireman on the lobby roof below, and called to him for help. "Shortly, three firemen clambered to the roof and leaned a ladder to my window so I could climb down." Charles says.



Bob Brown, head Lock and Dam Operator at Lock and Dam No. 2, Hastings, shows the lock and dam model made by his 13-year-old son, Paul. Paul made the model, complete with moveable lock gates, for a geography class and also prepared an elevation chart of the Mississippi River from New Orleans to the Twin Cities. Bob says his son's interest in locks and dams comes naturally, since he's "worked on the locks since before he was born, Paul has grown up with them." Bob worked eight years at Lock and Dam No. 1, and has been at No. 2 for the past eight years.

The model is not meant to represent any particular lock and dam, but illustrates the general concept. It is painted in authentic colors, and has a spring mechanism with which the model tow can be lifted up and let down in the lock.

~~~~~

Later, in the lobby, Charles was interviewed by several news reporters and was quoted in accounts of the blaze about his experience. A couple of other people in the hotel were hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation, he says, and special security measures were taken to protect guests.

Ironically, he had to spend that night in the same hotel -- though they found him another room -- since no other hotels were available, and the training class was to end the next day. "You can be sure I made note of where the exits were. In fact that's the first thing I look for now whenever I check into a hotel," Charles notes.





By BECKY COLEMAN

In the Mississippi River, directly below the Old Soldiers Home, lies a small island. When Mary Degen saw it, she knew it was ideal for a sculpture she planned to make.

Last summer Degen, the daughter of Mrs. H.A. Degen, Edina, worked as a sculptor for the City of Minneapolis, paid by CETA Title VI funds. Dismayed by hassles other CETA sculptors encountered with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, she wanted to create a structure off park land.

To build, she needed permission from the island's owner. She began contacting agency after agency, department after department — the Riverfront Commission, Hennepin County, Ramsey County, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The corps owned the property, but because the island had washed up since the last map of the area was made, the corps had no record of it.

Eventually, permission to build was obtained, provided that the finished work displayed "no symbolic intent."

The corps was quite helpful, Degen said. She stored her boat and equipment at the lock and dam. Although she often was the only person in the lock, the personnel let her through without complaint. They also helped her cart 500 pounds of concrete used to anchor the sculpture.

Five miles downstream at Fort Snelling lay a 100-foot driftwood log. It would become a major part of the sculpture. However, it required a special vehicle — a boat with wheels and a crane — to bring the log to the island. The U.S. Army used these vehicles in Vietnam, but they are not too common in Minnesota.

While working at the island, Degen saw such a vehicle in the river. She hailed its owner, Rod Nooner, and persuaded him to help her. He and his brothers spent all day pulling the log from the bank and hauling it upstream.

The log was planed and smoothed and stained red. In its final position, it rests in the fork of an upright elm tree.

The sculpture is visible from the decks of the Jonathan Padelford as it rolls down the river. It should be visible from a proposed walkway across the dam, according to Degen. The walkway will be part of a tourist center at the river, slated for construction next year.

When the center is finished (in about five years), Degen hopes her sculpture is still standing. Although she chose the highest part of the island and anchored the sculpture in concrete, she fears that spring floods may some day wash it away.

# LOG SCULPTURE



The completed sculpture featured a 100-foot driftwood log (foreground) resting in the fork of an elm tree.



# from personnel office

According to the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service the Immigration and Nationality Act requires all aliens in the United States and its possessions on January 1 of each year, with few exceptions, to report their addresses to the Attorney General during the month of January. However, if aliens are temporarily out of the United States during the month of January, they must report their addresses within ten (10) days of return to this country. Cards for reporting this information are available at any United States post office during the month of January and at offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service after January 31st.

*The following was taken from the Civil Service News Bulletin:*

Efforts to provide counseling for Federal employees with alcohol, drug, emotional or personal problems are meeting with increased success according to Office of Personnel Management (Civil Service Commission) officials.

During the 12-month period ending September 30, 1977, more than 27,700 Federal workers received such counseling. Of these, 11,400 or 41 percent had an alcohol or drug problem. This represents a 61 percent increase in the number counseled over the previous reporting period.

Thomas A. Tinsley, Director of the Commission's Bureau of Retirement, Insurance and Occupational Health, stressed that the statistics "do not mean that the number of employees having problems with alcohol or drugs is increasing but rather that the agency programs to identify and constructively assist such employees are improving significantly."

The counseling has helped 75 percent of the employees with alcohol or drug problems bring their performance back to an acceptable level on a sustained basis.

Federal agencies are required by law to maintain "prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programs" for employees with such problems. Since the programs began in 1971, more than 42,000 Federal employees have been counseled.

*NOTE: A study will be made of the St. Paul District's Employee Assistance Program and the Flexitime Program and recommendations will be made to the District Engineer in March.*

*If anyone has any comments or questions on these programs, please contact Charles Foye at 7500 or Vicki Demo at 7513.*

## Civil Service Commission Reorganization

Reorganization of the Civil Service Commission went into effect on 1 January 1979. On that date the Commission was split into the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Personnel Management. A third independent body -- the Federal Labor Relations Authority -- will administer the Federal labor relations program. The President has appointed Alan K. Campbell as Director and Jule M. Sugarman as Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management. Five Associate Directors are to be appointed by the Director. This reorganization will be followed by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, which is designed to improve the efficiency of Government, and to strike a proper balance between management rights and employee protections.

The Civil Service Reform Act was signed by the President on 13 October, 1978. At the signing ceremony, the President remarked that the Reform Act is the "Centerpiece of our efforts ... to bring efficiency and accountability and competence to the Federal Government that will exceed what we have known in the past." The Act, he said, "Changes the rules in a constructive fashion ... it puts incentive and rewards back into the Federal system. It allows Federal employees to be encouraged, transferred, or discharged for the right reasons, if they cannot or will not perform. And it prevents discouraging them or punishing them for the wrong reasons, for whistle blowing or for personal whim in violation of basic employee rights."

If you are a first line supervisor, you will need a thorough understanding of the reform measures to quickly adapt your operation to the change. You must also be informed so that you can explain the details of the reform to your employees. Moreover, your position as first line supervisor puts you in a unique place to help define and carry out the intent of the legislation -- maintaining the balance between management flexibility and employee and merit system protection.



# from personnel office

## EXPIRATION OF THE "WHITTEN AMENDMENT"

### LIBERALIZATION OF VETERANS READJUSTMENT APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES

On 26 October 1978, the President signed legislation (PL 95-520) which changes eligibility requirements for making a Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) within the Federal service. As a result of these changes, a VRA may be made:

- To any position classified at grade WG-7 and GS-7.
- For any veteran who served during the Vietnam era (5 August 1964 to 7 May 1975) regardless of when he/she was discharged provided that he/she has no more than two years of education beyond high school; furthermore, this two-year limitation is waived in the case of disabled veterans or veterans discharged because of service-connected disabilities.
- At any time in the future through 30 September 1981.
- For any veteran whose discharge is "other than dishonorable."

A Veterans Readjustment Appointment is made as an exception to Merit Promotion procedures. The selectee need not go through normal competitive process of testing, examining, certification, rating and ranking provided that the Personnel Office can determine that he/she possesses minimum qualifications for the position. The VRA appointee has the same tenure as a career-conditional appointee and receives health insurance, life insurance and Federal retirement benefits. At the end of a two-year probationary period the appointee is then converted to a career-conditional appointment provided he/she has performed satisfactorily and has fulfilled the provisions of a training agreement which he/she is required to sign.

The Personnel Office has in the past routinely made VRA referrals for permanent and permanent-seasonal jobs and will continue to do so. However, supervisors, particularly those at field sites, are encouraged to survey their own staff for any individuals who fall within these guidelines and who are interested in permanent employment in positions classified at or below GS and WG grade 7.

The Personnel Office has received numerous questions about published reports on the expiration of the so-called "Whitten Amendment," a statutory provision of the Korean Emergency Proclamation of 16 December 1950 which dealt with a number of items relating to manpower and personnel management policy within the Federal service. As a result of the National Emergencies Act of 1976 the Whitten Amendment did in fact expire effective 14 September 1978. However, a number of provisions of this amendment have over the years been preempted by, or absorbed into, other statutes and regulations. Among these is the well-known "time-in-grade" requirement which states that in most cases General Schedule employees at grades GS-6 and above cannot be promoted until they have served at least one year in the next lower grade level of the series of the job for which they are applying. This requirement, as it is currently stated in Federal Personnel Manual Chapter 300, Subpart F, is derived from authority granted by rules issued by the Office of Personnel Management (formerly Civil Service Commission) rather than the Whitten Amendment and is therefore unaffected by the expiration of the amendment. Therefore, according to guidance recently issued by the OPM, the time-in-grade requirements will continue to be applied in the same manner as they have in the past.

### Federal Employees Group Life Insurance

If an employee is under age 50 and waived life insurance coverage in the past, he/she would have an opportunity to enroll upon completing SF-51, having a physical examination at his/her expense, and being accepted by the Office of Federal Employees Group Life Insurance.

The Personnel Office has a brochure available, SF-176A, the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program. Anyone interested in obtaining a brochure can call Joan Quitter, 7516.



## from personnel office

Under Public Law 95-382, certain Japanese-American Federal employees and annuitants may now count time spent in internment camps during World War II as civilian service. The time period involved is from December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946, and confinement must have been under a policy or program of the United States established in the interests of national security.

Credit will be allowed for any period an employee or retiree was interned or detained after reaching 18 years of age, and this law applies only in the case of individuals who entered Federal employment after their internment.

Current employees who might be affected should contact the Technical Services Branch in the Personnel Office (ext. 7515 or 7516) because benefits such as tenure, leave, eligibility for immediate annuity, or for continuation of life insurance and health benefits may be involved.

Those already retired, or survivors of deceased annuitants or employees, should write to the Office of Personnel Management as soon as possible to have their annuities recomputed as recomputation will apply only to months beginning more than 30 days after the Commission receives the request.

In order to verify periods of internment, individuals must provide their full name (both Japanese and Americanized version if applicable), date of birth, name of camp and dates of internment. If previous verification has been obtained directly from the National Archives, this information should be submitted with the request.

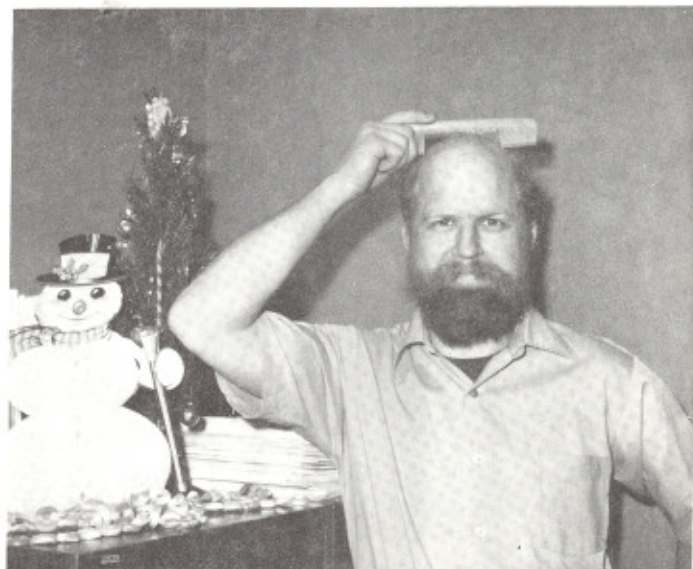
Anyone requesting credit for civil service annuity purposes should include a statement indicating if he or she is in receipt of or has ever applied for benefits under Social Security. Social Security benefits will be adjusted as the civil service annuity is awarded or increased.

## LENGTH-of-SERVICE REQUIREMENTS for RETIREES LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE CHANGES ARE ANNOUNCED

The Office Of Personnel Management has advised that as of 2 November 1978 any Federal employee enrolled in the Federal Employee's Group Life Insurance Program or the Federal Employee's Health Benefits Program will be potentially eligible to retain these coverages when he/she retires under a Federal retirement system on an immediate annuity.

In order to continue insurance coverage, an employee must also have participated in the respective program during the five years of service immediately preceding separation for retirement, or all periods of service in which coverage was available. This participation requirement will also apply in cases of employees who are eligible to continue insurance coverage while in receipt of compensation for work injury.

Any questions regarding this subject may be directed to the Technical Services Branch of the Personnel Office at 7515 or 7516.



Christmas spirit in the St. Paul District office was evidenced by simple decorations, cheerful greetings and exchange of special gifts as an expression of good will and fellowship -- like the carefully "engineered" hair-combing device displayed here by John Blackstone. It was a gift from his co-workers in Hydraulics-Foundations branch.

CROSSCURRENTS is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 380-81, published monthly by offset press for employees of the St. Paul District. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Address mail to: CROSSCURRENTS, ATTN: Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, 1135 U.S. Post Office and Custom House, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101. Phone: (612) 726-7506

District Engineer  
Public Affairs Officer  
Editor  
Typist

Colonel Forrest T. Gay, III  
James E. Brants  
Rosemarie E. Brants  
Cathy Jo Higgins





## DAVE HAUMERSEN WINS FISHING CONTEST

Dave Haumersen, ED-PB, is the District Office's top angler. He proved this by running away with the 1978 fishing contest. Dave totaled 59 points while his two closest competitors, Ed McNally, ED-ER, and Stan Kumpula, ED-HF, had 32 points each. Following Ed and Stan were Dennis Anderson, ED-ER, and Don Kohler, CO-GR, with 25 points apiece.

Dave amassed his 59 points with two firsts, three seconds, three thirds, and two fourth place fish. Two of the fish were large enough to earn Dave trophy points.

Listed below are the first place finishers in the various categories:

|                 |             |                 |       |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|
| Bluegill        | 10 1/8 in.  | Gary Palesh     | ED-ER |
| Brook Trout     | 14 1/4 in.  | Don Kohler      | CO-GR |
| Brown Trout     | 19 in.      | Jean Wieser     | ED-PB |
| Bullhead        | 14 3/16 in. | Bob Whiting     | ED-ER |
| Catfish         | 20 in.      | Dennis Anderson | ED-ER |
| Crappie         | 14 3/4 in.  | Fred Whebbe     | ED-D  |
| Largemouth Bass | 6 lb.       | Budd Selby      | DO    |
|                 | 6 lb.       | Carl Stephan    | ED-PB |
| Muskellunge     | 20 lb.      | Stan Kumpula    | ED-HF |
| Northern Pike   | 9 1/2 lb.   | Delores Sudeith | AS    |
| Rainbow Trout   | 16 in.      | Don Kohler      | CO-GR |
| Rock Bass       | 10 7/8 in.  | Dave Haumersen  | ED-PB |
| Sauger          | 21 in.      | Dennis Anderson | ED-ER |
| Smallmouth Bass | 6 1/4 lb.   | Don Potter      | ED-ER |
| Walleye         | 8 3/4 lb.   | Bill Spychalla  | ED-PB |
| White Bass      | 16 in.      | Dave Haumersen  | ED-PB |
| Yellow Perch    | 13 3/8 in.  | Robbin Blackman | ED-ER |

"Let's get out in 1979 and top these fish," says Gary Palesh, chief promoter of the contest.

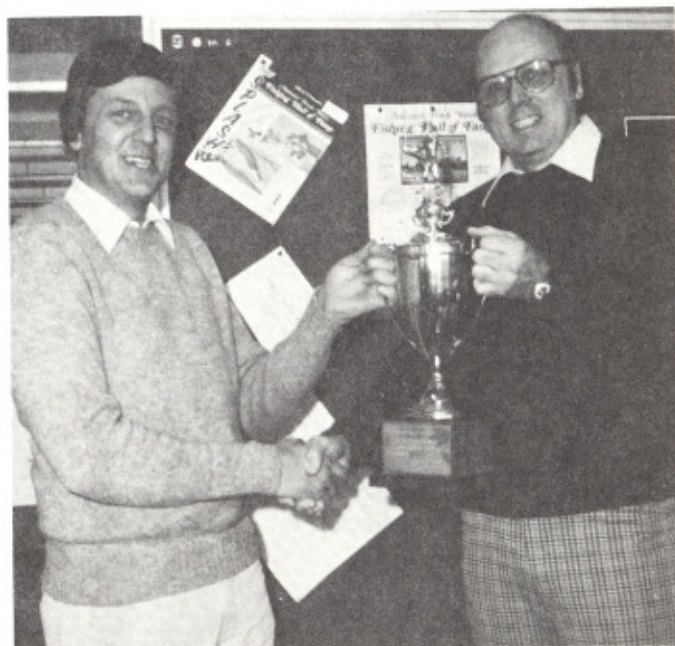
## 1979 DISTRICT FISHING CONTEST

*by Wilbur Walleye*

The 1979 St. Paul District Fishing Contest is underway. There are a few rule changes from 1978 that were made as a result of a survey taken in November. The major changes are as follows:

- The 1979 contest will be open to all personnel of the District.
- The "Steelhead" category has been replaced by a category entitled "Lake Superior Salmonids." Any Lake Superior Salmonid (Steelhead, lake trout, coho salmon, chinook salmon) will be eligible under this category.
- Fish will be judged solely on length this year rather than weight for some of the species.

A complete set of rules can be obtained from Gary Palesh, ED-ER.



*Gary Palesh and Dave Haumersen "grip and grin," as the trophy is presented to the District Office's top fisherman.*